

Origin of PeV Cosmic Rays

Siming Liu

Southwest Jiaotong
University



CR Workshop, Nanjing, Dec 17-20
2025

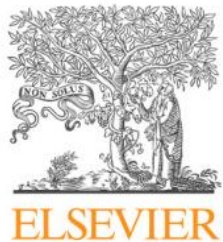
西南交通大学
Southwest Jiaotong University

Outline

1. A PeV CR spectral component
2. Shocks of Supernova Remnants (SNRs)
3. Evidence for Extreme Acceleration of PeV Cosmic Rays (CRs) from LHAASO
4. Conclusions

Measurements of All-Particle Energy Spectrum and Mean Logarithmic Mass of Cosmic Rays from 0.3 to 30 PeV with LHAASO-KM2A

Zhen Cao,^{1,2,3} F. Aharonian,^{4,5} Axikegu,⁶ Y. X. Bai,^{1,3} Y. W. Bao,⁷ D. Bastieri,⁸ X. J. Bi,^{1,2,3} Y. J. Bi,^{1,3} W. Bian,⁹



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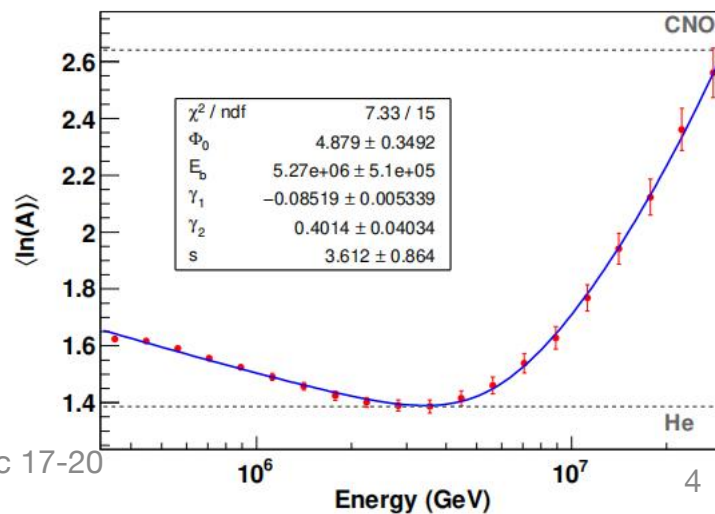
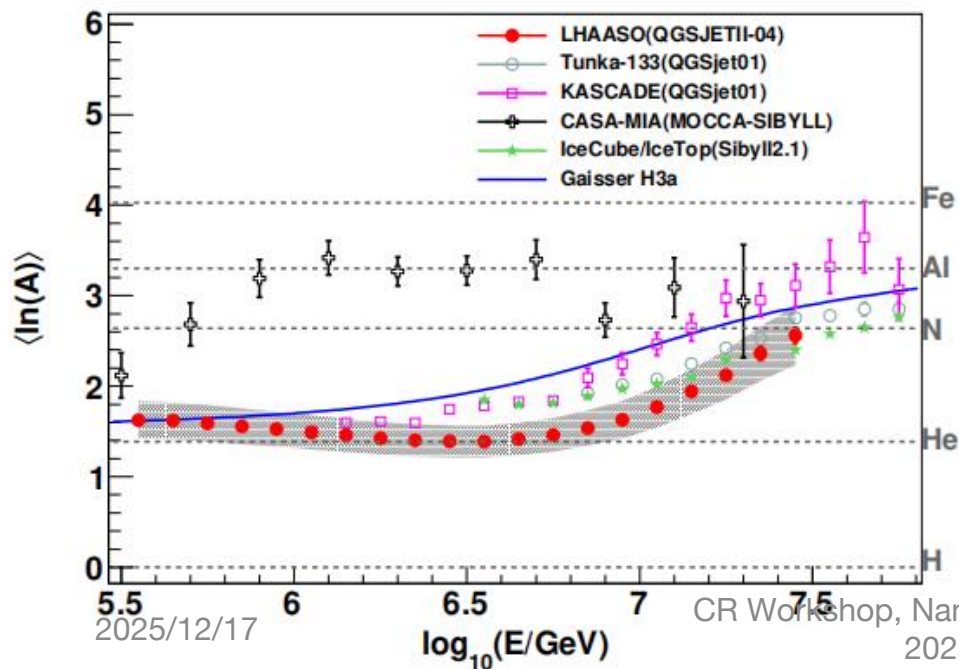
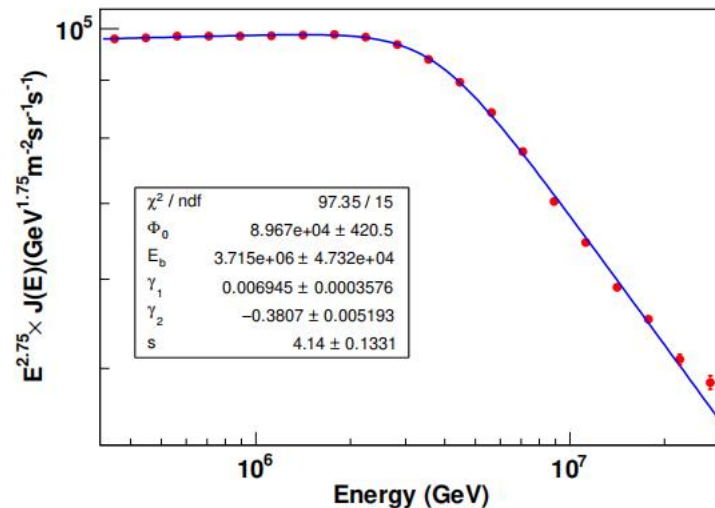
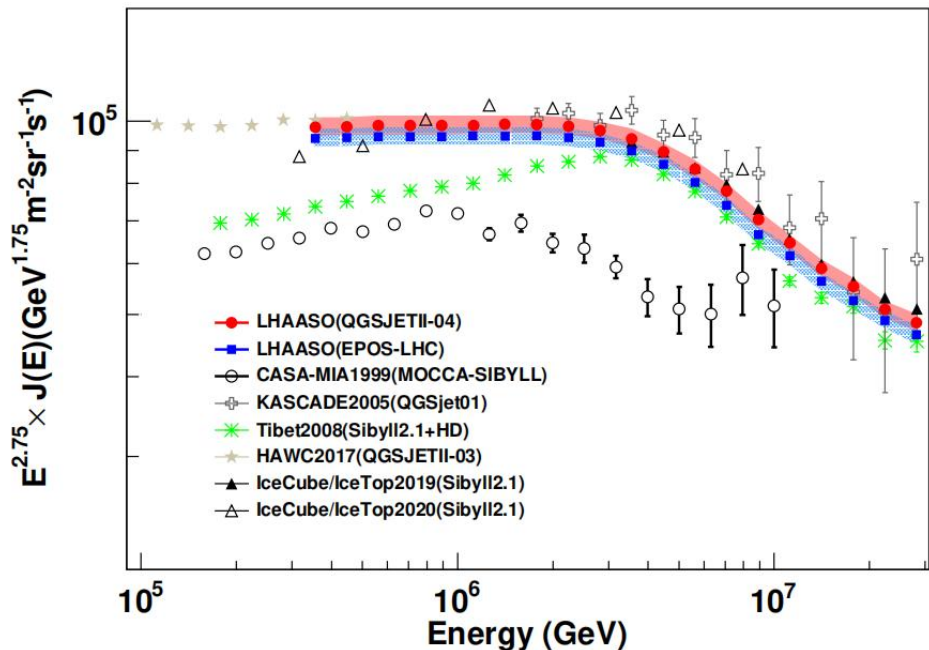
Precise measurements of the cosmic ray proton energy spectrum in the “knee” region

LHAASO Collaboration [#]

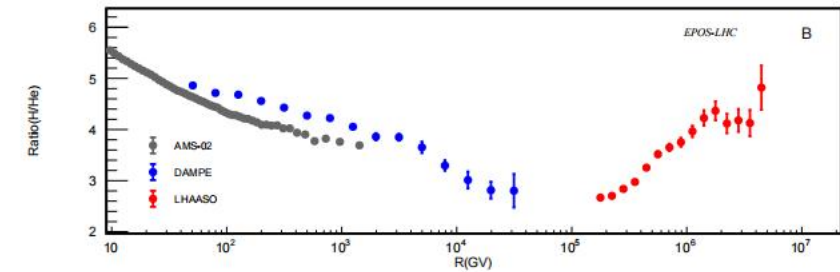
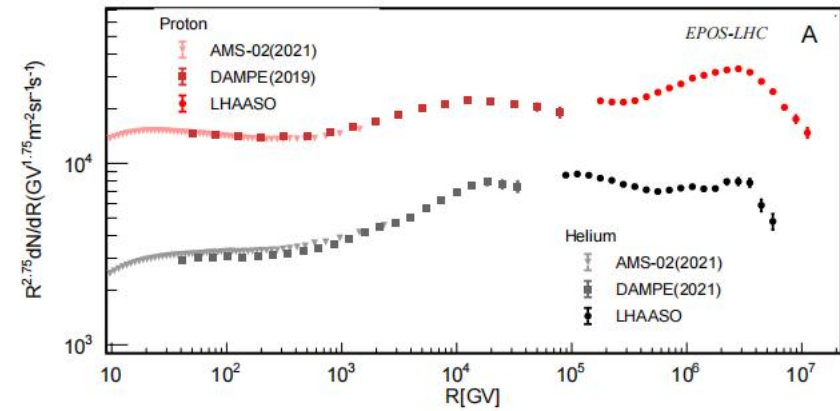
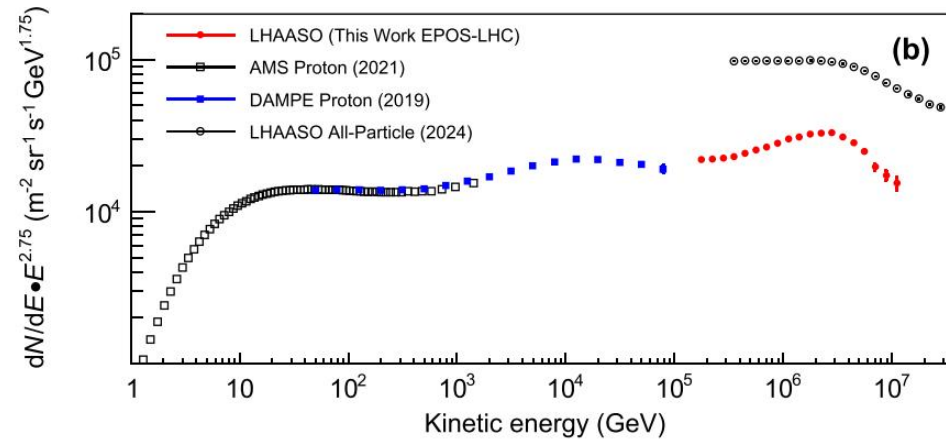
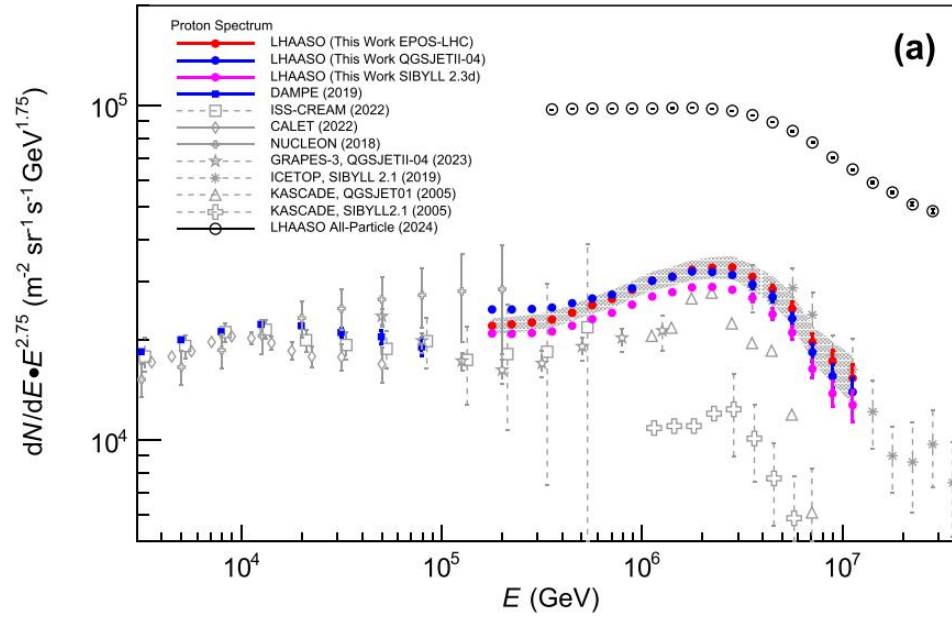
Precise Measurement of Cosmic Ray Light and Helium Spectra above 0.1 Peta-electron-Volt

Zhen Cao,^{1,2,3} F. Aharonian,^{3,4,5,6} Y.X. Bai,^{1,3} Y.W. Bao,⁷ D. Bastieri,⁸ X.J. Bi,^{1,2,3} Y.J. Bi,^{1,3} W. Bian,⁷ A.V.

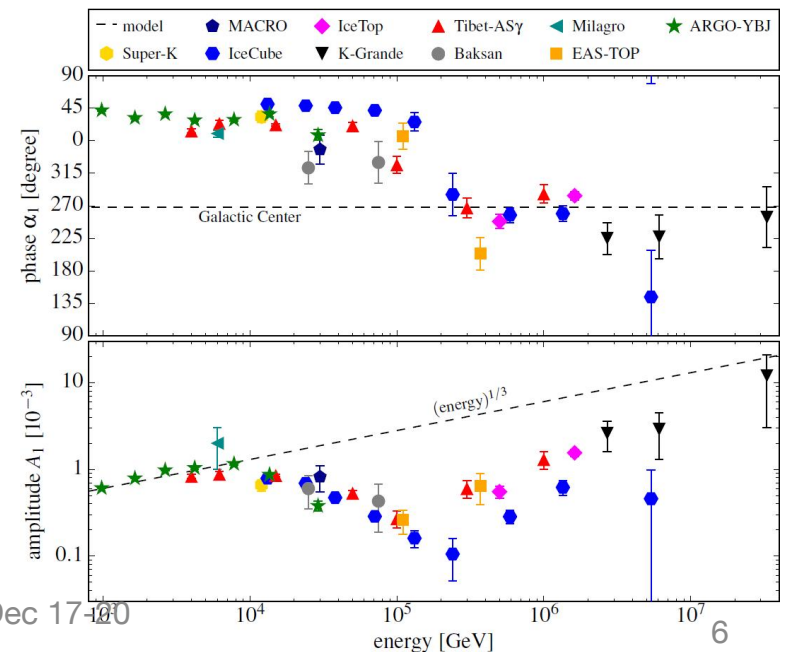
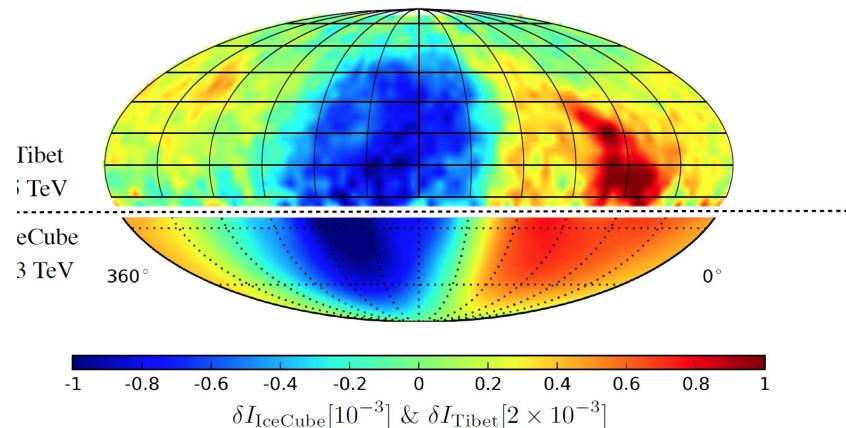
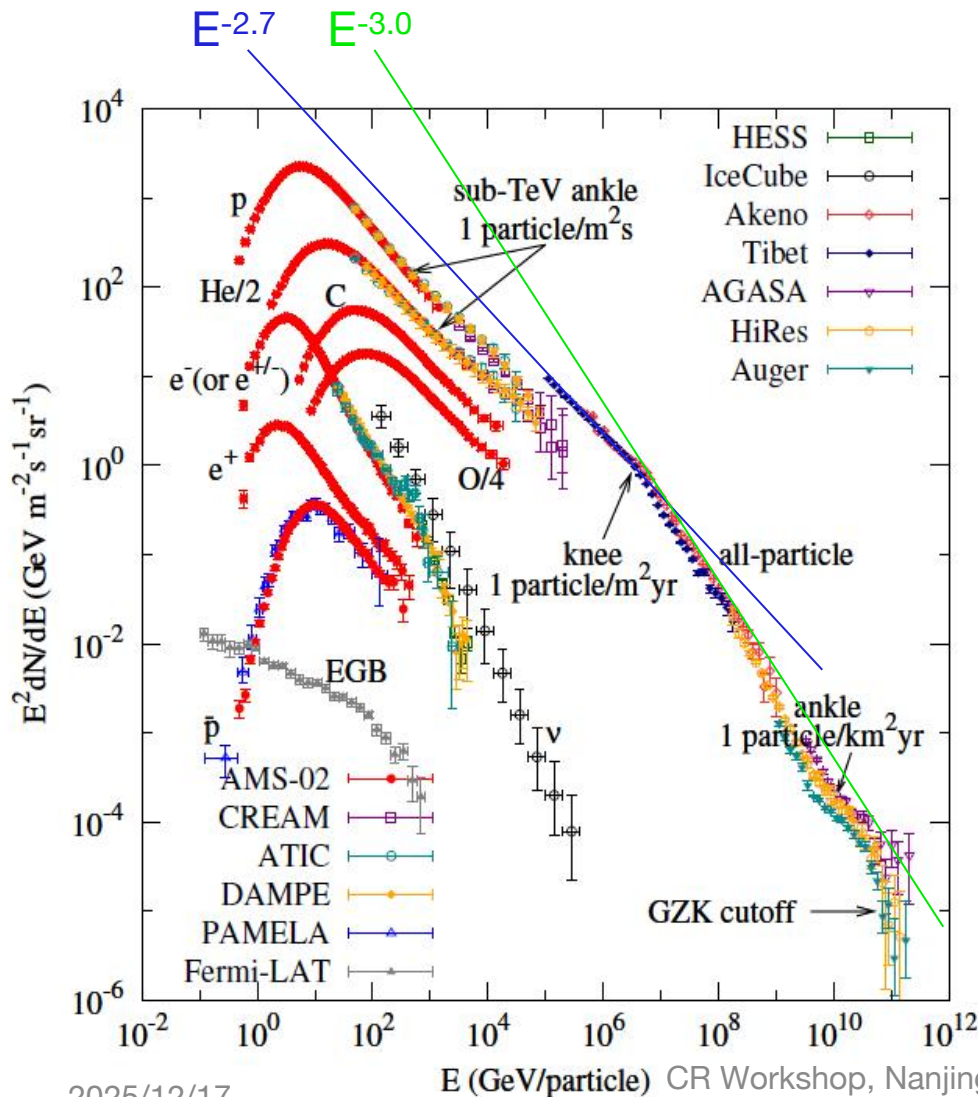
1: Cosmic Ray Spectrum and Mean Logarithmic Mass



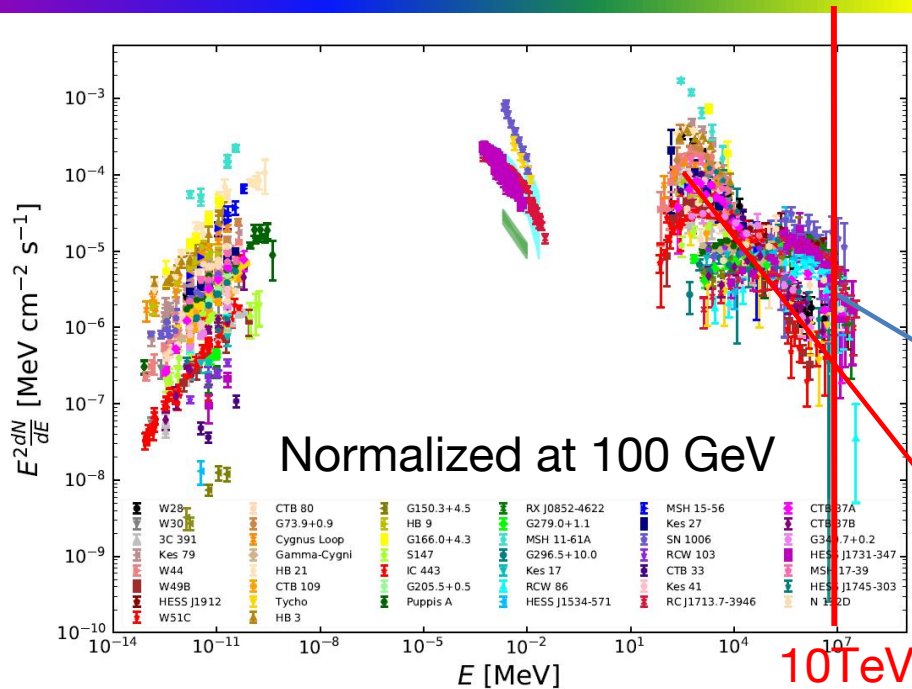
1: Proton and Helium Spectra



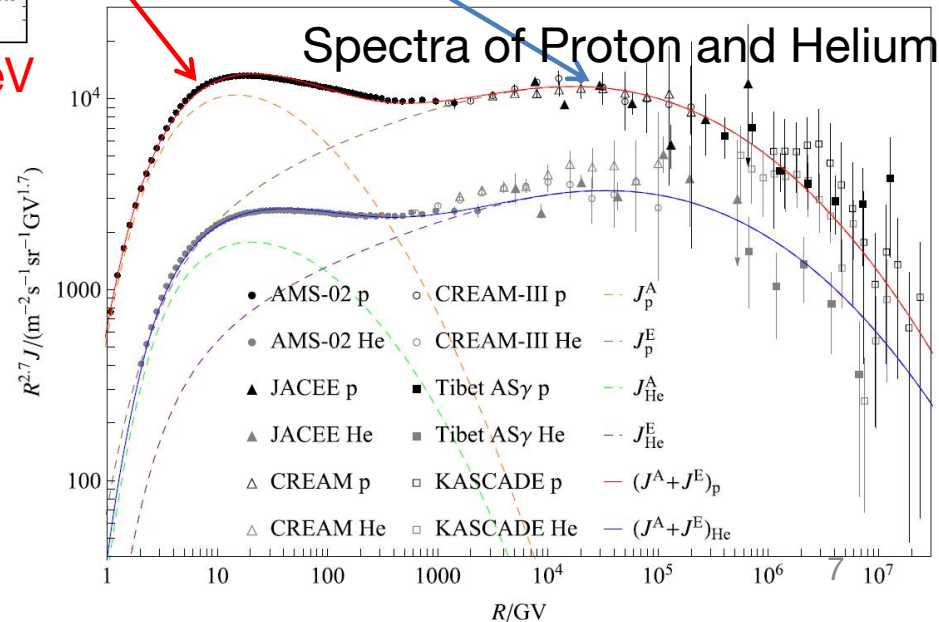
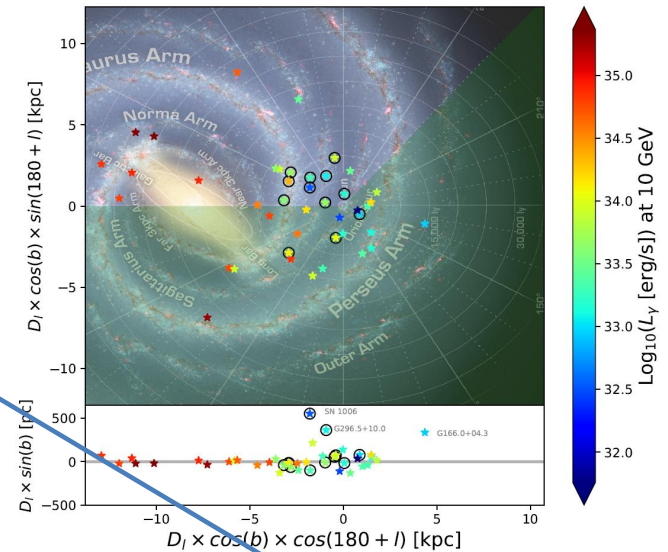
2: Cosmic Ray Spectra and Anisotropy



2: Origin of Cosmic Rays



Multiwavelength spectra of 44 SNRs normalized at 100 GeV and their distribution in the



Reviews of Modern Plasma Physics (2022) 6:19
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41614-022-00080-6>

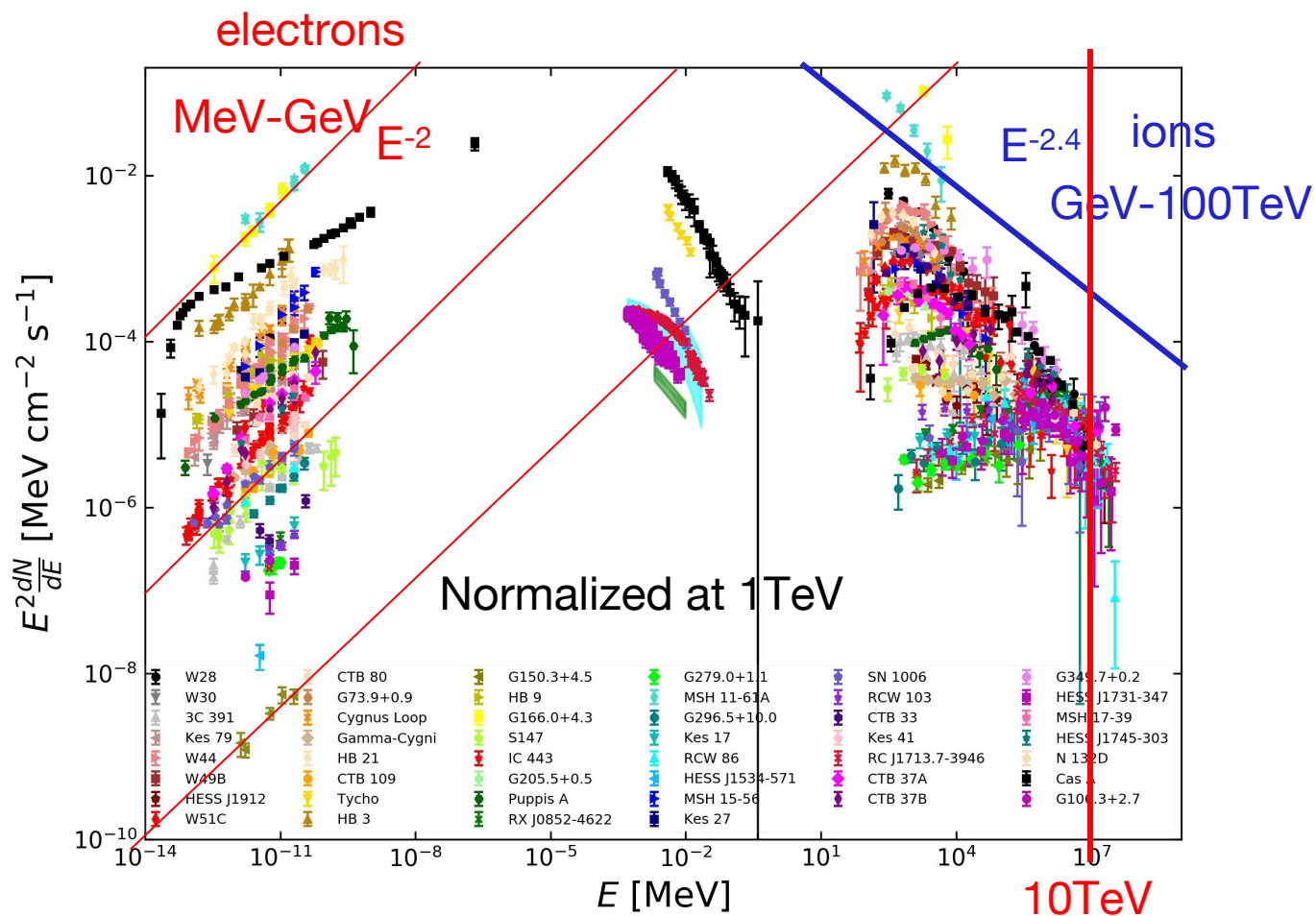
REVIEW PAPER

The origin of galactic cosmic rays

Siming Liu¹ · Houdun Zeng^{2,4} · Yuliang Xin¹ · Yiran Zhang³

kshop, N
20

1: Spectra of 46 SNRs before LHAASO



Multiwavelength spectra of 46 SNRs
normalized at 1 TeV

2: Evidence for CRs escaping from SNRs

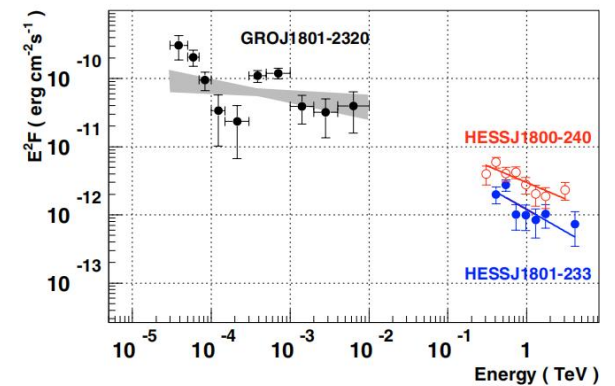
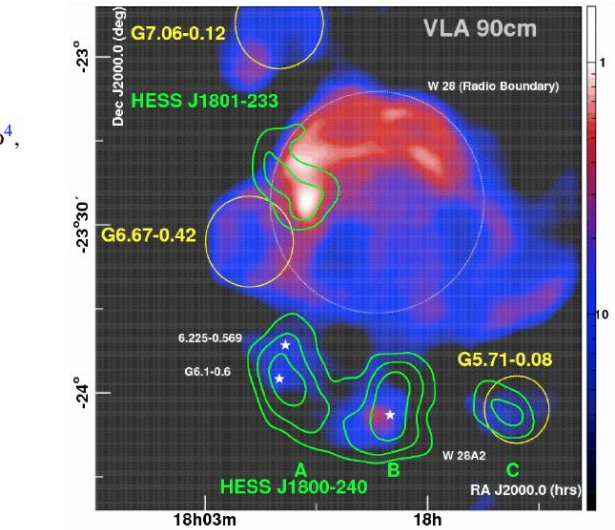
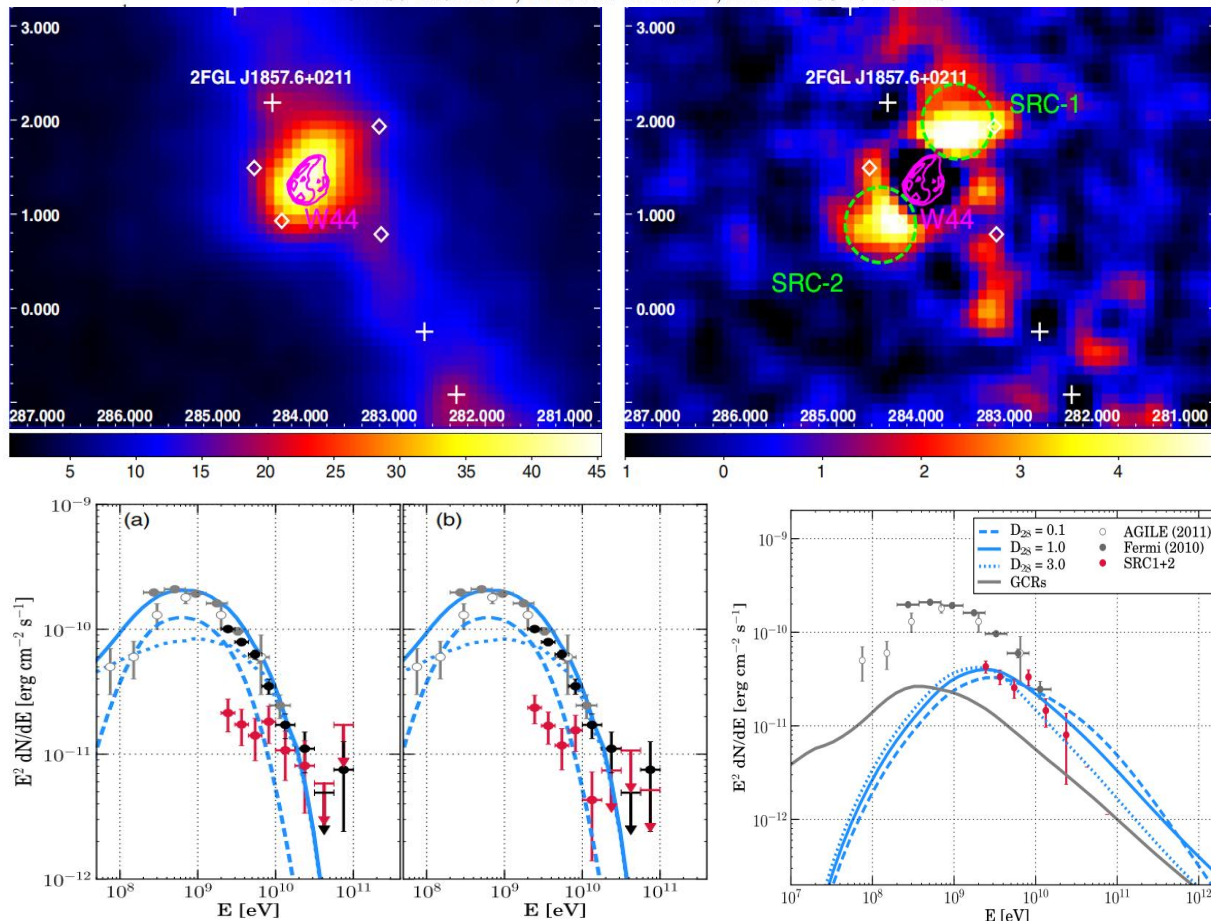
THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL LETTERS, 749:L35 (5pp), 2012 April 20

doi:10.1088/2041-8205/749/2/L35

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FERMI LARGE AREA TELESCOPE DISCOVERY OF GeV GAMMA-RAY EMISSION
FROM THE VICINITY OF SNR W44

YASUNOBU UCHIYAMA^{1,2,8}, STEFAN FUNK^{1,2}, HIDEAKI KATAGIRI³, JUNICHIRO KATSUTA¹, MARIANNE LEMOINE-GOUMARD⁴,
HIROYASU TAJIMA^{2,5}, TAKAAKI TANAKA², AND DIEGO F. TORRES^{6,7}



A&A 481, 401–410 (2008)
DOI: [10.1051/0004-6361:20077765](https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361:20077765)
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**Astronomy
& Astrophysics**

Discovery of very high energy gamma-ray emission coincident with molecular clouds in the W 28 (G6.4–0.1) field*

E. Akhronian^{1,3}, A. G. Akhneronian², A. R. Bogos Boghi³, R. Bohrer⁴, M. Baidak⁴, W. Bonhowl¹, D. Borely^{**}

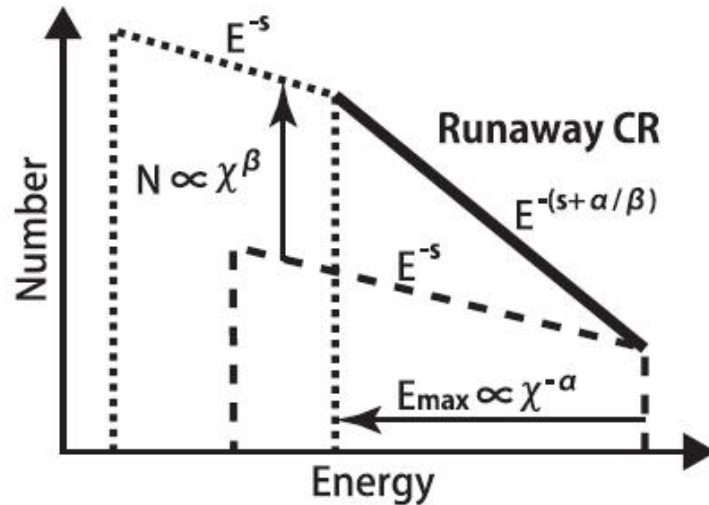
2: Diffusive Shock Acceleration in SNRs

T: Age
 U: shock speed
 R: Radius $\sim UT$
 D: Diffusion coefficient $\sim E^\delta$

Acceleration time: $\sim D/U^2$

Escape time: $\sim R^2/D$

$D/U^2 \leq R^2/D$ then $D \leq UR \sim T(\text{free expansion})$
 $\sim T^{-1/5}$ (Sedov)



Monthly Notices
 of the
 ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
 Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc. **427**, 91–102 (2012)



doi:10.1111/j.1365-2966.2012.21908.x

Escape of cosmic-ray electrons from supernova remnants

Yutaka Ohira,^{1*} Ryo Yamazaki,¹ Norita Kawanaka² and Kunihiro Ioka^{3,4}

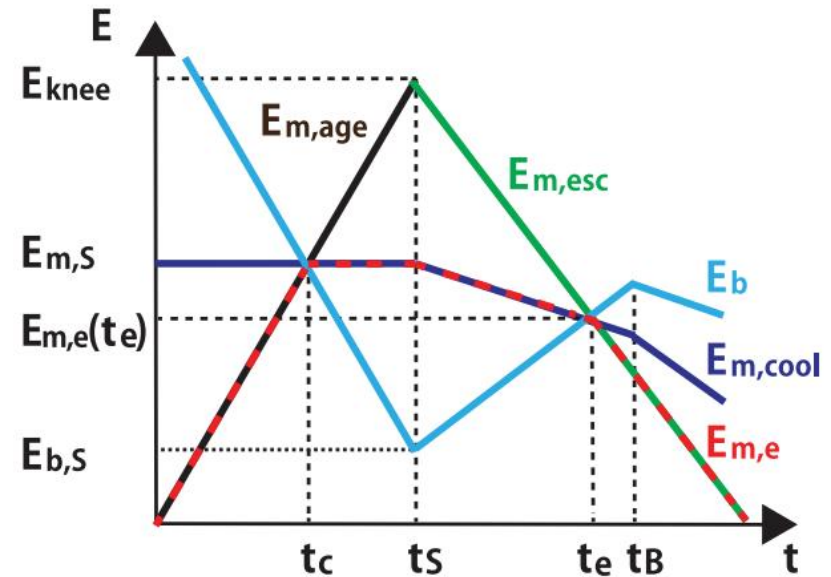
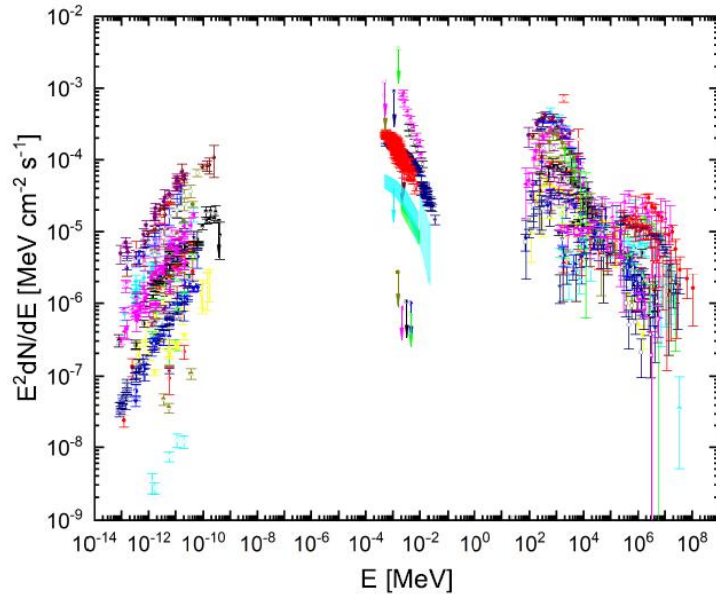


Figure 2. The same as Fig. 1, but for $B^2 \propto u_{sh}^2$ or u_{sh}^3 .

2: Evolution of High-Energy Particle Distribution in SNRs



THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 874:50 (12pp), 2019 March 20
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<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/aaf392>



Evolution of High-energy Particle Distribution in Supernova Remnants

Houdun Zeng¹, Yuliang Xin, and Siming Liu²

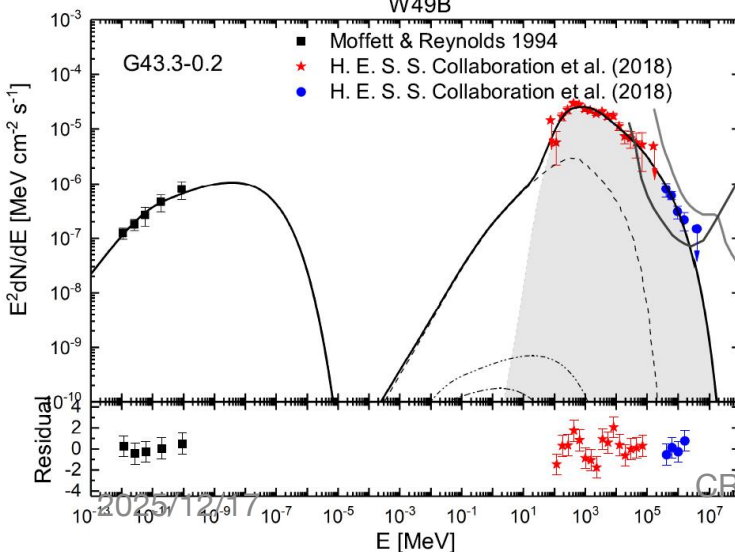
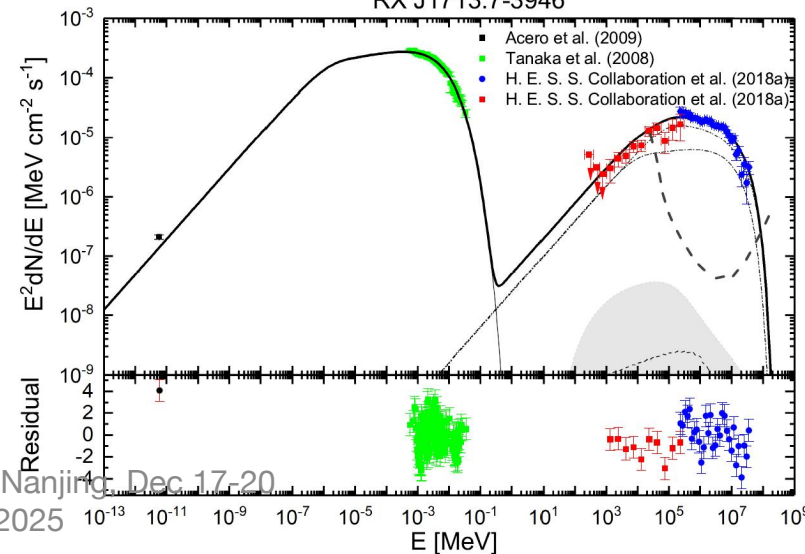
Key Laboratory of Dark Matter and Space Astronomy Purple Mountain Observatory, Chinese Academy of Sciences Nanjing 210034, People's Republic of China
zhd@pmo.ac.cn, liusm@pmo.ac.cn

$$N(P_i) = N_{0,i} \exp\left(-\frac{P_i}{P_{i,\text{cut}}}\right) \begin{cases} P_i^{-\alpha} & \text{if } P_i < P_{\text{br}} \\ P_{\text{br}} P_i^{-(\alpha+1)} & \text{if } P_i \geq P_{\text{br}}, \end{cases}$$

$$N_{0,e}/N_{0,p} = 0.01 \quad P_{e,\text{cut}} < P_{p,\text{cut}}$$

Markov Chain Monte Carlo Algorithm

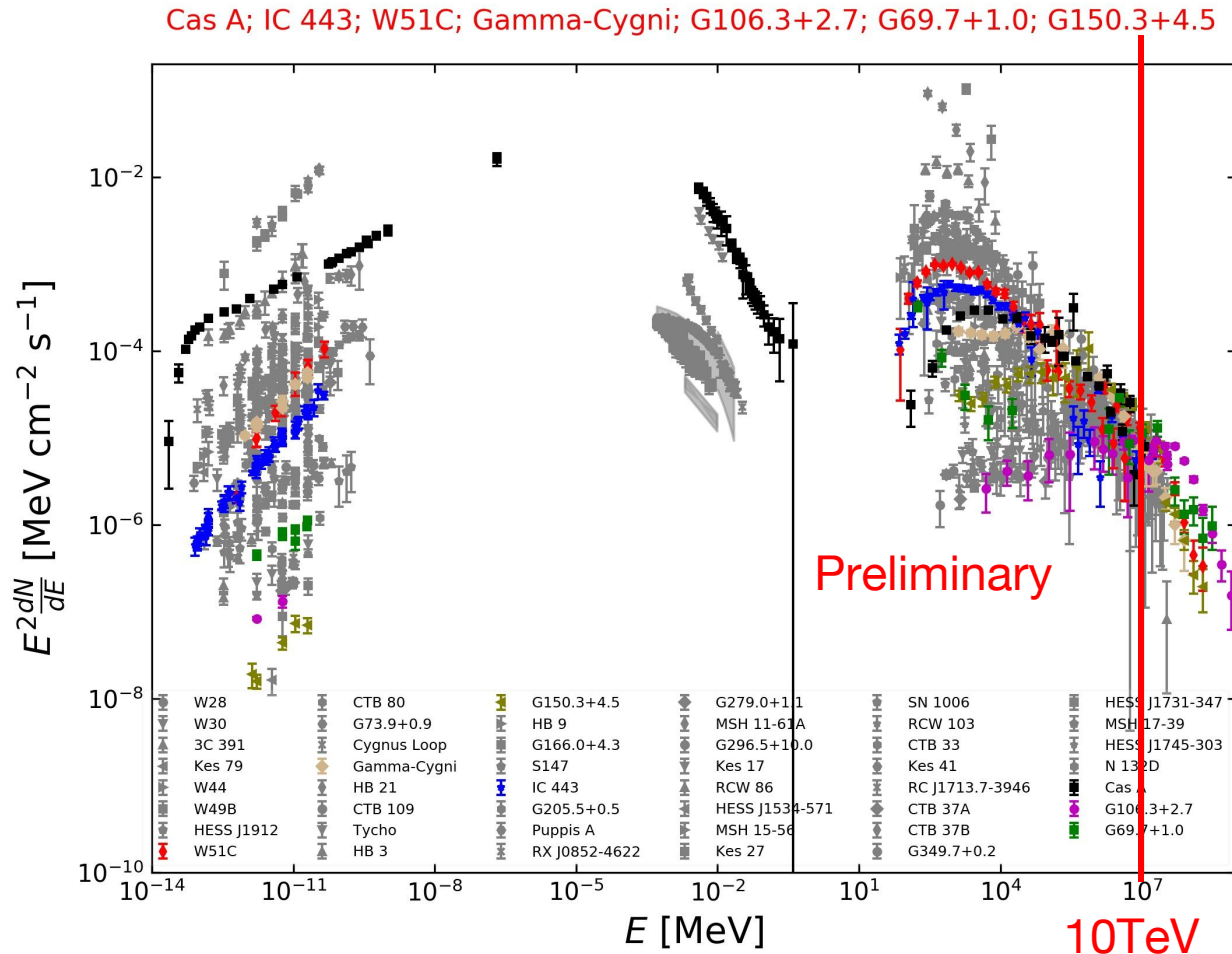
RX J1713.7-3946



CB Workshop, Nanjing, Dec 17-20

2025

2: 7 SNRs Detected by LHAASO



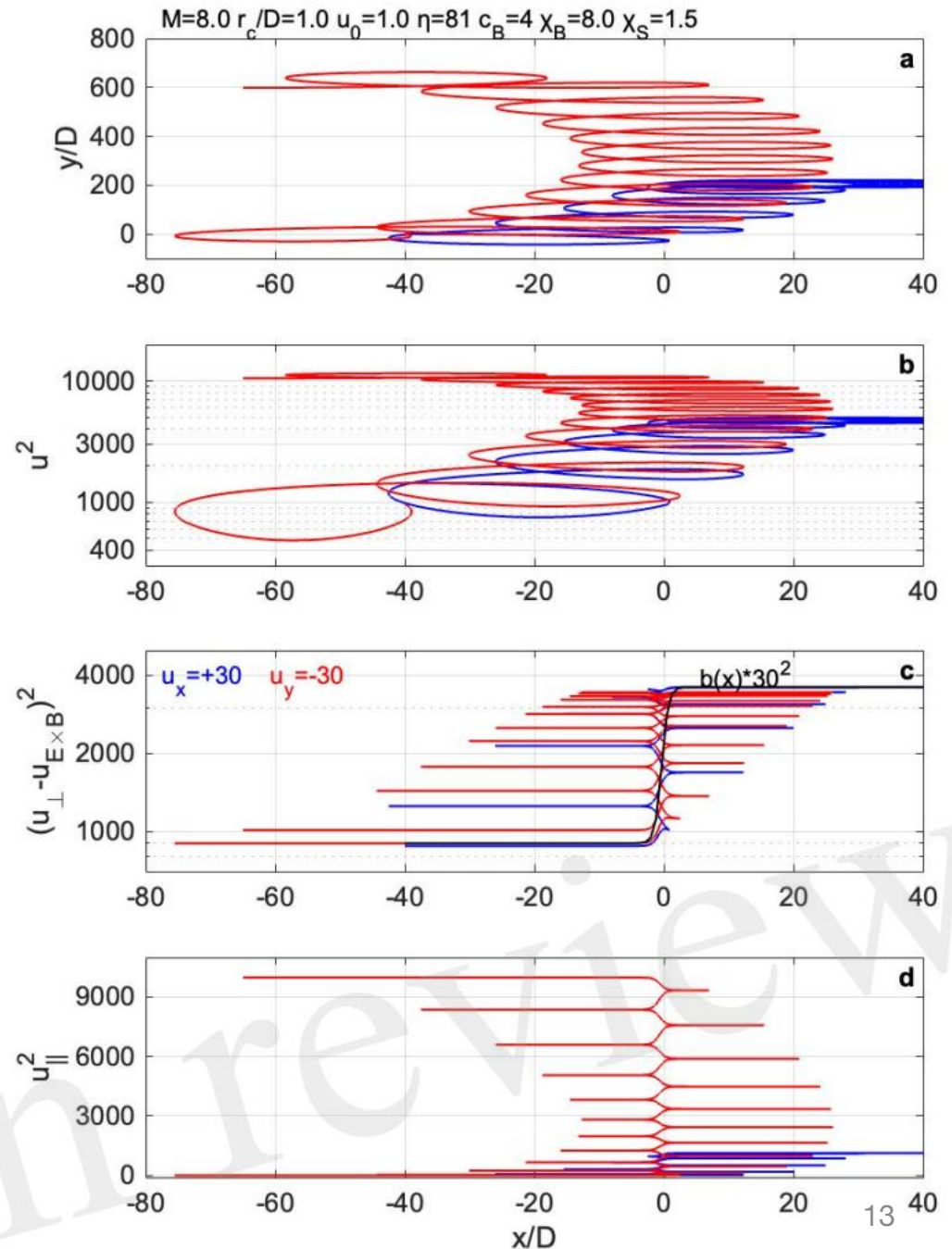
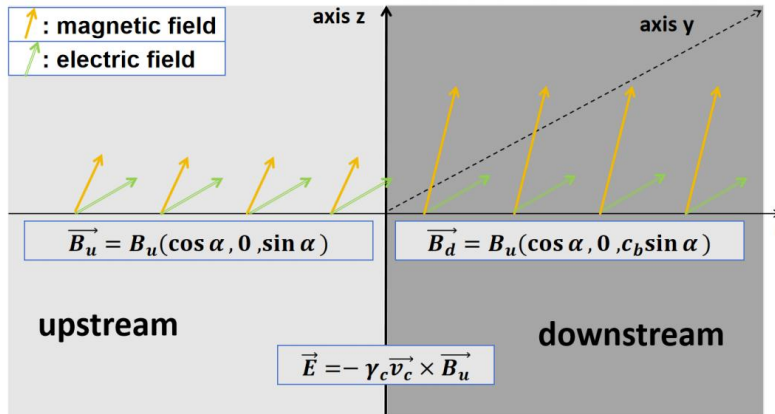
The higher energy spectra are softer (but harder than an exponential cutoff)

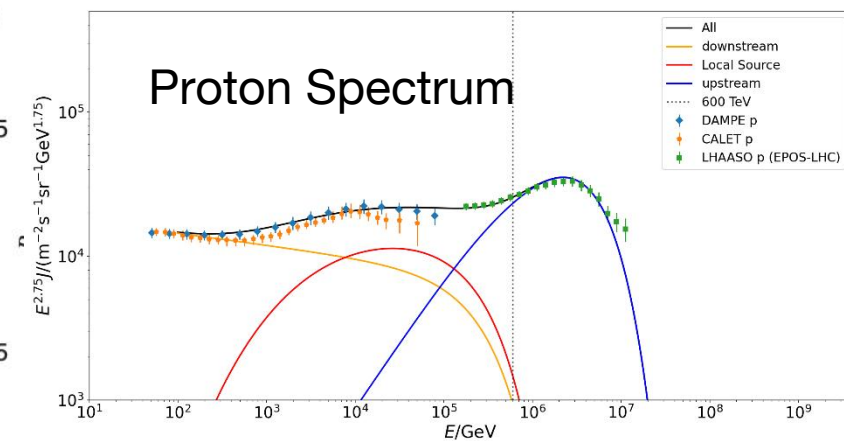
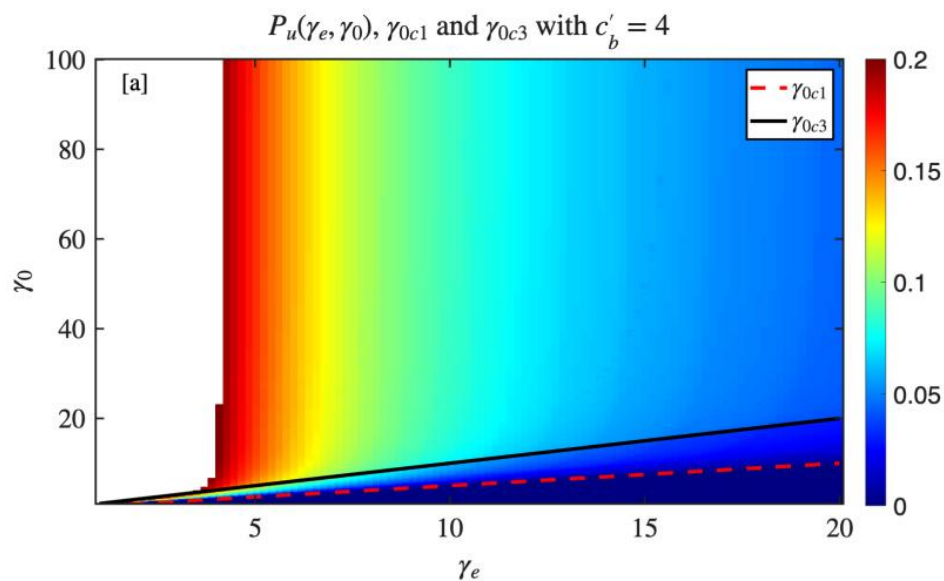
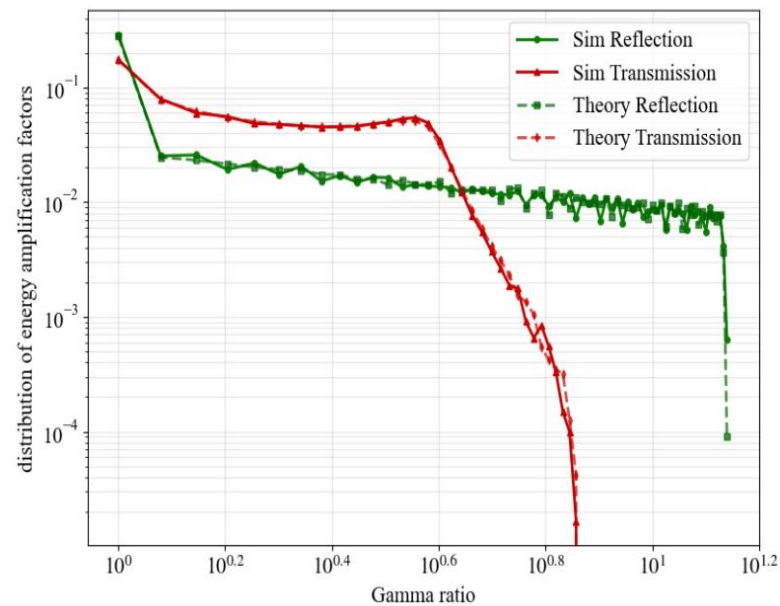
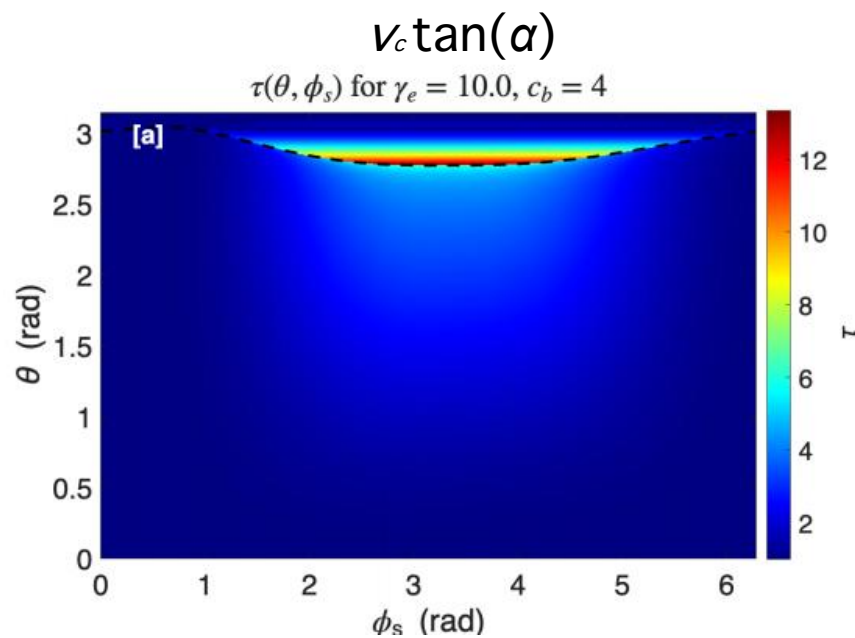
2: Shock Drift Acceleration

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 255:716–720, 1982 April 15
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PARTICLE DRIFT, DIFFUSION, AND ACCELERATION AT SHOCKS
J. R. JOKIPII

$$v_c \tan(\alpha)$$





The First LHAASO Catalog of Gamma-Ray Sources

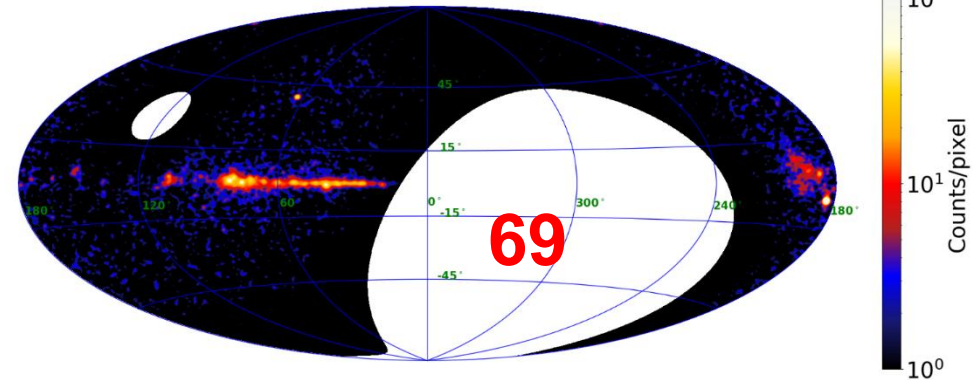
Zhen Cao^{1,2,3}, F. Aharonian^{4,5}, Q. An^{6,7}, Axikegu⁸, Y. X. Bai^{1,3}, Y. W. Bao⁹, D. Bastieri¹⁰, X. J. Bi^{1,2,3}, Y. J. Bi^{1,3}, J. T. Cai¹⁰,

■ **90** in 1st LHAASO sources.

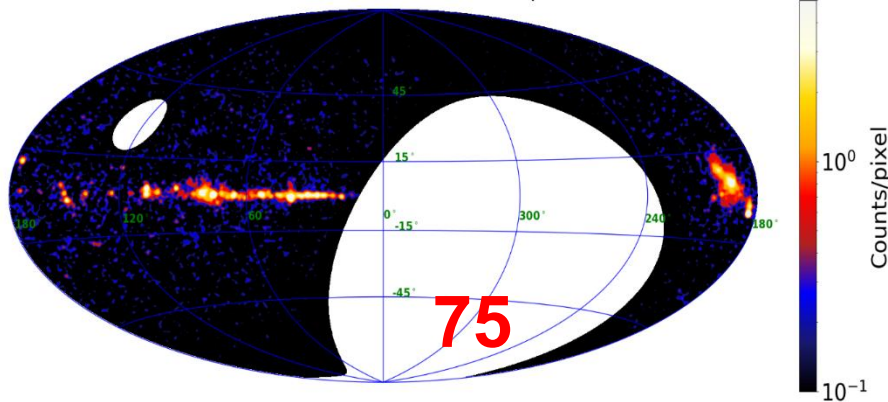
■ **32** new discoveries

■ **43** UHE

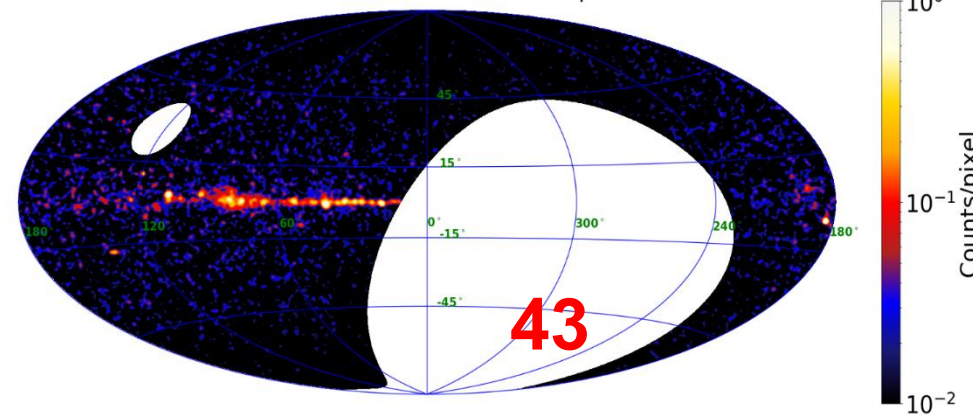
WCDA (1-25 TeV) Excess Map



KM2A (25-100 TeV) Excess Map



KM2A (>100 TeV) Excess Map



Measurement of Ultra-High-Energy Diffuse Gamma-Ray Emission of the Galactic Plane from 10 TeV to 1 PeV with LHAASO-KM2A

Zhen Cao,^{1,2,3} F. Aharonian,^{4,5} Q. An,^{6,7} Axikegu,⁸ Y. X. Bai,^{1,3} Y. W. Bao,⁹ D. Bastieri,¹⁰ X. J. Bi,^{1,2,3} Y. J. Bi,^{1,3} J. T. Cai,¹⁰

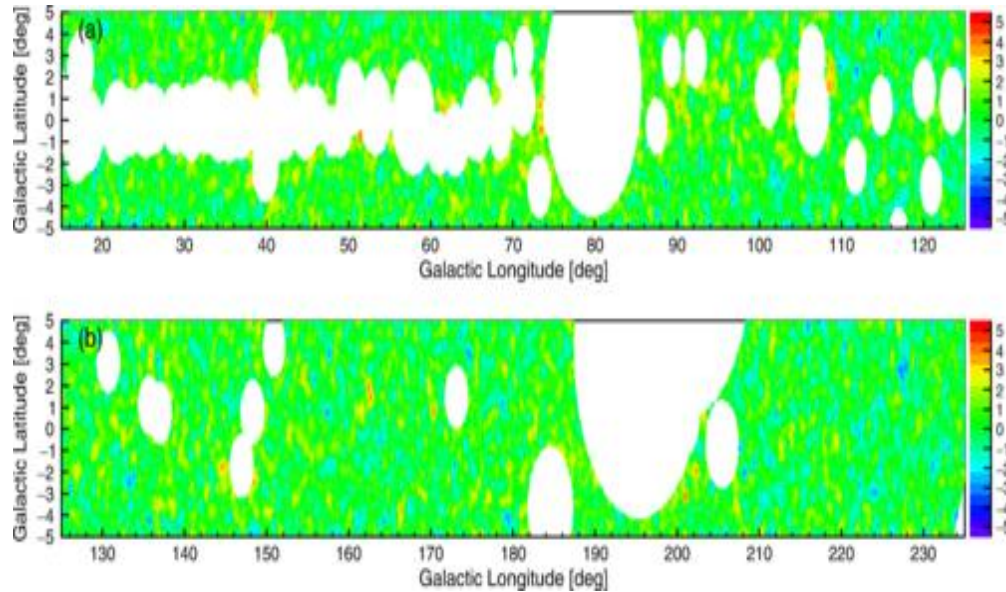
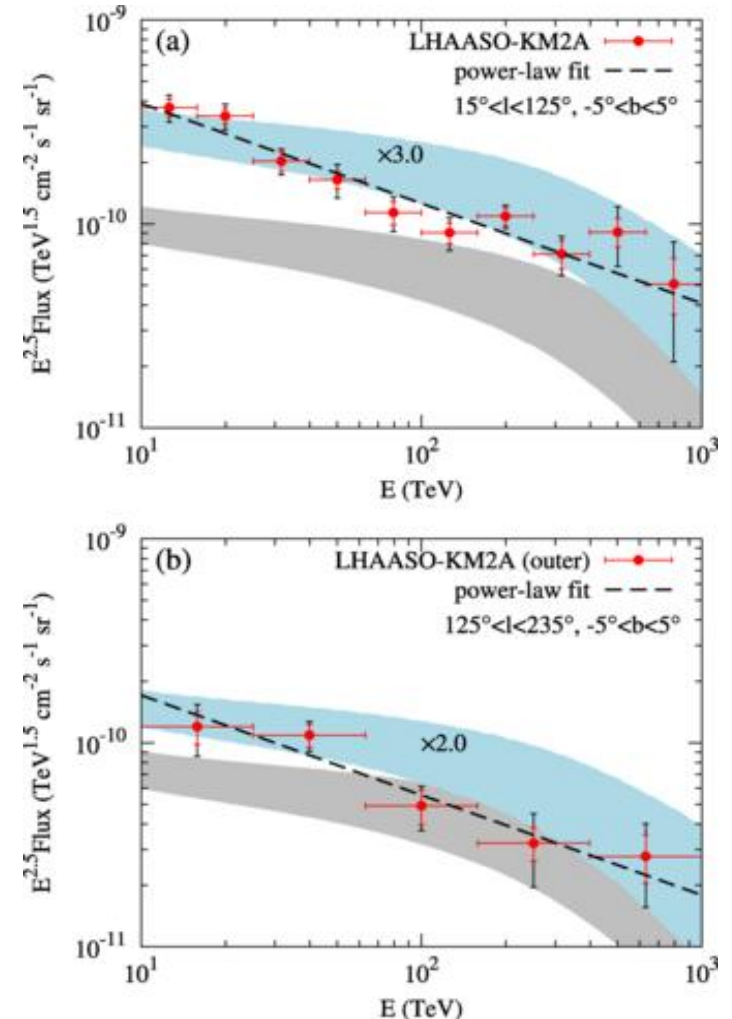


TABLE I. Fitting parameters of the LHAASO-KM2A diffuse spectra.

	ϕ_0 (10^{-14} $\text{TeV}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$)	α
Inner Galaxy	$1.00 \pm 0.04_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.09_{\text{sys}}$	$-2.99 \pm 0.04_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.07_{\text{sys}}$
Outer Galaxy	$0.44 \pm 0.04_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.05_{\text{sys}}$	$-2.99 \pm 0.07_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.12_{\text{sys}}$



Measurement of Very-High-Energy Diffuse Gamma-Ray Emissions from the Galactic Plane with LHAASO-WCDA

Zhen Cao,^{1,2,3} F. Aharonian,^{4,5} Axikegu,⁶ Y. X. Bai,^{1,3} Y. W. Bao,⁷ D. Bastieri,⁸ X. J. Bi,^{1,2,3} Y. J. Bi,^{1,3} W. Bian,⁹

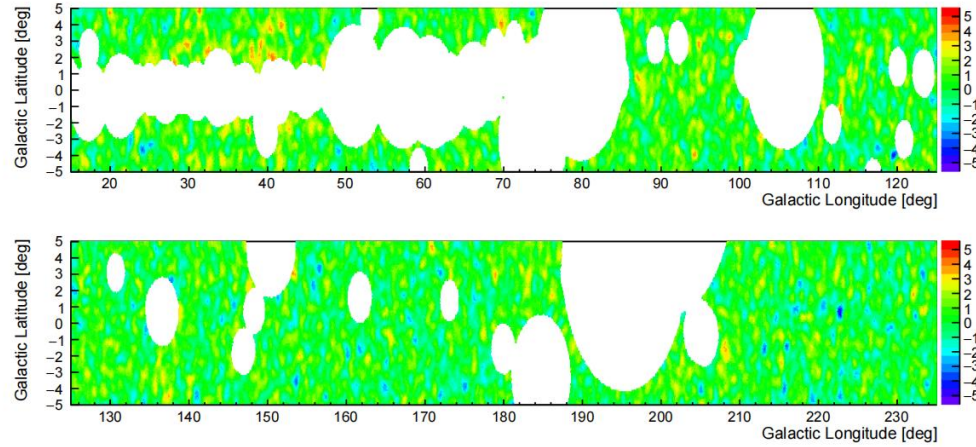
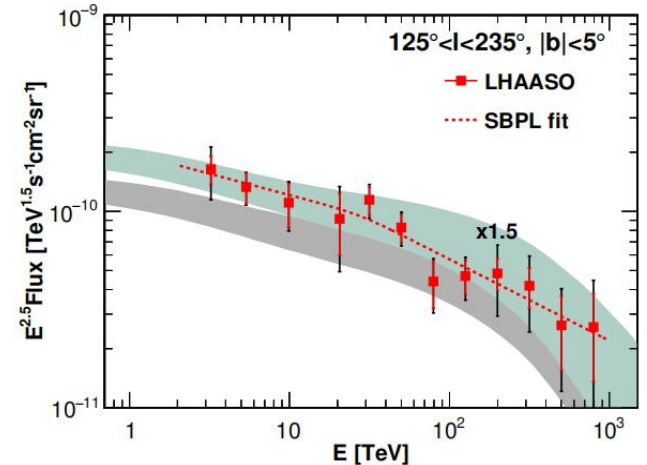
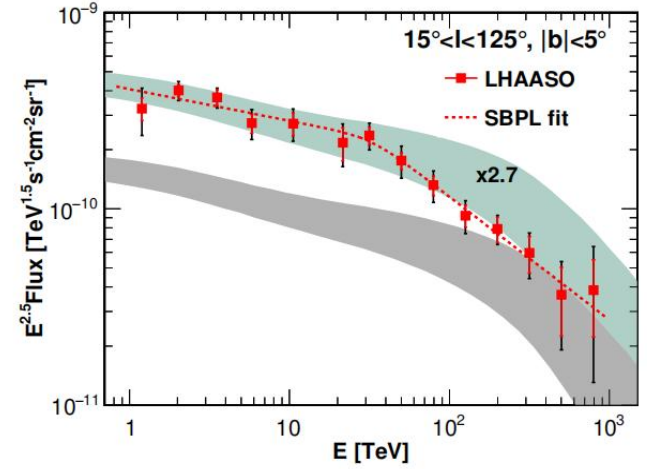
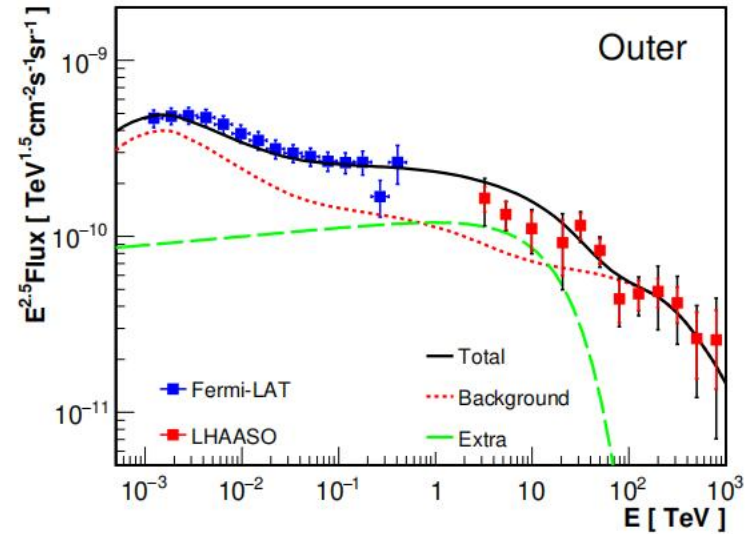
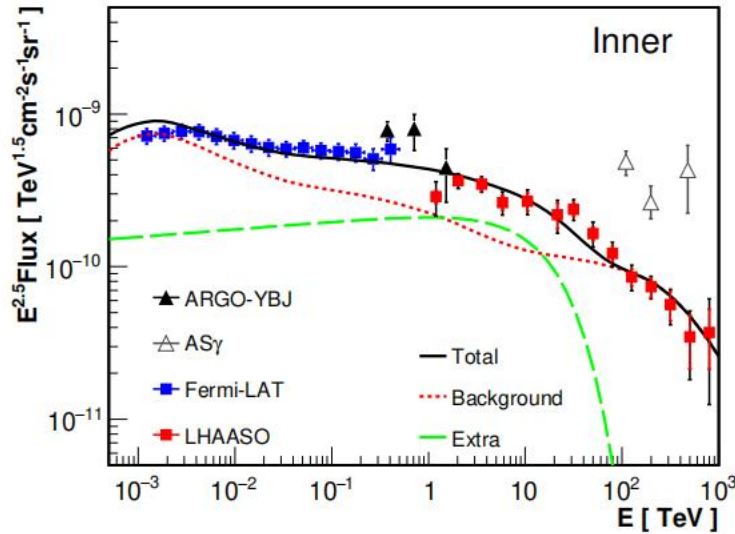


TABLE I. SBPL fitting parameters of the wide-band diffuse emission measured by WCDA and KM2A.

Region	ϕ_0 at 10 TeV ($10^{-13} \text{ TeV}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}$)	α	β	E_{br} (TeV)
$15^\circ < l < 125^\circ$ (inner)	$8.88 \pm 0.53_{\text{stat}}$	$-2.66 \pm 0.05_{\text{stat}}$	$-3.13 \pm 0.08_{\text{stat}}$	$32.84 \pm 11.16_{\text{stat}}$
$125^\circ < l < 235^\circ$ (outer)	$3.84 \pm 0.37_{\text{stat}}$	$-2.72 \pm 0.10_{\text{stat}}$	$-2.92 \pm 0.10_{\text{stat}}$	$27.86 \pm 22.49_{\text{stat}}$



3: Possible explanation of the diffuse emission



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<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ac842>

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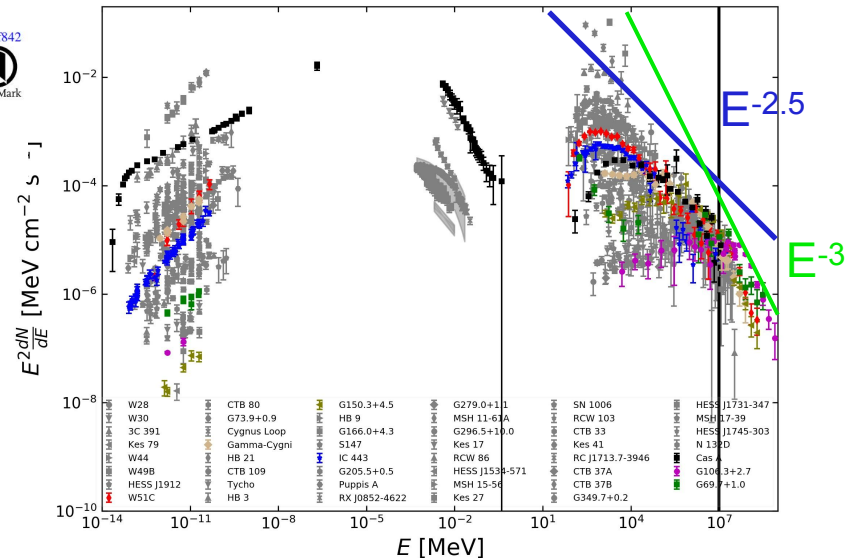


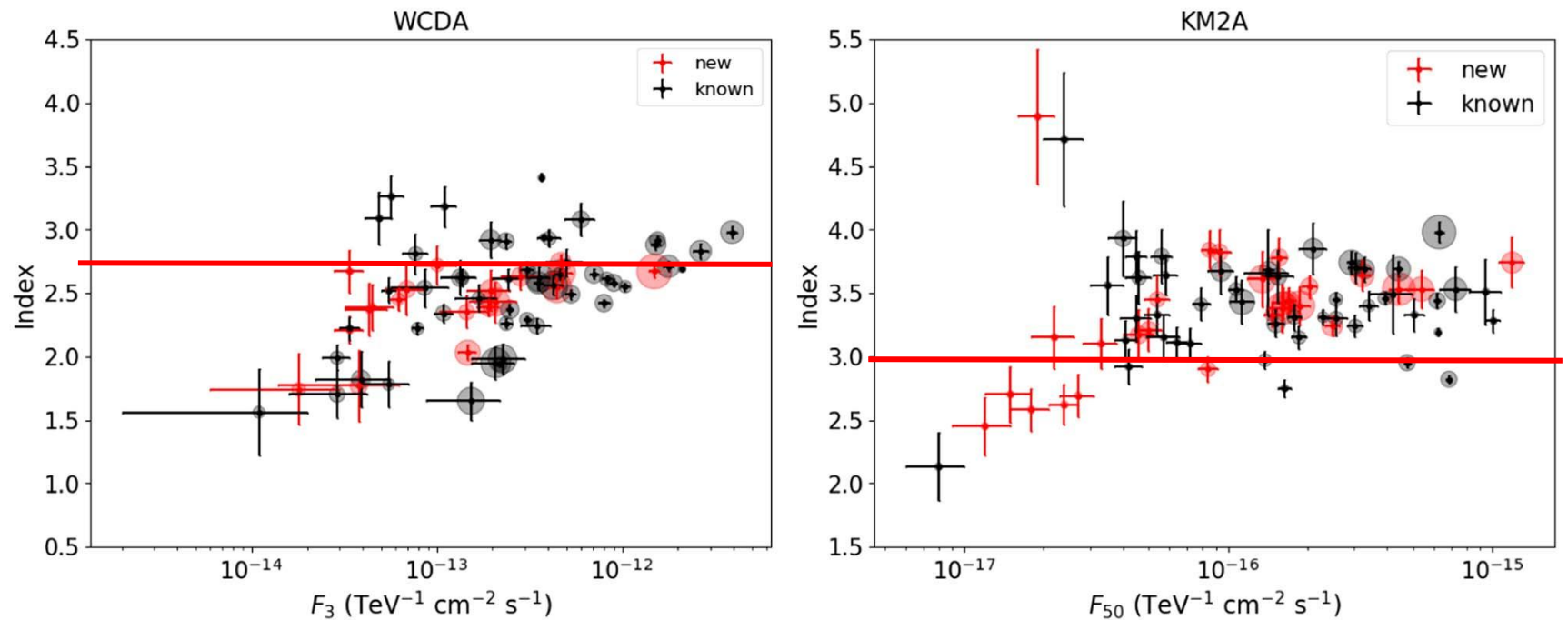
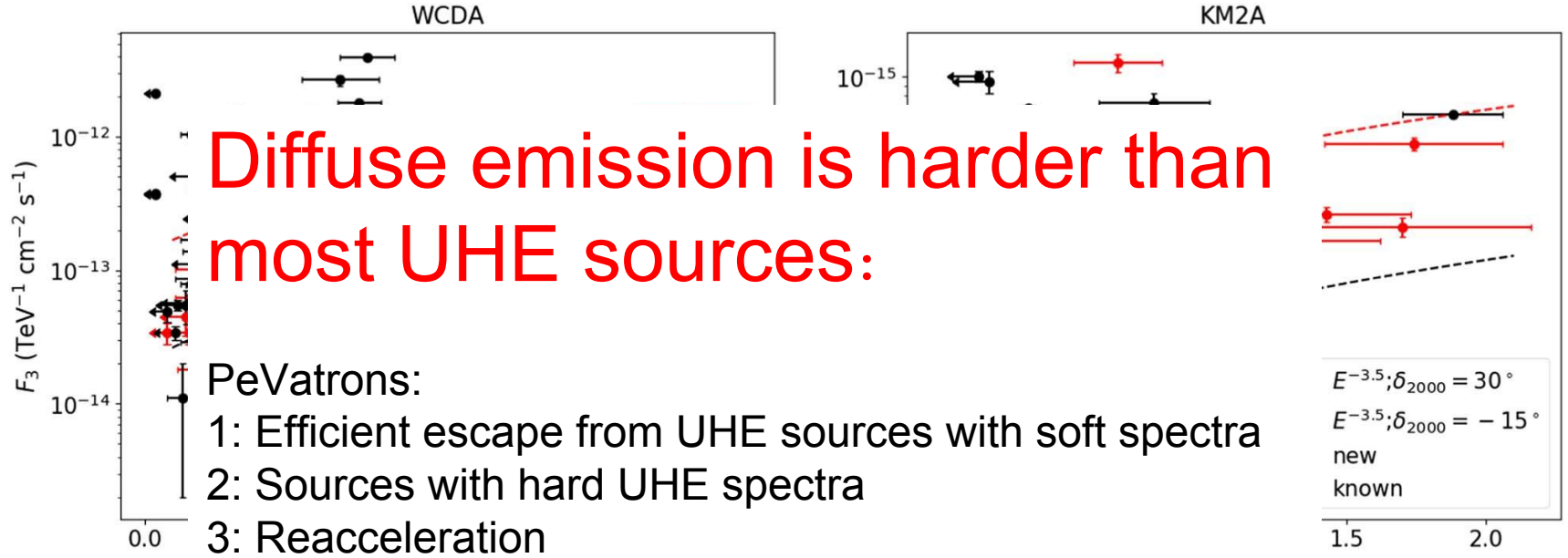
Galactic Diffuse γ -Ray Emission from GeV to PeV Energies in Light of Up-to-date Cosmic-Ray Measurements

Rui Zhang^{1,2}, Xiaoyuan Huang^{1,2}, Zhi-Hui Xu³, Shiping Zhao¹, and Qiang Yuan^{1,2}

$$q_{\text{inj}} = q_0 R^{-\nu_0} \exp\left(-\frac{R}{R_c}\right) \prod_{i=1}^n \left[1 + \left(\frac{R}{R_i}\right)^\zeta\right]^{-\frac{\nu_i - 1 - \nu_i}{\zeta}}.$$

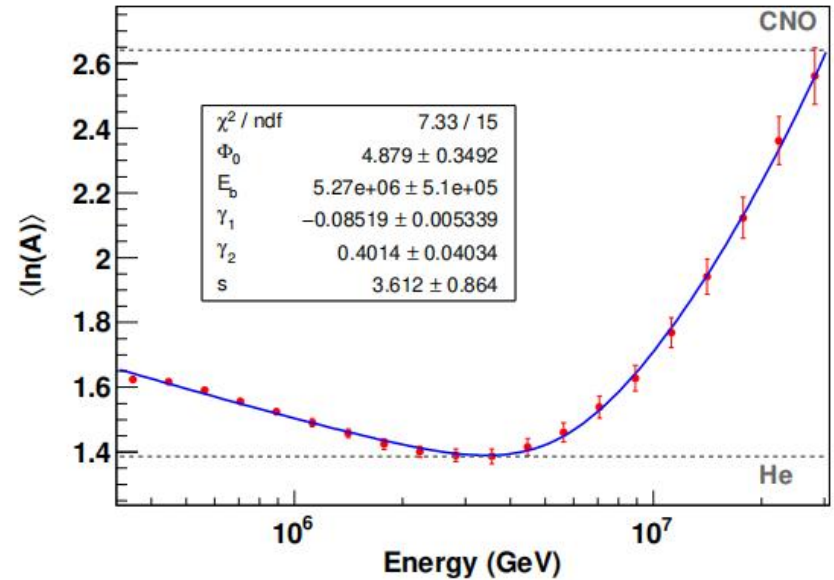
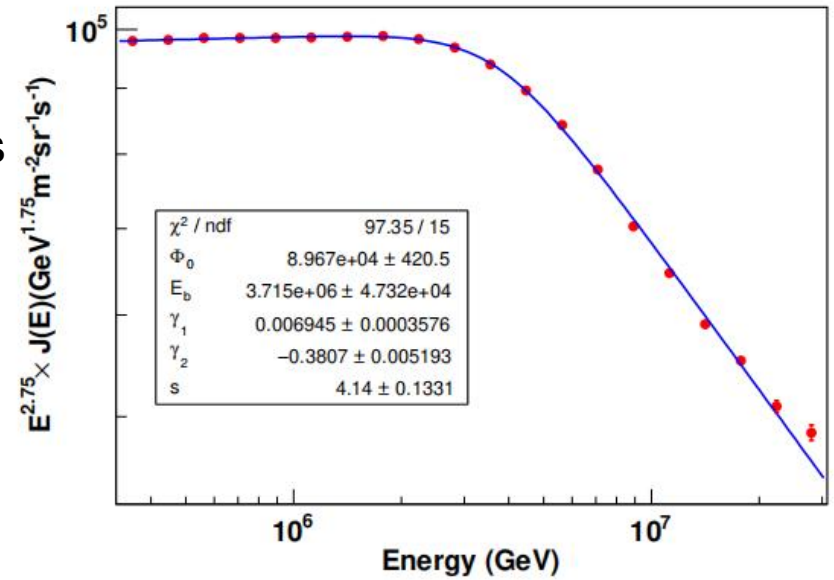
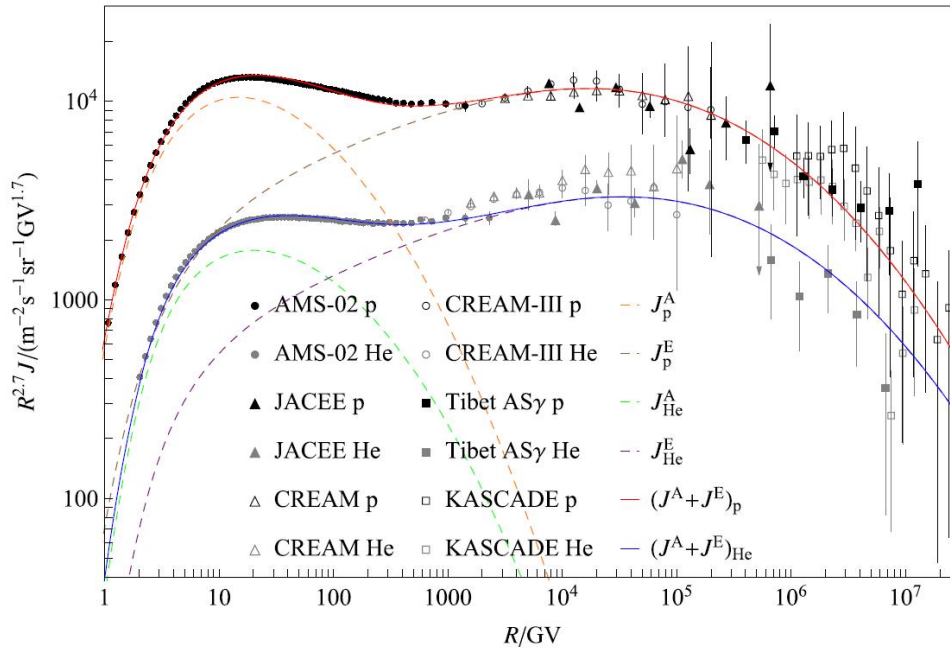
Cas A; IC 443; W51C; Gamma-Cygni; G106.3+2.7; G69.7+1.0; G150.3+4.5





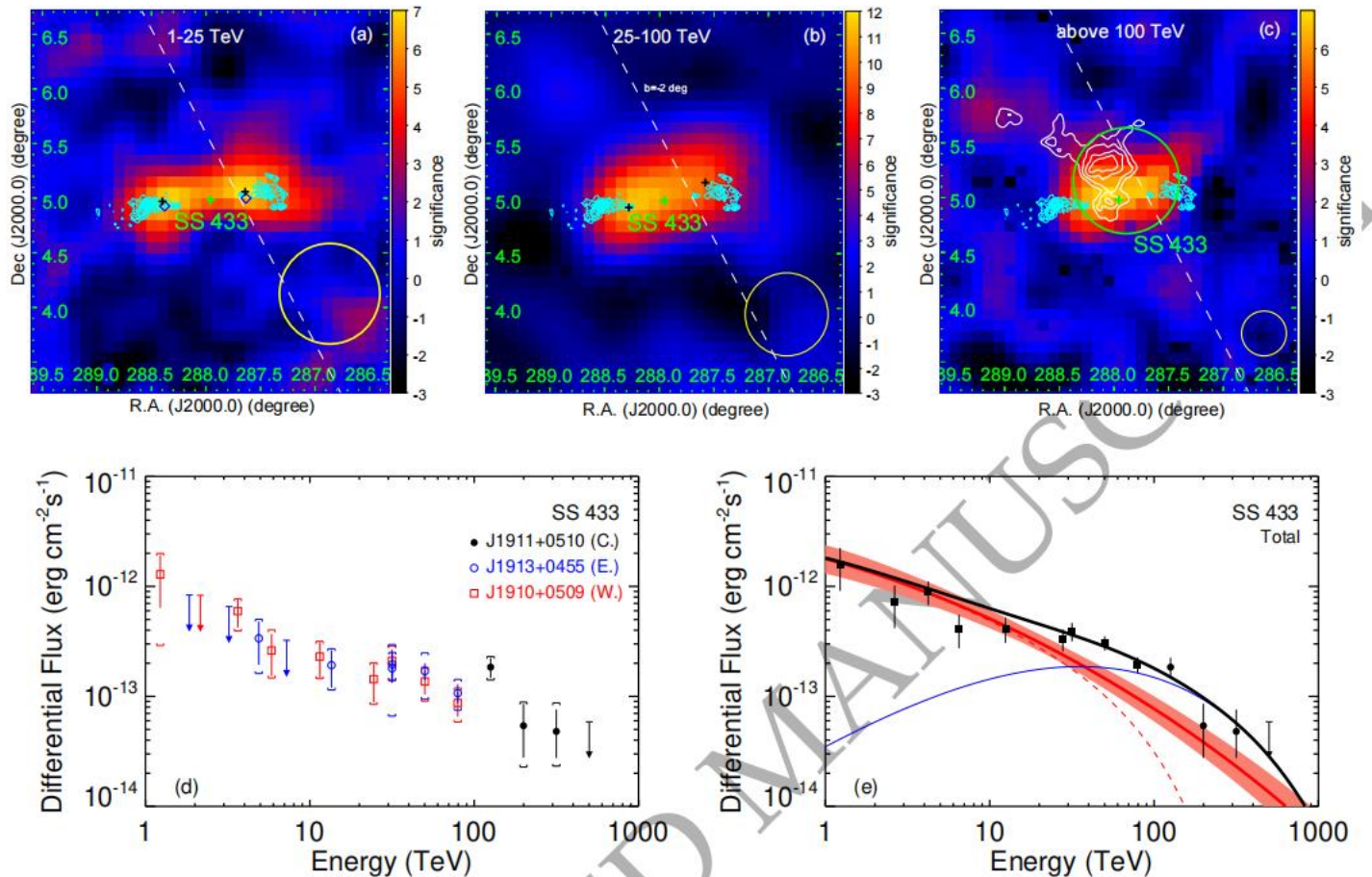
1: There appears to be three components:
 GeV dominated by acceleration of slow shocks
 TeV dominated by fast shocks
 PeV shock drift acceleration?

PWNs, Young Massive Star Clusters?



Ultrahigh-energy gamma-ray emission associated with black hole-jet systems

The LHAASO Collaboration^{†,*}





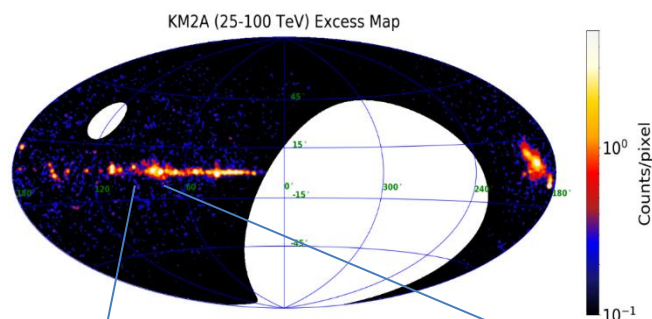
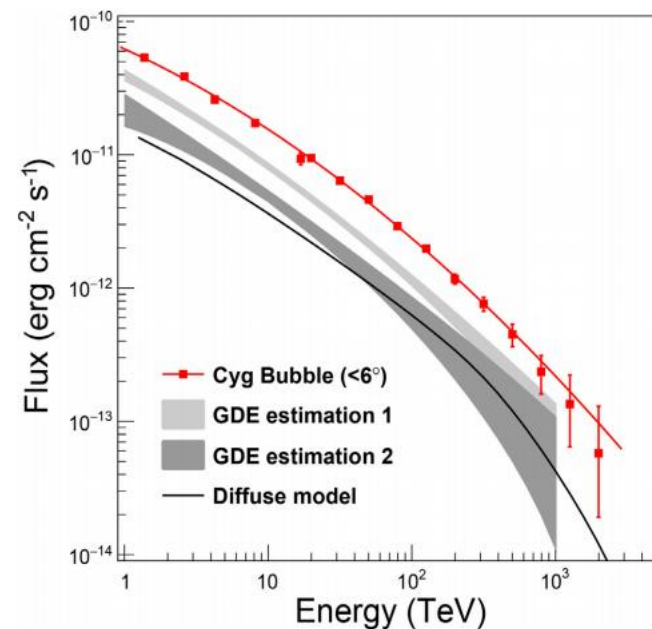
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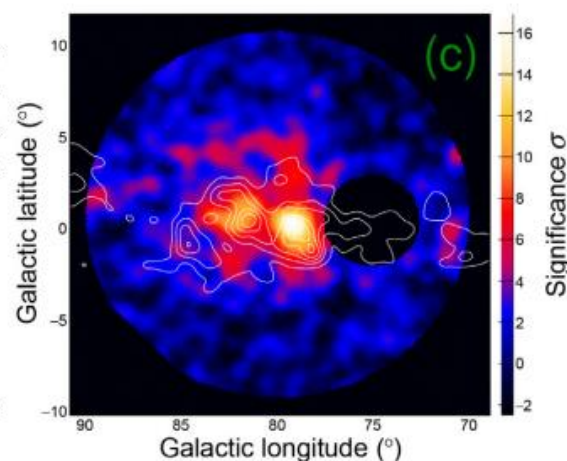
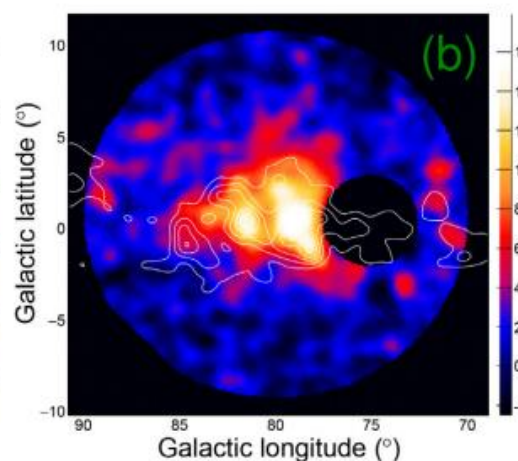
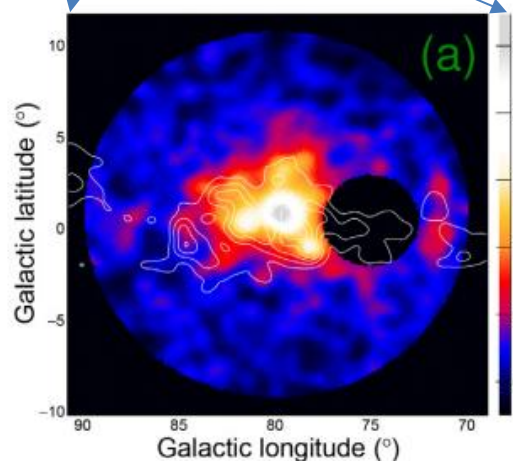
journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/scib

Article

An ultrahigh-energy γ -ray bubble powered by a super PeVatronLHAASO Collaboration ^{*,1}

25-100 TeV

>100 TeV



Conclusions

Shock drift acceleration may play an important role in the acceleration of PeV cosmic rays

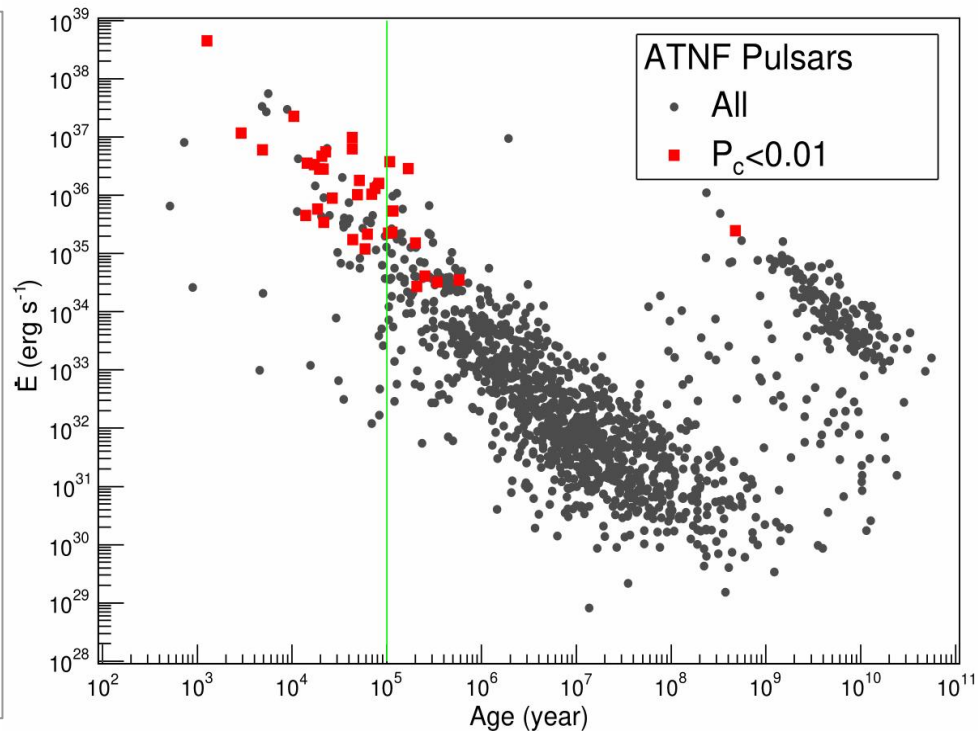
PeV cosmic rays may also be dominated by sources with hard ultra-high-energy gamma-ray spectra, such as microquasar

Reacceleration in propagation may also play a role in producing the PeV CR component

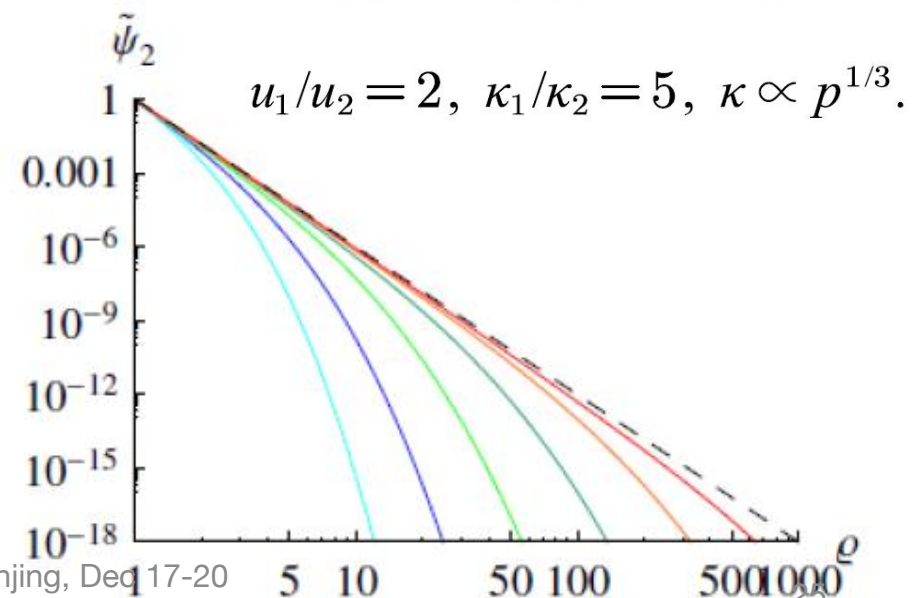
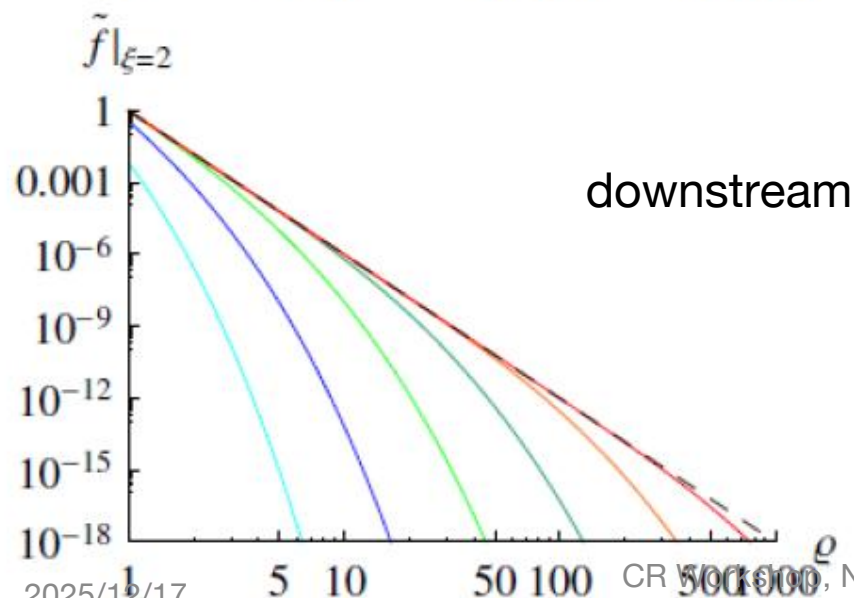
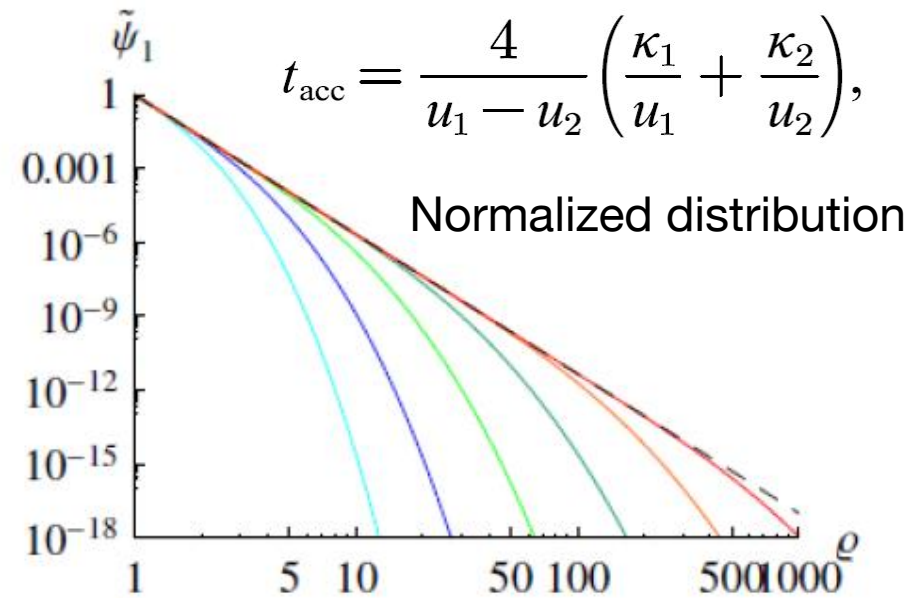
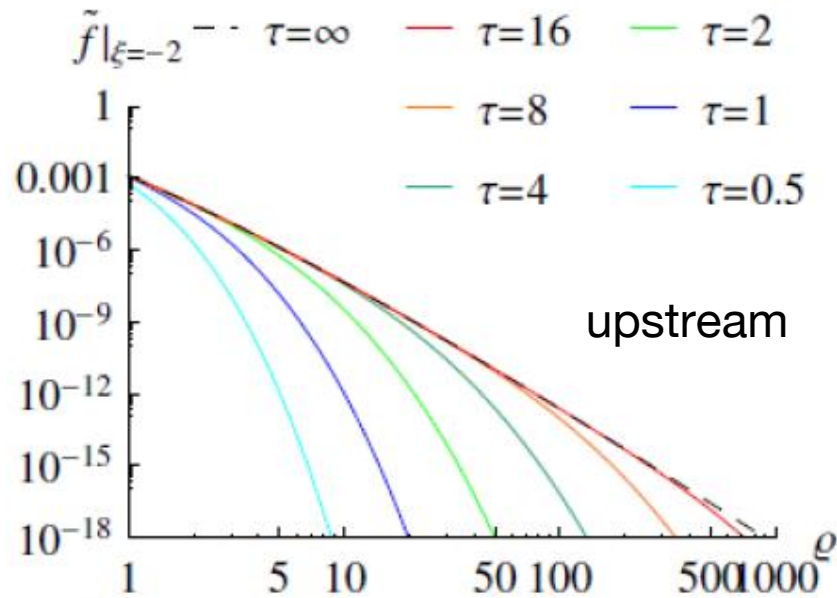
Thanks

Association with ATNF pulsars

- **65** 1LHAASO sources with pulsar nearby $<0.5^\circ$.
- **35** associations with chance coincide probability $<1\%$. (13 labeled as PWN or Halo in TeVCat)
- **22** new possible PWN/TeV Halo



1: An example of time-dependent DSA





Are Supernova Remnants PeVatrons?

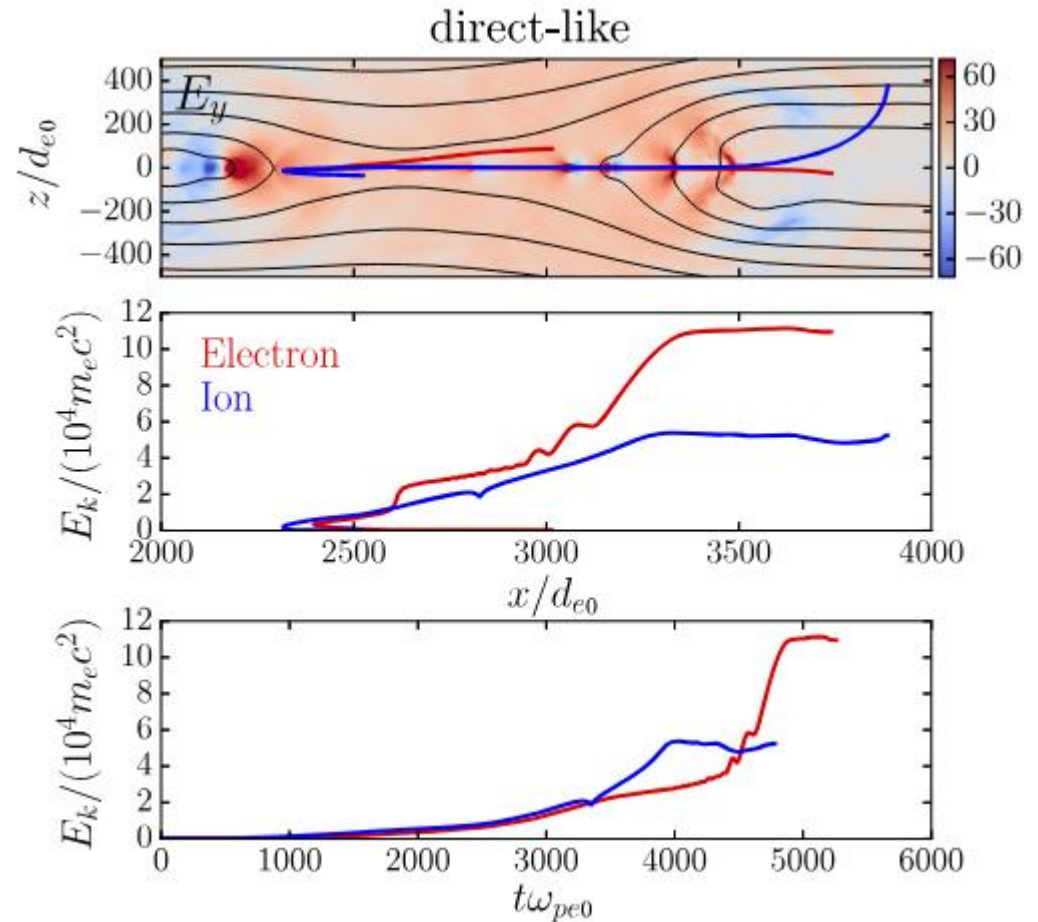
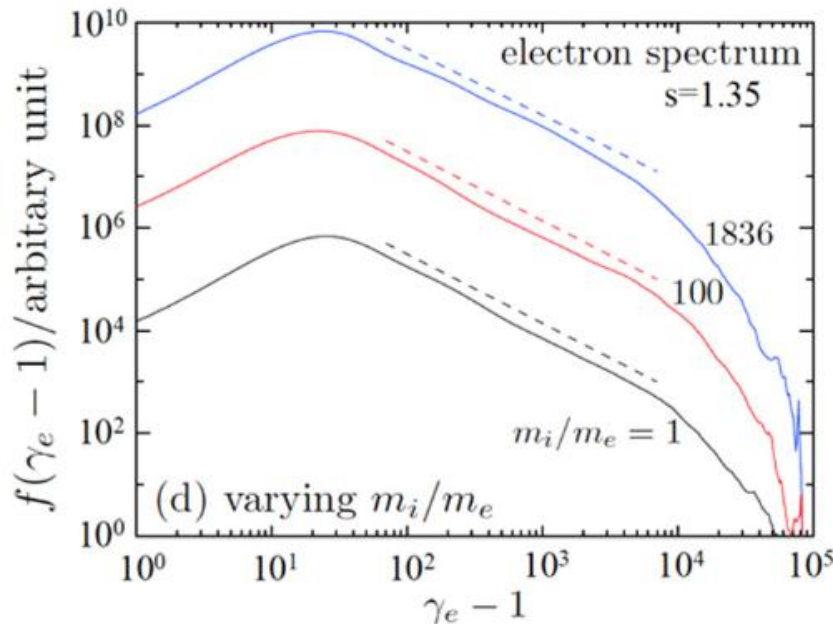


EFFICIENT PRODUCTION OF HIGH-ENERGY NONTHERMAL PARTICLES DURING MAGNETIC RECONNECTION IN A MAGNETICALLY DOMINATED ION-ELECTRON PLASMA

FAN GUO¹, XIAOCAN LI^{1,2}, HUI LI¹, WILLIAM DAUGHTON¹, BING ZHANG³, NICOLE LLOYD-RONNING¹,
YI-HSIN LIU⁴, HAOCHENG ZHANG^{1,5}, AND WEI DENG^{1,3}

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2: Acceleration by parallel electric field



2: PeV Particle Acceleration in PWNS

MNRAS **478**, 926–931 (2018)
Advance Access publication 2018 May 5

doi:10.1093/mnras/sty1159

Pulsar Wind Nebulae inside Supernova Remnants as Cosmic-Ray PeVatrons

Yutaka Ohira,^{1,2}★ Shota Kisaka² and Ryo Yamazaki²

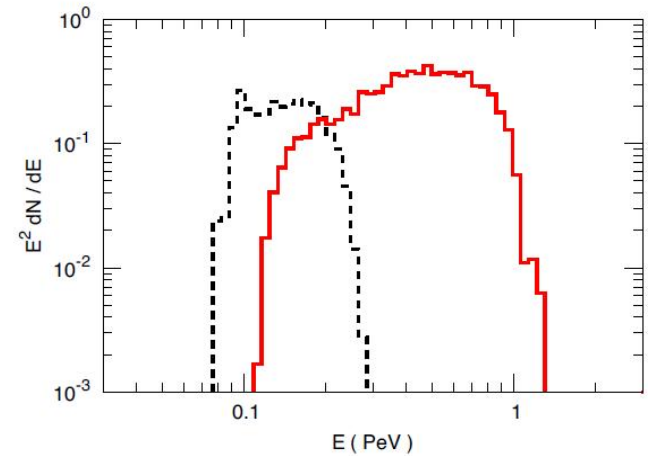
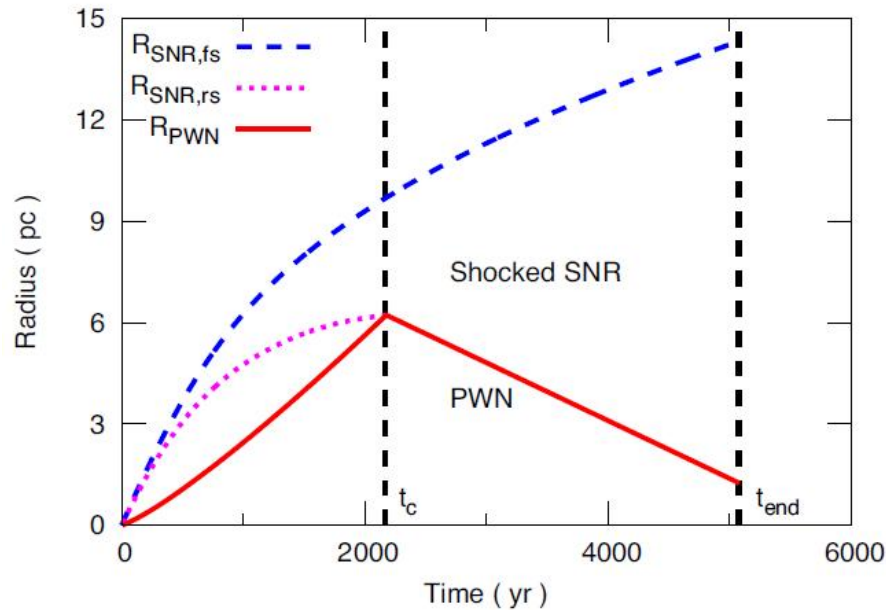
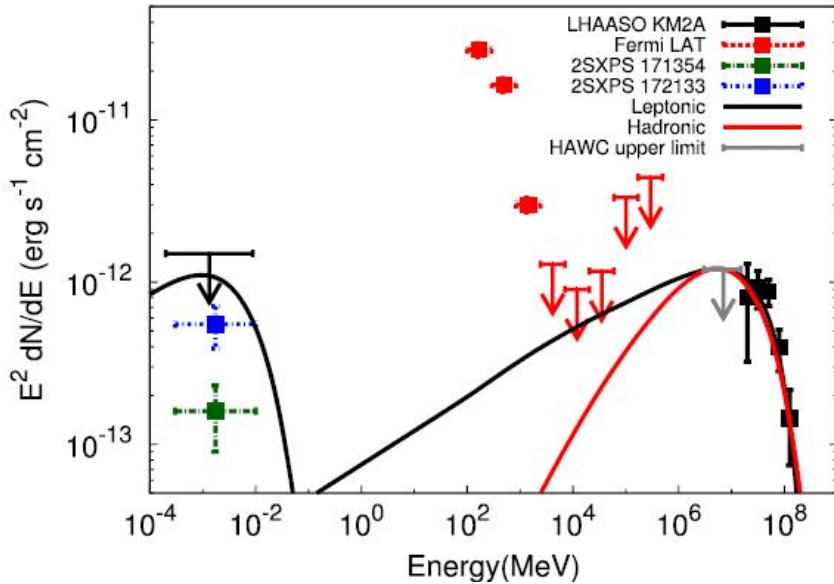
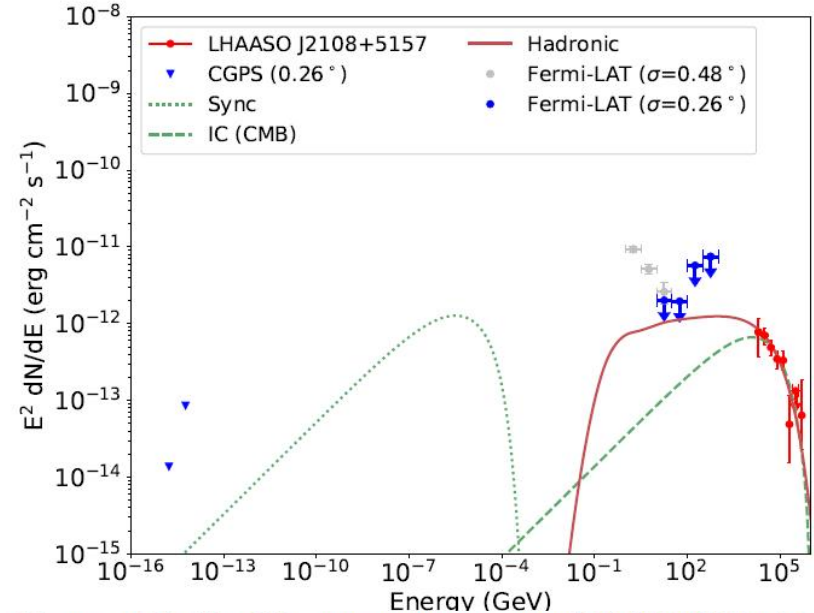
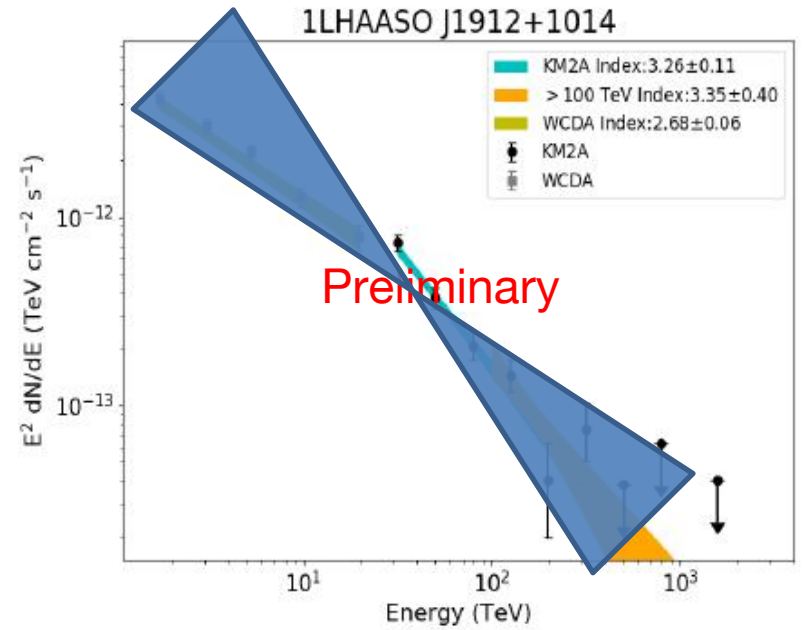


Figure 2. Energy spectra of reaccelerated particles for Model A. The black-dashed and the red solid histograms are energy spectra at $t = t_c$ and t_{end} , respectively. The initial energy is 0.1 PeV.

A Few Likely Associated with SNRs



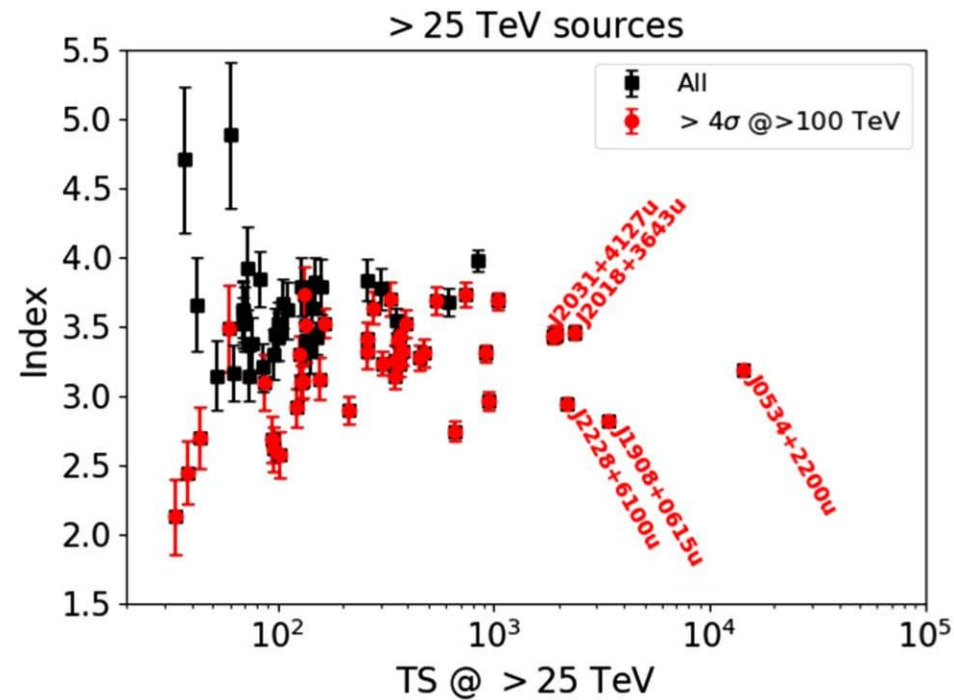
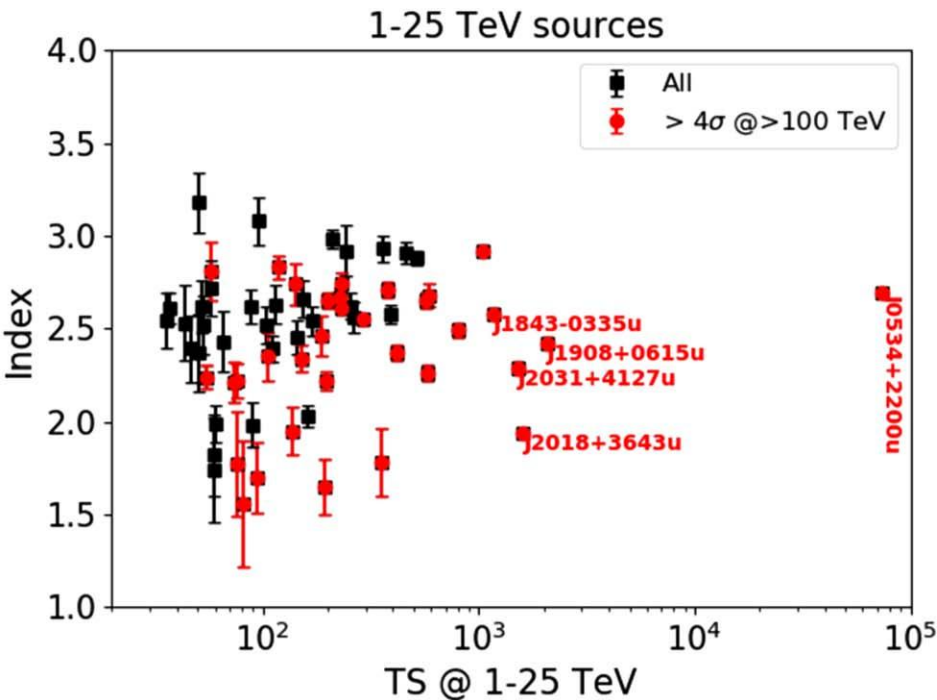
Discovery of a New Gamma-Ray Source, LHAASO J0341+5258, with Emission up to 200 TeV



Discovery of the Ultra-high energy gamma-ray source LHAASO J2108+5157

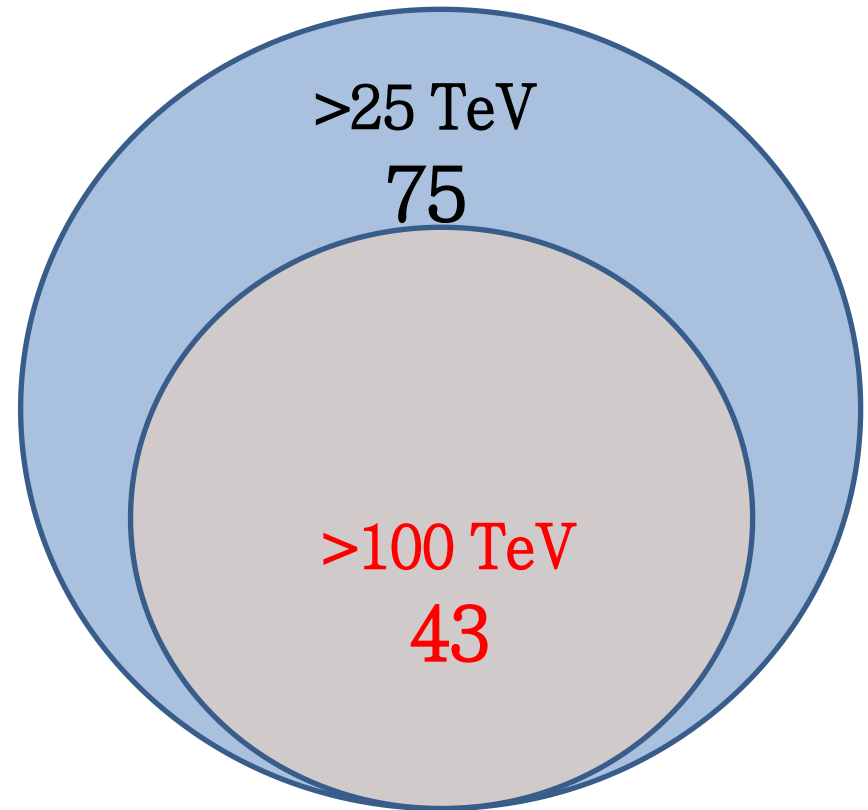
PeVatrons

- **51%** (35/69) 1-25TeV sources are UHE sources.
- **57%** (43/75) >25TeV sources are UHE sources.
- **19%** (8/43) UHE sources are not detected at 1-25TeV (**new class?**).



UHE gamma-ray sources

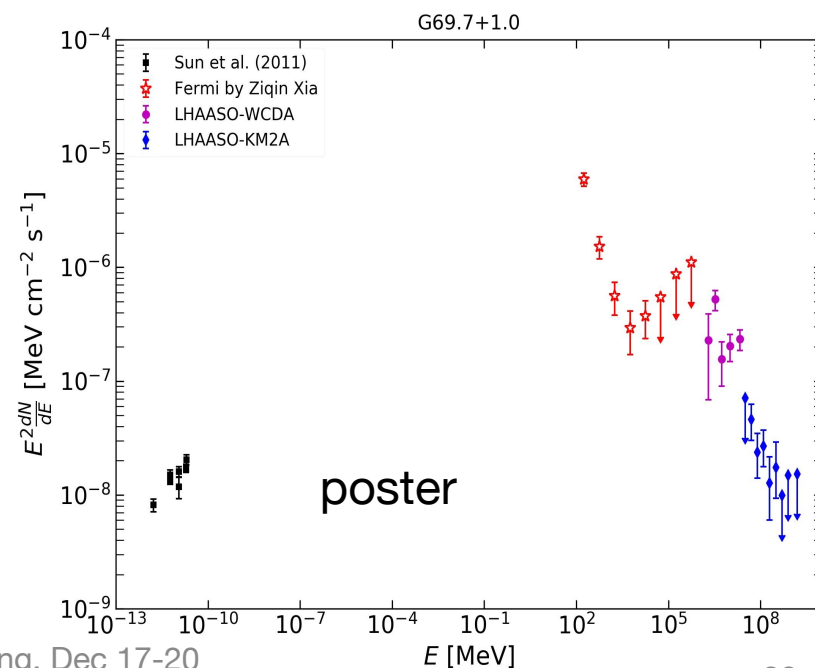
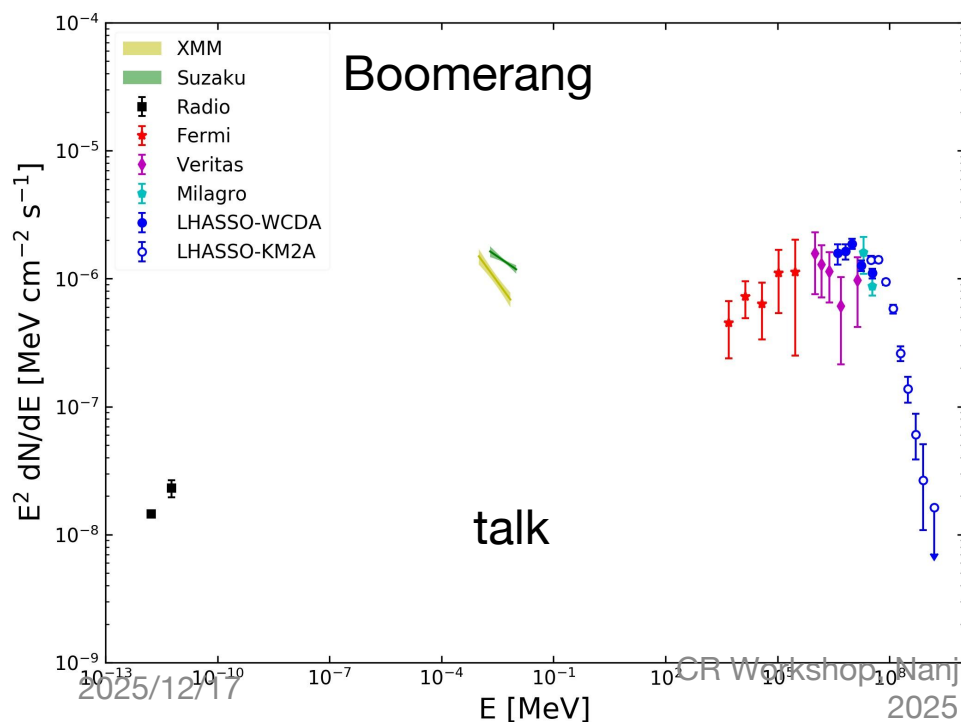
- The position and extension achieved by KM2A at >25 TeV are used.
- Sources with



>2 Detected above 100 TeV

Article

Ultrahigh-energy photons up to 1.4 petaelectronvolts from 12 γ -ray Galactic sources



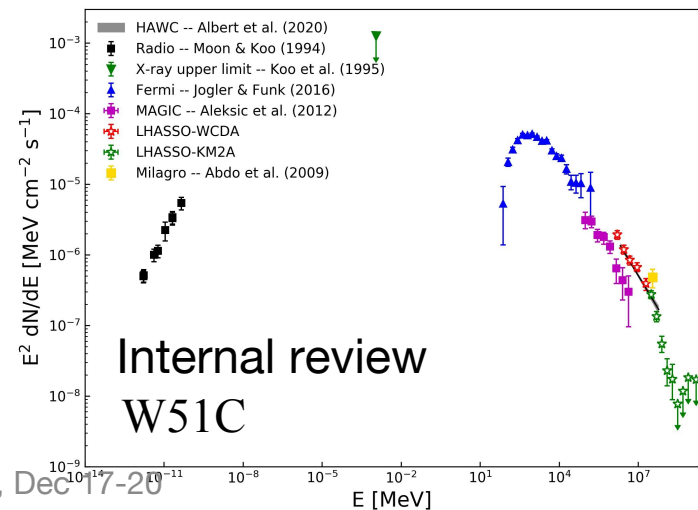
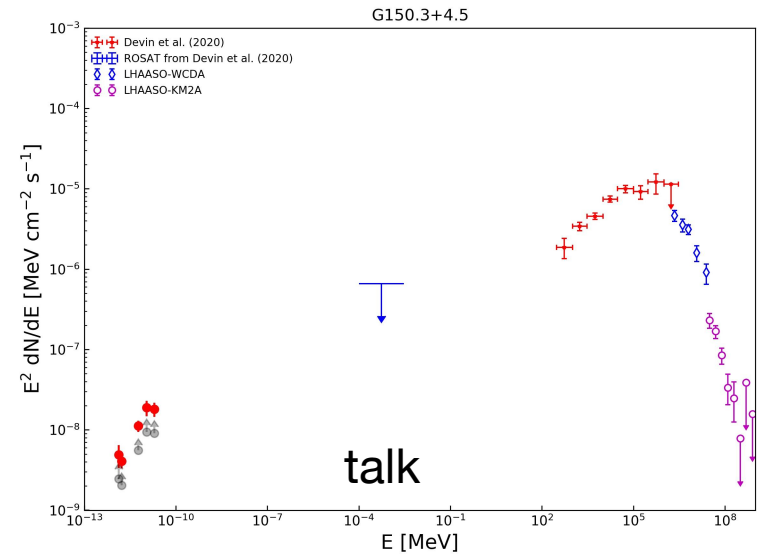
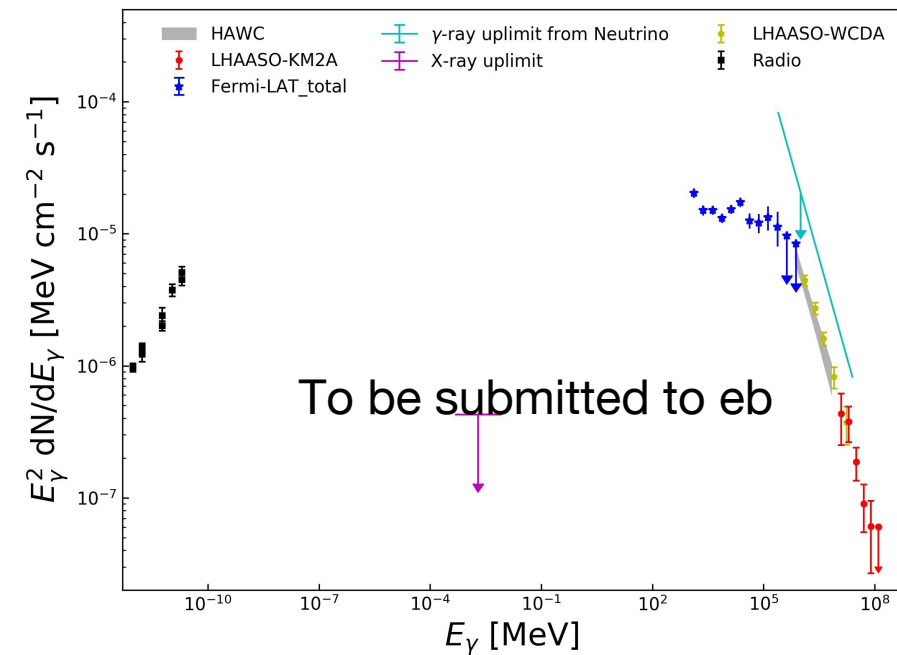
CR Workshop, Nanjing, Dec 17-20

2025/12/17

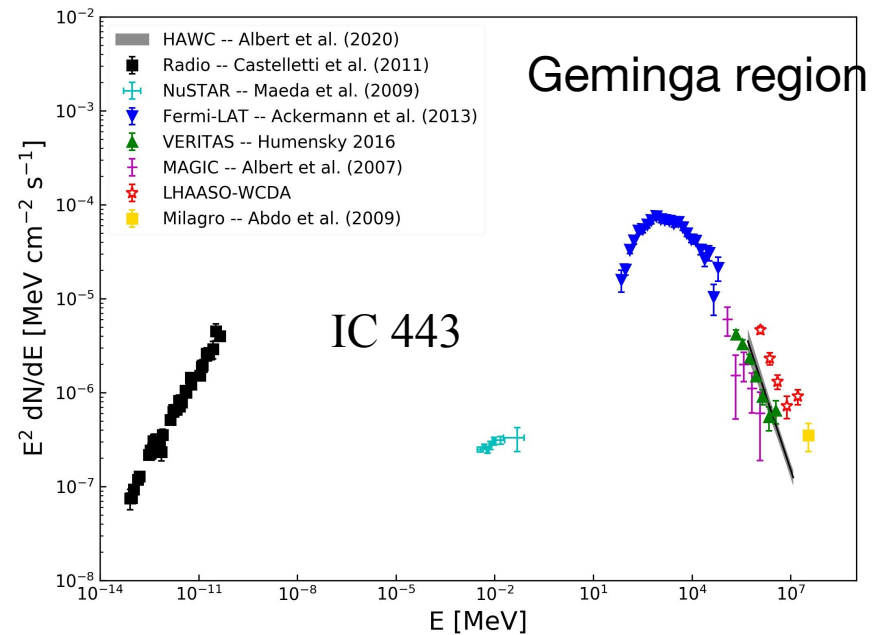
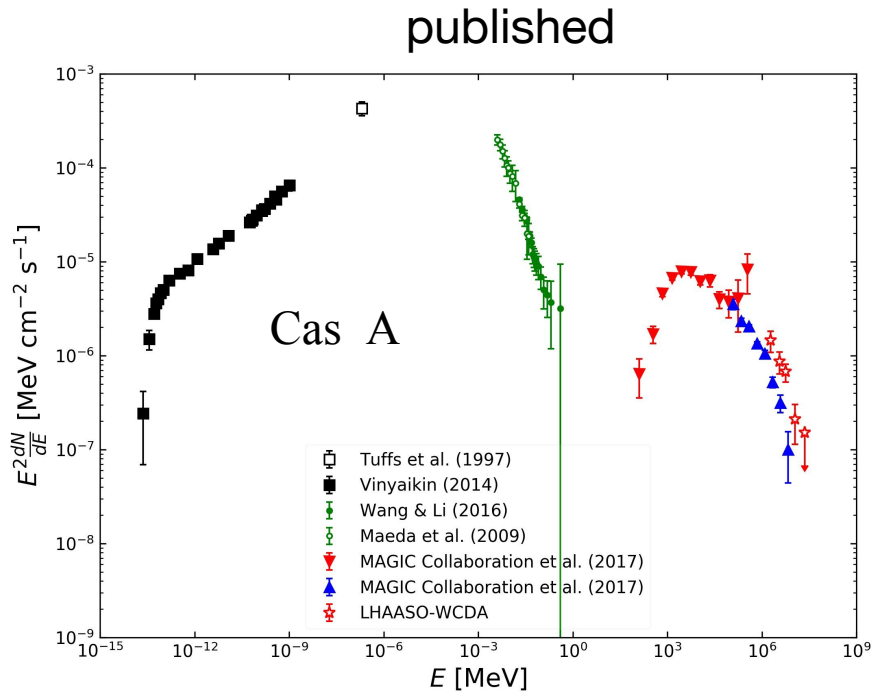
2025

3 Detected up to 100 TeV

Gamma Cygni SNR



2 Detected up to 10 TeV

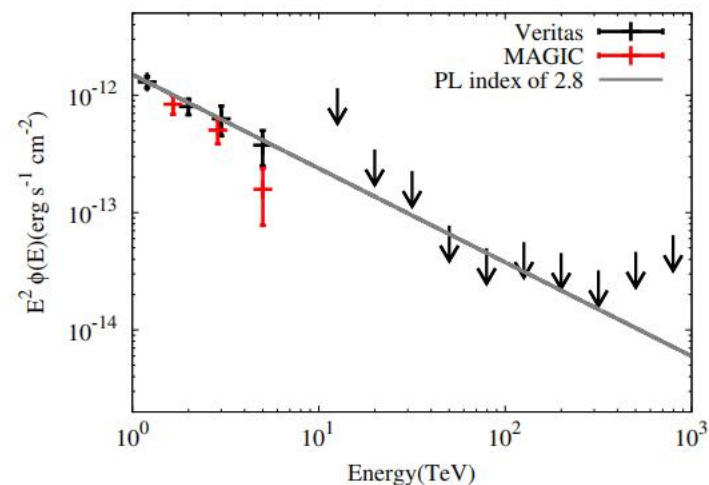
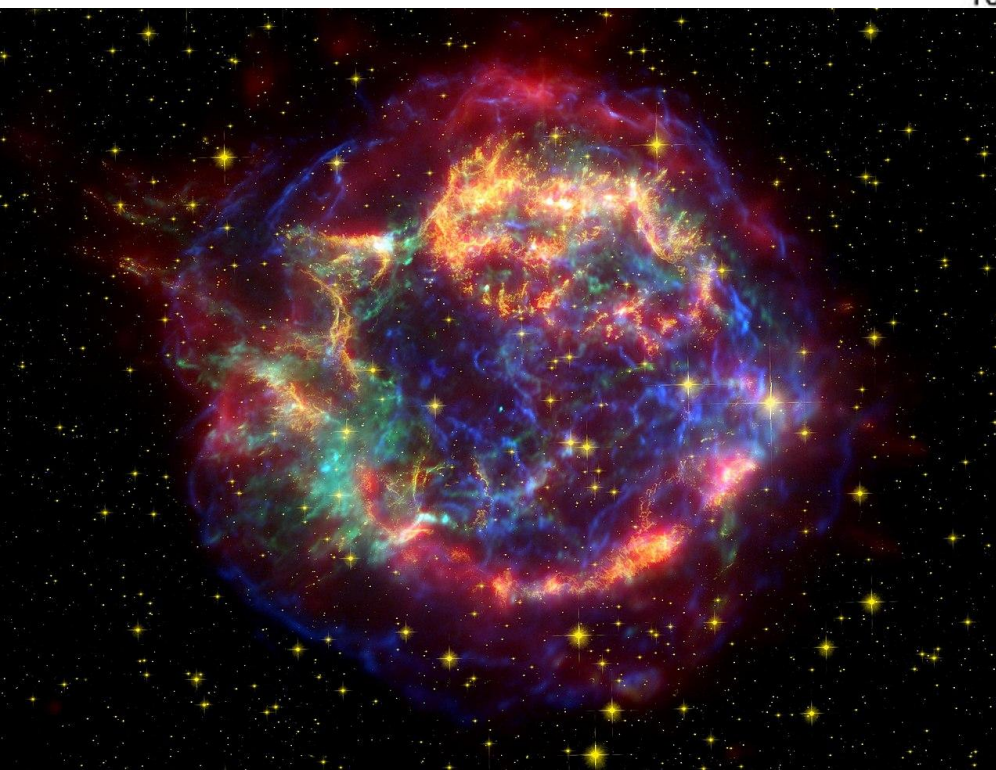
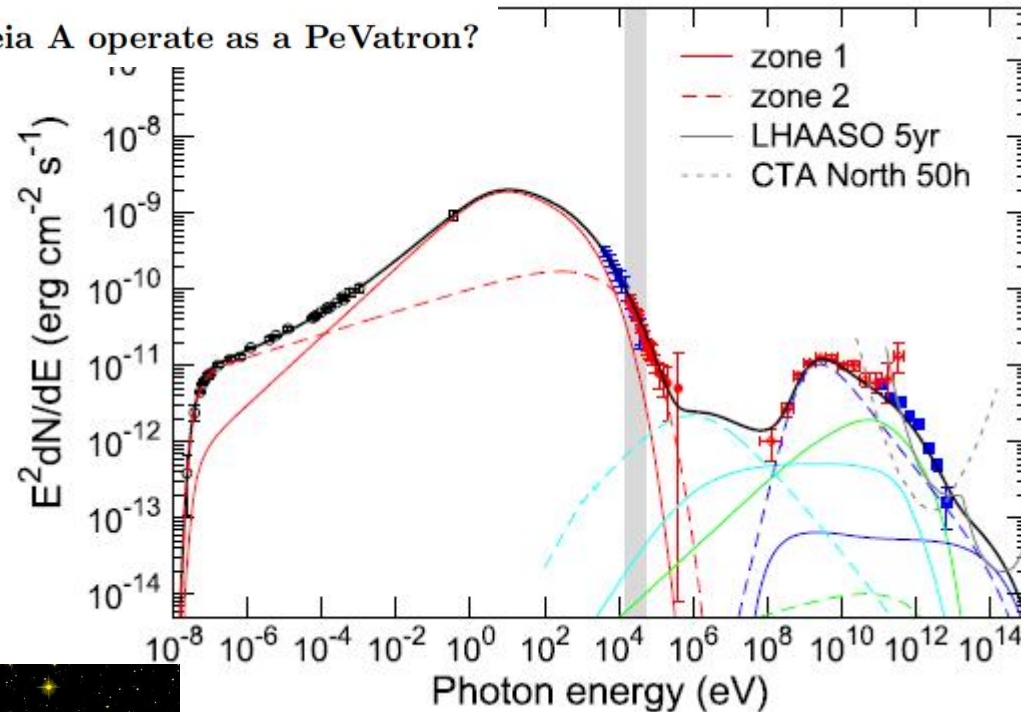


Does or did the supernova remnant Cassiopeia A operate as a PeVatron?

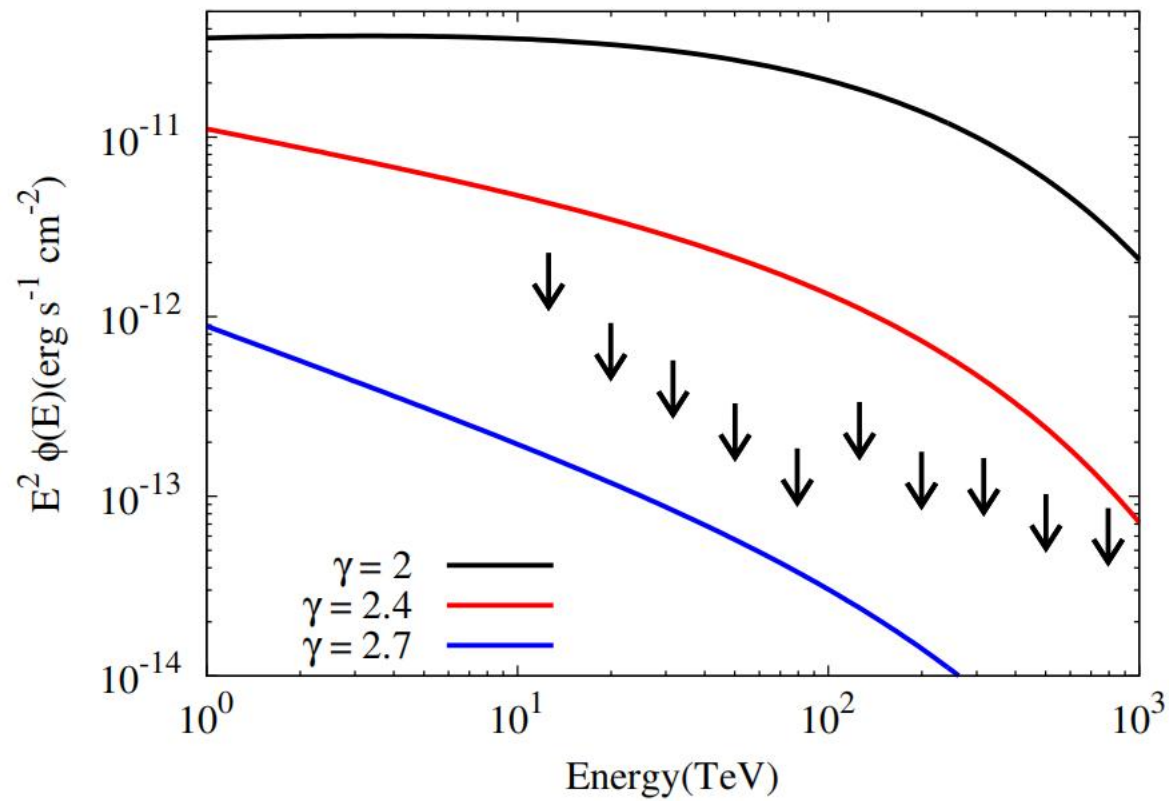
2: Cas A

340 years

**Still in the free
expansion phase?**



For $n=10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, rule out an injection index ≤ 2.5



Escape of cosmic-ray electrons from supernova remnants

Yutaka Ohira,^{1★} Ryo Yamazaki,¹ Norita Kawanaka² and Kunihiro Ioka^{3,4}

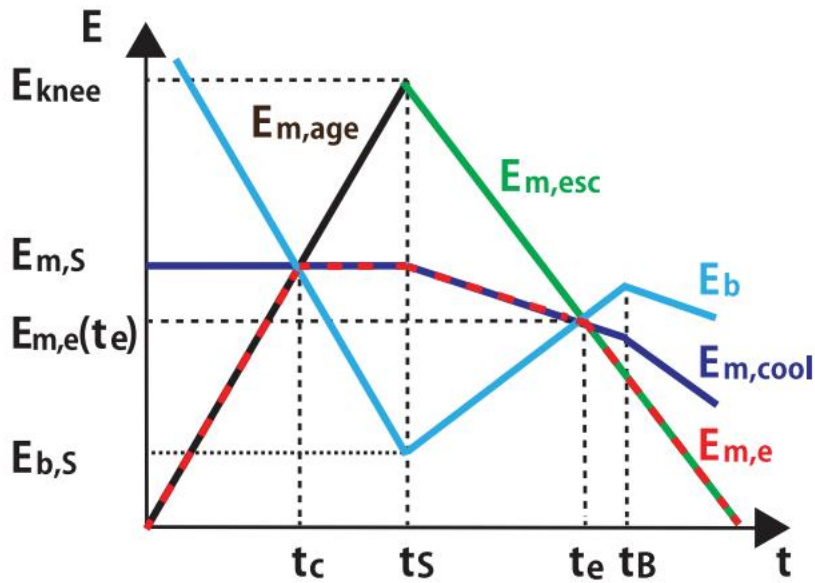
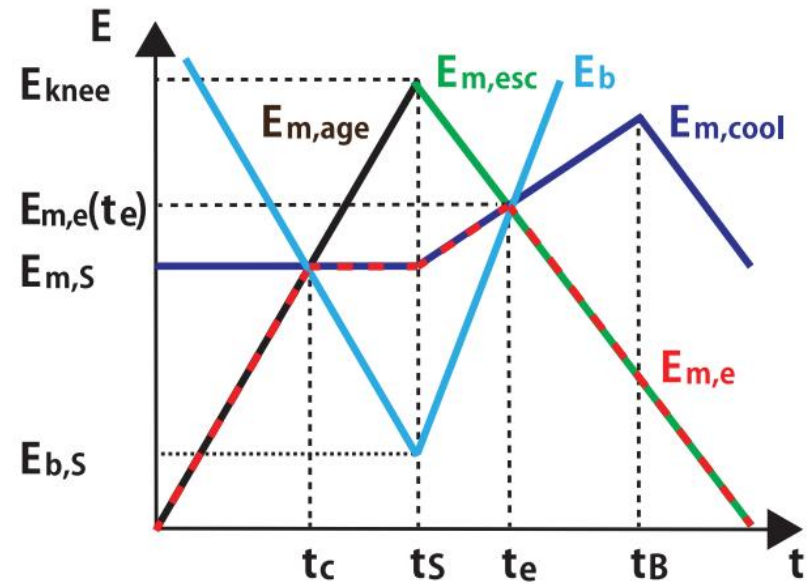
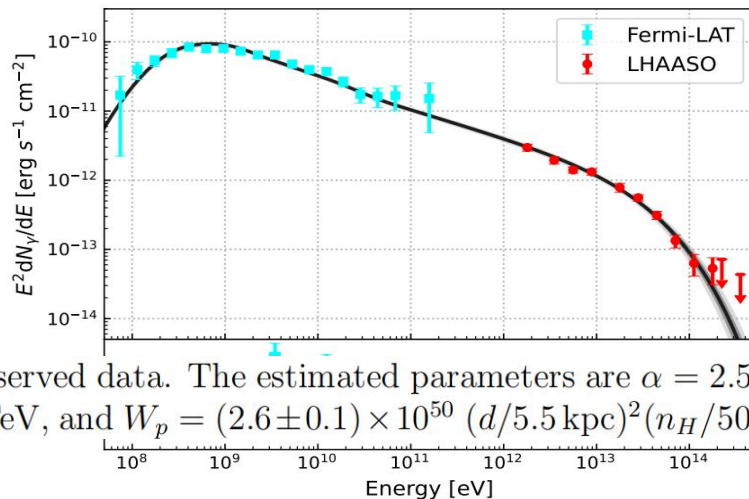
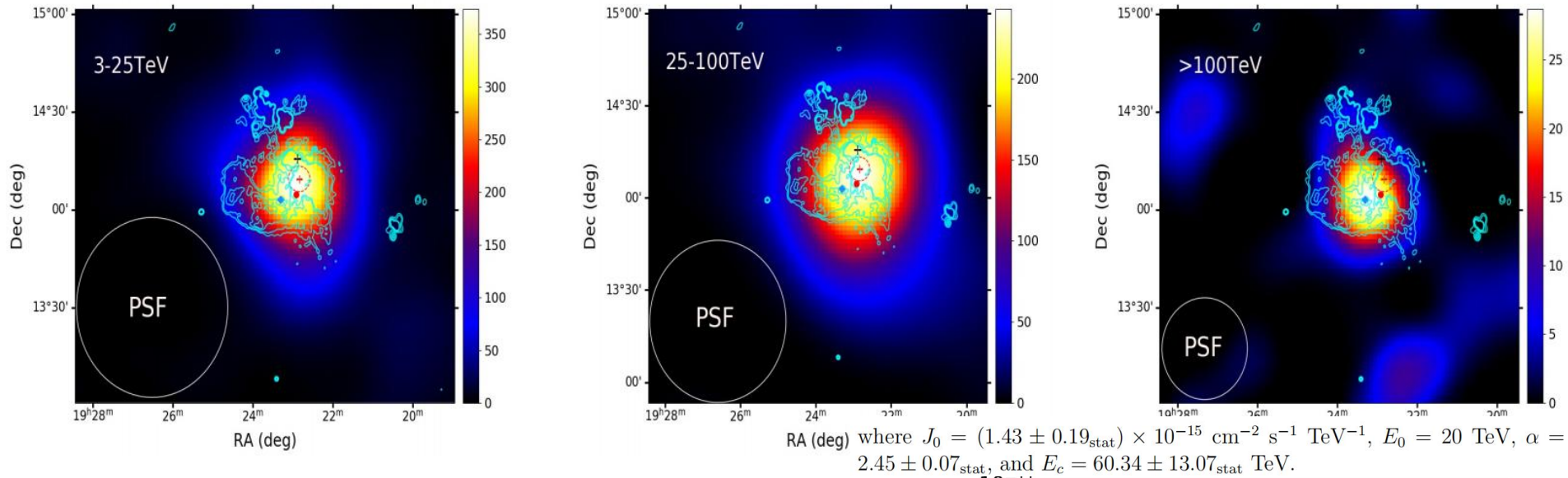


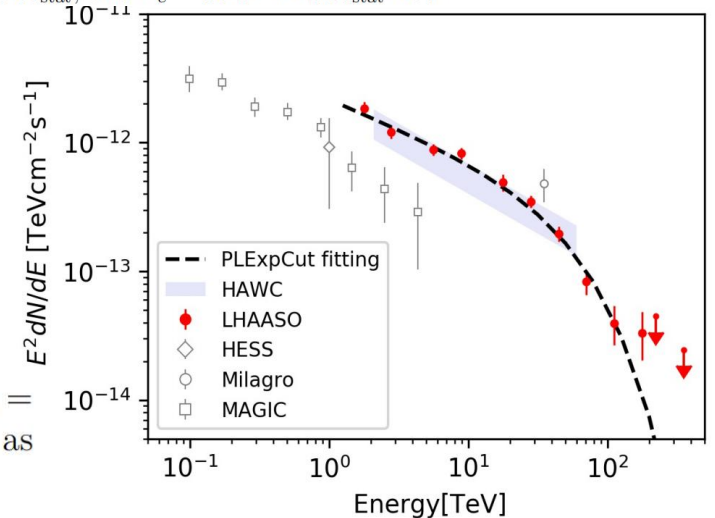
Figure 2. The same as Fig. 1, but for $B^2 \propto u_{sh}^2$ or u_{sh}^3 .



Evidence of Supernova Remnant W51C Accelerating Cosmic Rays to Sub-PeV Energies Unveiled by LHAASO

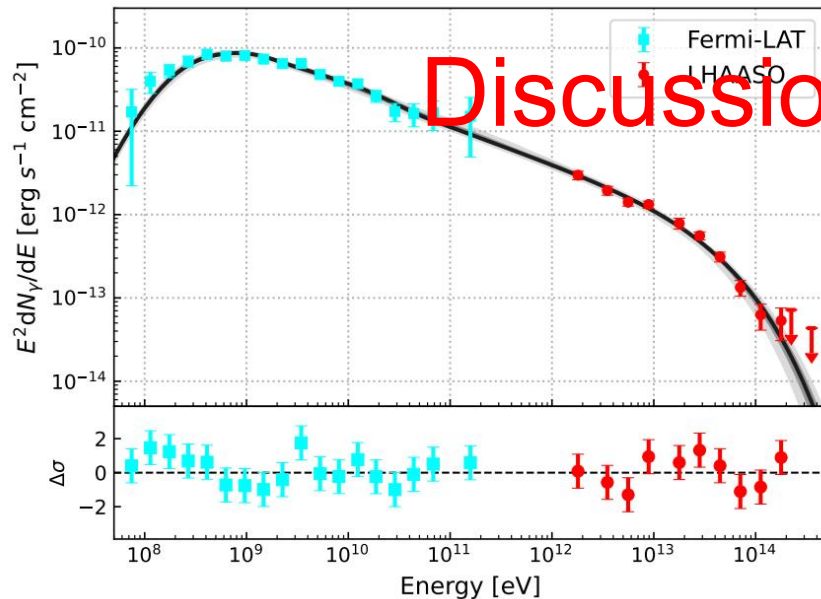


for the observed data. The estimated parameters are $\alpha = 2.51 \pm 0.01$, $E_{\text{cut}} = 330 \pm 44 \text{ TeV}$, and $W_p = (2.6 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{50} (d/5.5 \text{ kpc})^2 (n_H/50 \text{ cm}^{-3})^{-1} \text{ erg}$, as

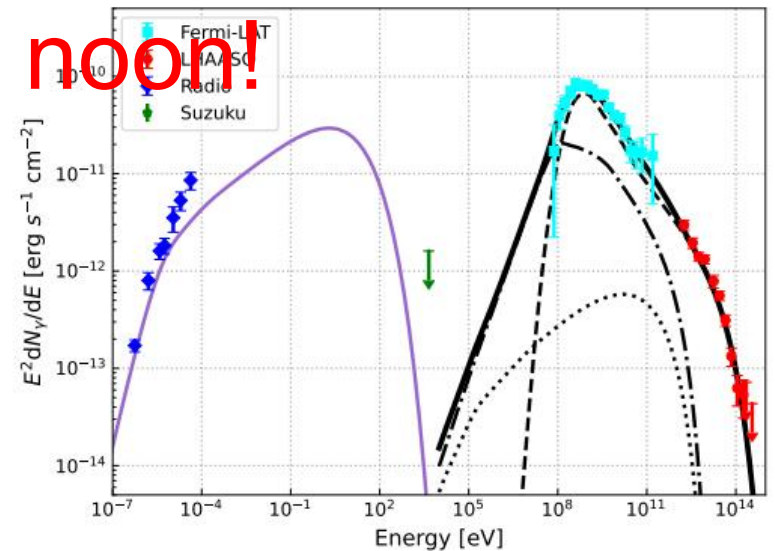


Evidence of Supernova Remnant W51C Accelerating Cosmic Rays to Sub-PeV Energies Unveiled by LHAASO

	α		E_{cut} [TeV]		$\Delta\alpha$		E_{br} [GeV]		BIC
	Best	Mean	Best	Mean	Best	Mean	Best	Mean	
Model 0	2.51	$2.51^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	332	330^{+47}_{-41}	-	-	-	-	40.53
Model 1	2.53	$2.53^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	400	400^{+68}_{-56}	-	-	-	-	39.41
Model 2	2.55	$2.56^{+0.04}_{-0.02}$	393	412^{+89}_{-63}	0.15	$0.18^{+0.07}_{-0.06}$	87	104^{+548}_{-74}	37.25
Model 3	2.51	$2.51^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	413	419^{+85}_{-65}	0.29	$0.45^{+0.27}_{-0.18}$	6.6	$3.8^{+3.0}_{-1.7}$	38.18
Model 4	2.51	$2.52^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	263	262^{+39}_{-34}	-	-	-	-	43.36



Discussion at noon!

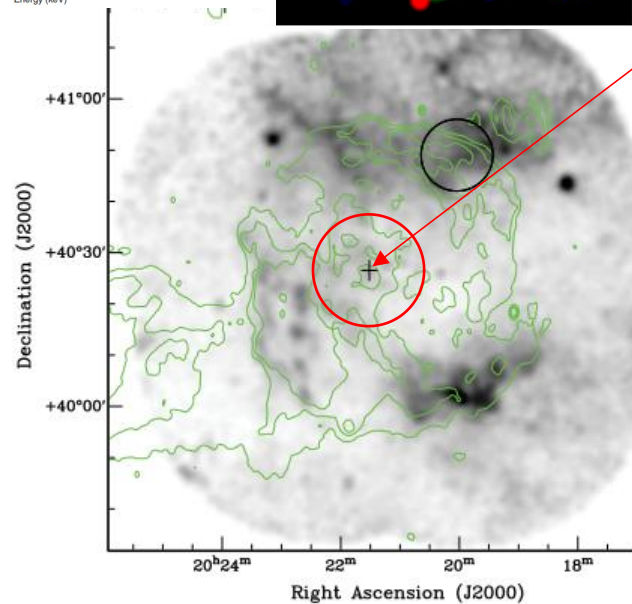
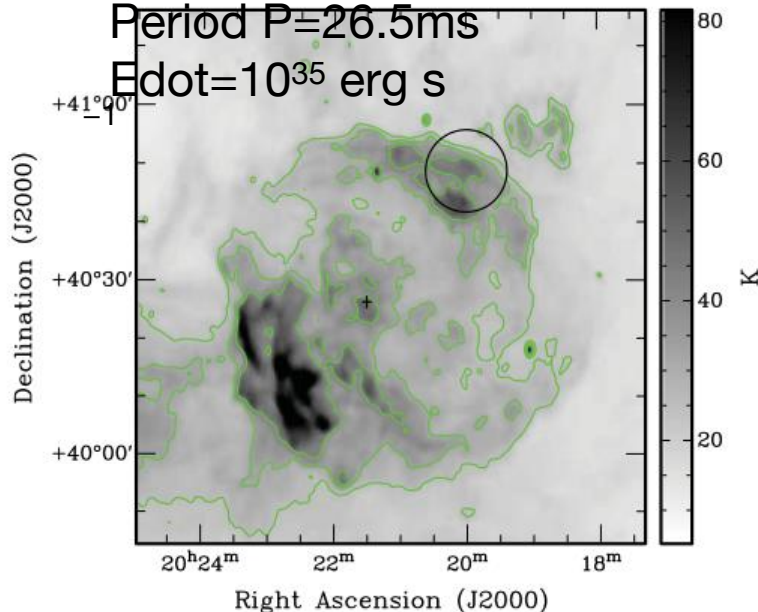


2: Radio/X-ray obs γ Cygni SNR

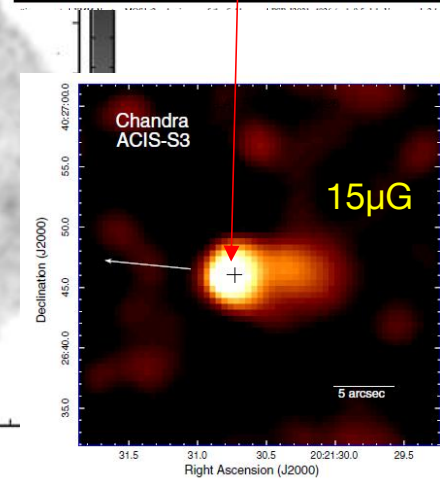
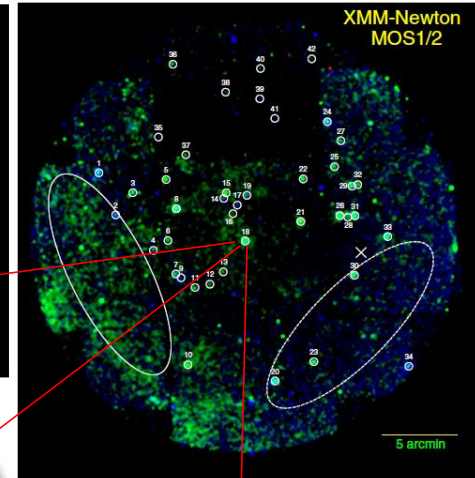
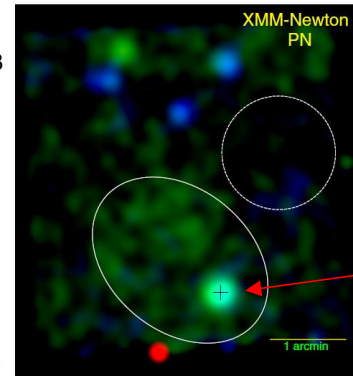
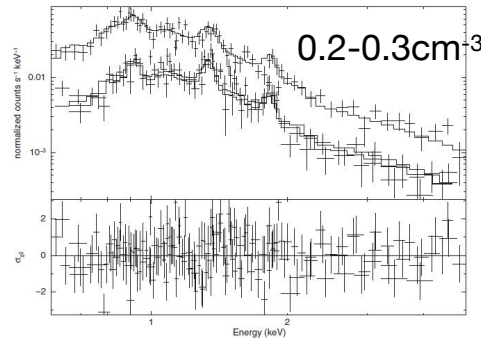
Distance=1.7kpc
Age =7kyr
PSR J2021+4026

Distance=2.15kpc
 τ =77kyr(First
variable γ -ray
pulsar)

Period $P=26.5$ ms
 $\dot{E}=10^{35}$ erg s



ROSAT PSPC 0.5–2.0keV X-ray
image

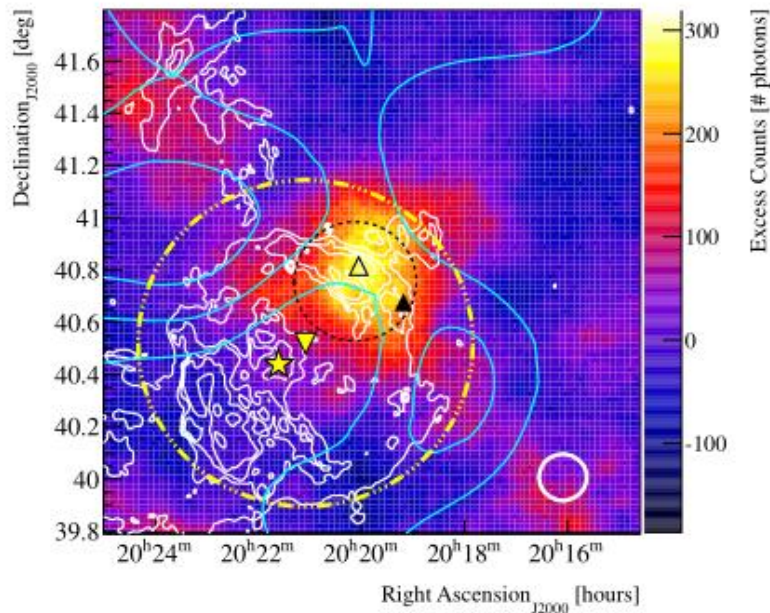


The 1420-MHz image

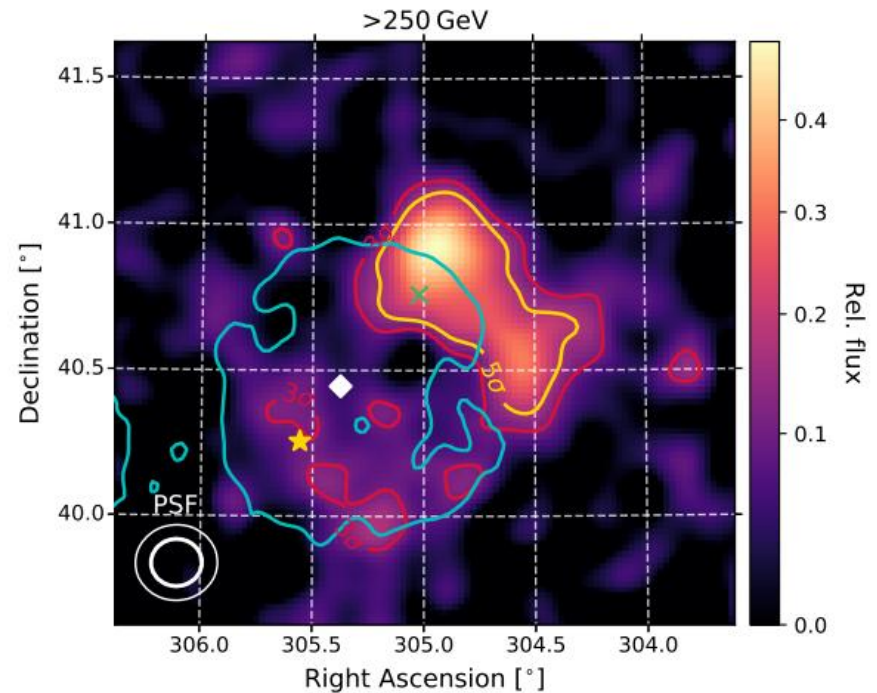
CR Workshop, Nanjing, Dec 17-20 2025

MNRAS 436, 968–977 (2013), Hui et al. ApJ, 799, 76, (2015)

2: High Energy Observations

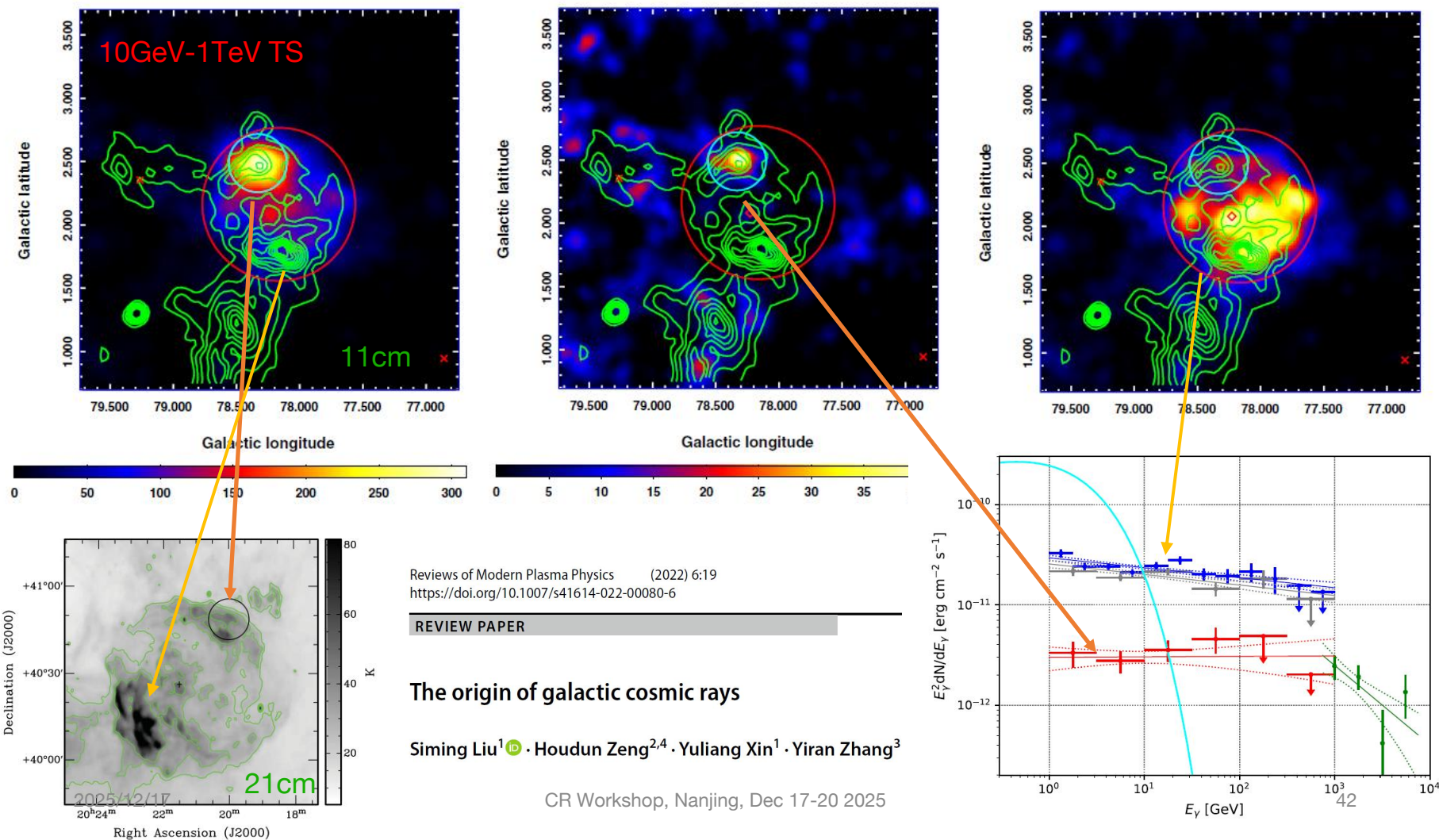


VERITAS >320GeV
Ra=305°.02, Dec=
40° .76;
Extension=0.23°

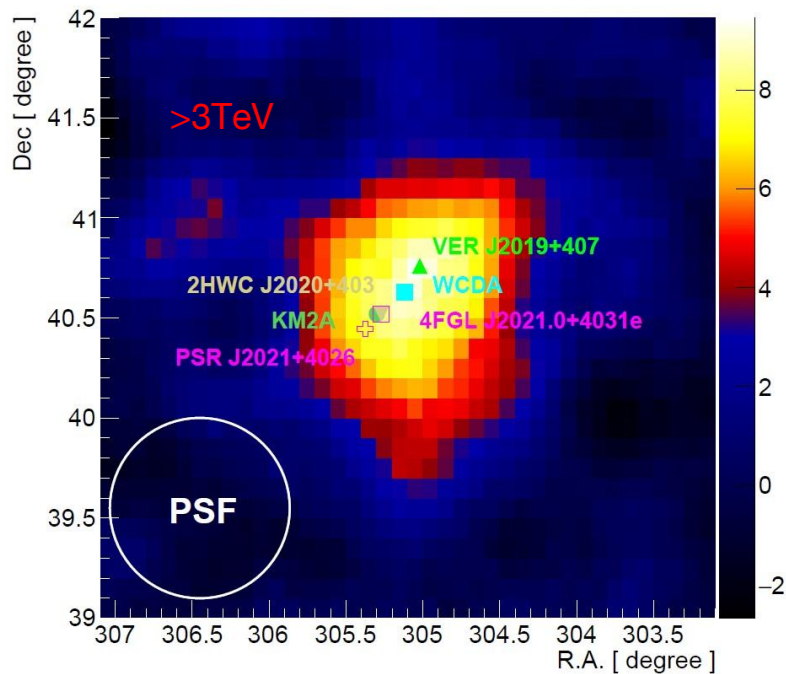


MAGIC >250GeV
Ra=304°.89, Dec= 40° .85;
Extension=0°.16

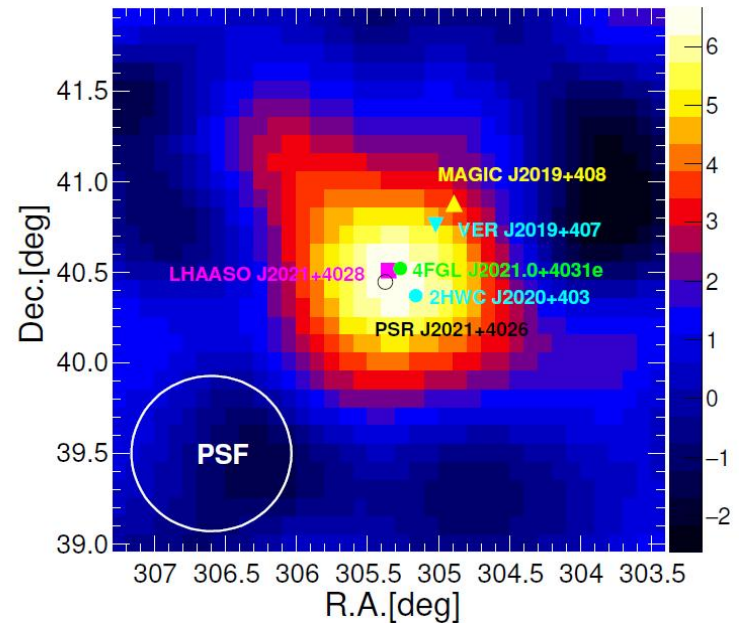
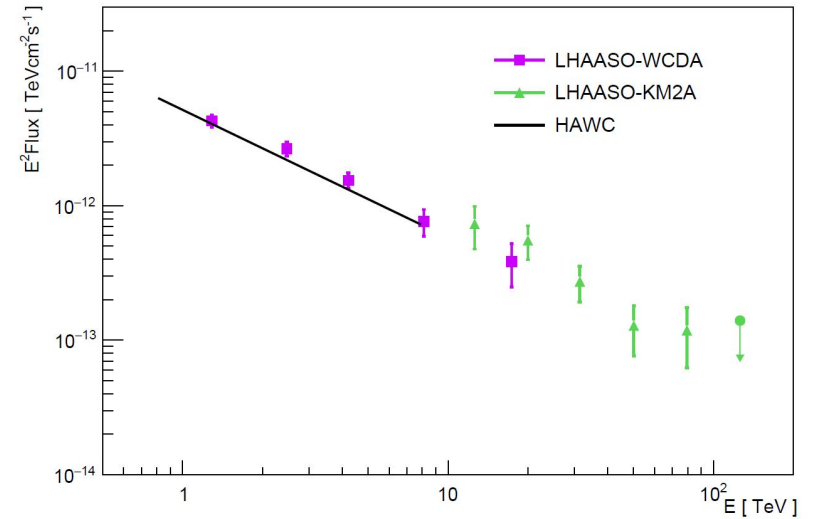
2: Fermi Observations



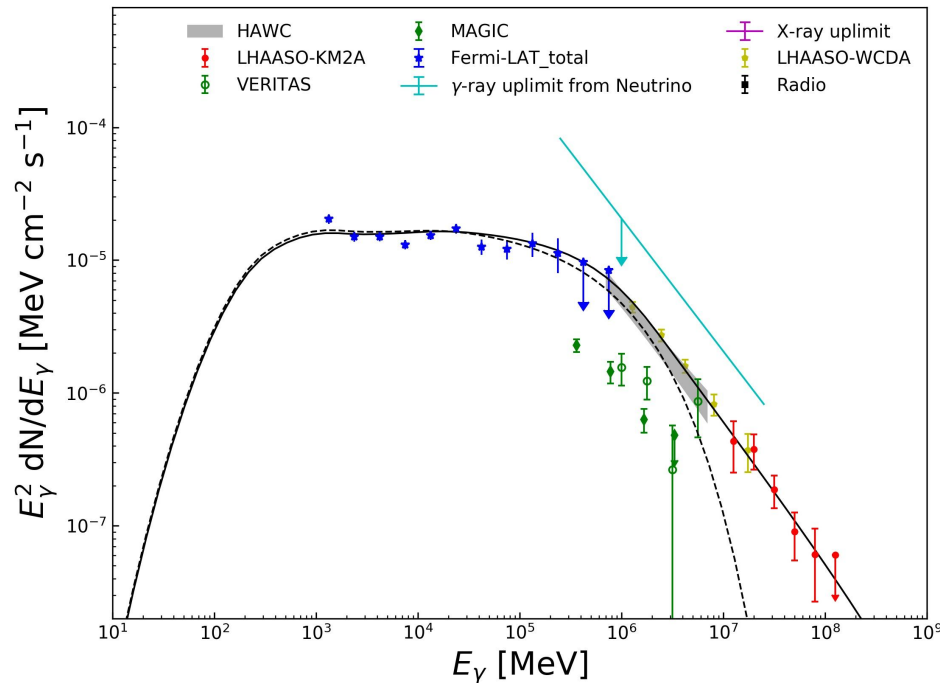
2: LHAASO Result



- gaussian: $\sigma = 0.374 \pm 0.040$
- disk: $r = 0.592 \pm 0.056$



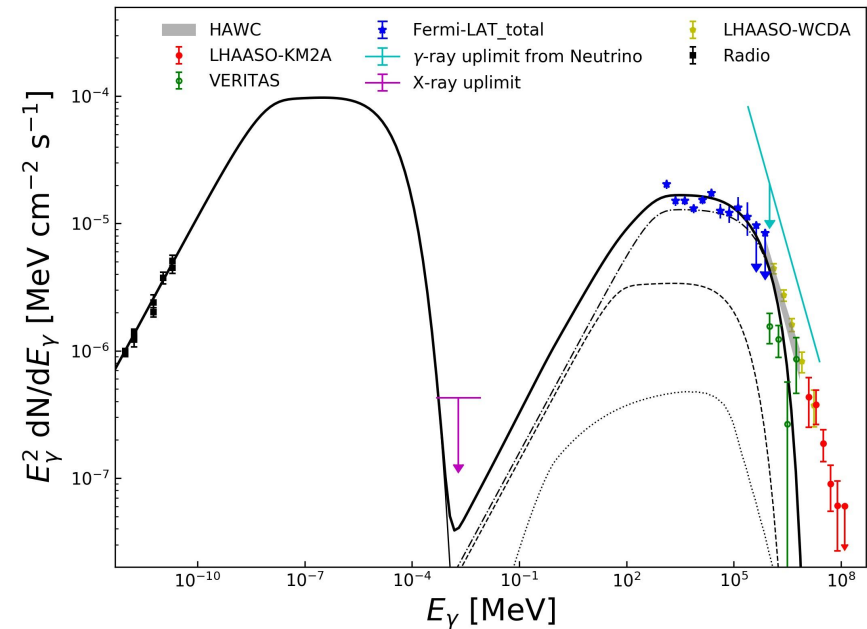
2: Hadronic vs Leptonic Models



Hadronic with
an exponential cutoff of 10 TeV (dotted)
a break at 4 TeV (solid)
Index 2.1- \rightarrow 3.1

2025/12/17

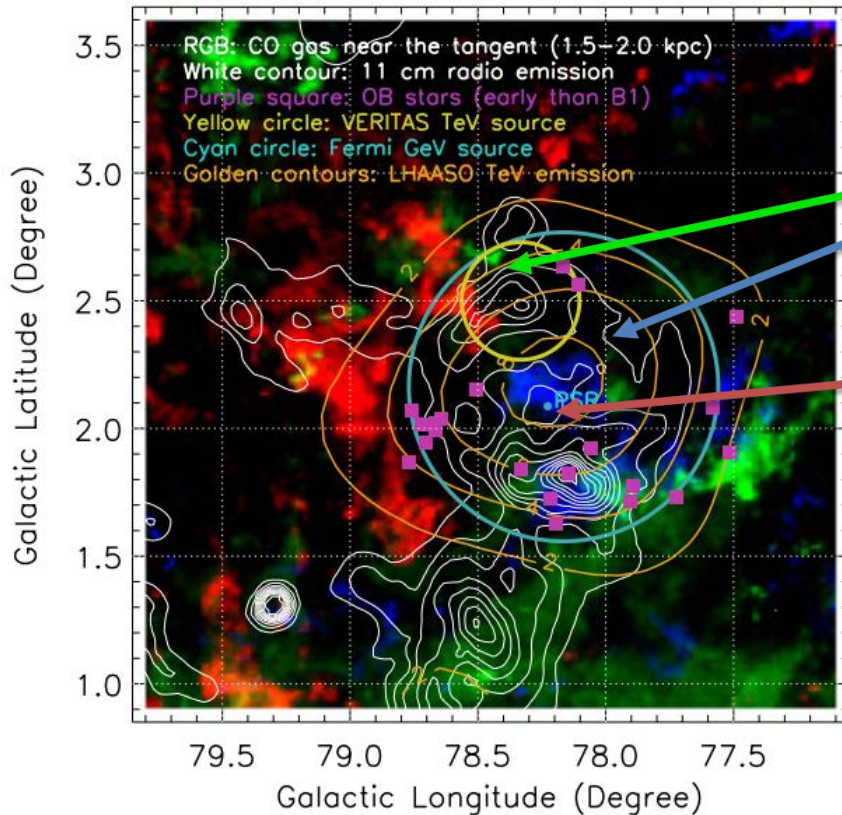
Zeng et al. ApJ, 910, 78, (2021)



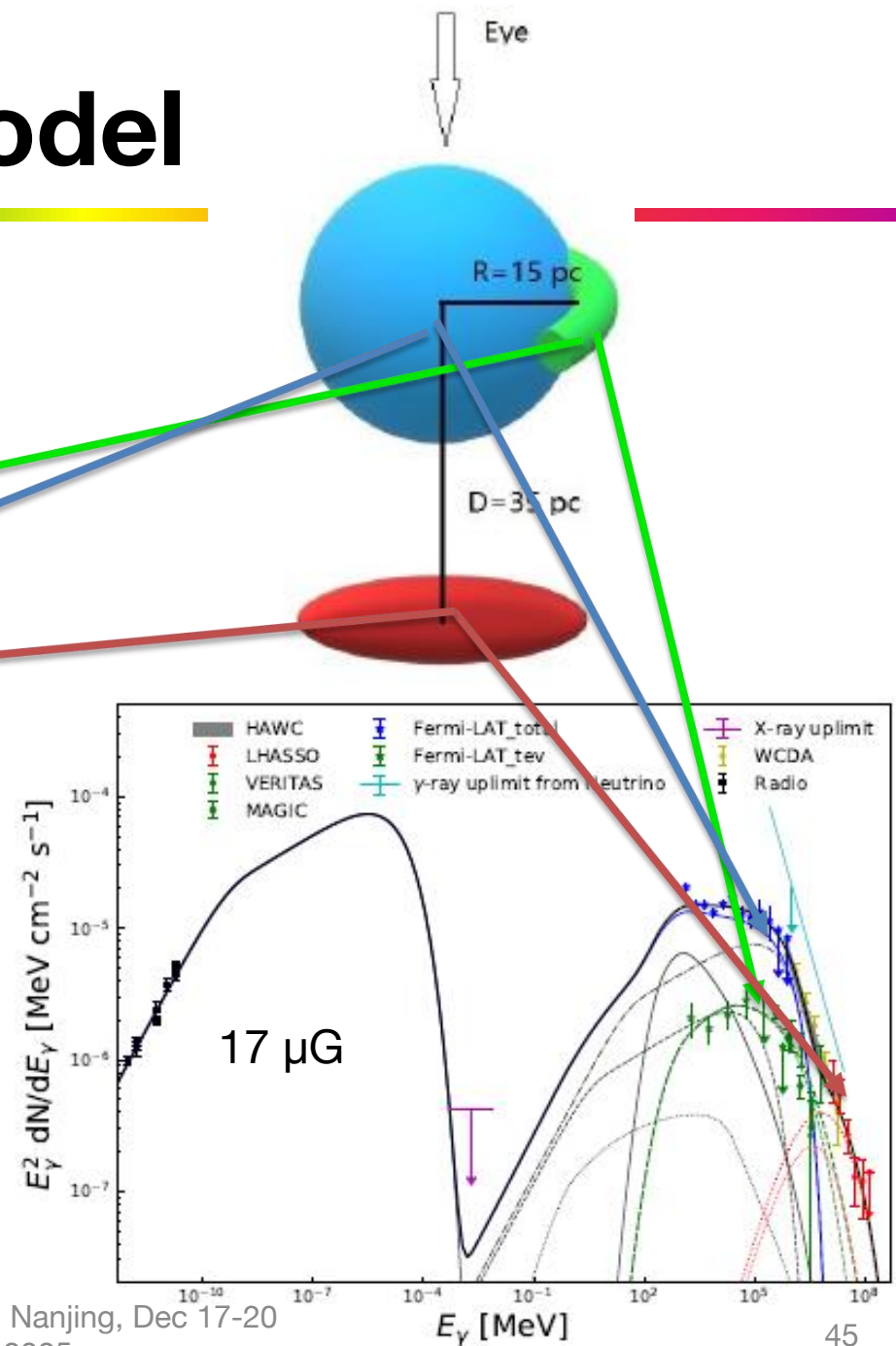
Leptonic with a $\sim 17 \mu\text{G}$ B

Liu et al. RMPP, 6, 19, (2022)

2: A Possible Model

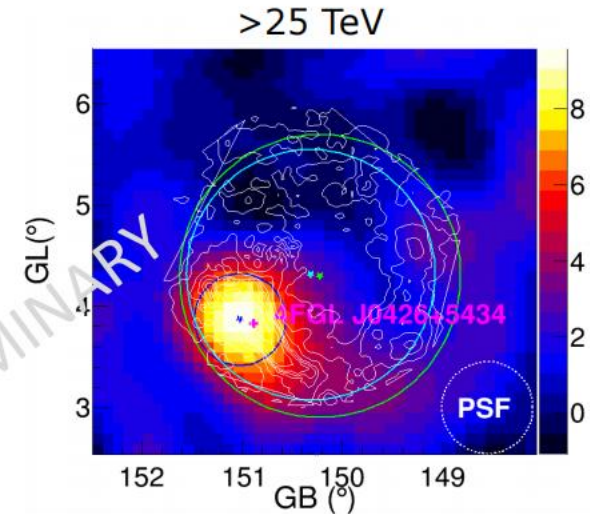
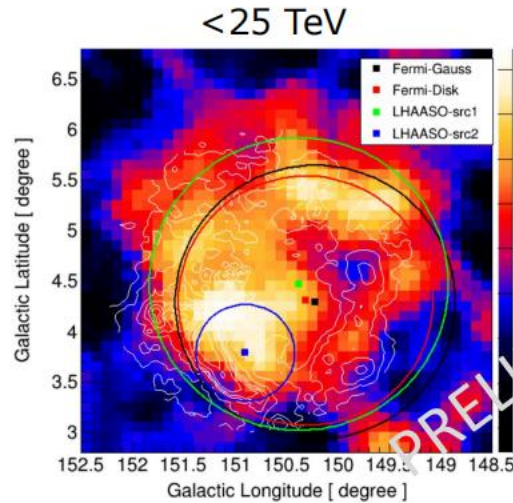
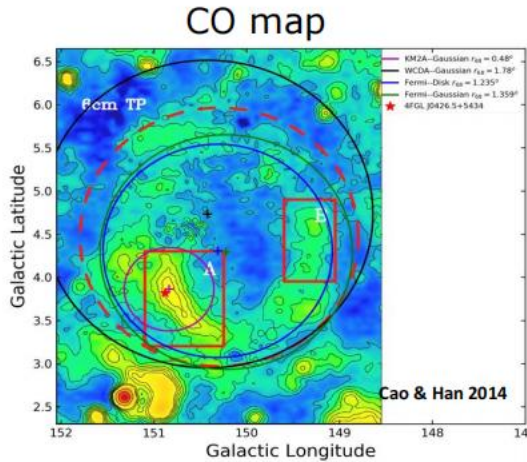


Considering the low density inferred from X-ray observations of $0.2\text{--}0.3\text{ cm}^{-3}$ and a high magnetic field



3: SNR G150

G150.3+4.5



Fitted with two Gaussians: One is spatially coincident with the radio and Fermi-LAT observation (G150.3+4.5); another is very close to the unidentified source 4FGL J0426.5+5434.

(150.38, 4.47), extension = 1.45; (150.9, 3.79), extension = 0.26

The distance of CO emission (MWISP): 0.8 kpc, and a uniform density: $\sim 1.0 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, with an age: $\leq 1.3 \times 10^4 \text{ yr}$.

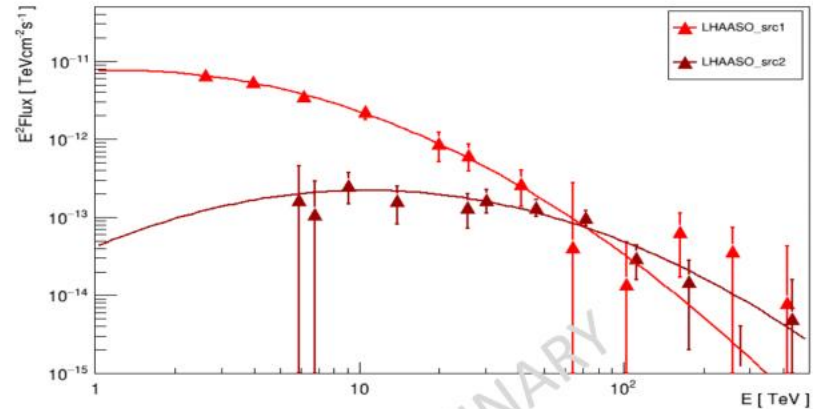
3: SNR G150

G150.3+4.5

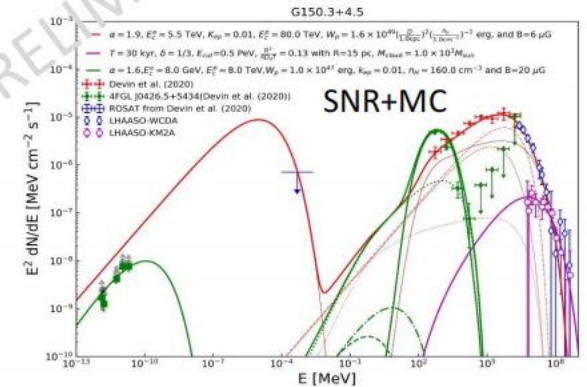
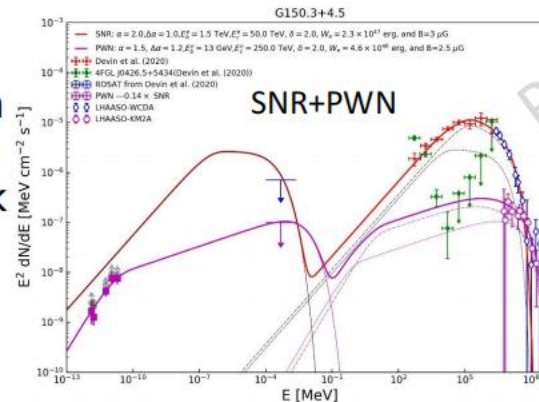
The SEDs at 1–400 TeV can be fitted with log-parabola models.

$$dN/dE = J_0 (E/E_0)^{-\alpha-\beta \log(E/E_0)}$$

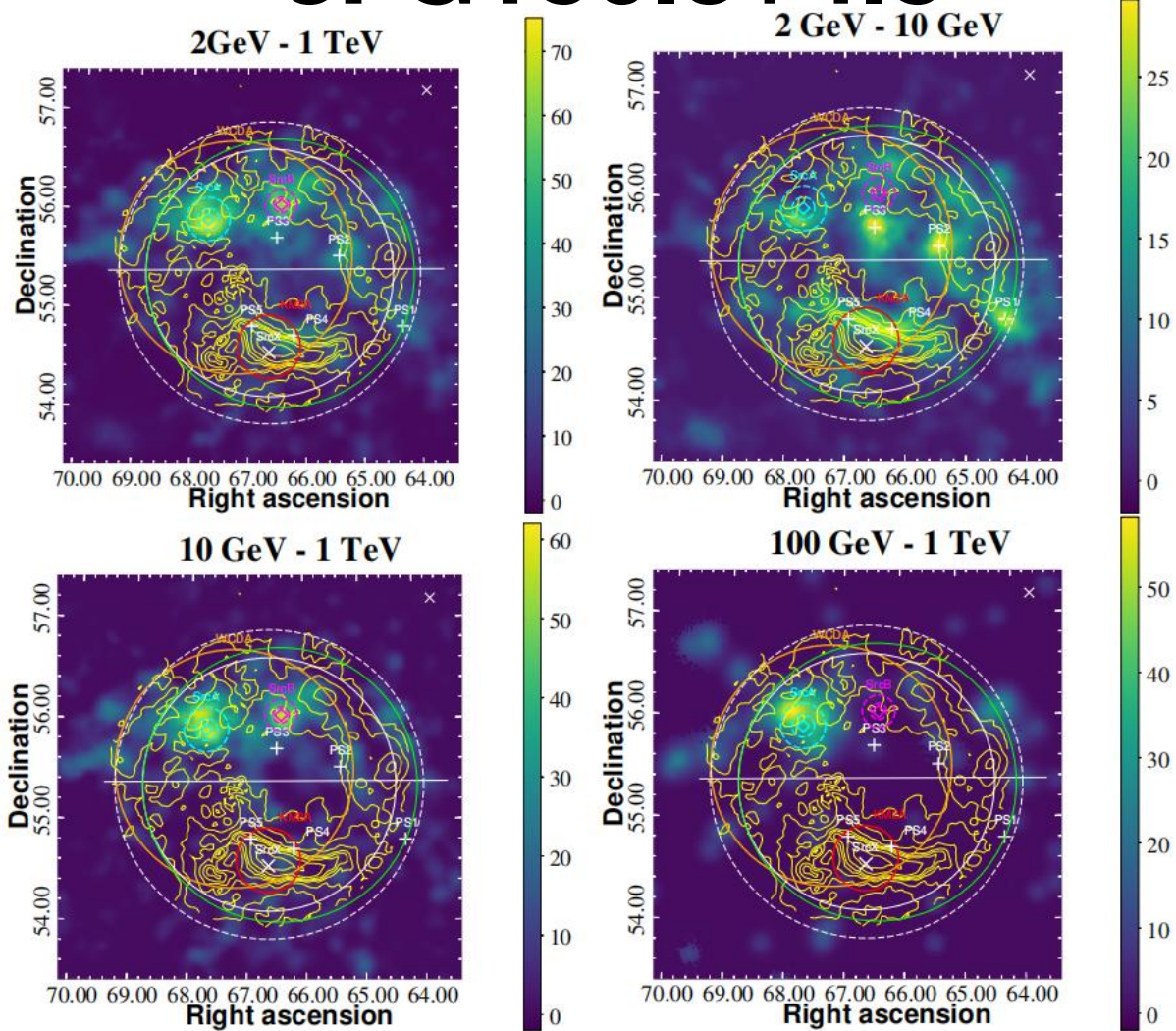
Scenario A: sync.+ SSC from SNR G150.3+4.5 and PWN, respectively.



Scenario B: sync. + SSC from SNR G150.3+4.5; Escaped CR interacting with MC, and shock colliding with MC.



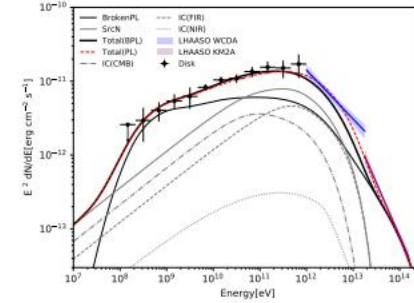
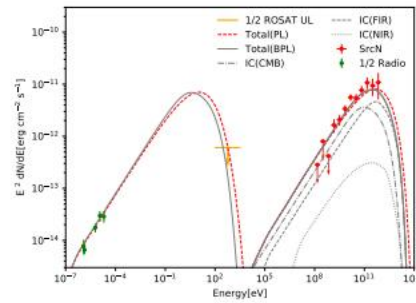
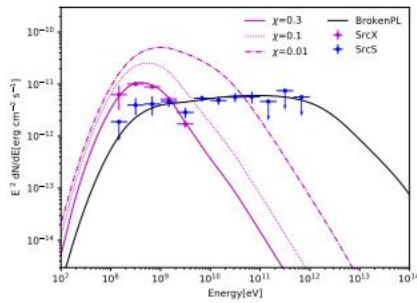
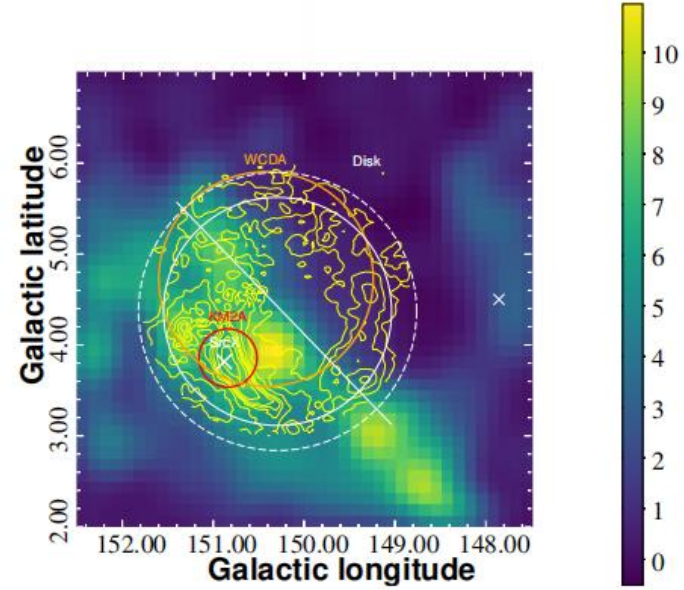
3: G150.3+4.5



3: G150.3+4.5

Is SNR G150.3+4.5 a PeVatron?

YUAN LI ^{1,2} SIMING LIU ³ AND GWENAEL GIACINTI ^{1,2}



3: Boomerang SNR

J2229+6114(G106.3+2.7)

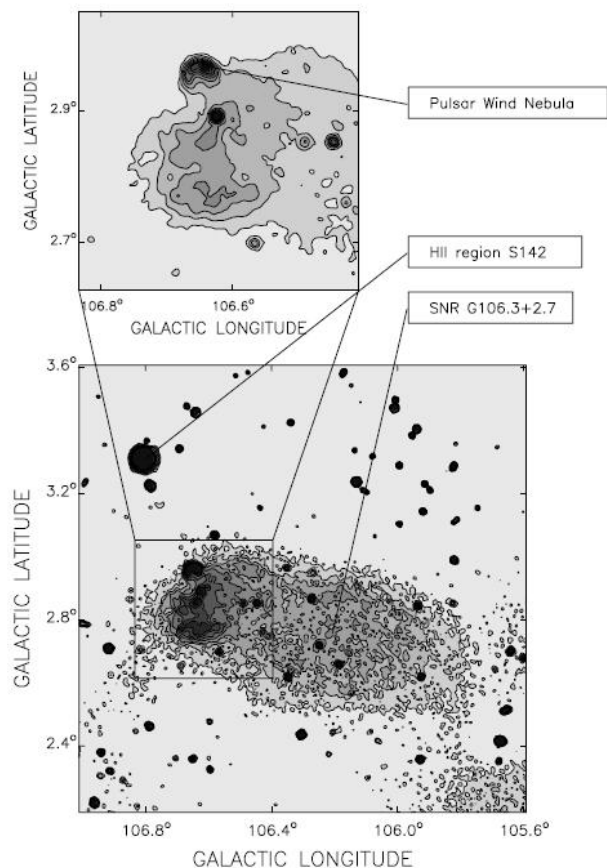
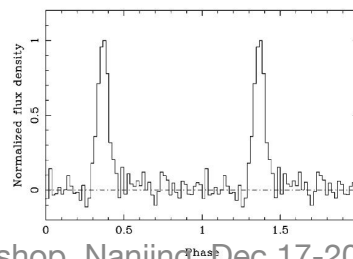


TABLE 1
PARAMETERS OF PSR J2229+6114

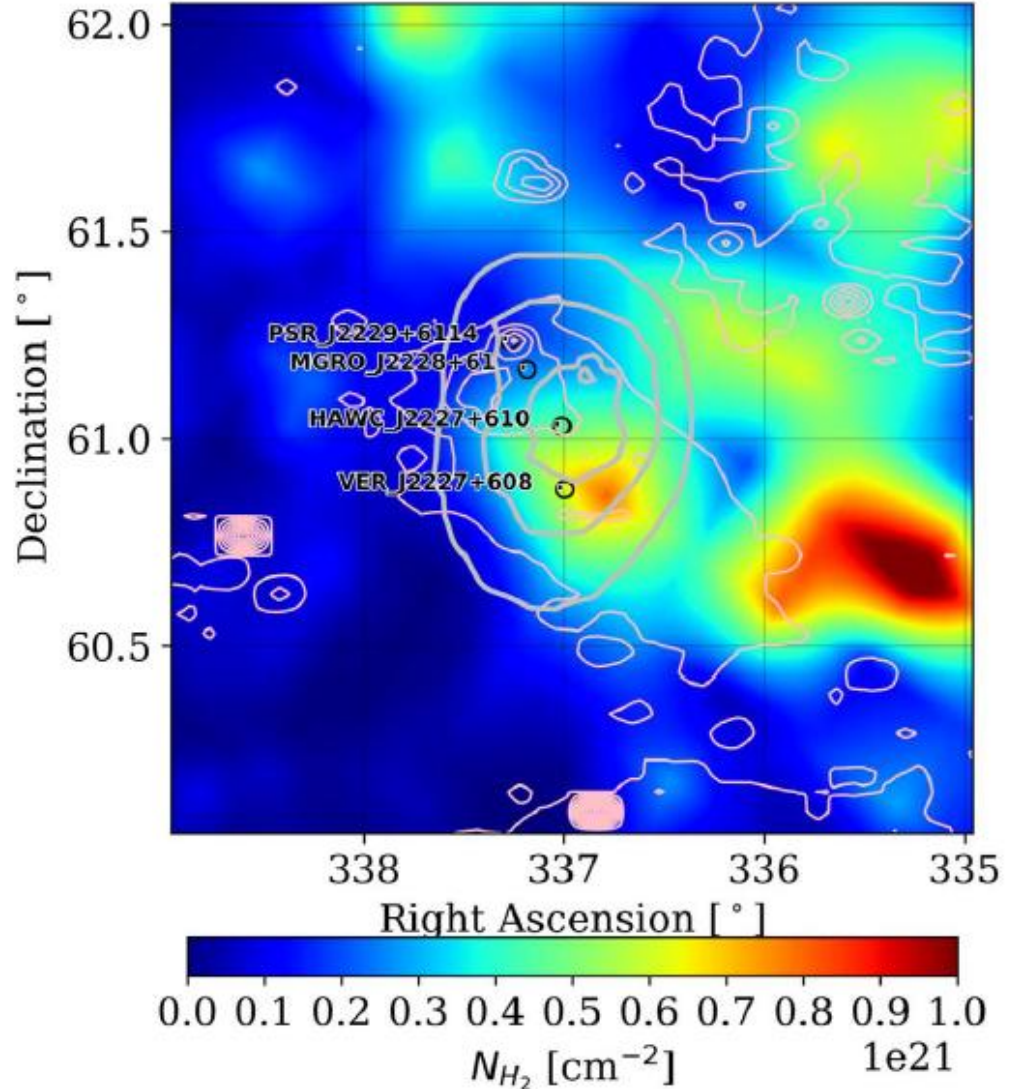
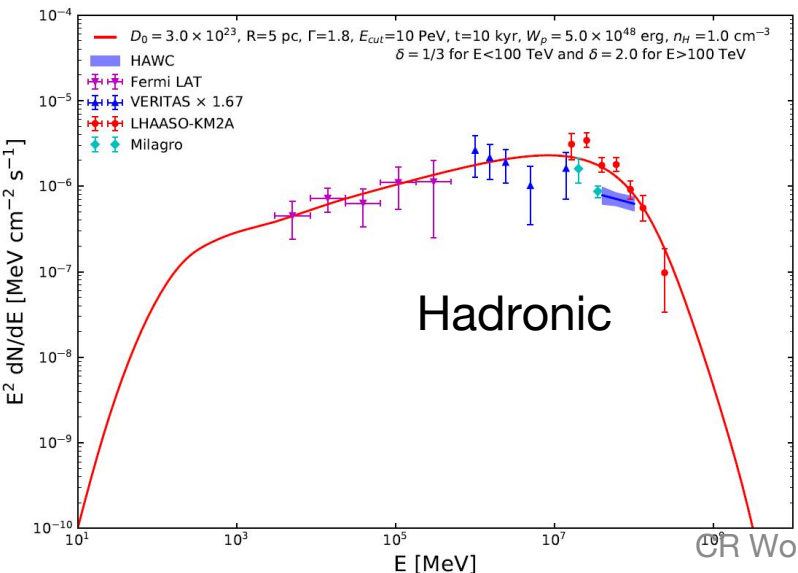
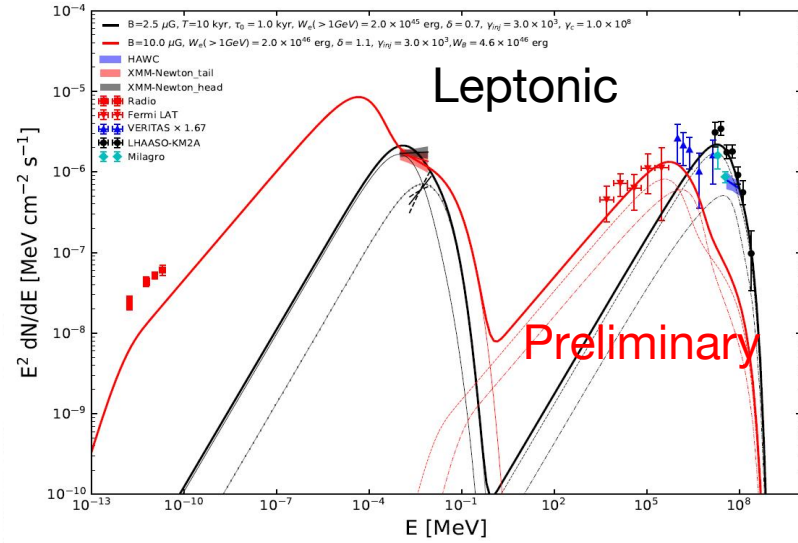
Parameter	Value
R.A. (J2000)	22 ^h 29 ^m 05 ^s .28(7)
Decl. (J2000)	+61°14′09″.3(5)
Galactic longitude (deg)	106.65
Galactic latitude (deg)	2.95
Period (s)	0.05162357393(6)
Period derivative (s s ⁻¹)	7.827(2) × 10 ⁻¹⁴
Epoch (MJD)	51980.0
Dispersion measure (cm ⁻³ pc)	200(10)
Distance ^a (kpc)	~3
Spin-down luminosity (ergs s ⁻¹)	2.2 × 10 ³⁷
Characteristic age (yr)	10460
Magnetic field (G)	2.0 × 10 ¹²



THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 560:236–243, 2001 October 10
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PHYSICAL JOURNAL, 552:L125–L128, 2001 May 10
american Astronomical Society. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.

3: SNR G106.3+2.7, G35.6-0.4



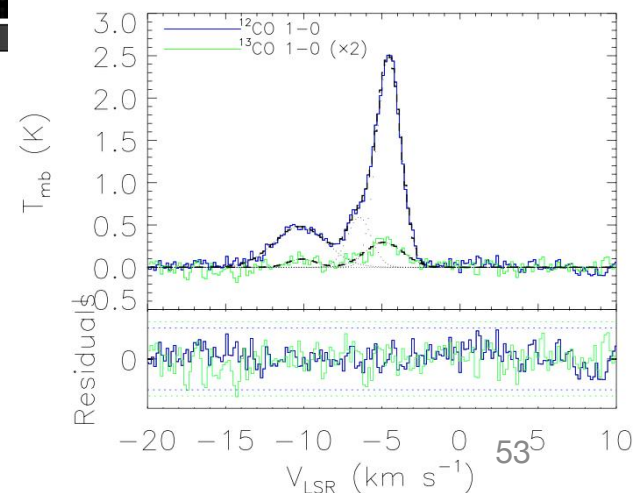
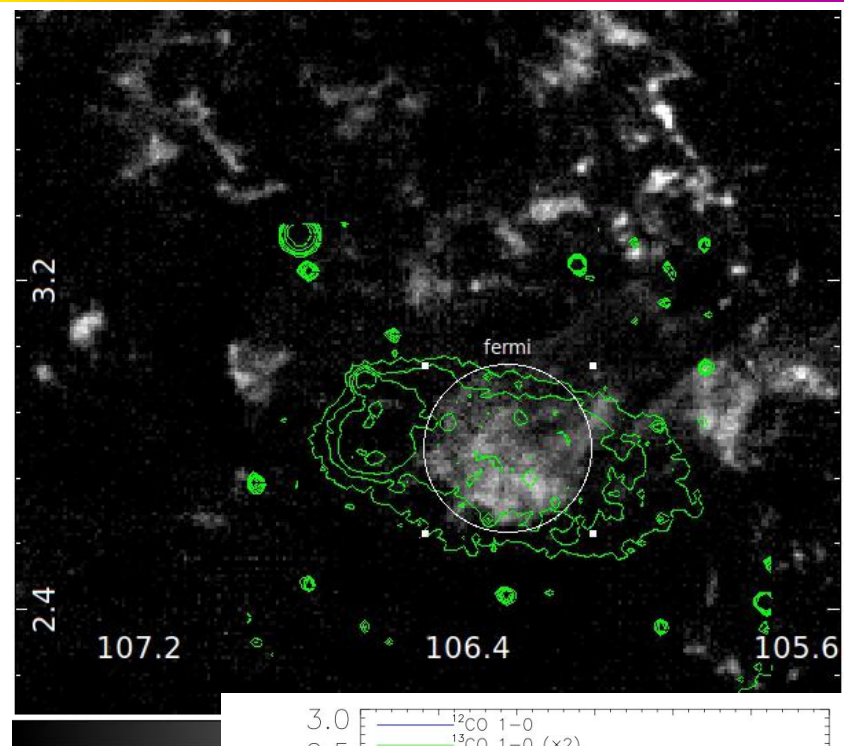
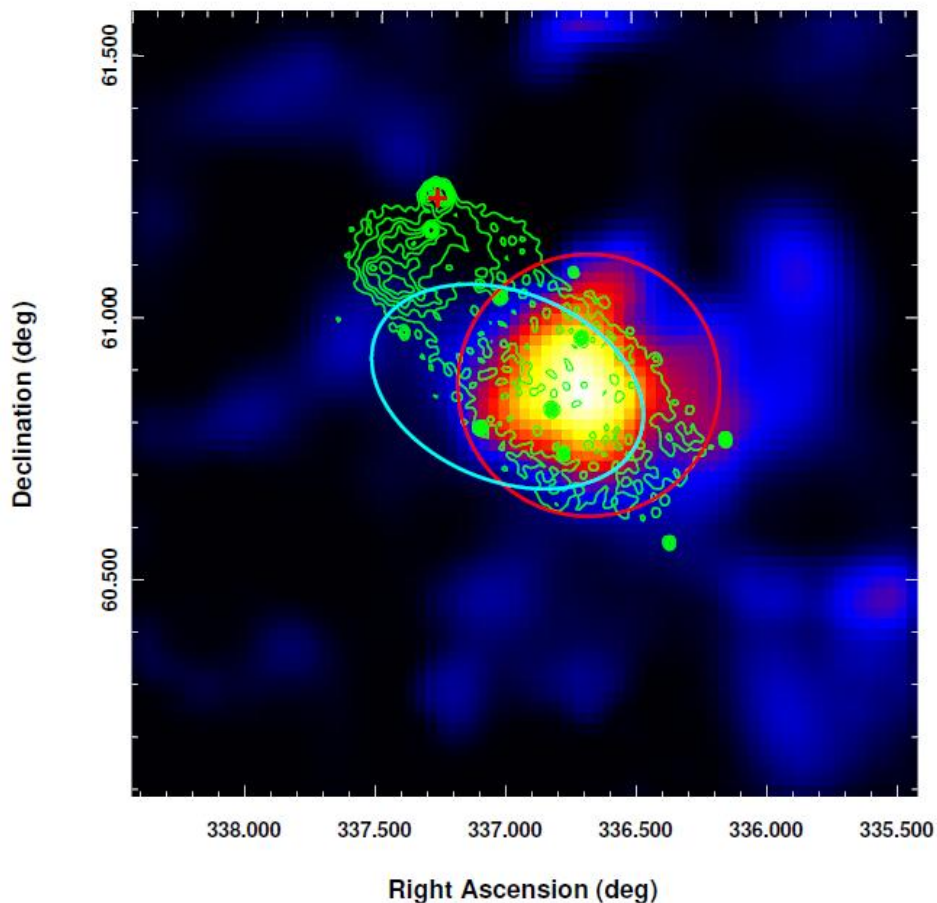
CR Workshop, Nanjing, Dec 17-20

HAWC J2227+610 and Its Association with G106.3+2.7, a New Potential Galactic PeVatron

Conclusions

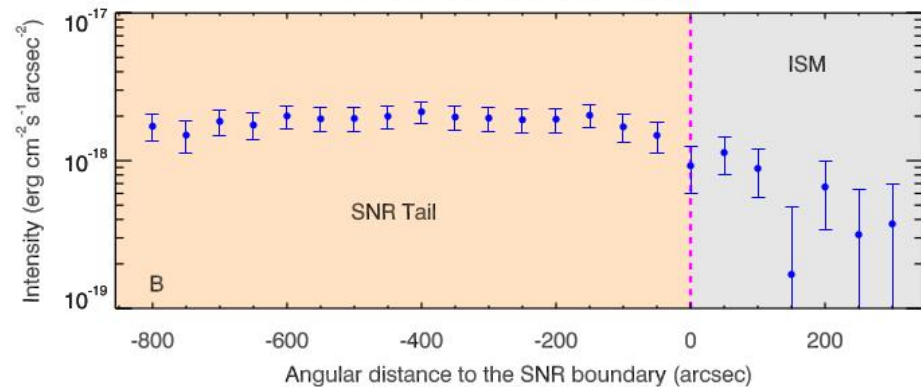
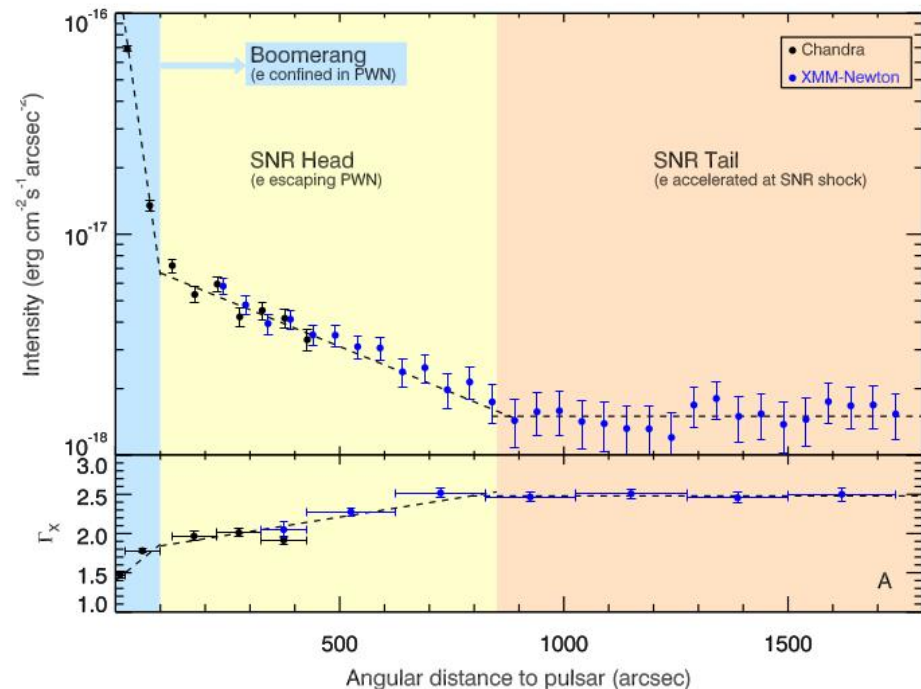
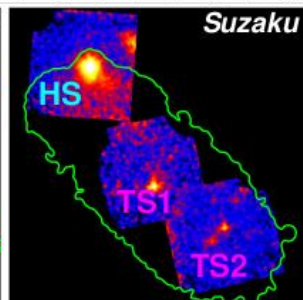
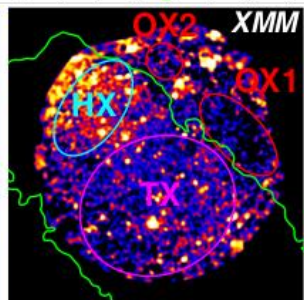
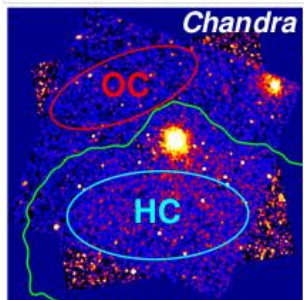
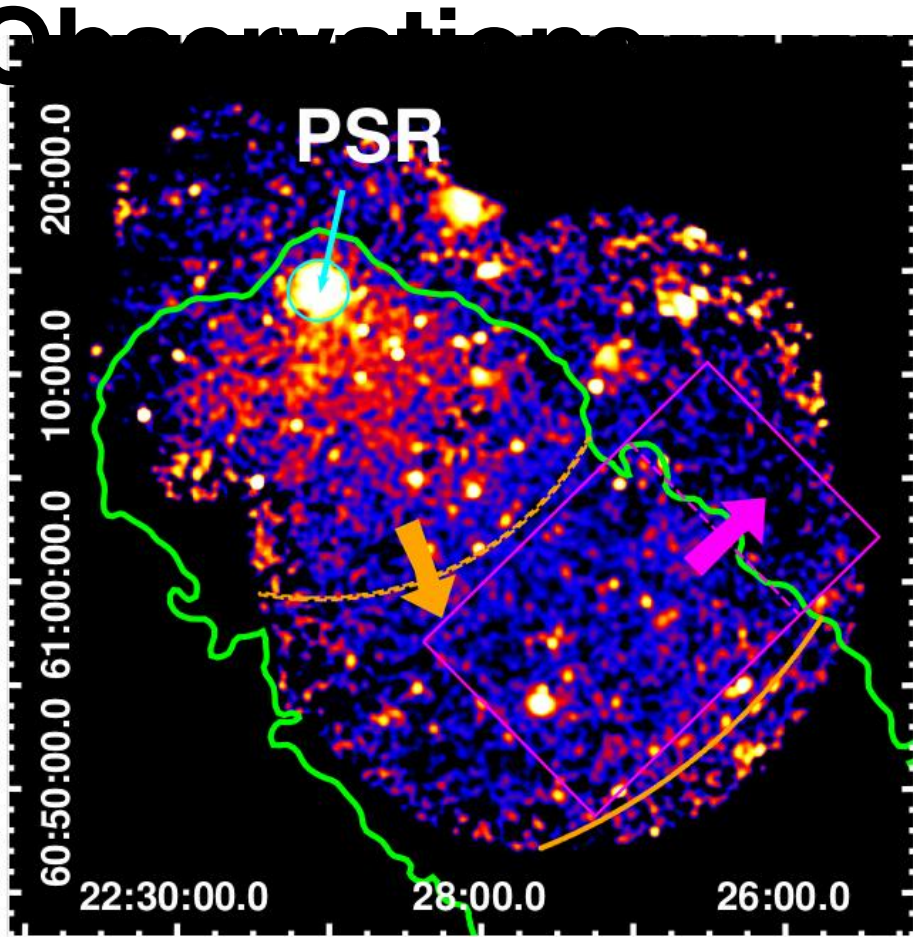
- Observation of Cas A has been published
- Manuscripts on W51C and gamma cygni are to be submitted
- Manuscripts on G150, G106, G35.6 should be submitted by the next collaboration meeting
- G69.7, HESS J1912, LHAASO J2108, J0341, G57.2, G65.1, G205 should also be analyzed

3: Fermi and CO



Xin et al. 2019 ApJ, 855, 162

3: X-ray



Nonthermal X-ray emission is detected both from the head close to the PWN and the tail region