

*International School of Physics "Enrico Fermi" - Varenna 2022*

## Foundations of Cosmic Ray Astrophysics

# High Energy Cosmic Rays and Gamma Radiation

Lecture 1. Introduction to gamma-ray astronomy

# Astro-Particle Physics

modern interdisciplinary research field at the interface of  
astronomy, physics and cosmology

HE Astrophysics

**gamma-ray astronomy**

together with **X, R, IR, O, UV** astronomies  
and **neutrino, GW** astronomies

**Cosmic Rays**

“astronomy” with charged particles  
electrons, protons, nuclei, (secondary) antiparticles

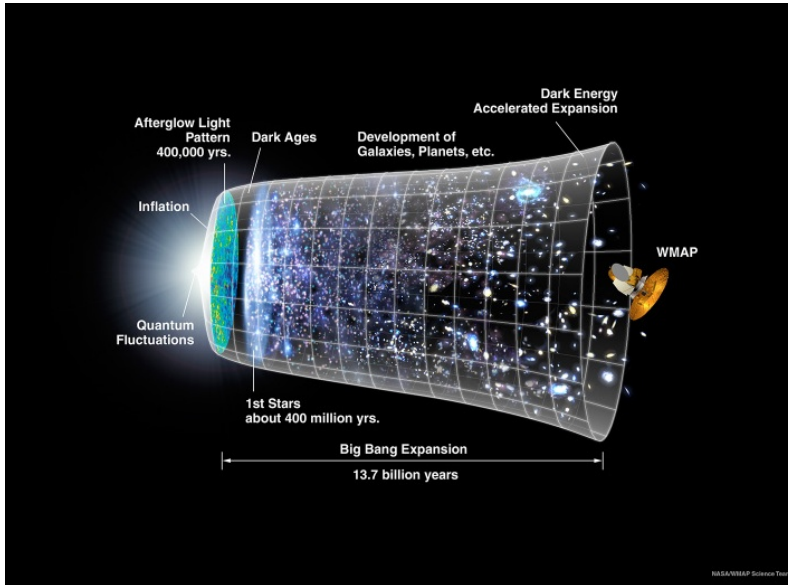
HE Physics/  
Cosmology

“non-accelerator particle physics”  
Early Universe, Dark Matter, Dark Energy

# Universe as a high energy phenomenon

*in the framework of “Big Bang Theory”*

- the “Universe” itself is a high energy phenomenon
- its birth was an incredibly energetic event
- quite a long time it was “hot soup” consisting of relativistic ( $E > mc^2$ ) particles and radiation; 2.7 K MBR ( $\sim 10^{-3}$  eV) as remnant of that “soup”



now it is cold but contains *Cosmic Ray Factories* - particle accelerators producing the 4th substance - after *matter, radiation and magnetic fields* - of the visible Universe

*Relativistic Plasma* (“Cosmic Rays”)

pressure (energy density) in Cosmic Rays in many objects can be comparable or even exceed the pressure contributed by the thermal gas, turbulent motion, radiation, B-fields

carriers of information about High Energy phenomena

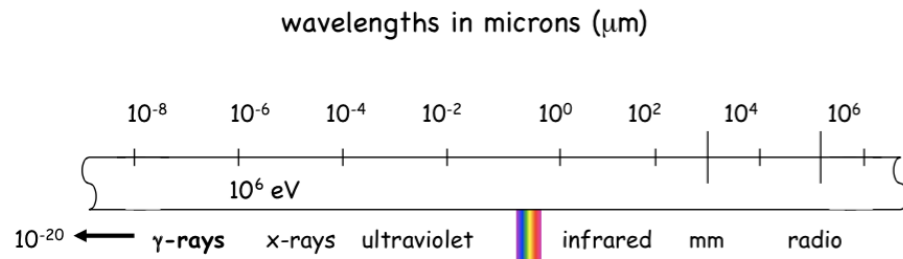
- ✓ *photons (radio, IR, O, UV, X-rays, **gamma-rays**)*
- ✓ *neutrinos*
- ✓ *cosmic rays*
- ✓ *gravitational waves*

multi-wavelength and multi-messenger astronomy

**gamma rays as (the) key messengers of information about CR factories**

# Gamma Ray Astronomy

provides crucial window in the cosmic E-M spectrum for exploration of non-thermal phenomena in the Universe in most energetic and violent forms  
 ‘the last window’ covers 10 decades: from  $10^5$  to  $10^{15}$  eV



LE or MeV : 0.1 -100 MeV (0.1 -10 + 10 -100)  
 HE or GeV : 0.1 -100 GeV (0.1 -10 + 10 -100)  
 VHE or TeV : 0.1 -100 TeV (0.1 -10 + 10 -100)  
 UHE or PeV : 0.1 -100 PeV (0.1 -10 + 10 -100) new!

the window is opened in MeV, GeV, TeV and PeV bands:

LE, HE domain of space-based astronomy  
 VHE, UHE domain of ground-based astronomy

# Gamma-Ray Detectors:

*some general comments on the potential and perspectives*



future?

**HE:** detection area  $> 10\text{m}^2$ :

- *improvement of sensitivity*
- *VHE range:  $\gg 100\text{ GeV}$*
- *transient phenomena:*  
*AGN, GRBs,*

**prospects: ???**

**LE:**  $1\text{m}^2$  detectors - OK!

*$\gamma$ -ray line astronomy,  
extreme synchr. sources  
transients - AGN, GRBs*

**prospects: good**

COSI, eASTROGAM, GRAMS

**Sub-TeV** (down to 30 GeV)  
**Multi-TeV** (up to 100 TeV)  
**Multi-GeV** (down to 3 GeV)

- *Cosmic Rays*
- *Relativistic Outflows -*  
*GRBs AGN,  $\mu$ QSOs, PWs*
- *Cosmology*

**prospects: bright - CTA**

**> 100 TeV**

**ASTRI**

**multi-GeV ?**

very-high altitude very-large  
aperture (30m class) IACTs

**LHAASO:** “*detector from  
future operating now*”

breakthrough results - tip of  
the iceberg  
operational next 10-20 years

**WCDA:** 100 GeV - 100 TeV

**KM2A:** 10 TeV - 3 PeV

**WFCTA:** 0.1- 100 PeV (CRs)

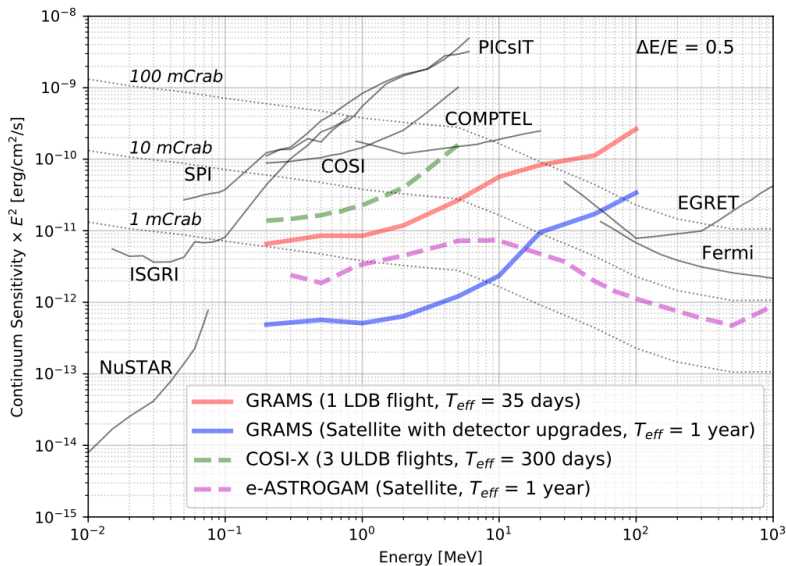
**6m IACT array** - 0.1-300 TeV

SGWO - super -“HAWC”  
in 5 years?

Tunka-HiScore (Baikal) ???

# Space-based LE and HE gamma-ray detectors

## GRAMS's sensitivity to important MeV lines



Sensitivity [ph/cm <sup>2</sup> /s]	GRAMS Balloon (Satellite)	SPI/INTEGRAL	Improvement Factor
$e^+$ (511 keV)	$2.9 \times 10^{-6}$ ( $6.3 \times 10^{-7}$ )	$5.0 \times 10^{-5}$	~15 (~80)
$^{120}\text{Sn}$ (666/695 keV)	$2.1 \times 10^{-6}$ ( $4.2 \times 10^{-7}$ )	$\sim 2 \times 10^{-5}$	~10 (~50)
$^{56}\text{Co}$ (847 keV)	$1.4 \times 10^{-6}$ ( $2.7 \times 10^{-7}$ )	$\sim 2 \times 10^{-5}$	~15 (~75)
$^{44}\text{Ti}$ (1157 keV)	$1.0 \times 10^{-6}$ ( $1.9 \times 10^{-7}$ )	$\sim 2 \times 10^{-5}$	~20 (~110)
$^{60}\text{Fe}$ (1173 keV)	$1.0 \times 10^{-6}$ ( $1.9 \times 10^{-7}$ )	$\sim 2 \times 10^{-5}$	~20 (~110)
$^{60}\text{Fe}$ (1333 keV)	$9.1 \times 10^{-7}$ ( $1.7 \times 10^{-7}$ )	$\sim 2 \times 10^{-5}$	~20 (~120)
$^{26}\text{Al}$ (1809 keV)	$7.2 \times 10^{-7}$ ( $1.3 \times 10^{-7}$ )	$2.5 \times 10^{-5}$	~35 (~190)
$^2\text{H}$ (2223 keV)	$6.4 \times 10^{-7}$ ( $1.1 \times 10^{-7}$ )	$\sim 2 \times 10^{-5}$	~30 (~180)
$^{12}\text{C}^*$ (4438 keV)	$4.9 \times 10^{-7}$ ( $7.3 \times 10^{-8}$ )	$\sim 1 \times 10^{-5}$	~20 (~140)

gamma-ray line astronomy!

$$\frac{\Delta E_s}{E} \simeq \frac{1\%}{\sqrt{E \text{ (MeV)}/2.5}}$$

annihilation line 511 keV

deuterium line: 2.2 MeV

nuclear gamma-ray lines

objectives? many, e.g.

- measuring temperature of two-temperature
- plasmas around accreting black holes

for CR studies? suprathermal/subrelativistic protons and nuclei - unique for understanding the role of ionisation in star formation, the energy balance in ISM,...

potential of proposed detectors ?

significant (GeV) and huge (MeV) improvements

objectives? many ('standard' list)

breakthroughs? for sure, at MeV energies

- position of the e-synchrotron peak in extreme accelerators (AGN, GRBs, Crab flares ...)

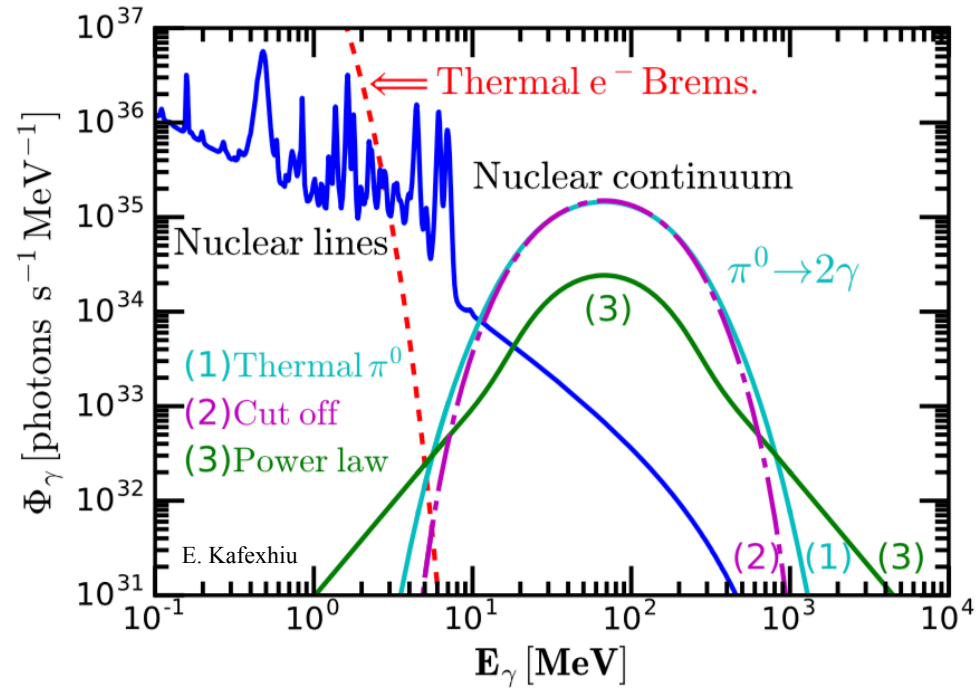
$$h\nu_{\text{max}} = 9/4\alpha^{-1}m_e c^2 \eta \approx 160\eta \text{ MeV}$$

- for CR studies? 1-1000 MeV gamma-rays: shape of the " $\pi^0$  bump" unique information about < 100 MeV CRs (e and p)



# Gamma-ray emission of hot two-temperature thermal plasma formed at accretion of gas onto a 10 solar masses black hole

microquasar



unique measure of the ion temperature in the accretion flow close to the gravitational radius

radiation efficiency - less than  $10^{-4}$  (fraction of the Eddington luminosity)  
 but could be higher in the case of acceleration in accretion flows

## Revolutions with Ground Based Gamma Ray Detectors: GeV-TeV-PeV

- Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov (IACT) Telescope Arrays
- Particle Detector (EAS) Arrays

### IACT Arrays

currently VHE window in the spectrum of cosmic E-M radiation

0.1 TeV and 100 TeV  $\Rightarrow$  TeV (VHE)  $\gamma$ -ray Astronomy

with a potential for extension

down to 10 (1 ?) GeV:  $\Rightarrow$  (multi) GeV (HE)  $\gamma$ -ray Astronomy

### High-altitude EAS Arrays

from (sub) TeV to (multi) PeV

# 'Multi-GeV' 'TeV' and 'multi-TeV' IACT arrays

## FUTURE GROUND-BASED GAMMA RAY DETECTORS

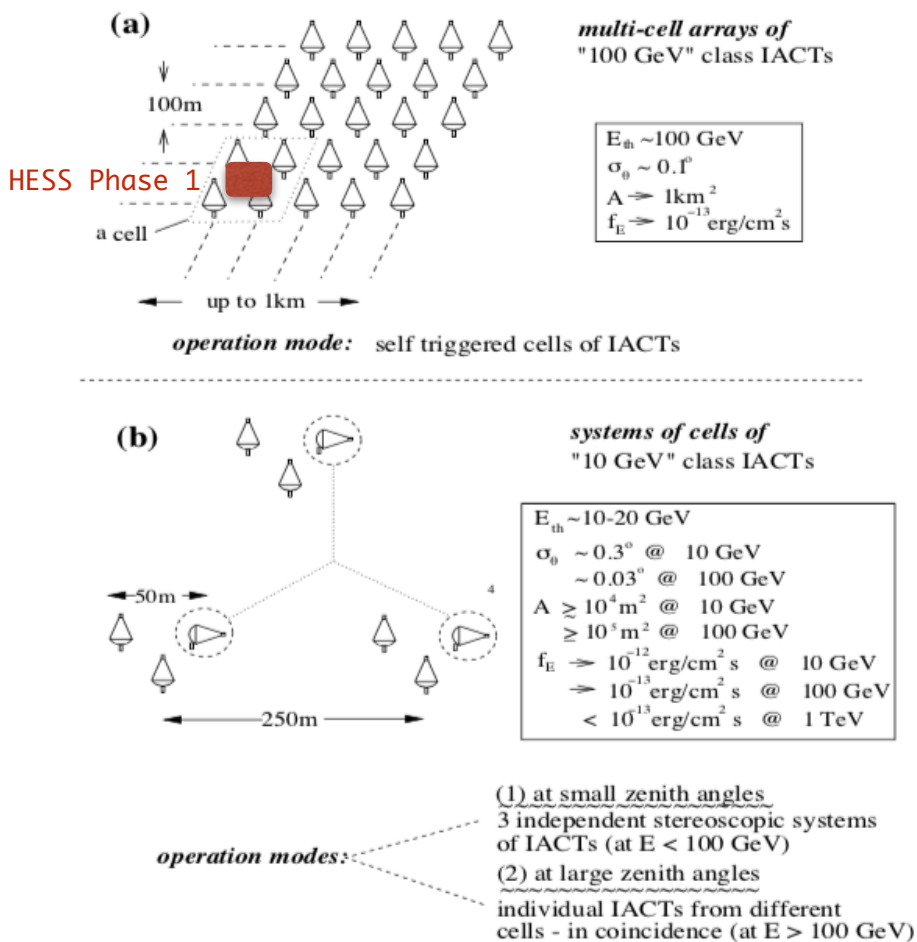
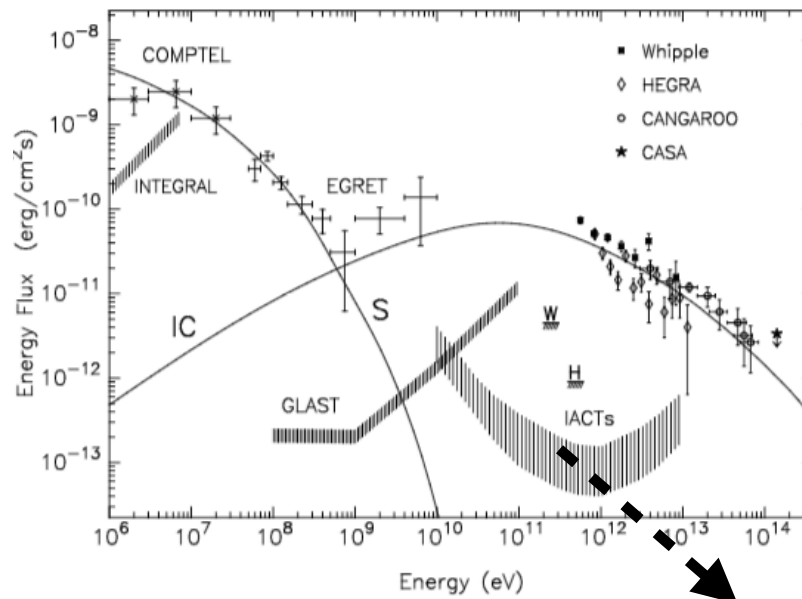


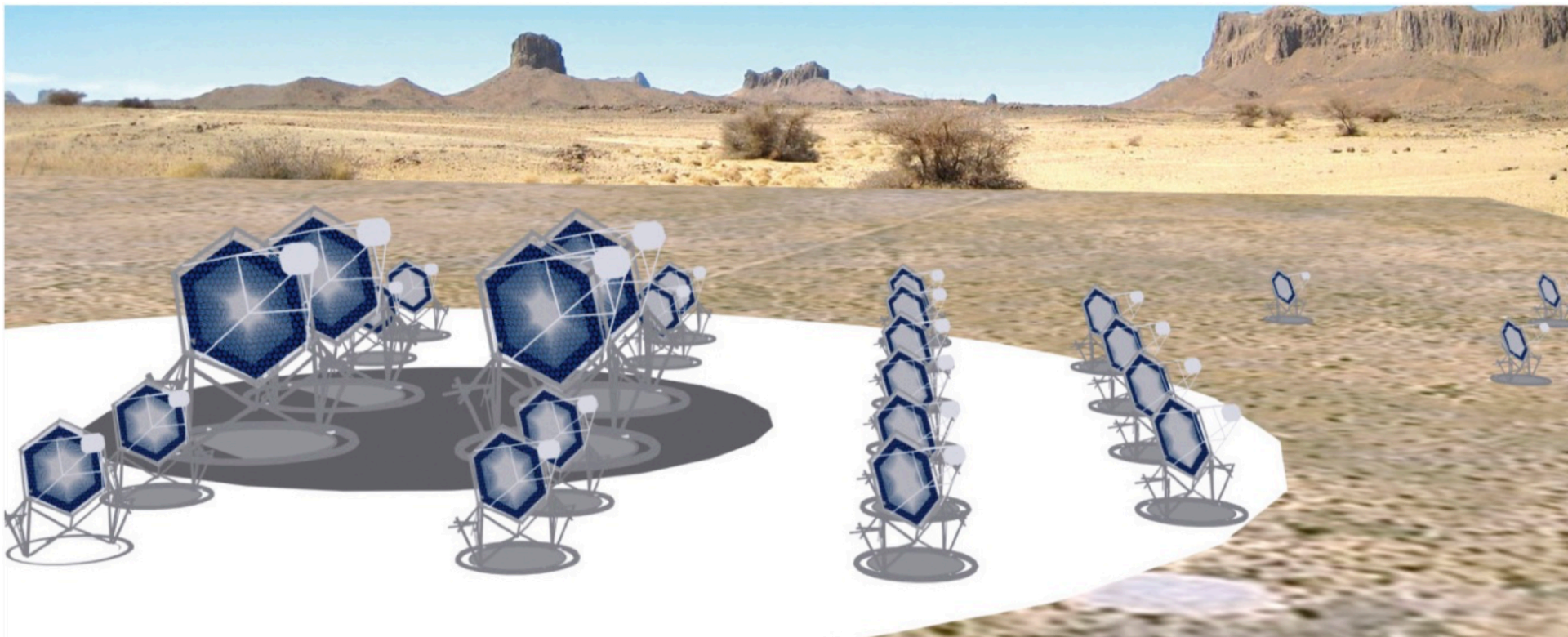
Figure 8: Two versions of future stereoscopic IACT arrays



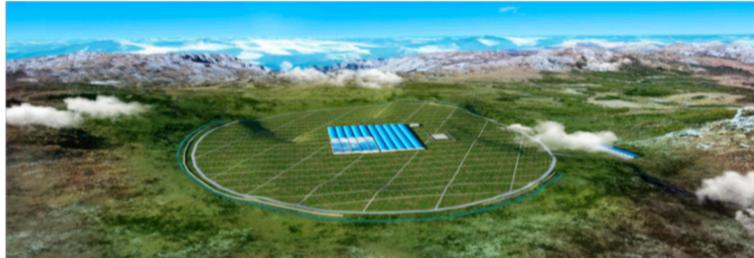
multi-TeV - concept 'TenTen'  
10 TeV threshold 10 km<sup>2</sup> coverage  
FA et al 2000

multi-GeV - concept '5@5'  
5 GeV threshold at 5 km  
FA et al 2001

# CTA - Cherenkov Telescope Array

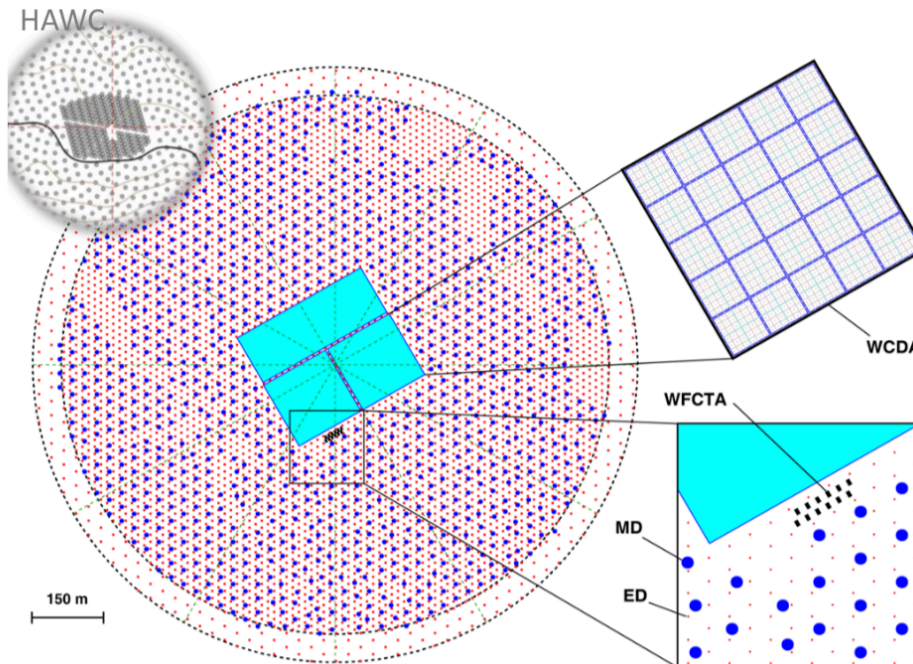


# LHAASO - a PeVatron hunter



## LHAASO

Sichuan, China, 4410 m asl



### 5195 Scintillators

- 1 m<sup>2</sup> each
- 15 m spacing

### 1171 Muon Detectors

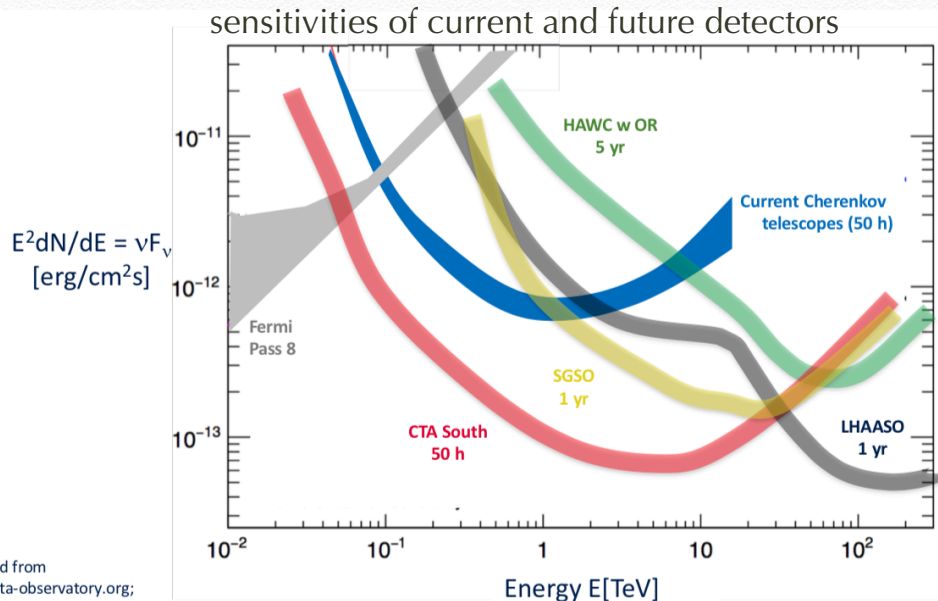
- 36 m<sup>2</sup> each
- 30 m spacing

### 3000 Water Cherenkov Cells

- 25 m<sup>2</sup> each

### 12 Wide Field Cherenkov Telescopes

# IACTs and LHAASO

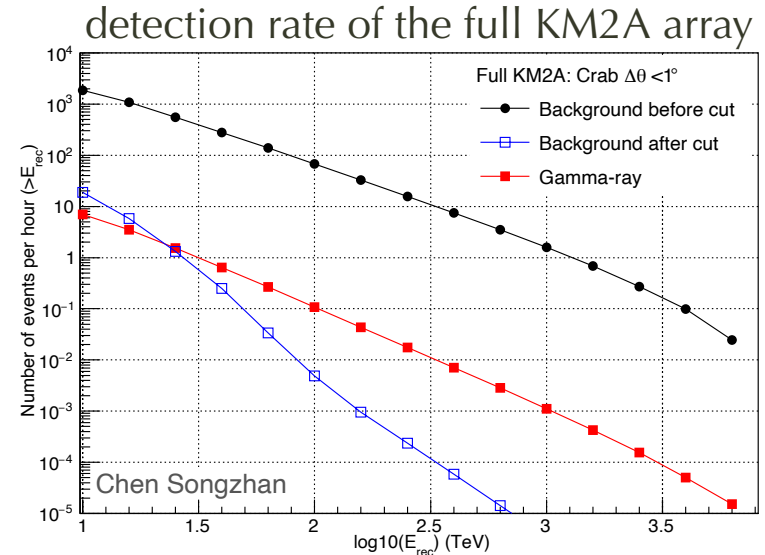


adapted from  
 www.cta-observatory.org;  
 J. Goodman, COSPAR 2018;  
 Z. Cao, La Palma 2018

CTA - PSF: 2'-3' from 100 GeV to 100 TeV  
 energy resolution 10-0%  
 sensitivity - best between 1-10 TeV  
 ( $\sim 3 \times 10^{-14}$  erg/cm<sup>2</sup>s)

**extremely “fast” detectors**

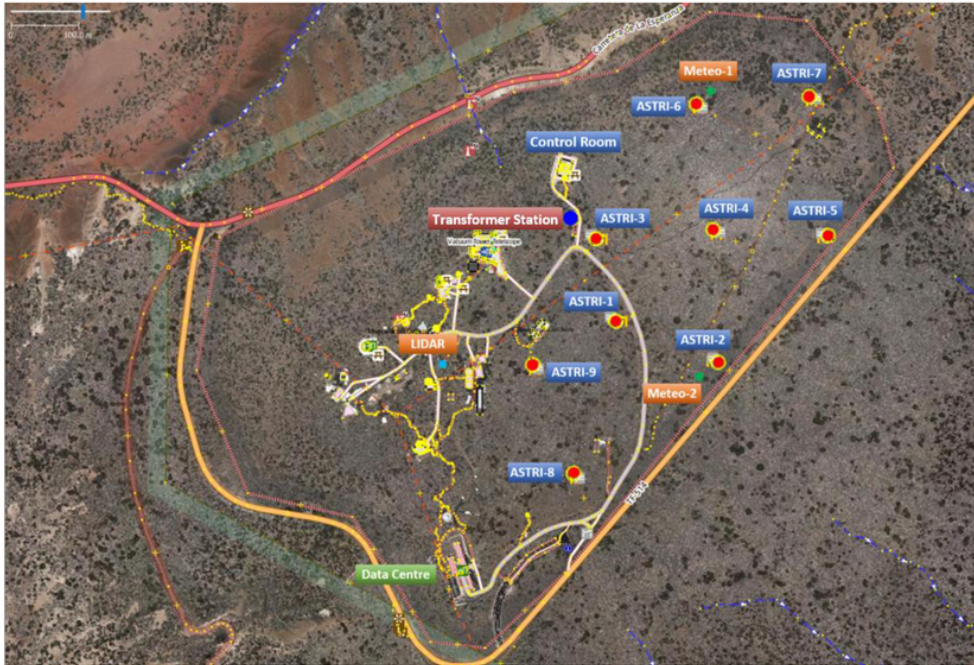
very good photon statistics for sources > 0.1 Crab  
 very good for spectrometry, morphology, timing



KM2A - PSF: 25' at 20 TeV, 12' at 100 TeV  
 energy resolution better than 20%  
 sensitivity  $\Rightarrow 10^{-14}$  erg/cm<sup>2</sup>s

**background-free detection** of extended 1deg  
 sources of >100 TeV gamma-rays of strength  
 0.1 Crab by KM2A with a rate 1 ph/100 h  
 very good for diffuse/extended sources

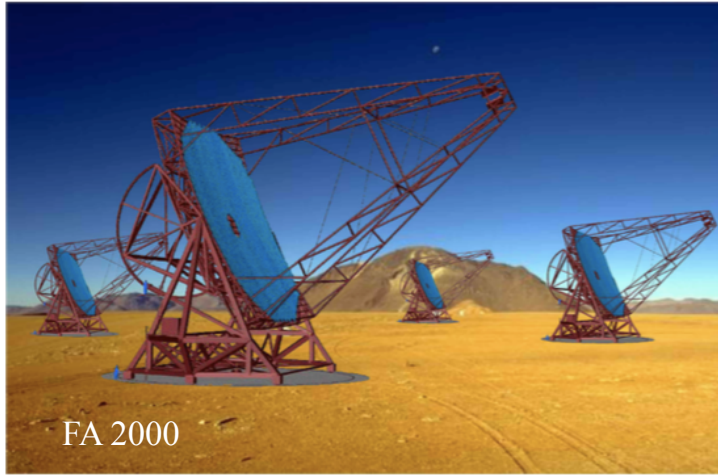
LHAASO has modest angular resolution - its combination with a complementary IACT array operating in UHE domain, would be critical for identification of extended gamma ray sources and localisation of particle accelerators inside (or nearby) these sources



ASTRI with 9 deg FoV IACTs is arriving - very timely!

# GeV Cherenkov Detectors?

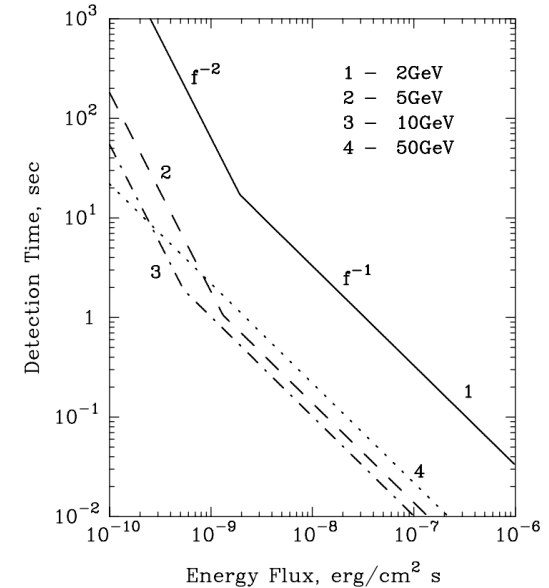
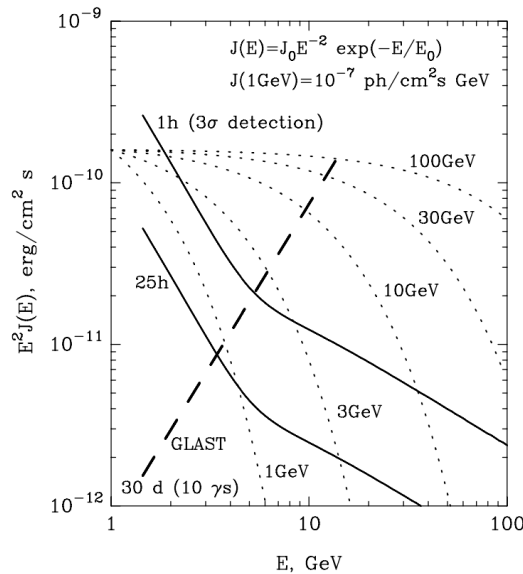
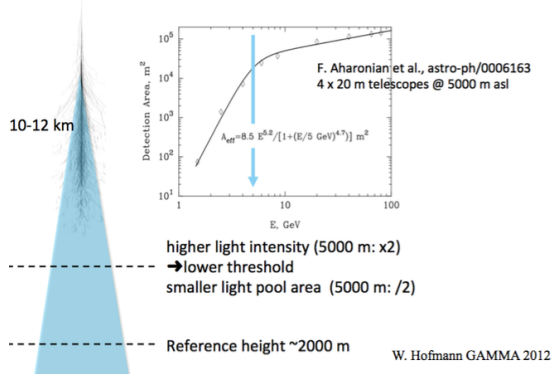
## 5@5 – a Gamma Ray Timing Explorer



## 70m diameter Cherenkov telescope



### HIGH-ALTITUDE CHERENKOV TELESCOPES



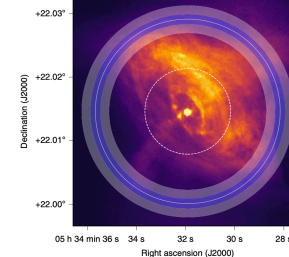
Pulsars, Crab Flares, Microquasars, AGN flares, GRBs, FRBs, ...



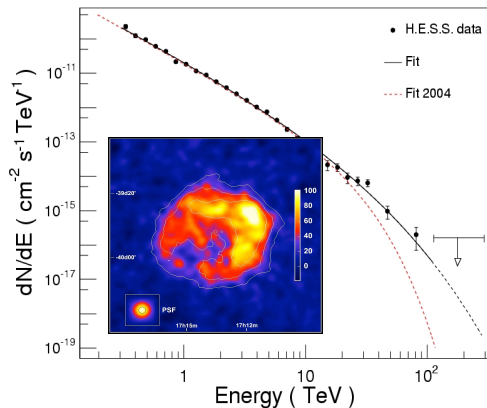
## IACT arrays - high performance and great potential

- ❑ huge detection areas, potentially  $\gg 1 \text{ km}^2$   
=> huge photon statistics coupled with
- ❑ good ( $\sim 10$  to  $20\%$ ) energy resolution and
- ❑ good angular resolution (down to 2 arcmin)
- ❑ relatively large FoV (5 to 10 degree)  
  
=> **spectrometry, morphology, timing, surveys**
- ❑ sensitivity for point-like sources down to  $10^{-14} \text{ erg/cm}^2\text{s}$   
(impressive by standards of modern astronomical instruments!)
- ❑ energy coverage from 1 GeV to 1 PeV (6 decades!)  
using the same technique ! (unique in astronomy/physics)

# Results from current ACT Arrays

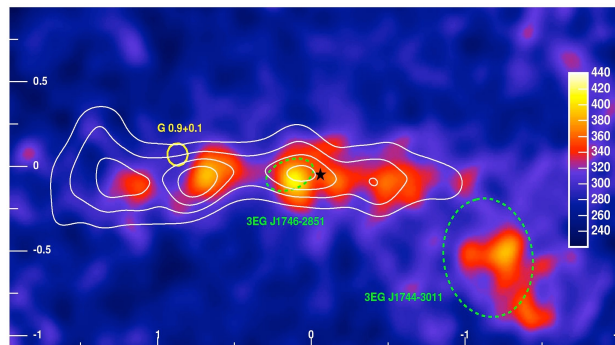


## spectrometry



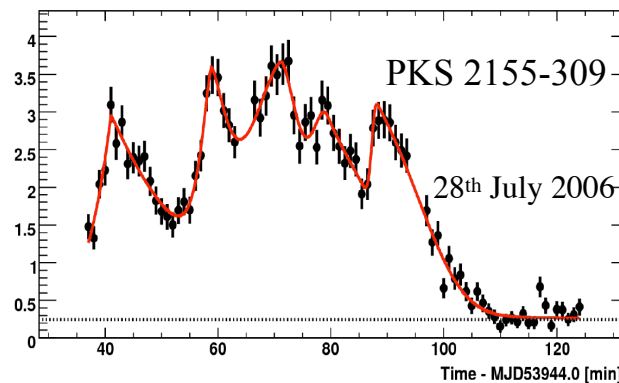
TeV image and energy spectrum of a SNR

## morphology



resolving GMCs in the CMZ  
200pc region of Galactic Center

## timing



variability of TeV flux of a blazar on minute timescales

multi-functional tools: spectrometry / temporal studies / morphology / surveys

✓ extended sources: from SNRs to Clusters of Galaxies

✓ transient phenomena  $\mu$ QSOs, AGN, GRBs, ...

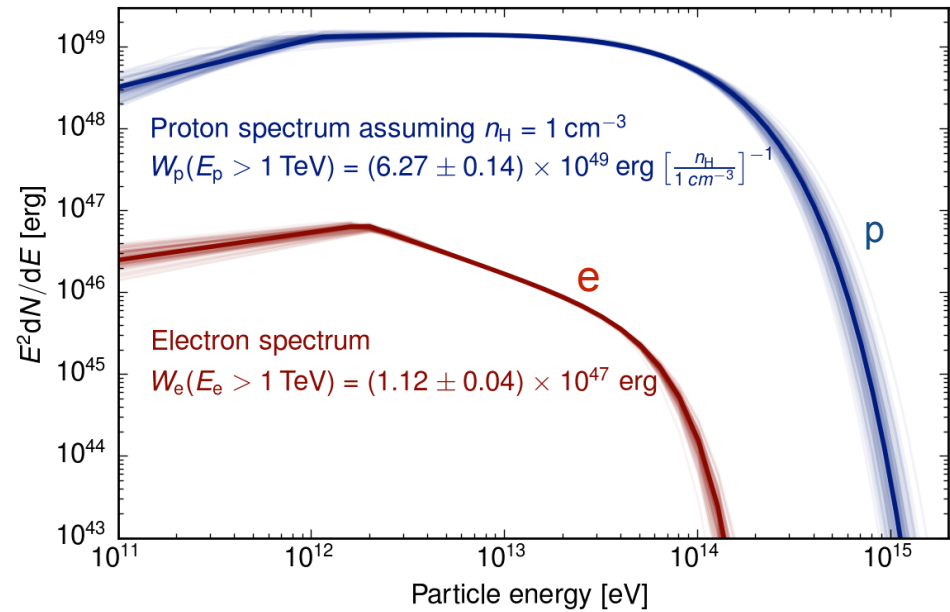
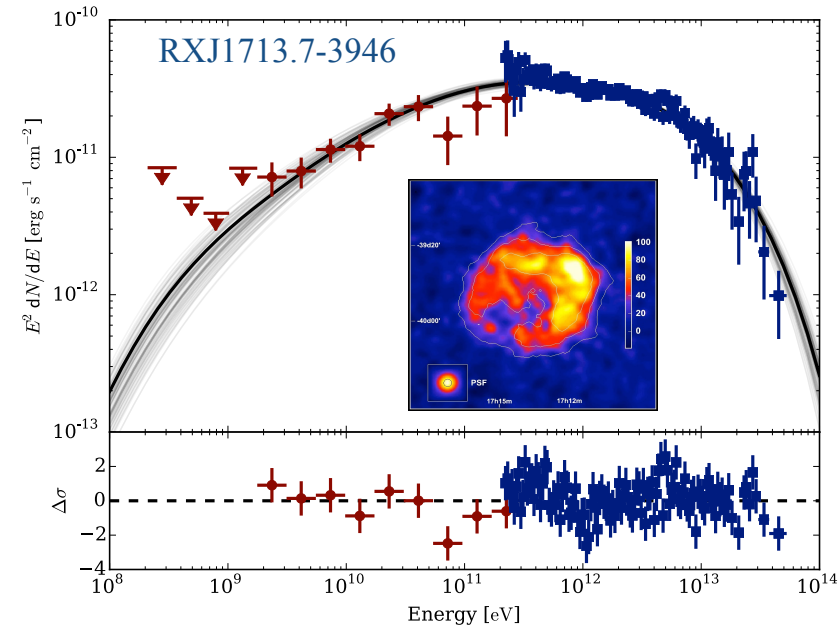
Galactic Astronomy | Extragalactic Astronomy | Observational Cosmology

## Probing the distributions of accelerated particles in SNRs

Fermi+HESS measurements

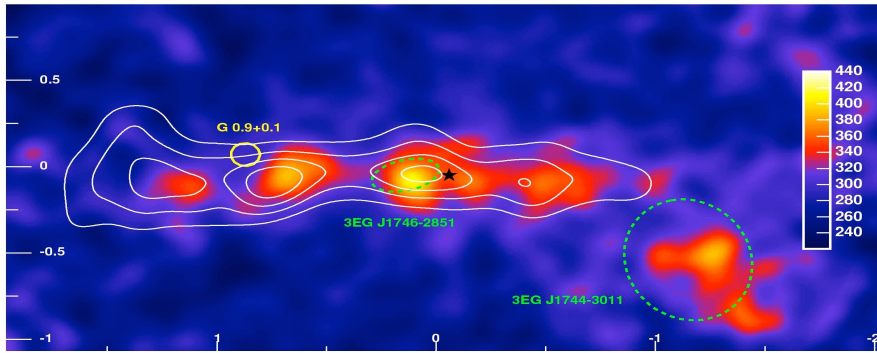


electron and proton spectra

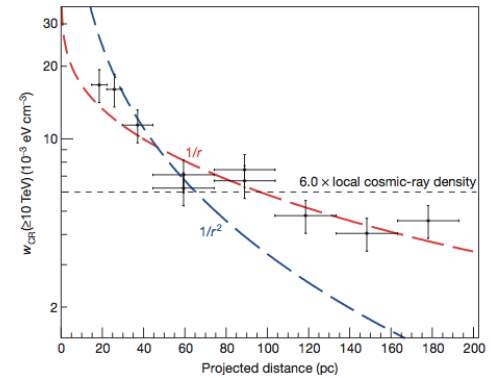


cutoff or break in the proton spectrum at 100 TeV ?

### CMZ in TeV gamma-rays



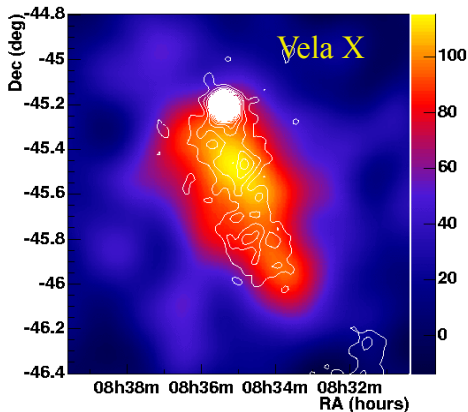
### radial distribution of protons



continuous injection of protons into CMZ up to  $\sim 1/2$  PeV : a PeVatron(s) within 10 pc of GC  
 SMBC in GC (Sgr A\*) operating as a PeVatron ?  
 or particles are accelerated in the Arches, Quintuplet, Nuclear ultra-compact YMCs ?

CTA: better morphology and search for variability at TeV energies

### TeV gamma-ray map



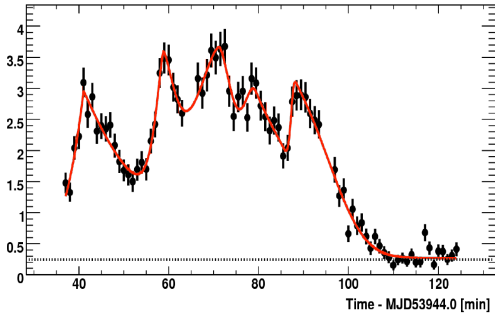
Vela X - Pulsar Wind Nebula produced by the Vela Pulsar

TeV  $\gamma$ -rays (most likely) of IC origin:  $e + 2.7 \text{ K MBR} \rightarrow \gamma$

$\gamma$ -ray distribution represents the spatial (2D) distribution of multi-TeV electrons!

=> the character of propagation of electrons - convection or diffusion?

### 1. AGN superfast flares



variability on timescales of

$$t \sim R_g/c = 10^4 \approx (M/10^9 M_\odot) s$$

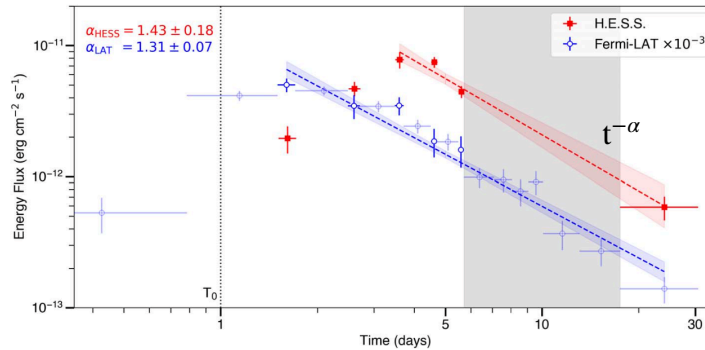
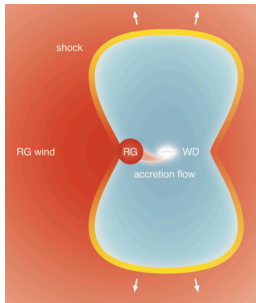


probing the environment close to the event horizon

in particular acceleration and cooling rates

### 2. explosion in RS Ophiuchi

WD accretes material from RG and trigger thermonuclear explosions driving shocks ( $v \sim 5000$  km/s)

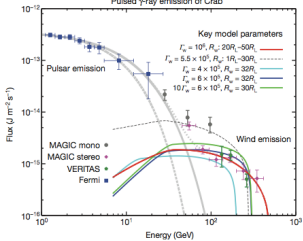
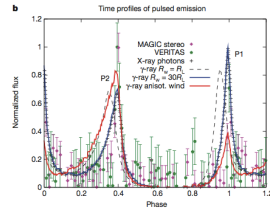
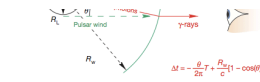
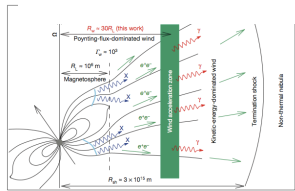


on-line “watch” of acceleration

GeV flux peaks at  $T_0 + 2$  day;  
TeV flux peak is delayed by another two days

determination of the accelerate rate!

### 3. Pulsed TeV emission from the Crab (and Vela)



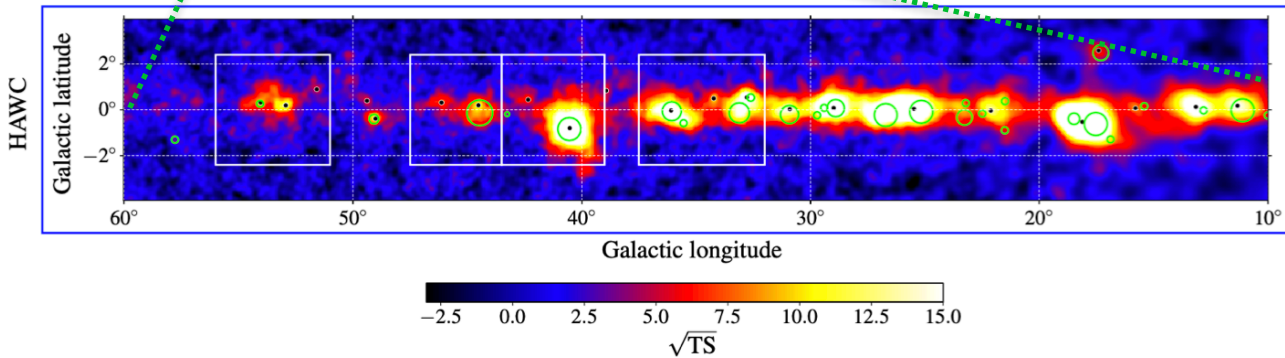
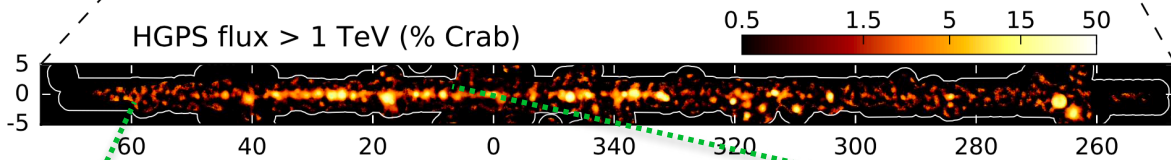
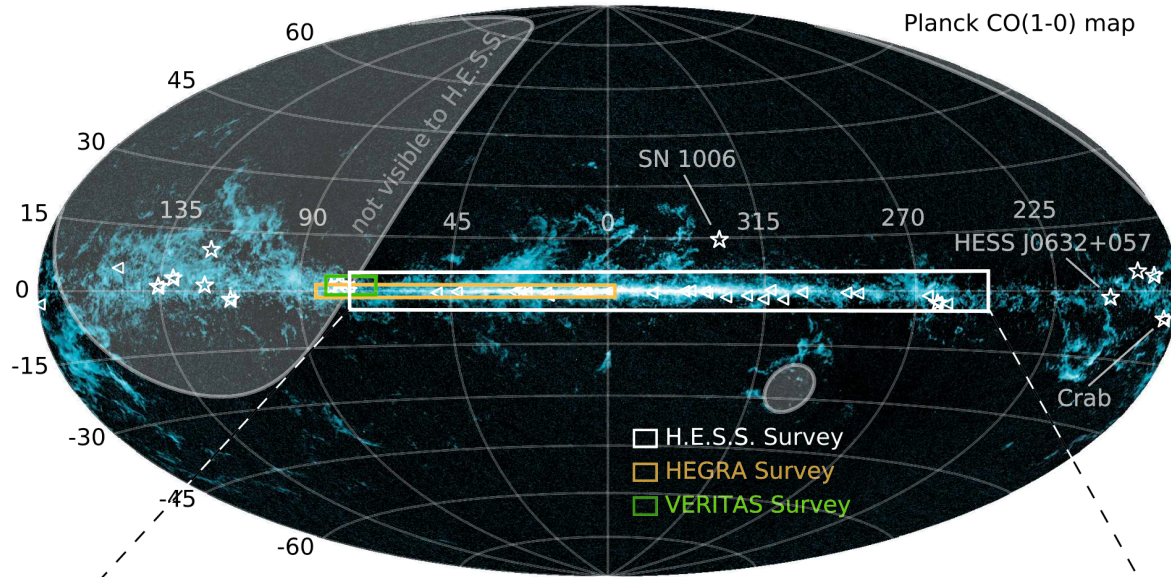
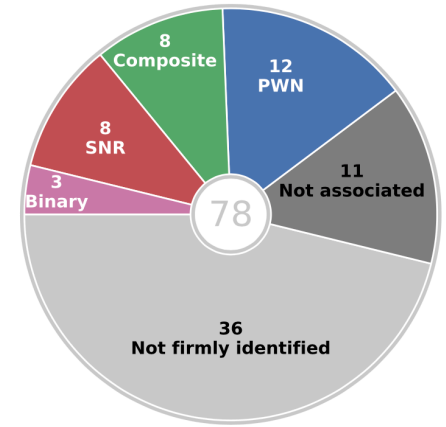
IC emission of the “dark pulsar wind” ?

Determination of the site of formation of the pulsar wind (Acceleration of the wind)

$$\Gamma \sim 10^6; R \sim 30 L$$

# Surveys

despite small FoV IACT arrays can perform effective surveys



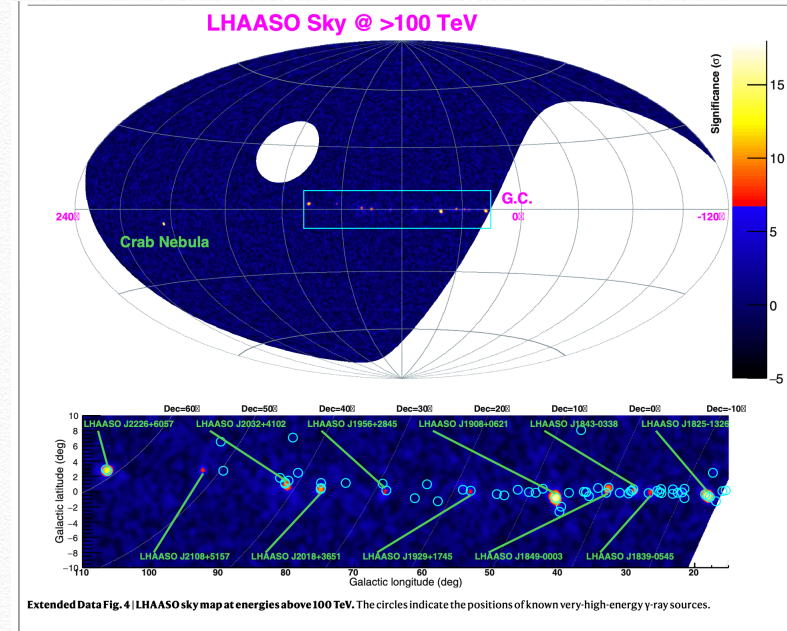
Galactic Plane is full of TeVatrons!

HAWC - sources with spectra up to 100 TeV!

# Ultrahigh-energy photons up to 1.4 petaelectronvolts from 12 $\gamma$ -ray Galactic sources (Nature, June 3rd 2021)

LHAASO Collaboration

first results/conclusions - many > UHE or PeV sources!

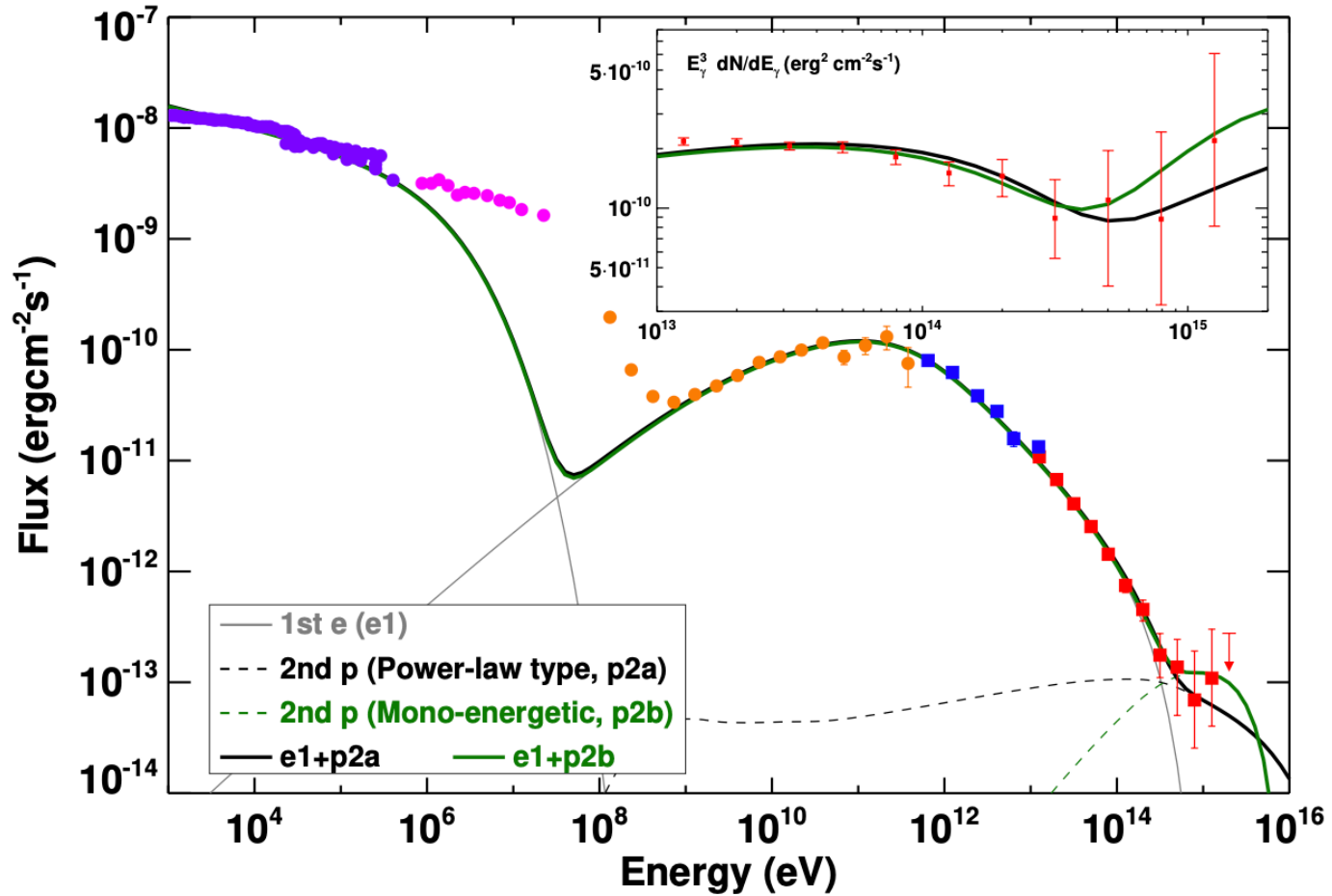


**Table 1 | UHE  $\gamma$ -ray sources**

Source name	RA (°)	dec. (°)	Significance above 100 TeV ( $\times\sigma$ )	$E_{\max}$ (PeV)	Flux at 100 TeV (CU)
LHAASO J0534+2202	83.55	22.05	17.8	$0.88 \pm 0.11$	1.00(0.14)
LHAASO J1825-1326	276.45	-13.45	16.4	$0.42 \pm 0.16$	3.57(0.52)
LHAASO J1839-0545	279.95	-5.75	7.7	$0.21 \pm 0.05$	0.70(0.18)
LHAASO J1843-0338	280.75	-3.65	8.5	$0.26 - 0.10^{+0.16}$	0.73(0.17)
LHAASO J1849-0003	282.35	-0.05	10.4	$0.35 \pm 0.07$	0.74(0.15)
LHAASO J1908+0621	287.05	6.35	17.2	$0.44 \pm 0.05$	1.36(0.18)
LHAASO J1929+1745	292.25	17.75	7.4	$0.71 - 0.07^{+0.16}$	0.38(0.09)
LHAASO J1956+2845	299.05	28.75	7.4	$0.42 \pm 0.03$	0.41(0.09)
LHAASO J2018+3651	304.75	36.85	10.4	$0.27 \pm 0.02$	0.50(0.10)
LHAASO J2032+4102	308.05	41.05	10.5	$1.42 \pm 0.13$	0.54(0.10)
LHAASO J2108+5157	317.15	51.95	8.3	$0.43 \pm 0.05$	0.38(0.09)
LHAASO J2226+6057	336.75	60.95	13.6	$0.57 \pm 0.19$	1.05(0.16)

Celestial coordinates (RA, dec.); statistical significance of detection above 100 TeV (calculated using a point-like template for the Crab Nebula and LHAASO J2108+5157 and  $0.3^\circ$  extension templates for the other sources); the corresponding differential photon fluxes at 100 TeV; and detected highest photon energies. Errors are estimated as the boundary values of the area that contains  $\pm 34.14\%$  of events with respect to the most probable value of the event distribution. In most cases, the distribution is a Gaussian and the error is  $1\sigma$ .

# Crab Nebula: extension of the gamma-ray spectrum beyond 1 PeV





# Status

after several decades of struggles and controversial claims  
ground-based gamma-ray astronomy finally became a truly  
observational discipline - a part of modern astrophysics with

250+ reported sources representing  
10+ source populations

two established detection techniques:

- Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescope Arrays
- Low-threshold EAS arrays/Water Cherenkov Detectors

## Gamma-ray sources at TeV and PeV energies

discovery of hundreds TeV  $\gamma$ -ray sources over the last two decades, representing more than a dozen source populations, was a remarkable achievement of High Energy Astrophysics and Astroparticle Physics

=> universe is full of TeVatrons

factories accelerating particles to TeV energies ( $1\text{TeV} = 10^{12}\text{eV}$ )

**surprise outcome:**

particles are accelerated in different environments and on different scales at incredibly high acceleration rates and energy conversion efficiencies

**surprise continues ...**

over the last 1-2 years - discovery of many UHE (PeV)  $\gamma$ -ray sources in Milky Way ( $\text{PeV} = 10^{15}\text{eV}$ )

=> the Galaxy is full of PeVatrons

hundreds of GeV and/or TeV gamma-ray emitters have been discovered representing 13+ source populations:

- SNRs, Stellar Clusters, GMCs
- Pulsars, Pulsar Winds (?) PWNe, Pulsar Halos (?)
- Binaries (Binary Pulsars, Novae, Microquasars)
- Galaxies, Starburst Galaxies,
- Radiogalaxies,
- AGN,
- GRBs

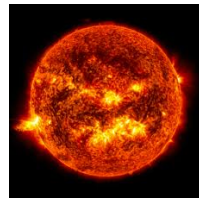
**analogy with X-rays:**

as cosmic plasmas are easily heated up to keV temperatures - almost everywhere, particles (electrons and protons/nuclei) can be easily accelerated to TeV and even PeV energies - almost everywhere!

not all of them contribute to local CR flux but all are  
Particle Accelerators - *factories* of relativistic matter



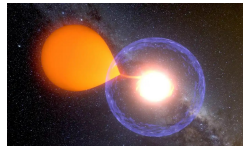
# Relativistic Matter Factories



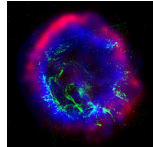
processes of particle acceleration and radiation proceed effectively throughout Universe - *everywhere* and on *all* astronomical scales:



Stars



Novae



SNRs



Microquasars



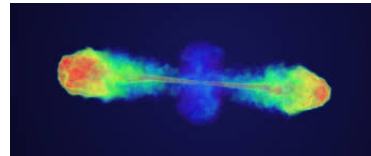
Neutron Stars\*



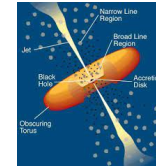
Galaxies



Galaxy Clusters



Large Scale Jets of AG



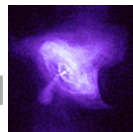
Blazars

\* accelerators associated with Neutron Stars



Pulsars

wind



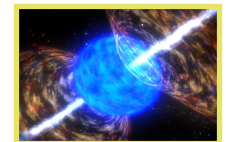
Pulsar Wind Nebula



Binary pulsars



(BNS mergers)



(short) GRBs

# Major topics

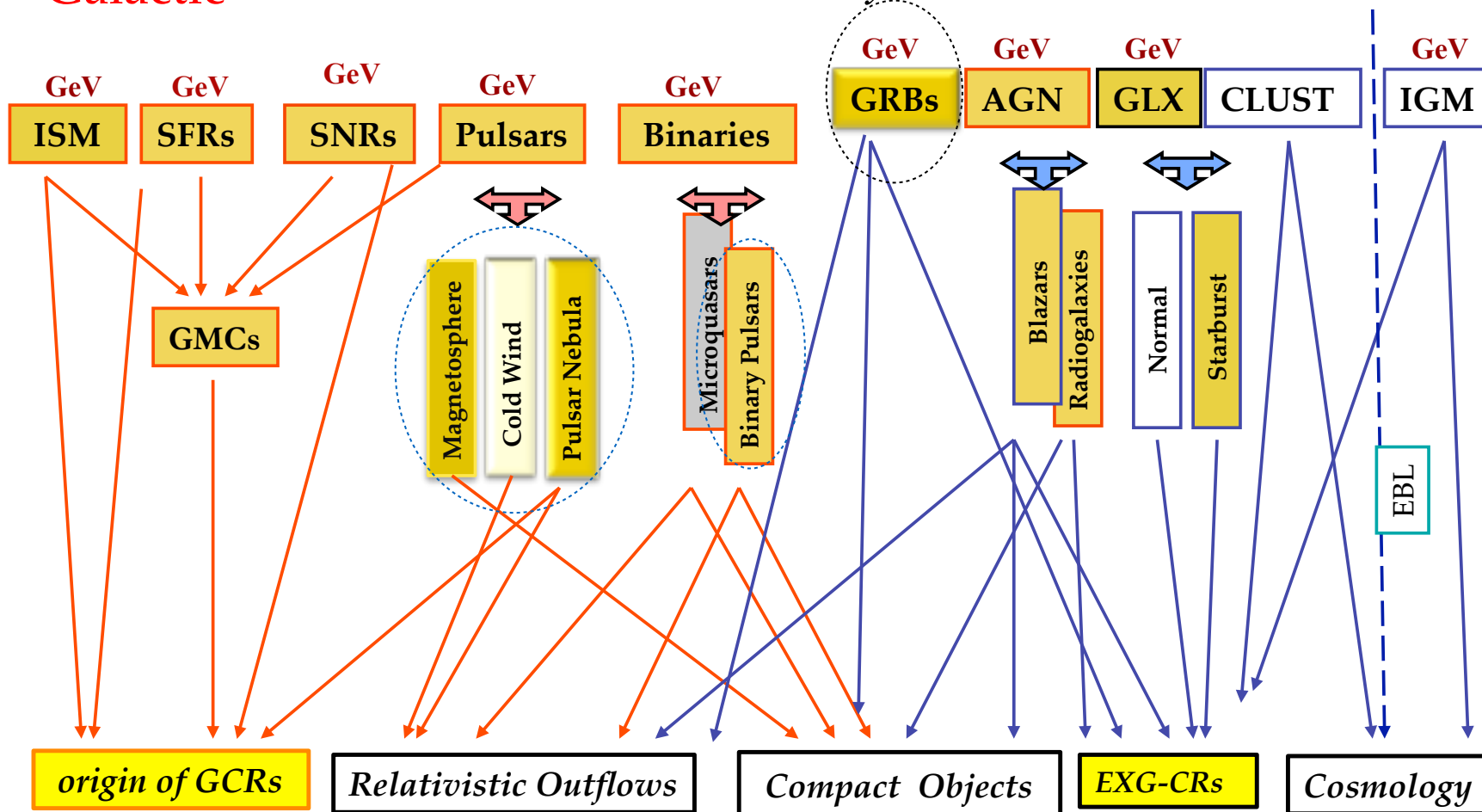
- origin of Galactic and Extragalactic Cosmic Rays
- physics and astrophysics of relativistic outflows (jets and winds)
- high energy processes at extreme conditions (e.g. close to BHs)
- cosmological issues - Dark Matter, Large Scale Structures., etc.

...

Galactic

Potential VHE Gamma Ray Sources

Extragalactic



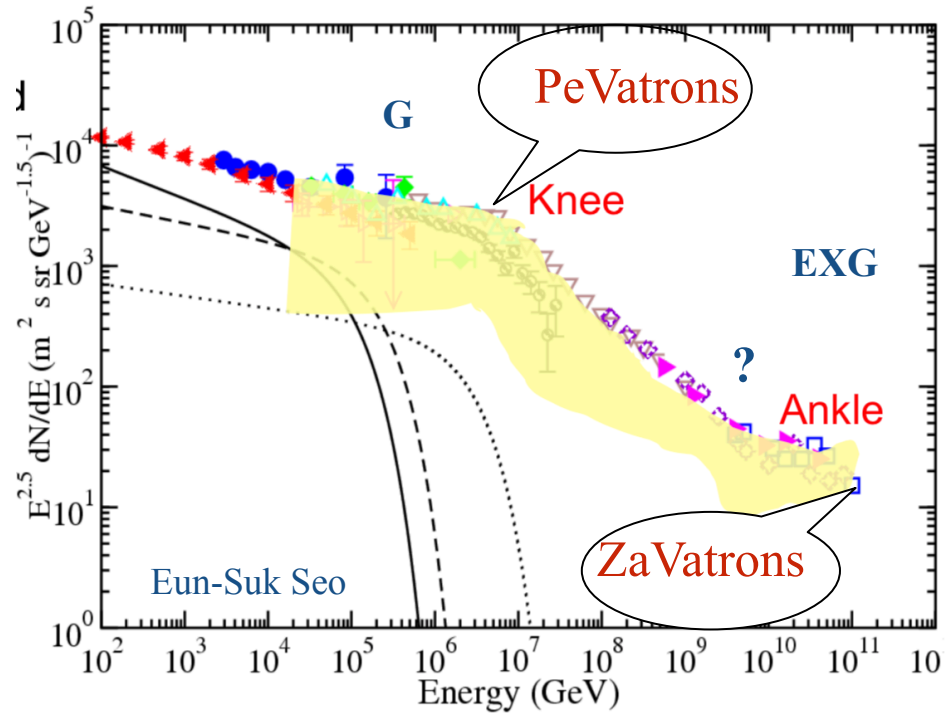
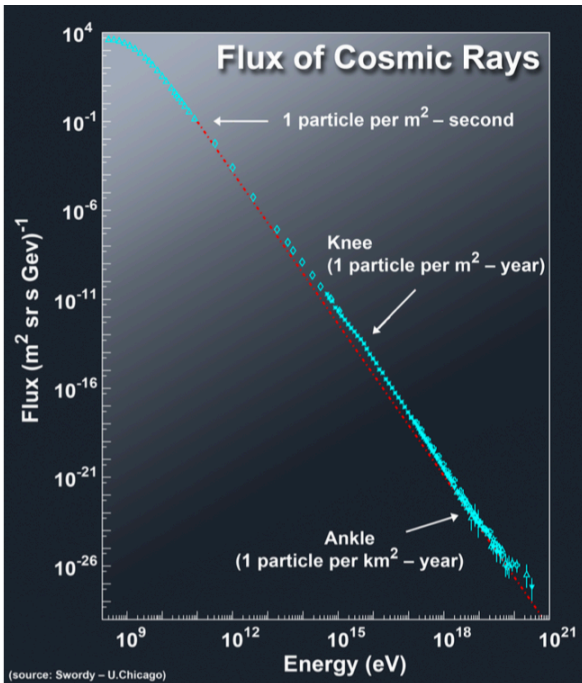
Major Scientific Topics

## strength and uniqueness

- **unique** for specific topics e.g. for the solution of  
*Origin of Galactic and Extragalactic Cosmic Rays*
- may provide **key insight** into a number of principal issues e.g.  
paradigm of “*Pulsar/Pulsar-Wind/Pulsar-Wind-Nebula*”  
*physics and astrophysics of Supermassive Black Holes*  
*relativistic outflows - pulsar winds, Microquasars, AGN jets*
- **contribution** to fundamental physics, e.g.
  - *violation of Lorentz invariance, search for Dark Matter*
  - less exotic issues, like *Relativistic MHD* (e.g. in PWNe and AGN)

“Origin of cosmic rays remains a mystery...”

*a standard statement used in reviews/textbooks over many decades*



below  $10^{15}$  eV - G challenge :  $> 10^{15}$  eV

beyond  $10^{18}$  eV - EXG challenge:  $> 10^{20}$  eV

between  $10^{15}$ - $10^{18}$  eV transition ???



## “Origin of Cosmic Rays” ?

**Origin of CRs** generally is reduced to the identification of major contributors (SNRs, pulsars, GC, etc.) to the locally measured Cosmic Rays

*however, term “Cosmic Rays” itself has two meanings:*

- ❑ locally detected nonthermal/relativistic particles - a “local fog”
- ❑ the “4th substance” of the visible Universe (after the matter, radiation and magnetic fields) - a *more fundamental issue*

questions beyond the origin of local CRs:  
the physics of **Extreme Accelerators**

*machines where acceleration proceeds with efficiency close to 100%*

- (i) fraction of available energy converted to nonthermal particles  
*in PWNe and perhaps also in SNRs can be as large as 50 %*
- (ii) maximum possible energy achieved by individual particles  
*acceleration rate close to the maximum (theoretically) possible rate*

acceleration rate:  $\dot{E} = e\mathcal{E}c = \eta eBc; \quad \eta = \mathcal{E}/B \leq 1$

$\eta \rightarrow 1$  - **absolute extreme accelerator** determined by ED and ideal MHD

combined with the Synchrotron energy lose rate  $\Rightarrow E_{\max}$

radiation signature: synch. peak at  $h\nu = \frac{9}{4}\eta^{-1}mc^2/\alpha$  ( $\alpha = 1/137$ ,  $m$  - particle mass)

for electrons:  $\approx 0.15$  GeV      for protons:  $\approx 0.3$  TeV

Crab Nebula and Sources of  $10^{20}$  eV Cosmic Rays are Extreme Accelerators

obviously, many reported gamma-ray sources require not only effective accelerators but also **effective gamma-ray emitters**

$$\gamma\text{-ray production efficiency? } \kappa = \frac{t_{\text{dyn}}}{t_{\text{rad}}} \quad L_{\gamma} = \kappa \dot{W}_{\text{cr}}$$

cooling time of the given gamma-ray production process is shorter than

- (1) timescales of radiative and non-radiative (e.g. adiabatic) losses
- (2) intrinsic dynamical (source age, acceleration time, particle escape time)

**Note:** high efficiency is an important but not sufficient/decisive condition for a gamma-ray sources to be detected. The detectability depends also on

- ✓ power and distance to the source ( $\sim W/d^2$ )
- ✓ beaming factor, e.g. Doppler boosting ( $\sim \delta^4$ )
- ✓ Sensitivity of the instrument in the given energy domain

---


$$W_{\text{cr}} = L_{\gamma} t_{\text{rad}}; \quad \dot{W}_{\text{cr}} = \kappa^{-1} L_{\gamma} \quad (L_{\gamma} = 4\pi d^2 F_{\gamma})$$

be careful with the interpretation of  $W_{\text{cr}}$  and  $\dot{W}_{\text{cr}}$ : we could miss  $\gamma$ -ray emission from extended emission regions because of the reduced brightness where  $\kappa$  could be different - typically, much smaller

## quick estimates of $\gamma$ -ray fluxes and spectra

*this can be done, in many cases with a surprisingly good accuracy,  
using cooling times (for energy fluxes)*

$$F_{\gamma} = W_{p(e)}/4\pi d^2 t_{cool}$$

*and  $\delta$ -functional approximation (for energy spectra) using the relation*

$$\langle E_{\gamma} \rangle = f(E_{p(e)})$$

*but be careful with  $\delta$ -functional approximations ...*

*this may lead to quite wrong results*

often for particle (electron or proton) spectrum is assumed a convenient power-law with exponential cutoff spectrum, in a general form:

$$dN/dE = KE^{-\alpha} \exp[-(E/E_0)^\beta]$$

the cutoff region - *more important than any other energy region* - can be derived from the spectrum of radiation, e.g.

□ synchrotron radiation:  $\epsilon^{-(\alpha+1)/2} \exp[-(\epsilon/\epsilon_0)^{\beta'}]$

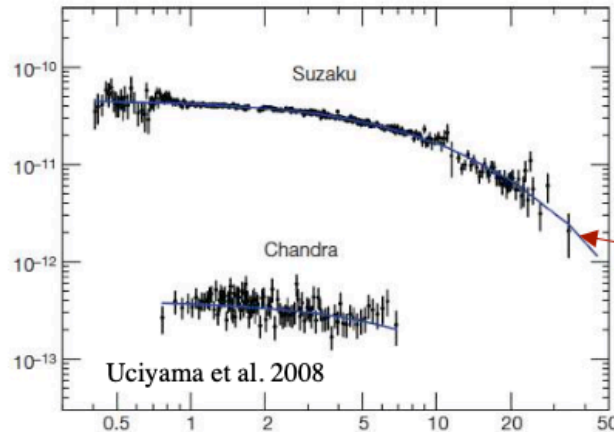
$\delta$ -functional approximation:  $\beta' = \beta/2$  ( $\epsilon \sim E^2$ ), precise  $\beta' = \beta/(\beta+2)$

$\beta=1 \Rightarrow \beta'=1/3$  but not  $1/2$ ;  $\beta=2 \Rightarrow \beta'=1/2$  but not  $1/4$

□  $p+p \rightarrow \pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma$ :  $\epsilon^{-\alpha'} \exp[-(\epsilon/\epsilon_0)^{\beta'}]$

$\delta$ -functional approximation:  $\alpha' = \alpha$ ,  $\beta' = \beta$  ( $\epsilon \sim 1/10E$ )

precise  $\alpha' \sim \alpha$  ( $+\Delta\alpha \sim 0.1$  for  $\beta = 2$   $\beta^* \sim 0.5$  but not 1



energy spectrum of synchrotron radiation of electrons in the framework of DSA (Zirakashvili&FA 07)

$$J_\nu \propto \nu^{-1} [1 + 0.46(\nu/\nu_0)^{0.6}]^{11/4.8} \exp[-(\nu/\nu_0)^{1/2}]$$

$$h\nu_0 \approx 1(v/3000\text{km/s})^2 \eta^{-1} \text{ keV}$$

$h\nu_0 = 0.55 \text{ keV}$

*strong support for acceleration in Bohm diffusion regime ( $\eta \sim 1$ ) - from position of synchrotron cutoff given that the shock speed  $v < 4000 \text{ km/s}$  (Chandra)*

an example: diffusive shock acceleration of electrons

in the Bohm diffusion regime; losses dominated by synchrotron radiation

$$N(E) \propto E^{-2} [1 + 0.523(E/E_0)^{9/4}]^2 \exp[-(E/E_0)^2] \quad (*)$$

$E_0$  almost coincides with the value derived from  $t_{acc} = t_{synch}$

the spectrum of synchrotron radiation at the shock front

$$J_\nu \propto \nu^{-1} [1 + 0.46(\nu/\nu_0)^{0.6}]^{11/4.8} \exp[-(\nu/\nu_0)^{1/2}]$$

$$h\nu_0 = 1(v/3000 \text{ km/s})^2 \eta^{-1} \text{ keV}$$

- . electron spectrum derived from Suzaku data
- . DSA prediction
- . “standard  $E^{-3} \exp(-E/E_0)$  type elec. spectrum

two errors combined - (i) exponential cutoff in the spectrum of accelerated electrons and (ii)  $\delta$ -functional approximation for synch. radiation compensate each other and give (accidentally!) relatively correct behavior in the cutoff region

few examples of efficient/inefficient  
 $\gamma$ -ray emitters related to cosmic rays

*inefficient!*

## Nonthermal X-ray Bremsstrahlung

at first glance quite attractive (“*why should I invoke multi-TeV electrons to produce X-rays when can I use keV electrons to produce keV X photons?*”) in fact only less than  $10^{-5}$  fraction of the kinetic energy of electrons (protons) is released in X-rays; 99.99...% goes to the ionization and heating of the gas

$$L_e > 10^5 L_X = 10^{37} (f_X / 10^{-12} \text{ erg/s}) (d/1\text{kpc})^2 \text{ erg/s}$$

the same is true for gamma-ray line emission due to excitation of nuclei by sub-relativistic protons - both mechanisms “work” during Solar flares, otherwise it typically leads to unreasonably high requirements for production rate of sub-relativistic electrons - this makes the extremely interesting issues like detection of gamma-ray lines, in particular from ISM, SNRs, GMCs, etc (information about the sub-relativistic CRs !) observationally very difficult





*not very efficient*

no competing dissipation mechanisms - in “calorimetric scenarios”:  $L_\gamma \sim L_p/3$   
but the process itself is not very fast/relatively slow:  $t_\pi \sim 10^{15} (n/1\text{cm}^{-3})^{-1} \text{ s}$   
usually the source age or particle escape is a big issue !

SNRs: typical density:  $n \sim 1\text{cm}^{-3}$ , magnetic field  $B \sim 100\mu\text{G}$ , size  $R \sim 3 \text{ pc}$  assuming  
Bohm diffusion,  $D(E) = r_L c/3 = 10^{25} (E_p/10\text{TeV})^{-1} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$ , escape time of  
protons which produce 1 TeV gamma-rays:  $t_{\text{esc}} \sim R^2/D \sim 10^{13} \text{ s} \sim 0.01 t_\pi$

Galaxies -  $n \sim 0.1 - 1 \text{ cm}^{-3} \Rightarrow t_{pp \rightarrow \pi^0} \sim 10^{7-8} \text{ yr}$ ;  
confinement time  $10^5 - 10^7 \text{ yr} \Rightarrow$  efficiency 0.1-100 %

Galaxy densities  $n \sim 10^{-3} \text{ s}$ , size  $R > 1\text{Mpc}$  - full confinement!

Clusters:  $t_\pi < 10^{18} (n/1\text{cm}^{-3})^{-1} \text{ s}$  - comparable to the age (Hubble time) !

$\gamma$ Binaries: protons accelerated by the compact object and interacting with the dense  
stellar disk of companion:  $n \sim 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  ; the cooling time could be shorter  
than escape time  $\Rightarrow$  potentially effective production of gamma-rays and  $\nu\text{s}$

*higher efficiencies at MeV/GeV energies because of problem of confinement*

# Synchrotron radiation

*very efficient*

especially in extreme particle accelerators where acceleration proceeds at the maximum (theoretically possible) rate and the further acceleration is limited by synchrotron losses

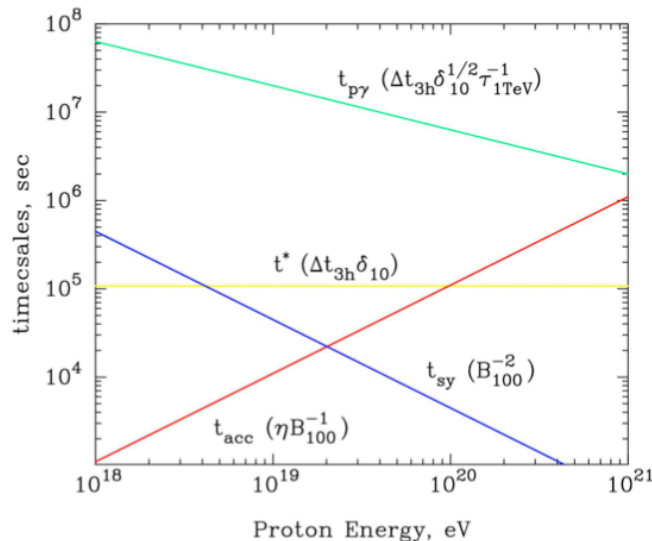
$$t_{\text{acc}} = \frac{R_L}{c} \eta^{-1} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{self regulated cutoff}$$

$$h\nu_{\text{cut}} = \frac{9}{4} \alpha_f^{-1} mc^2 \eta :$$

$$\simeq 300 \text{ GeV} \quad \text{proton synchrotron}$$

$$\simeq 150 \text{ MeV} \quad \text{electron synchrotron}$$

proton-synchrotron is effective in compact objects with large B-fields (when  $t_{\text{cool}} < R/c$ )



$$t_{\text{synch}} = 4.5 \times 10^4 (B/100\text{G})^{-2} (E/10^{19} \text{ eV})^{-1} \text{ s}$$

$$t_{\text{acc}} = 1.1 \times 10^4 (E/10^{19}) (B/100\text{G})^{-1} \text{ s}$$

$$E_{\text{max}} \sim B^{-1/2}, \text{ but } h\nu_{\text{cut}} - \text{independent of } B$$

$$t(h\nu_{\text{cut}}) = 2.4 \times 10^4 (B/100\text{G})^{-3/2} \eta^{1/2} \text{ s} < R/c$$

$$B > 100 (R/10^{15} \text{ cm})^{-2/3} \eta^{1/3} \text{ G}$$

## Synchrotron radiation

*very efficient*

*do we have evidence for signatures of extreme accelerators?*

**electron synchrotron** - most likely in the spectrum of the Crab Nebulae

**protons synchrotron** - in some blazars, GRBs ?

factors reducing the maximum energies of the synchrotron cutoff?

radiative losses in the case of electrons-synchrotron (e.g. in binaries)

not sufficiently strong B-fields in the case of proton-synchrotron (in extended sources)

electron synchrotron efficiency could be close 100% even in non-extreme accelerators although the radiation at lower (typically X-ray) energies, e.g. in young SNRs

IC:  $e\gamma \rightarrow e+\gamma'$

*very efficient*

- ✓ compact objects - binaries, AGN... -  
*very effective with some exceptions*
- ✓ PWNe with very small B-field:  $L_{\text{IC}} = (w_{\text{MBR}}/w_{\text{B}})\dot{W}_e = (B/3\mu\text{G})^{-2}\dot{W}_e \sim \dot{W}_e$   
if  $B < 3\text{mG}$ ; thanks to very effective (relativistic shock?) acceleration  
*electrons still can be accelerated to 100 TeV or beyond*
- ✓ Clusters of Galaxies - despite small B-field ( $\sim 1\mu\text{G}$ ) and limited shock speed ( $\sim 2000\text{ km/s}$ ), thanks to the large size and age of these cosmological structures, protons can be accelerated to  $10^{18}$ - $10^{19}\text{ eV}$ , produce secondary (Bethe-Heiliter) pairs at interactions with 2.7K CMBR, and the secondary electrons can produce effective IC gamma-rays upscattering 2.7K CMBR
- ✓ many other realisations and ... tricks related e.g. to Klein-Nishina scattering regime  
*often is accompanied with photon-photon pair-production*

## On the power-law distribution of accelerated particles:

Generally it is typically considered as the intrinsic feature of accelerated particles - but it is an overstatement. For example, when interpreting  $\gamma$ -ray spectra sometimes we need a Maxwellian distribution. It does not mean, however, that we see the emission of thermal plasma. Some specific (“stochastic” or Fermi II type) mechanisms of particle acceleration can lead to a Maxwellian type distributions. Also, the hard particle spectra derived from the gamma-ray observations could be the result of propagation but not acceleration

Sources of nonthermal emission - *do not necessarily coincide with accelerators*

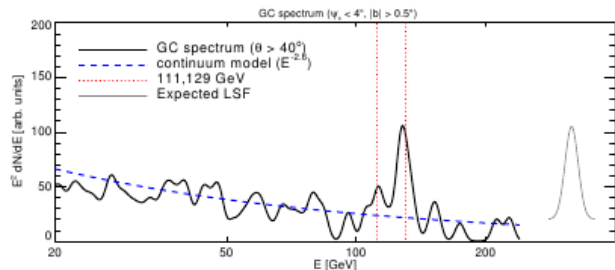
nonthermal emission is a result of interaction of a beam of relativistic particles with a target (gas, B-field, photons), therefore the emission source (= target) should not be identified with the accelerator.

Dark Matter as “smoking gun “ ? - *often invoked to explain unusual/irregular features revealed by observations but in most cases unnecessary exaggeration*

such strong claims in the context of one of the most fundamental objectives of modern physics and astrophysics require a careful judgment through the “Occam’s razor” principle, i.e. exploration of other more conventional (and natural) interpretations

# an example

## narrow GeV/TeV gamma-ray lines: astrophysical or DM origin

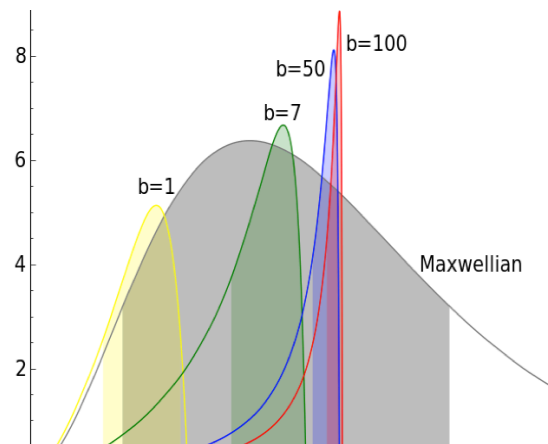
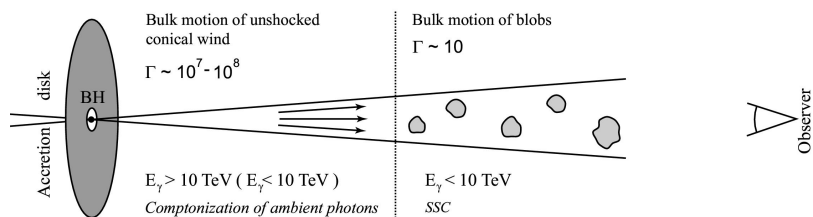


~100 GeV gamma-ray line detected by Fermi LAT? \*

cosmological interpretation - **DM as the only option?**

No! can be interpreted as Inverse Compton scattering of monoenergetic electrons and cold ultra relativistic (e.g.) pulsar winds in the deep Klein-Nishina regime

often confusion between acceleration of bulk motion and particle acceleration !



\* later not confirmed

# why gamma-rays?

gamma-rays – **unique carriers** of information about high energy processes and phenomena in the Universe

- ✓ are effectively produced  
in both **electromagnetic and hadronic interactions**
- ✓ penetrate (relatively) freely throughout  
**intergalactic and galactic magnetic and photon-fields**
- ✓ are effectively detected  
by **space-based and ground-based detectors**

## links to many disciplines of physics and astrophysics

a coherent description and interpretation of high energy phenomena requires deep knowledge of many areas of modern physics and astronomy and physics:

- ✓ special and general relativity
- ✓ quantum and classical electrodynamics
- ✓ atomic and molecular physics
- ✓ nuclear and particle physics
- ✓ plasma physics
- ✓ magneto(hydrodynamics)
- ✓ galactic and extragalactic astronomy

...



## extreme physical conditions

generally the phenomena relevant to HEA generally proceed under extreme physical conditions in environments characterized with

- *huge gravitational, magnetic and electric fields,*
- *very dense background radiation,*
- *relativistic bulk motions (black-hole jets and pulsar winds)*
- *shock waves, highly excited (turbulent) media, etc.*

therefore some processes of gamma-ray production and absorption can proceed quite differently compared to the laboratory experiments

## *radiation and absorption processes*

any interpretation of an astronomical observation requires

- ✓ *unambiguous identification of radiation mechanisms*
- ✓ *good knowledge of radiation and absorption processes*

gamma-ray production and absorption processes: *several but well studied*

## interactions with matter

**E-M:**

**VHE**

bremsstrahlung:  $e N(e) \Rightarrow e' \gamma N(e)$

\*

$E_\gamma \sim 1/2 E_e$

pair production  $\gamma N(e) \Rightarrow e^+e^- N(e)$

\*

$e^+e^-$  annihilation  $e^+e^- \Rightarrow \gamma \gamma$  (511 keV line)

**Strong/weak:**  $pp(A) \Rightarrow \pi, K, \Lambda, \dots$

\*\*

$E_\gamma \sim 1/10 E_p$

$\pi, K, \Lambda \Rightarrow \gamma, \nu, e, \mu$

$\mu \Rightarrow \nu$

also in the low energy region

**Nuclear:**  $p A \Rightarrow A^* \Rightarrow A' \gamma, n$

$n p \Rightarrow D \gamma$  (2.2 MeV line)

# interactions with radiation and B-fields

## Radiation field

## VHE

### E-M:

inverse Compton:

$$e \gamma (B) \Rightarrow e' \gamma$$

\*\*

$\gamma\gamma$  pair production

$$\gamma \gamma (B) \Rightarrow e^+e^-$$

\*\*

$$E_\gamma \sim \epsilon(E_e/mc^2)^2 (T) \text{ to } \sim E_e (KN)$$

### Strong/week

$$p \gamma \Rightarrow \pi, K, \Lambda, \dots$$

\*

$$\pi, K, \Lambda \Rightarrow \gamma, \nu, e, \mu$$

$$E_\gamma \sim 1/10 E_p$$

$$\mu \Rightarrow \nu$$

$$A \gamma \Rightarrow A^* \Rightarrow A' \gamma$$

\*

$$E_\gamma \sim 1/10000 A E_p$$

## B-field

synchrotron

$$e (p) B \Rightarrow \gamma$$

\*

pair production

$$\gamma B \Rightarrow e^+e^-$$

\*

$$E_\gamma \sim BE_e^2; h\nu_{\max} \sim \alpha^{-1} mc^2$$

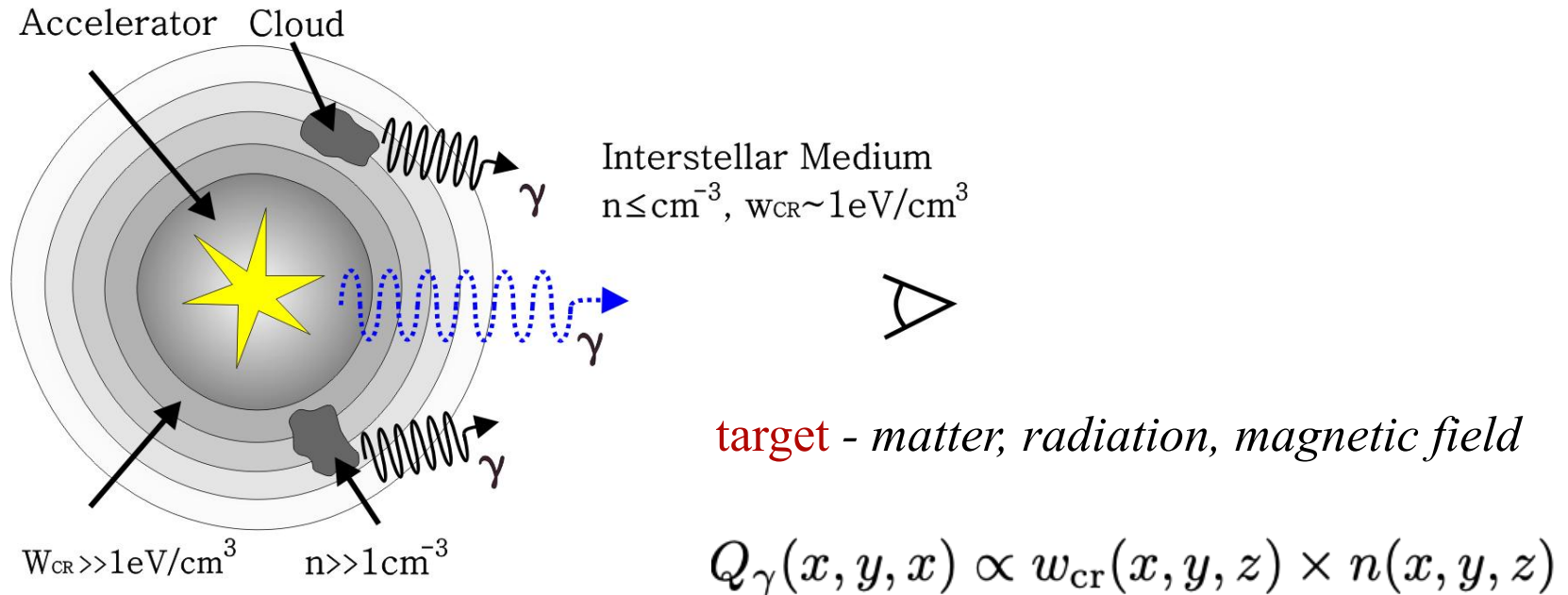
\*\* - very important!

\* - important!

specifics of cosmic gamma-ray studies

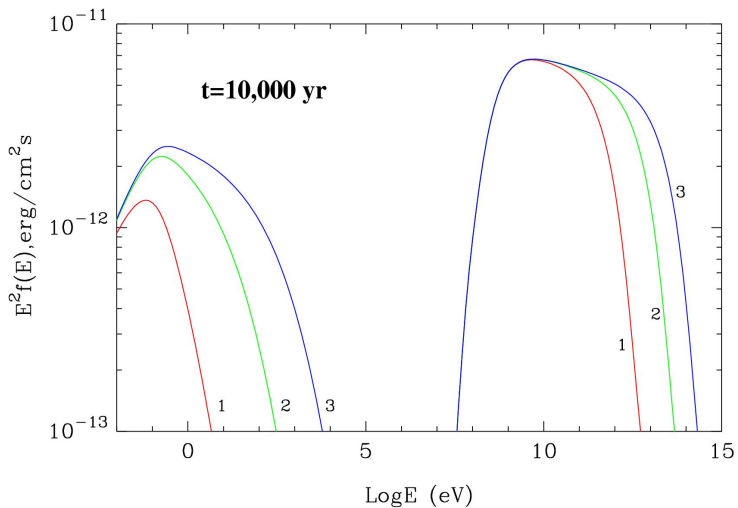
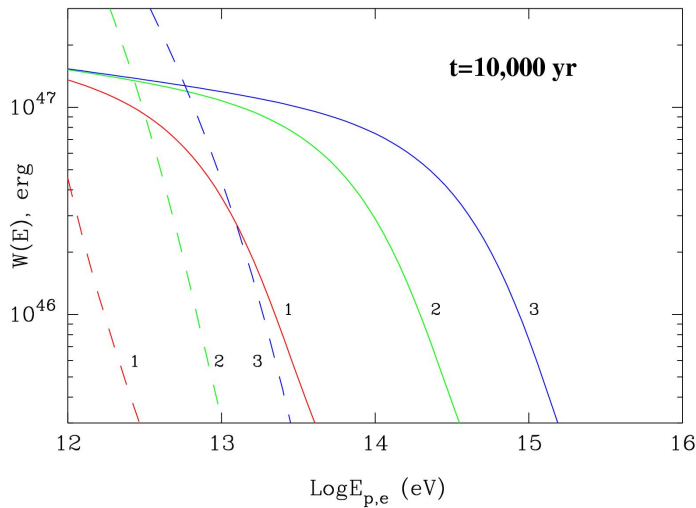
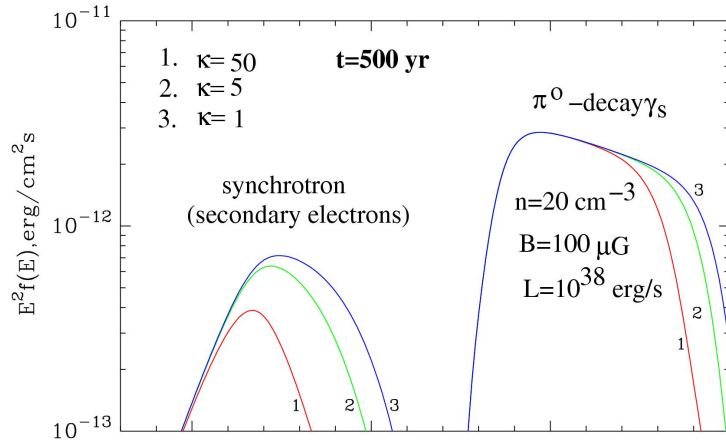
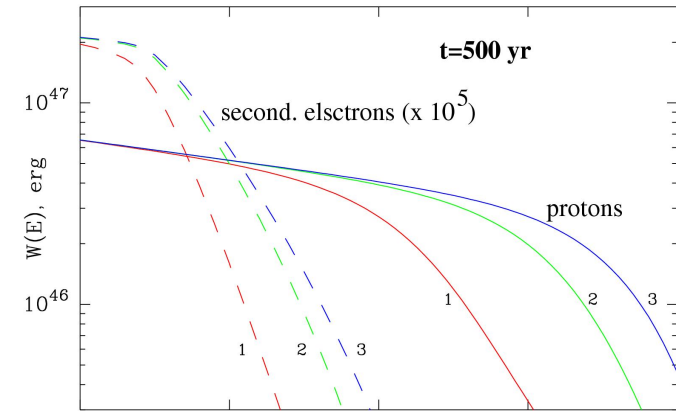
## gamma-ray production: accelerator+target

existence of a powerful particle accelerator by itself is not sufficient for  $\gamma$ -radiation; an additional component – a dense target - is required



any gamma-ray emitter coincides with the target, but not necessarily with the “primary” source/particle-accelerator

## older source – steeper $\gamma$ -ray spectrum

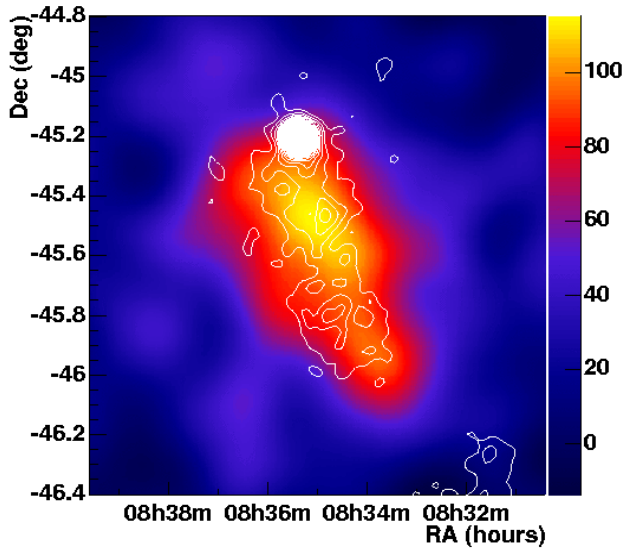


$$t_{\text{esc}} = 4 \times 10^5 (E/1 \text{ TeV})^{-1} \kappa^{-1} \text{ yr} \quad (R=1 \text{ pc}); \quad \kappa=1 \text{ – Bohm Diffusion}$$

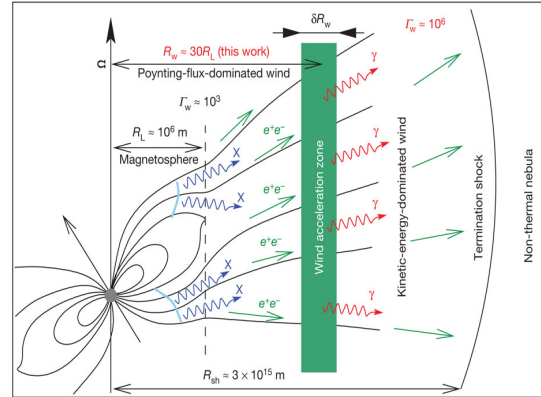
$$Q_p = k E^{-2.1} \exp(-E/1 \text{ PeV}) \quad L_p = 10^{38} (1+t/1 \text{ kyr})^{-1} \text{ erg/s}$$

# Inverse Compton gamma-rays from the cold wind and the synchrotron nebula

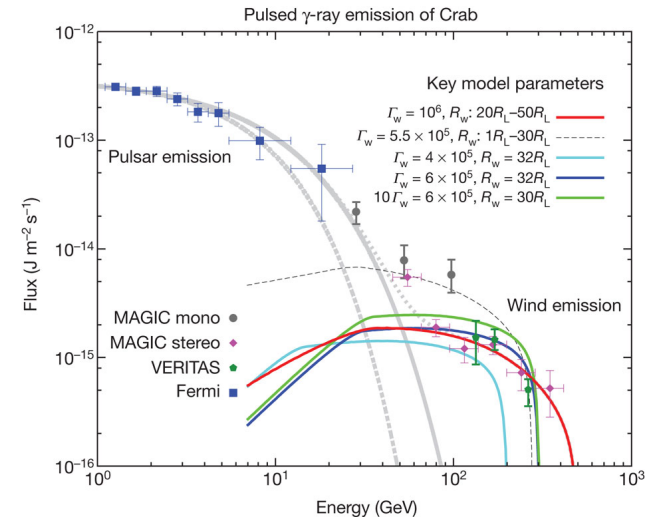
nebula



pulsar



pulsar wind?



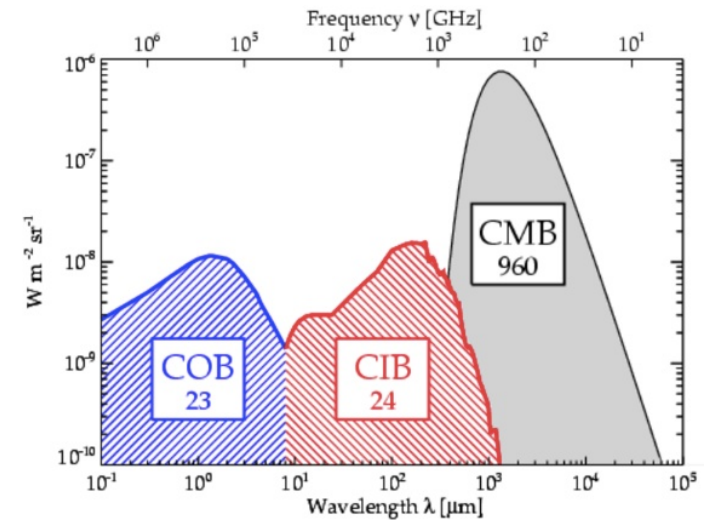
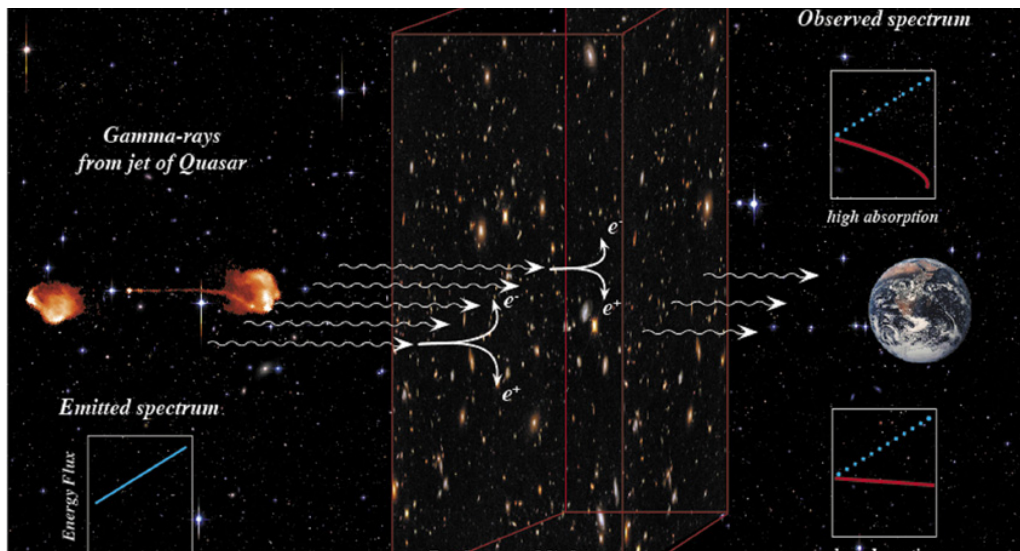
2.7 K MBR is the main target field;  
 TeV images reflect spatial distributions of electrons  $N_e(E,x,y)$ ;  
 coupled with synchrotron X-rays,  
 this allow measurements of  $B(x,y)$

gamma-rays detected from the “invisible” wind or from the pulsar magnetosphere?



# Absorption of Gamma-Rays in the Intergalactic Medium

$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$  as a major gamma ray absorption mechanism



# $\gamma$ -ray horizon

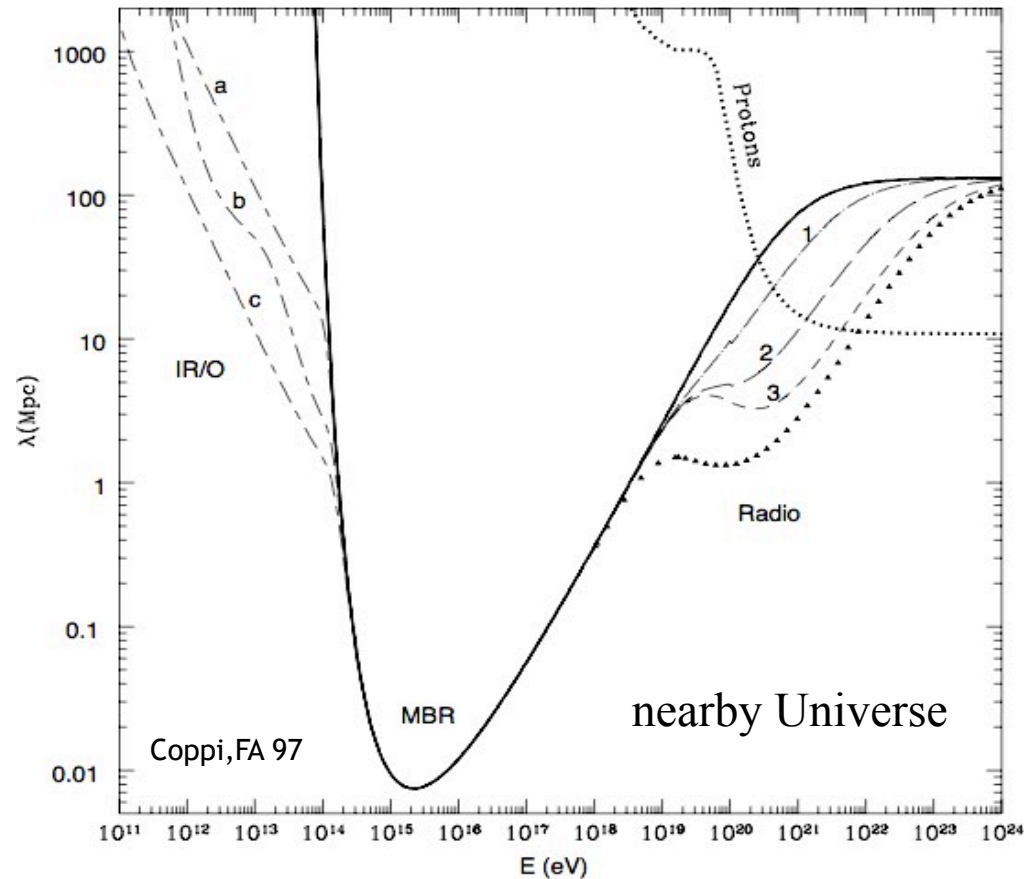
EHE (EeV) gamma-rays interact with  
Radio emission: 1-10MHz:  $1\text{Mpc} < d < 10\text{Mpc}$

UHE (PeV) gamma-rays interact effectively  
with 2.7K MBR:  $\sim 1\text{mm}$   $10\text{kpc} < d < 1\text{Mpc}$

VHE (TeV) gamma-rays interact effectively  
with EBL:  $0.1\text{-}100\ \mu\text{m}$   $100\text{Mpc} < d < 1\text{Gpc}$

Universe is (almost) transparent for  $< 10\ \text{GeV}$   
gamma-rays,  $z > 3$

*mean free path of cosmic gamma-rays*



# Other astronomical messengers

## other astronomical messengers?

**astronomical messengers should be neutral & stable:**

*photons\* and neutrinos satisfy fully to these conditions*

partly also ultra-high energy neutrons and protons ...

*neutrons:*  $d < (E_n/m_n c^2) c \tau_0 \Rightarrow E_n > 10^{17}(d/1 \text{ kpc}) \text{ eV}$   
galactic astronomy with  $E > 10^{17} \text{ eV}$  neutrons

*protons:*  $\phi \sim 1^\circ$  if  $E > 10^{20}$  for IGMF  $B < 10^{-9} G$  eV  
extragalactic astronomy with  $E > 10^{20} \text{ eV}$  protons

\*) not only gamma-rays but also X-rays from both primary (directly accelerated) and secondary ( $\pi^{+/-}$  decay) electrons

presently: TeV  $\gamma$ -ray astronomy -- a truly astronomical  
(*observational*) discipline

### *why TeV $\gamma$ -rays ?*

TeV  $\gamma$ -rays - *unique carriers of astrophysical/cosmological  
information about non-thermal phenomena  
in many galactic and extragalactic sources*

✓ are **effectively produced** in E-M and hadronic interactions  
("good and bad")

✓ are **effectively detected** by space- and ground-based instruments

but... are fragile - effectively interact with matter, radiation and B-fields

(1) *information arrives after significant distortion, (2) often - sources are opaque*

presently: TeV neutrino astronomy - “astronomy” without sources\*)

why TeV neutrinos ?

TeV neutrinos - unique carriers of astrophysical/cosmological information about non-thermal phenomena in galactic and extragalactic nonthermal sources

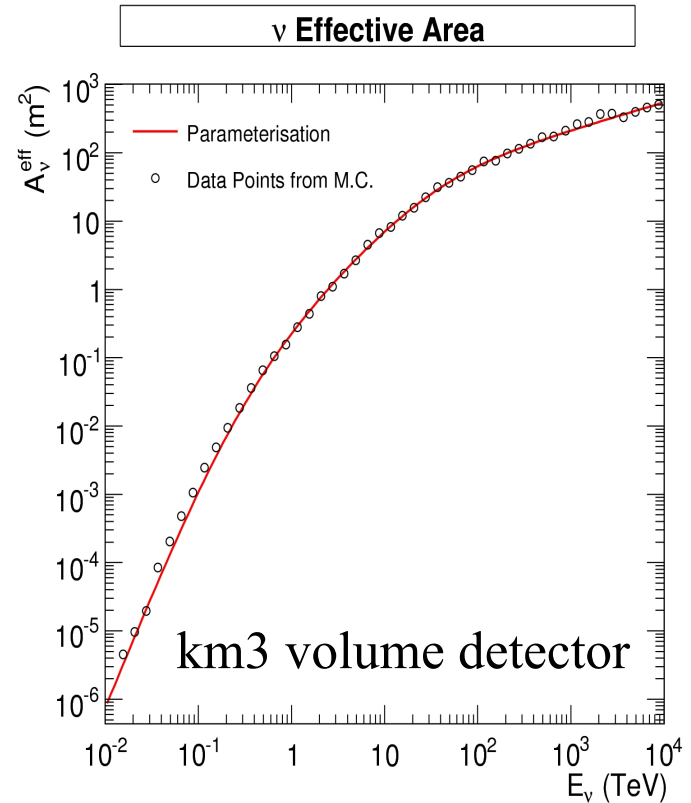
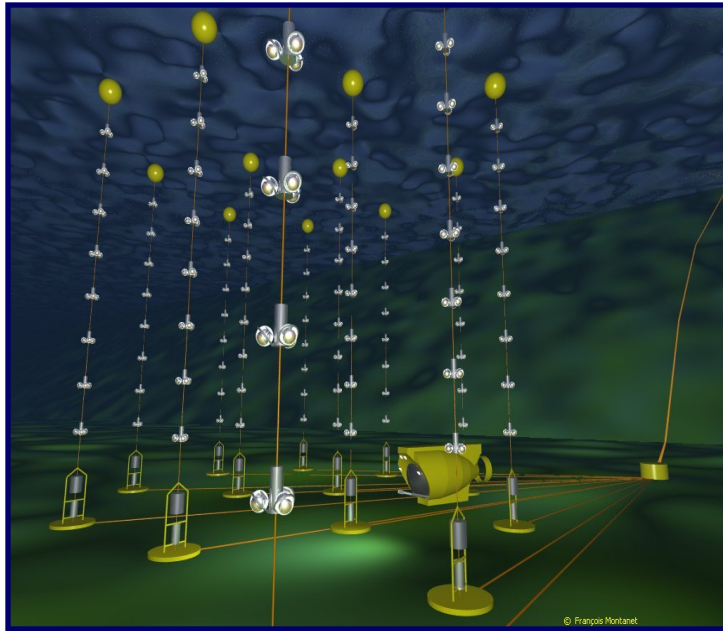
- ✓ are effectively produced in hadronic interactions (“good and bad”)
- ✓ do not interact with matter, radiation and magnetic fields:

(1) information without distortion; (2) “hidden accelerators”

but... cannot be effectively detected - even huge “1km<sup>3</sup> volume” class detectors have limited performance

- \*) Ice Cube has detected tens of neutrino events of non-atmospheric origin but not yet firmly identified sources

## neutrino telescopes



effective area:  $0.3 \text{ m}^2$  at 1 TeV  
 $10 \text{ m}^2$  at 10 TeV

=> several events from a “1Crab” source per 1 year

*compare with detection areas of gamma-ray detectors:*

Fermi -  $1 \text{ m}^2$  but at GeV energies, ground-based  $> 10^4 \text{ m}^2$  at same energies

## Potential multi-TeV neutrino sources

TeV gamma-ray sources as potential TeV neutrino sources?

yes, if  $\gamma$ -rays of hadronic ( $pp$  or  $p\gamma$ ) origin

Detectable (by km<sup>3</sup> class) neutrino detectors ?

yes, if TeV  $\gamma$ -ray flux exceeds  $2 \times 10^{-11}$  ph/cm<sup>2</sup> s ( $\sim 1$  Crab)

(so far Crab Nebula, Vela X and two SNRs)

or weaker sources if  $\gamma$ -rays are severely absorbed

(e.g. mQSOs LS 5039 and LS I +61 301, blazars!?)



some critical remarks concerning both gamma-rays and neutrinos

**TeV, PeV, EeV** - gamma rays and neutrinos: carriers of information about hadronic colliders, but

**TeV  $\gamma$ -rays:** effectively produced/detected, but it is not an easy task to identify the “hadronic” origin

**PeV/EeV  $\gamma$ -rays:** (i) difficult to detect (limited detection areas)  
(ii) fragile (absorption in radiation and B-fields)

**TeV/PeV/EeV neutrinos:** difficult to detect

alternatives? - hard X-rays of secondary electrons!

## hard X-rays - “hadronic” messengers?

### the idea:

*synchrotron radiation of secondary multi-100 TeV electrons produced at interactions of protons with ambient gas or radiation fields*

- (1)  $p p (\gamma) \Rightarrow \pi, K, \Lambda$ , (2)  $\pi, K, \Lambda \Rightarrow \gamma, \nu, e, \mu$  (3)  $e B \Rightarrow X$
- (1)  $p \gamma \Rightarrow e^+ e^-$  (2)  $e B \Rightarrow X$

*why hard X-rays/low energy gamma-rays?*

- ✓ radiation often peaks in the hard X-ray band
- ✓ not many competing production mechanisms
- ✓ no absorption in radiation and magnetic fields
- ✓ good sensitivity/good spectrometry/good morphology

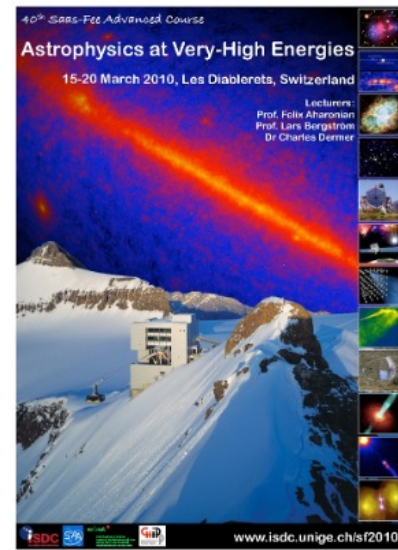
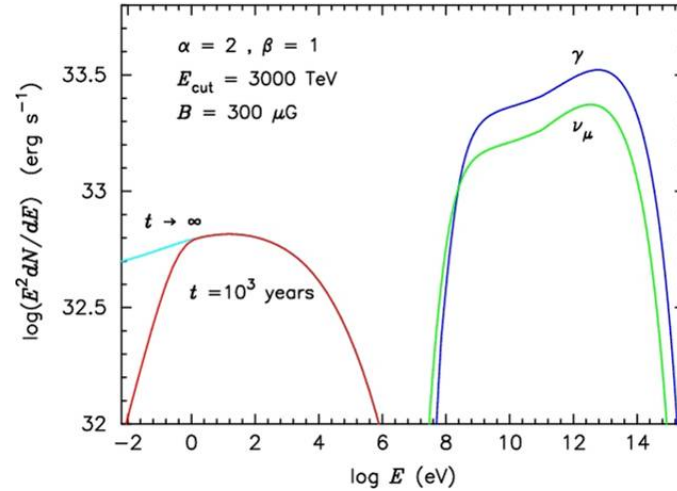
# Detecting Galactic PeVatrons: $E \sim 10^{15} \text{eV}$

three channels of information  
about cosmic PeVatrons:

10-1000 TeV gamma-rays

10-1000 TeV neutrinos

10 -100 keV hard X-rays



➤ **γ-rays:** difficult, but possible with future “10km<sup>2</sup>” area multi-TeV IACT arrays\*

➤ **neutrinos:** marginally detectable by IceCube, Km3NeT - don't expect spectrometry, morphology; uniqueness - unambiguous signature!

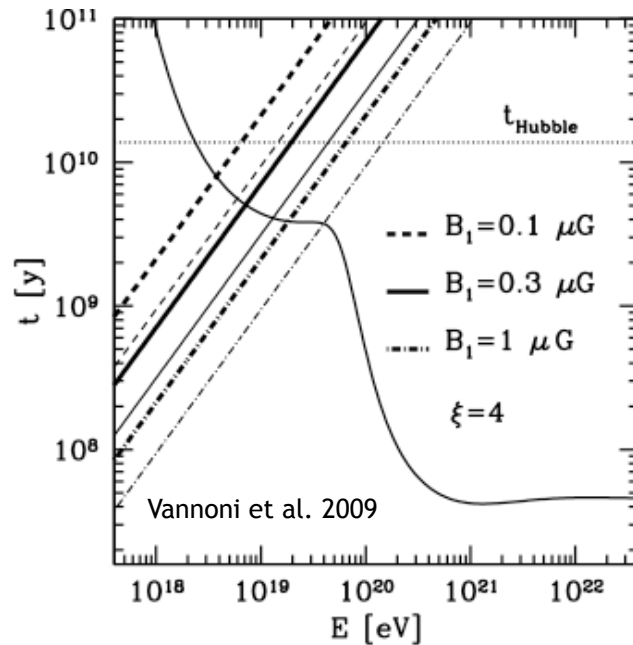
➤ “prompt” **synchrotron X-rays:** smooth spectrum  
a very promising channel - quality!

$$\sim \varepsilon^{-(\alpha/2+1)} \exp[-(\varepsilon/\varepsilon_0)^{1/5}]$$

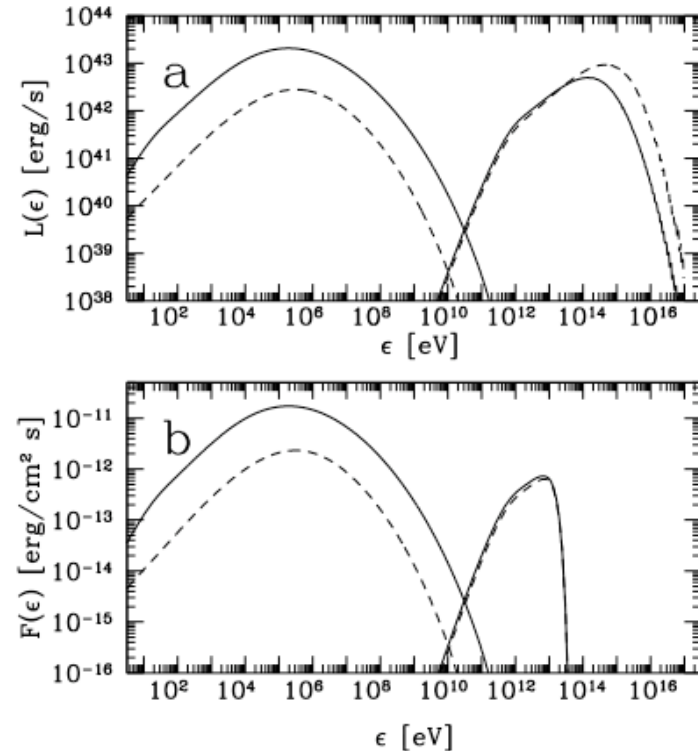
\*) done but with LHAASO

# Clusters of Galaxies accelerating protons to $10^{18}\text{eV}$

DSA acceleration of protons  $\Rightarrow$  interactions of protons with 2.7K CMBR  
 $\Rightarrow e^+e^-$  pair production  $\Rightarrow$  Synchrotron and IC of secondary electrons



**Fig. 1.** Acceleration and energy loss time scales as a function of the proton energy. The acceleration time scales are obtained for the values of the upstream magnetic field  $B_1$  reported in figure and a downstream magnetic field  $B_2 = 4B_1$ . The thick lines correspond to a shock velocity of 2000 km/s, the thin lines to a velocity of 3000 km/s. As an horizontal dotted line we report the estimated age of the Universe, for comparison.



**Fig. 13. a)** Broadband radiation spectra produced at the source by the electron distributions in Fig. 12b, downstream (solid line) and upstream (dashed line). **b)** Energy flux at the observer location, after absorption in the EBL, for a source distance of 100 Mpc.

# Probing hadrons with secondary hard X-rays

complementary to gamma-ray and neutrino telescopes

advantage - (a) comparable or better performance  
(b) compensates lack of neutrinos and gamma-rays at “right energies”

disadvantage - ambiguity of origin of X-rays

- X-ray imaging and spectroscopy (up to 60 keV)  
ang. resolution 20”
- minimum detectable energy flux down to  $10^{-14}$  erg/cm<sup>2</sup>s !

