

# Gamma Ray Astrophysics

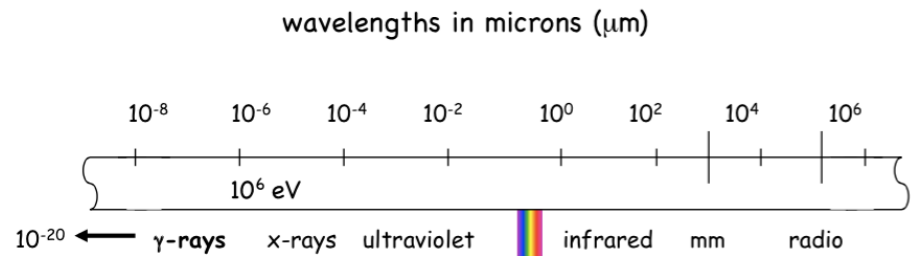
Felix Aharonian

XVIII International Workshop on Neutrino Telescopes

Venice, March 18-22, 2019

# 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’ in the cosmic EM spectrum covers 8+ decades



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)

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

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

# Ground Based Gamma Ray Astronomy

**presently**

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

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

with a great potential for extension of the energy domain

below 100 GeV down to 10 (1) GeV: multi-GeV (HE) Astronomy

above 0.1 PeV: PeV (UHE) Astronomy

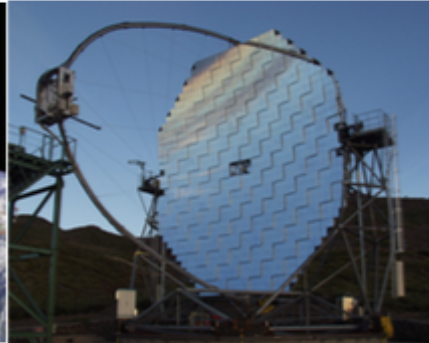
**in foreseeable future** (hopefully)  $\Rightarrow$  **GeV-TeV-PeV astronomy**

# HE, VHE, and UHE Gamma-Ray Detectors

HE



VHE



UHE



## future ?

(multi) GeV  
energies  
detection area  
 $\sim 10\text{m}^2$   
not realistic ?

1–100 MeV range  
1m<sup>2</sup> is sufficient  
PSF should be  $1^\circ$   
realistic !

CTA – great  
improvement

beyond CTA ?

1 GeV telescope?

10 to 100 km<sup>2</sup>

multi-TeV array ?

**LHAASO**

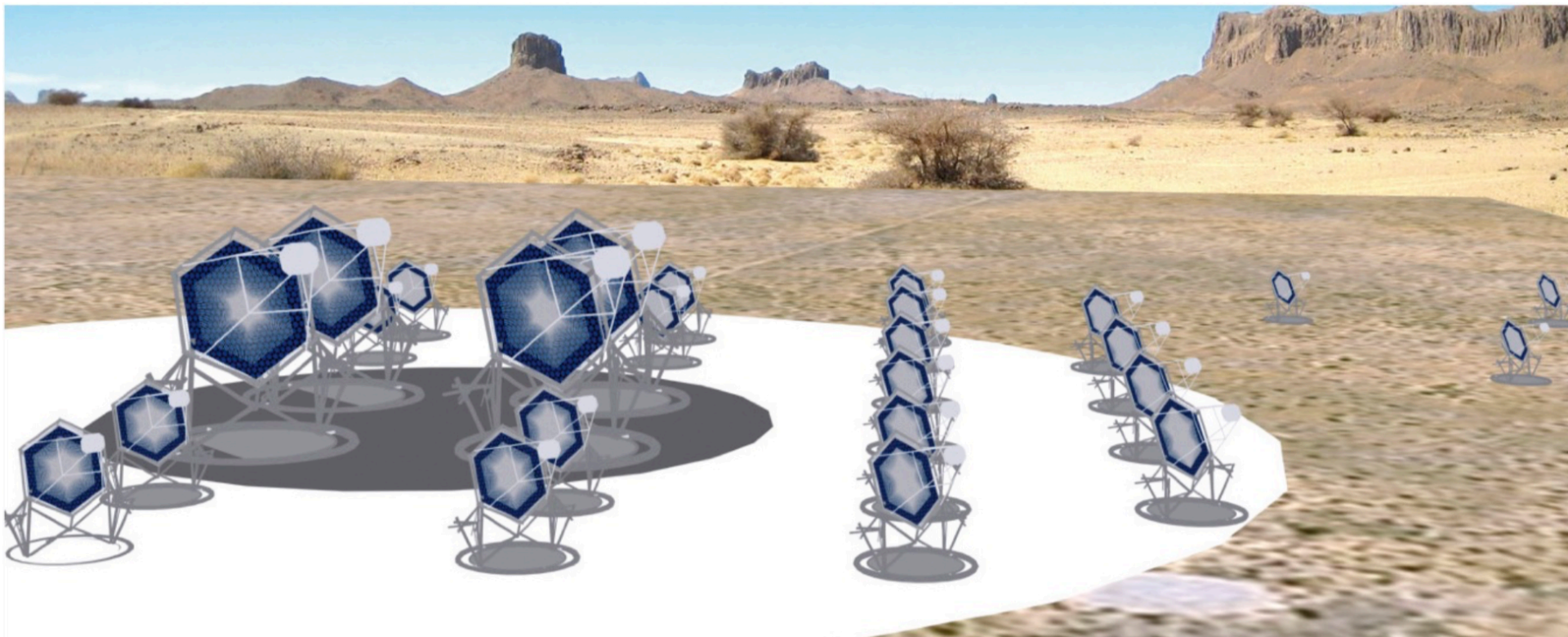
on going

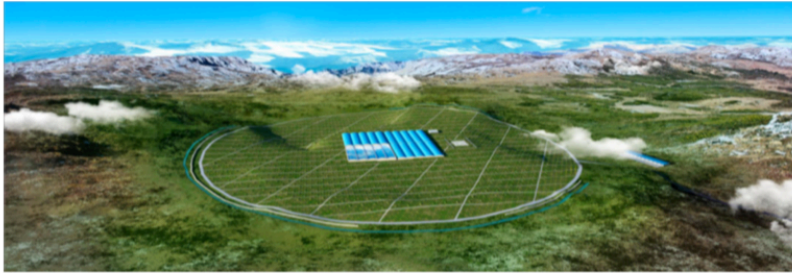
**SGSO**

very likely

# Next Generation Detectors

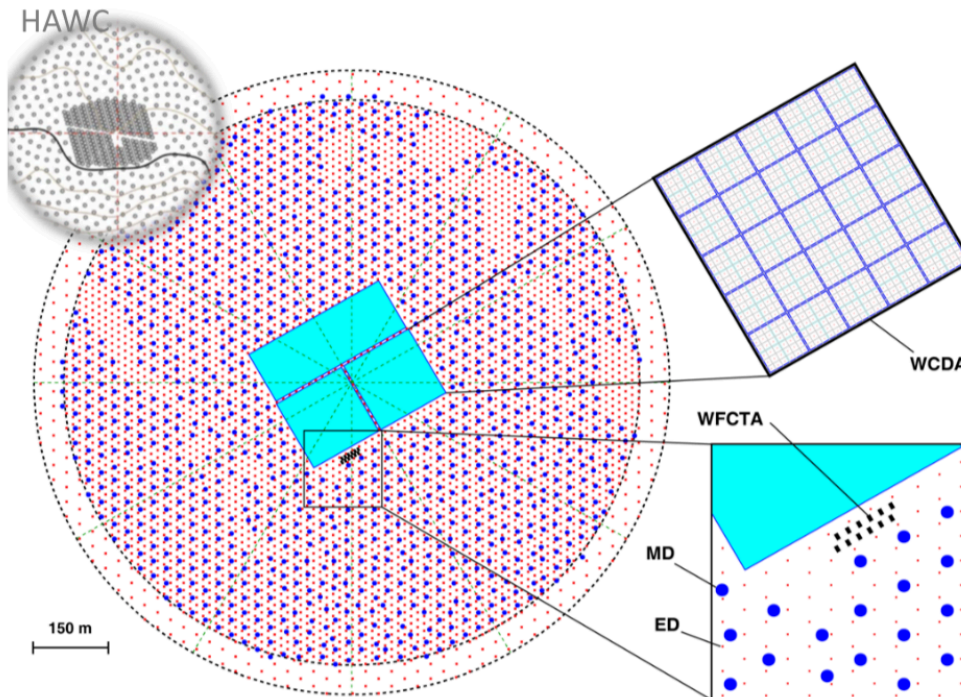
# CTA - Cherenkov Telescope Array





# 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

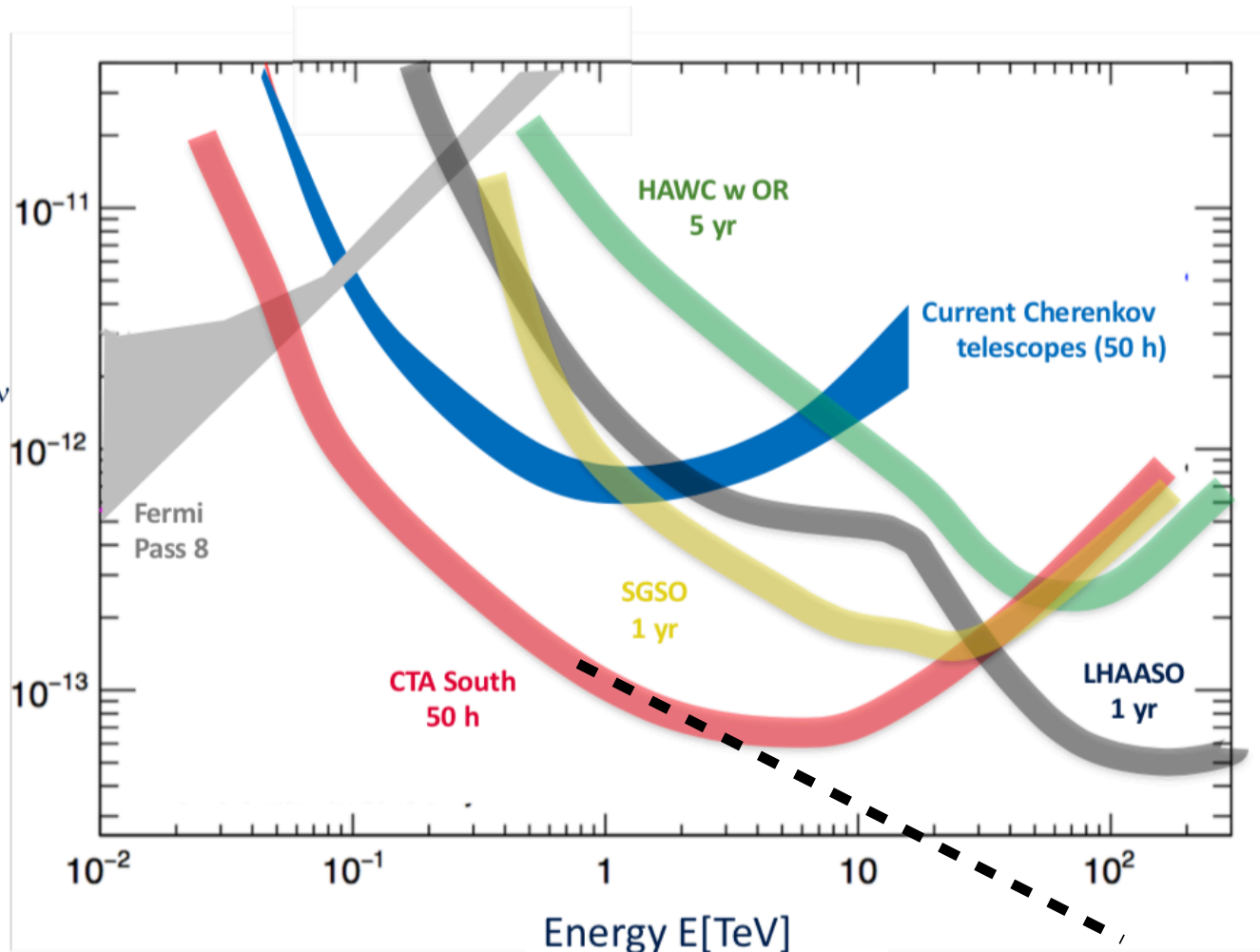
## 3000 Water Cherenkov Cells

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

## 12 Wide Field Cherenkov Telescopes

$$E^2 dN/dE = \nu F_\nu$$

[erg/cm<sup>2</sup>s]



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

$E^{-2.5}$



# IACT arrays - high performance and great potential

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

multi-functional tools:

- ✓ extended sources: from SNRs to Clusters of Galaxies
- ✓ transient phenomena  $\mu$ QSOs, AGN, GRBs, ...

Galactic Astronomy | Extragalactic Astronomy | Observational Cosmology

# Beyond CTA?

Substantial improvement of sensitivity at TeV energies ?  
**very difficult:** intrinsic limit on PSF  $\sim 1\text{-}2$  arcmin plus  
operation in background dominated regime  $\Rightarrow F_{\min} \sim 1/N^{1/2}$

- potential for significant improvement of sensitivity above 10 TeV

## PeV astrophysics

- Reduction of the energy threshold down to 1 GeV

## GeV astrophysics

# PeV astrophysics

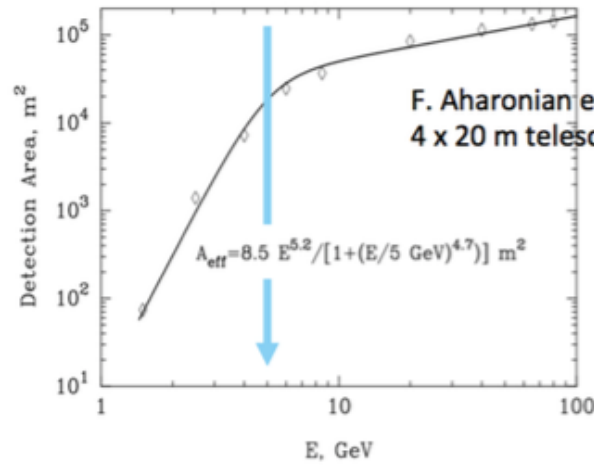
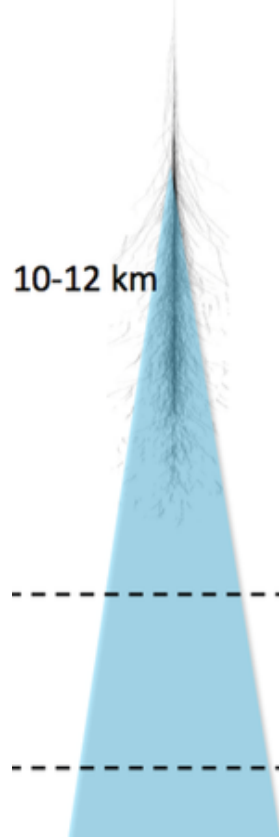
significant improvement of sensitivity above 10 TeV with  $\gg 10 \text{ km}^2$  arrays with arrays IACTs located at large (300m or so) distances

**TenTen approach** -  $10 \text{ km}^2$  at 10 TeV

- Galactic Sources: SNR, PWNe, GC, YSCs, ...
  
- Nearby Extragalactic Sources: Sources in LMC,  
SNe  
M82, NGC253, Arp 220,  
Cen A, M87, Cygnus A, M82,  
Mkn 501/Mkn 421  
Coma, Perseus
  
- Cosmology: EBL at FIR

# Detecting GeV gamma-rays

## HIGH-ALTITUDE CHERENKOV TELESCOPES



higher light intensity (5000 m: x2)

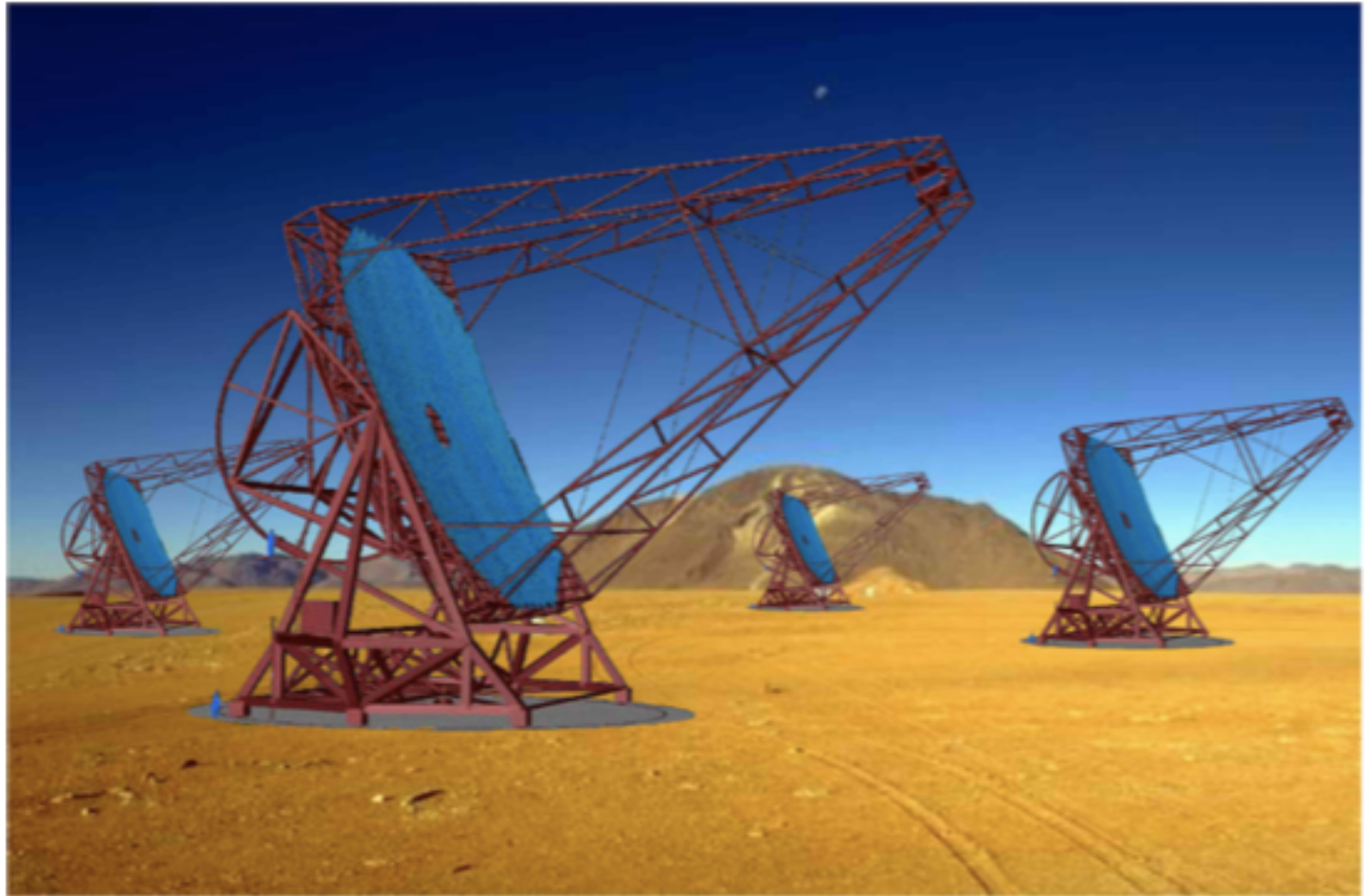
→ lower threshold

smaller light pool area (5000 m: /2)

Reference height ~2000 m

W. Hofmann GAMMA 2012

# 5@5 - a Gamma Ray Timing Explorer



## 5@5 - a GeV timing explorer

- **Detector :** several 15 to 25m diameter IACTs to study the sky at energies from several GeV to several 100 GeV with unprecedented *photon and source statistics*
- **Potential:** can detect **EGRET/Fermi sources** with spectra extending beyond 5 GeV for exposure time from *1 sec to 10 minutes*
- **Targets:** Gamma Ray Timing Explorer for study of nonthermal phenomena: *AGN, Microquasars, GRBs,, Pulsars ...*

5@5 is complementary to GLAST  
in fact due to small FoV needs very much GLAST  
and ... GLAST certainly needs a 5@5 type instrument

"The rapid development and successful operation of 5@5 during the lifetime of GLAST would represent a major observational coup"

# One GeV, One Second Gamma-Ray-Timing-Explorer

Sebastian A. Mueller

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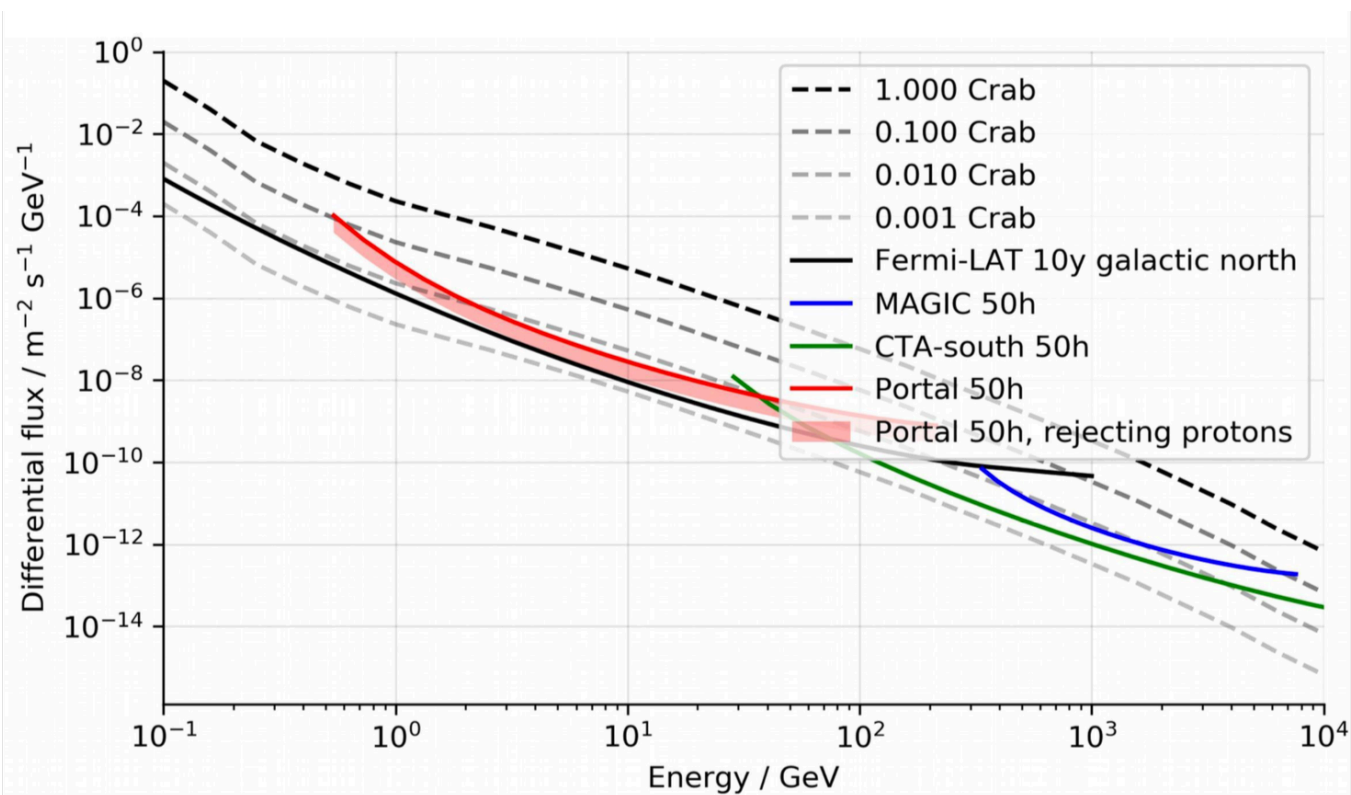
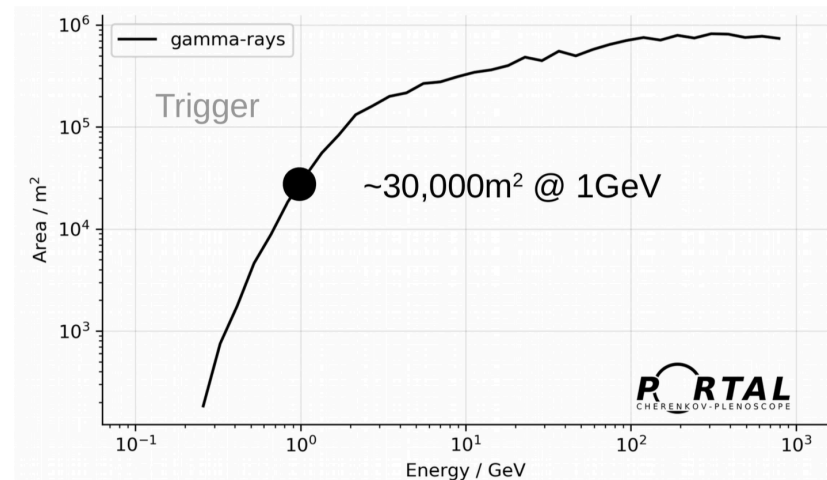
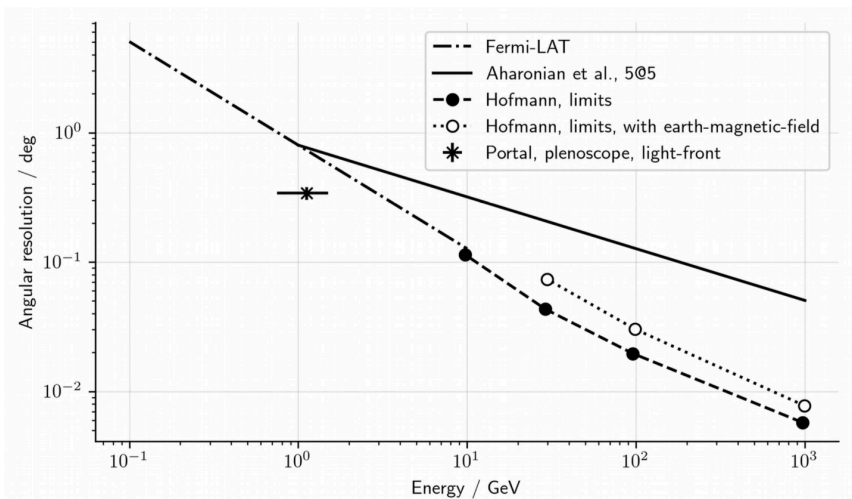
Institute for Particle Physics and Astrophysics  
in collaboration with  
Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering

As Felix Aharonian phrased it: "...The scientific reward of a ground based approach in GeV gamma-ray-astronomy will be enormous..."

We can now ask him whether he still thinks so today.

## 70m diameter Cherenkov telescope







# 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

## 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*
- ❑ **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)

# Major topics

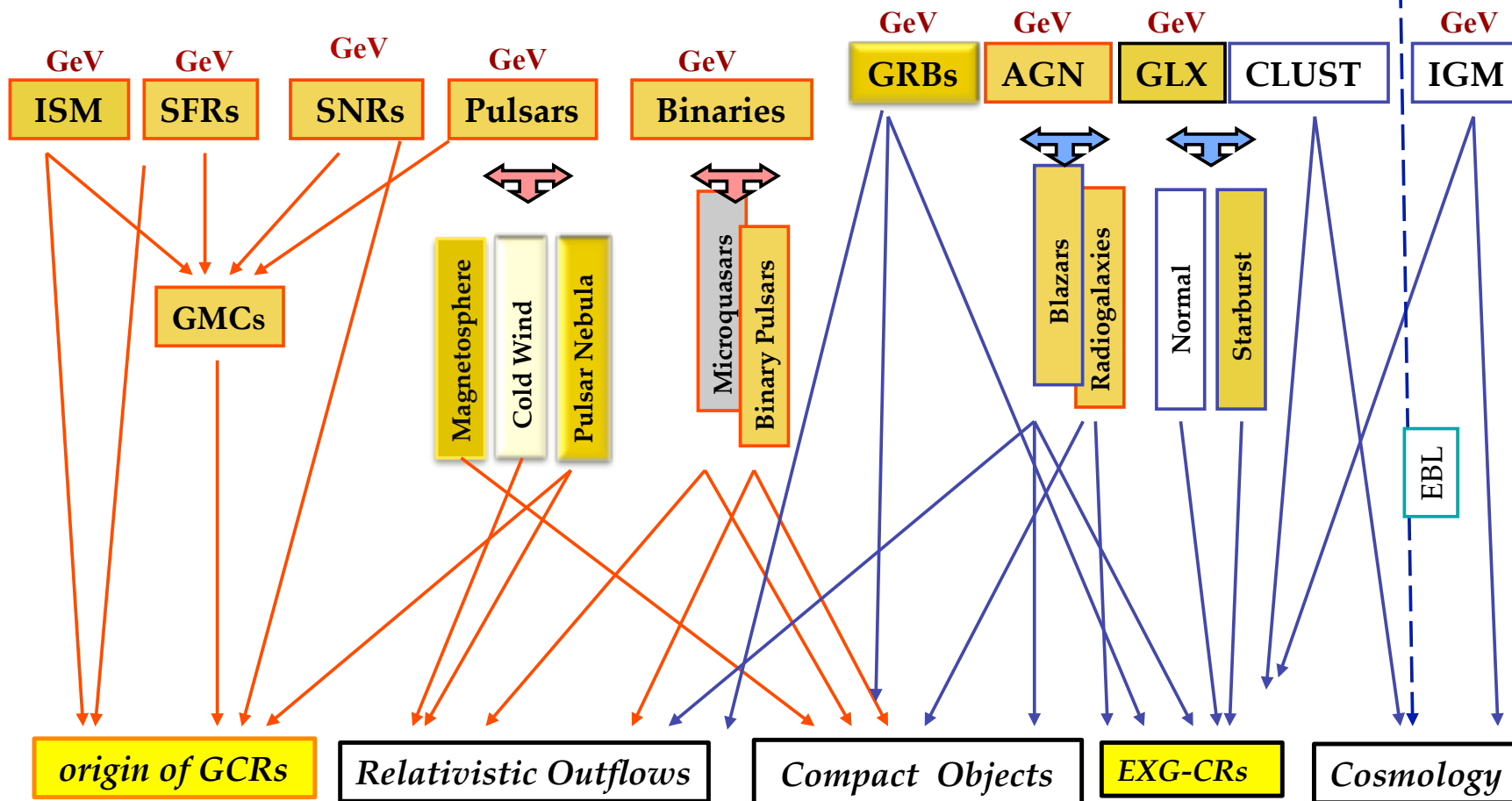
- origin of Galactic and Extragalactic Cosmic Rays
- physics and astrophysics of relativistic outflows (jets and winds)
- high energy processes at extreme conditions (e.g. close to BHs)
- cosmological issues - Dark Matter, Large Scale Structures., etc.

...

Galactic

Potential VHE Gamma Ray Sources

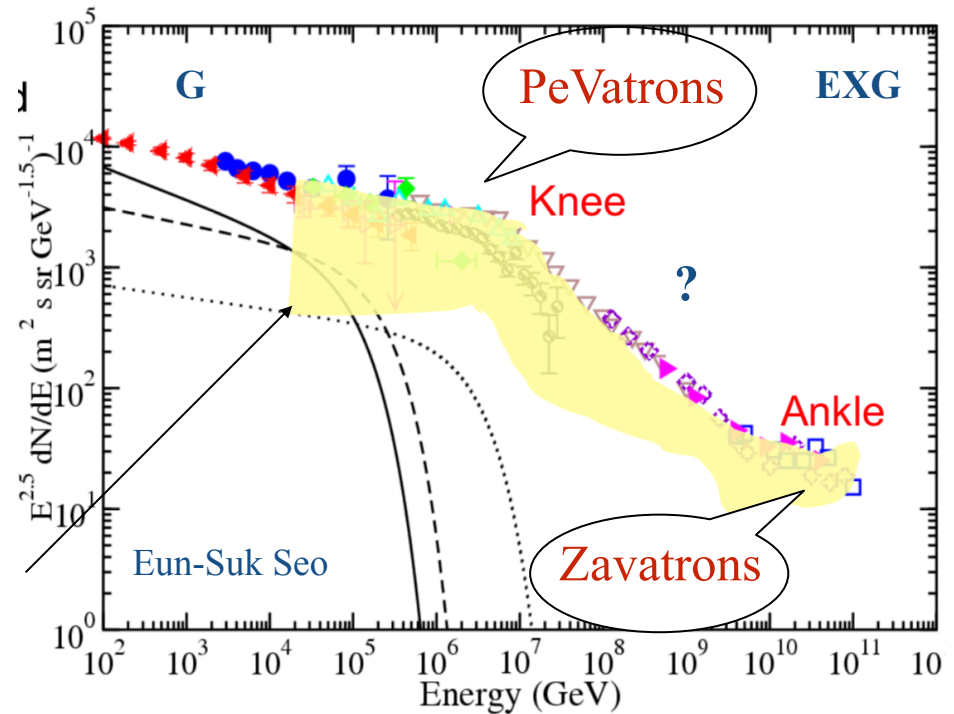
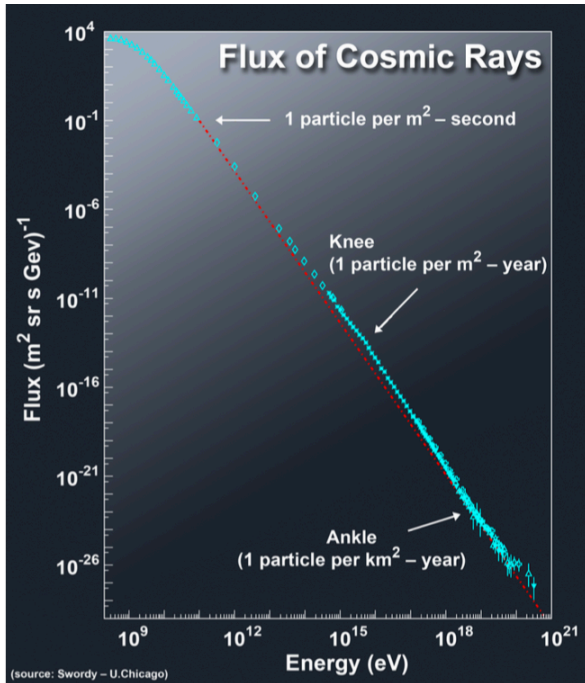
Extragalactic



Major Scientific Topics

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

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



below  $10^{15}$  eV - G  
 beyond  $10^{18}$  eV - EXG  
 between  $10^{15}$ - $10^{18}$  eV ?

PeVatrons and Zevatrons  
 are extreme Accelerators

what does mean “Origin of Cosmic Rays” ?

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*

“*origin of CRs*” generally is reduced to the identification of the *major contributors* (SNRs, pulsars, GC, etc.) to the ‘*local fog*’

this issue principally cannot be addressed by observations of charged CRs

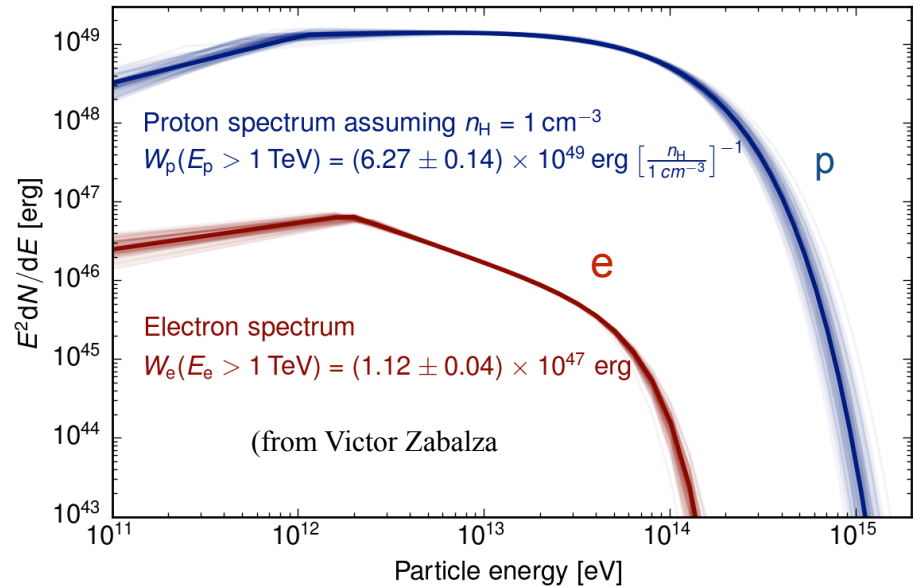
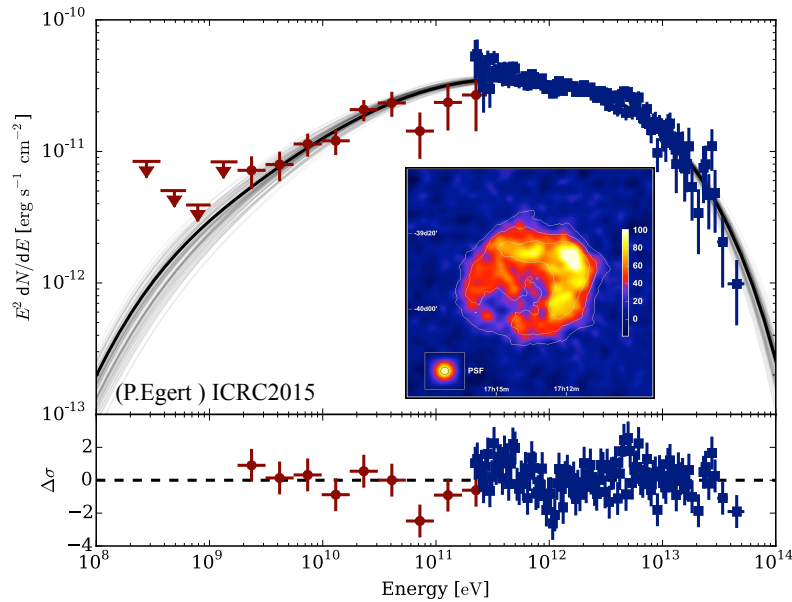
sources can be identified only by neutral stable messengers:  
*gamma-rays and neutrinos*

# Probing the distributions of accelerated particles in SNRs

HESS measurements

RXJ 1713

derived spectra of e and p



CTA can do much better; extension of measurements to  $>100 \text{ TeV}$   
 a few arcmin (sub-pc) structures  
 particles beyond the shell

*hundreds of GeV and/or TeV gamma-ray emitters have been discovered representing 10+ source populations:*

- SNRs, Stellar Clusters, GMCs
- Pulsars, PWNe
- Binaries (Binary Pulsars, 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 energies** - almost everywhere!

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



questions beyond the origin of local CRs , for example  
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*

sometimes efficiency can even “exceed” 100% ?

(no violation of conservation laws - but due to relativistic and non-linear effects)

## Galactic Sources:

### *Major contributors to Galactic Cosmic Rays*

- SNRs  $\dot{W} \approx 10^{42}$  erg/s
- Stellar Winds  $\dot{W} \approx 10^{42}$  erg/s
- SMBH in GC potentially up to  $\dot{W} \approx 10^{44}$  erg/s
- Pulsars. ??? certainly electrons and positrons; also hadrons

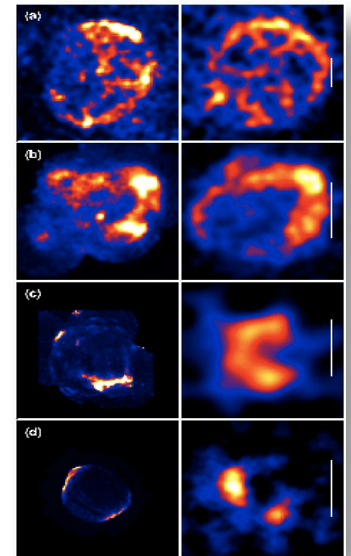
# Supernova Remnants sub-TeV, TeV, sub-PeV

## □ *status*

**achievements** - detection of important young shell-type SNRs but the main question “whether SNRs are main contributors to GCRs?” does not yet have clear answer.

## □ *what do we expect from CTA?*

- significant increase of number of gamma-ray emitting SNRs - because of improved sensitivity at TeV energies and the reduction of the energy threshold
- improvement of morphology (at TeV energies) - detection of clumps inside shells, detection of gamma-rays from escaping protons (and electrons?)
- spectrum from 30 GeV to 100 TeV: adequate information to identify the radiation mechanism(s), to derive the spectra of parent particles in and outside the remnant, to measure their energy spectra (especially in the cutoff region), arrive at conclusions regarding the acceleration spectrum, escape, energetics.
- detection of  $>30$  TeV  $\gamma$ -rays from steep-spectra SNRs, e.g. Cas A or SN 1006



# Galactic Sources

SFRs, super bubbles, clusters of massive young stars ...  
stellar winds colliding with each other or SNR shocks,  
acceleration of particles by multi shocks, etc...

30 Dor C (very powerful !) Westerlund 1 (PeVatron candidate?)

complimentary or instead of SNRs as GCR factories  
sub-TeV/TeV/sub-PeV

PeVatrons: “young stars versus dead stars”

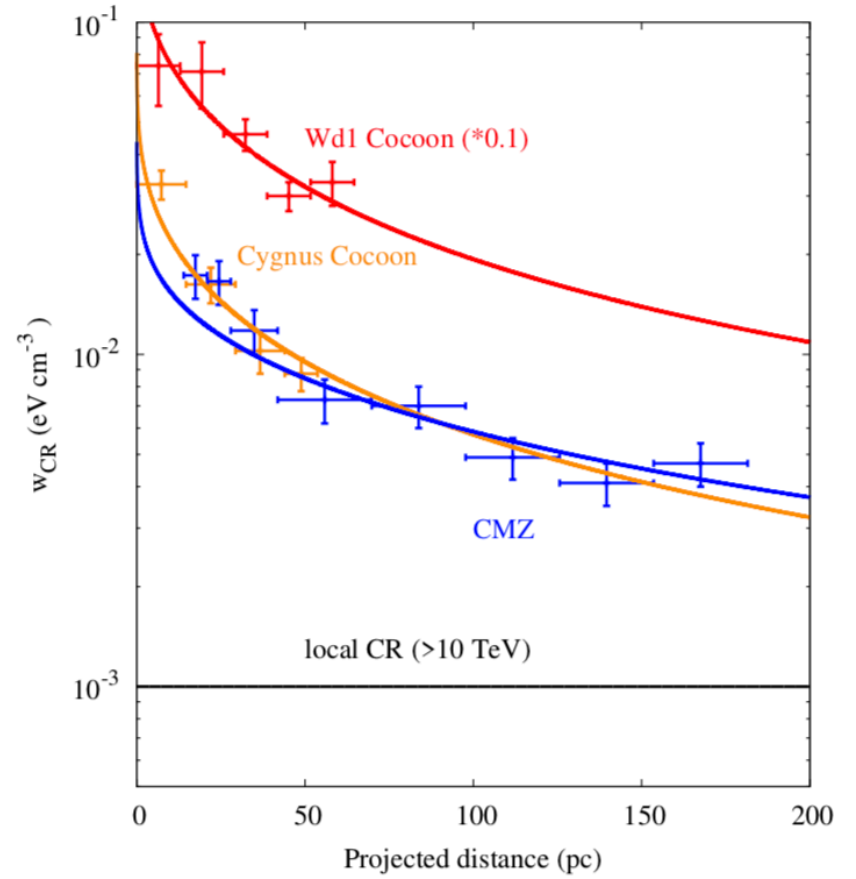
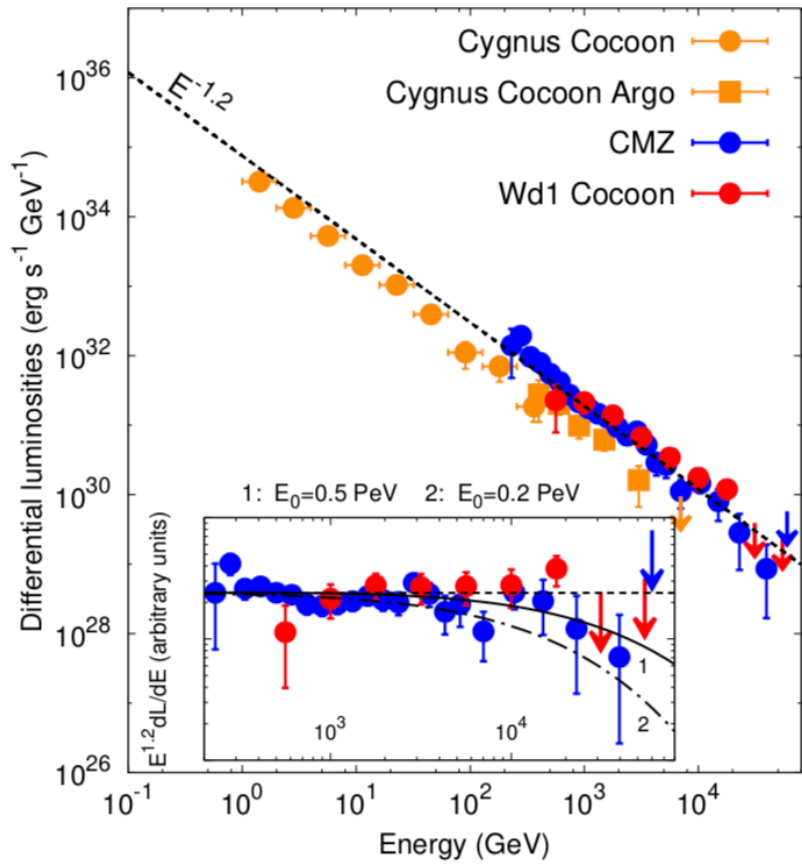


Figure 1: Gamma-ray luminosities and CR proton radial distributions in extended regions around the star clusters Cyg OB2 (Cygnus Cocoon) and Westerlund 1 (Wd 1 Cocoon), as well as in the Central Molecular Zone (CMZ) of the Galactic Centre assuming that CMZ is powered by CRs accelerated in *Arches*, *Quintuplet* and *Nuclear* clusters.

# Searching for PeVatrons

better/broader energy coverage in the cutoff regions above 10 TeV

better understanding of TeV sources, e.g. the energy spectra of most of VHE sources can be presented in the form

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

the same data can be fitted with different combinations  $(\alpha, \beta, E_0)$

=> misleading conclusions and interpretation of these parameters

- photon index or a local slope ?
- the shape of the cutoff

# Galactic Sources

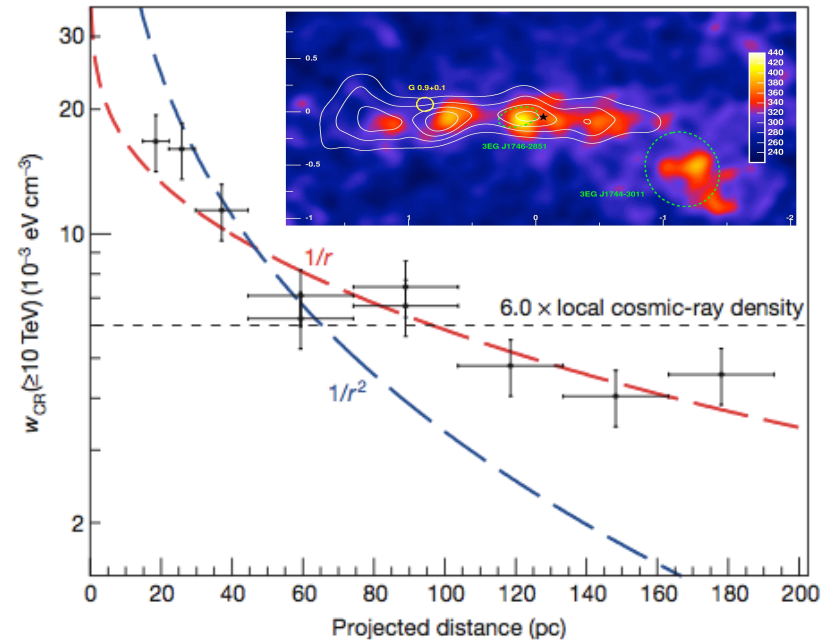
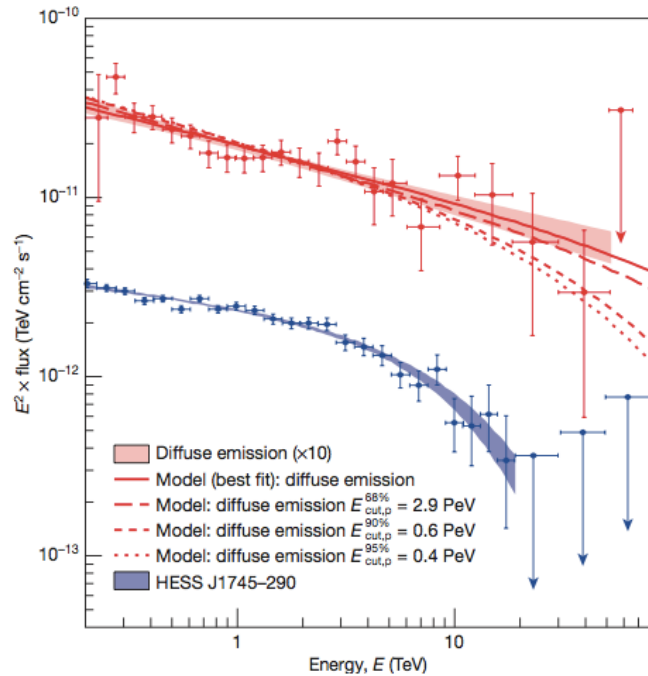
## Black-Holes in our Galaxy

- Microquasars - jets in stellar mass BHs ?  
Cyg X-1, Cyg X-3, GRS 1915, SS 433 **sub-TeV, TeV**
- Galactic Center
  - detailed morphology and energy spectrum of CMZ **TeV**
  - connections with Fermi Bubbles TeV, sub-PeV **TeV, sub-PeV**
  - search for flares in Sgr A\* **sub-TeV**

*ultimate aim* - identification of the central PeVatron

*outcome* => contribution to physics of SMBH and Origin of GCRs

# PeVatron located within $R < 10$ pc and operating continuously over $> 10^3$ yr



*no-cutoff* in the **gamma-ray** spectrum up to **25 TeV**  
 $\Rightarrow$  *no-cutoff* in the **proton** spectrum up to  $\sim$  **1 PeV**

*what do we expect?*

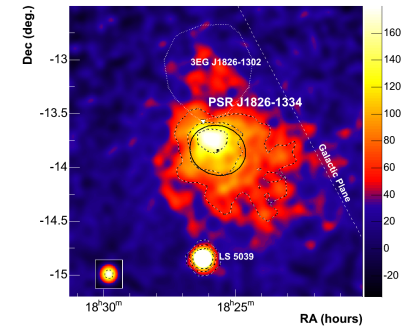
- $1/r$  continuous source
- $1/r^2$  wind or ballistic motion
- constant burst like source

derived:  **$1/r$**  distribution  
 $\Rightarrow$  **continuous acceleration !**



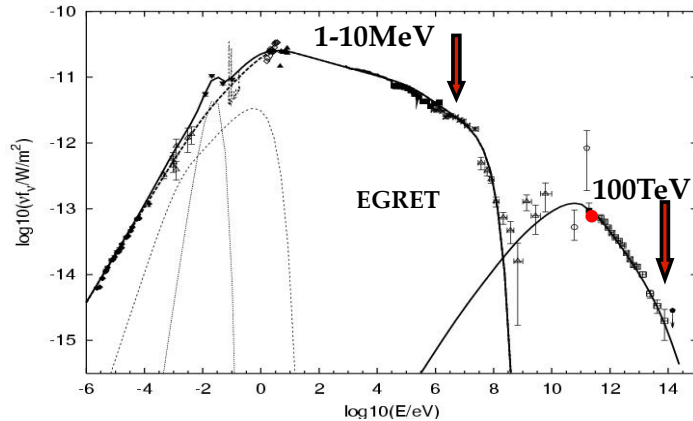
# Galactic Sources

- **PWNe** - spatial and energy distribution of electrons without any assumption (unique in astrophysics), spatial distribution of the average B-field by adding the X-ray results, turbulence of the magnetic field, size of the regions filled by electrons, propagation of electrons (transition from PWN to ISM)



- **Pulsars/Pulsar-Winds:** pulsed TeV emission - magnetospheres or cold winds?
- **Binary Pulsars** - termination of pulsar winds, formation of relativistic shocks, acceleration of electrons in *on-line* regime, study the sites and mechanisms of acceleration

## Crab Nebula – a perfect electron PeVatron



standard MHD theory (Kennel&Coroniti)  
 cold ultrarelativistic pulsar wind terminates by reverse  
 shock resulting in acceleration of multi-TeV electrons  
 synchrotron radiation => **nonthermal optical/X nebula**  
 Inverse Compton => **high energy gamma-ray nebula**

Crab Nebula – a powerful  $L_e = 1/5 L_{\text{rot}} \sim 10^{38}$  erg/s  
 and extreme accelerator:  $E_e \gg 100$  TeV

$$E_{\text{max}} = 60 (B/1\text{G})^{-1/2} \eta^{-1/2} \text{ TeV} \text{ and } h\nu_{\text{cut}} \sim 150\eta^{-1} \text{ MeV}$$

Cutoff at  $h\nu_{\text{cut}} > 10 \Rightarrow \eta < 10$  - acceleration at 10 % of the maximum rate

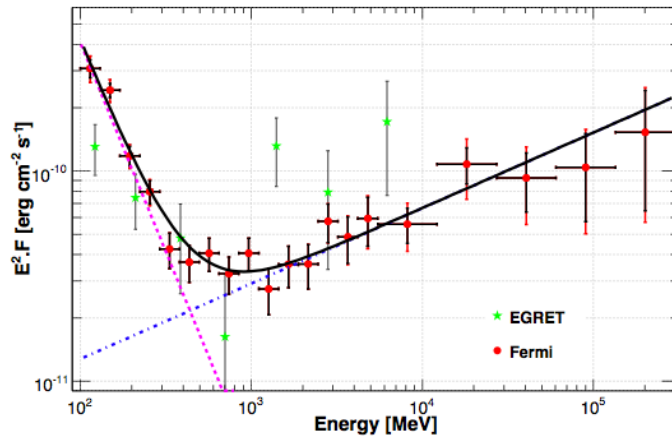
$\gamma$ -rays:  $E_\gamma \sim 50$  TeV (HEGRA, HESS)  $\Rightarrow E_e > 200$  TeV

B-field  $\sim 100$  mG  $\Rightarrow \eta \sim 10$  - independent and more robust estimate

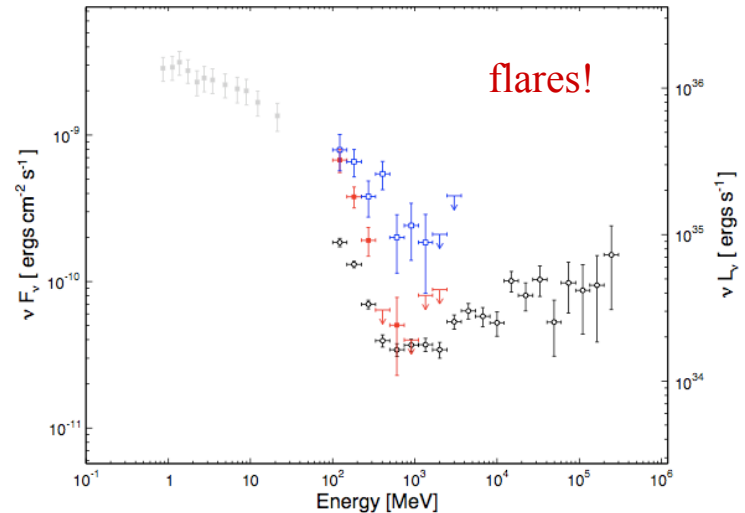
1 mG  $\Rightarrow \eta \sim 1$  ?



## Flares of Crab (Nebula) :



IC emission consistent with average  
nebular B-field:  $B \sim 100\mu\text{G}-150\mu\text{G}$

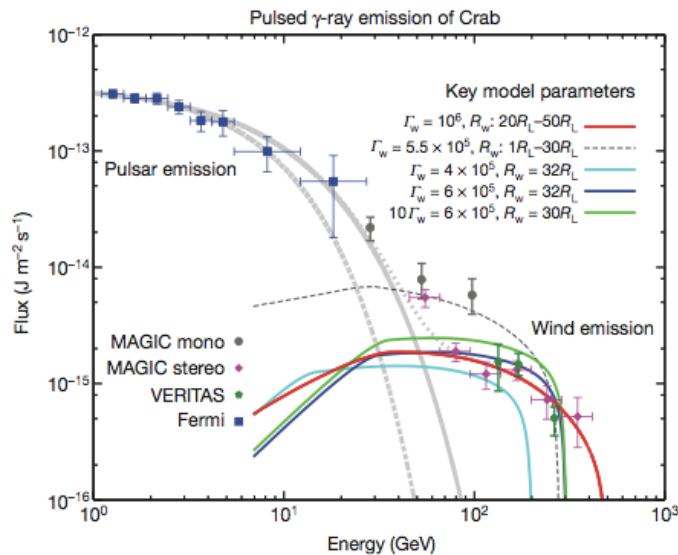
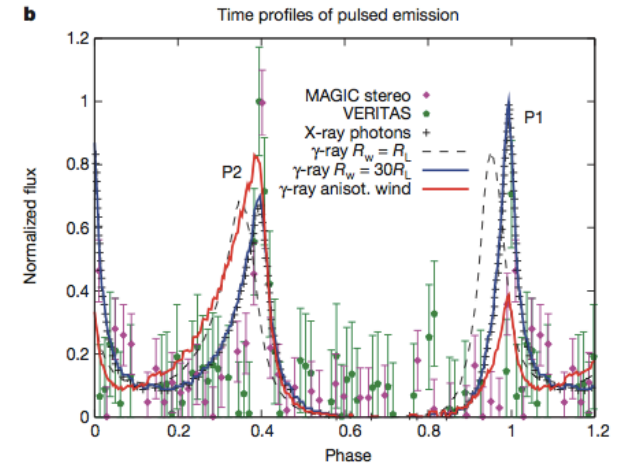
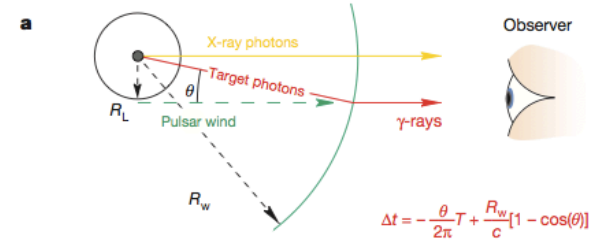
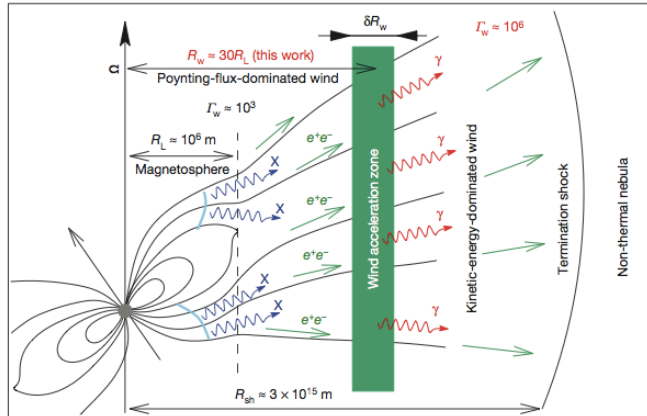


seems to be in agreements with the standard PWN picture, but ... **MeV/GeV flares!!**

although the reported flares perhaps can be explained within the standard picture - no simple answers to several principal questions - **extension to GeV energies,  $B > 1\text{mG}$** , etc.

observations of 100TeV gamma-rays - IC photons produced by electrons responsible for synchrotron flares - a key towards understanding of the nature of MeV/GeV flares

# Pulsed VHE gamma-rays from the Crab – Comptonization of the cold ultrarelativistic pulsar wind?



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

Crab Nebula is a very effective accelerator  
but not an effective IC  $\gamma$ -ray emitter

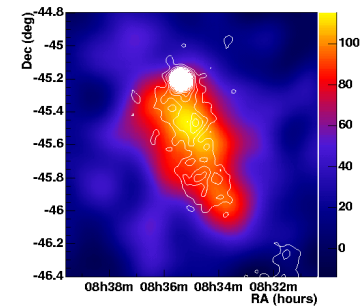
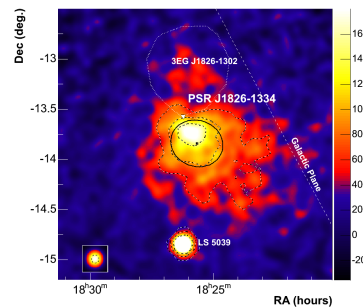
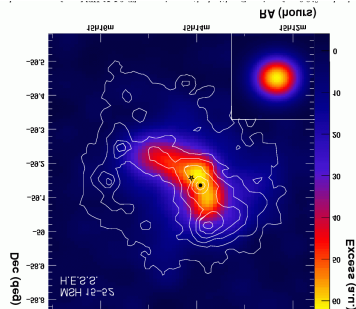
we do see TeV  $\gamma$ -rays from the Crab Nebula because of very large spin-down flux:  $f_{\text{rot}} = L_{\text{rot}} / 4\pi d^2 = 3 \times 10^{-7} \text{ erg/cm}^2 \text{ s}$

gamma-ray flux  $\ll$  “spin-down flux“ *because of large B-field*

if the B-field is small (environments with small external gas pressure)

higher  $\gamma$ -ray efficiency  $\rightarrow$  detectable  $\gamma$ -ray fluxes from other plerions

**HESS confirms this prediction – many (20+) candidates associated with PWNe; firm detections - MSH 15-52, PSR 1825, Vela X, ... [N157B!](#)**



## binary systems - unique high energy laboratories

binary pulsars - a special case with strong effects associated with the optical star on both the dynamics of the pulsar wind and the radiation before and after its termination

the same 3 components - *Pulsar/Pulsar Wind/Synch.Nebula* - as in PWNe  
both the electrons of the cold wind and shock-accelerated electrons are illuminated by optical radiation from the companion star detectable IC  $\gamma$ -rays

“on-line watch“ of the MHD processes of creation and termination of the ultrarelativistic pulsar wind, as well as particle acceleration by relativistic shock waves, through spectral and temporal studies of  $\gamma$ -ray emission

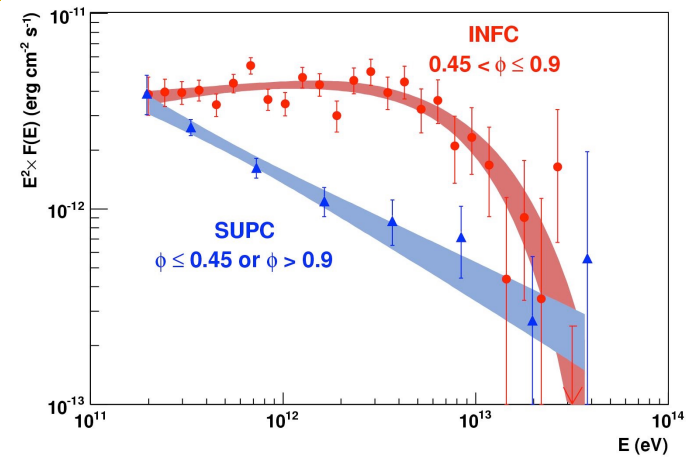
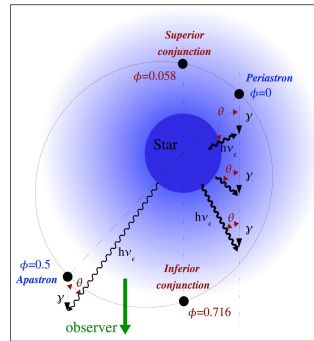
(characteristic timescales 1 h or shorter !)

the target photon field is function of time, thus the only unknown parameter is B-field => predictable gamma-ray emission?

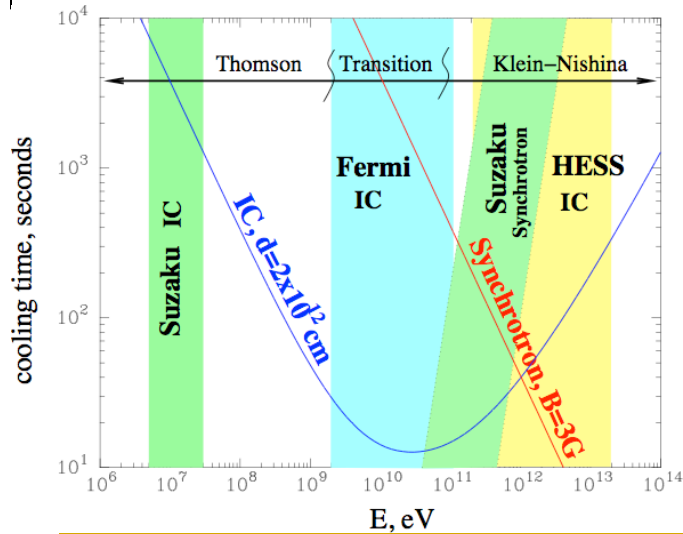
# LS 5039

works as a perfect TeV clock  
and an extreme accelerator

close to inferior conjunction - maximum  
close to superior conjunction - minimum



*modulation of the gamma-ray signal? a quite natural reason (because of  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  absorption), but we see a different picture... anisotropic IC scattering? yes, but perhaps some additional factors (adiabatic losses, modest Doppler boosting) also play a non-negligible role*



can electrons be accelerated to energies up to 20 TeV in presence of dense radiation? yes, but accelerator should not be located deep inside binary system; even at the edge of the system  $\eta < 10 \Rightarrow$  although the origin of the compact object is not yet known (pulsar or a BH) and we do not understand many details, it is clear that this binary system works as an extreme accelerator

# Extragalactic Sources



# Extragalactic Sources

nearby AGN - so far M87 (variability on timescales of days,  
Cen A (central source and radiolobes at GeV energies)

*next steps:* detailed spectral/spatial distributions, timing  
*topics:* BH physics, jets, EBL at MIR-FIR

# Extragalactic Sources

Starburst Galaxies - so far NGC 253 and M82 have been detected both at GeV and TeV energies with very high proton-to gamma conversion factor  $> 0.1$  (almost “calorimetric” ), hard spectra

*next step:* detailed spectral measurements up to 100 TeV, angular distribution up to 1 deg (to map  $>10$ kpc halos), search for VHE emission from most powerful representatives - Arp 220, Mkn 279

topics: origin of CRs, EBL at MIR-FIR

# ExtraGalactic Sources

- Clusters of Galaxies

**so far** - no detections at GeV and TeV, but there is little doubt (?) that gamma-rays will appear at some level because of pp, IC and “p -2.7K + IC of Bethe-Heitler electrons” interactions

**reasons for optimism?** accretion shocks with  $v > 1000$  km/s

**objects:** Clusters of Galaxies - Coma, Perseus A, ...

**topics:** large-scale cosmological structures in the context of nonthermal phenomena, B-fields, accretion shocks, ...

- Large scale structures of different origin

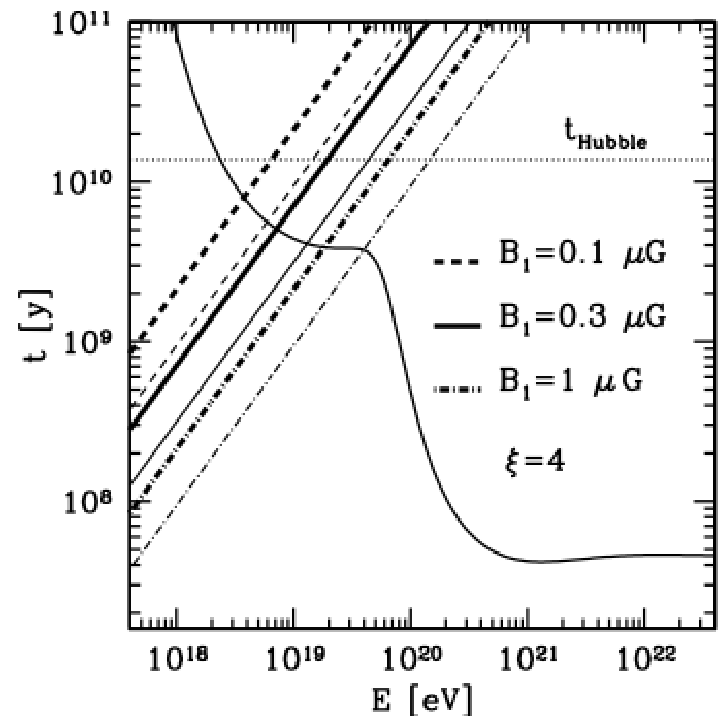
Radio lobes of powerful radiogalaxies; Synchrotron Halos of secondary electrons; Giant  $e^+e^-$  pair Halos around AGN; photon beams broadened in the very weak B-fields of IGMFs

# Particle Acceleration in Galaxy Clusters

Several ingredients for effective acceleration to highest energies

- ✓ formation of strong accretion shocks
- ✓ magnetic field of order 0.1-1  $\mu\text{G}$
- ✓ shock velocity - few 1000 km/s
- ✓ acceleration time  $\sim$  Hubble time

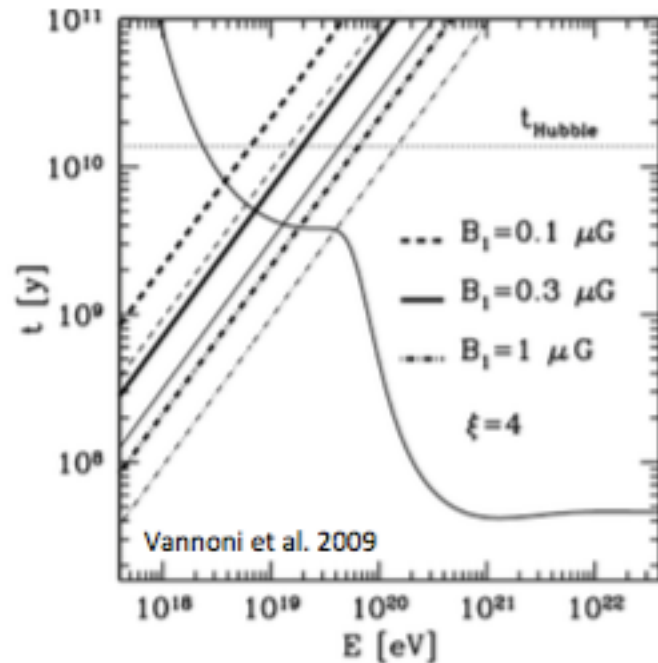
but protons cannot be accelerated to beyond  $10^{19}$  eV (Kang et al., Vannoni et al) because of (Bethe-Heitler) pair production



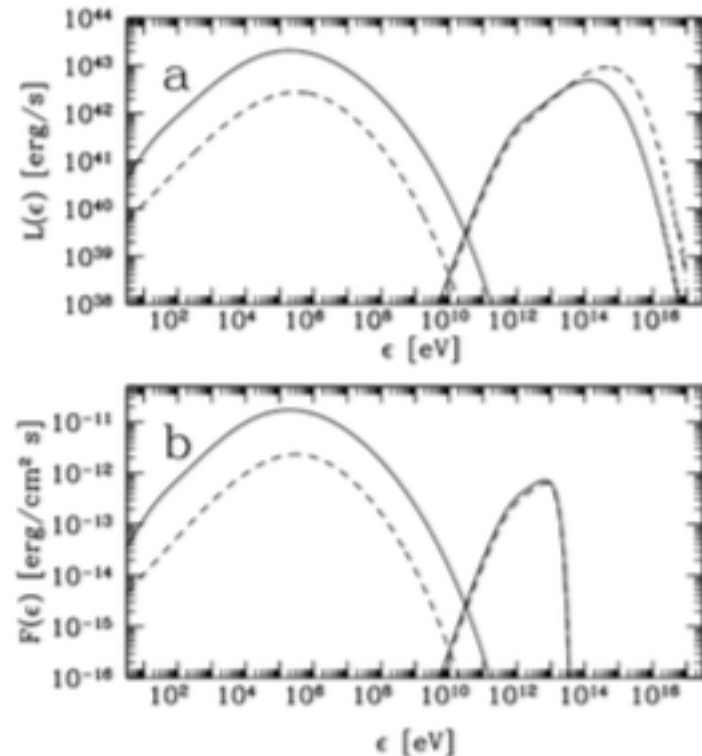
**Fig.1.** Acceleration and energy loss time scales as a function of the proton energy. The acceleration time scales are obtained for the values of the upstream magnetic field  $B_1$  reported in figure and a downstream magnetic field  $B_2 = 4B_1$ . The thick lines correspond to a shock velocity of 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.

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



**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.

# Extragalactic Sources and Highest Energy Cosmic Rays

*potential sites of  $10^{20}$  eV cosmic rays based on the condition:*  
 source size  $>$  Larmor radius:  $(R/1\text{pc})(B/1\text{G}) > 0.1 (E/10^{20}\text{eV})$  :

necessary but not sufficient; it implies:

(1) minimum acceleration time  $t_{\text{acc}} = R_L / c = E / eBc$

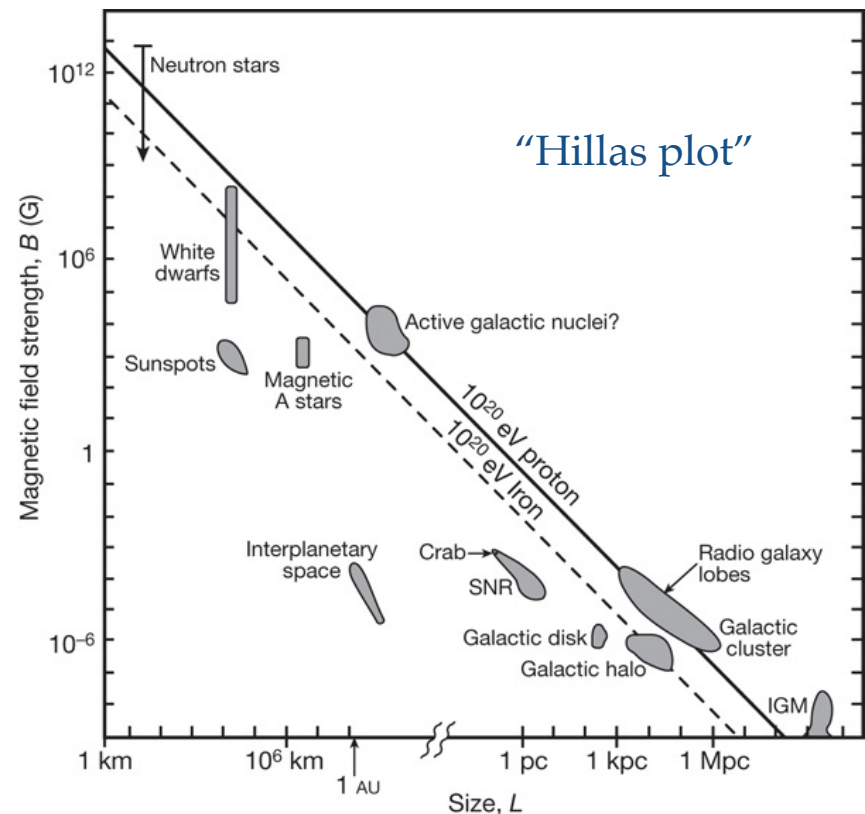
acceleration in fact is slower:

$$t_{\text{acc}} = (1-10)\eta R_L / c (c/v)^2$$

with  $\eta > 1$  and shock/bulk-motion speed  $v < c$  ( $\eta = 1$  - Bohm diffusion)

(2) no energy losses

synchrotron/curvature losses in compact objects become severe limiting factor



## acceleration sites of $10^{20}$ eV CRs ?

$$t_{\text{acc}} = \frac{R_L}{c} \eta^{-1}$$

signatures of extreme accelerators?

✓ **synchrotron self-regulated cutoff:**

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

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

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

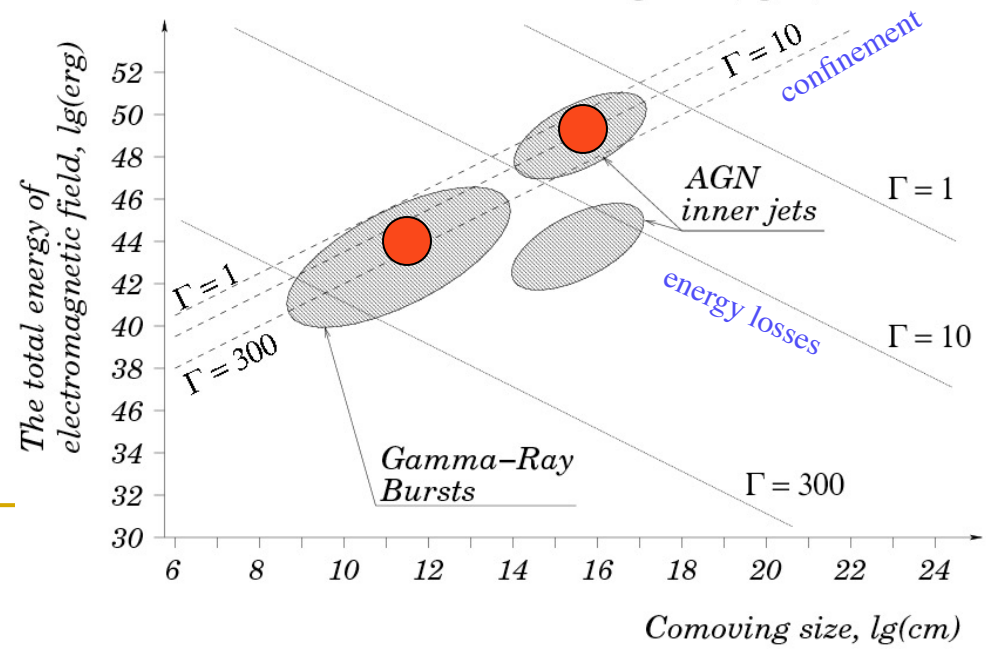
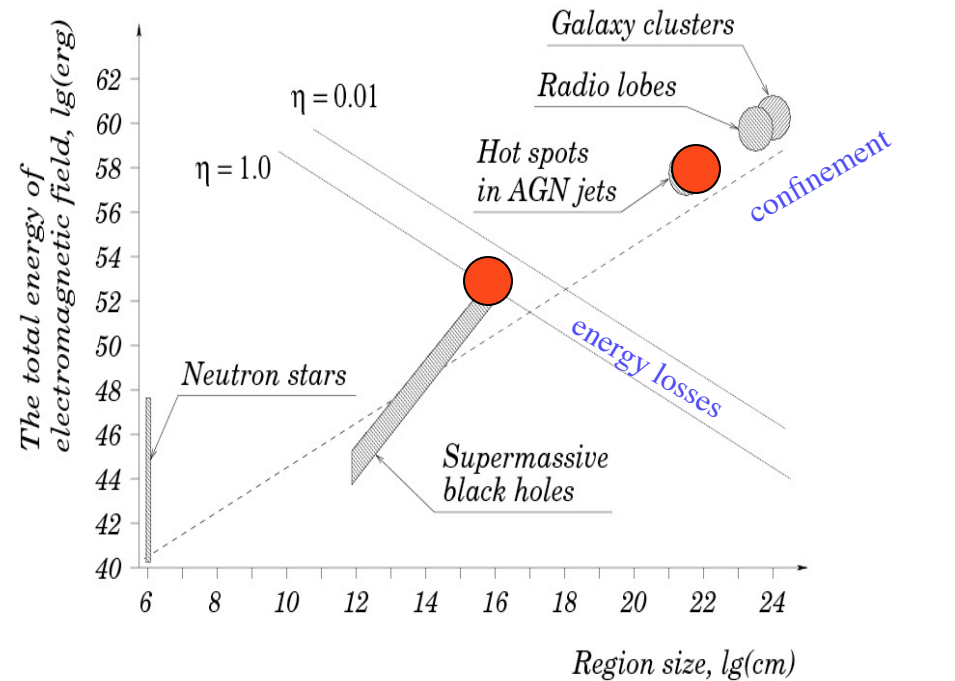
a viable “hadronic” model applicable for TeV  $\gamma$ -ray blazars if  $B \sim 100$  G or so

✓ **neutrinos** (through “converter” mechanism) production of neutrons (through  $p\gamma$  interactions) which travel without losses and at large distances convert again to protons  $\Rightarrow \Gamma^2$  energy gain! (Deerishev et al. 2003)

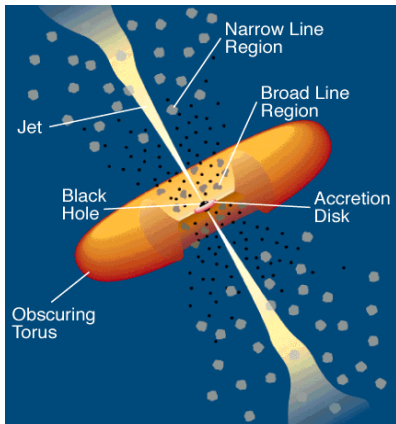
✓ **observable off-axis radiation**

radiation pattern can be much broader than  $1/\Gamma$

\*) in nonrelativistic shocks  $\eta \approx 0.1(v_{\text{shock}}/c)^2$



**Blazars** - sub-class of AGN dominated by nonthermal/variable broad band (from R to  $\gamma$ ) radiation produced in relativistic jets close to the line of sight, with massive Black Holes as central engines



## GeV/TeV gamma-ray observations

*strong impact on*

- Blazar physics and astrophysics
- Diffuse Extragalactic Background (EBL)  
Intergalactic Magnetic fields (IGMF)

most exciting results of recent years

- ultra short time variability (on min scales)
- Jet power exceeds Eddington luminosity
- extremely hard (harder than E-1.5) energy spectra
- VHE blazars up to  $z \sim 1$ !



# "leptonic" versus "hadronic" models of TeV Blazars

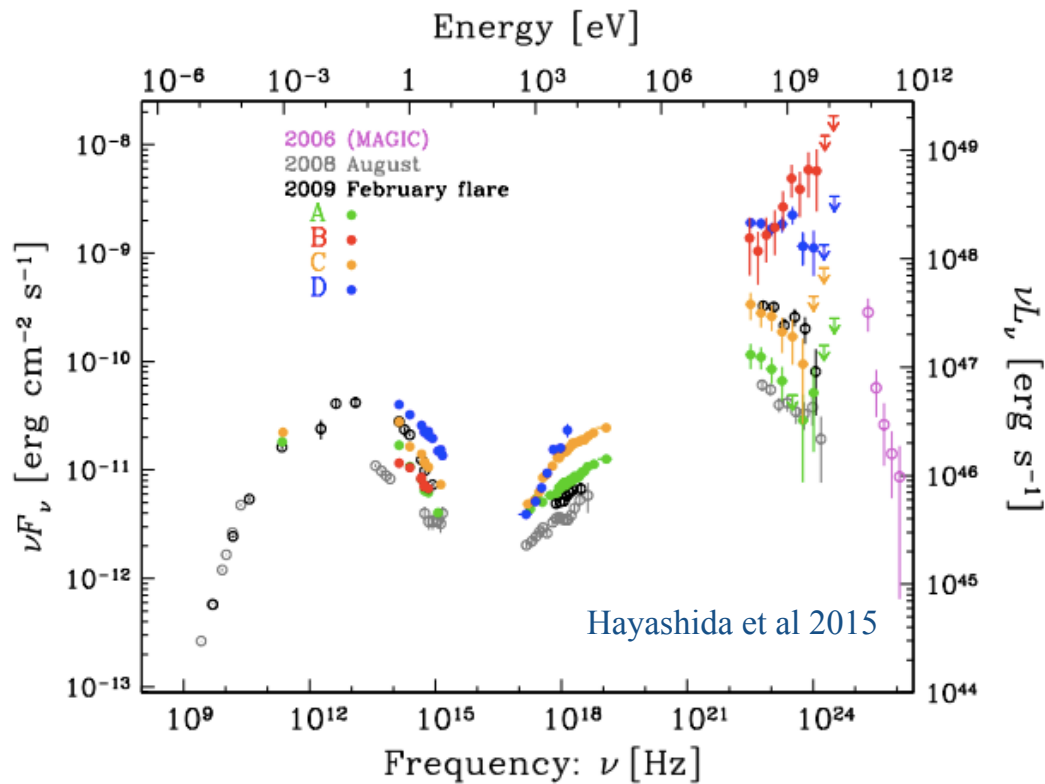
**leptonic** (Inverse Compton) models: SSC or external IC

**attractive:** easy to accelerate electrons to TeV energies; easy to produce IC  $\gamma$ -rays

**problems:** B-field very small - 1-10 mG (in the inner parts of the jet):  $W_e \gg W_B$

**hadronic** models

- interactions with matter ("pp") - *very slow process*
- interactions with photons ("p $\gamma$ ") - *low efficiency & severe  $\gamma\gamma$  absorption*
- interactions with B-field (synchrotron) - (very?) large B-field,  $W_B \gg W_p$   
& max. acceleration rate  $\sim R_L/c$   
can be realized only in the extreme accelerators (sources of  $10^{20}$ eV CRs)



2013-14 flares of 3C 273:

$\Delta t \sim 2$  hours

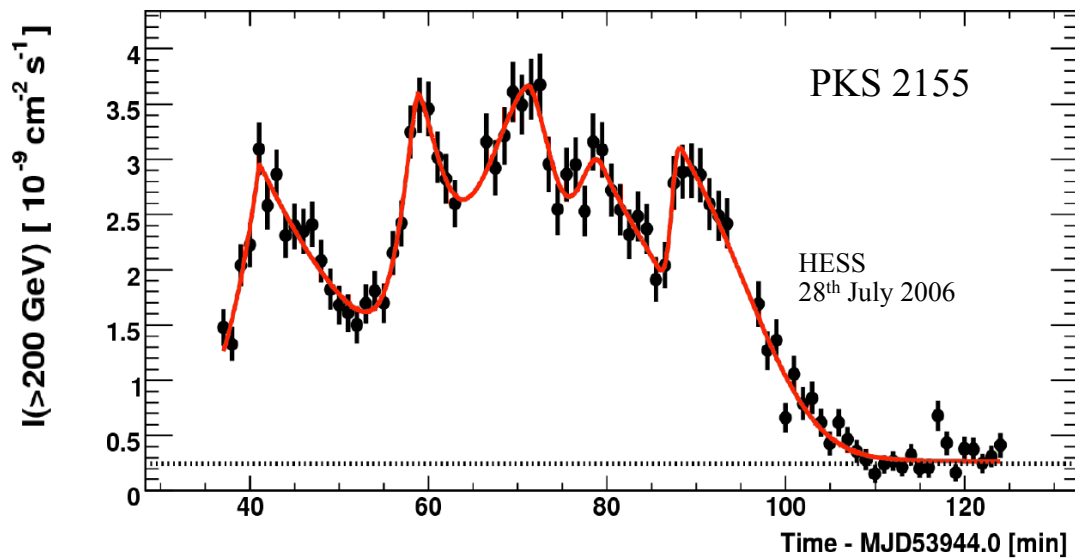
$L_{app} \sim 10^{49}$  erg/s

unusually hard spectra

"leptonic versus hadronic" - of course it's important to clarify  
but now we face more serious challenges (for all models):

1. ultrafast variability  $\sim R_g/c$
2. jet power  $>$  Eddington luminosity

Light curve of PKS 2155-304 during 2006 July flare  
 variability timescale  $\Delta t \sim 3$  min:  $L < c\Delta t \sim 6 \cdot 10^{12}$  cm!



it is convenient to express the variability through

$$\Delta t = R_g / c \sim 10 \left( M / 10^8 M_\odot \right) \text{ min}$$

$R_g = GM_{\text{BH}} / c^2 = 1.5 \cdot 10^{13} M_8$  cm is gravitation radius of Kerr BH

# how the ultrafast ("sub-horizon") flares can be explained?

1.  $\gamma$ -rays are produced in (parts of) BH magnetospheres?

perhaps in M87, but certainly not for distant blazars

2. obviously one needs to invoke relativistic effects, and the perturbations in the jets responsible for flares should have external origin (not directly linked to central black hole)

two possibilities are under discussion:

- "jet in jet"
- "star - jet interactions"

## Summary:

future of ground-based gamma-ray astronomy? *very bright !*

- ❑ solid predictions (based on the current data and theory)
- ❑ exciting expectations which can dramatically change our present understanding of the nonthermal Universe
- ❑ very good prospects for next generation instruments CTA, LHAASO, SGSO and (hopefully) beyond