

Messages from very high energy γ rays

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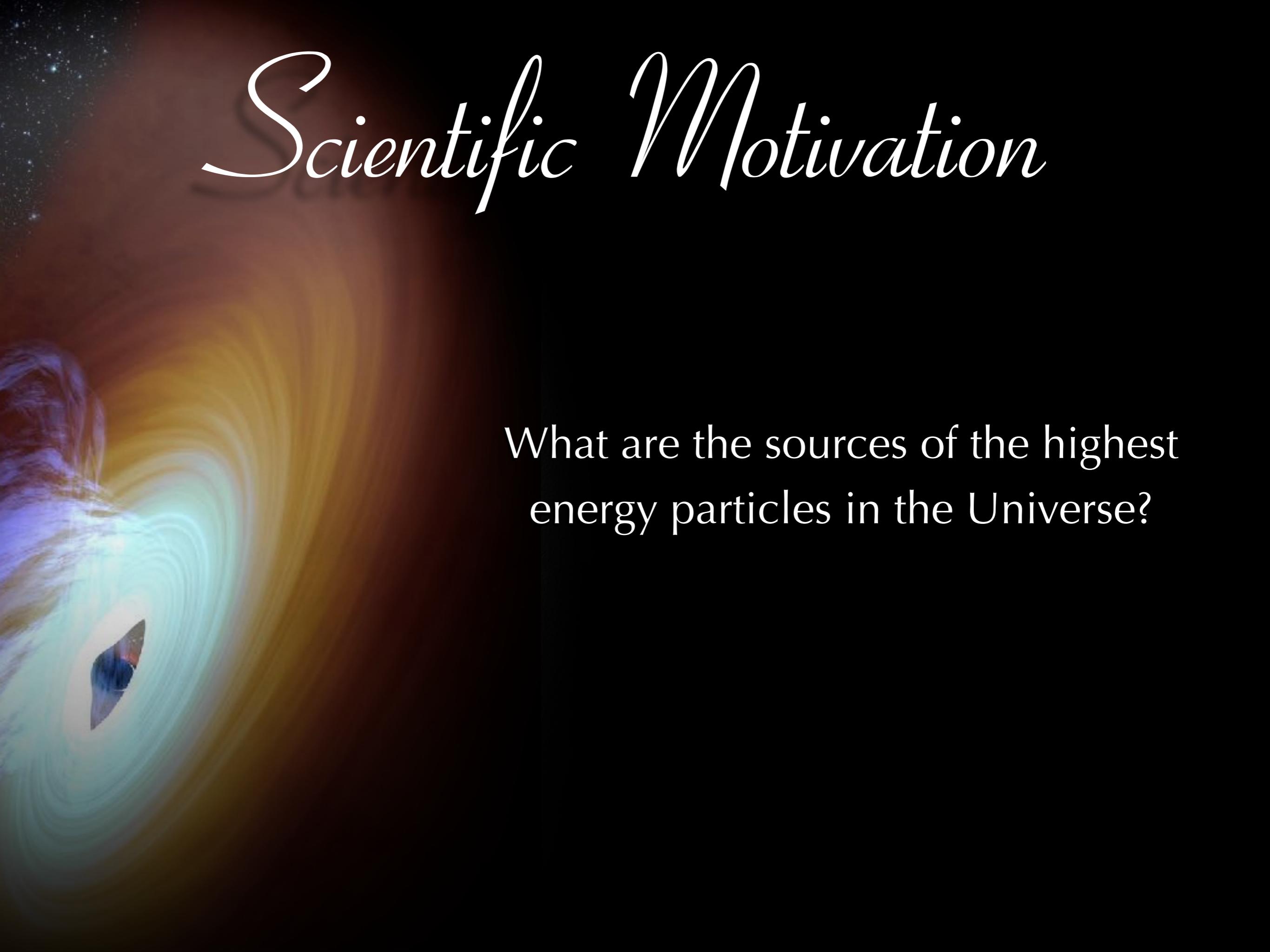
Eberly College of Science



Outline

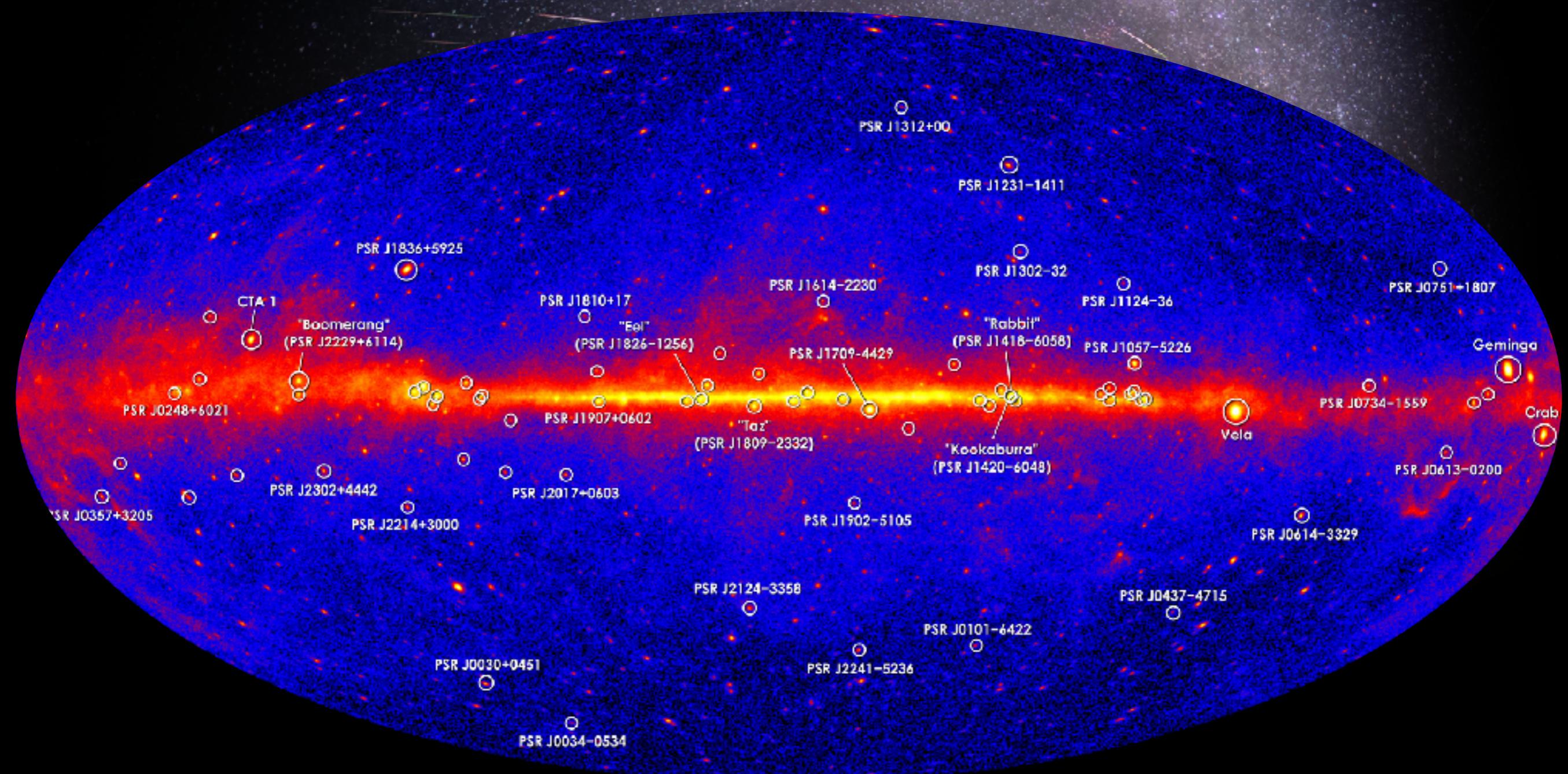
- ▶ Introduction and Scientific Motivation
- ▶ Biased selection of recent results:
 - ▶ Galactic Pevatrons
 - ▶ New TeV sources
 - ▶ Jets of a microquasar
 - ▶ Gamma-ray bursts
 - ▶ Flaring quasars
- ▶ Conclusions & Outlook

Scientific Motivation

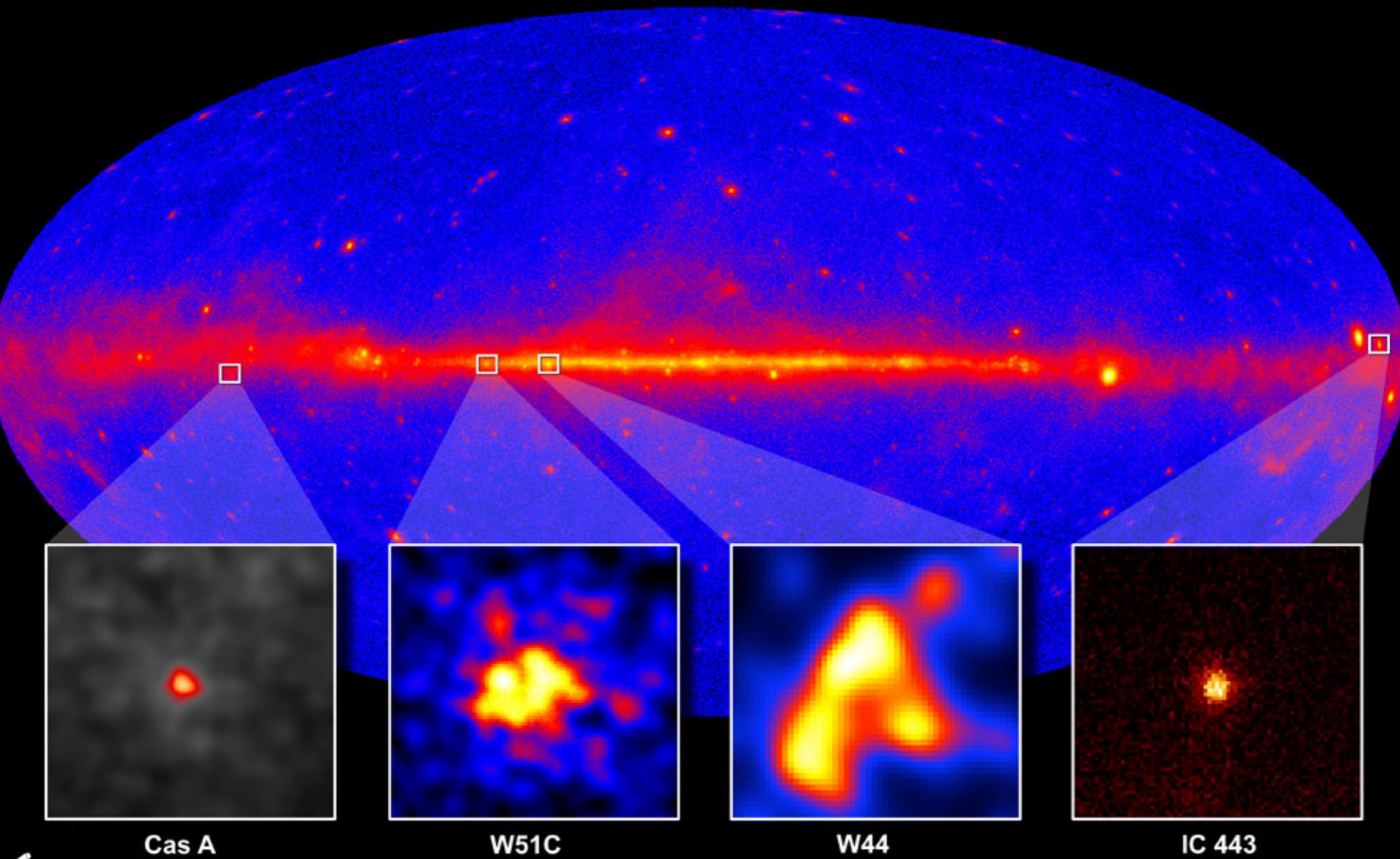
A vibrant, swirling nebula or galaxy dominates the left side of the slide, transitioning from deep reds and oranges at the top to bright blues and whites at the bottom. It has a textured, organic appearance with many layers of color and light.

What are the sources of the highest
energy particles in the Universe?

Gamma rays



NASA's Fermi telescope resolves supernova remnants at GeV energies



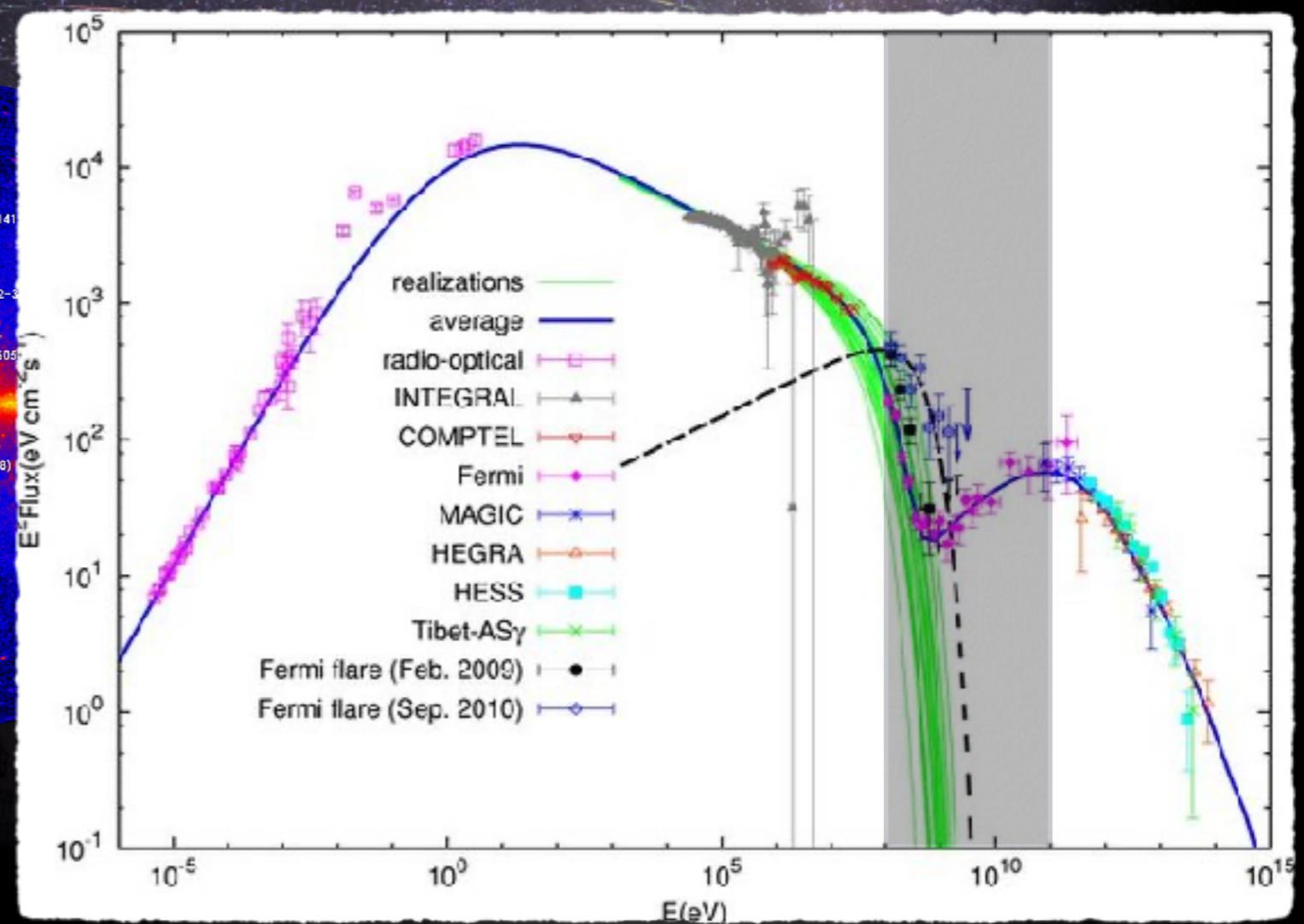
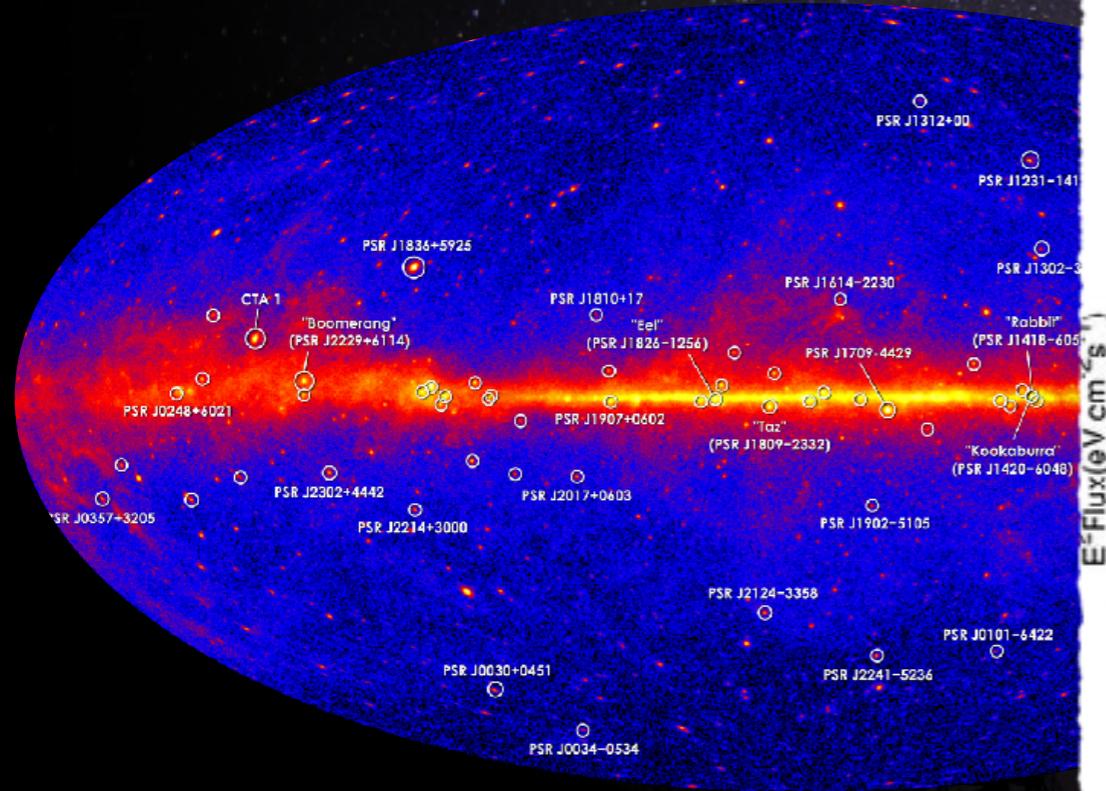
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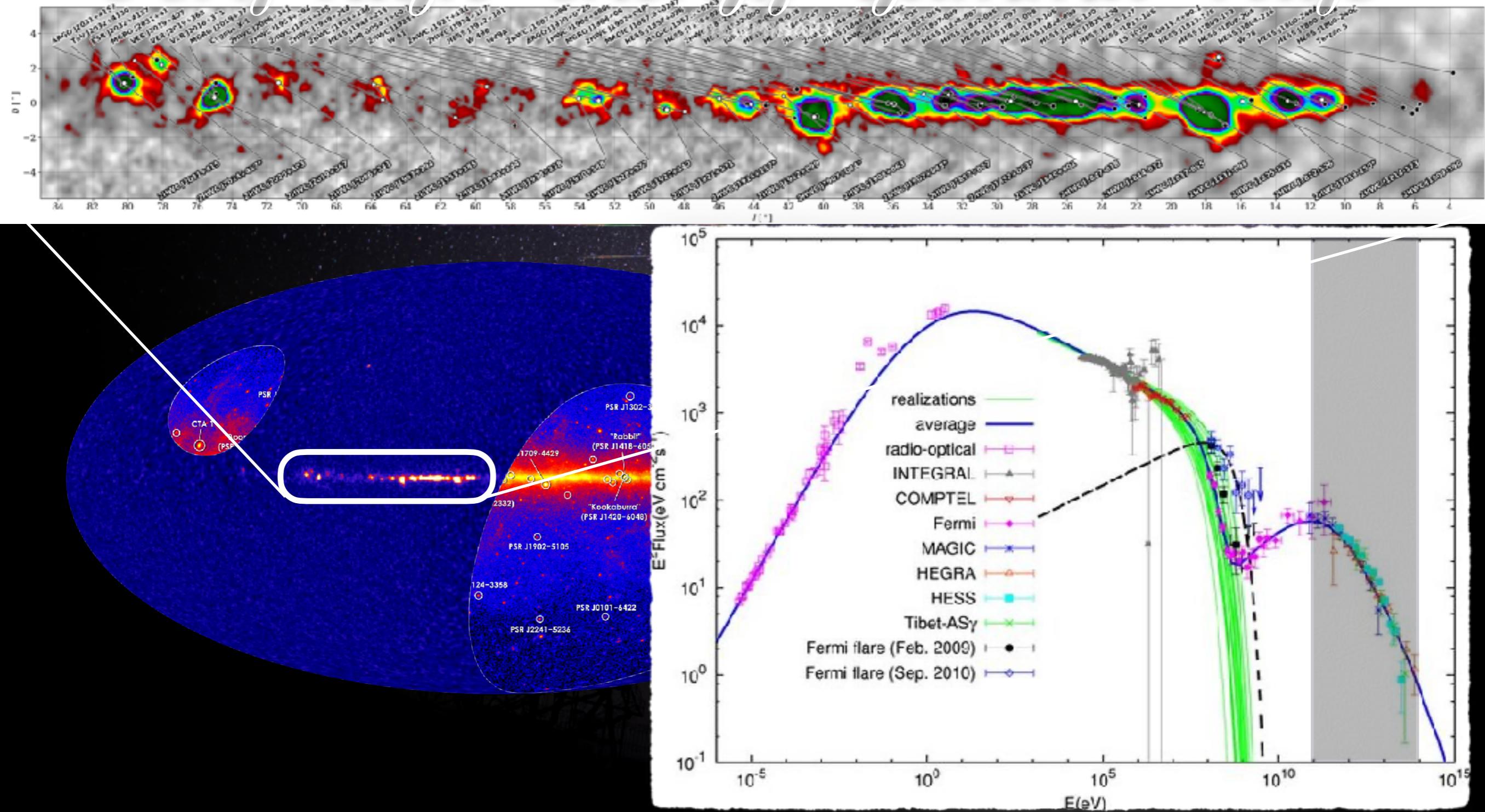
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Gamma rays



GeV energy range

Very-high energy gamma rays

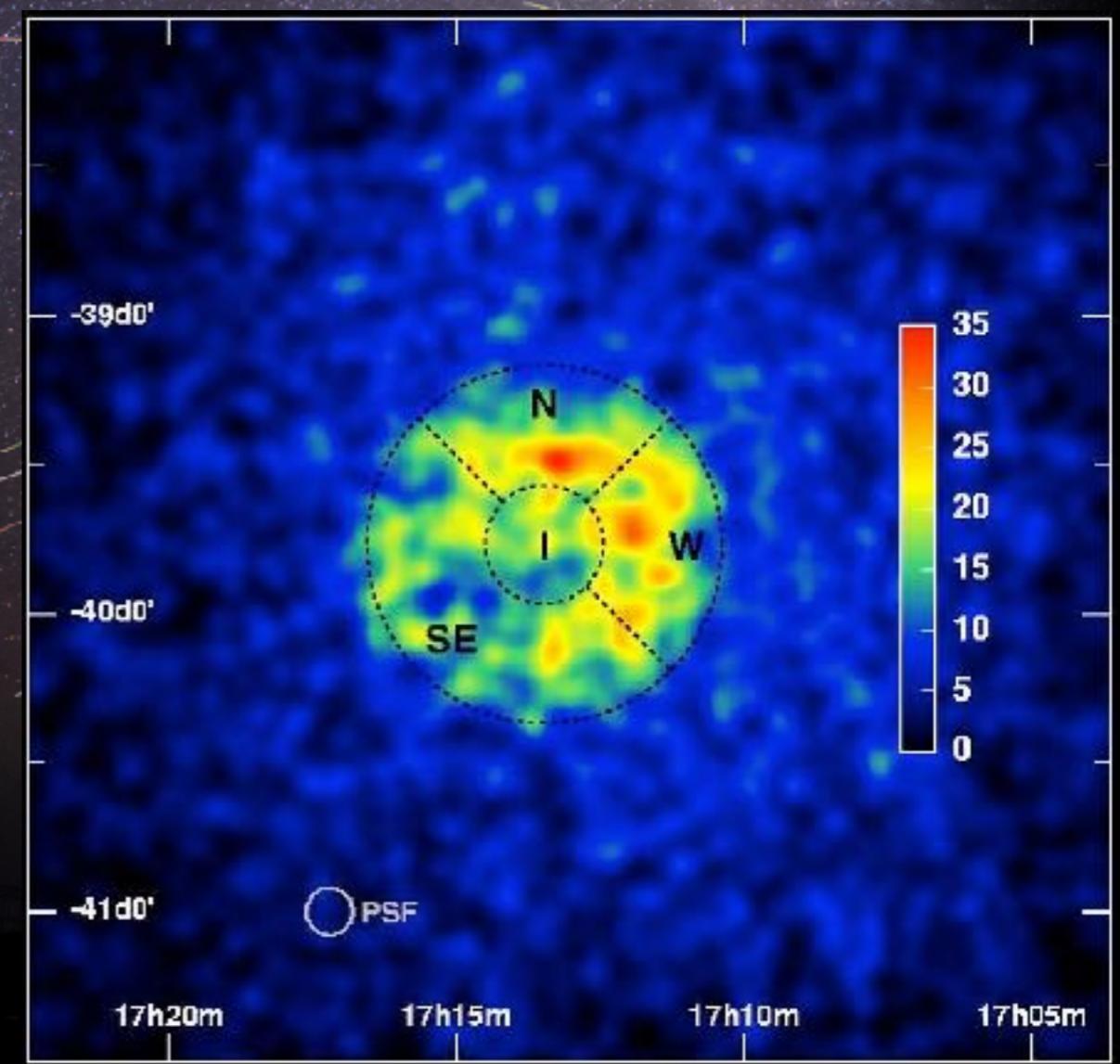


TeV energy range

Accelerating photons

First resolved TeV γ -ray image
of a Shell type SNR
(Resolution ~ 10 arcmin)

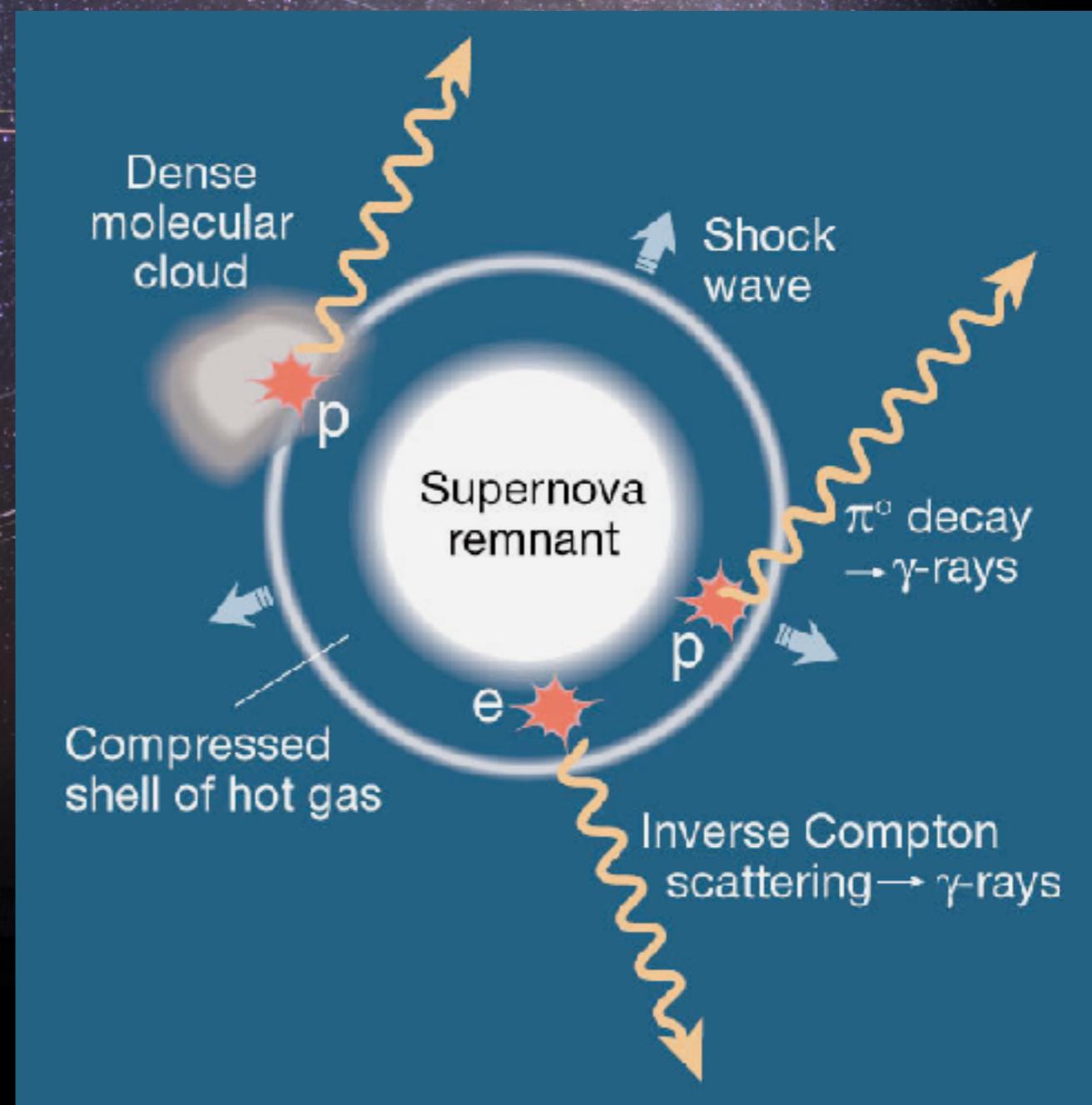
Acceleration source of cosmic
rays, but is it evidence of
protons?



Accelerating photons

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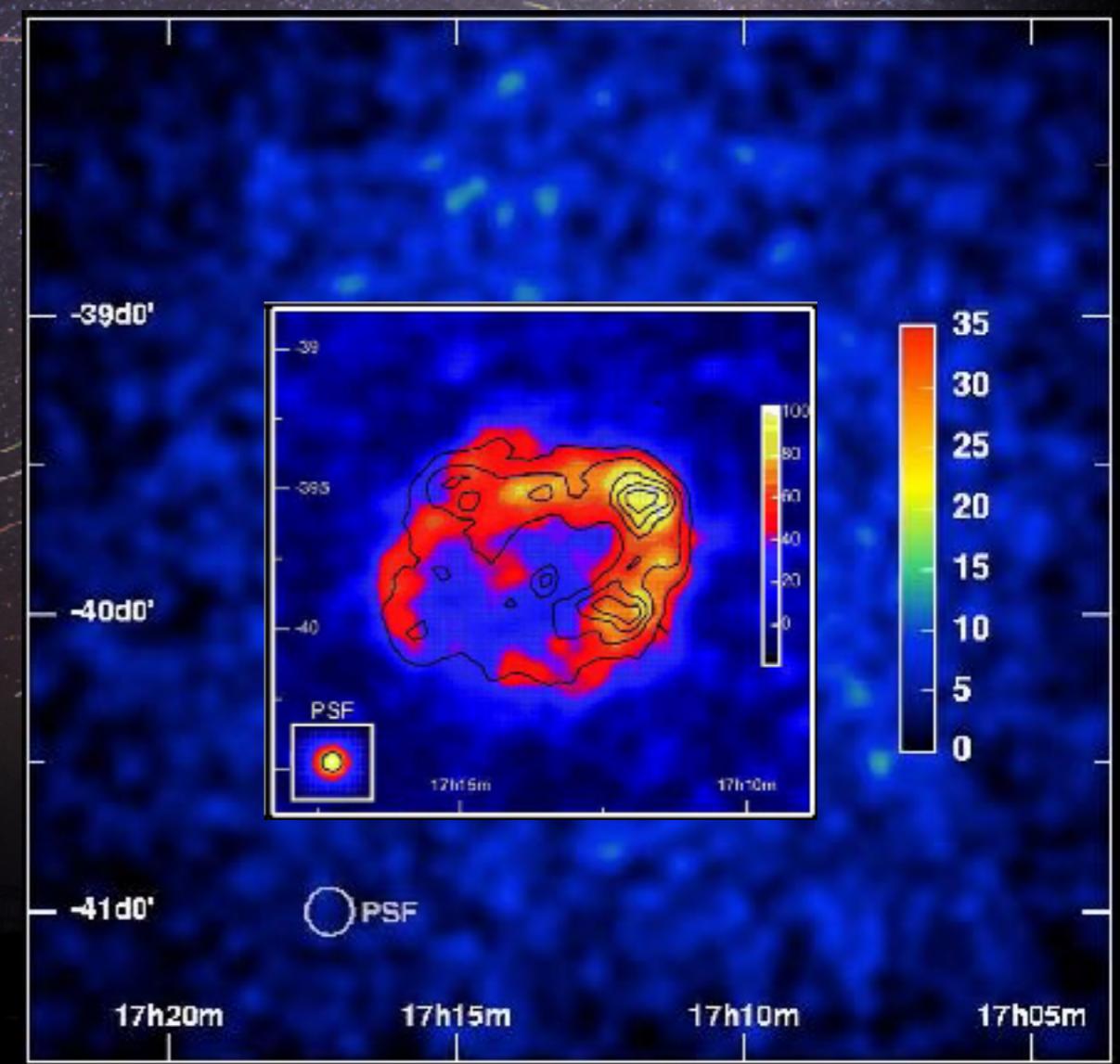
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Accelerating photons

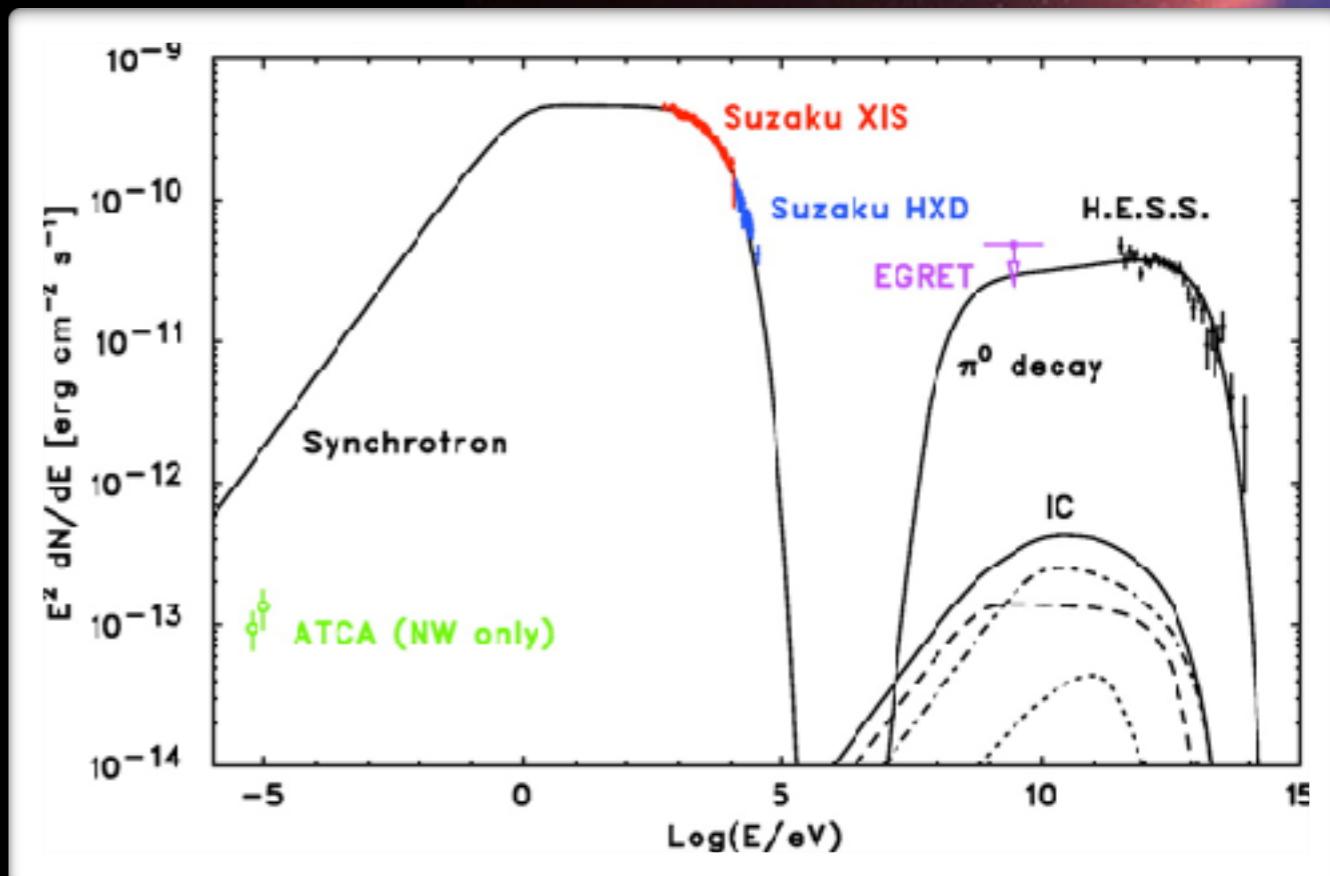
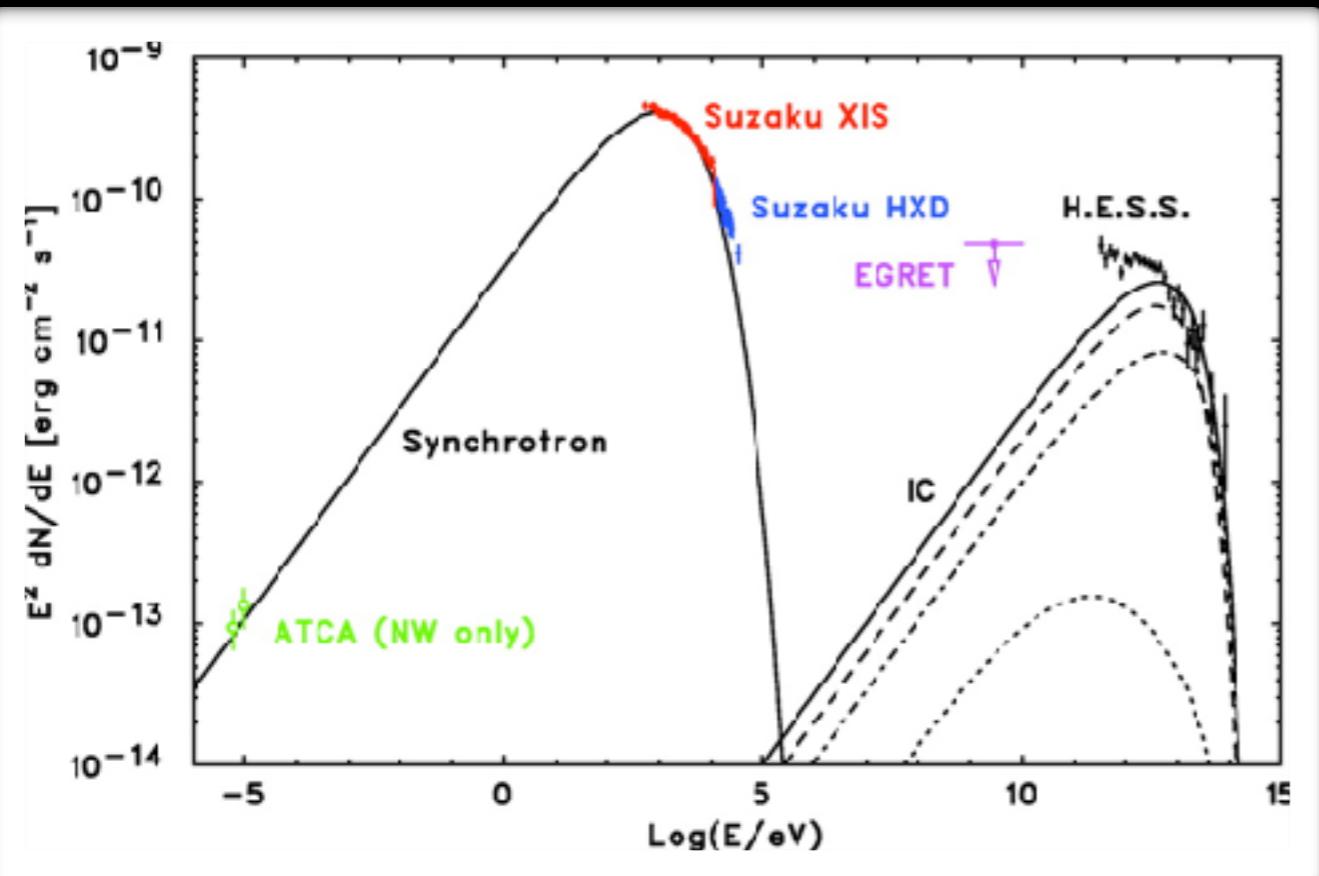
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Accelerating photons

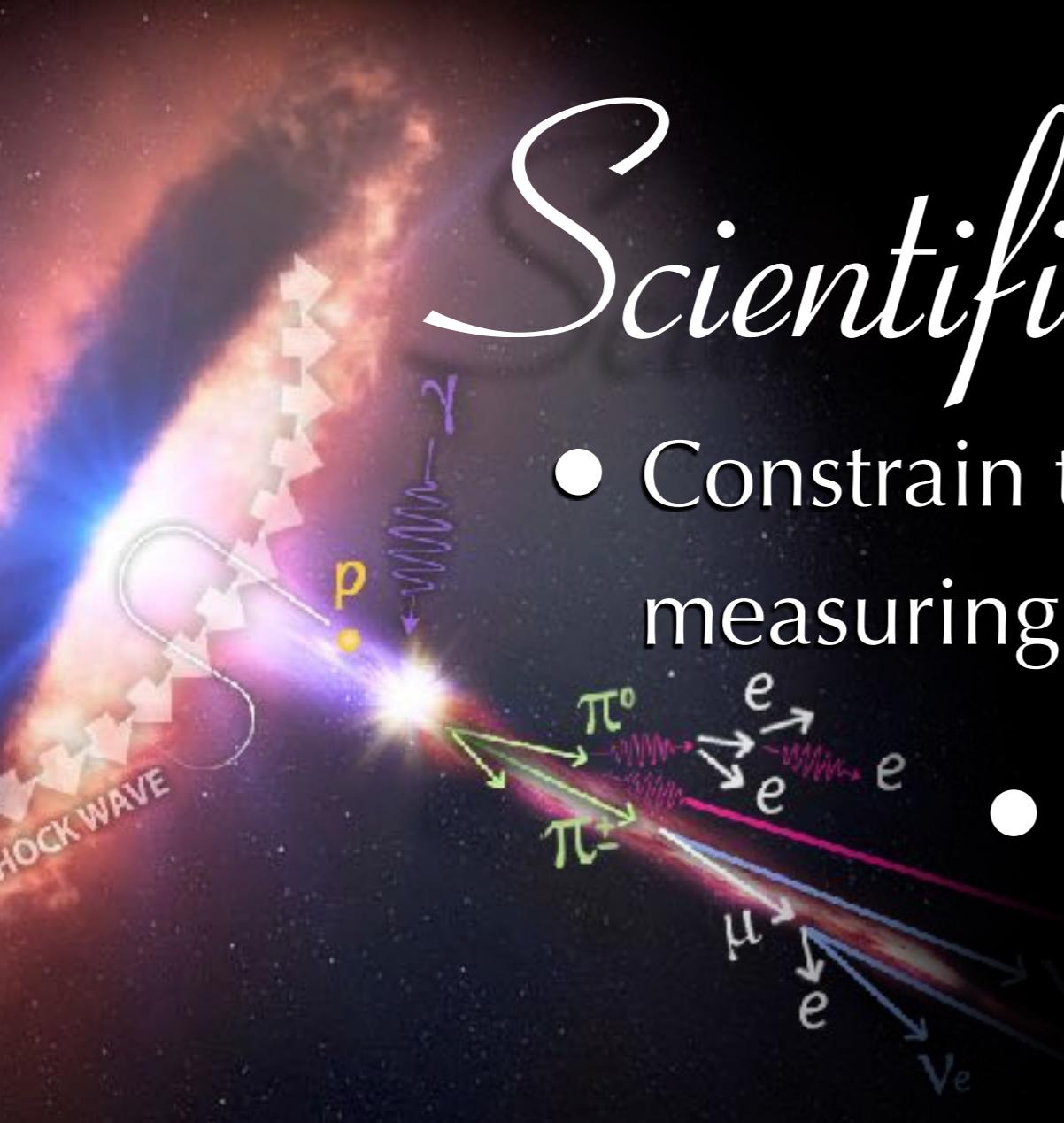
Tanaka et al., The Astrophysical Journal 685 (2008) 988



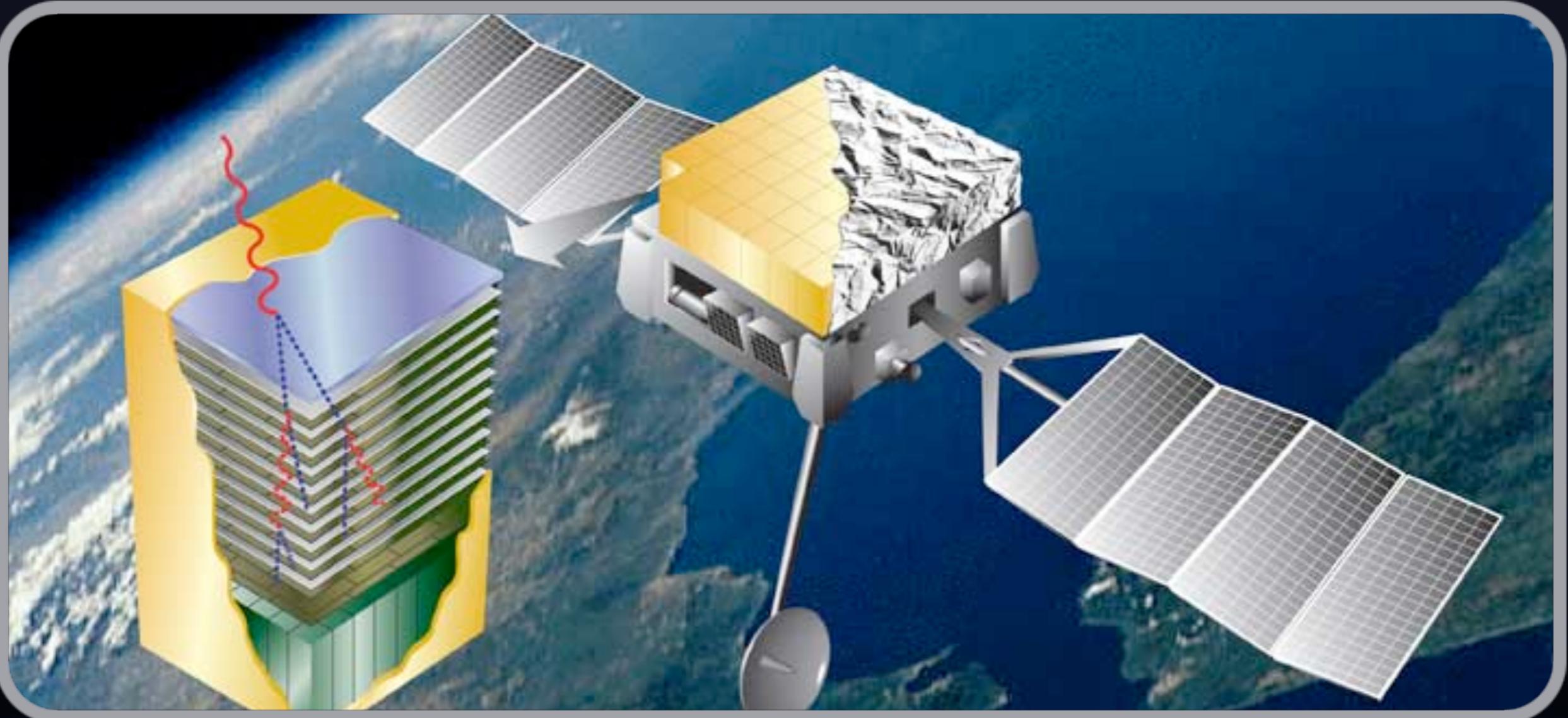
Leptonic origin (i.e., electrons) vs. Hadronic origin (i.e., protons)

Scientific motivation

- Constrain the origin of cosmic rays by measuring gamma-ray spectra to 100 TeV.
- Probe particle acceleration in astrophysical objects with a complimentary set of instruments.
- Explore new physics in the TeV energy range.



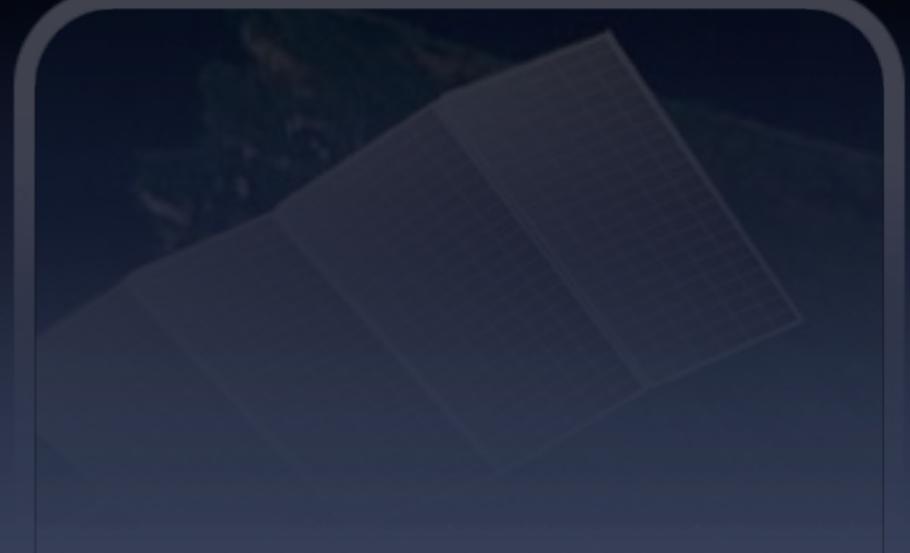
Experimental Techniques



- Space-based detectors
 - Low energy threshold
 - EGRET, Fermi-LAT

Experimental Techniques

- ✓ Background free
- ✓ Large duty cycle
- ✓ Large aperture
- Small area
- **Space-based detectors**
 - Low energy threshold
 - EGRET, Fermi-LAT



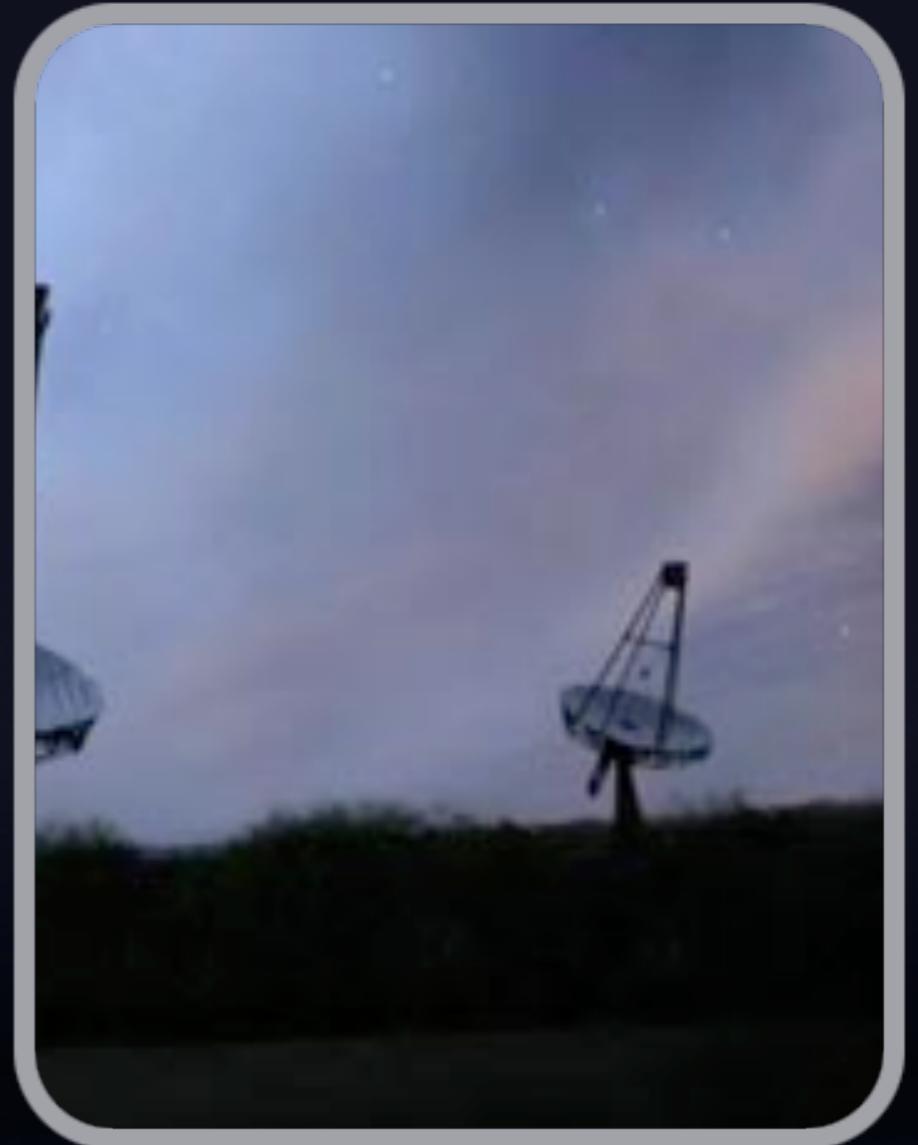
Experimental Techniques



- Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes
 - High sensitivity
 - HESS, MAGIC, VERITAS, CTA

Experimental Techniques

- ✓ Large effective area
- ✓ Excellent background rejection
- Small aperture
- Low duty cycle
- **Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes**
 - High sensitivity
 - HESS, MAGIC, VERITAS, CTA



Experimental Techniques

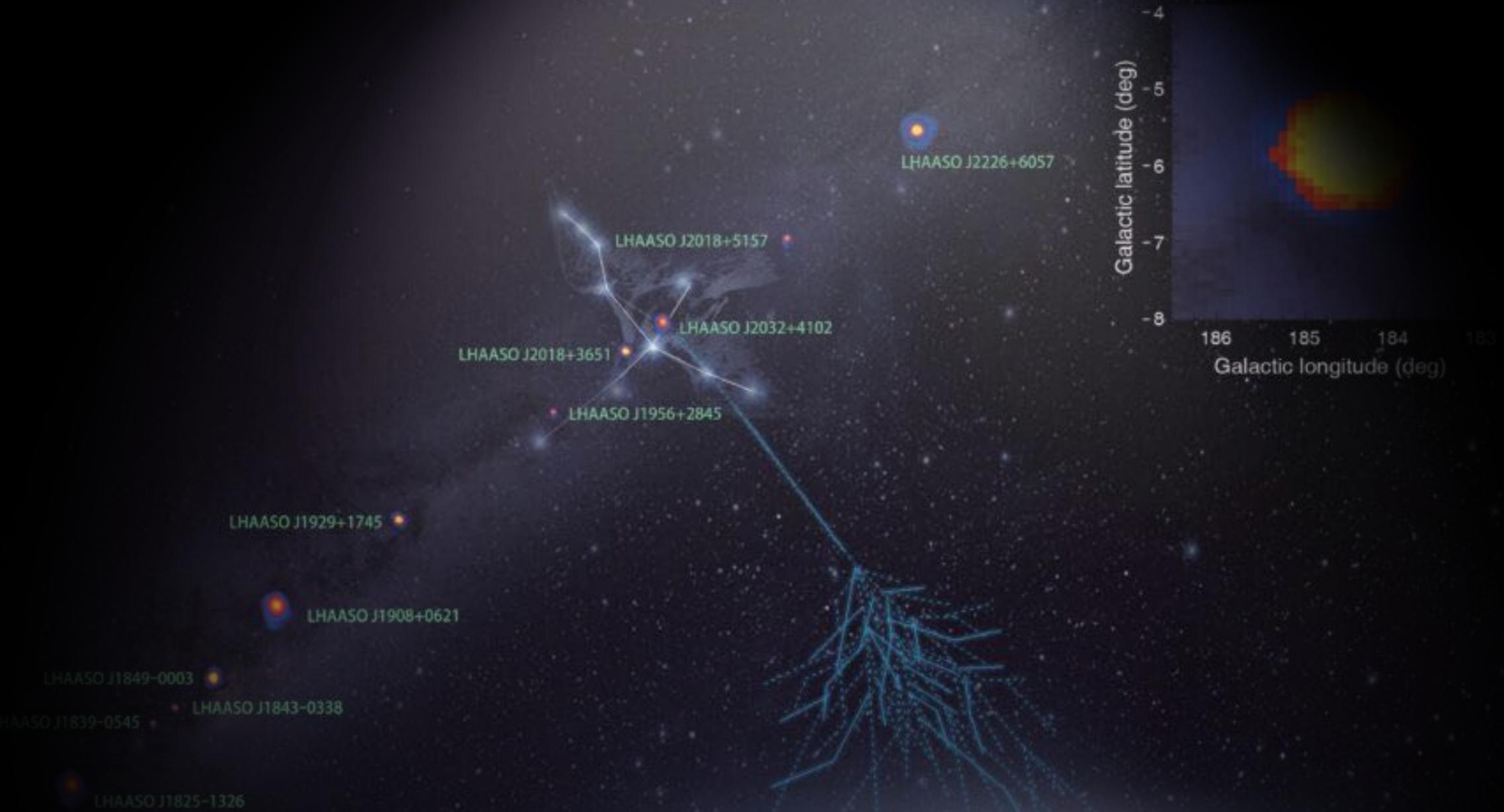


- Ground array of air-shower particle detectors
- Large aperture + High duty cycle
- Milagro, Tibet, ARGO, HAWC, LHAASO

Experimental Techniques

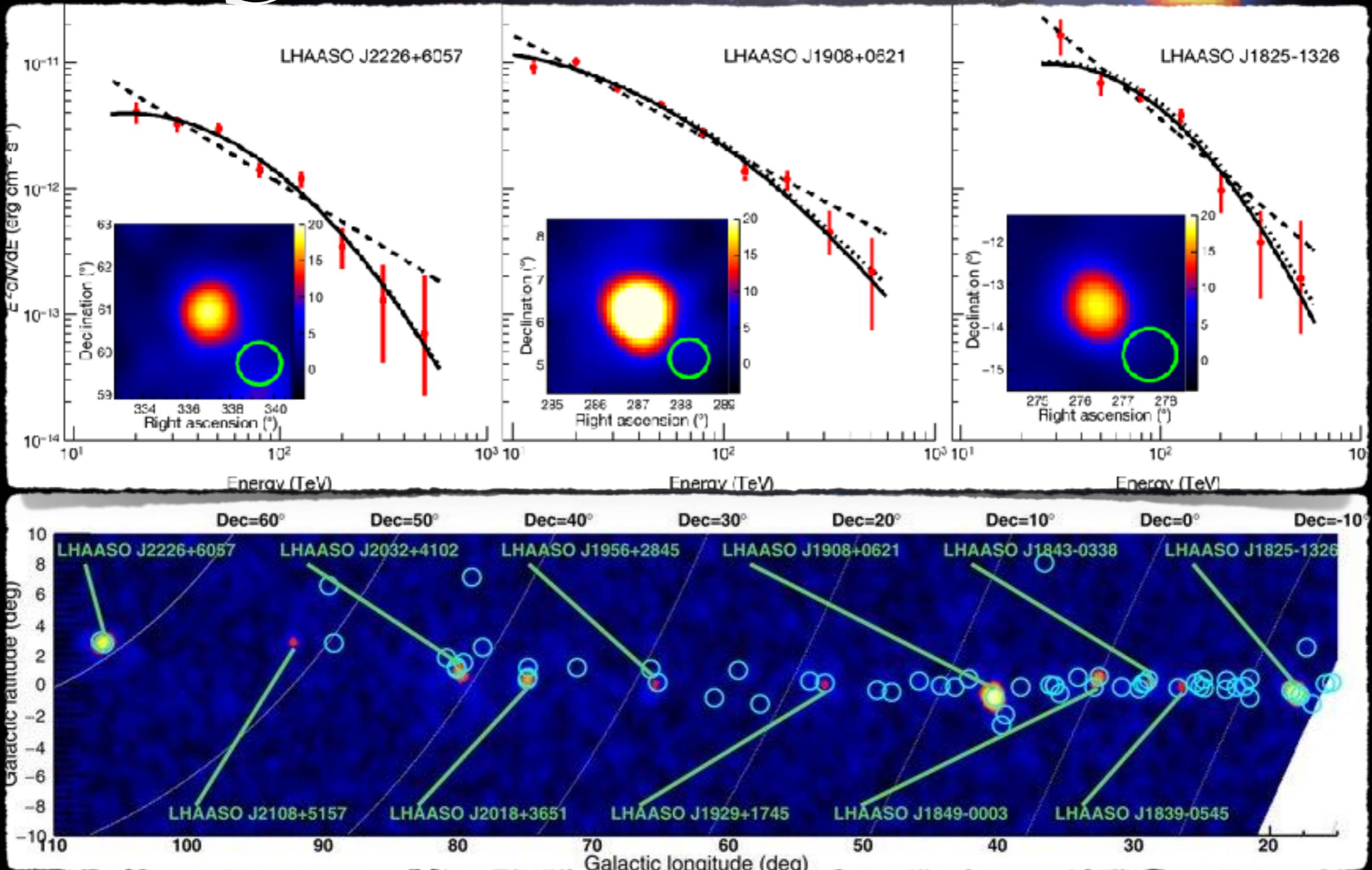
- ✓ Large aperture
- ✓ Excellent background rejection
- ✓ Large duty cycle
- Moderate area
- **Ground array of air-shower particle detectors**
Large aperture + High duty cycle
Milagro, Tibet, ARGO, HAWC, LHAASO



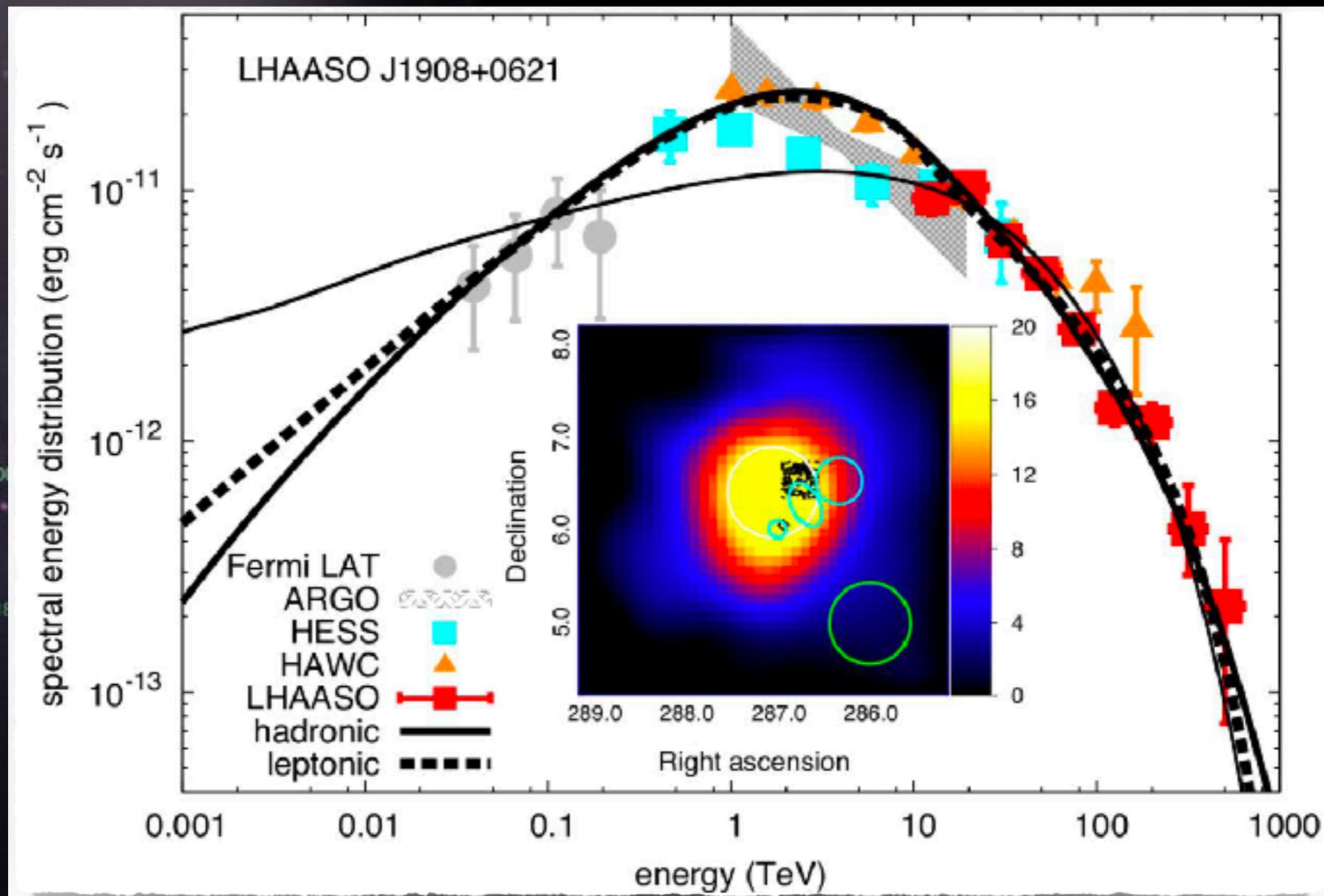


Selected Results

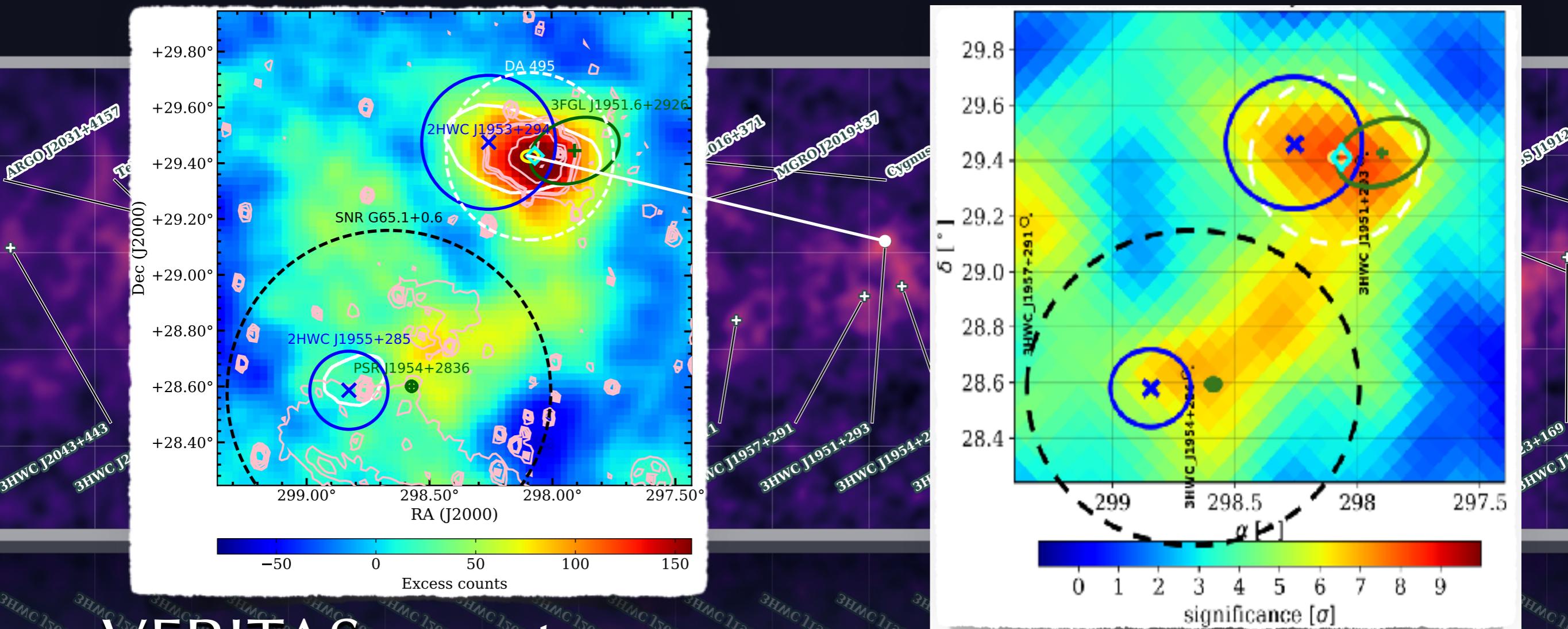
Galactic Pevatrons



Galactic Pevatrons



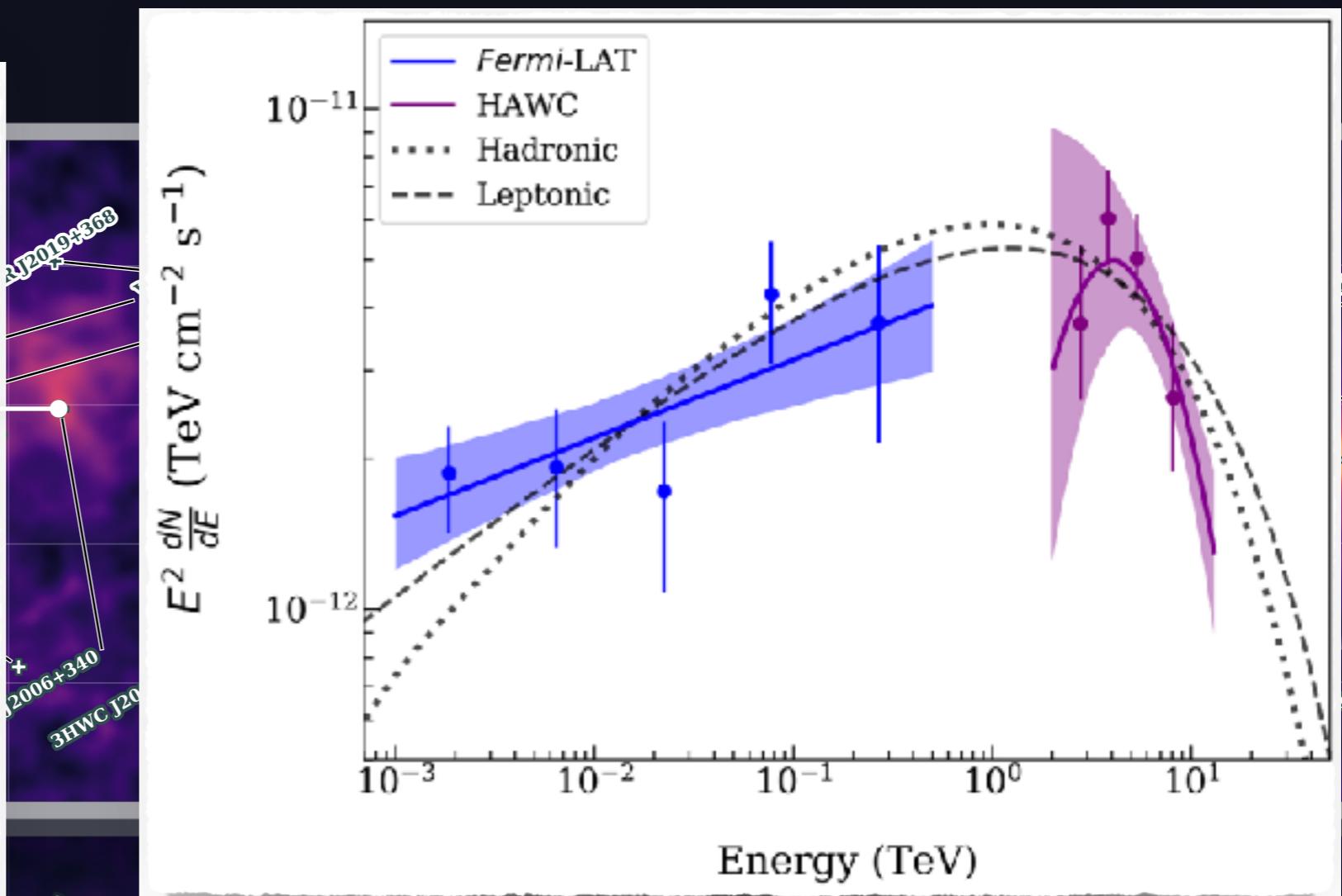
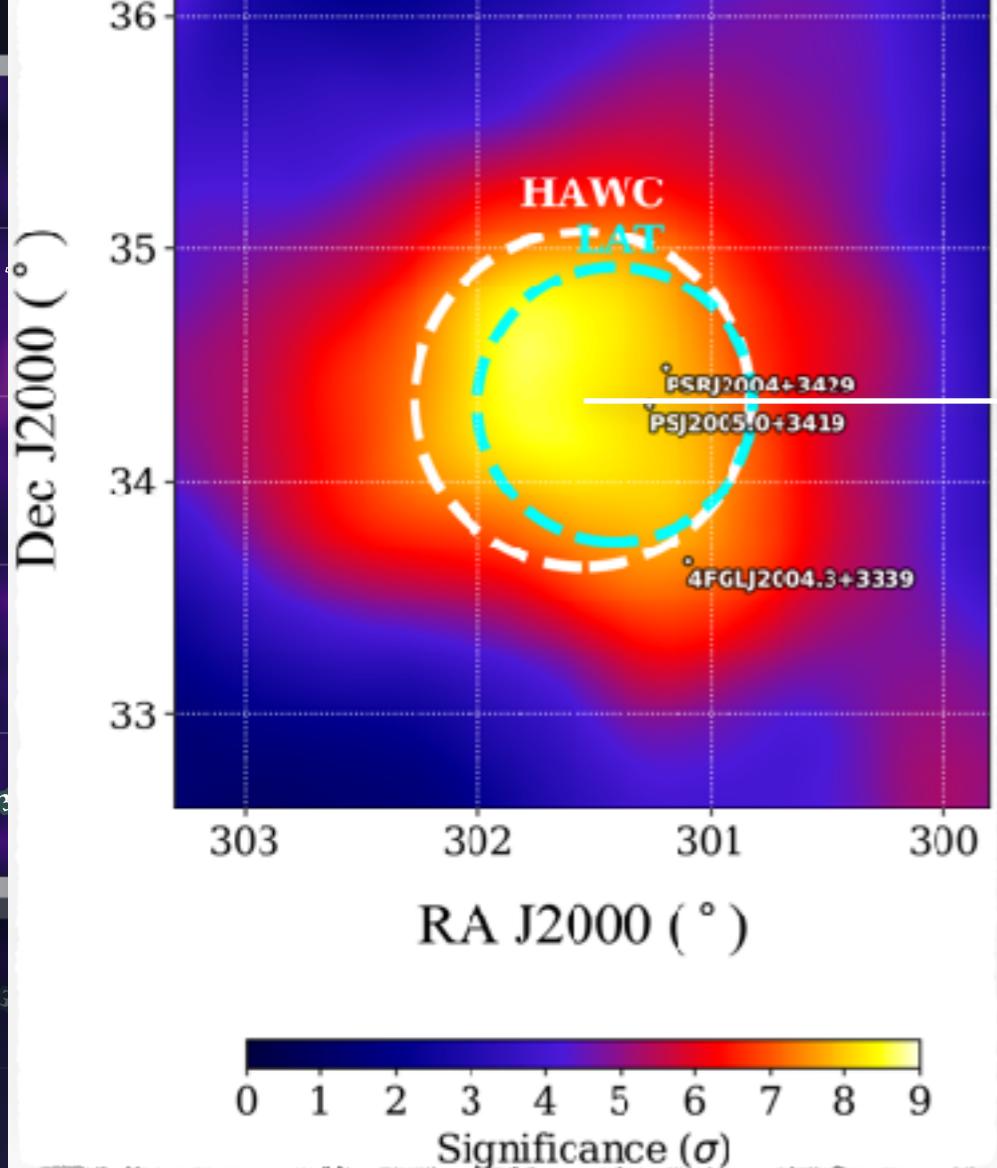
New TeV sources



VERITAS counts map

3HWC significance map

New TeV sources

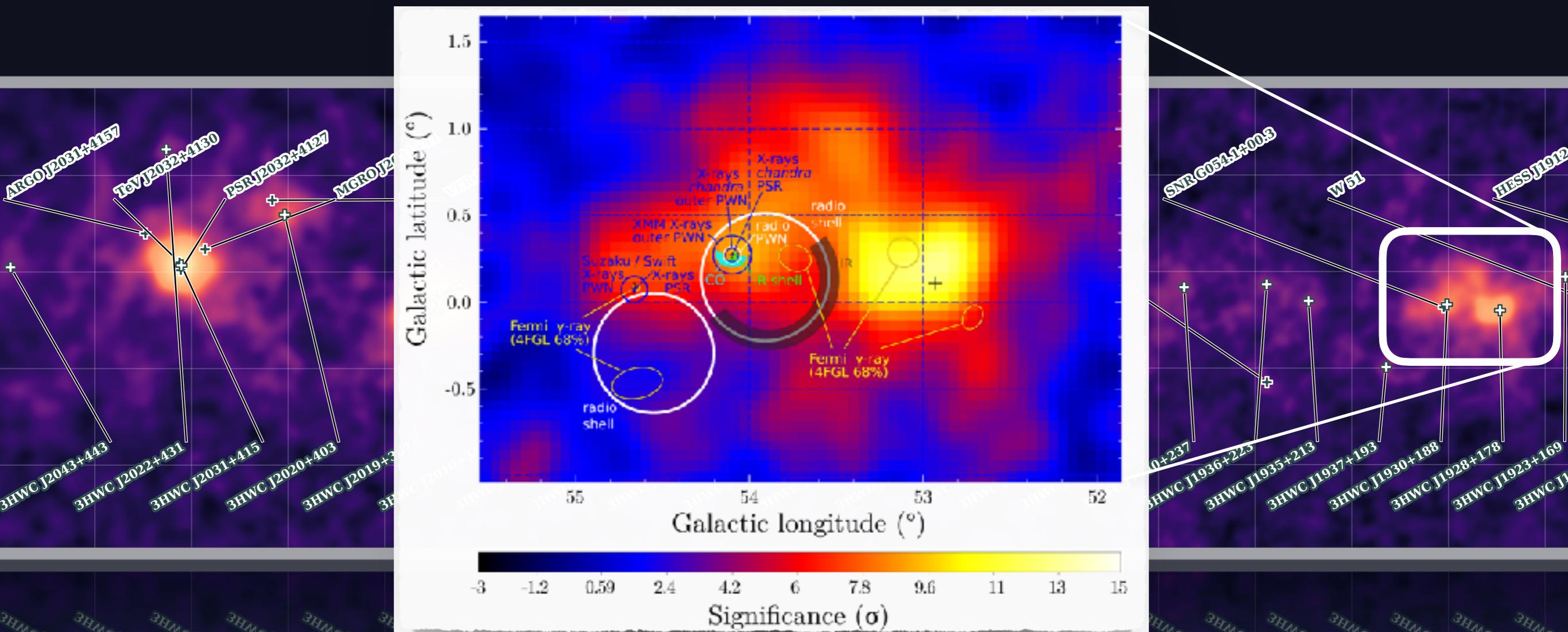


SED from HAWC and LAT data

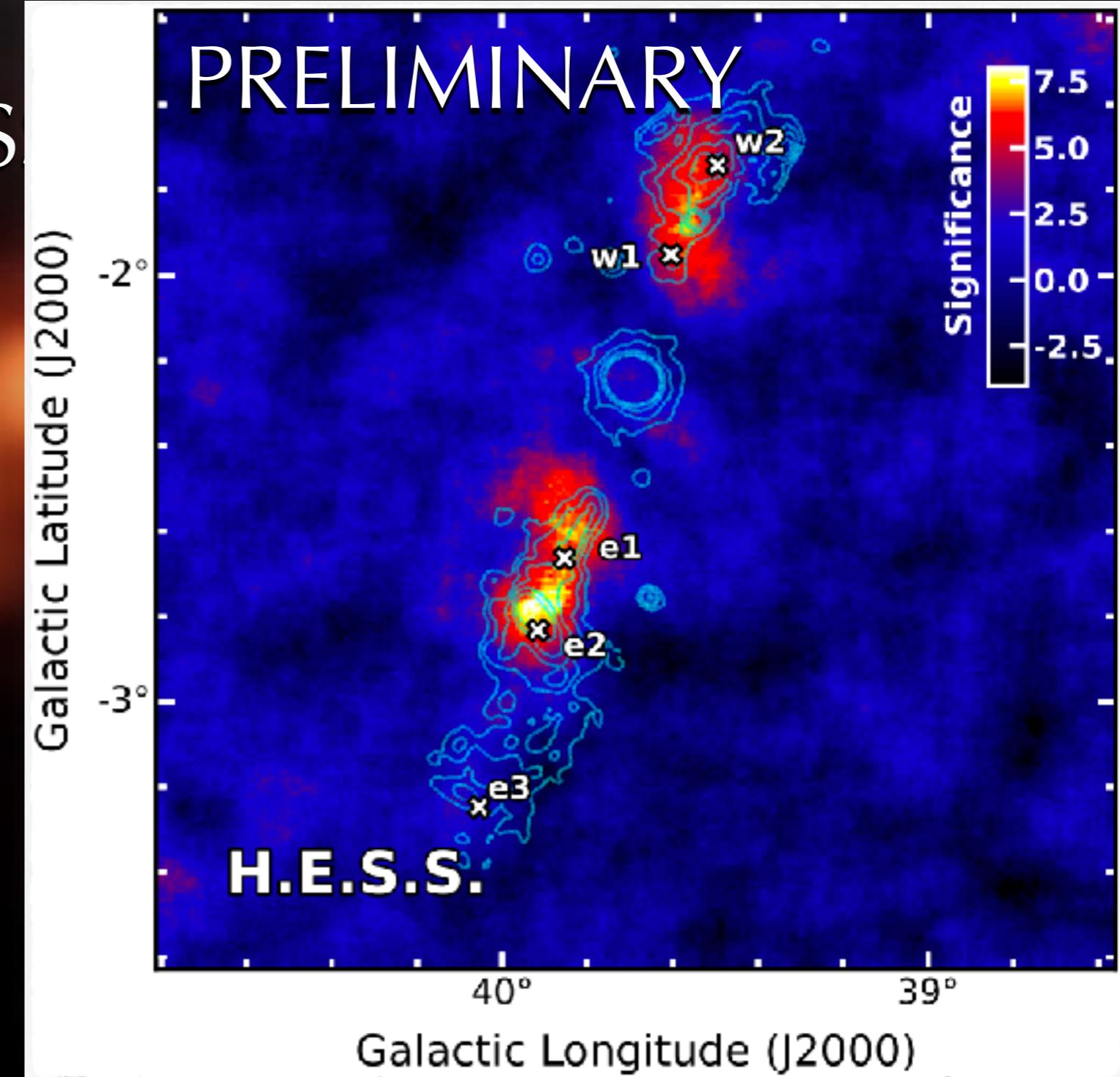
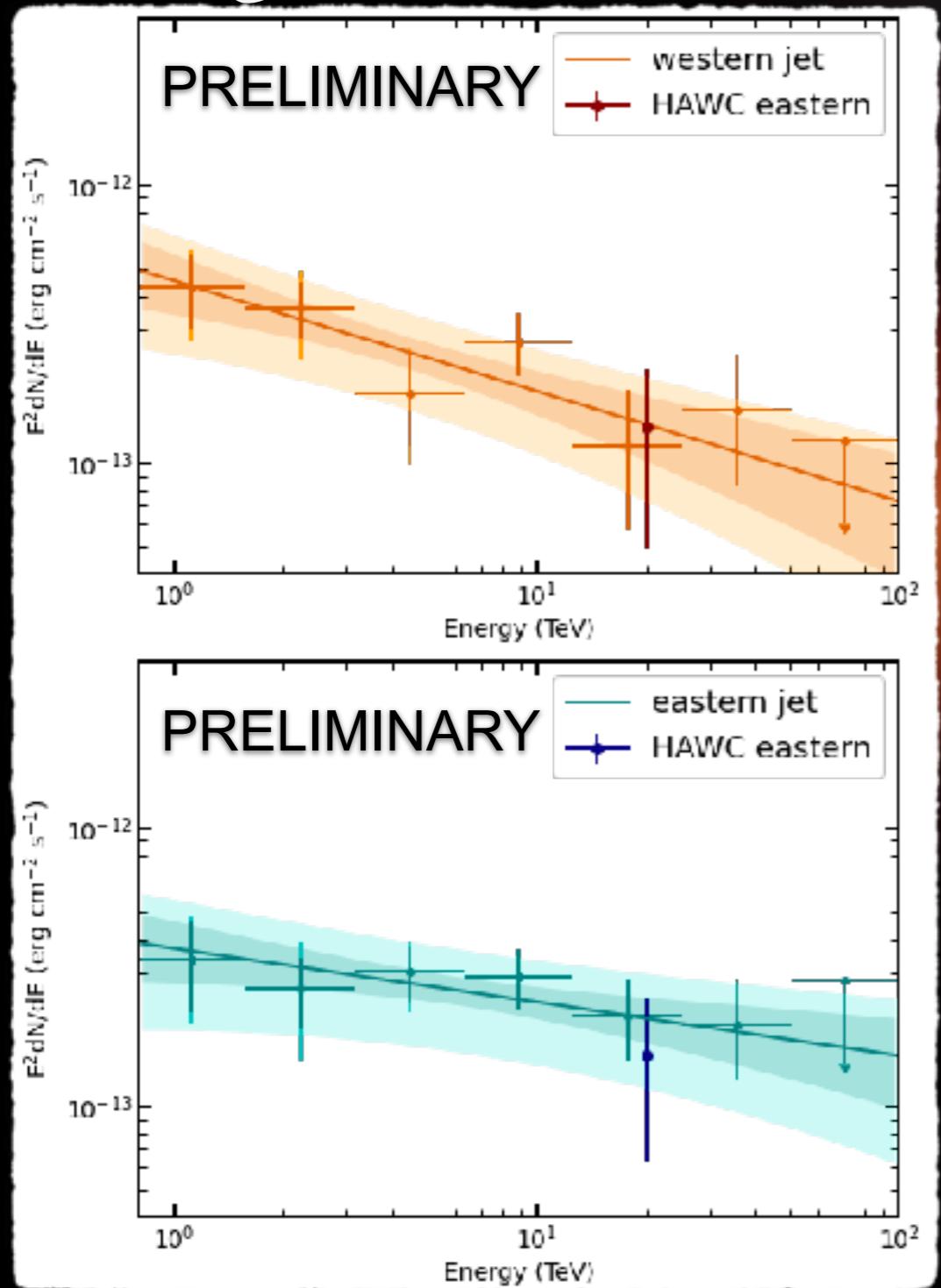
3HWC significance map

[HAWC+Fermi-LAT] ApJL 903 (2020) L14

New TeV sources



Jets of a Microquasar



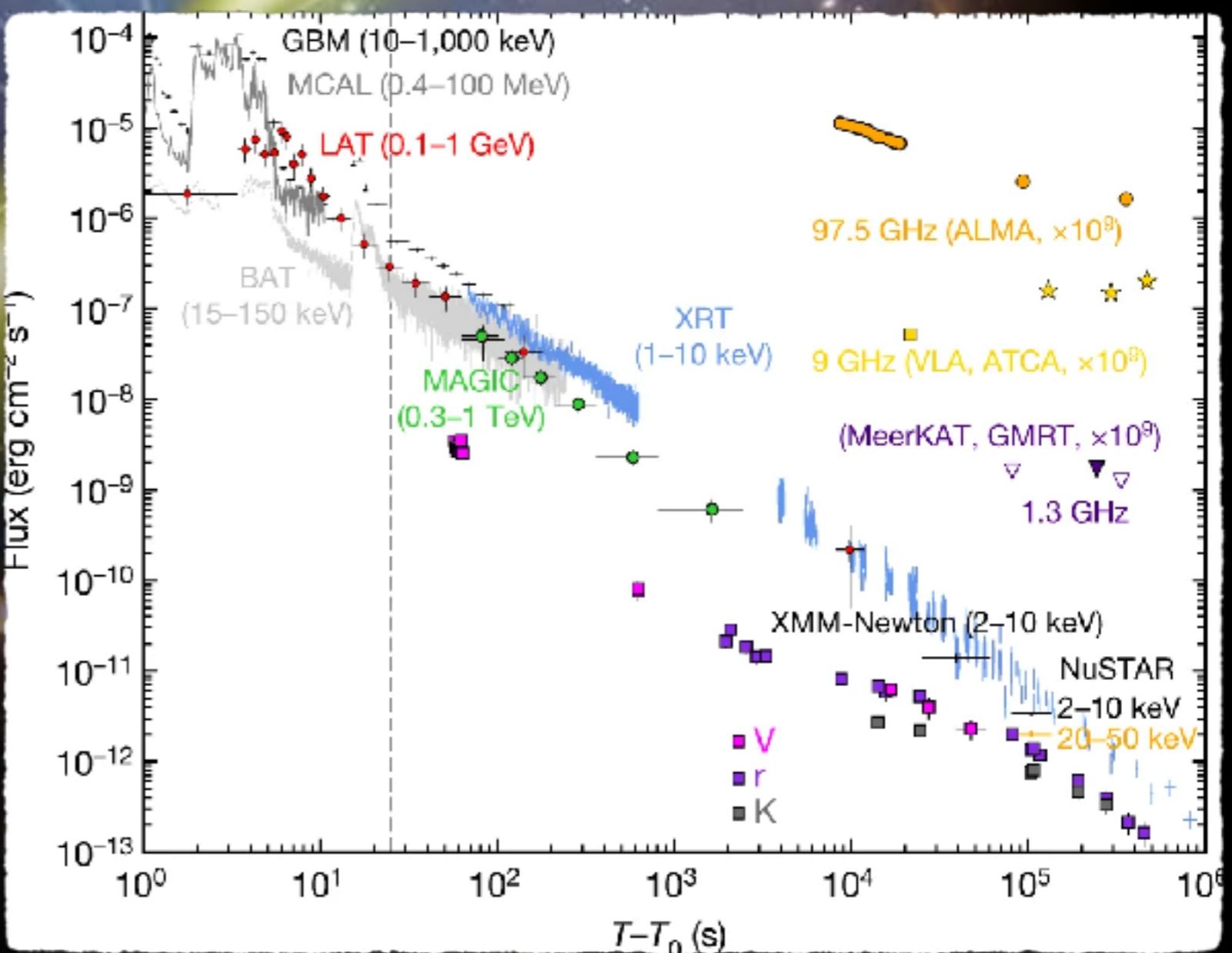
Gamma Ray Bursts

GRB190114C: 1st detection of VHE emission!

Brightest VHE γ -ray source!

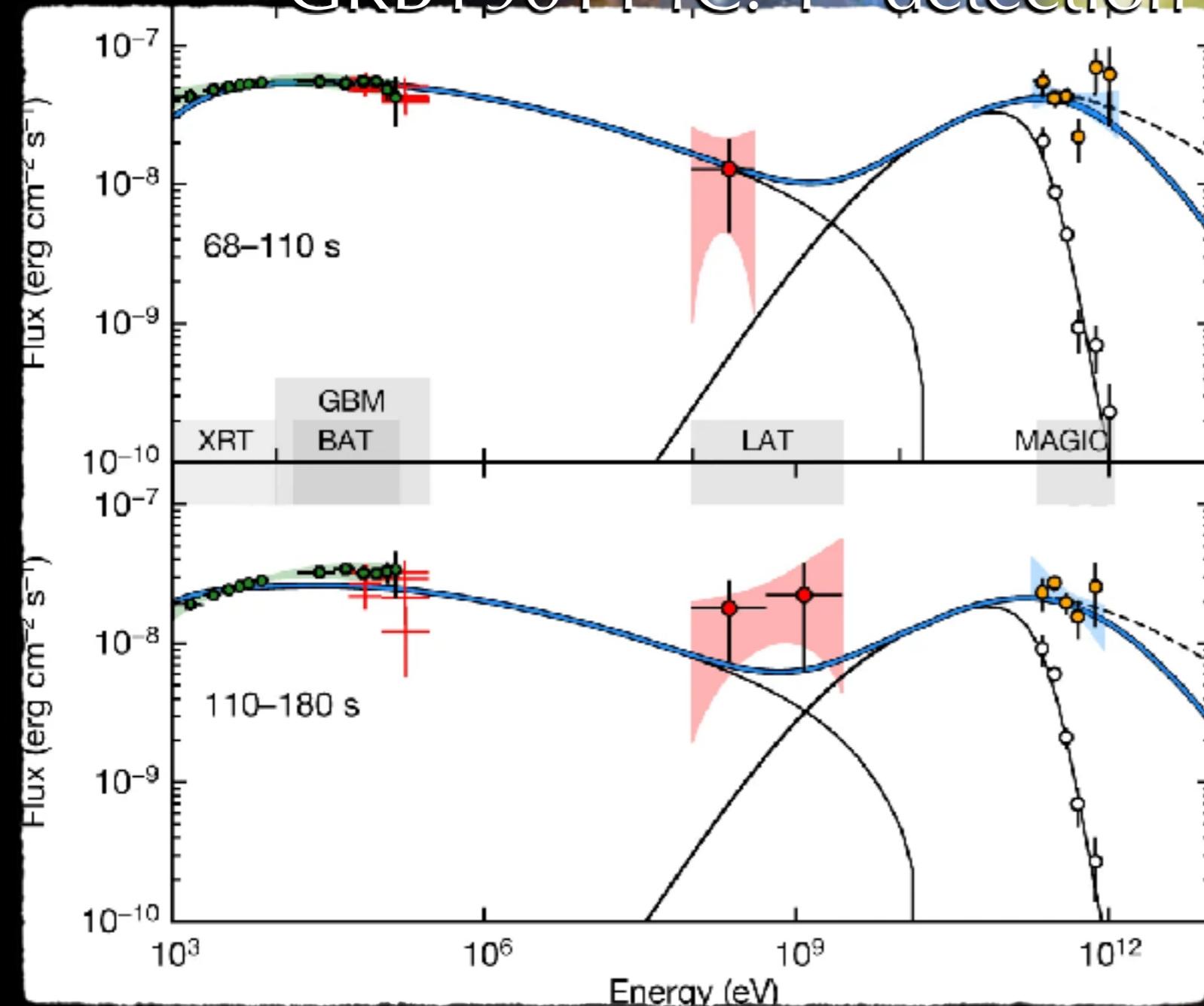
Long GRB
($T_{90} \sim 6$ min)

Observations
started < 1 min
after BAT trigger



Gamma Ray Bursts

GRB190114C: 1st detection of VHE emission!



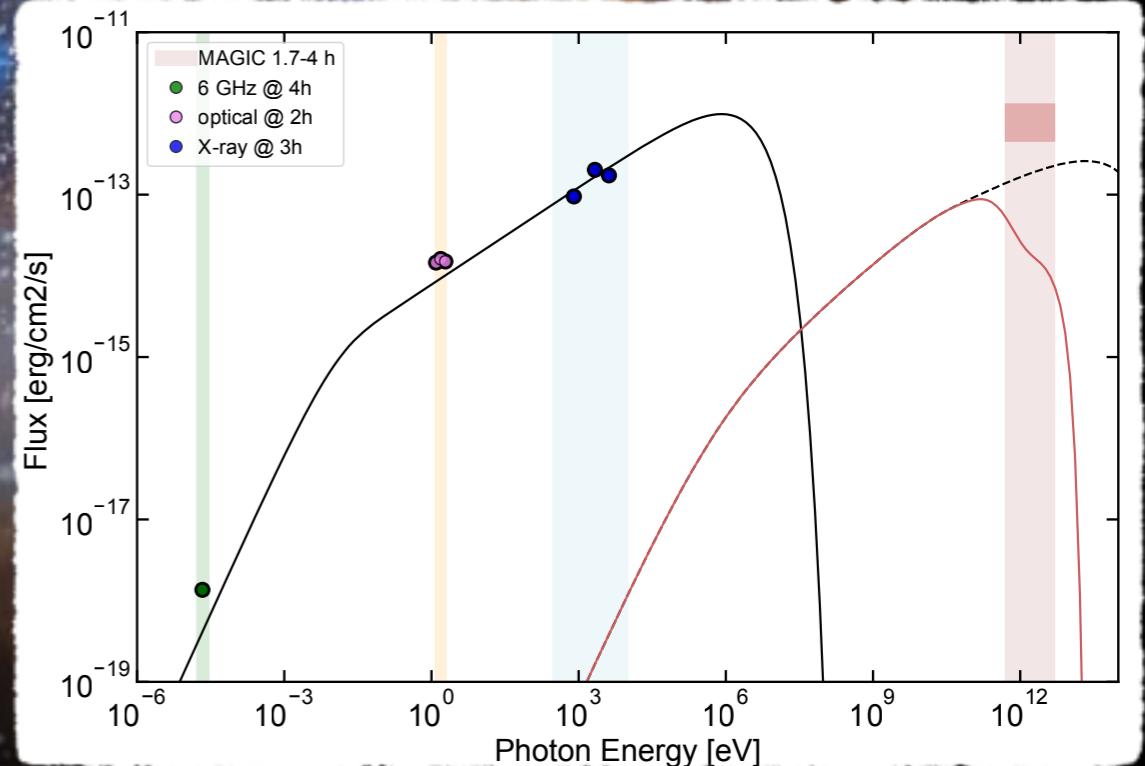
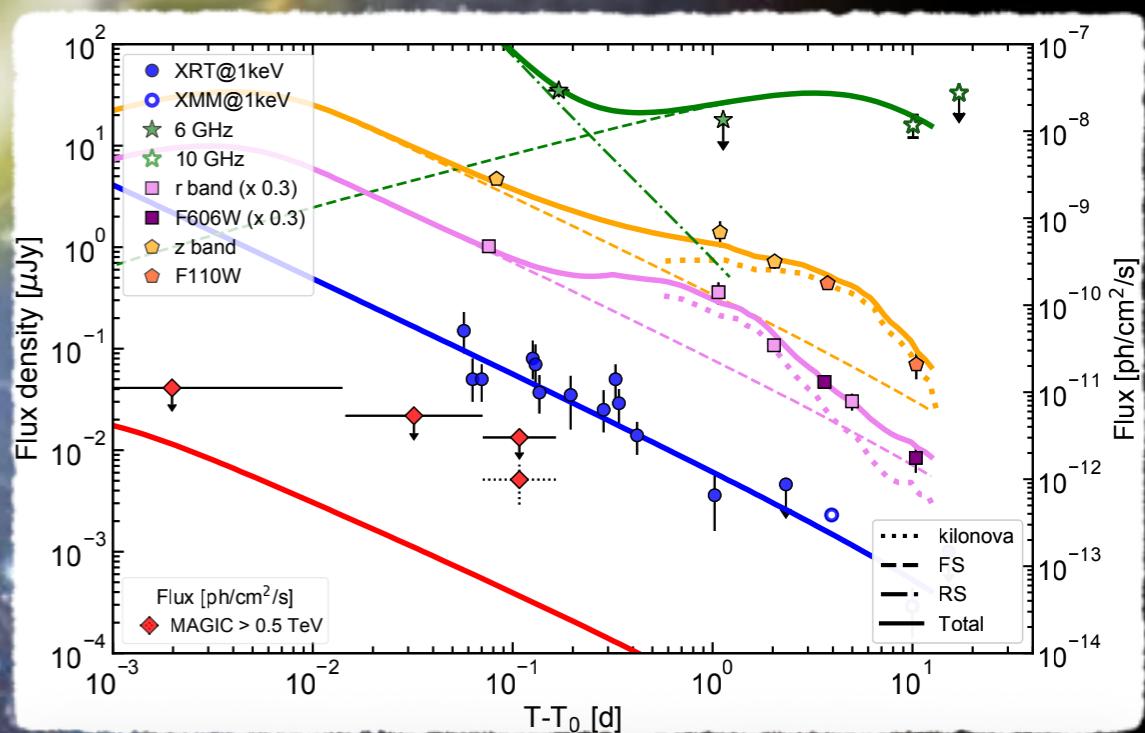
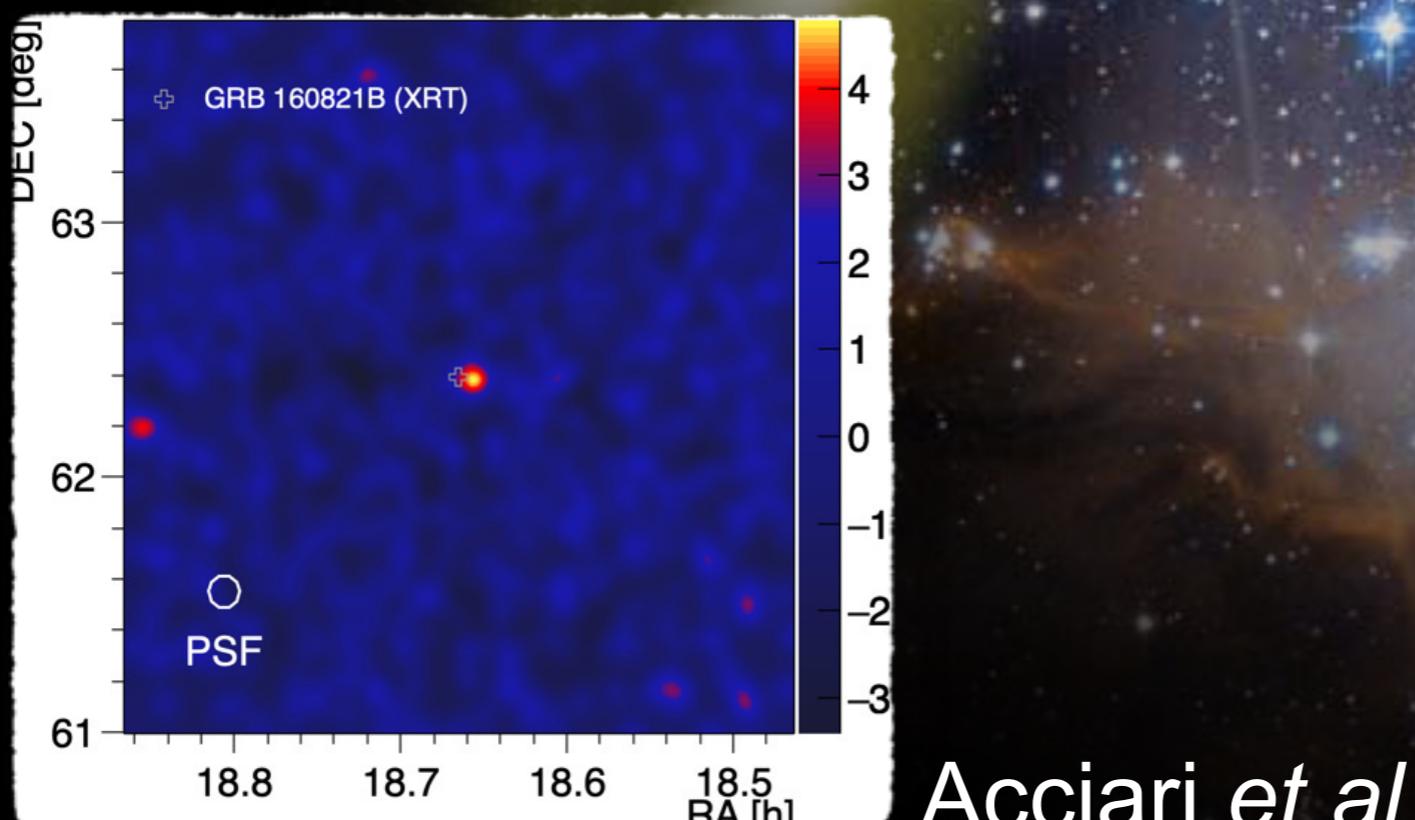
Highest energy emission strongly absorbed by EBL

VHE γ -ray emission can be modeled in SSC scenario

Gamma Ray Bursts

GRB160821B: $\sim 3\sigma$ evidence of
 γ -ray emission above ~ 0.5 TeV

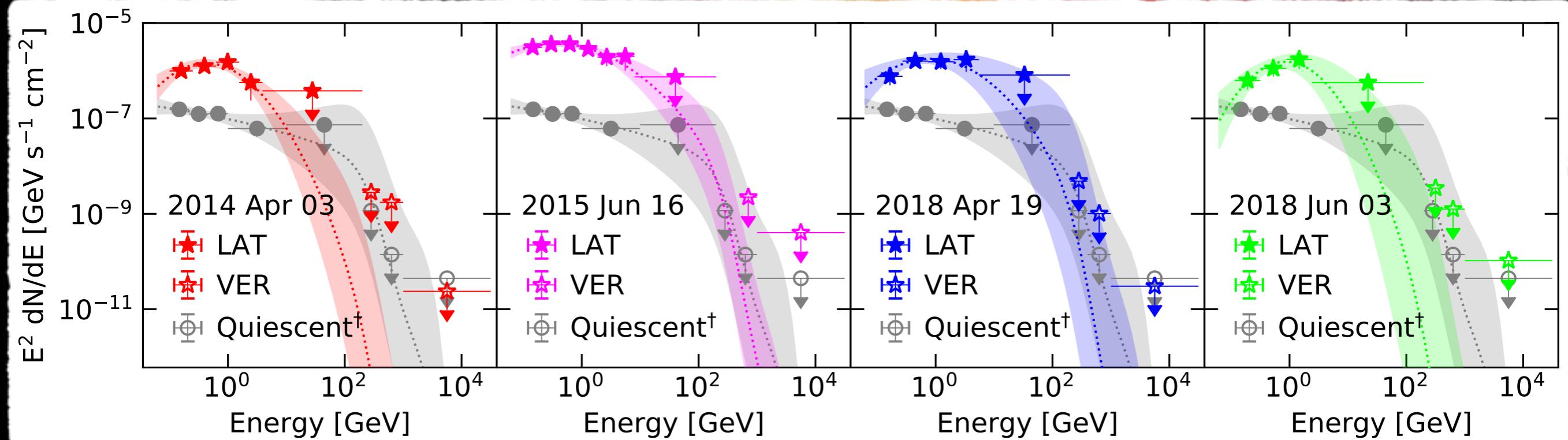
One-zone models of SSC
 emission have a hard time
 explaining the putative TeV flux



Flaring quasars

γ -ray variability and spectral characteristics
of FSRQs during bright GeV flares

Flux upper limits on 3C 279



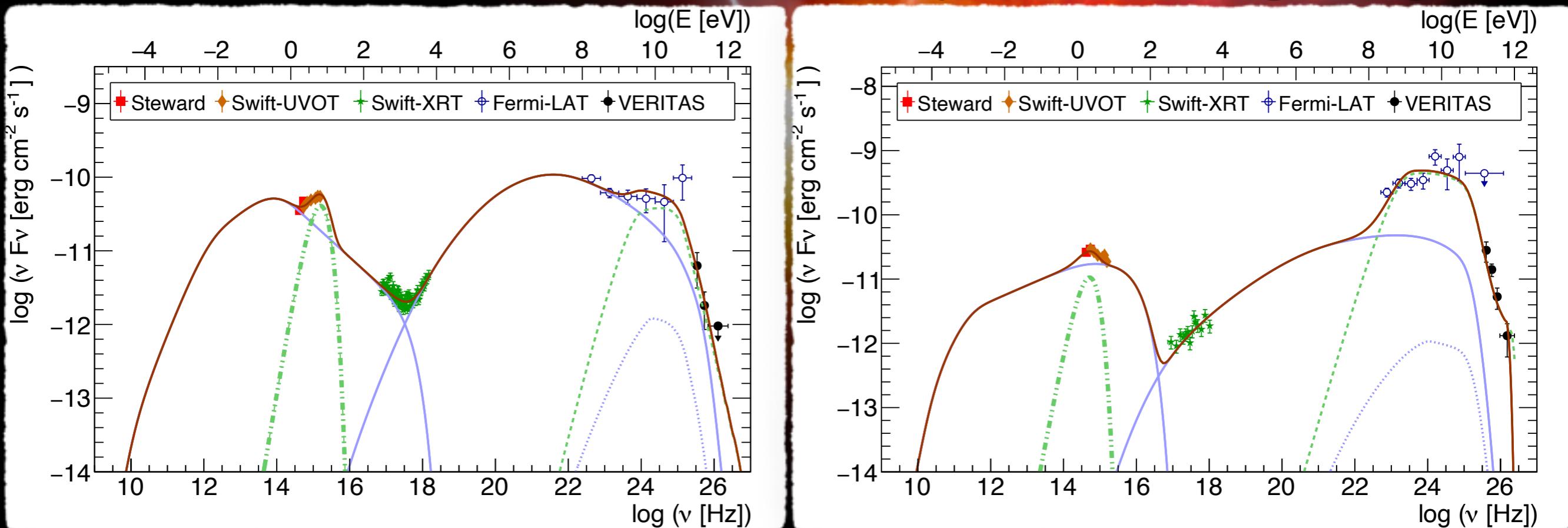
100 h of VERITAS observations over 10 y + LAT data

Adams *et al* [VERITAS+Fermi-LAT] ApJ 924 (2022) 95

Flaring quasars

γ -ray variability and spectral characteristics
of FSRQs during bright GeV flares

Both PKS 1222+216 and TON 599 detected by VERITAS during flaring states!



100 h of VERITAS observations over 10 y + LAT data

Multimessenger Astrophysics

Extensive follow-up/MM alert programs

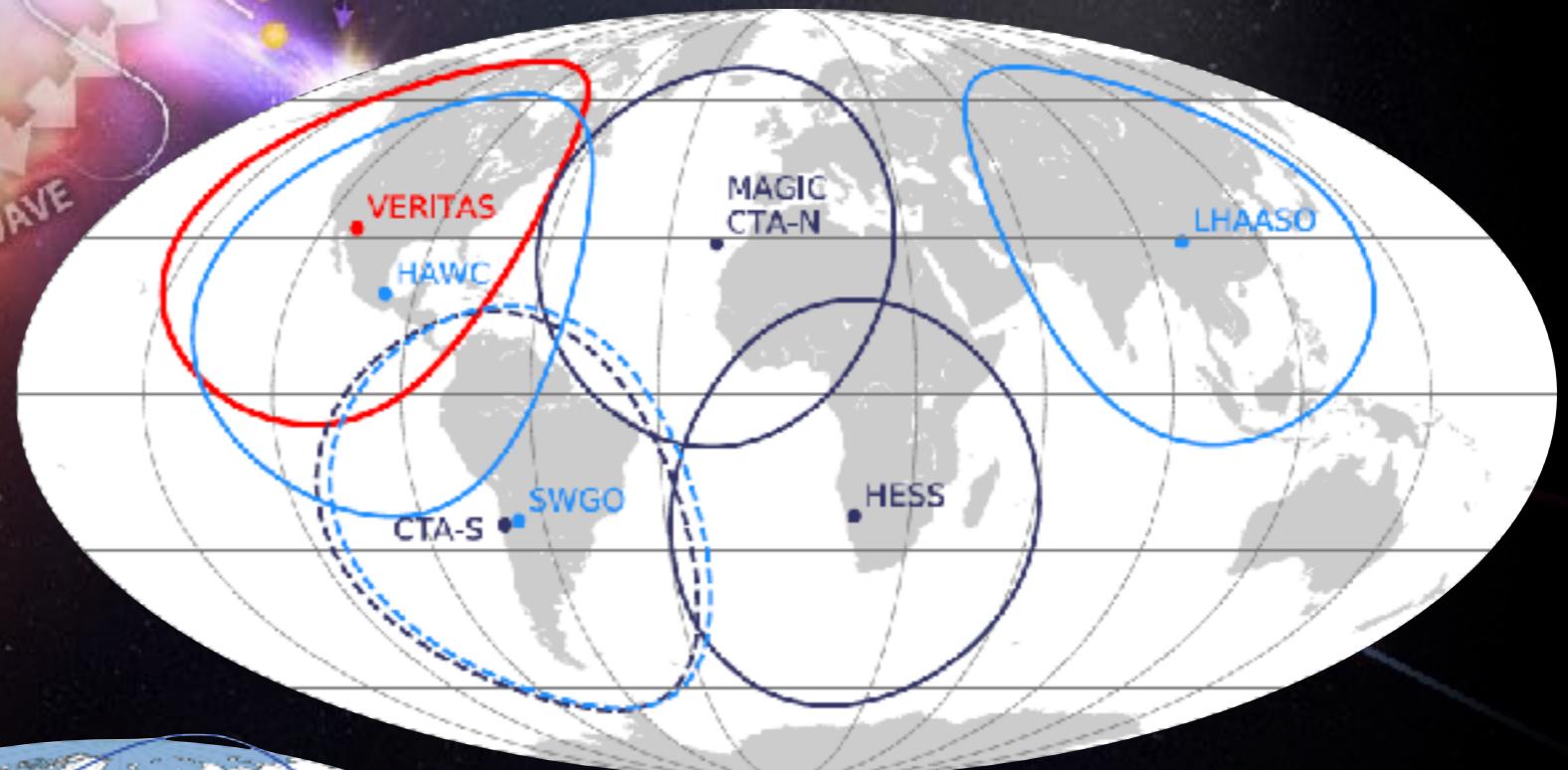
Neutrinos

GWs

FRBs

GRBs

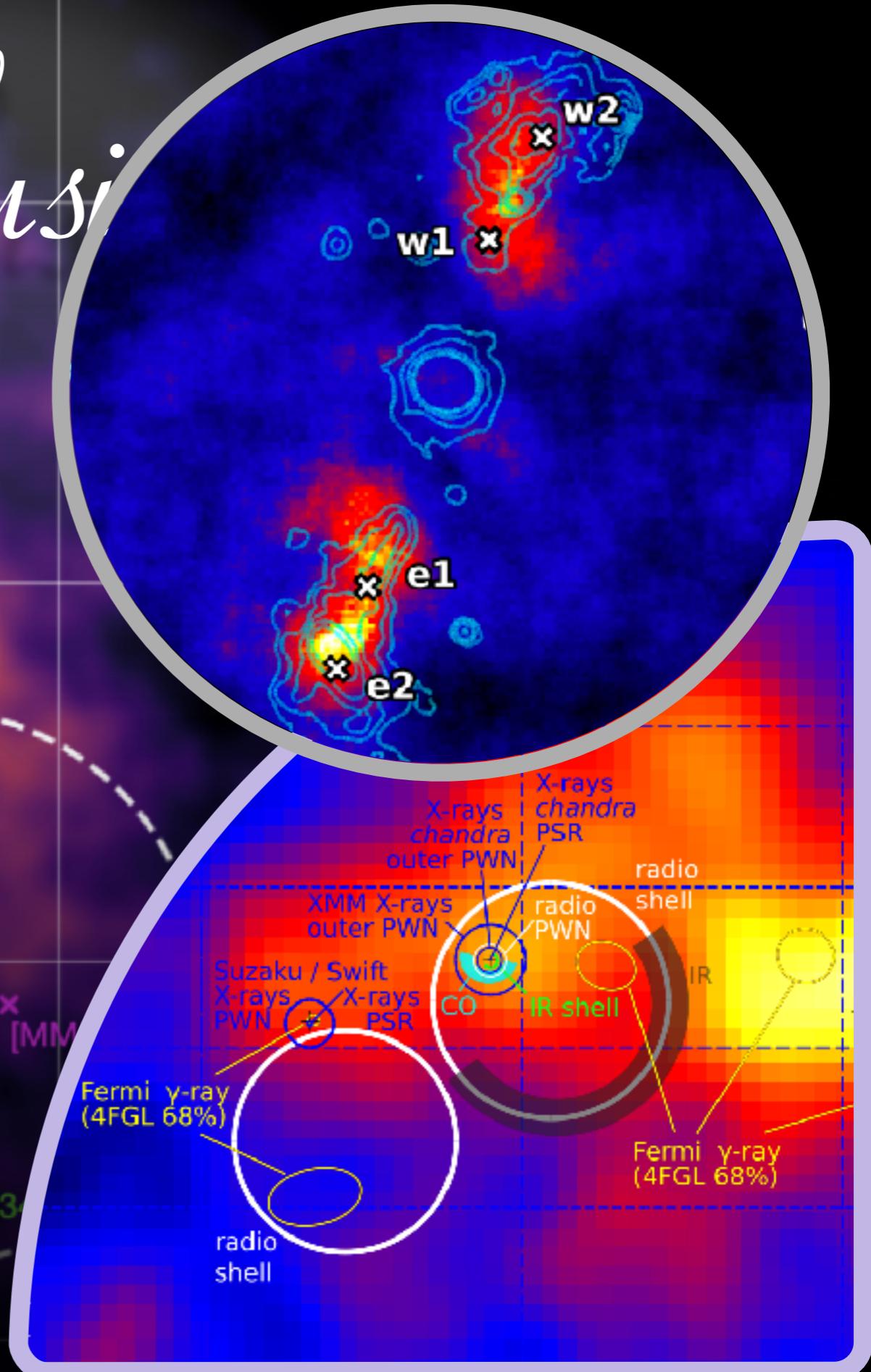
etc., etc.



Discoveries from HAWC, H.E.S.S., MAGIC, LHAASO, and VERITAS

Conclusion

[17] 99

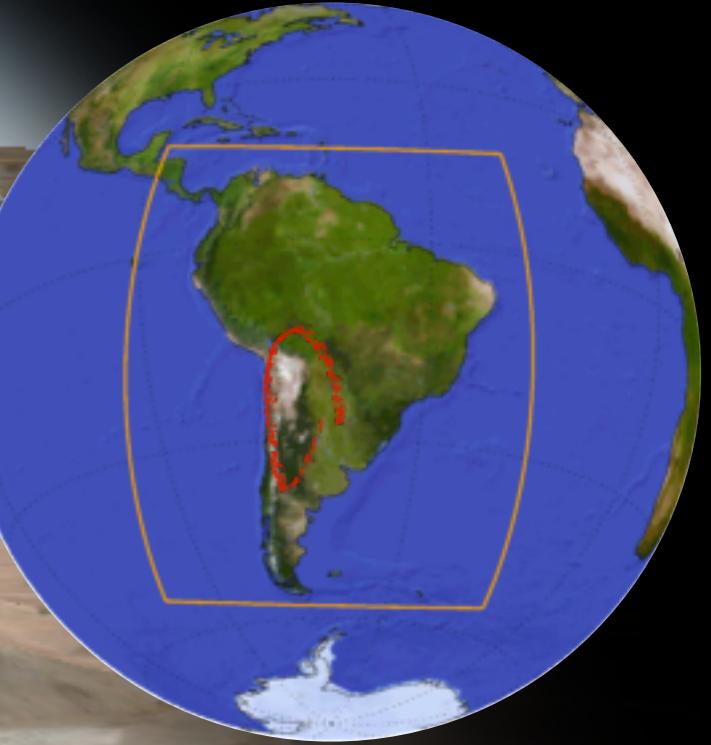
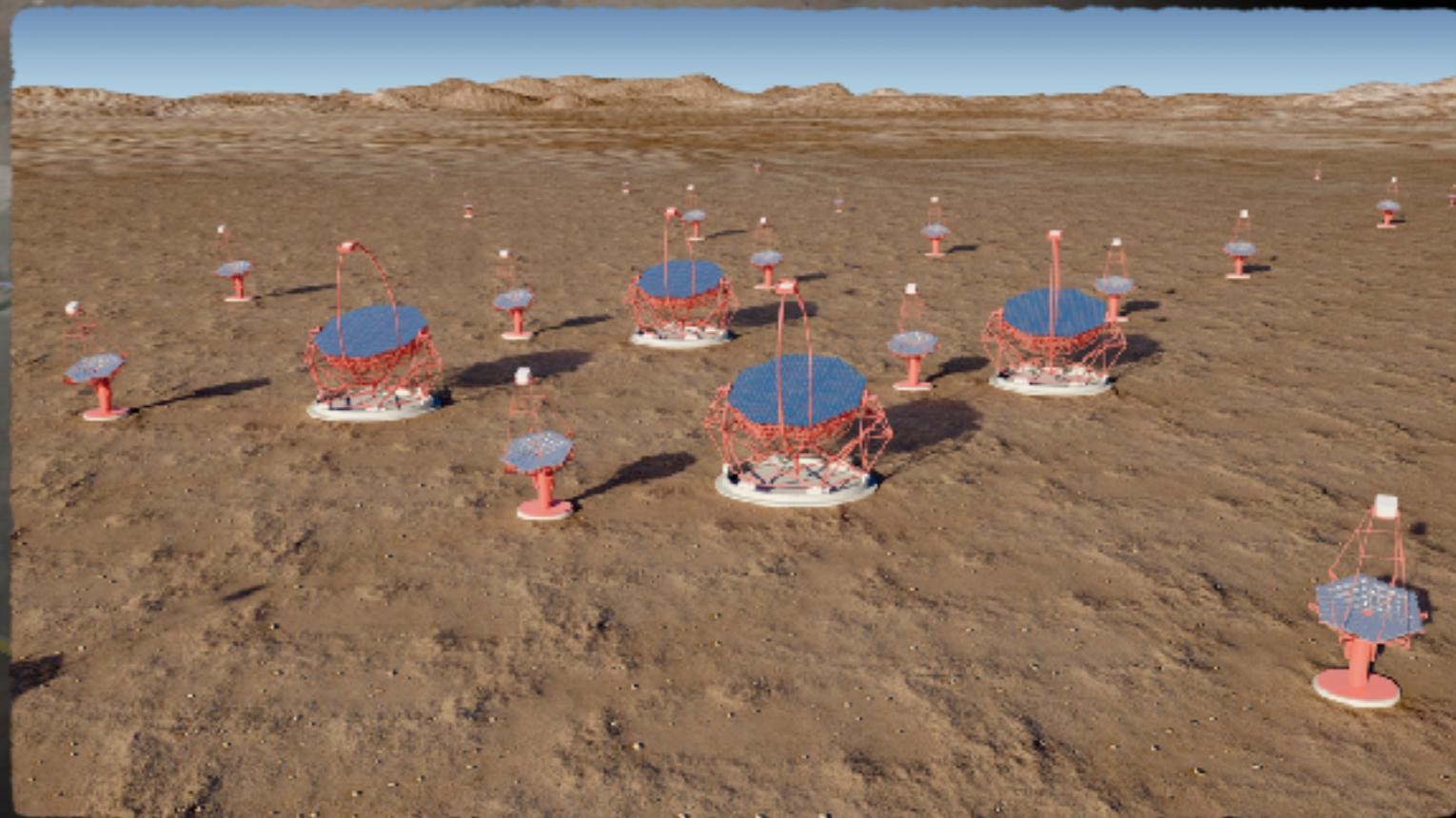


Conclusions

Discoveries from
HAWC, H.E.S.S.,
MAGIC, LHAASO,
and VERITAS

Next-generation
experiments!

HAWC-S QUBIC



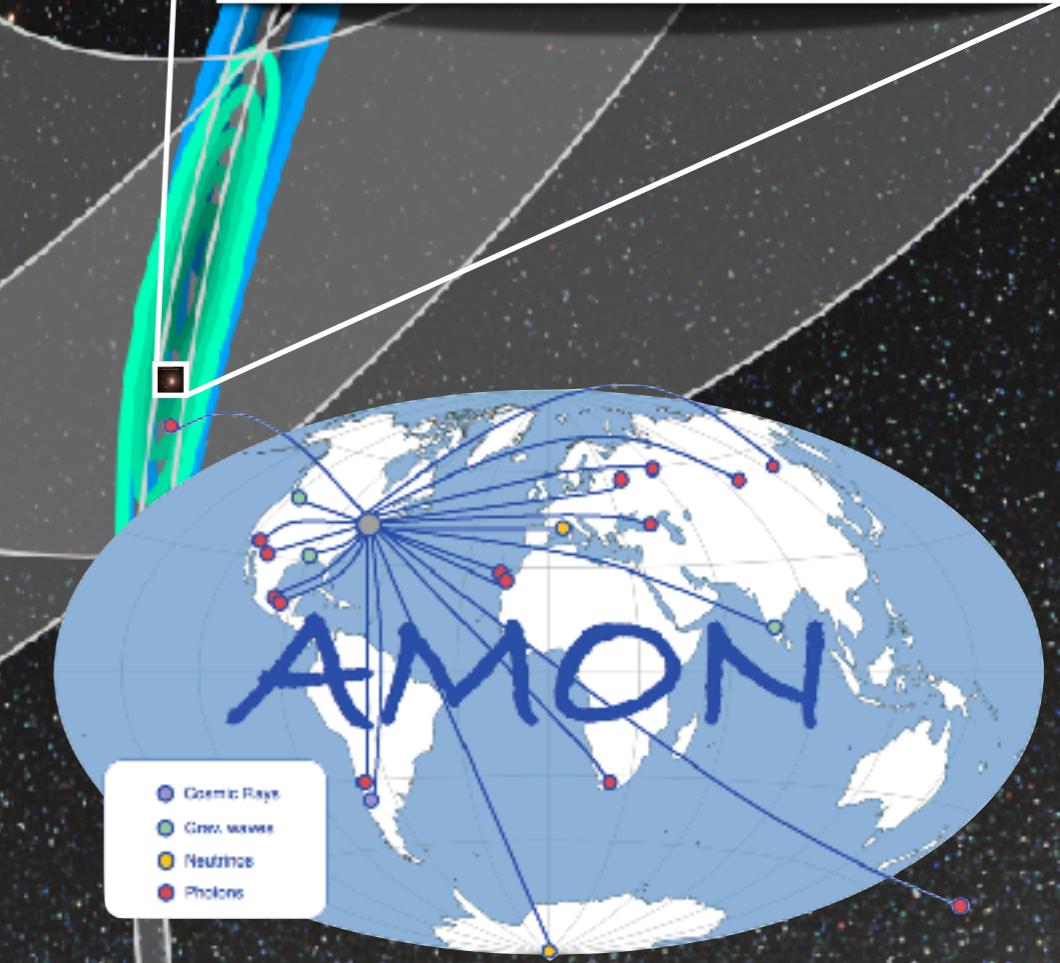
Conclusions

Discoveries from
HAWC, H.E.S.S.,
MAGIC, LHAASO,
and VERITAS

Next-generation
experiments!

New Era of
Multimessenger
Astrophysics

GW170817
DECam observation
(0.5–1.5 days post merger)



Thank you very much!