

# News from gamma rays

Dr Alison Mitchell  
Junior Research Group Leader,  
FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

HEAMM workshop, ECAP, 09.05.23

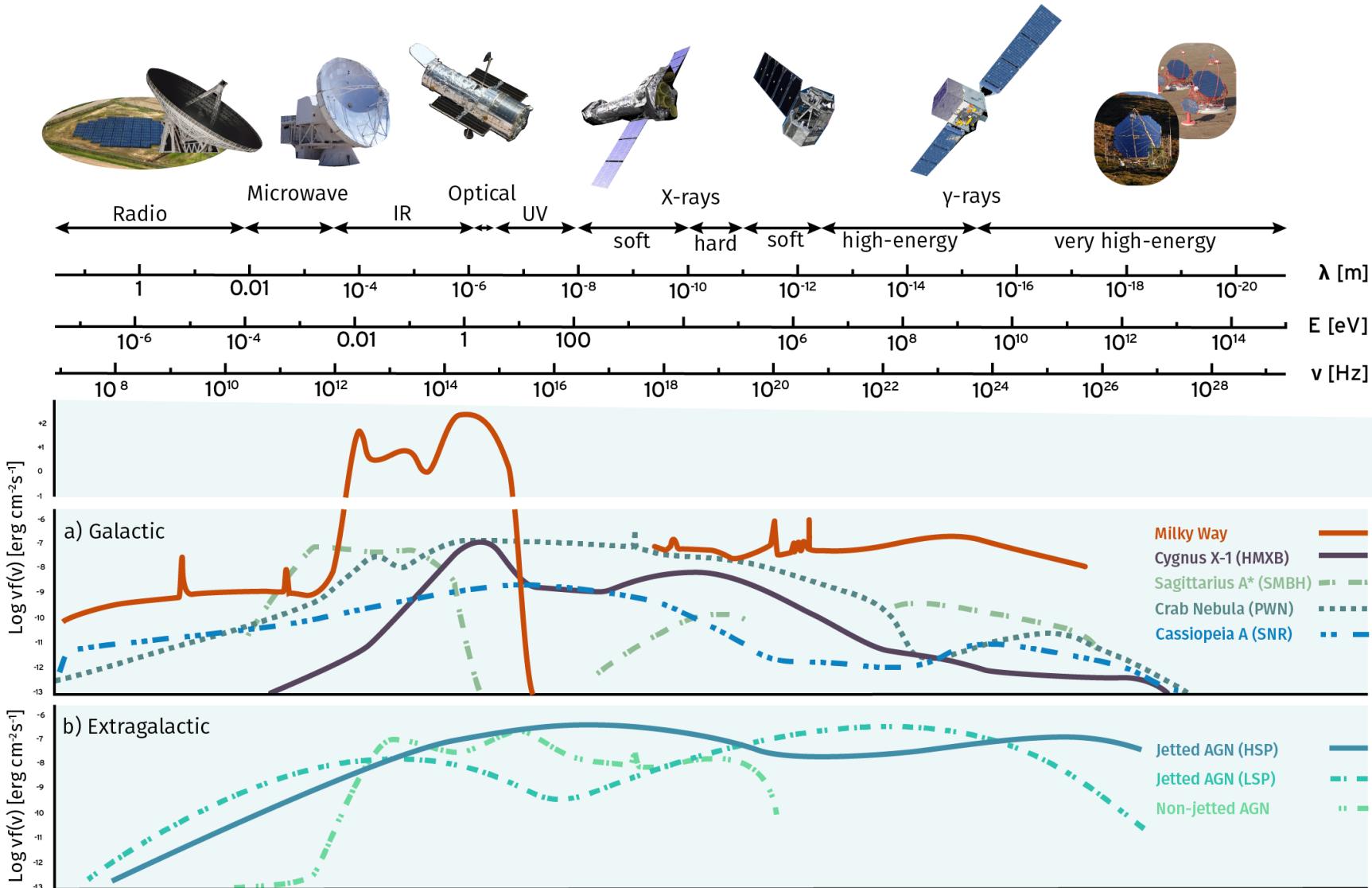


Funded by

**DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft  
German Research Foundation

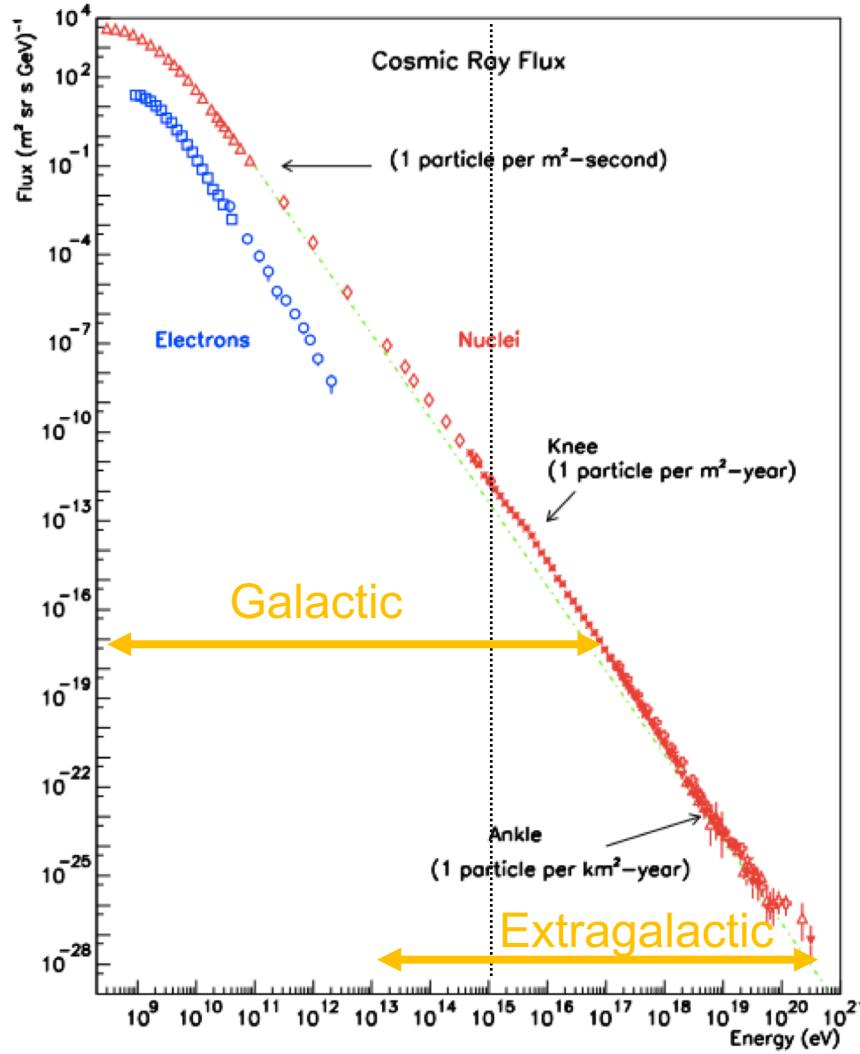
# Gamma-ray Astronomy

The end of the electromagnetic spectrum

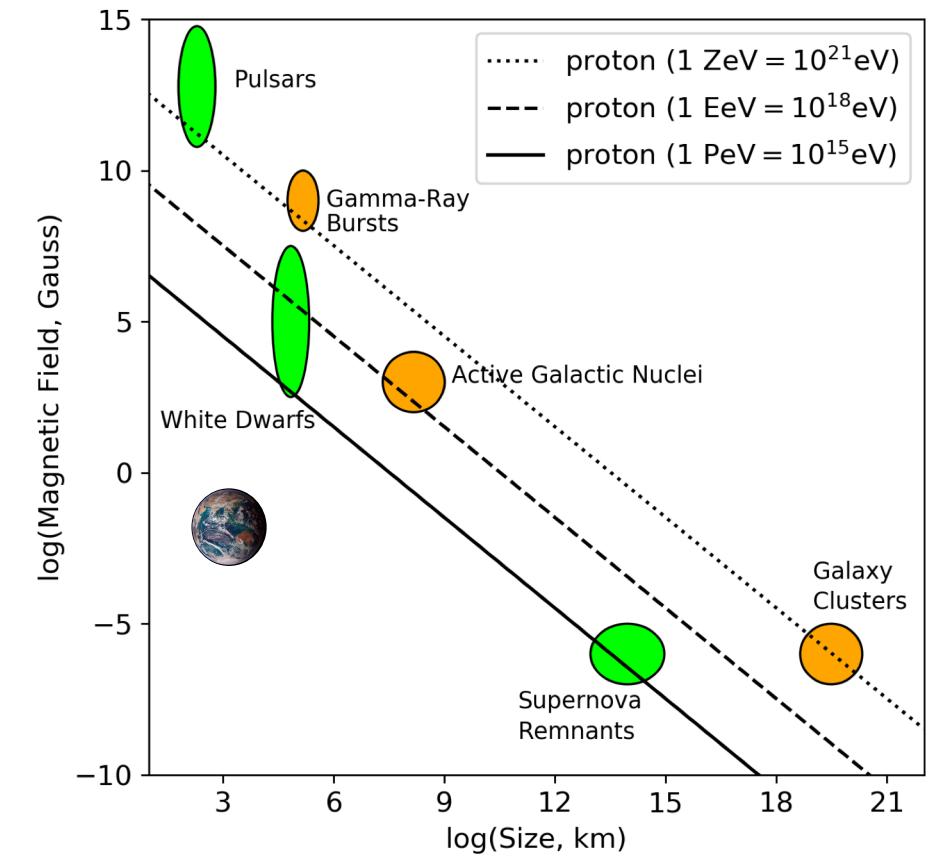


Credit: Annika Kreikenbohm, JMU Würzburg

# The origin of Cosmic Rays?



- Cosmic Rays – highest energy particles in nature, up to  $10^{20}$  eV
- “PeVatrons” = accelerators of particles to energies  $\geq 10^{15}$  eV

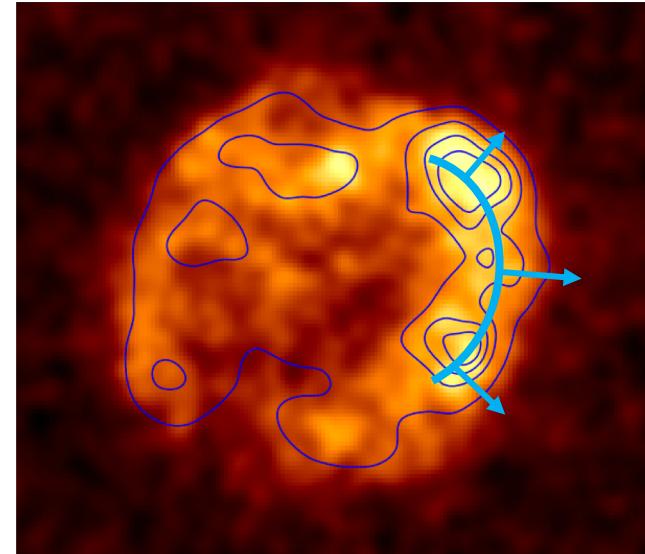


$$E_{\max} = Z e \beta c B L$$

- Acceleration at shock fronts of SNRs:

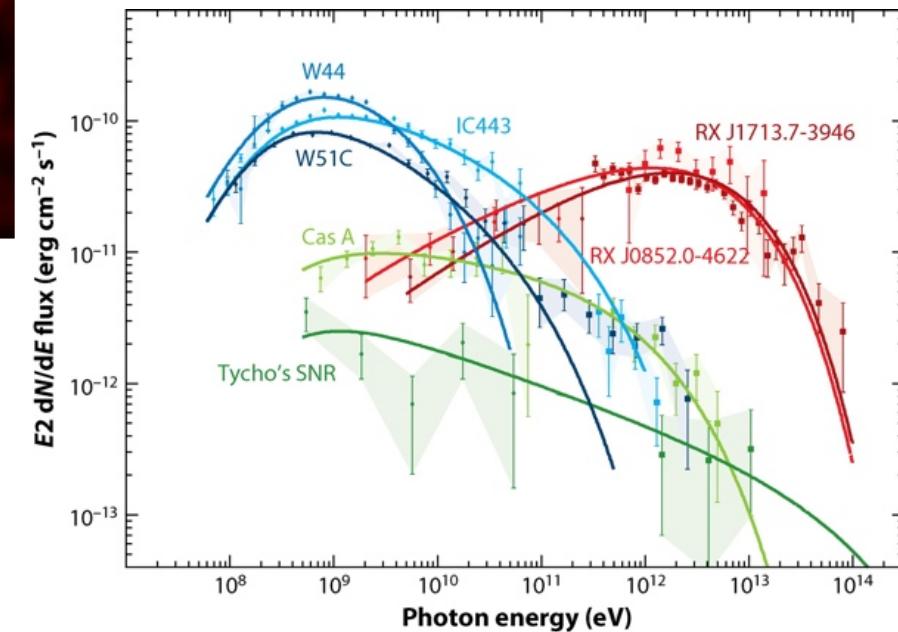
- $\sim 10^{51}$  erg per SN explosion
- $\sim 10\%$  into proton / CR acceleration
- $\sim 3$  events per century in Milky Way

→ Would be sufficient to power Cosmic Rays



- Cosmic rays: deflected by magnetic fields
- Interactions produce neutral messengers: gamma-rays & neutrinos point to source
- Motivation for gamma-ray astronomy  
→ high energy particles

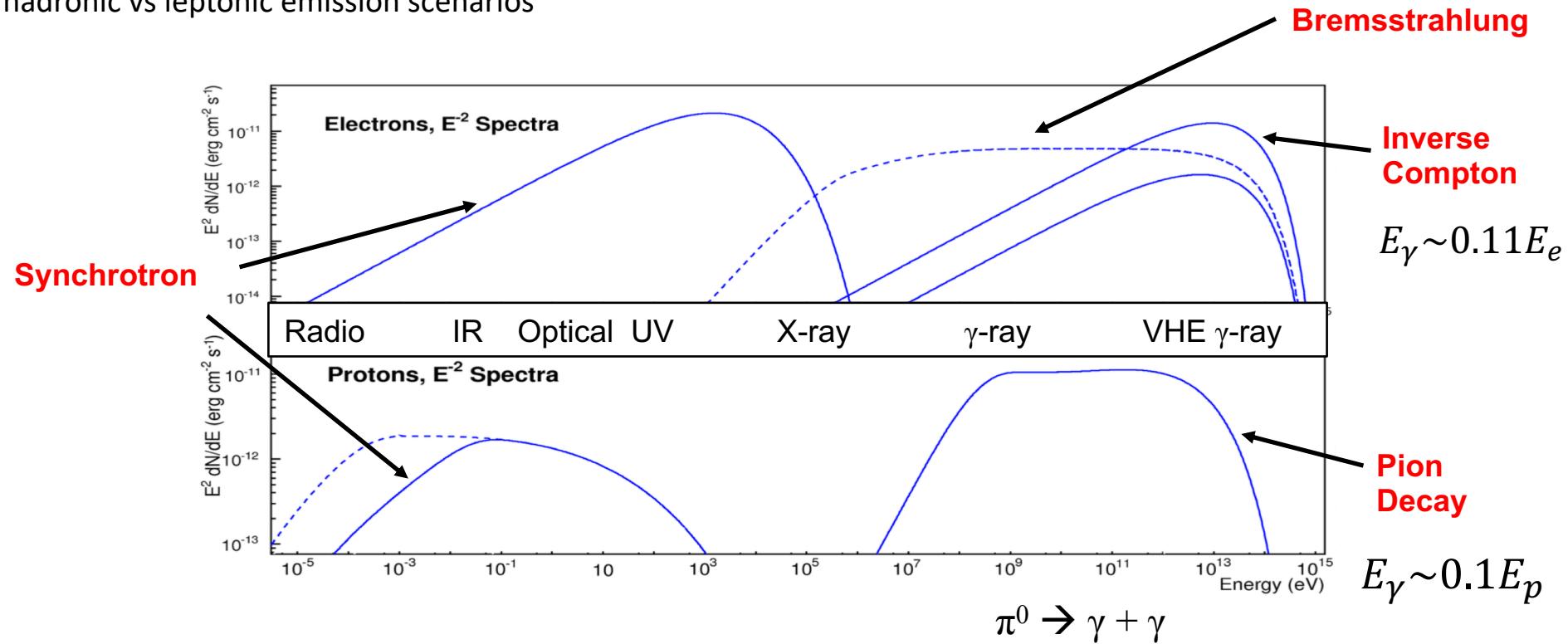
$$1 \text{ erg} = 10^{-7} \text{ J} = 0.62 \text{ TeV}$$



A Funk S. 2015.  
R Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 65:245–77

Searching for the origins of hadronic cosmic rays

→ Constrain hadronic vs leptonic emission scenarios



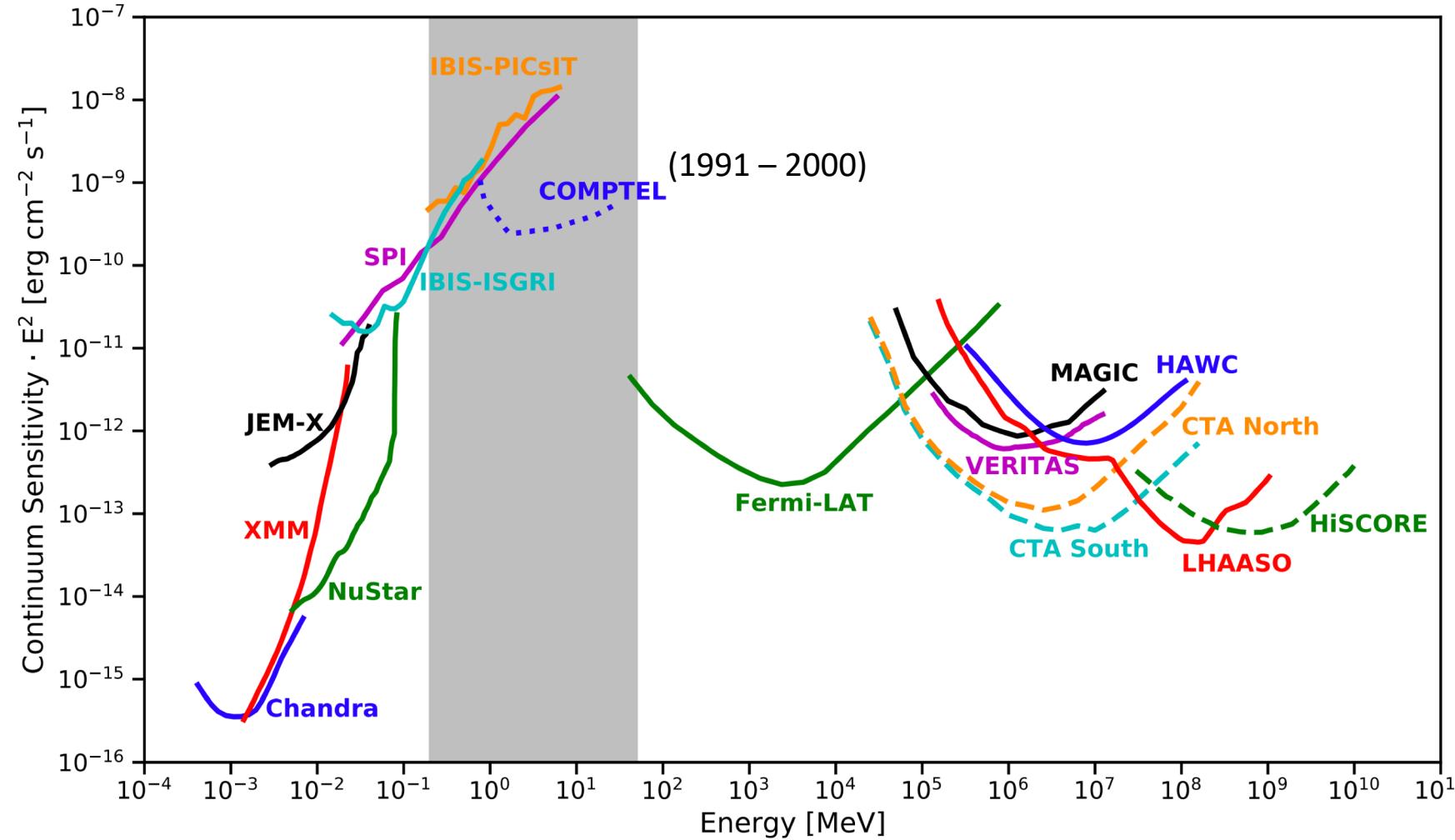
Target molecular material for hadronic interactions?

Coincident neutrinos as a smoking gun?

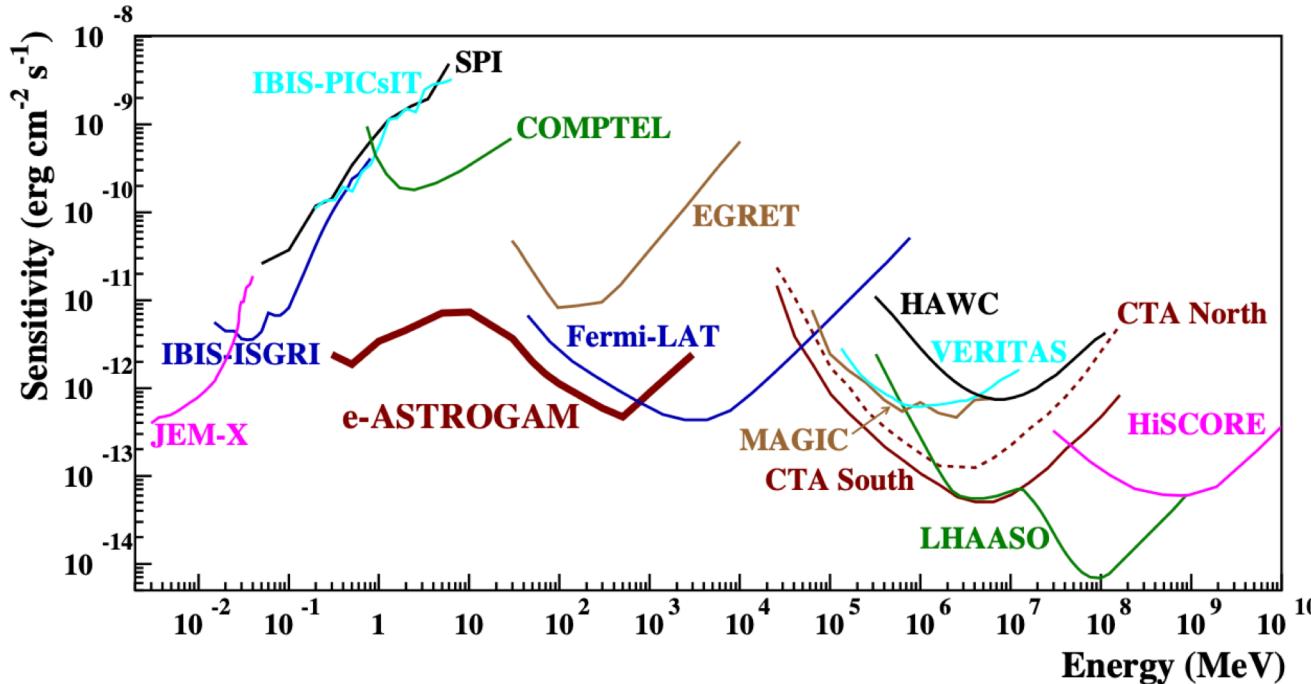
$$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_\mu, \quad \pi^- \rightarrow \mu^- + \bar{\nu}_\mu$$

# Gamma-ray Detection by Satellites

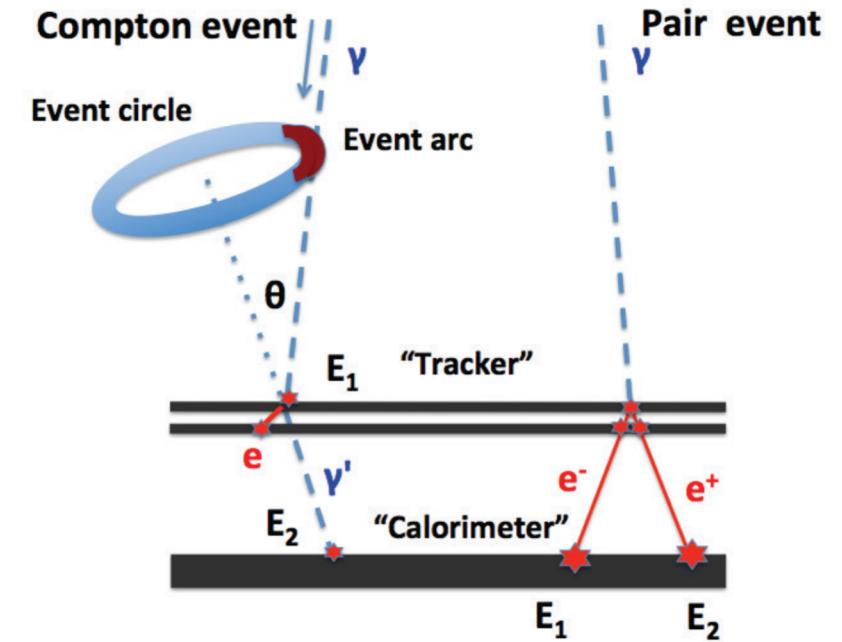
The MeV Gap



# Gamma-ray Detection by Satellites



e-ASTROGAM collaboration, Exp. Astr. **44**, 25-82 (2017)



Moiseev et al., arXiv:1508.07349

Compton scattering events

Pair-production events

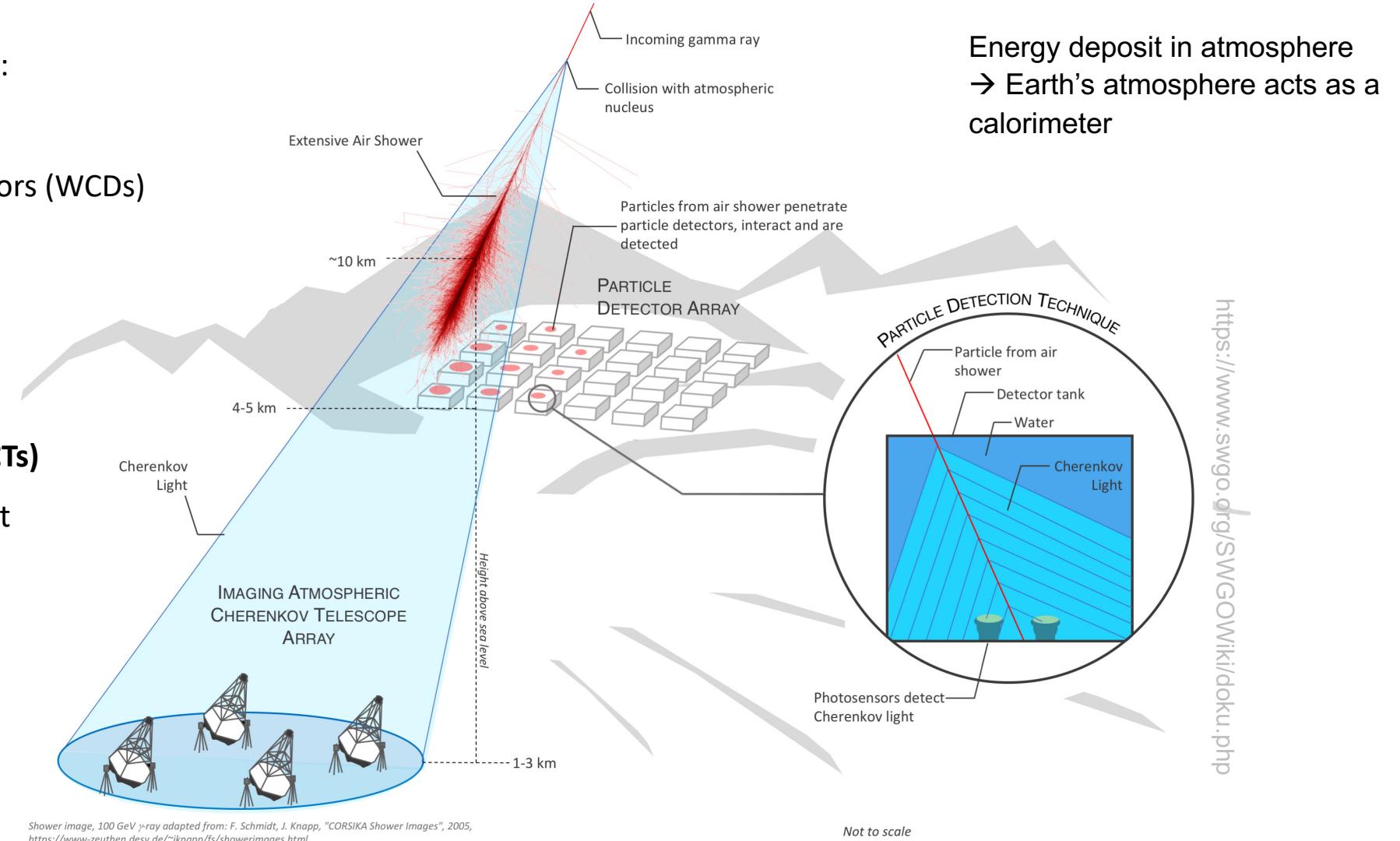
(Fermi-LAT = pair conversion detector )

Two main detection methods:

- **Particle detector arrays:**

- Water Cherenkov Detectors (WCDs)
- Up to 24/7

- **Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes (IACTs)**
- Night only, low moonlight



<https://www.swgo.dfg/swGOWiki/doku.php>

# Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Technique

Extensive Air Shower detection

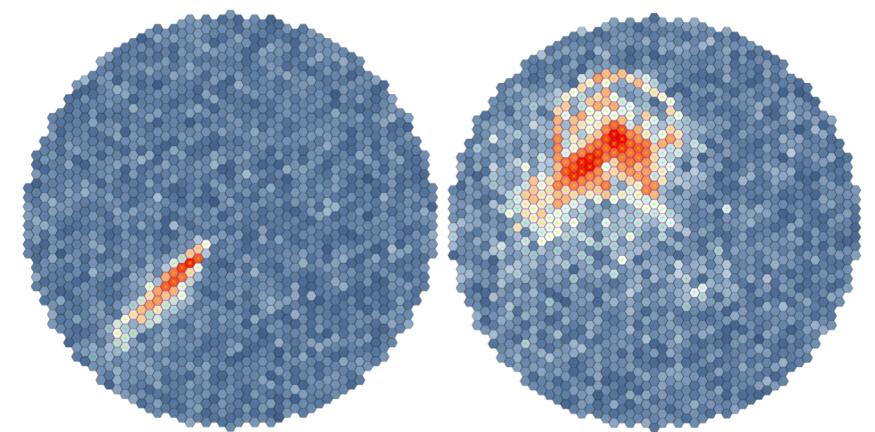
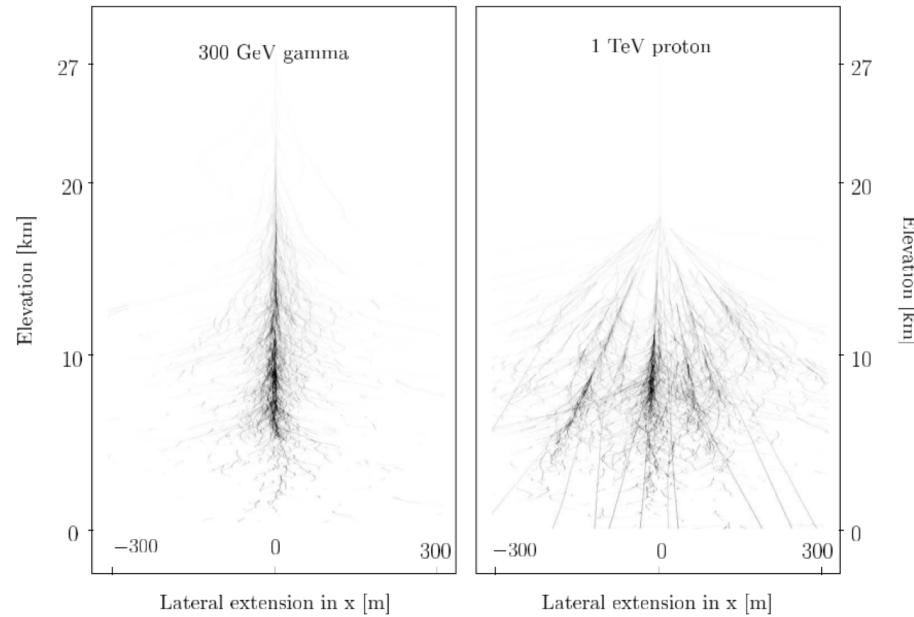
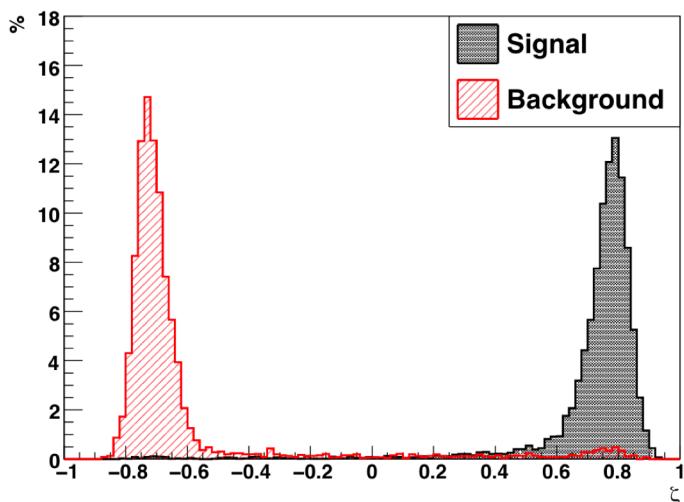
Key aspect: ability to distinguish gamma-ray initiated EAS from hadronic EAS background

Advances:

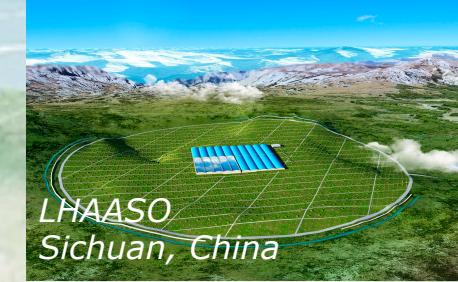
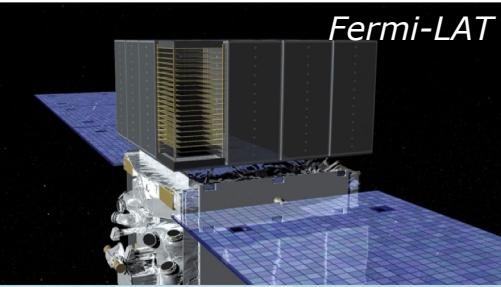
- Hillas parameters
- Boosted decision trees
- Deep learning approaches, muon tagging, event classes....

Limitations:

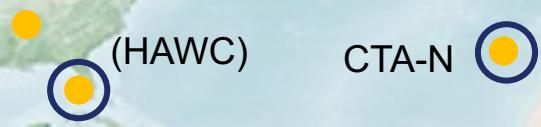
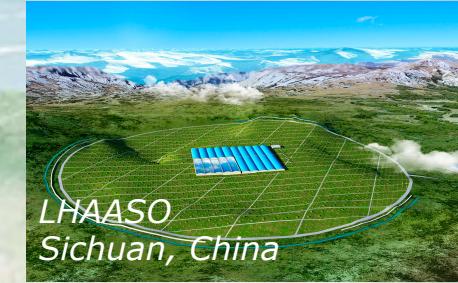
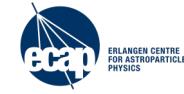
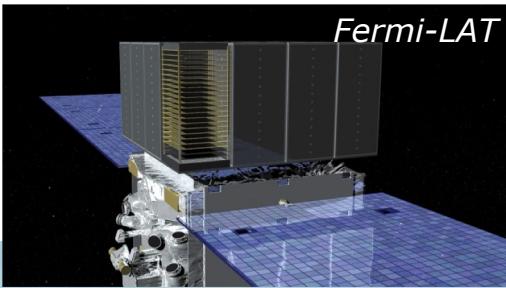
Neural network highly sensitive to environmental conditions (e.g. NSB, atmosphere...) → computationally expensive re-training? hadronic interaction model uncertainties



# Complementary Facilities



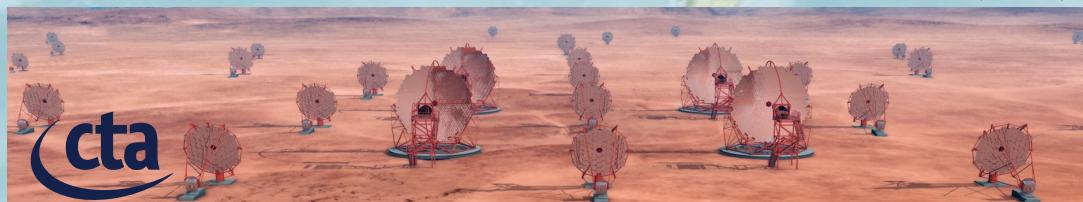
# Complementary Facilities



SWGO  
CTA-S



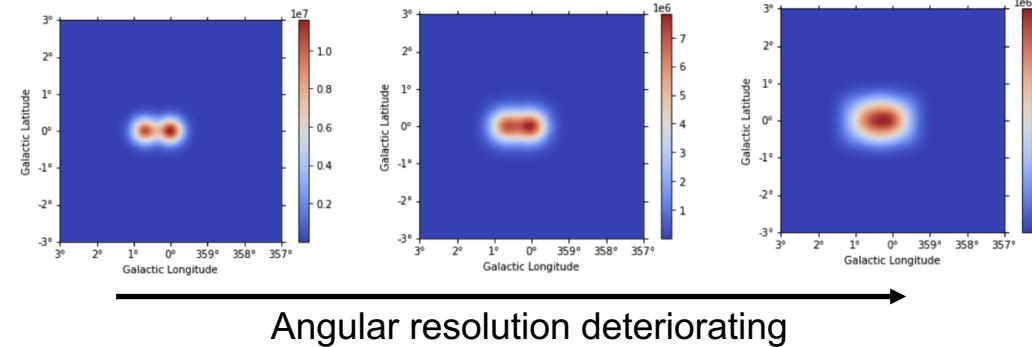
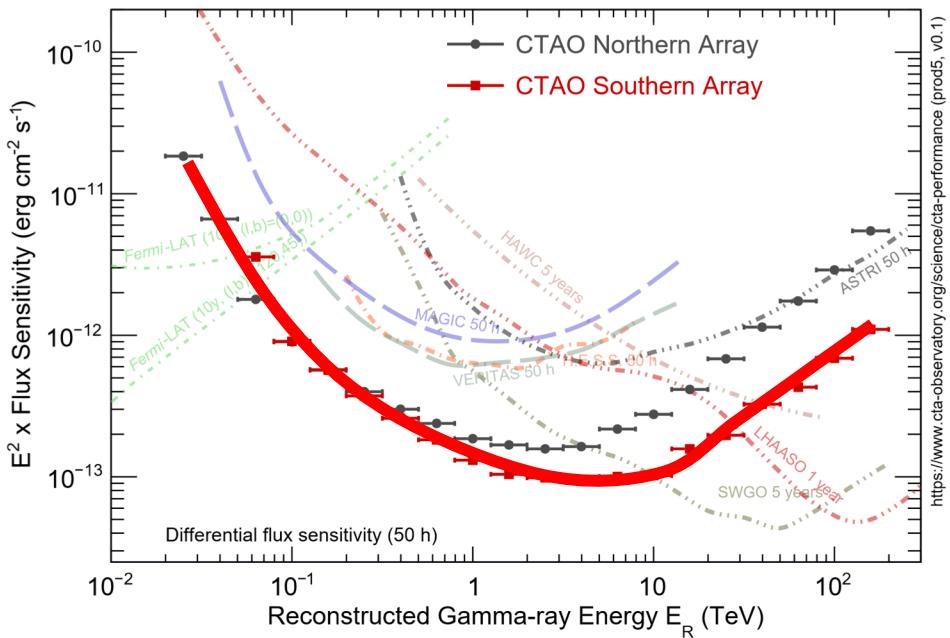
H.E.S.S.



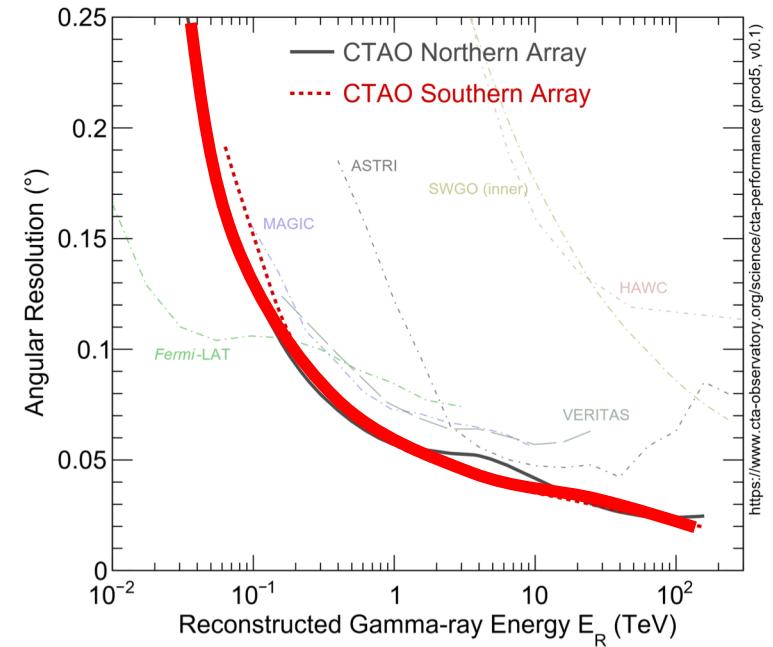
# Complementary Facilities

Different techniques → different performance

IACTs



Angular resolution deteriorating

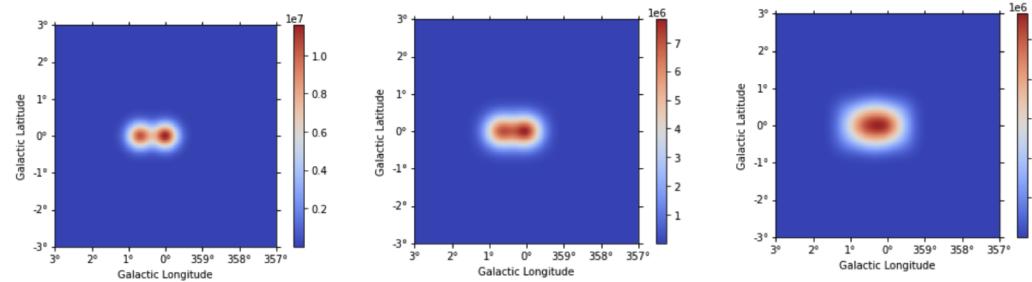


# Complementary Facilities

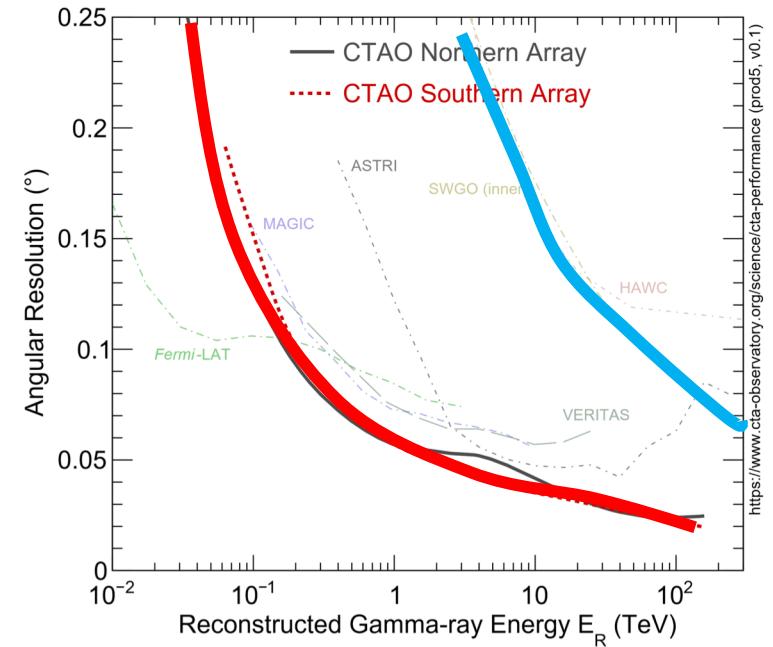
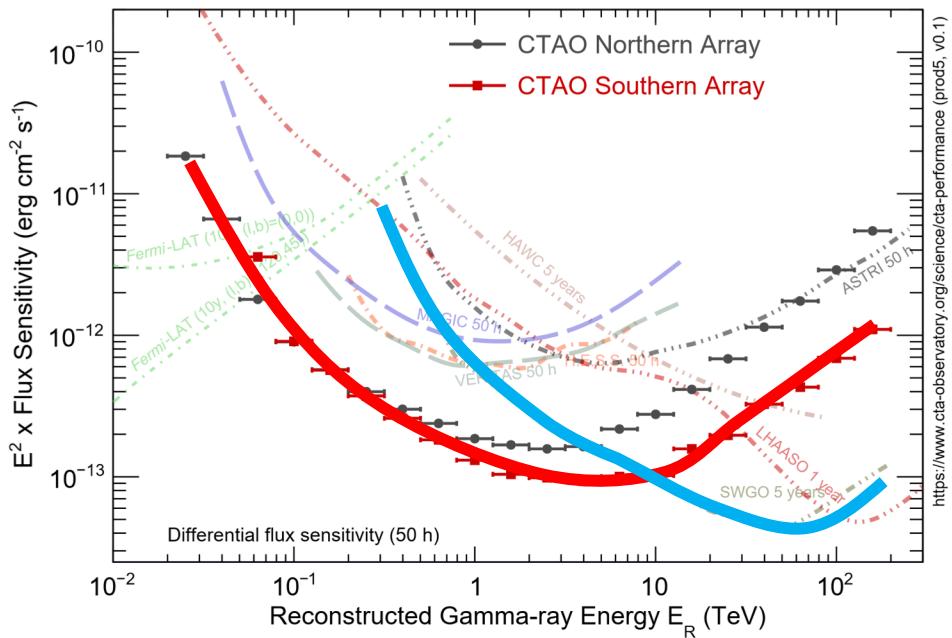
Different techniques → different performance

IACTs

WCDs



Angular resolution deteriorating



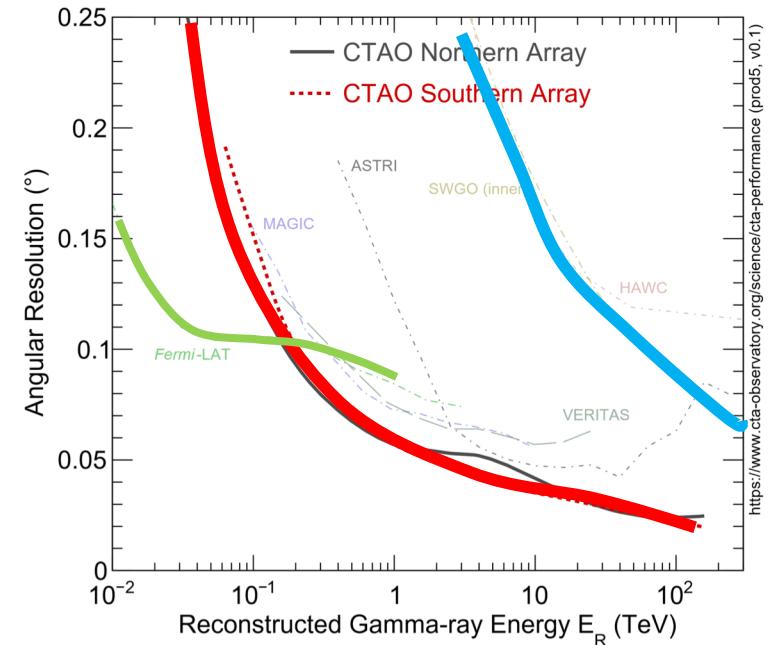
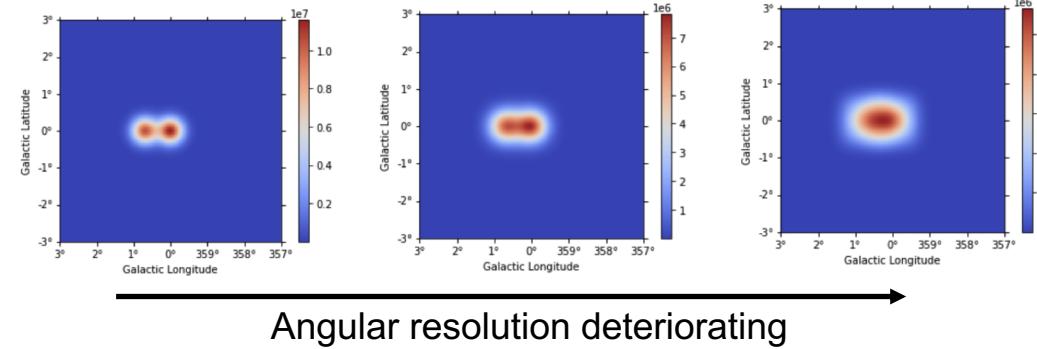
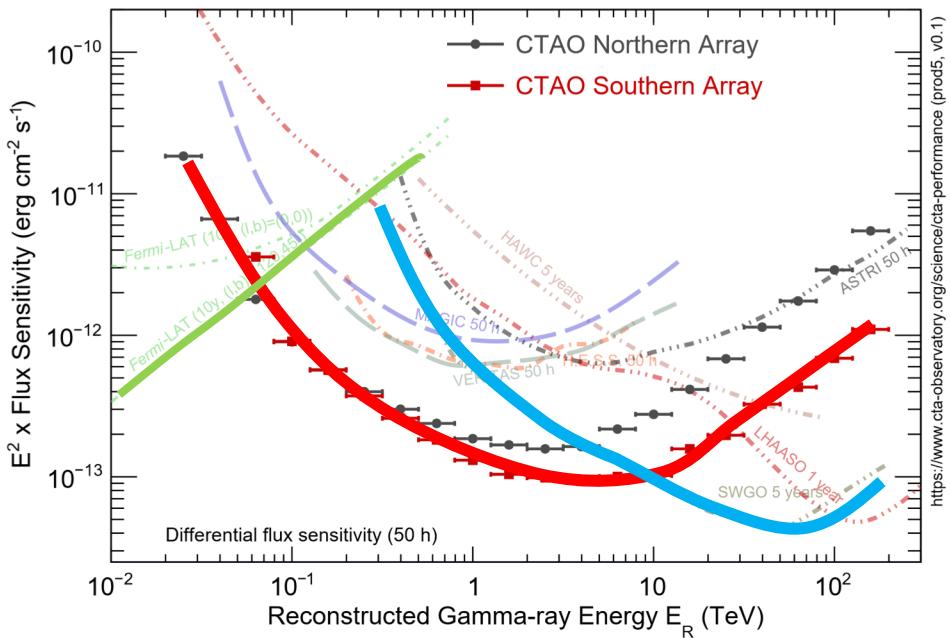
# Complementary Facilities

Different techniques → different performance

IACTs

WCDs

Satellite



# Complementary Facilities

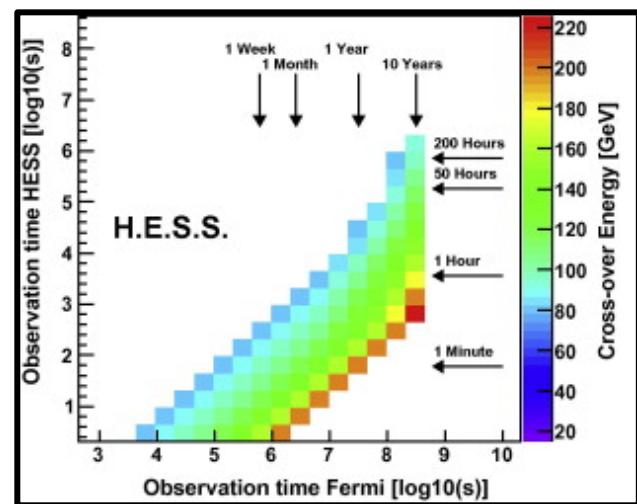
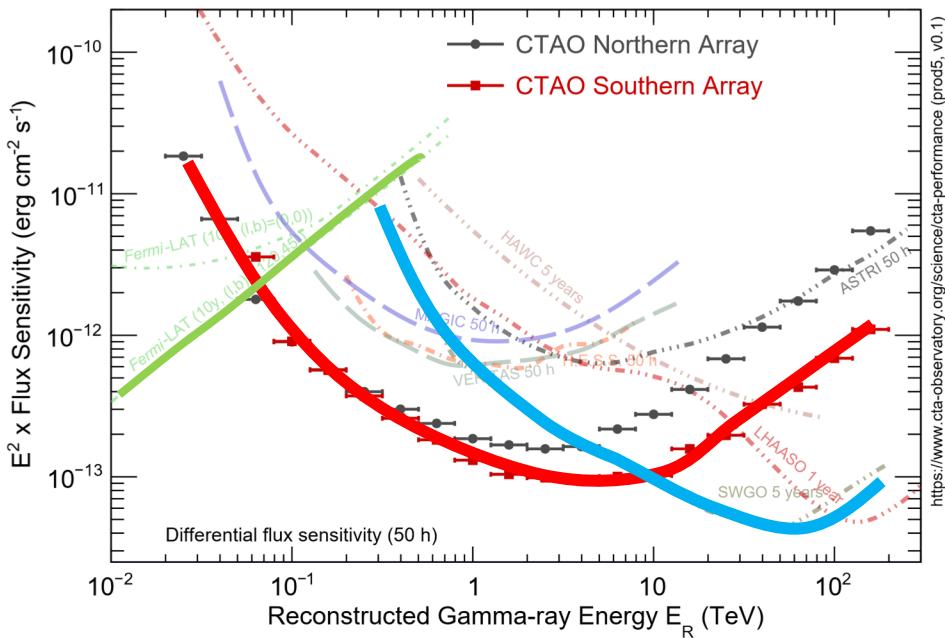
Different techniques → different performance

**IACTs**

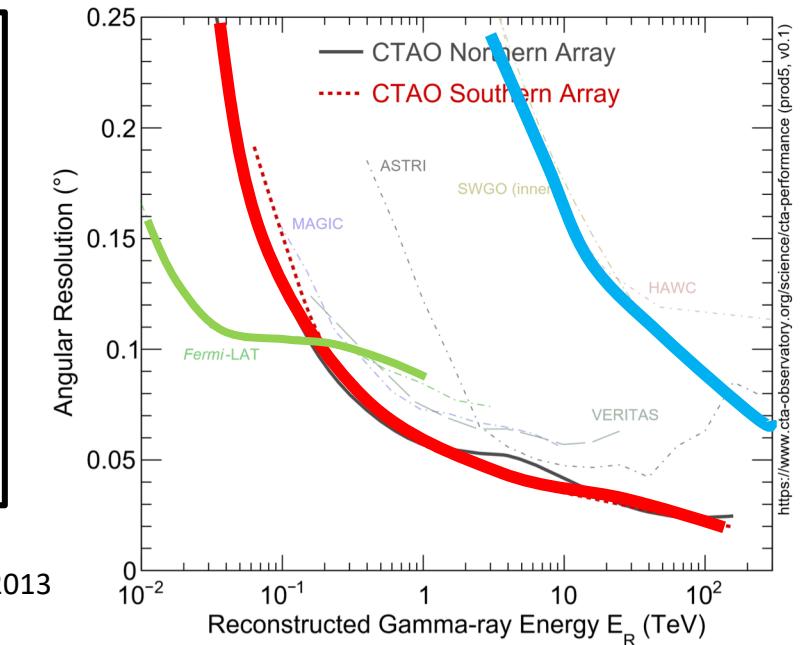
**WCDs**

**Satellite**

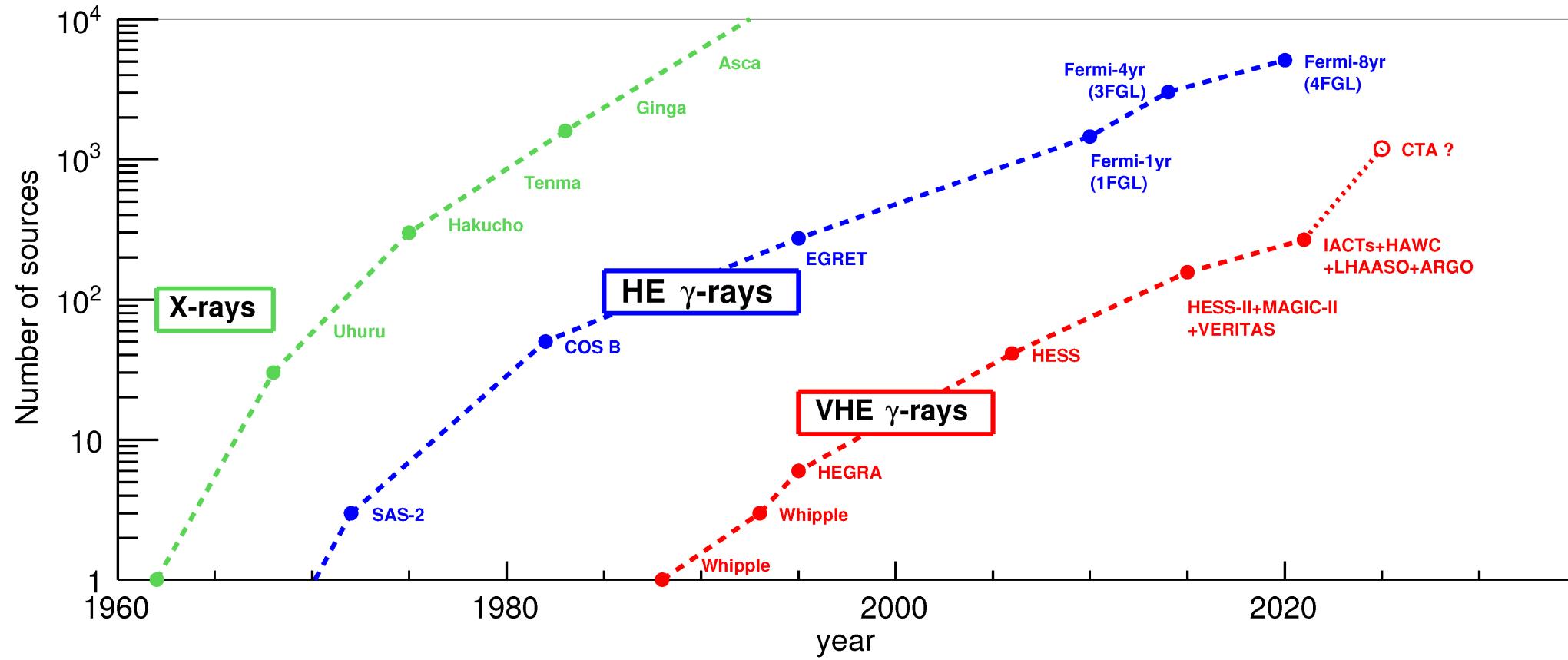
Cross-over energy depends on exposure



Funk & Hinton, Astropart Phys 43 (348-355), 2013

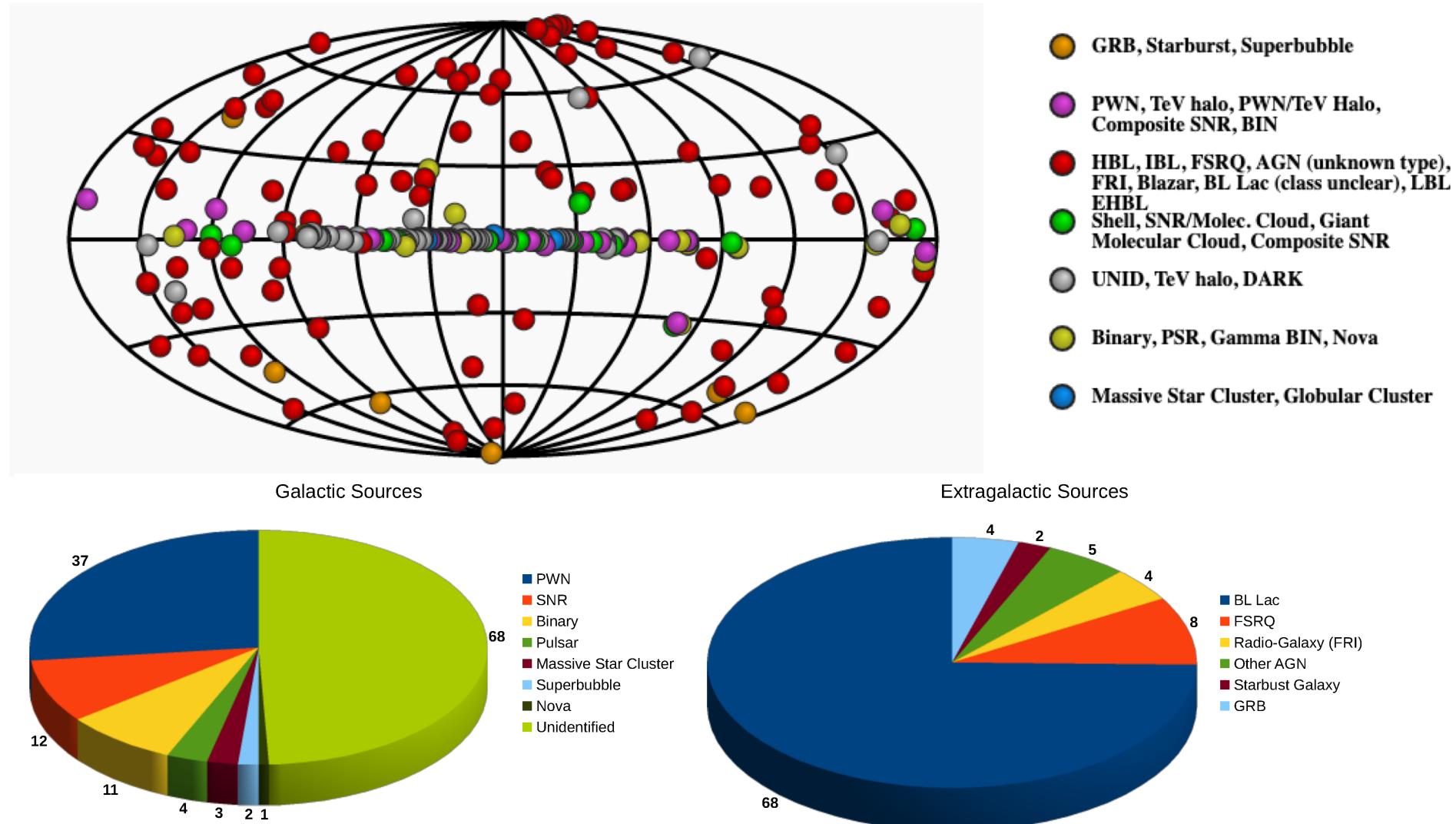
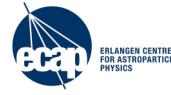


# Development of VHE gamma-ray astronomy



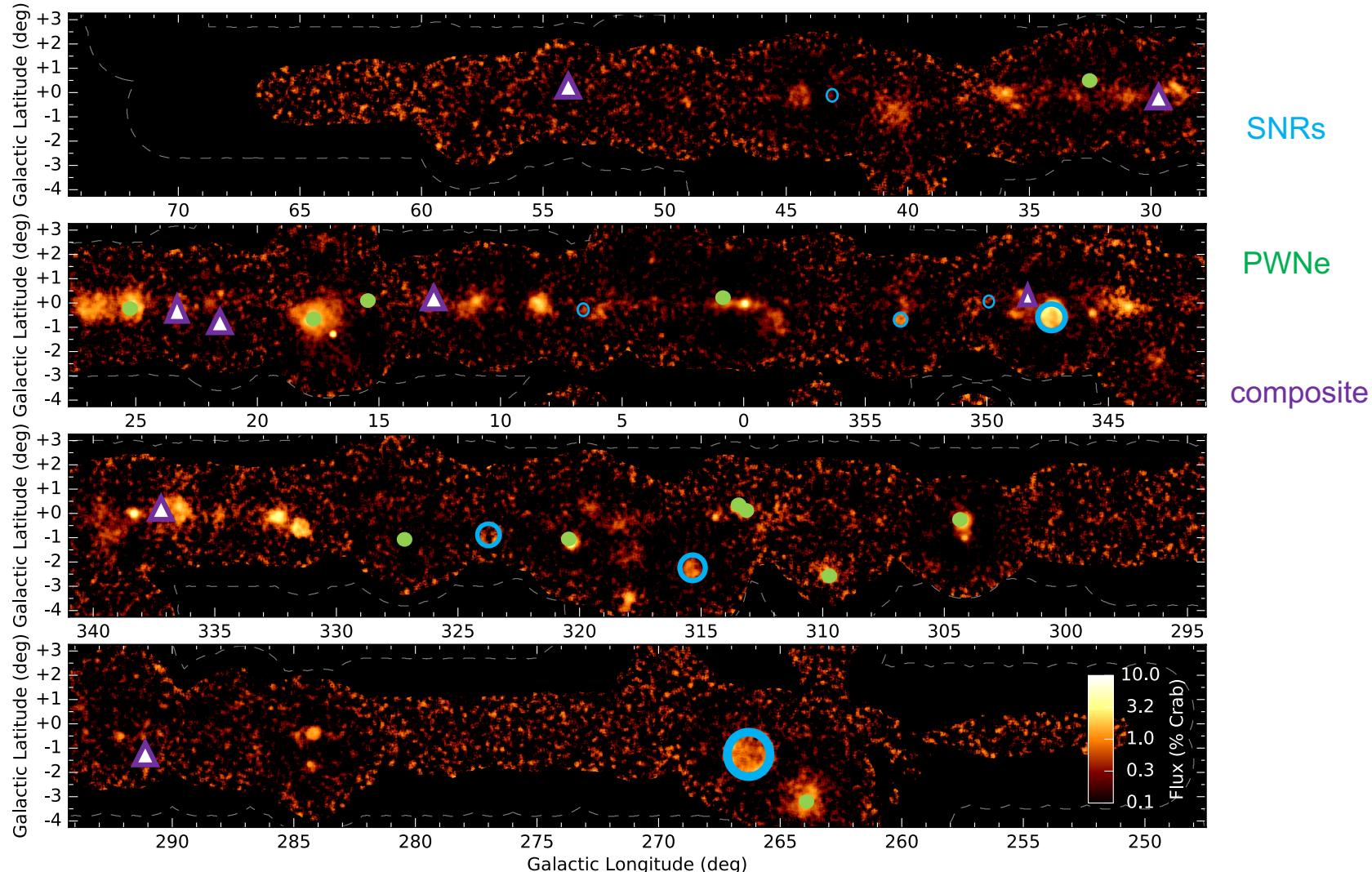
# Very High Energy Gamma-ray Sky

de Naurois Universe 7 (2021) 421  
<http://tevcat2.uchicago.edu/>

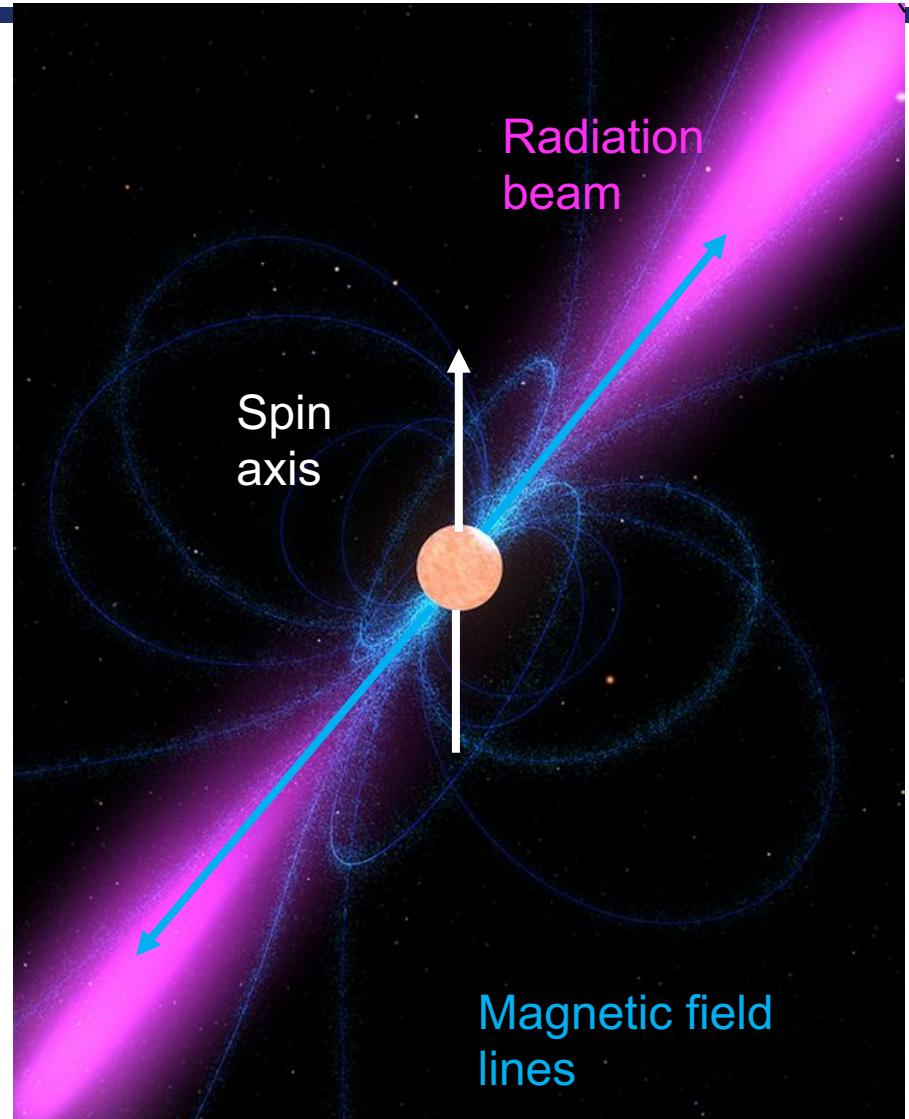


# Very High Energy Gamma-ray Sky

H.E.S.S. Galactic Plane Survey

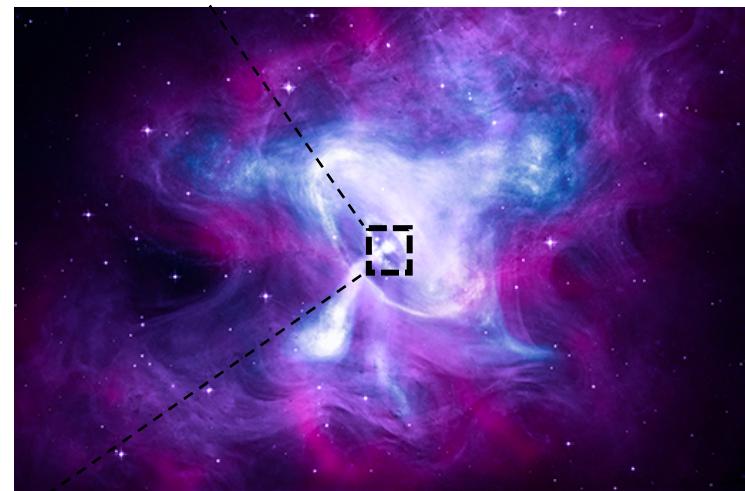


# What are Pulsars?



Pulsar: Rotating neutron star

Very rapid rotation, very strong and variable B field  $\sim 10^{11} - 10^{14}$  Gauss

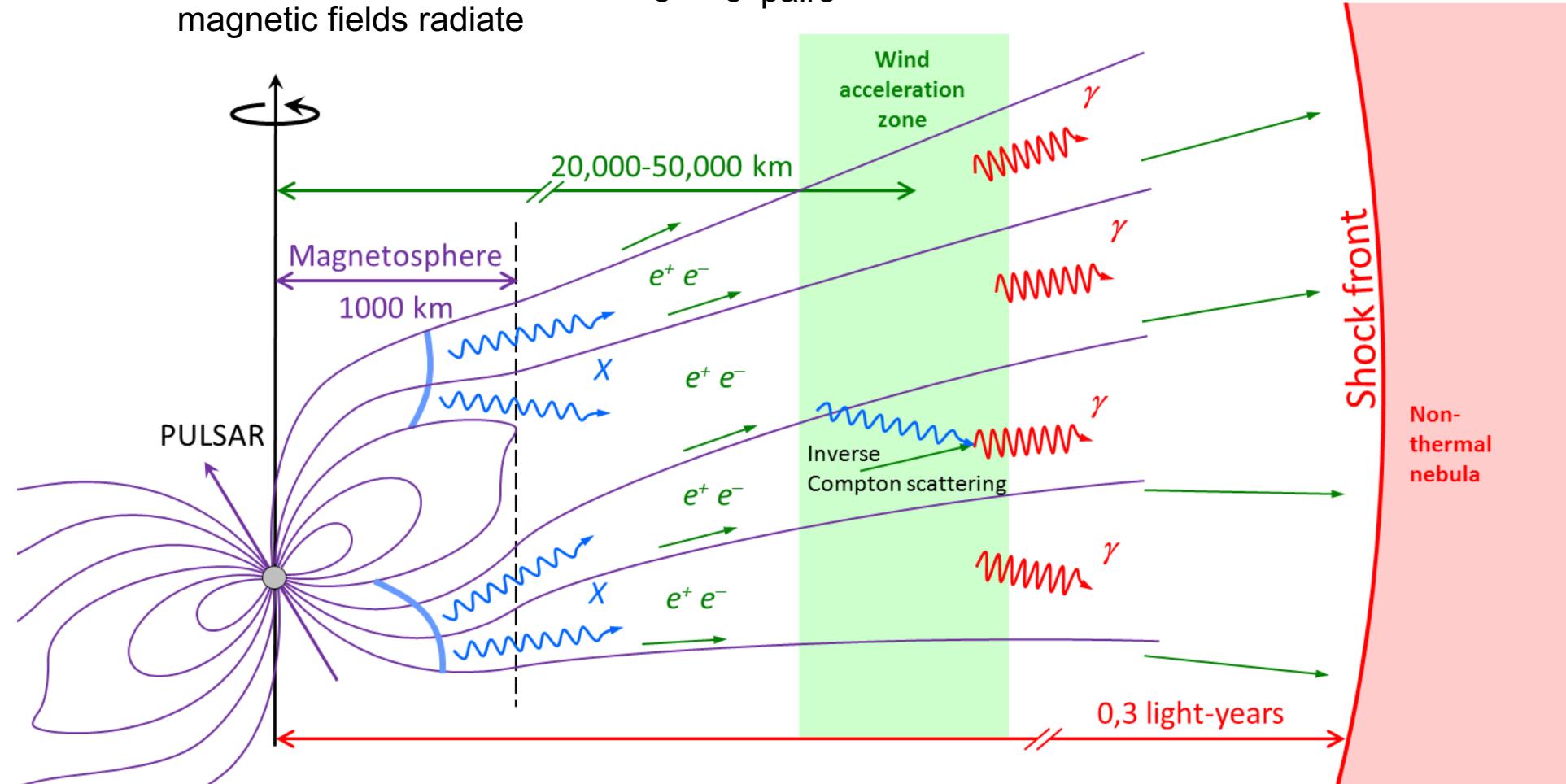


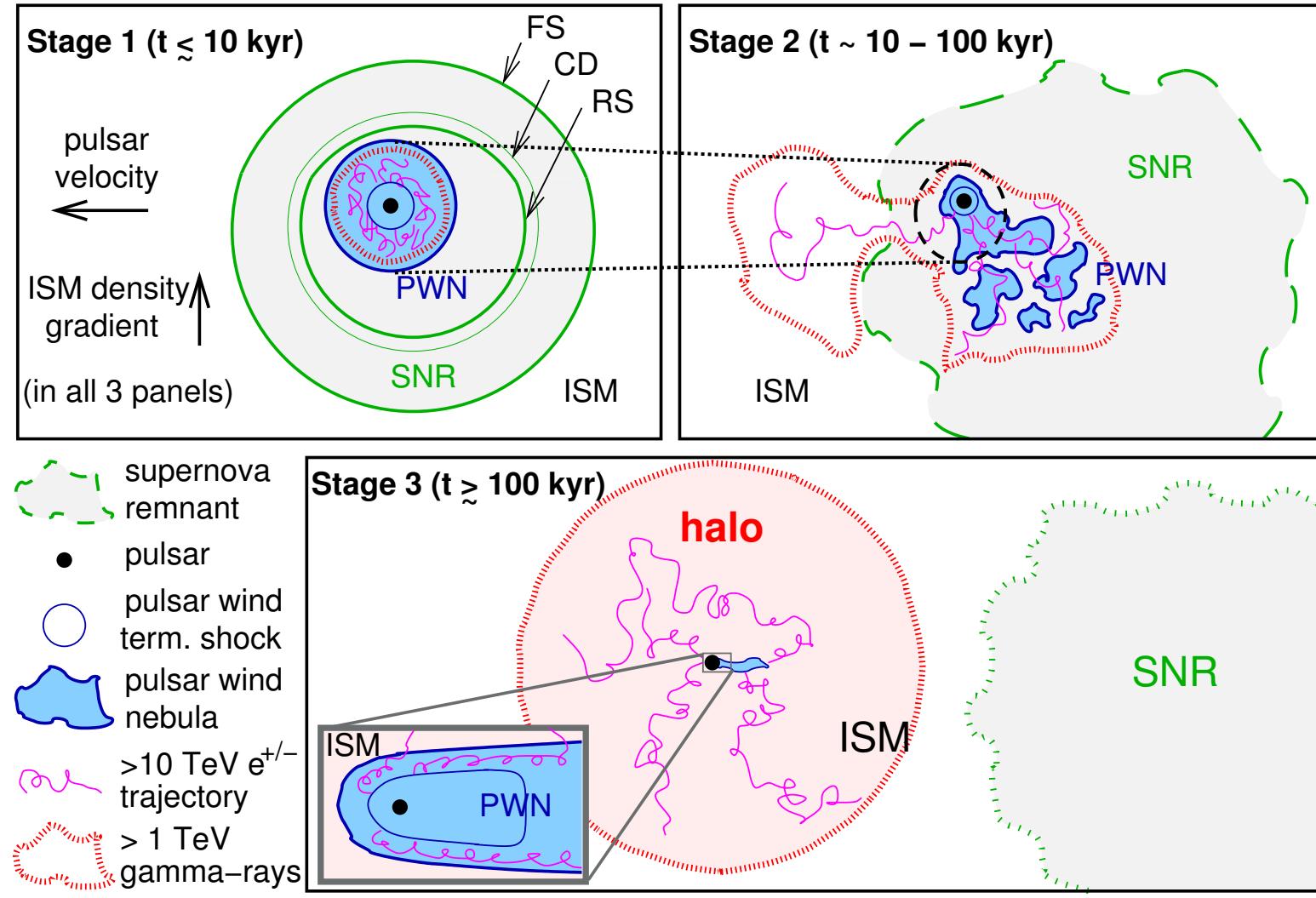
Crab pulsar: X-ray, infrared & optical  
Credit: NASA/CXC/SAO/STScI

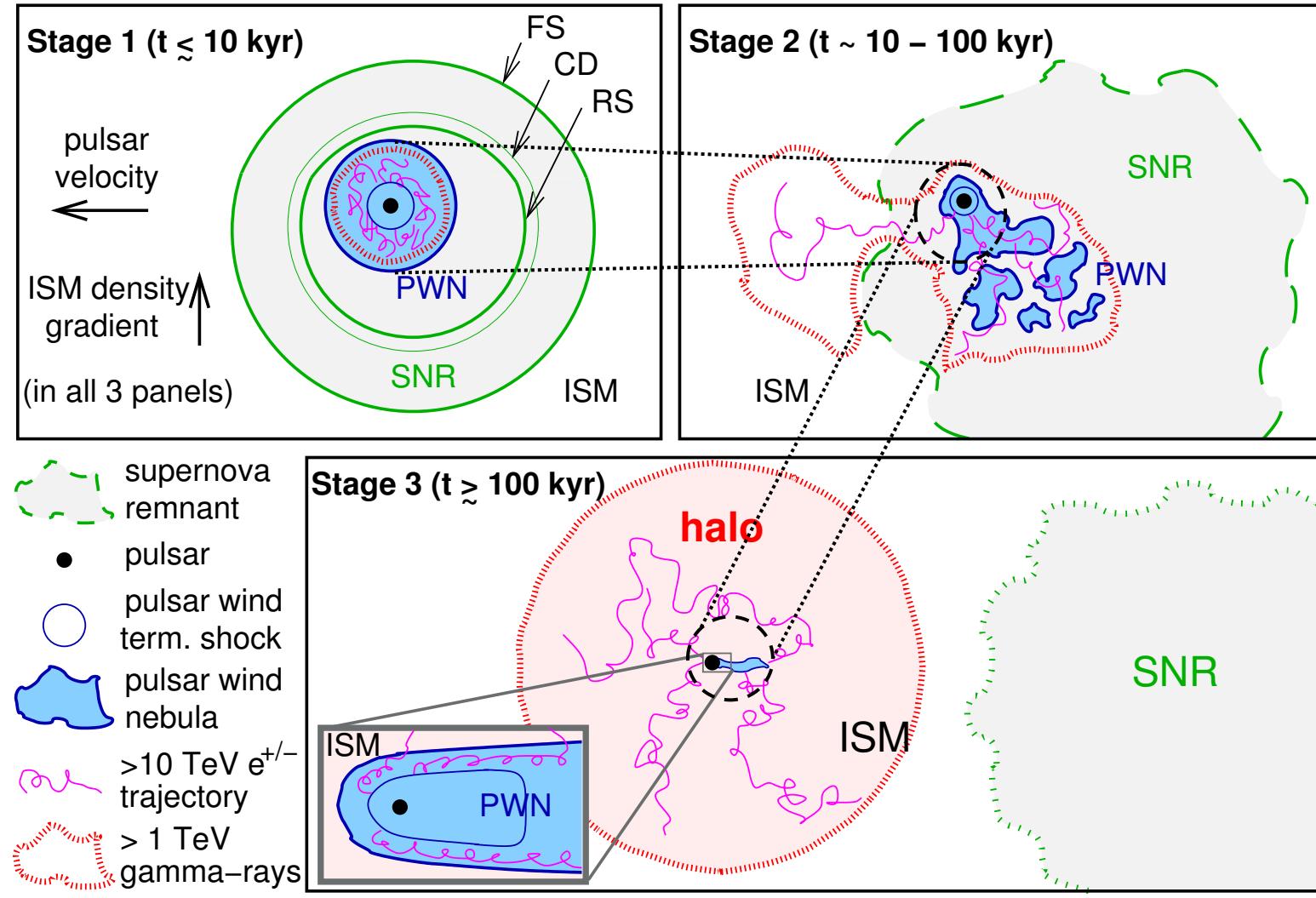
→ Charged particles accelerated in magnetic fields radiate

→ Radiation produces  $e^+ - e^-$  pairs

Nebula of high energy particles → Mainly  $e^\pm$

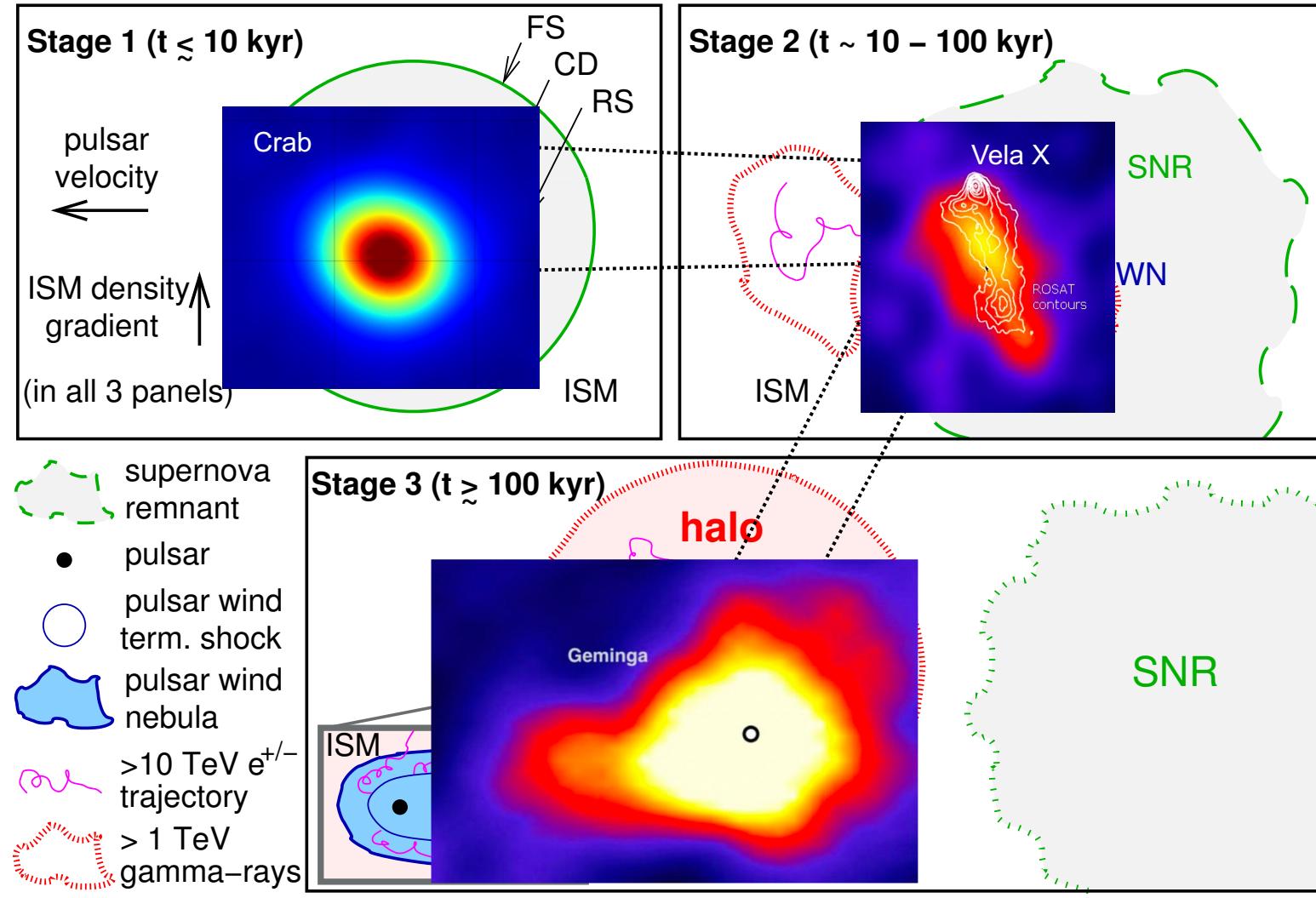






**Pulsar Wind Nebulae (PWN)**

→ Pulsar Halos



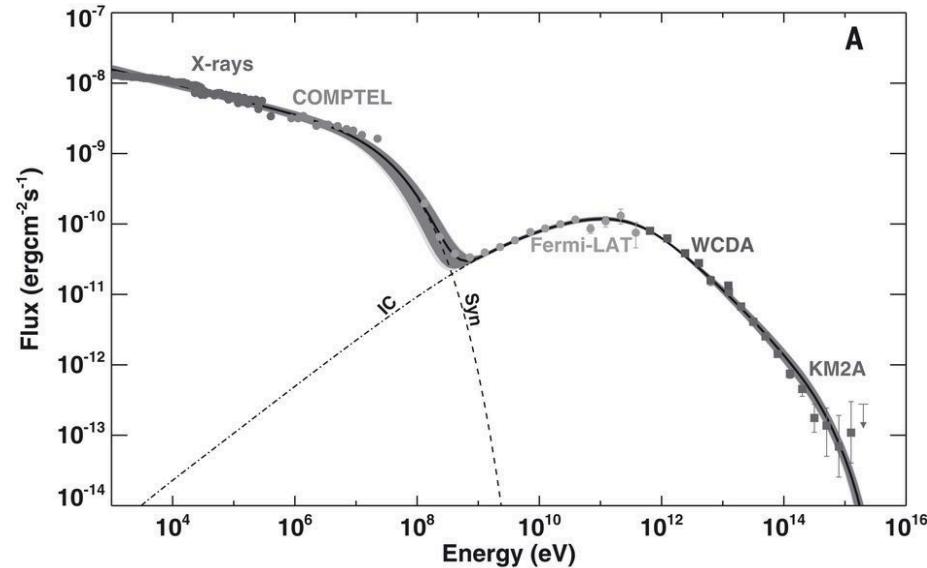
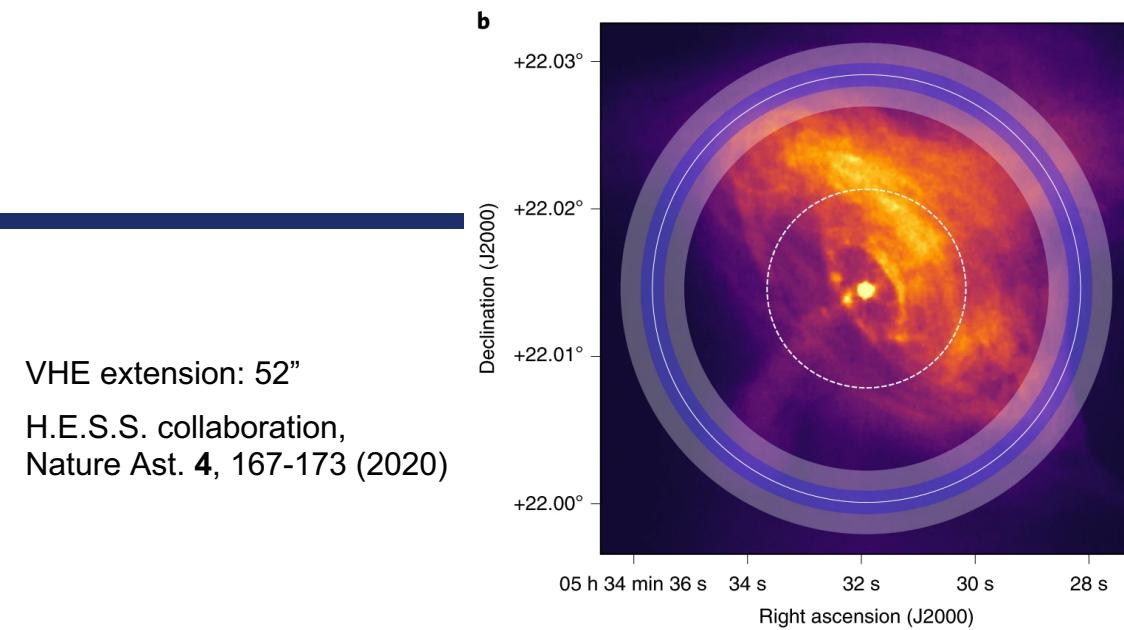
**Pulsar Wind Nebulae (PWN)**

→ Pulsar Halos

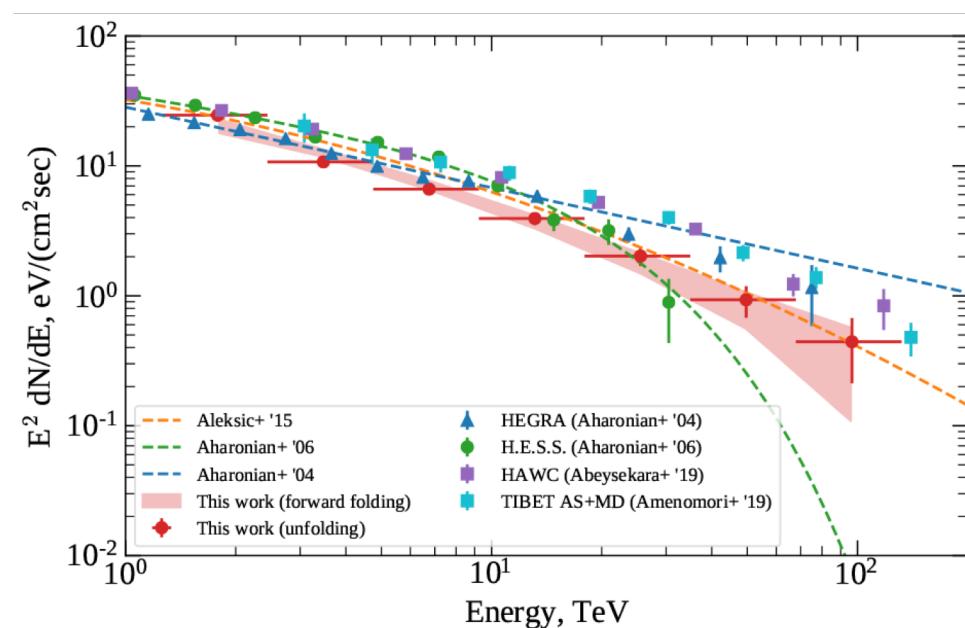
# Crab Nebula

Pulsar Wind Nebula – “Standard candle” of TeV gamma-ray astronomy

- First TeV source: Whipple 1989
- Highest energy photons > 1 PeV
- Brightest VHE gamma-ray source → “Crab” units
- $t = 0.94 \text{ kyr}$ ,  $\dot{E} = 4.5 \times 10^{38} \text{ erg/s}$ ,  $d = 2 \text{ kpc}$



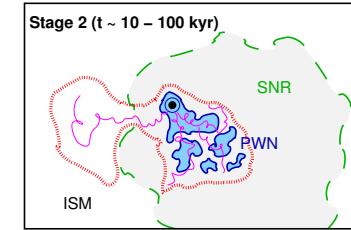
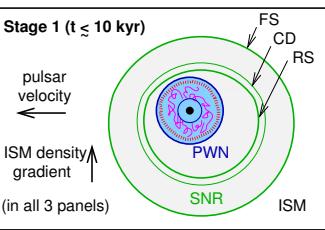
Z. Cao et al. LHAASO collaboration, Science 373, 425-430 (2021)



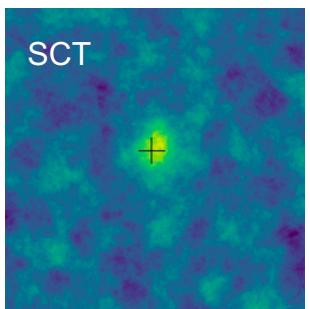
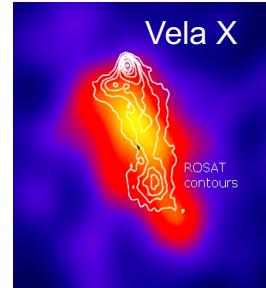
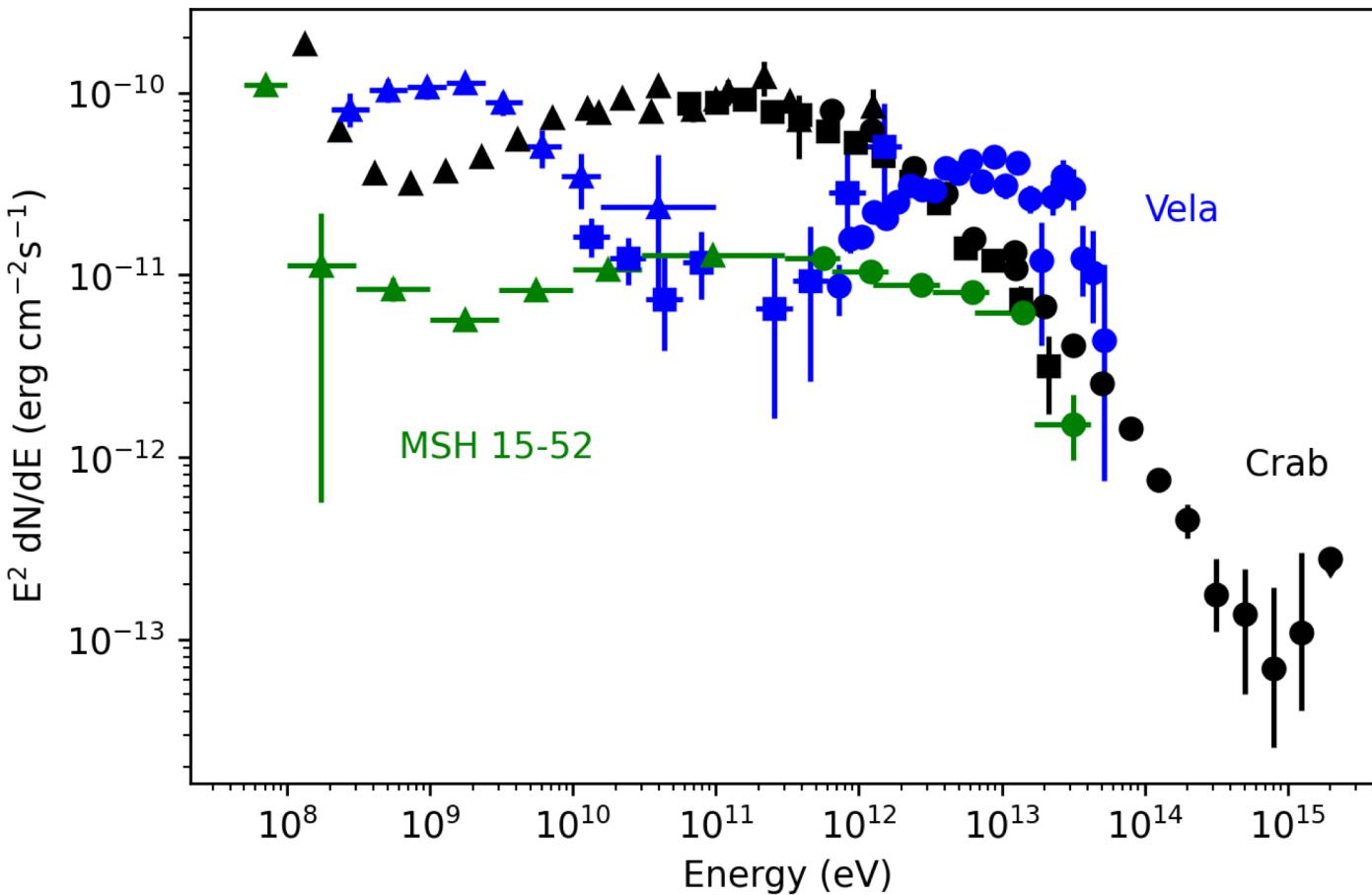
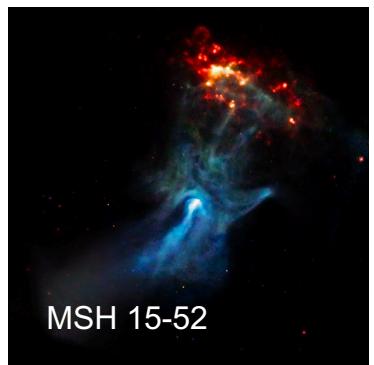
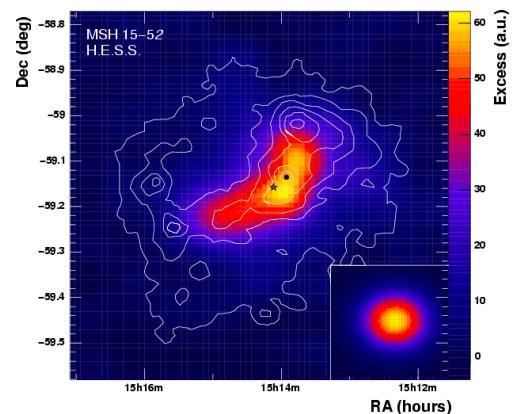
Very Large Zenith Angle  
observations  
→ extend IACT spectrum  
to 100 TeV

MAGIC collaboration  
A&A 635 A158 (2020)

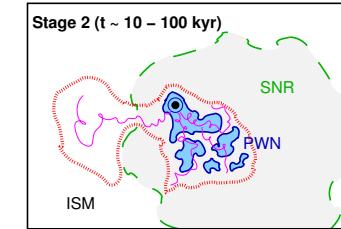
# Pulsar Wind Nebulae



- Most numerous source class in the VHE gamma-ray sky

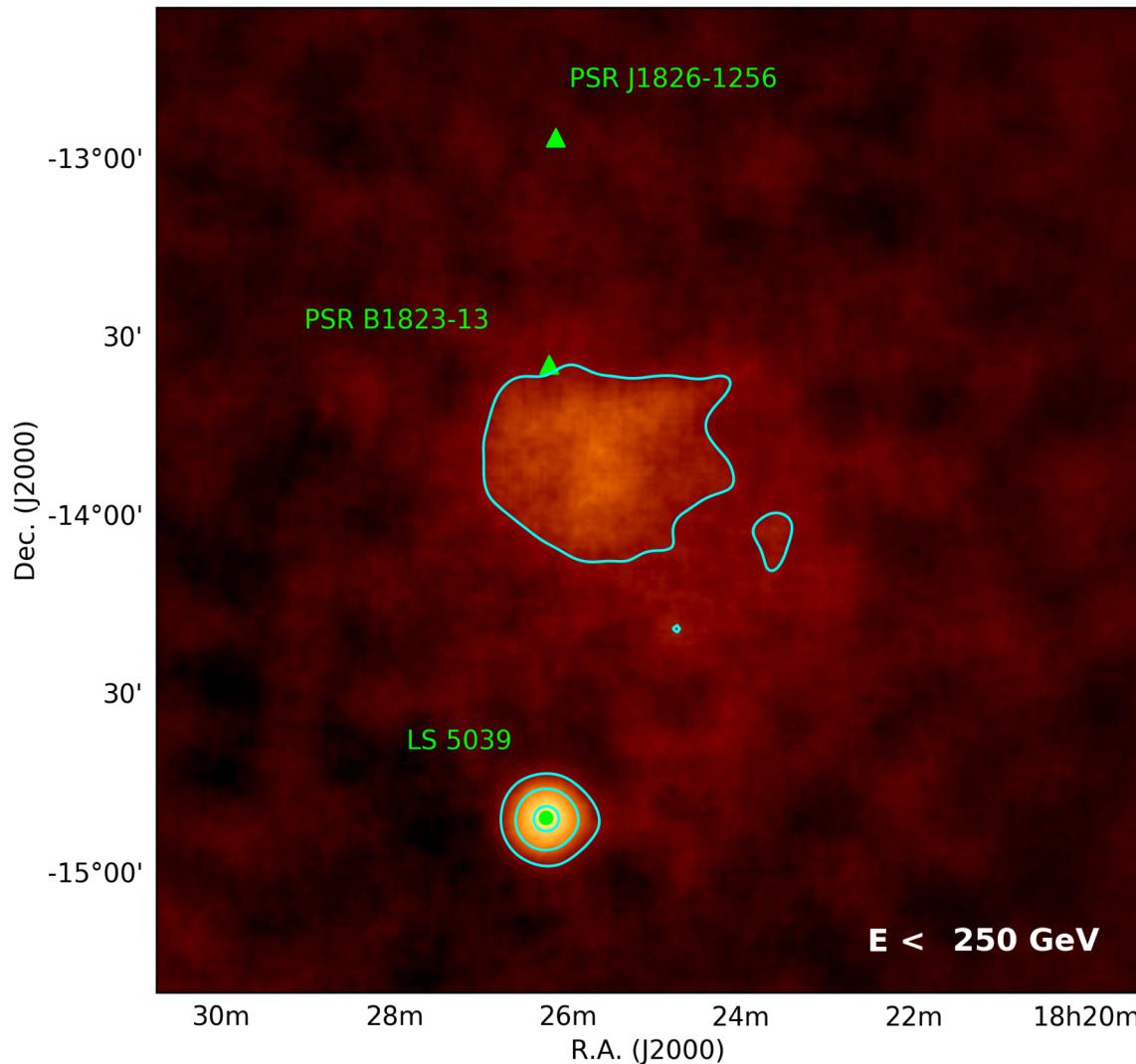


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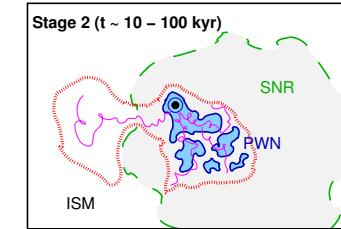


FAU

HESS J1825-137

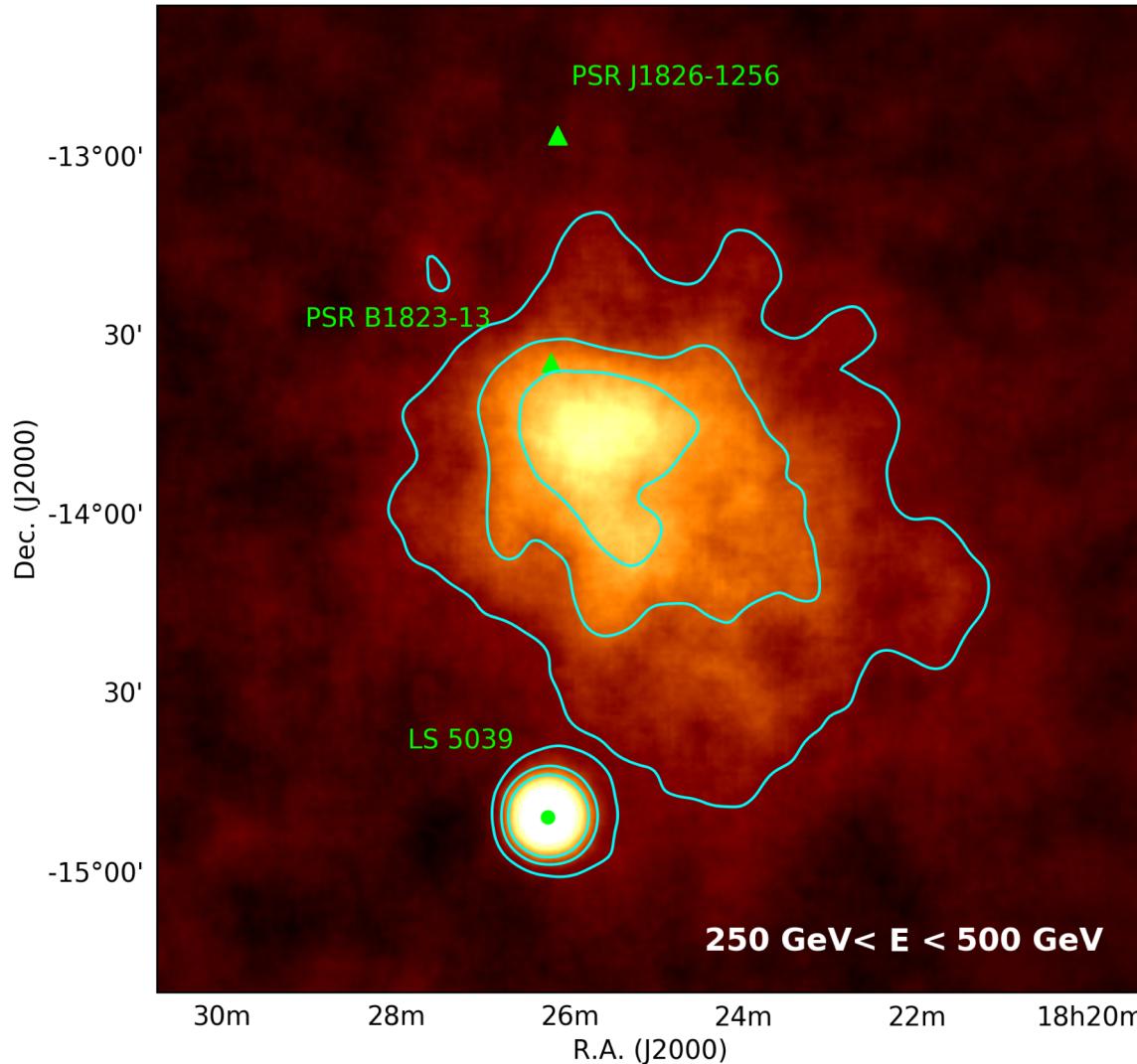


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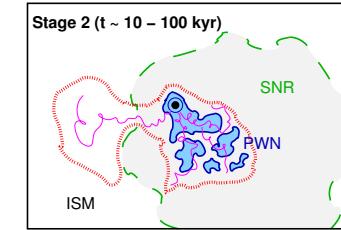


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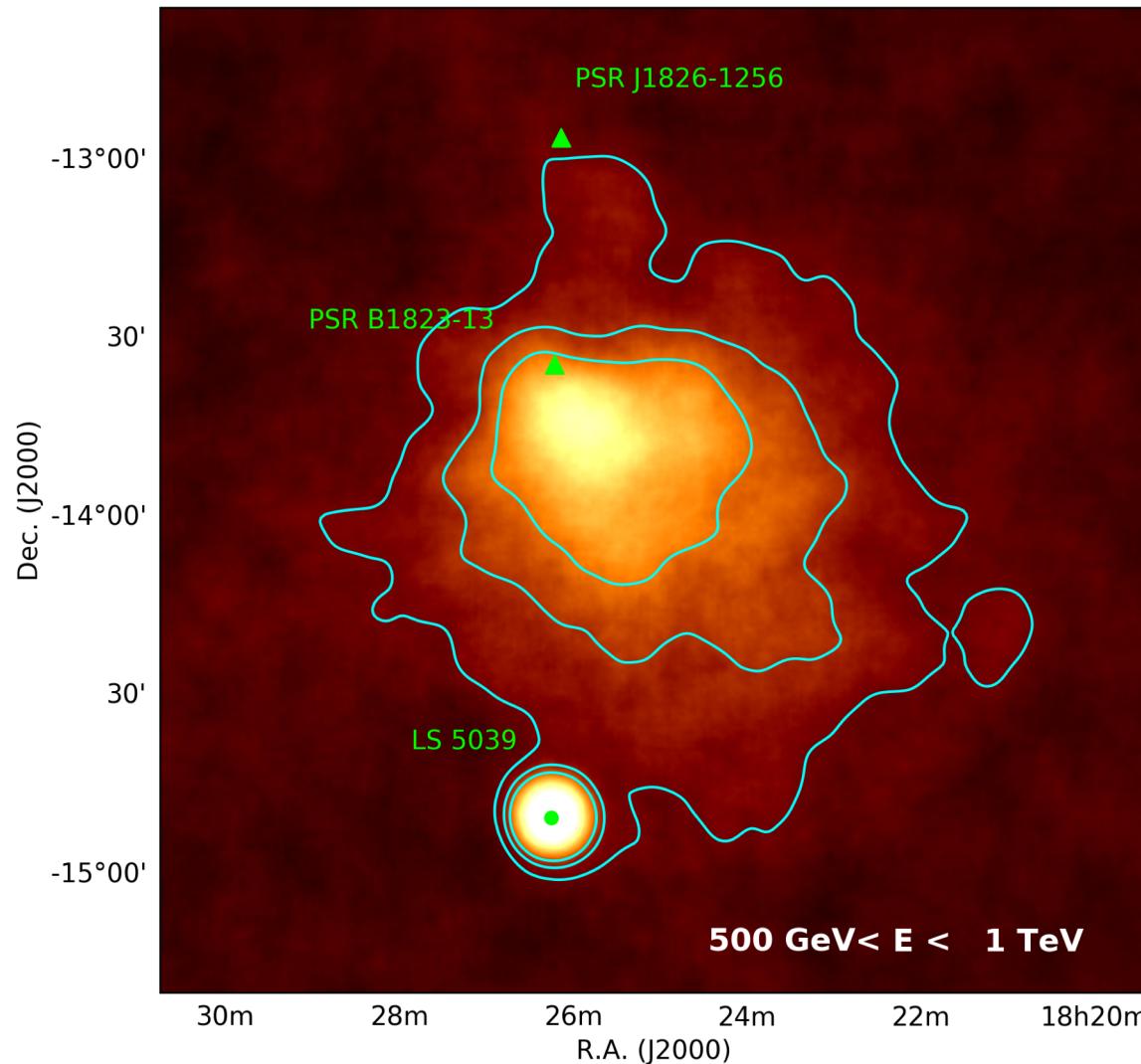


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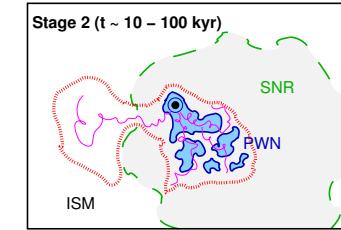


**FAU**  
ERLANGEN CENTRE  
FOR ASTROPARTICLE  
PHYSICS

HESS J1825-137

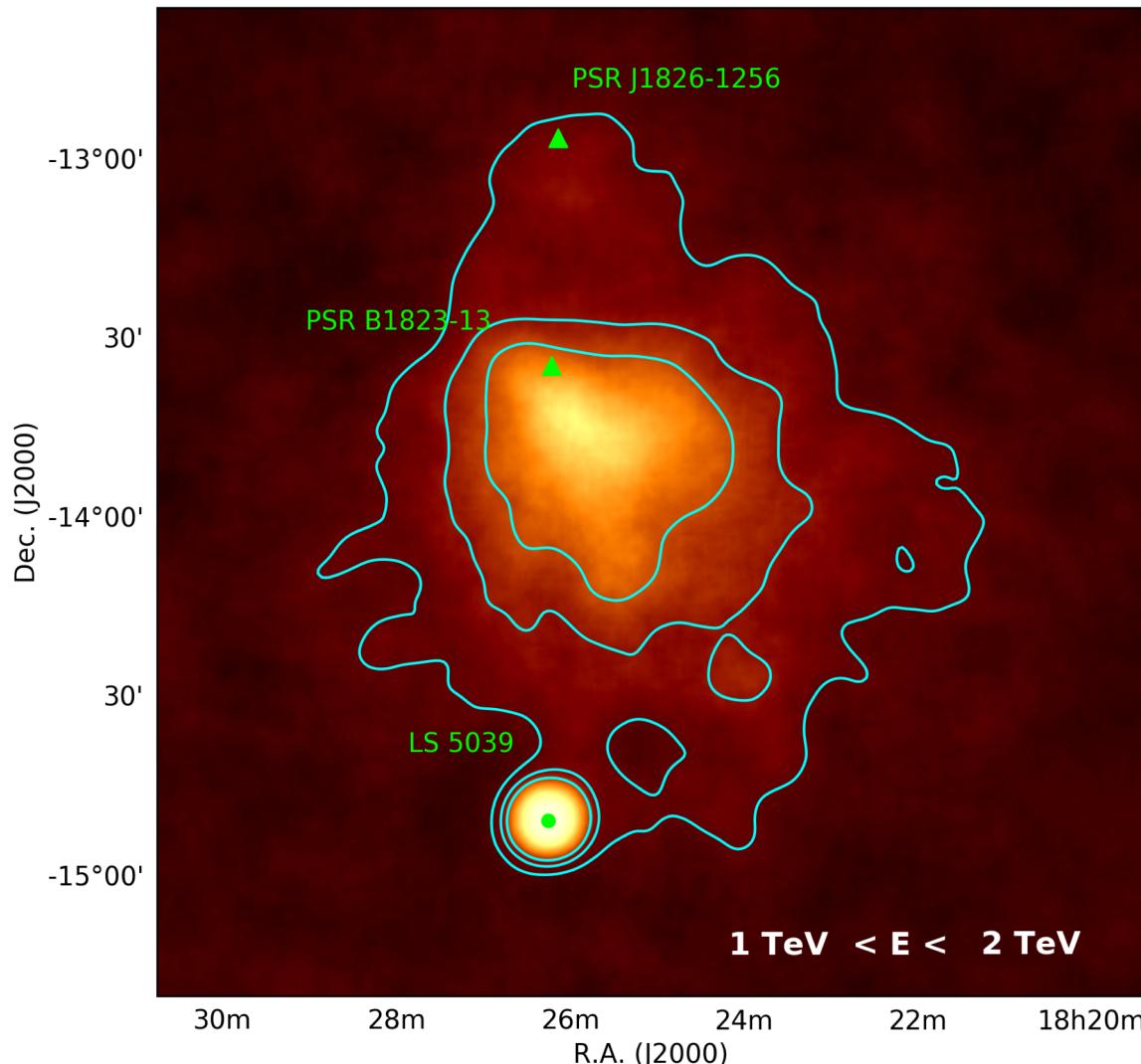


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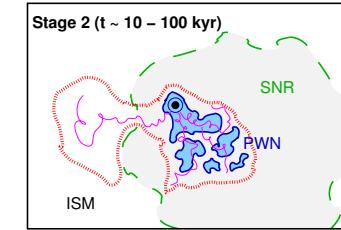


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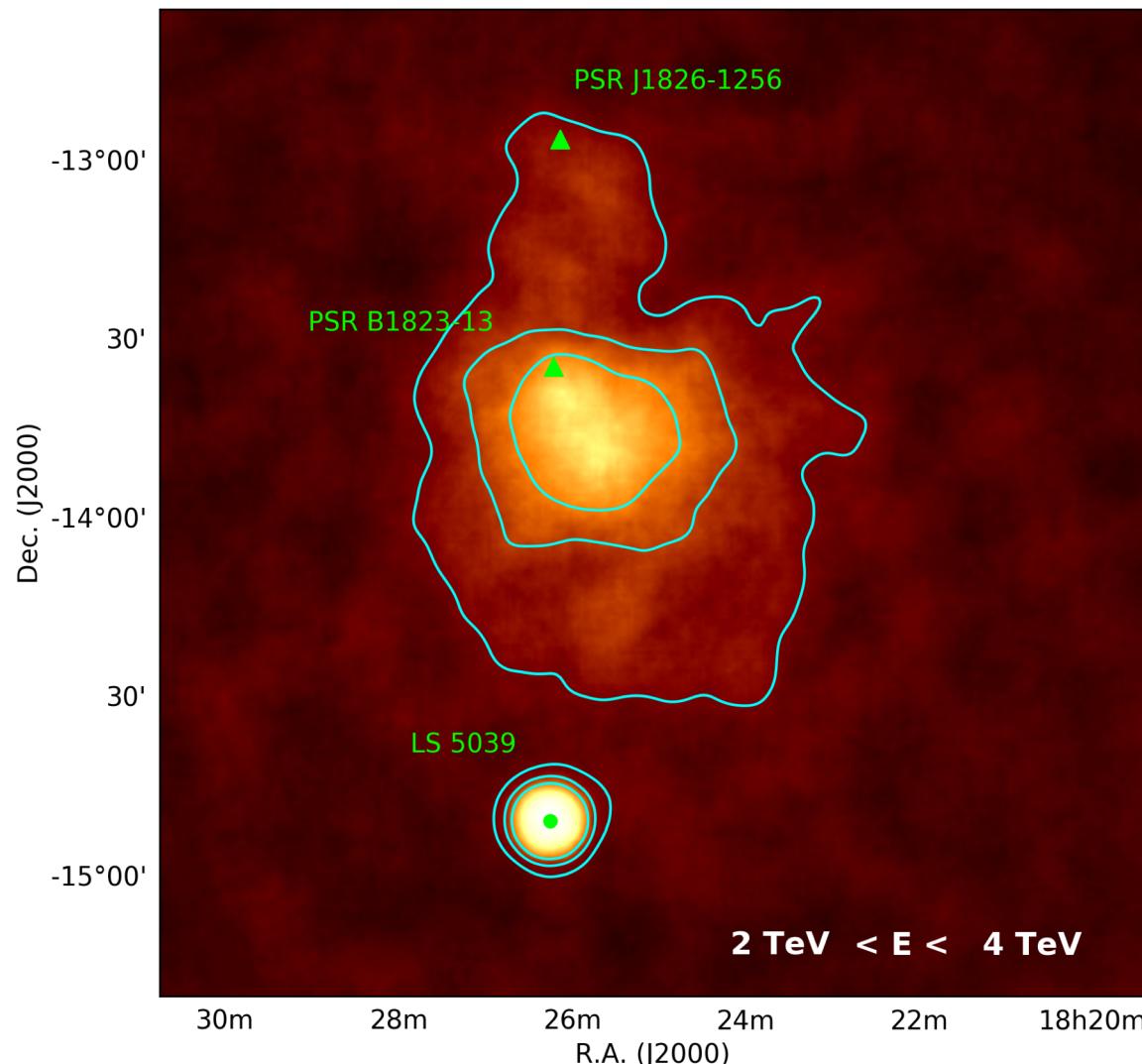
HESS J1825-137



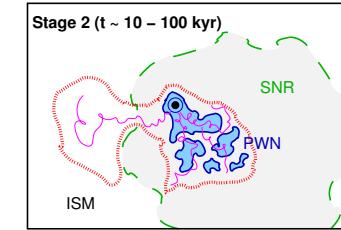
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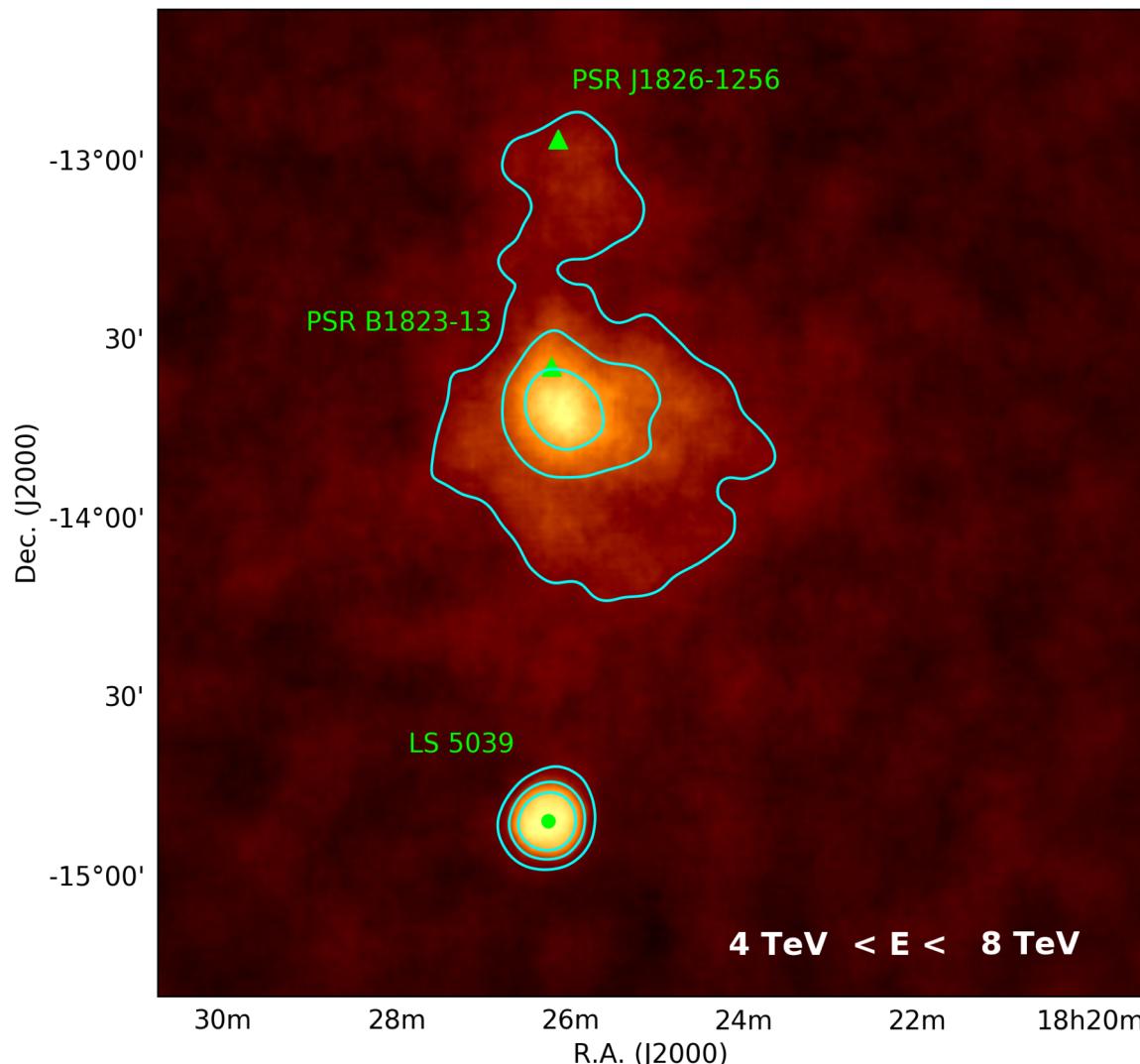
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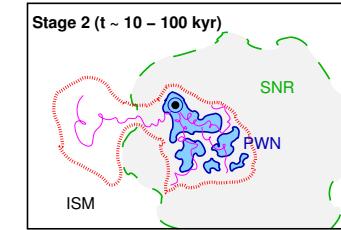
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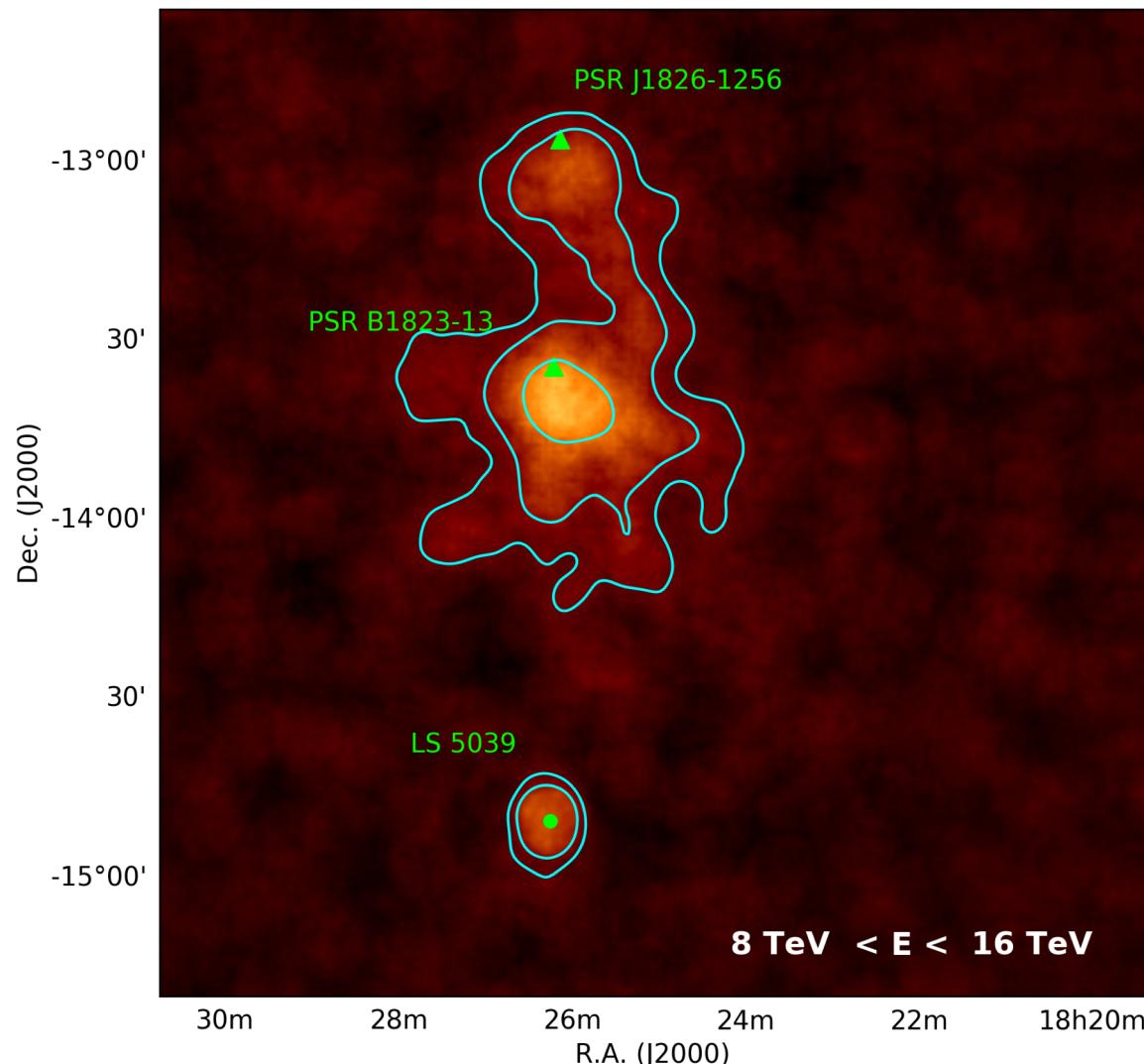


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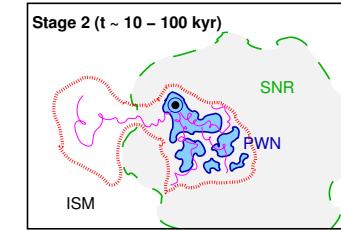


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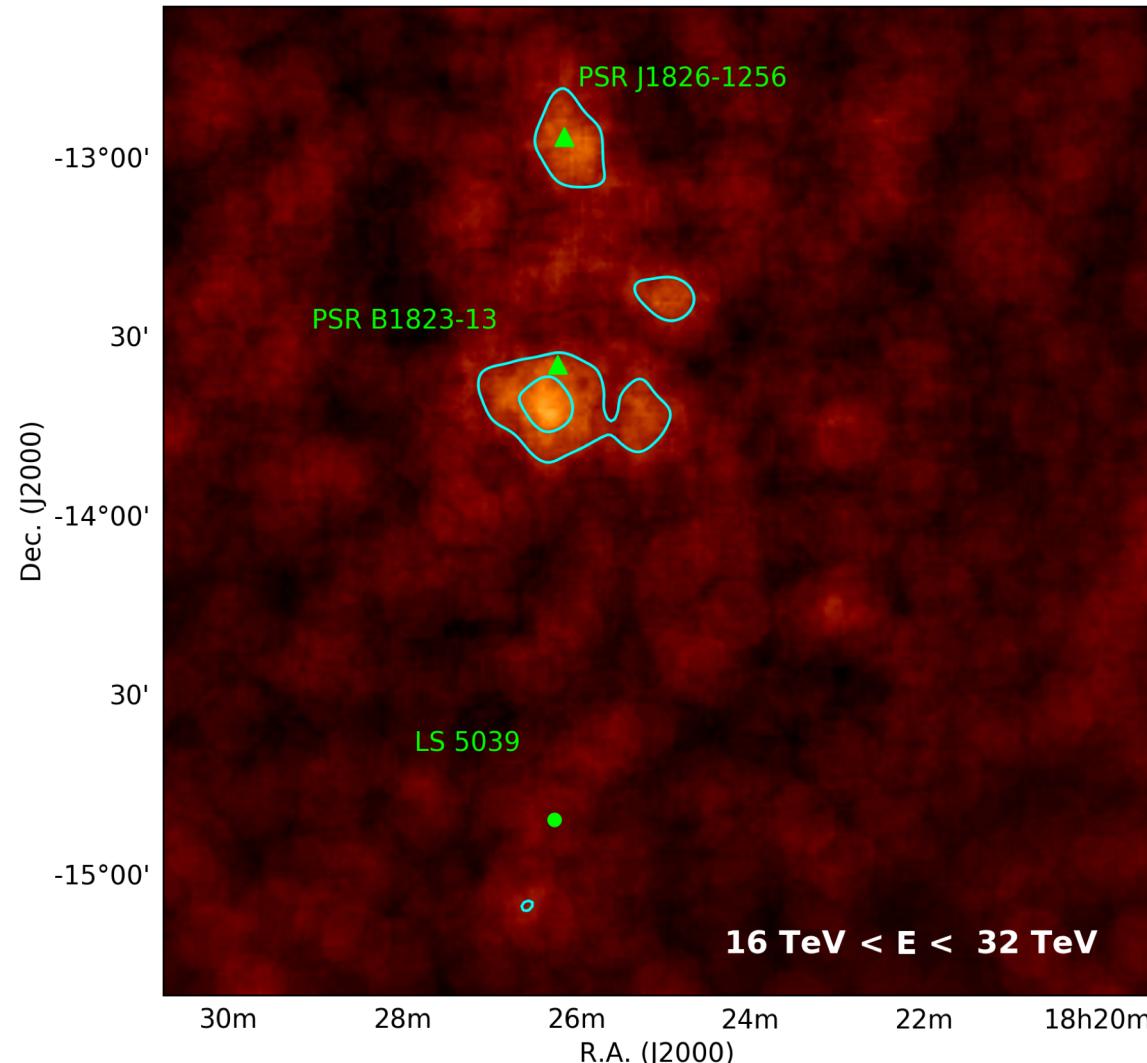


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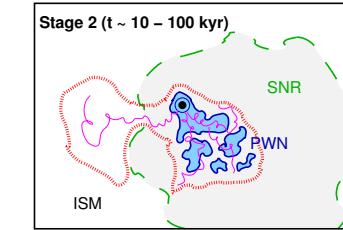


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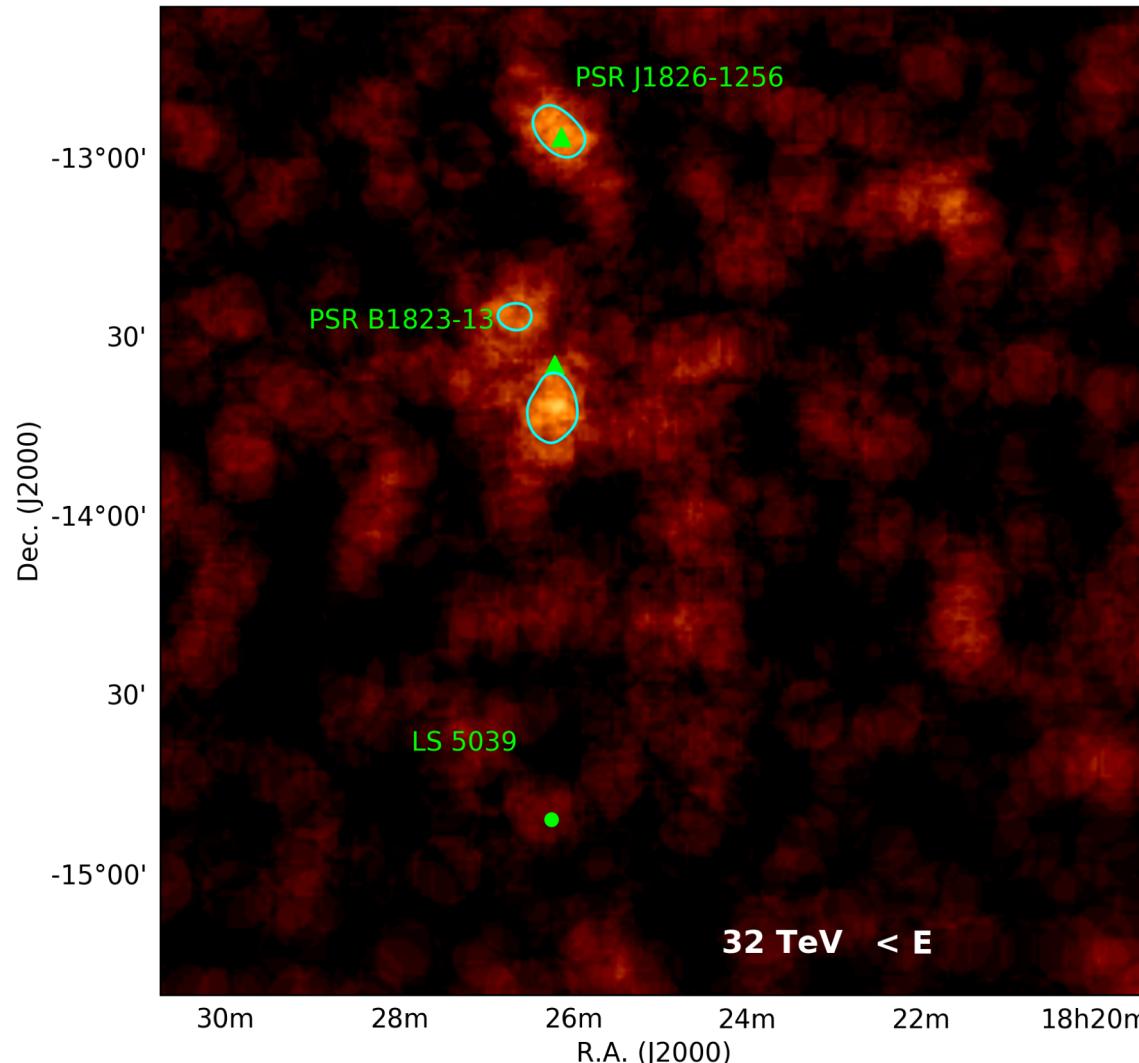


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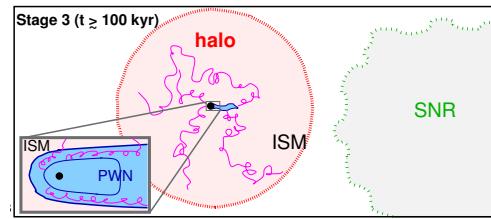
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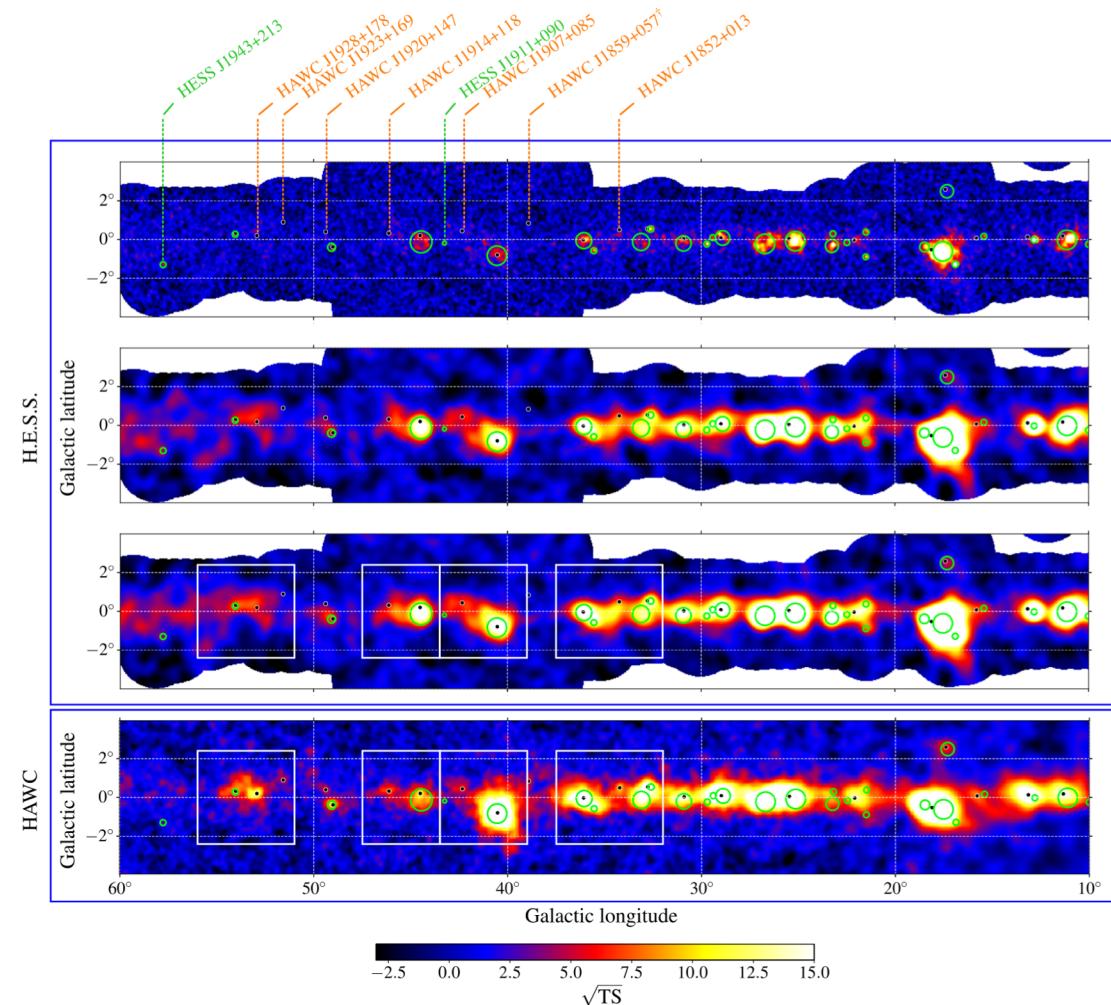


# Pulsar halos: e.g. Geminga

Why are we seeing halos now\*? (\*in the last five years)



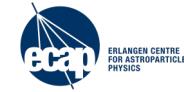
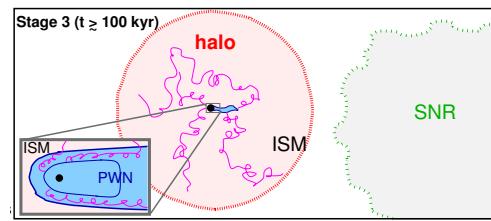
- First identified at TeV energies by Water Cherenkov Detector HAWC  
Larger field-of-view → less angular size bias
- IACTs such as H.E.S.S. have since put effort into improving analysis sensitivity to extended sources
  - Consistent view of the Galactic Plane (H.E.S.S. & HAWC, ApJ, **917**, 2021, 6)  
→ several extended sources seen by HAWC now detected in H.E.S.S. data



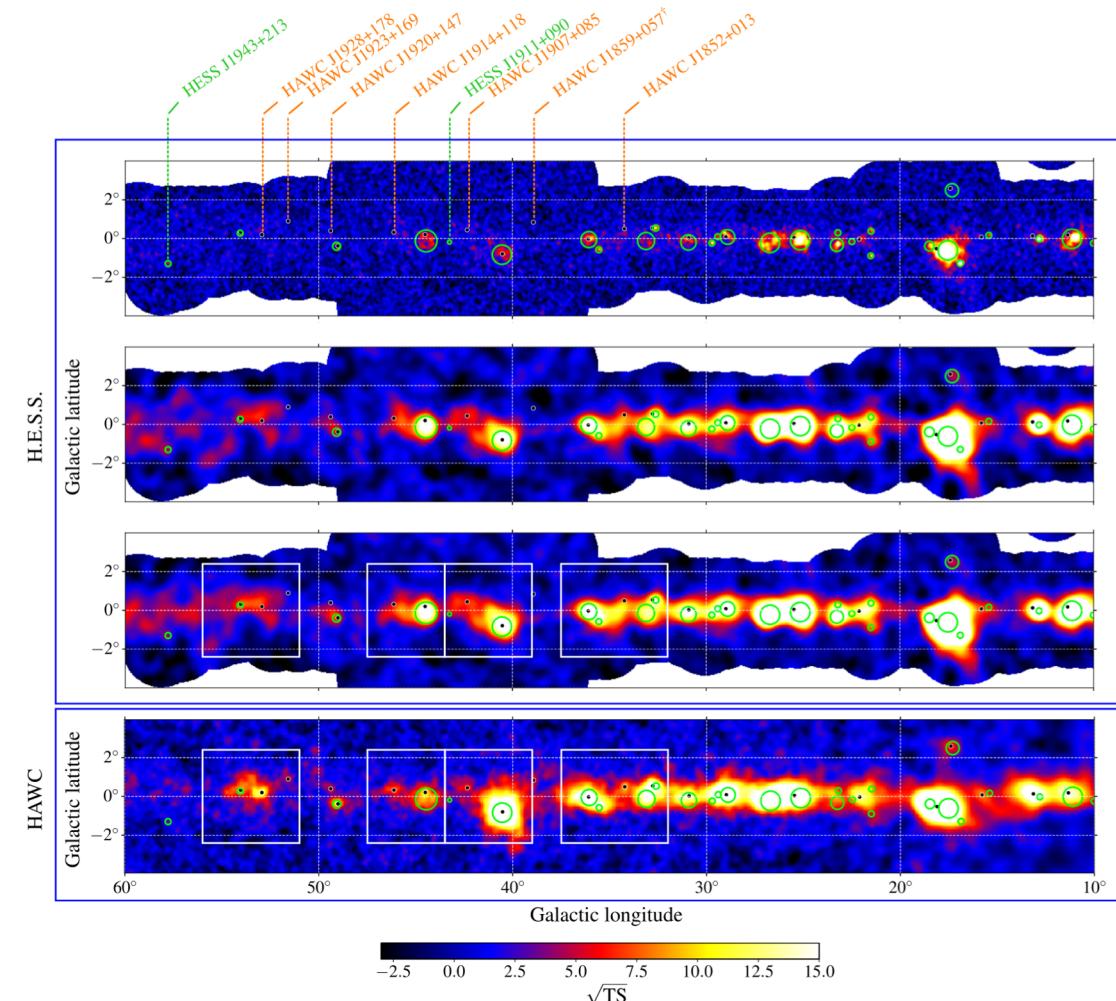
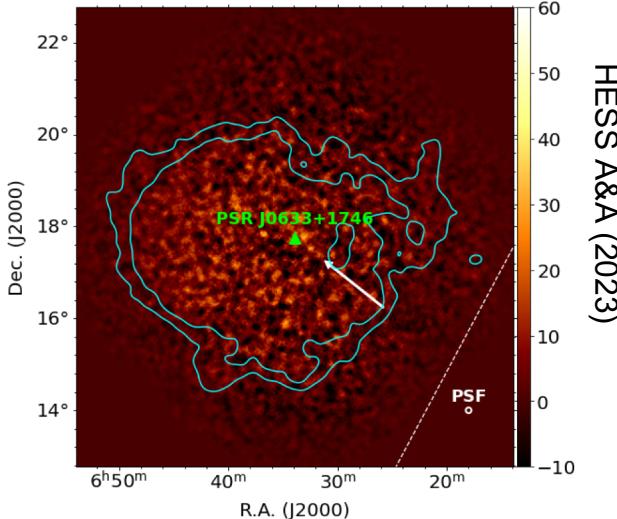
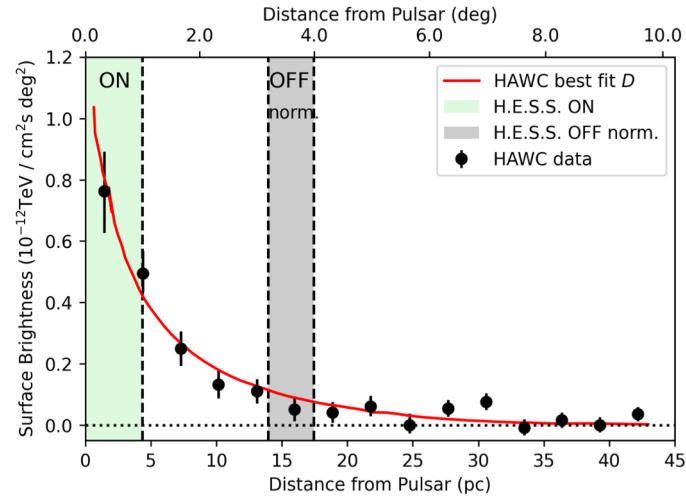
H.E.S.S. & HAWC Collaborations, ApJ **917** (2021) 6

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→ several extended sources seen by HAWC now detected in H.E.S.S. data
  - Detection of the canonical halo around the Geminga pulsar
  - $t = 342 \text{ kyr}$ ,  $\dot{E} = 3.2 \times 10^{34} \text{ erg/s}$ ,  $d = 0.25 \text{ kpc}$

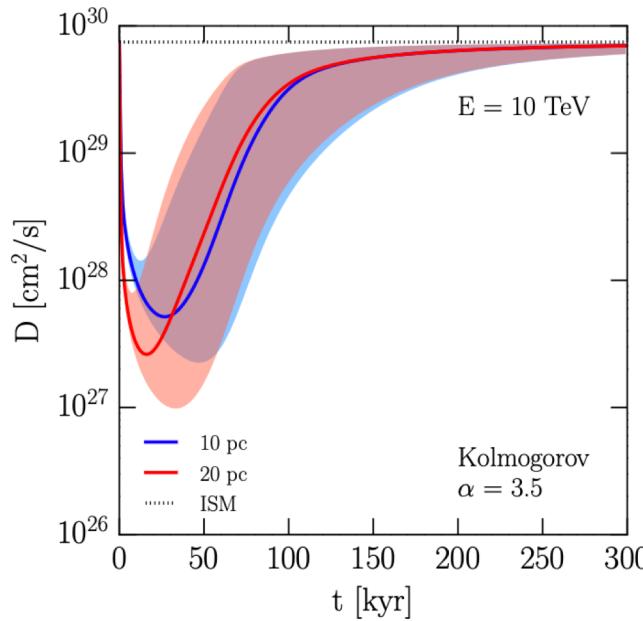


H.E.S.S. & HAWC Collaborations, ApJ **917** (2021) 6

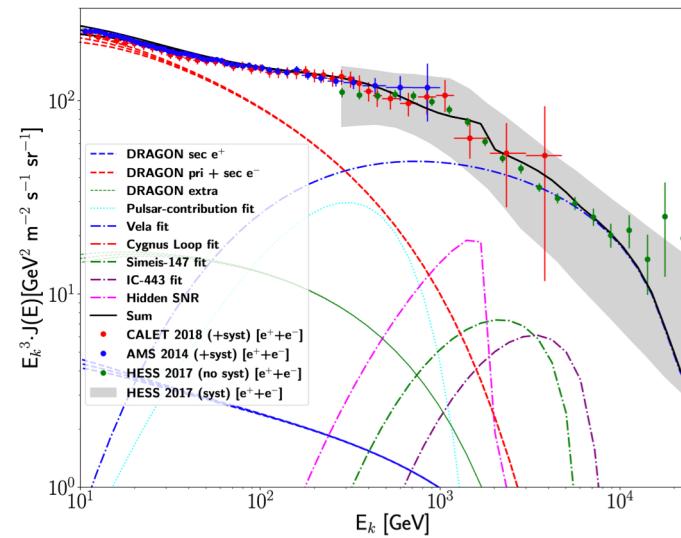
# Cosmic Ray Electron Spectrum

- Recent measurements of slow diffusion in accelerator vicinity
- Generally need a local source contribution to explain the high energy CR electron spectrum
- Nature unclear: local SNR, local pulsar....

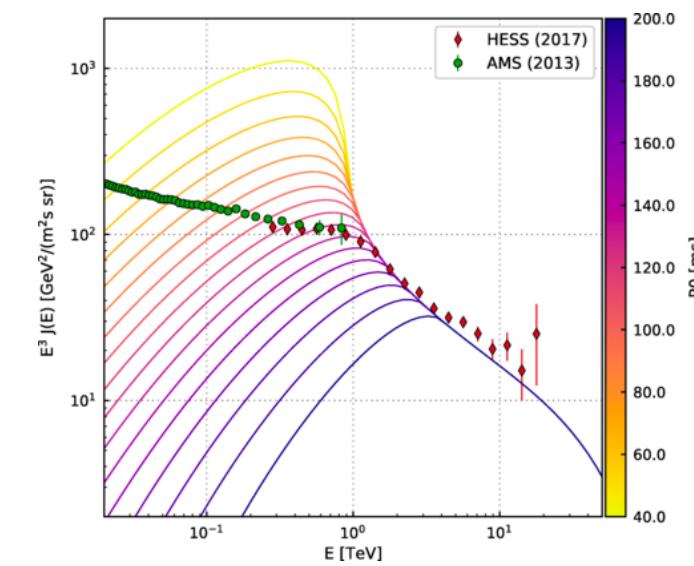
$\Delta E \pm 15\%$  due to hadronic interaction model uncertainties



Evoli et al PRD **98**, 063017 (2018)



Fornieri et al. JCAP **02** (2020) 009



Lopez-Coto et al. PRL **121** (2018) 251106

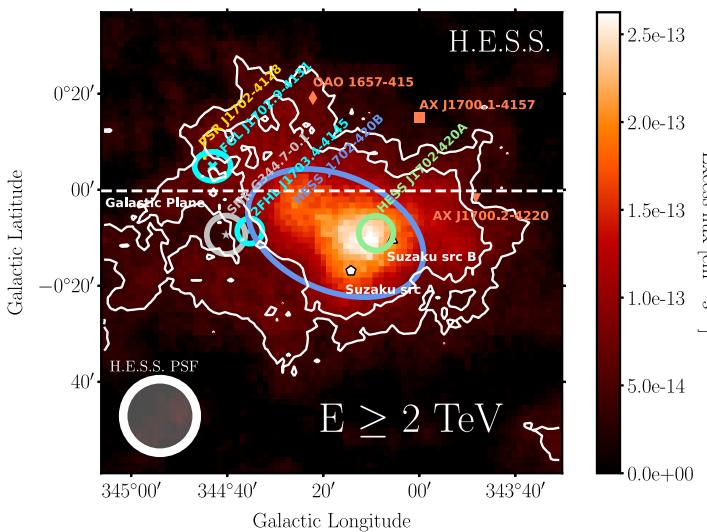
# PeVatron candidates

Supernova Remnants, Stellar Clusters...

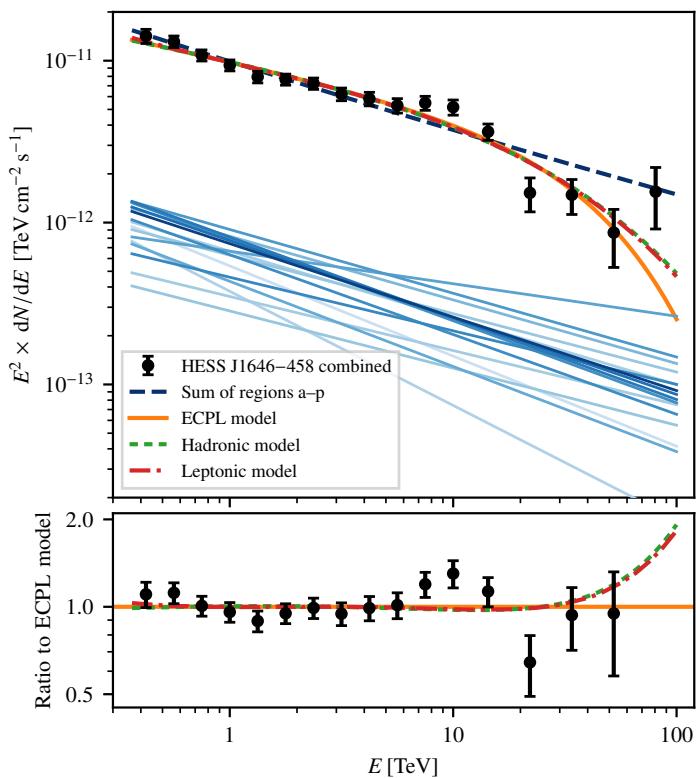
Search for origins of Galactic Cosmic Rays:

- supernova remnants?
- Galactic Centre region?
- stellar clusters?
- escaping CRs interacting with clouds?
- Unidentified sources?

HESS J1702-420

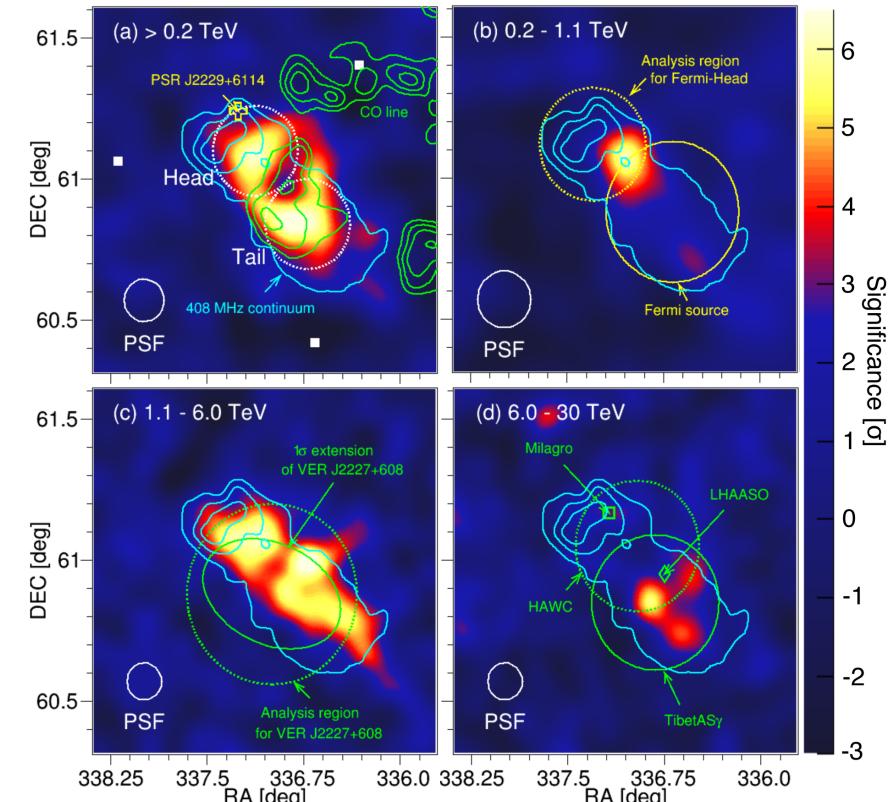


H.E.S.S. Collaboration A&A **653** A152 (2021)



Westerlund 1

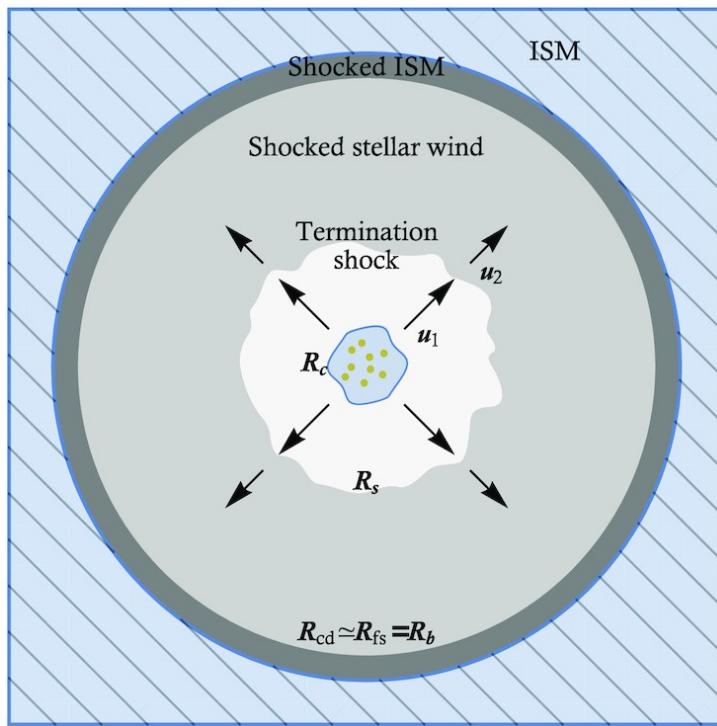
HESS Collaboration A&A **666** A124 (2022)



G106.3+2.7 / Boomerang nebula

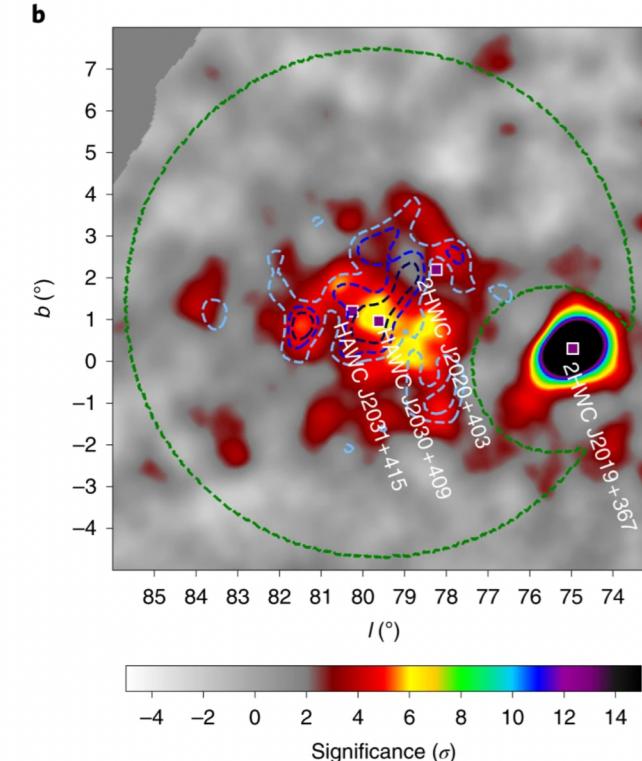
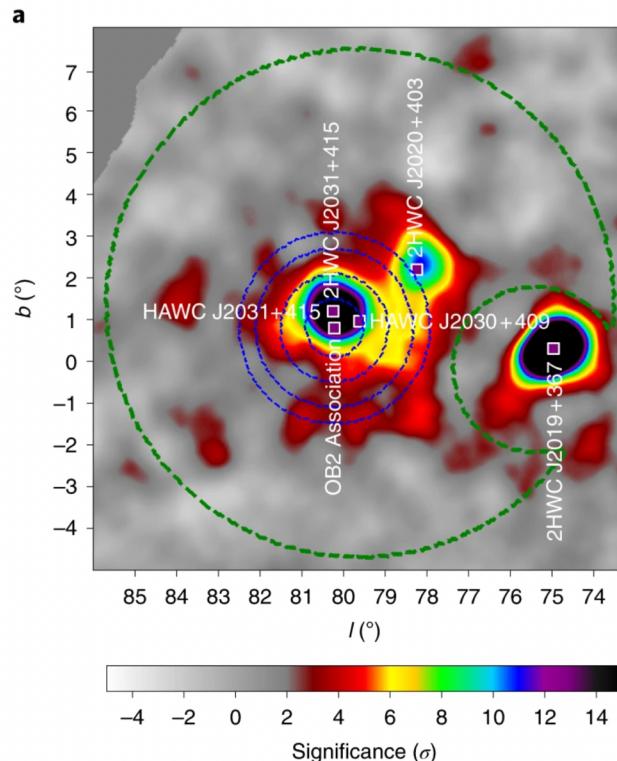
MAGIC collaboration A&A **671**, A12 (2023)

# Stellar Clusters and Cygnus Superbubble



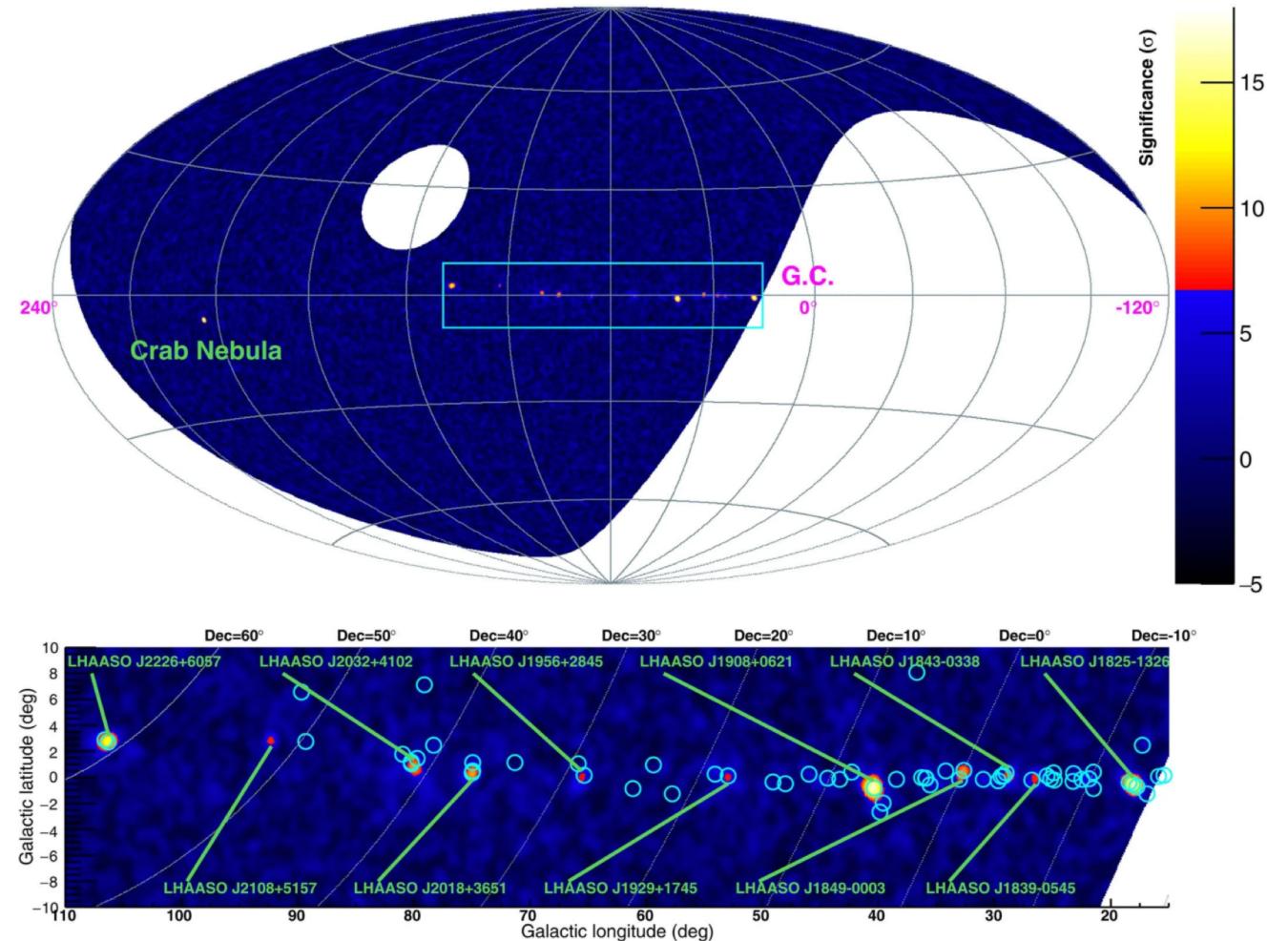
Morlino et al. MNRAS **504** (2021) 6096-6105

- Collective stellar winds drive a shock in the interstellar medium
- Requires typically young stellar clusters / massive star forming regions
- Highest energy photon measured to date:  $1.42 \pm 0.13$  PeV → from Cygnus region?  
LHAASO J2032+4102 (Cao et al. Nature **594** (2021) 33-36 )
- HAWC Cygnus cocoon (Nature Astro. **5** (2021) 465-471)



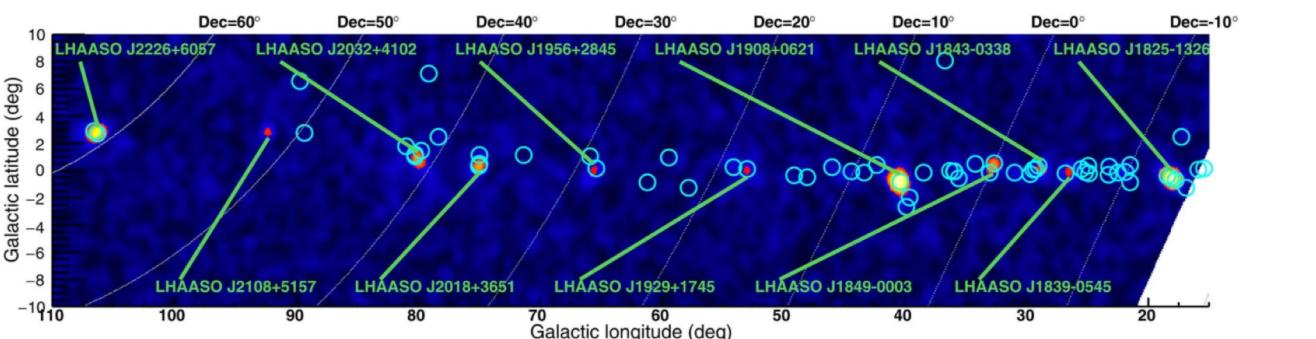
# Highest energy gamma-ray sky > 100 TeV

- Sky maps by LHAASO, Tibet-AS $\gamma$  and HAWC:
- $E_\gamma > 100$  TeV      ( $E_p \sim 1$  PeV;  $E_e \sim 183$  TeV)  
 $\rightarrow \sim 12$  sources
- Cao et al. Nature **594** (2021) 33-36



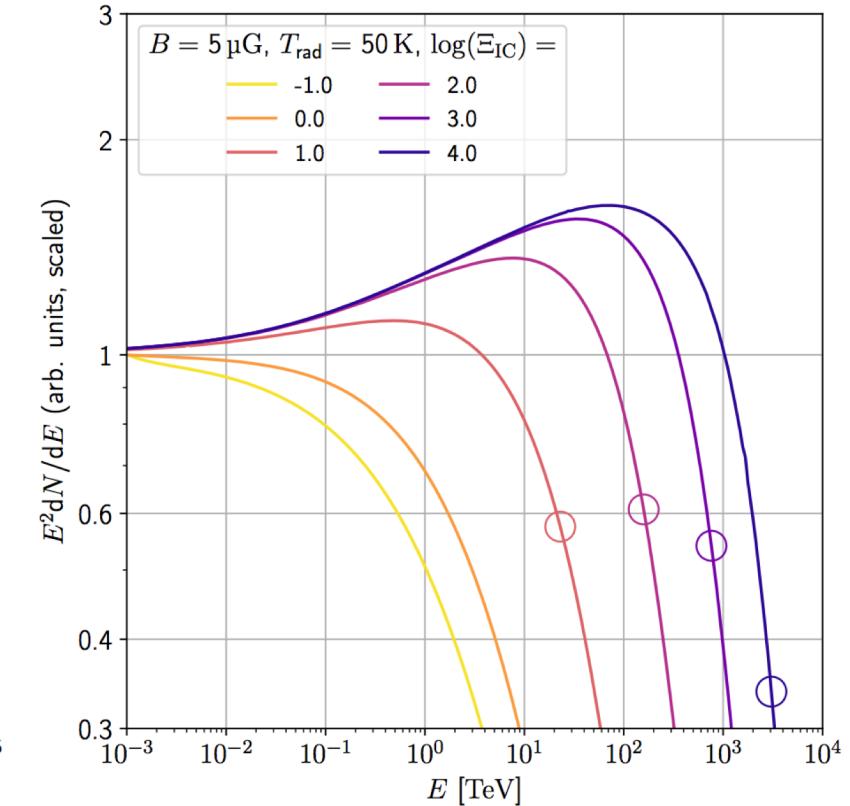
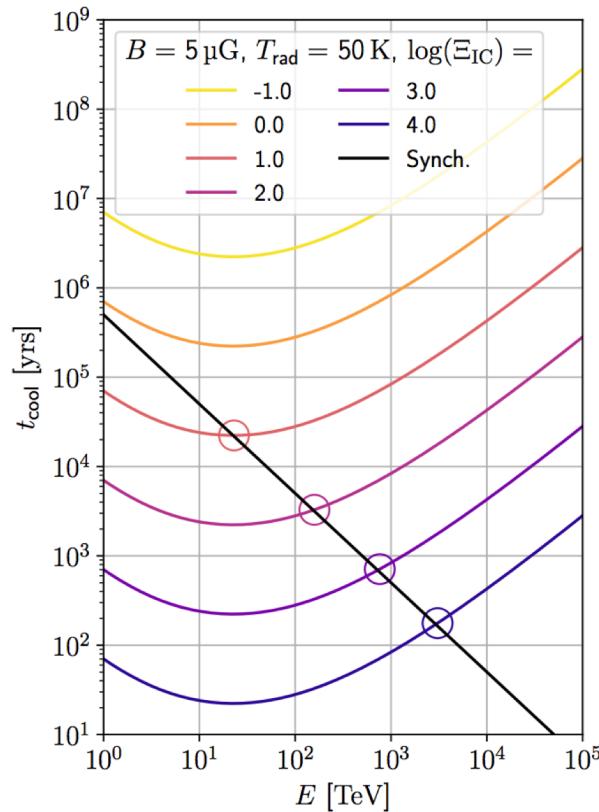
- Sky maps by LHAASO, Tibet-AS $\gamma$  and HAWC:
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 $\rightarrow \sim 12$  sources
- Cao et al. Nature **594** (2021) 33-36
- Most associated with pulsars
- Generally, pulsars are associated with leptonic emission ( $e^+$  &  $e^-$ )

Source	Location (l,b)	Detected > 100 TeV by	Possible Origin
Crab Nebula	(184.557, -5.784)	HAWC, MAGIC, LHAASO, Tibet-AS $\gamma$	PSR
HESS J1702-420	(344.304, -0.184)	H.E.S.S.	?
Galactic Centre	(0-1.2, -0.1 – +0.1)	H.E.S.S.	SMBH?
eHWC J1825-134	(18.116, -0.46)	HAWC, LHAASO	PSR
LHAASO J1839-0545	(26.49, -0.04)	LHAASO	PSR
LHAASO J1843-0338	(28.722, 0.21)	LHAASO	SNR
LHAASO J1849-0003	(32.655, 0.43)	LHAASO	PSR, YMC
eHWC J1907+063	(40.401, -0.70)	HAWC, LHAASO	SNR, PSR
LHAASO J1929+1745	(52.94, 0.04)	LHAASO	PSR, SNR
LHAASO J1956+2845	(65.58, 0.10)	LHAASO	PSR, SNR
eHWC J2019+368	(75.017, 0.283)	HAWC, LHAASO	PSR, H II/YMC
LHAASO J2032+4102	(79.89, 0.79)	LHAASO	YMC, PSR, SNR?
LHAASO J2108+5157	(92.28, 2.87)	LHAASO	?
TeV J2227+609	(106.259, 2.73)	Tibet-AS $\gamma$ , LHAASO	SNR, PSRs



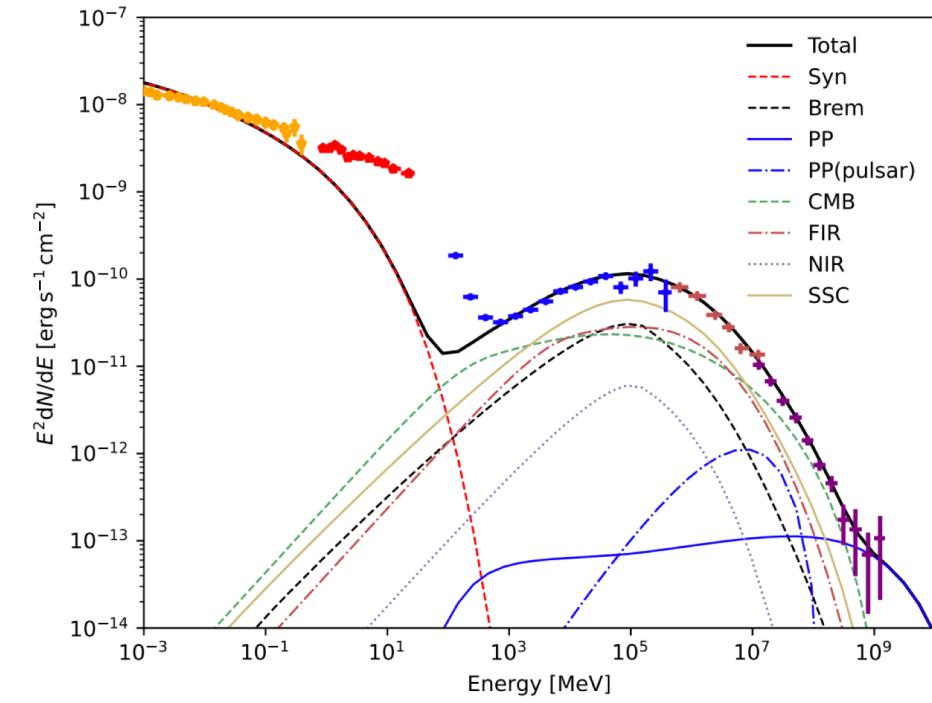
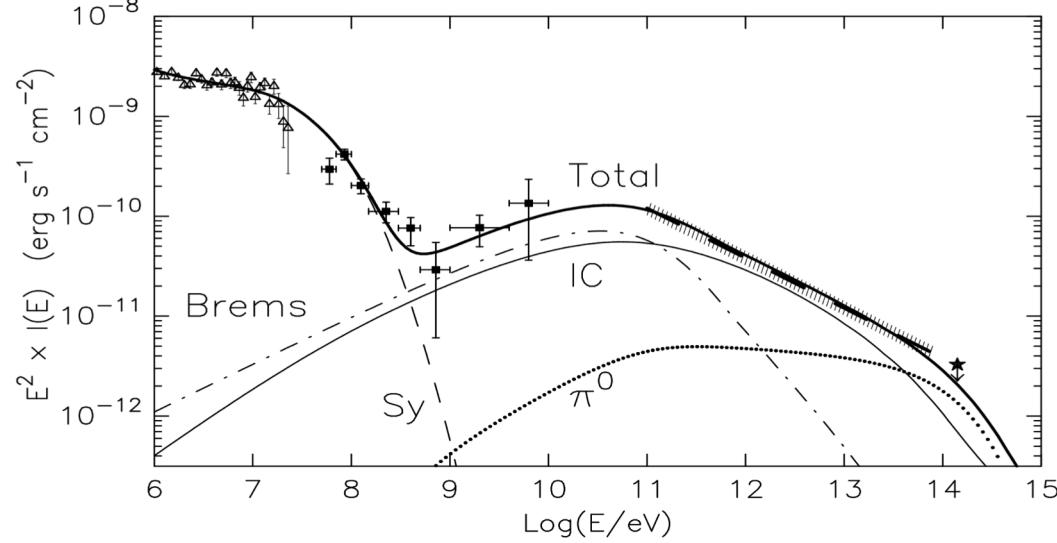
$$\Xi_{IC} \equiv U_{rad}/U_B$$

- In high radiation environments, synchrotron cooling dominates over IC losses, even into Klein-Nishina regime. (IC cross-section suppressed)
- Resulting spectrum is harder / cut-off is less pronounced.
- Leptonic spectra out to PeV energies can be observed



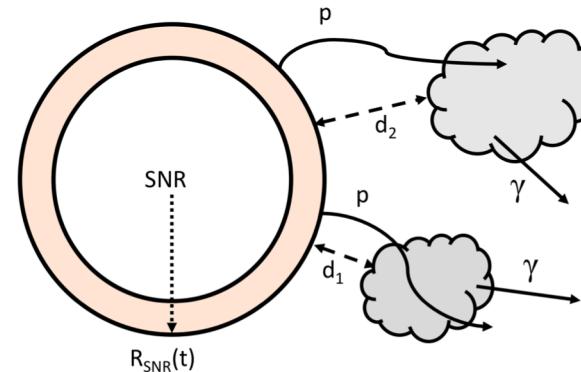
# Klein-Nishina cut-off → sub-dominant hadronic component

A sub-dominant hadronic component could be revealed at the highest energies,  
beyond the Klein-Nishina cut-off



# Gamma-ray signatures of cosmic rays

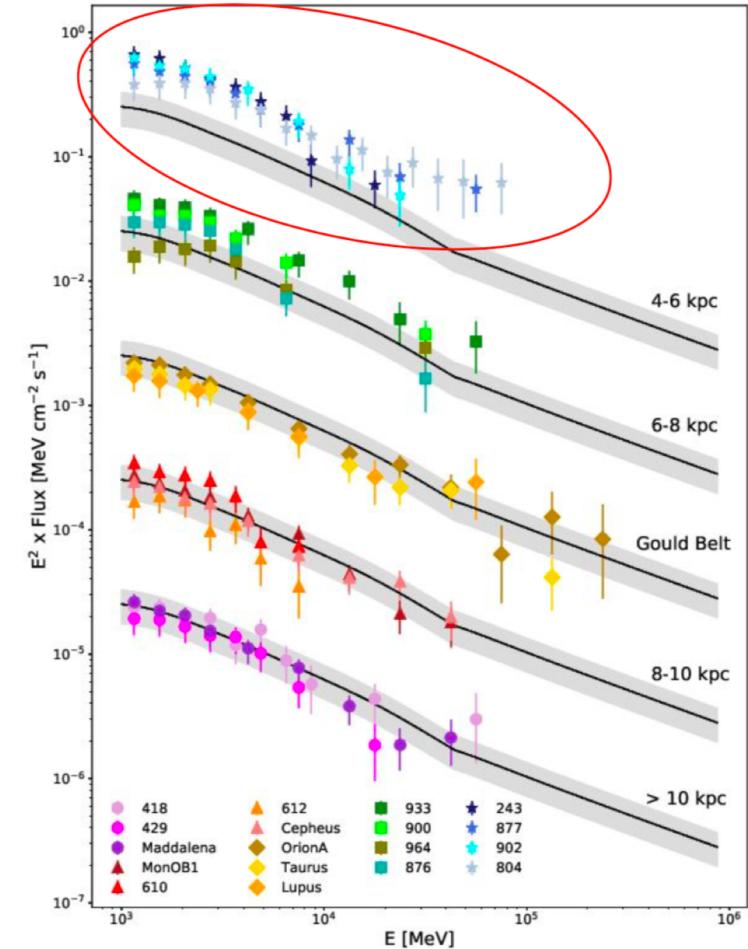
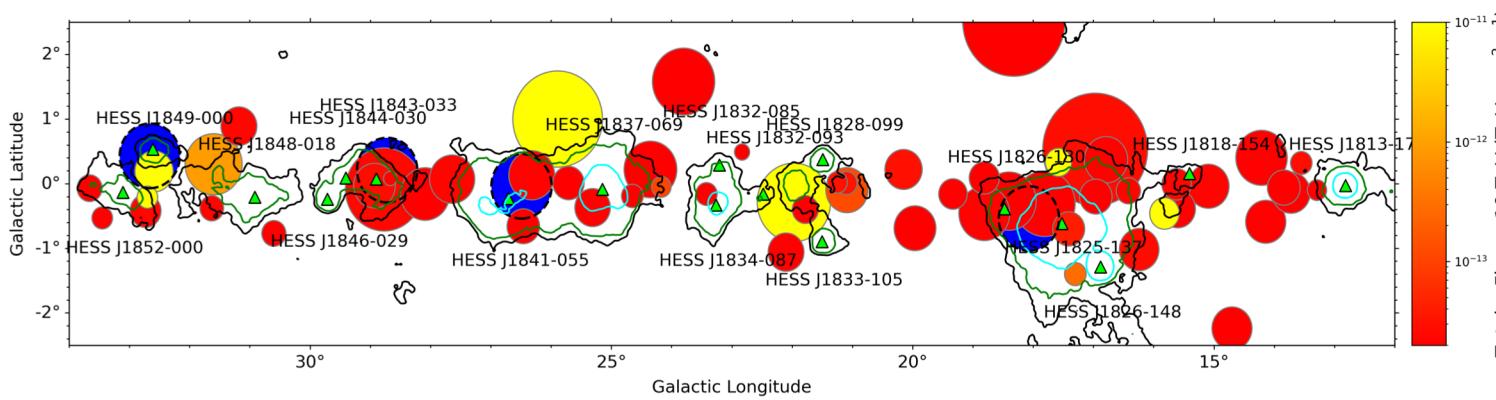
→ Protons (and heavier nuclei) escape from accelerator – will interact with nearby clouds



→ Predict and search for gamma-rays from clouds identified in radio

→ Can use clouds in vicinity of accelerators to probe escape of protons and constrain their presence

AM et al. MNRAS **503**  
3522-3539 (2021)



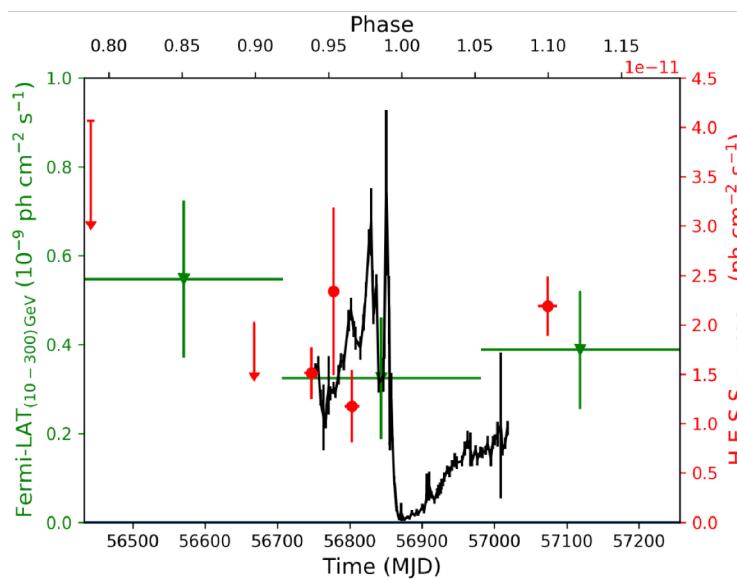
Aharonian et al, PRD **101**, 083018 (2020)

# Binary Systems: Microquasars, Colliding wind binaries...

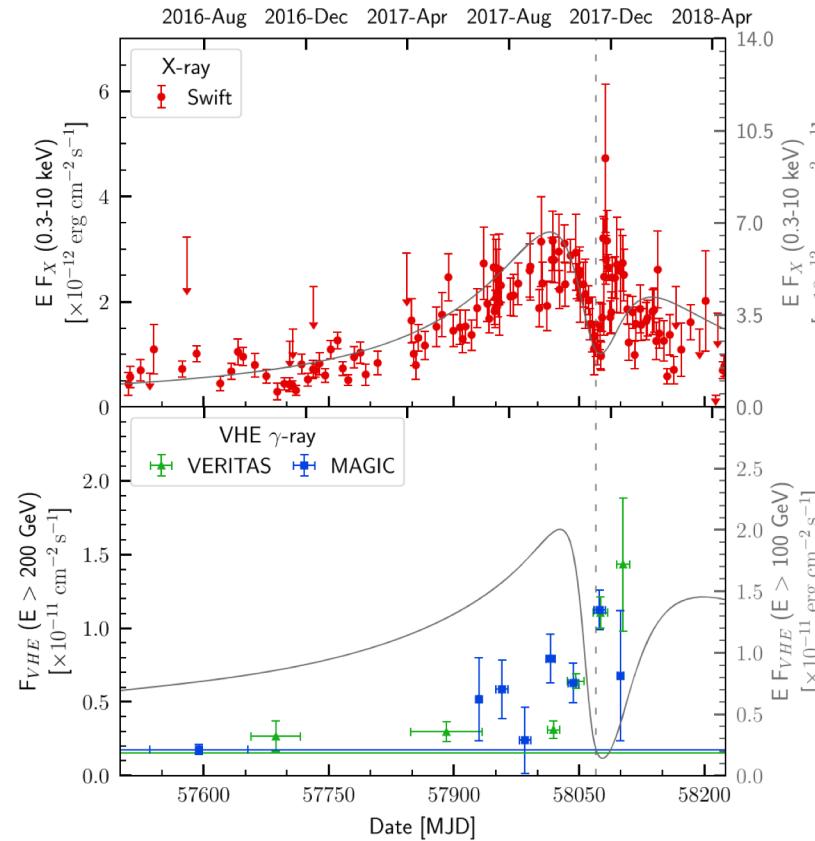
Gamma-ray emitting binaries:

- Colliding Wind Binaries
- Gamma-ray binaries
- Microquasars (solar mass BHs)
- Novae

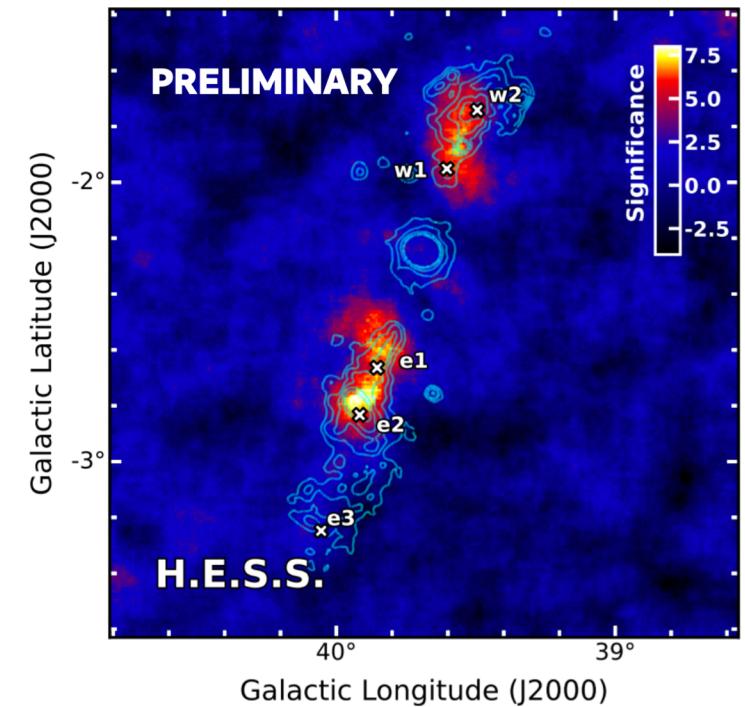
Eta Carinae:  $P \sim 5.5\text{yr}$



PSR J2032+4127/Be:  $P \sim 50\text{yr}$



SS433: jets



# Introduction to Novae

Novae – outbursts from accreting binary systems  
(White Dwarf + massive donor):

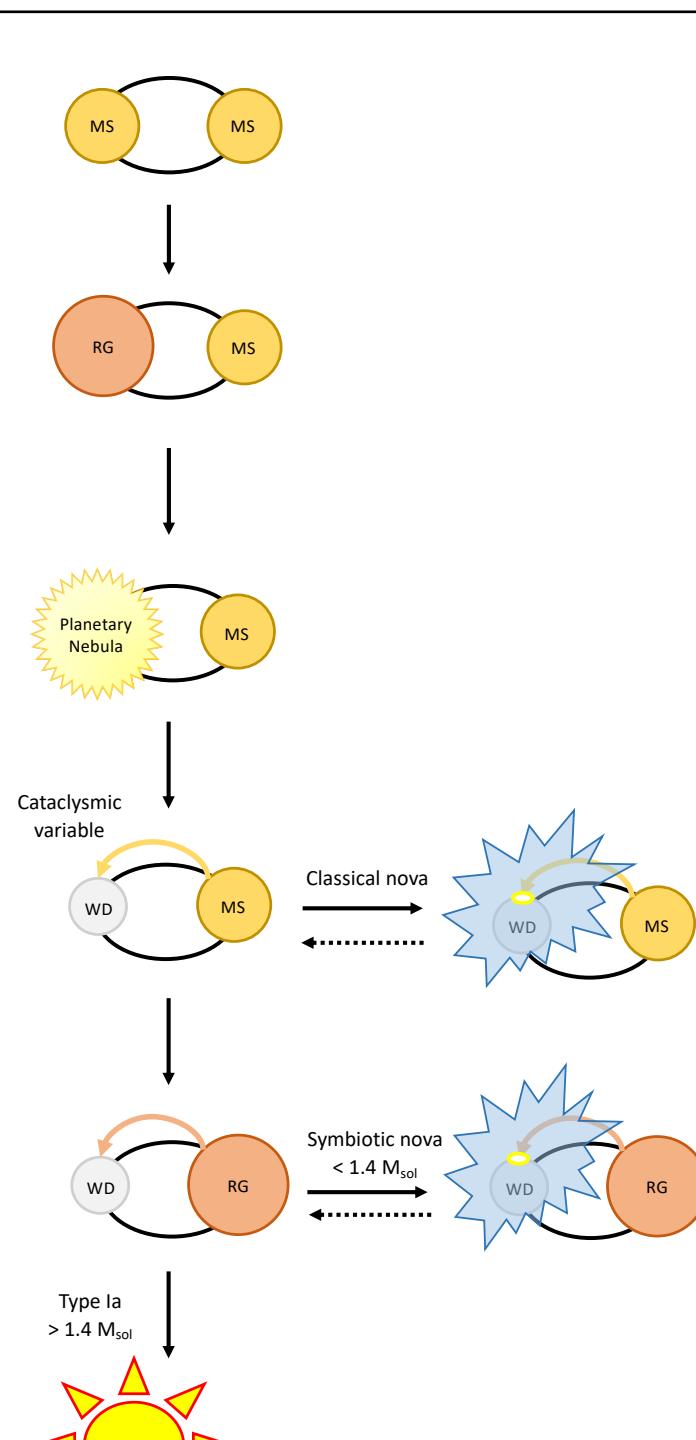
- (Classical) Novae → outbursts from cataclysmic variables
- Symbiotic Novae → red giant / “evolved” donor star
- Recurrent Novae → multiple observed outbursts
- Dwarf Novae → mini-outbursts (not thermonuclear)

Thermonuclear explosion ignited on surface of white dwarf

Increase in optical brightness  $\Delta m_v \sim 8$  to 15

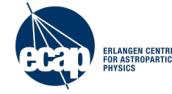
Typical optical duration weeks to months

$$E_{\max} = 1.5 |Z| \left( \frac{\xi_{\text{esc}}}{0.01} \right) \left( \frac{\dot{M} / v_{\text{wind}}}{10^{11} \text{ kg m}^{-1}} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{u_{\text{sh}}}{5000 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^2 \text{ TeV}$$



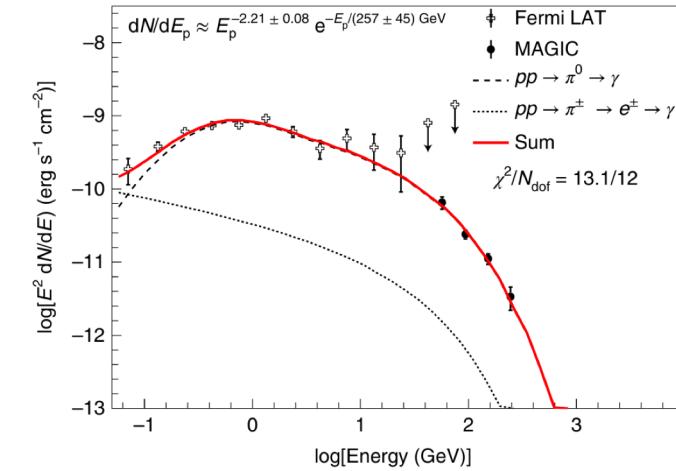
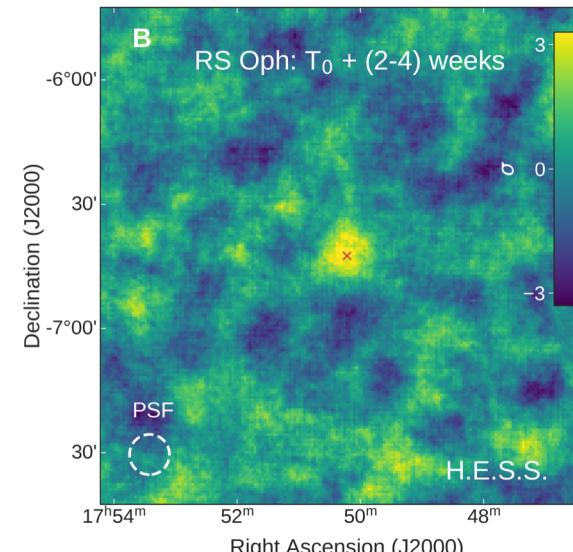
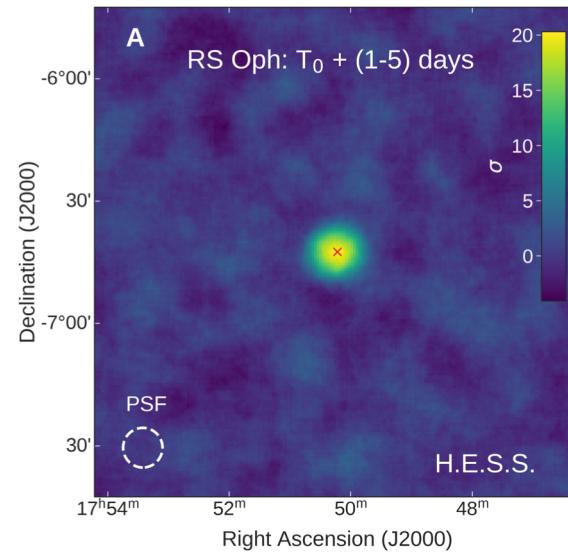
# First Nova in VHE gamma-rays: RS Ophiuchi

Binary of white dwarf and red giant



- Binary system comprised of white dwarf and red giant at  $\sim 1.4$  kpc distance
- Semi-regular explosions observed since 1898
- Last two: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2006 and **8<sup>th</sup> August 2021** reaching  $m_v = 4.6$  (cf quiet state  $m_v = 12.5$ )
- Detected by H.E.S.S., MAGIC and LST in VHE gamma-rays (Atel 14844)

Hadronic scenario preferred



# Gamma-ray flux decay

Optical peak occurred at  $T_0 = 59435.25$  (MJD)

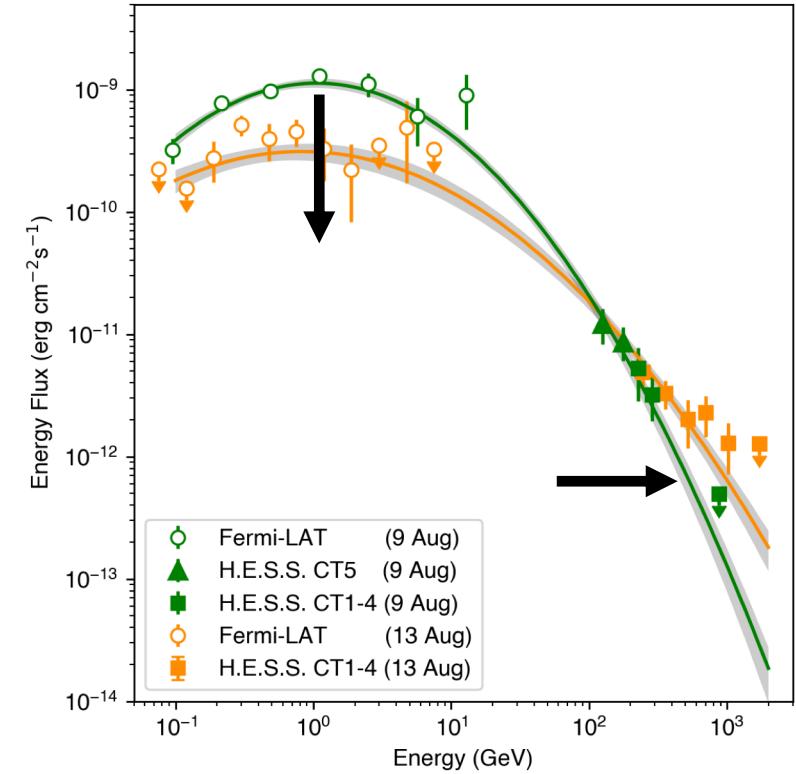
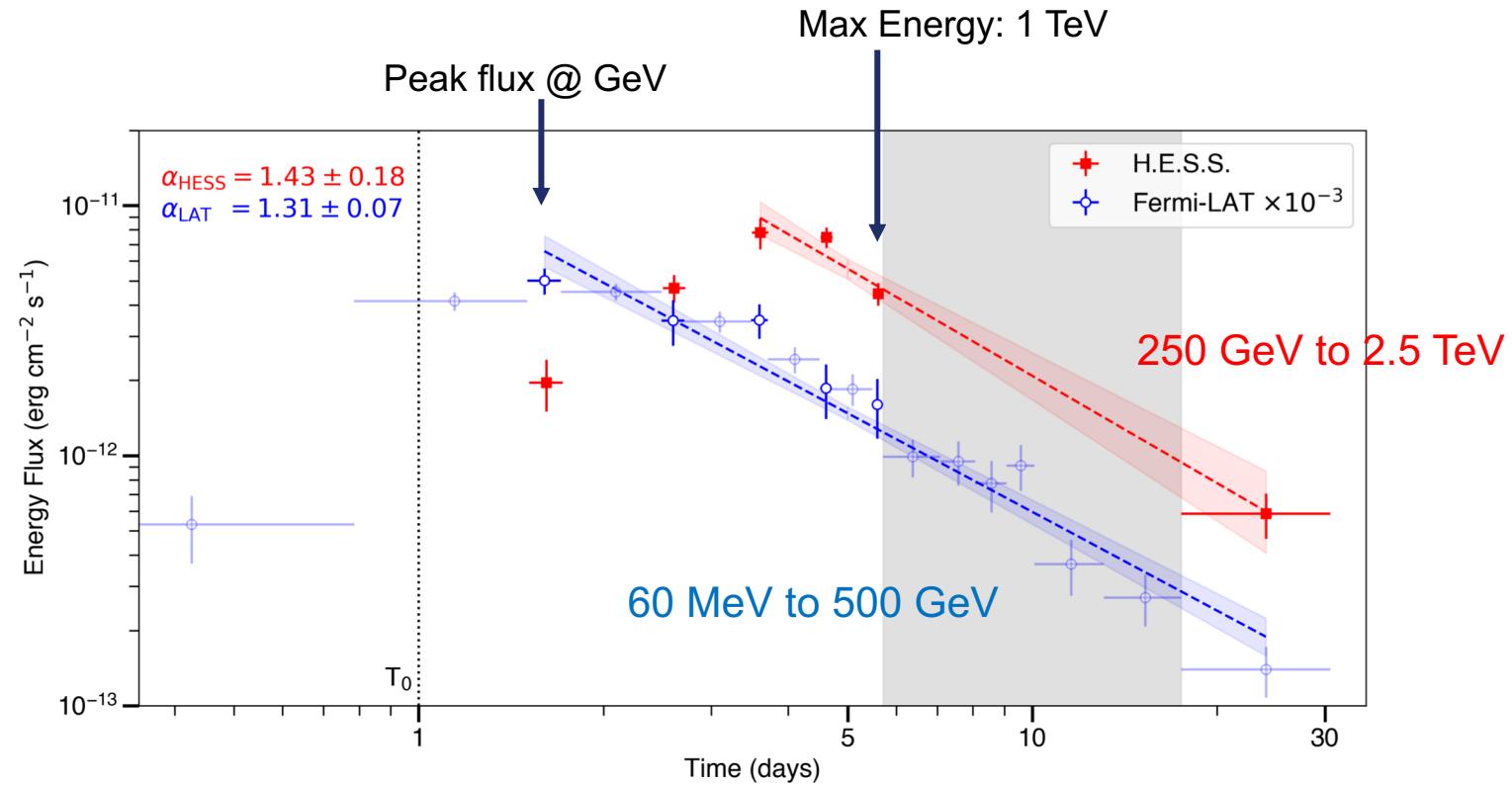
VHE gamma-ray flux peak seen by H.E.S.S. is delayed with respect to Fermi-LAT

Consistent decay slope after peak flux is attained

It takes time to reach the theoretical maximum energy

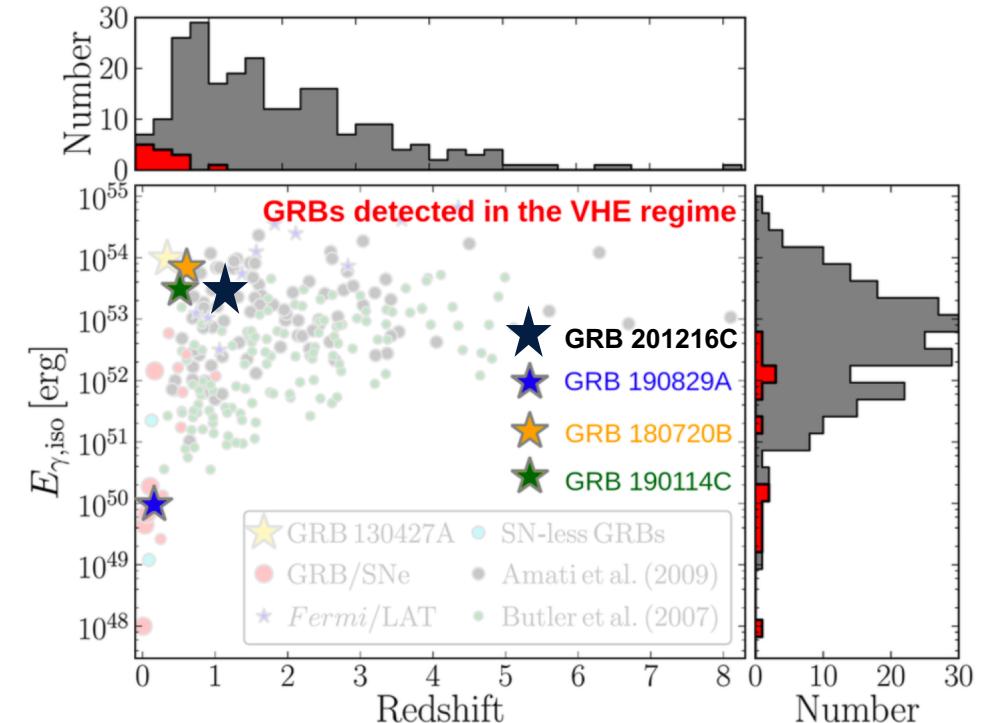
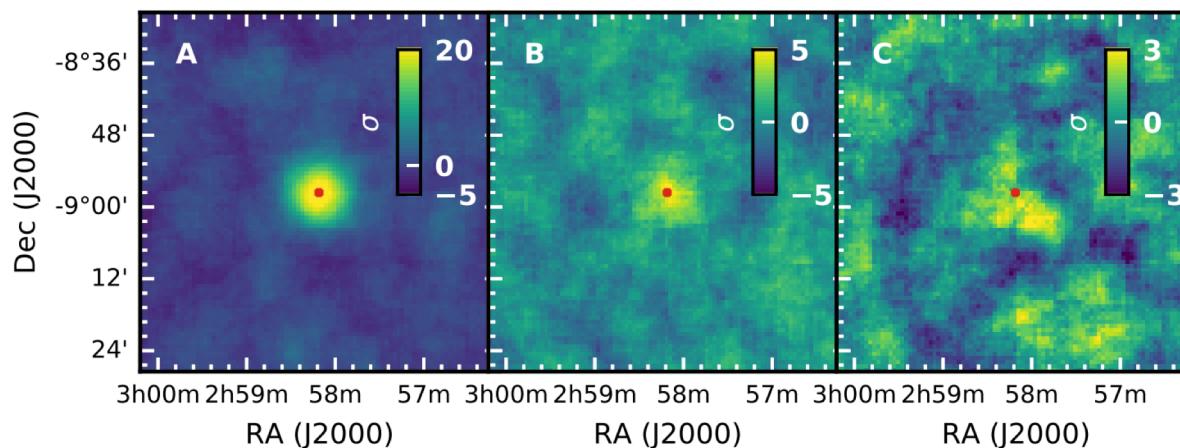
Either: cooling limited (leptonic)

Or: confinement limited (hadronic)  
until particles become sufficiently energetic to escape the shock



First four VHE GRBs detected by H.E.S.S. & MAGIC between 2018 – 2020  
(long GRBs, detected during afterglow phase)

- GRB 180720B,  $z \sim 0.654$  (H.E.S.S.)
- GRB 190114C,  $z \sim 0.4245$  (MAGIC)
- GRB 190829A,  $z \sim 0.08$  (H.E.S.S.)
- GRB 201216C,  $z \sim 1.1$  (MAGIC)

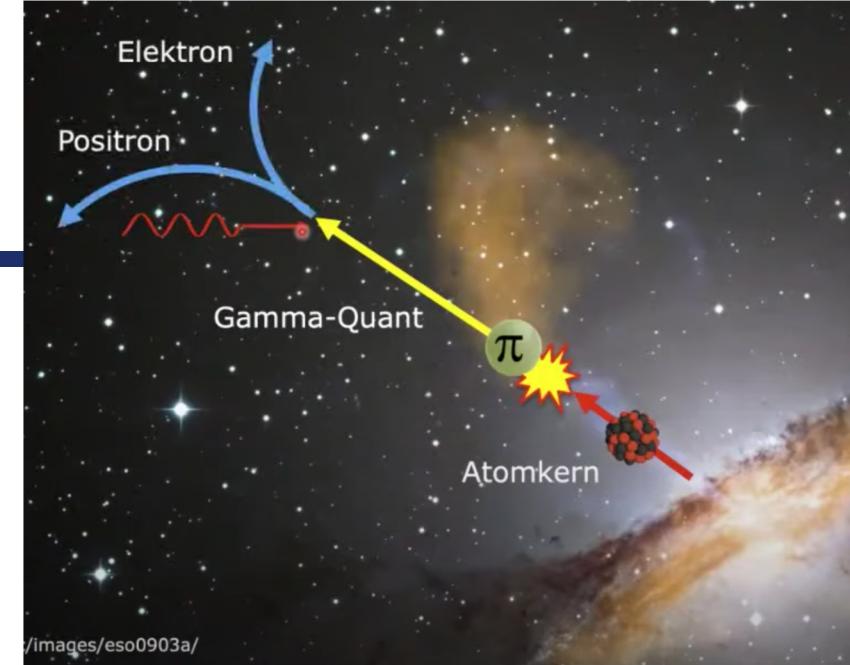
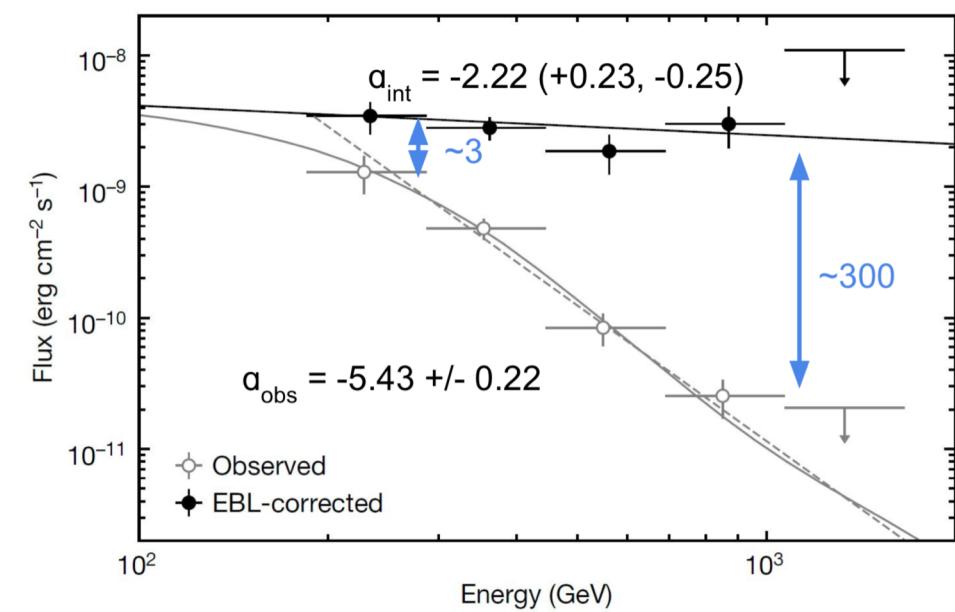
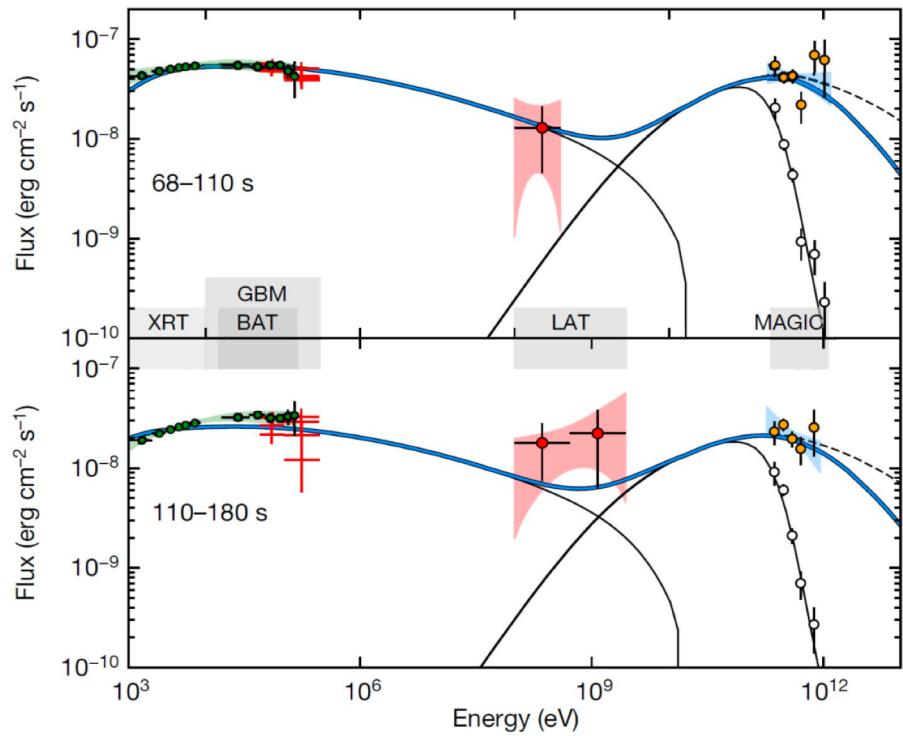


Large distances  $z \geq 1 \rightarrow$  severe attenuation due to the Extragalactic background light

Interactions with EBL  $\rightarrow$  strongly attenuated spectra

# GRB 190114C and EBL absorption

- Synchrotron self-Compton (SSC) component:  
Necessary or not?
- Absorption by Extragalactic Background Light (EBL)  
→ large uncertainties on models  
→ Need to correct spectrum



/images/eso0903a/

# GRB 221009A – The BOAT

Brightest of all time

October 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 – extremely bright GRB (“once in 10,000 years event”)

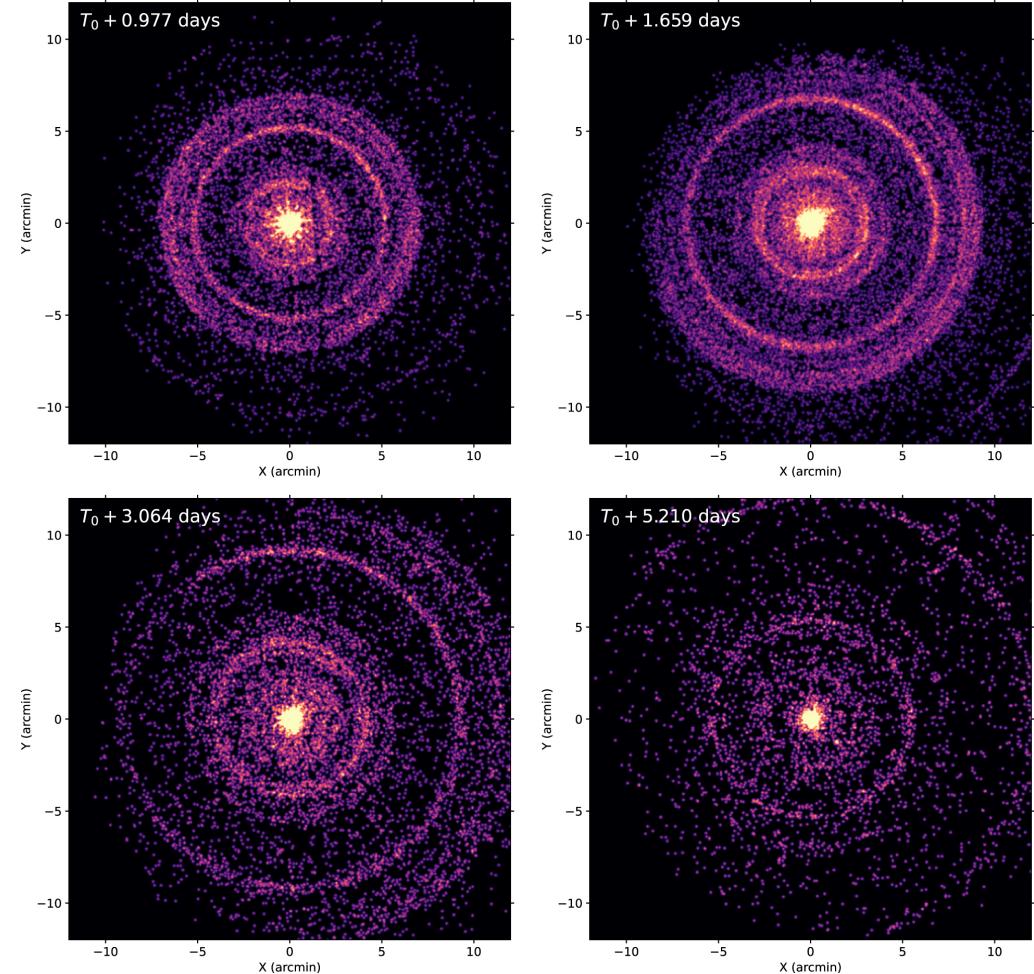
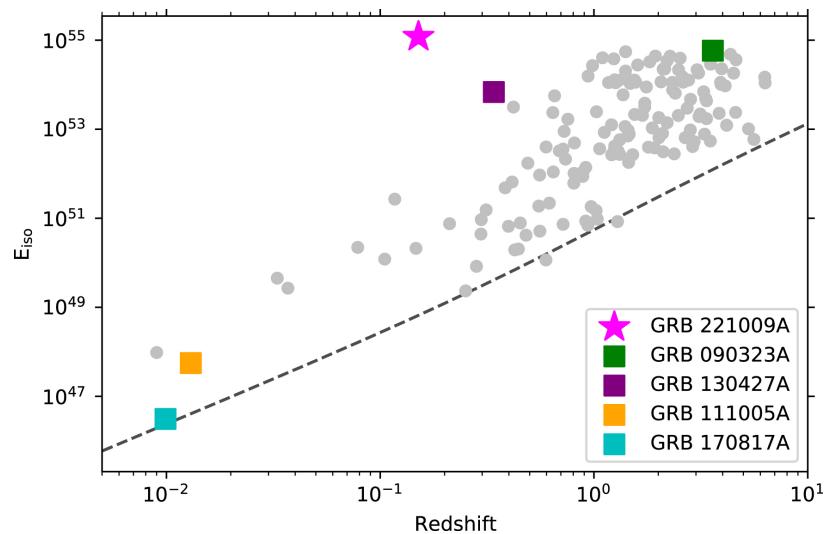
Full moon: no IACT detection ☹

Special collection in ApJLett volume **946** (2023)

Saturated detectors (e.g. SWIFT)

LHAASO detection of > 5000 photons between 0.5 and 18 TeV (!!)

GCN 2677



Target of Opportunity (ToO) observations of transient phenomena

Multiwavelength and multi-messenger observations are key to building a complete picture

How to share information rapidly? Alert networks

→ VS-net = Variable Star network

→ ATel = Astronomer's Telegram

→ GCN = General Coordinates Network

→ AAVSO = American Association of Variable Star Observers

→ ZTF = Zwicky Transient Facility

....

Combining all channels?

e.g. <https://astro-colibri.science/>



astro-colibri

Select action

Latest transients

Cone search

Personalize



Status: logged out

Infos: ✓ v2.4.0

Observatories: Swift (orange), Fermi (teal), HAWC (purple), IceCube (black), AMON (blue), Integral (orange), GECAM (pink), FLaapLUC (green), LVC (yellow), other (light blue)

Event type: FRB (radio burst), OT (optical transient), SN (supernova), GRB (gamma-ray burst), burst (radio burst), neutrino (neutrino event), GW (gravitational wave), nuem (neutrino event), 4FGL (4FGL catalog), TeVCAT (TeV CAT catalog), SGR/AXP (SGR/AXP pulsar)



**GRB 230506C**  
Gamma-ray burst (orange)

RA/Dec: 134.37°/45.13° (± 0.05°)  
2023-05-06 17:09:19

**GRB 230506C**  
Gamma-ray burst (orange)

Cone search

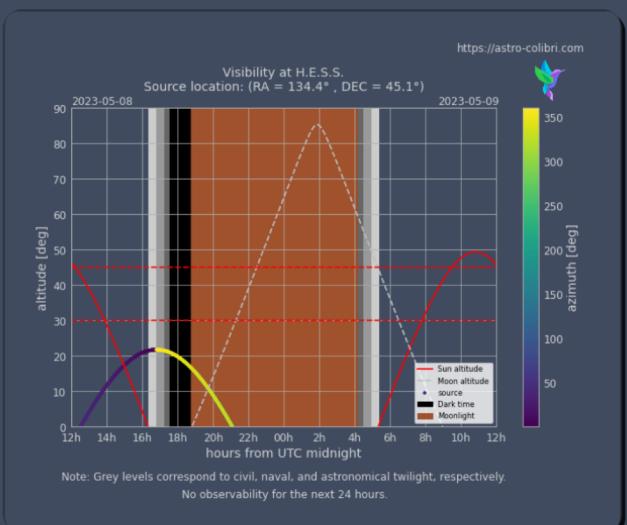
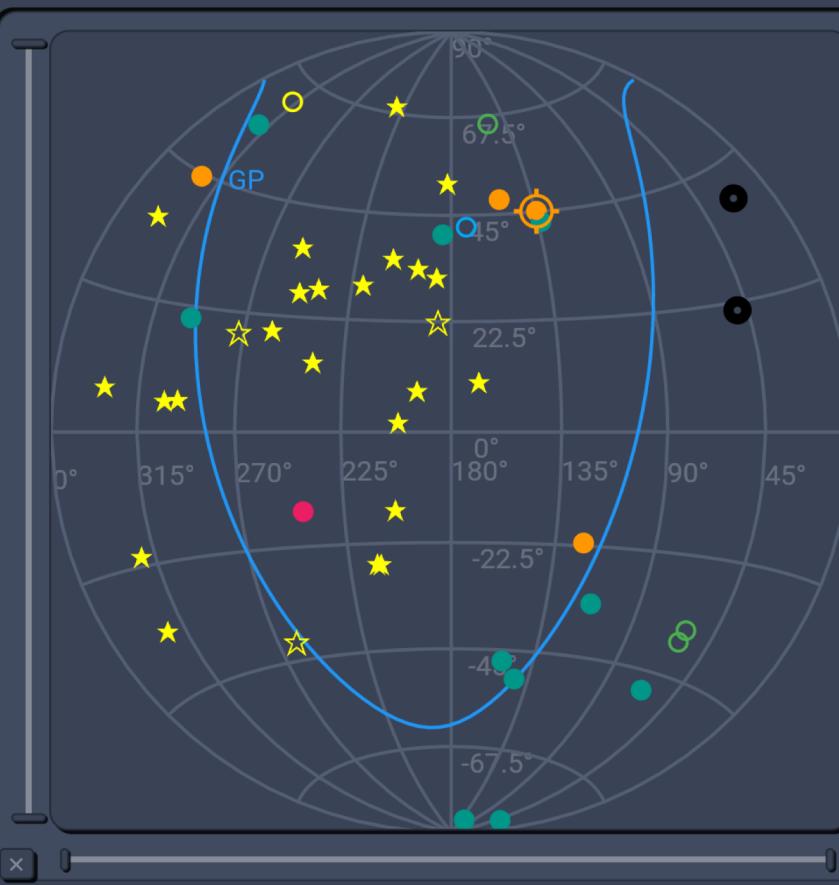
Custom cone search

RA / Dec: 134.37° 45.13°  
source: GRB 230506C  
radius: 1°

RA : 8h57m29.57s Dec : 45d7m32.16s  
error [deg] : 0.0500  
observatory: Swift instrument: BAT  
notice: BAT\_GRB\_Pos  
Photometry:

Search for ATels!

Get Swift-XRT lightcurve



Gamma-ray burst (teal)

RA/Dec: 133.37°/42.86° (± 1.59°)  
2023-05-06 17:09:16

**IceCube-230506A**  
Neutrino (black)

RA/Dec: 50.19°/21.06° (± 3.12°)  
2023-05-06 15:53:45

**GRB 230506B**  
Gamma-ray burst (orange)

RA/Dec: 326.98°/44.51° (± <0.00°)  
2023-05-06 12:45:18

**GRB 230506A**  
Gamma-ray burst (teal)

RA/Dec: 296.12°/20.41° (± 1.65°)  
2023-05-06 05:00:15

Links for further details

ices

NASA GCN-n

GCN notices:  
rapid alert message

NASA GCN-c

GCN circulars:  
announcements of new transient events

Swift

Overview of this  
Swift detected  
GRB

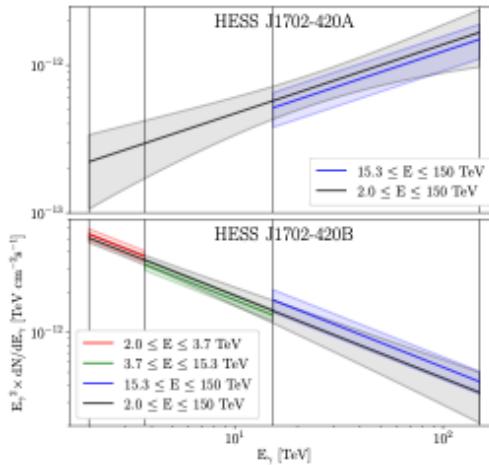
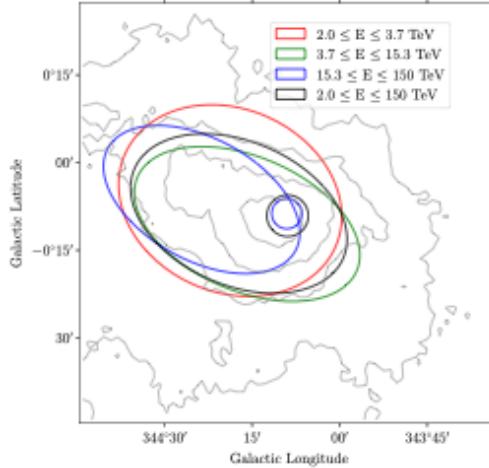
BAT

Analysis results  
of Swift-BAT

XRT

Analysis results  
of Swift-XRT

auto scroll



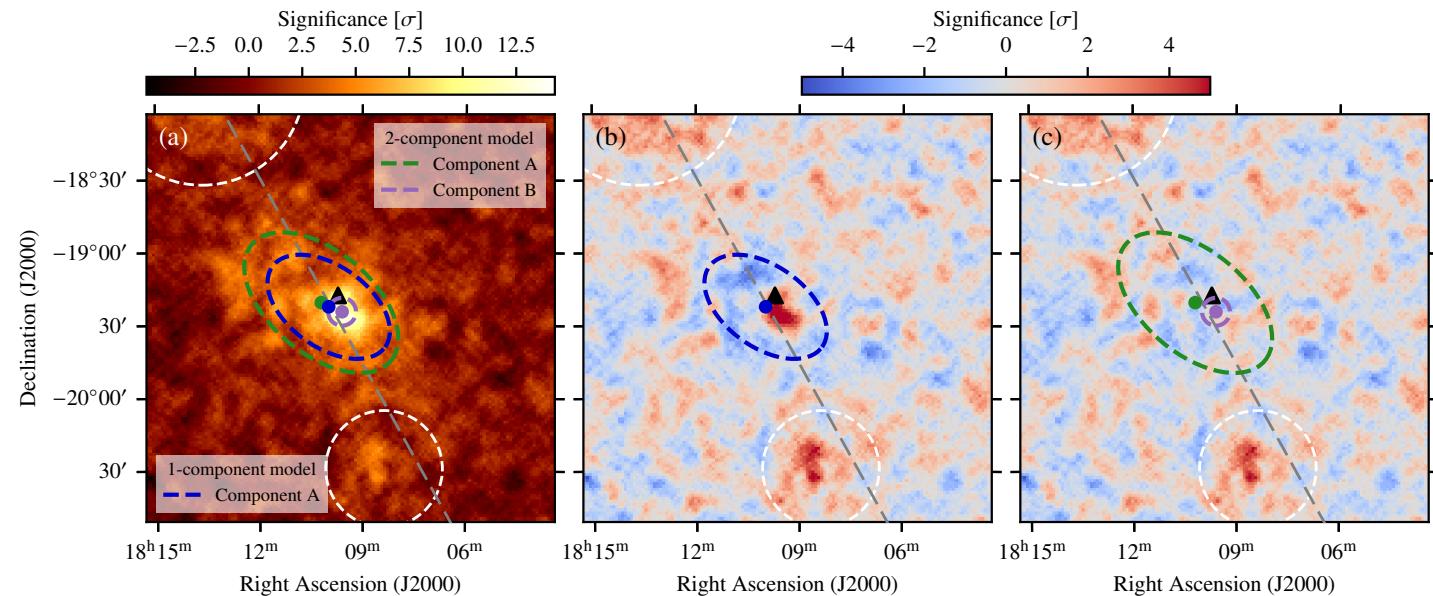
## 3D analysis fitting:

→ enabling multiple components to be simultaneously fit in spatial and energy dimensions

Especially powerful for studies of complex regions or sources with complex morphology

Examples: HESS J1702-420, HESS J1809-193...

<https://gammipy.org/>

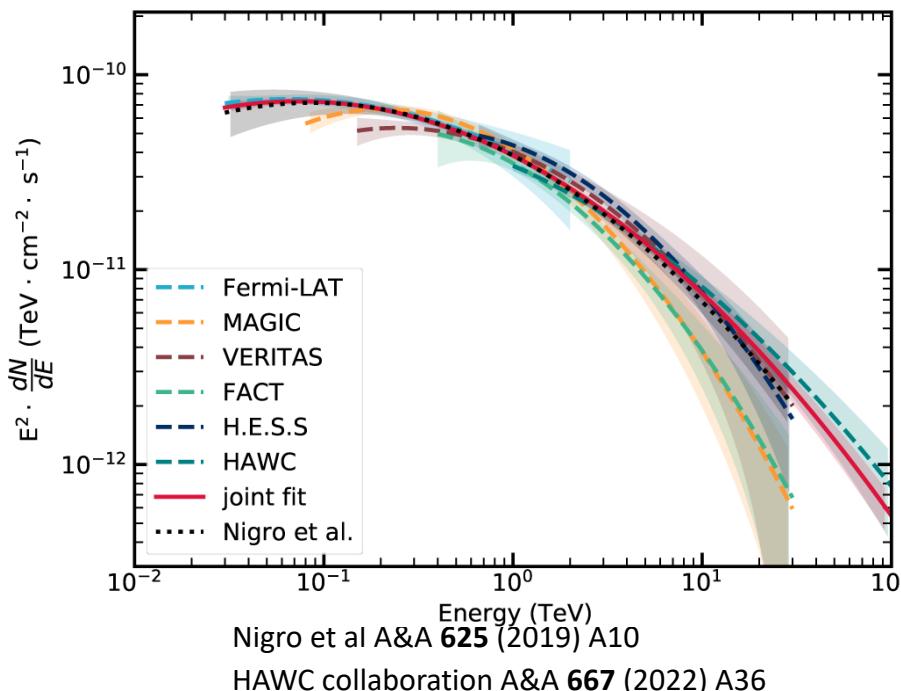


# Multi-instrument joint analyses

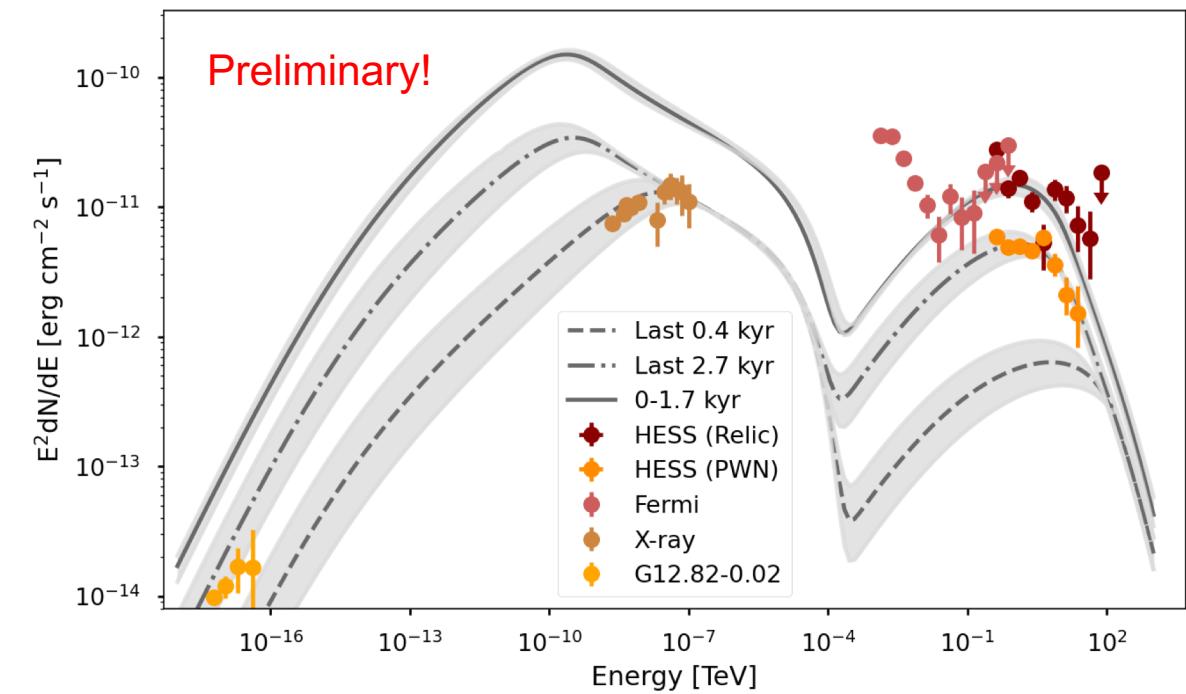
Common formats enable data from multiple instruments to be analysed simultaneously (GADF: [gamma-astro-data-formats](#))

Incl. KM3NET (see T. Unbehaun tutorial)

e.g. Multi-instrument fit to the Crab nebula spectrum:  
calibration source for VHE gamma-rays



Simultaneous 3D fitting of data from multiple instruments  
e.g. Fermi-LAT and H.E.S.S. for HESS J1813-178 (T. Wach)



# Active Galactic Nuclei: flaring activity, neutrinos?

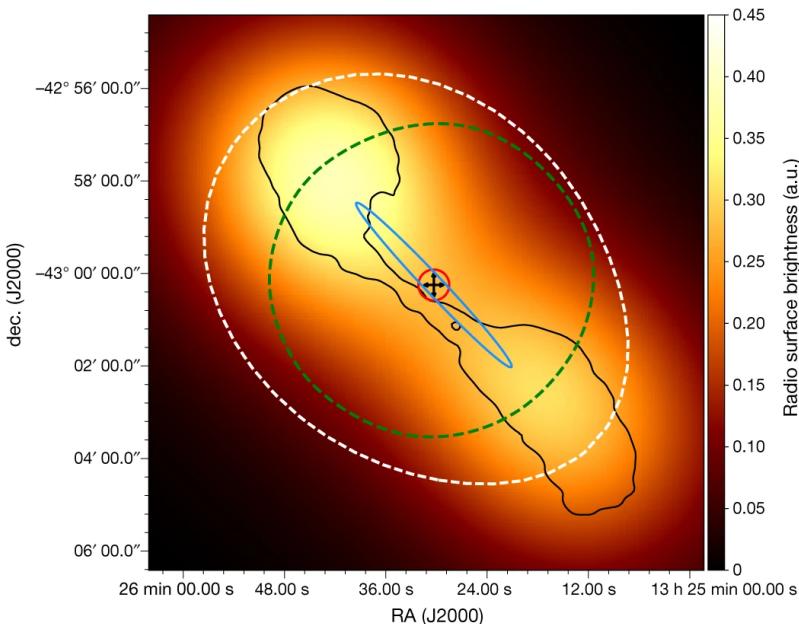
Majority of extragalactic sources – blazars

First indications of a neutrino source: TXS 0506+056 ( $z=0.3365$ )

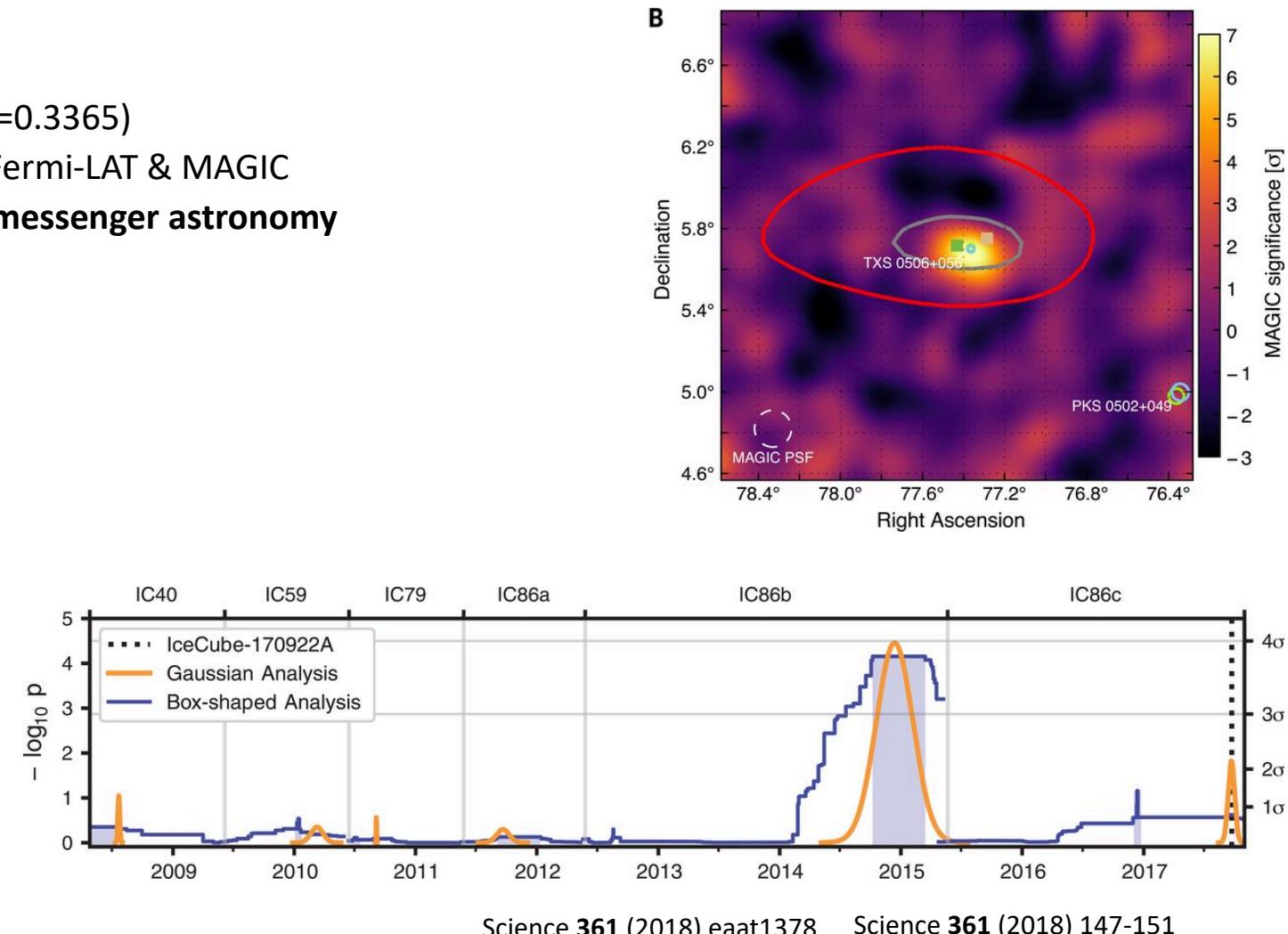
Associated gamma-ray detection of flaring activity by Fermi-LAT & MAGIC

Chance coincidence disfavoured at  $\sim 3$  sigma  $\rightarrow$  **Multi-messenger astronomy**

Resolving extension of Centaurus A jets  $\geq 2.2$  kpc



H.E.S.S. collaboration Nature 582 (2020) 356-359



Science 361 (2018) eaat1378

Science 361 (2018) 147-151

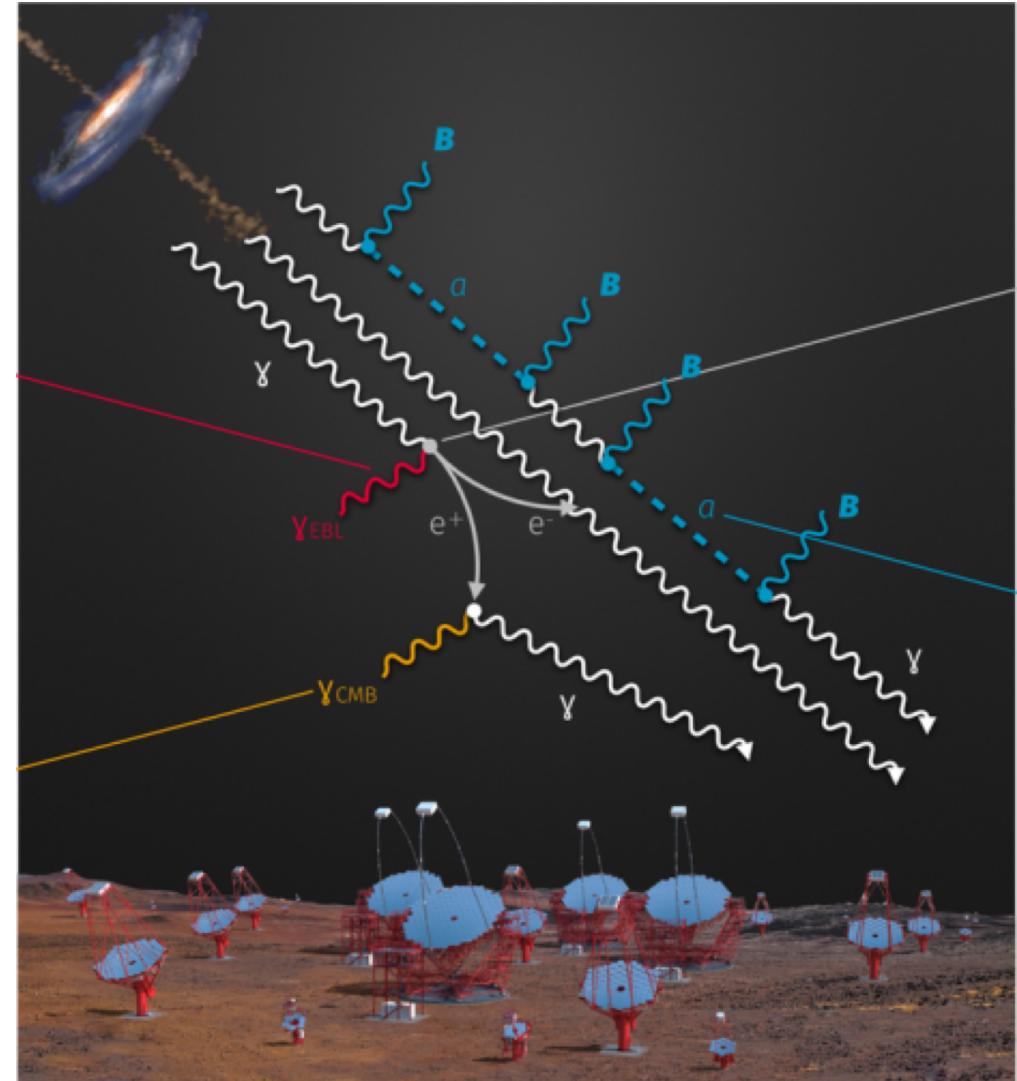
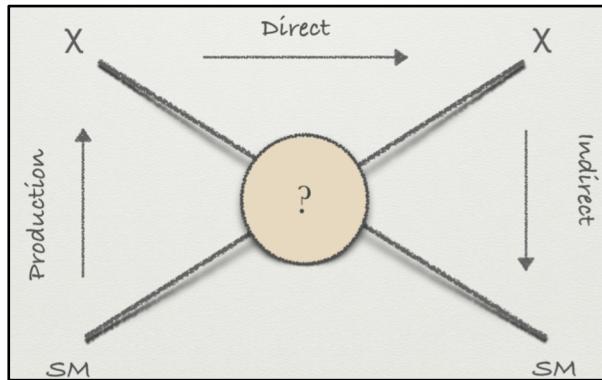
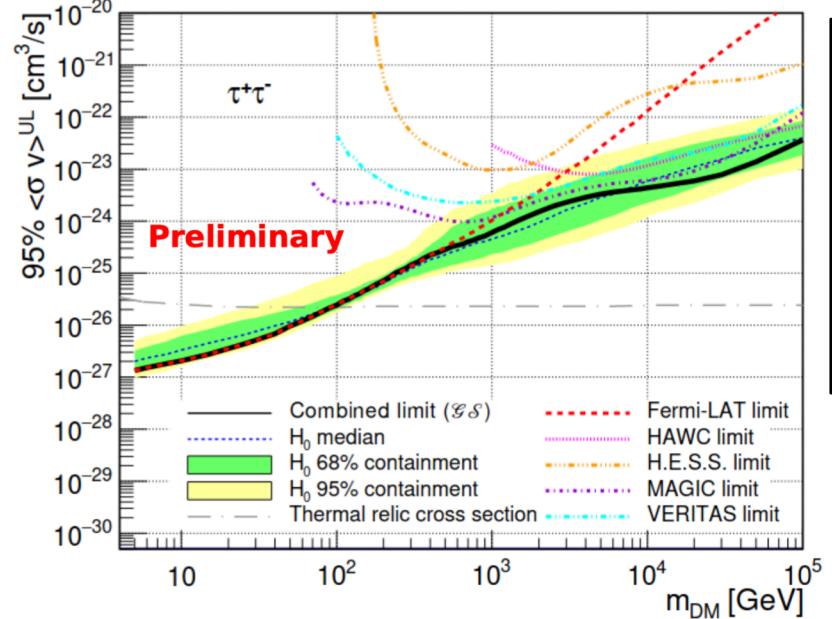
# Searching for Dark Matter

Dark Matter upper limits from observations of dwarf spheroidal galaxies

Combined likelihood more constraining

Other targets: Galactic centre, Galaxy clusters...

Other DM candidates: Axions → modify gamma-ray spectrum  
via a boost at high energies / reduction in EBL absorption



Current generation IACTs continue to make discoveries

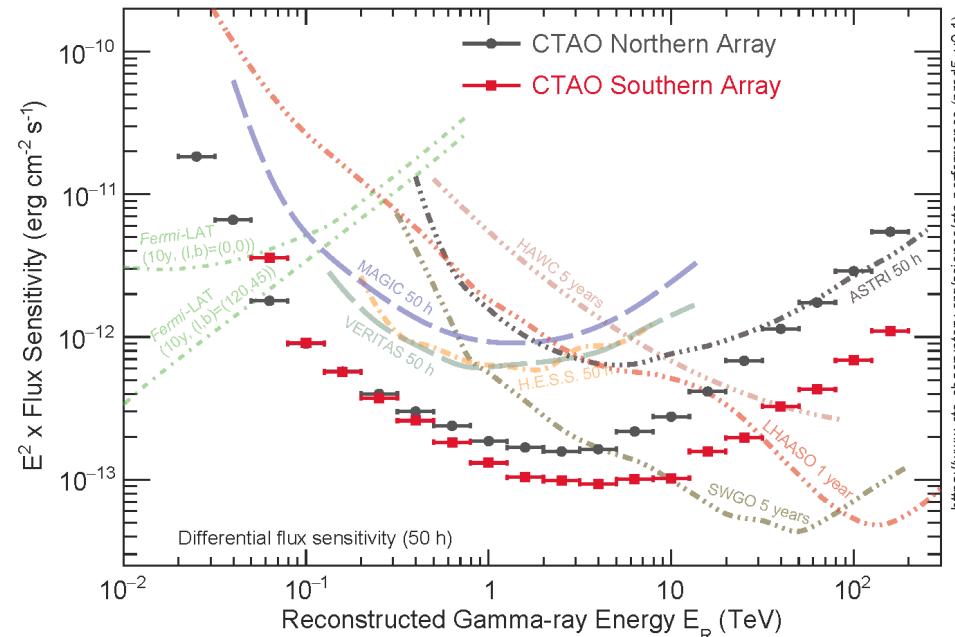
→ New source classes at TeV energies

Forthcoming IACT facilities:

- CTA-North La Palma, Spain
- CTA-South Paranal, Chile
- ASTRI mini-array Tenerife,

Strengths of IACTs:

- Good angular and energy resolution
- Reaction and sensitivity to transient phenomena

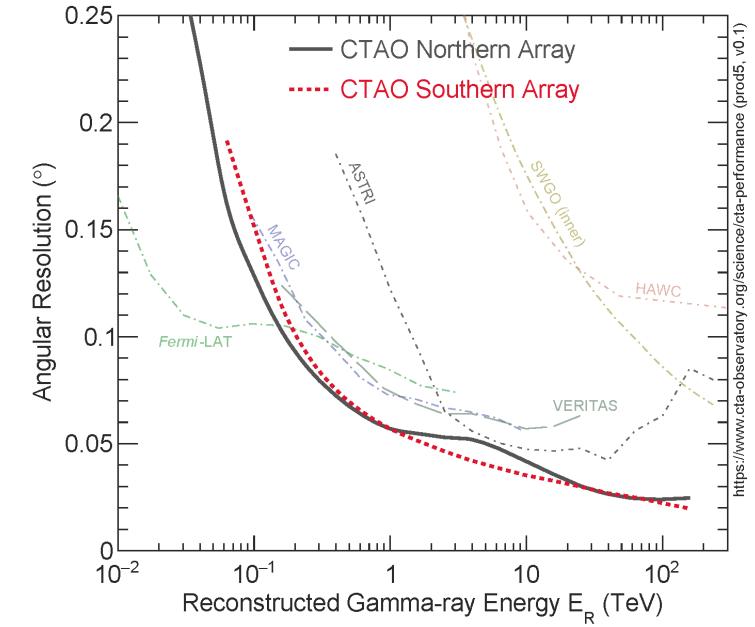
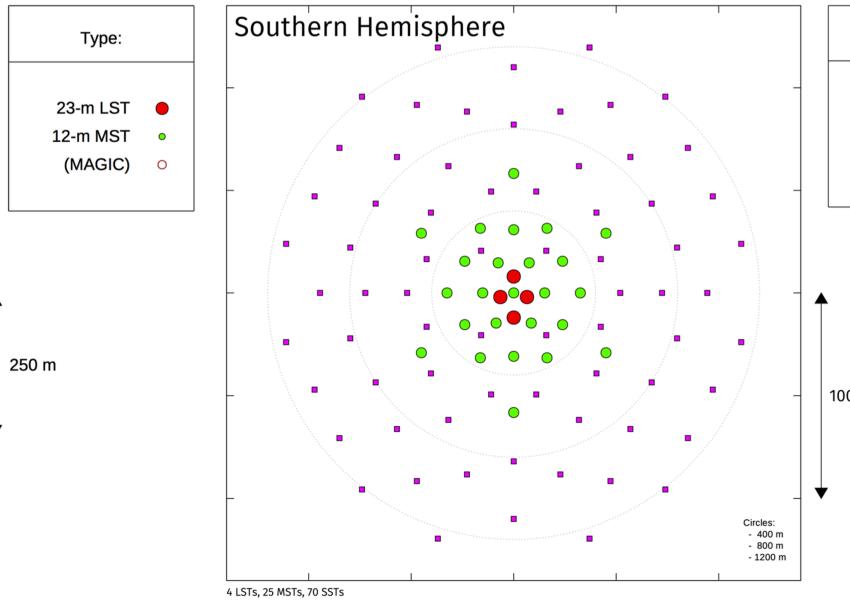
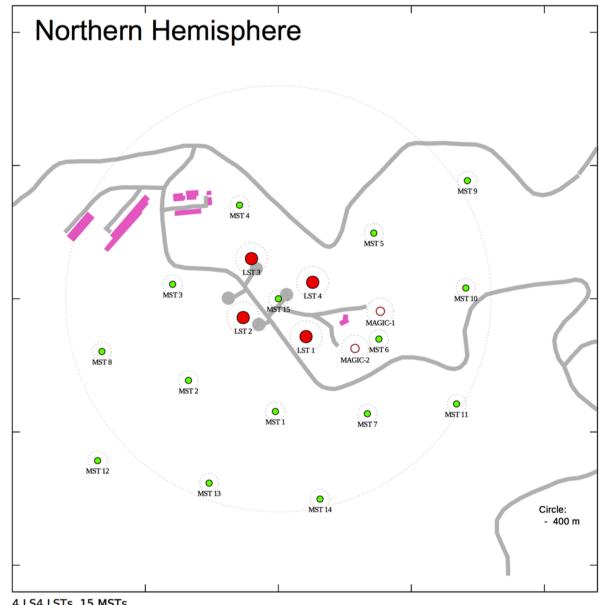
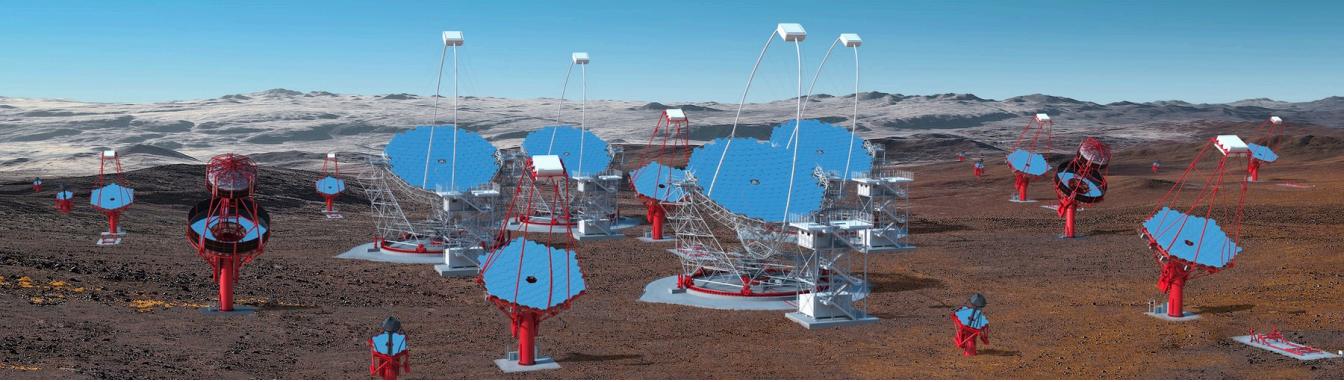


First alert from a CTA telescope:  
LST detects flaring activity from BL Lacertae (Atel 14783, 2021)



# Cherenkov Telescope Array

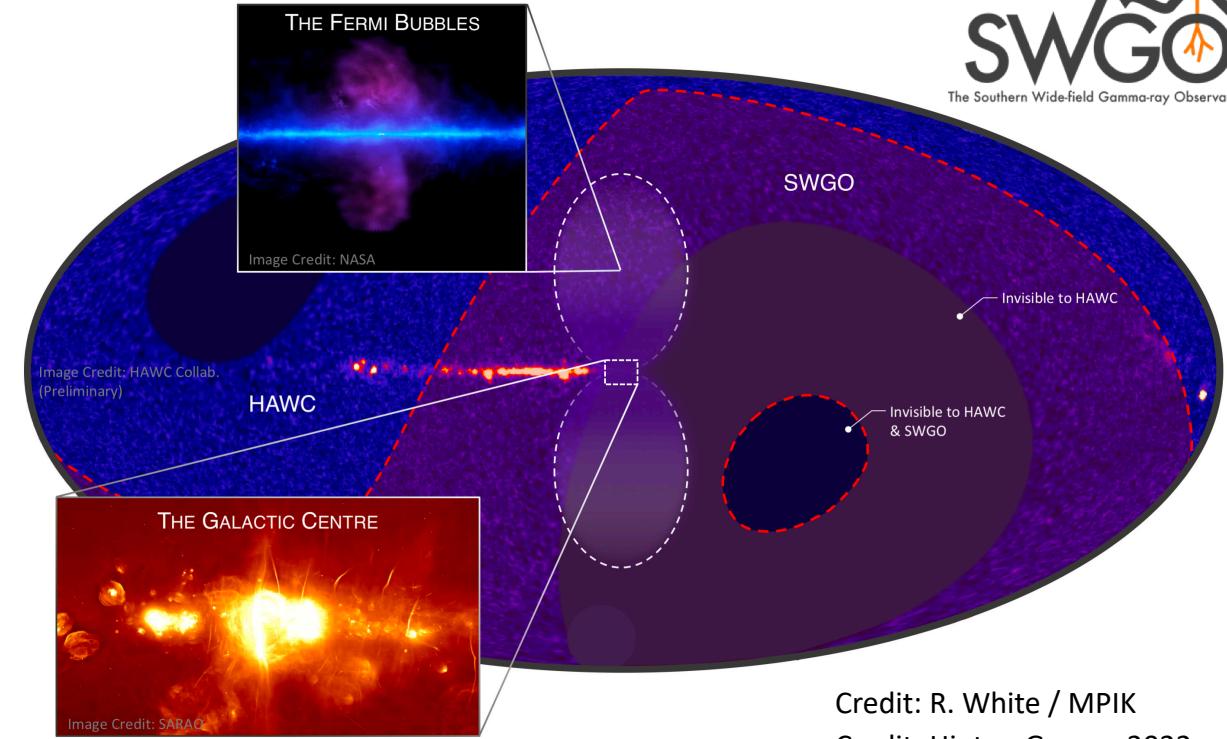
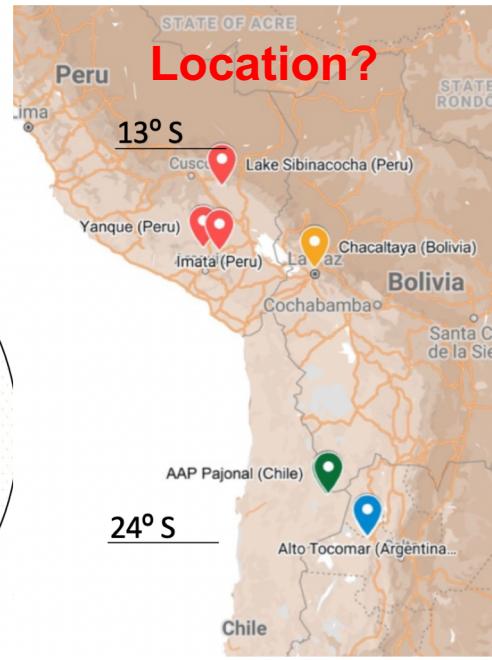
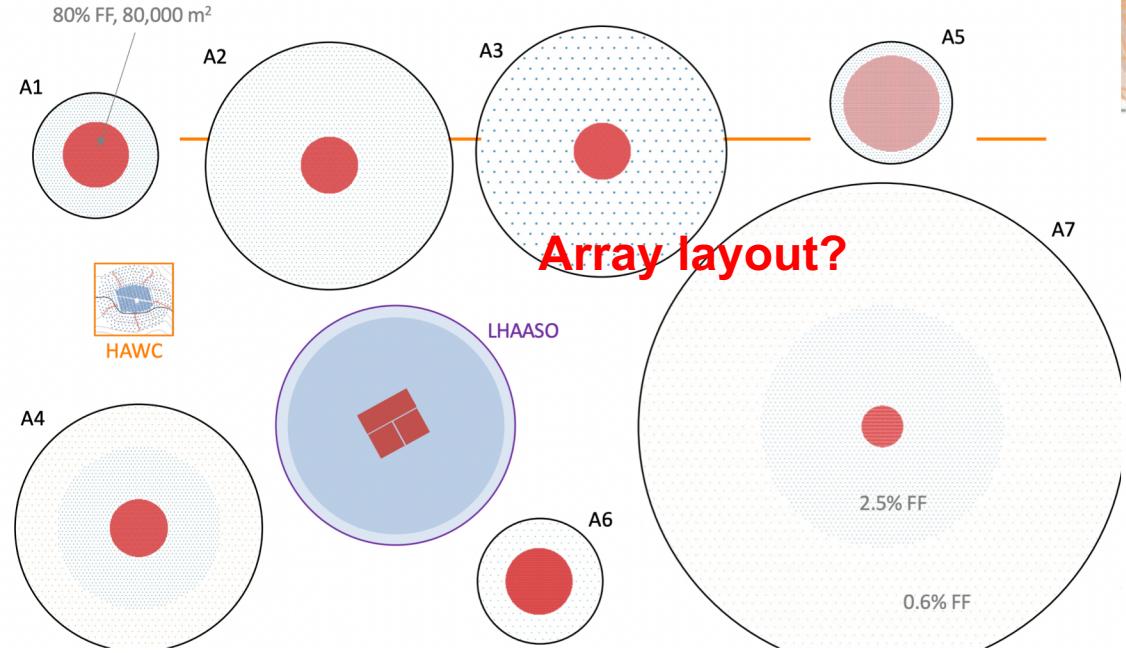
<https://www.cta-observatory.org/>



# Southern Wide-field Gamma-ray Observatory

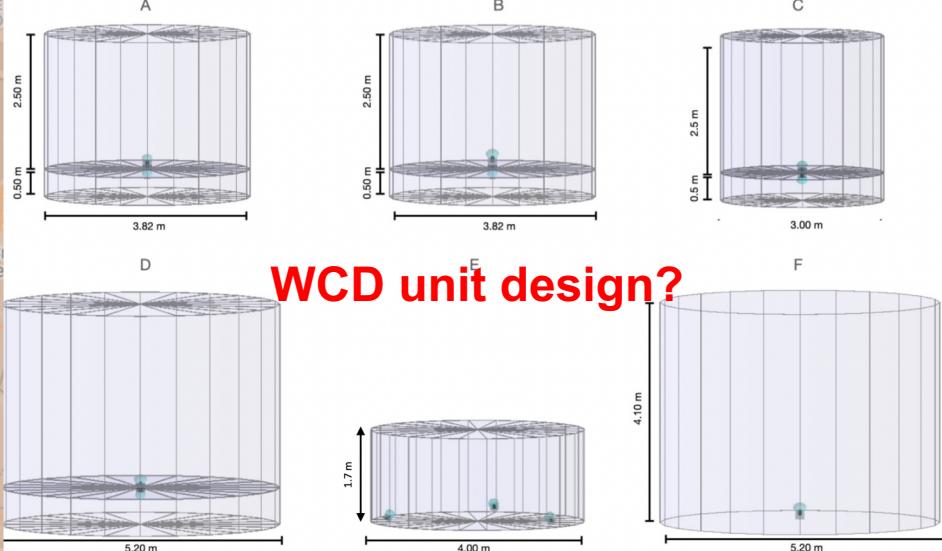
<https://www.swgo.org/>

- Ground-based water Cherenkov detectors are well suited to the highest energies and full sky surveys.
- Impressive results from current experiments (HAWC, LHAASO...)
- Future → observe the Southern sky
- (Galactic Science for SWGO → E.O. Angüner & AM)



Credit: R. White / MPIK

Credit: Hinton Gamma2022



Thank you for your attention

*PhD position → Apply by 10<sup>th</sup> June!*



Funded by  
**DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft  
German Research Foundation