

## Astrophysics with Novel (Statistical) Observables

Nachiketa Chakraborty  
MPIK, Heidelberg

TeVPA, 8th August, 2017  
Columbus, Ohio, USA

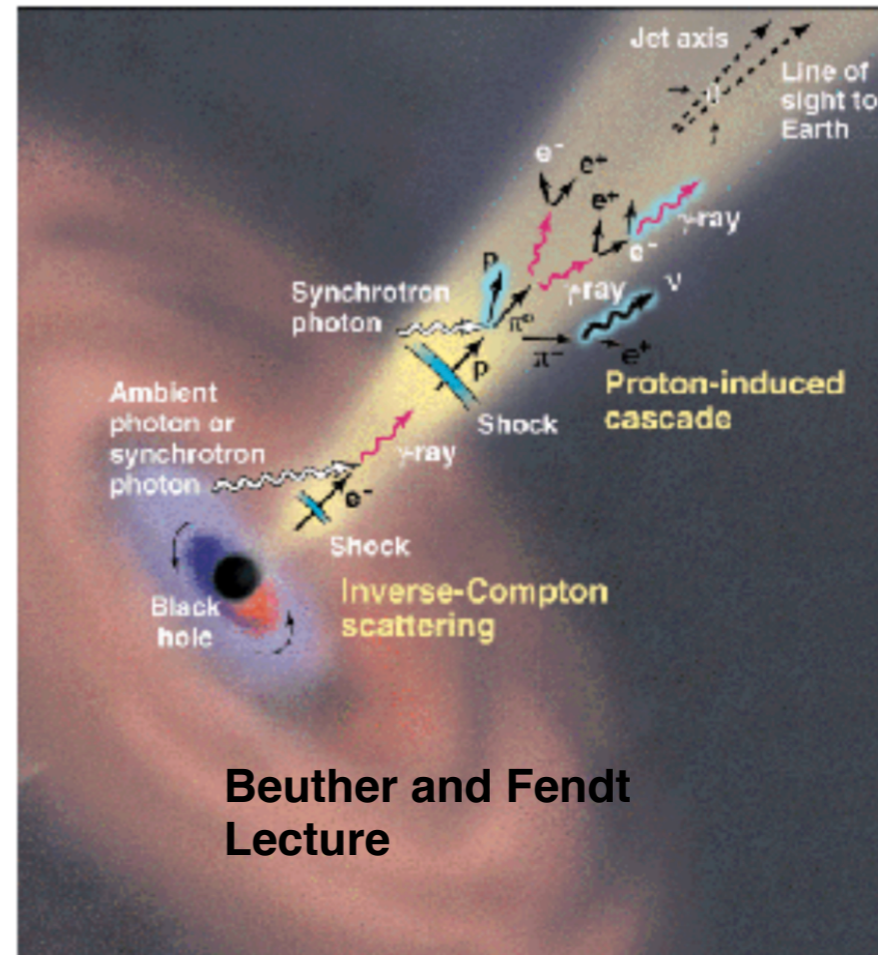


# Motivation - Individual Source Physics

- Complexity of physical processes and environment lead to degeneracies (AGNs, GRBs, etc)
- Standard SED modeling, morphology, “eyeballing” lightcurves insufficient - extract more from MWL LCs ?
- Need **newer and novel “observables”** for sharper understanding -> PSD, PDF, Polarisation
- Large datasets  $\Leftrightarrow$  Statistical Methods (both **individual** and population) e.g. time series methods
- Better statistics per obs, more sources

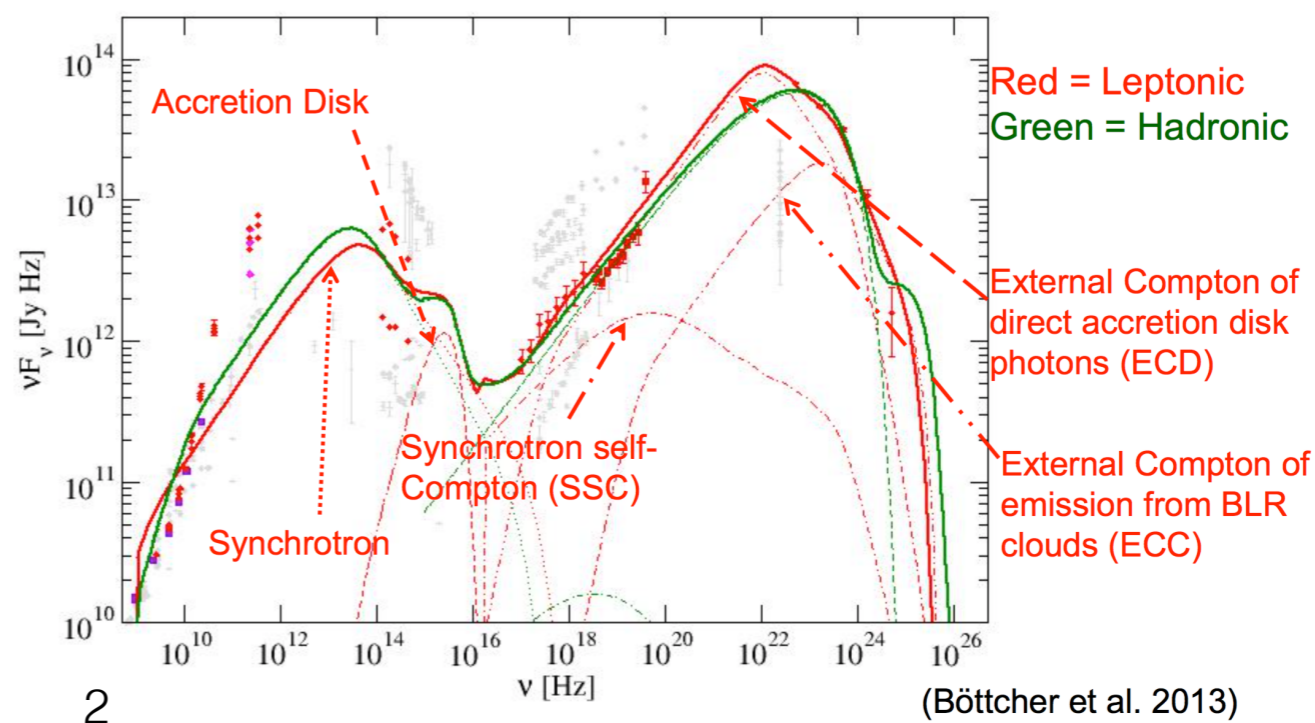
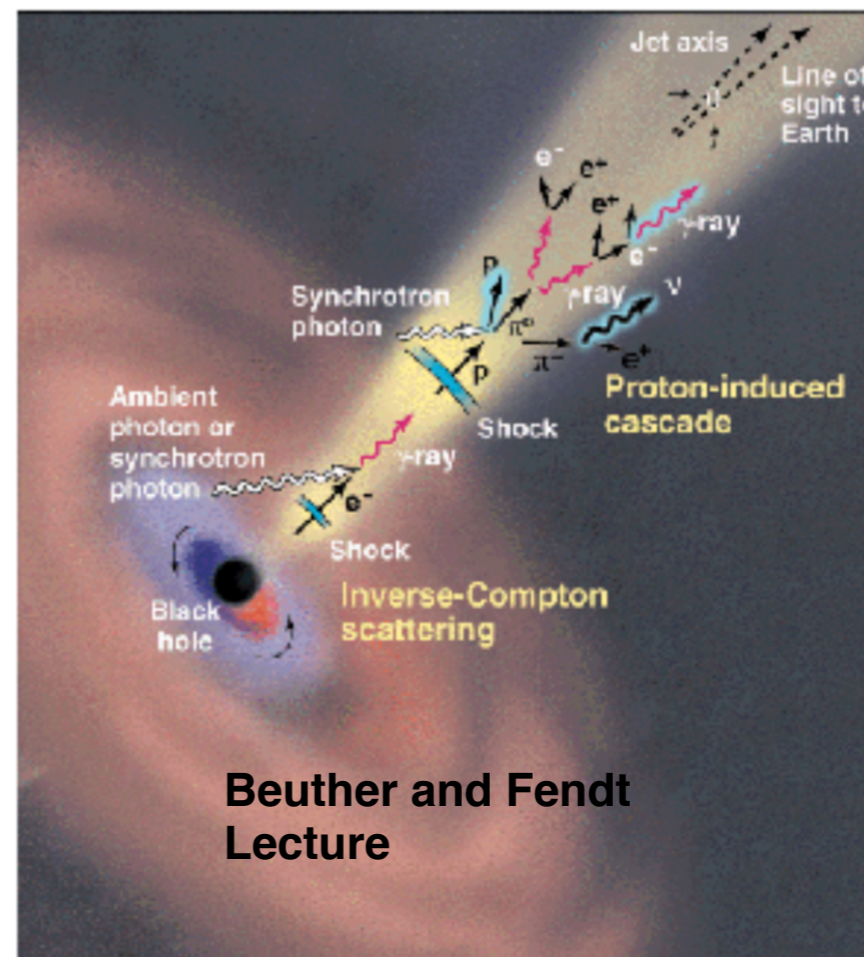
# Motivation - Individual Source Physics

- Complexity of physical processes and environment lead to degeneracies (AGNs, GRBs, etc)
- Standard SED modeling, morphology, “eyeballing” lightcurves insufficient - extract more from MWL LCs ?
- Need **newer and novel “observables”** for sharper understanding -> PSD, PDF, Polarisation
- Large datasets  $\Leftrightarrow$  Statistical Methods (both **individual** and population) e.g. time series methods
- Better statistics per obs, more sources



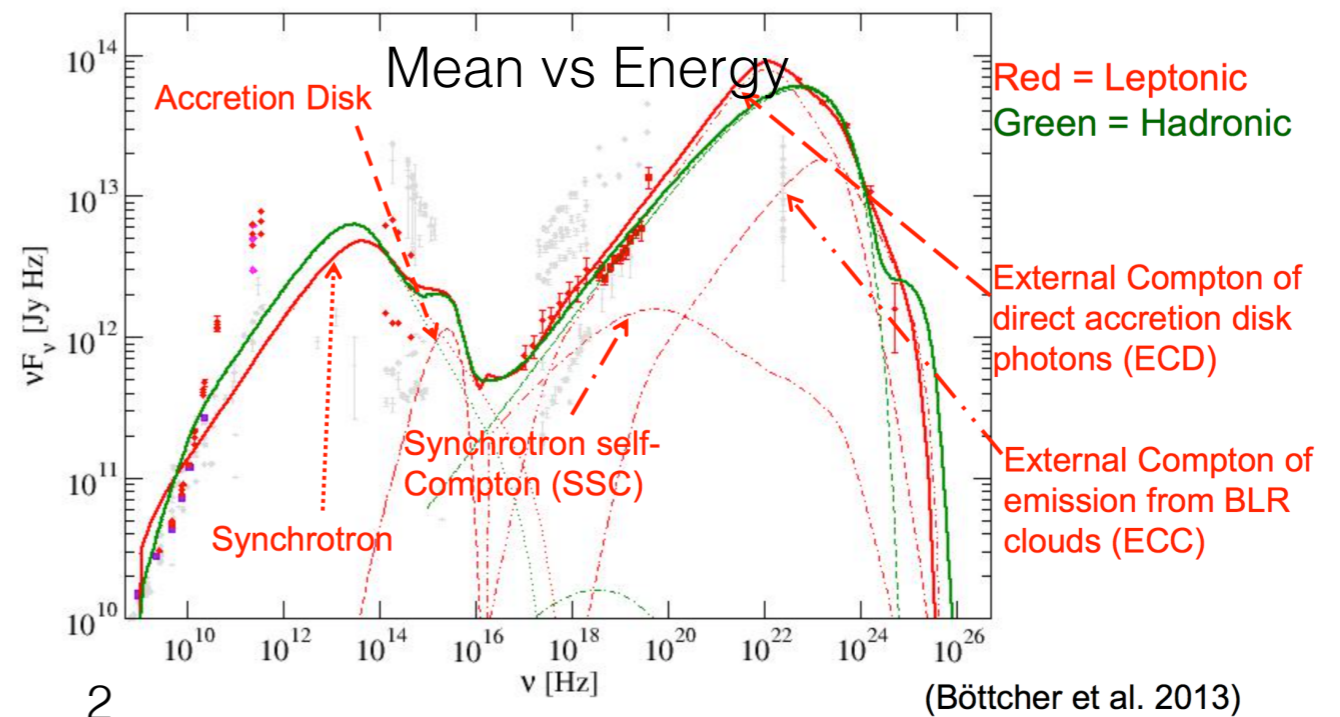
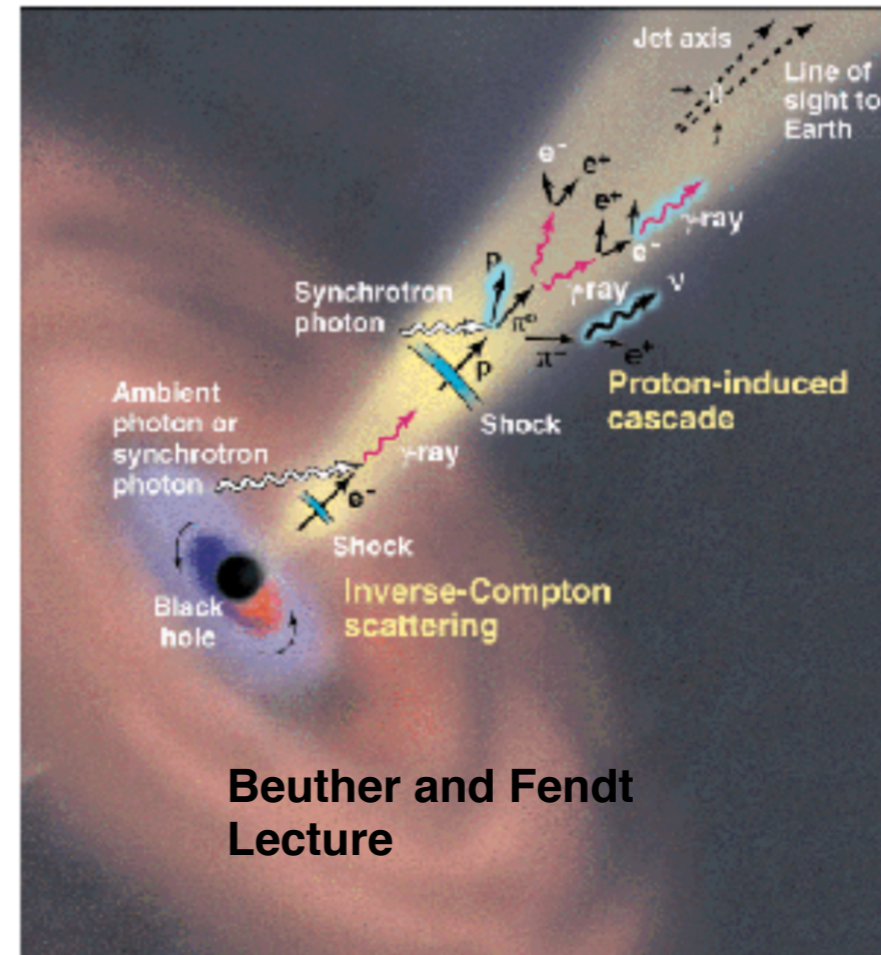
# Motivation - Individual Source Physics

- Complexity of physical processes and environment lead to degeneracies (AGNs, GRBs, etc)
- Standard SED modeling, morphology, “eyeballing” lightcurves insufficient - extract more from MWL LCs ?
- Need **newer and novel “observables”** for sharper understanding -> PSD, PDF, Polarisation
- Large datasets  $\Leftrightarrow$  Statistical Methods (both **individual** and population) e.g. time series methods
- Better statistics per obs, more sources



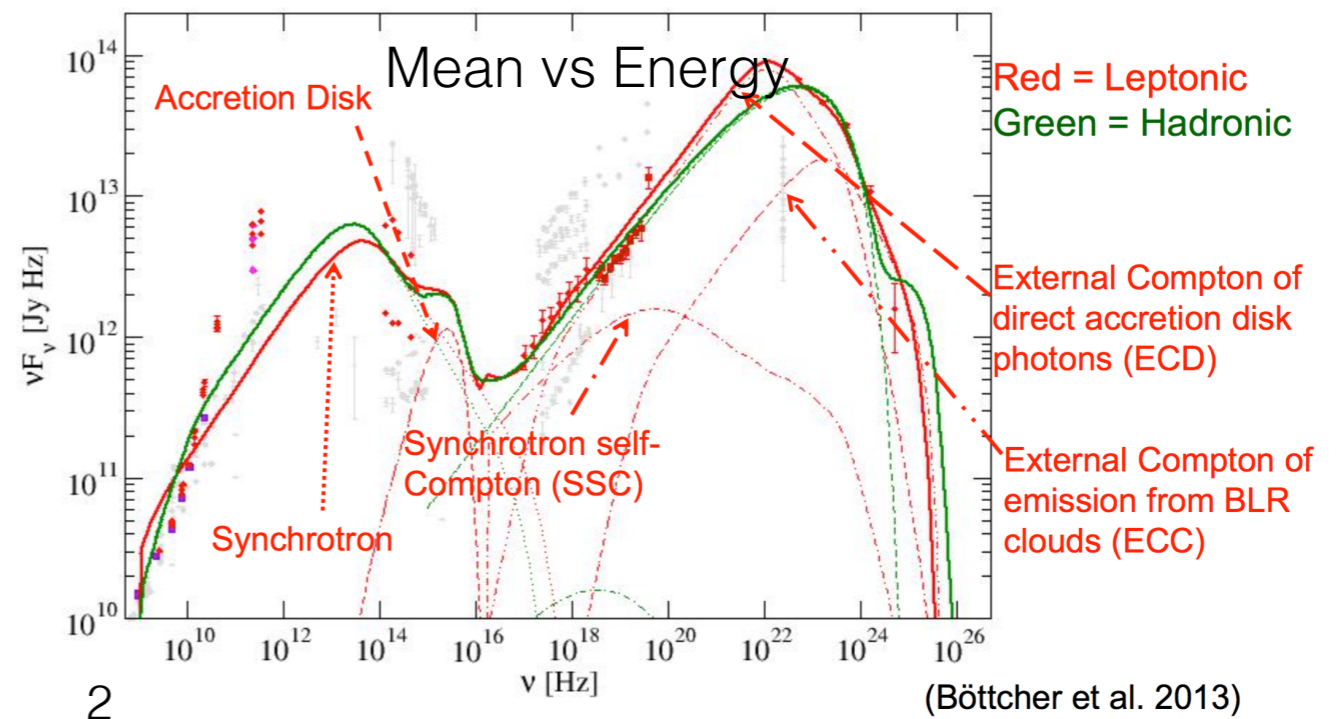
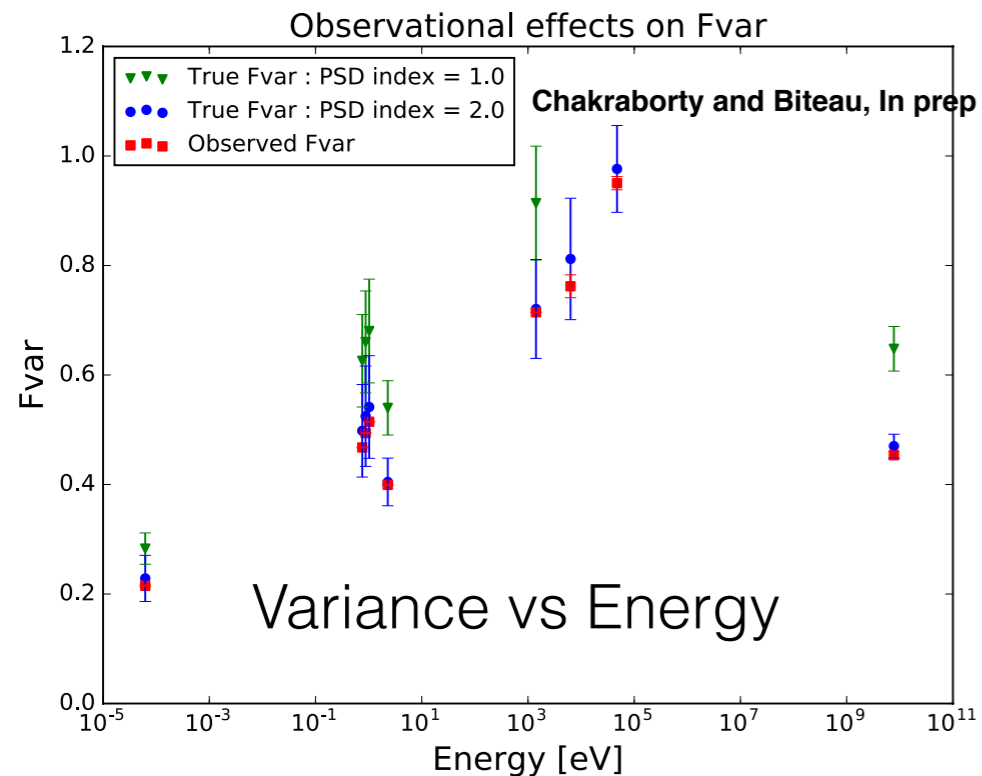
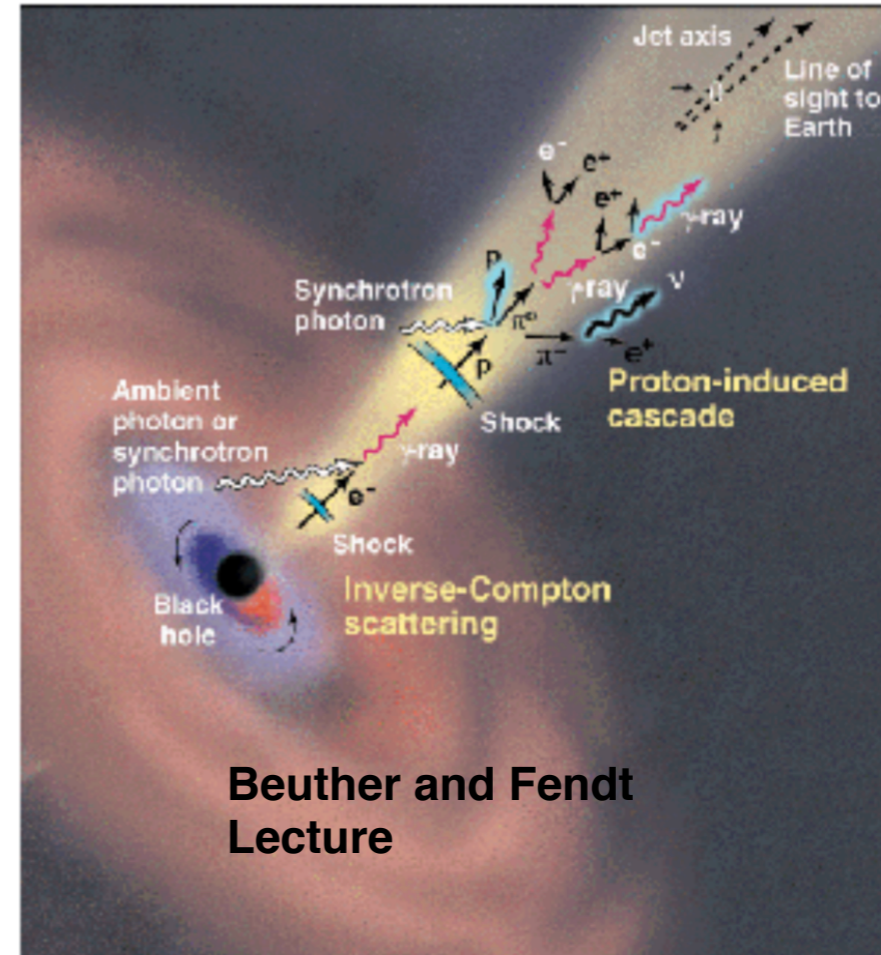
# Motivation - Individual Source Physics

- Complexity of physical processes and environment lead to degeneracies (AGNs, GRBs, etc)
- Standard SED modeling, morphology, “eyeballing” lightcurves insufficient - extract more from MWL LCs ?
- Need **newer and novel “observables”** for sharper understanding -> PSD, PDF, Polarisation
- Large datasets  $\Leftrightarrow$  Statistical Methods (both **individual** and population) e.g. time series methods
- Better statistics per obs, more sources



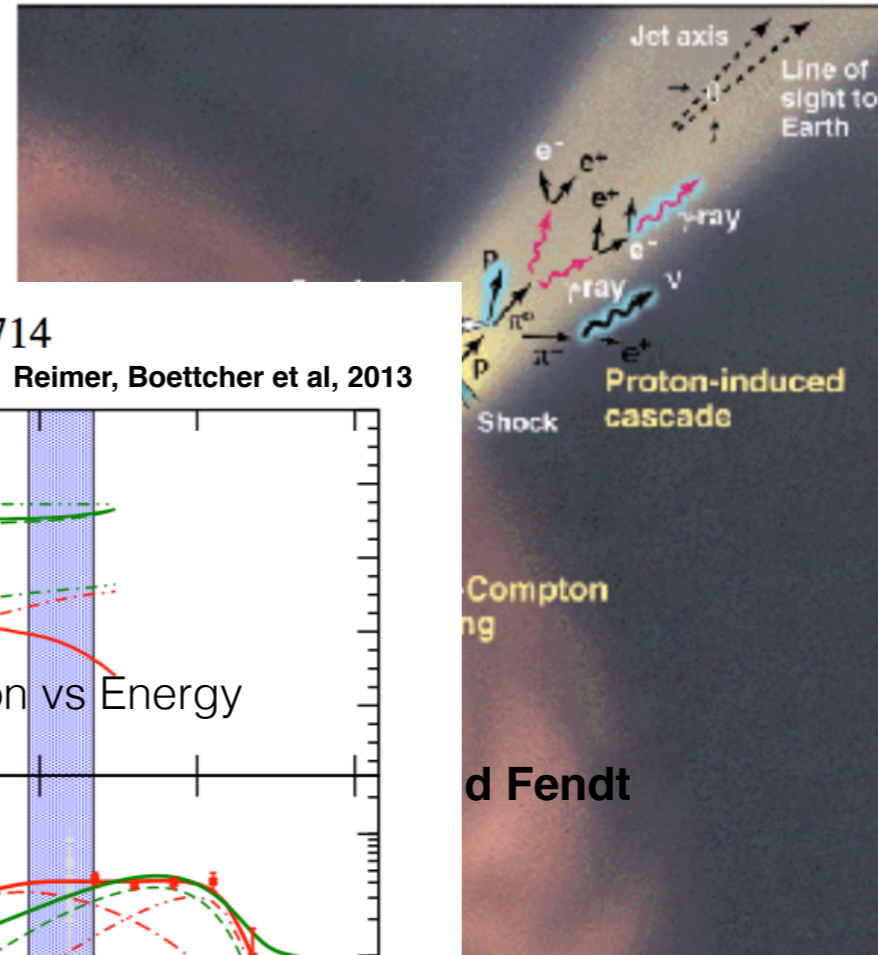
# Motivation - Individual Source Physics

- Complexity of physical processes and environment lead to degeneracies (AGNs, GRBs, etc)
- Standard SED modeling, morphology, “eyeballing” lightcurves insufficient - extract more from MWL LCs ?
- Need **newer and novel “observables”** for sharper understanding -> PSD, PDF,

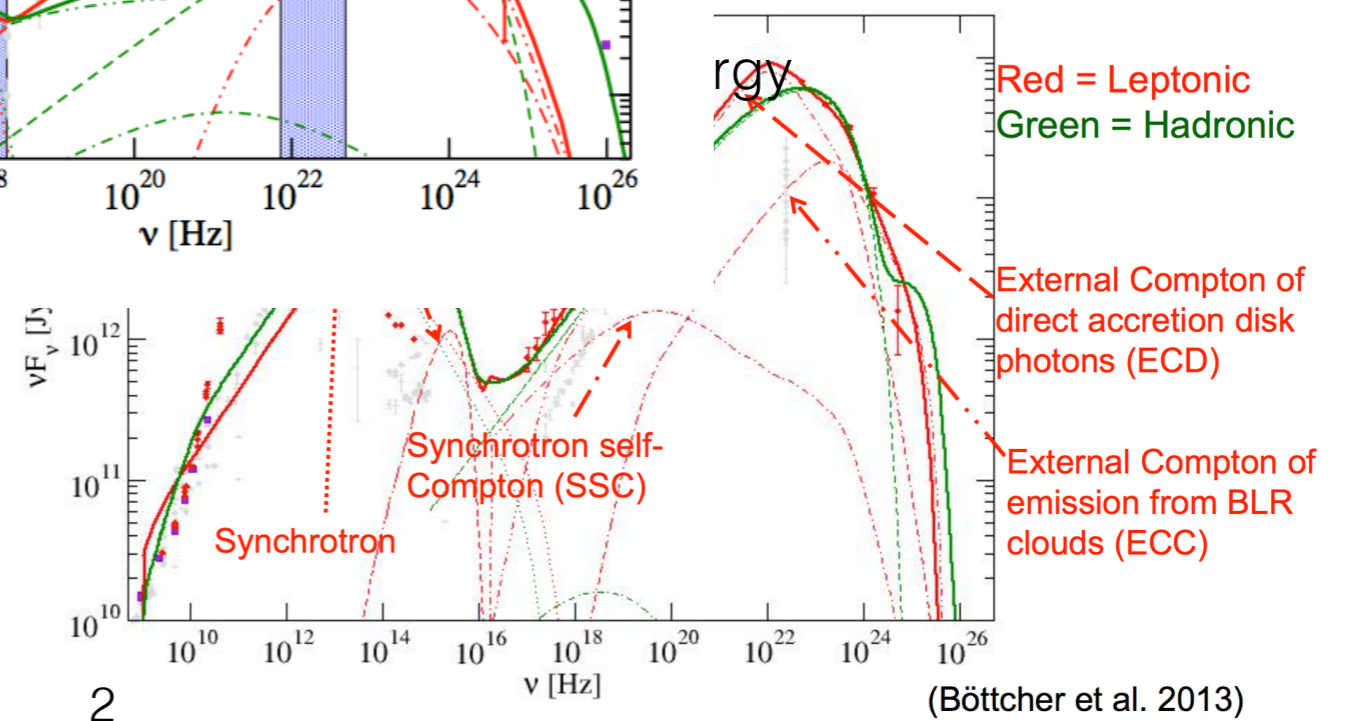
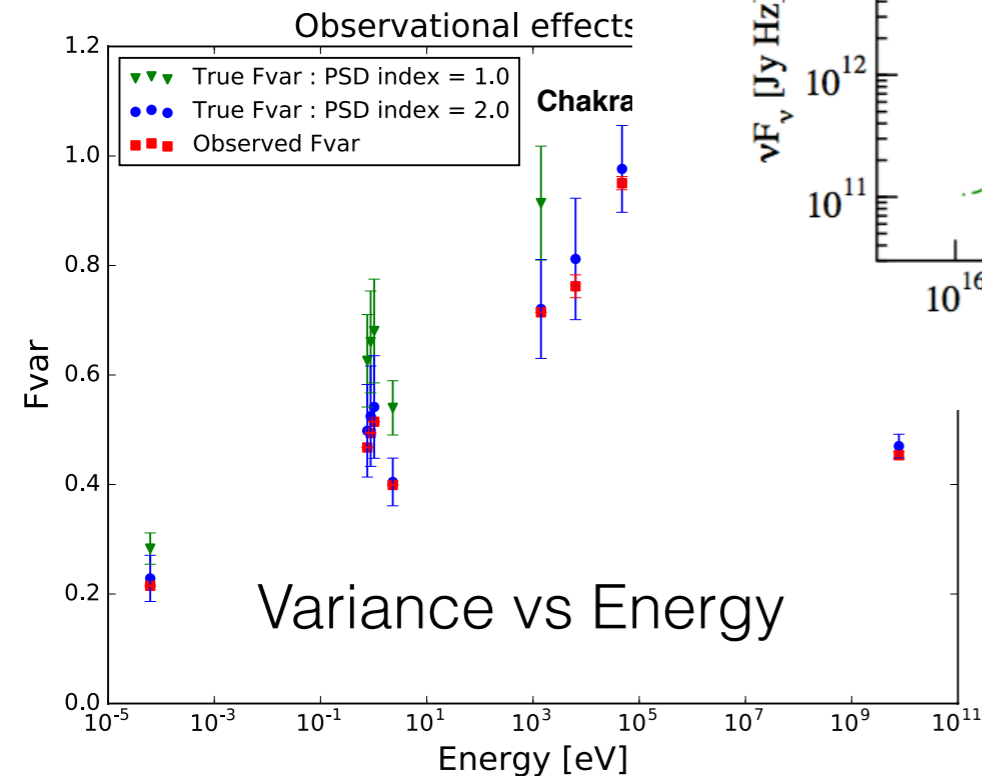
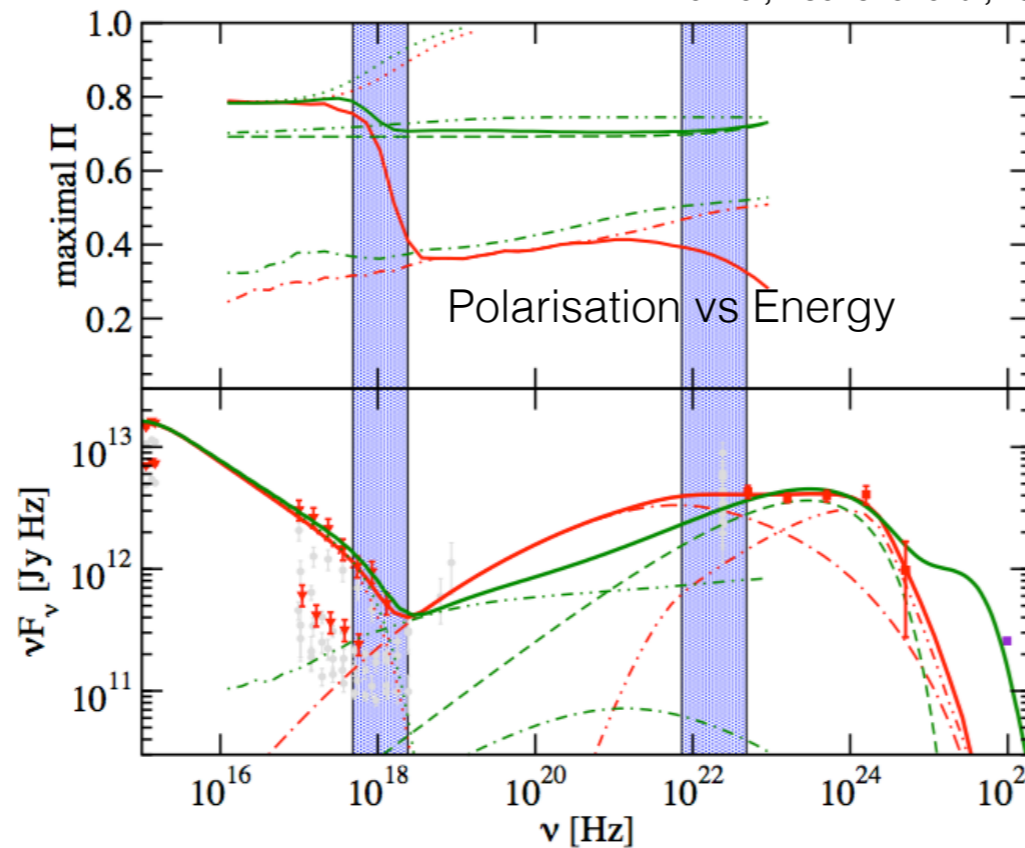


# Motivation - Individual Source Physics

- Complexity of physical processes and environment lead to degeneracies (AGNs, GRBs, etc)
- Standard SED modeling morphology, “eyeballing insufficient - extract more LCs ?
- Need **newer and novel “observables”** for sharp understanding -> PSD, Fvar



S5 0716+714  
Reimer, Boettcher et al, 2013



(Böttcher et al. 2013)

# Motivation - Population / Diffuse Background

- Complexity of physical processes and environment lead to degeneracies (AGNs, GRBs, etc)
- Standard SED modeling, morphology, “eyeballing” lightcurves insufficient - extract more from MWL LCs ?
- Need **newer and novel “observables”** for sharper understanding -> PSD, PDF, Polarisation
- Large datasets  $\Leftrightarrow$  Statistical Methods (both **individual** and population) e.g. time series methods
- Better statistics per obs, more sources



# Motivation - Population / Diffuse Background

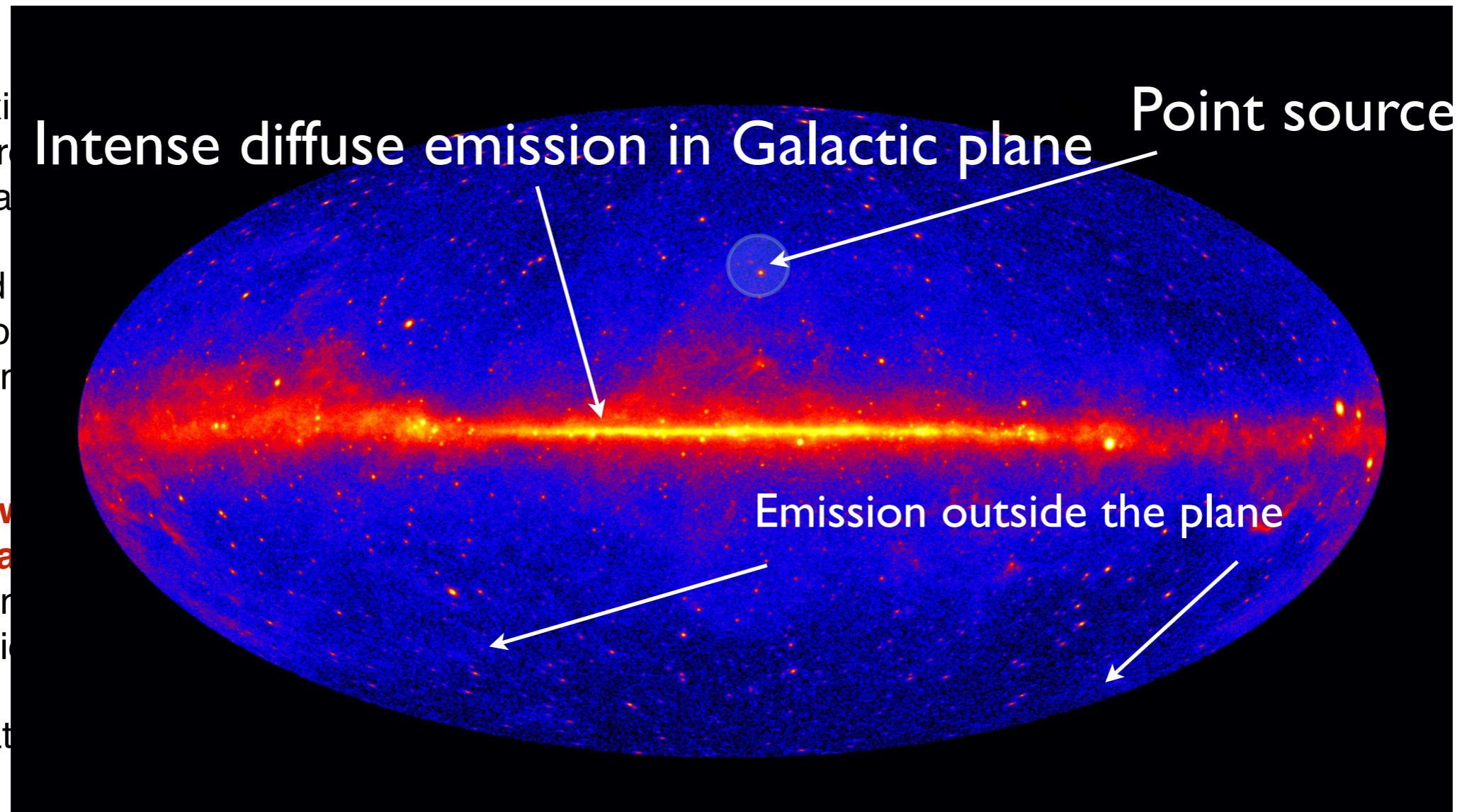
- Complex and environment degenerate

- Standard morphology insufficient LCs ?

- Need **new** "observational" understanding Polarisation

- Large data sets (Methods for population) e.g. time series methods

- Better statistics per obs, more sources



# Motivation - Population / Diffuse Background

- Complex and environmental degeneracy

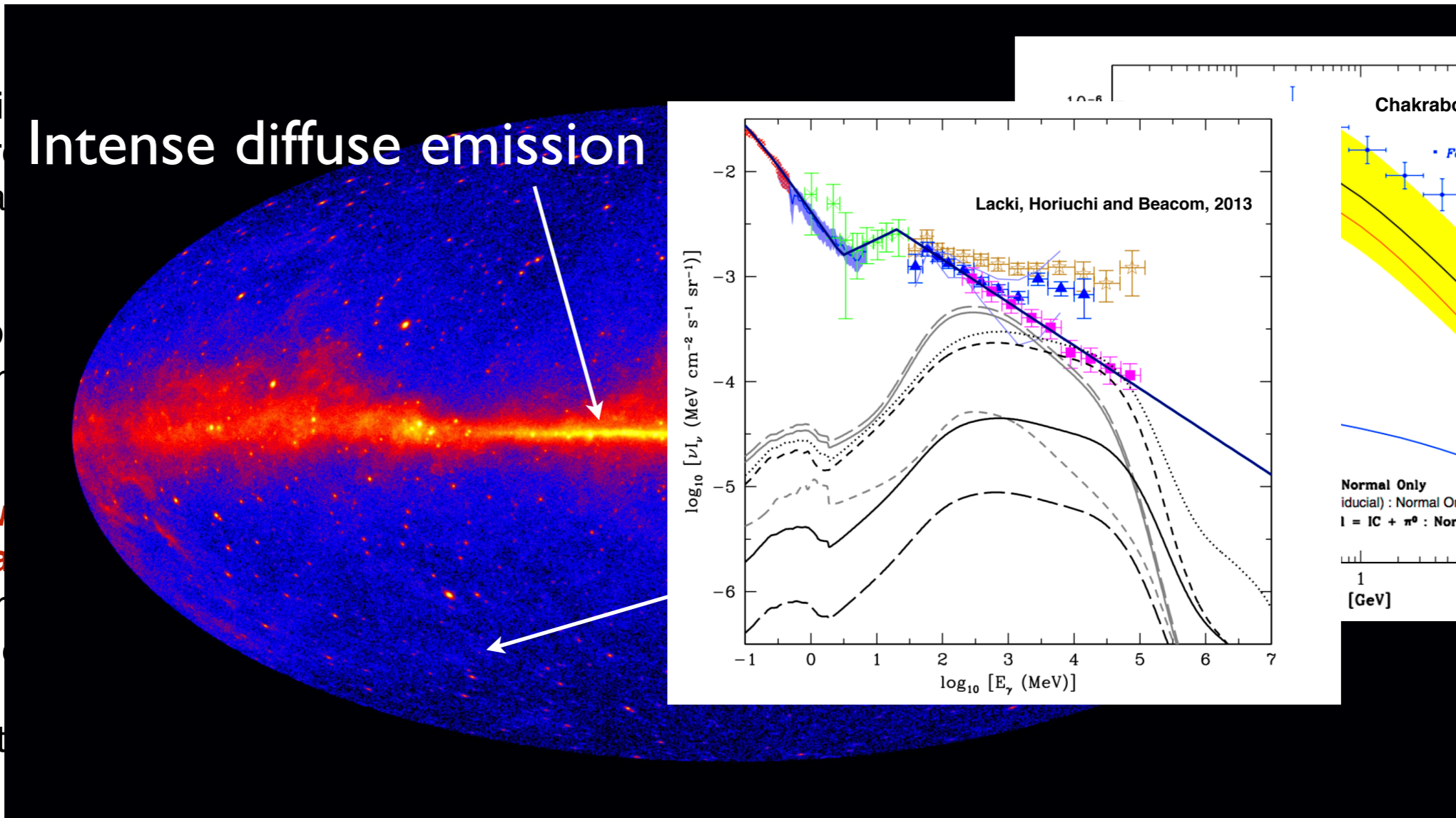
- Standard morphology insufficient for LCs ?

- Need new "observational" understanding of Polarisation

- Large data sets (Methods for population) e.g. time series methods

- Better statistics per obs, more sources

Intense diffuse emission



# Motivation - Population / Diffuse Background

- Complex and environmental degeneracy

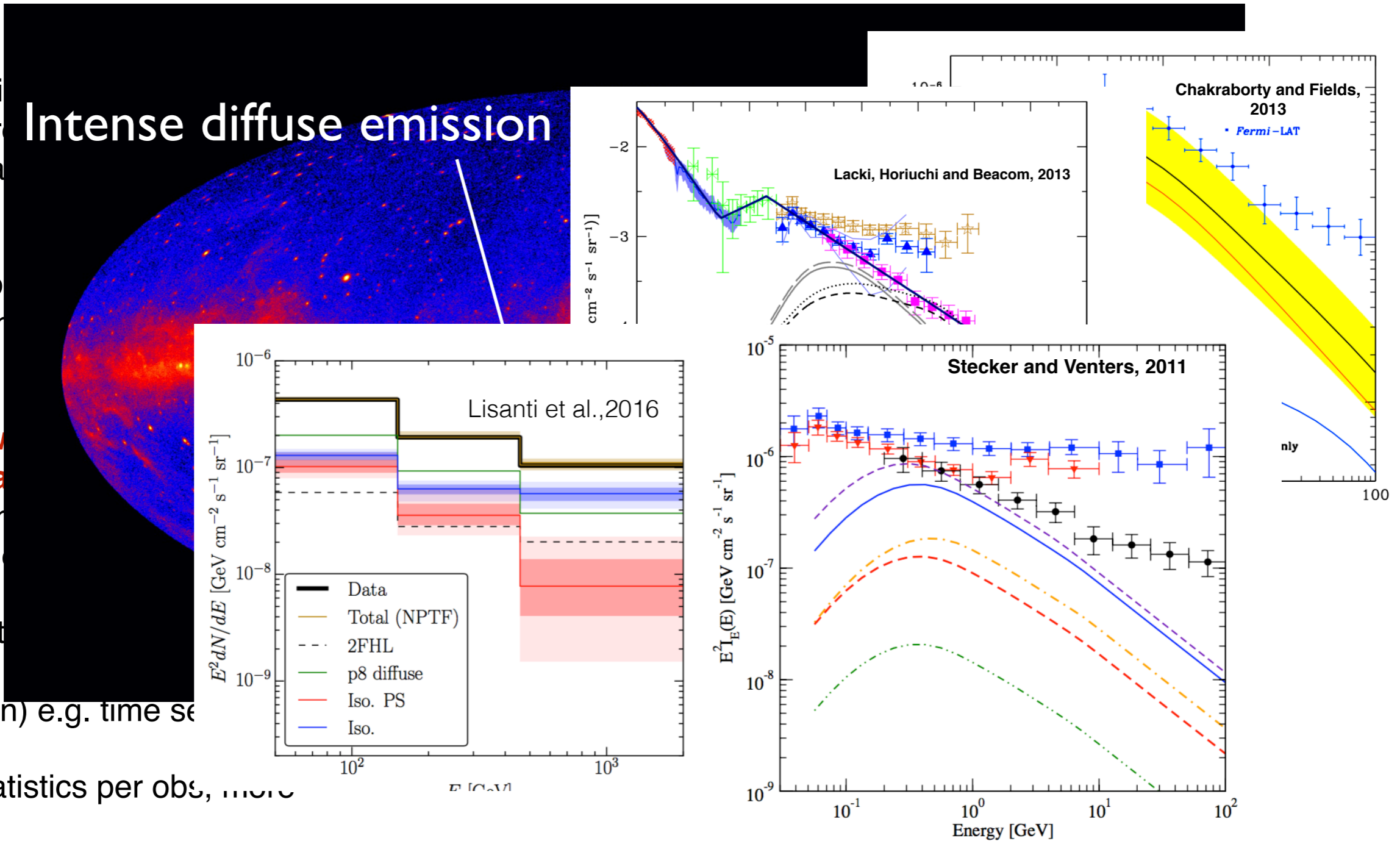
- Standard morphology insufficient for LCs ?

- Need new "observational" understanding of Polarisation

- Large data sets (new methods for population) e.g. time series

- Better statistics per observation, more sources

Intense diffuse emission



# Motivation - Population / Diffuse Background

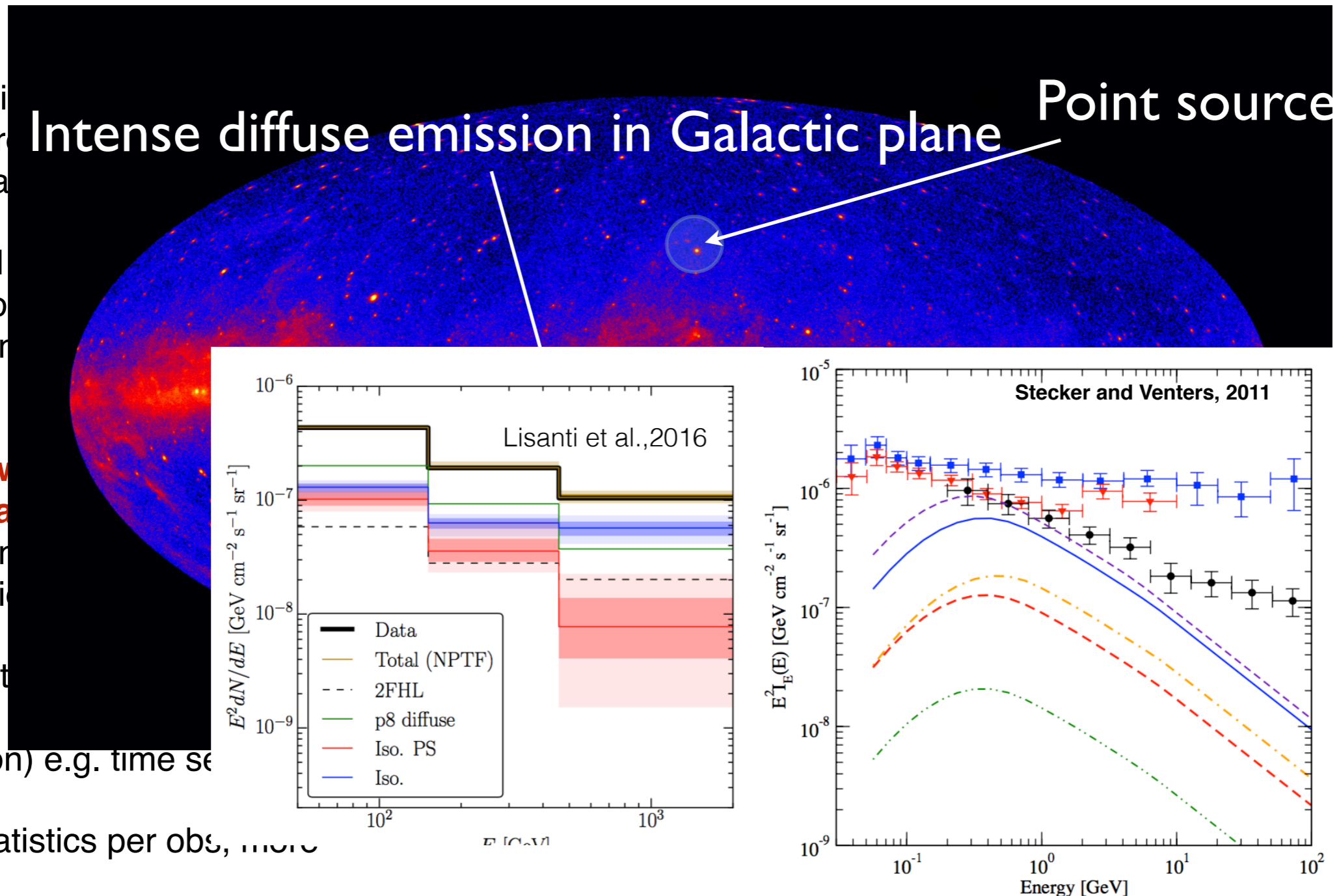
- Complex and environment degenerate

- Standard morphology insufficient LCs ?

- Need new "observational" understanding of Polarisation

- Large data sets (Methods population) e.g. time series

- Better statistics per observation, more sources



# Motivation - Population / Diffuse Background

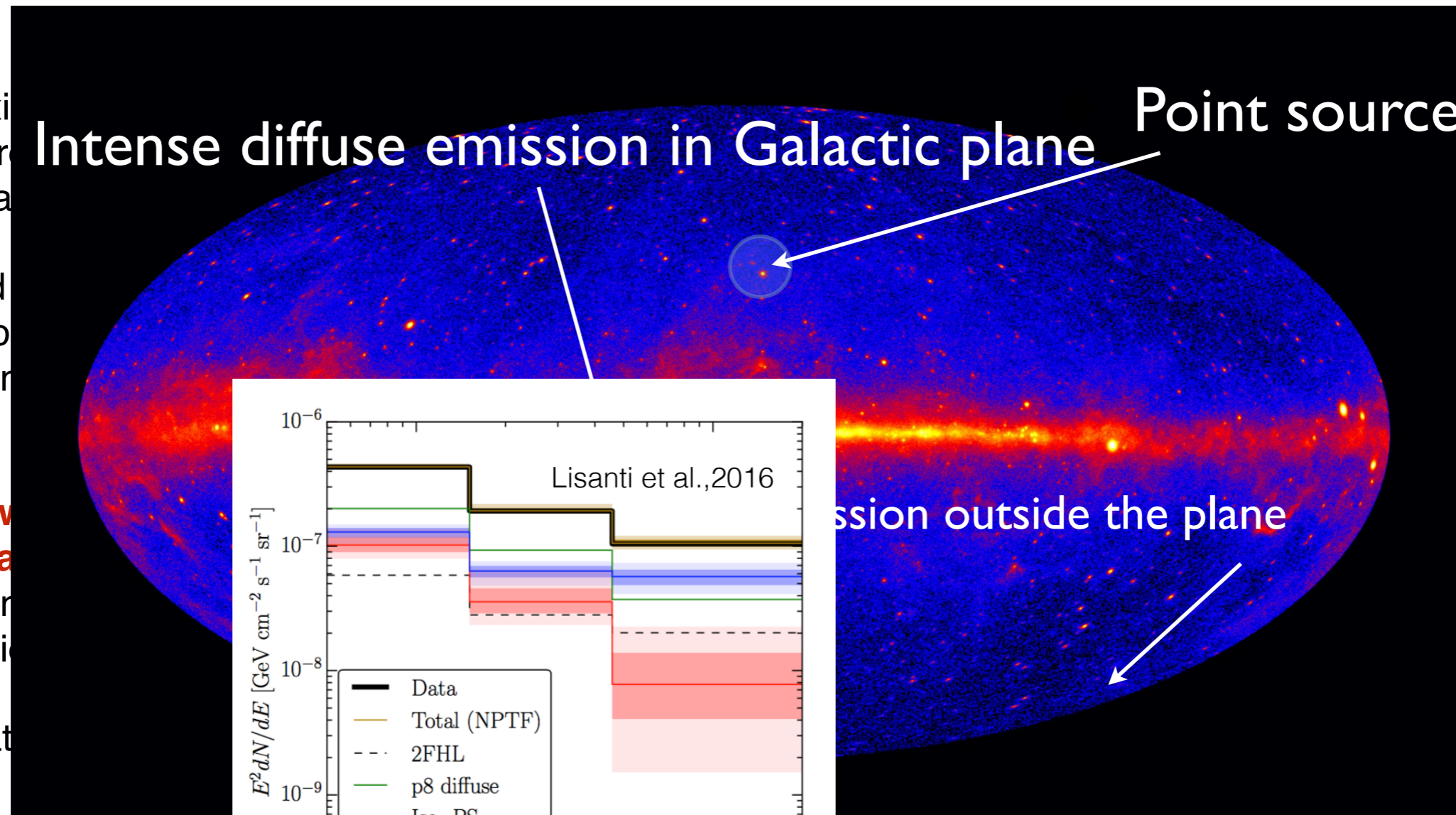
- Complex morphology and environment  
degenerations

- Standard morphology insufficient  
LCs ?

- Need new "observational" methods  
understanding Polarisation

- Large data sets (e.g. time series)  
Methods (e.g. population)

- Better statistics per observation, more sources



# Motivation - Population / Diffuse Background

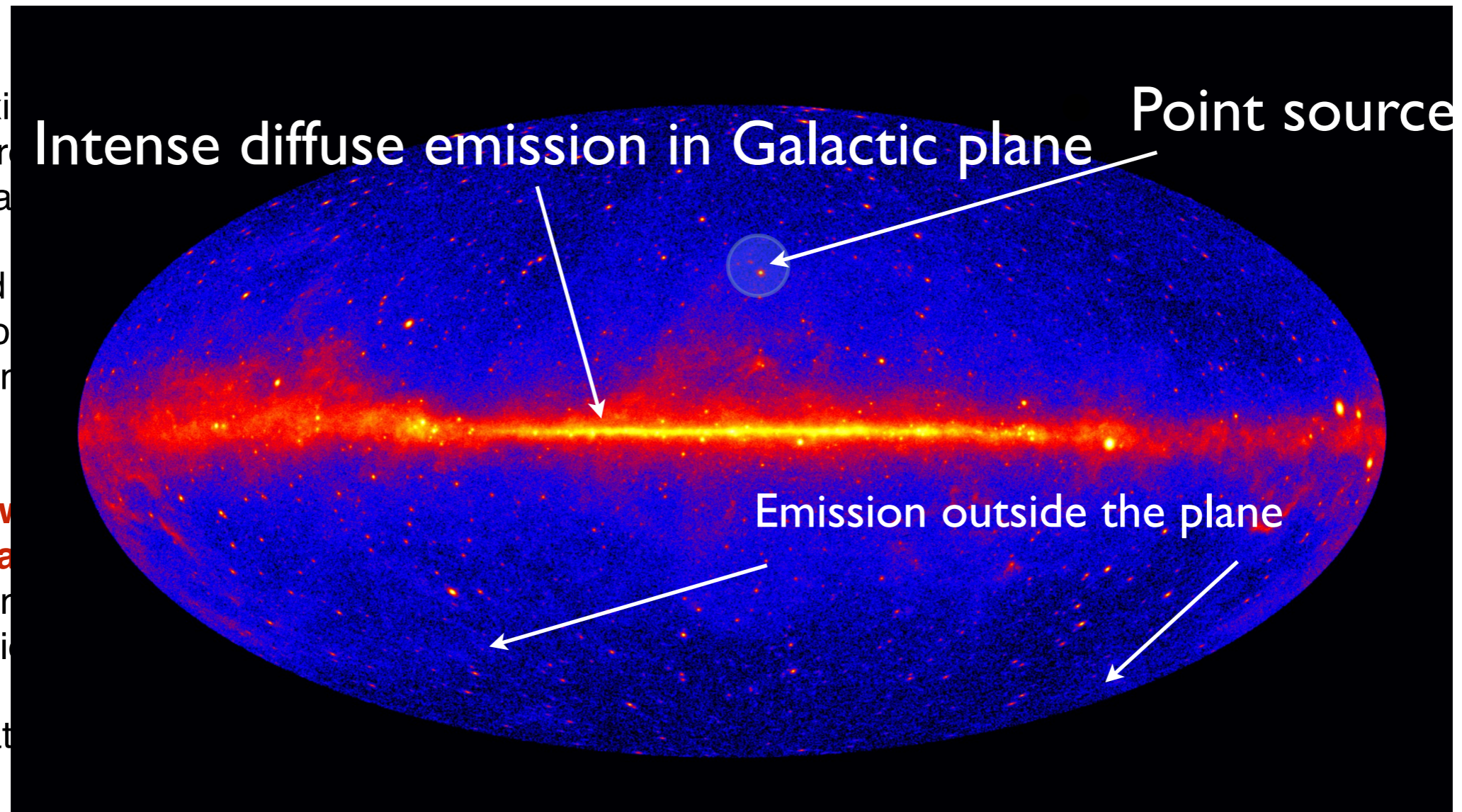
- Complex and environment degenerate

- Standard morphology insufficient LCs ?

- Need **new** "observational" understanding Polarisation

- Large data sets (Methods for population) e.g. time series methods

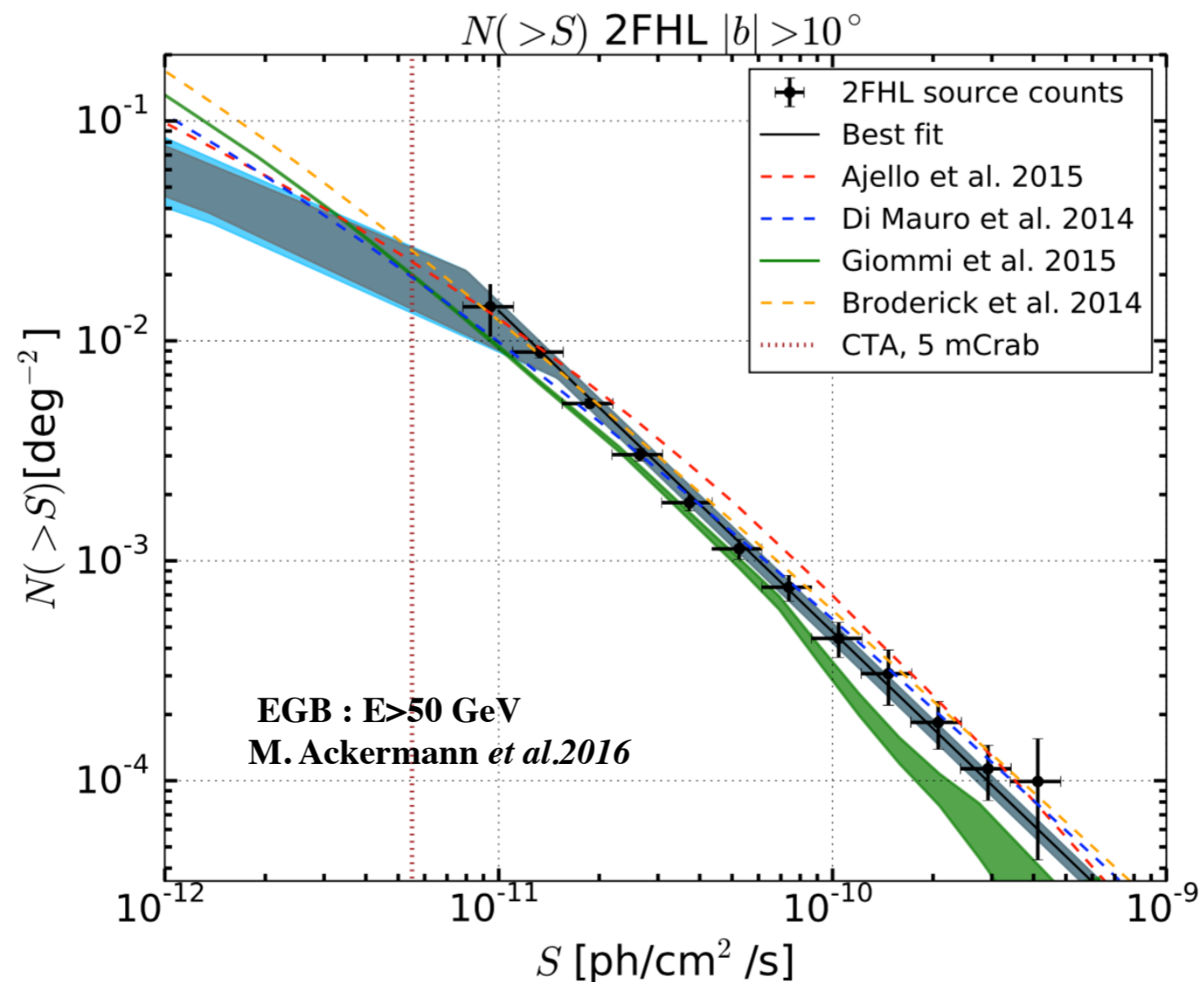
- Better statistics per obs, more sources



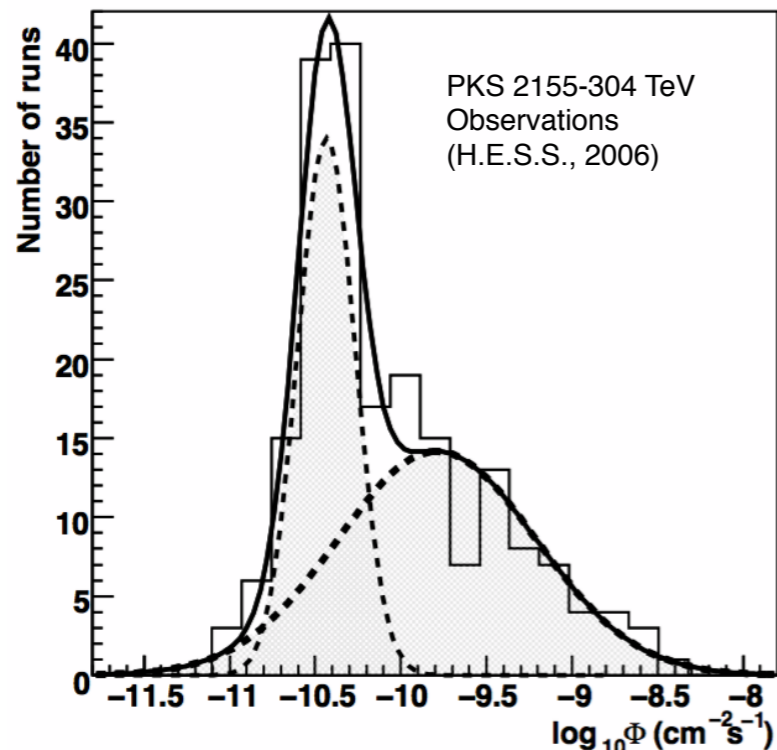
# Motivation - Population / Diffuse Background

- Complex and environmental degeneracy
- Standard morphology insufficient LCs ?
- Need new "observational" understanding Polarisation
- Large data sets (new methods population) e.g. time series
- Better statistics per observation sources

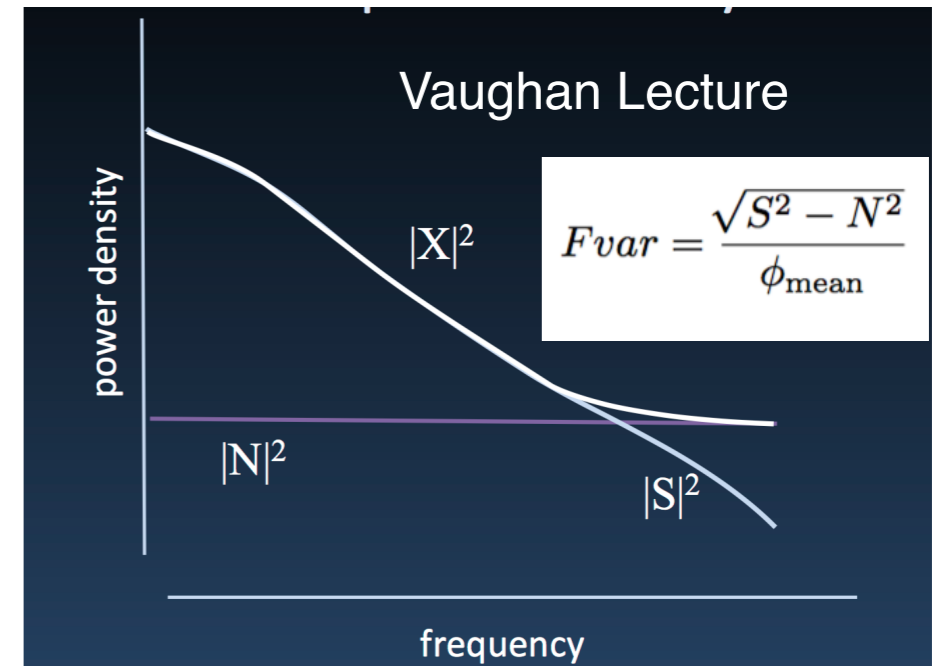
Intense diffuse emission in Galactic plane ← Point source



# Additional (statistical) Observables : PSD and PDF



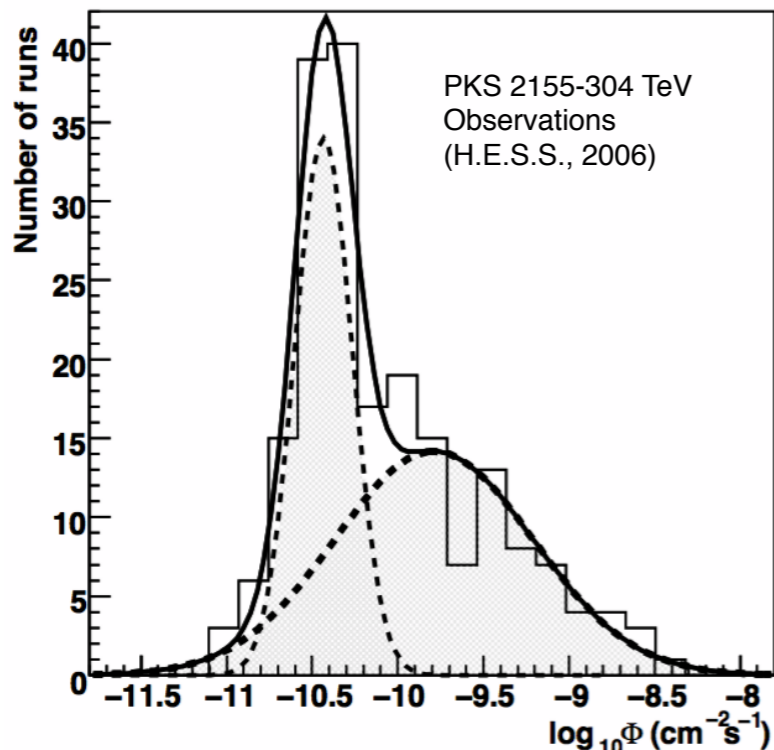
- **Distribution of fluxes (or PDF) probes the fundamental form of the physical processes**
- Default assumption is Gaussian ; evidence for lognormality => Multiplicative (Lyubarskii 97, Uttley et al., 2005) or Cascade like processes (exception see Biteau and Giebels, 2012)
- Contains the **skewness and kurtosis** of the underlying data



- **Distribution of timescales” (or PSD) encodes temporal structure**
- Time :  $x = s + n$  (Vaughan Lecture)  
Fourier :  $X = S + N$   
 $|X|^2 = |S|^2 + |N|^2 + \text{Cross}$   
**PSD(f) =  $\langle |S|^2 \rangle = \langle |X|^2 \rangle - \langle |N|^2 \rangle$**
- Formally (for AGNs and others)  
Time : Lightcurve(t) = Dynamical(t) x Acceleration(t) x Radiation(t) x Observation(t) [**Product**]
- First **2 moments - mean and variance**



# Additional (statistical) Observables : PSD and PDF



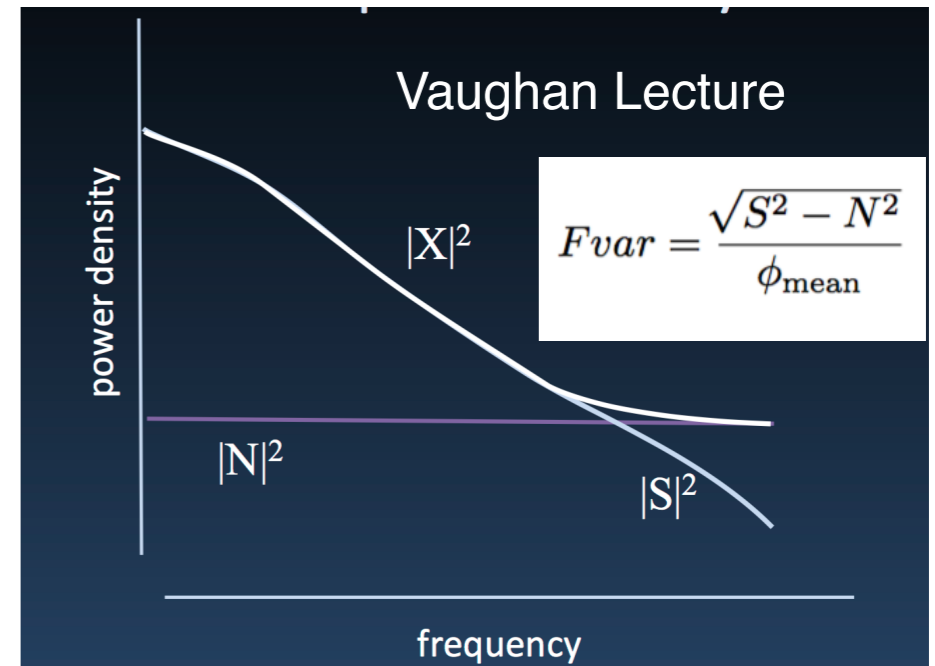
- **Distribution of fluxes (or PDF) probes the fundamental form of the physical processes**

$$\sum f_i(t) = f_1(t) + f_2(t) + \dots \xrightarrow{\text{Central Limit Theorem}} \frac{e^{-\left(\frac{f-\mu_f}{\sigma_f}\right)^2}}{2\pi\sigma_f^2}$$

or Cascade like processes (exception)

$$\prod f_i(t) \xrightarrow{\log} \log[f_1(t)] + \log[f_2(t)] + \dots \xrightarrow{\text{Central Limit Theorem}} \frac{e^{-\left(\frac{\log f - \mu_{lf}}{\sigma_{lf}}\right)^2}}{2\pi\sigma_{lf}^2}$$

- Contains the **skewness and kurtosis** of the underlying data



- **Distribution of timescales” (or PSD) encodes temporal structure**

- Time :  $x = s + n$  (Vaughan Lecture)

$$\text{Fourier : } X = S + N$$

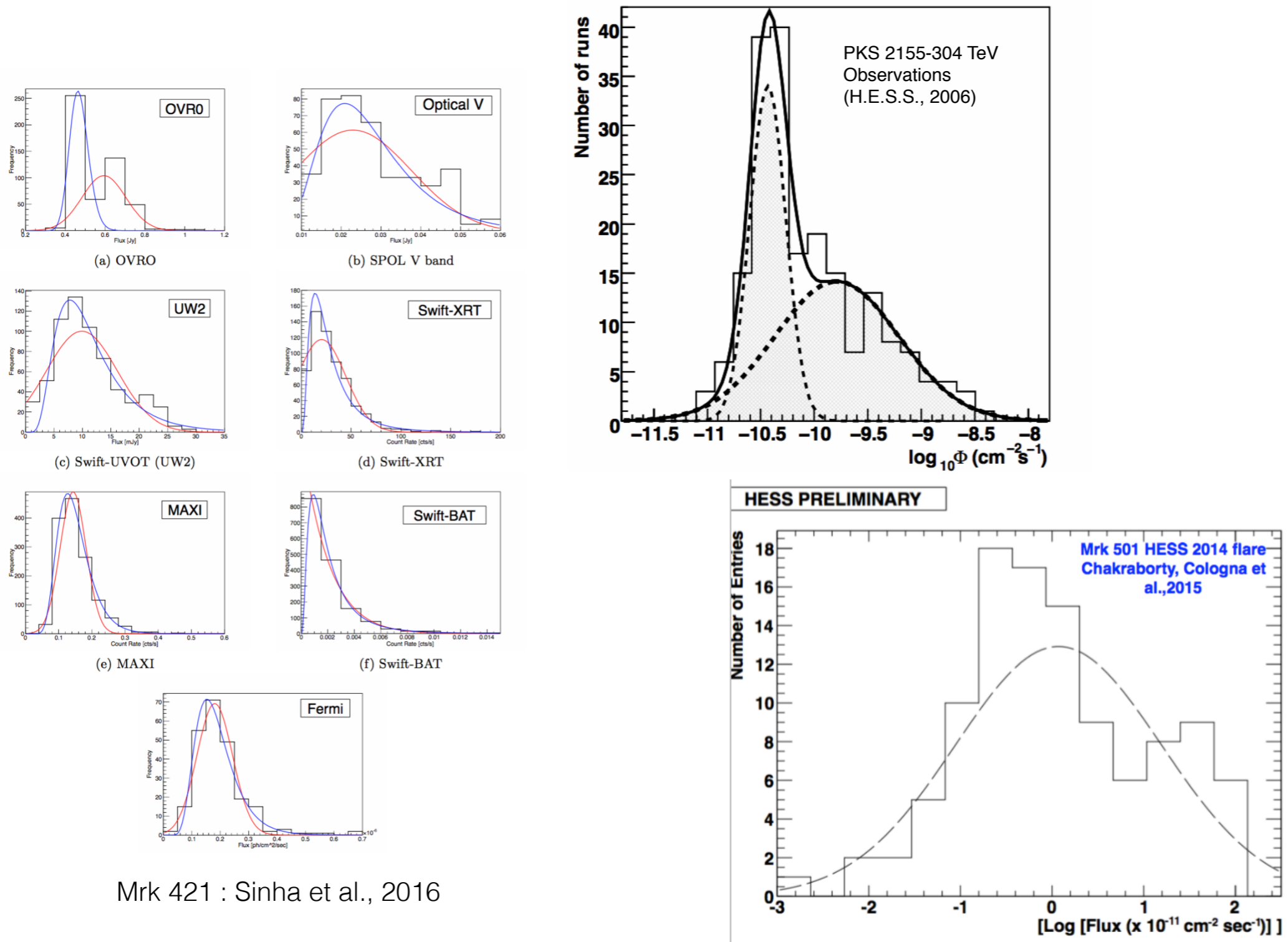
$$|X|^2 = |S|^2 + |N|^2 + \text{Cross}$$

$$\text{PSD}(f) = \langle |S|^2 \rangle = \langle |X|^2 \rangle - \langle |N|^2 \rangle$$

- Formally (for AGNs and others)  
Time : Lightcurve(t) = Dynamical(t) x Acceleration(t) x Radiation(t) x Observation(t) **[Product]**

- First **2 moments - mean and variance**

# PDF : Observational precedence



**Fig. 6.** Histograms of the fluxes (shown in black) at different wavebands. In all the cases, a lognormal distribution (blue line) fits better than the Gaussian distribution (red line). The reduced chi-squares are given in Table 3.

# PDF · Observational precedence

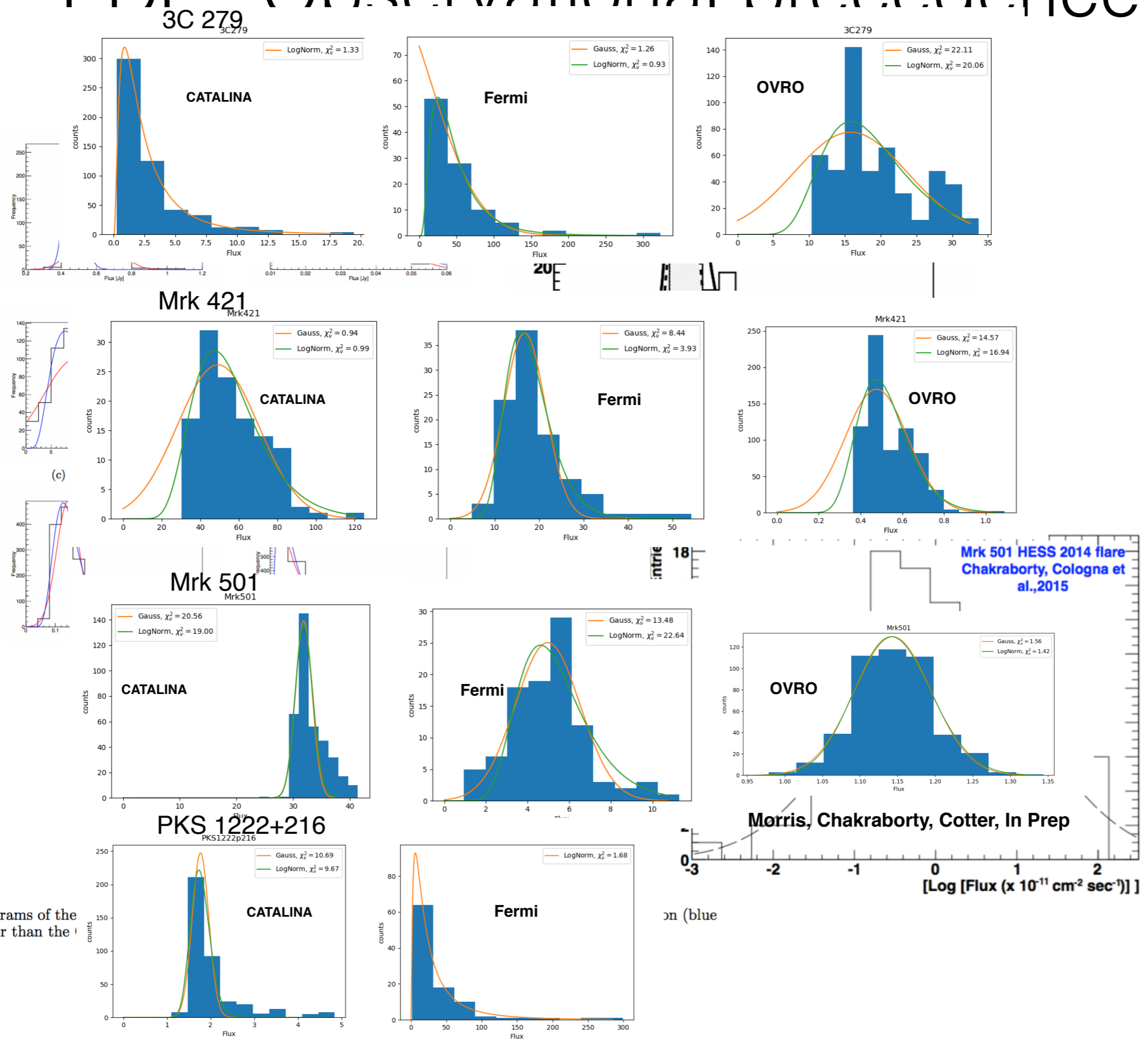
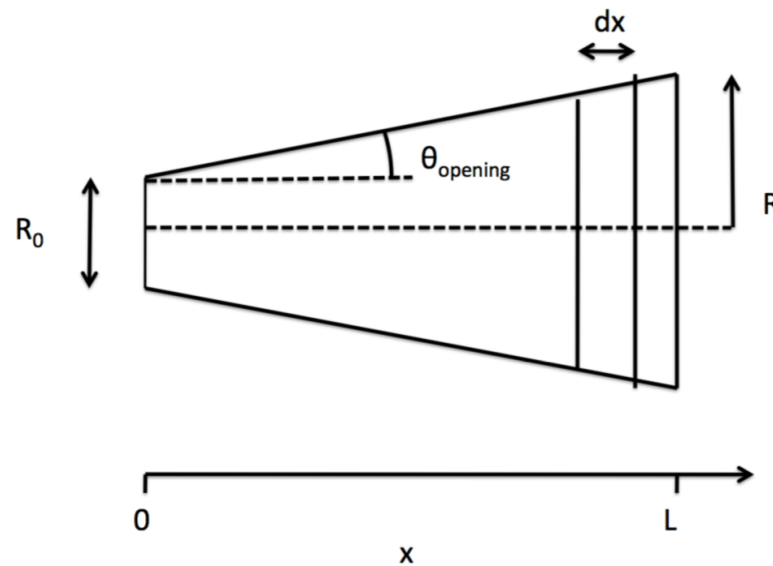


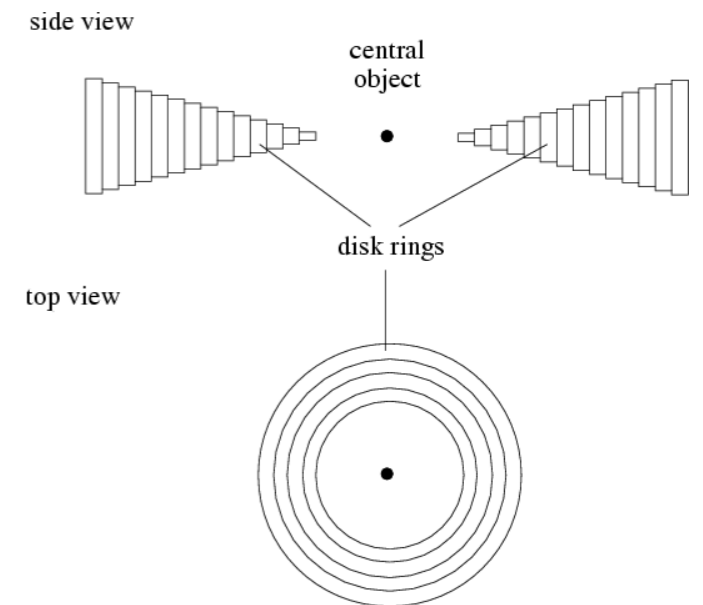
Fig. 6. Histograms of the line) fits better than the

# Origin of Lognormality ?

- Multiplicative process  $\Leftrightarrow$  Lognormality
- Lyubarskii's accretion disk  $\Rightarrow$  Fluctuations propagating from **outer to inner rings**  $\Rightarrow$  **Multiplicative**
- Analogous picture for jets



Potter & Cotter.



Nagel et al., 2004

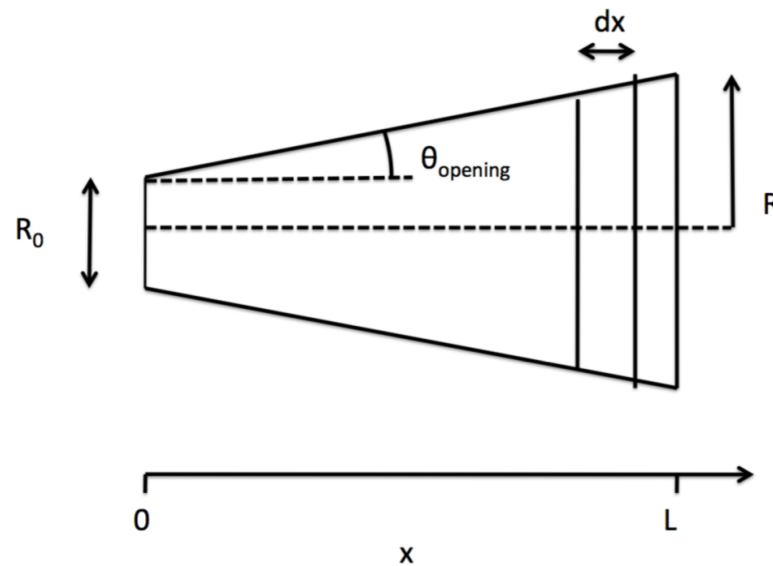
Lyubarskii, 1997 (flicker noise in accretion)

$$\dot{M} = \dot{M}_0 [1 + m(r, t)],$$

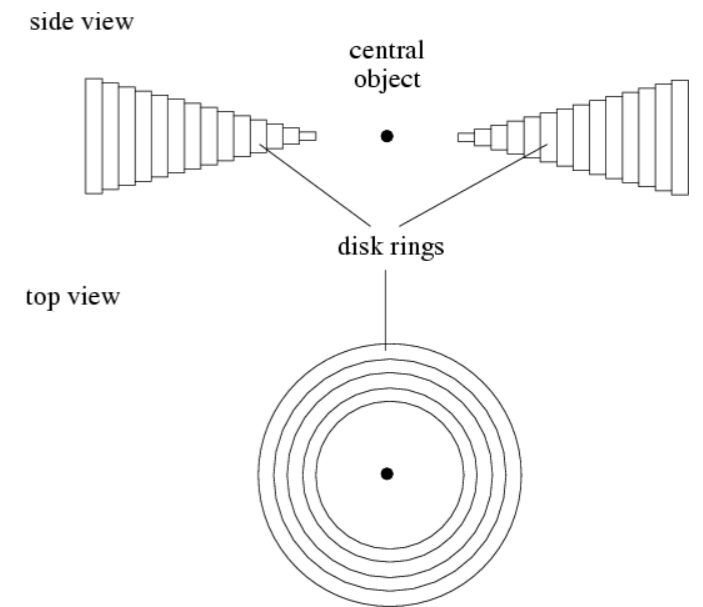
Chakraborty, Morris, Cotter, In Prep

# Origin of Lognormality ?

- Multiplicative process  $\Leftrightarrow$  Lognormality
- Lyubarskii's accretion disk  $\Rightarrow$  Fluctuations propagating from **outer to inner rings**  $\Rightarrow$  **Multiplicative**
- Analogous picture for jets



Potter & Cotter.



Nagel et al., 2004

Lyubarskii, 1997 (flicker noise in accretion)

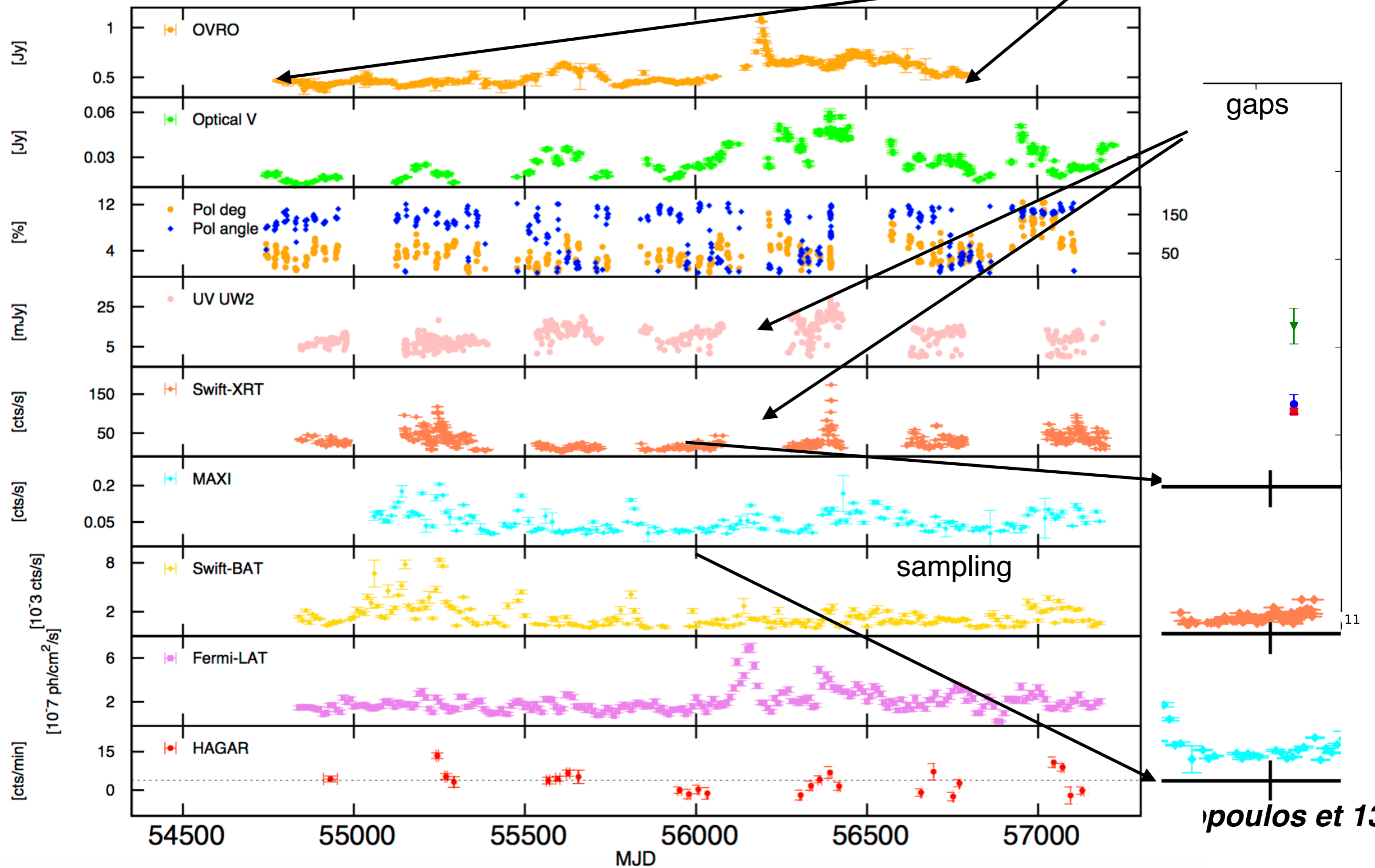
$$\sum f_i(t) = f_1(t) + f_2(t) + \dots \xrightarrow{\text{Central Limit Theorem}} \frac{e^{-\left(\frac{f - \mu_f}{\sigma_f}\right)^2}}{2 \pi \sigma_f^2}$$

$$\dot{M} = \dot{M}_0 [1 + \dot{m}(r, t)],$$

$$\prod f_i(t) \xrightarrow{\log} \log [f_1(t)] + \log [f_2(t)] + \dots \xrightarrow{\text{Central Limit Theorem}} \frac{e^{-\left(\frac{\log f - \mu_{\log f}}{\sigma_{\log f}}\right)^2}}{2 \pi \sigma_{\log f}^2}$$

Chakraborty, Morris, Cotter, In Prep

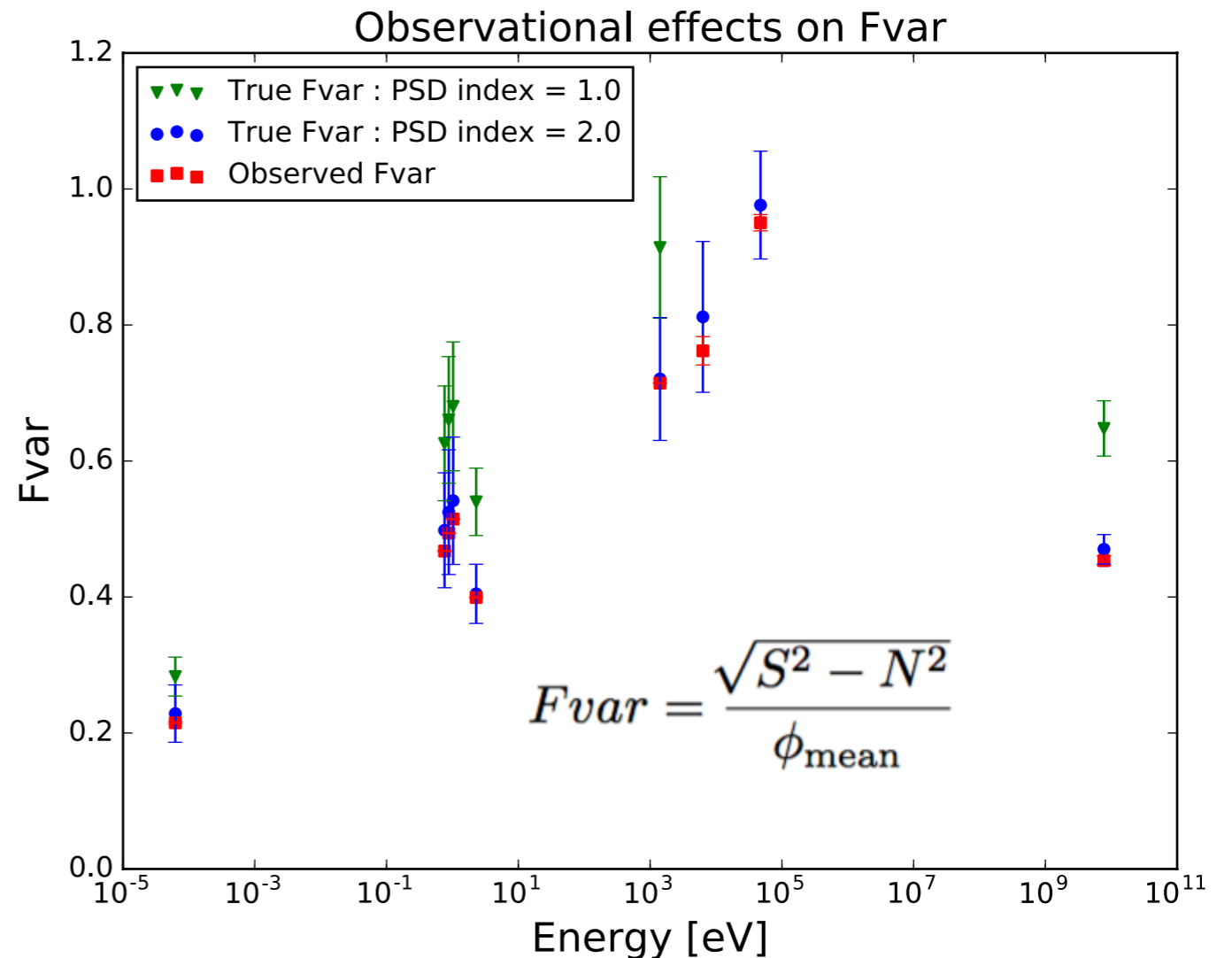
# Variability Energy Distribution window



Sev  
 - Otl  
 - Po  
 - Estimation of flaring in AGNs  
 etc.....

# Variability Energy Distribution

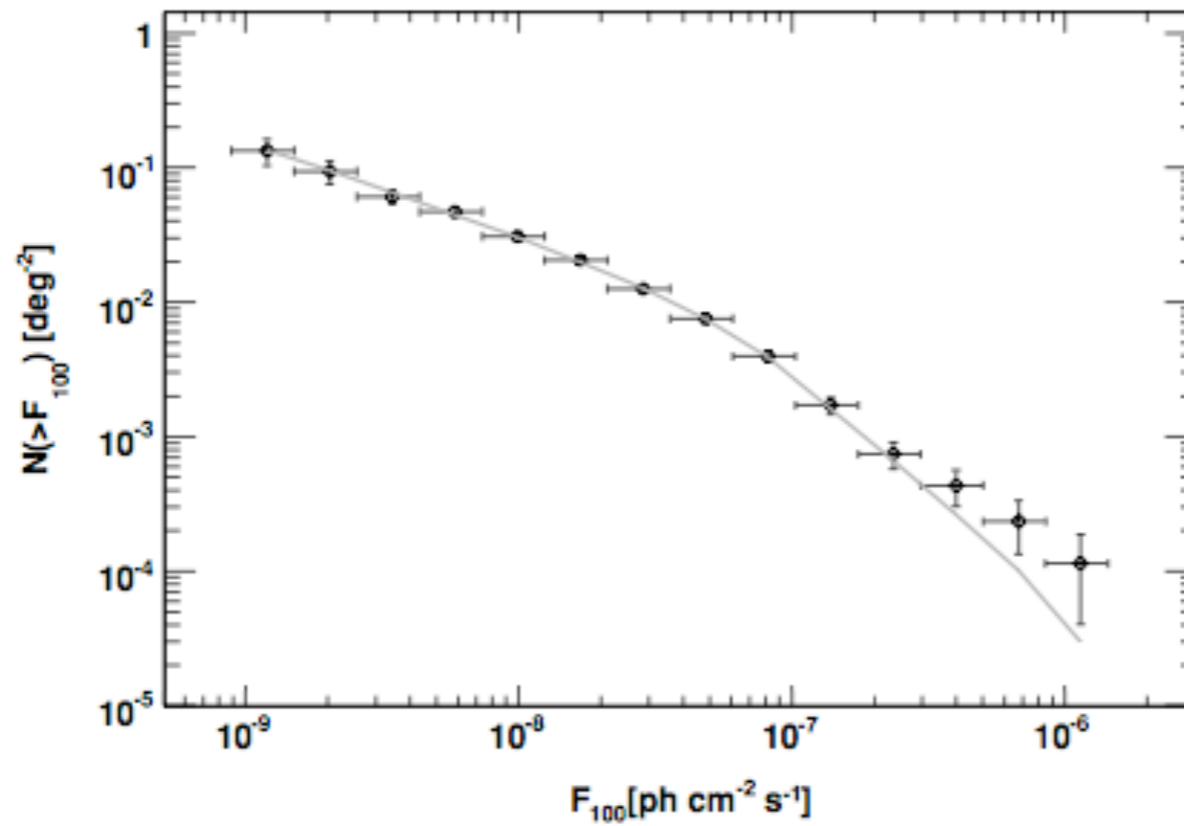
- Both the **uncertainty and bias due to observational effects are non-trivial**
- Simple yet **not unbiased estimator**
- Correct estimate of variability necessitates incorporating observational cadence (**uneven and sparse sampling**) errors and biases
- **Errors on flux bins less important** than errors due to non-accounting of gaps and sampling limits
- Account with simulations as shown
- Then model VED along with SED



- **Several applications with simulated LCs**
  - Other estimators like CCF, doubling times, etc. (previous talks, Vaughan, Emmanoulopoulos et 13)
  - Polarisation variability (Blinov - RoboPol first season results)
  - Estimation of flaring in AGNs
- etc.....

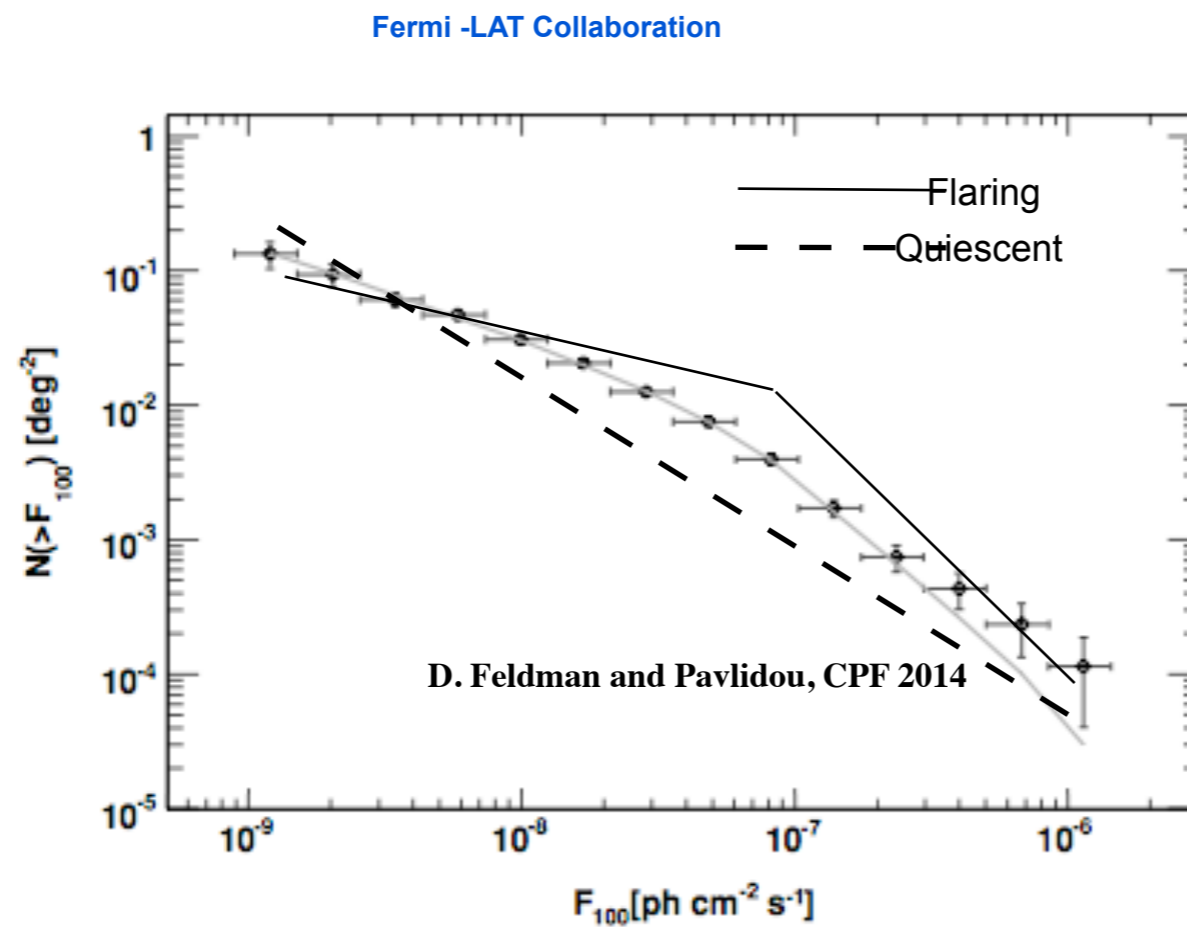
# Variable Population : Source Flux / Counts Distribution

Fermi -LAT Collaboration

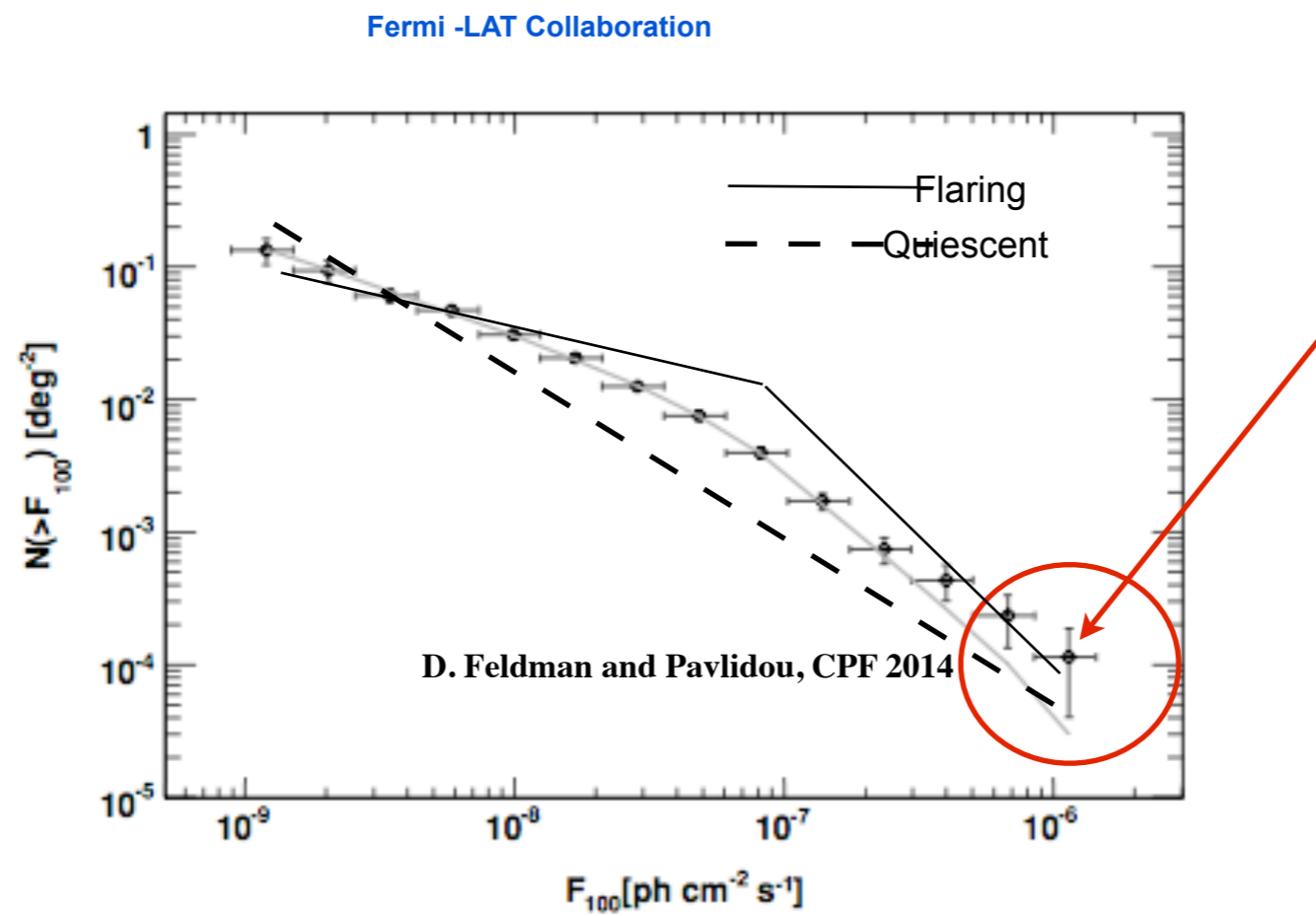




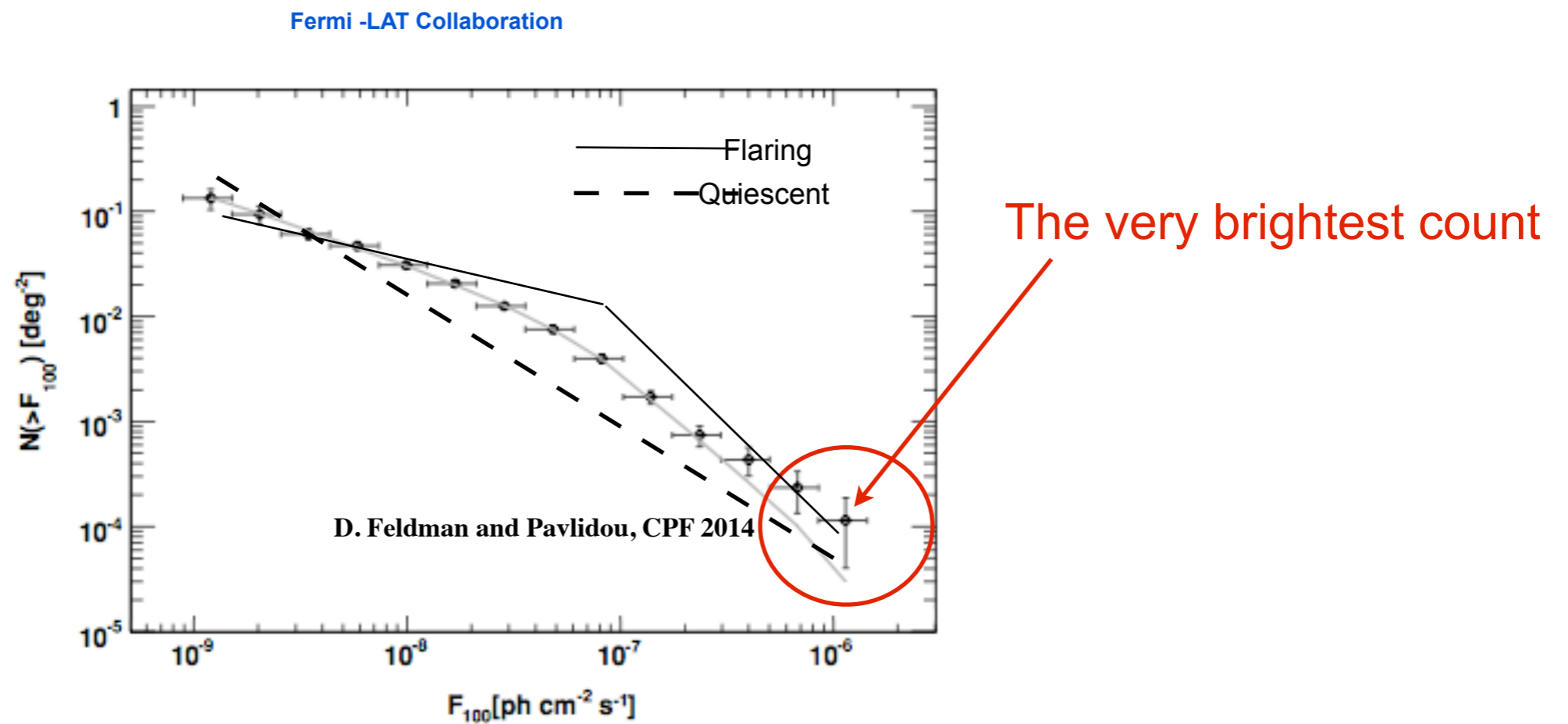
# Variable Population : Source Flux / Counts Distribution



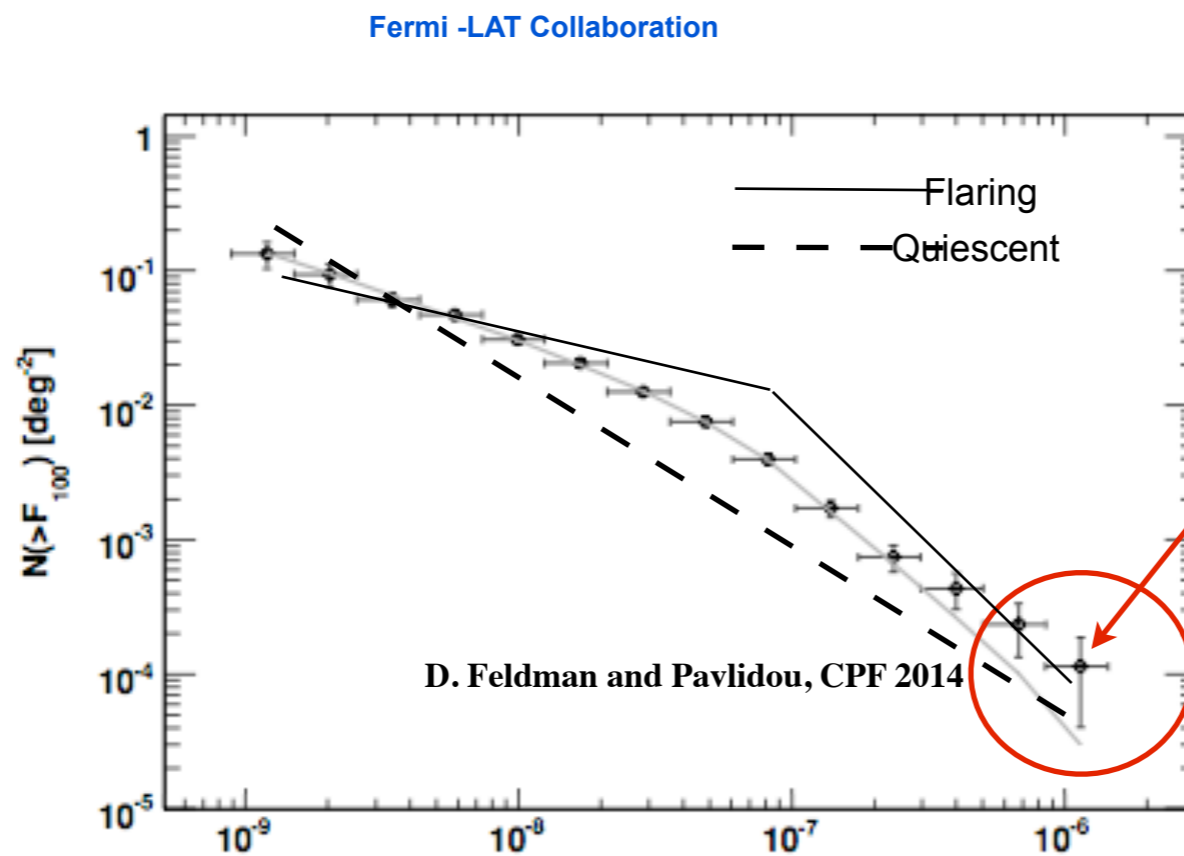
# Variable Population : Source Flux / Counts Distribution



# Variable Population : Source Flux / Counts Distribution



# Variable Population : Source Flux / Counts Distribution



The very brightest count

For flaring timescales of a week  
=> Handful to atleast 2 x Handful

Chakraborty, Pavlidou and Fields, 2014

# Conclusions

- Complexity of processes and environment of individual sources like AGNs necessitates “novel observables”
- Also relevant for population studies and diffuse backgrounds
- Model degeneracies can be lifted in both cases
- Better instruments => Better data / statistics => Statistical observables (PSD, PDF)
- Improve theoretical understanding of observables in terms of physical processes

# Thank you !!!

## **Acknowledgments**

Jonathan Biteau (IPNO)

Paul Morris (Oxford)

Garret Cotter (Oxford)

Frank Rieger (MPIK)

HESS Collaboration

# Supplementary

# PSD : Simulations

## General Approach

- Observed Emission
  - Function of **time (lightcurve)**, space (morphology), energy (energy spectrum) **How tells us why**
  - Individual sources : physical mechanisms at emission sites
  - Population : general trends
- **Timing analysis** : Observed light curve is 1 sample or realisation -> we need to “repeat” to get significant results  
(Timmer and Koenig, 1995, Emmanoulopoulos, McHardy and Papadakis, 2013)
- Signal coupled with noise
  - Either disentangle **deterministic** signal from **random** fluctuations (for eg. detecting periodic/QPOs)
  - Or the interesting signals are random fluctuations themselves (for eg. flaring vs quiescence)
- **Observational Irregularities** : Allocation, satellite cycles, visibility, competing targets, etc
  - gaps
  - coarse or uneven sampling
  - length of observation limited

Emmanoulopoulos et al., 2013, Allevato et al., 2013, Chakraborty & Biteau (In prep)

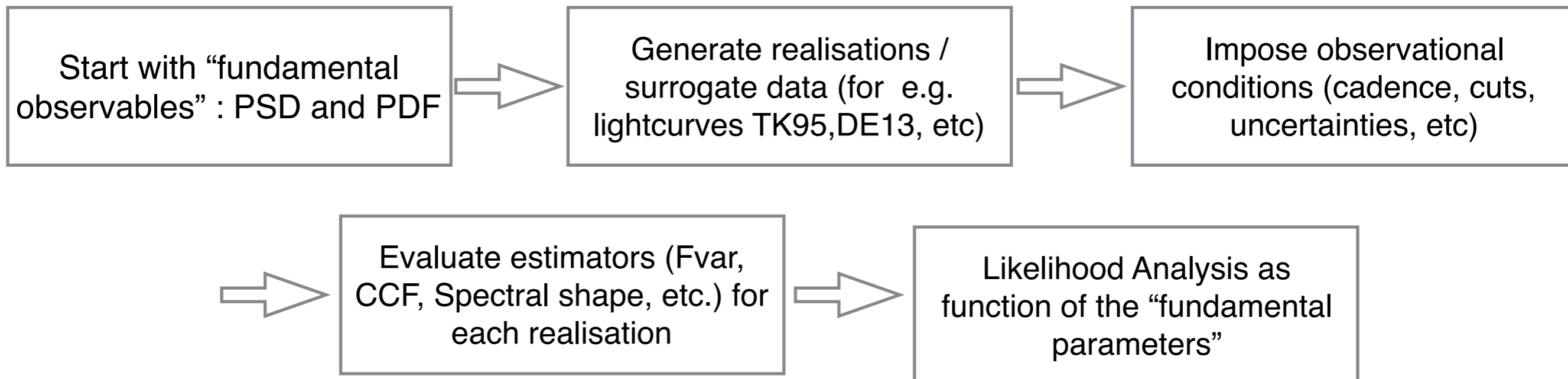


# PSD : Simulations

## General Approach

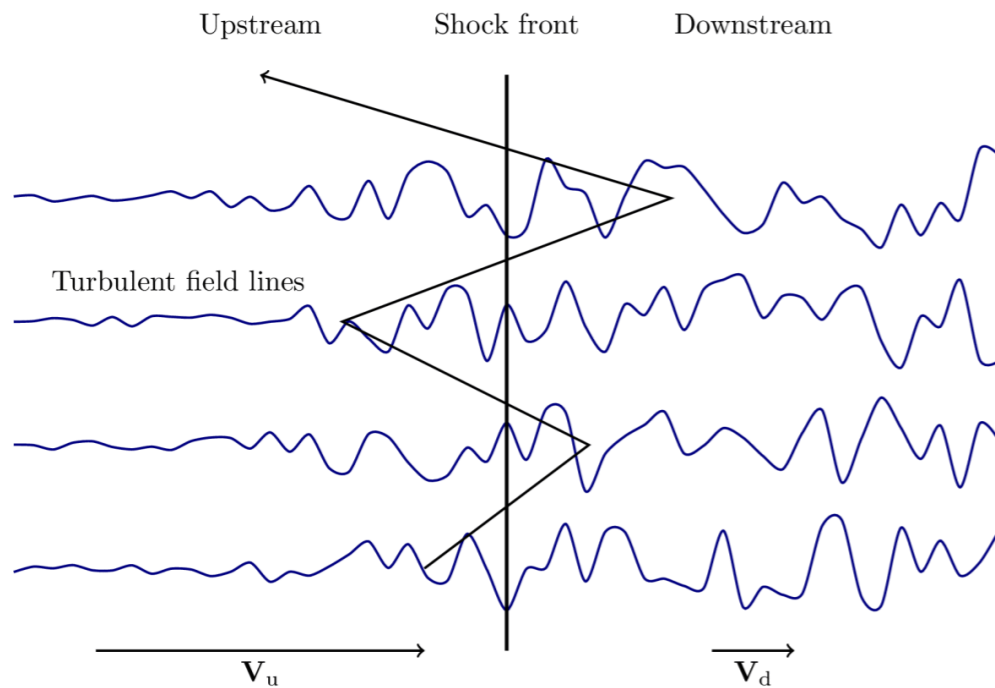
- Observed Emission
  - Function of **time (lightcurve)**, space (morphology), energy (energy spectrum) **How tells us why**
  - Individual sources : physical mechanisms at emission sites
  - Population : general trends
- **Timing analysis** : Observed light curve is 1 sample or realisation -> we need to **“repeat” to get significant results**  
(Timmer and Koenig, 1995, Emmanoulopoulos, McHardy and Papadakis, 2013)
- Signal coupled with noise
  - Either disentangle **deterministic** signal from **random** fluctuations (for eg. detecting periodic/QPOs)
  - Or the interesting signals are random fluctuations themselves (for eg. flaring vs quiescence)
- **Observational Irregularities** : Allocation, satellite cycles, visibility, competing targets, etc
  - gaps
  - coarse or uneven sampling
  - length of observation limited

Emmanoulopoulos et al., 2013, Allevato et al., 2013, Chakraborty & Biteau (In prep)

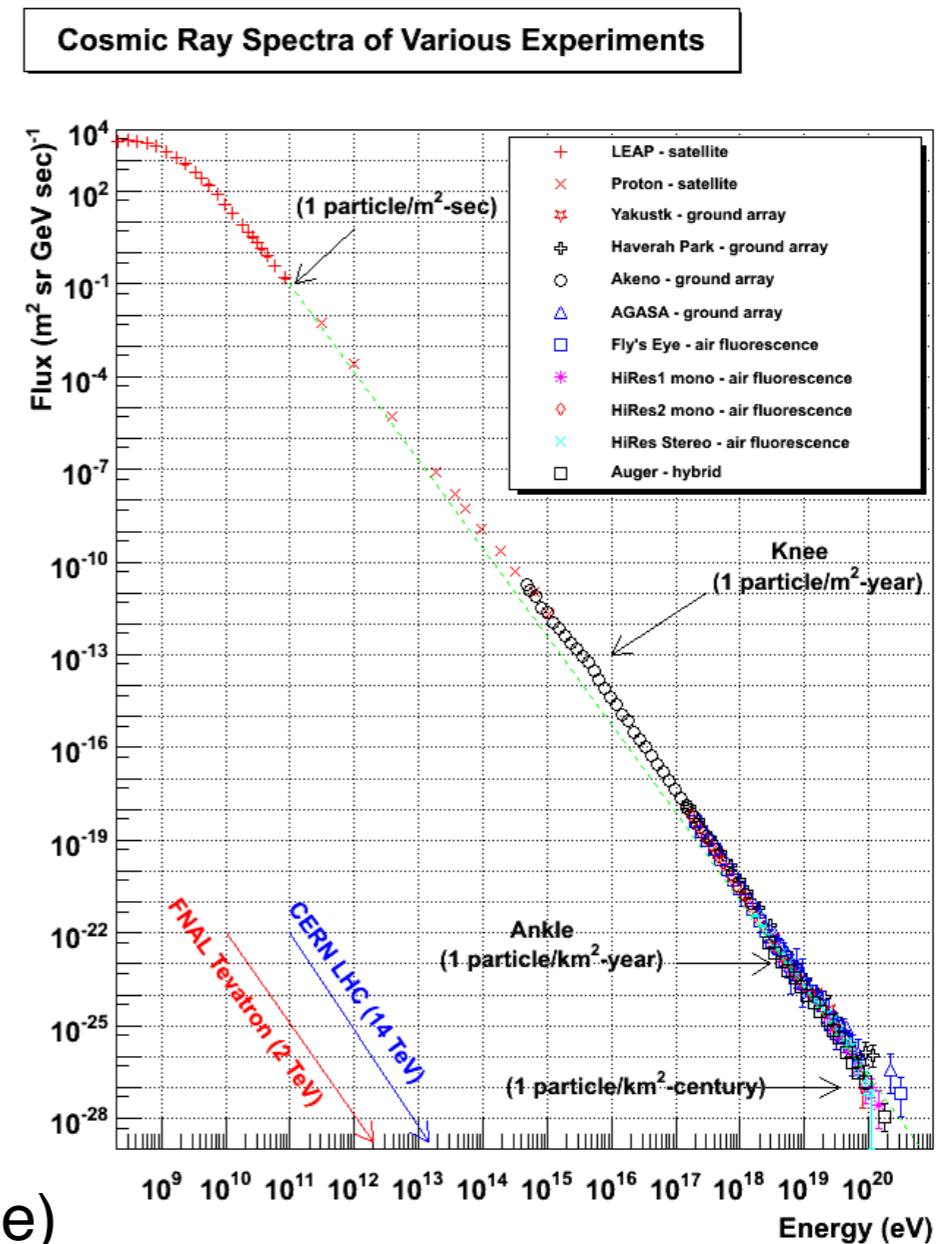


# Particle Acceleration -> Power-Laws

- Lightcurve(f) = Dynamical(f) \* **Acceleration(f)** \* Radiation(f) \* Observation(f)



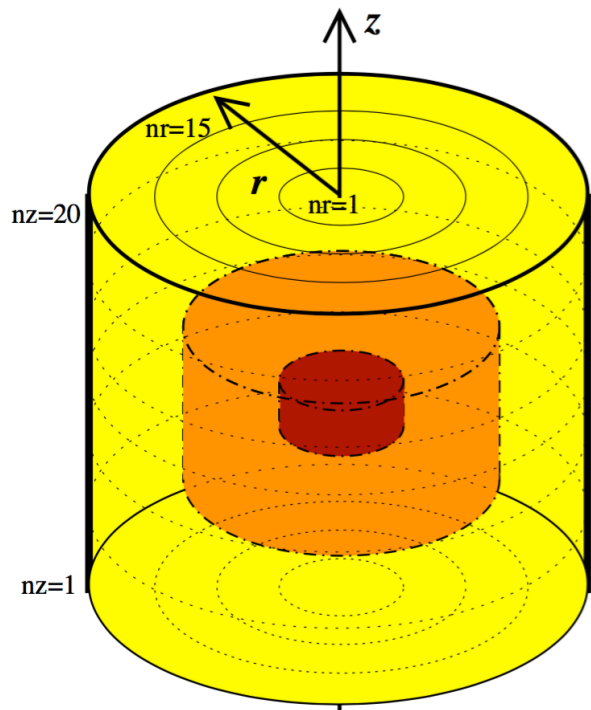
⇒



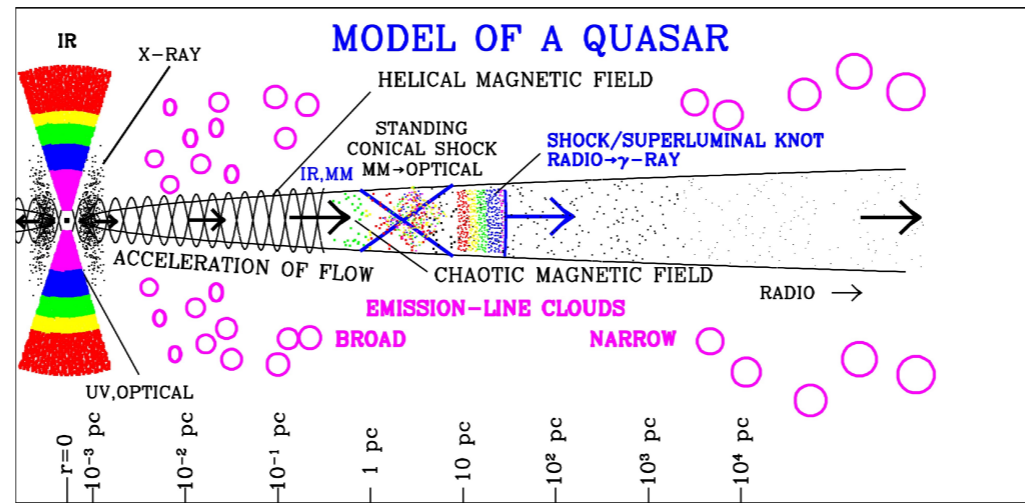
Could they have same origin ?

(Analytical / simulations with Simone Giacche)

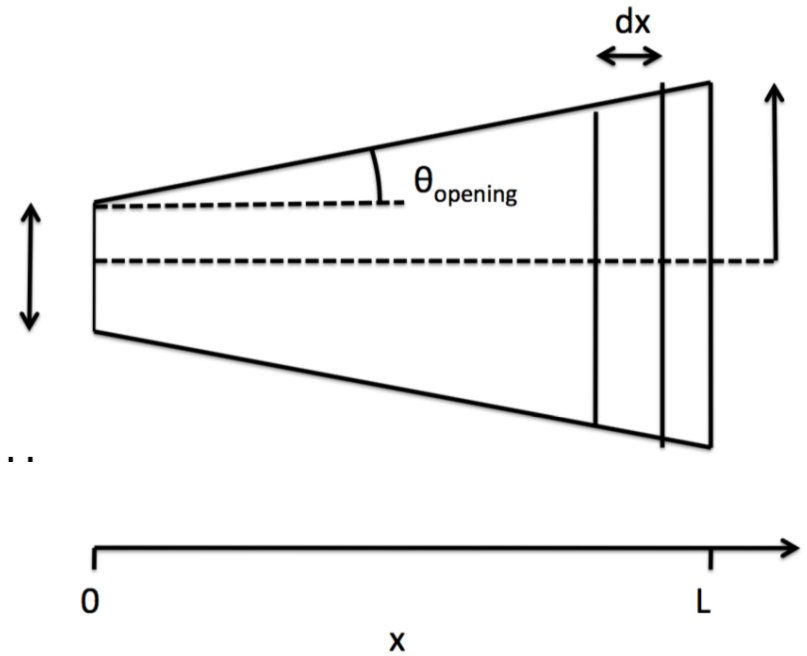
# Physics of individual sources - AGN jets



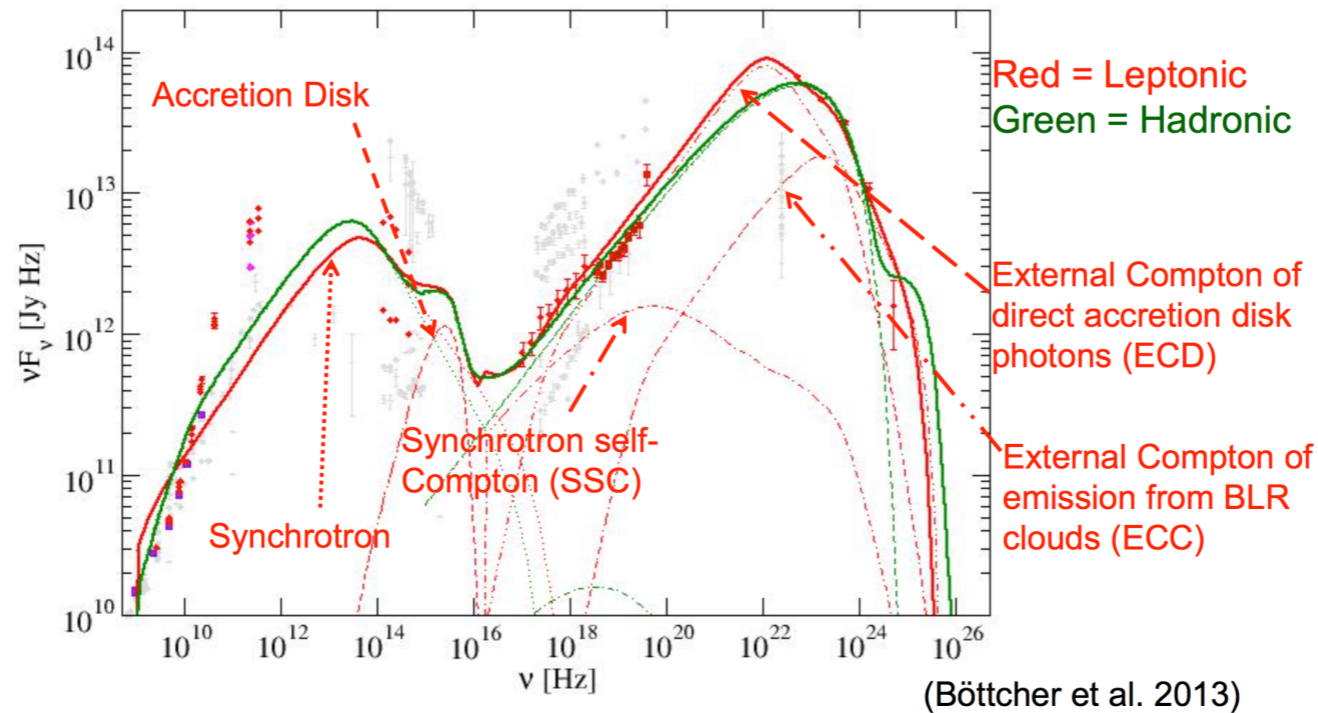
Chen, Botcher, Pohl



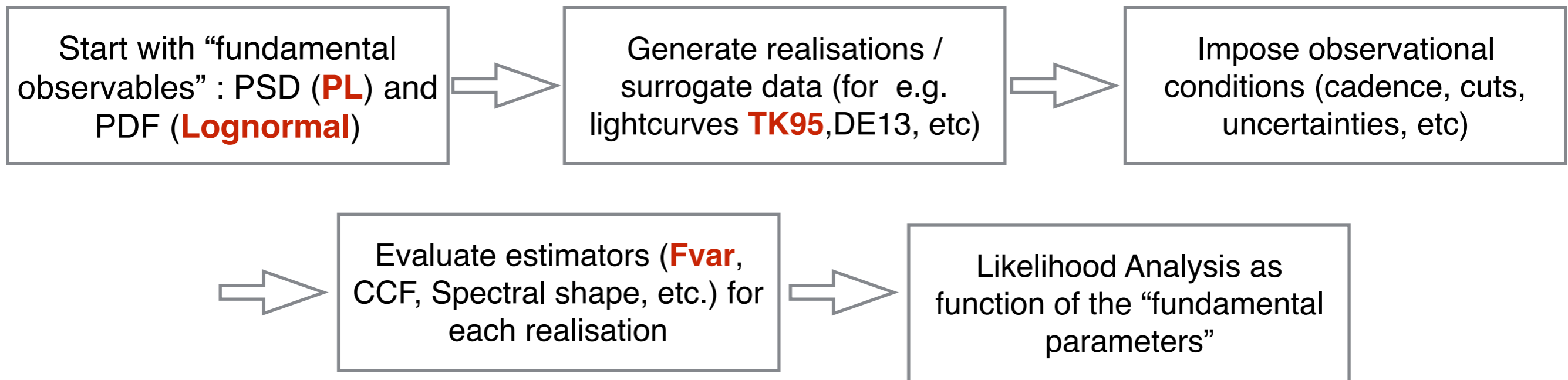
Marscher



Potter & Cotter, 2012...







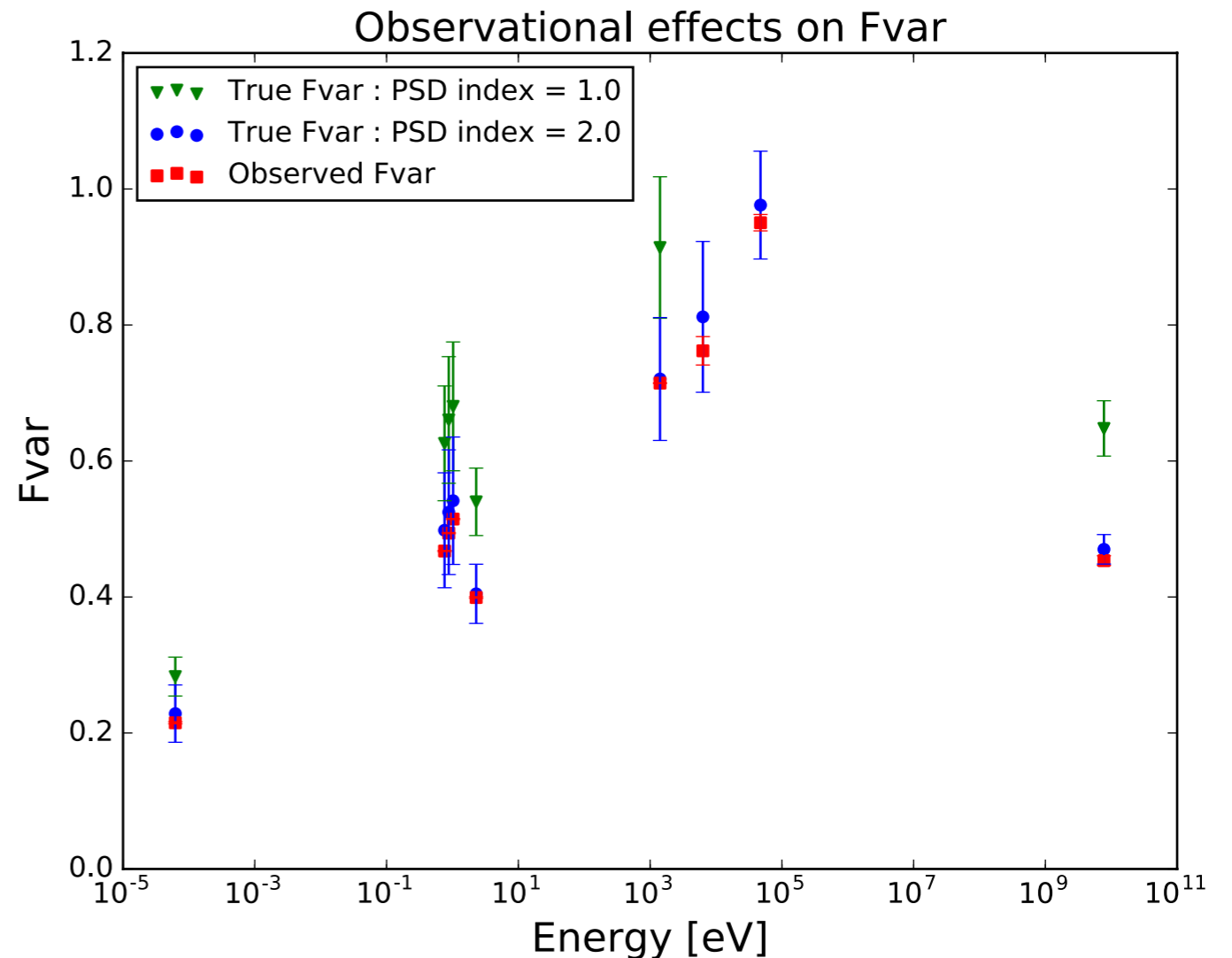
# Variability Energy Distribution

- Even with red noise, both the **uncertainty and bias due to observational effects are non-trivial**

- Correct estimate of variability necessitates incorporating these systematic uncertainties

- Crucial to have coordinated observational cadence across wavelengths

- Further work - **non-Gaussian PDFs**, tests for stationarity



- **Several applications with simulated LCs**
  - Other estimators like CCF, doubling times, etc. (previous talks, Vaughan, Emmanoulopoulos et al)
  - Polarisation variability (Blinov - RoboPol first season results)
  - Estimation of flaring in AGNs
- etc.....

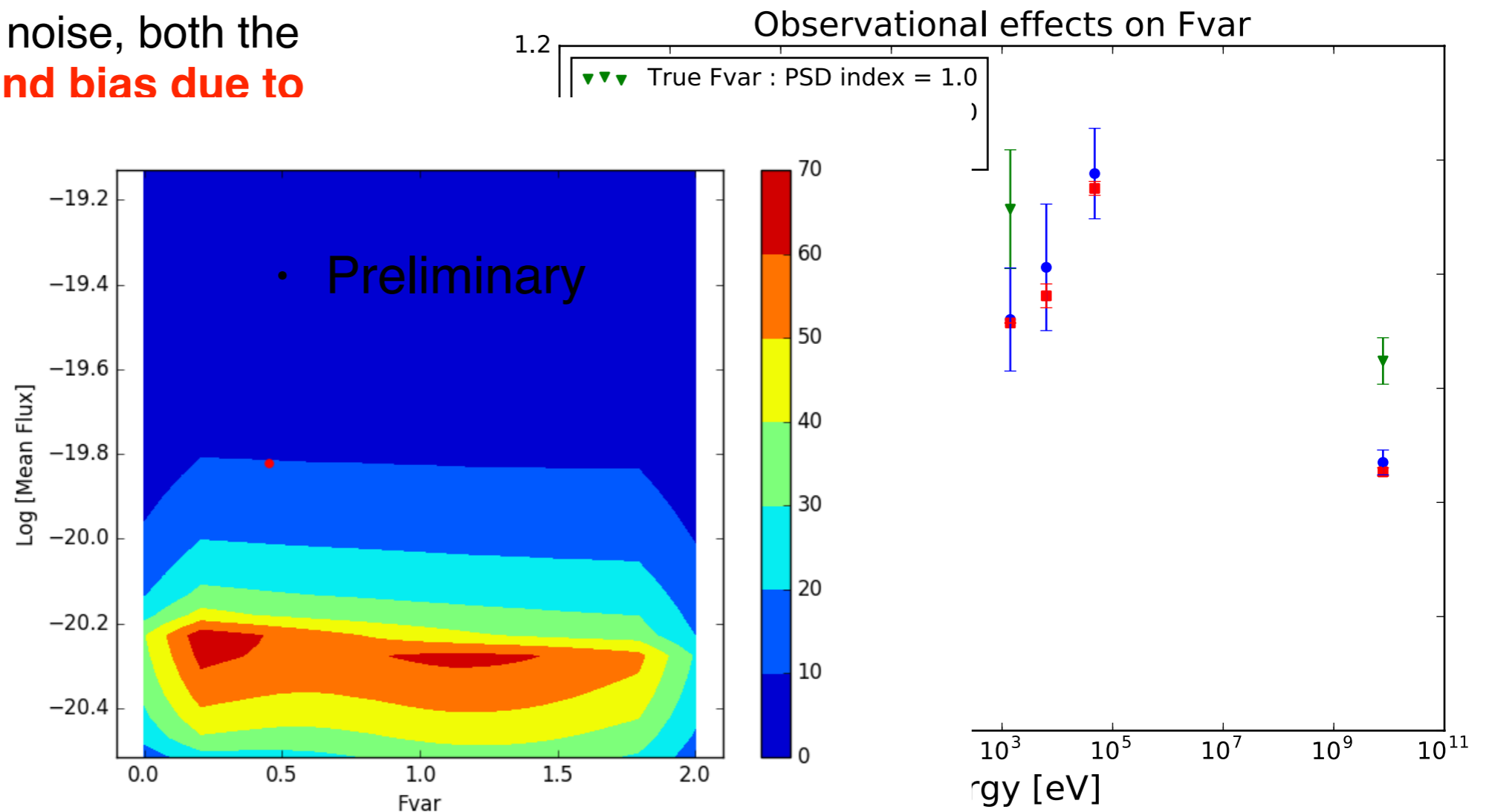
# Variability Energy Distribution

- Even with red noise, both the **uncertainty and bias due to observations are trivial**

- Correct estimation necessitates inclusion of systematic uncertainties

- Crucial to have observations at multiple wavelengths

- Further work - **PDFs**, tests for stationarity



- **Several applications with simulated LCs**
  - Other estimators like CCF, doubling times, etc. (previous talks, Vaughan, Emmanoulopoulos et al)
  - Polarisation variability (Blinov - RoboPol first season results)
  - Estimation of flaring in AGNs
- etc.....

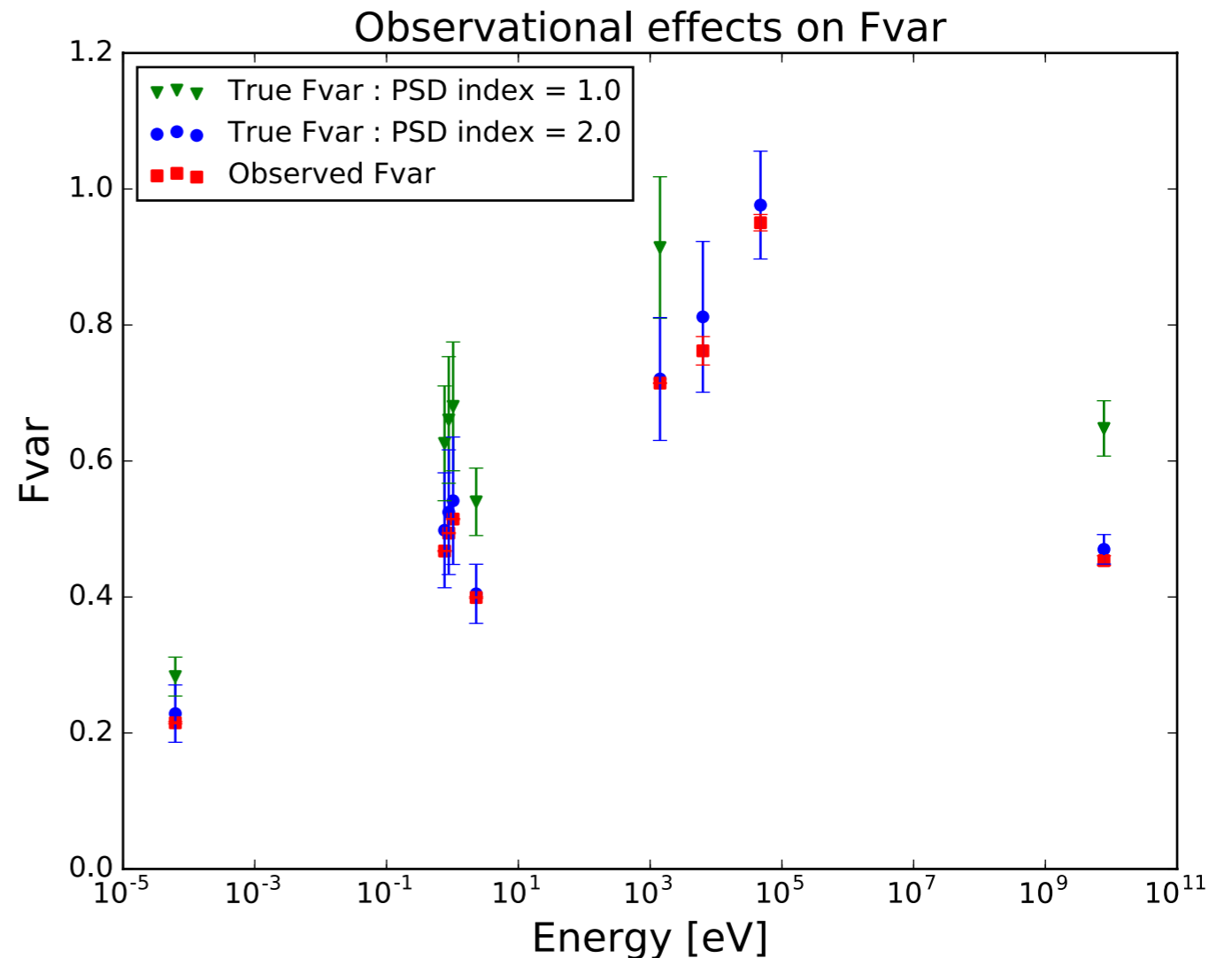
# Variability Energy Distribution

- Even with red noise, both the **uncertainty and bias due to observational effects are non-trivial**

- Correct estimate of variability necessitates incorporating these systematic uncertainties

- Crucial to have coordinated observational cadence across wavelengths

- Further work - **non-Gaussian PDFs**, tests for stationarity



- **Several applications with simulated LCs**
  - Other estimators like CCF, doubling times, etc. (previous talks, Vaughan, Emmanoulopoulos et al)
  - Polarisation variability (Blinov - RoboPol first season results)
  - Estimation of flaring in AGNs
- **etc.....**

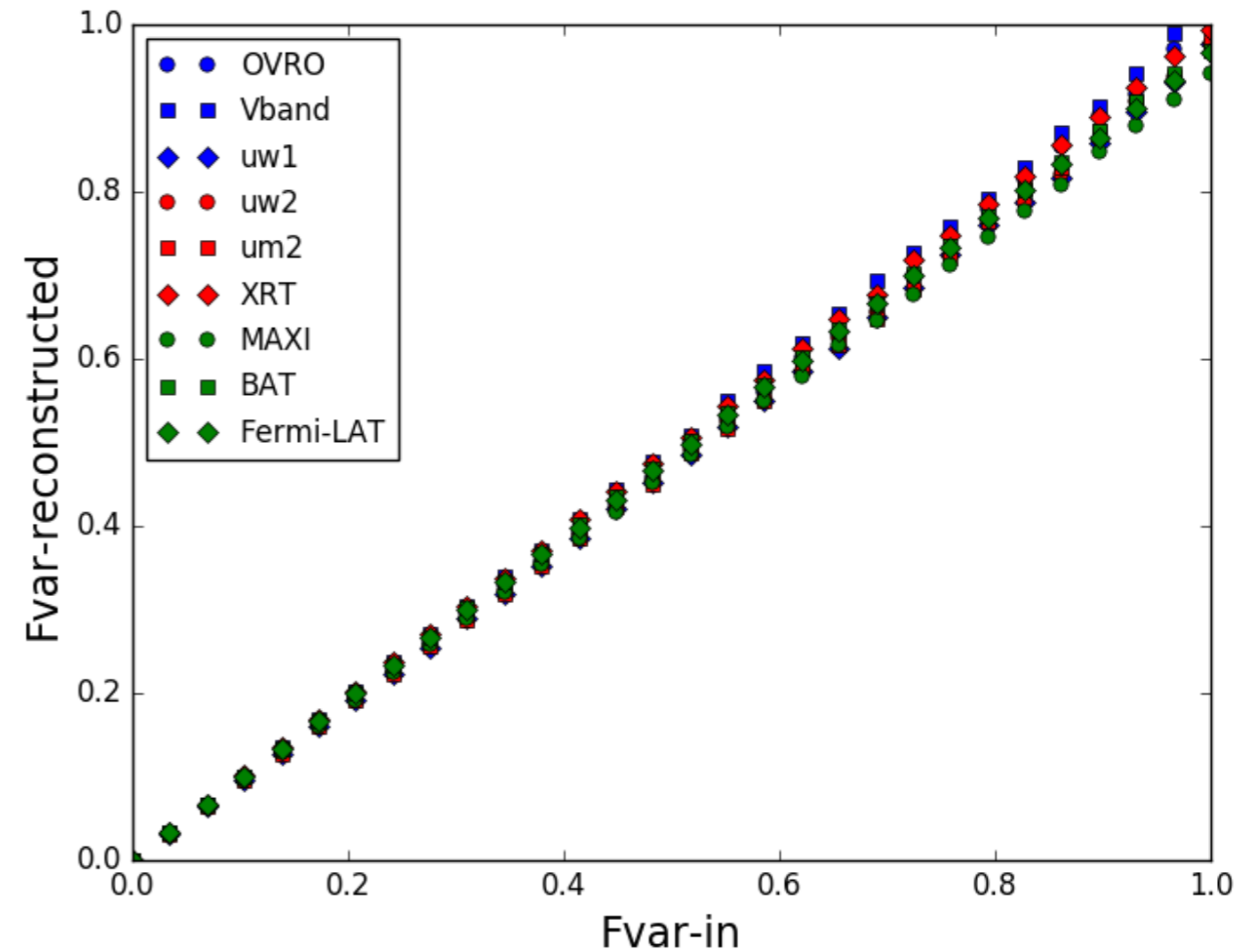
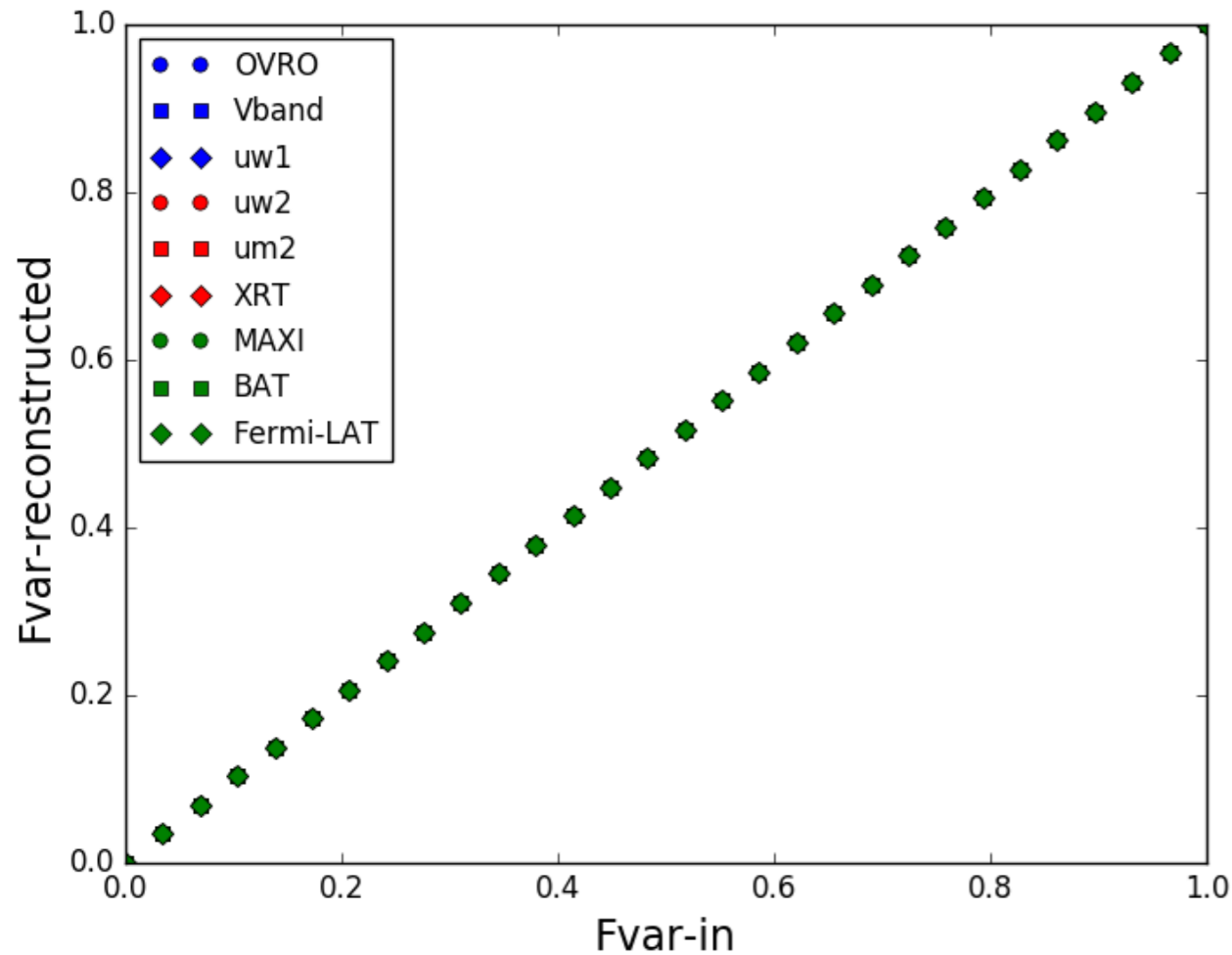


# Fvar reconstruction

Red Noise : Index = 2.0

“Ideal” Cadence

Observed Cadence

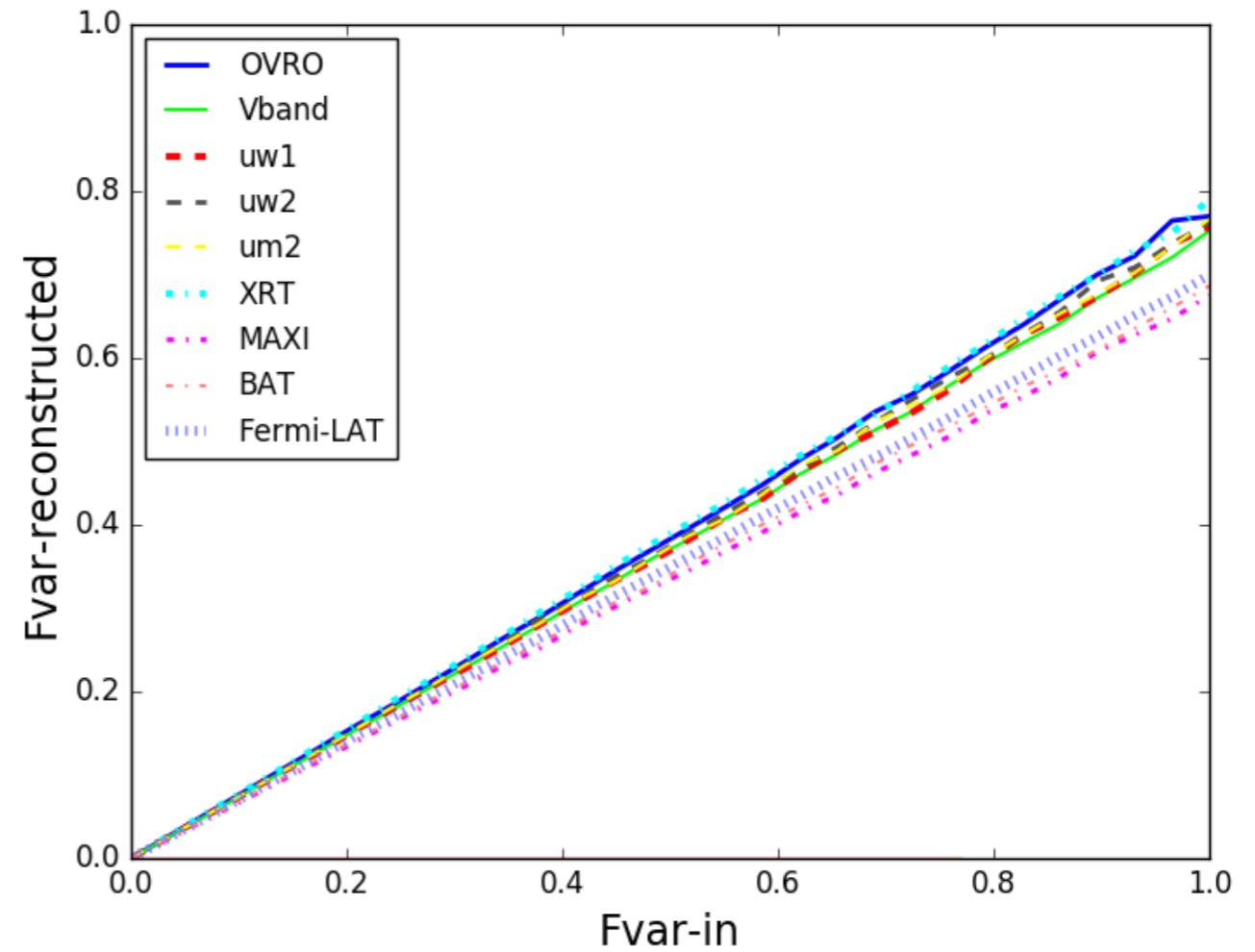
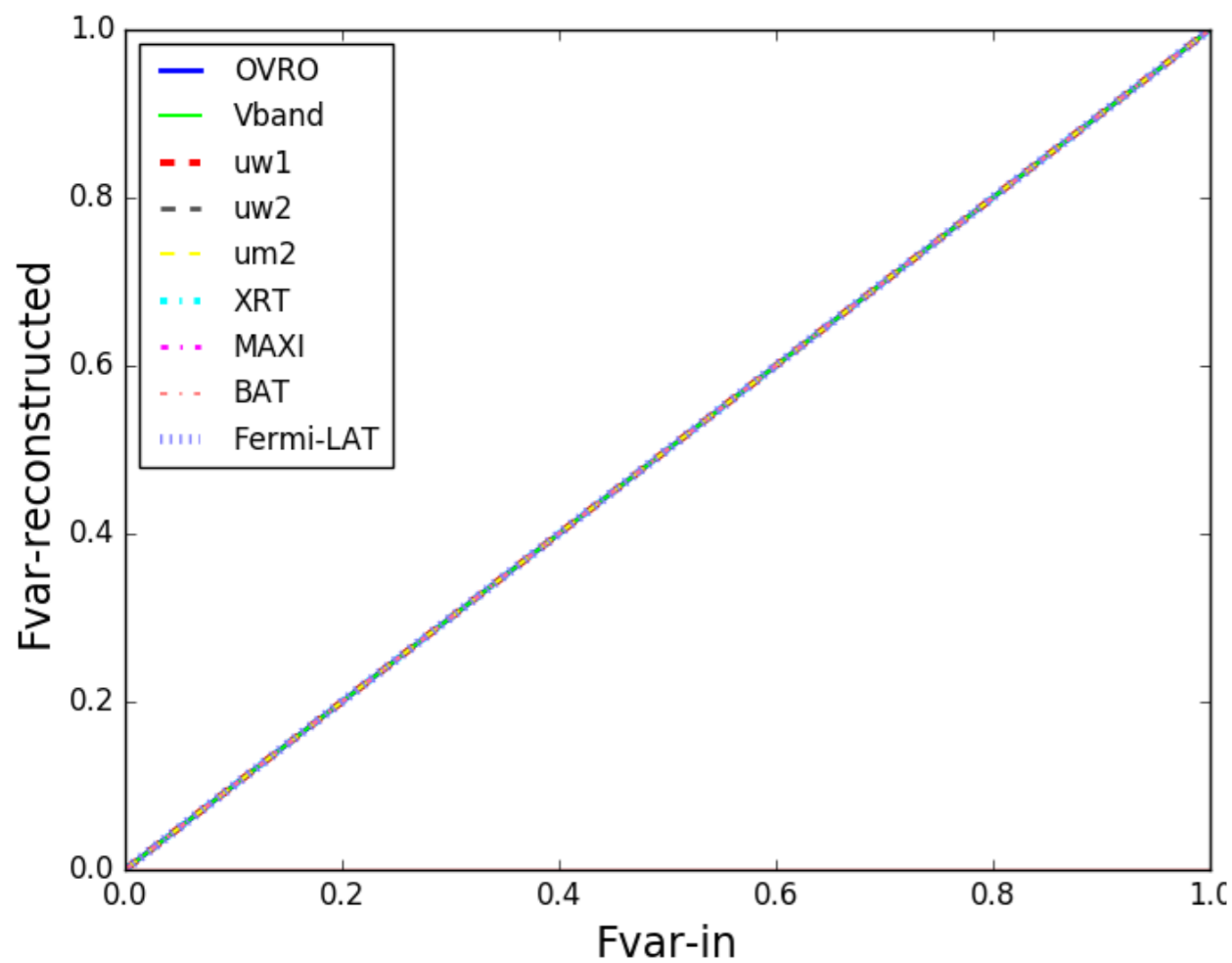


# Fvar reconstruction

Pink Noise : Index = 1.0

“Ideal” Cadence

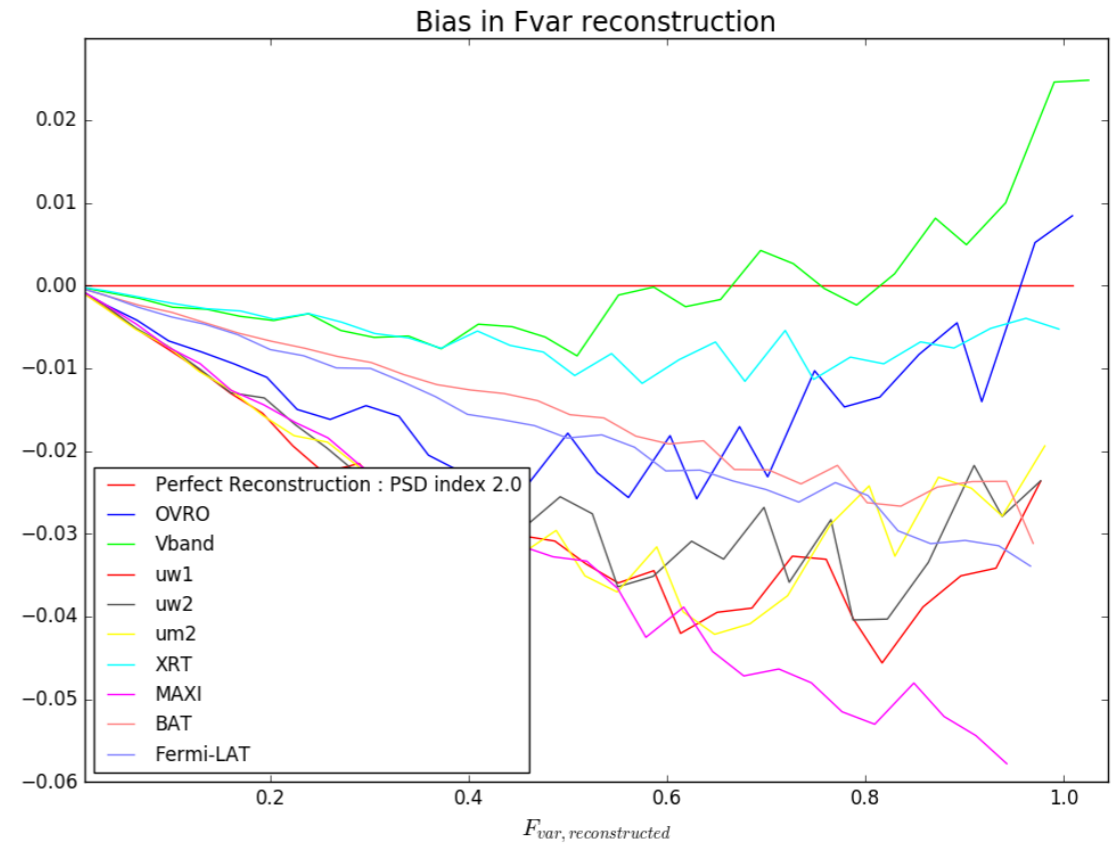
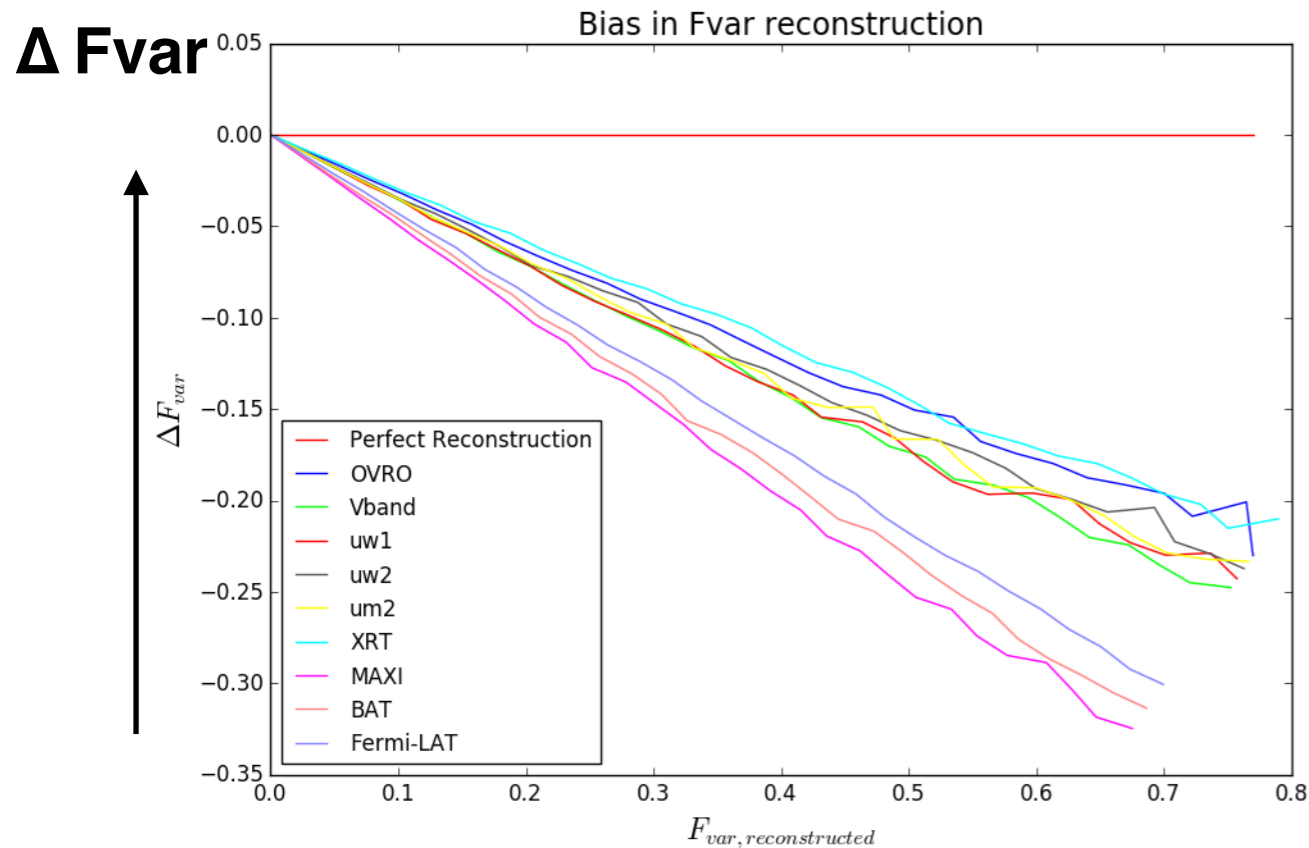
Observed Cadence



# Fvar reconstruction

simulation PSD index = 1.0

simulation PSD index = 2.0



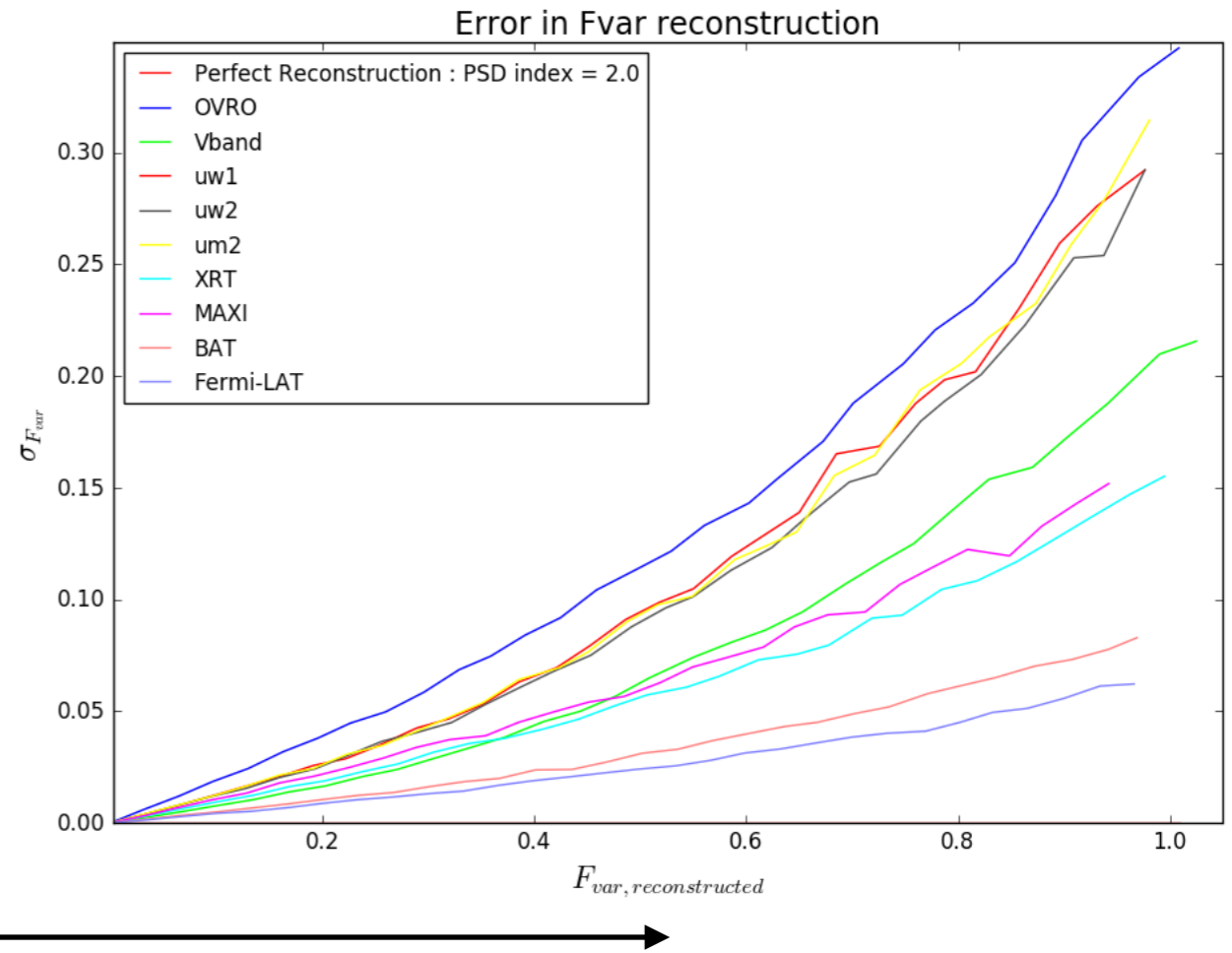
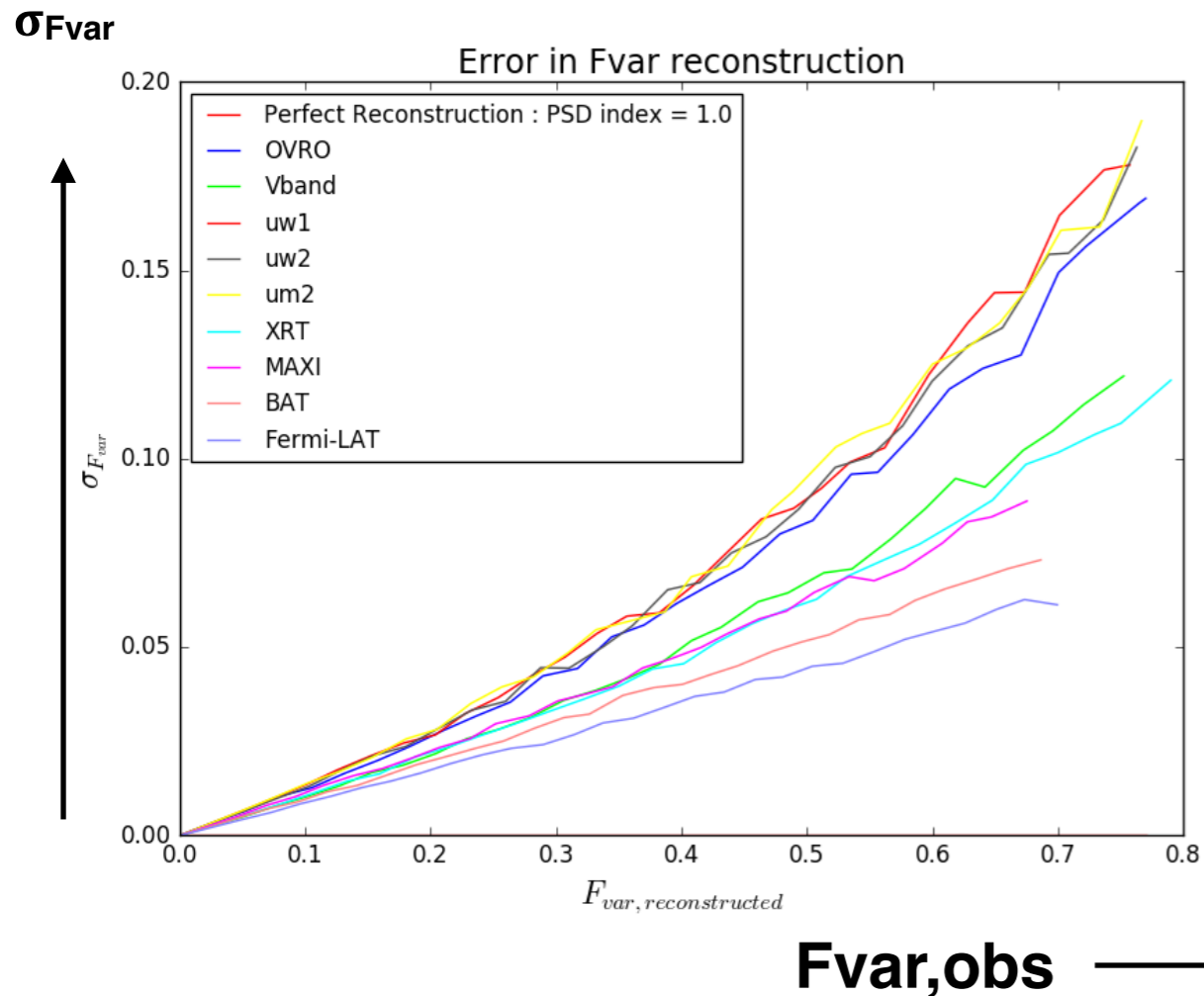
**Fvar,obs** →

- Bias due to observational effects - larger for harder PSD (brown vs red) -> sampling effects ?
- Relatively, best reconstructions for finely sampled, least “gapped” (OVRO, Vband)
- Length of observational window less important for long enough durations and slow variations

# Fvar reconstruction.....

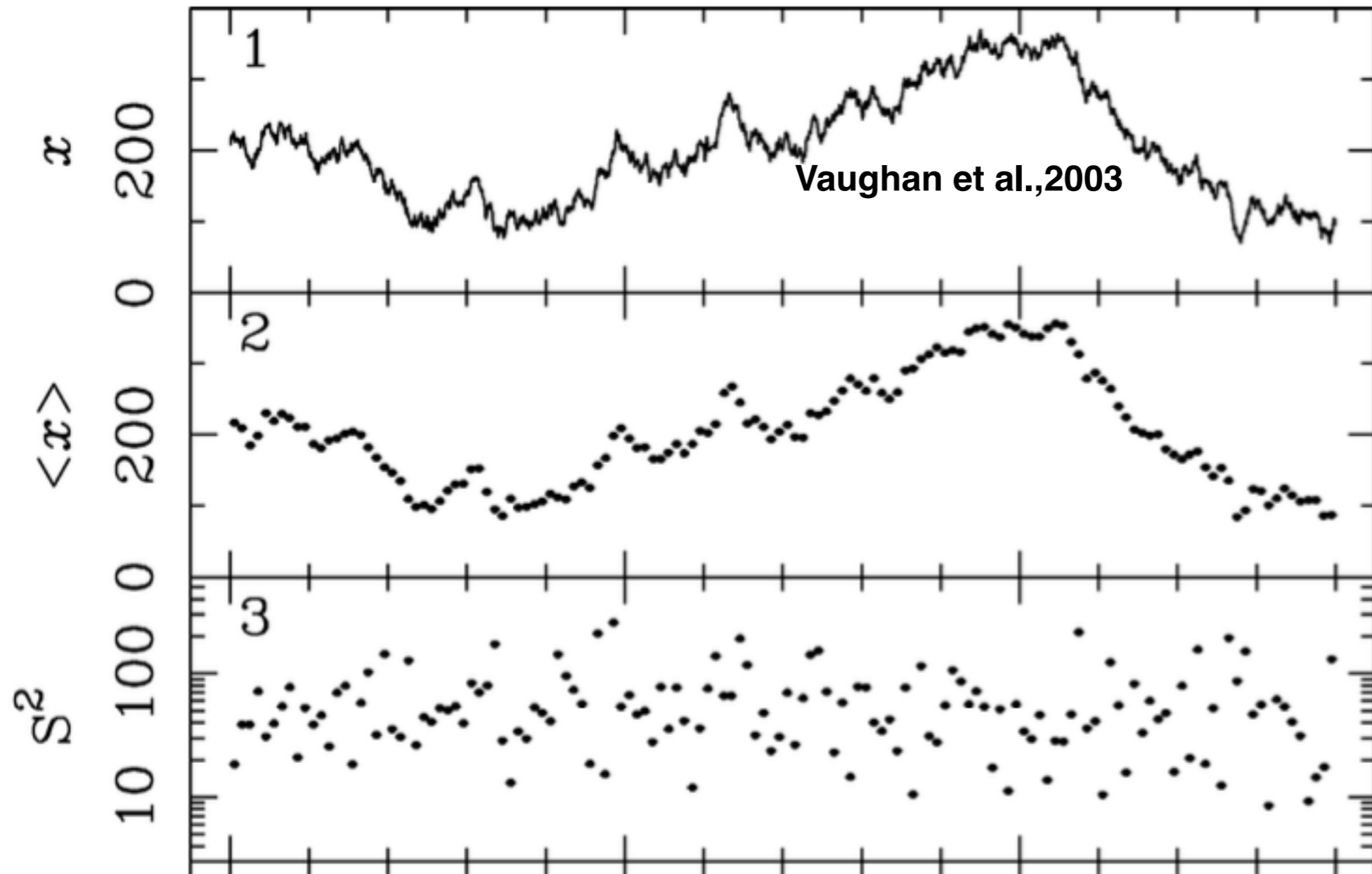
simulation PSD index = 1.0

simulation PSD index = 2.0

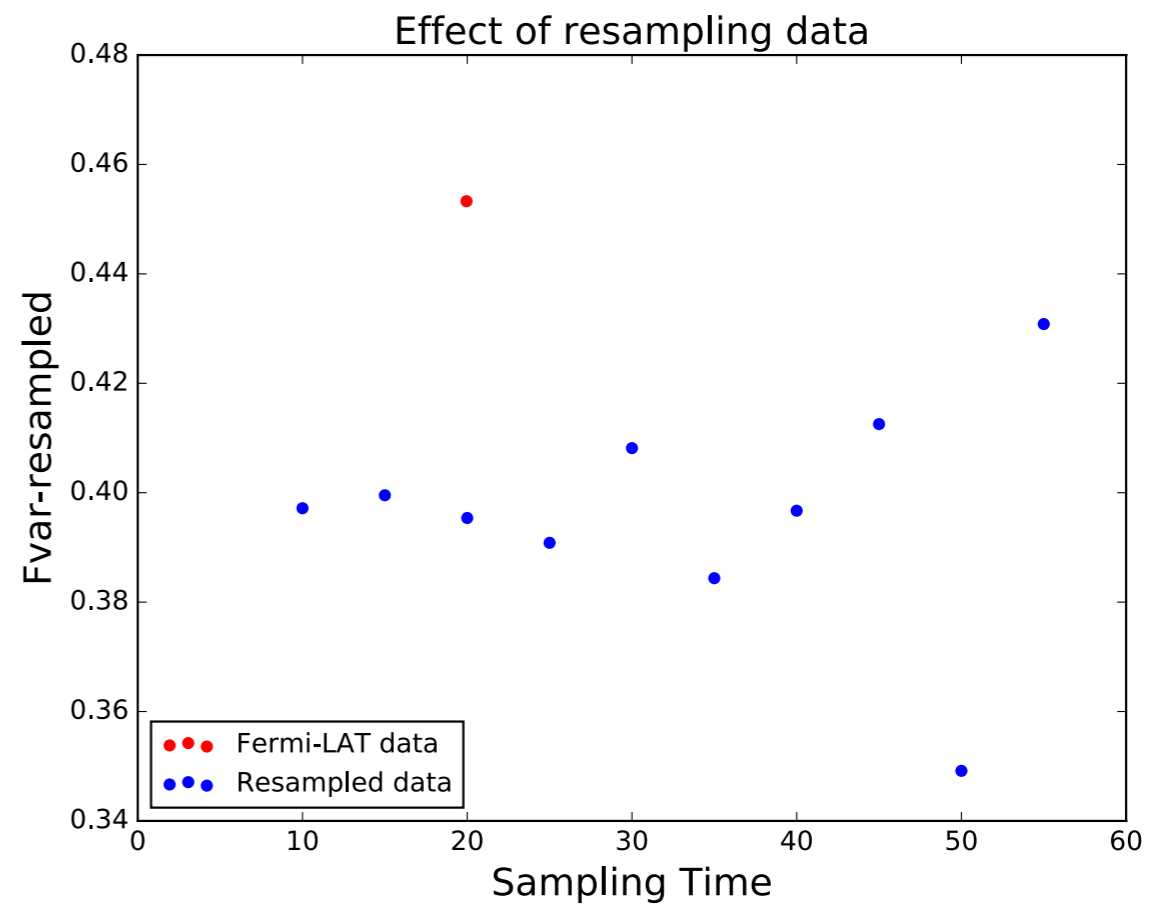
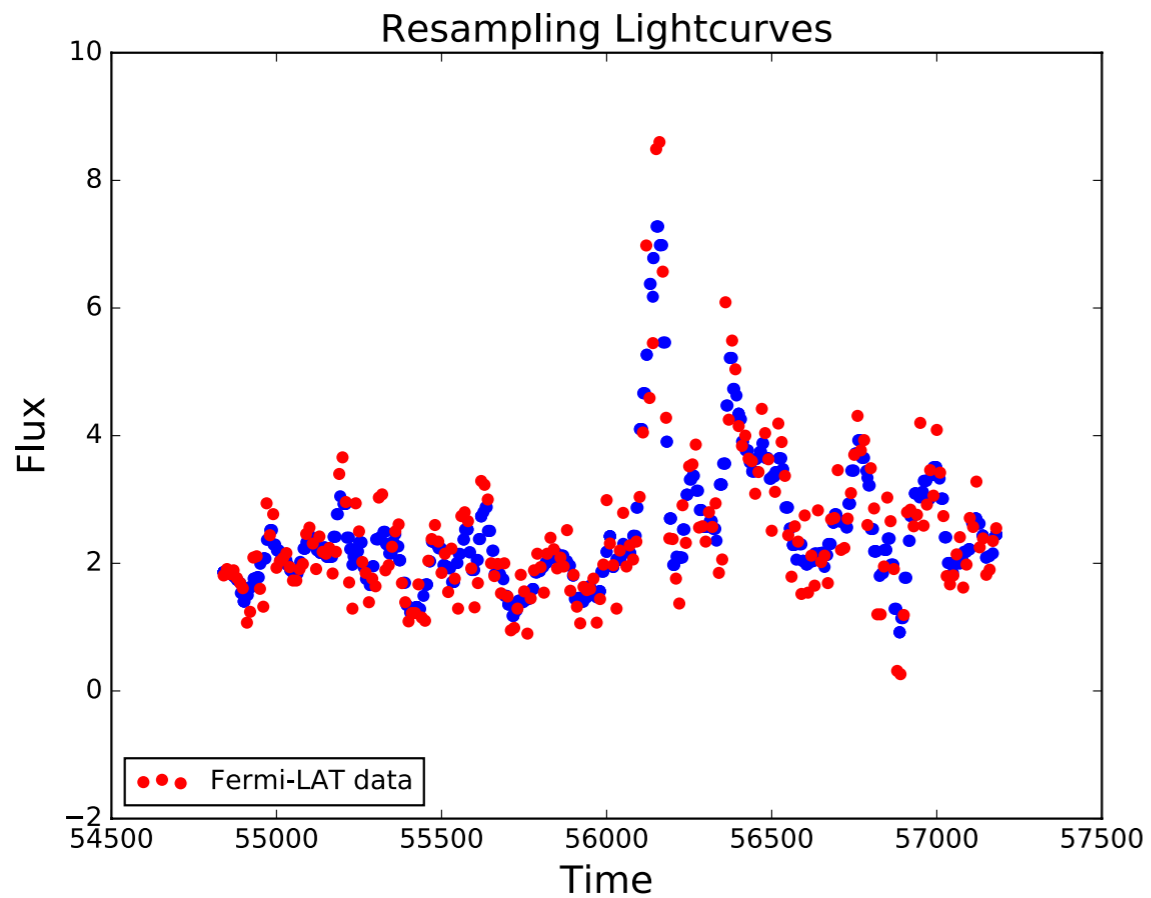


- Uncertainty in Fvar comparable for brown vs red noise
- Relative uncertainty larger for longer wavelengths - larger dispersion ( $\sigma$  does not include flux errors)

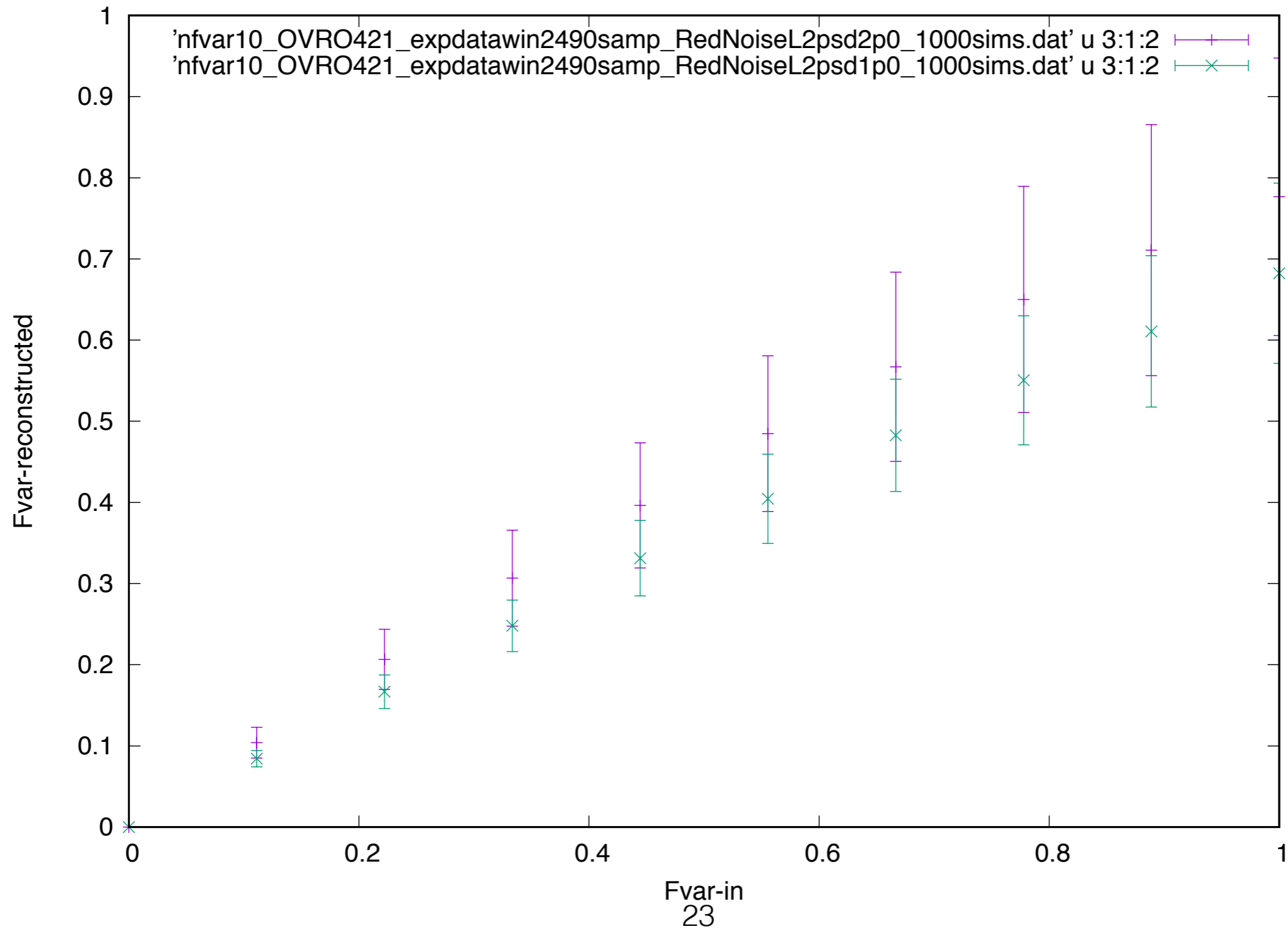
# Backup



# Simple Resampling Effects

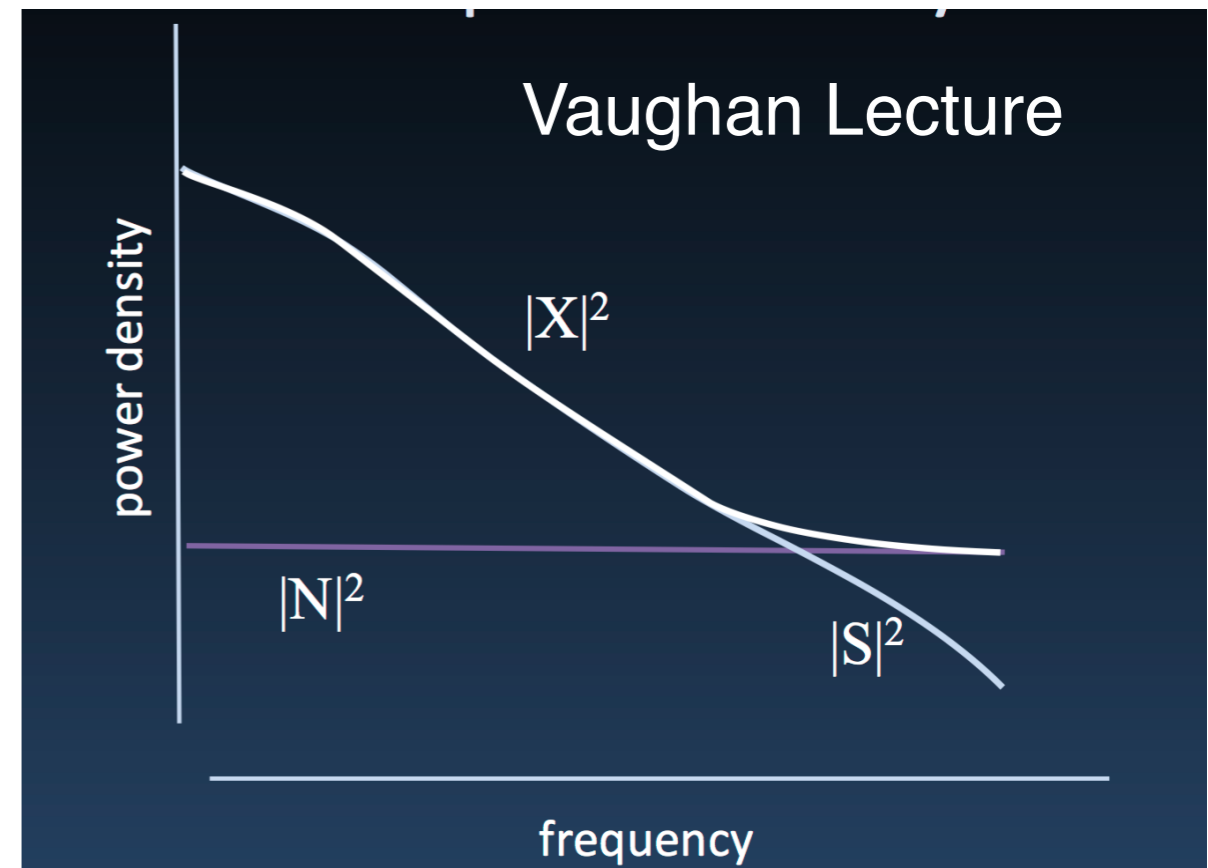


# Non-gaussian PDF



# Power Spectral Density

- Power spectral density or PSD is the “distribution of timescales”
- Frequency  $\leftrightarrow$  timescales
- Time :  $x = s + n$   
 Fourier :  $X = S + N$   
 $|X|^2 = |S|^2 + |N|^2 + \text{Cross}$   
 $\text{PSD}(f) = \langle |S|^2 \rangle = \langle |X|^2 \rangle - \langle |N|^2 \rangle$   
 $\Leftrightarrow$  Related to the variance



- Formally (for AGNs and others)  
 Time : Lightcurve(t) = Dynamical(t) x  
 Acceleration(t) x Radiation(t) x  
 Observation(t) [**Product**]
- Fourier : Lightcurve(f) = Dynamical(f) \*  
 Acceleration(f) \* Radiation(f) \*  
 Observation(f) [**Convolution**]

- Dynamical  $\rightarrow$  Periodic, slow variations  
 Acceleration  $\rightarrow$  Stochastic / Shocks  
 (Sironi et al., 2015, Giacche and Chakraborty, in progress)  
**Radiation  $\rightarrow$  (LC simulations  $\leftrightarrow$  “Observables”)**  
**Observation  $\rightarrow$  Potential (CTCs, others)**

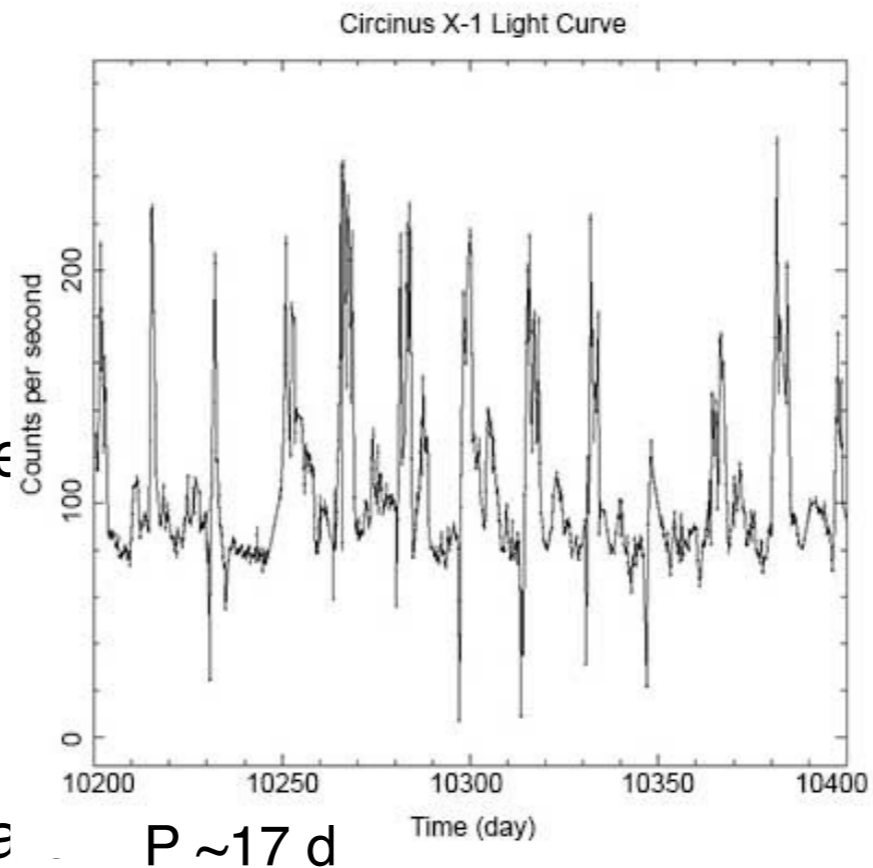


# Types of lightcurves

- **Periodic** - differentiate  
deterministic from noisy  
background
- **Transient** - differentiate  
deterministic from noisy  
background
- **Stochastic** - noisy signal  
(from noisy background ?!)

# Types of lightcurves

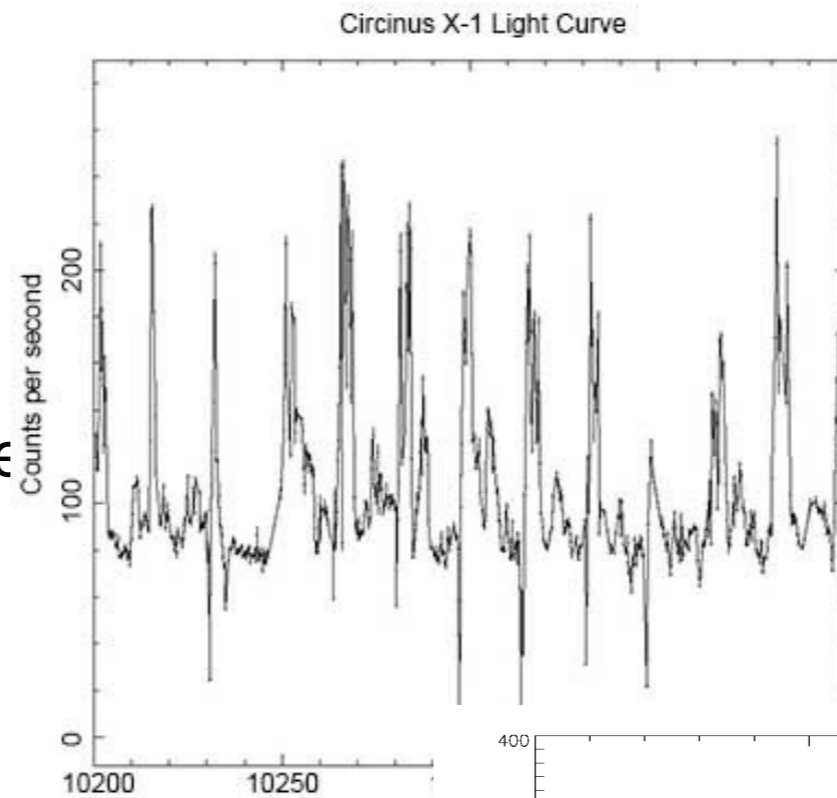
- **Periodic** - differentiate deterministic from noisy background
- **Transient** - differentiate deterministic from noisy background
- **Stochastic** - noisy signal (from noisy background ?!)



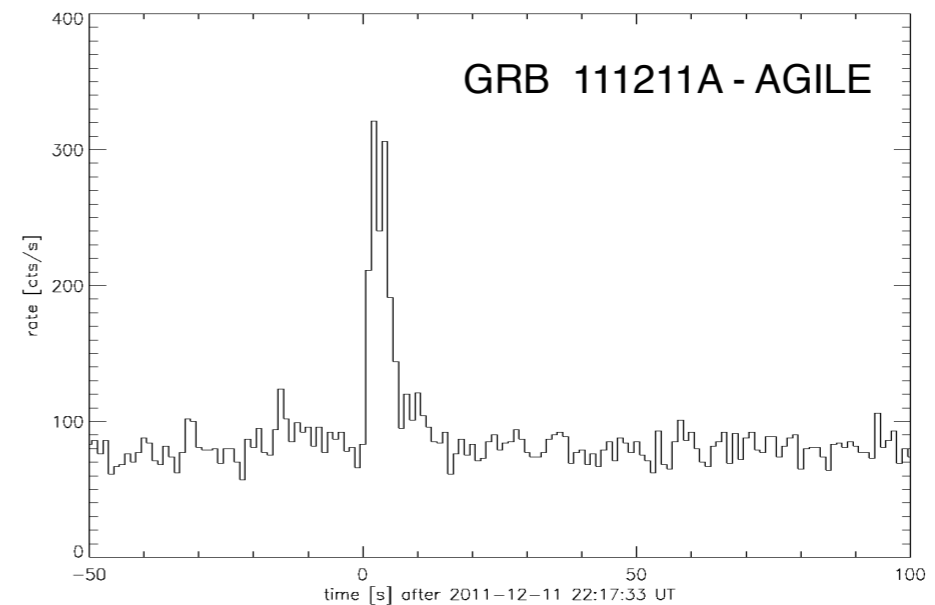
<http://imagine.gsfc.nasa.gov/science/toolbox/timing2.html>

# Types of lightcurves

- **Periodic** - differentiate deterministic from noisy background
- **Transient** - differentiate deterministic from noisy background
- **Stochastic** - noisy signal (from noisy background ?!)

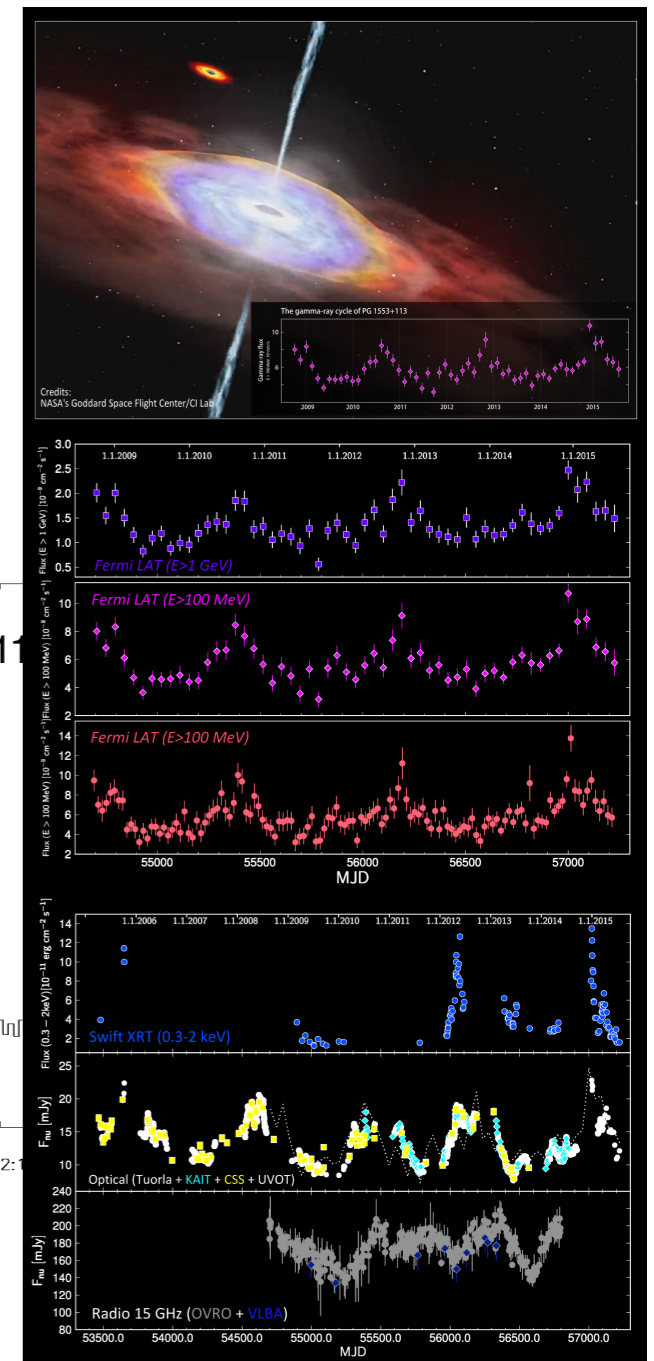
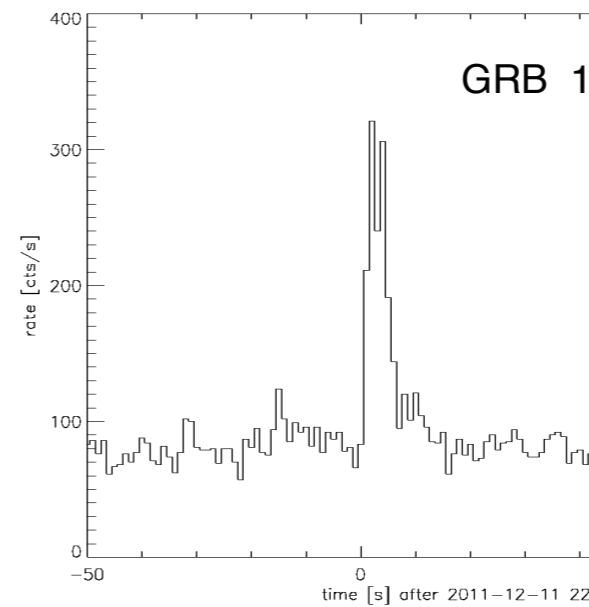
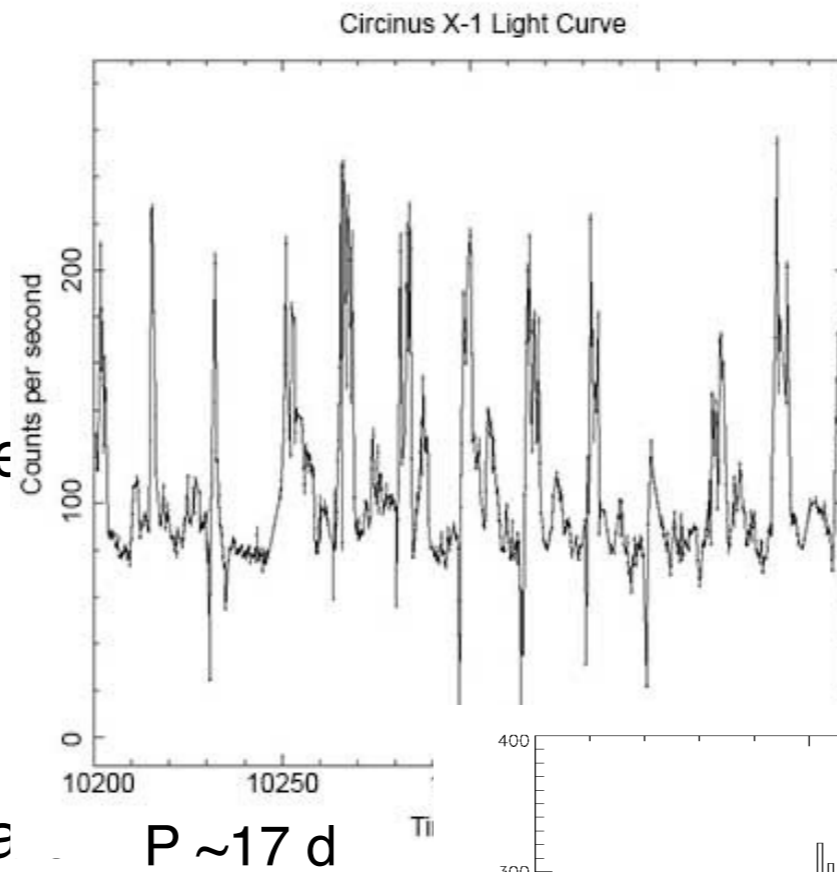


P ~ 17 d  
<http://imagine.gsfc.nasa.gov>



# Types of lightcurves

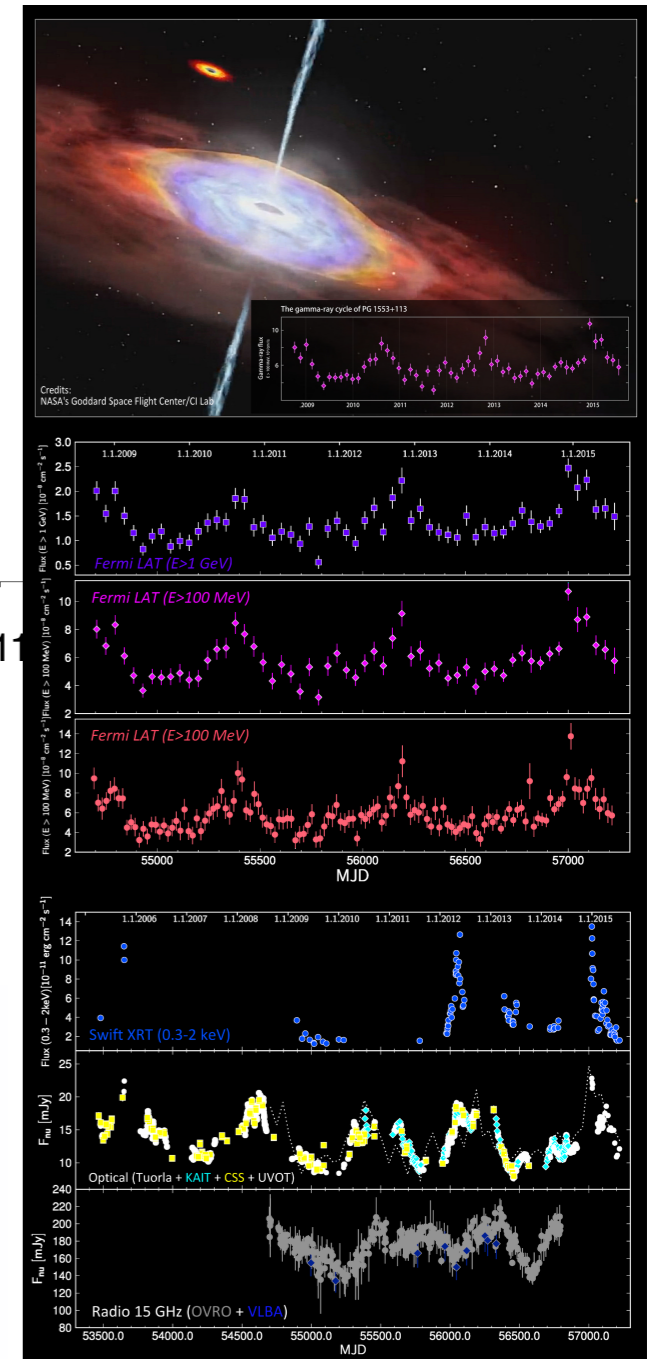
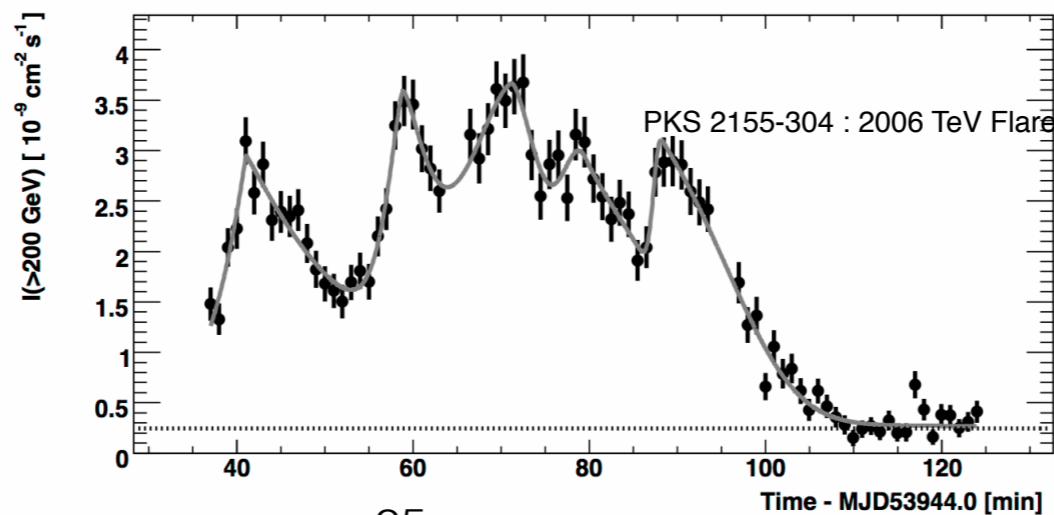
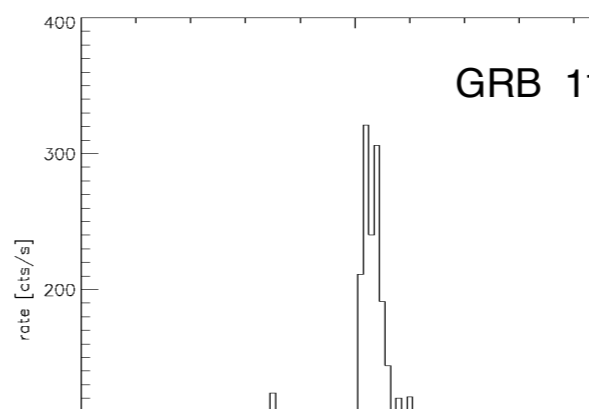
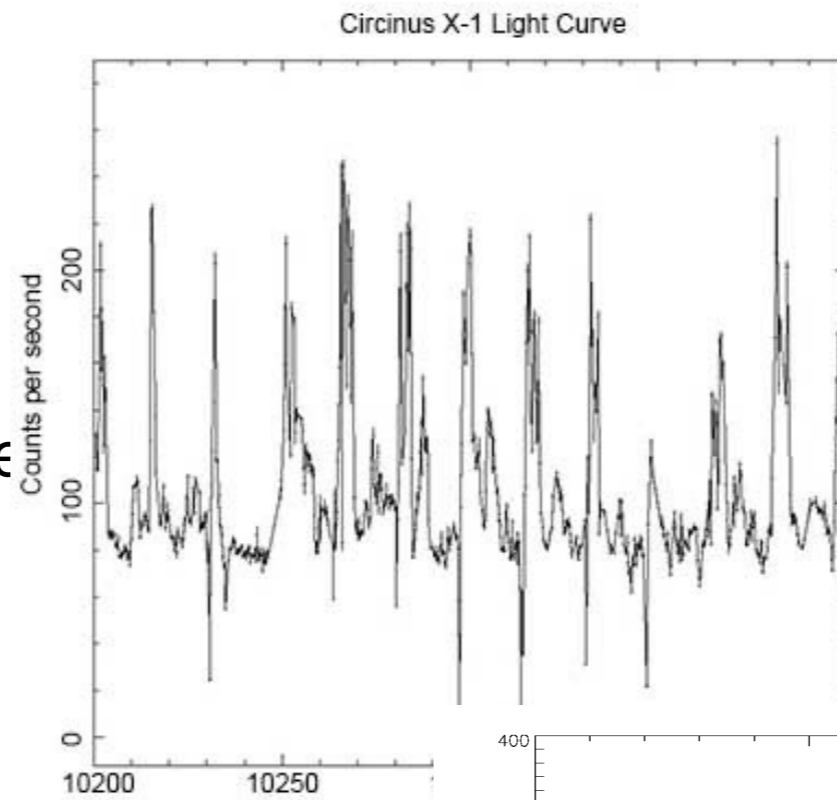
- **Periodic** - differentiate deterministic from noisy background
- **Transient** - differentiate deterministic from noisy background
- **Stochastic** - noisy signal (from noisy background ?!)



PG 1553+113

# Types of lightcurves

- **Periodic** - differentiate deterministic from noisy background
- **Transient** - differentiate deterministic from noisy background
- **Stochastic** - noisy (from noisy background ?)



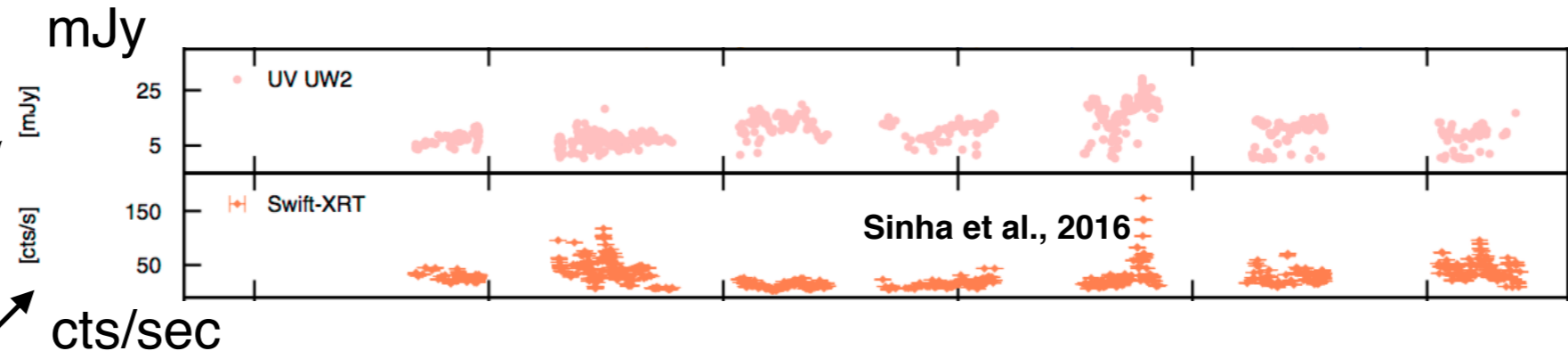
PG 1553+113

# Types of data analyses

- Depending on the wavelength
  - (quasi-)continuous, binned signals or fluxes
  - discrete : time tagged events
  - discrete : counts per time bins
- Naturally analyses methods are also different(ly used)
- Temporal vs Fourier Analyses ; mixed

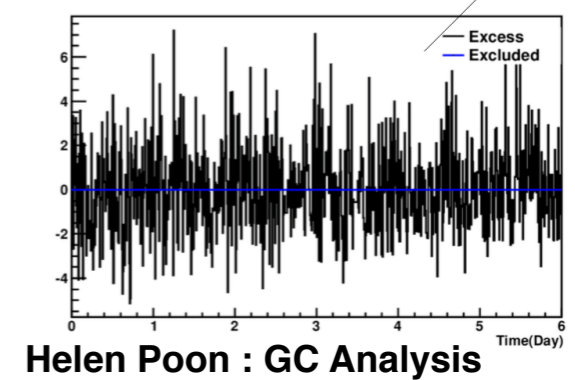
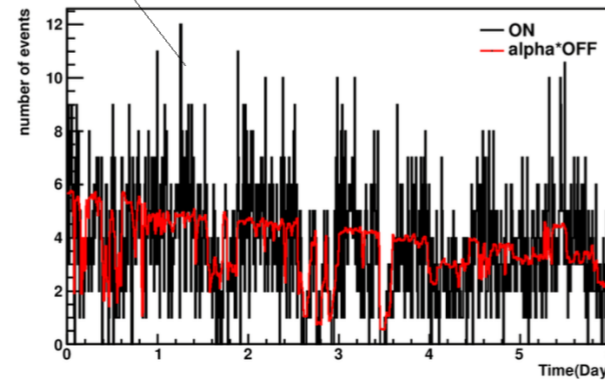
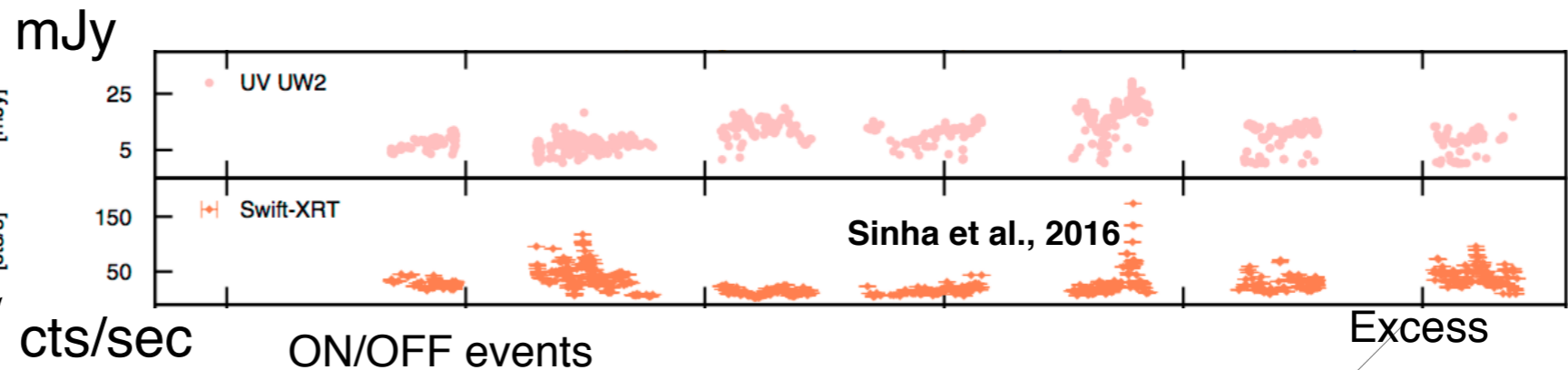
# Types of data analyses

- Depending on the wavelength
  - (quasi-)continuous, binned signals or fluxes
  - discrete : time tagged events
  - discrete : counts per time bins
- Naturally analyses methods are also different(ly used)
- Temporal vs Fourier Analyses ; mixed



# Types of data analyses

- Depending on the wavelength
  - (quasi-)continuous, binned signals or fluxes
  - discrete : time tagged events
  - discrete : counts per time bins



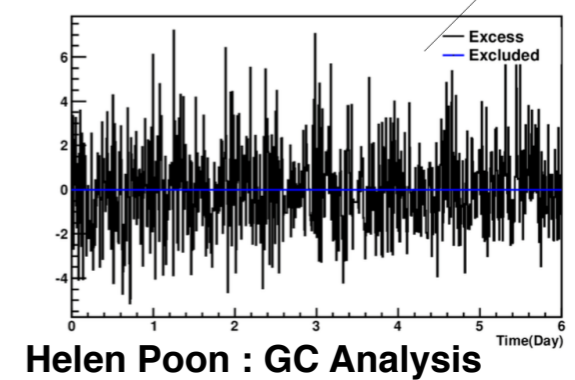
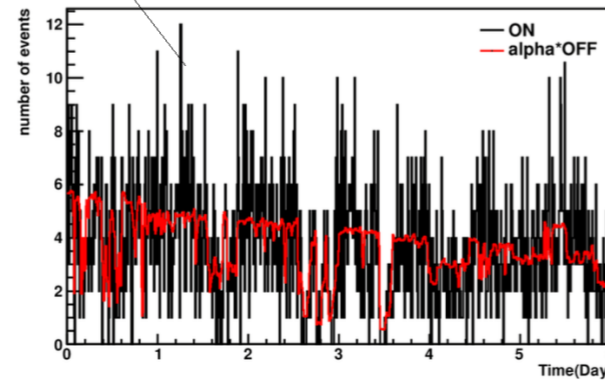
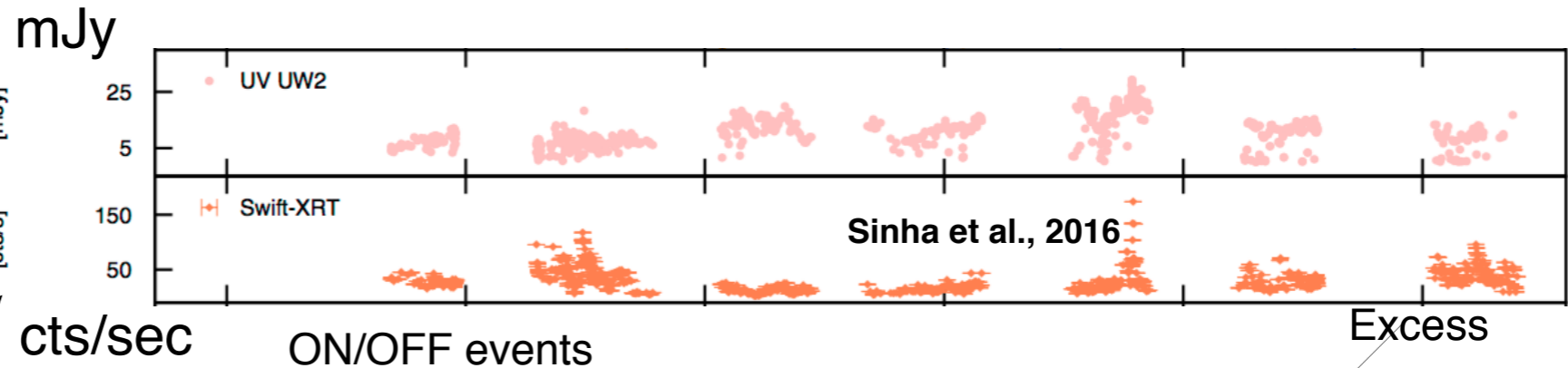
Helen Poon : GC Analysis

- Naturally analyses methods are also different(ly used)
- Temporal vs Fourier Analyses ; mixed



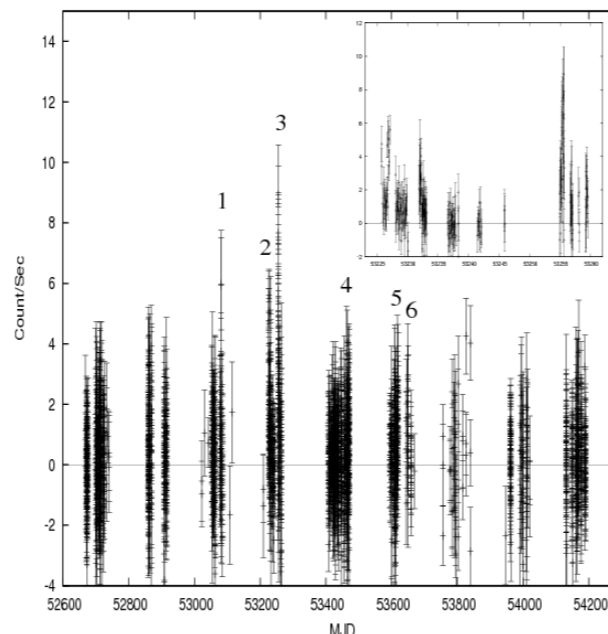
# Types of data analyses

- Depending on the wavelength
  - (quasi-)continuous, binned signals or fluxes
  - discrete : time tagged events
  - discrete : counts per time bins



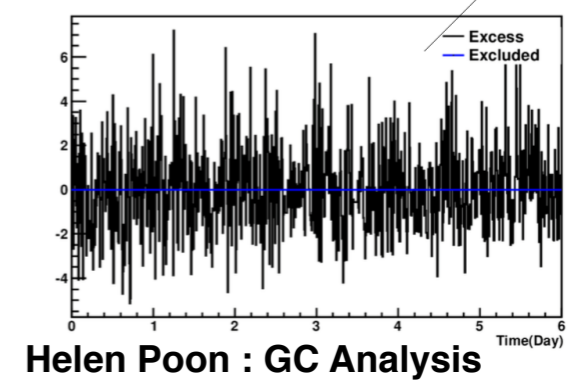
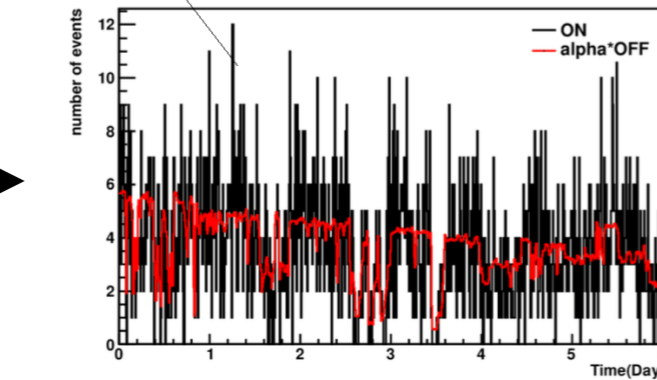
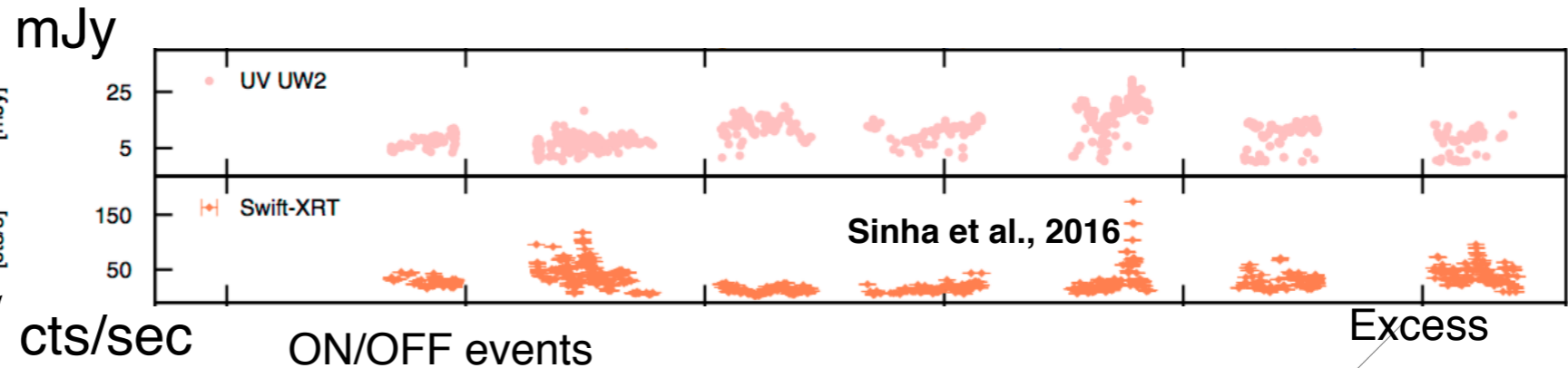
Helen Poon : GC Analysis

- Naturally analyses methods are also different(ly used)
- Temporal vs Fourier Analyses ; mixed

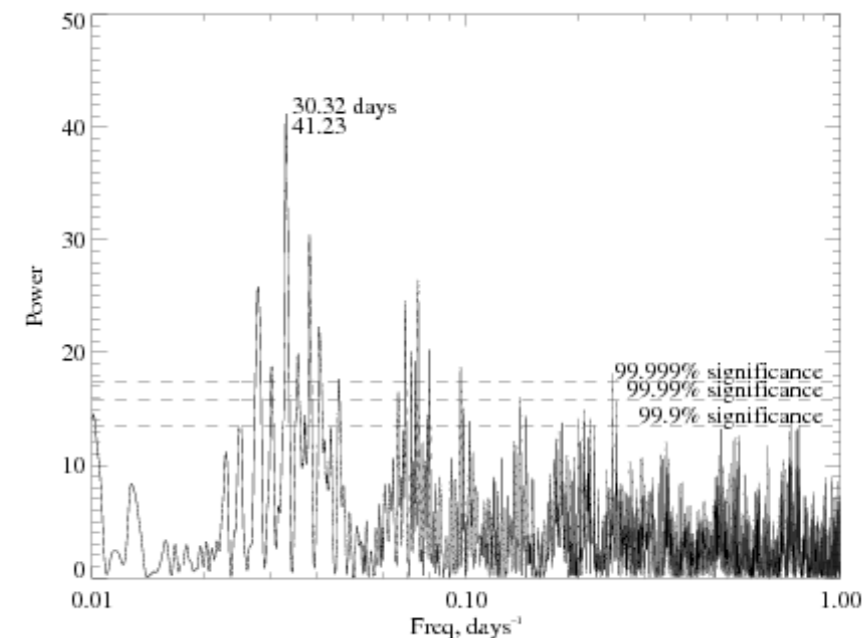
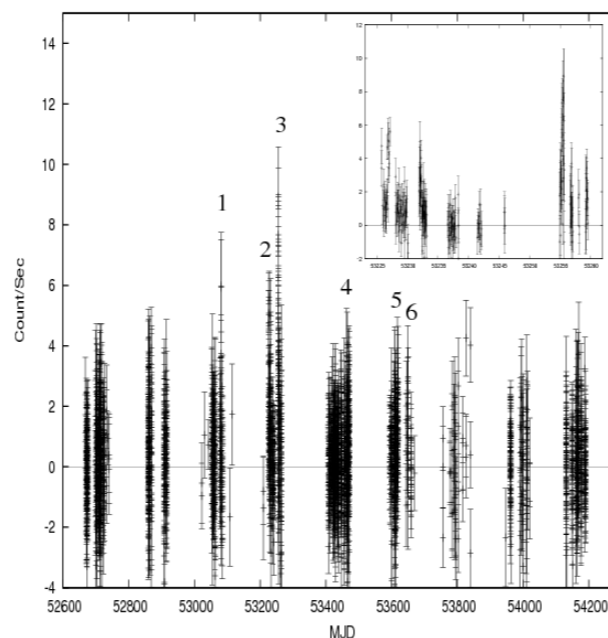


# Types of data analyses

- Depending on the wavelength
  - (quasi-)continuous, binned signals or fluxes
  - discrete : time tagged events
  - discrete : counts per time bins



## Time vs Frequency domain



- Naturally analyses methods are also different(ly used)
- Temporal vs Fourier Analyses ; mixed

# CPF2014

$$N_{f,\text{det}} = \int_{F_{\text{sens}}/\eta_{\text{flare,eff}}}^{\infty} dF \frac{dN}{dF} \propto \left( \frac{F_{\text{sens}}/\eta_{\text{flare,eff}}}{F_b} \right)^{1-\beta_1}. \quad (15)$$