

The background of the slide is a photograph of the VERITAS gamma-ray observatory at night. Several large, white, parabolic dish-shaped telescopes are visible, mounted on dark metal structures. The sky is dark blue with some stars visible. In the top left corner, there is a decorative graphic of several overlapping hexagons in a light blue color.

Gamma-Ray Astronomy with VERITAS

J. Buckley

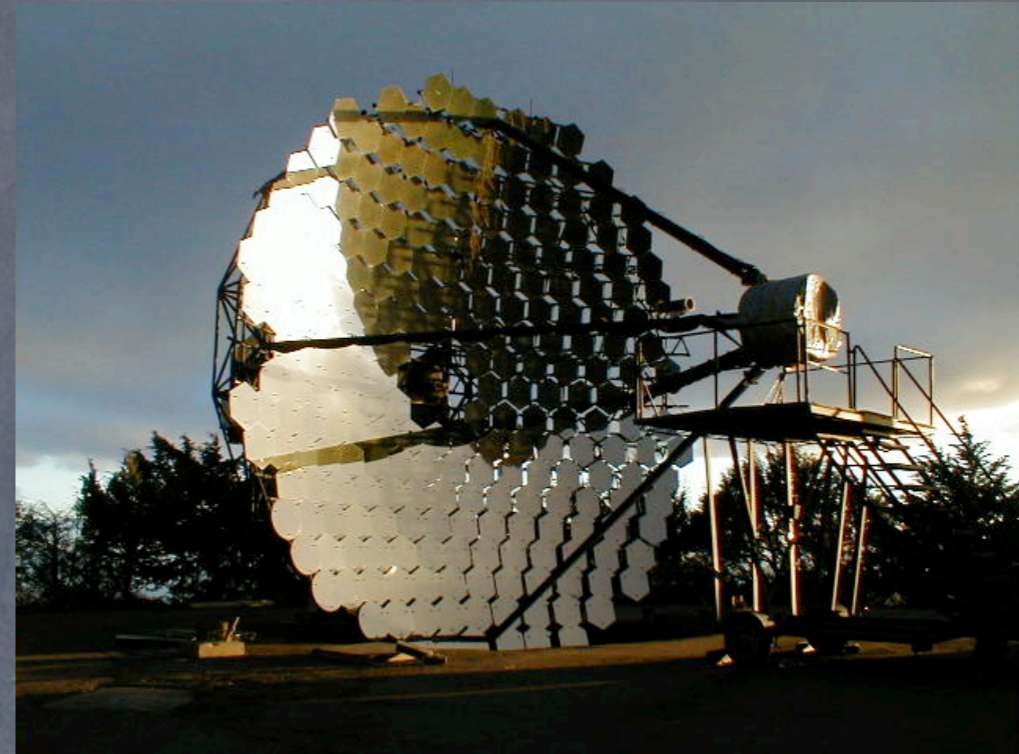
Dept. Physics, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
for the VERITAS Collaboration

Workshop on UHE cosmic rays, photons and neutrinos
KITP, May 17, 2005



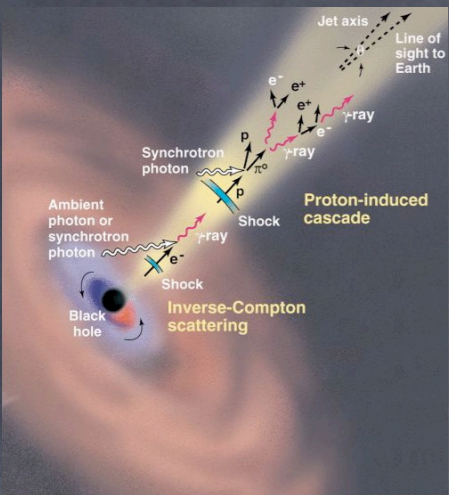
Outline

- ① Results from Whipple
- ① VERITAS construction status
- ① Science with VERITAS.
- ① Beyond VERITAS

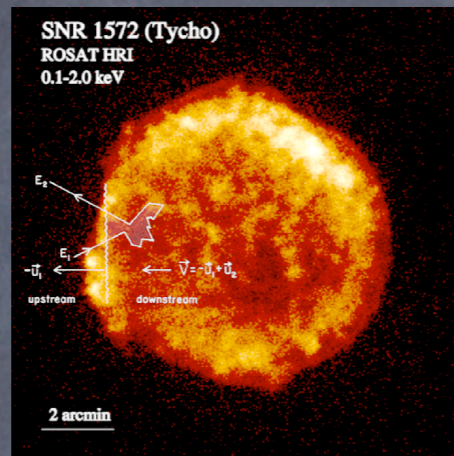




Sources of TeV Gammas

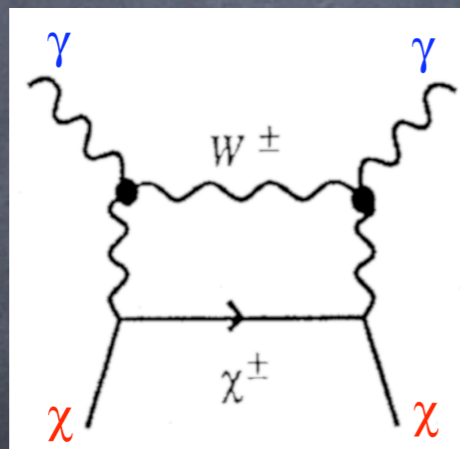
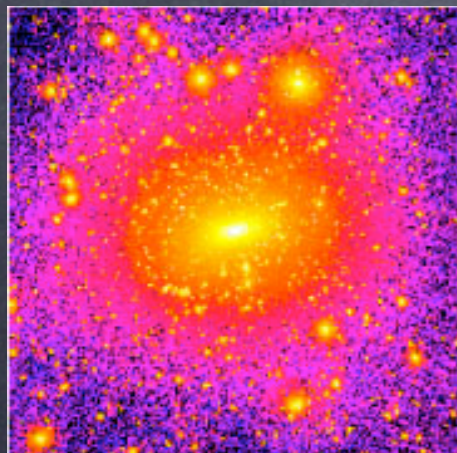


AGNs, Blazars and other SMBH accretion sources

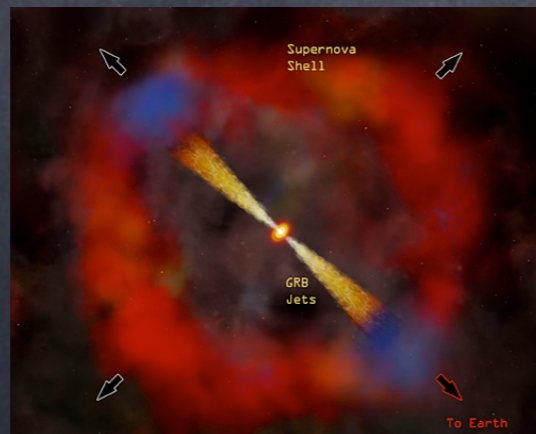


Shell-type SNR, Plerions, Pulsars, origin of cosmic rays

I wouldn't dare discuss this after Felix's talk!



Dark matter - Galactic center, galactic IMBHs, clusters



GRBs

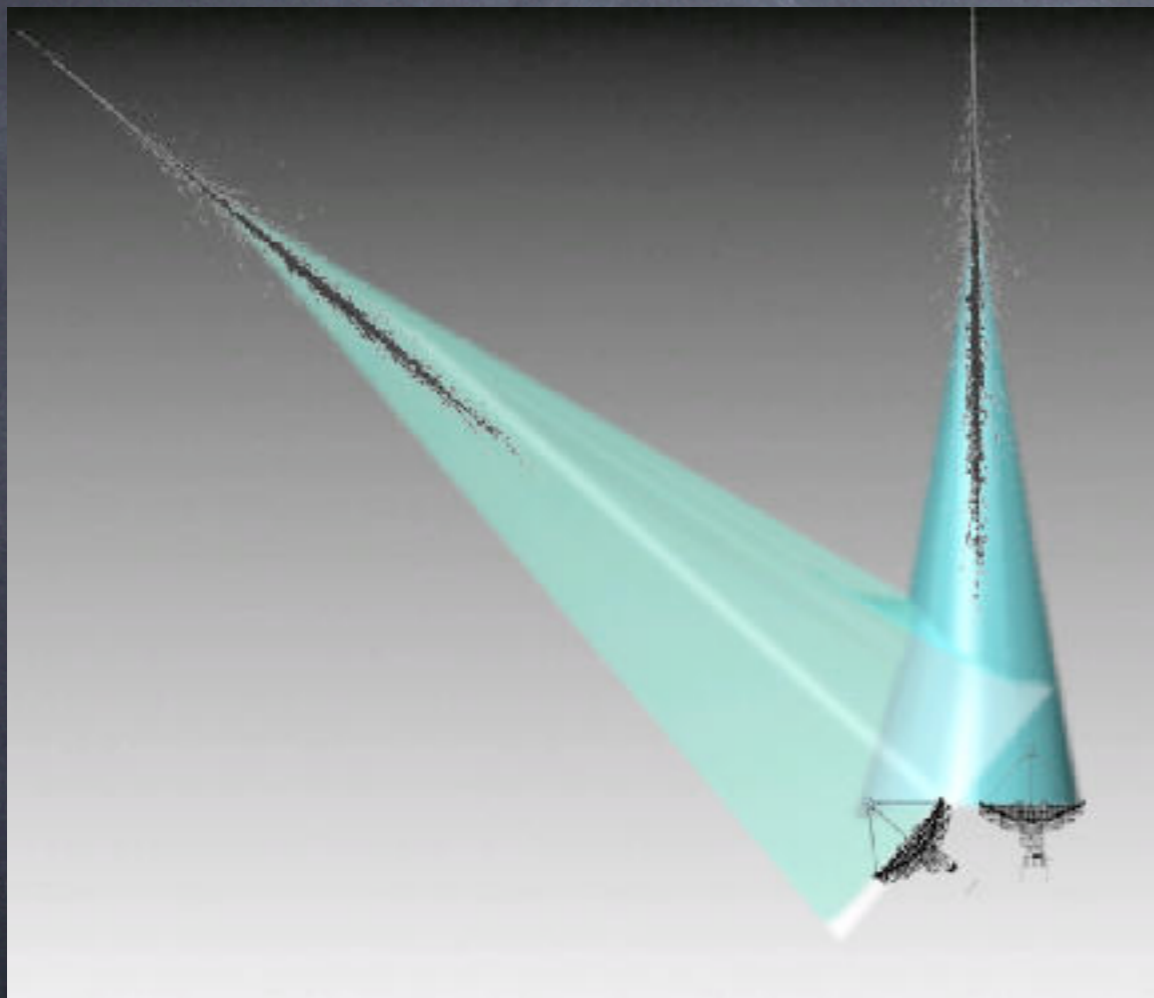
A large, complex detector structure, likely the Whipple detector, is shown against a dark sky. The structure consists of a large, multi-layered array of hexagonal panels, possibly silicon or germanium crystals, arranged in a roughly spherical or cylindrical shape. The panels are supported by a metal framework. A large, dark, cylindrical component is visible on the right side of the structure. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting a night or twilight setting.

I. Blazars

Lessons from Whipple, Expectations
for VERITAS



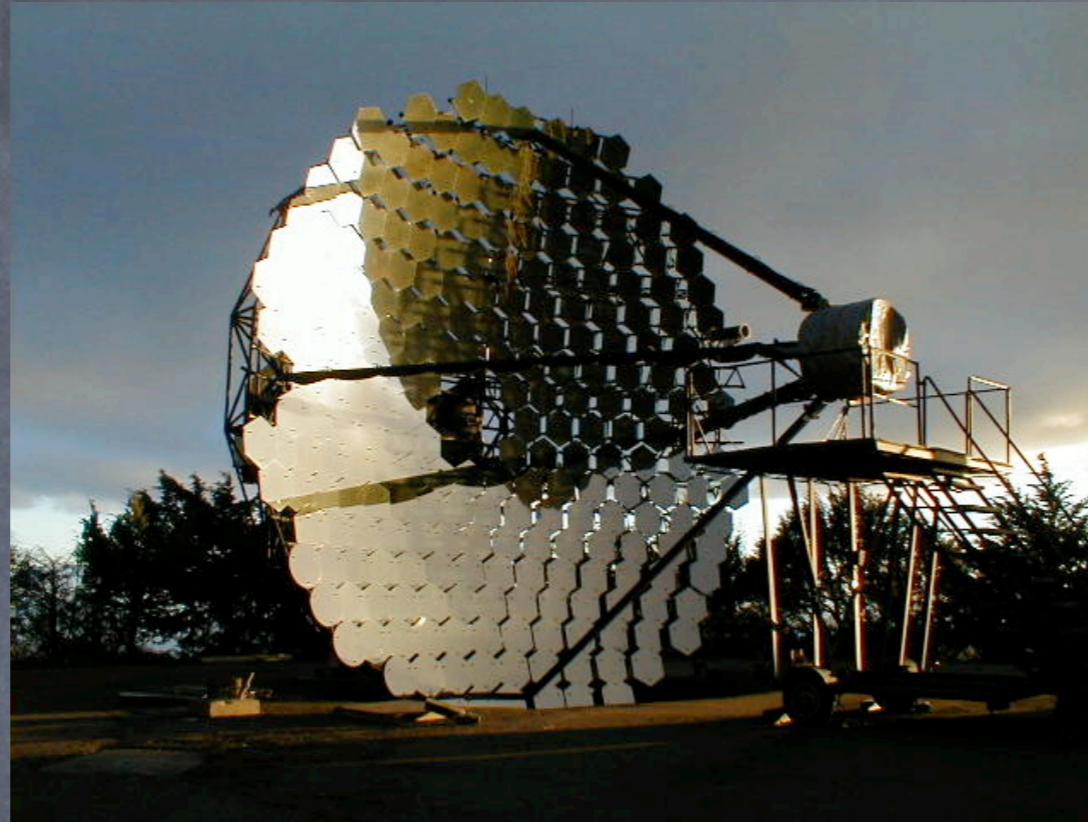
Atm. Cherenkov Tech.



- Gamma-rays interact in atmosphere to give E/M showers
- Cherenkov light pool spreads out over $\sim 10^5 \text{ m}^2$ giving a huge effective area compared with space-based gamma-ray experiments or ground-based neutrino experiments
 - Note that Large Zenith Angles \rightarrow Larger A_{eff} but higher E_{thr}
- IACT provides excellent sensitivity to short transients



Whipple 10m IACT



Whipple 10m Reflector



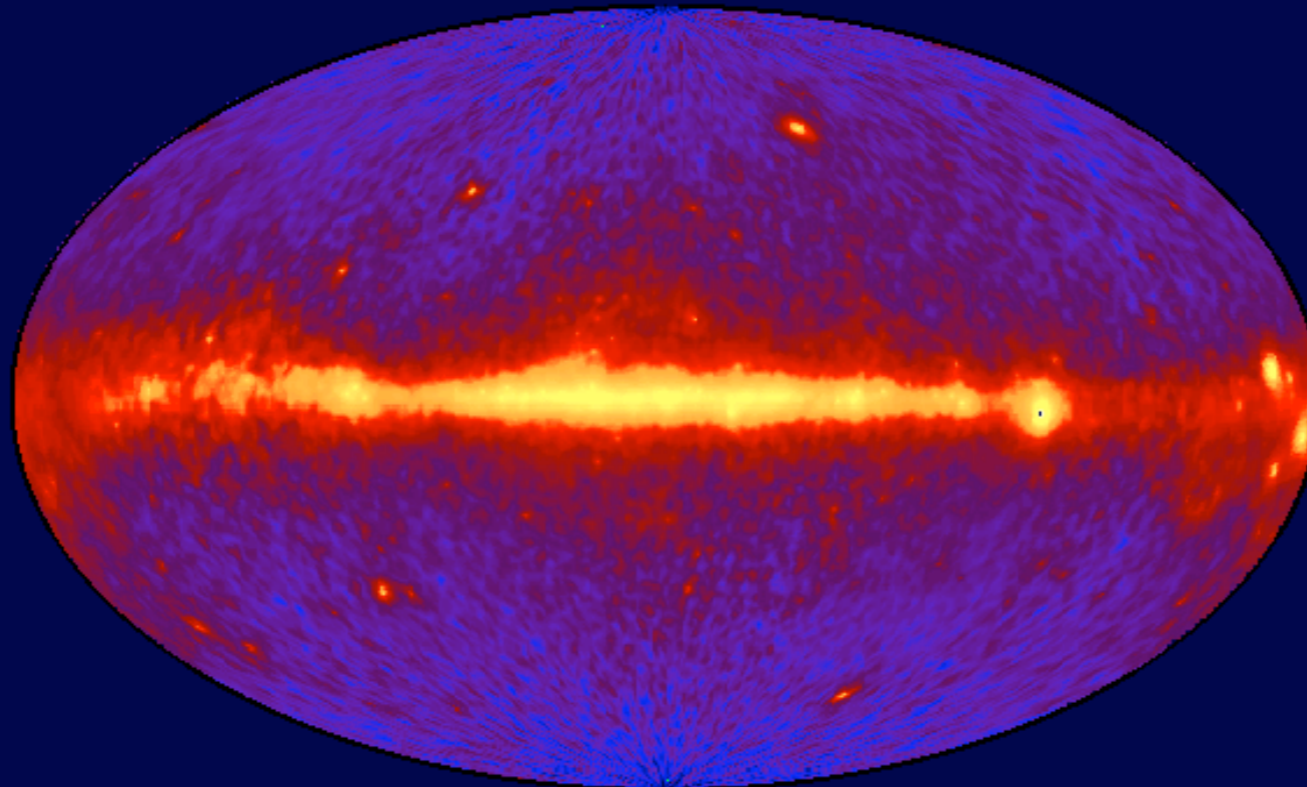
Photomultiplier Tube Camera



High Energy Gammas

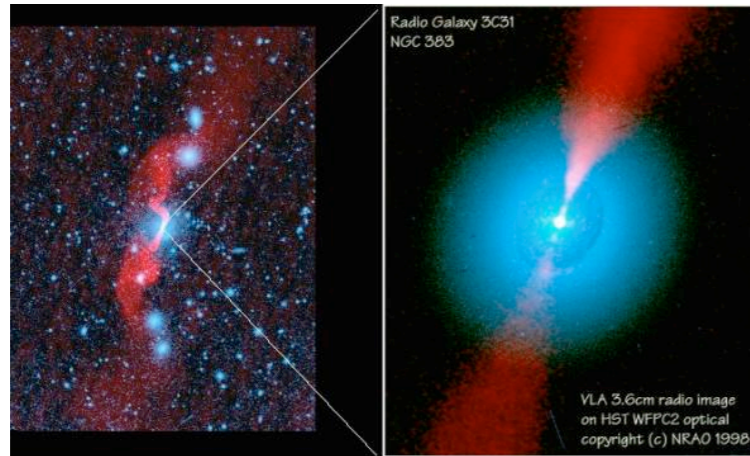


EGRET All-Sky Gamma Ray Survey Above 100 MeV



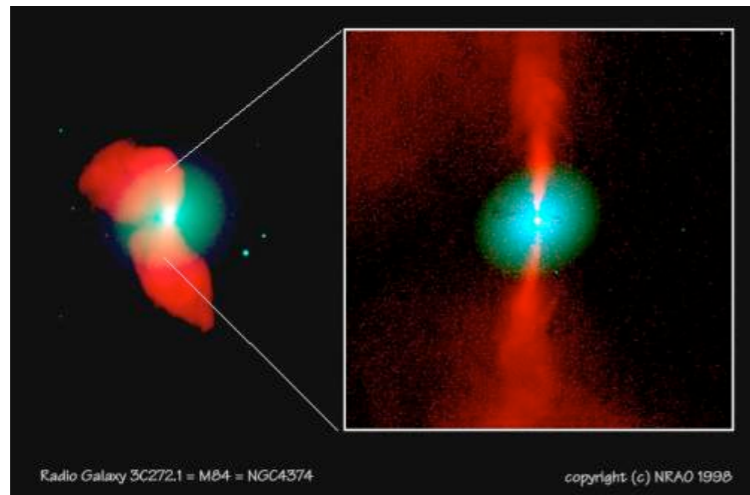


Active Galaxies



3c31 in radio and optical, courtesy of NRAO/AUI

Radio emission comes from relativistic streams of high energy particles generated by the AGN. The well collimated jets have bulk velocities with $\Gamma \rightarrow 10$ eventually balloon into massive radio lobes.



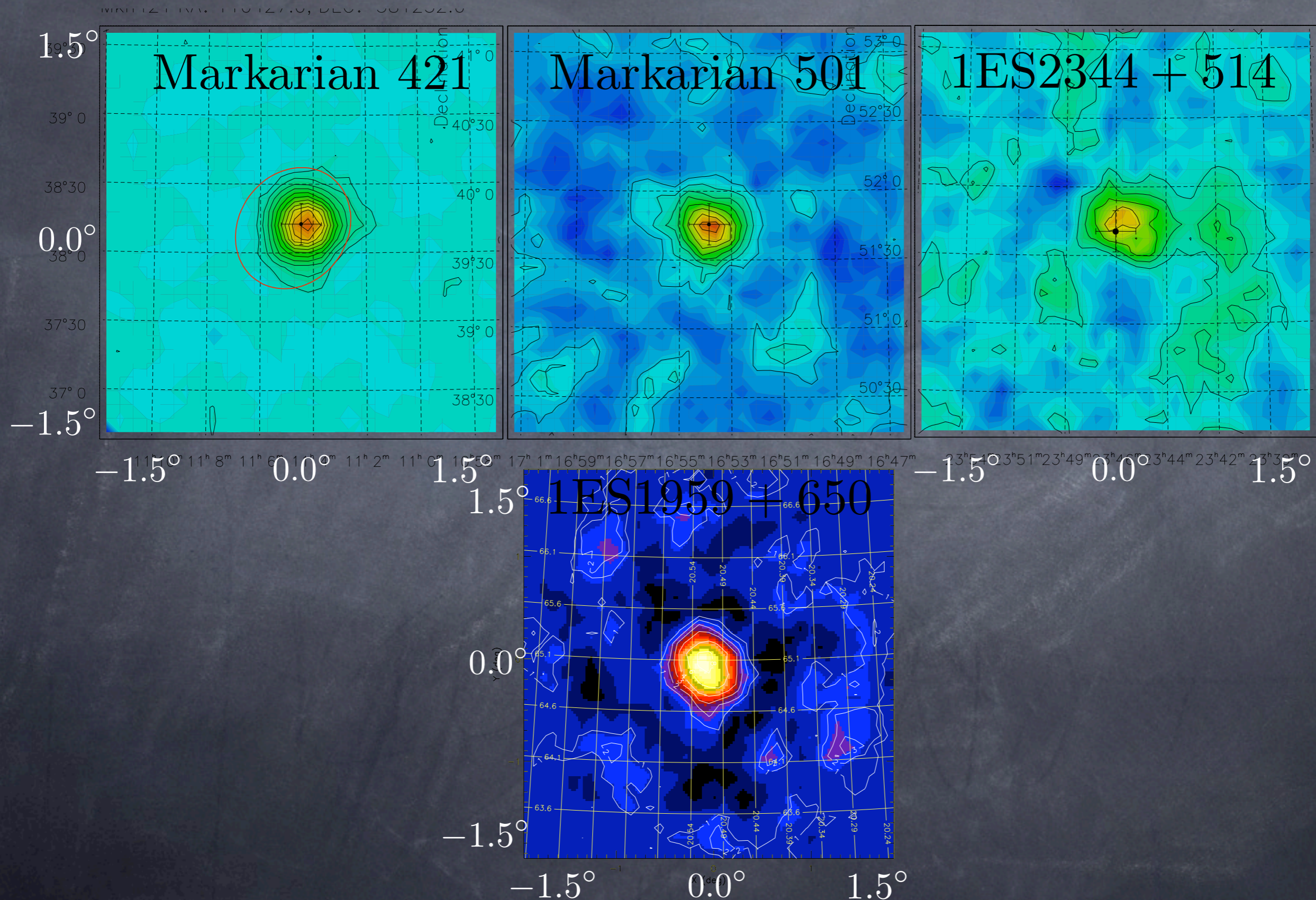
M84 in radio and optical, courtesy of NRAO/AUI



No ordinary galaxies,
Rather Giant Elliptical Galaxies – perhaps 100
times more mass, often at centers of galaxy
clusters, likely disrupted by mergers

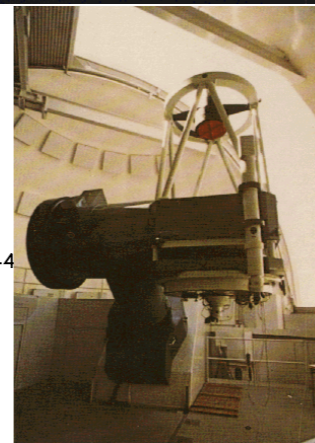
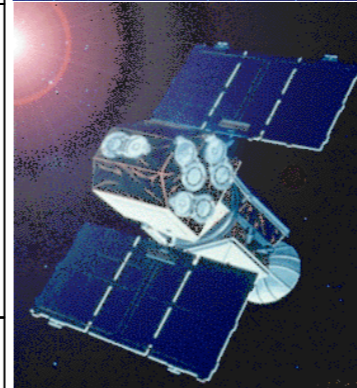
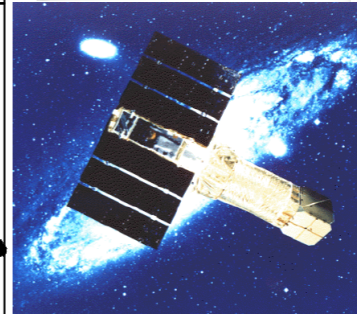
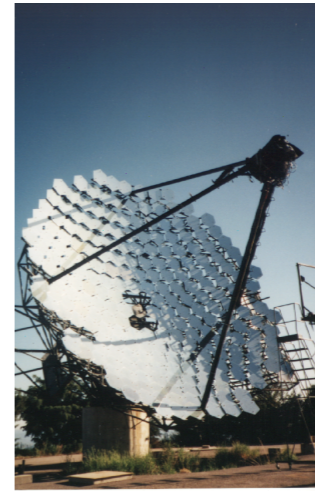
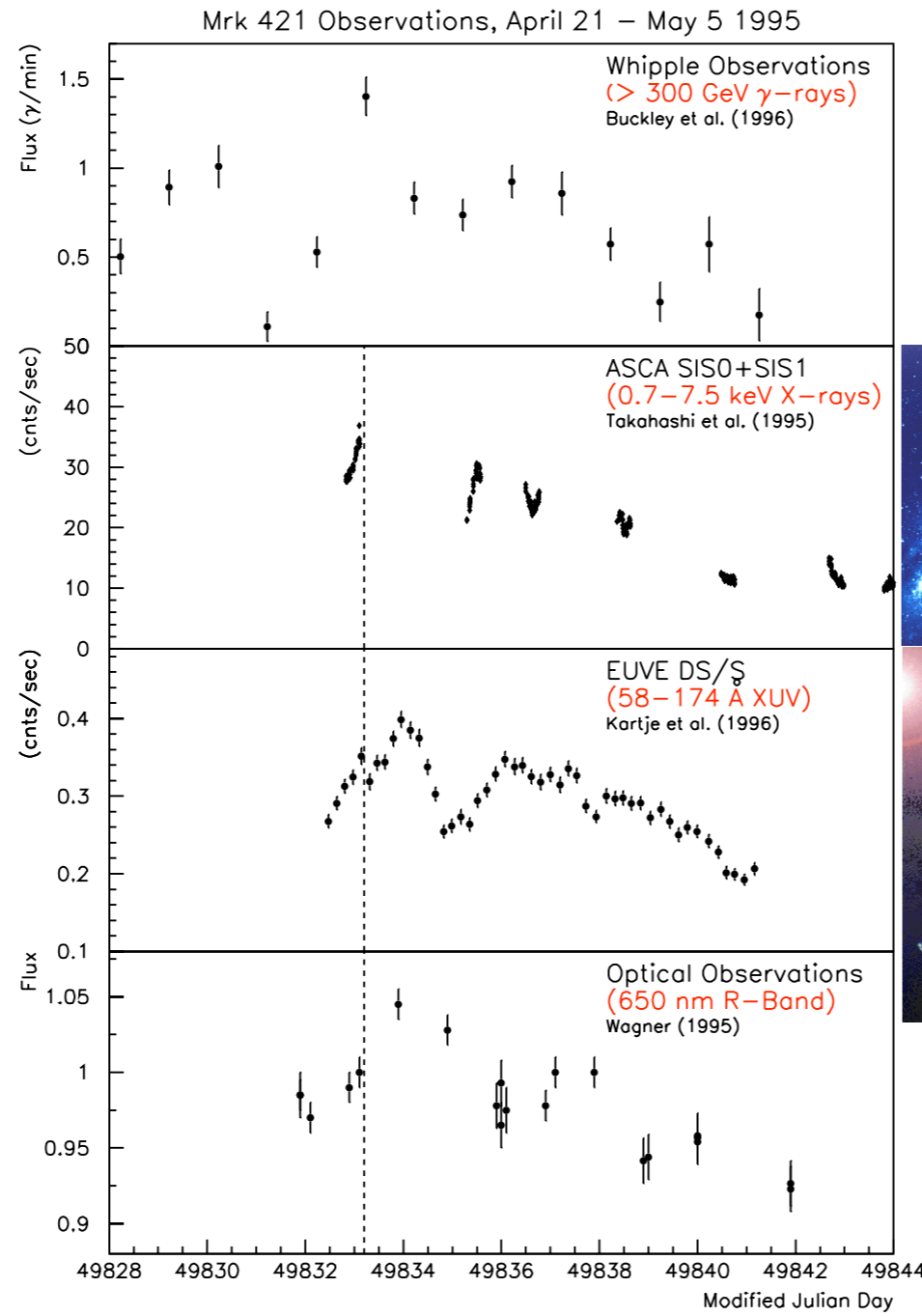


TeV Blazars



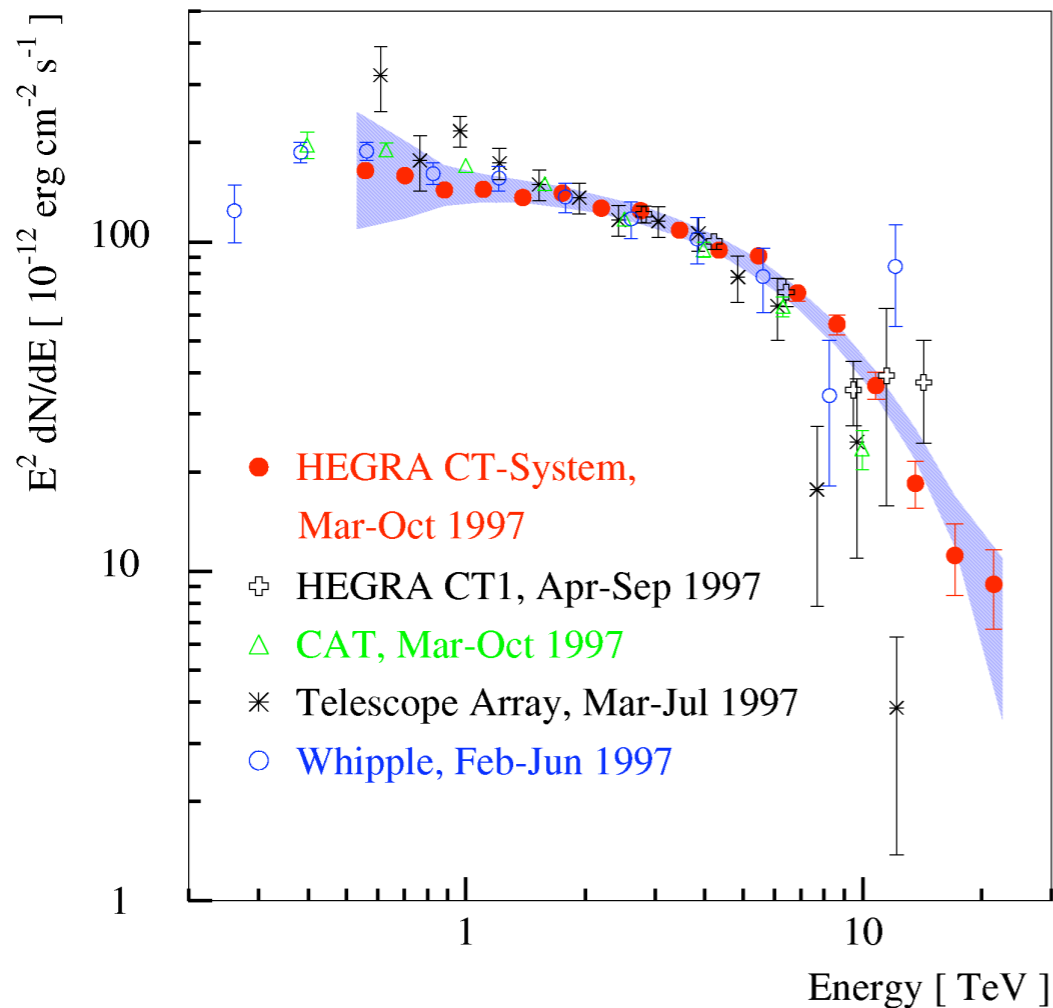


Multiwavelength Obs.

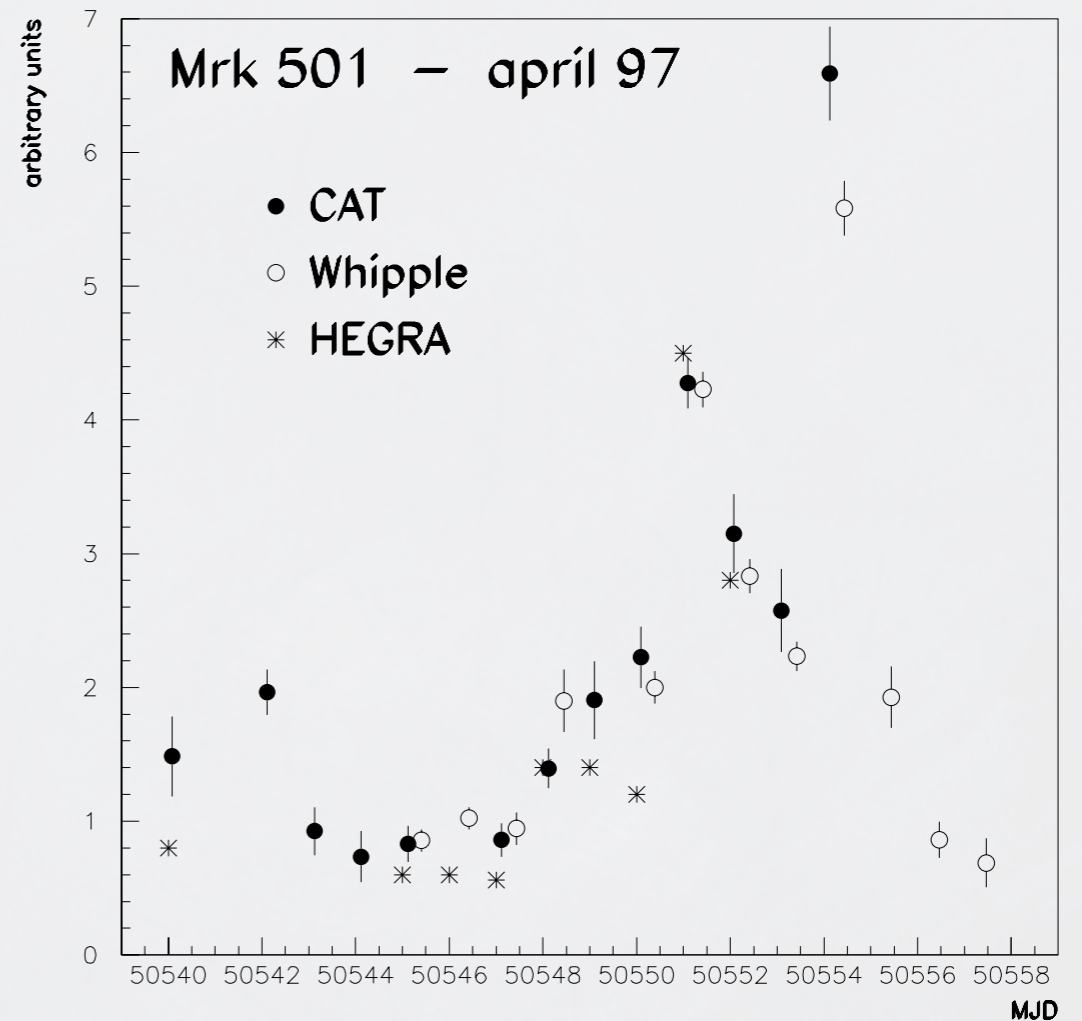




TeV Astronomy Matures



Mrk501 Spectra (Aharonian et al.)

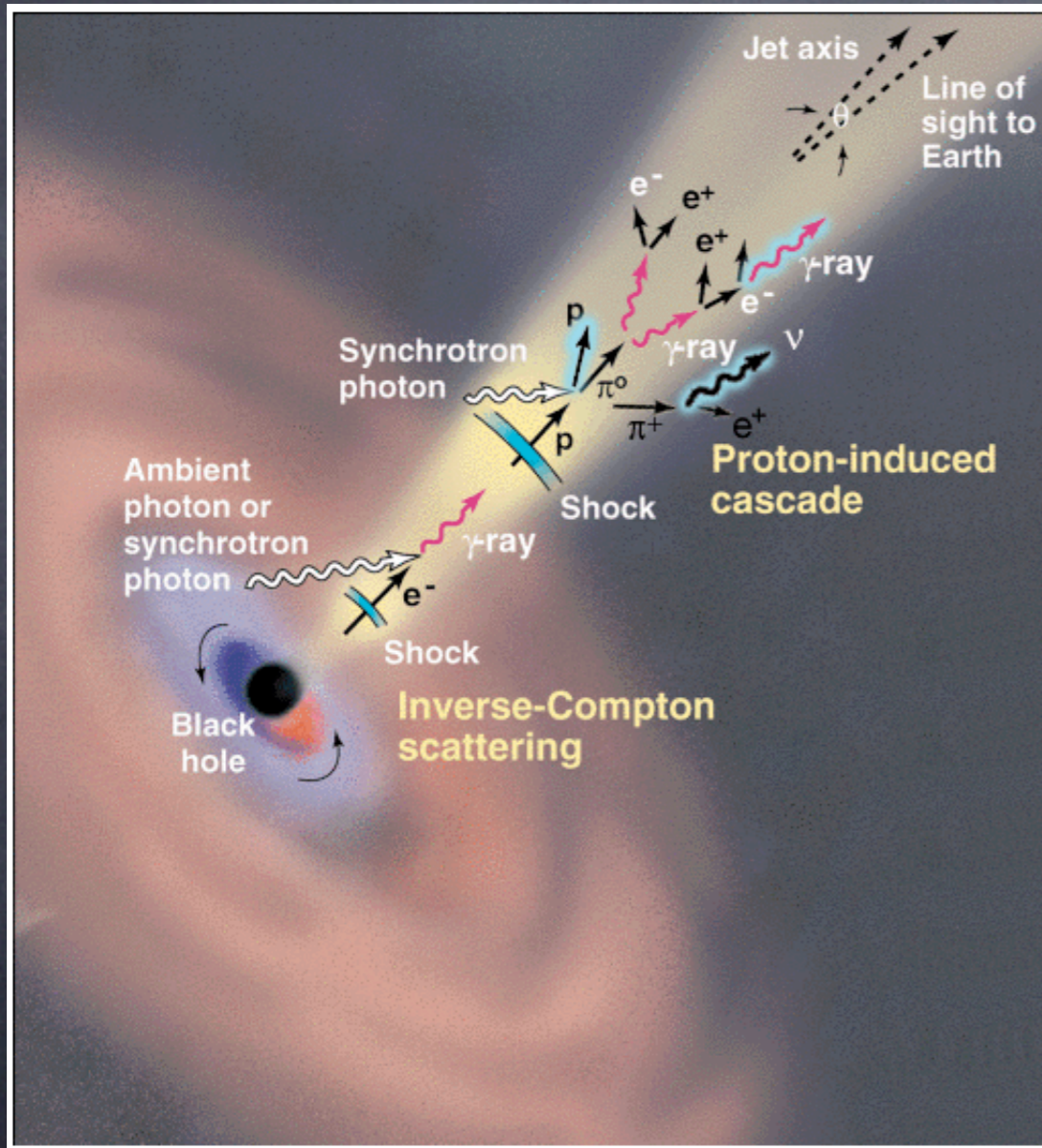


Mrk501 Lightcurve (Fleury)

🌀 Excellent agreement between different experiments.



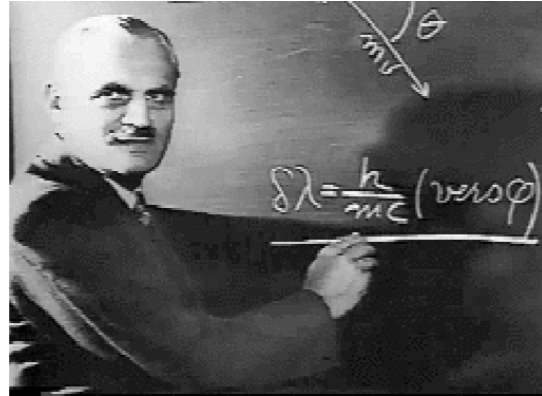
Blazar Emission Mechanisms



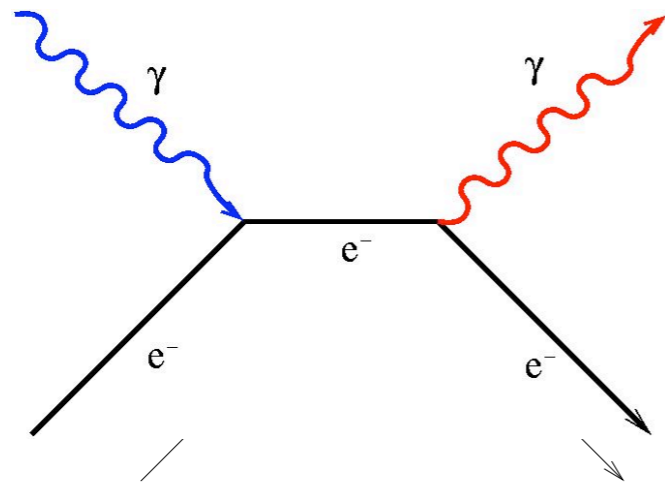
- Current paradigm
 - BL Lacs and OVV's (Blazars) rapid time variability, featureless continuum \Rightarrow relativistic jets seen end-on (e.g., Blandford & Konigl 1979)
 - Synchrotron Self Compton (SSC)
 - External Compton (EC) (e.g., Sikora, Begelman and Rees 1994; Dermer & Schlickeiser 1993)
 - Proton Synchrotron (Aharonian), photopion production (Mannheim)
- Open Questions
 - Energetics of jet
 - Origin of flares
 - Particle acceleration
 - Jet plasma composition
 - Location of emission region and connection with central engine



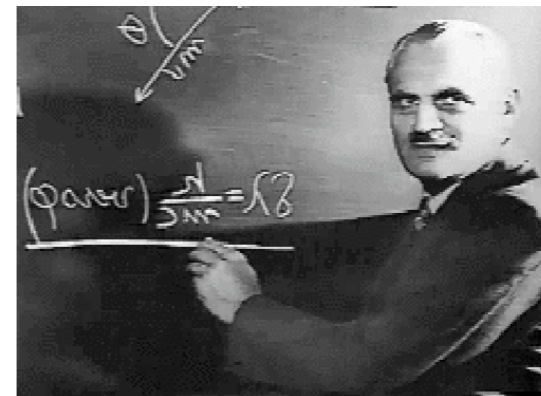
Gamma-ray Production



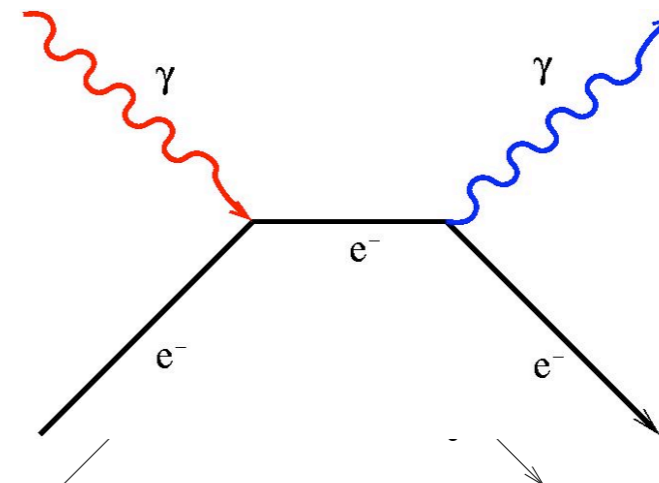
Compton deriving Compton scattering



Feynman diagram for Compton scattering



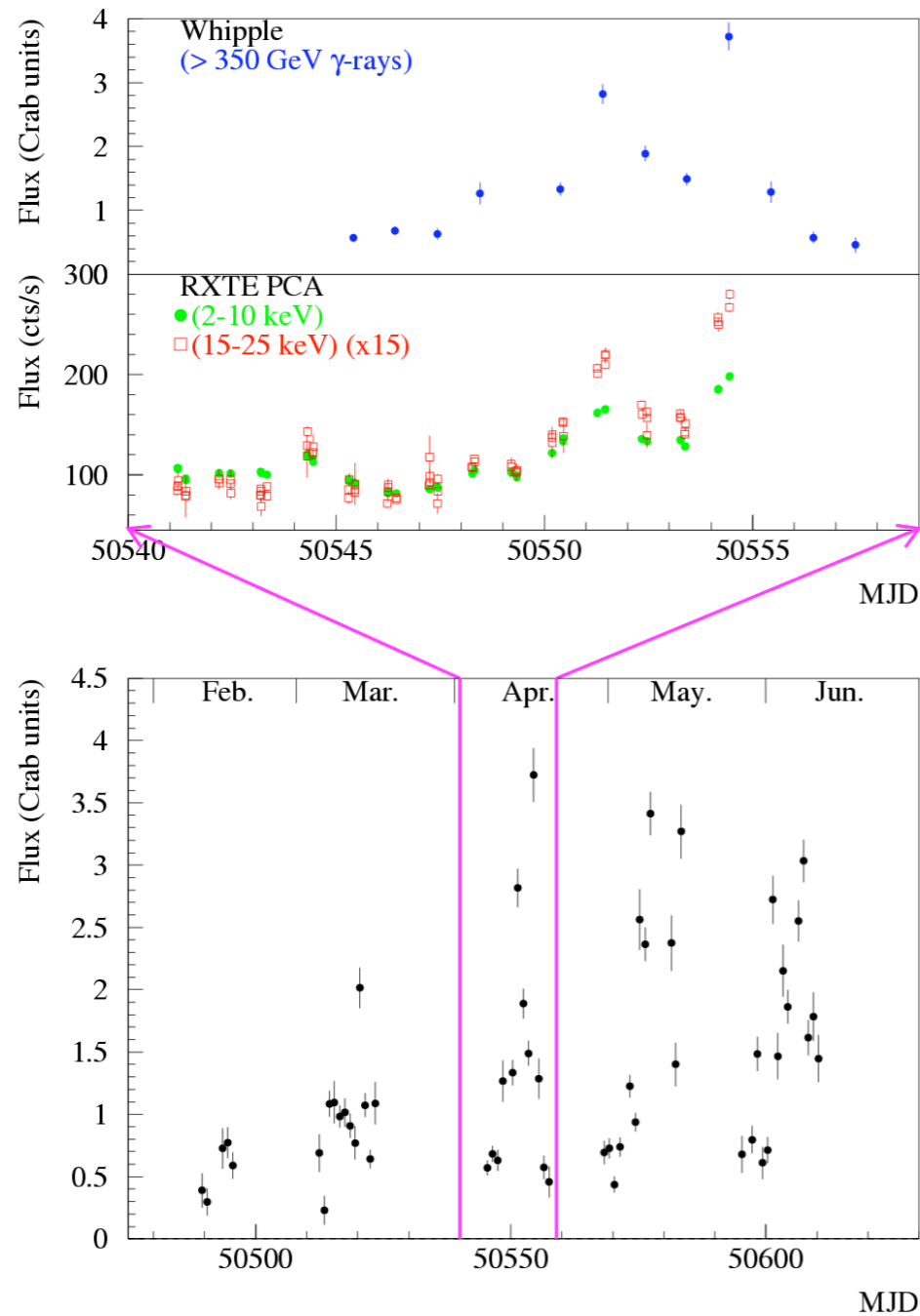
deriving Inverse-Compton scattering



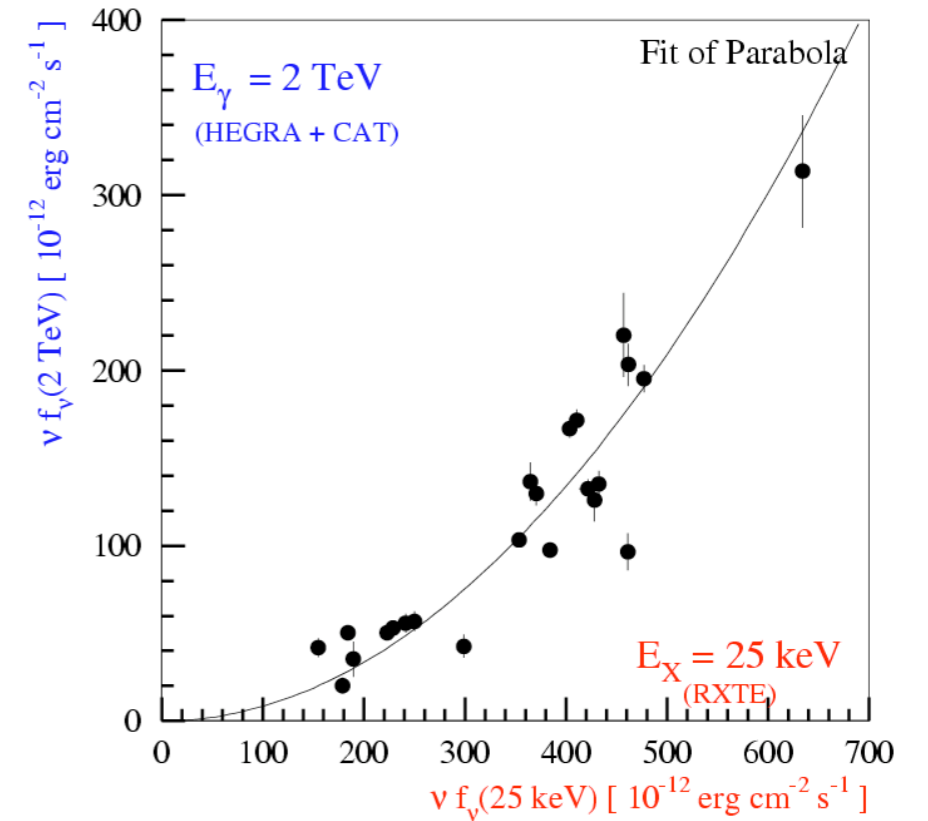
for Inverse-Compton scattering



Correlated Variability



Multiwavelength data adapted from Catanese et al. (1997) show strong evidence for correlated variability in the X-ray and γ -ray wavebands.



$$L_{\text{sync}} \propto n_e, L_{\text{ssc}} \propto n_e^2$$

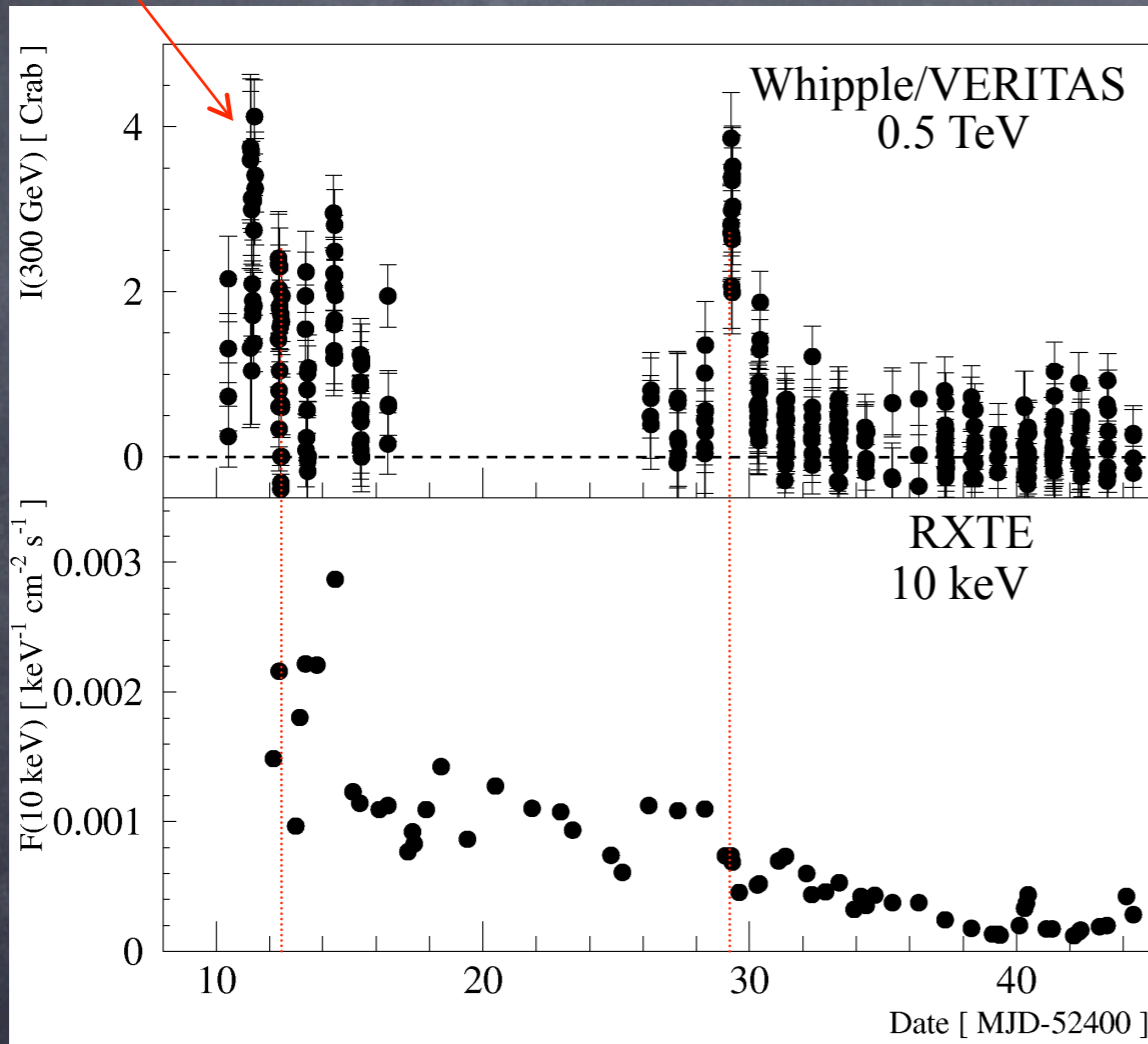
Mrk 501, and sometimes, Mrk 421 show correlated variability in gamma-rays and X-rays - but not always so simple



Orphan Flare?!

1ES 1959+650 In May And June 2002

Detection

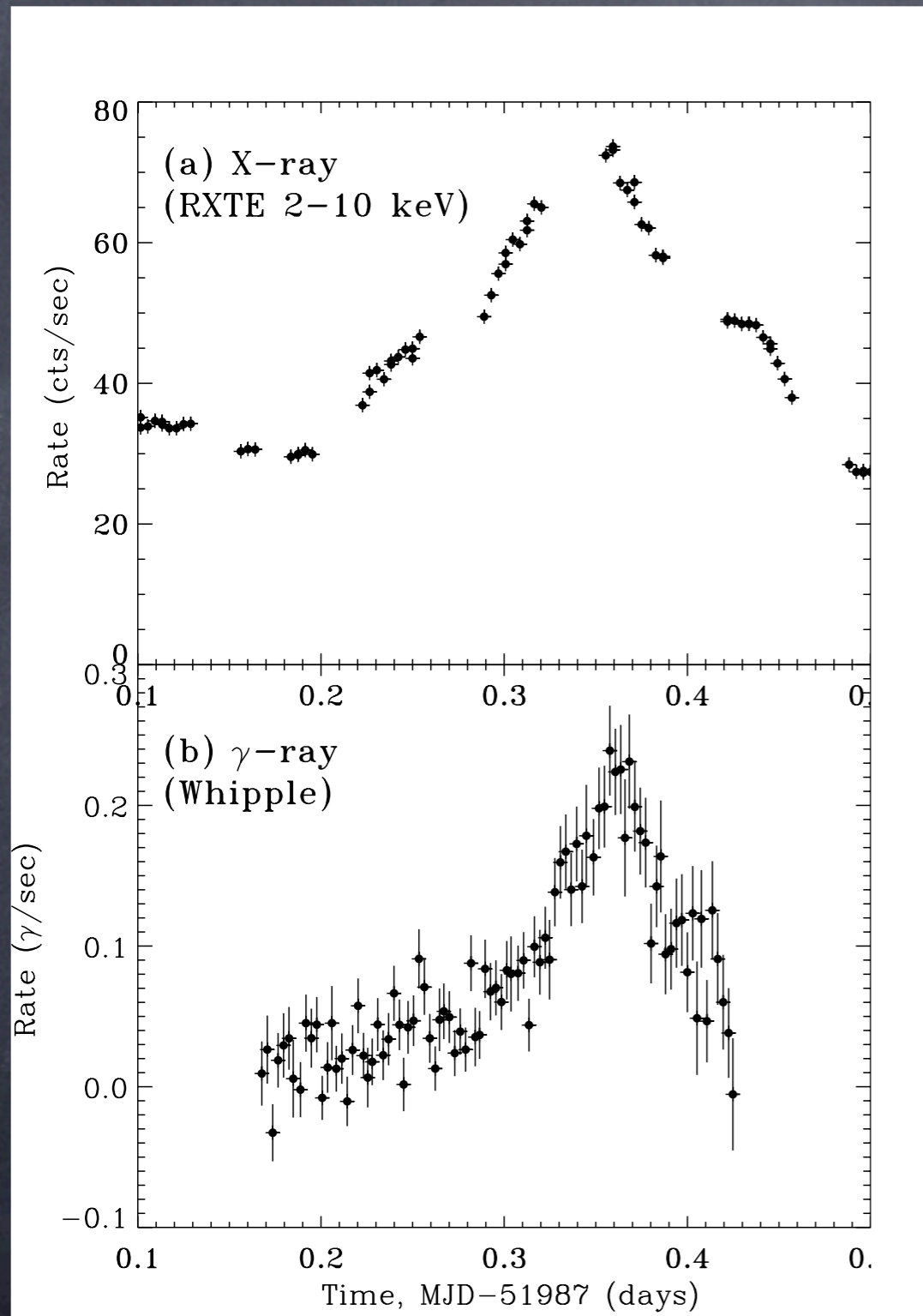


1ES 1959+650 ($z=0.048$)

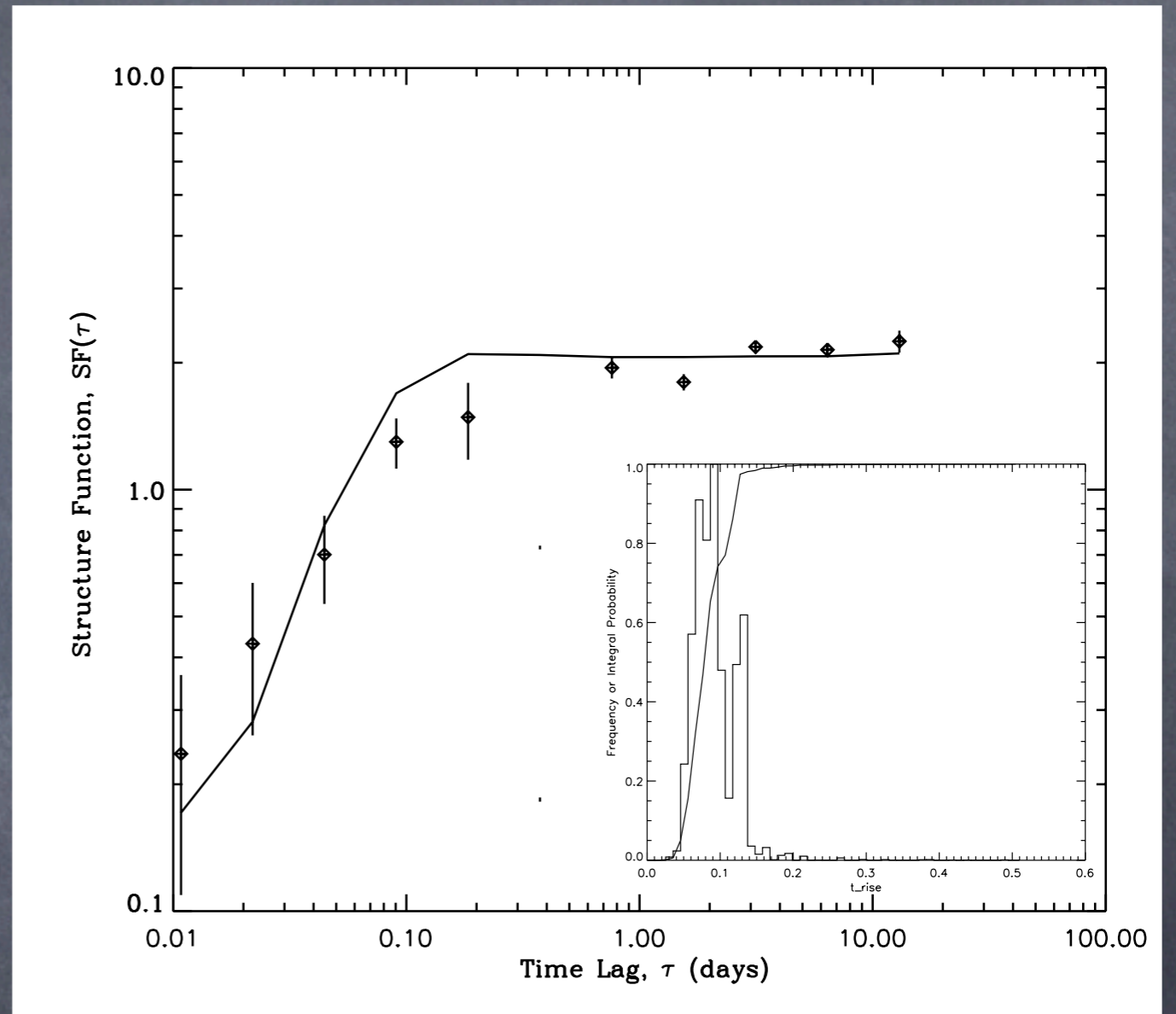
- Third Strong TeV Blazar
 - Energy Spectra Up To 10 TeV
 - Flux Variability \sim min
- Slower Than Mrk 421:
 - $\tau_{\text{dble}} > 12$ hrs
- TeV Flares Without X-Ray Counterpart



AGN Variability



Buckley et al., 2005



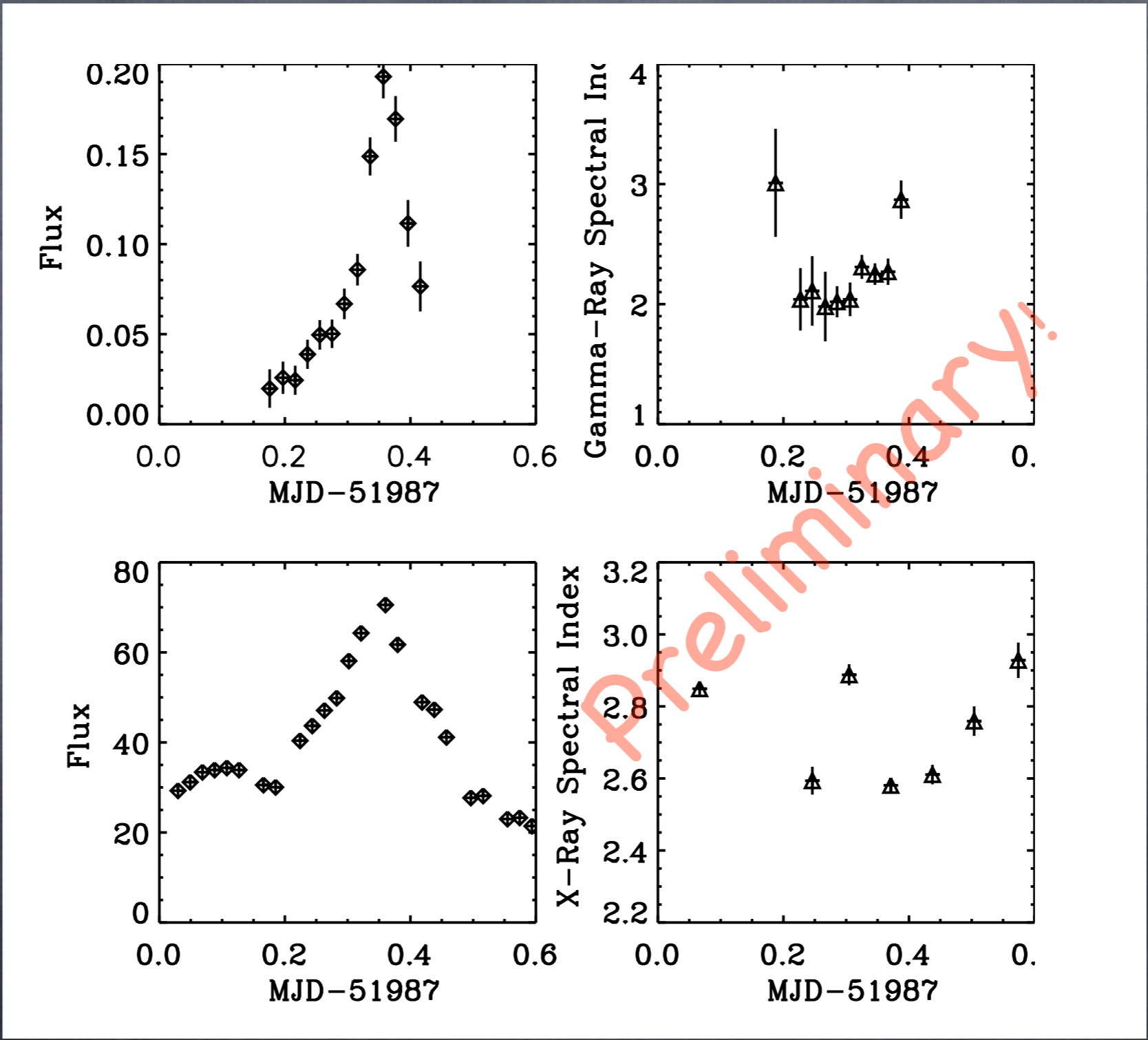
$$t_{\gamma, \text{rise}} = 1.9 + 0.84, -0.58 \text{ hr}$$

$$t_{x, \text{rise}} = 4.8 + 0.58, -0.72 \text{ hr}$$

Duty cycle approximately 10 flares/day



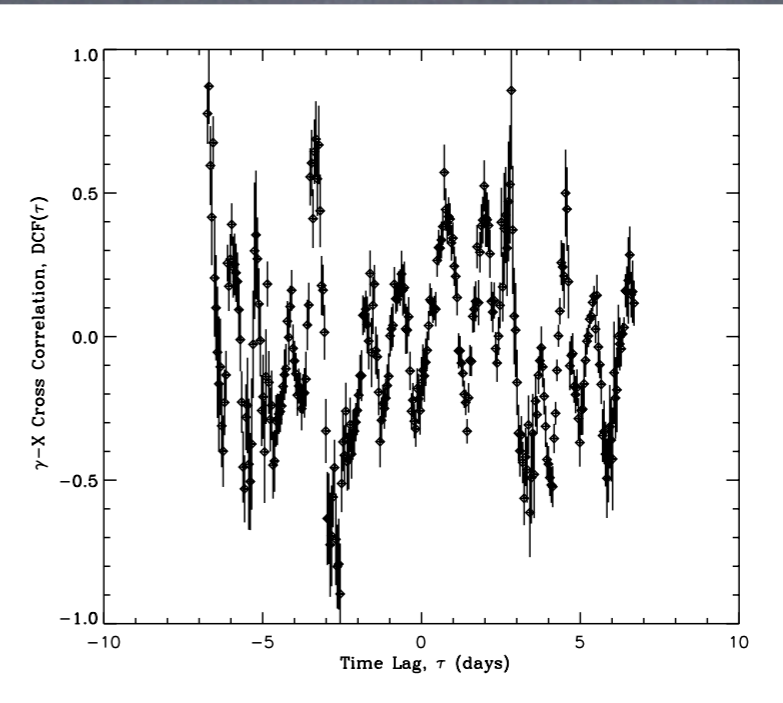
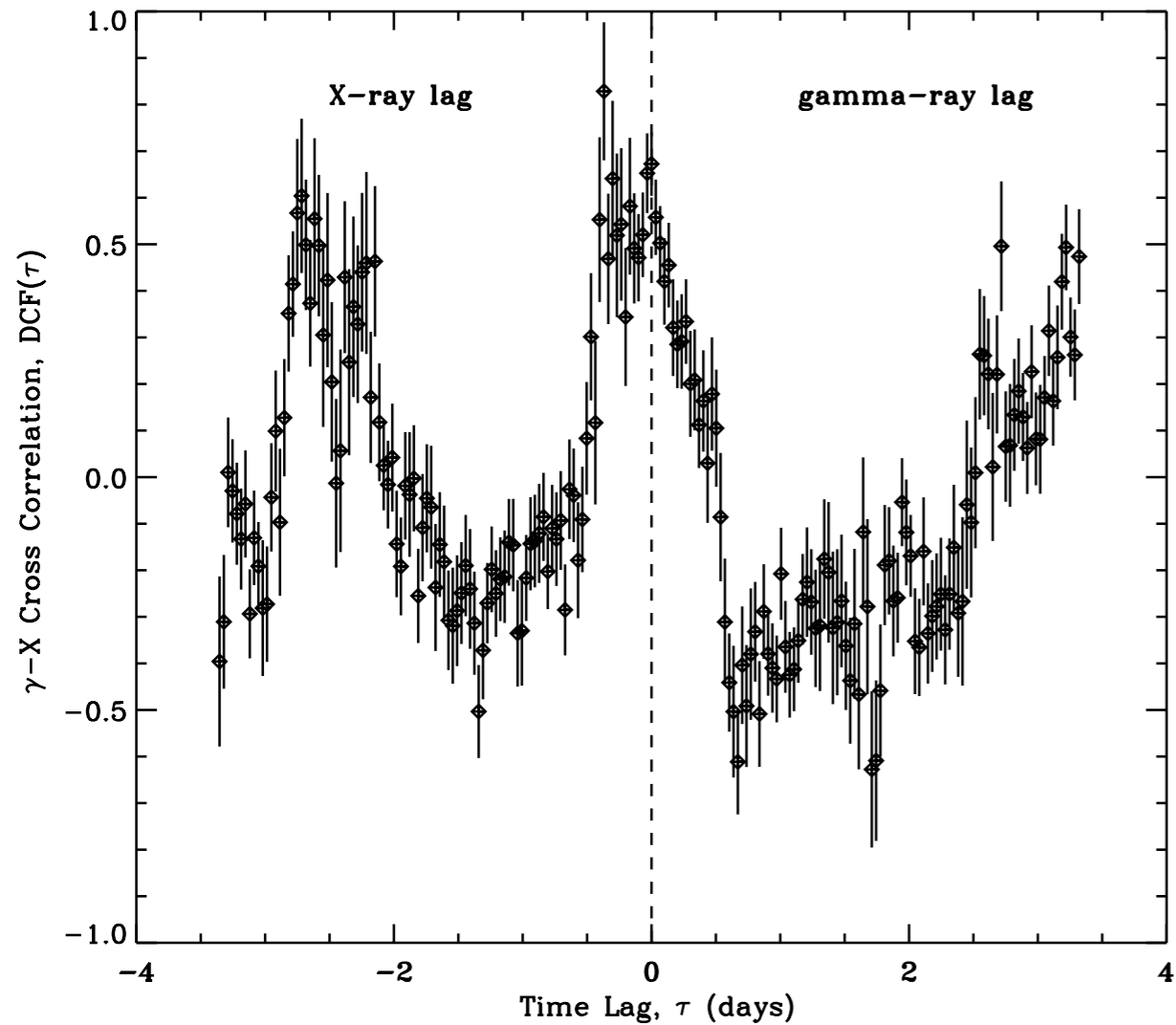
Mrk421 Spectral Variability



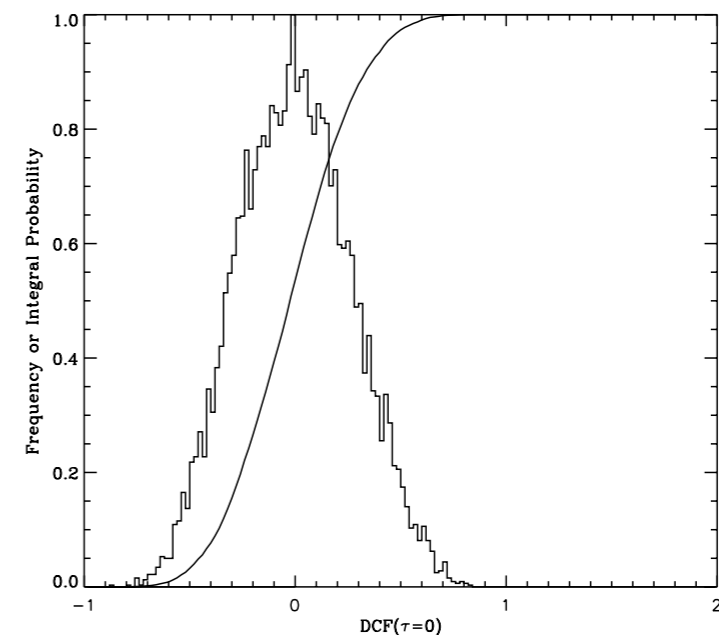


Correlation

Simulate X-ray lightcurves with same windowing, errors, and structure function (symmetric shots), calculate DCF...



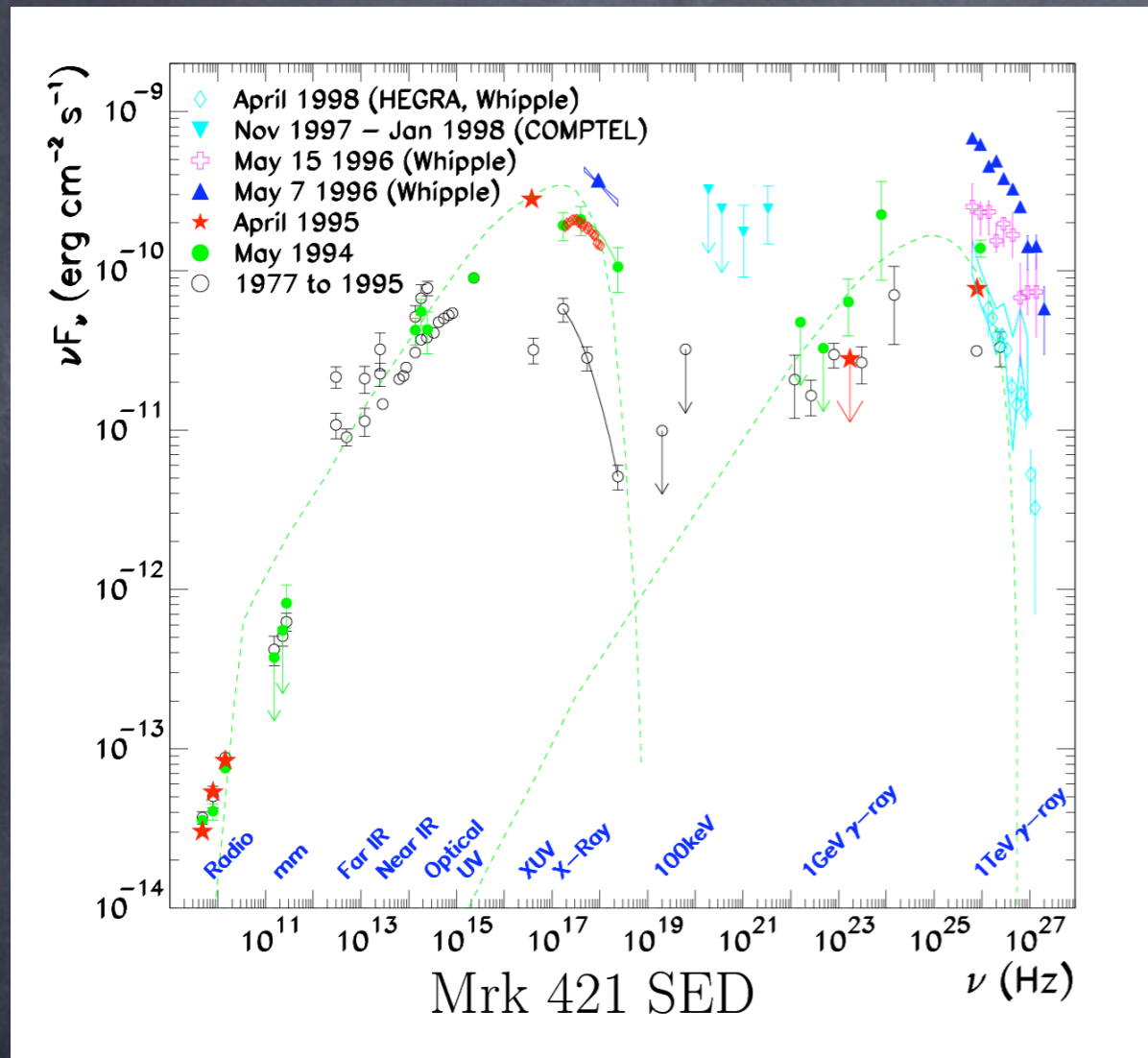
The Monte-Carlo calculated probability for a chance correlation is finite, 0.89%



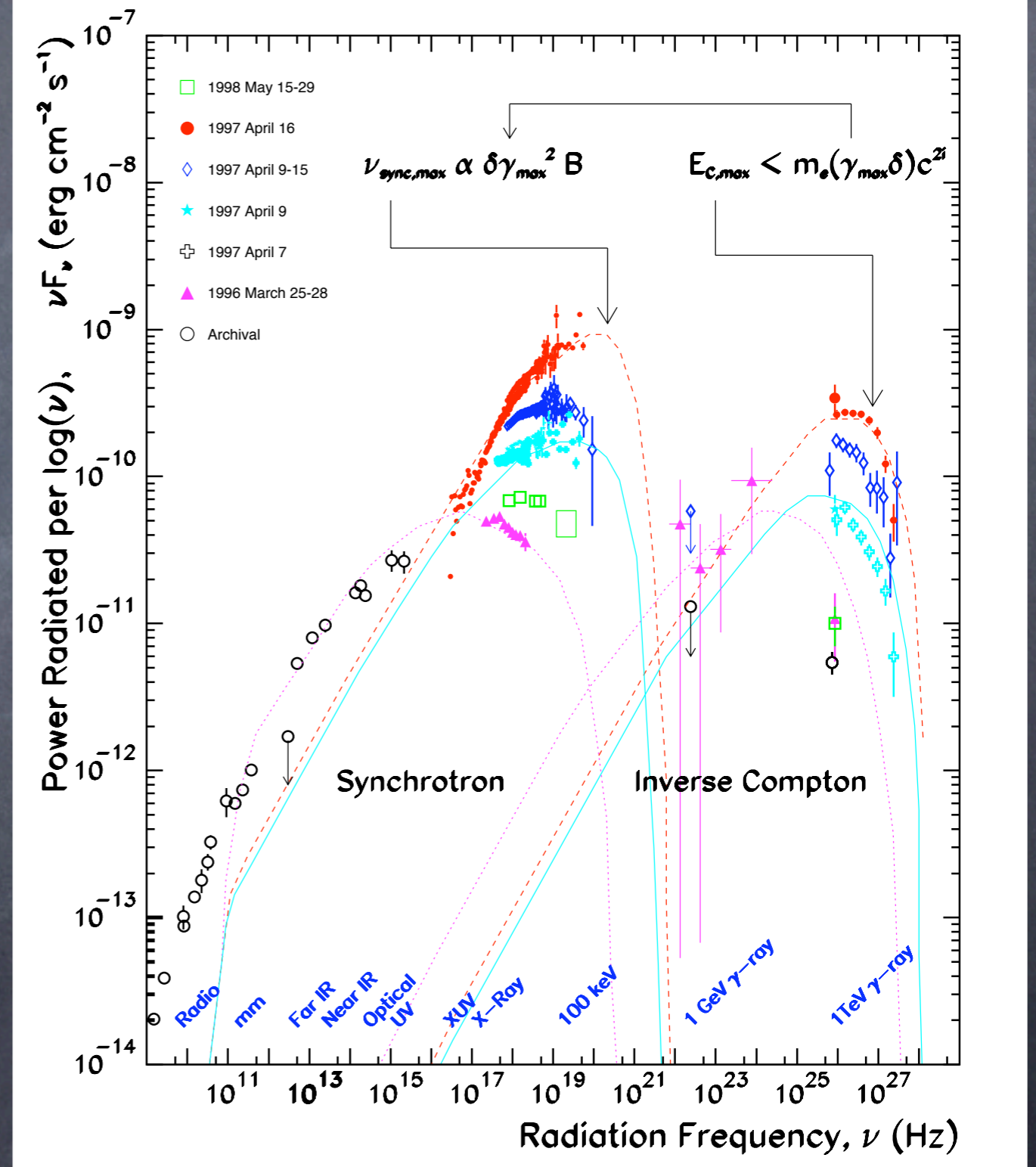


Multiwavelength Spectra

Mrk 421 Multiwavelength Spectrum



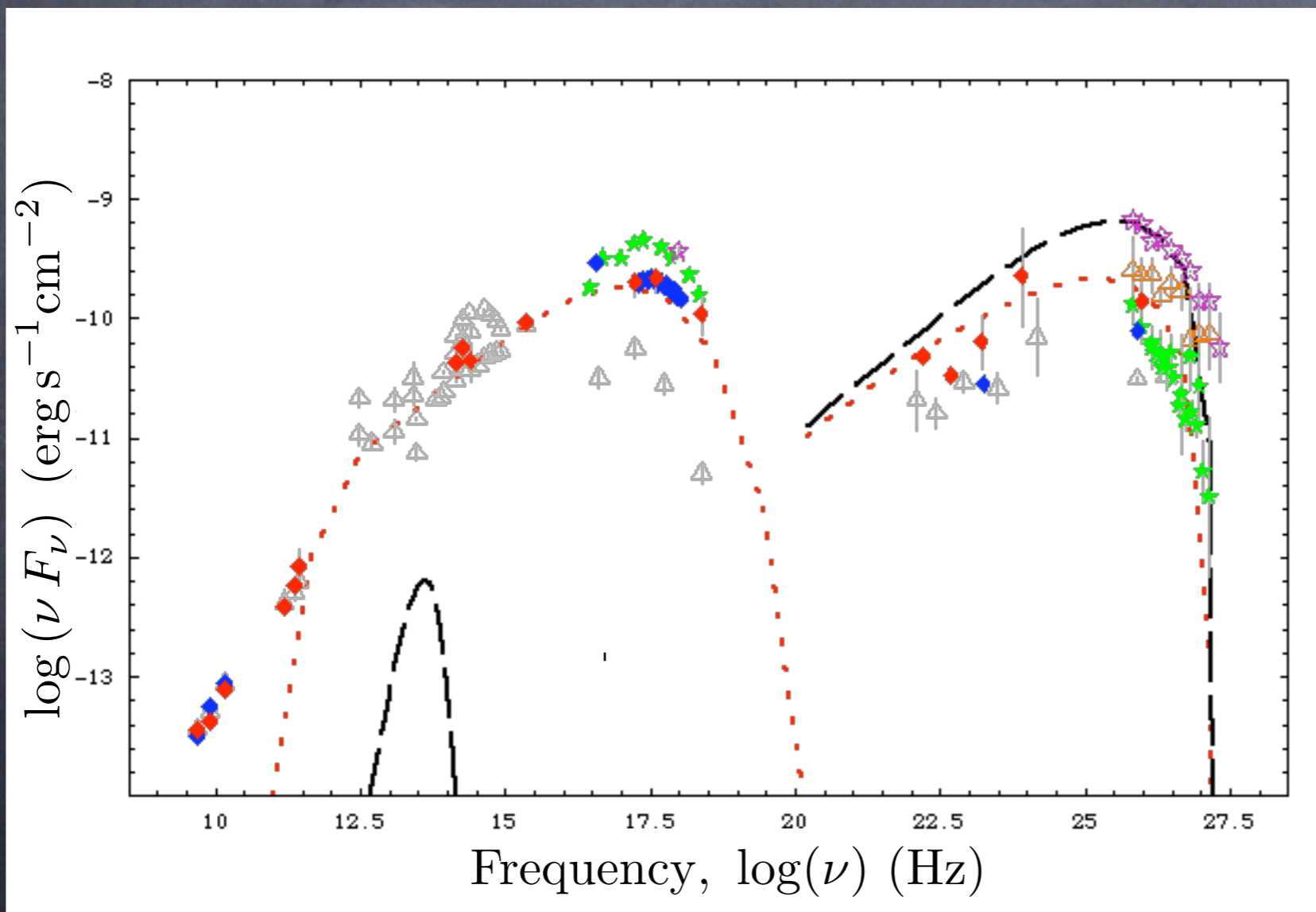
Mrk 501 Multiwavelength Spectrum





Detailed Spectral Fits

- Self-consistent model of particle accel., synchrotron, SSC, EIC (e.g., Inoue and Takahara, me, lots of other people...)



$$B = 0.08 \text{ G}$$

$$\delta_{\text{jet}} = 100$$

$$R = 4.4 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm} = 30 R_S$$

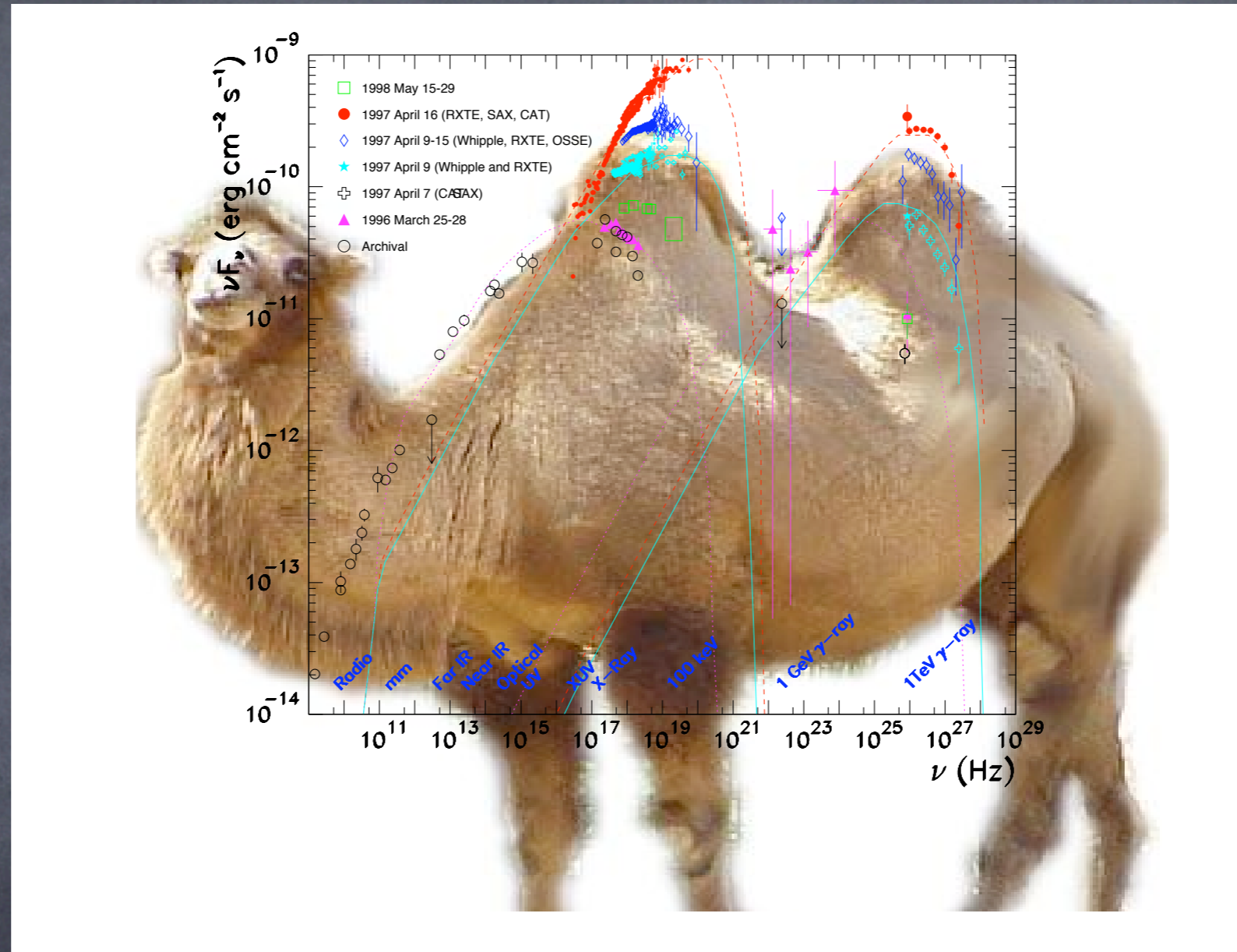
$$\gamma_{\text{max}} = 1.2 \times 10^5$$

$$\tau_{\text{cool}} = 4.9 \text{ min}$$

$$\tau_{\text{light crossing}} = 2.5 \text{ min}$$



Free Parameters



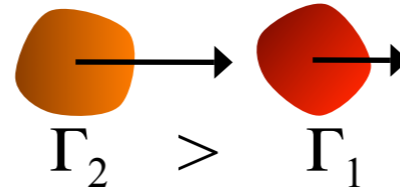
- Bactrian camel gives good fit, Dromedary excluded at the 99.5% confidence level



Origin of Flares?

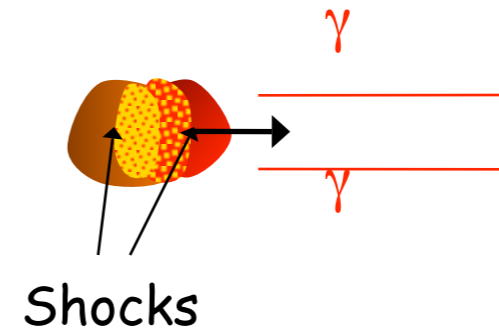
(1) Colliding Blobs

Time t_1 :
Black Hole

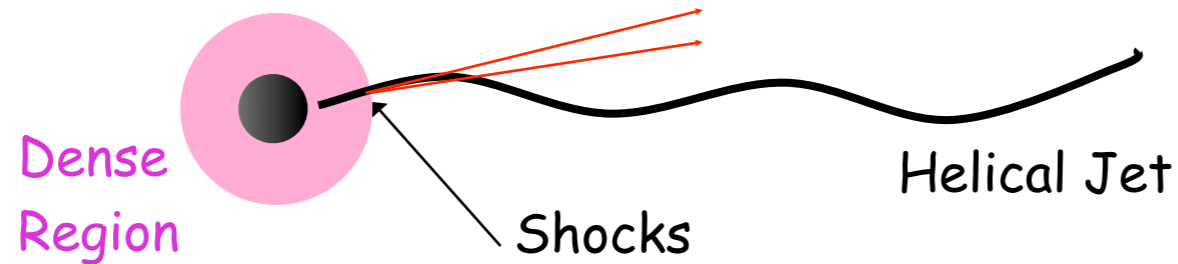


Spada et al. 2002
Tanihata et al. 2002

Time t_2 :



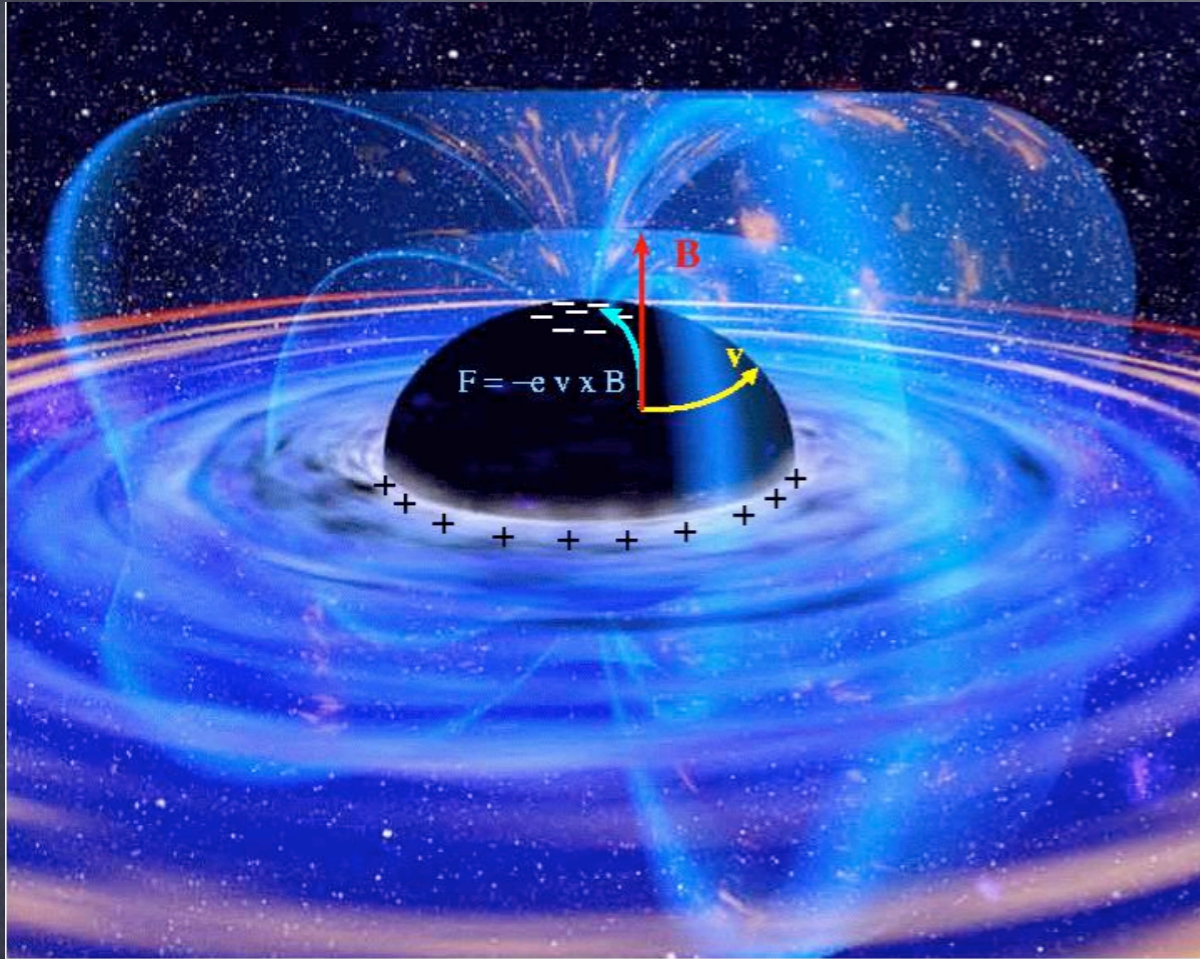
(2) Helical Jet, Precession



(Figure taken from
Krawczynski 2004)



Central Engine



- Would like more than phenomenology of radiative processes, probe the central engine
 - Can multiwavelength observations map the inner jet and disk? (e.g., reverberation mapping as proposed by Bottcher and Dermer)?
 - Can VHE g-rays probe strong gravity?
 - Fundamental mechanism (e.g., Blandford and Lovelace, Blandford & Zjanek)
 - Are properties correlated with black hole mass

A photograph of a radio telescope array at night. The sky is dark blue with some stars visible. In the foreground, several large parabolic radio telescope dishes are silhouetted against the sky. The dishes are supported by complex metal structures. The text "II. Blazars" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center of the image. Below it, the text "Expectations for VERITAS" is also overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font, positioned slightly lower and to the right of the first text.

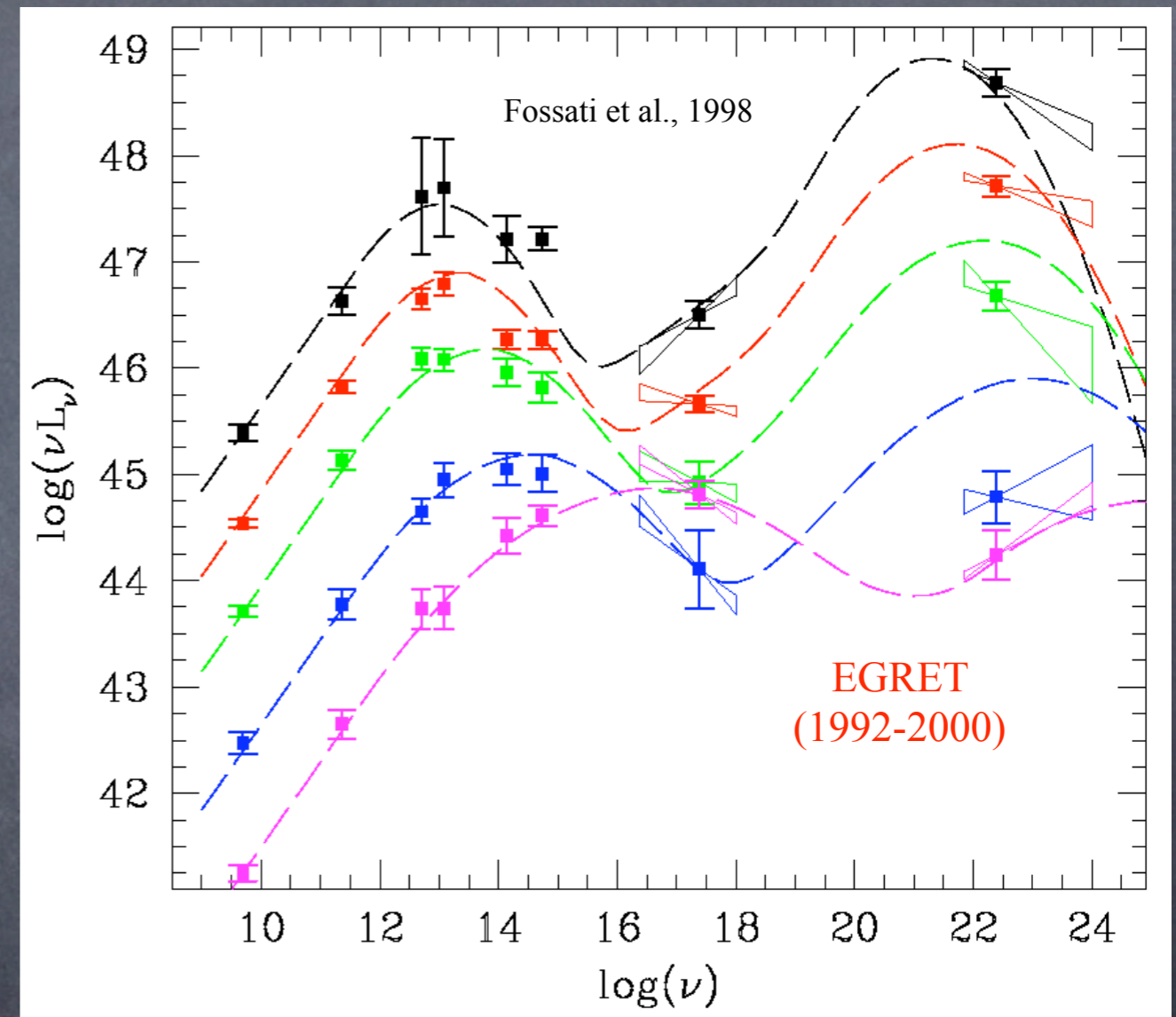
II. Blazars

Expectations for VERITAS



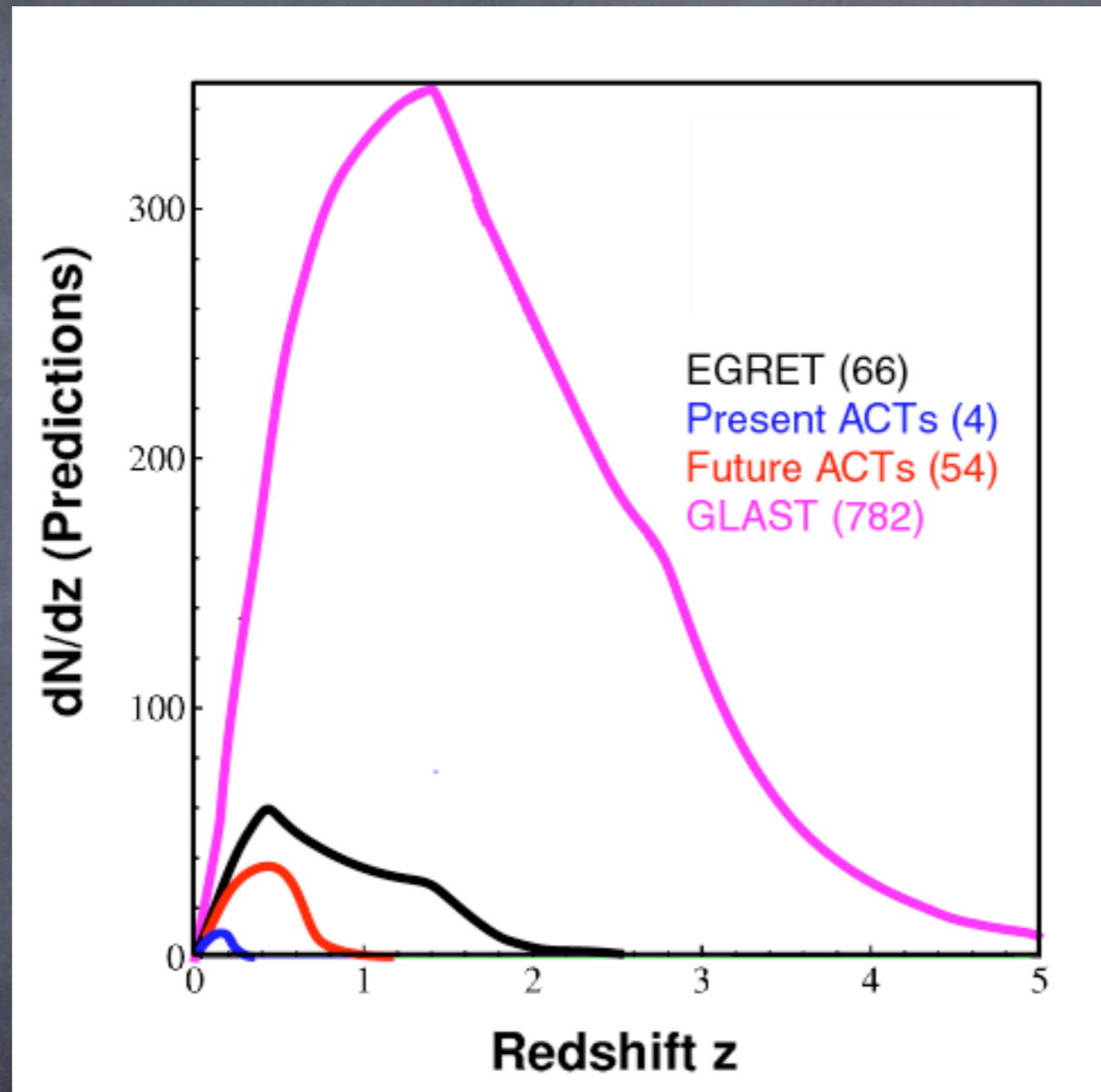
AGN Unification

- Most useful classification: LBLs (sync. peaks at low energies) HBLs (sync. peaks at high energies, accretion luminosity is organizing parameter (Padovani & Giommi 1995; Fossati & Ghisellini 1998, 1999))
- 3 objects, Mrk 501, 1ES2344+514 and H1426+428 have X-rays that extend to 100 keV (BeppoSAX observations: Pian et al. 1998; Giommi, Padovani & Perlman 2000; Costamante et al. 2000, 2001)
- Costamante et al. *predicted* H1426+428 as a TeV emitter





AGN Detections



- VERITAS, HESS, MAGIC and CANGAROO could collectively detect about 50 AGNs



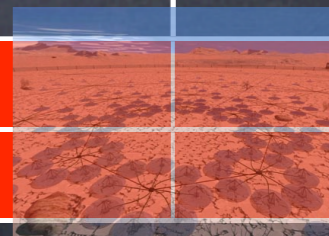
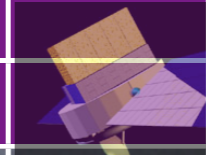
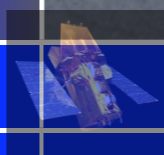
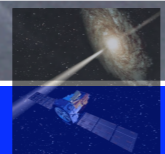
VERITAS Target List?

| | | |
|------------------|------|---------------|
| Mrk 421 | HBL | |
| Mrk 501 | VHBL | |
| 1ES1959+650 | HBL | |
| PKS2155-304 | HBL | LZA with HESS |
| H1426+428 | VHBL | |
| BL Lac | XBL | with optical |
| 3C273 | RBL | GLAST overlap |
| W-Comae | XBL | GLAST overlap |
| Mrk 180 | XBL | $z=0.046$ |
| 1ES0033+595 | XBL | $z=0.086$ |
| RGB J0214+517 | XBL | $z=0.049$ |
| 1ES 0229+200 | XBL | $z=0.139$ |
| 1ES 0323+02.2 | XBL | $z=0.147$ |
| 1ES 0806+524 | XBL | $z=0.138$ |
| J111706.2+201407 | XBL | $z=0.139$ |
| BWE 1133+6753 | XBL | $z=0.135$ |
| BL 1722+119 | XBL | $z=0.018$ |
| 1ES 1727+50.2 | XBL | $z=0.055$ |
| 1ES 1741+196 | XBL | $z=0.084$ |
| 1ES 2200+420 | XBL | $z=0.069$ |



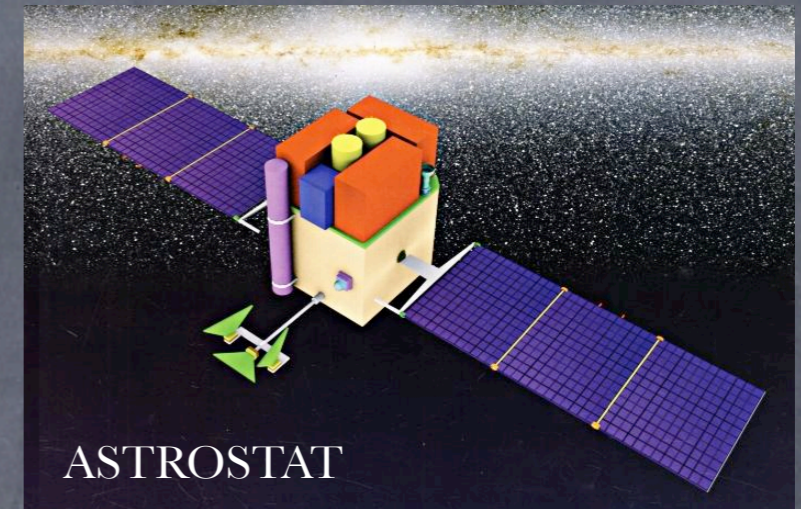
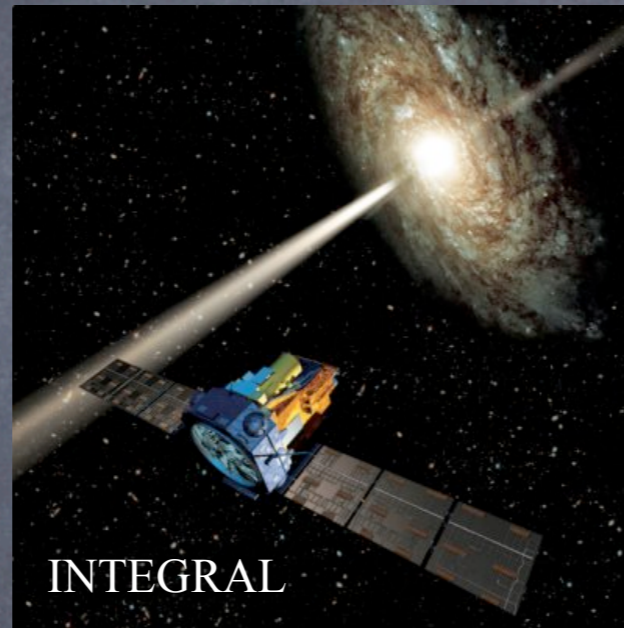
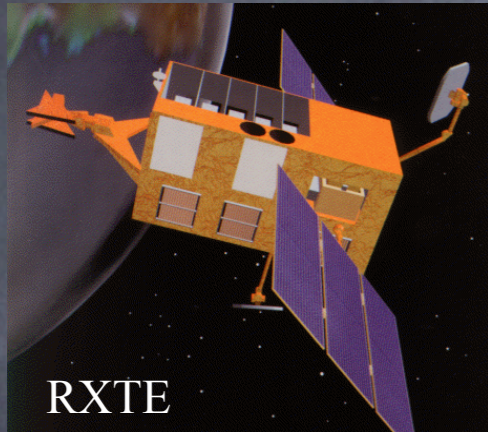
Instrument Timelines

| Waveband | Instrument | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|-------------|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 0.1-20 TeV | VERITAS | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.1-40 GeV | GLAST | | | | | | | | | |
| 1-100 MeV | ACT? | | | | | | | | | |
| 10-300 keV | EXIST? | | | | | | | | | |
| 5-600 keV | Integral | | | | | | | | | |
| keV | RXTE ASM | | | | | | | | | |
| 2-10 keV | RXTE PCA | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.3-150 keV | SWIFT | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.2-10 keV | XMM | | | | | | | | | |
| keV | ASTRO-E2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.3-80keV | ASTROSTAT | | | | | | | | | |
| 100-300nm | ASTROSTAT | | | | | | | | | |
| UV-Vis | SWIFT UVOT | | | | | | | | | |
| UVBRIJK | Optical | | | | | | | | | |
| FIR | Spitzer | | | | | | | | | |
| mm | Alma??? | | | | | | | | | |
| mm | SMT??? | | | | | | | | | |
| GHz | VLA/VLBA | | | | | | | | | |
| 30-240MHz | LOFAR | | | | | | | | | |





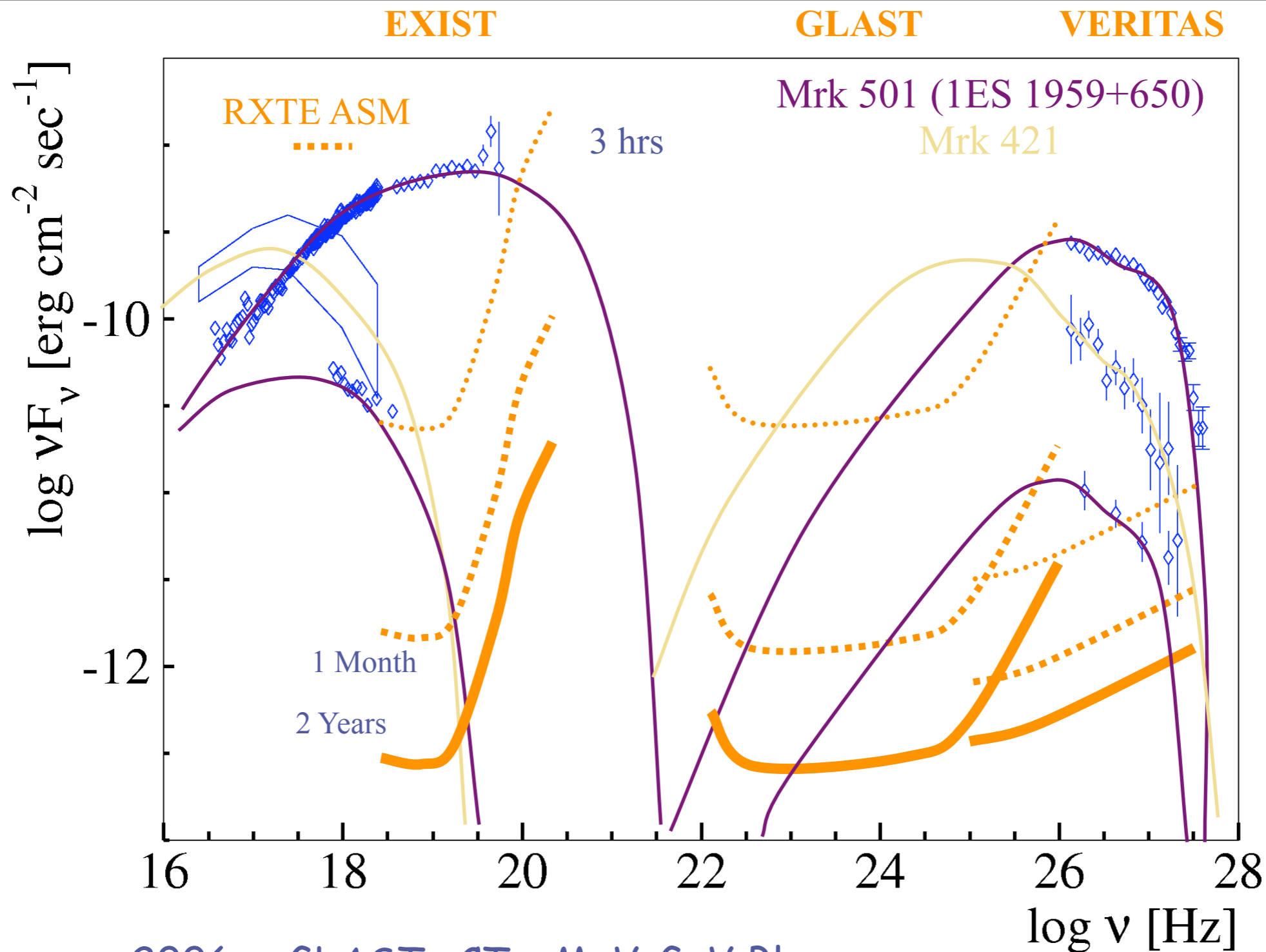
X-Ray Instruments



Outsourcing?



Sensitivities For TeV Blazars

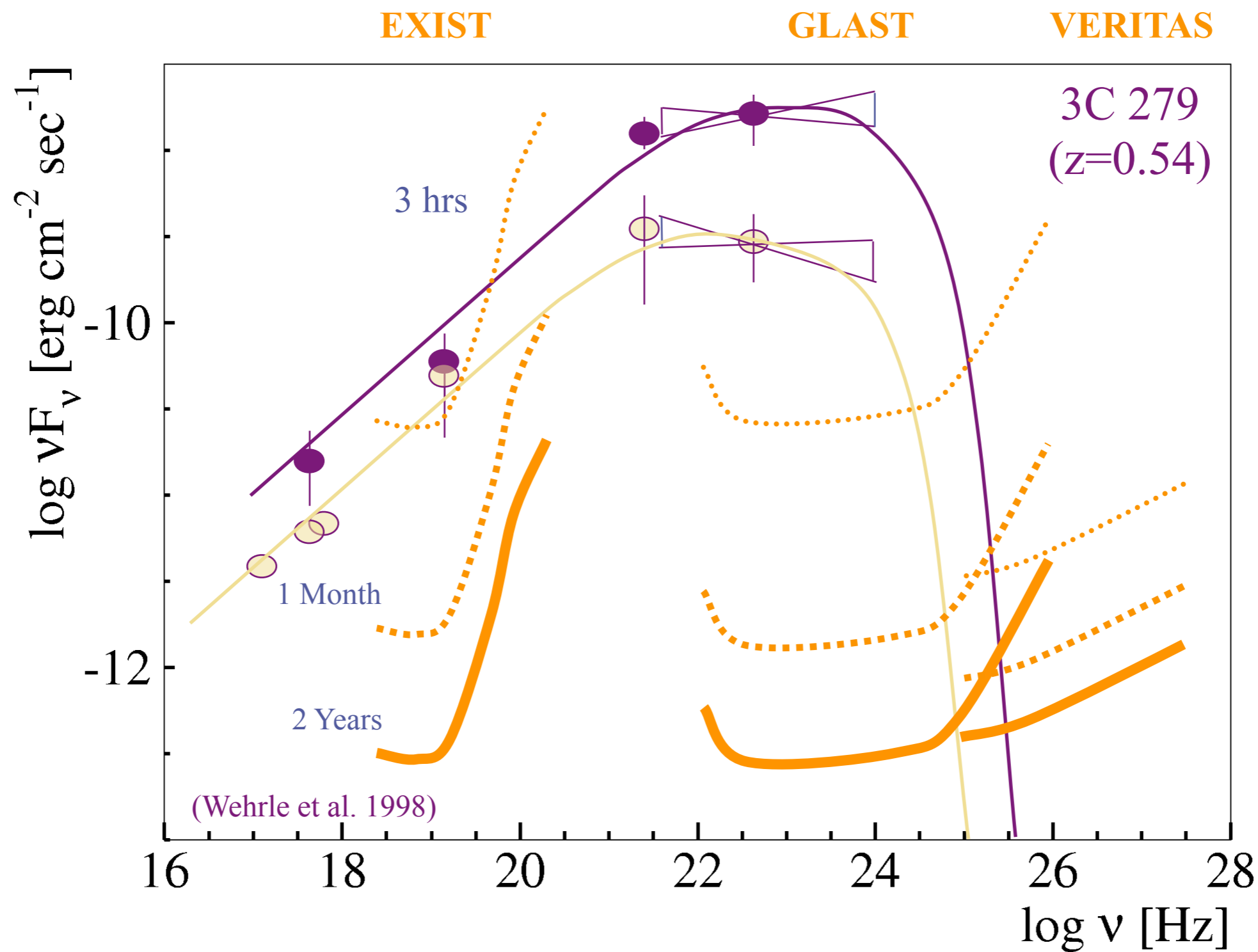


• 2006- : GLAST + CTs, MeV-GeV Blazars

• 2010- : EXIST + CTs, GeV and TeV Blazars

(Krawczynski 2003)

Sensitivities for MeV/GeV Blazars

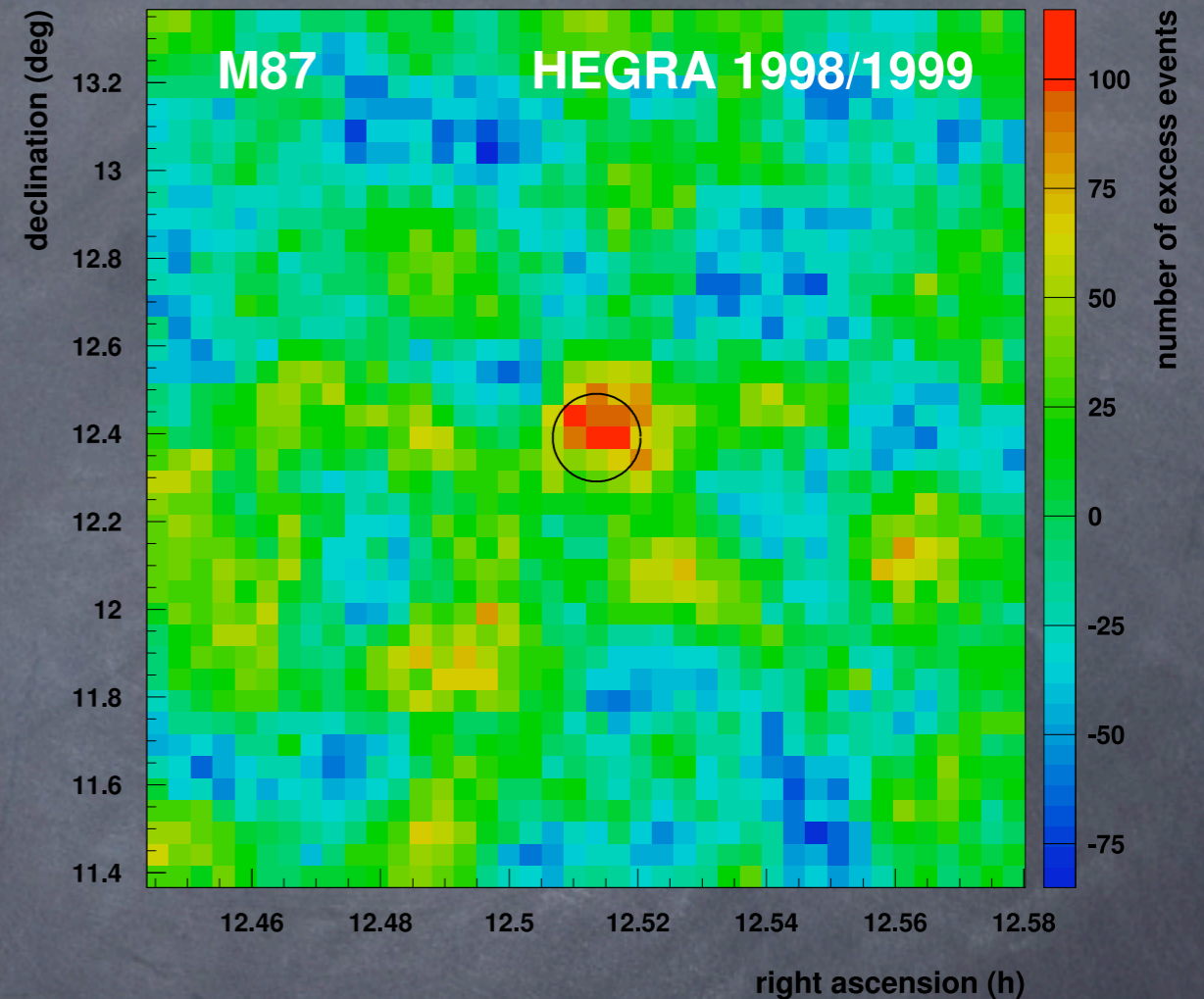
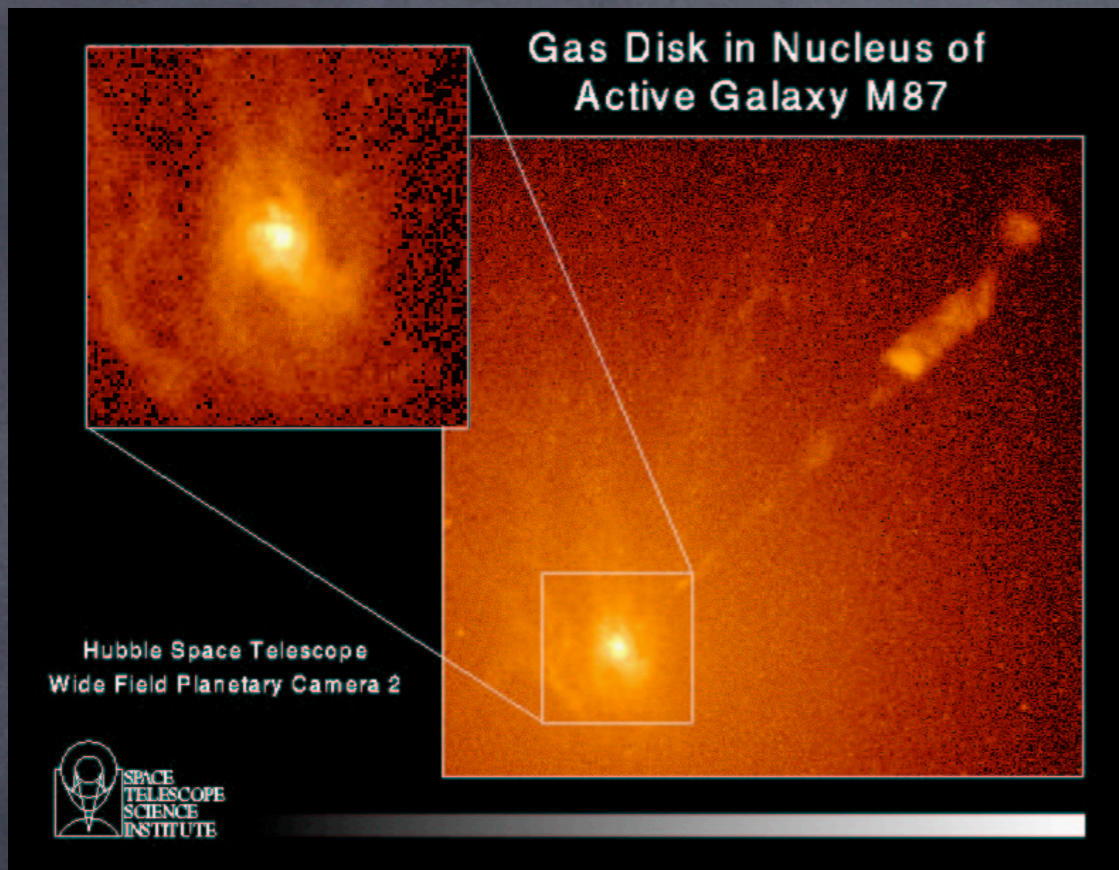


• EXIST + GLAST: Large FoV + High Sensitivity

(Krawczynski 2003)



M87!



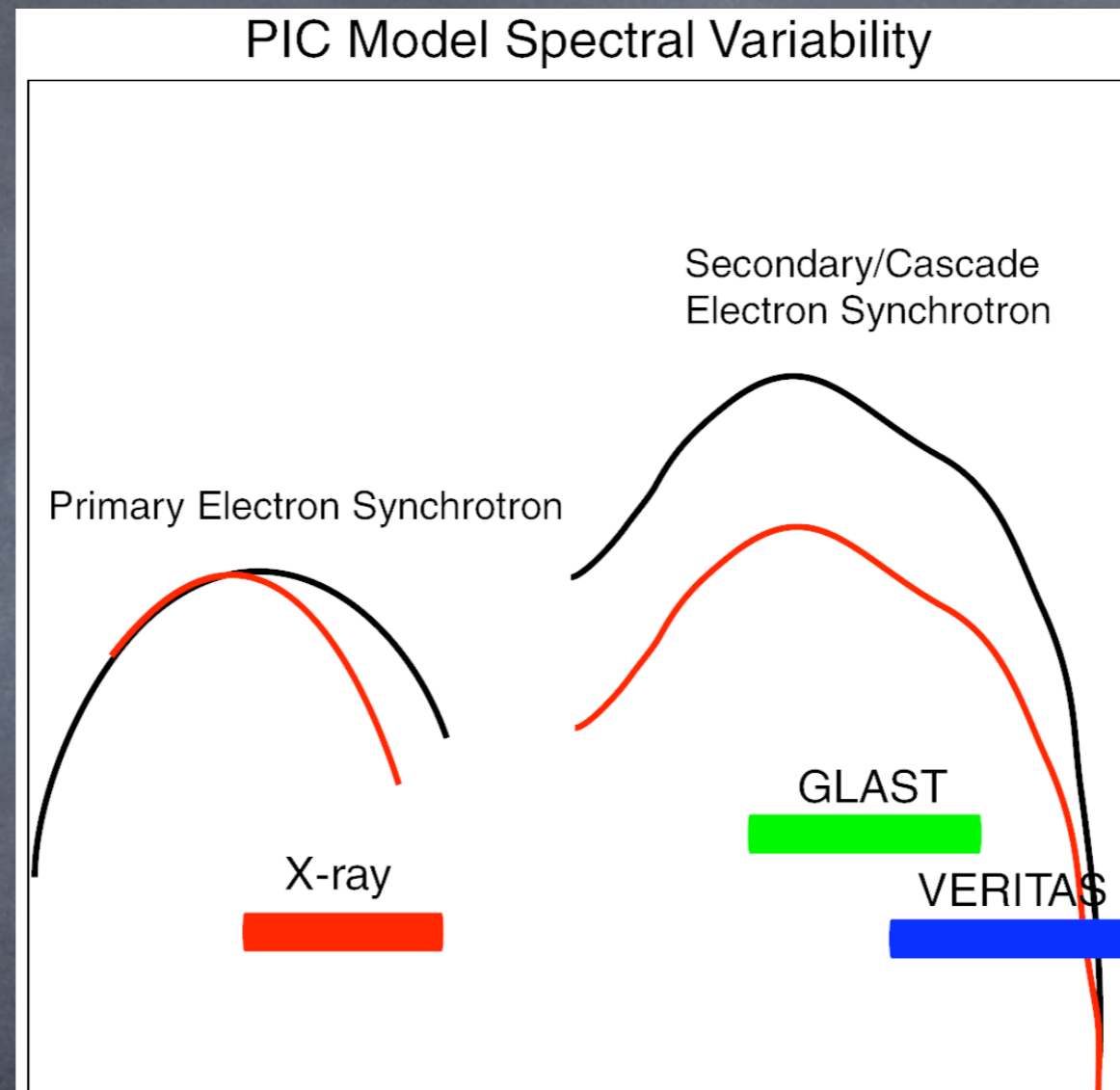
Matthias.Beilicke@desy.de, 2nd VERITAS Symp. on TeV Astroph. of Extragal. Sources, (Chicago - April, 24-26, 2003)

- supermassive black hole: $M_{\text{BH}} \approx (2.4 \pm 0.7) \cdot 10^9 M_{\odot}$
- jet angle to observer: $30^{\circ} - 35^{\circ}$
- distance: $\approx 16 \text{ Mpc}$ (much closer than e.g. Mkn-501)

- 77 h of M87 observations with HEGRA (1998/99)
 - ⇒ steady excess on the 4σ level
 - ⇒ 3.3 % of the Crab nebula flux ($E > 730 \text{ GeV}$)
 - ⇒ new source type



Protons vs. Electrons

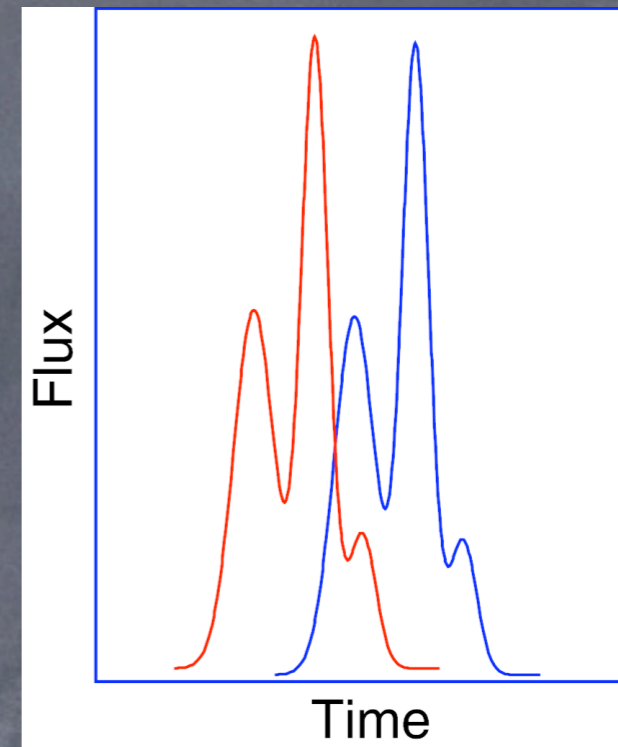
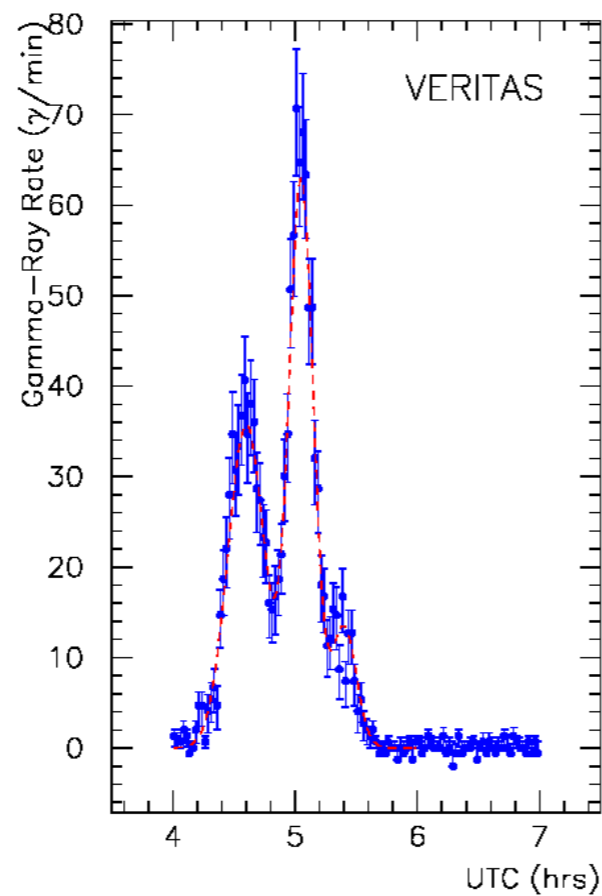
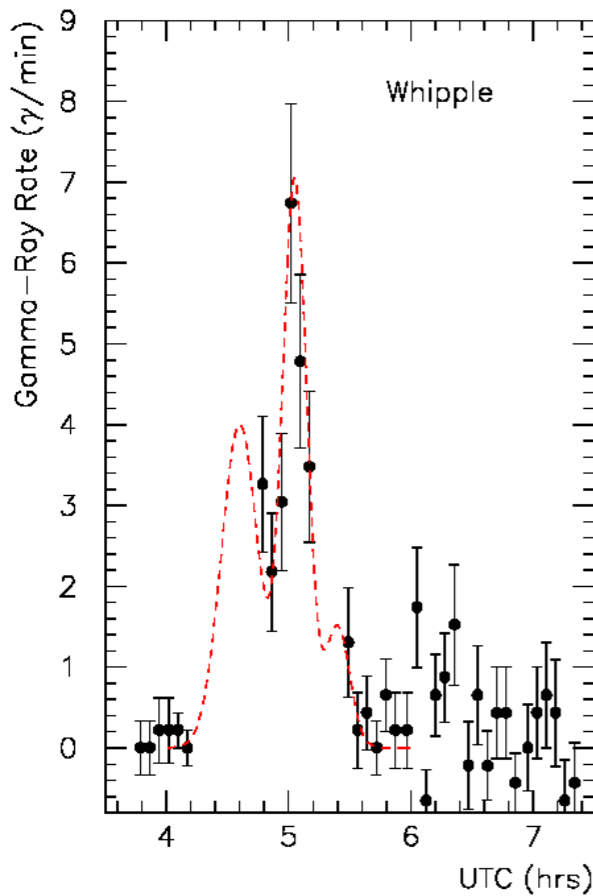


- Radio-X-ray from primary e^- synchrotron
- γ -Ray from VHE cascade electrons rapidly cooling in large field (~ 40 Gauss)
- Signature: GLAST (100 MeV) and VERITAS (TeV) measurements will show almost simultaneous variation (Hillas 1996)



AGN Variability

Gaidos et al., 1996



- Probe refractive index of vacuum giving rise to energy dependence in velocity of light
 - Quantum Gravity
 - Large extra dimensions
 - TeV to Planck scale physics
 - Lorentz violation?!
 - One of best limits to date from Whipple flare (Biller et al., Phys Rev Letters 1999)

$$t_{\text{rise}} \approx t_{\text{fall}} \approx 15\text{min} - 1\text{hr}$$

$$\text{by causality } R < ct\delta \approx 10^{-4}\text{pc}$$

$$\text{for } M = 10^8 M_{\odot} \quad R_S = 2GM/c^2 \approx 10^{-5}\text{pc}$$



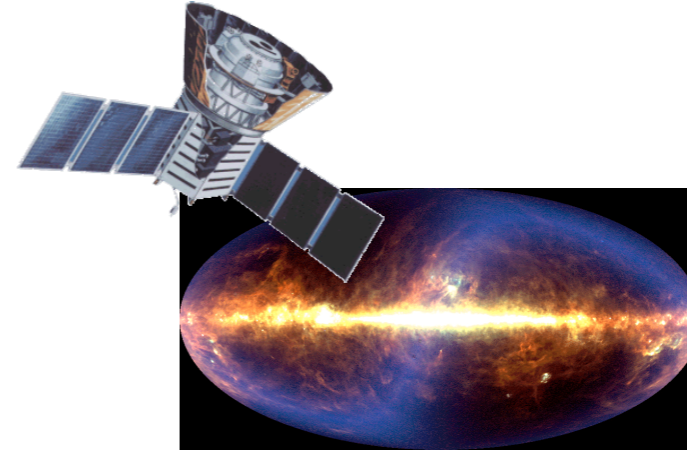
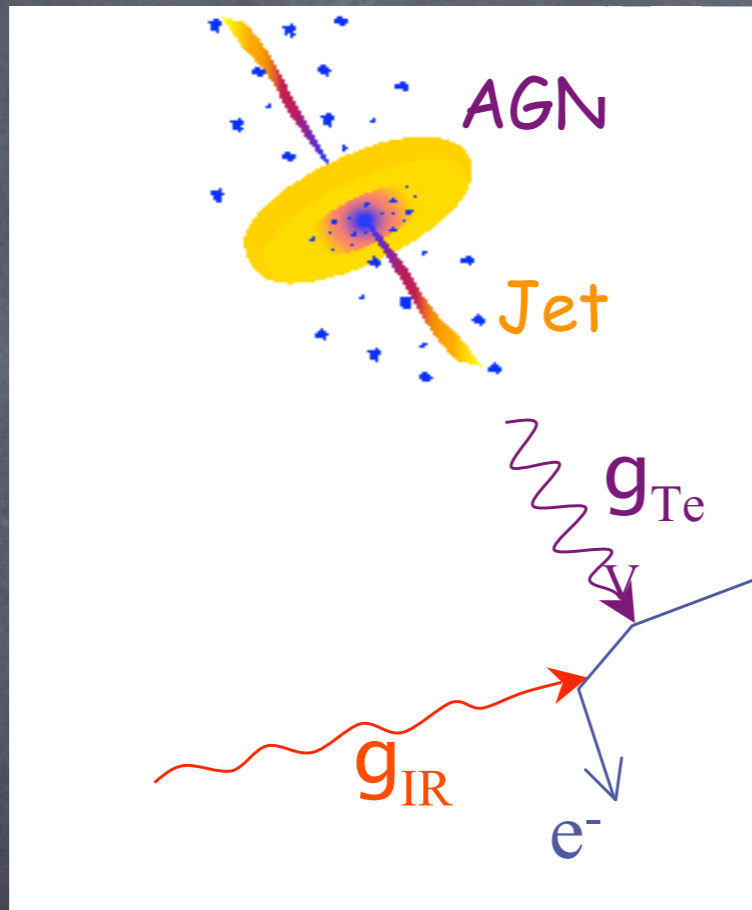
Gamma-Ray Tomography

- Some may say that absorption of gamma-rays by pair-production off of low energy photons is a bad thing
- But just like absorption of X-rays gives an image of what lies beneath the surface, absorption of gamma-rays reveals the structure of the absorbing target either in the source, or filling intergalactic space





Probing the EBL



Hauser et al., 1998, ApJ, 508, 25

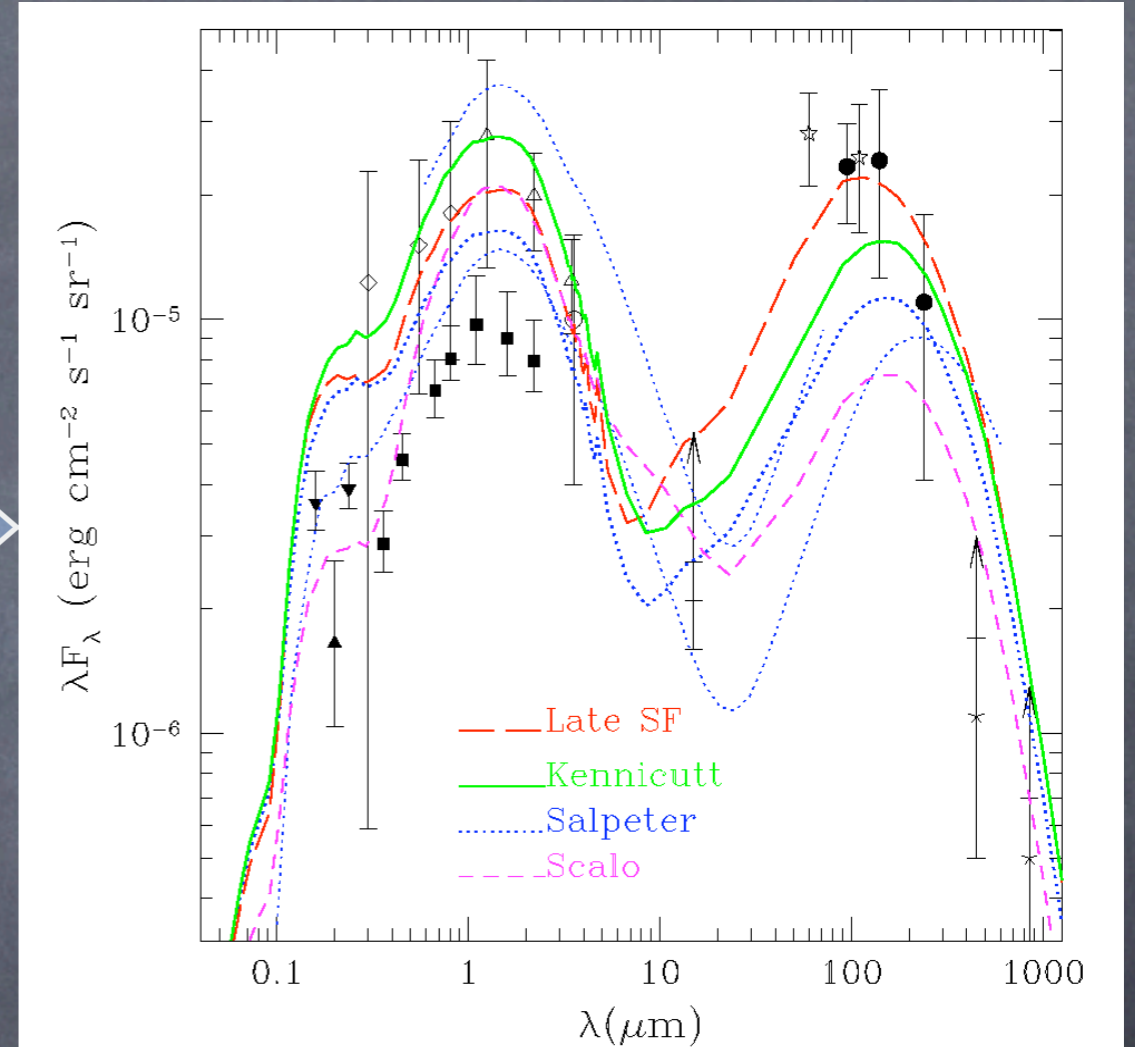
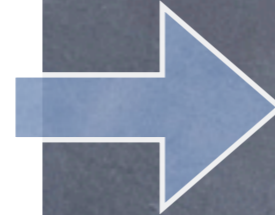
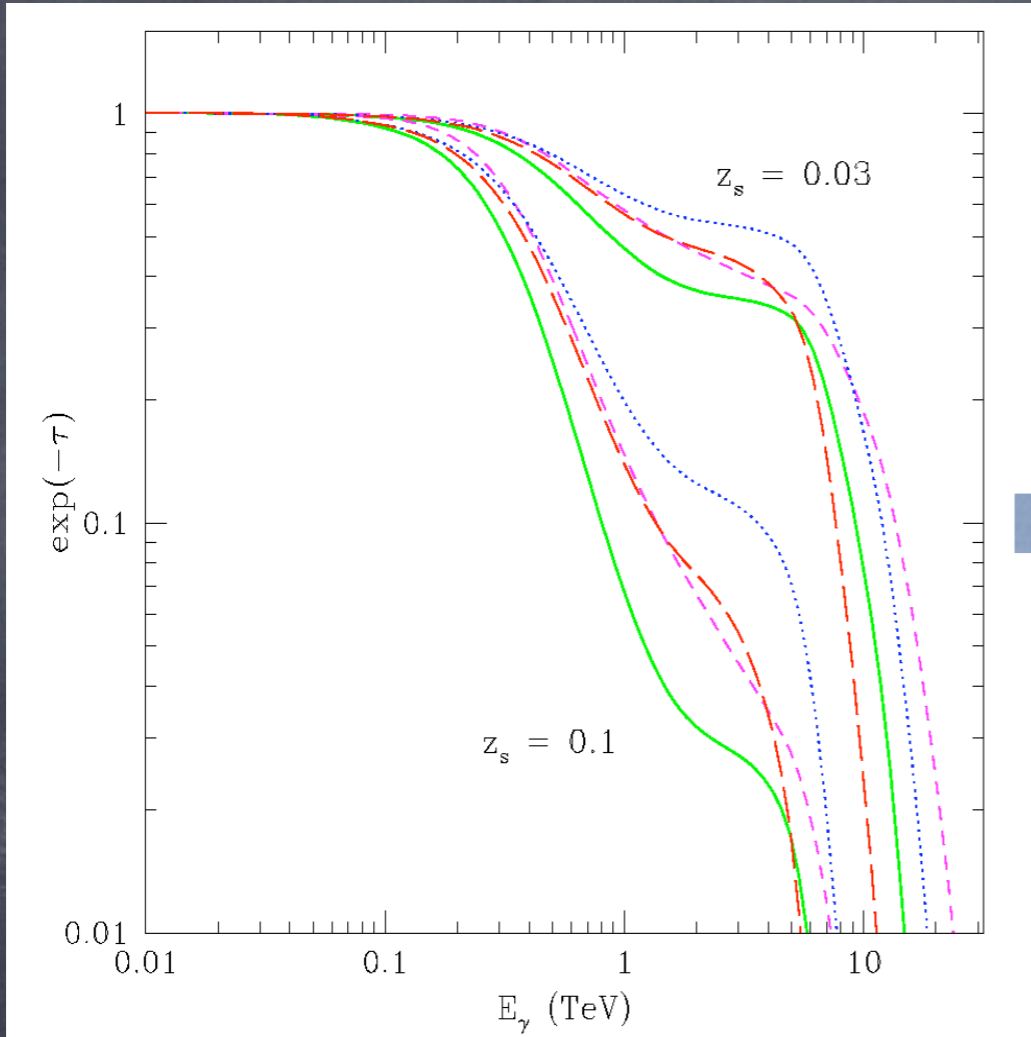
The DIRBE team has reported detection of EBL at 140 and 240 mm, and has set only

upper limits to its brightness at eight other wavelengths-

1.25, 2.2, 3.5, 4.9, 12, 25, 60 and 100 mm.



Probing the EBL

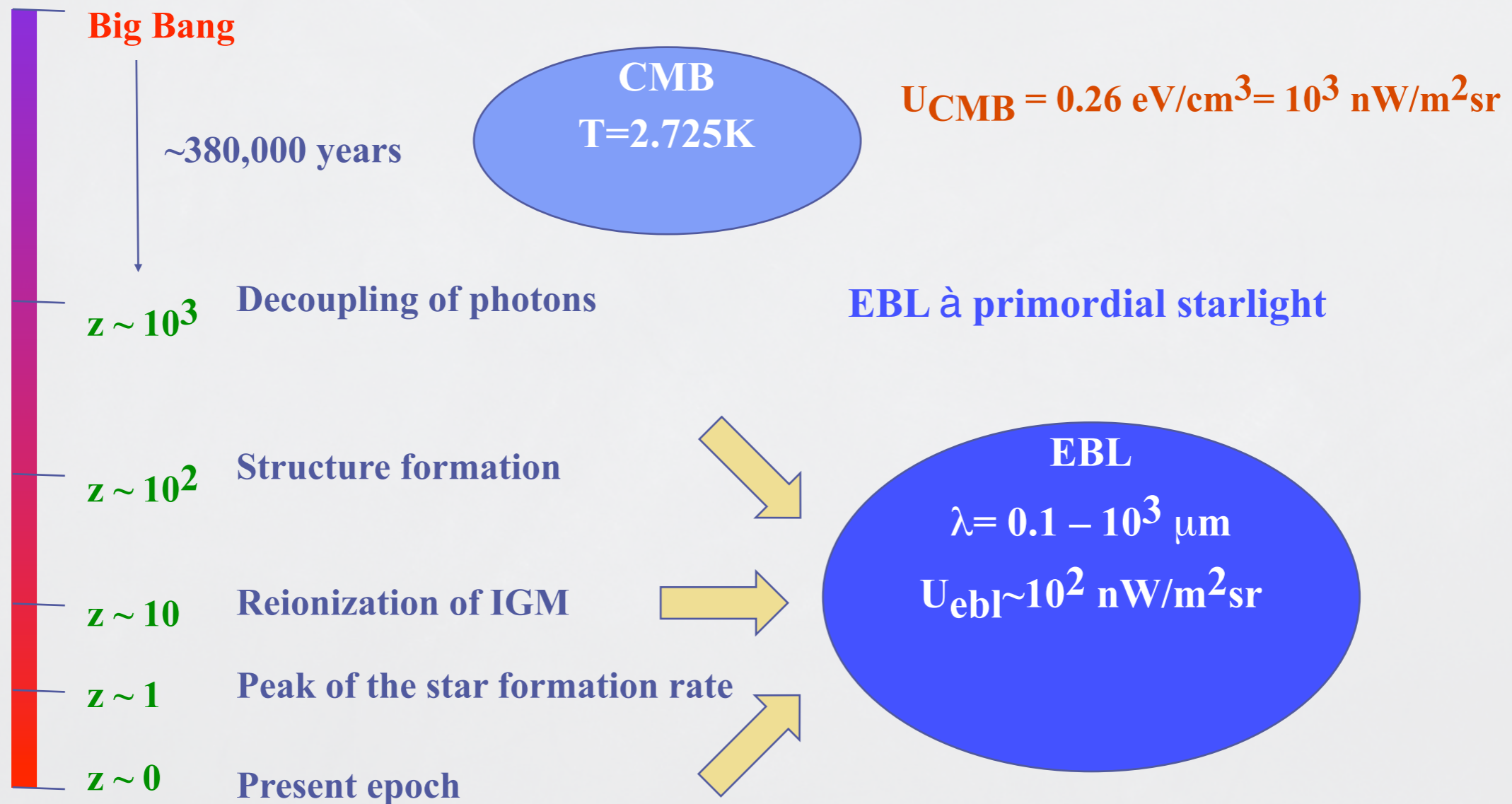


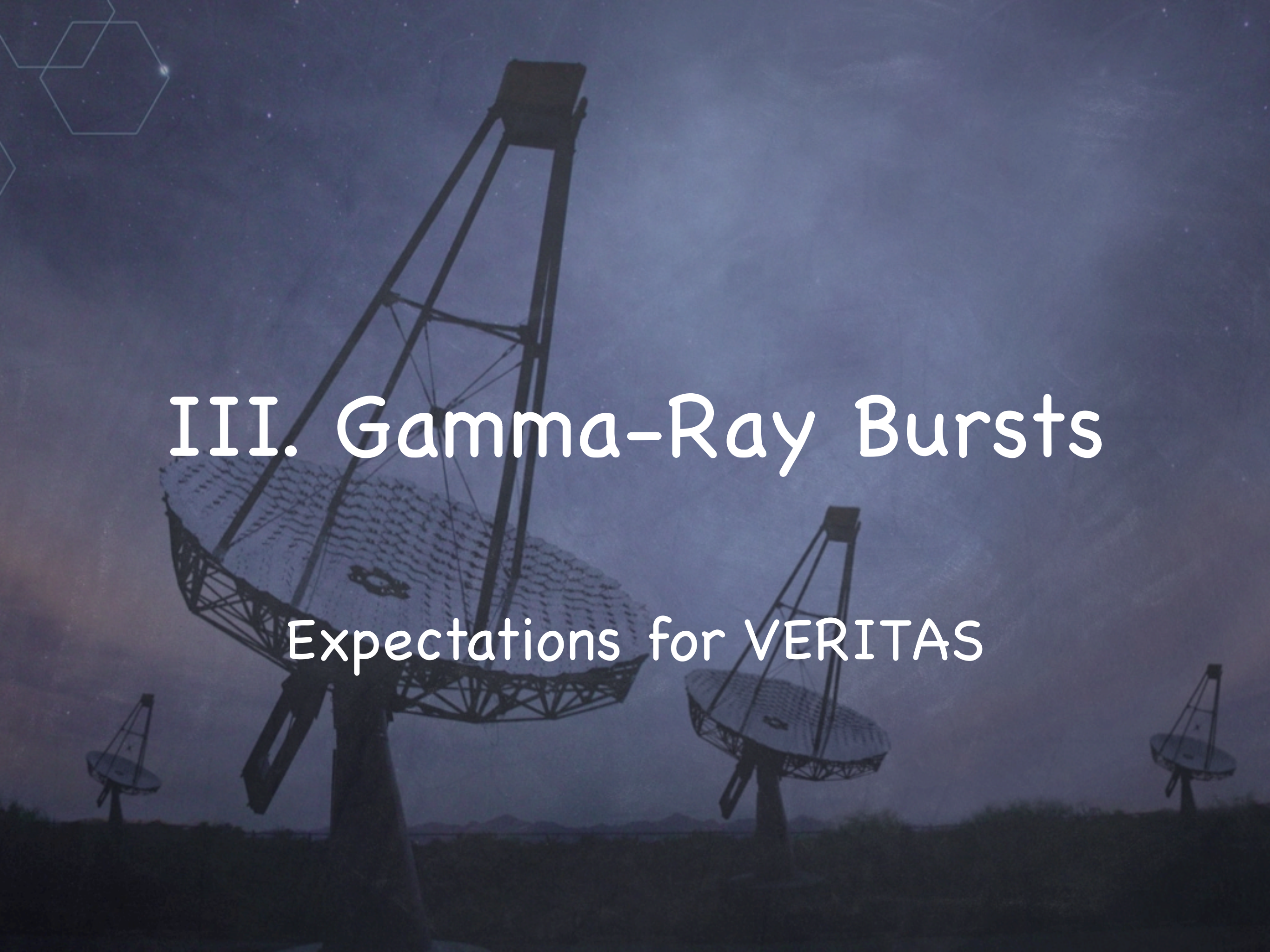
- Absorbing target for pair production resulting in distortions of high energy end of TeV spectrum
- If one detects enough sources, and can constrain the source spectrum it is possible to invert and measure the spectrum of the EBL in the visible to IR band
- Provides calorimetric information about electromagnetic energy production in the Universe
- Provides information about the epoch of star formation and structure formation



Extragal. Background Light

EBL place in cosmology



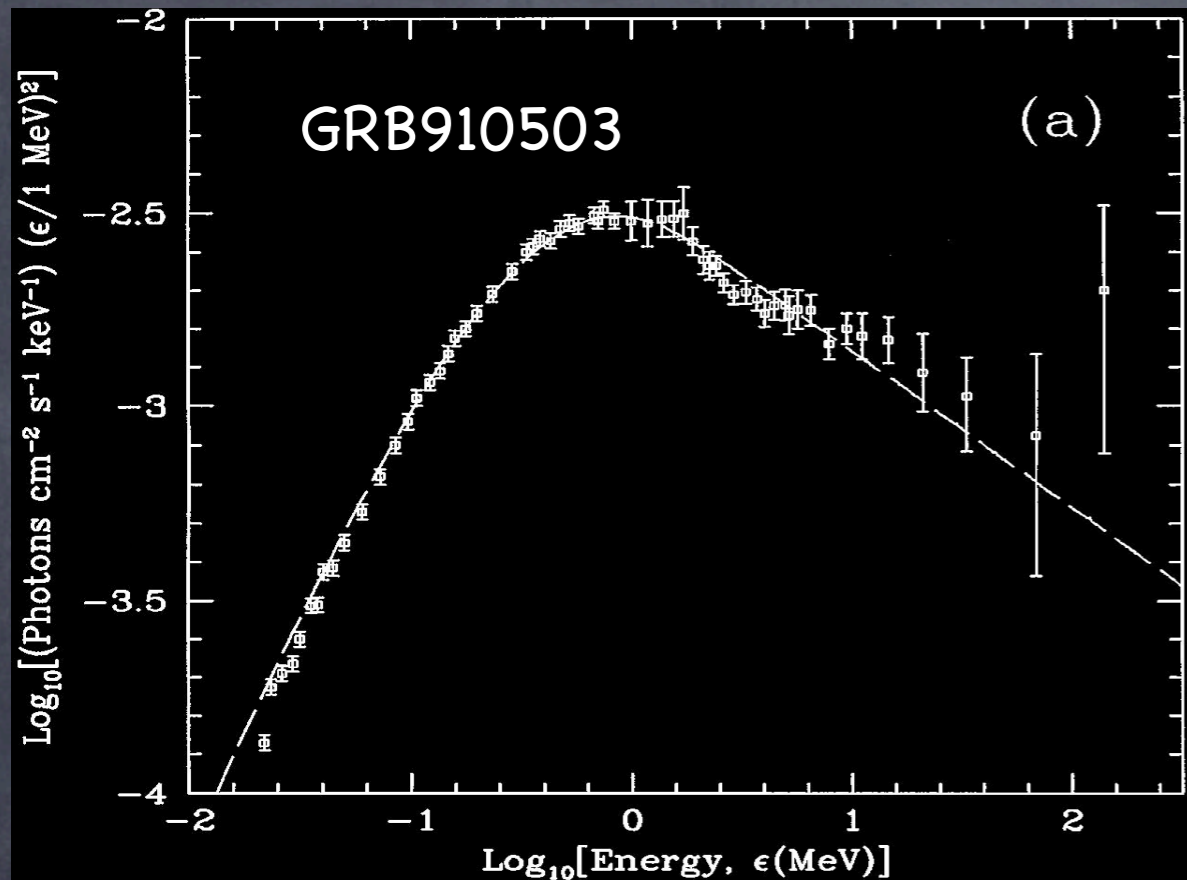


III. Gamma-Ray Bursts

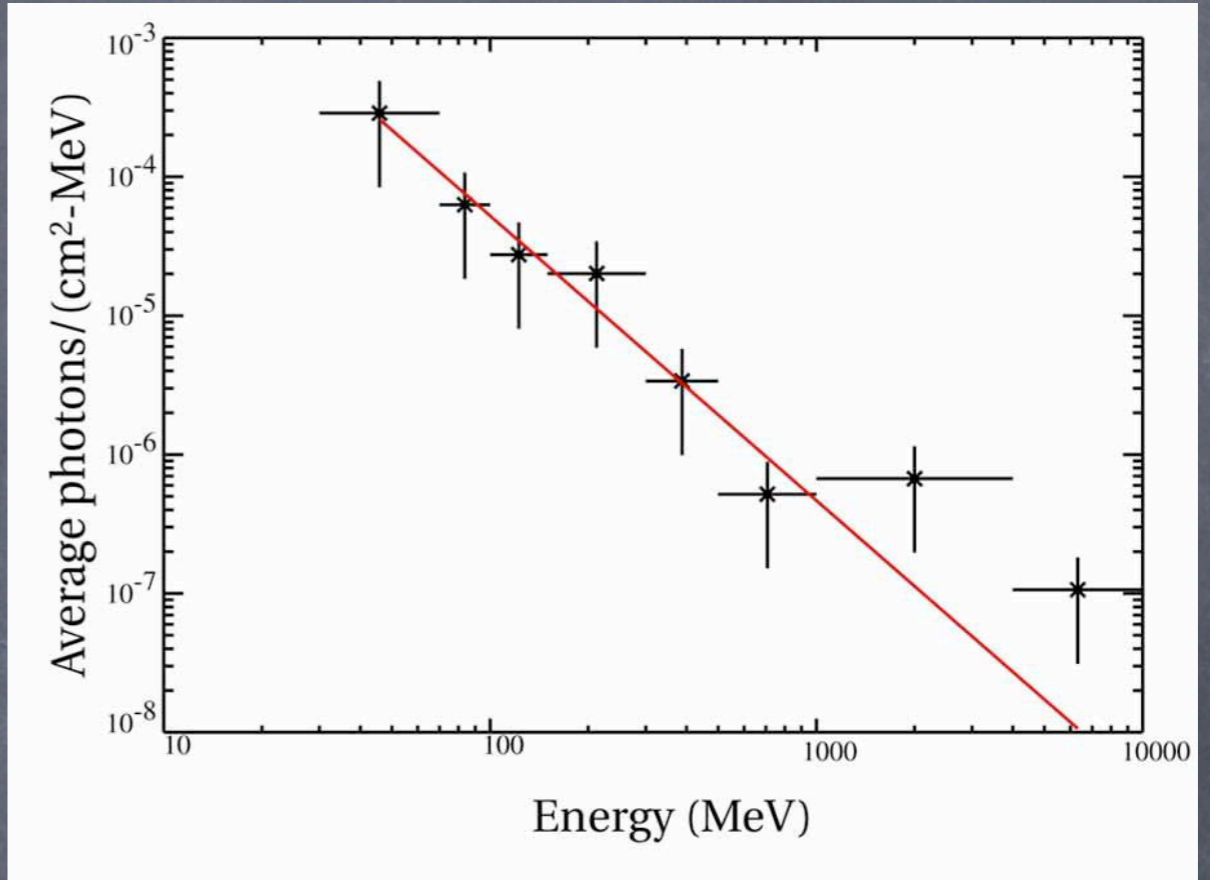
Expectations for VERITAS



VHE Gammas from GRBs



(Tavani M. 1996, PRL 76, 3478)



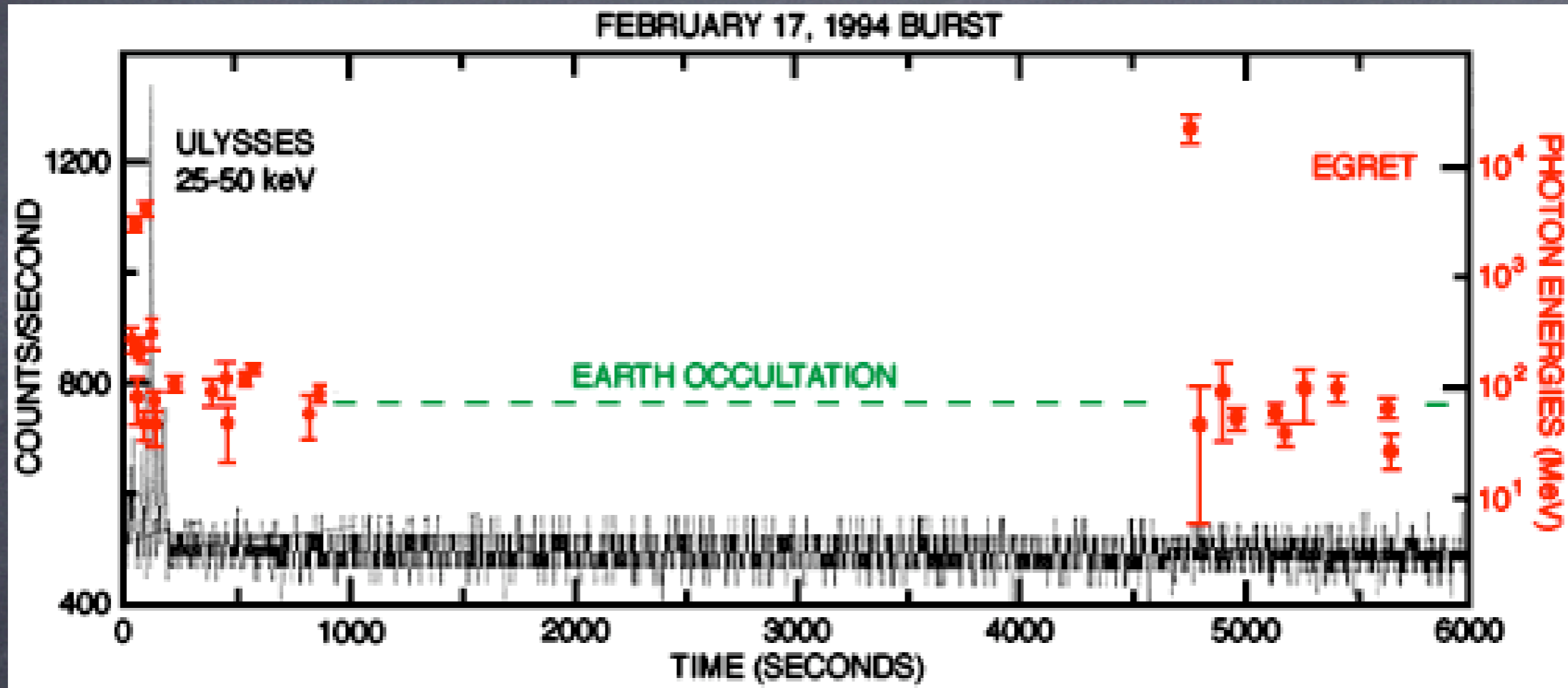
(<http://glast.gsfs.nasa.gov/resources/brochures/gsd>)

Spectrum Peaks around 1.5 MeV

Averaged EGRET spectrum shows no evidence for a cutoff to 10 GeV



GRB940217

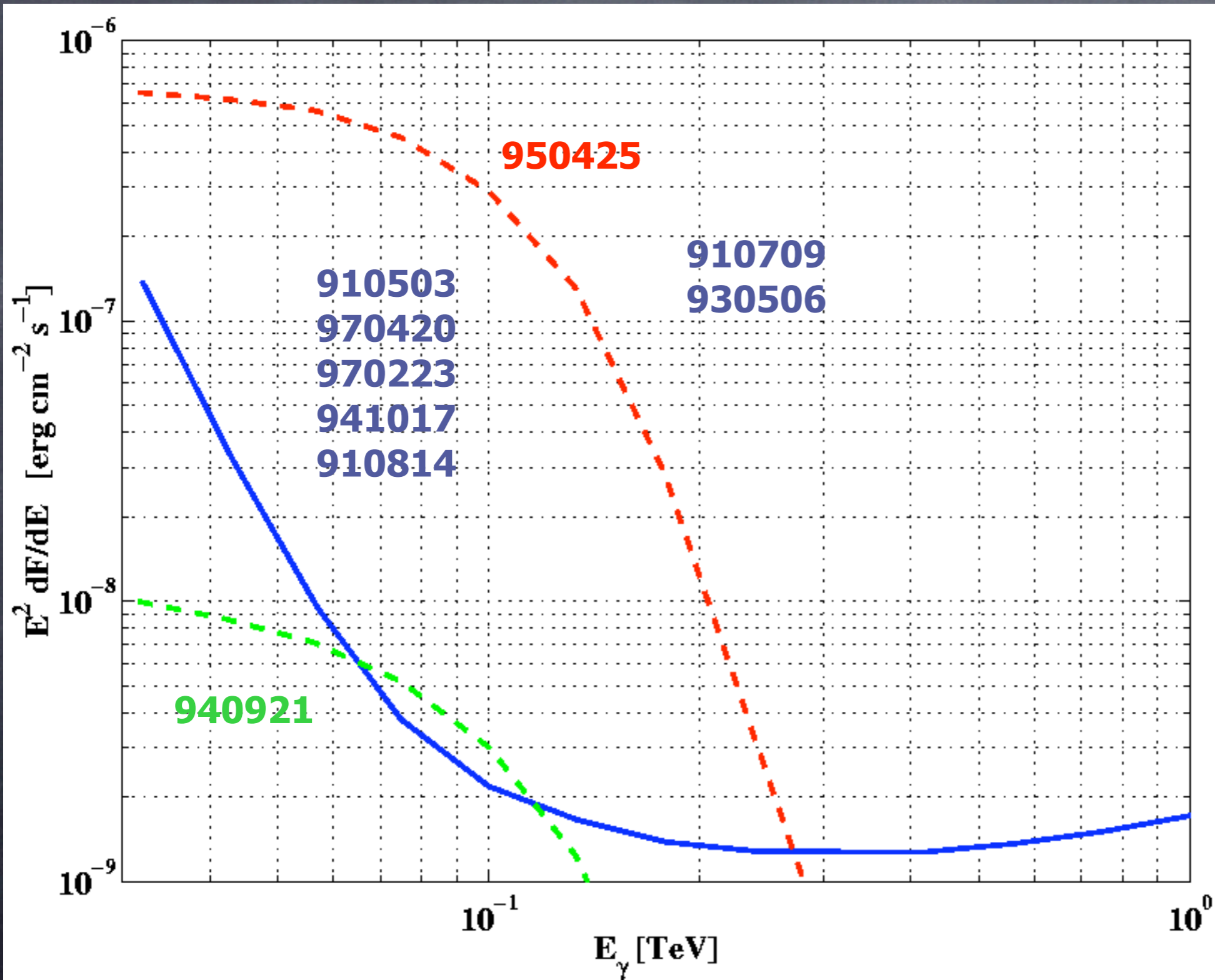


(Hurley et al. 1994, Nature 372, 652)

Delayed VHE Component?



VERITAS GRB sensitivity



Hypothetical
duration:
1 minute

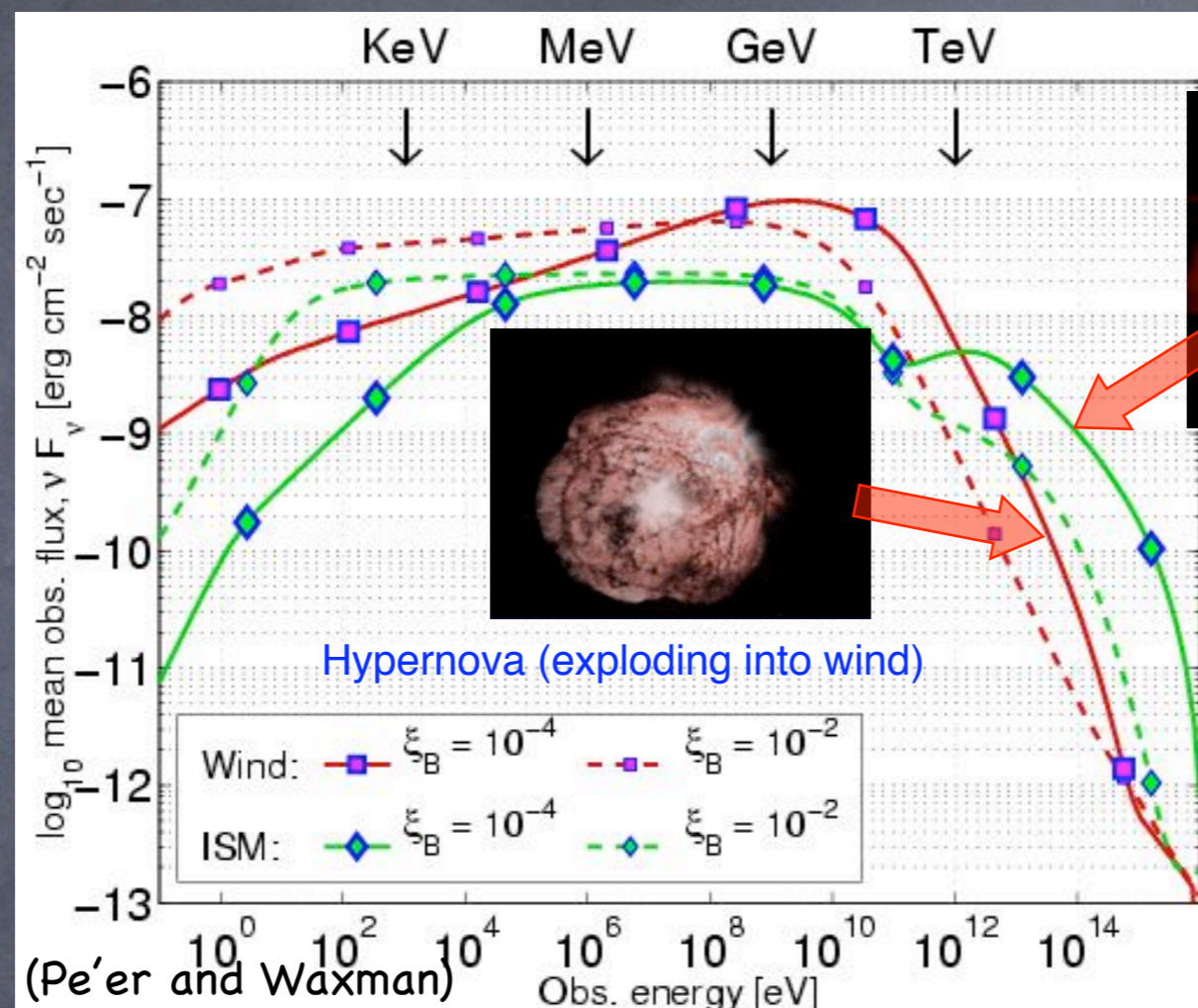
Hypothetical
distance:
Z=1.0

EBL absorption:
Primack et al.

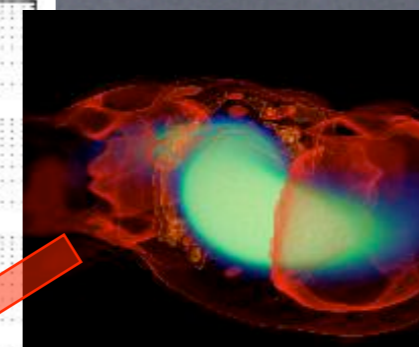
SFR:
Scalo IMF



Prospects for VERITAS



(Courtesy Wai-Mo Suen, Wash. University)

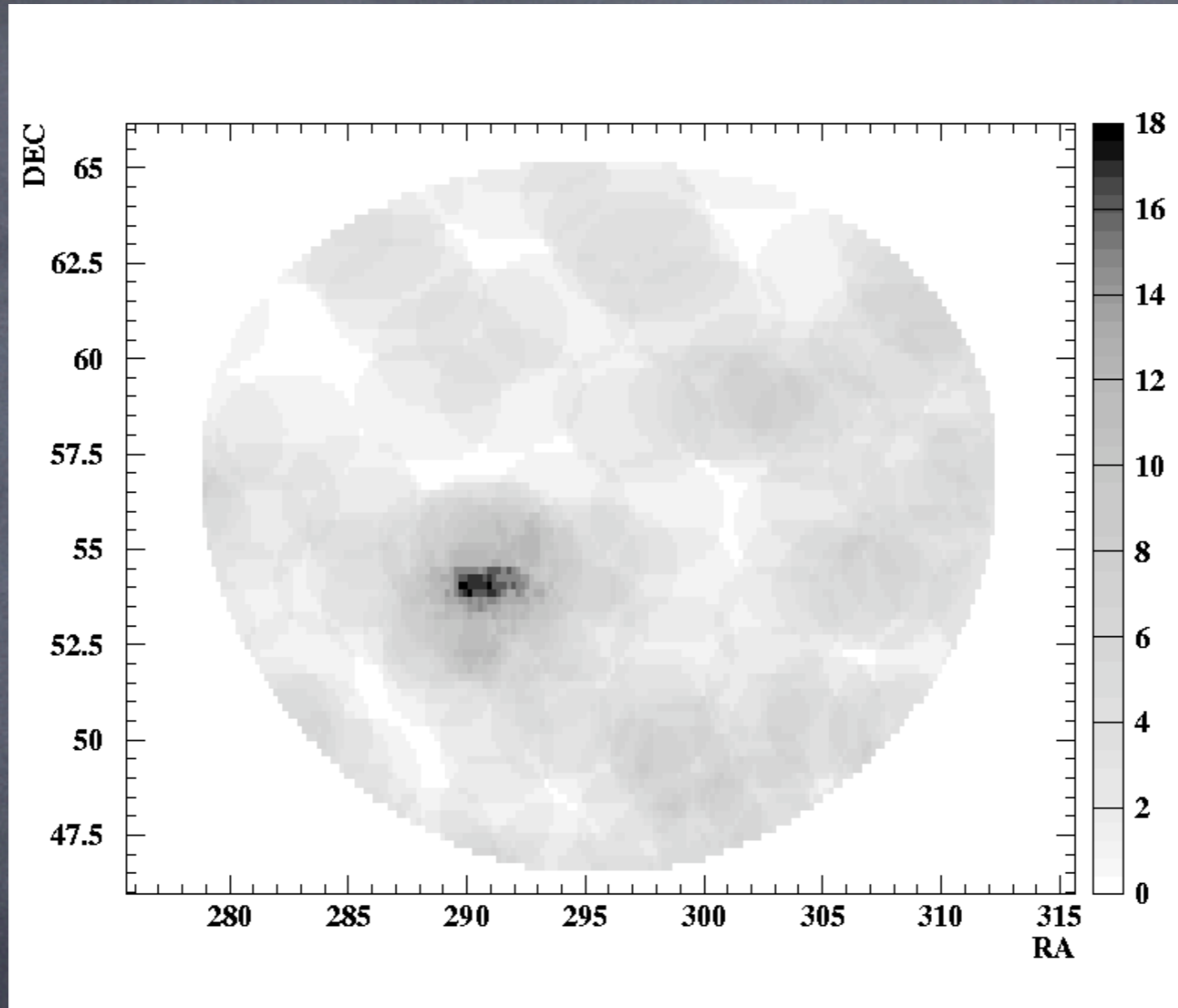


n-star + n-star merger
(exploding into ISM)

- Observations of the IC component would provide new constraints on the physical conditions in the environment of the GRB.
- EGRET observations indicate 10-20 GeV emission - it is not a large extrapolation to 100 GeV
- With very large $\Gamma \sim 800$, internal shocks can give prompt GeV-TeV emission and delayed UHE cascades (e.g., Razzaque, Meszaros and Zhang, 2004)
- External shocks could give delayed VHE emission (e.g. Dermer, Pe'er and Waxman).



MILAGRO Detection?



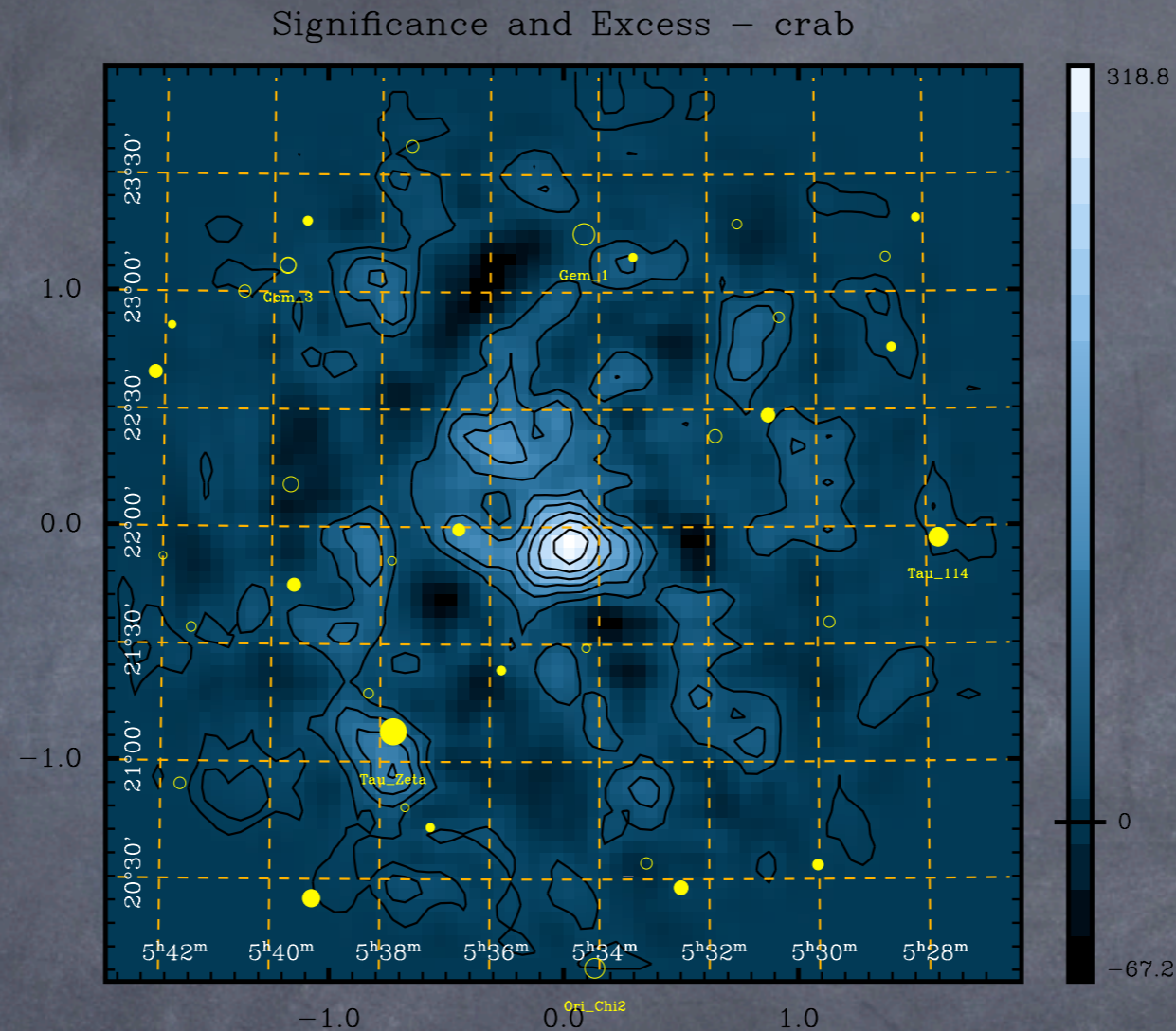
- MILAGRITO analysis of 50 BATSE triggers discovered one possible coincidence (~ 3 sigma) (Dingus, McEnery)

A photograph of a radio telescope array at night. The sky is dark blue with some stars visible. In the foreground, there are several large parabolic radio telescope dishes mounted on tall, lattice-like metal structures. The dishes are silhouetted against the night sky. The ground is dark, and there are some faint lights in the distance. In the top left corner, there are some faint, white, geometric shapes resembling a molecular structure or a network diagram.

V. Galactic Center



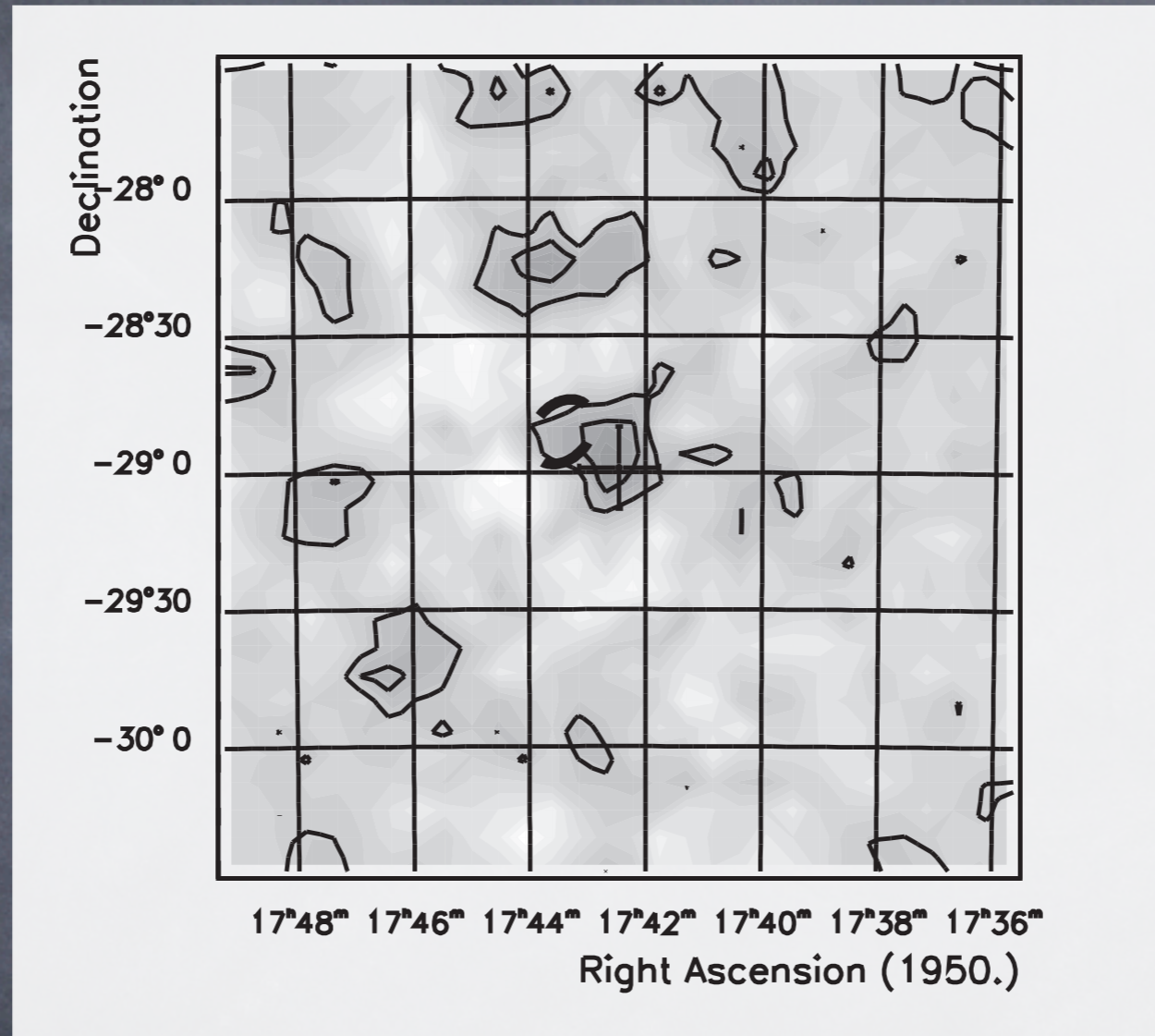
Crab as Standard Candle



- Optimize analysis on simulations
- Refine cuts on data from Crab Nebula (standard candle)
- Calibrate cuts on independent LZA Crab data set (also at 60deg zenith; not optimization set)
- Normalize results to the Crab to cancel systematic errors in absolute flux normalization



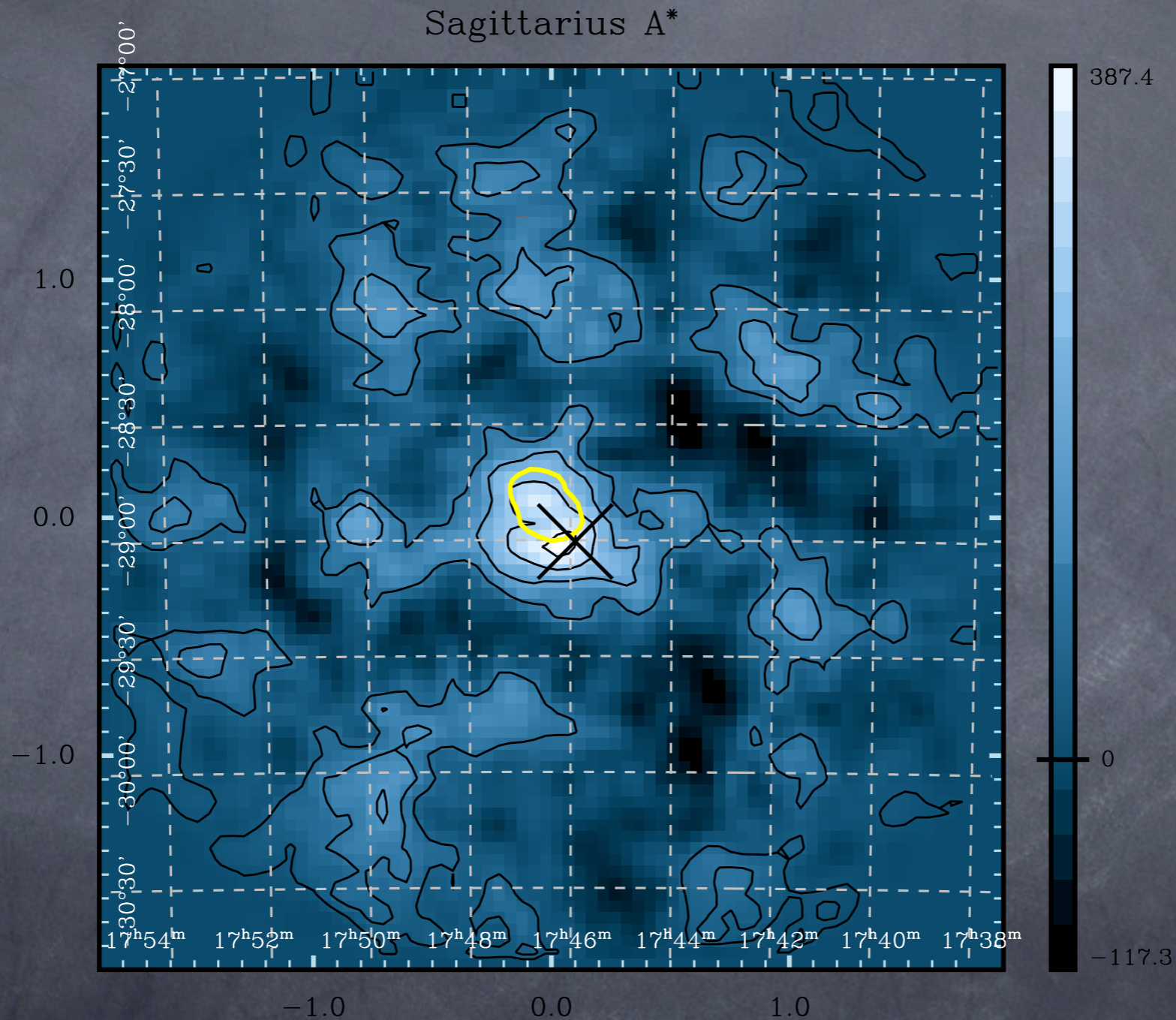
1995 Whipple Data



- ① Upper-limit but 2.4 sigma excess (Buckley et al., 1997, Proc. 25th ICRC (Durban) 3, 237)
- ① Took data in spring every year for 10 years to improve upper limit...



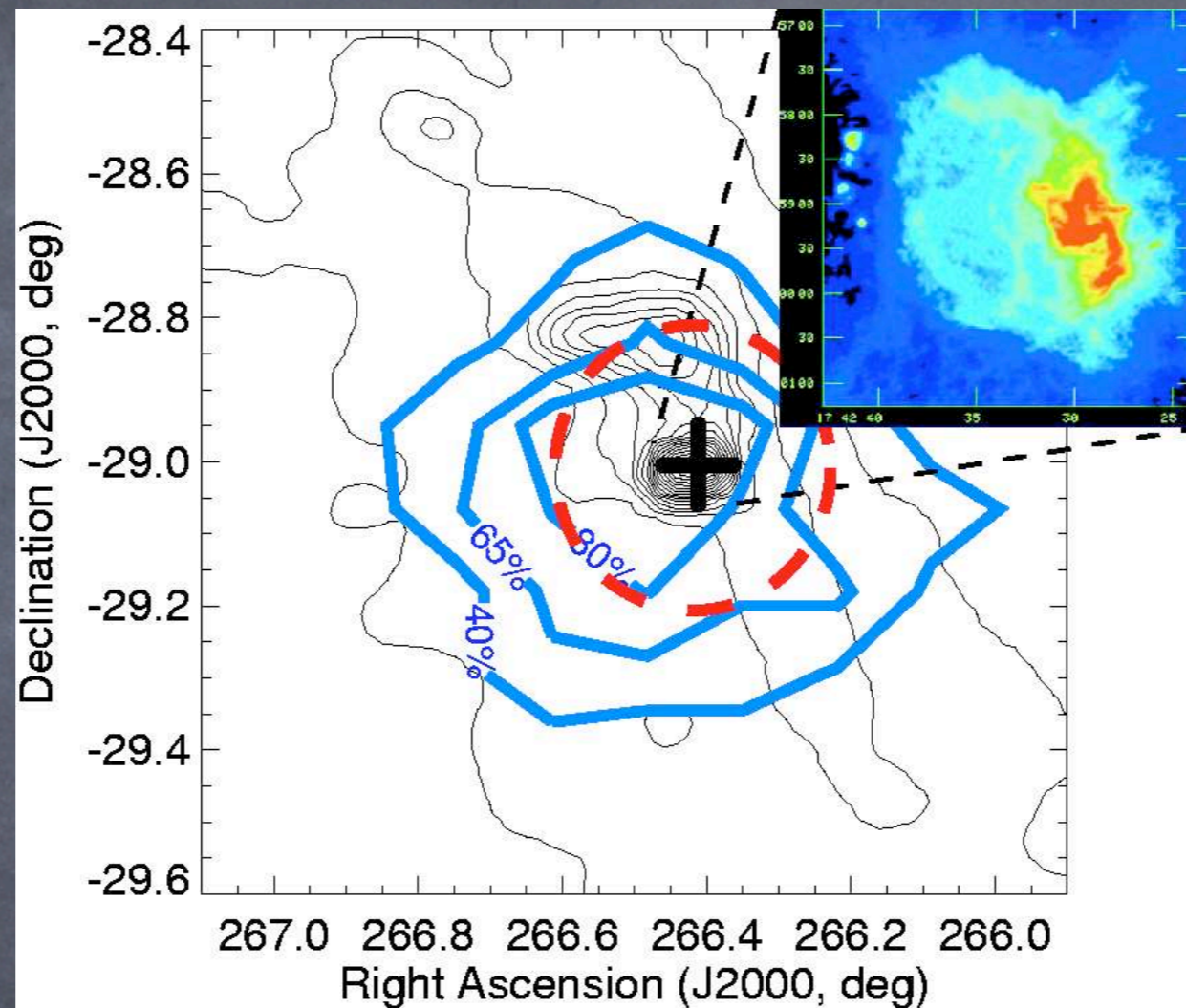
Whipple GC Results



- ① Kosack et al. (astro-ph 0403422; 2004, ApJ, 608, L97)
- ② 26 hr at LZA, 3.7 sigma, 2.8 TeV



Cangaroo Results



- Tsuchiya et al., (astro-ph 0403592; 2004, ApJ, 606, L115)
- 67 hours, with 10m telescope, July 2001 and July/August 2002
- 250 GeV threshold, $F(E) \sim E^{-4.6 \pm 0.05}$



HESS Results

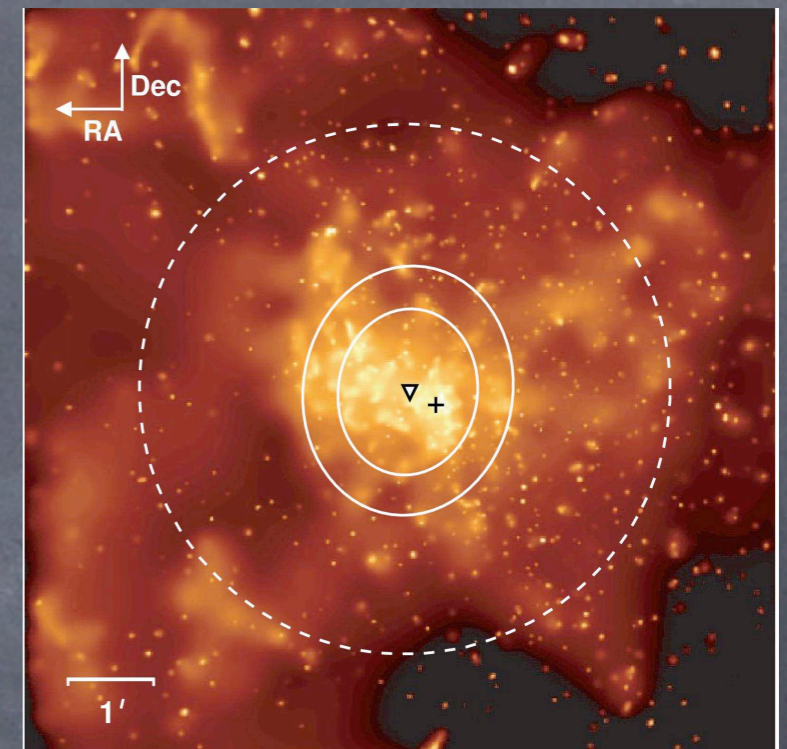
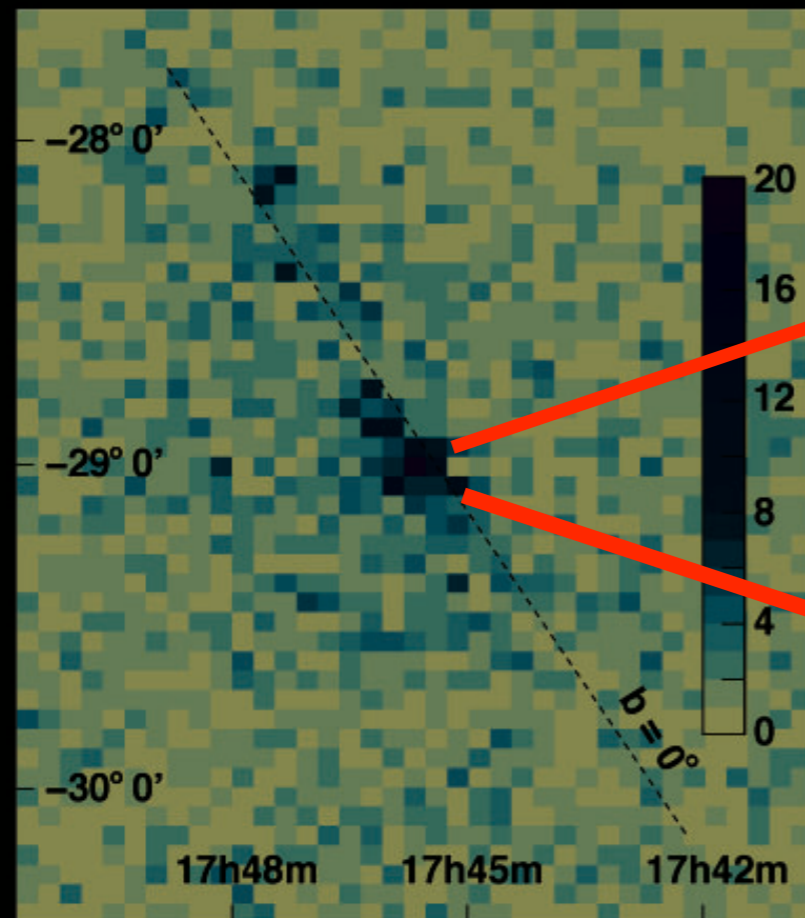
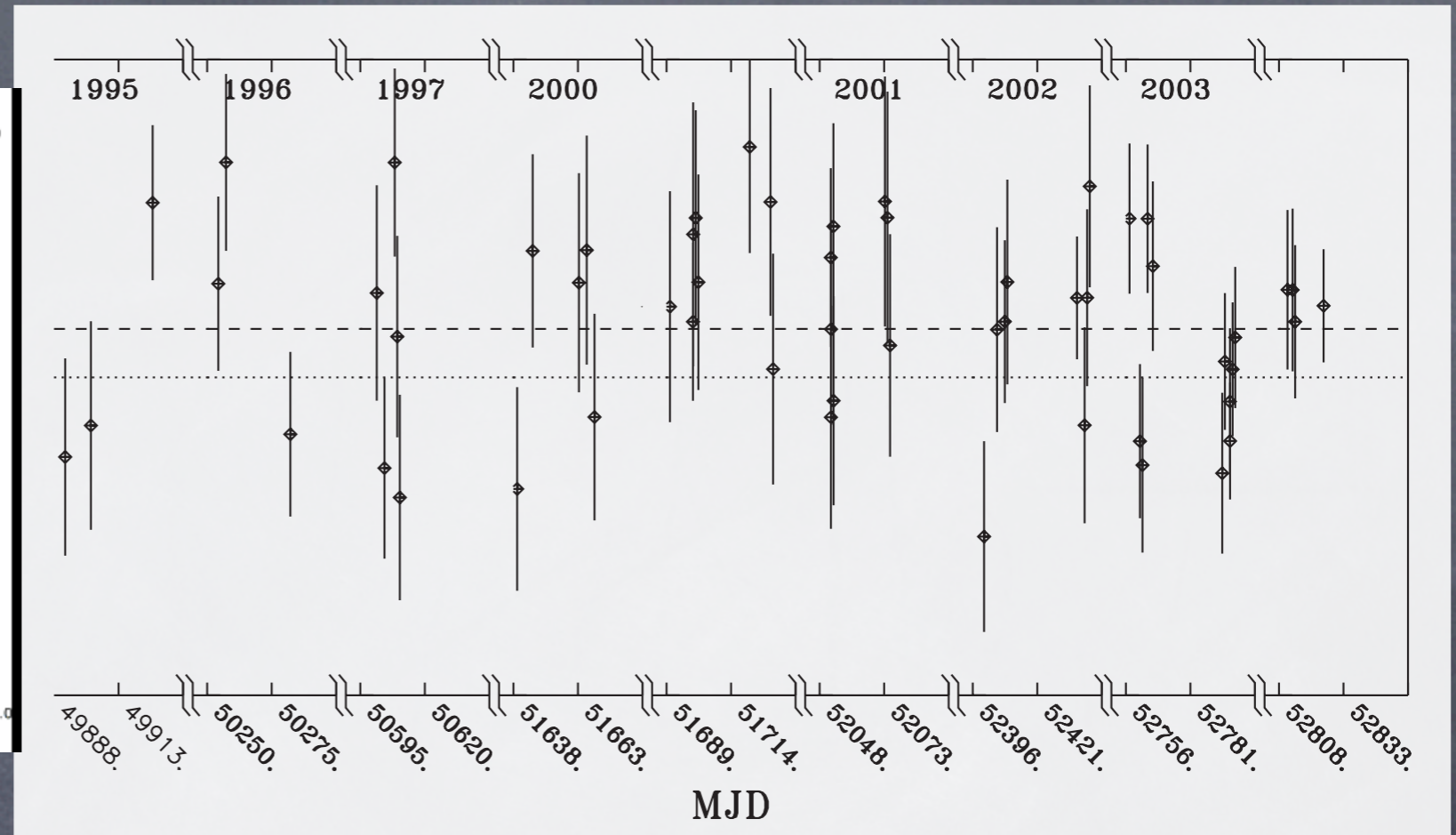
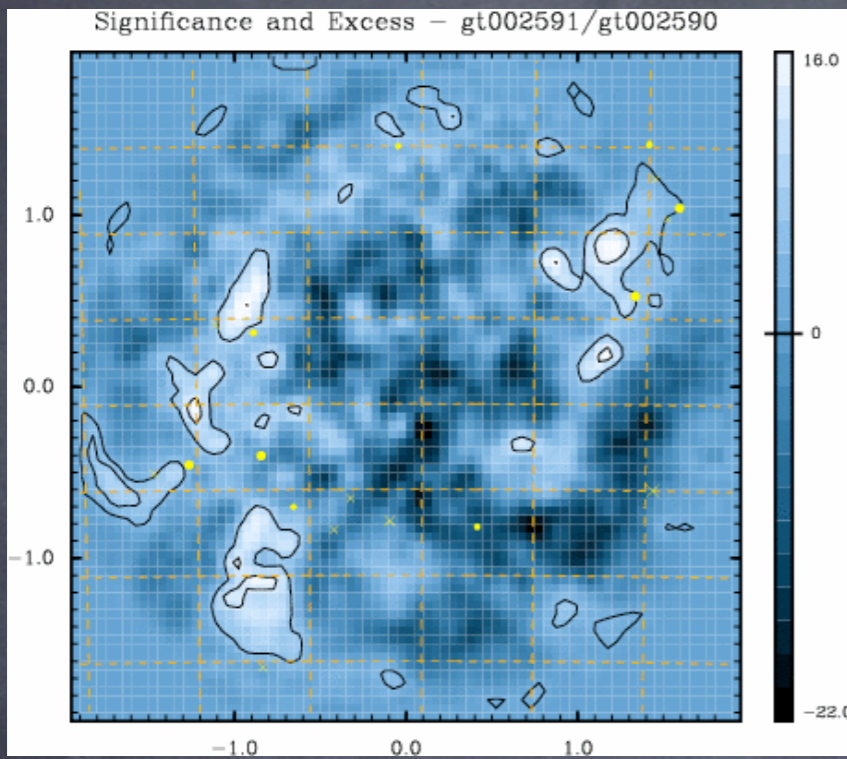


Fig. 1. Angular distribution of γ -ray candidates for a 3° field of view centred on Sgr A*. Both data sets ('June July' and 'July August') are combined, employing tight cuts to reduce the level of background. The significance of the feature extending along the Galactic Plane is under investigation.

- Aharonian et al. (astro-ph 0408145; 2004, A&A, 425, 13)
- 2 telescopes, 4.7 hr June 2003, 225 GeV, 6.1 sigma; 11.8 hr July/August 2003, 165 GeV 9.2 sigma
- Within ~ 1 arcmin of SgrA*



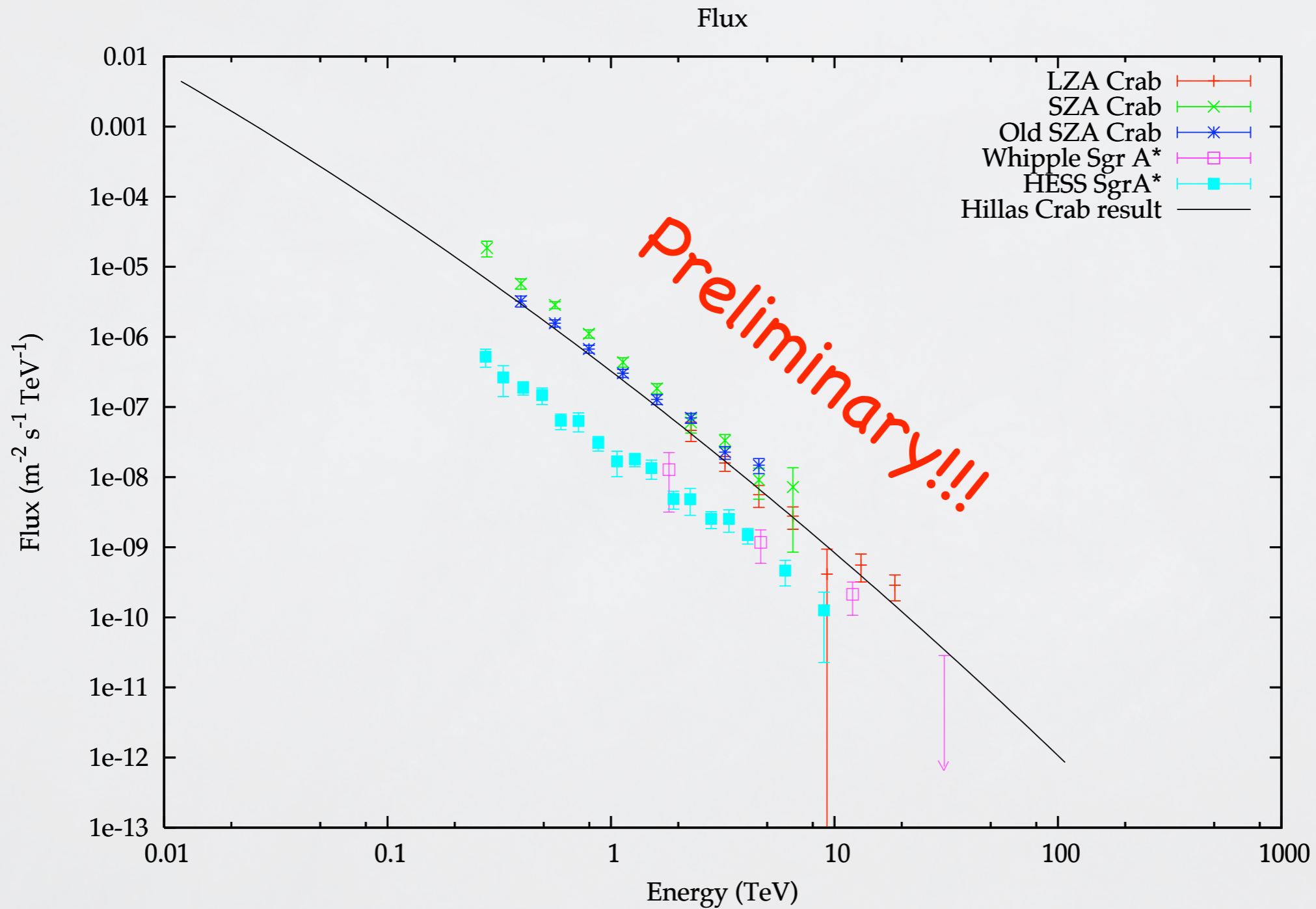
Time Variability?



- Low significance, but Whipple data over 10 years doesn't show strong variability (like Mrk421)
- All groups see steady emission within own data sets
- HESS image may show extended structure
- Cangaroo data, taken at face value, would imply variability



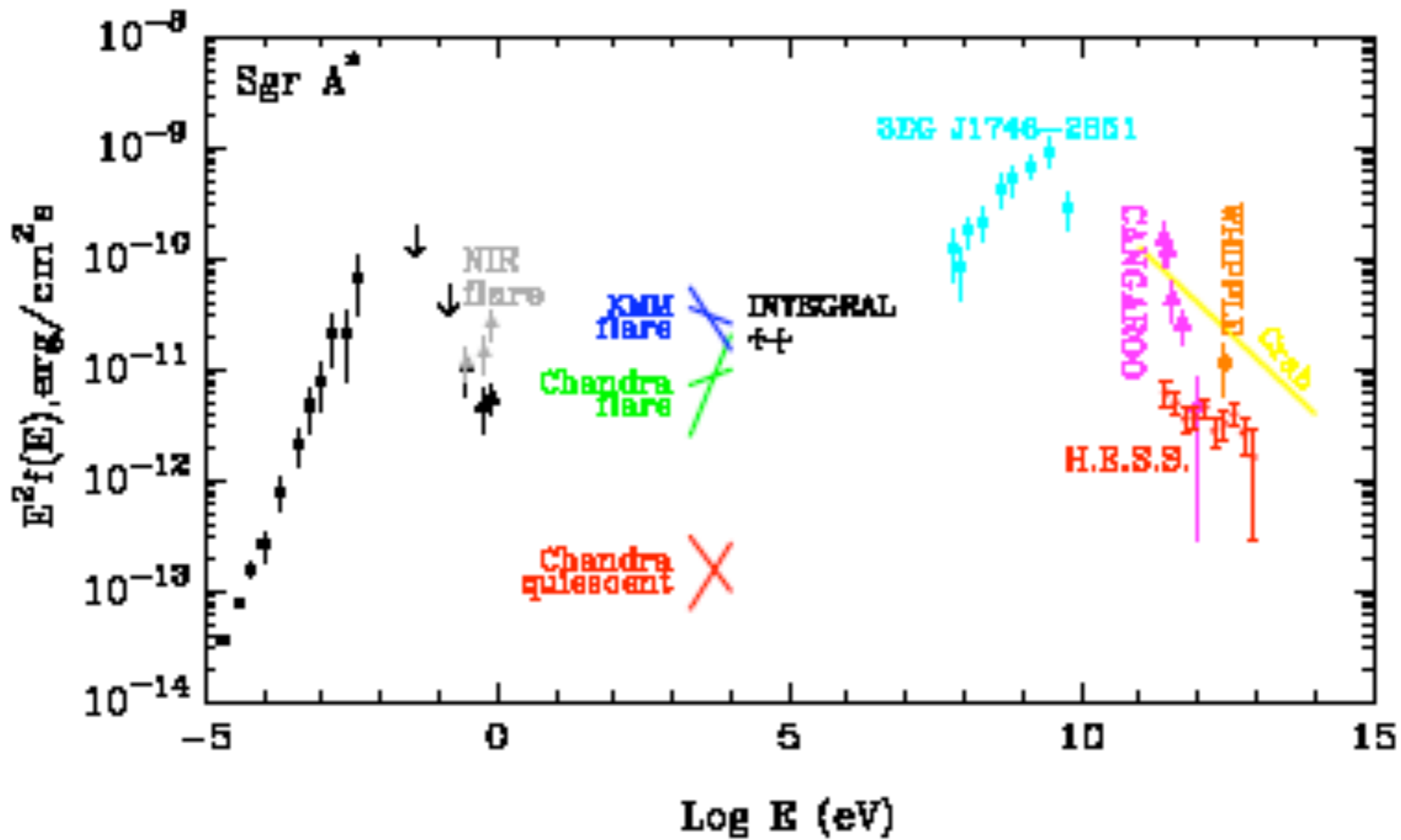
New Results



- 👁 More Sgr A* data
- 👁 Detailed spectral analysis



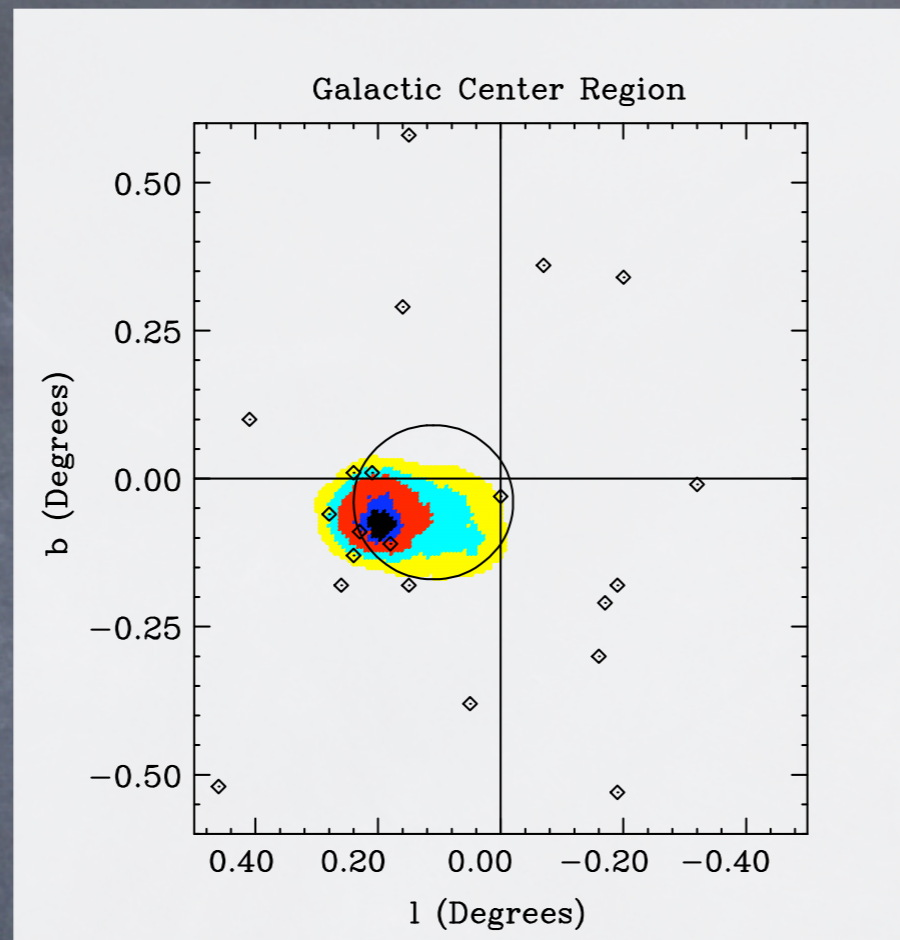
GC Spectrum!



Aharonian & Neronov (2004)



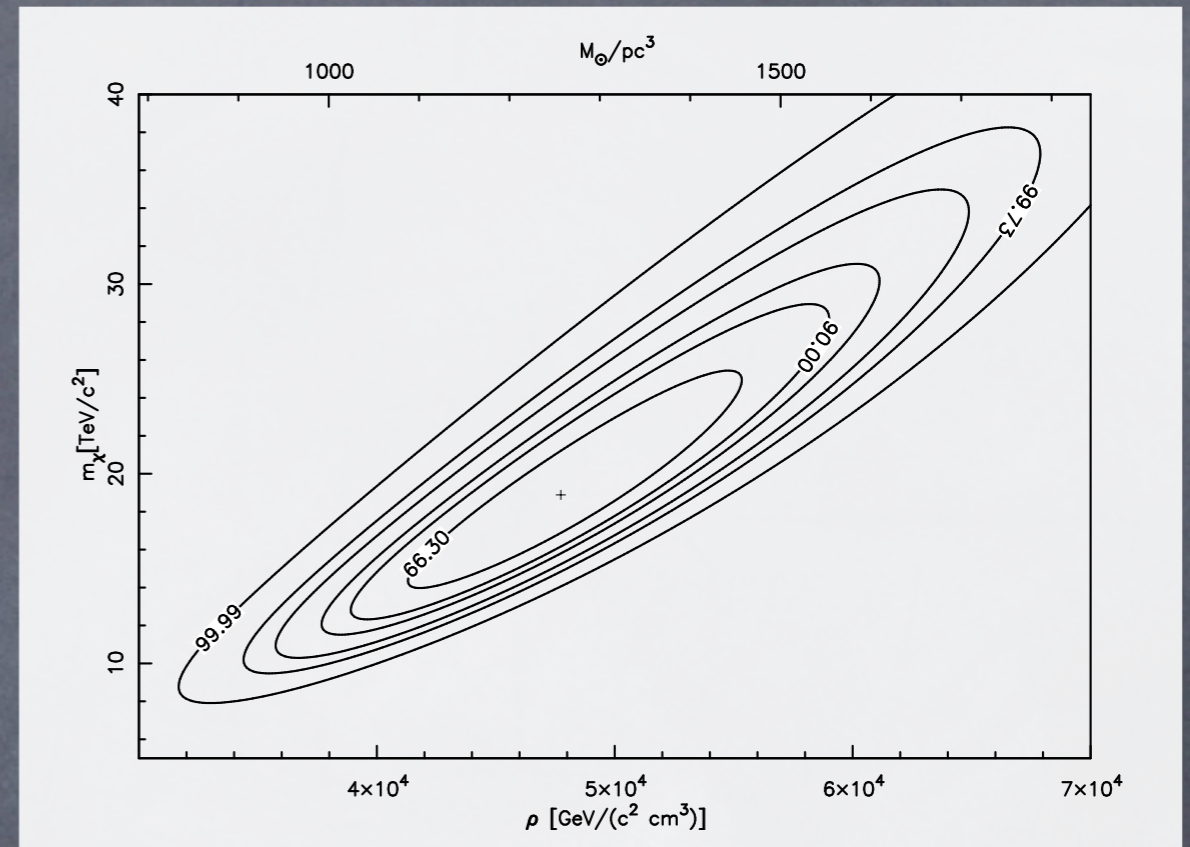
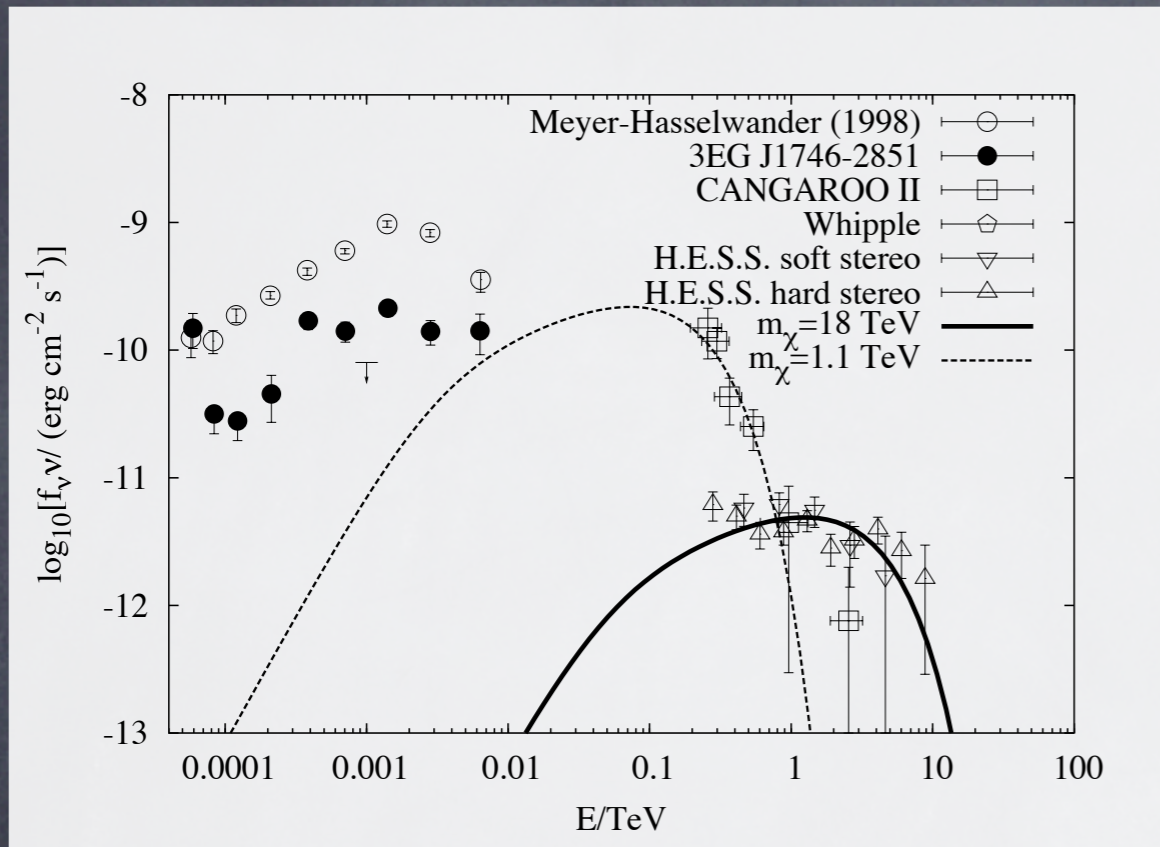
EGRET Observations



- Hooper and Dingus, astro-ph/0212509 and Pohl (2004) reanalyzed EGRET data and found Sgr A* excluded at > 95% conf. level
- My interpretation: Not one source, but 3 unidentified sources:
 - Whipple/HESS (Sgr A* ?)
 - EGRET source
 - CANGAROO source



Neutralino Constraints

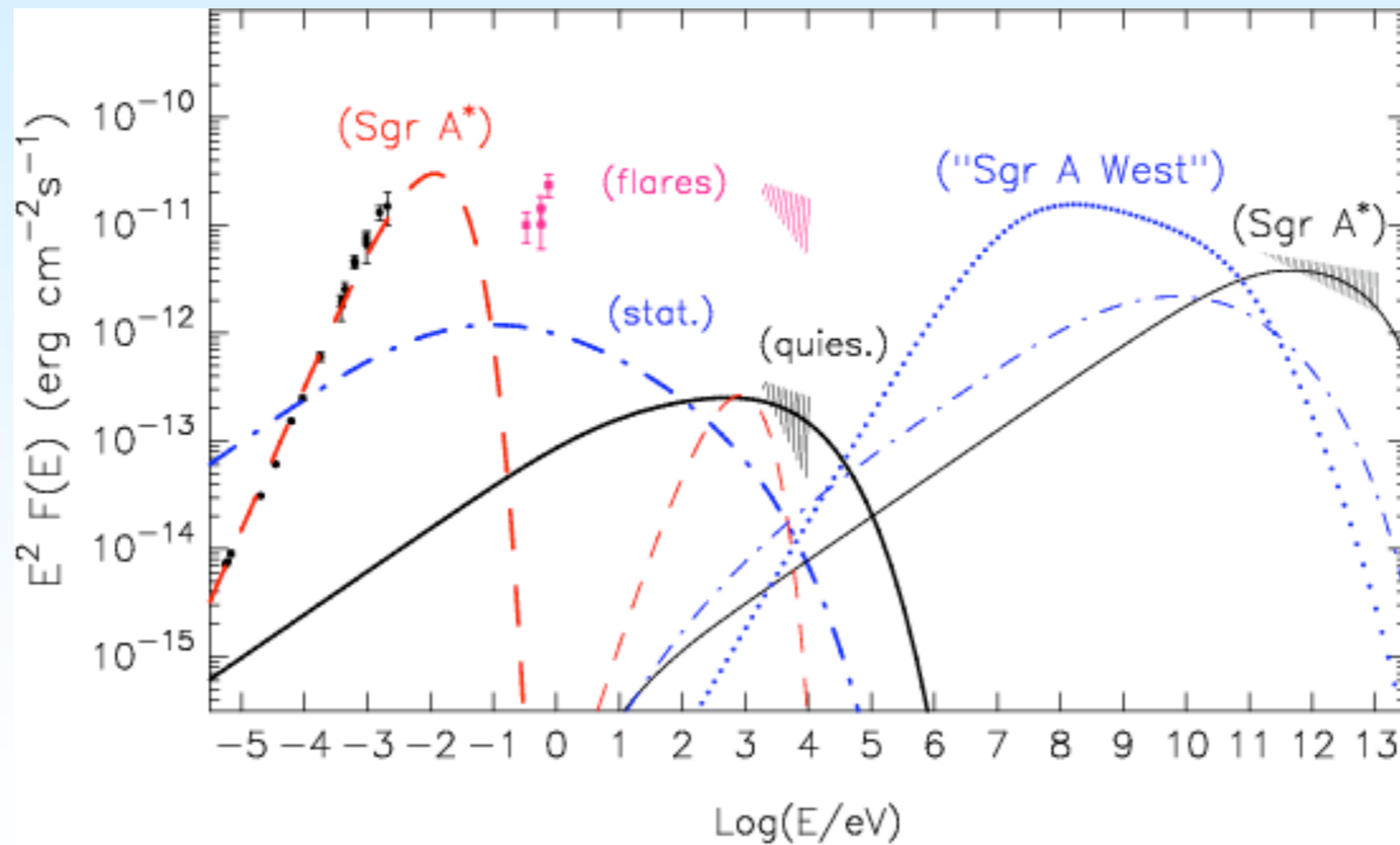


- Dieter Horns (asto-ph/0408192)
- High masses are unlikely \rightarrow pure Higgsino-like solutions, resonances in decoupling cross-sections, need lots of fine-tuning
- One good flare would rule this out!



Modeling the GC Region

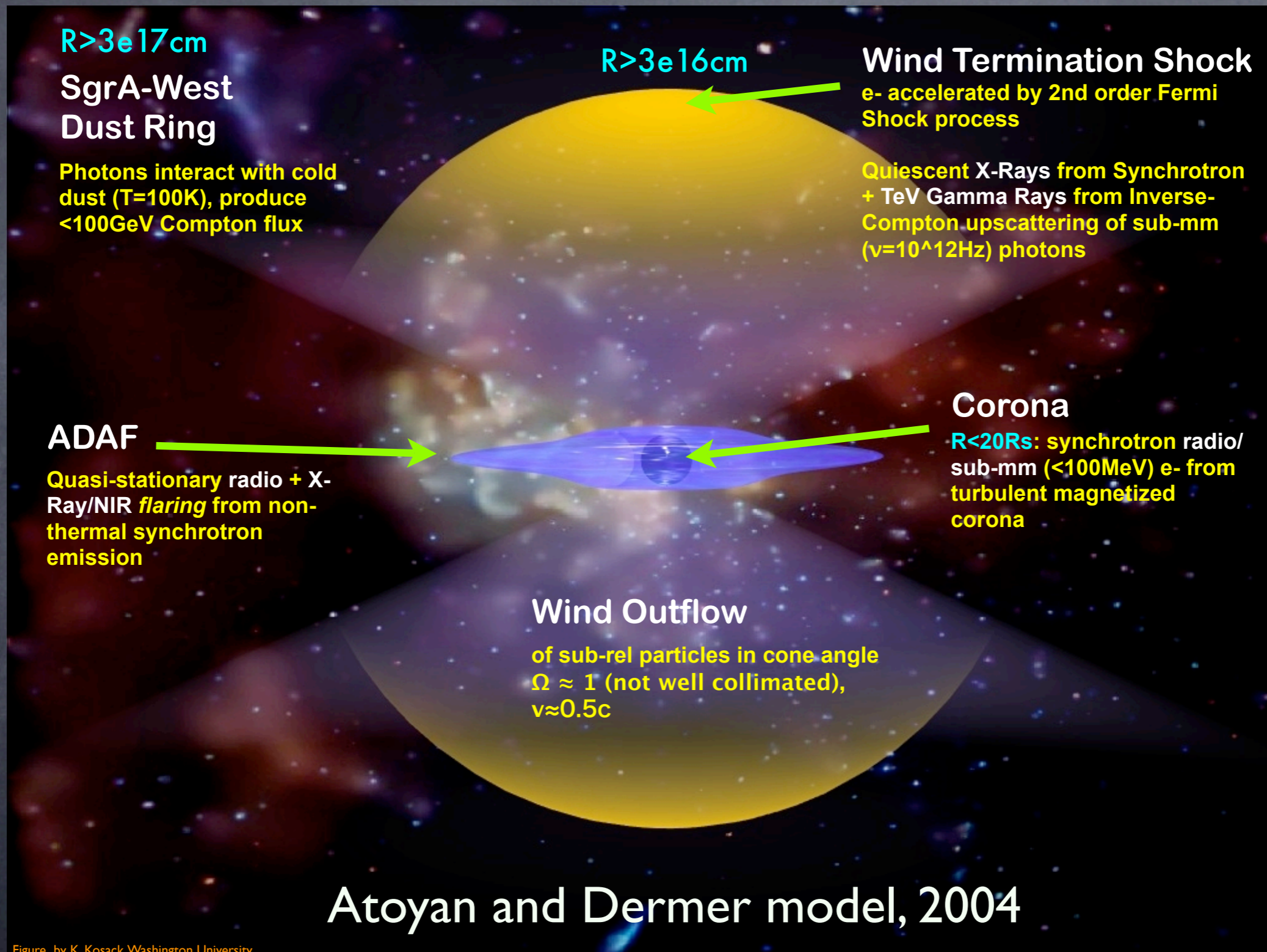
Sgr A: ADAF+Black Hole Plerion + Sgr A West



Atoyan & Dermer (2004)



Black-Hole Plerion

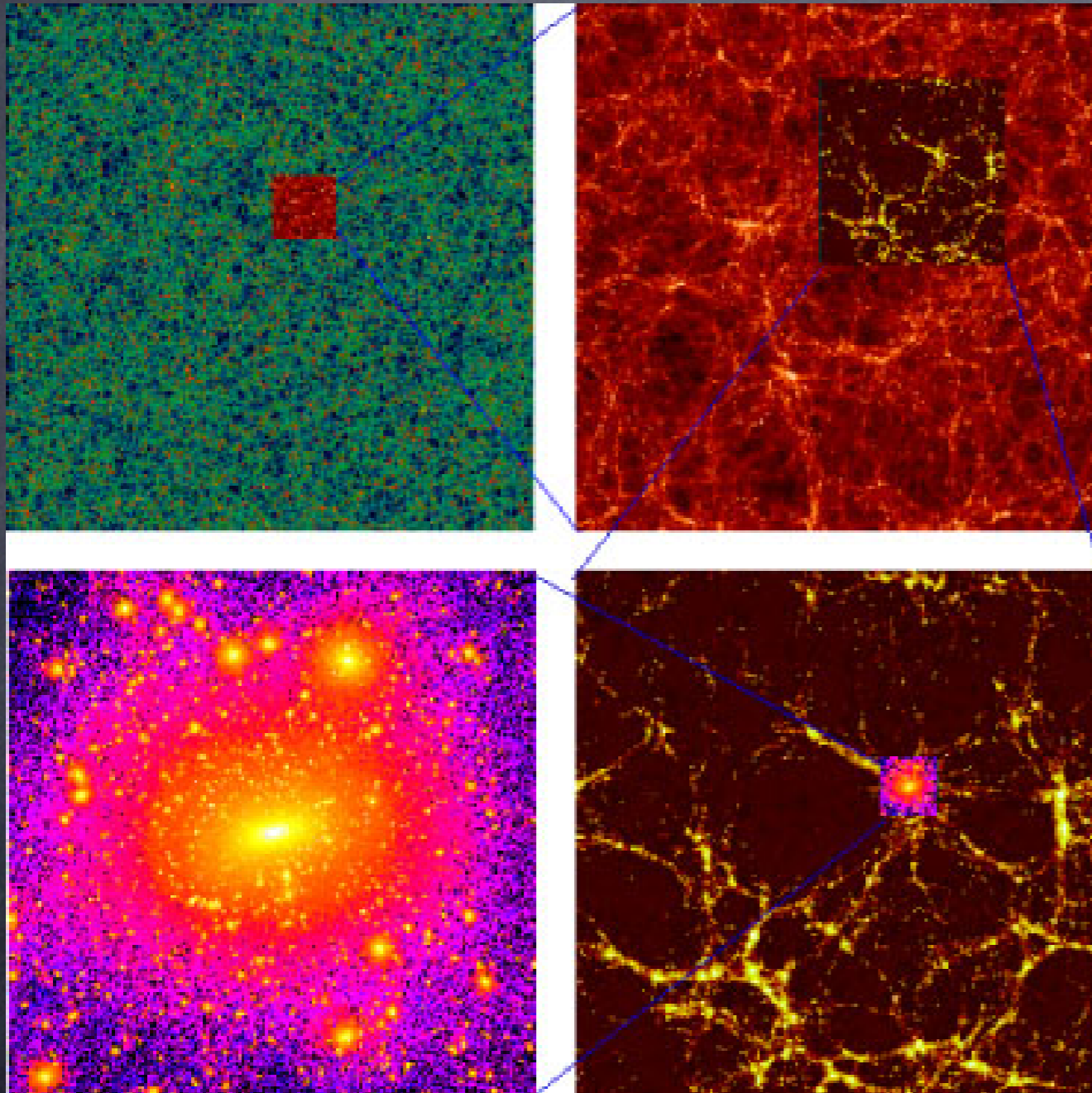




VI. Dark Matter



CDM Structure Formation



- Start with clumps of dark matter
- Collapse of dark matter provides gravitational potential wells into which ordinary matter falls

- Navarro, Frenck and White (and others) find similar structure on all scales

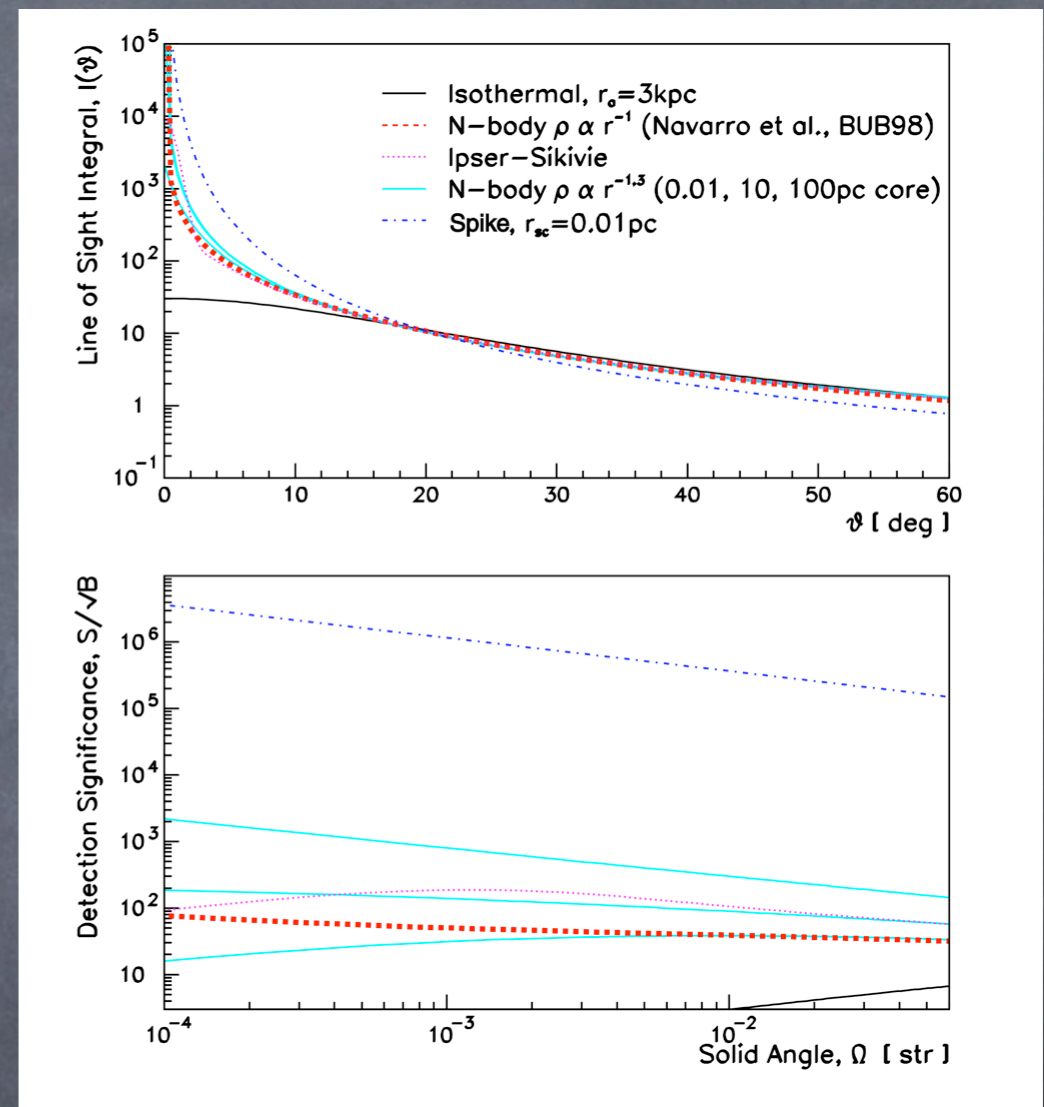
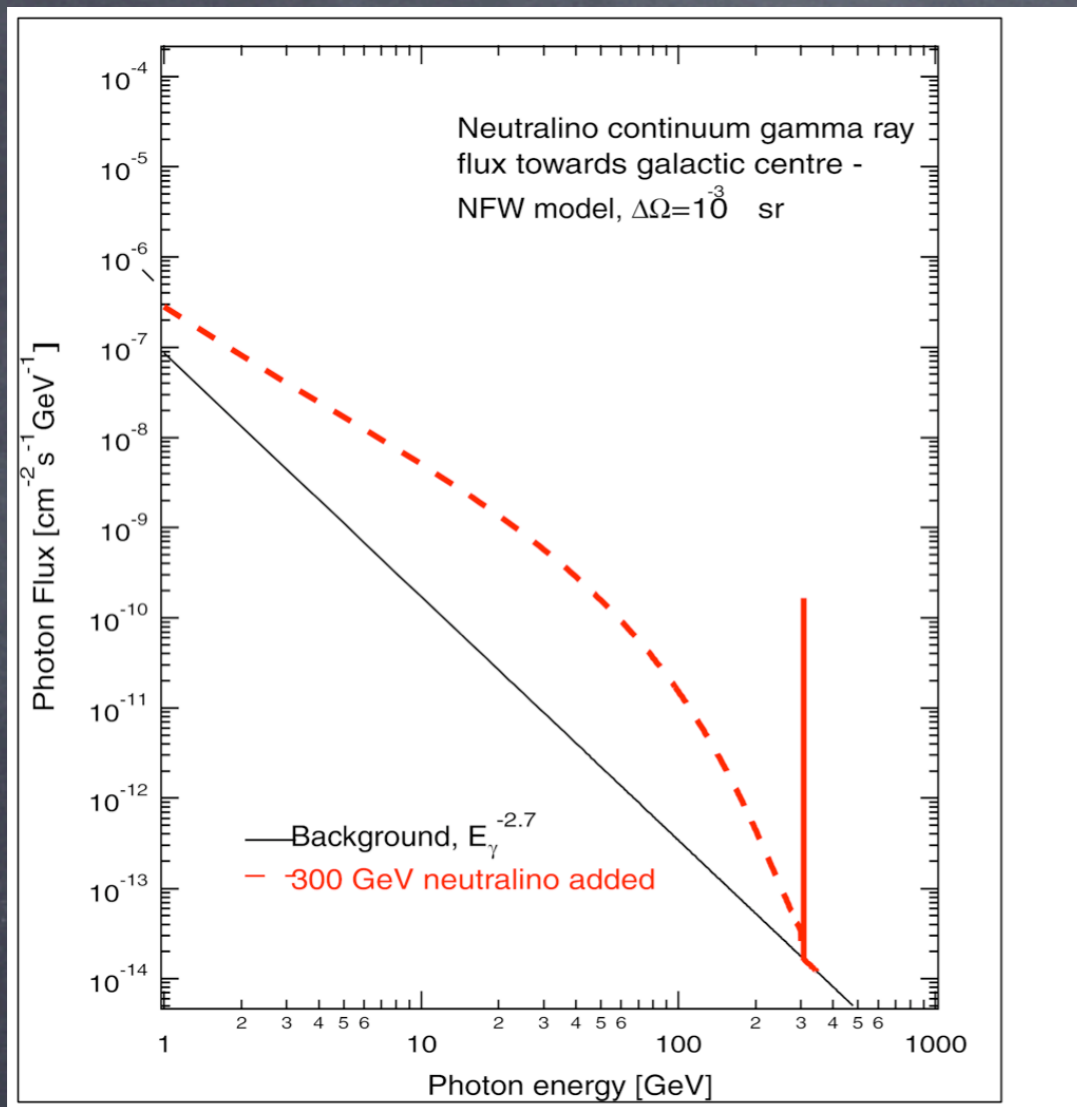
$$\rho(r) \propto \frac{1}{r(r+b)^2}$$

- Massive black holes steepen density profiles (Gondolo and Silk, Gnedin and Primack, Merritt), resulting in

$$\rho(r) \sim r^{-1.5}$$



Neutralino Annihilation



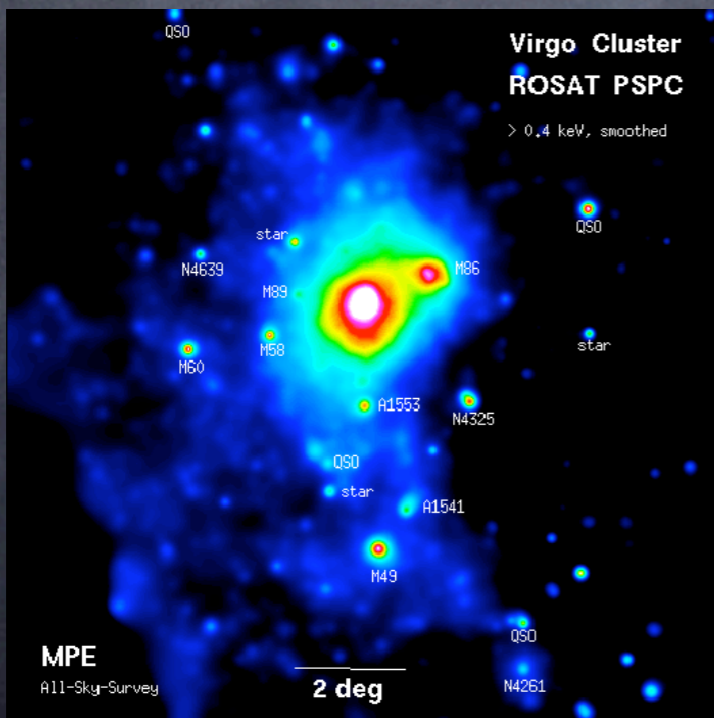
- Neutralino annihilation line + continuum gamma-ray signature (e.g., Jungman, Kamionkowski and Griest, Phys. Rep. 1996, 267, 195)
- Calculate expected line flux for N-body (NFW) halo distributions (e.g., Buckley and Jungman 1995; Bergstrom, Ullio, Buckley 1998, APh, 9, 137)
- A line would only be observable for very steep cusp \rightarrow point source near the GC



Dark Matter – Where Next



Andromeda Galaxy



Virgo Galaxy Cluster (X-ray)



Perseus Galaxy Cluster (optical)



Halo Gamma Signal

$$\rho(r) \propto \left[(r/r_s)(1 + r/r_s)^2 \right]^{-1}$$

| Object | Mass ($10^{11} M_{\text{sun}}$) | Distance (Mpc) | Virial Radius of Halo (kpc) | Angular Diameter of Source | Best SNR | Optimum Aperture (deg) | Signal |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Dwarf (Ursa or Draco) | 0.001 | 0.075 | 0.600 | 0.5 | 0.140 | 0.054 | 4.5×10^{-14} |
| GC | 1.0 | 0.0085 | 9.6 | N/A | 65.6 | 1.92 | 9.7×10^{-11} |
| Andromeda | 1.0 | 0.730 | 9.6 | 0.75 | 0.70 | 0.033 | 2.3×10^{-13} |
| Virgo Cluster/ M87 | 1000 | 17 | 188 | 12 | 0.54 | 0.026 | 1.3×10^{-13} |
| Coma Cluster | 7000 | 139 | 354 | 1.0 | 0.168 | 0.013 | 1.1×10^{-14} |



IMBHs?

- Zhao and Silk (Phys. Rev. Letters, in press) make interesting suggestion that Early stars form IMBHs which will carry with them spiked dark matter halos
- While accretion luminosity will be very low, IMBH halos might provide a detectable annihilation signal in our galaxy



A photograph of a radio telescope array at night. The sky is dark blue with some stars visible. In the foreground, there are several large parabolic dish antennas mounted on tall, lattice-like metal structures. The antennas are silhouetted against the night sky. The text 'VII. VERITAS Status' is overlaid in white, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

VII. VERITAS Status



VERITAS Collaboration

Member Institutes

- Iowa State University Planetarium
- Leeds University College
- McGill University University
- National University of Ireland, Dublin College
- Purdue University
- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Chicago
- University of Utah I.T.
- Washington University, Saint Louis

Collaborators

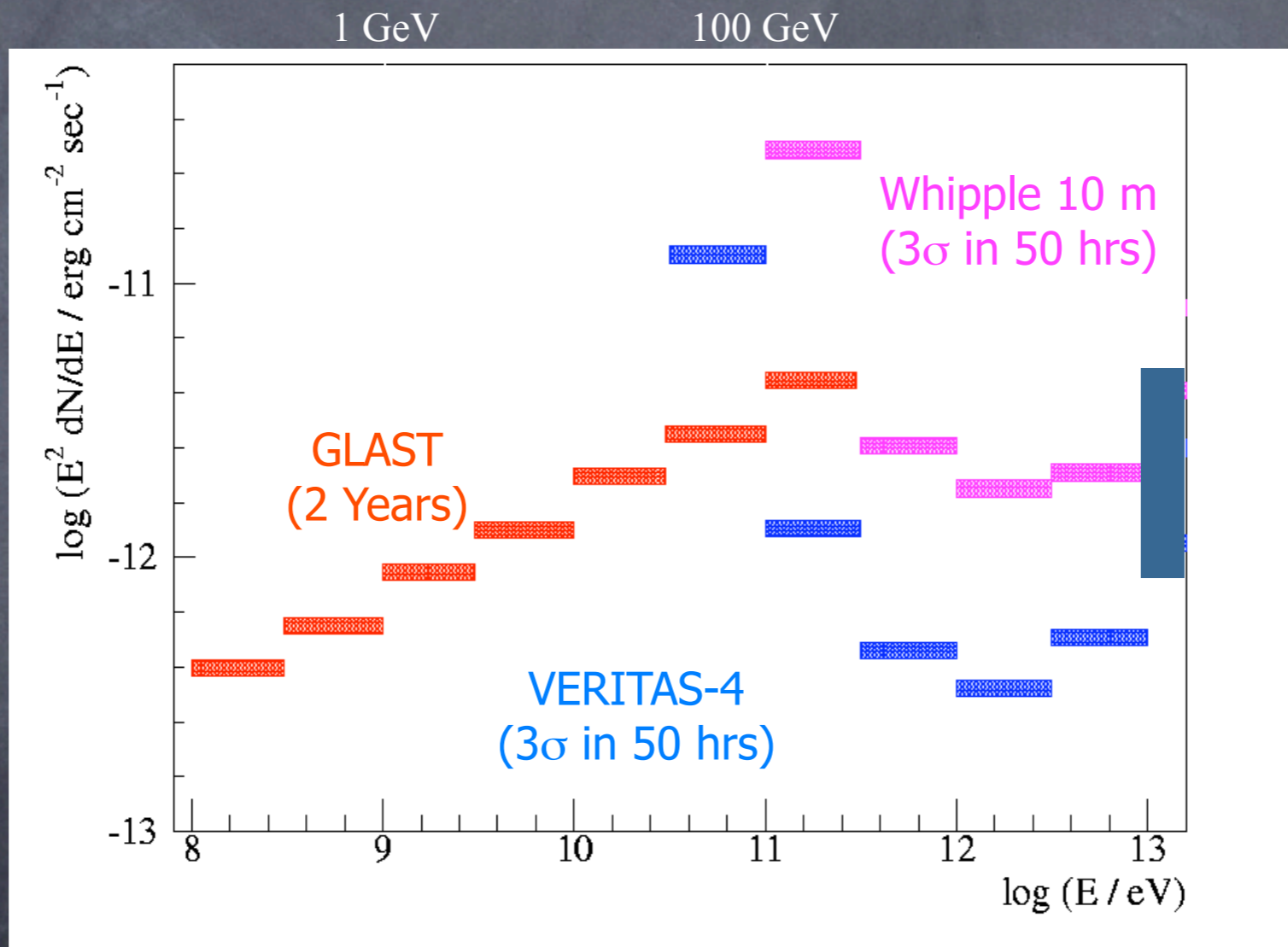
- Adler
- Barnard
- DePauw
- Grinnell
- U.C. Santa Cruz
- U. Mass.
- N.U.I., Galway
- Cork I.T.
- Galway-Mayo

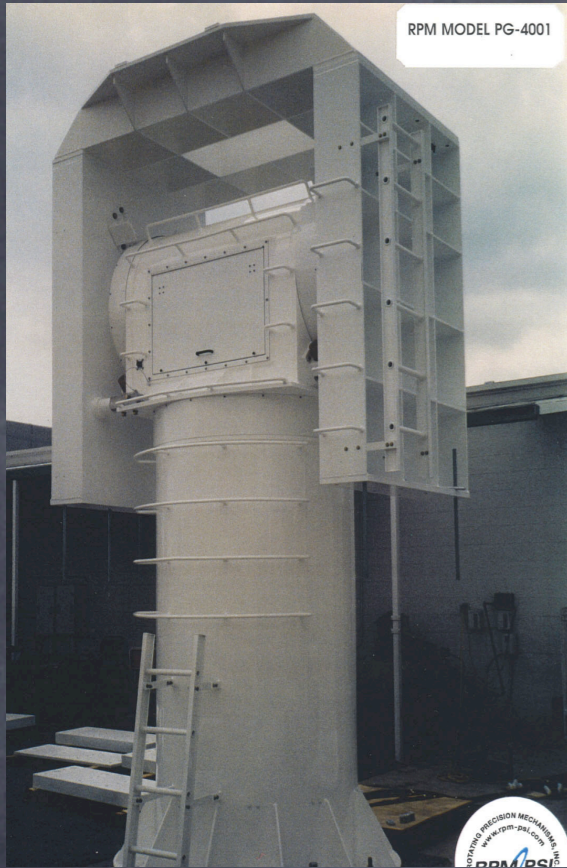
Project Office: Whipple Observatory, SAO

Funding from NSF/DOE/Smithsonian/PPARC/SFI/NSERC



Differential Sensitivity





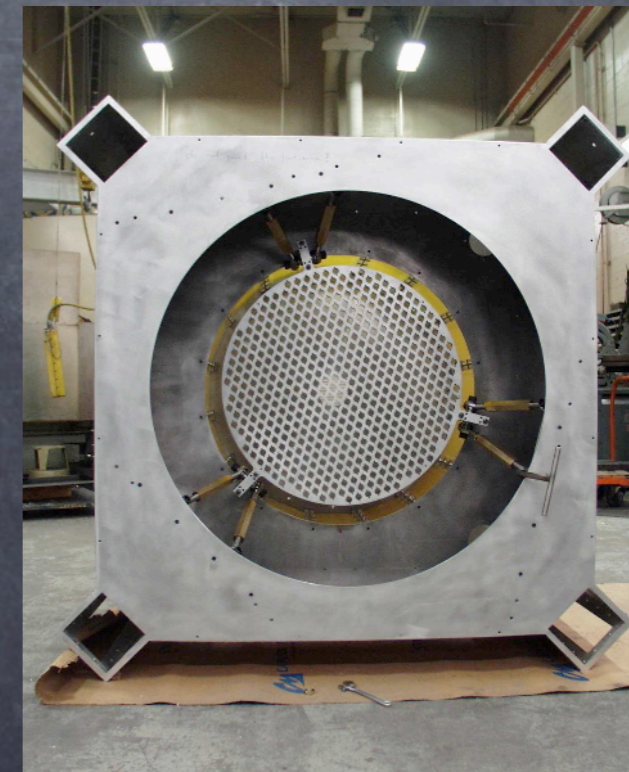
Positioner
R.P.M.,
Northridge, CA



Optical Support Structure
Amber Steel, Chandler, AZ



Focus Box
Aluminium
University of
Arizona





VERITAS Camera



499 pixels; 0.15 degree diameter
3.5 degree FoV



Photo Gallery

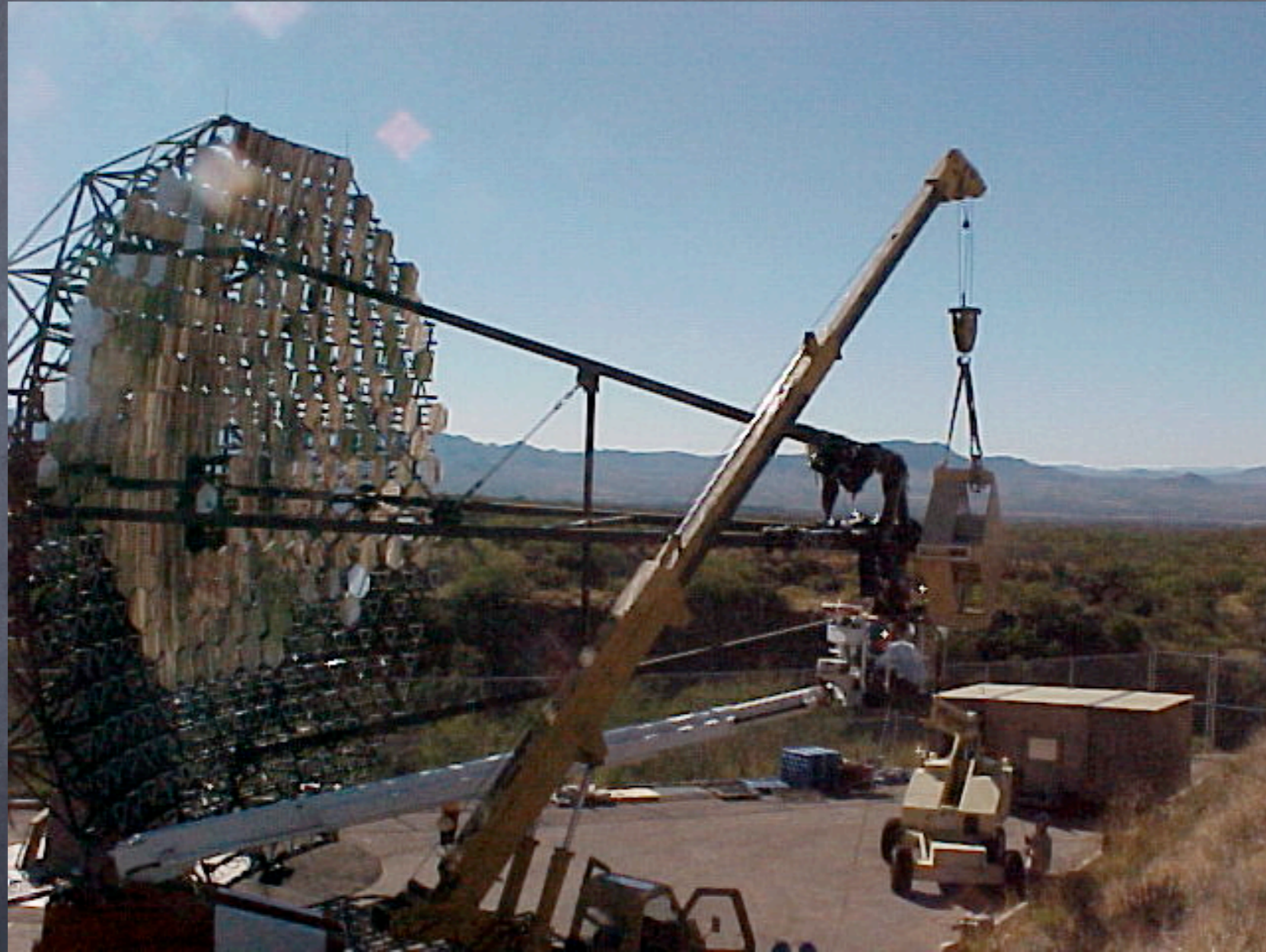




Photo Gallery



VERITAS Telescope-1 completed and operating at temporary site.
First Light on February 1, 2005 (Crab detection, Mrk 421
detection)



VERITAS Progress

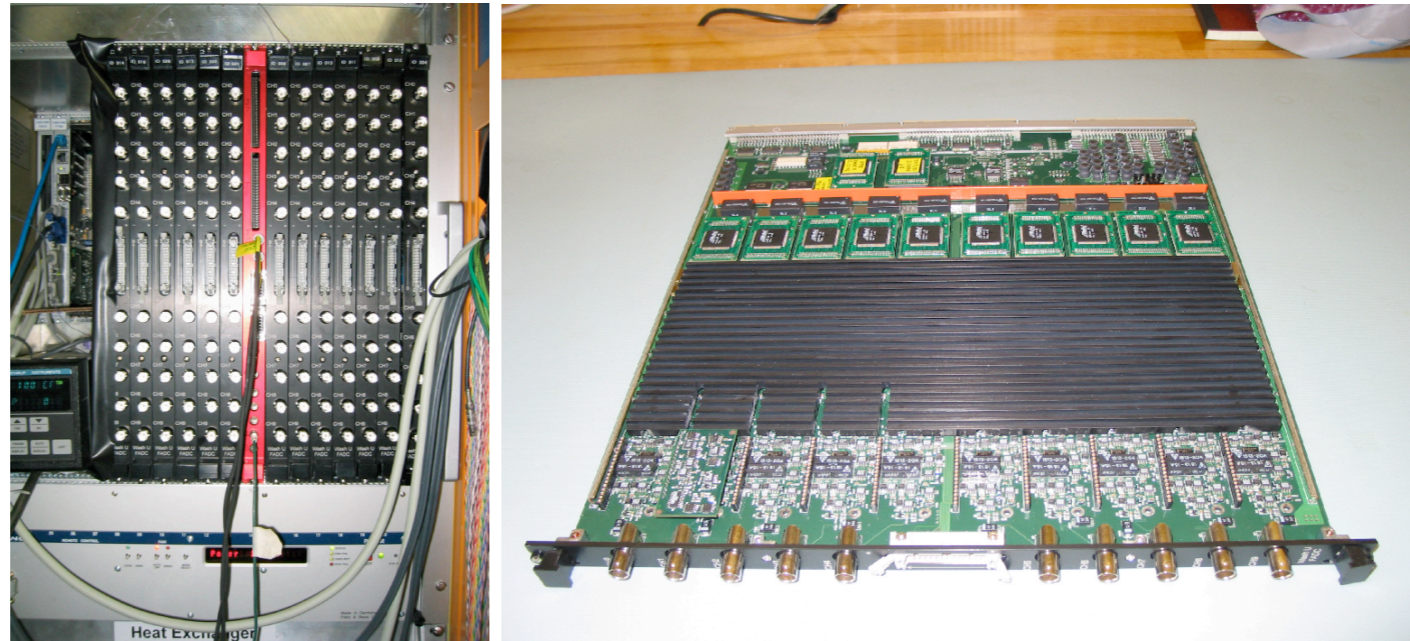
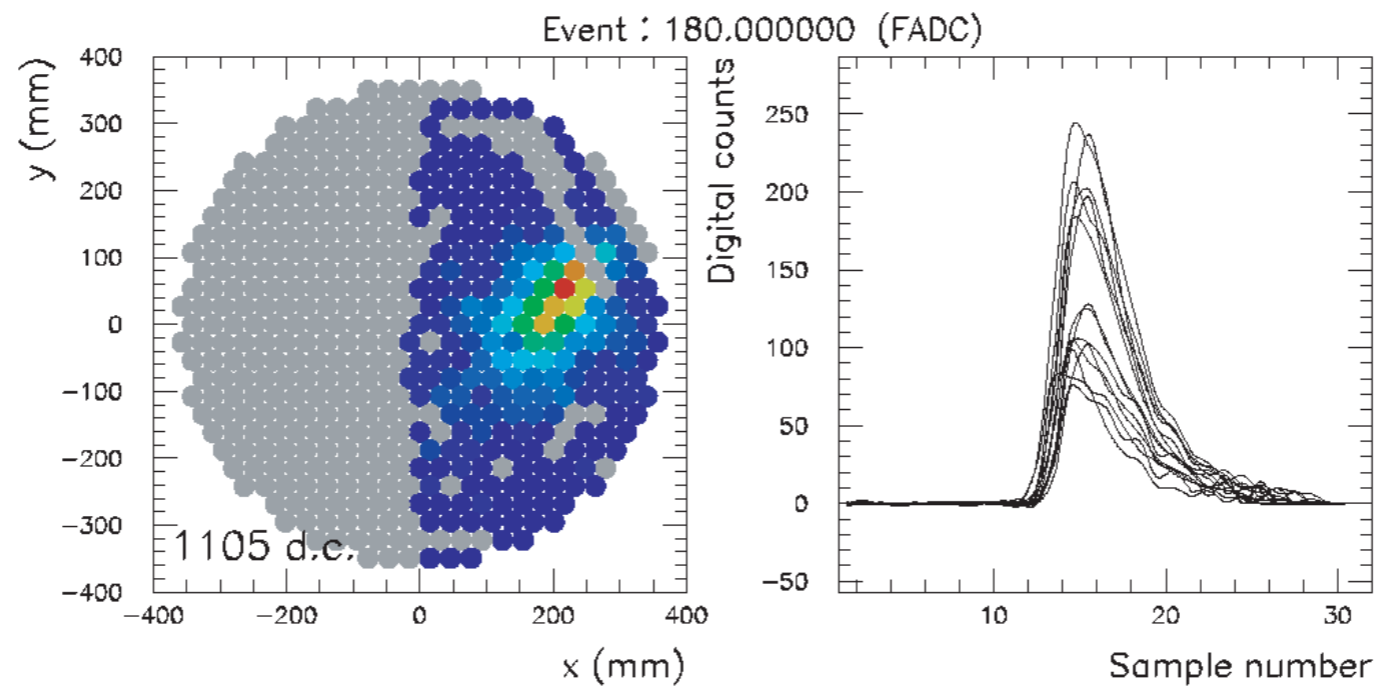


Figure 3: *Left:* One FADC VME crate populated with 130 channels of 500 MHz FADCs. *Right:* Close-up of one of our custom 10-channel FADC boards, designed and fabricated entirely by the Washington University group.



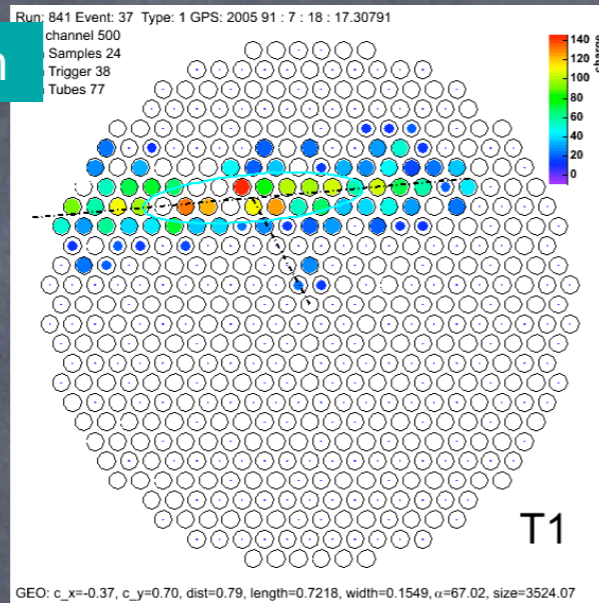
A sample cosmic ray event from the prototype telescope. The waveforms in the individual photomultiplier tubes are shown to the right [18].



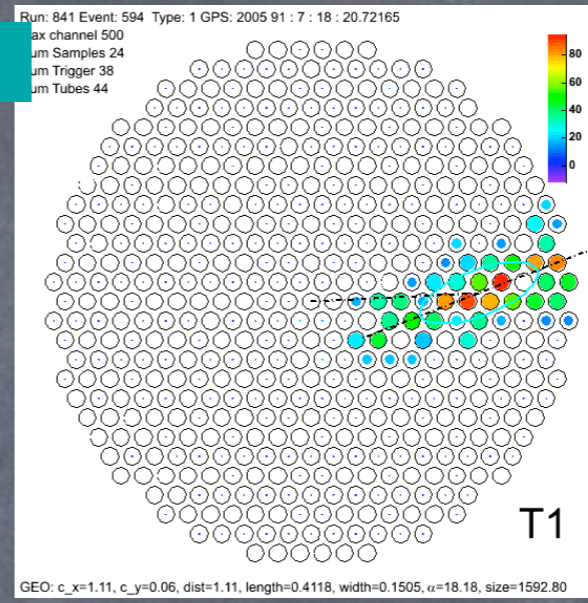
First Light

Shower Images from Telescope-1

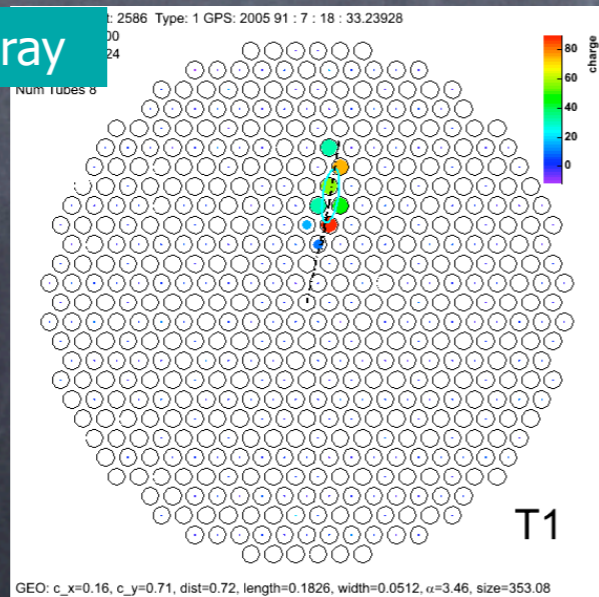
Hadron



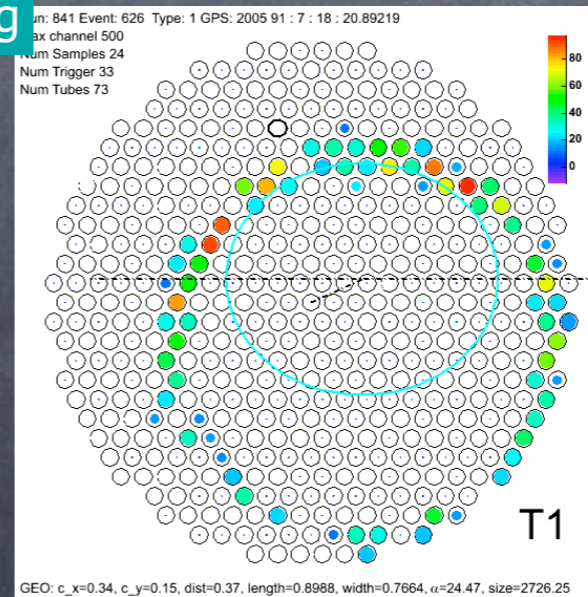
Hadron



Gamma ray



Muon Ring





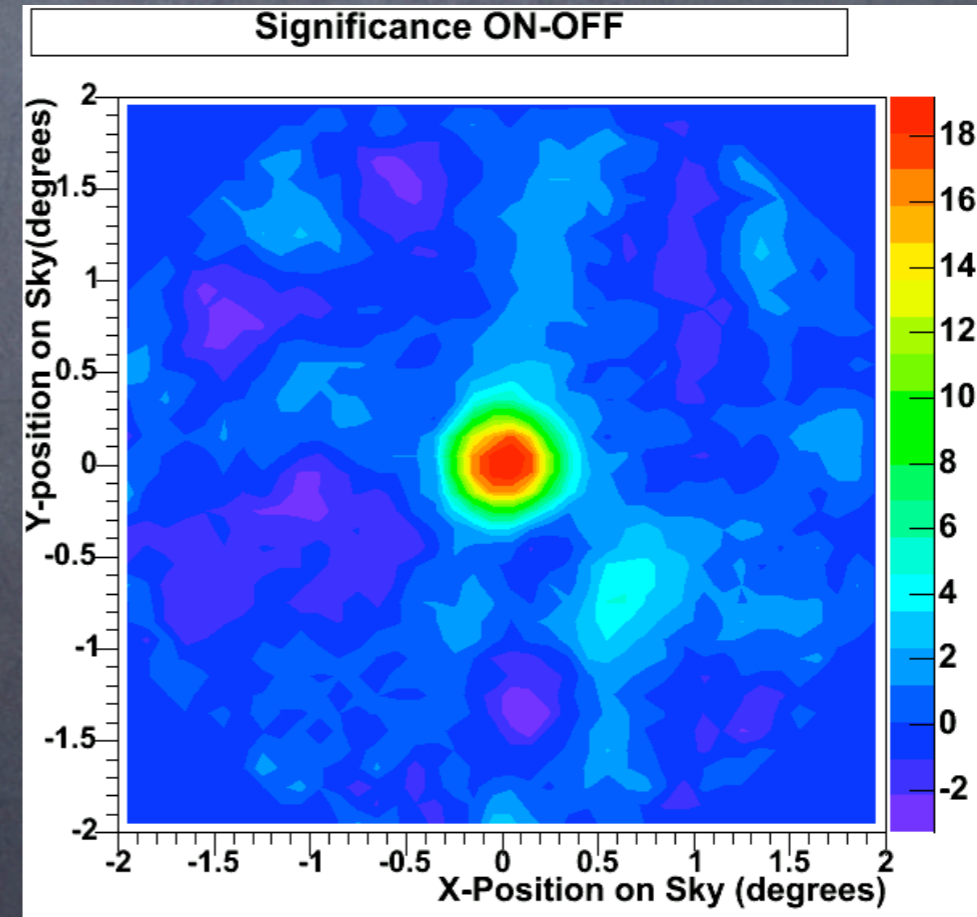
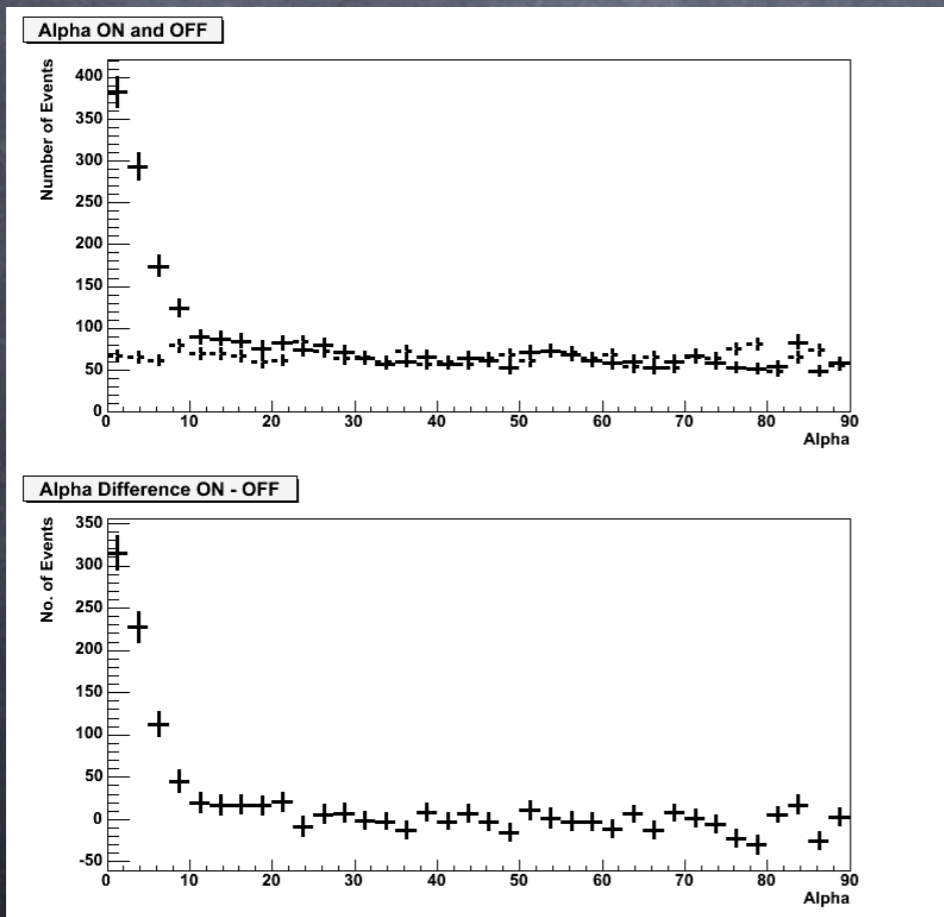
First Light

Crab Nebula

4.37 hours ON; +21.1 sigma

2.56 gammas/minute

10.1 sigma/sqrt(time in hours)

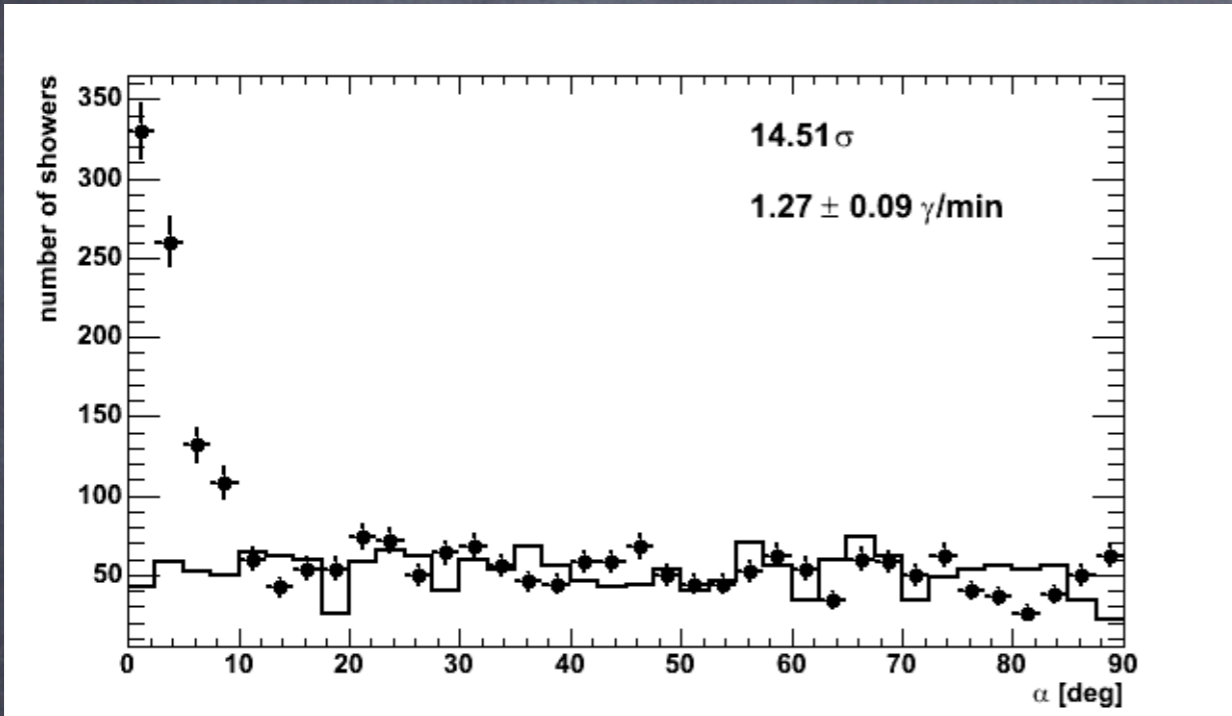




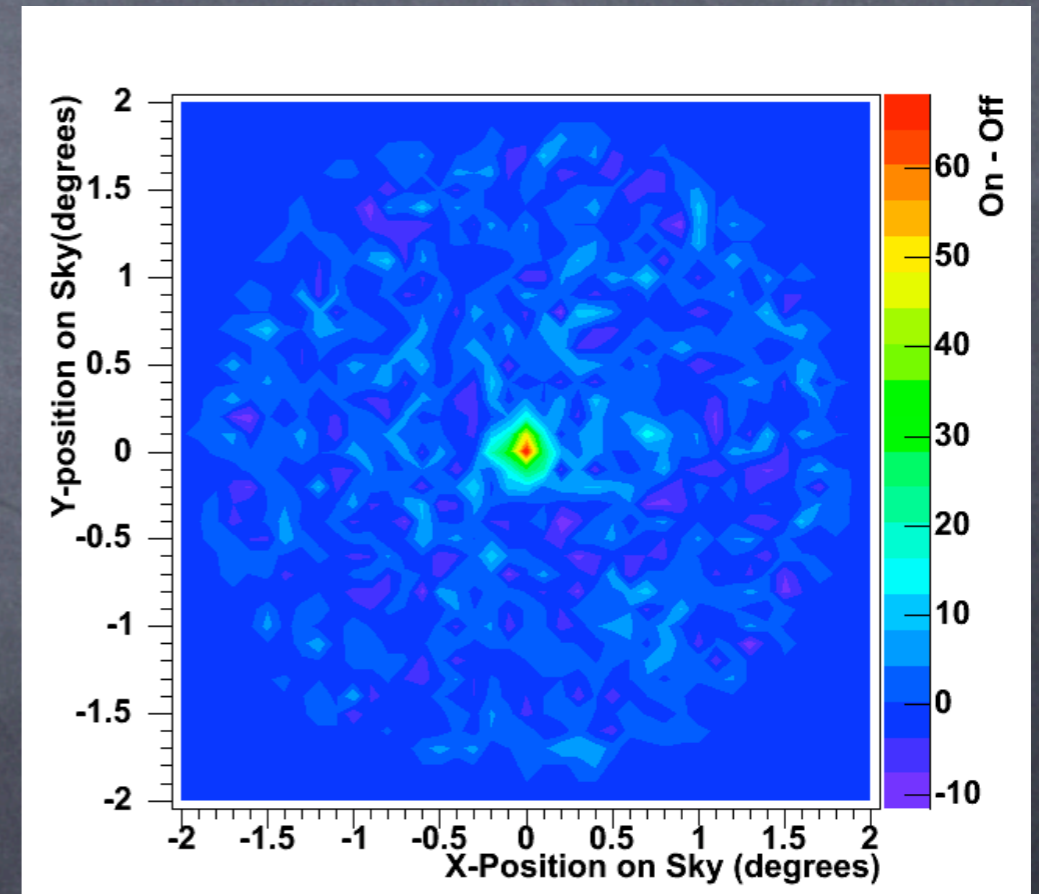
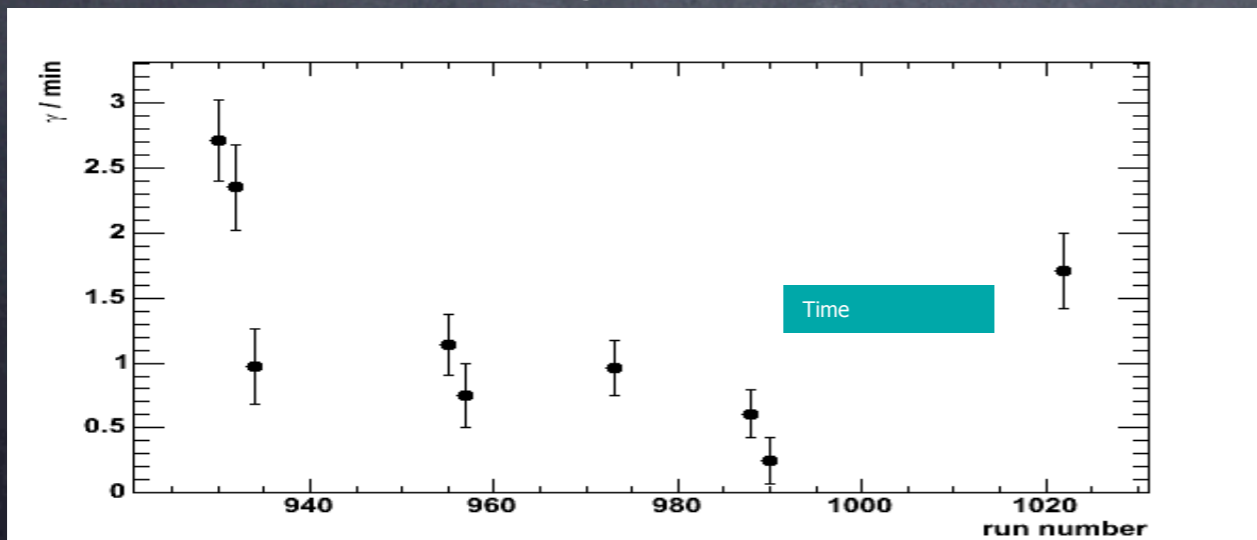
First Light

Markarian 421

5.6 hours ON +14.51 sigma



Light Curve





VERITAS Site

Horseshoe Canyon, Kitt Peak





VERITAS Site





The odyssey continues

- National Science Foundation issued Stop Work order for VERITAS activity on Kitt Peak on

April 7, 2005

- NSF has leased Kitt Peak mountain as site for national optical observatory since 1958 when lease was signed with Indian Nation;

VERITAS sub-leases site from NSF

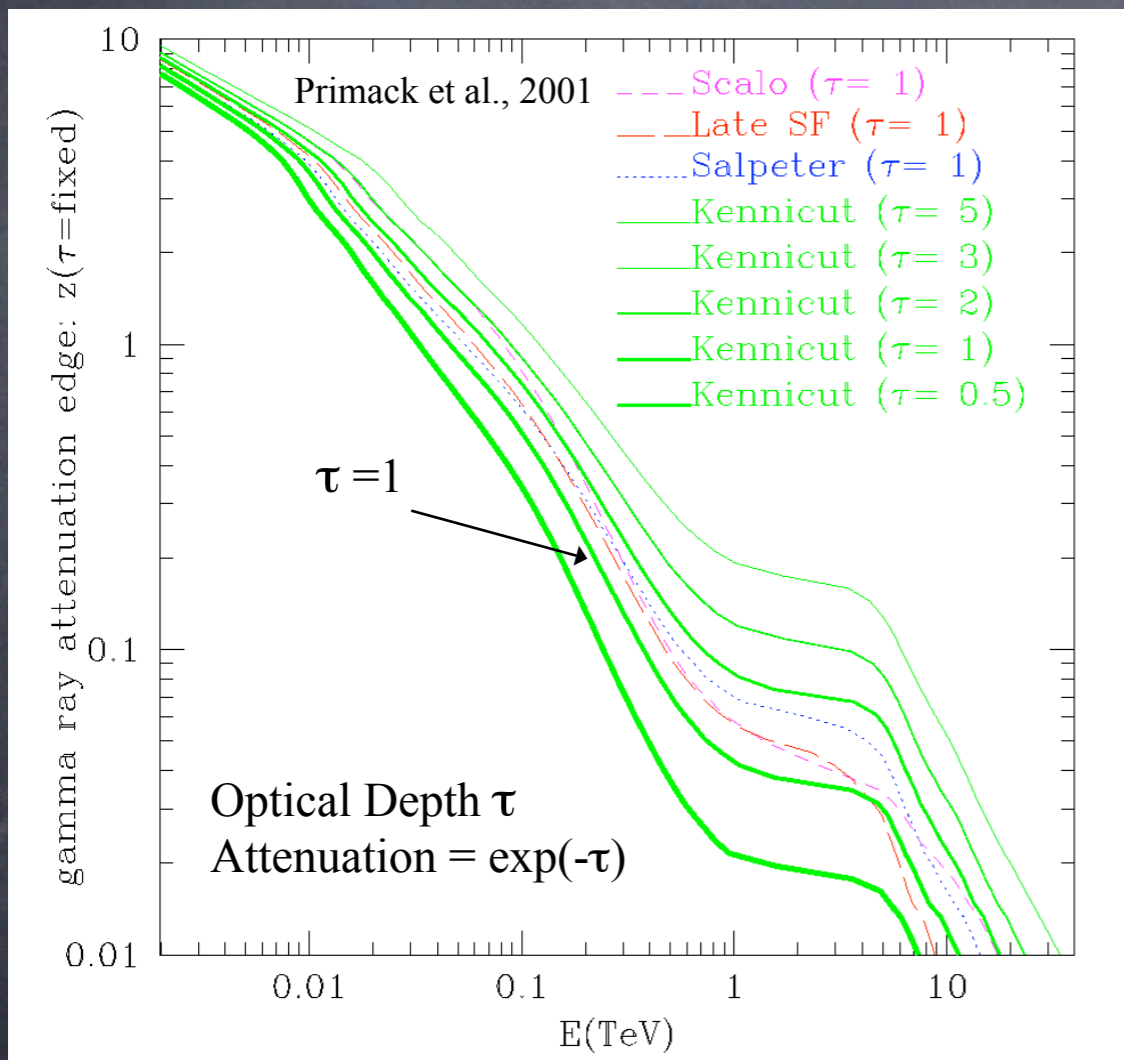
- Complaint lodged by Tohono O'Odham Nation; court hearing scheduled for June 16, 2005
- New Environmental Assessment required;

A large satellite dish antenna is the central focus, its intricate metal lattice structure clearly visible. It is positioned on the left side of the frame, angled towards the right. In the background, another similar but smaller dish is visible, also angled towards the right. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting is somewhat dim, suggesting an overcast day. The text 'VIII. Beyond VERITAS' is overlaid in the center in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

VIII. Beyond VERITAS



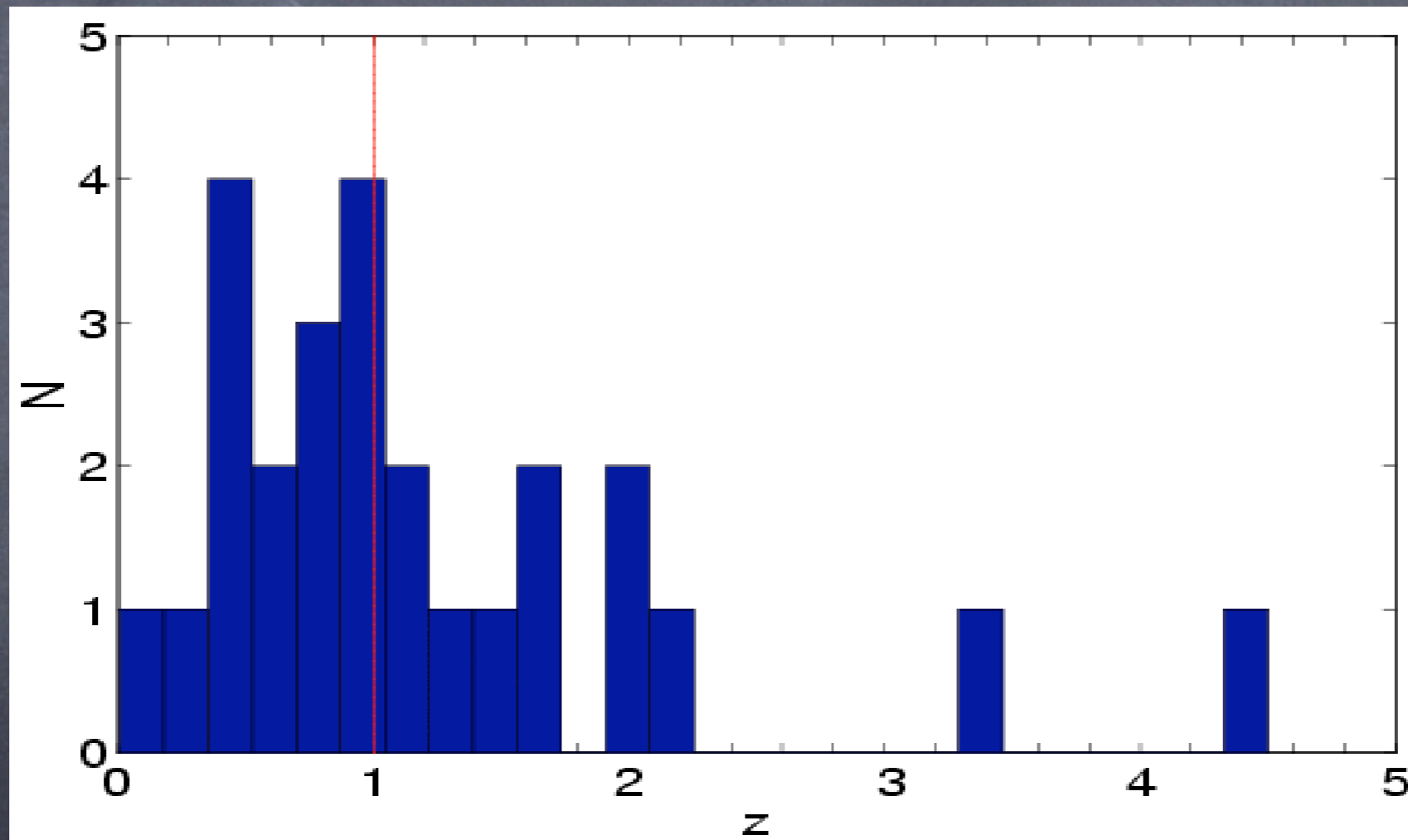
Looking over the Horizon



- One needs to get down to 10s of GeV to see out to cosmological ($z>2$) distances.
- Relatively fast slewing is needed to see GRBs, but low threshold and good instantaneous sensitivity is also important



GRB Redshift Dist.



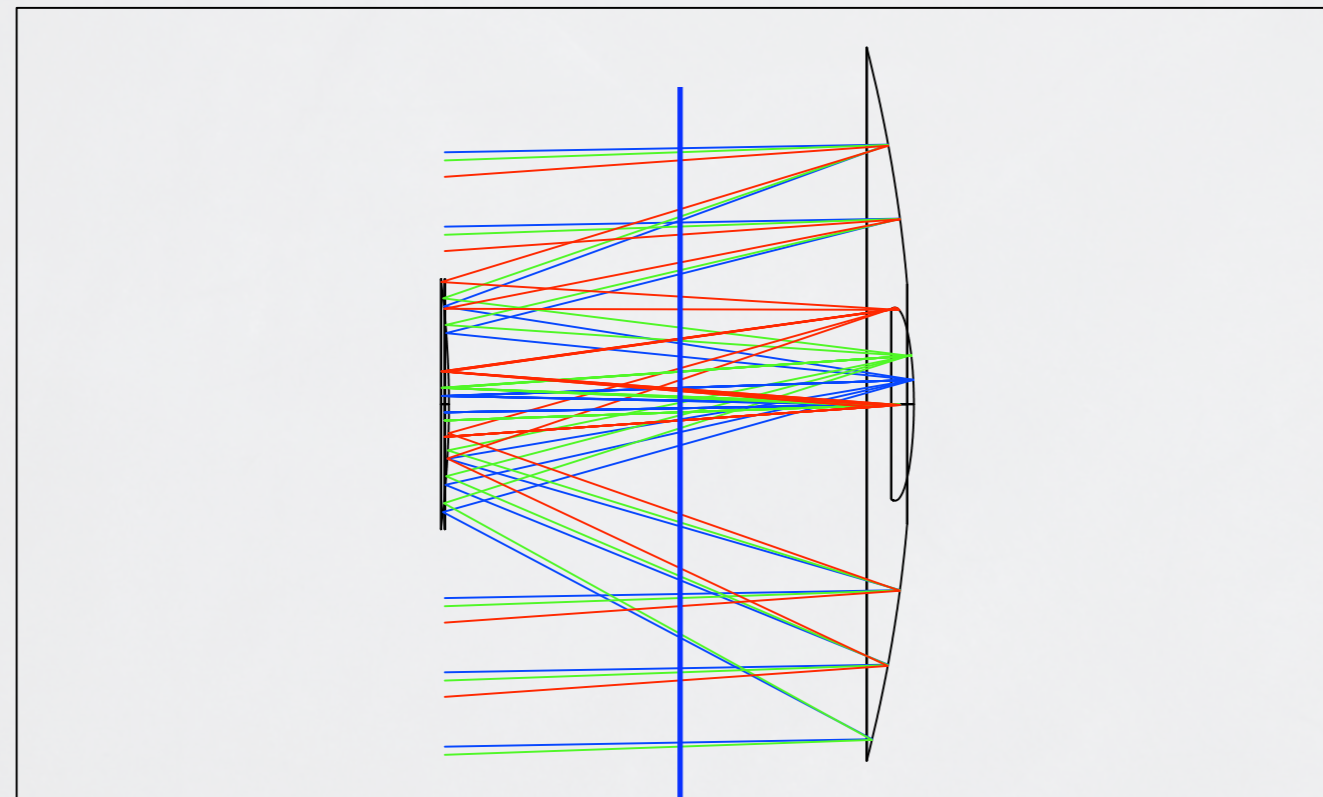
Science

- Next generation instruments should:
 - Extend horizon to cosmological distances!
 - Cover the whole sky with high temporal density
 - Provide all-sky coverage on AGN timescales ($< 1\text{hr}$), and provide AGN ToOs for other instruments
 - Respond to AGN ToOs in minutes
 - Respond to GRB ToOs in < 1 minute

Optical Design

Ritchey – Chretien with curved focal plane

Primary and secondary OSS have optimized conic constants



CASSEGRAIN RITCHEY-CHRETIEN
WED JUL 14 2004

CONFIGURATION 1 OF 1

$$D_{\text{primary}} = 25 \text{ m}$$

$$D_{\text{secondary}} = 10 \text{ m}$$

$$f/\# = 2.1$$

$$f = 50 \text{ m}$$

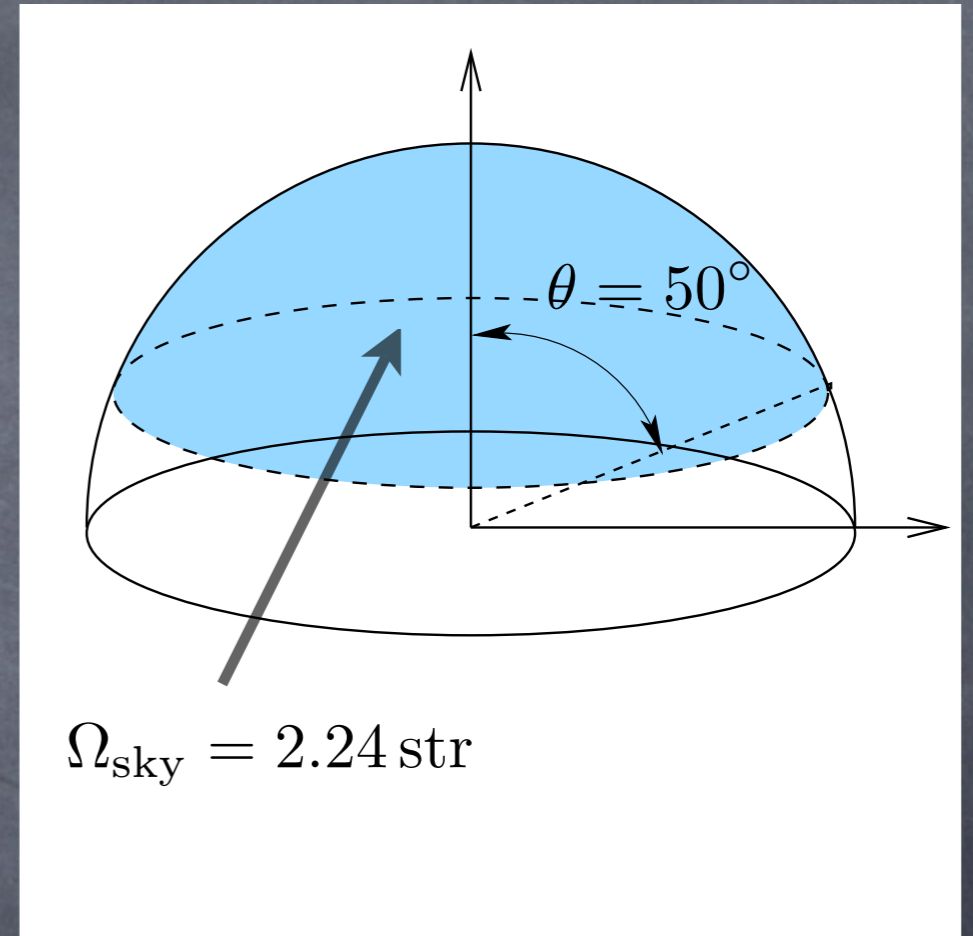
$$D_{\text{eff}} = \sqrt{25^2 - 10^2} = 23 \text{ m}$$

$$0.15^\circ \leftrightarrow 13 \text{ cm} = 5 \text{ in PMTs!}$$

- 2800 PMTs for 8° , 4400 PMTs for 10°
- Large $f/\#$ allows large concentration, baffling of light outside secondary
- PMTs and electronics over mount, no cables

VLACT Observing Mode

- Assume telescope slews continuously to cover sky to $\theta = 50^\circ$ zenith angle every hour
- Assume sensitivity of $\frac{1 \text{ Crab}}{\sqrt{t/30 \text{ sec}}} \left(\frac{E_{\text{thr}}}{100 \text{ GeV}} \right)^{0.65}$
- For an 8° fov, $\Omega_{\text{fov}} = 0.0153 \text{ str}$
- Out to 50° zenith angle, $\Omega_{\text{sky}} = 2.24 \text{ str}$



- Sensitivity in one hour $S_{\text{hr}} = \left(\frac{40 \text{ GeV}}{100 \text{ GeV}} \right)^{0.65} \left[\left(\frac{\Omega_{\text{fov}}}{\Omega_{\text{sky}}} \right) 1 \text{ hr}/30 \text{ sec} \right]^{-1/2} = 0.61 \text{ Crab}/\sqrt{\text{hr}}$
- Sensitivity in 1 yr $S_{\text{yr}} = \left(\frac{40 \text{ GeV}}{100 \text{ GeV}} \right)^{0.65} \left[\left(\frac{\Omega_{\text{sky}}}{4\pi} \right) \left(\frac{\Omega_{\text{fov}}}{\Omega_{\text{sky}}} \right) \frac{0.1 \cdot 1 \text{ yr}}{30 \text{ sec}} \right]^{-1/2} = 50 \text{ mCrab}/\sqrt{\text{yr}}$

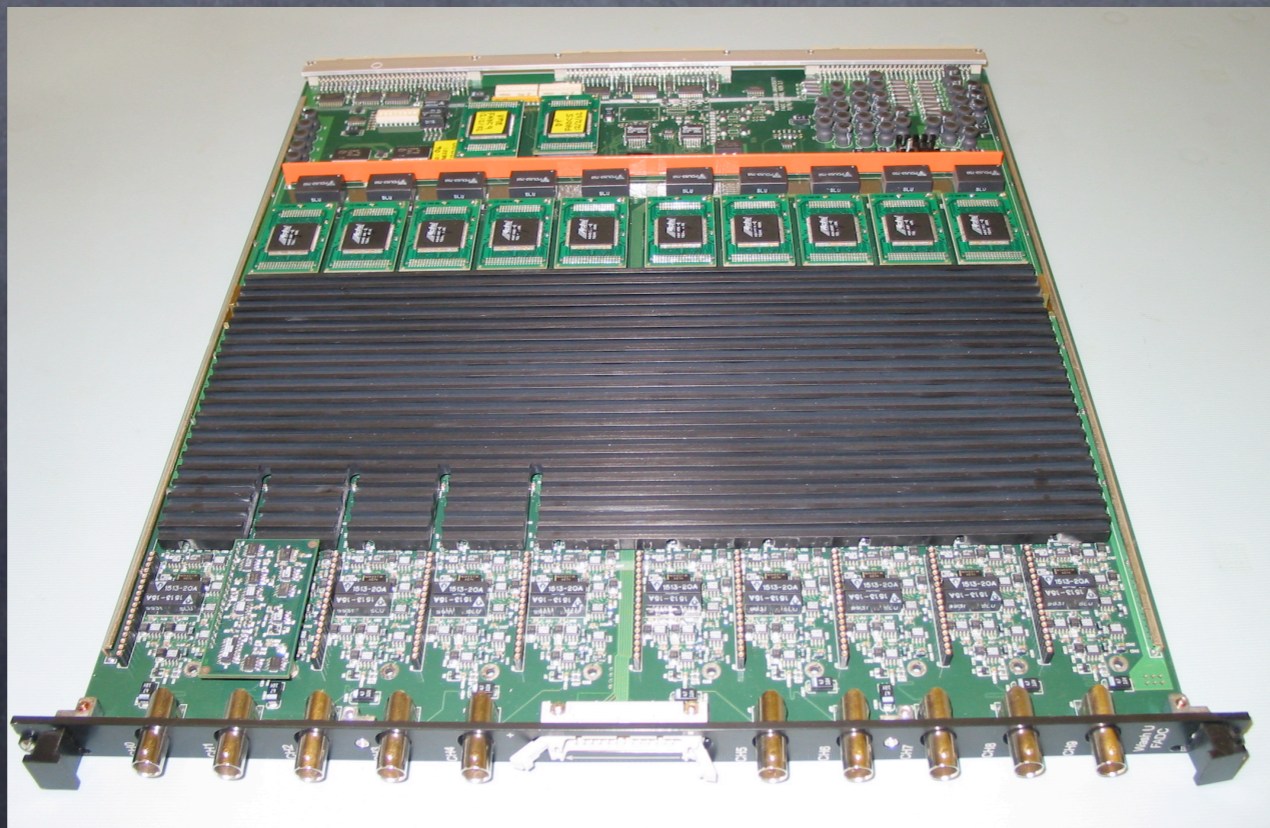
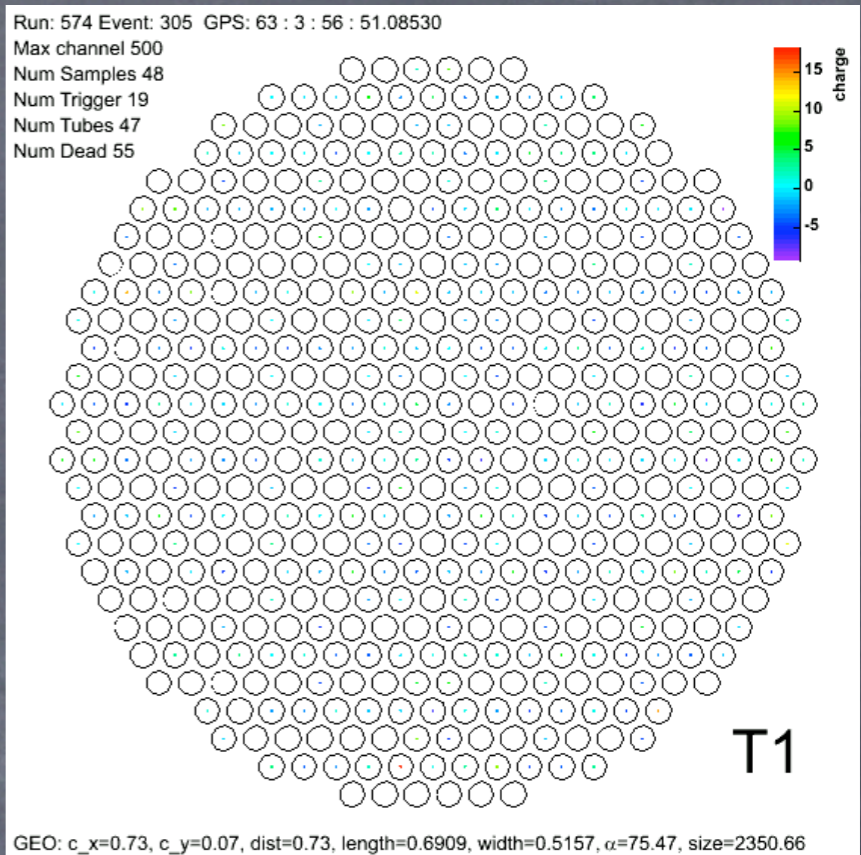
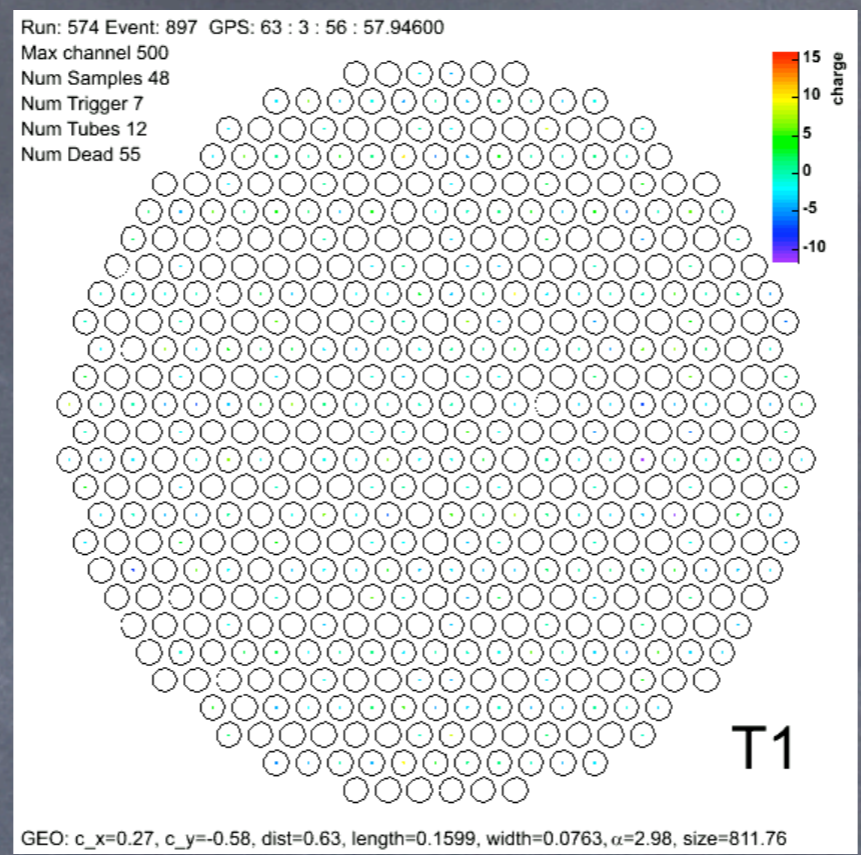
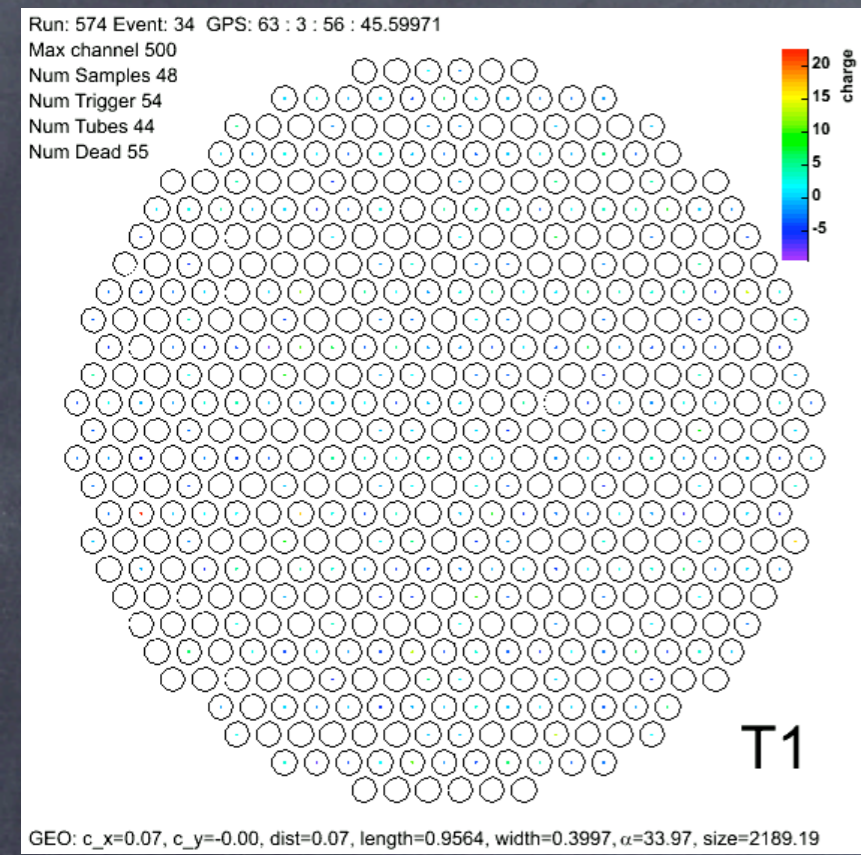


Conclusions

- HESS has made a number of wonderful discoveries of galactic sources, but extragalactic science is yet to come
- VERITAS will make important new measurements of time-resolved spectral variability of the strong TeV blazars
- VERITAS should make spectral measurements on enough AGNs to begin to measure the EBL (GLAST will be important for normalization to the LE spectrum)
- Many interesting galactic sources in the northern hemisphere (Cas-A, Tycho, IC443, W44, etc.) and one unique extragalactic source (M87).
- All of the current instruments (CANGAROO, MAGIC, HESS and VERITAS) are narrow field instruments, and there are more than enough targets to keep all of these busy



Flash ADCs





Robotic Telescopes

Optical Monitoring of Gamma-Ray Transients



Antipodal Transient Observatory

