



NGC 2237-9 The Rosette Nebula

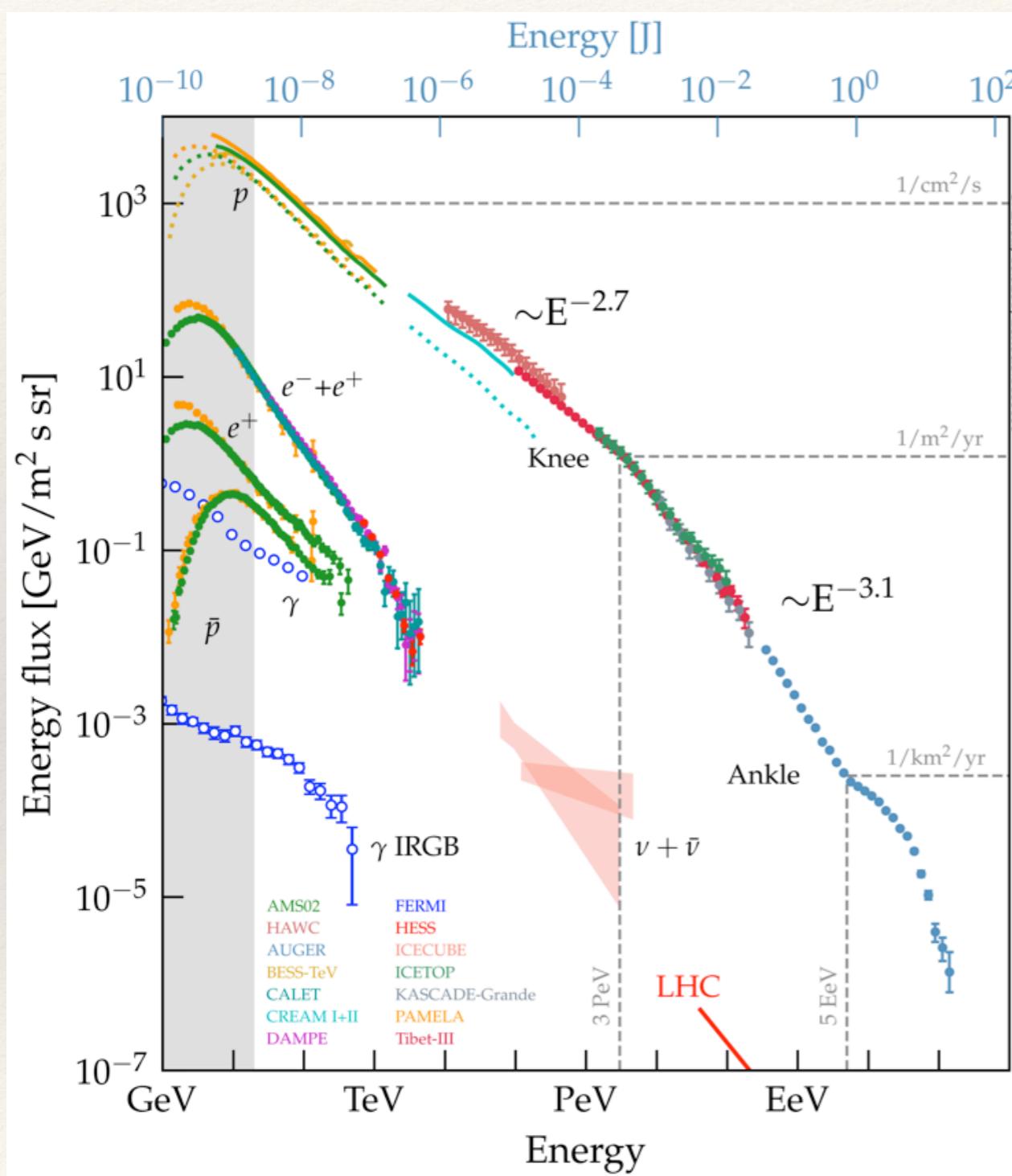
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# Particle acceleration and high energy emission in stellar clusters

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Firenze  
ITALY



# How to explain the origin of Galactic CRs



## Requirements for sources

- ❖ Energetics:  $\sim 10^{40} \text{ erg/s}$
- ❖ Injected spectrum  $< \text{PeV}$ :  $\propto E^{-2.3}$
- ❖ Maximum energy ( $p$ ):  $\gtrsim 10^{15} \text{ eV}$
- ❖ Anisotropy:  $\sim 10^{-3}$  @ 10 TeV
- ❖ Composition: few anomalies w.r.t. Solar

# The most popular scenario: DSA@SNR shocks

- ❖ Why supernova remnant are so popular?

1. Enough power to sustain the CR flux:

$$P_{\text{CR}} \sim \frac{U_{\text{CR}} V_{\text{CR}}}{\tau_{\text{esc}}(1 \text{ GeV})} \sim 10^{40} \text{ erg}$$

$$P_{\text{SN}} \sim R_{\text{SN}} E_{\text{SN}} \sim 3 \times 10^{41} \frac{R_{\text{SN}}}{(100 \text{ yr})^{-1}} \frac{E_{\text{SN}}}{10^{51} \text{ erg}} \text{ erg/s}$$



$$P_{\text{CR}} \simeq 1 - 10 \% P_{\text{SN}}$$

2. Enough sources to explain anisotropy:

$$N(< d, E) \sim R_{\text{SN}} (d/R_d)^2 \tau_{\text{esc}}(E) = \frac{1}{100 \text{ yr}} \left( \frac{5 \text{ kpc}}{15 \text{ kpc}} \right)^2 2 \text{ Myr} \simeq 7000$$

4. A well developed theory for particle acceleration: DSA

5. Observations show the presence of non thermal particles

- ❖ However

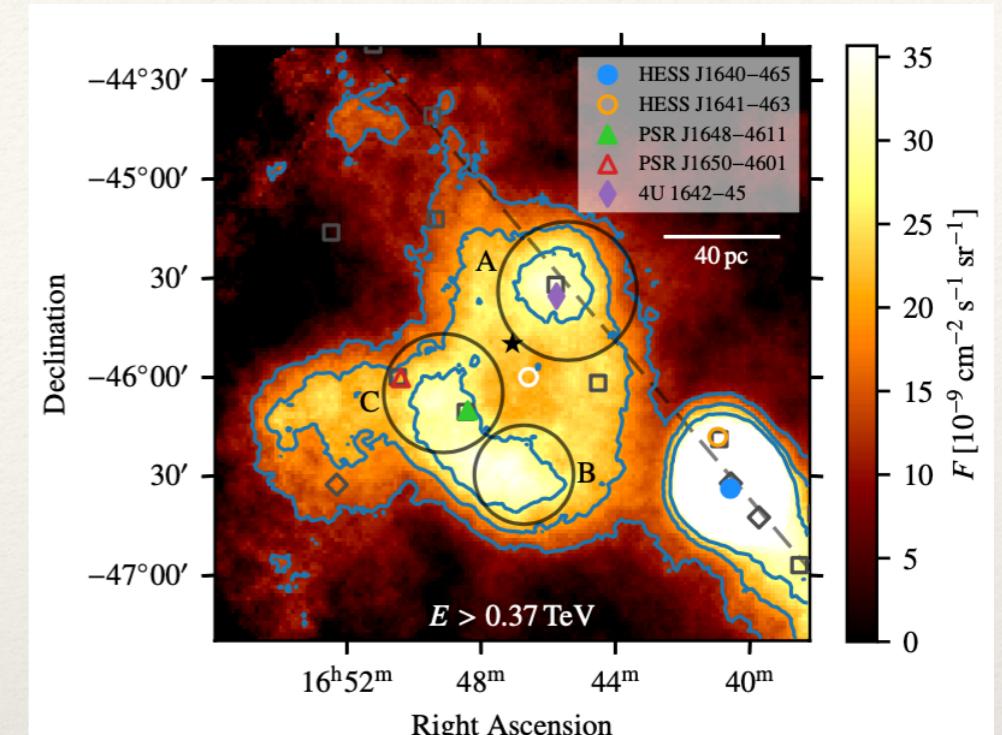
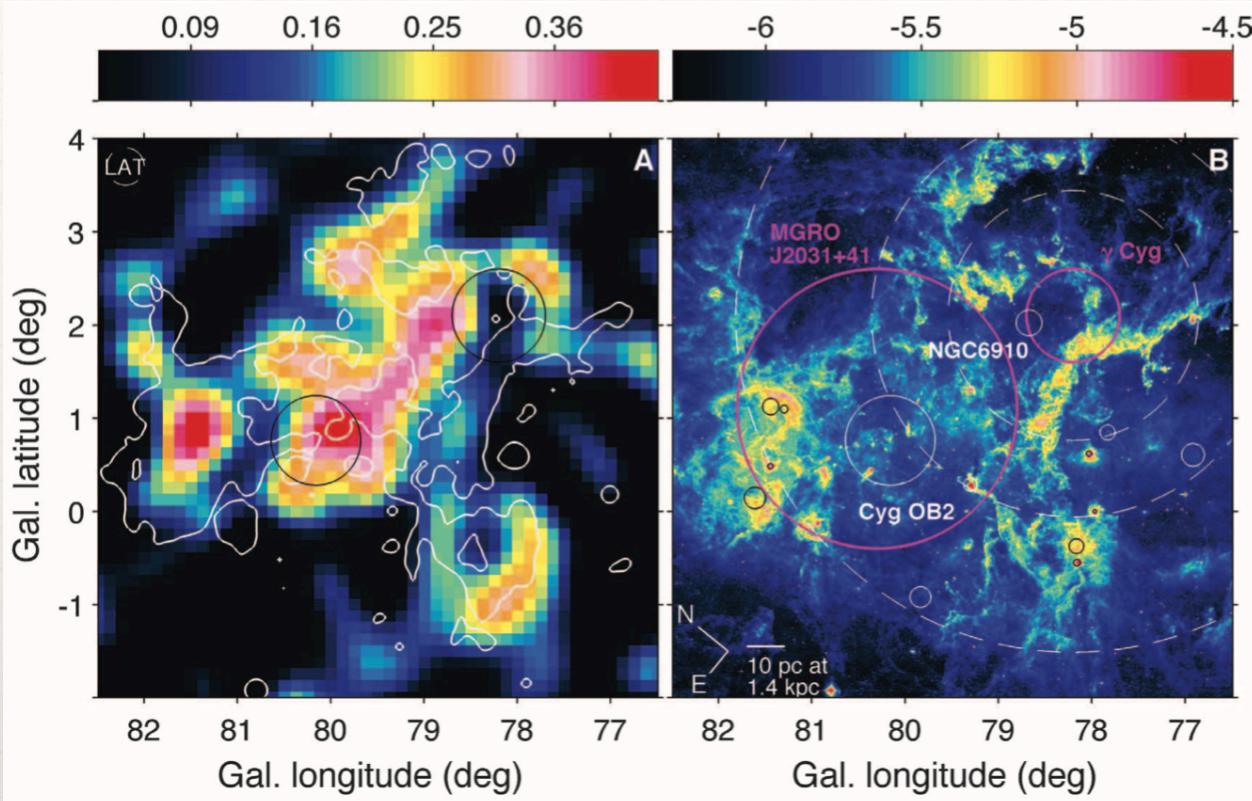
- No evidence of acceleration beyond  $\sim 100$  TeV even in very young SNRs
- From theory only very powerful and rare SNRs can reach PeV
- Anomalous CR composition cannot be easily explained
- Spectral anomalies (p, He, CNO have different slopes)
- etc...

See talk by S. Gabici

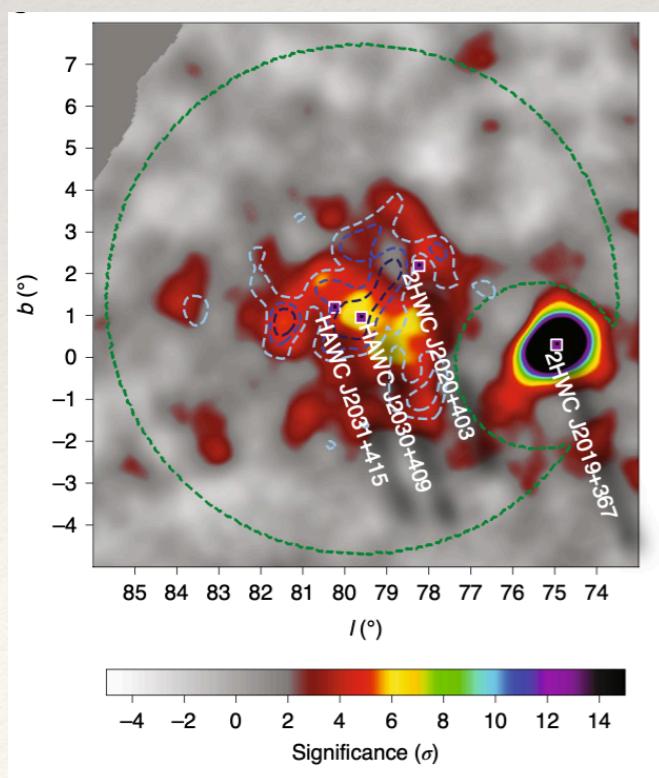


# YSCs detected in gamma-rays

Cygnus Cocoon FermiLAT - Ackermann et al. (2011)

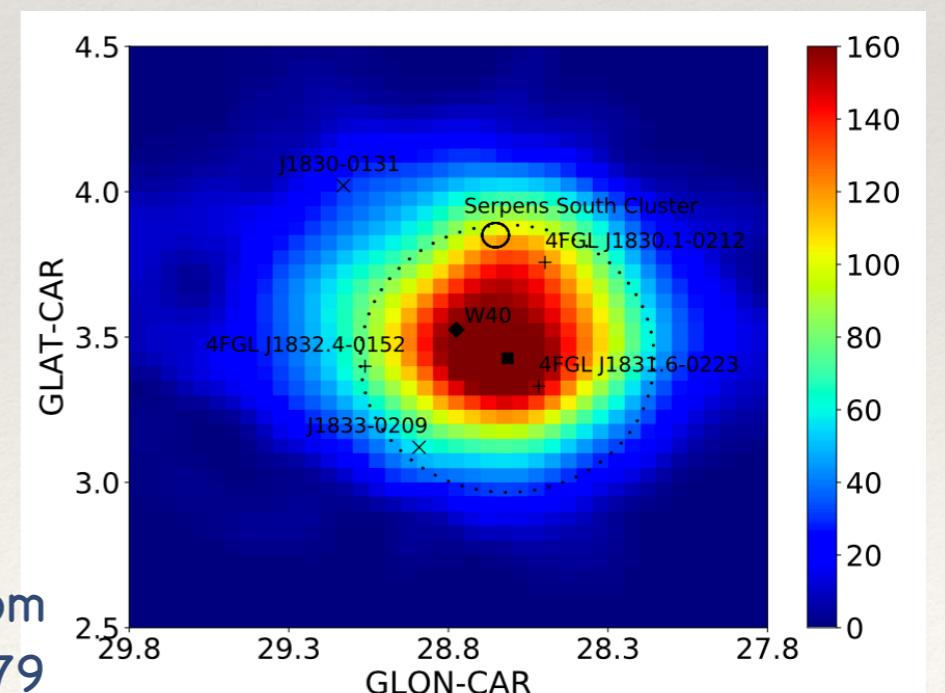


Westerlund 1  
HESS coll. A&A (2022)



Cygnus Cocoon  
HAWC coll. Nat. Astr. (2020)

W40 - FermiLAT data from  
Sun et al. (2020) arxiv:2006.00879

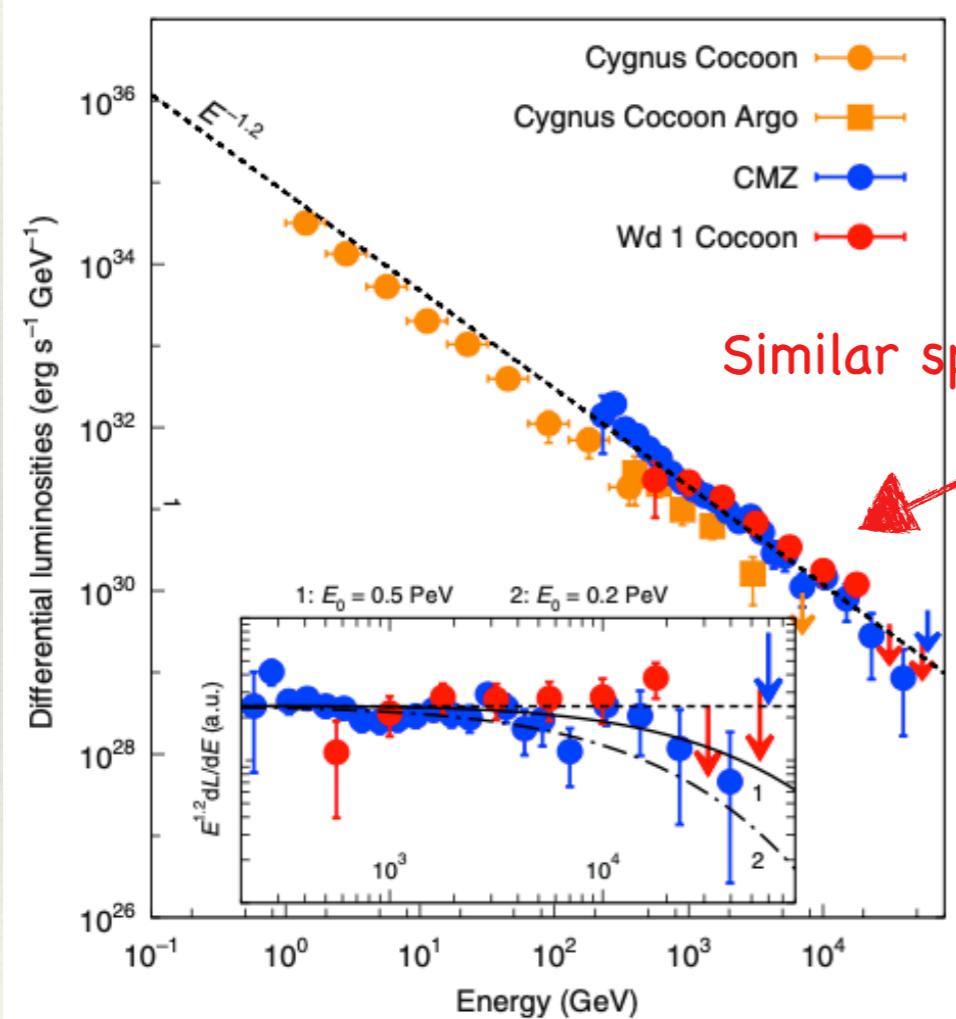


# YSCs detected in gamma-rays

[Aharonian, Yang & Wilhelmi, Nat. Astr. (2019)]

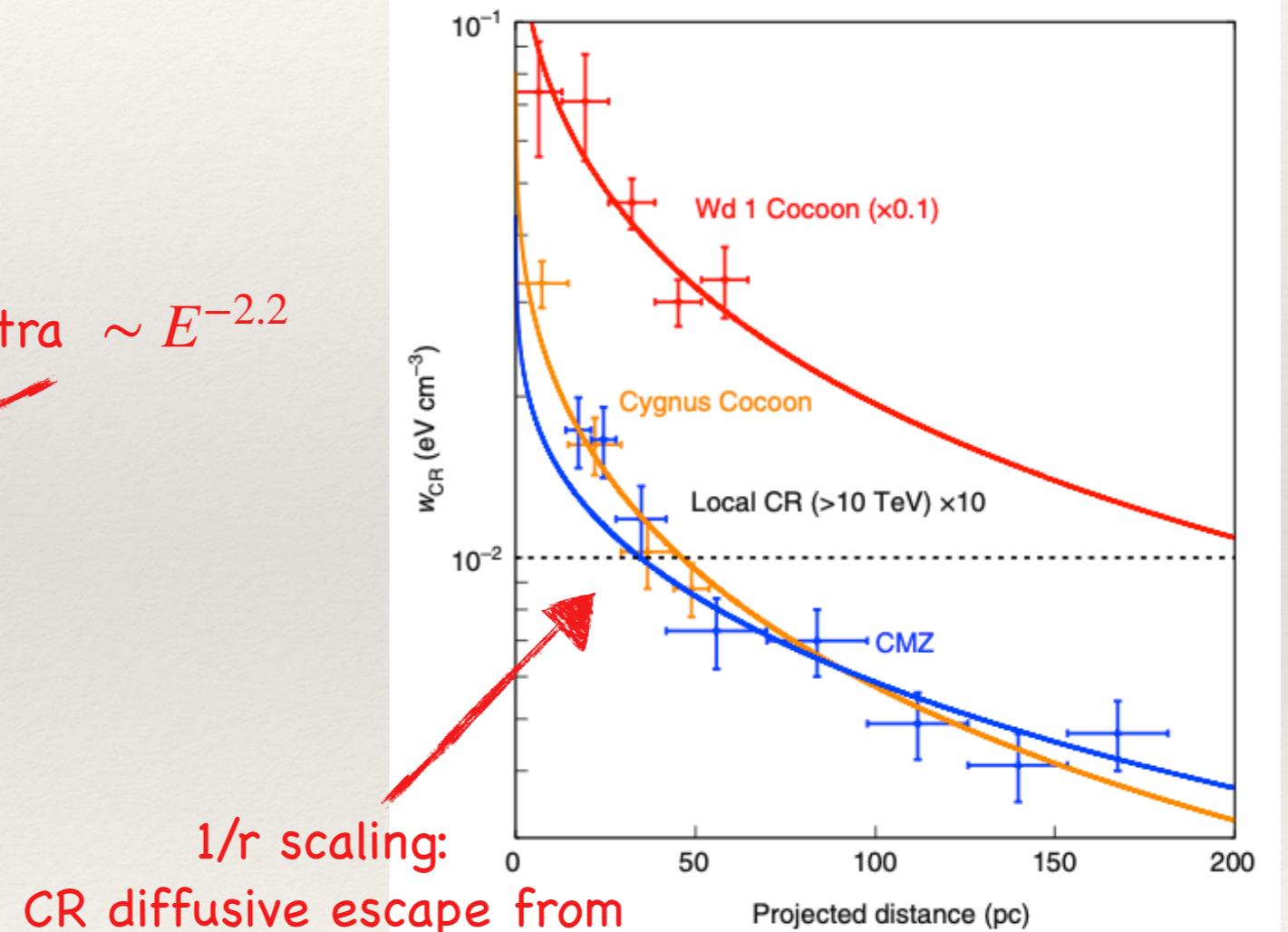
Some clusters show similar spectra and radial profile

Spectrum



Similar spectra  $\sim E^{-2.2}$

Radial CR profile



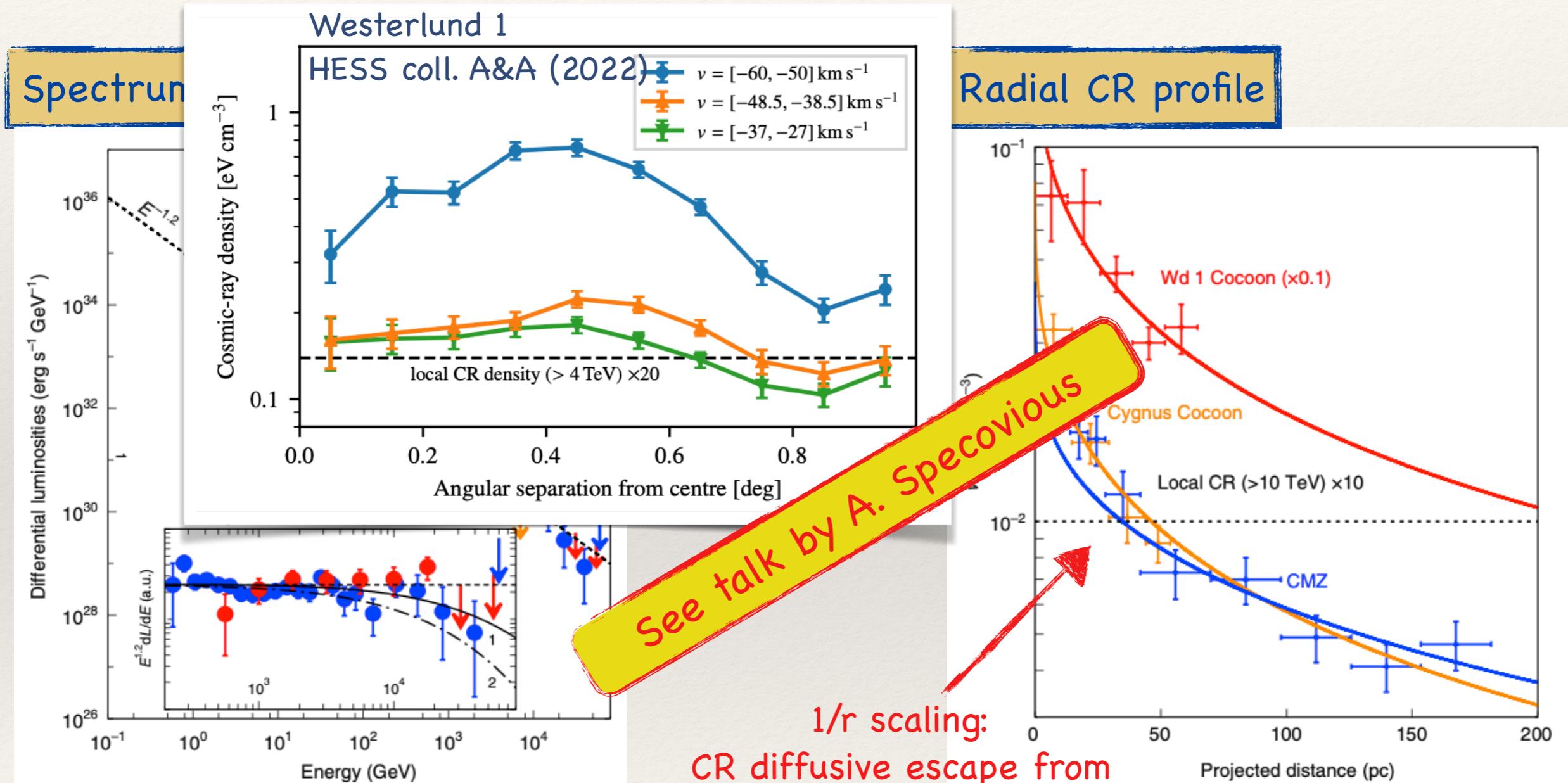
1/r scaling:  
CR diffusive escape from  
continuous point source?

See talk by F. Aharonian

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1/r scaling:  
CR diffusive escape from  
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# Energetics: stellar winds vs. SNe

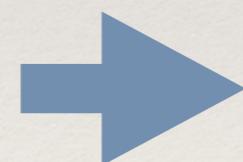
Salpeter (1955) initial mass function of stars:  $f(M) = \frac{dN_{\text{star}}}{dM} \propto M^{-2.35}$

Power injected by SNe  $P_{\text{SNe}} = 10^{51} \text{erg} \int_{8M_{\odot}}^{M_1} f(M) dM$

Power injected by winds  $P_{\text{wind}} = \int_{M_{\min}}^{M_{\max}} \frac{1}{2} \dot{M}_w(M) v_w(M)^2 \tau_{\text{life}}(M) f(M) dM$

$v_w = 2.5 \sqrt{2G_N M/R}$  for line-driven winds;

$\dot{M}$  from analytical (approximated) models [[Nieuwenhuijzen & de Jager\(1990\)](#)]

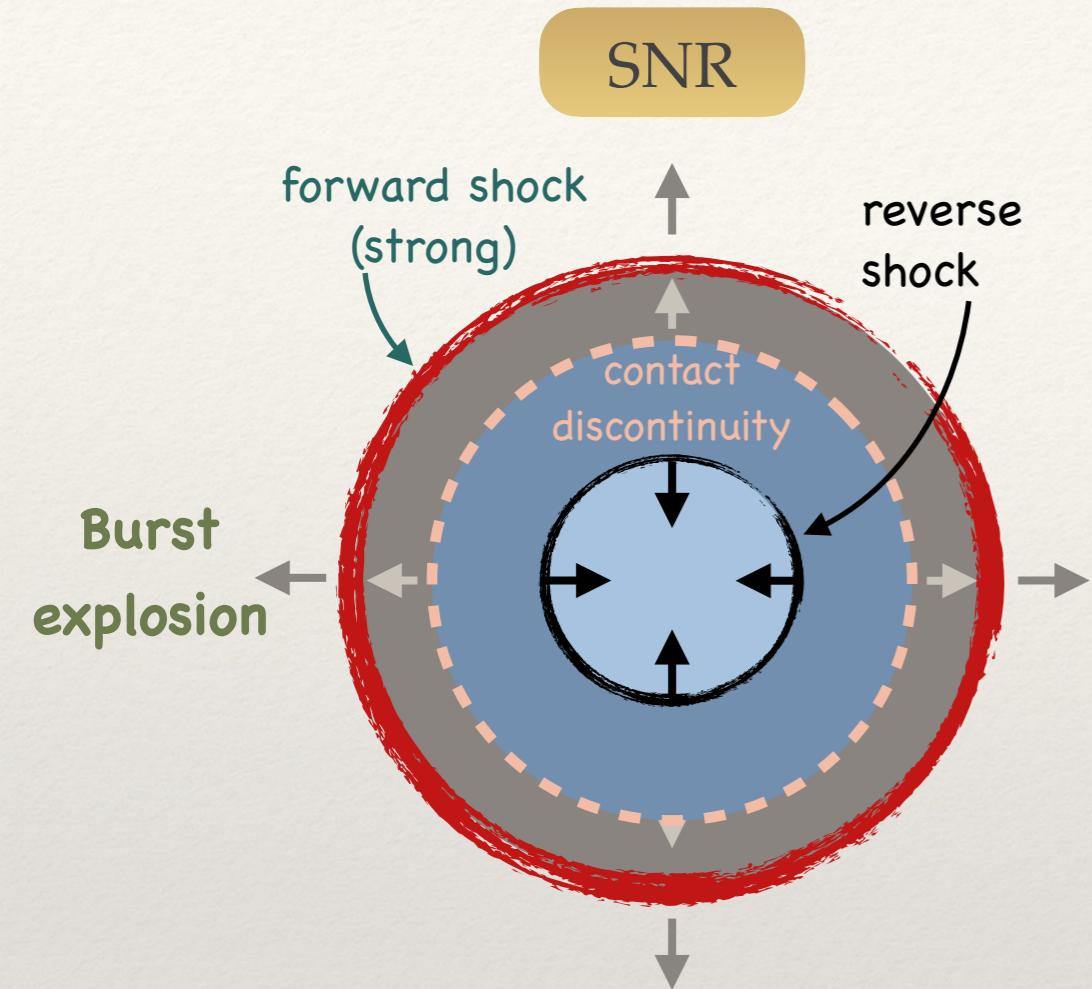


$$\frac{P_{\text{wind}}}{P_{\text{SNe}}} \simeq 0.5$$

- Not accounting for WR stars
- Not accounting for failed supernovae ~10% of the total [[Adams et al. \(2017, MNRAS 469\)](#)]

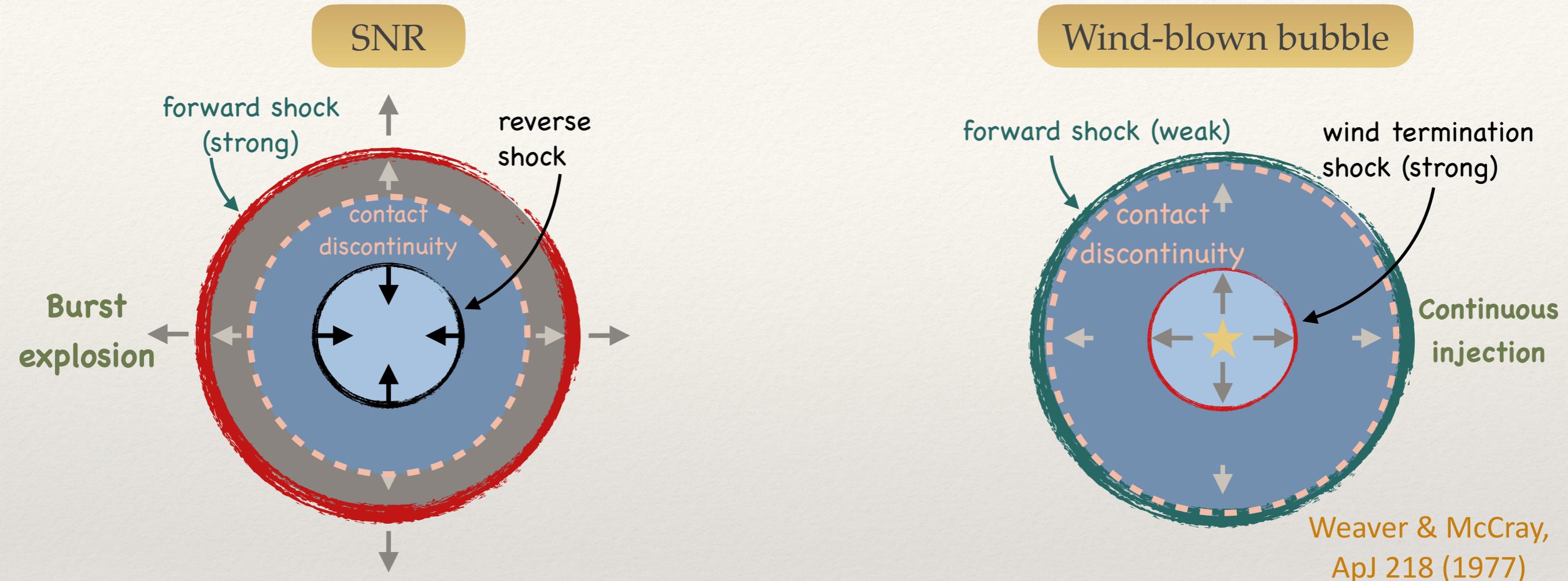
# Stellar winds vs. SNRs

Cassé & Paul (1980, 1982) — Cesarsky & Montmerle (1983)



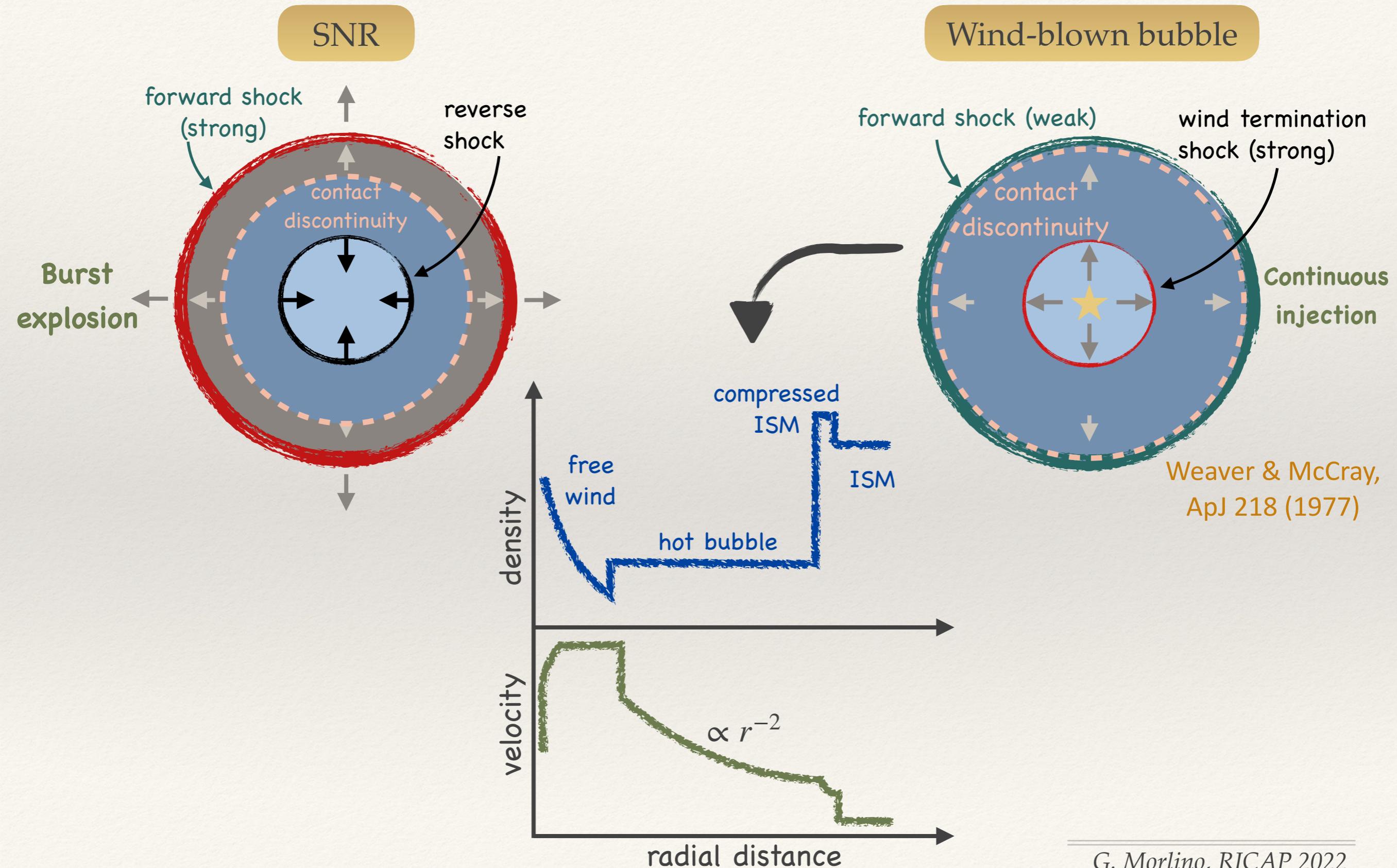
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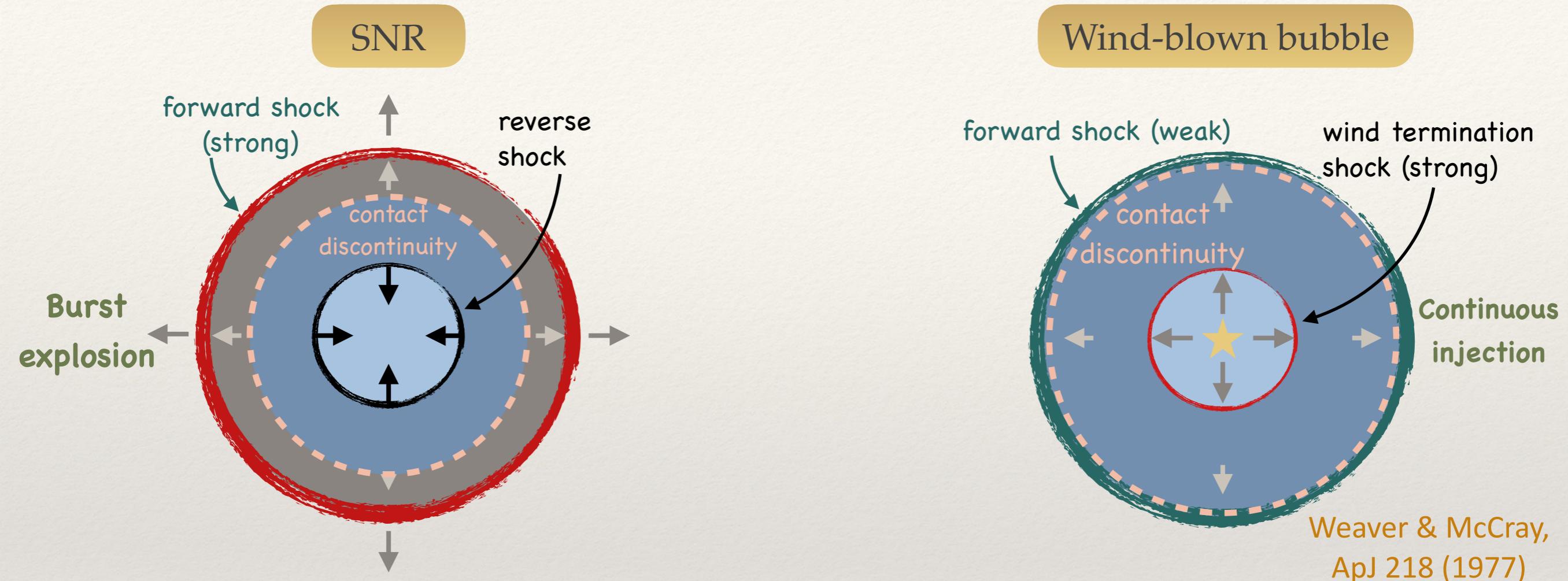
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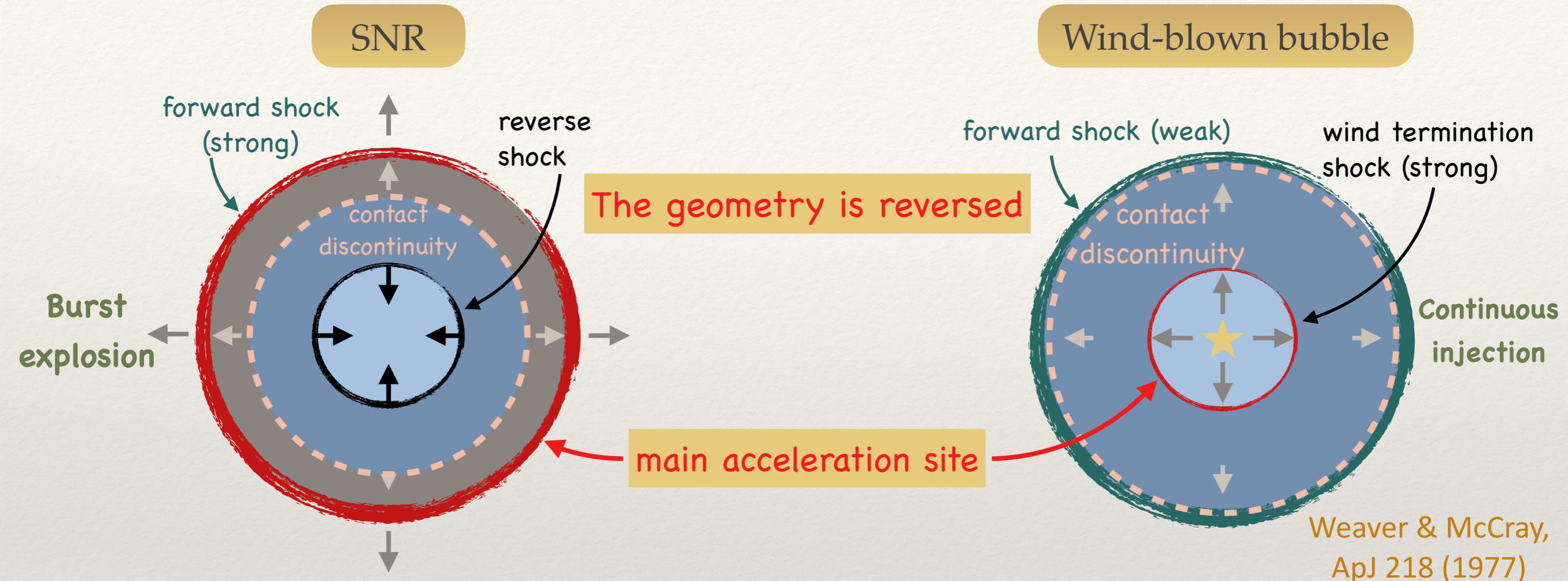
Cassé & Paul (1980, 1982) — Cesarsky & Montmerle (1983)



	age	Forward shock	Reverse shock		
		$V_{FS}$ [km/s]	$R_{FS}$ [pc]	$V_{RS}$ [km/s]	$R_{RS}$ [pc]
SNR	kyr	> 5000	< 1	< 3000	< 1
Wind bubble	Myr	10 - 20	50-100	< 3000	1-10

# Stellar winds vs. SNRs

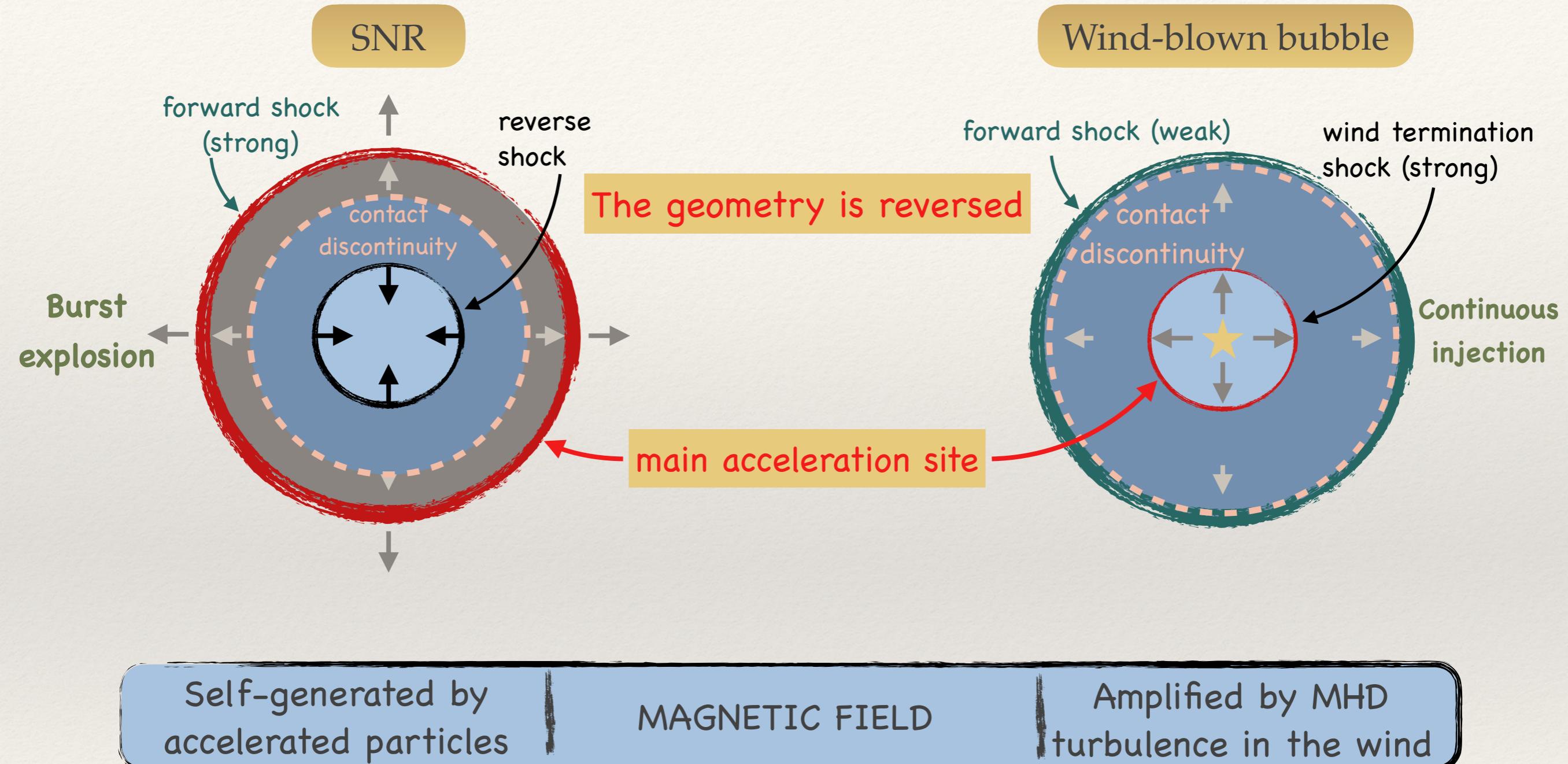
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# Stellar winds vs. SNRs

Cassé & Paul (1980, 1982) — Cesarsky & Montmerle (1983)



# Maximum energy: first order estimate

Hillas criterium

$$E_{\max} \sim \left( \frac{q}{c} \right) B_{\text{sh}} u_{\text{sh}} R_{\text{sh}}$$

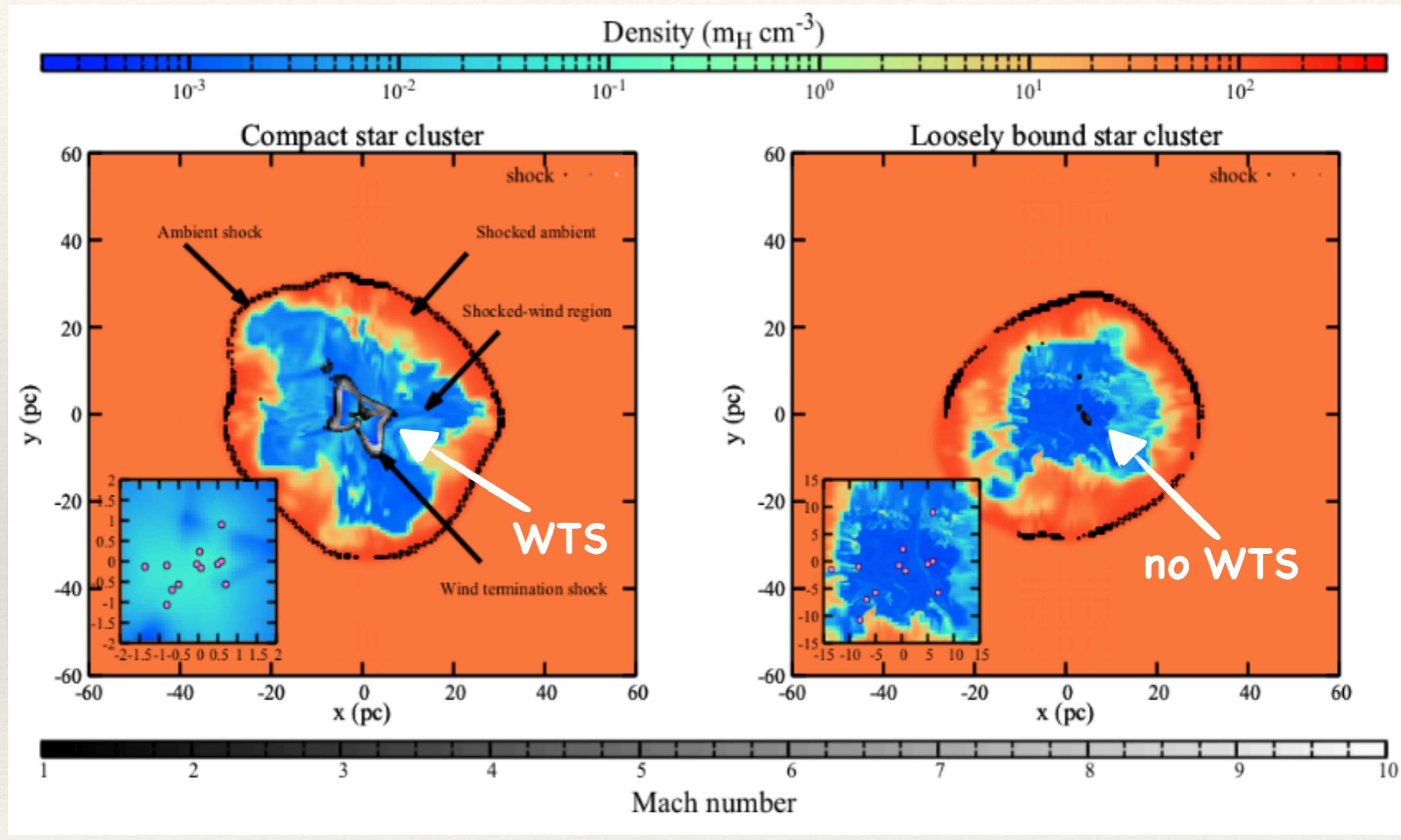
	$dM/dt$ $M_{\text{sol}}/\text{yr}$	$u_{\text{sh}}$ km/s	$R_{\text{sh}}$ pc	$B$ $\mu\text{G}$	$age$ yr	$\lim E_{\max}$	$E_{\max}$ TeV
SNR	—	> 5000	< 1	~100 self-amplification	~10 <sup>3</sup>	time limited	~10-100
WTS (single star)	10 <sup>-6</sup>	< 3000	~ 1	~ 1 MHD turbulence	~10 <sup>6</sup>	space limited	~ 10
WTS (massive cluster)	10 <sup>-4</sup>	< 3000	> 10	> 10 MHD turbulence	~10 <sup>6</sup>	space limited	~> 1000

For massive star cluster ( $\gtrsim 10^4 M_{\odot}$ ) PeV energies can be reached

# Cluster compactness

[Gupta, Nath, Sharma & Eichler, MNRAS 2020]

A WTS is generated if the cluster is compact enough, such that  $R_{\text{cluster}} \ll R_{\text{ts}}$



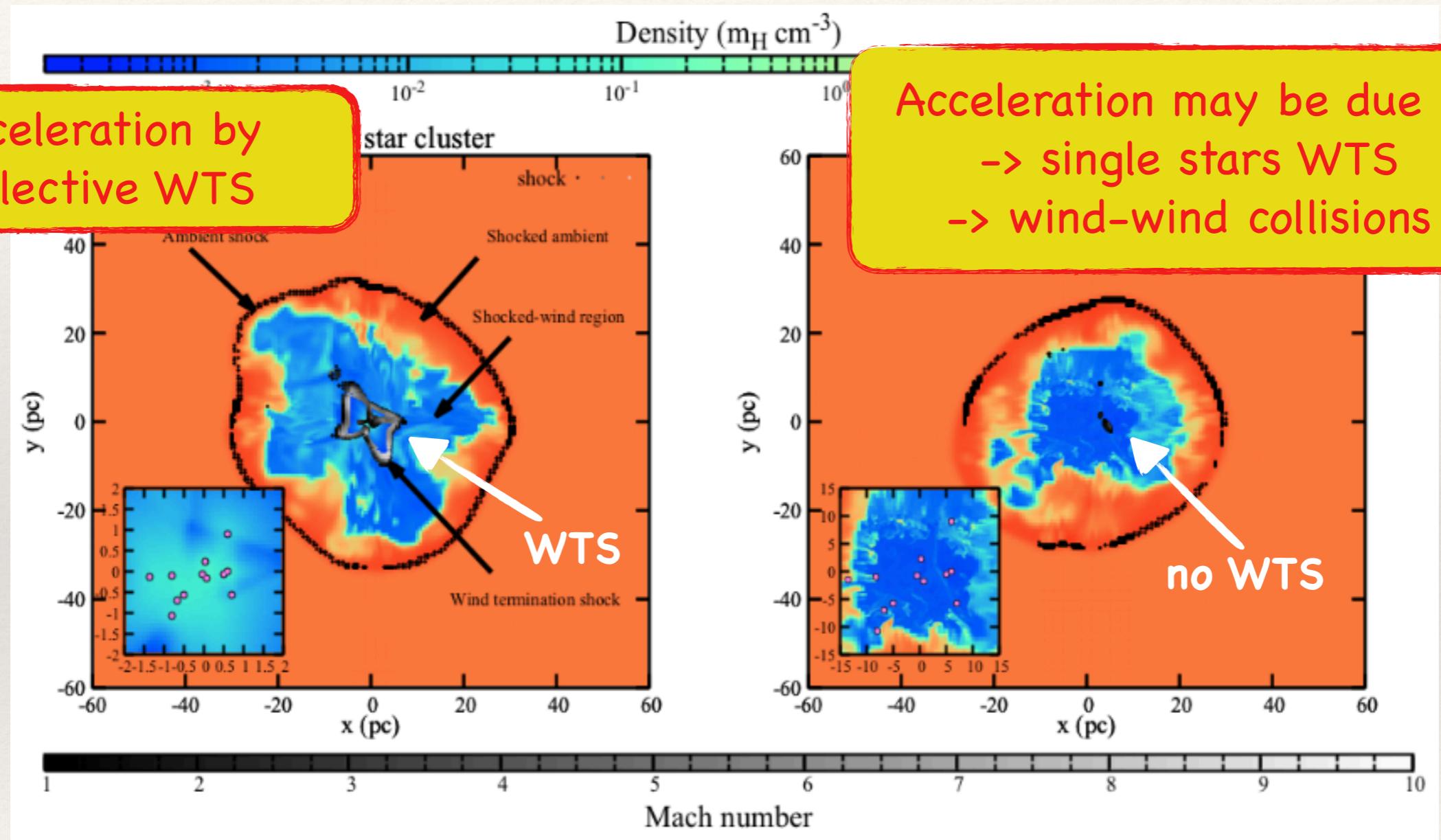
Compact cluster

Loose cluster

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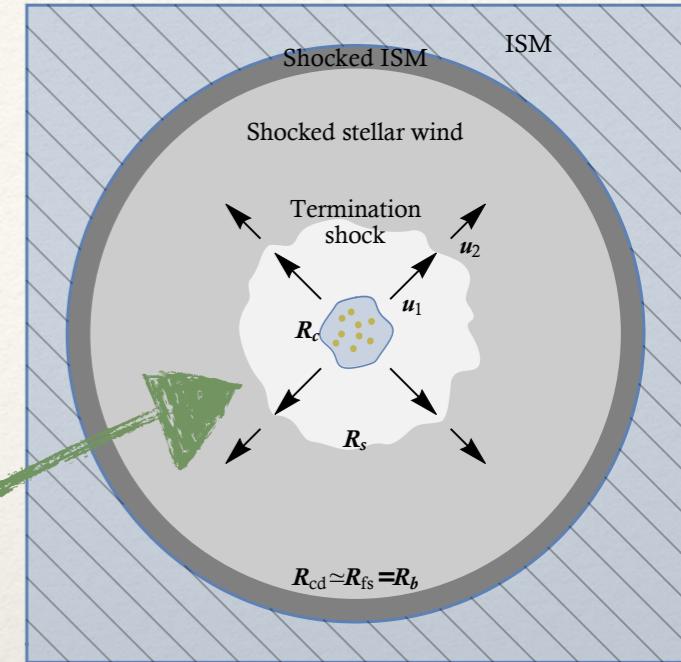


# Particle acceleration at the wind TS

GM, Blasi, Peretti & Cristofari (2019)

Time-stationary transport equation in spherical geometry:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[ r^2 D(r, p) \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \right] - r^2 u(r) \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} + \frac{d[r^2 u]}{dr} \frac{p}{3} \frac{\partial f}{\partial p} + r^2 Q(r, p) = 0$$



- **Injection only at the termination shock:**  $Q(r, p) \propto \delta(p - p_{\text{inj}}) \delta(r - R_s)$

- **Wind velocity profile:**  $u(r) = \begin{cases} u_1 = v_w & \text{for } r < R_s, \\ \frac{u_1}{\sigma} \left( \frac{R_s}{r} \right)^2 & \text{for } R_s < r < R_b, \\ 0 & \text{for } r > R_b; \end{cases}$

- **Boundary conditions:**

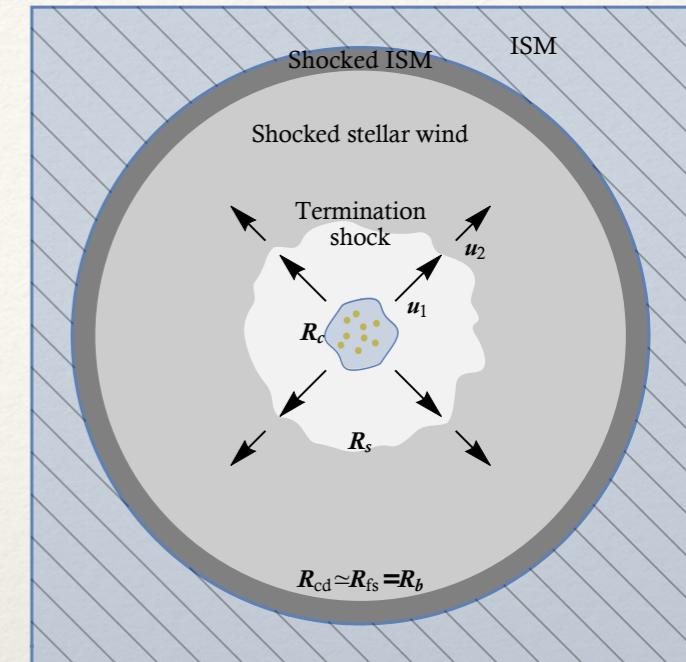
1. No net flux at the cluster center:  $r^2 [D \partial_r f - u f]_{r=R_c} = 0$
2. Matching the Galactic distribution:  $f(r \rightarrow \infty, p) = f_{\text{gal}}(p)$

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- Arbitrary diffusion coefficient:  $D(r, p)$

Wind-wind collision and non-stationarity can produce high level of HD turbulence

Assuming that a fraction  $\eta_B \gtrsim 1\%$  of kinetic wind energy is converted into magnetic energy

$$\frac{\delta B}{4\pi} 4\pi r^2 v_w = \frac{1}{2} \eta_B \dot{M} v_w^2 \Rightarrow \delta B(R_s) \gtrsim \mu G$$

The type of turbulent cascade can result into different diffusion coefficients

$$\begin{cases} D_{\text{Kol}}(E) = \frac{v}{3} r_L (\delta B)^{1/3} L_c^{2/3} \\ D_{\text{Kra}}(E) = \frac{v}{3} r_L (\delta B)^{1/2} L_c^{1/2} \\ D_{\text{Bohm}}(E) = \frac{v}{3} r_L (\delta B) \end{cases}$$

$L_c \sim \text{pc}$  is the injection scale of turbulence

# Maximum energy: a more detailed analysis

GM, Blasi, Peretti & Cristofari (2019)

## Solution of diffusive shock acceleration in spherical geometry

$$f_s(p) = s \frac{\eta_{\text{inj}} n_1}{4\pi p_{\text{inj}}^3} \left( \frac{p}{p_{\text{inj}}} \right)^{-s} e^{-\Gamma_1(p)} e^{-\Gamma_2(p)}$$

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Standard power-law  
for plane shocks

$$s = \frac{3u_1}{u_1 - u_2}$$

$$f_s(p) = \left[ s \frac{\eta_{\text{inj}} n_1}{4\pi p_{\text{inj}}^3} \left( \frac{p}{p_{\text{inj}}} \right)^{-s} \right] e^{-\Gamma_1(p)} e^{-\Gamma_2(p)}$$

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Maximum energy due to confinement in the upstream:  
the effective plasma speed decreased reducing the energy gain

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Maximum energy due  
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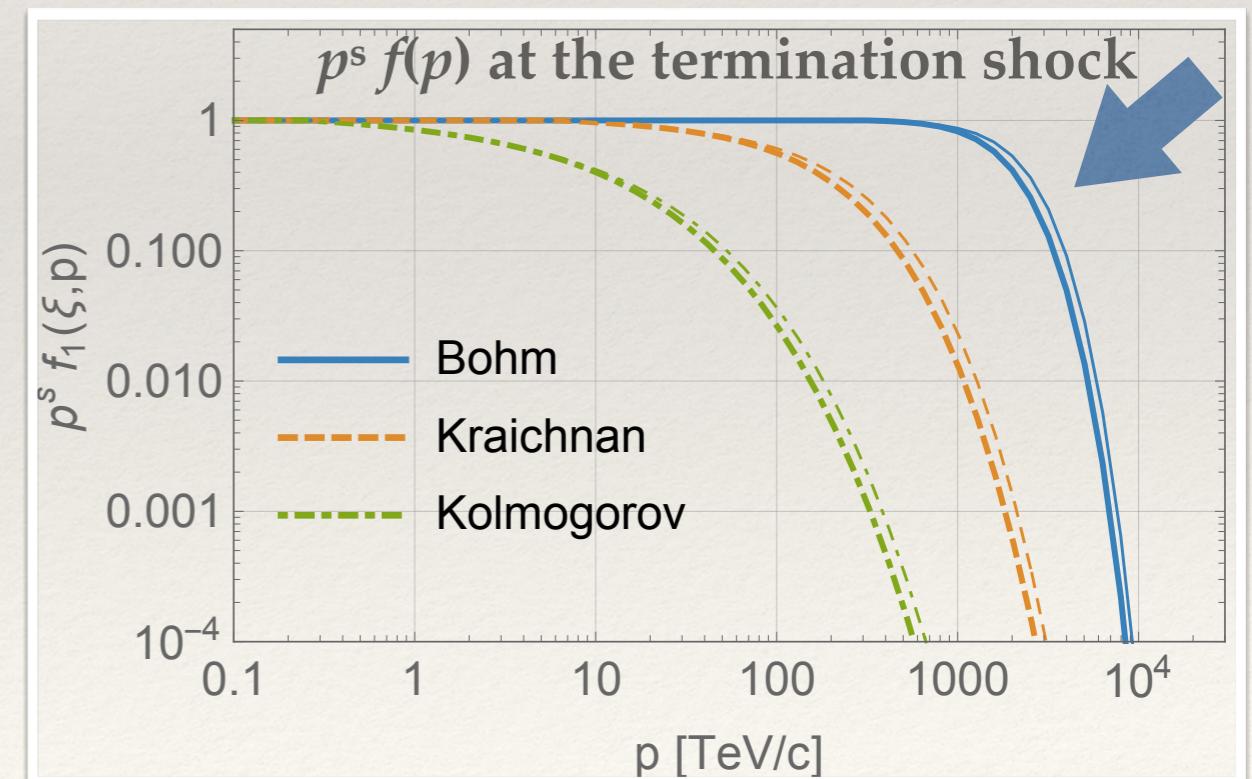
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Maximum energy due to confinement in the upstream:  
the effective plasma speed decreased reducing the energy gain

The diffusion coefficient has a strong impact on the cutoff shape and effective maximum energy

Typical values for  
massive stellar  
clusters

$$\begin{cases} \dot{M} = 10^{-4} M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1} \\ v_w = 3000 \text{ km/s} \\ L_{\text{CR}} = 0.1 L_w \\ \eta_B = 0.01 \end{cases}$$



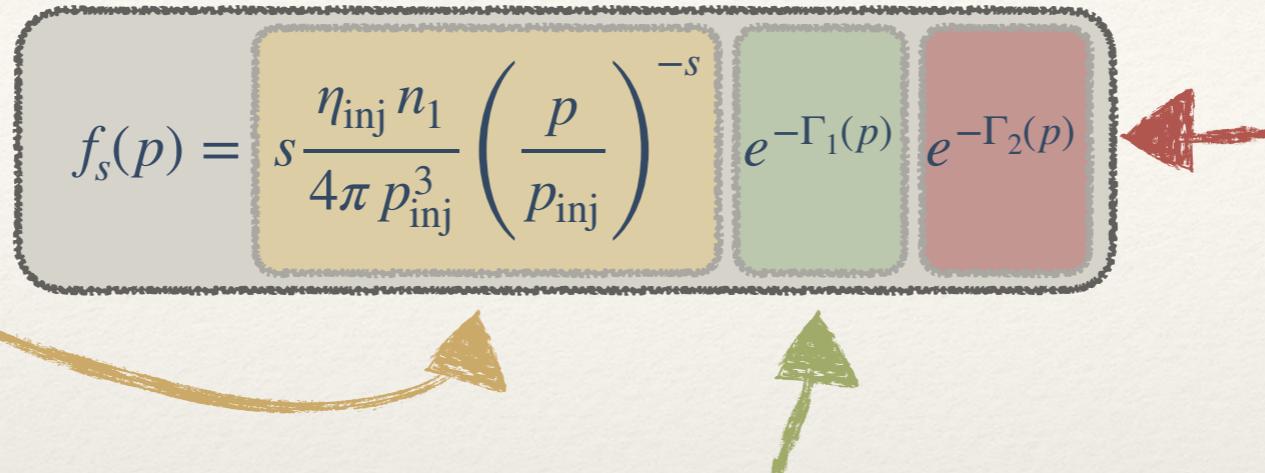
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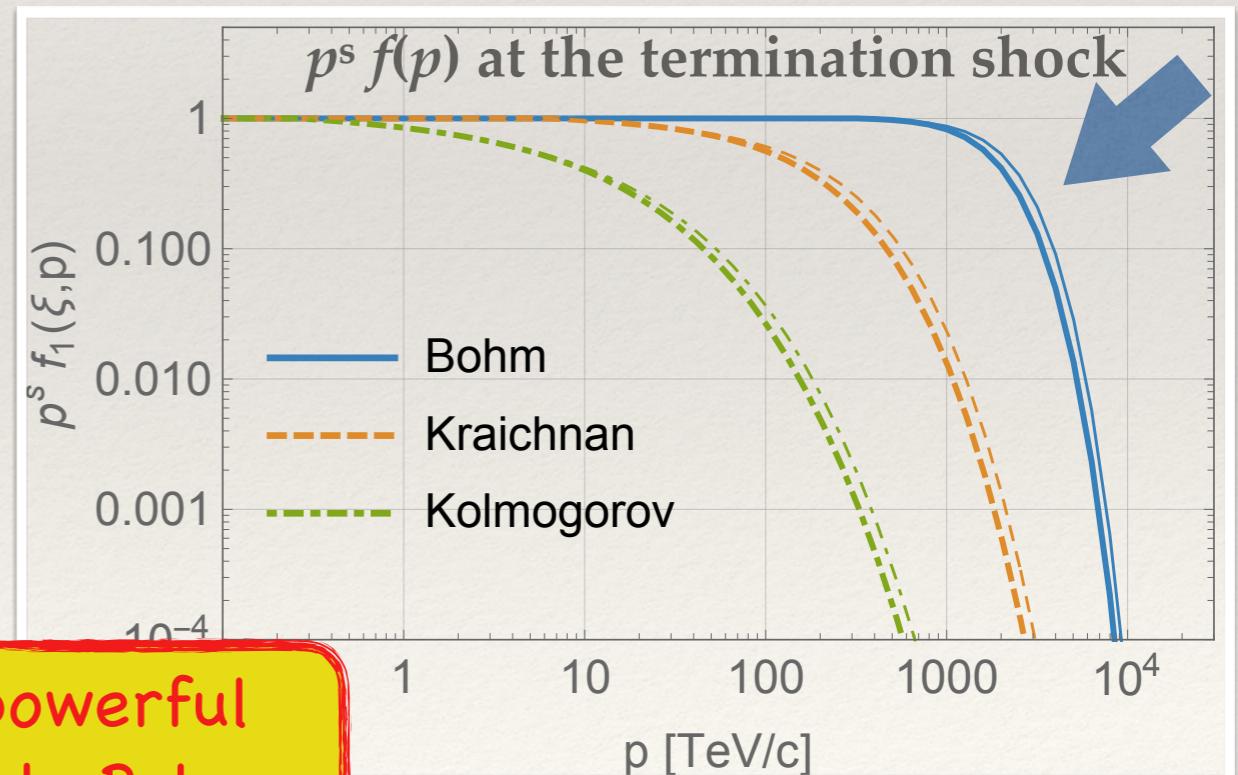
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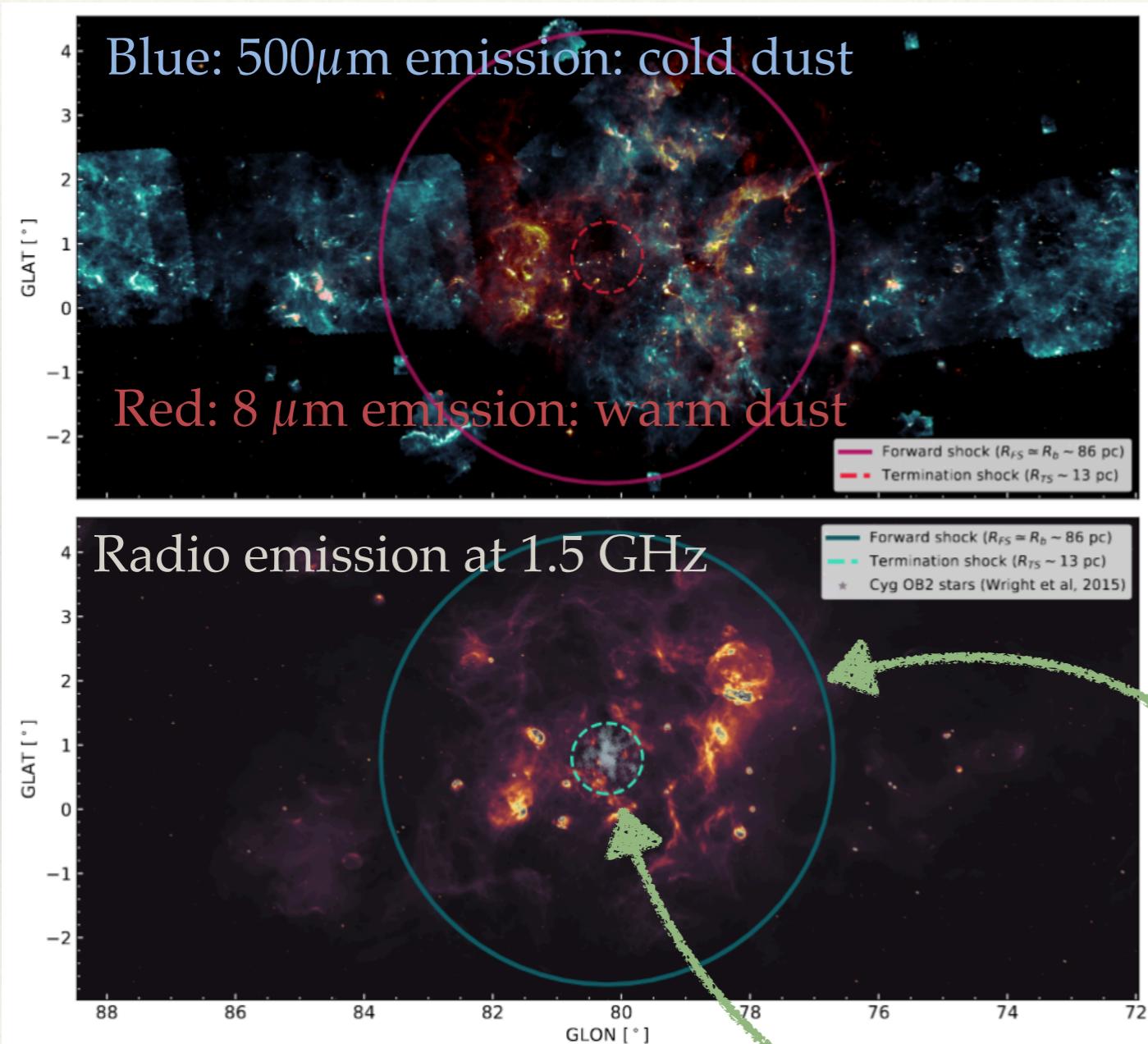
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PeV energies can be reached in very powerful  
stellar clusters if the diffusion is close to Bohm



# The case of Cygnus Cocoon

[S. Menchiari et al. in preparation]



## Assumed properties

- Wind luminosity  $\simeq 2 \times 10^{38} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$
- Ejecta mass  $\dot{M} \simeq 10^{-4} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ;
- wind speed  $v_w \simeq 2300 \text{ km s}^{-1}$
- Cluster age  $\simeq 3 \text{ Myr}$
- Average ISM density  $\simeq 10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

Estimated size of the bubble  $\simeq 90$  pc

Termination shock radius  $\simeq 13$  pc

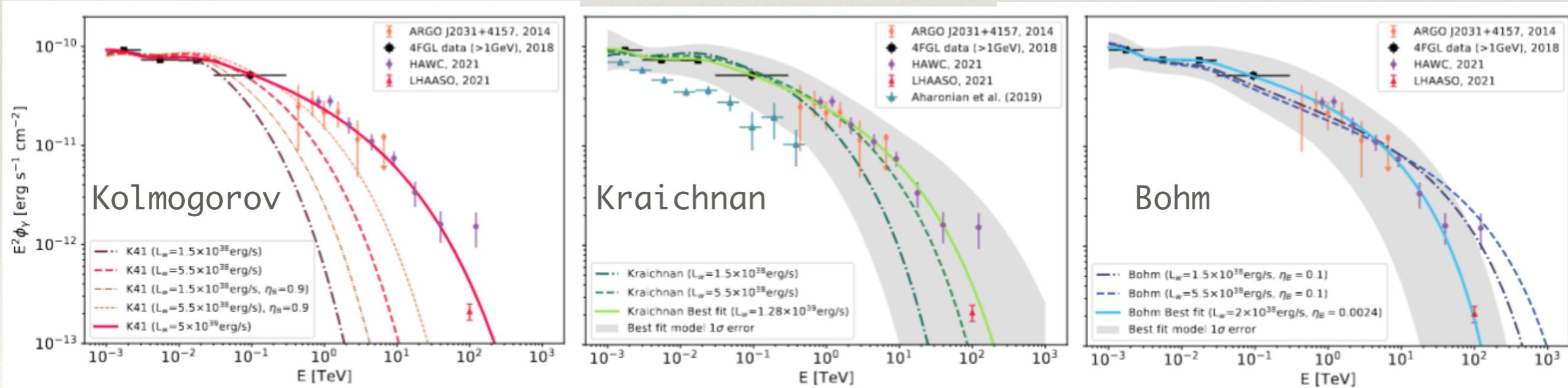
# The case of Cygnus Cocoon

[S. Menchiari et al. in preparation]

Model	Kolmogorov	Kraichnan	Bohm
Wind luminosity	$5 \times 10^{39} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$	$1.3 \times 10^{39} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$	$2 \times 10^{37} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$
Acc. efficiency	0.4%	0.7%	13%
Slope	4.17	4.23	4.27
$E_{\max}$	23 PeV	4 PeV	0.5 PeV

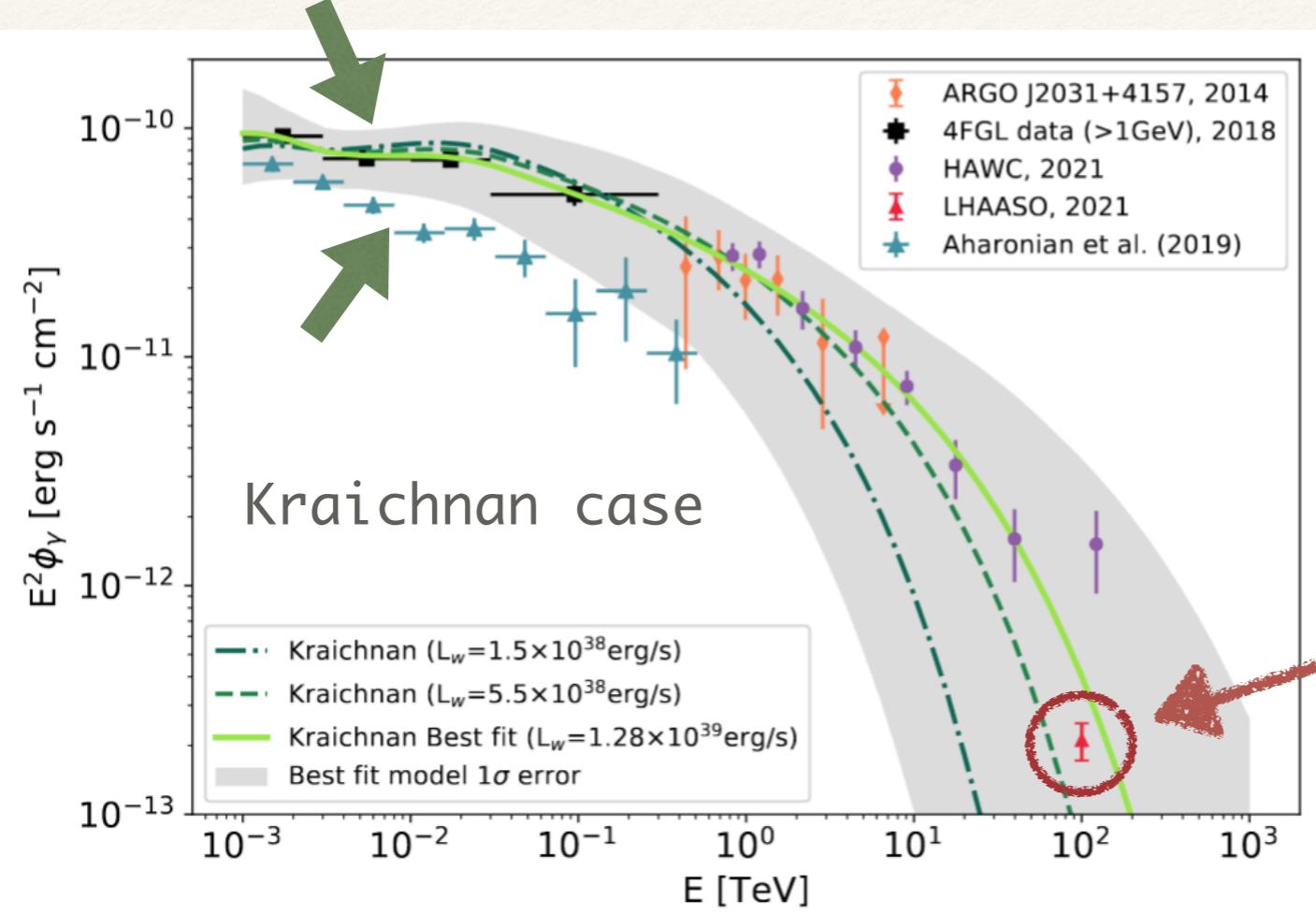
Unrealistically high

The most realistic scenario is something in between Bohm and Kraichnan



# The case of Cygnus Cocoon

[S. Menchiari et al. in preparation]



## Some caveats:

- ❖ Different analysis of Fermi-LAT data gives different results
- ❖ In comparing different experiments we need to correctly account for the different extraction area
- ❖ LHAASO data-point is not used for the fit because the extraction area is not specified

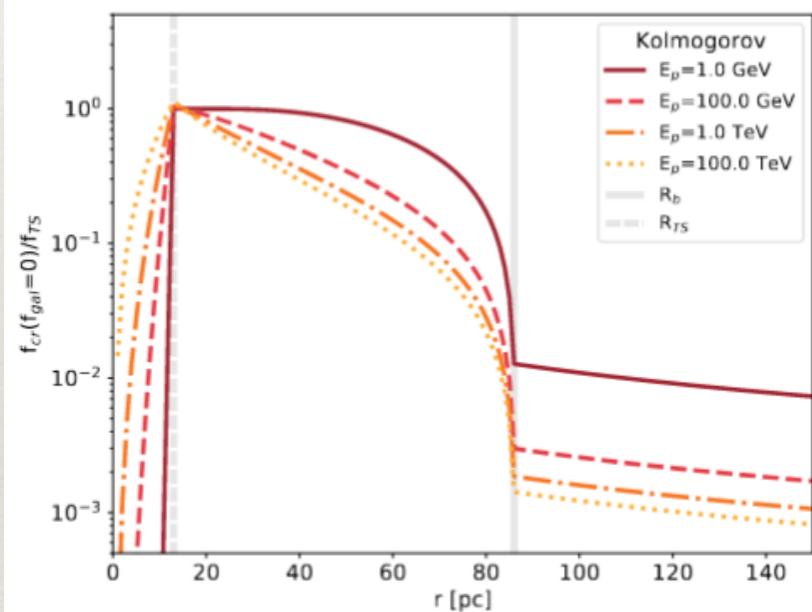
Better constraints requires a careful combined analysis of different experiments

# CR radial profile

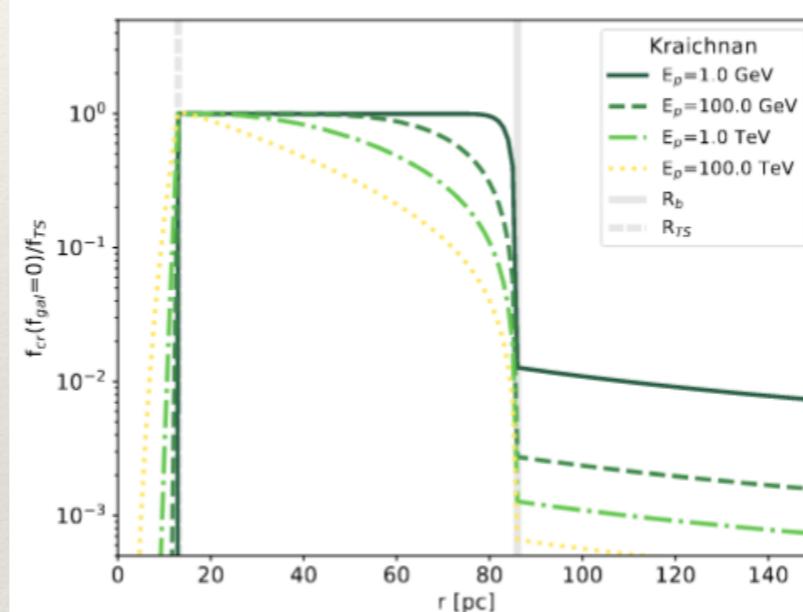
[S. Menchiari et al. in preparation]

The harder is the diffusion coefficient the flatter is the CR distribution

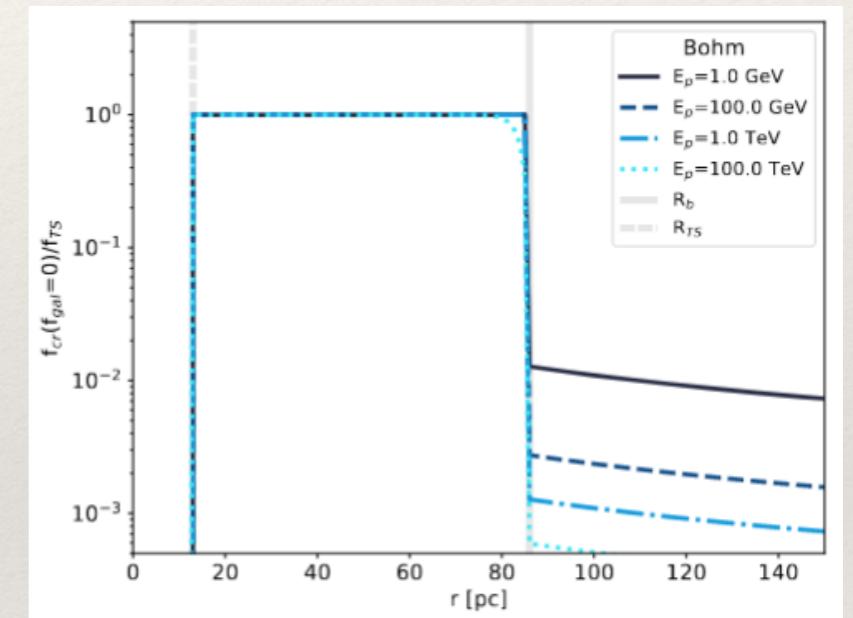
Kolmogorov



Kraichnan



Bohm

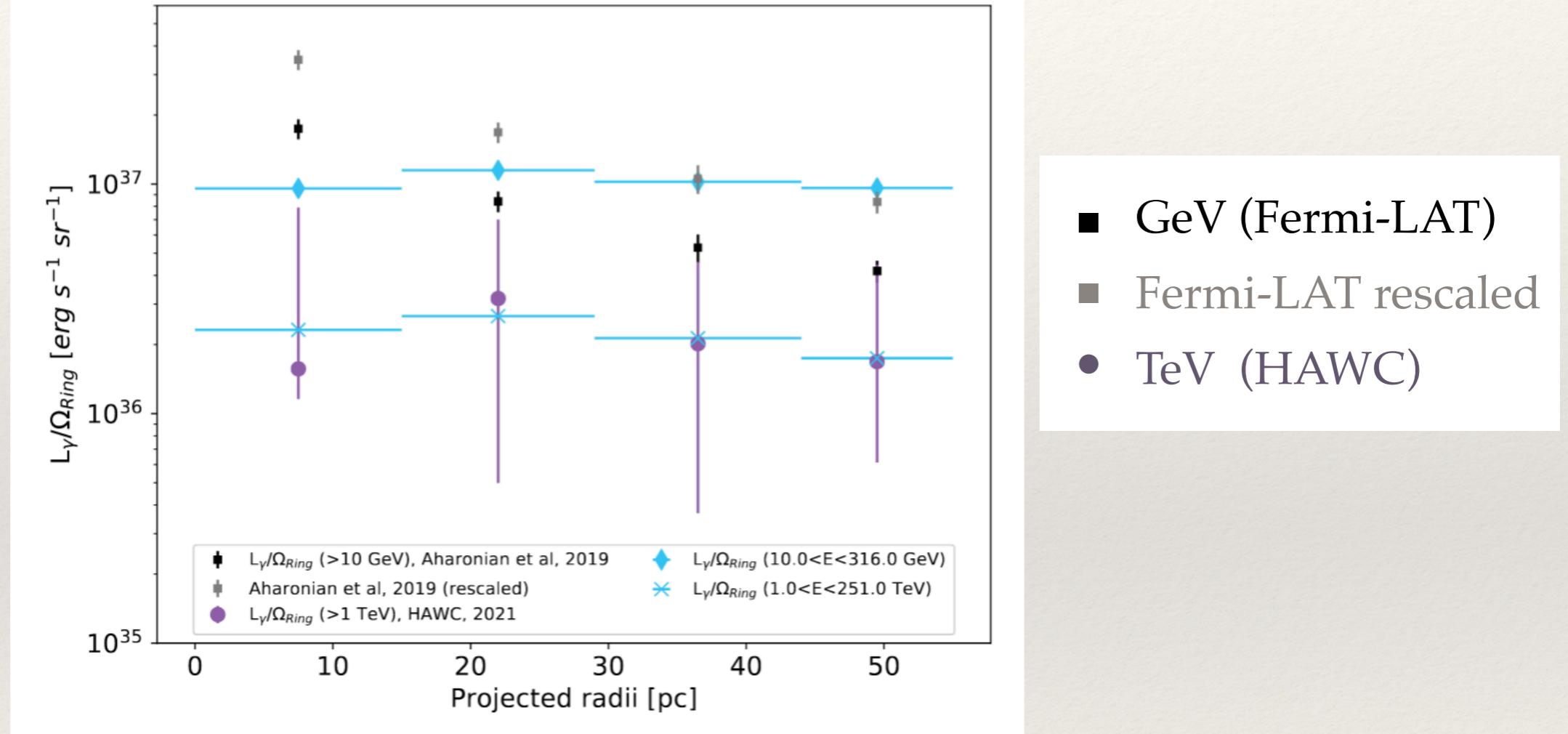


# CR radial profile

[S. Menchiari et al. in preparation]

## The line-of-sight integrated gamma-ray emission

Kraichnan  
case



- ❖ Not compatible with  $1/r^2$  inferred from FermiLAT data
- ❖ Compatible with HAWC data in TeV

# Radial profile: advection vs. diffusion

What should be the CR spatial profile in stellar clusters?

1. Pure diffusion model from a stationary central source

$$f_{\text{CR}} = Q(E) \frac{4Dt}{\sqrt{\pi} r} e^{-\frac{r^2}{4Dt}} \propto \frac{1}{r} \quad \text{for } r < 4Dt$$

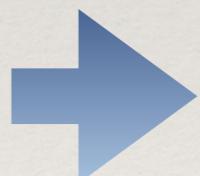
2. Transport in a wind-blown bubble from a stationary central source

Diffusion time:  $t_{\text{diff}} \sim R^2/4D(E)$

Advection time:  $t_{\text{adv}} \sim R/v_w$

Upper limit on the diffusion coefficient  
can be estimated from gamma-ray luminosity

$L_\gamma^{pp} \propto \xi_{\text{CR}} L_w n_{\text{bubble}} V_{\text{bubble}} \lesssim L_\gamma^{\text{obs}}$   
for Cygnus cocoon  $\Rightarrow D \lesssim 100 D_{\text{gal}}$

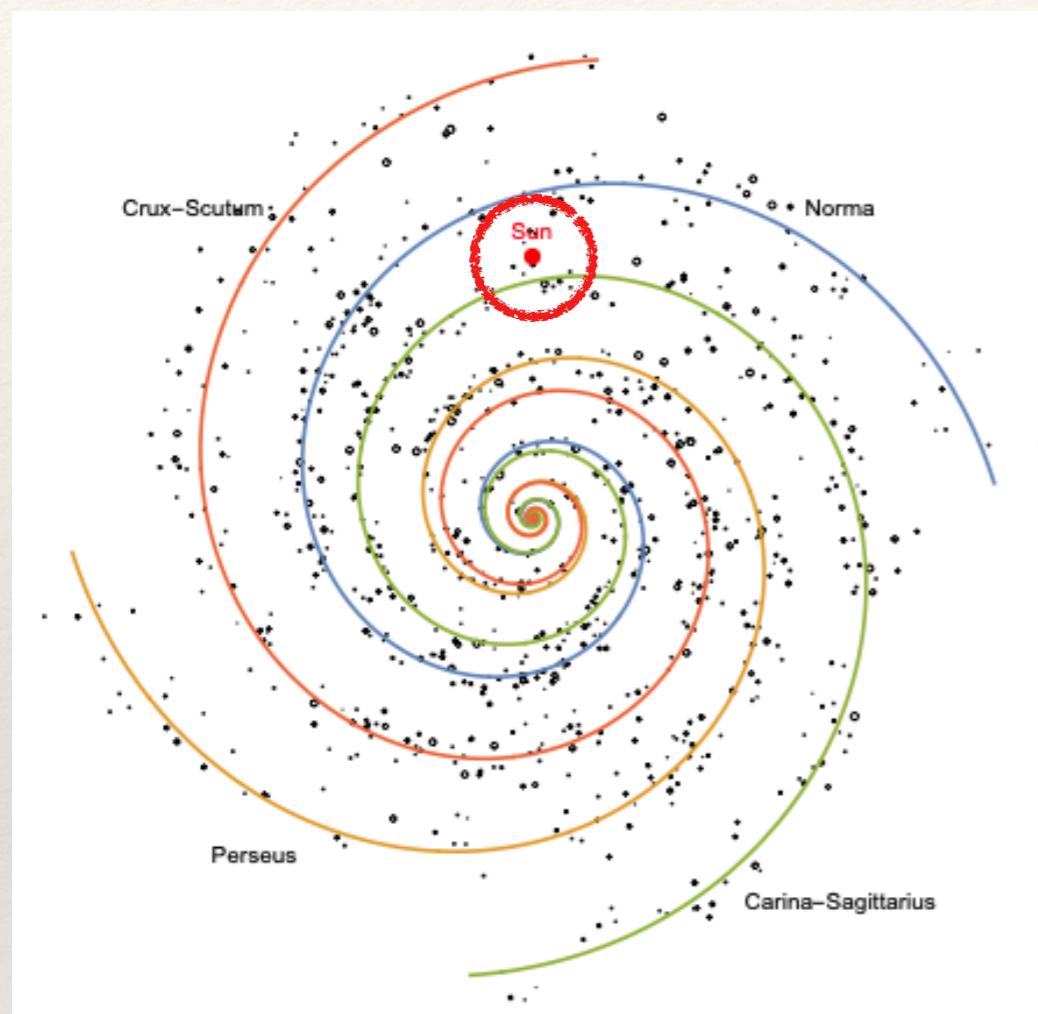


$t_{\text{diff}}(E) > t_{\text{adv}}$  for  $E \lesssim 100 \text{ GeV}$

In the Fermi-LAT energy range  
we do expect a flat CR profile

# How many Star Clusters?

## Synthetic realisation of Stellar cluster population



- ▶ Age < 10 Myr
  - ▶  $100 M_{\odot} < \text{Mass} < 6 \times 10^4 M_{\odot}$
- ↓
- ▶ total number of SC in the Galaxy  $\approx 1000$
  - ▶ SCs within 2 kpc from the Sun  $\simeq 70$

Present number of clusters detected in gamma-rays  $\sim 10$

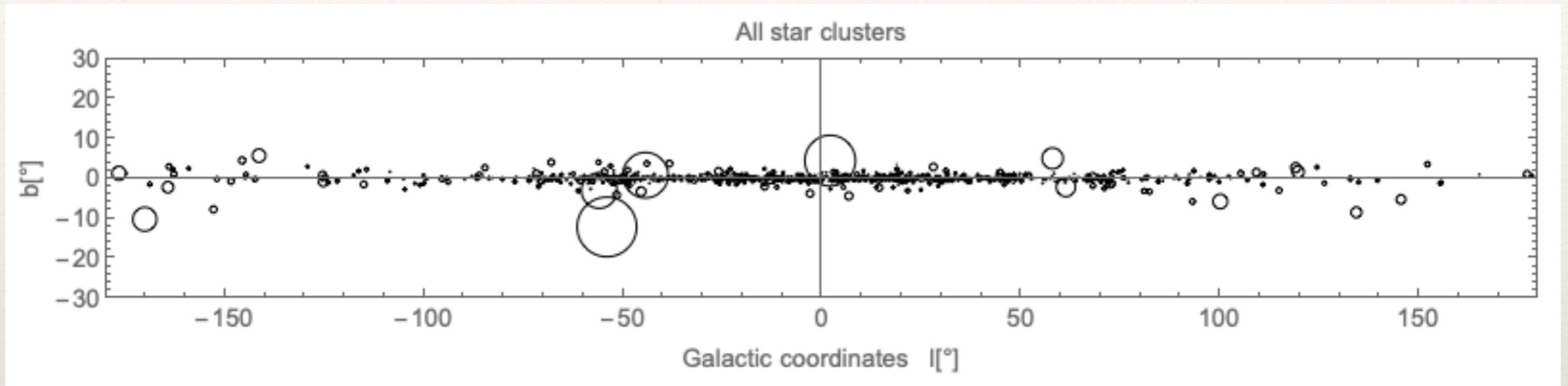
Bubble size  $\sim$  degree  $\Rightarrow$  diffuse sources with low surface brightness  $\Rightarrow$  difficult to detect

$$R_{bubble} \simeq 2.9^\circ \left( \frac{L_w}{2 \times 10^{38} \text{ erg/s}} \right)^{1/5} \left( \frac{n_0}{10 \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right)^{-1/5} \left( \frac{t_{age}}{1 \text{ Myr}} \right)^{3/5} \left( \frac{d}{2 \text{ kpc}} \right)$$

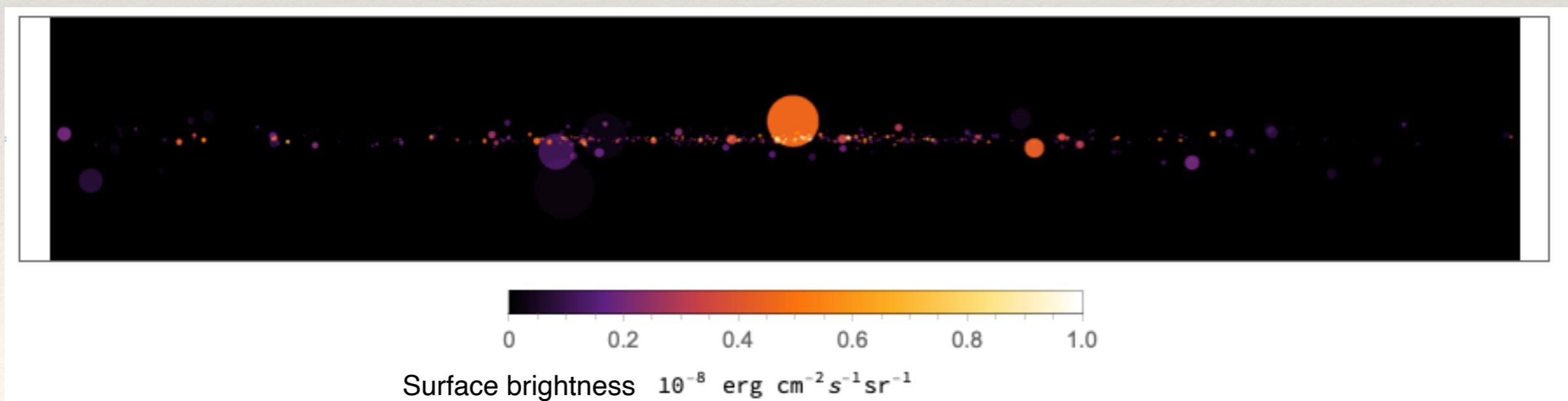
Weaver & McCray,  
ApJ 218 (1977)

# How many Star Clusters?

Bubble size in the sky from the entire population of SC in galactic coordinates:

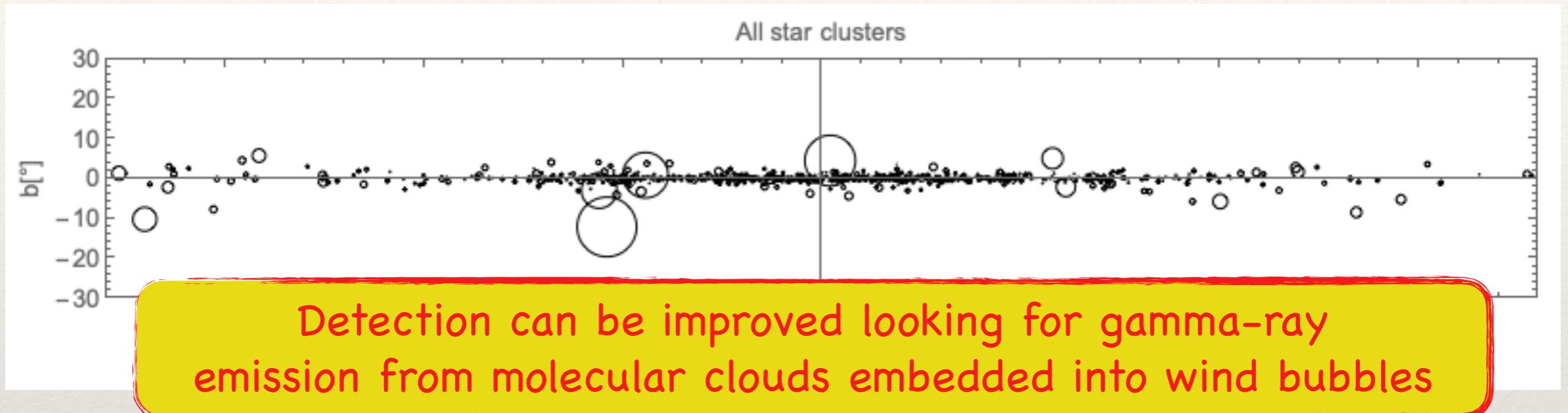


Some bubbles disappear when plotted against their surface brightness

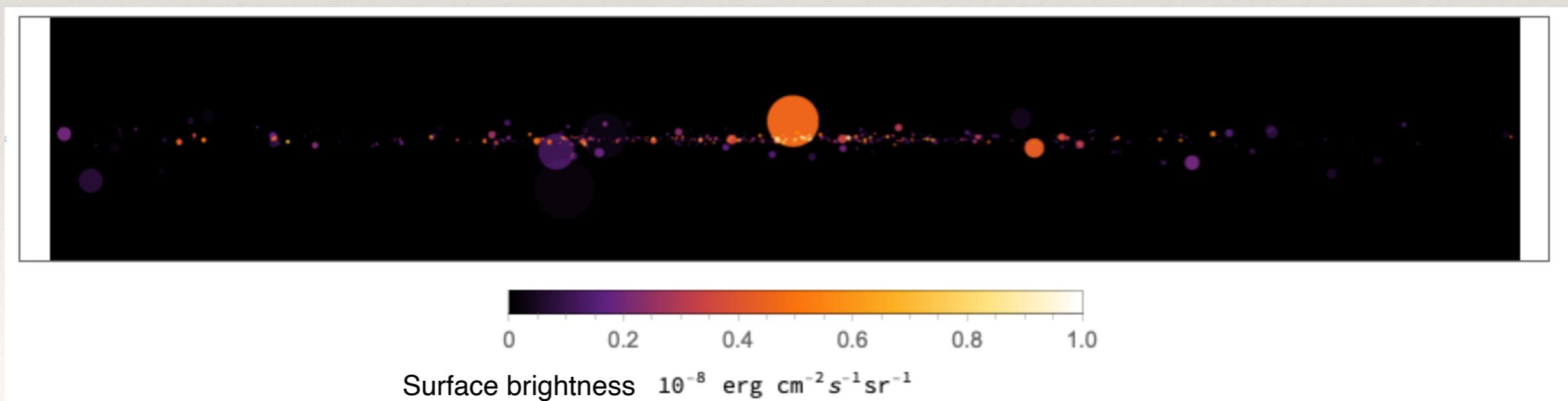


# How many Star Clusters?

Bubble size in the sky from the entire population of SC in galactic coordinates:



Some bubbles disappear when plotted against their surface brightness



# Conclusions

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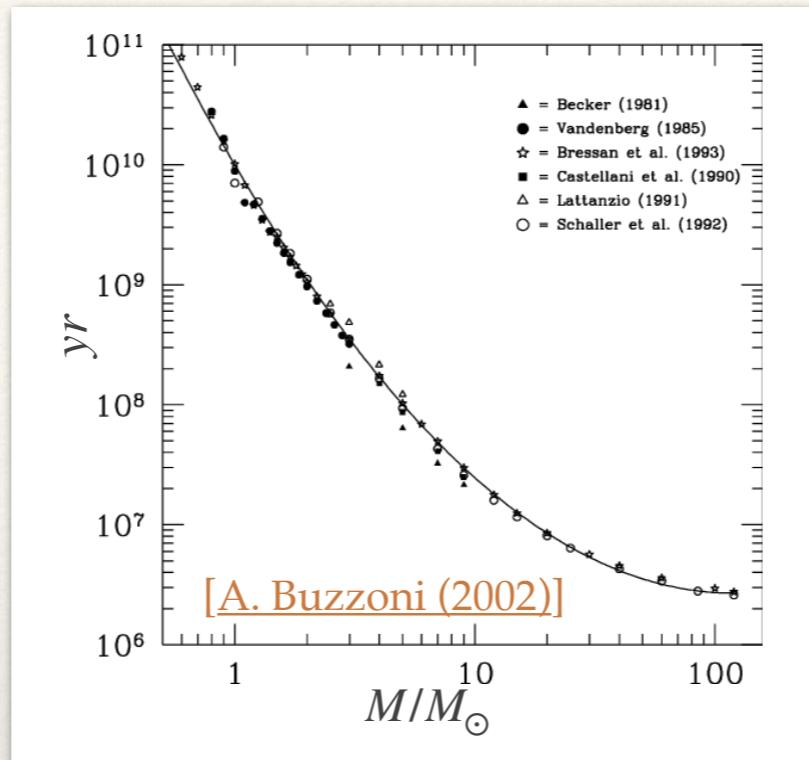
- ❖ Young stellar clusters are promising gamma ray sources
- ❖ YSC can significantly contribute to Galactic CRs
- ❖ Maximum energies can reach  $\sim$ PeV (but strong dependence on diffusion)
- ❖ Super-bubbles (= older SCs with stellar winds+ SNRs) may be the major contributors of Galactic CRs (but theoretical models still incomplete)
- ❖ Next generation IACT will probably detect many new stellar clusters ( $\sim$ several tens) (but extended sources with low surface brightness)
- ❖ Observational strategy: look for gamma-ray emission from molecular clouds close to stellar clusters

# Backup slides

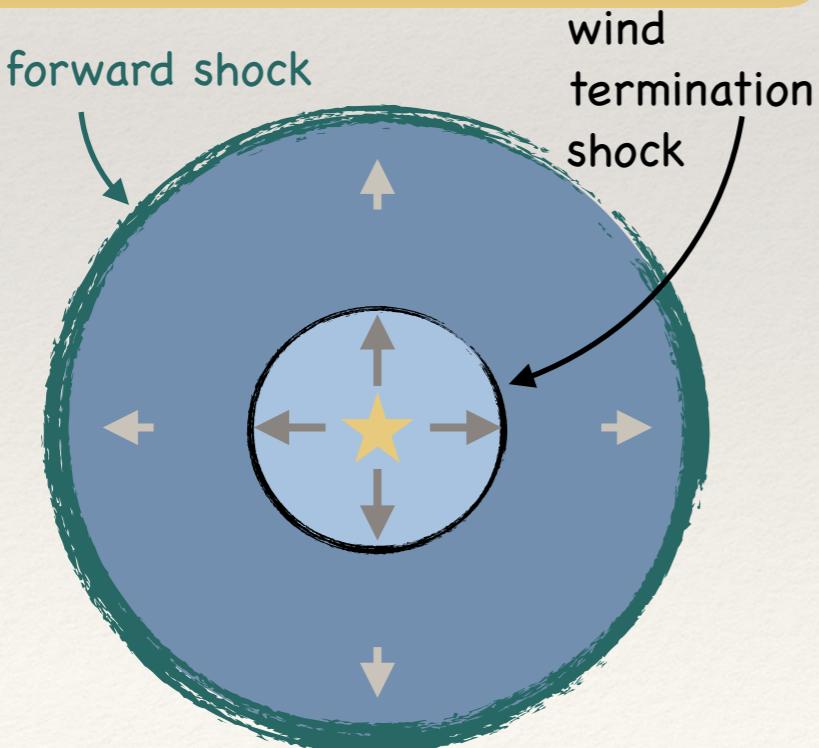
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# Young vs. old clusters

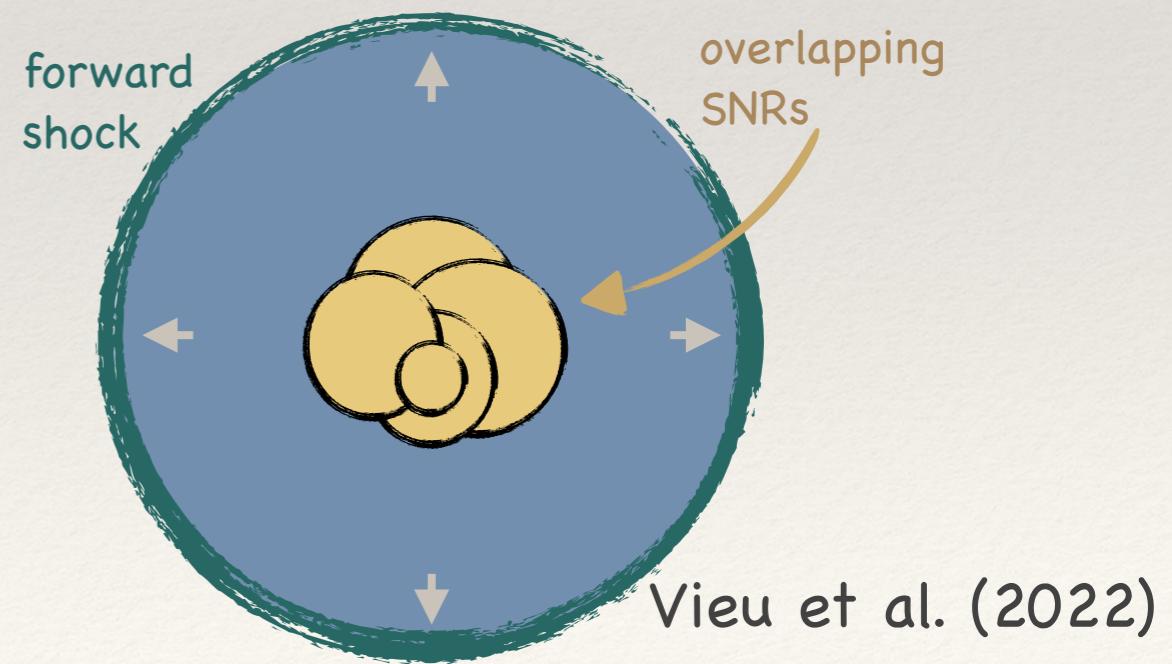
Star's lifetime



$t \lesssim 3$  Myr only stellar wind



$t \gtrsim 3$  Myr stellar wind + SNe



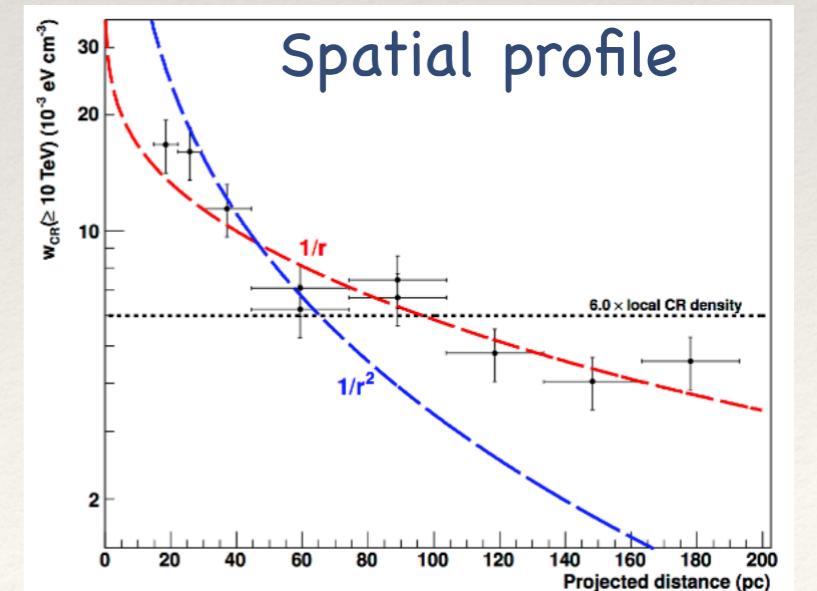
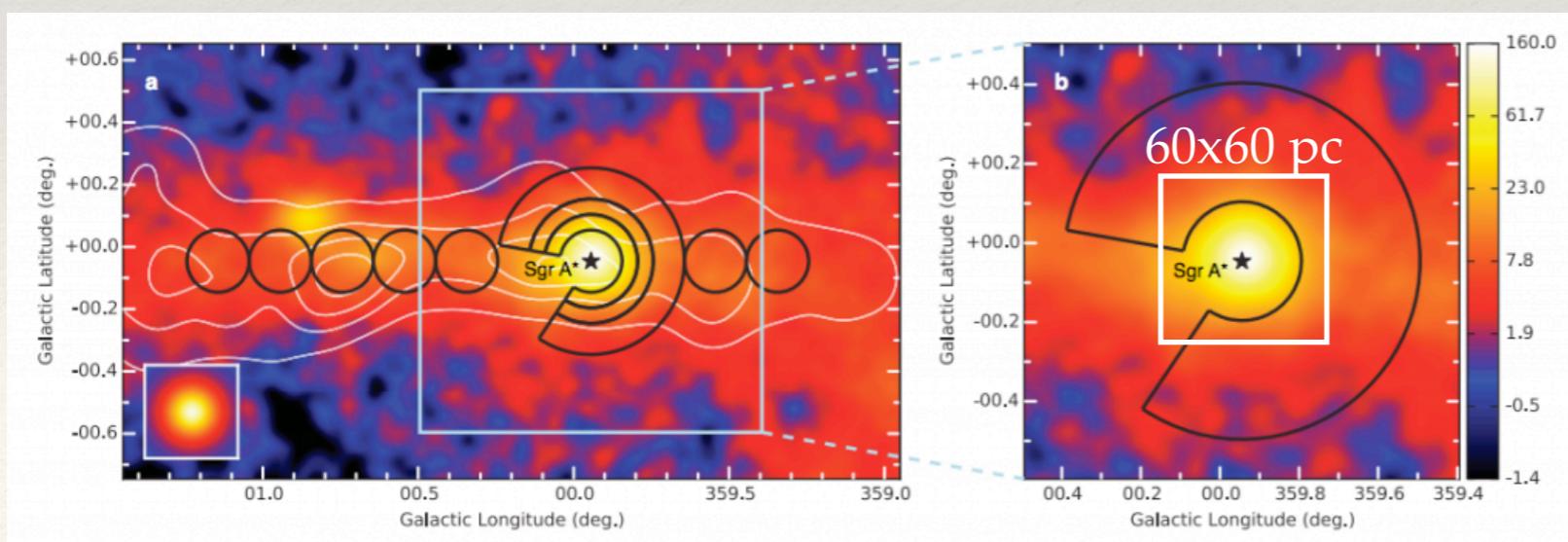
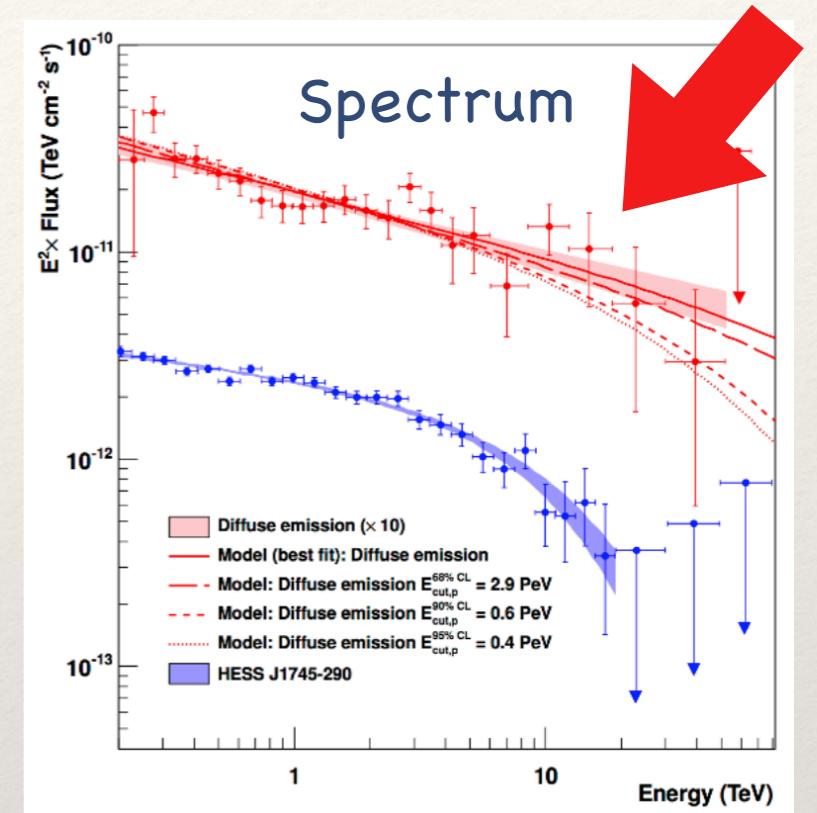
Vieu et al. (2022)

# Possible role of YSC in the Galactic Center

[H.E.S.S. coll., Abramowski et al. Nat. 531 (2016)]

## The Galactic Centre has been recognised as a PeVatron

- ❖ Minimum proton energy  $> 0.4 \text{ PeV}$
- ❖ Spatial profile compatible with continuous emission  
→ SNR disfavoured
- ❖ CR luminosity:  $L_{\text{CR}}(> 10 \text{ TeV}) = 4 \times 10^{37} (\text{D}/10^{30} \text{ cm}^2 \text{s}^{-1}) \text{ erg/s}$   
(could be supplied by a powerful cluster wind if diffusion is suppressed)
- ❖ Stellar clusters in the GC region:
  - Arches (~30 pc from Sgr A\*, Mass  $\sim 10^4 M_{\odot}$ , age  $\sim 2.5 \text{ Myr}$ )
  - Quintuplet (~30 pc from Sgr A\*, Mass  $\sim 10^4 M_{\odot}$ , age  $\sim 4 \text{ Myr}$ )
  - Central cluster (~200 young stars at  $r \lesssim 1 \text{ pc}$  from Sgr A\* including  $\sim 30$  WR stars) [e.g. [von Fellenberg et al. \(2022\)](#) and [Poumarat \(2008\)](#)]



# Gas and photons distribution

[S. Menchiari et al. in preparation]

Gas distribution from CO map

Photon background is dominated by  
IR radiation Star-light form Cyg. OB2  
is negligible

