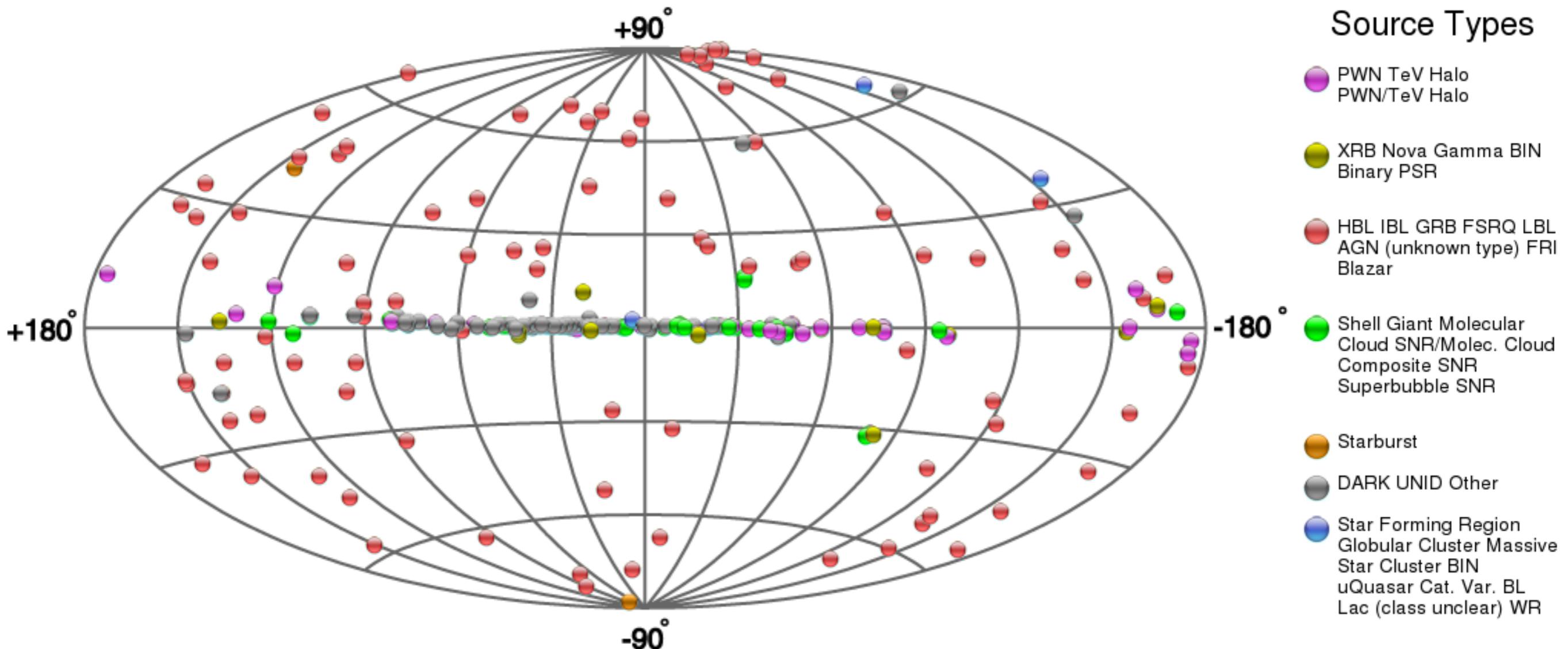




# VHE extragalactic results and perspectives from ground based instruments

J. Becerra González  
Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias  
[jbecerra@iac.es](mailto:jbecerra@iac.es)



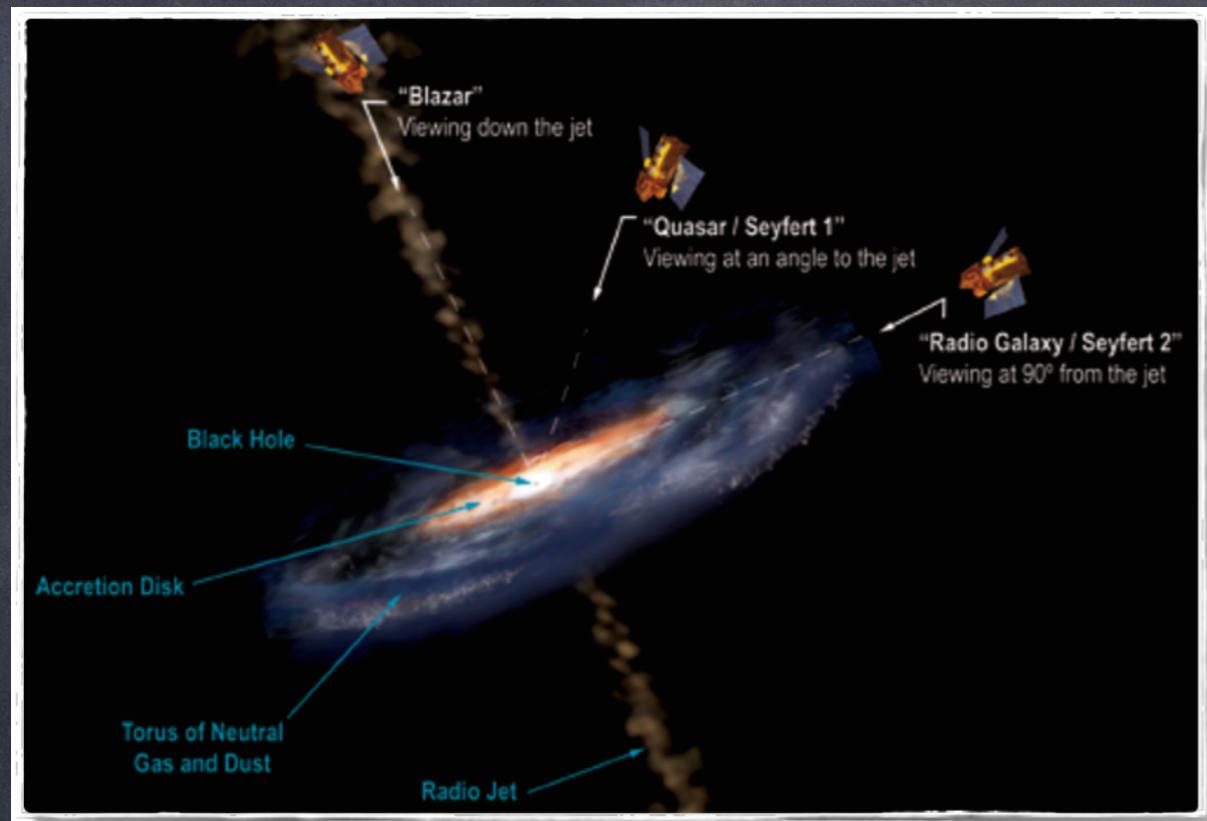
EGAL sources= 90 (+GRBs)

Blazars = 84

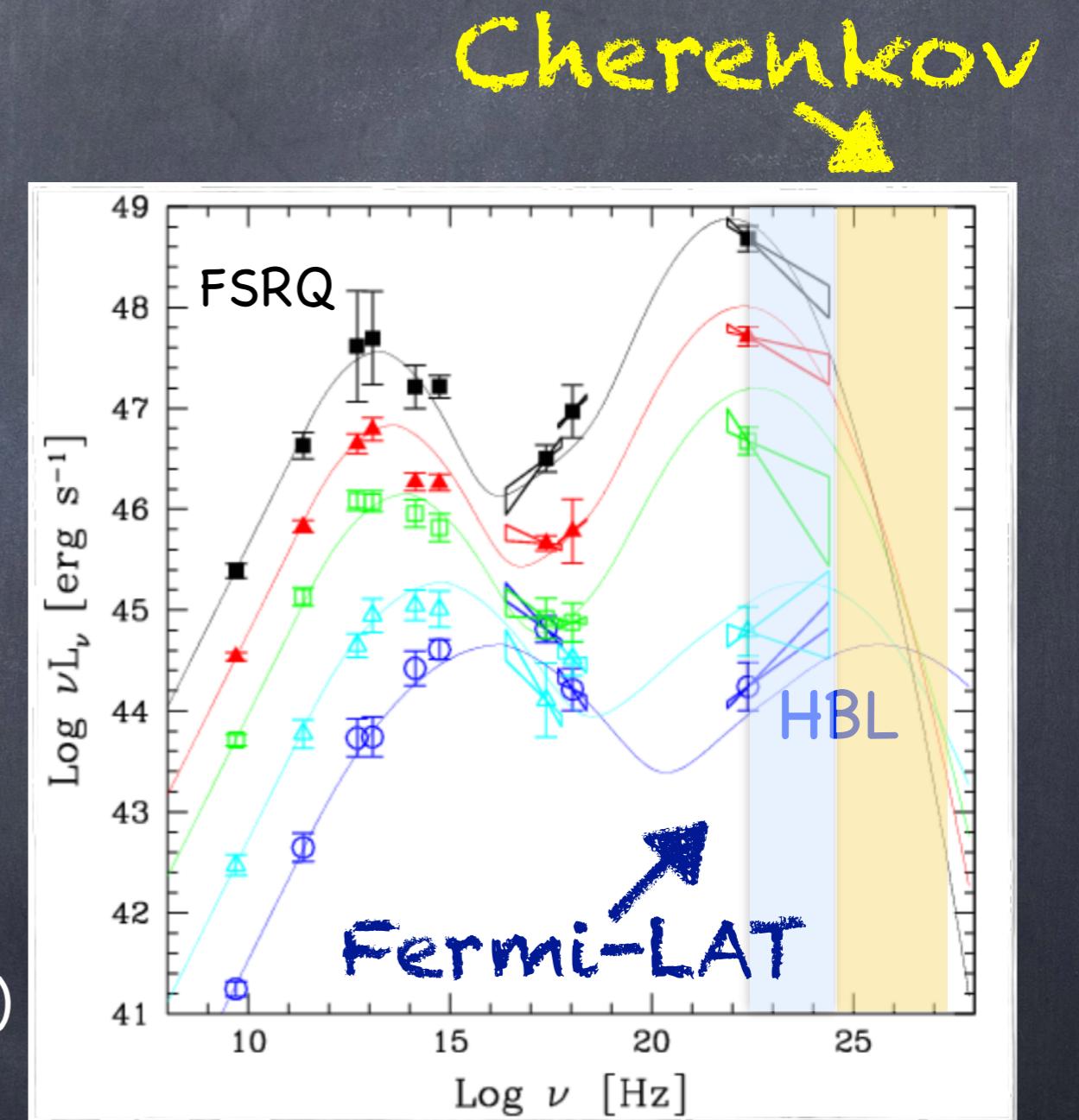
Radio galaxies  $\sim$  4

Starbursts = 2

# Blazars

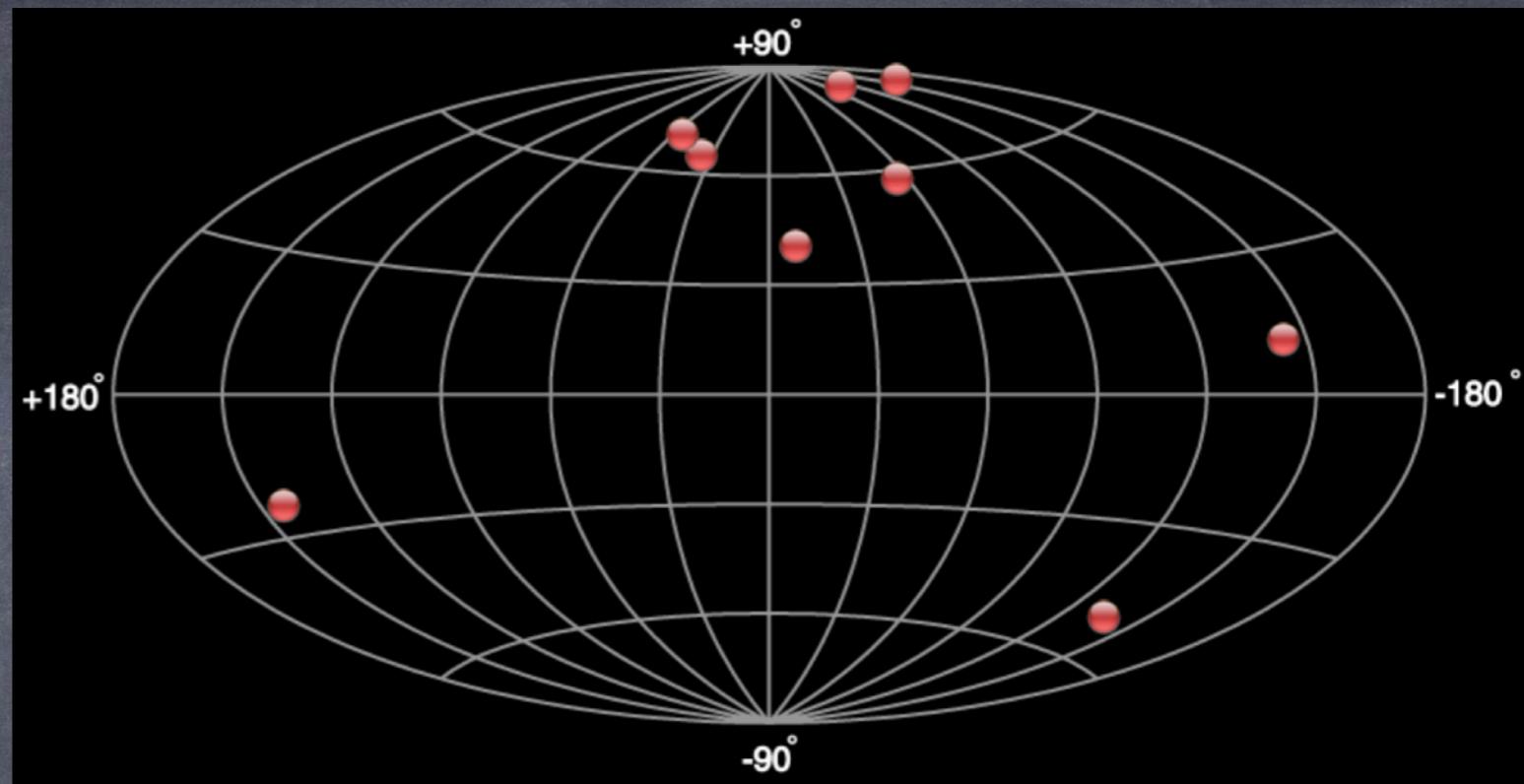


- ⦿ Blazars can be classified as:
- ⦿ Flat Spectrum Radio Quasars (FSRQs)
- ⦿ BL Lac objects:
  - ⦿ Low frequency peaking (LBL)
  - ⦿ Intermediate frequency peaking (IBL)
  - ⦿ High frequency peaking (HBL)
  - ⦿ Extreme HBL (EHBL)



Fossati et al. 1998

# FSRQs



[Select All](#)   [Unselect All](#)   [Plot Selected](#)   [Plot All](#)   [Plot UnSelected](#)   [Filter Selected](#)   [Clear Filters](#)

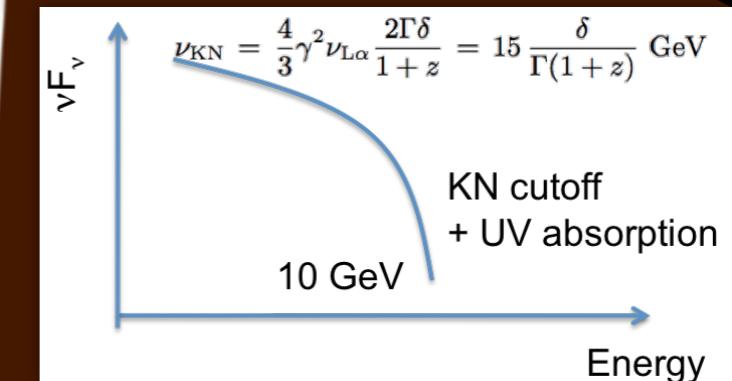
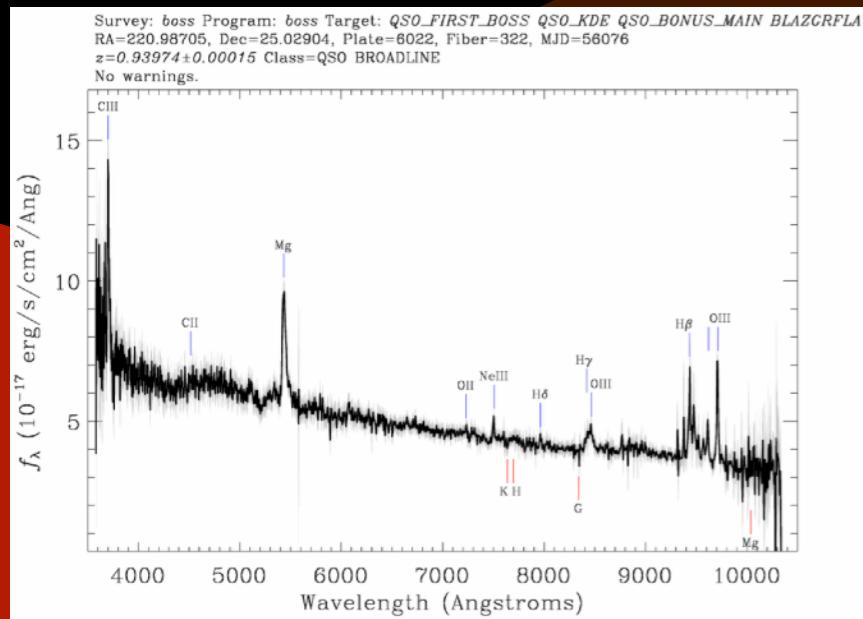
<input type="checkbox"/> Name	<input type="checkbox"/> RA	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec	<input type="checkbox"/> Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Date	<input type="checkbox"/> Dist	<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog
				Reg Exp: <input type="text"/>	OK	
S3 0218+35	02 21 05.5	+35 56 14	FSRQ	2014.07	$z = 0.954$	Default Catalog
PKS 0346-27	03 48 38	-27 49 14	FSRQ		$z = 0.991$	Newly Announced
PKS 0736+017	07 39 17.0	+01 36 12	FSRQ	2016.07	$z = 0.18941$	Default Catalog
TON 0599	11 59 31.8	+29 14 44	FSRQ	2017.12	$z = 0.7247$	Newly Announced
4C +21.35	12 24 54.4	+21 22 46	FSRQ	2010.06	$z = 0.432$	Default Catalog
3C 279	12 56 11.1	-05 47 22	FSRQ	2008.06	$z = 0.5362$	Default Catalog
B2 1420+32	14 22 30.38	+32 23 10.44	FSRQ	2020.01	$z = 0.682$	Default Catalog
PKS 1441+25	14 43 56.9	+25 01 44	FSRQ	2015.04	$z = 0.939$	Default Catalog
PKS 1510-089	15 12 52.2	-09 06 21.6	FSRQ	2010.03	$z = 0.361$	Default Catalog

1-9

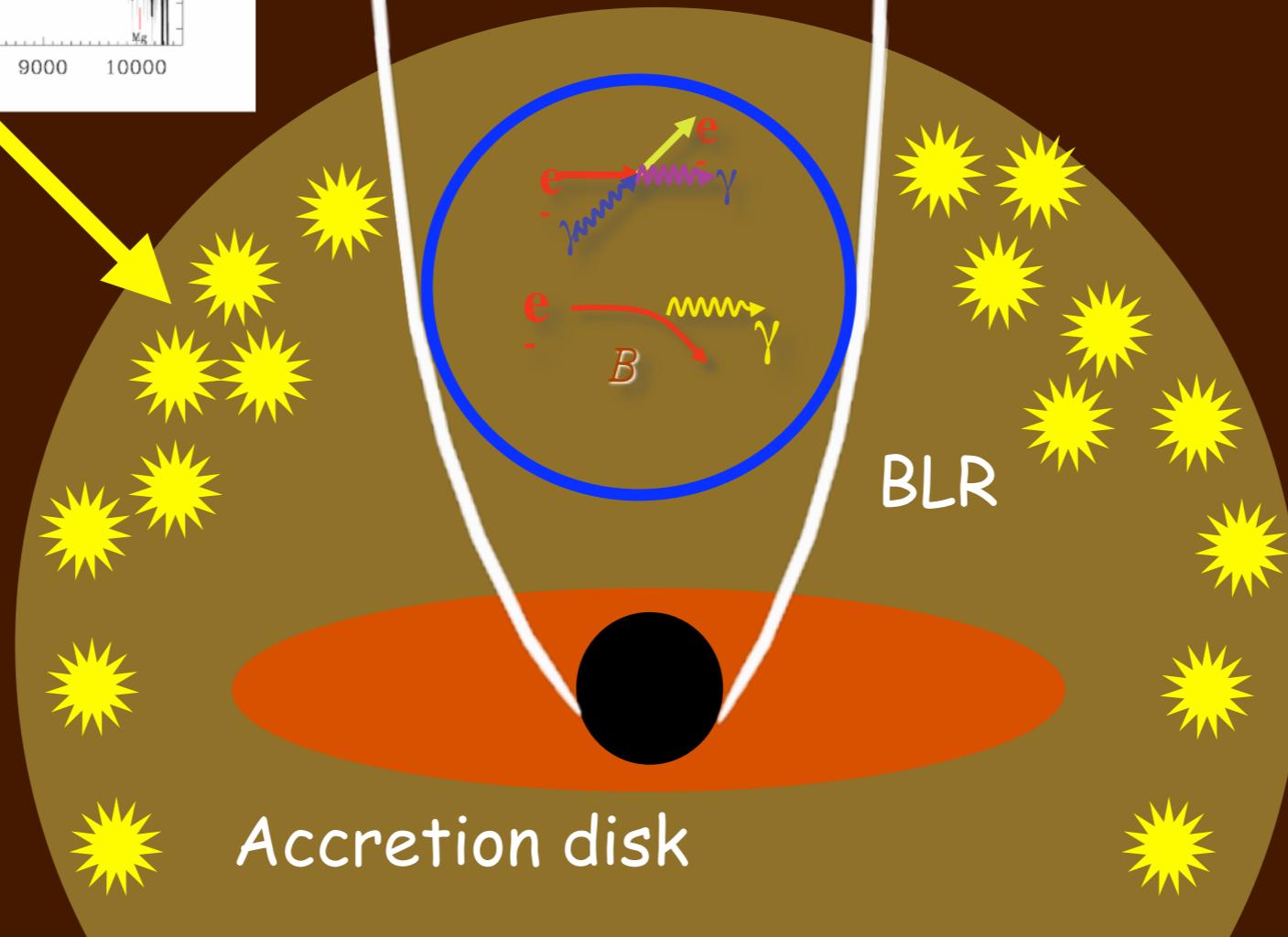
- Intrinsic absorption (BLR, Torus)
- Higher redshifts than BL Lac objects
- Lower energies, reaching maximum  $\sim 400$  GeV

# FSRQs: the “canonical” scenario

Dermer et al. 2009  
Ghisellini&Tavecchio 2009  
Sikora et al. 2009

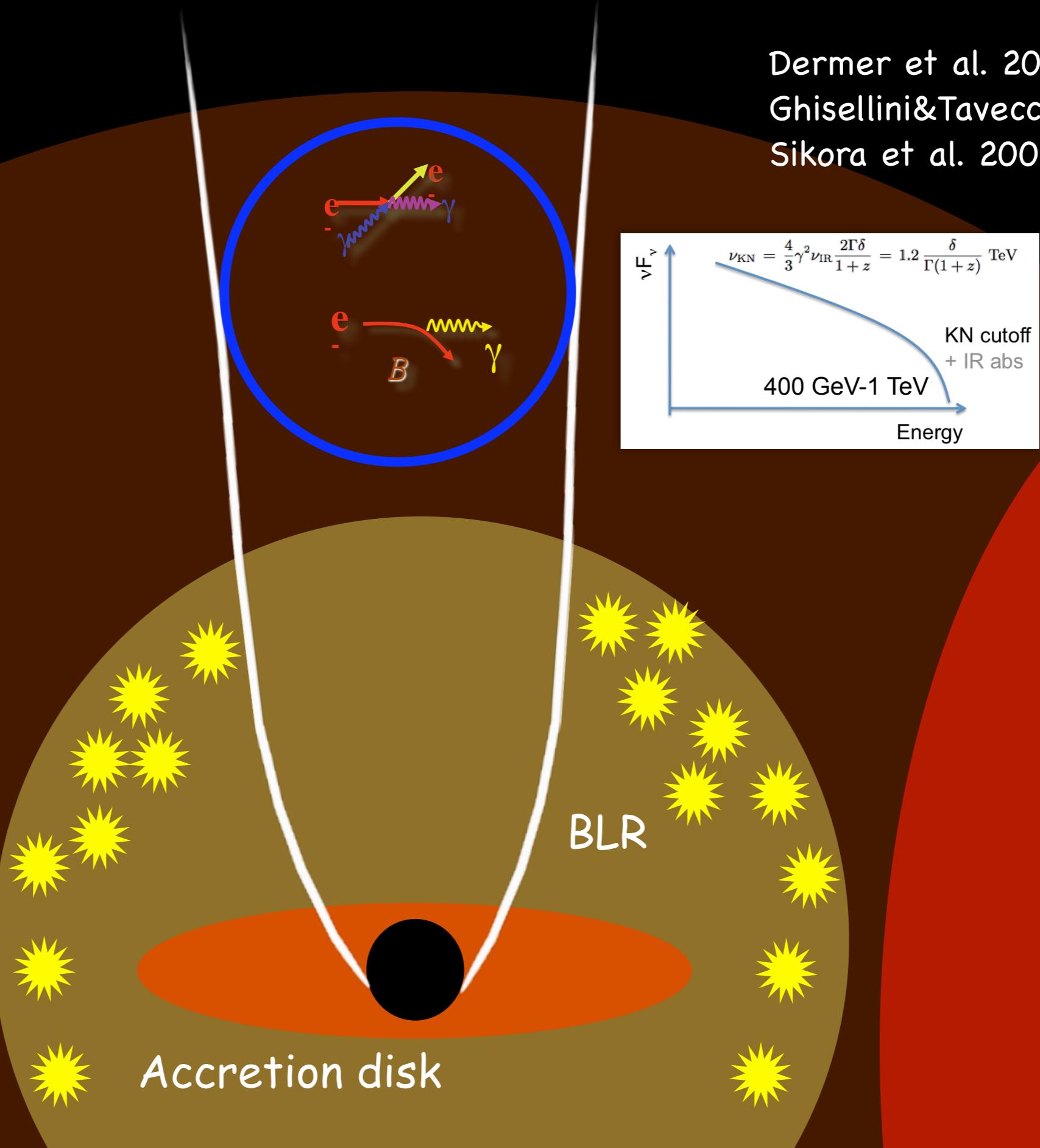


DUSTY TORUS

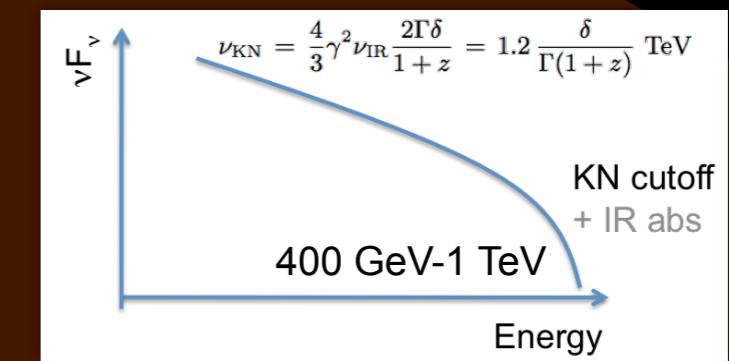


# FSRQs: the “far dissipation” scenario

DUSTY TORUS



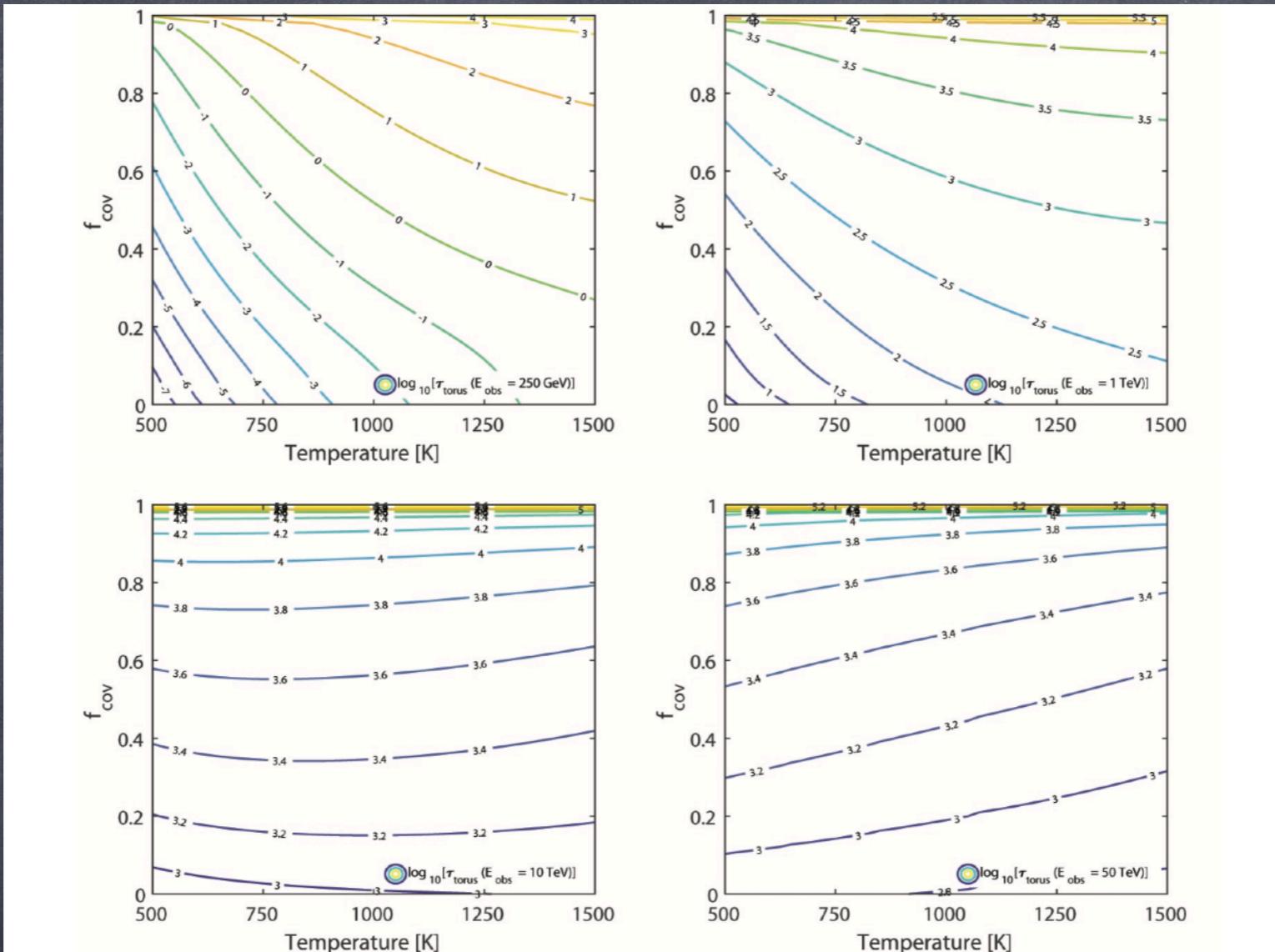
Dermer et al. 2009  
Ghisellini&Tavecchio 2009  
Sikora et al. 2009



# CTA will allow us...

- To lower the energy threshold together with the improved sensitivity, which will help us to increase the FSRQ VHE family
- The improved sensitivity will allow us hopefully to extend the VHE spectrum from FSRQs, to test the absorption due to the torus.

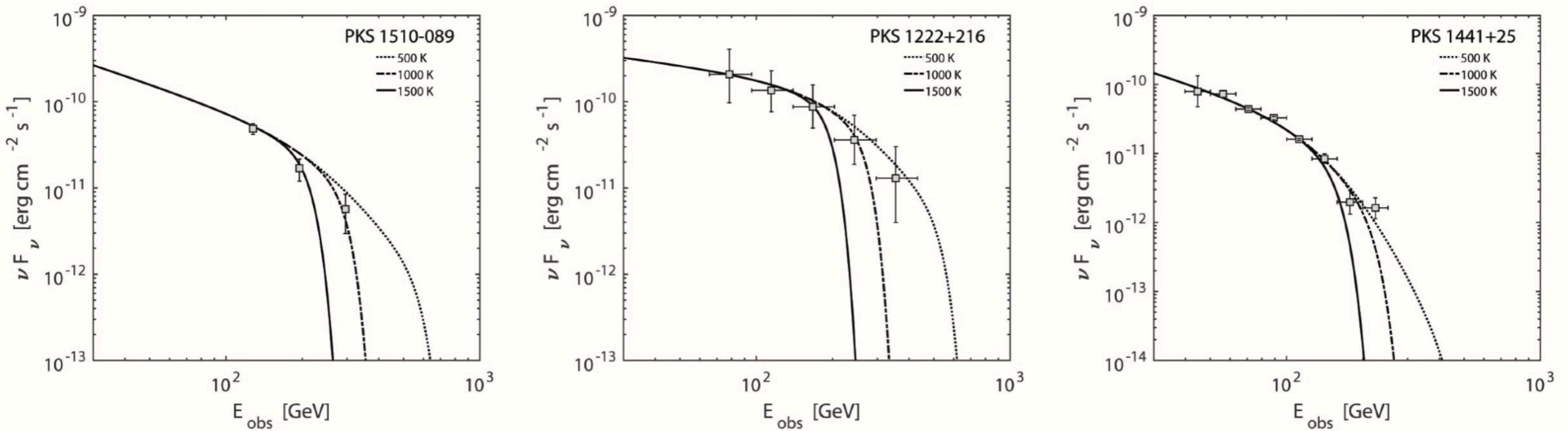
# Torus absorption



**Figure 4.** Torus optical depth contour lines as a function of the temperature and of  $f_{\text{cov}}$ . The behavior of the contour lines changes as the energy increases. The different panels correspond to different choices of the energy of the emitted hard photons.

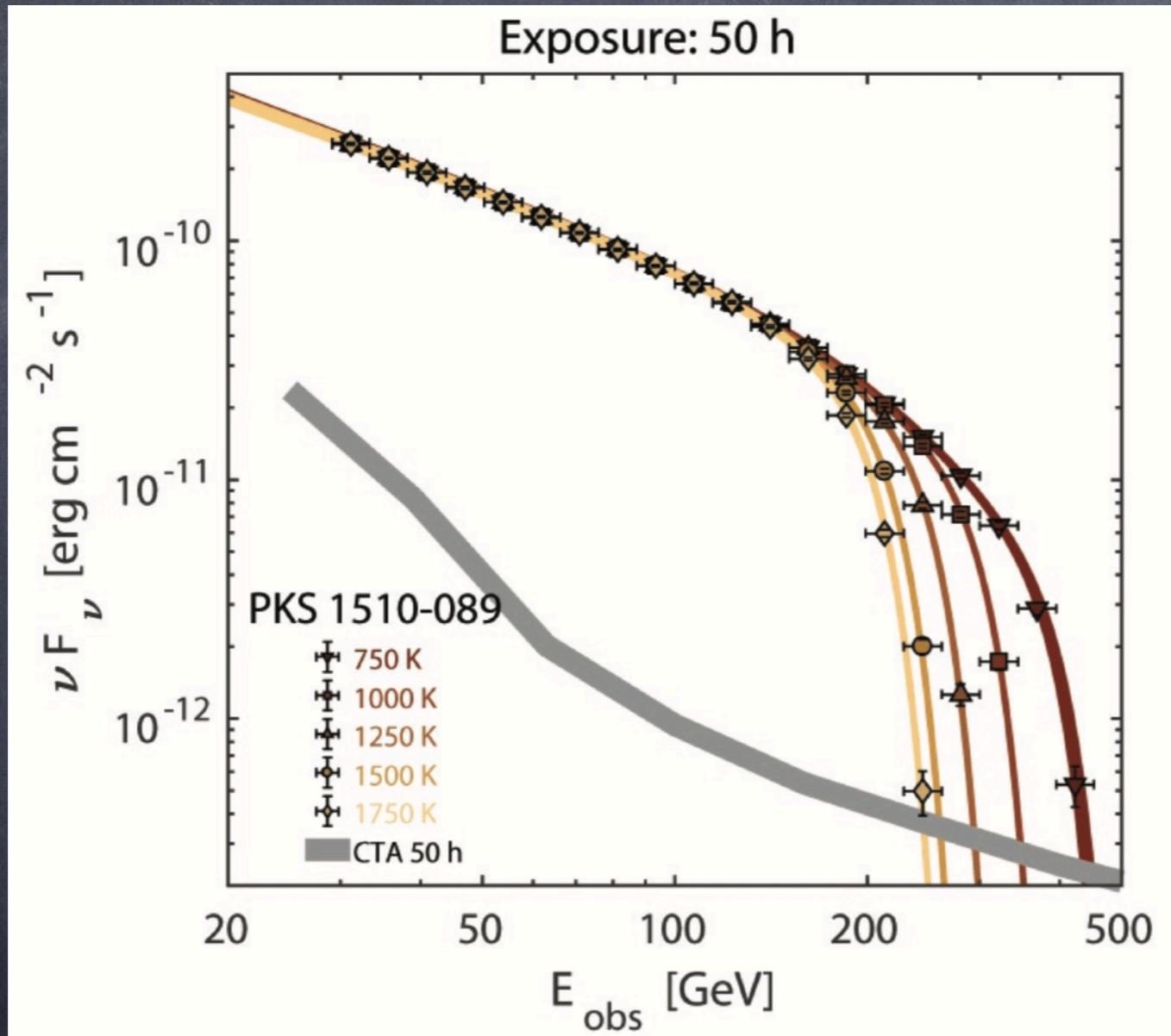
VHE observations will allow us to constrain the temperature of the torus and the covering factor

# Torus absorption



**Figure 6.** SED of PKS 1510-089 (left panel), PKS 1222+216 (central panel) and PKS 1441+25 (right panel). We take a fixed  $f_{\text{cov}} = 0.6$ . The dotted black line corresponds to a torus model with  $T = 500\text{ K}$ , the dotted-dashed black line is referred to  $T = 1000\text{ K}$  and the solid black line to  $T = 1500\text{ K}$ . The data points are all from MAGIC: [Ahnén et al. \(2017\)](#) for PKS 1510-089, [Aleksić et al. \(2011\)](#) for PKS 1222+216 and [Ahnén et al. \(2015\)](#) for PKS 1441+25.

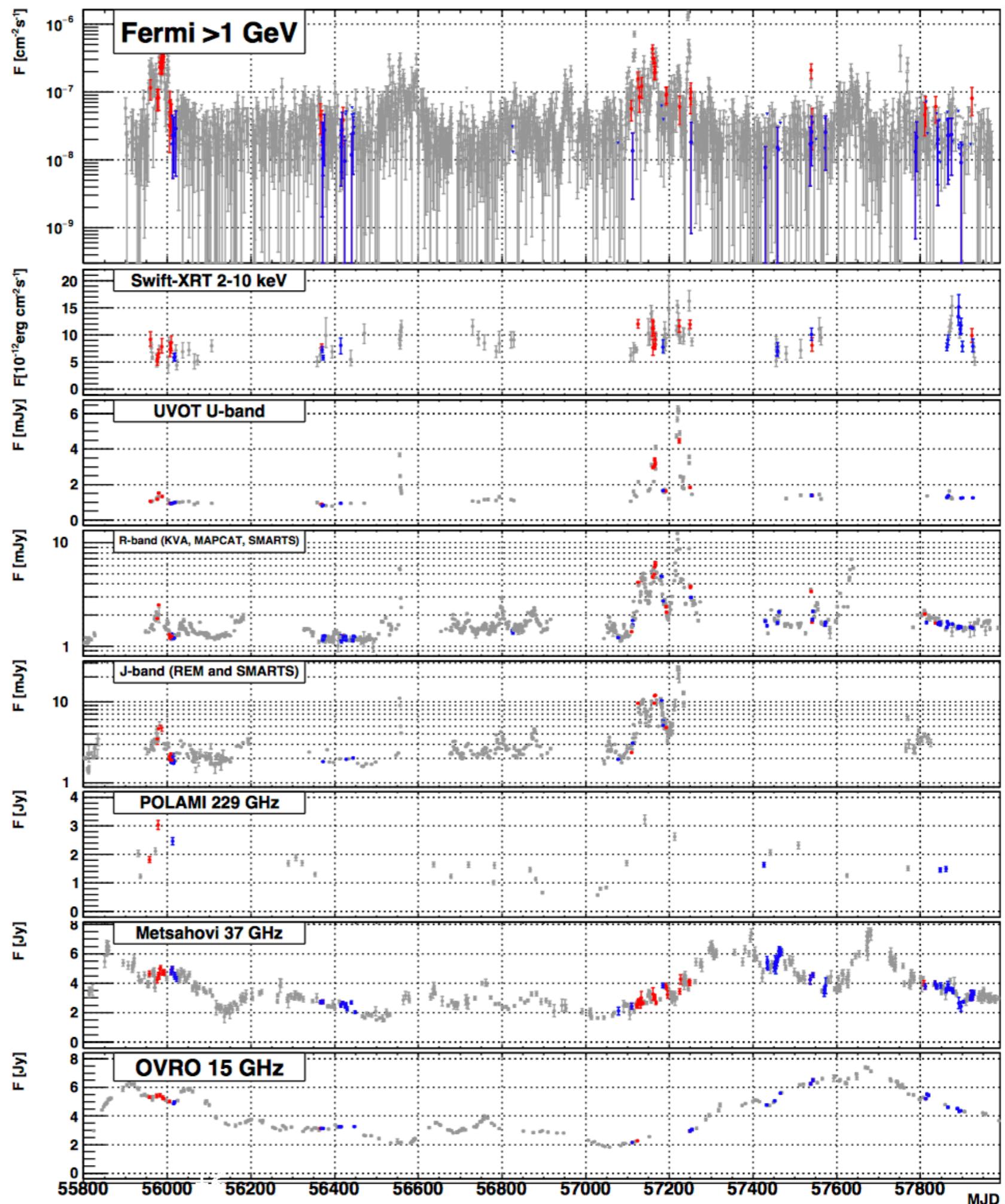
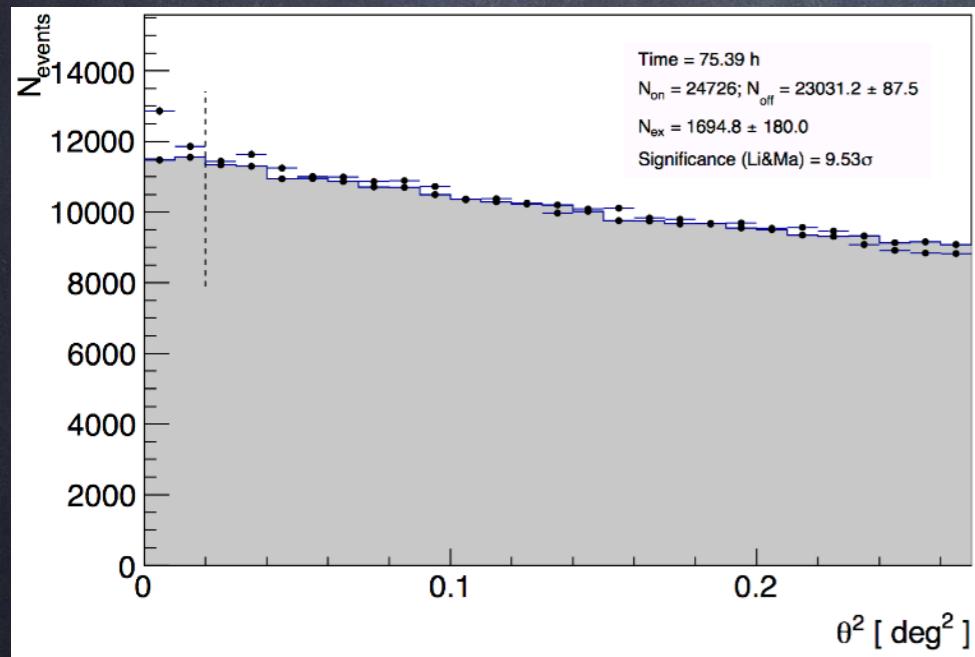
# Torus absorption



# CTA will allow us...

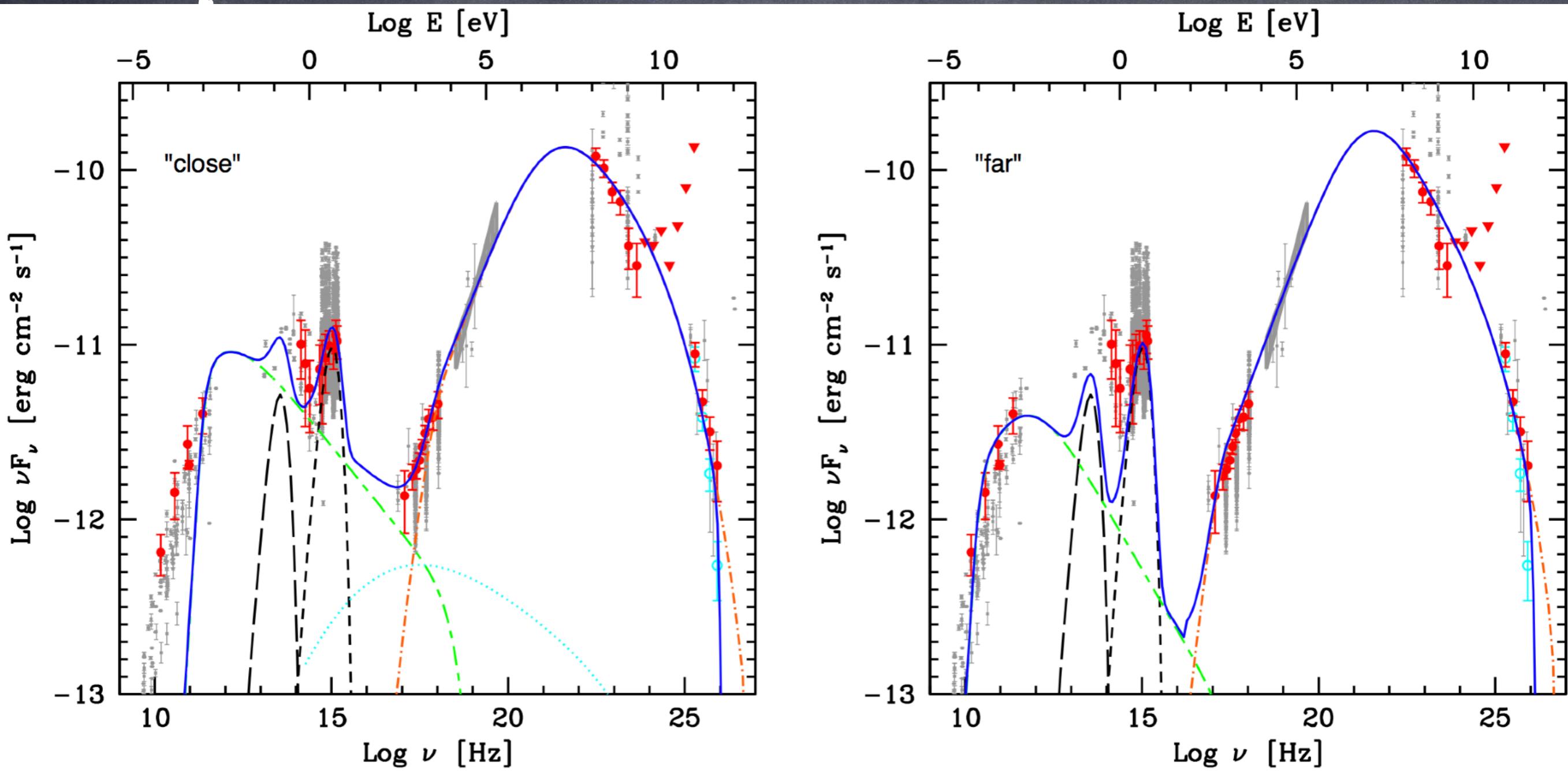
- To lower the energy threshold together with the improved sensitivity, which will help us to increase the FSRQ VHE family
- The improved sensitivity will allow us hopefully to extend the VHE spectrum from FSRQs, to test the absorption due to the torus.
- FSRQ VHE studies are highly biased toward flaring states, CTA should allow us to observe them outside extreme flaring episodes

# PKS 1510-089



# PKS 1510-089

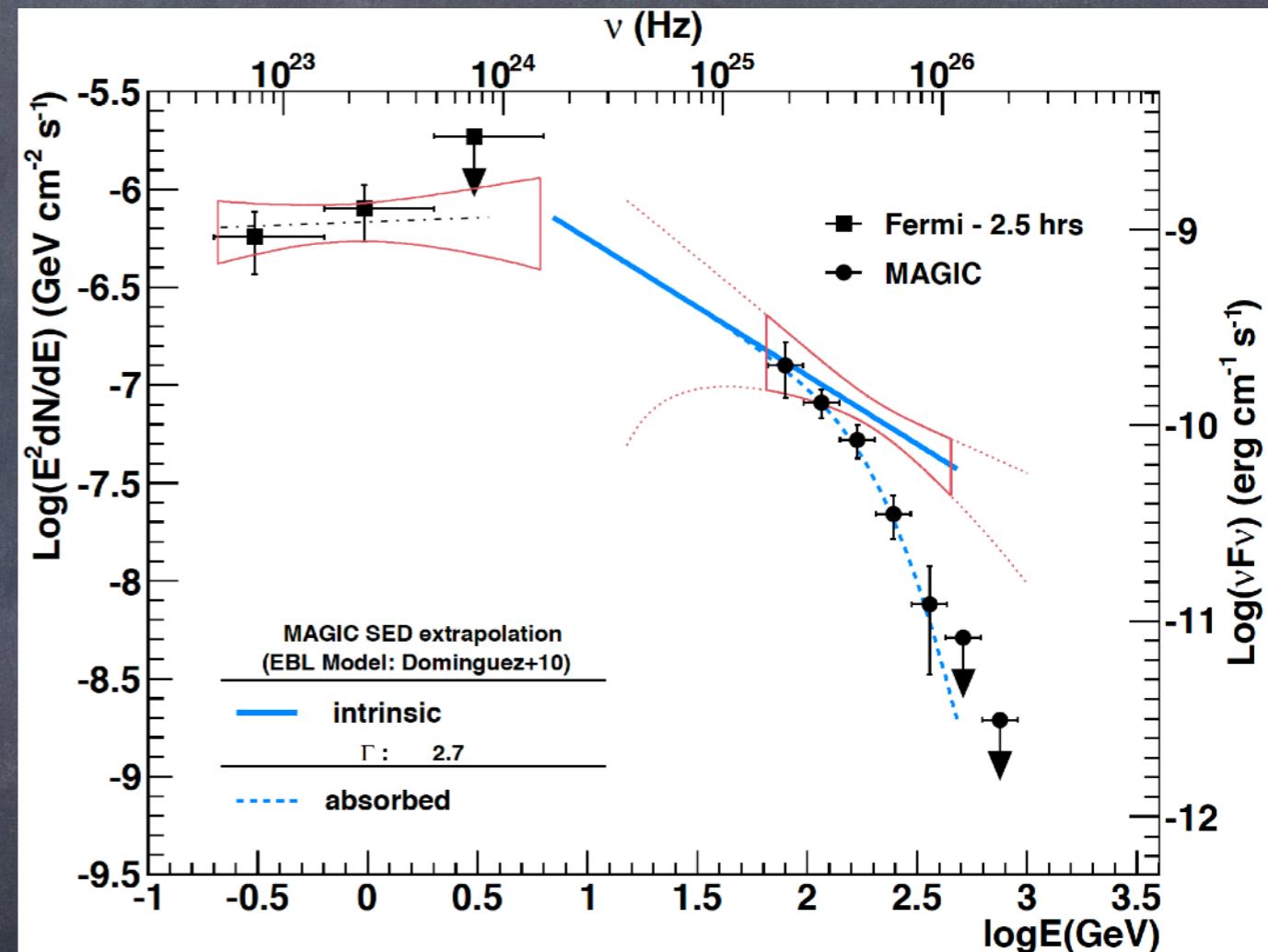
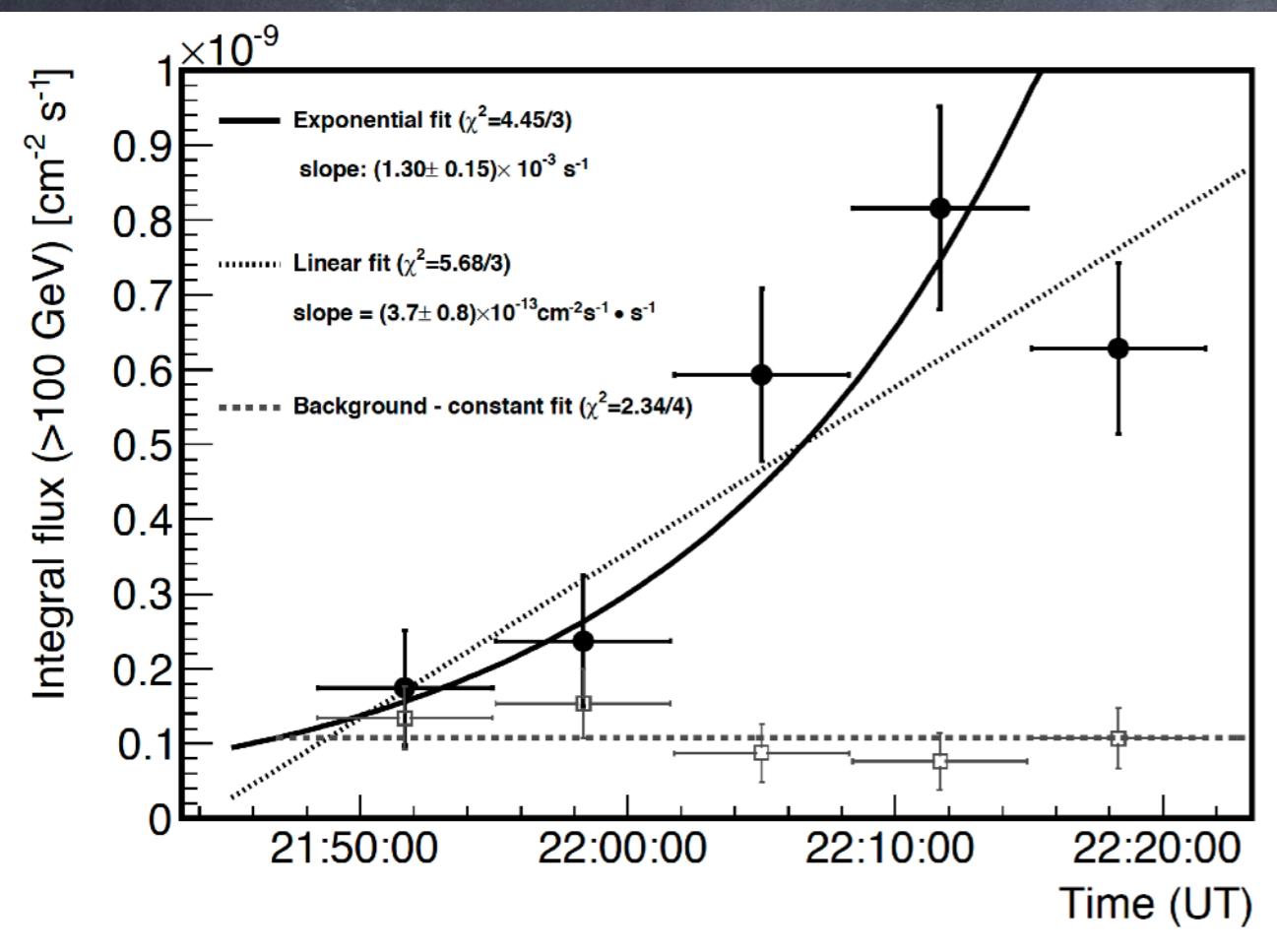
## persistent emission



# Jet structure

- Some multi-wavelength light curves points to the need of structure jets, showing more complex behaviours than expected from simple one-zone emitting regions, including also fast variability

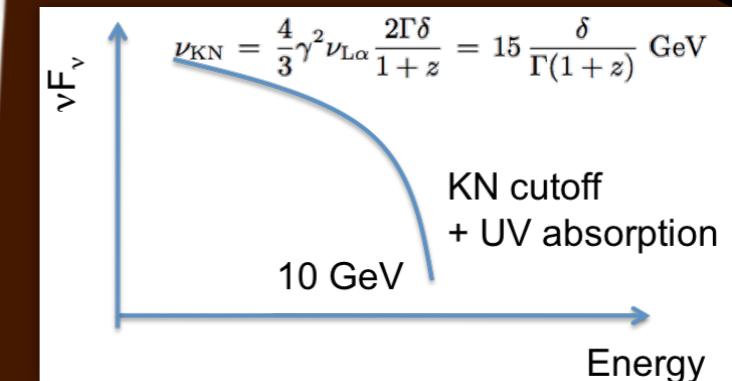
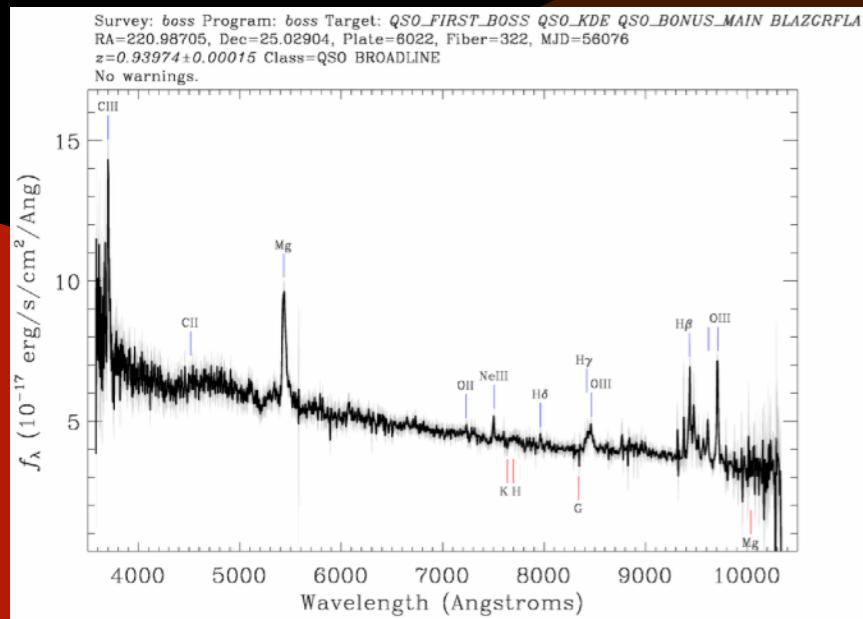
# FSRQ PKS 1222+21



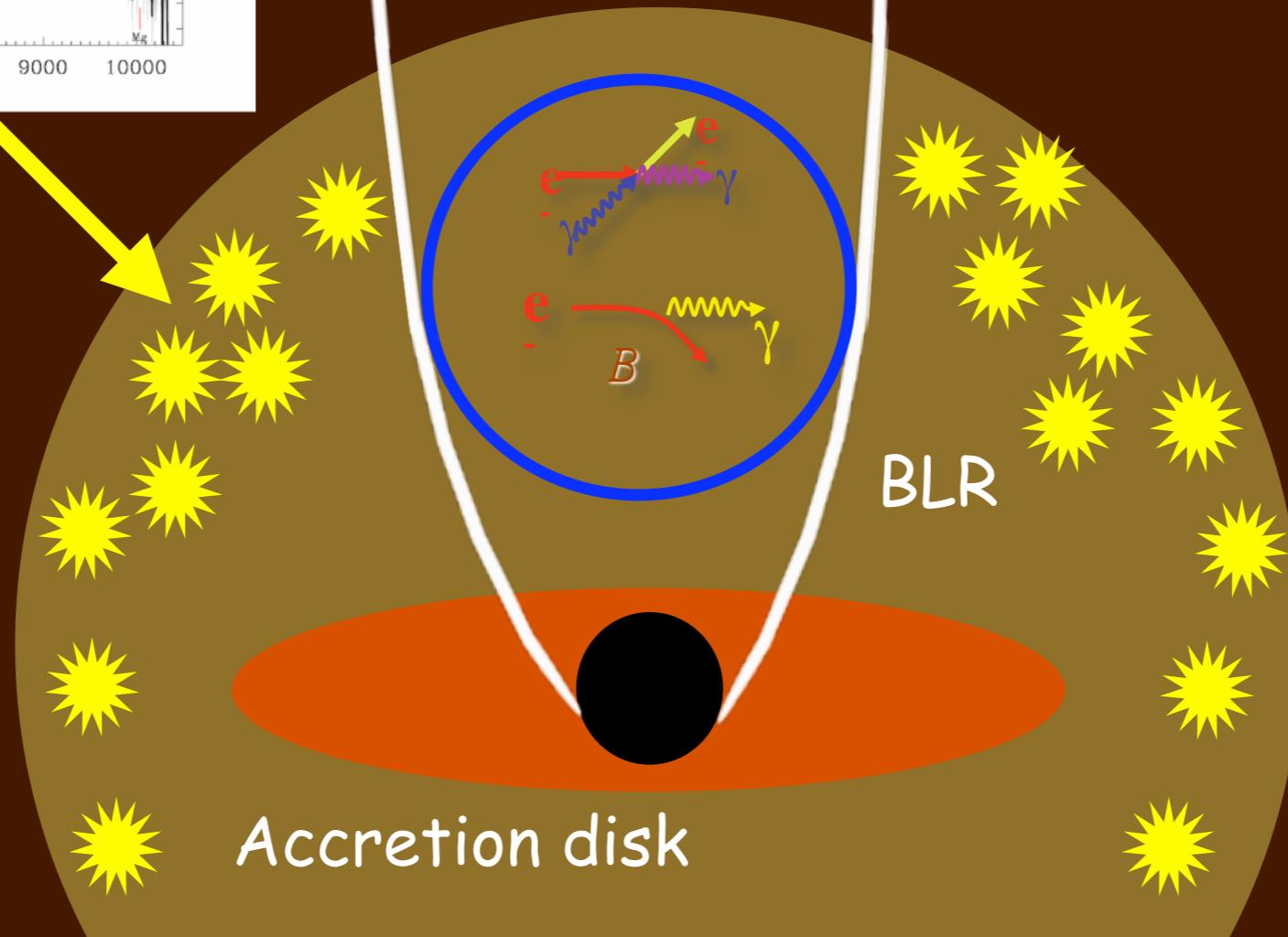
- Fast variability: 9 min doubling time
- No VHE intrinsic spectral absorption

# FSRQs: the “canonical” scenario

Dermer et al. 2009  
Ghisellini&Tavecchio 2009  
Sikora et al. 2009

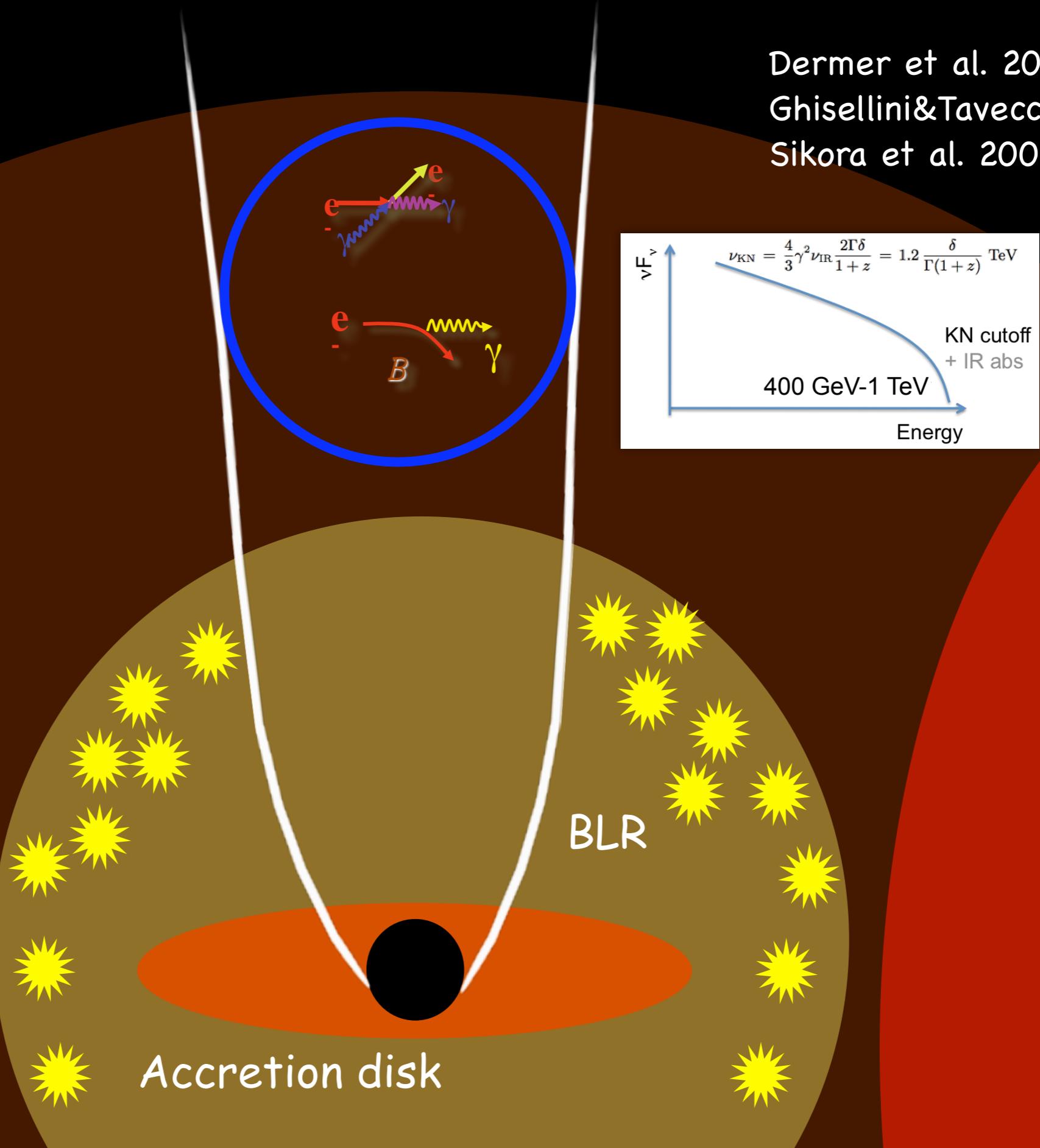


DUSTY TORUS



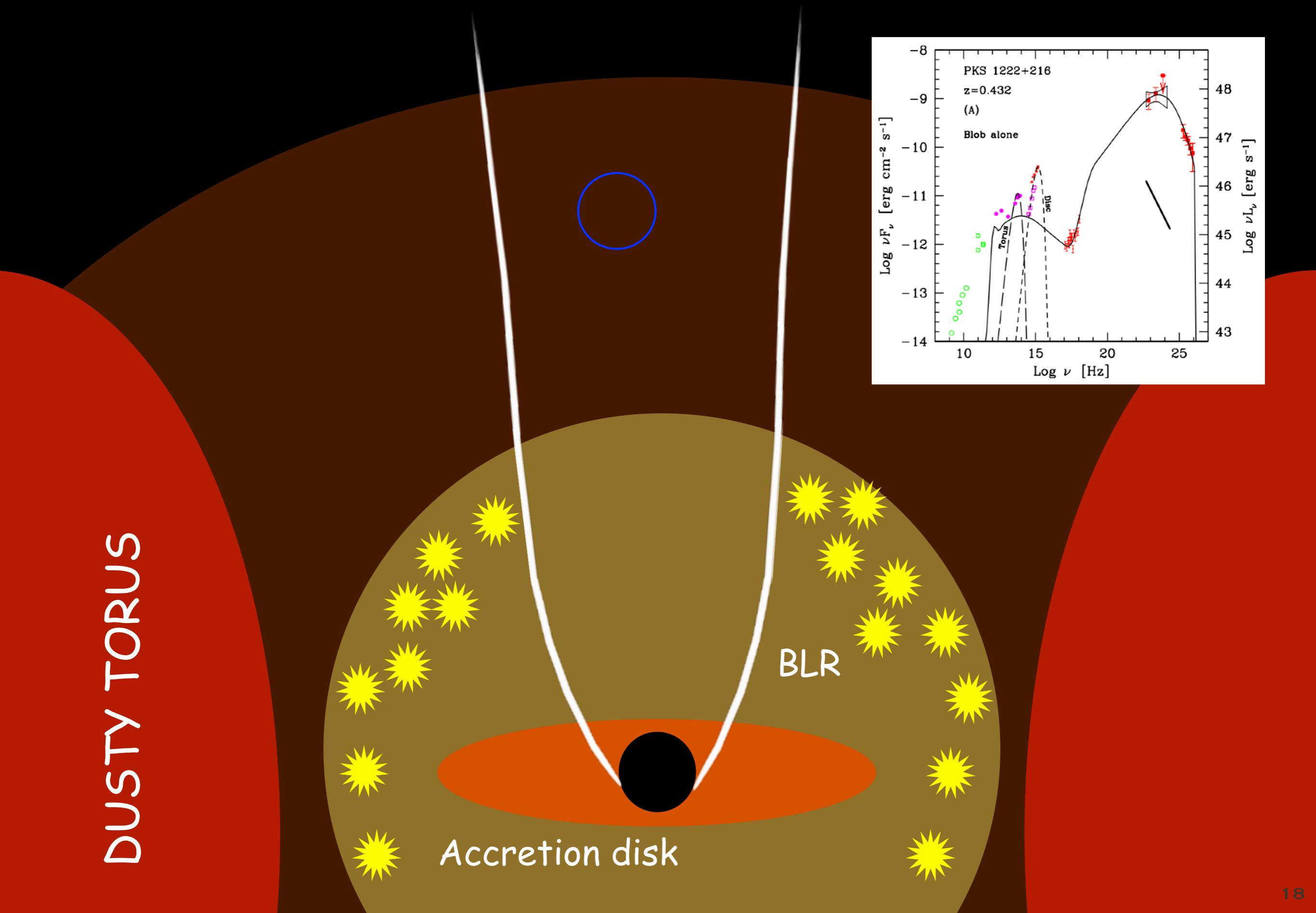
# FSRQs: the “far dissipation” scenario

DUSTY TORUS

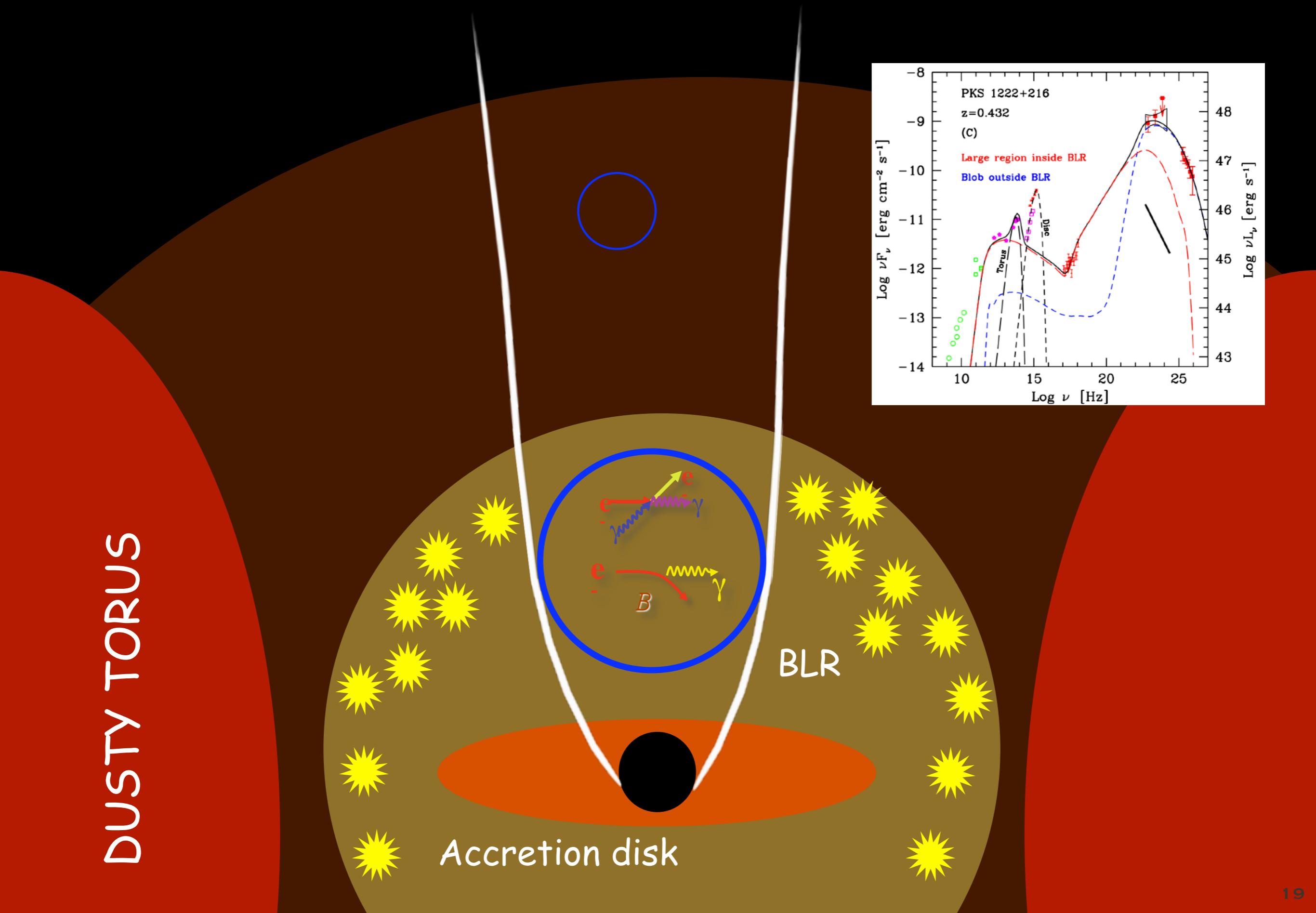


Dermer et al. 2009  
Ghisellini&Tavecchio 2009  
Sikora et al. 2009

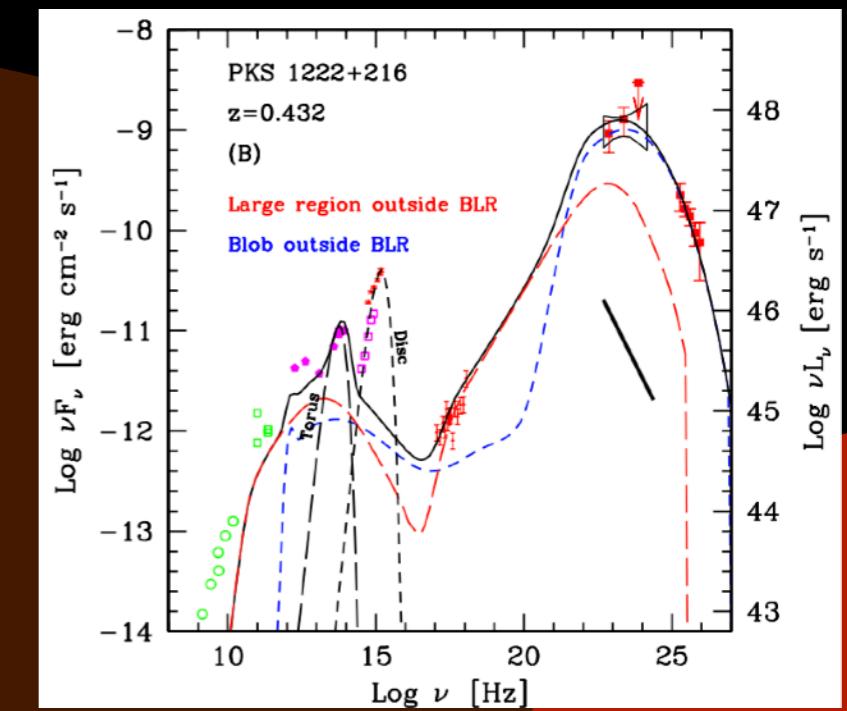
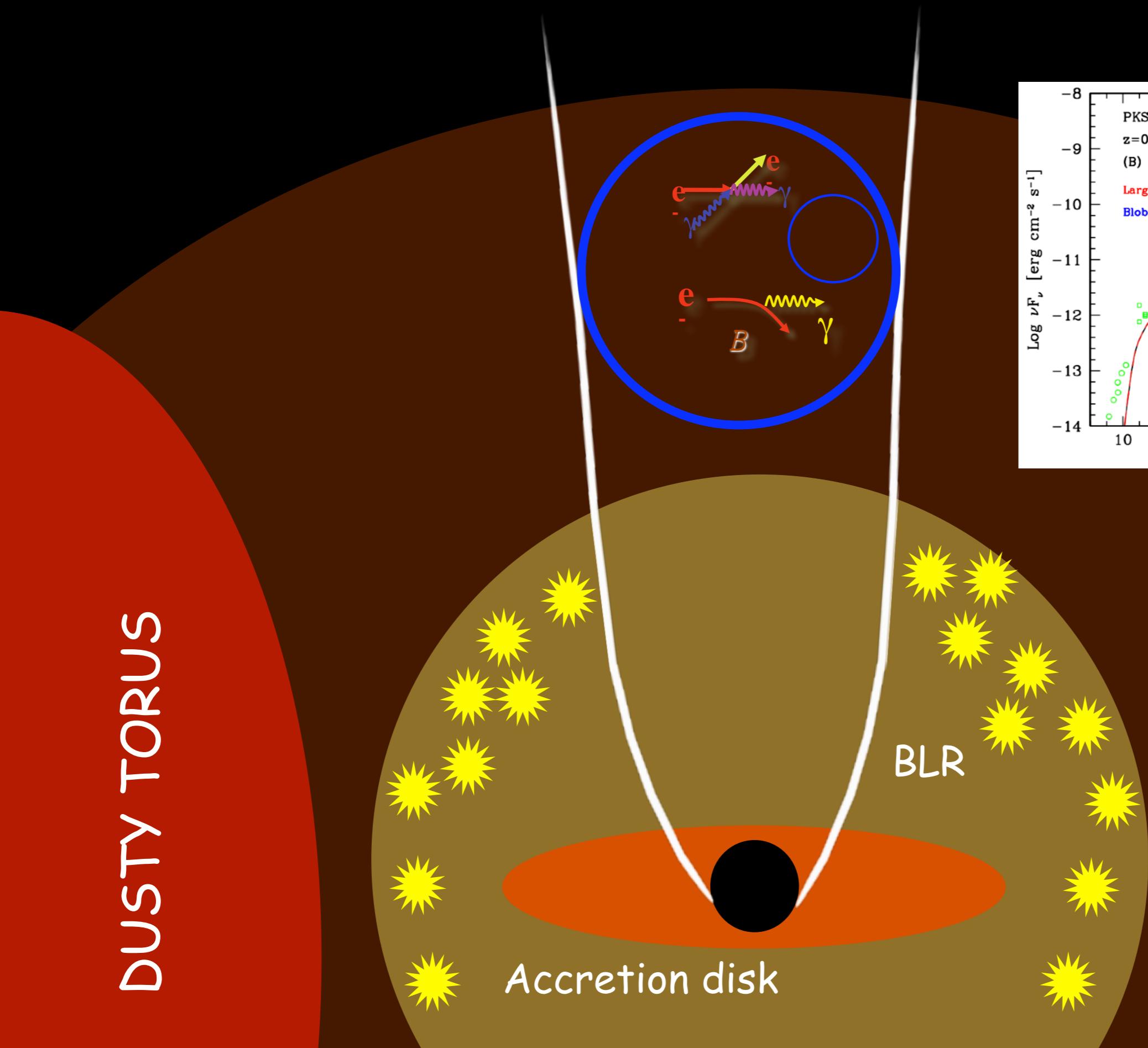
# DUSTY TORUS



# DUSTY TORUS

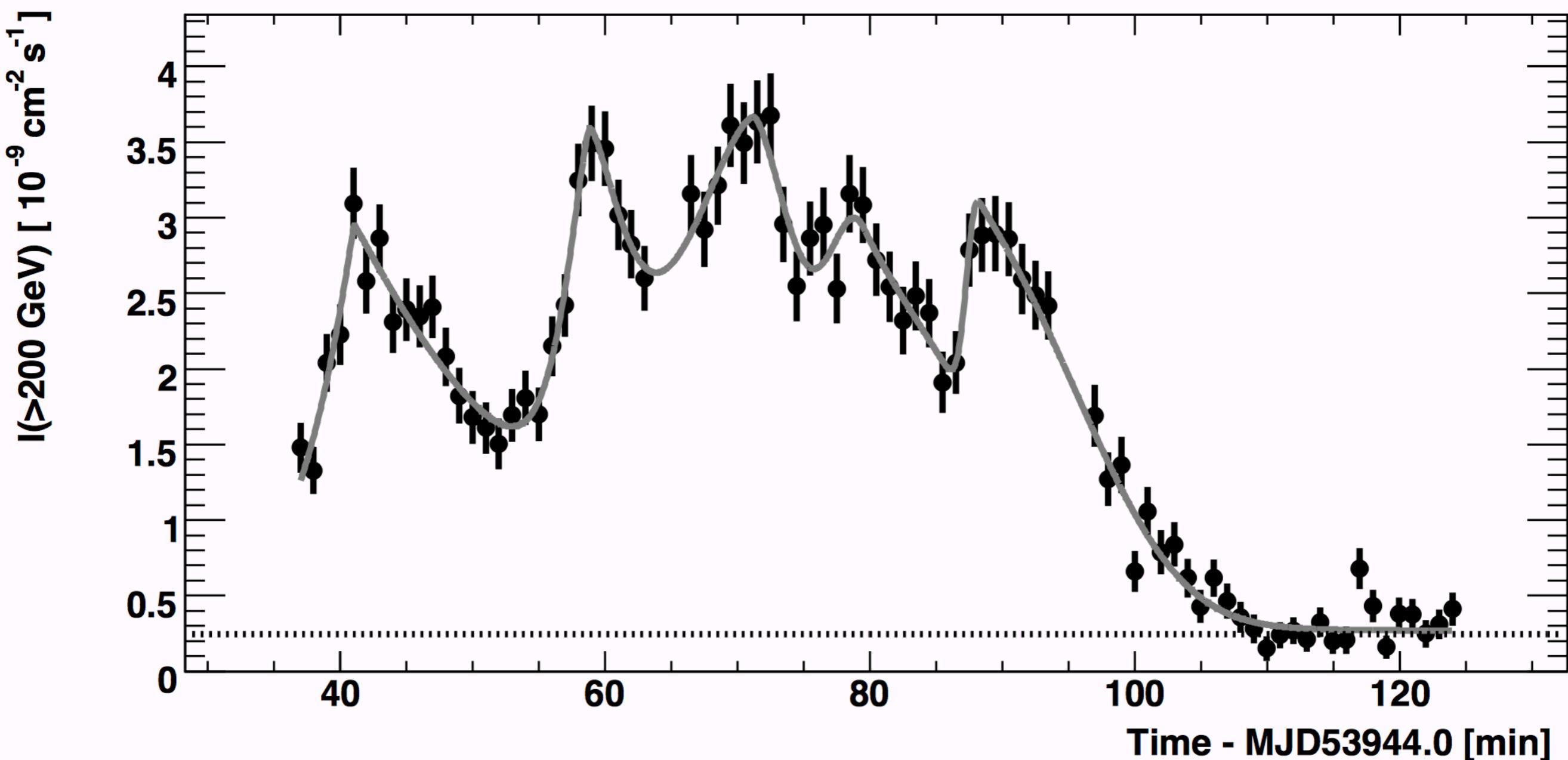


# DUSTY TORUS



# Extreme variability

## PKS 2155-304

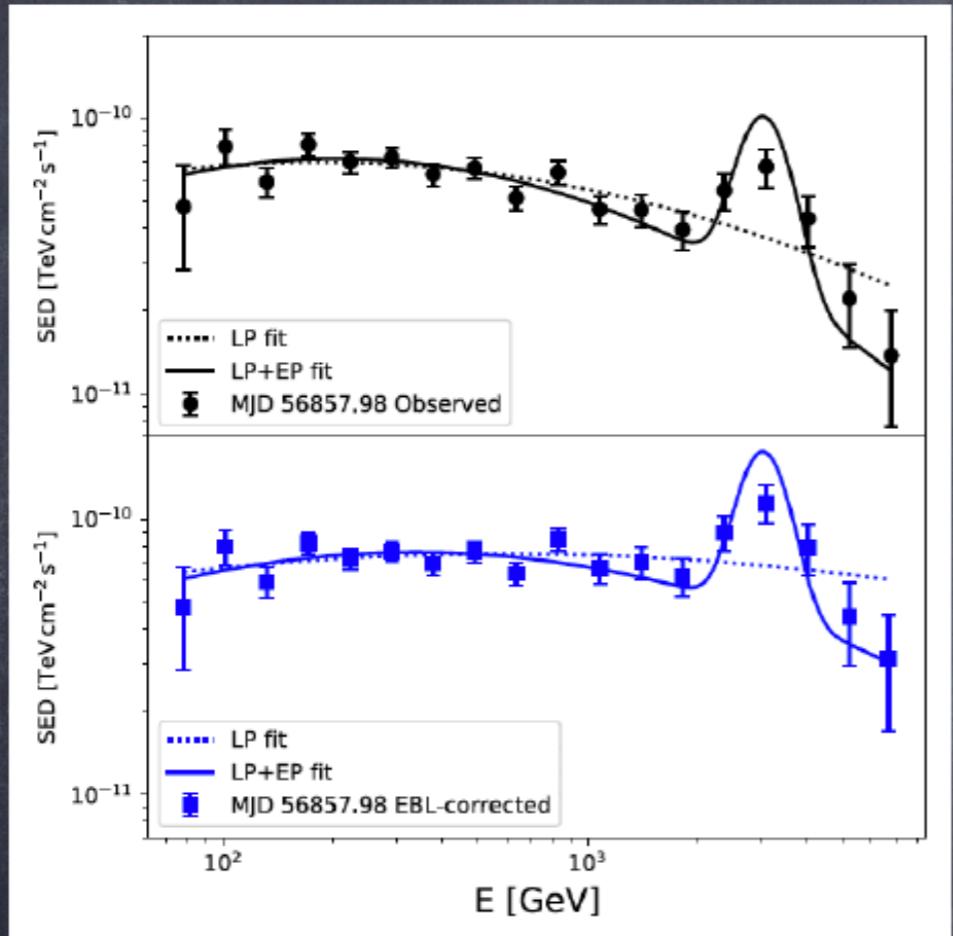


# Jet structure

- Some multi-wavelength light curves points to the need of structure jets, showing more complex behaviours than expected from simple one-zone emitting regions, including also fast variability
- First hint of an spectral narrow feature in the VHE band from Mrk 501
- CTA will bring better resolution and MWL campaigns will be key

# Hint of a narrow VHE spectral feature

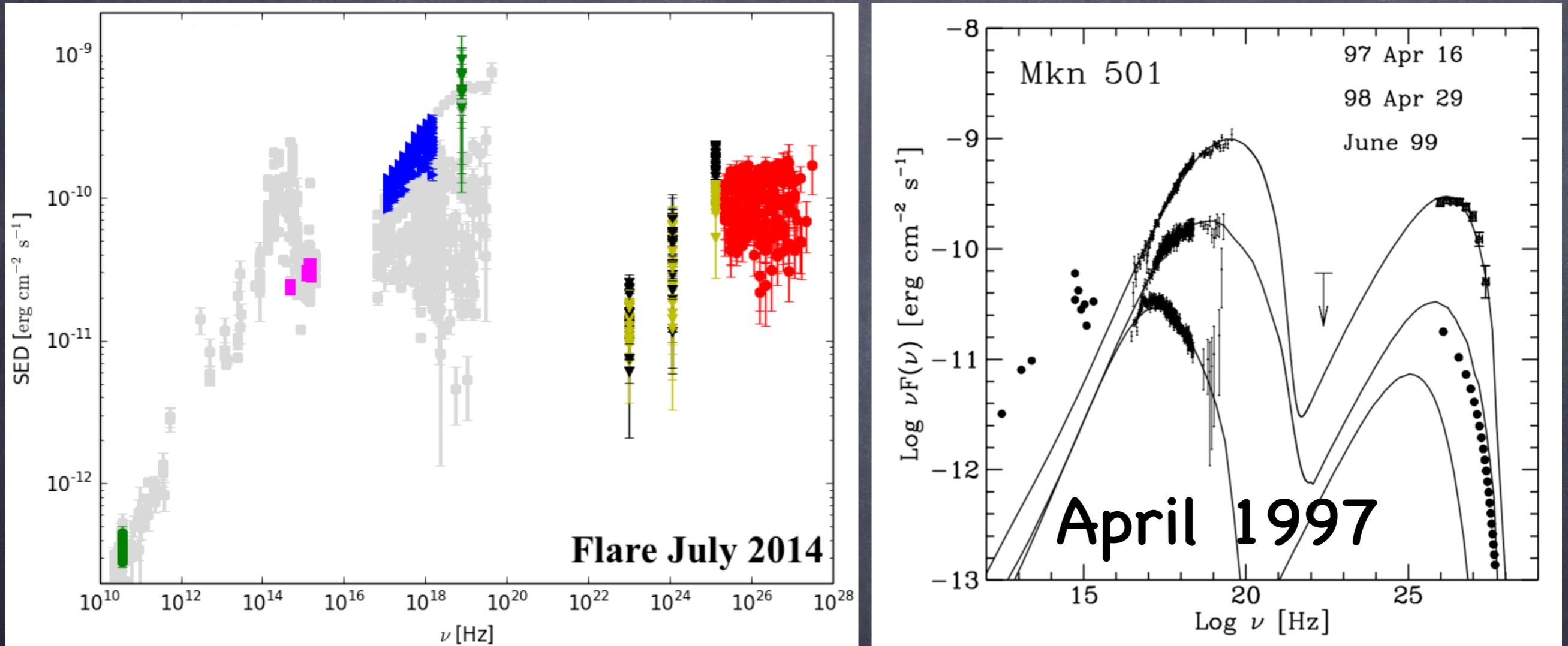
## Likelihood Ratio Test



2014 July 19-20  
(MJD 56857.98)

Fit		$f_0 \cdot 10^{10}$ [ $\text{TeV}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ]	$\Gamma$	b	$K \cdot 10^5$ [ $\text{TeV}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ]	$\beta$	Ep [TeV]	$\chi^2/\text{df}$	LRT
Observed	LP	$2.56 \pm 0.09$	$-2.16 \pm 0.03$	$0.08 \pm 0.02$	-	-	-	39.8/19	
Observed	LP+EP	$2.54 \pm 0.10$	$-2.26 \pm 0.04$	$0.14 \pm 0.03$	$7.7 \pm 1.7$	$9.1 \pm 3.2$	$3.04 \pm 0.10$	13.5/16	$4.5\sigma$
EBL-corr	LP	$3.00 \pm 0.11$	$-1.99 \pm 0.03$	$0.04 \pm 0.02$	-	-	-	35.4/19	
EBL-corr	LP+EP	$2.99 \pm 0.11$	$-2.08 \pm 0.04$	$0.10 \pm 0.03$	$13.0 \pm 3.0$	$10.0 \pm 3.6$	$3.03 \pm 0.10$	14.6/16	$3.9\sigma$

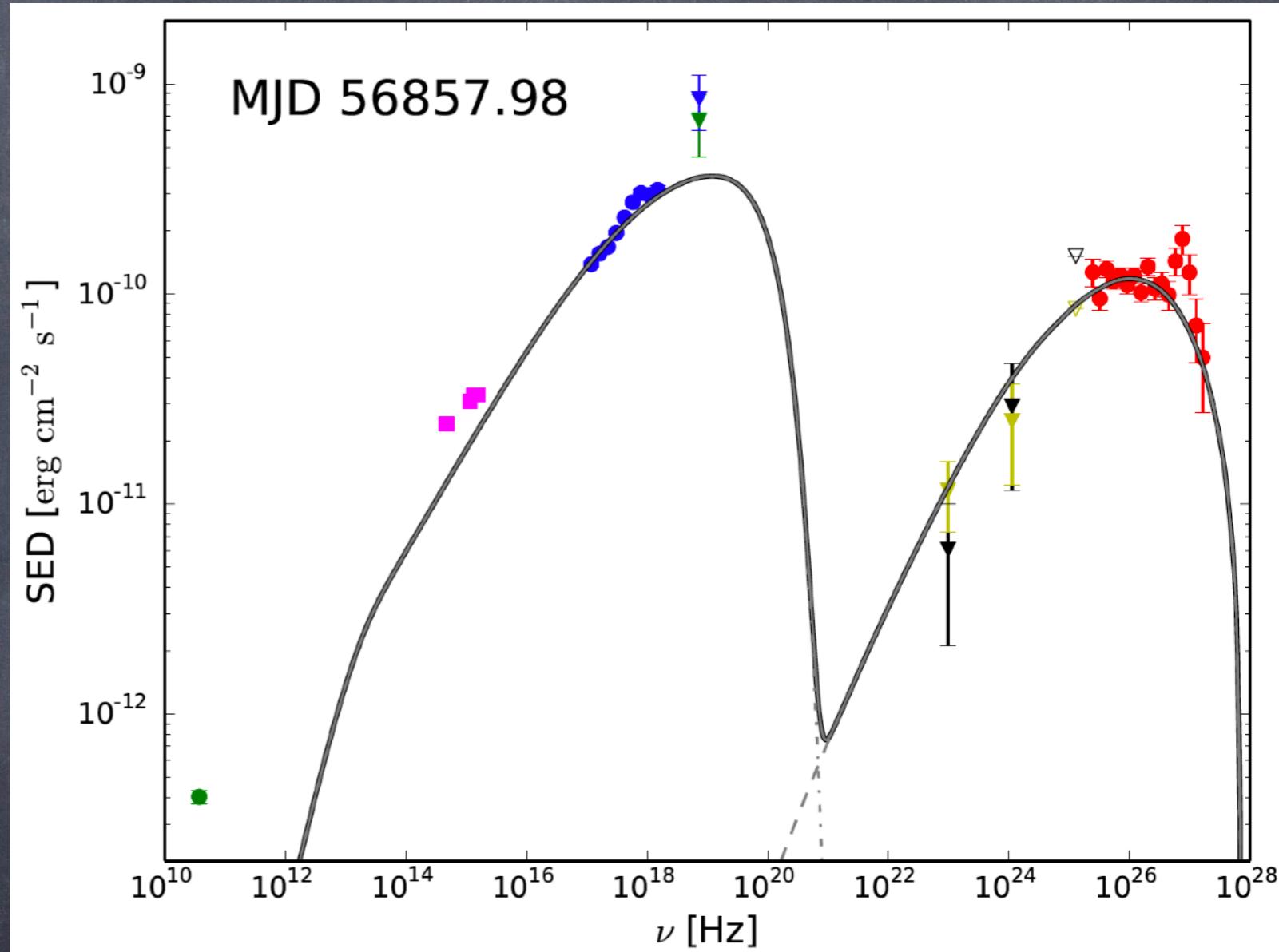
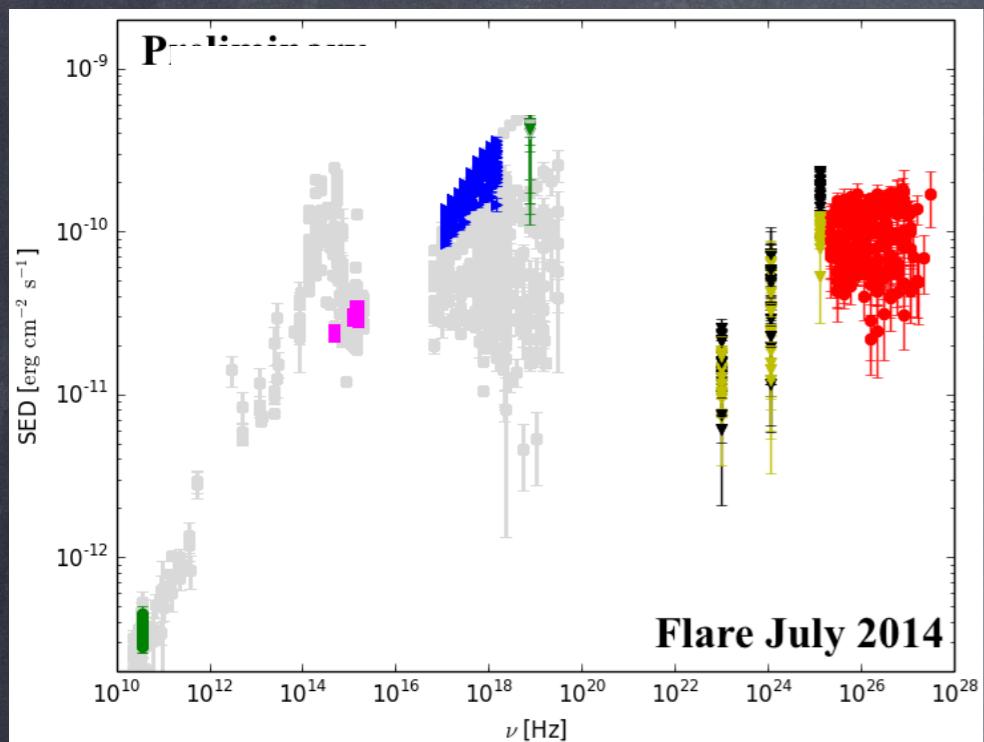
# MWL SED overview



X-ray flux comparable  
TeV more variable in 1997

Tavecchio et al. (2001)  
ApJ 554, 725

# MWL SED overview

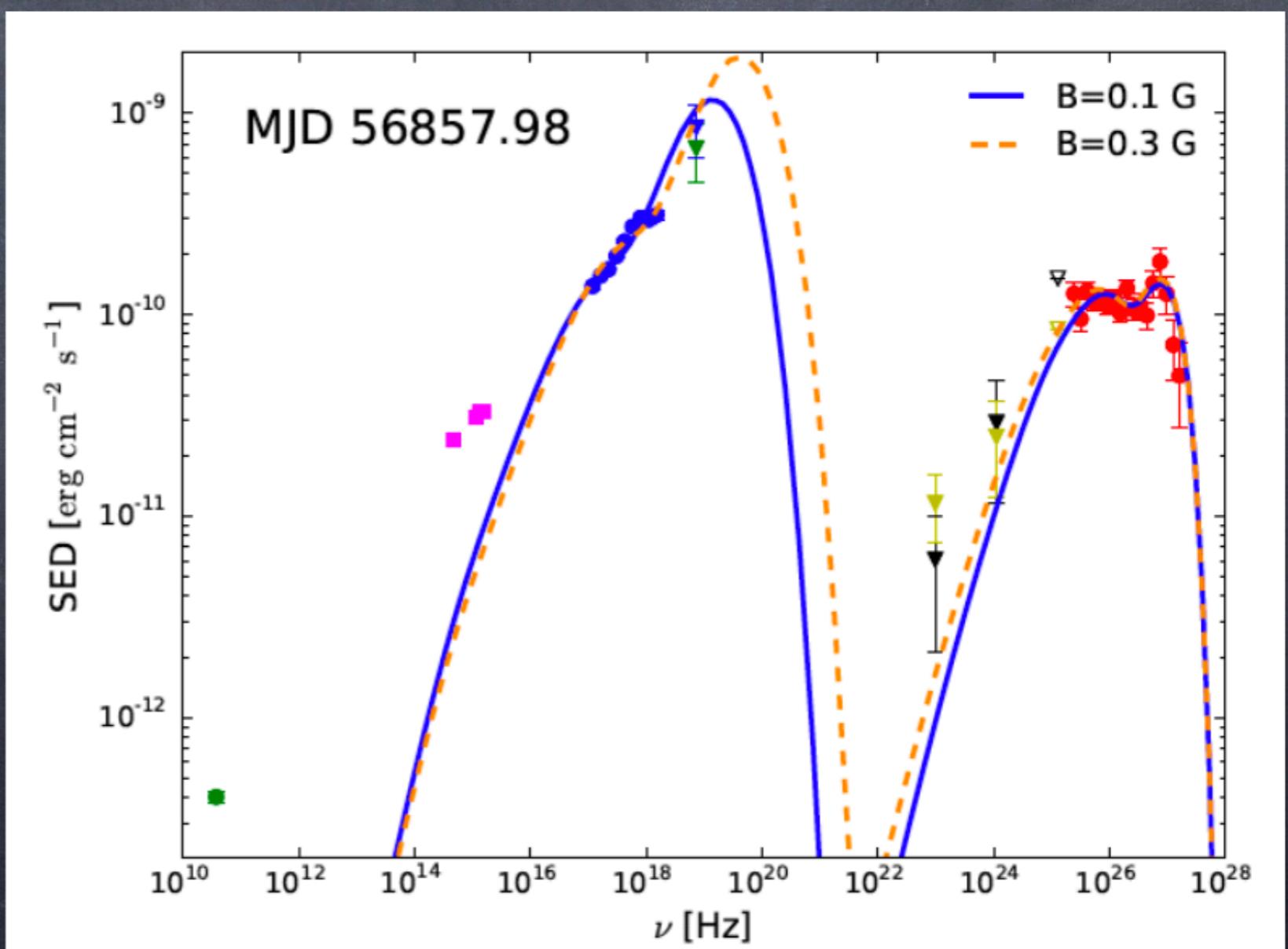


MAGIC Coll. (JBG, DP) 2020, A&A, 637, A86

# Theoretical interpretation

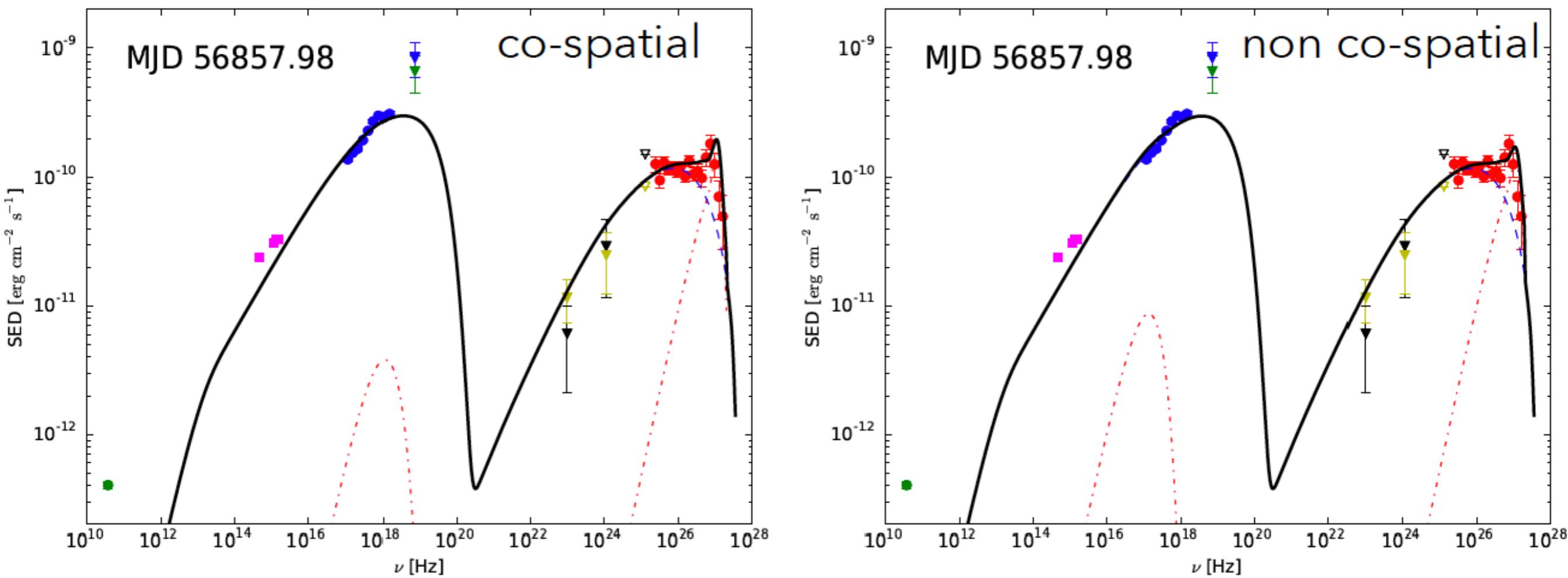
a) Pile up in the energy electron distribution due to stochastic acceleration

JetSeT open code



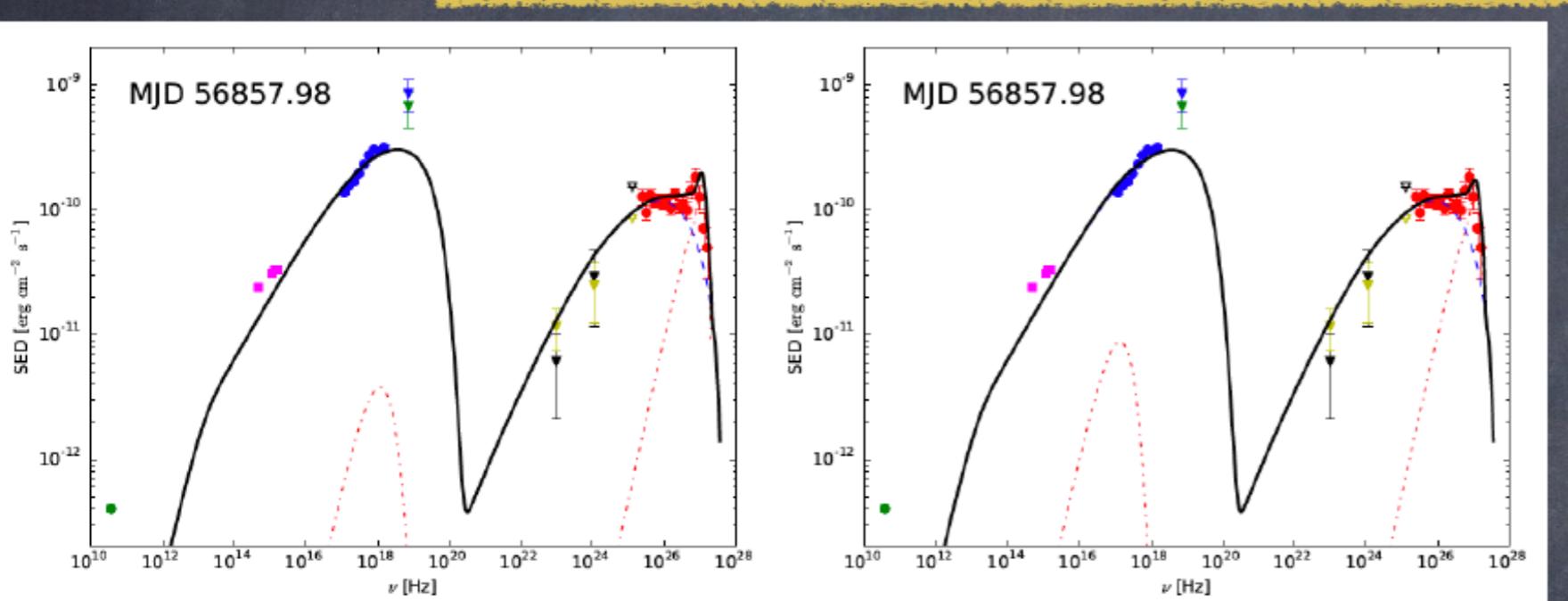
# Theoretical interpretation

b) Structured jet: two-zone SSC model

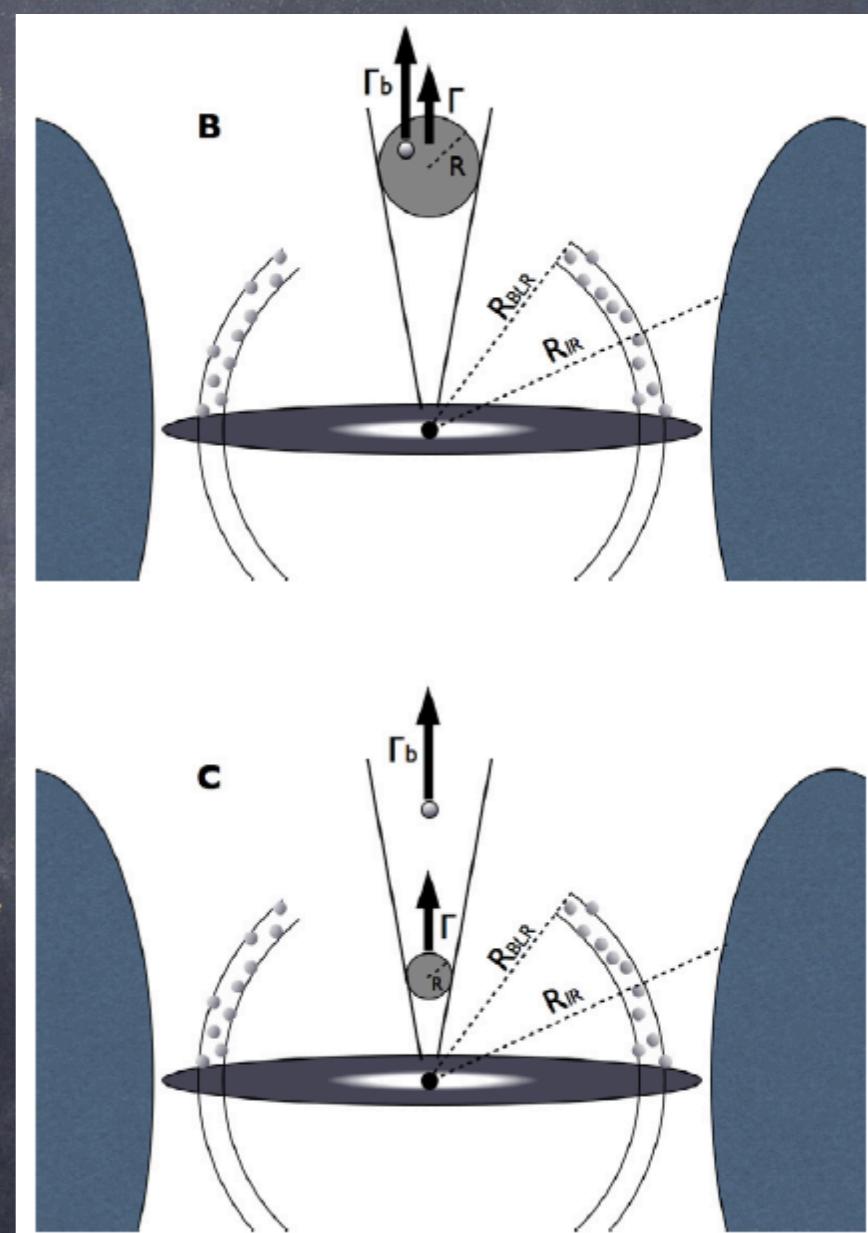


# Theoretical interpretation

b) Structured jet: two-zone SSC model



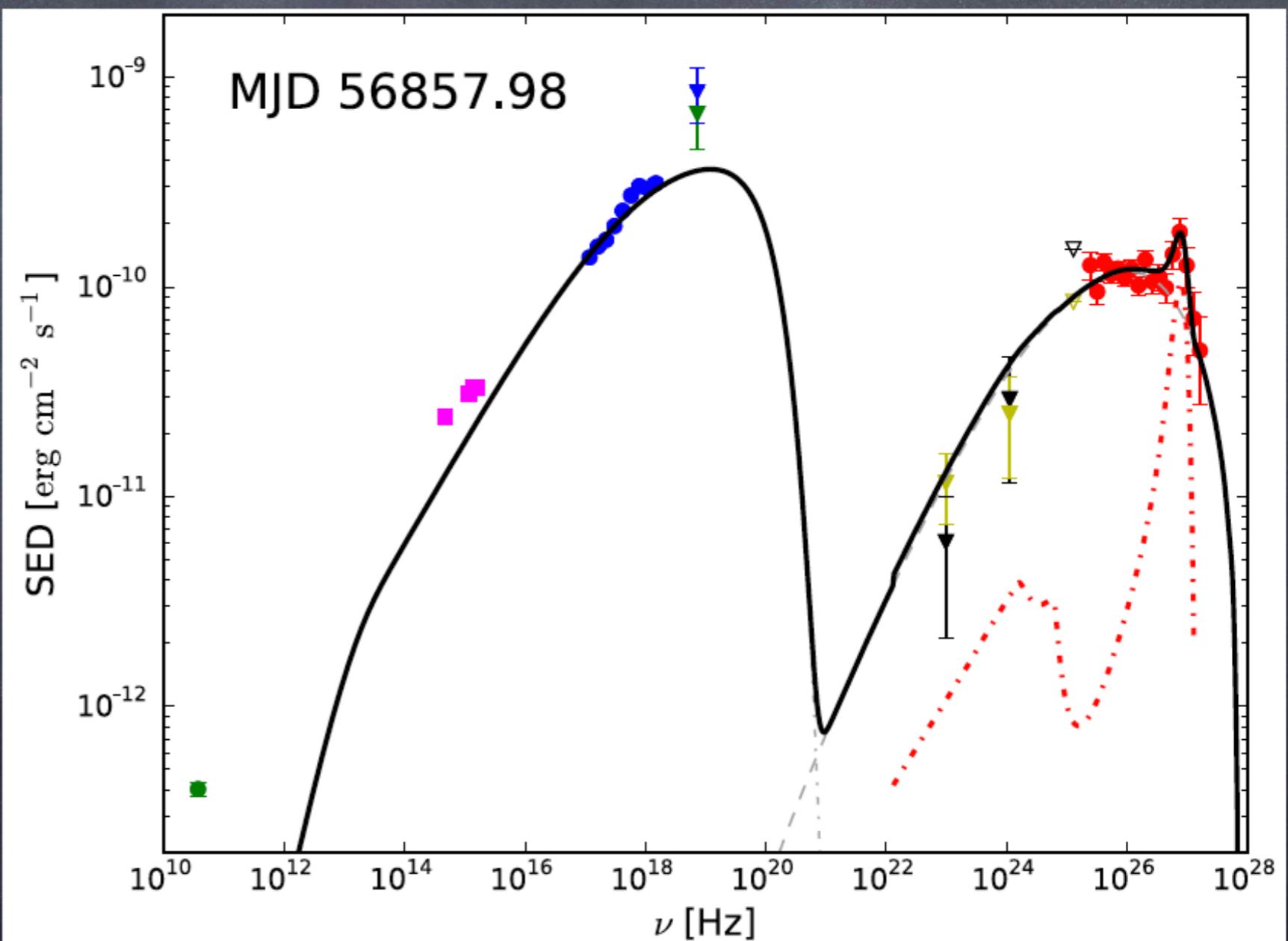
MAGIC Coll. (JBG, DP) 2020, A&A, 637, A86



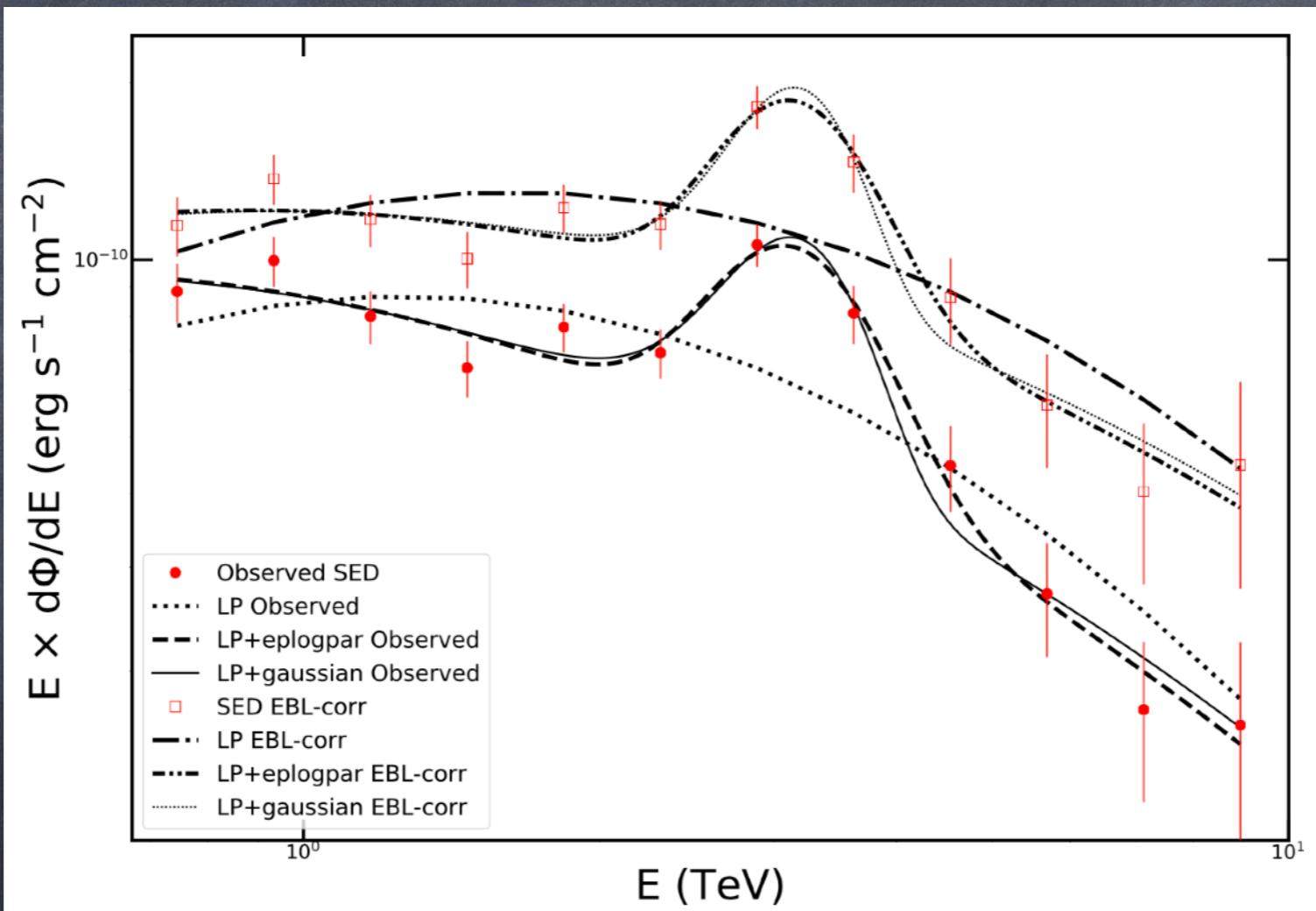
Tavecchio, JBG et al., 2011, A&A, 534, A86

# Theoretical interpretation

c) Magnetospheric vacuum gap model + one-zone SSC

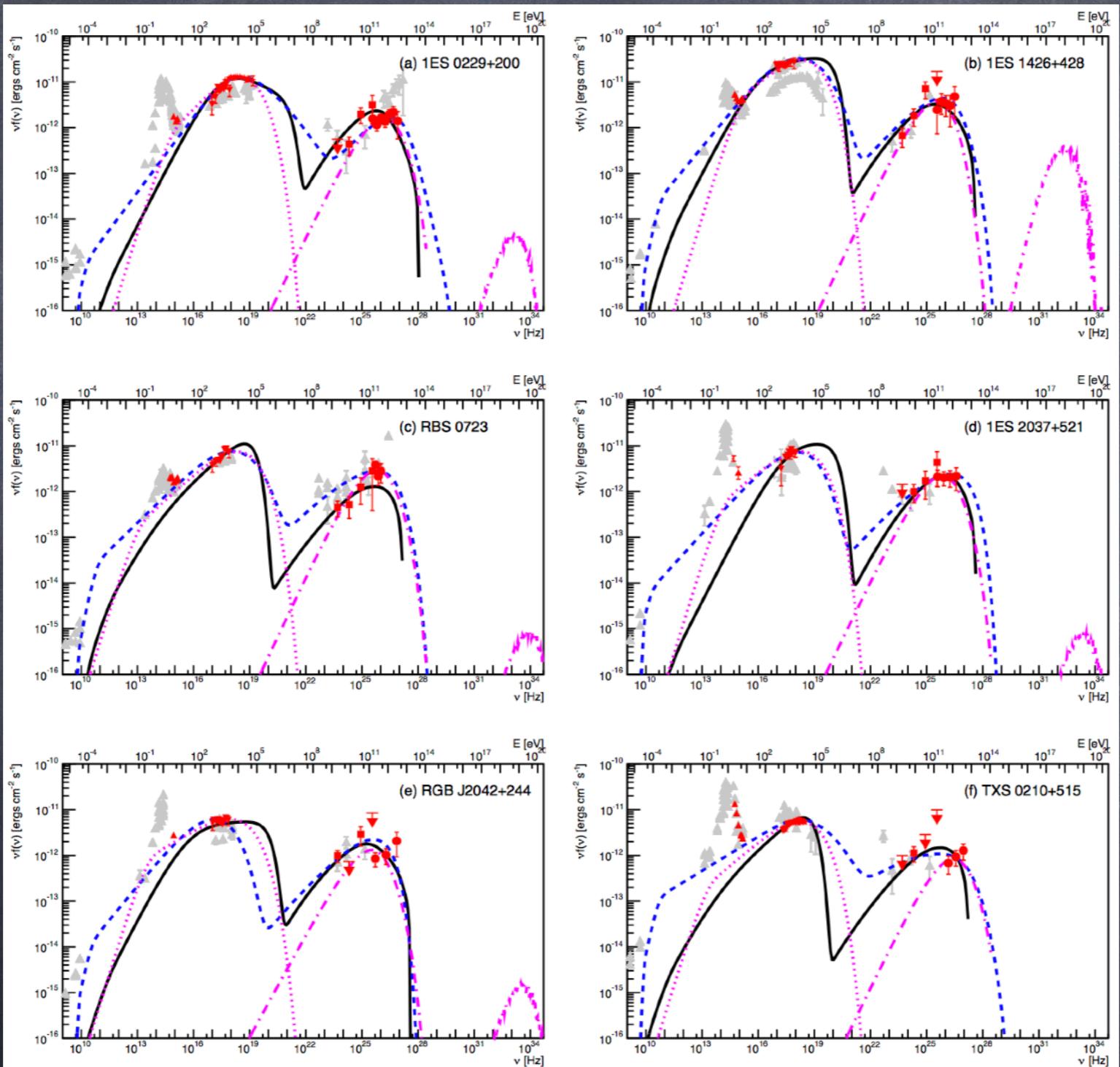


# ASTRI-MiniArray simulations



Saturni et al. 2022, JHEAp, 35, 91

# Extreme blazars



# Extreme blazars

HAWC and LHAASO could help to point to them,  
although they are weak targets → from long term  
integrations? HAWC starting to detect AGNs beyond  
Mrk 501 and Mrk 421

Source	Redshift	“Pass 4” TS	“Pass 5” TS
M87	0,004	13,2	29,6
1ES1215+303	0,130	12,8	43,8
VER J0521+211	0,108	10,3	18,2

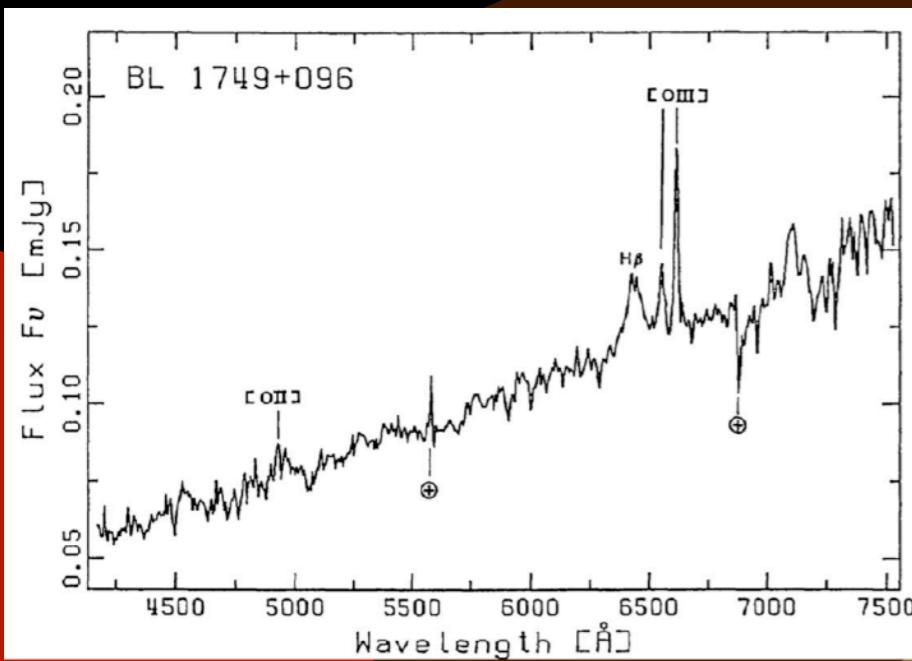
# Transitional blazars

- S4 0954+65 ( $z=0.367$ )
- OT081 ( $z=0.322$ )
- Optical+VHE observations would allow to constrain the AGN structure
- CTA will allow us to enlarge the sample of transitional VHE blazars

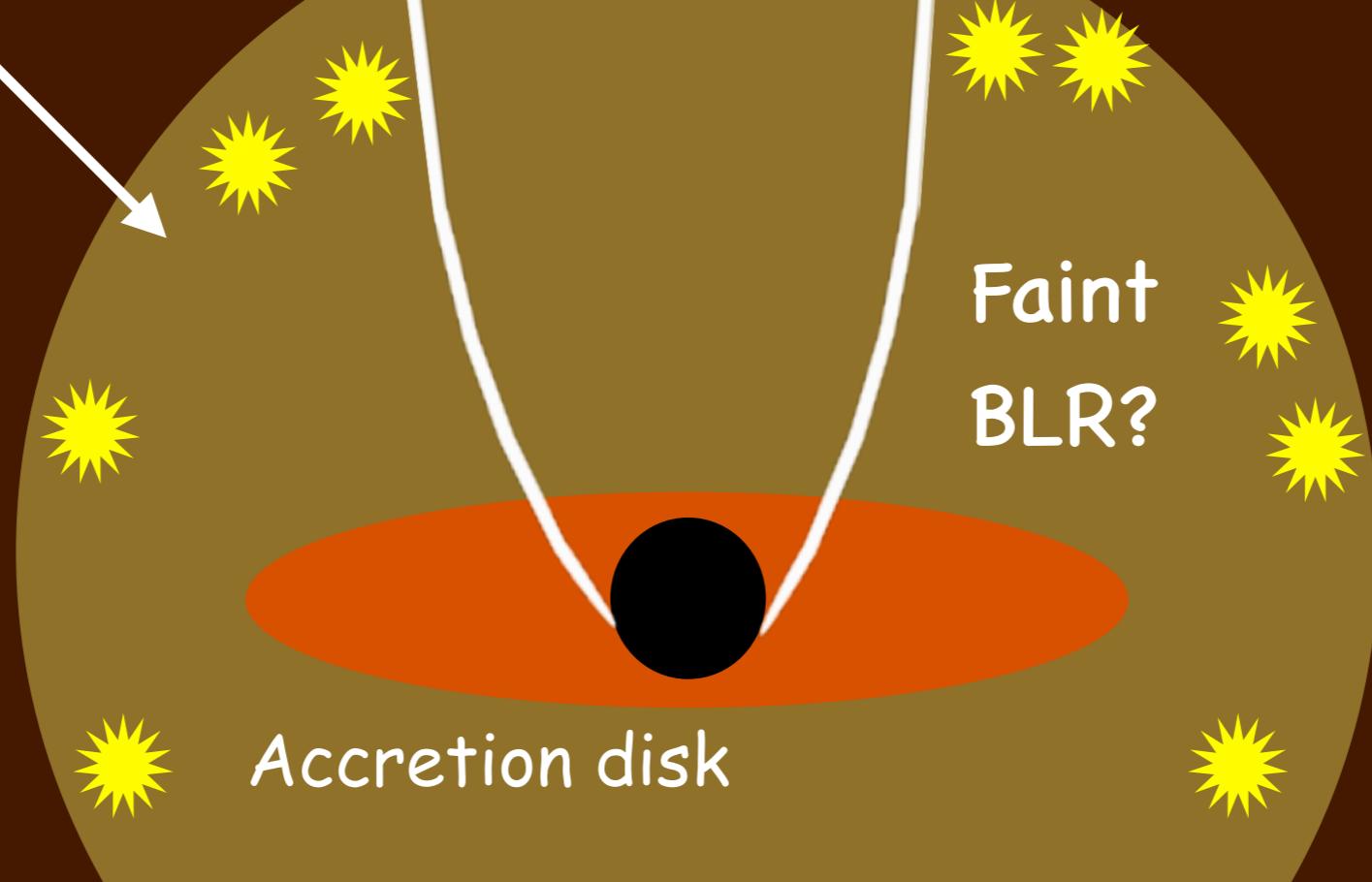
# Transitional?

The EW classification depends  
on the flux state of the target

Stickel et al. 1988

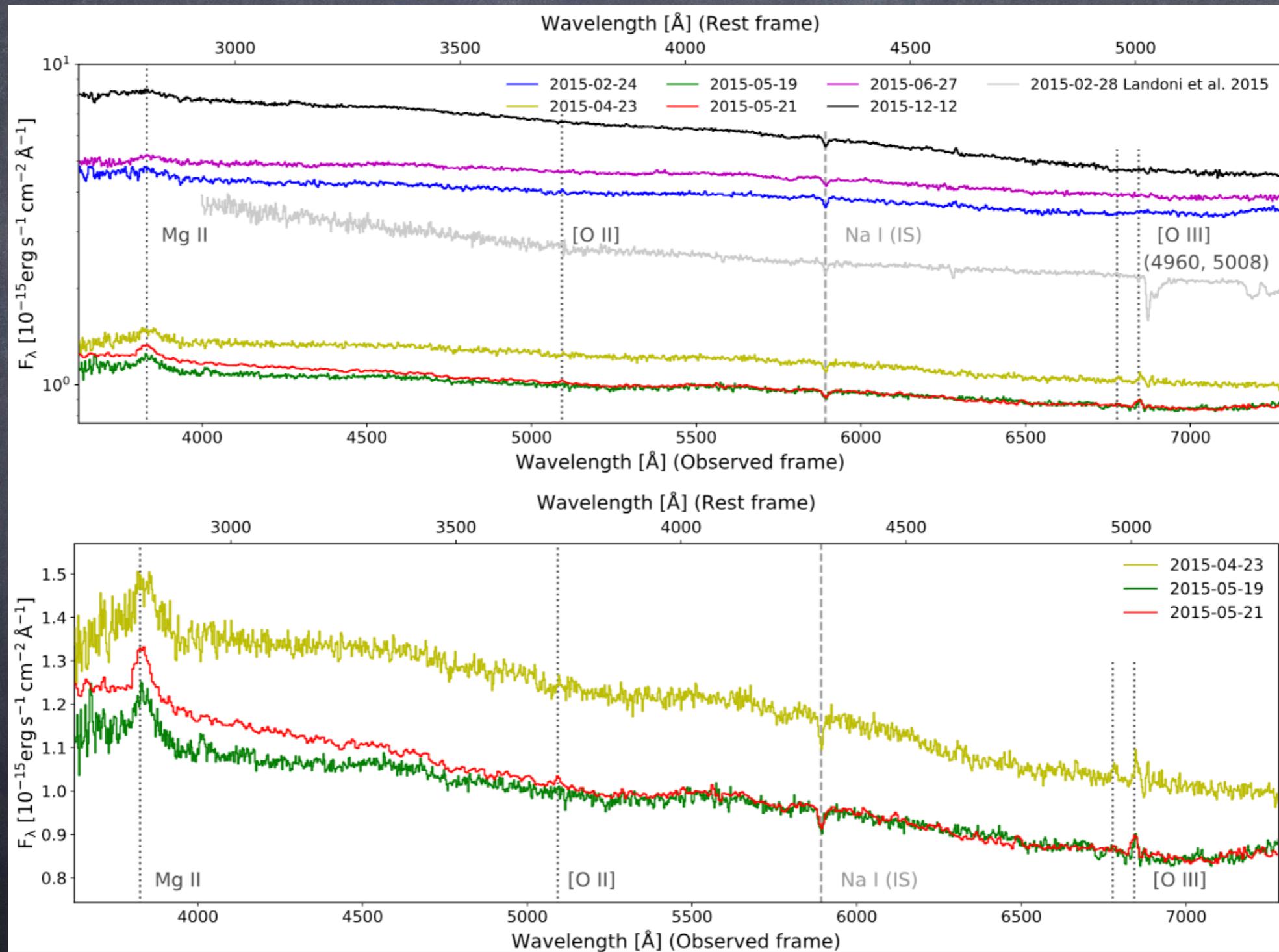


DUSTY TORUS

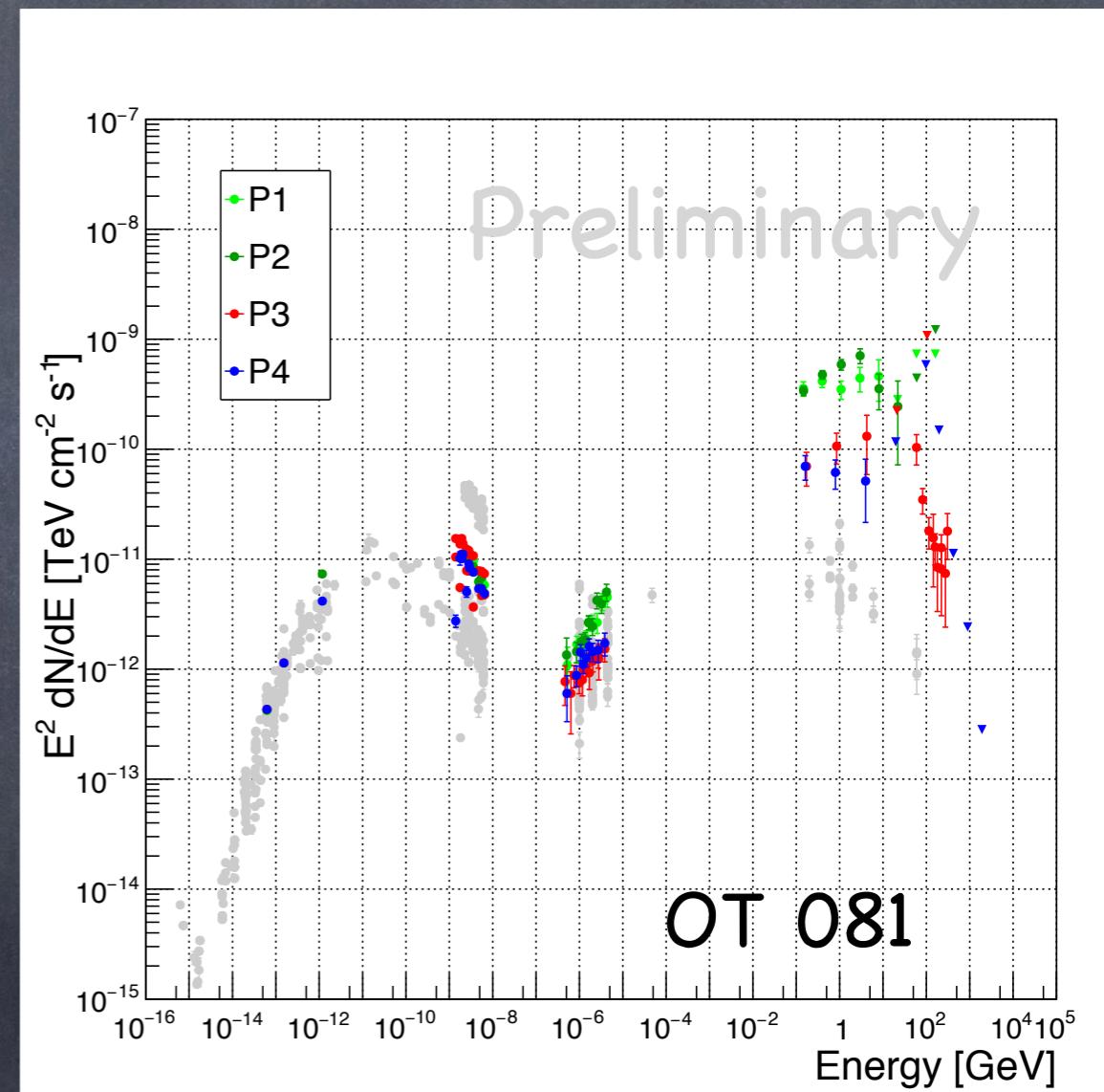
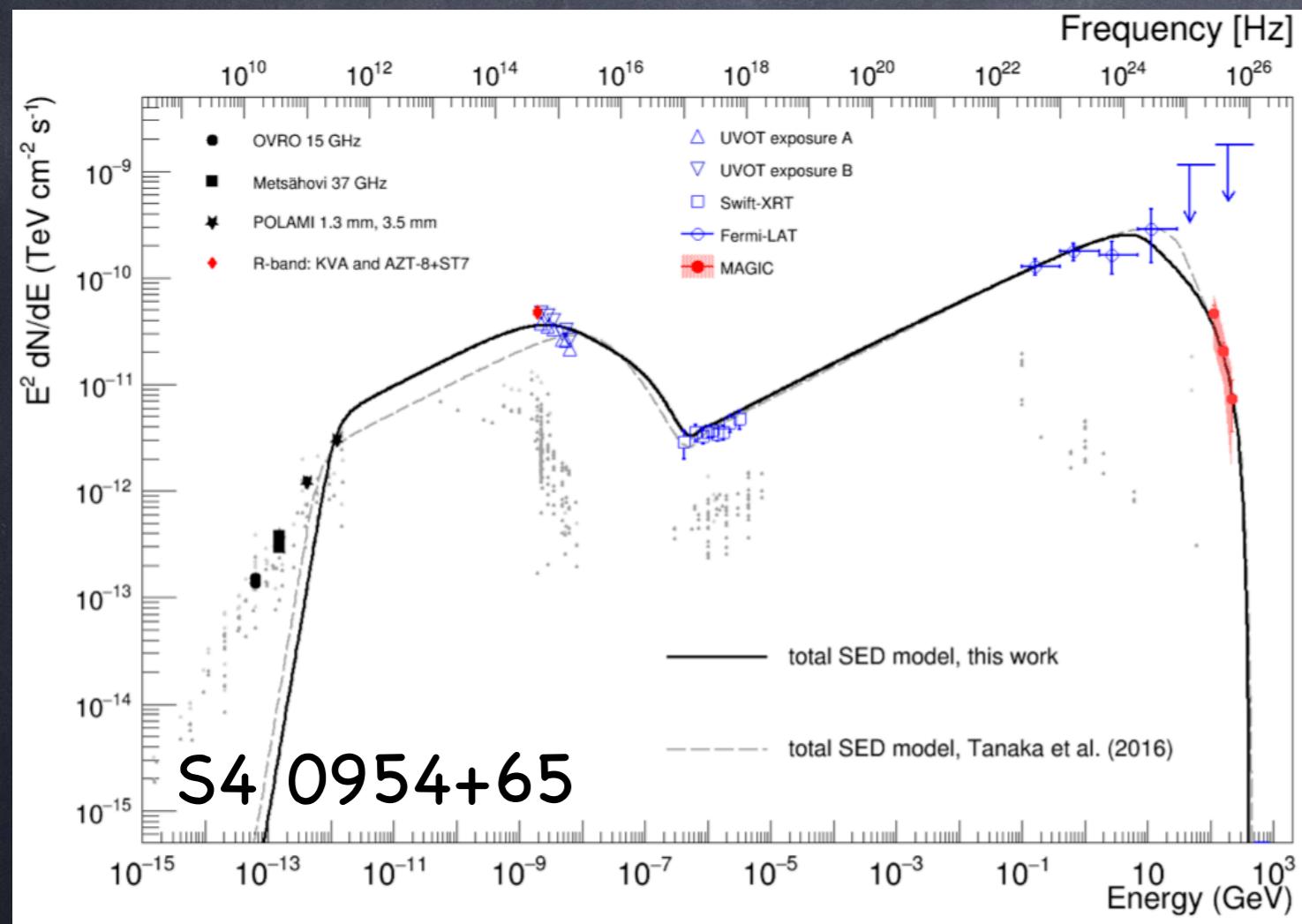


# Optical spectroscopic follow up

## S4 0954+65



# Transitional blazars MWL SEDs



MAGIC coll. 2018, A&A, 617, A30

MAGIC+HESS work in progress

# Most distant blazars

⌚ FSRQ

⌚  $z=0.99$

## Enhanced HE and VHE gamma-ray activity from the FSRQ PKS 0346-27

ATel #15020; **S. Wagner (U. Heidelberg, Germany), for the H. E.S. S. collaboration and B. Rani (KASI, S. Korea), on behalf of the Fermi Large Area Telescope Collaboration**

on 6 Nov 2021; 18:38 UT

Credential Certification: Stefan J. Wagner ([swagner@lsw.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:swagner@lsw.uni-heidelberg.de))

Subjects: Gamma Ray, >GeV, VHE, AGN, Blazar, Quasar

Referred to by ATel #: [15092](#)

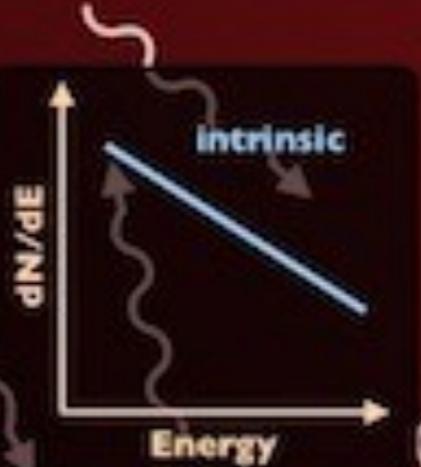
 Tweet

The Large Area Telescope (LAT), one of the two instruments on the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope, has observed enhanced gamma-ray activity from a source positionally consistent with the flat-spectrum radio quasar PKS 0346-27, also known as 4FGL J0348.5-2749 (The Fermi-LAT collaboration 2020, ApJS, 247, 33), with coordinates RA=03h 48m 50s, Dec=-27d 49' 14" (J2000; Beasley et al. 2002 ApJS, 141, 13), and a reported redshift  $z=0.991$  (White et al. 1988 ApJ, 327, 561).

The H.E.S.S. array of imaging atmospheric Cherenkov telescopes was used to carry out observations of PKS 0346-27. On November 03 (MJD 59521.9), a two hour observation shows a  $>5$  sigma excess in the very-high-energy gamma-ray band compatible with the direction of PKS 0346-27. Preliminary analysis shows a very soft power law (photon spectral index  $> 4$ ). H.E.S.S. observations are ongoing.

Preliminary analysis of the data obtained with the Fermi/LAT instrument indicates that this source was in an elevated gamma-ray emission state on November 02, 2021, with a daily averaged gamma-ray flux ( $E>100\text{MeV}$ ) of  $(1.8\pm0.2) \times 10^{-6}$  photons  $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  (statistical uncertainty only). This corresponds to a flux increase of a factor of 200 relative to the average flux reported in the fourth Fermi-LAT catalog (4FGL). The corresponding photon index is  $1.8\pm0.1$ , and is significantly smaller than the 4FGL value of  $2.5\pm0.1$ . Previous enhanced gamma-ray activity in the source was detected on February 20, 2020 (ATel#[13521](#)).

AGN



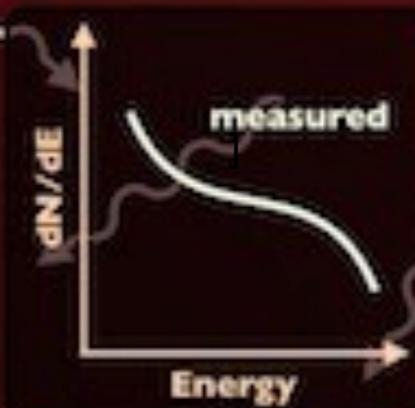
Stars and Dust  
in Galaxies

HE/VHE  $\gamma$ -  
Rays

EBL

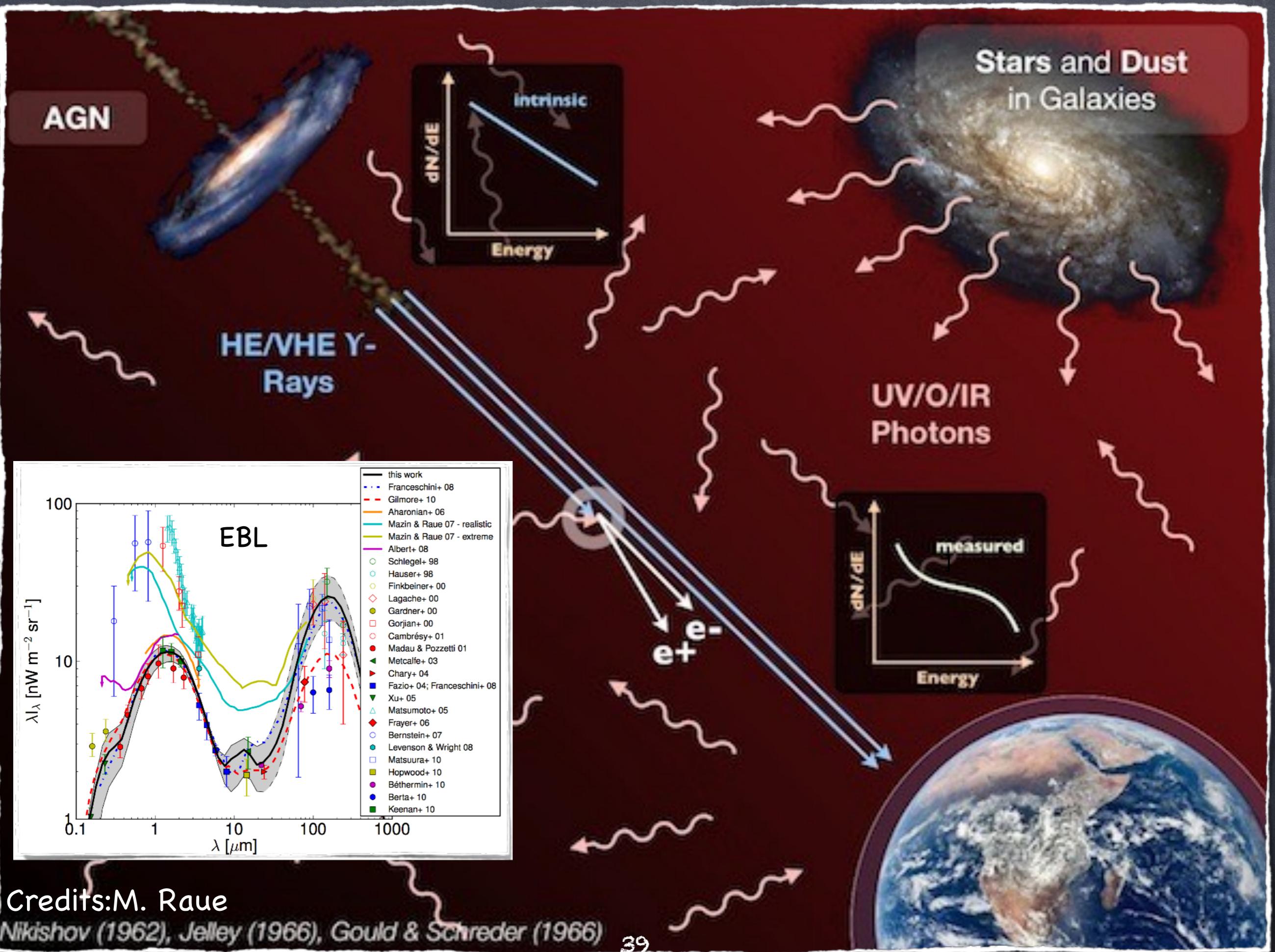
UV/O/IR  
Photons

$e^-$   
 $e^+$

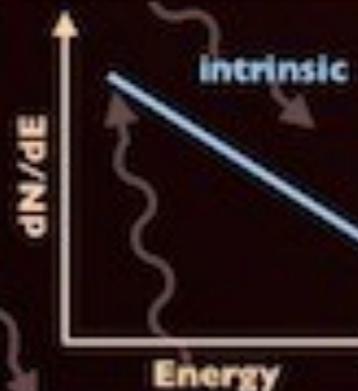


Credits: M. Raue

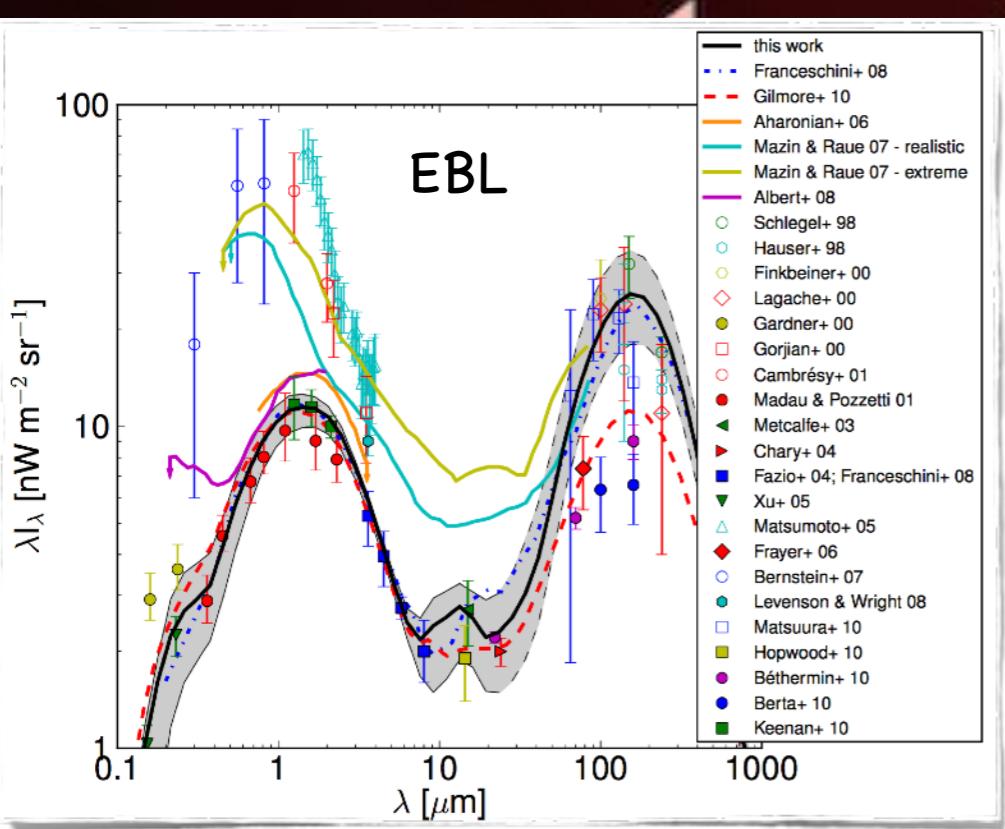
Nikishov (1962), Jelley (1966), Gould & Schreder (1966)



AGN



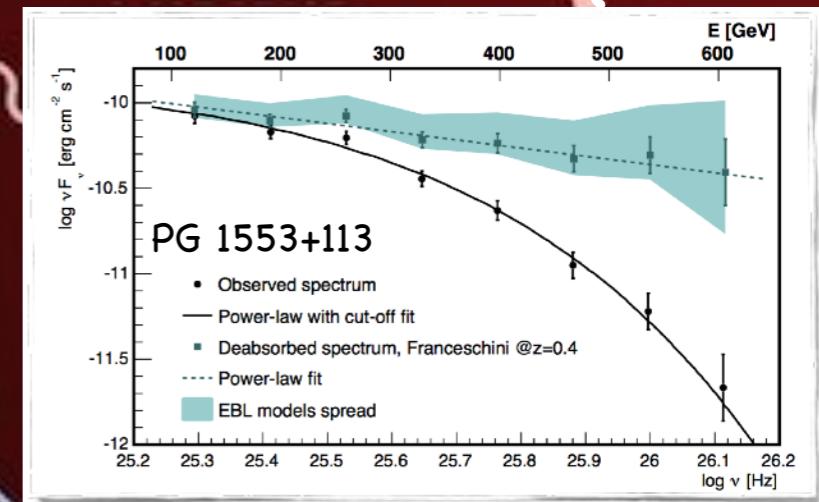
HE/VHE  $\gamma$ -Rays



EBL

Stars and Dust  
in Galaxies

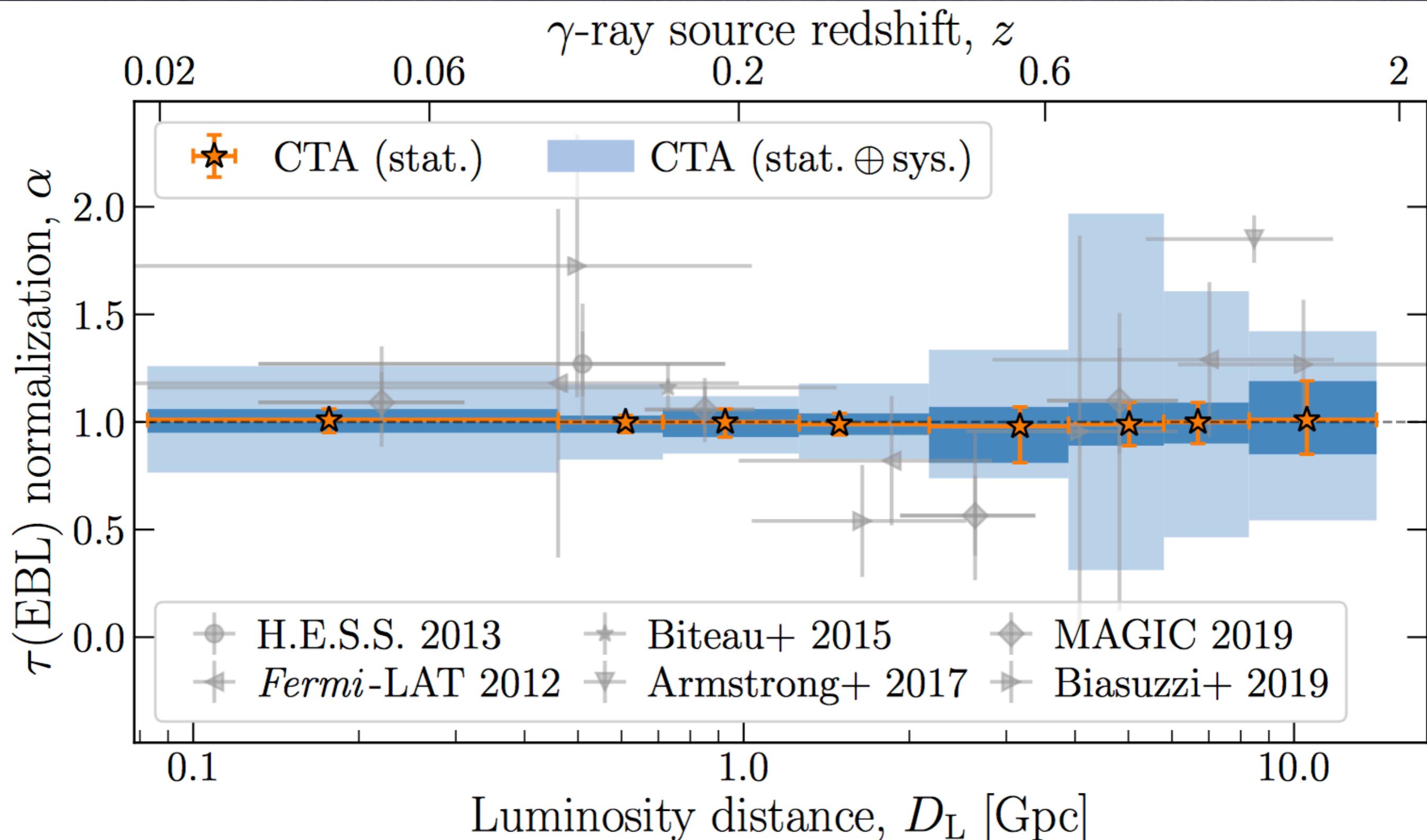
PG 1553+113( $z \sim 0.4$ )



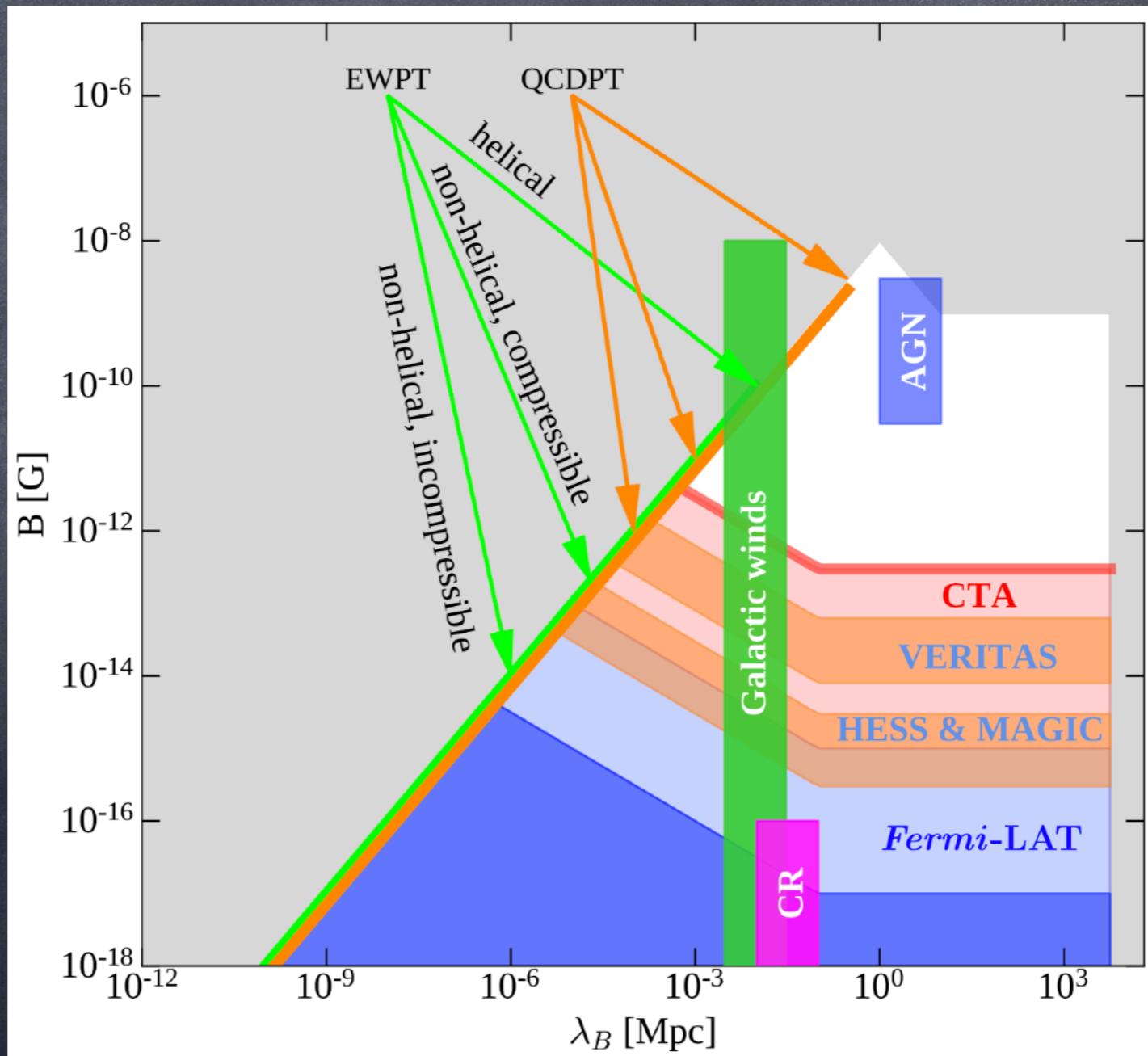
Aleksic et al. 2015

Credits: M. Raue

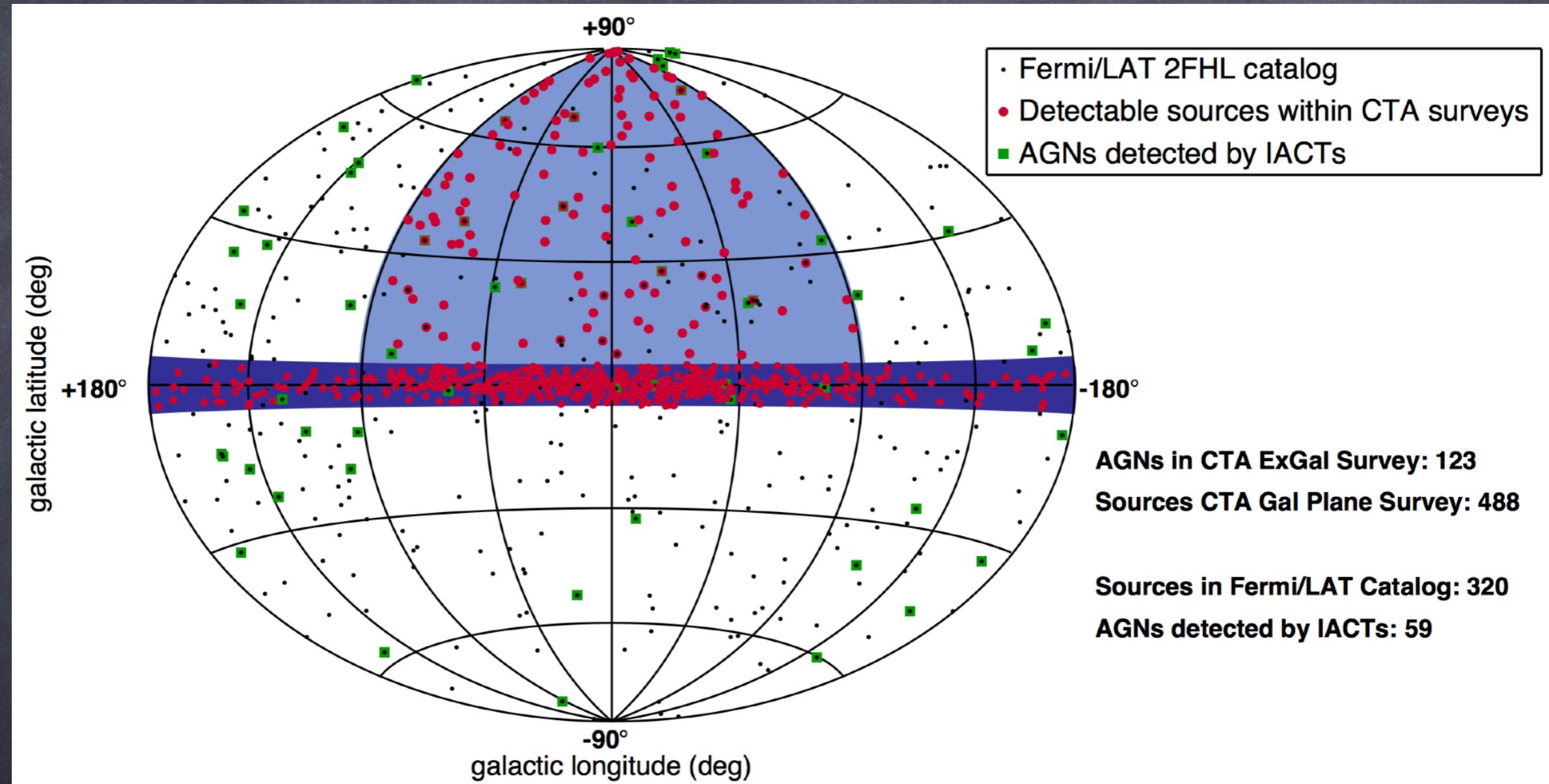
Nikishov (1962), Jelley (1966), Gould & Schreder (1966)



# Intergalactic magnetic field



# EGAL CTA Survey



6 mCrab sensitivity

25% of the sky

Science with the Cherenkov Telescope Array; arXiv:1709.07997

# Take home message

- The VHE extragalactic astronomy is nowadays strongly bias towards flaring episodes
- CTA will help us to explore the VHE sky not only with an improved sensitivity but also in an extended energy range which should allow to unveil/extend new population currently under represented
- MWL/Multi-messenger coordination is key to understand the physical processes behind