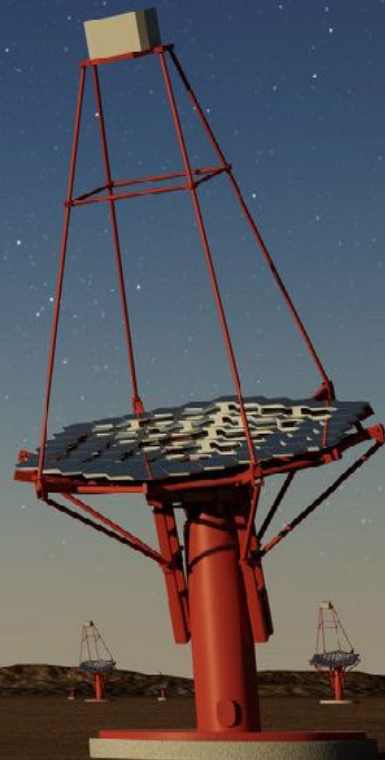


High-precision γ -ray astronomy

The Key Science Projects of the Cherenkov Telescope Array

Jonathan BITEAU

Université Paris-Saclay, IJCLab



Contents

Why?

Lessons learned and open questions

How?

Making the most of ground-based gamma-ray telescopes

Core Science

The Key Science Projects of CTA

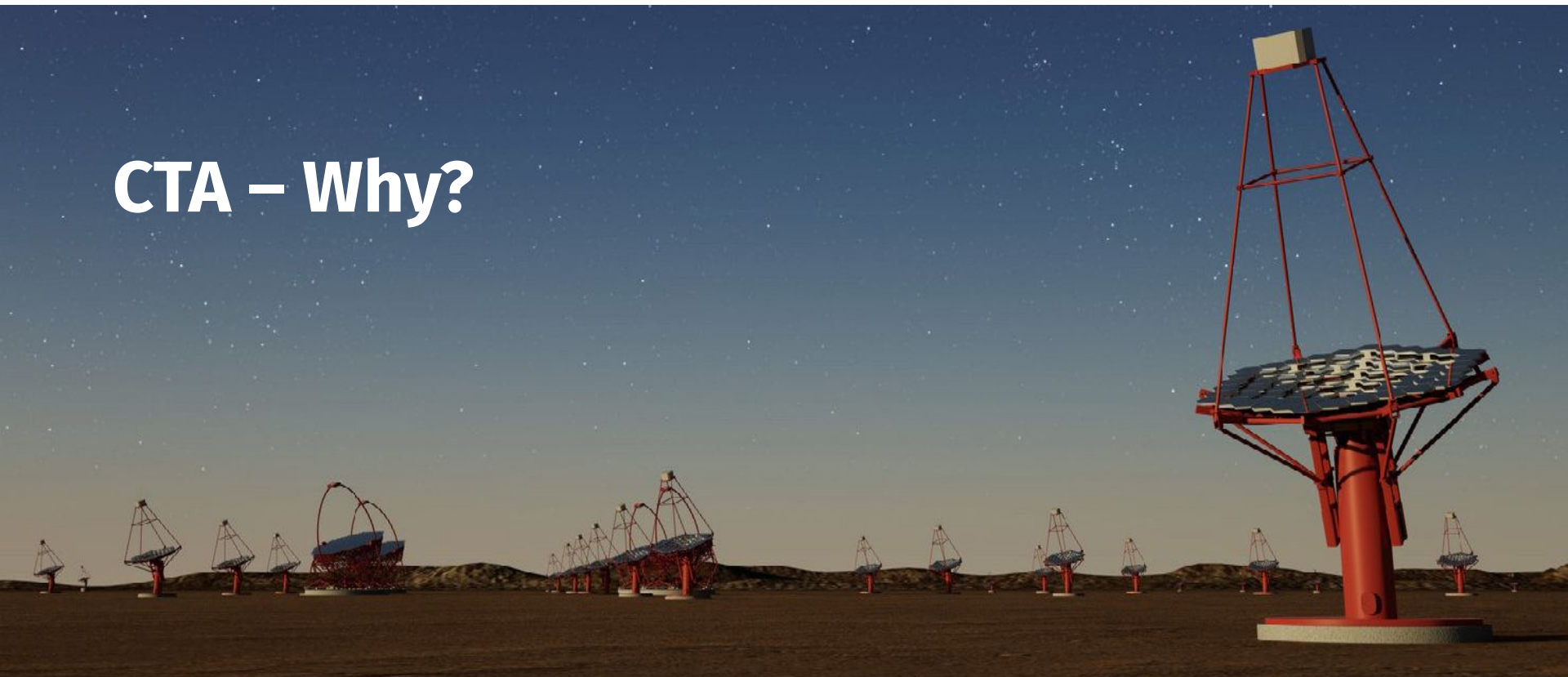
Status of CTA

Timeline – CTA is now!

*Note: this is an update of a November 2017 talk
(LIV workshop @ LPNHE)*

In red: what happened over the past 5 years?

CTA – Why?



Major TeV observatories

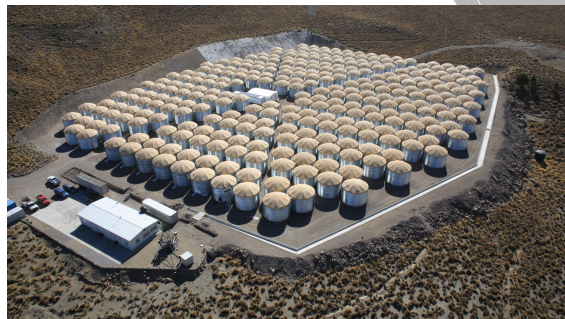


VERITAS

4 Medium-Sized Tel. ('MSTs')
2007: Full operation
2009: Relocation of T1
2012: PMT upgrade

HAWC

Particle-detector water tanks (2015)



MAGIC

2 Large-Sized Tel. ('LSTs')
2003: MAGIC-I
2009: MAGIC-II
2012: PMT upgrade

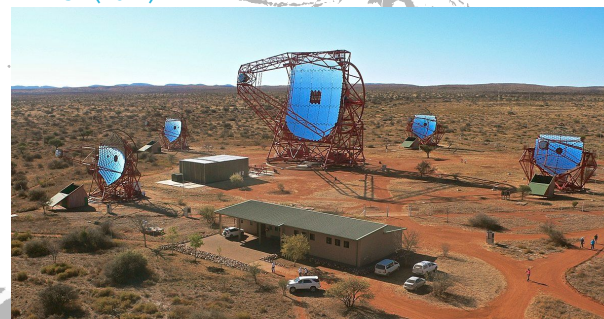


LHAASO

Particle-detector water tanks
+ 18 Small-Sized Tels ('SSTs')
since 2018 (New)

H.E.S.S.

4 MSTs (2003)
+ 1 LST (2012)



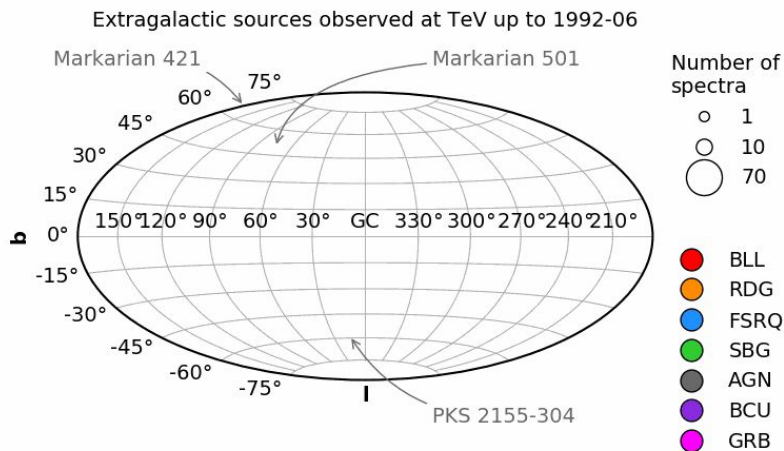
Evolution the TeV sky

1989 – early 2000s

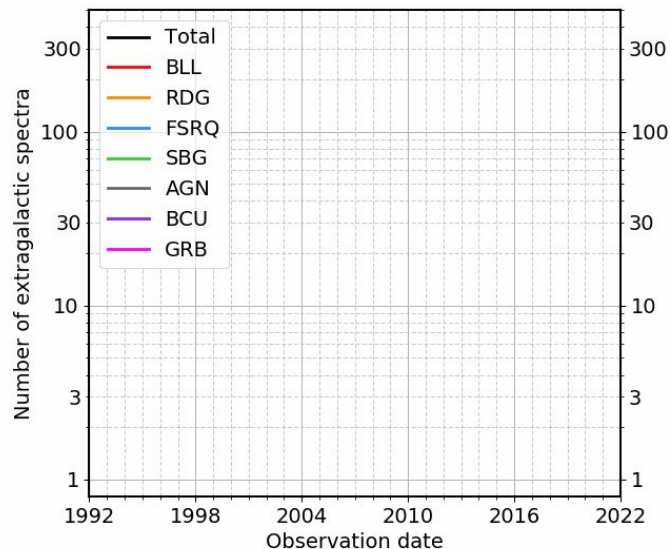
Childhood of gamma-ray astronomy, triggered by Whipple → Crab Nebula + ~5 AGNs

2003-Now

Growth triggered by H.E.S.S./MAGIC (2003), VERITAS (2007), HAWC (2015), and more recently LHAASO (2019)
>250 sources! A much-larger-than-expected **variety** of objects! **E.g. for the extragalactic sky**

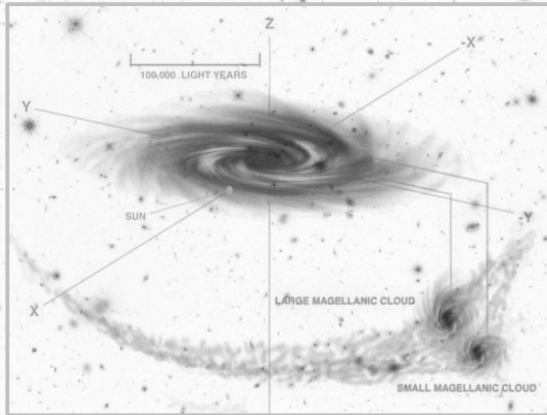


Credits: Lucas Gréaux, IJCLab



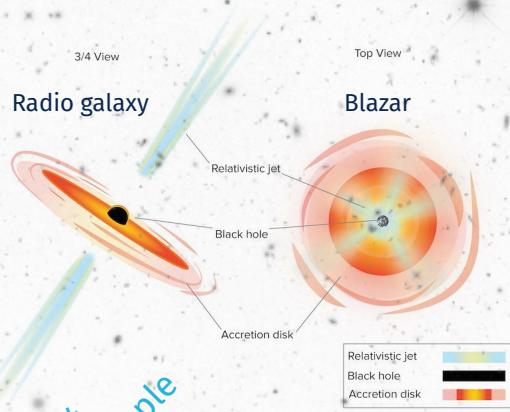
TeV astronomy: birth in the 1990s

Nature & Science selection (a least-effort selection criterion)



Blazar

- . Detection of TeV photons from the active galaxy Markarian 421, Nature 358, 477 (1992)
- . Extremely rapid bursts of TeV photons from the active galaxy Markarian 421, Nature 383, 319 (1996)

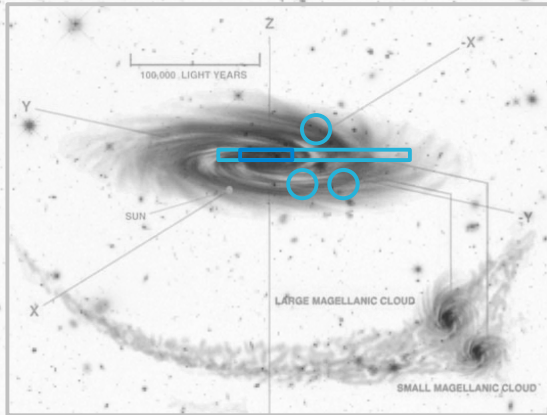


1984
Whipple



TeV astronomy: 2003-2007

Nature & Science selection



Radio galaxy *Science* 314, 1424 (2006)

Fast Variability of TeV γ Rays from the Radio Galaxy M87

Extragalactic Background Light *Nature* 440, 1018 (2006)

A low level of extragalactic background light as revealed by γ -rays from blazars



Supernova Remnant *Nature* 432, 75 (2004)

High-energy particle acceleration in the shell of a supernova remnant

X-ray binary / microquasar

. Discovery of Very High Energy Gamma Rays Associated with an X-ray Binary, *Science* 309, 746 (2005)

. Variable Very-High-Energy γ -Ray Emission from the Microquasar LS I +61 303, *Science* 312, 1771 (2006)

Galactic Plane Survey *Science* 307, 1938 (2005)

A New population of VHE γ -ray sources in the Milky Way

Galactic Center Ridge *Nature* 439, 695 (2006)

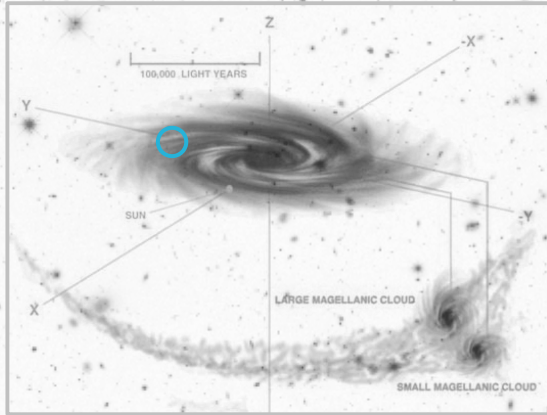
Discovery of VHE γ -rays from the Galactic Centre ridge

2004 - HESS & MAGIC



TeV astronomy: 2008-2012

Nature & Science selection



Crab Pulsar

- Observation of Pulsed γ -Rays Above 25 GeV from the Crab Pulsar with MAGIC, Science 322, 1221 (2008)
- Detection of Pulsed Gamma Rays Above 100 GeV from the Crab Pulsar, Science 334, 69 (2011)

Radio galaxy

 Science 325, 444 (2009)

Radio Imaging of the VHE γ -Ray Emission Region in the Central Engine of a Radio Galaxy

Extragalactic Background Light

 Science 320, 752 (2008)

VHE γ -rays from a Distant Quasar: How Transparent Is the Universe?



Starburst galaxies

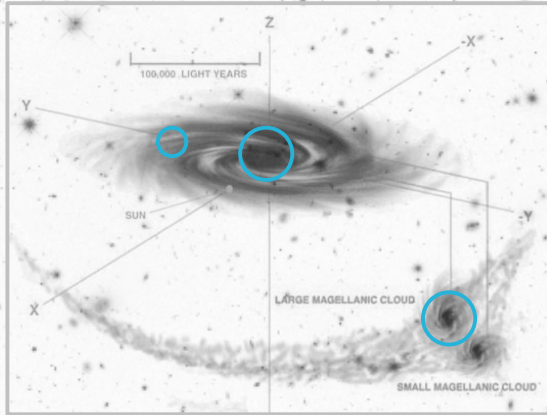
- A connection between star formation activity and cosmic rays in M82, Nature 462, 770 (2009)
- Detection of Gamma Rays from a Starburst Galaxy, Science 326, 1080 (2009)

HESS & MAGIC
2007 - VERITAS



TeV astronomy: 2013-2017

Nature & Science selection



AGN IC310 *Science* 346, 1080 (2014)

Black hole lightning due to particle acceleration at subhorizon scales

Pevatron Galactic Centre *Nature* 531, 476 (2016)

Acceleration of petaelectronvolt protons in the Galactic Centre

Pulsar Wind Nebula *Science* 358, 911 (2017)

Extended gamma-ray sources around pulsars constrain the origin of the positron flux at Earth

Large Magellanic Cloud *Science* 347, 406 (2015)

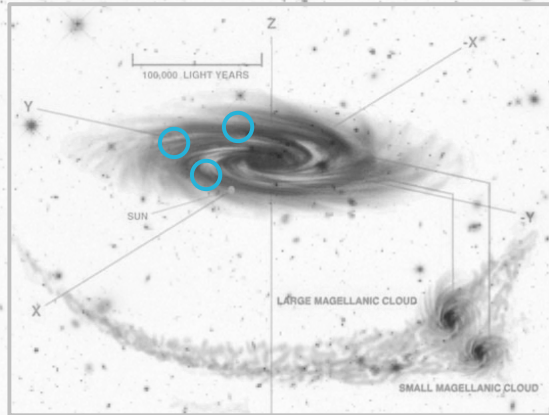
The exceptionally powerful TeV γ -ray emitters in the LMC

2012 - HESS, MAGIC, VERITAS upgrades



TeV astronomy: 2018–2022

Nature & Science selection (NEW since the 2017 talk)



Radio galaxy Nature 582, 356 (2020)

Resolving acceleration to very high energies along the jet of Centaurus A

Gamma-ray burst

- Revealing X-ray and gamma ray temporal and spectral similarities in the GRB 190829A afterglow, Science 372, 1081 (2021)
- A very-high-energy component deep in the gamma-ray burst afterglow, Nature 575, 464 (2019)
- Observation of inverse Compton emission from a long γ -ray burst, Nature 575, 459 (2019)
- Teraelectronvolt emission from the γ -ray burst GRB 190114C, Nature 575, 455 (2019)

Neutrino and flaring blazar hint Science 361, 1378 (2018)

Multimessenger observations of a flaring blazar coincident with high-energy neutrino IceCube-170922A

Nova Science 376, 77 (2022)

Time-resolved hadronic particle acceleration in the recurrent nova RS Ophiuchi

PeV gamma rays

- Peta-electron volt gamma-ray emission from The Crab Nebula, Science 373, 425 (2021)
- Ultrahigh-energy photons up to 1.4 petaelectronvolts from 12 γ -ray Galactic sources, Nature 594, 33 (2021)

Microquasar Nature 562, 82 (2018)

Very high energy particle acceleration powered by the jets of the microquasar SS 433



CTA – How?



Accessing the entire sky

Two sites (1 per hemisphere)

Access the entire sky

→ Archetypal sources

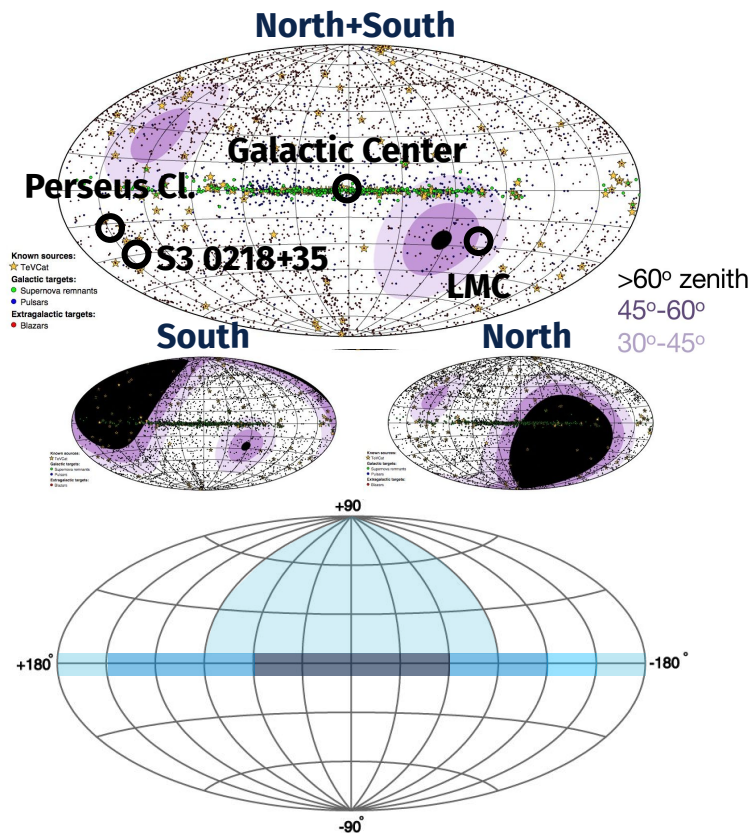
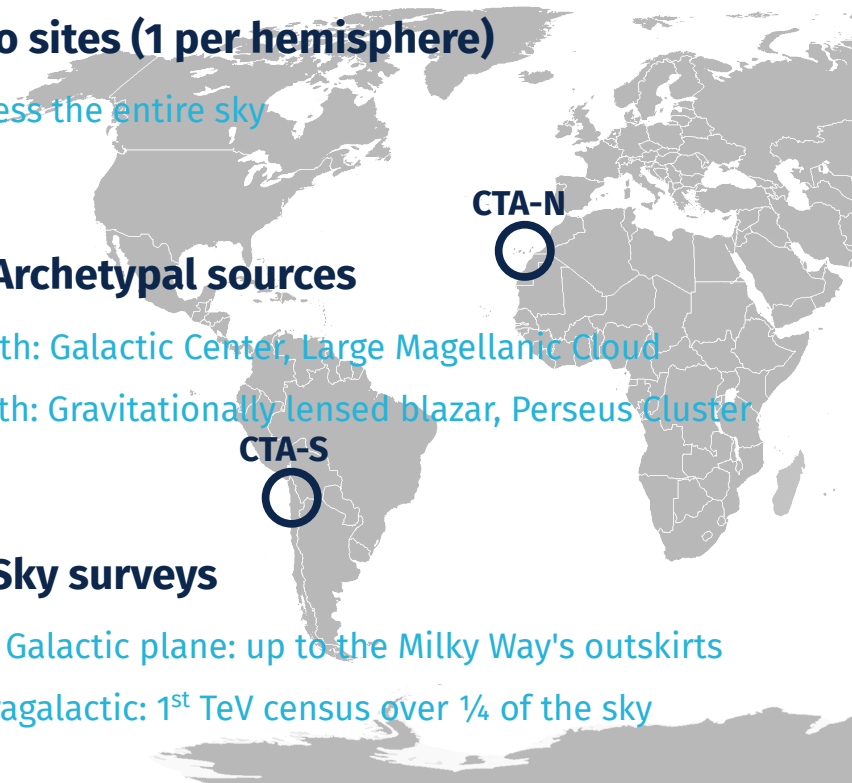
South: Galactic Center, Large Magellanic Cloud

North: Gravitationally lensed blazar, Perseus Cluster

→ Sky surveys

Full Galactic plane: up to the Milky Way's outskirts

Extragalactic: 1st TeV census over 1/4 of the sky



Čerenkov measurements

Imaging Atmospheric Č Technique

- a. Shape of the shower → bckgd rejection
- b. Size of the shower → energy estimator

Multiplicity is key

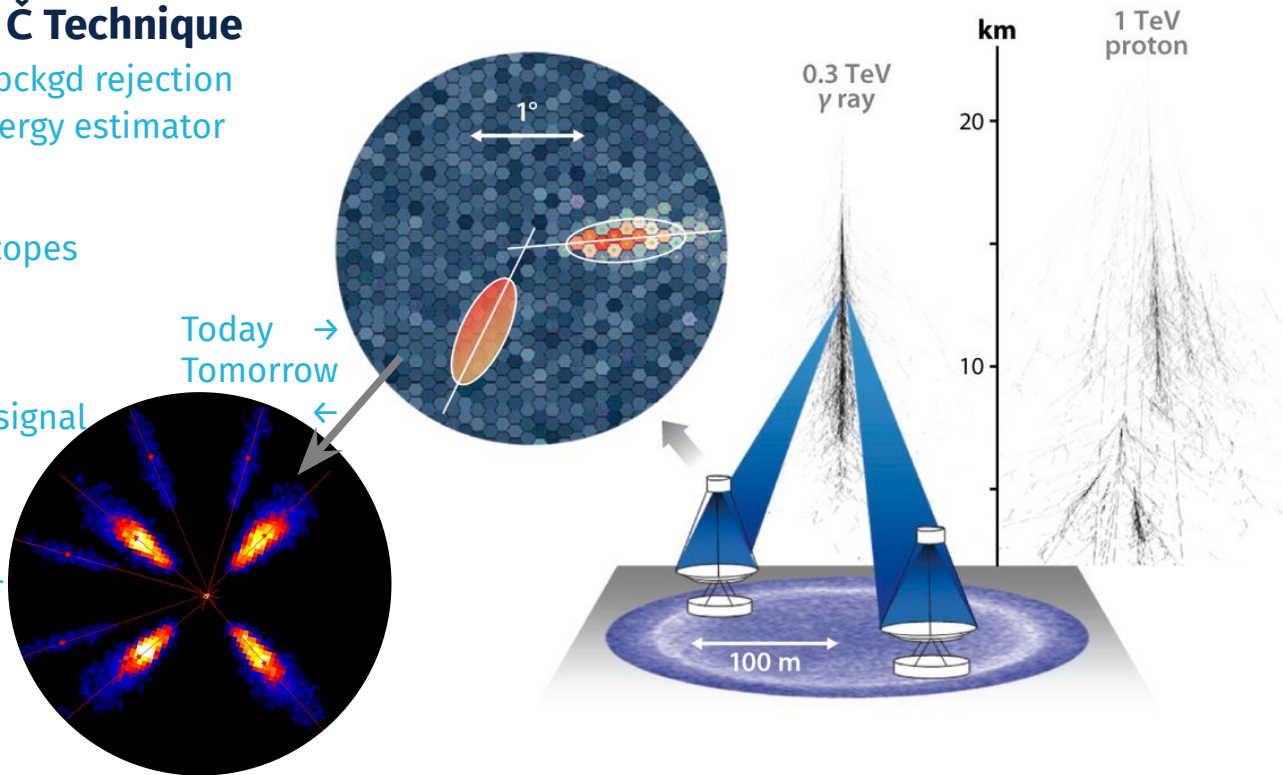
- Coincidence from ++ telescopes
- a, b, angular resolution

Telescope Size

- Low-energy γ rays: faint Č signal
- Large mirrors

Array size

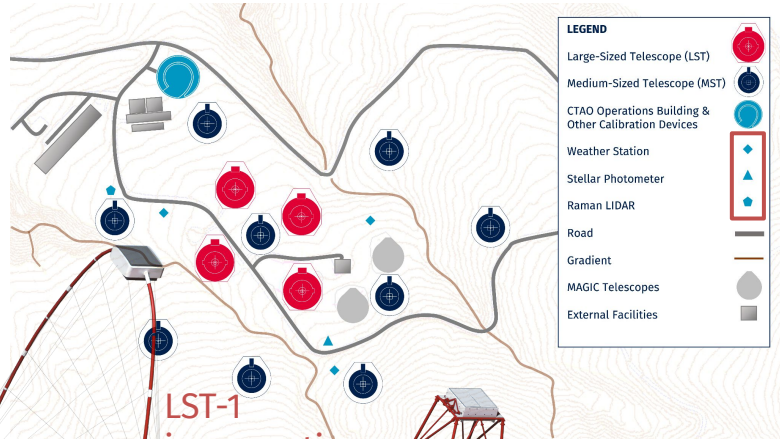
- High-energy γ rays: scarcer (PWL spectra)
- Large array layout



Optimized layout (α configuration)

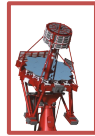
Science-based optimization

North: extragalactic oriented (high- E/z absorption)



LST-1
inauguration ('18)

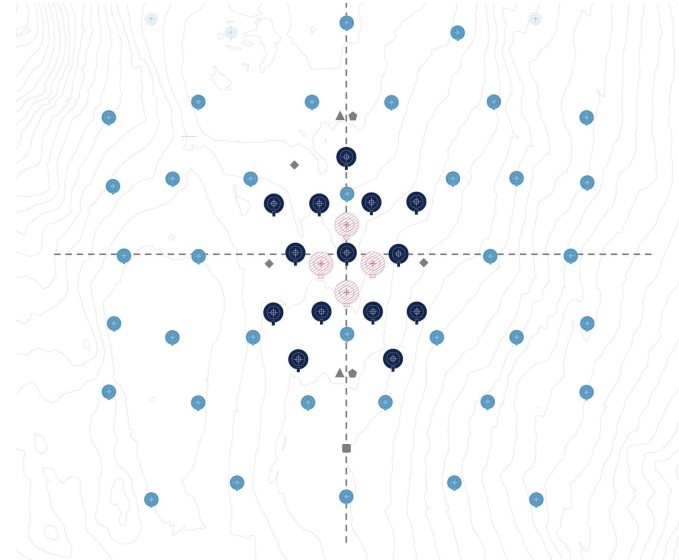
MST camera
agreement ('20)



Single SST
design ('18-19)

Shower-based optimization

LSTs $\sim 20-200$ GeV, MSTs $0.2-2$ TeV, SSTs >2 TeV



LEGEND

Medium-Sized Telescope (MST)
Small-Sized Telescope (SST)
Large-Sized Telescope (LST)
Foundation
SST Foundation



Weather Station
Stellar Photometer
Raman LIDAR
Other Calibration Devices



Key performance



Sensitivity

5-10× better than current tels.
From 20 GeV to 200 TeV
(current: 100 GeV to 10 TeV)

Field of view

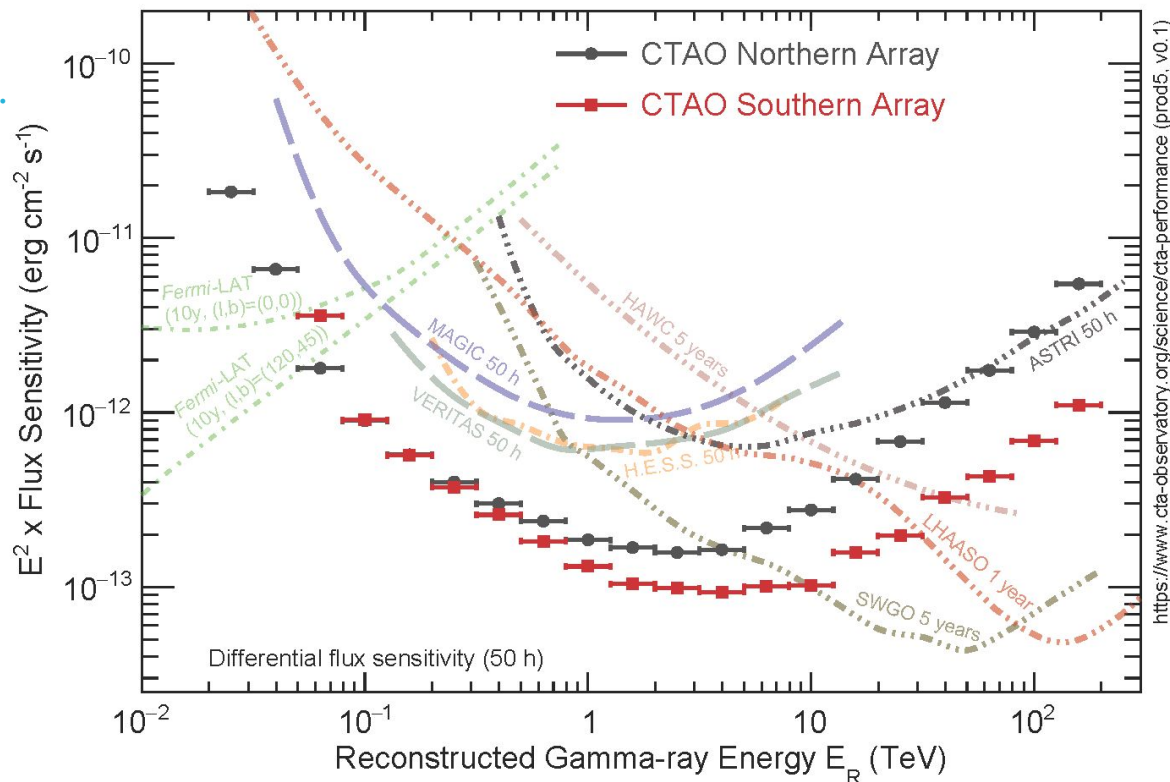
MSTs: 8° x 8° (current: 5° x 5°)

Angular resolution

Better than 3' > 1 TeV
(current: 5')

Energy resolution

< 10% above 200 GeV
(current: <17%)



Key performance



Sensitivity

5-10× better than current telescopes, from 10s of GeV to 10s of TeV

Field of view

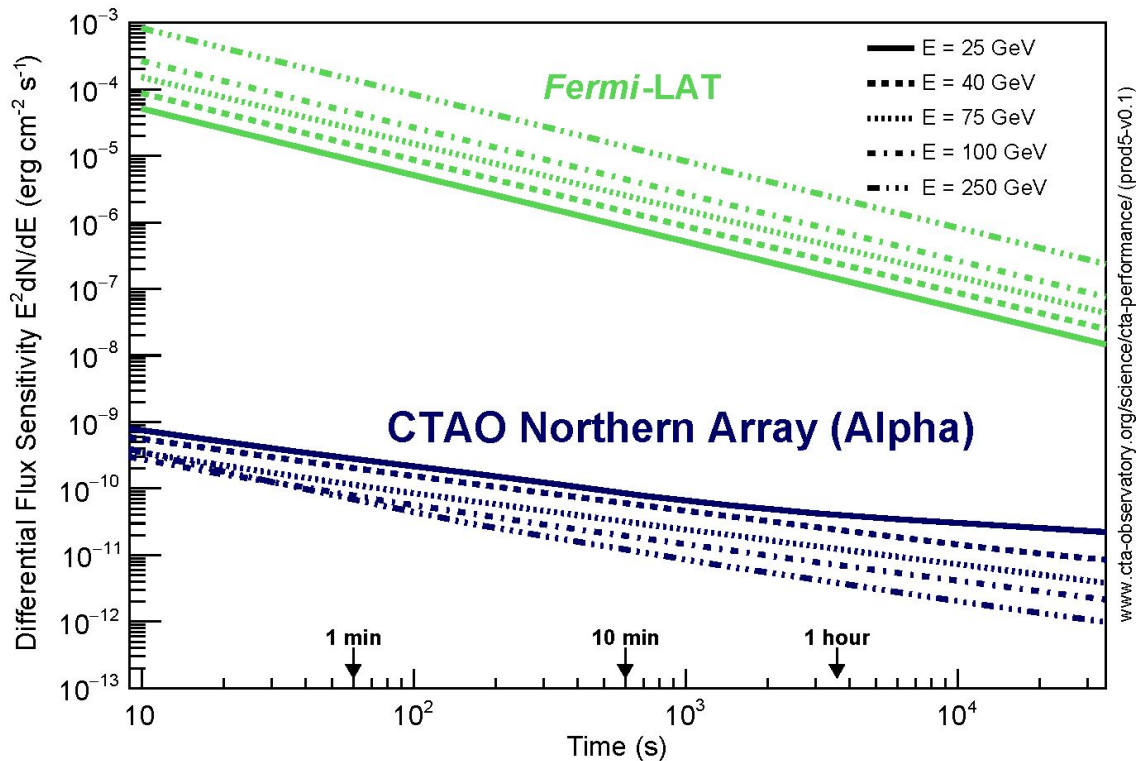
MSTs: $\sim 5^\circ \times 5^\circ \rightarrow \sim 8^\circ \times 8^\circ$

Angular resolution

Better than $3'$ > 1 TeV

Energy resolution

< 10% above 200 GeV

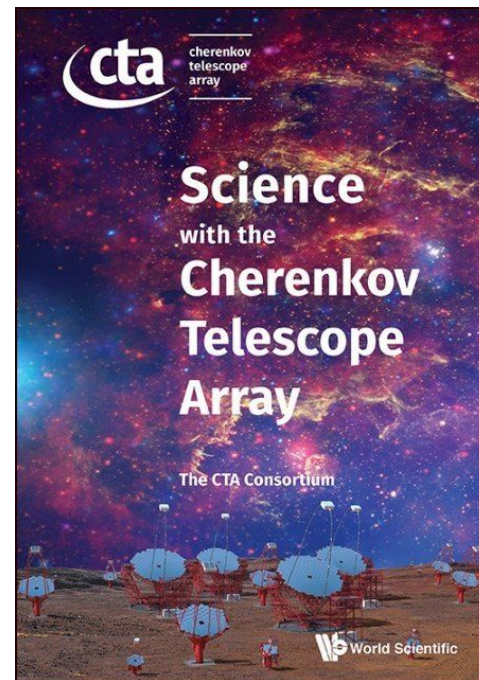


CTA – Core Science

<https://doi.org/10.1142/10986>

By: The CTA Consortium | March 2019

Pages: 364



Key Questions



Understanding the Origin and Role of Relativistic Cosmic Particles

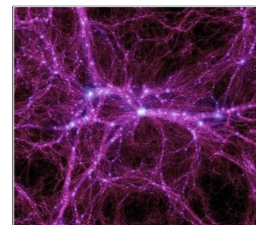
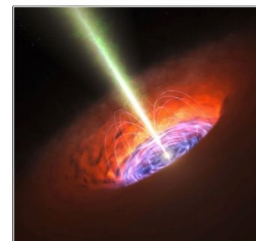
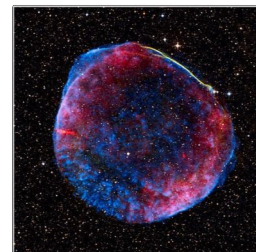
- . Sites of high-energy particle acceleration?
- . Mechanisms for cosmic particle acceleration?
- . Feedback on their environment?

Probing Extreme Environments

- . Processes close to neutron stars and black holes?
- . Characteristics of jets, winds and explosions?
- . Cosmic voids: their radiation and magnetic fields?

Exploring Frontiers in Physics

- . Nature of dark matter?
- . Photon propagation: quantum gravitational effects?
- . Do axion-like particles exist?



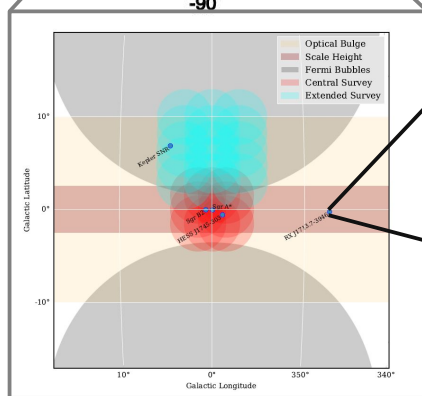
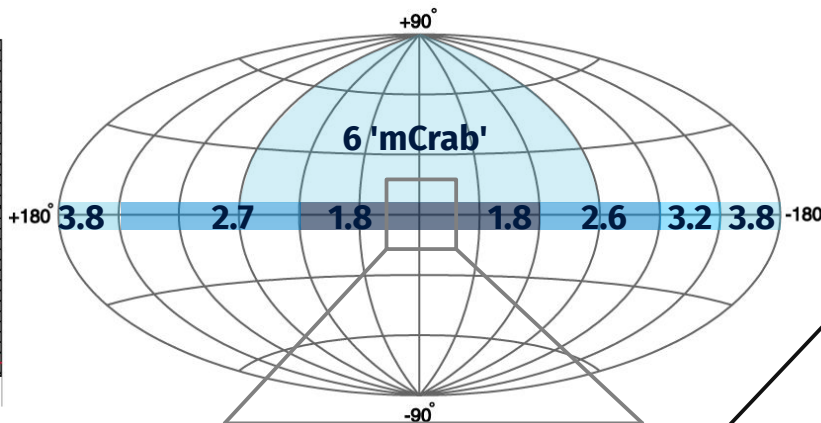
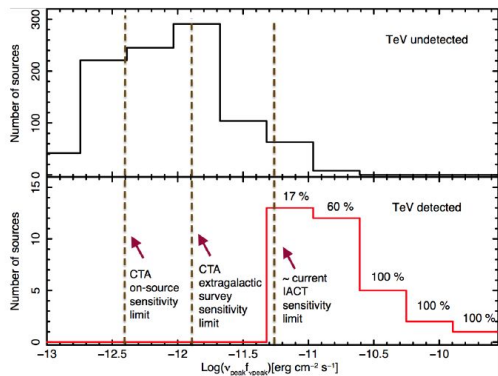
Key Science Projects



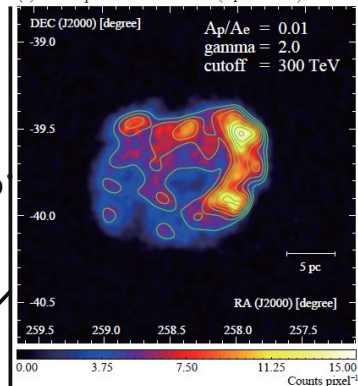
Theme	Question	Dark Matter Programme	Galactic Centre Survey	Galactic Plane Survey	LMC Survey	Extra-galactic Survey	Transients	Cosmic Ray PeVatrons	Star-forming Systems	Active Galactic Nuclei	Galaxy Clusters
Understanding the Origin and Role of Relativistic Cosmic Particles	1.1 What are the sites of high-energy particle acceleration in the universe?		✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓
	1.2 What are the mechanisms for cosmic particle acceleration?		✓	✓	✓		✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓
	1.3 What role do accelerated particles play in feedback on star formation and galaxy evolution?		✓		✓				✓✓	✓	✓
Probing Extreme Environments	2.1 What physical processes are at work close to neutron stars and black holes?		✓	✓	✓			✓✓		✓✓	
	2.2 What are the characteristics of relativistic jets, winds and explosions?		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓		✓✓	
	2.3 How intense are radiation fields and magnetic fields in cosmic voids, and how do these evolve over cosmic time?					✓	✓			✓✓	
Exploring Frontiers in Physics	3.1 What is the nature of Dark Matter? How is it distributed?	✓✓	✓✓		✓						✓
	3.2 Are there quantum gravitational effects on photon propagation?						✓✓	✓		✓✓	
	3.3 Do Axion-like particles exist?					✓	✓			✓✓	

Large / deep surveys

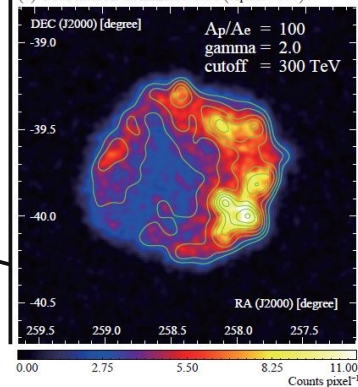
Field of view & Two hemispheres



(a) CTA lepton-dominated case ($A_p/A_e=0.01$)



(b) CTA hadron-dominated case ($A_p/A_e=100$)



Extragalactic Survey - 1000h

30-150 srcs + unbiased + unexpected

Galactic Plane - 1600h

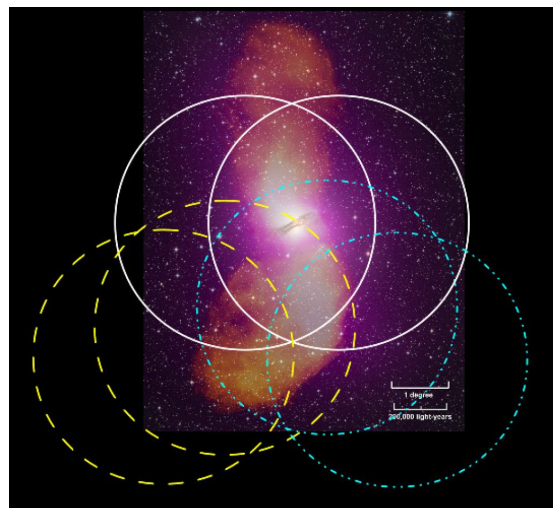
300-600 srcs + unexpected

Galactic Center - 800h

SgrA+ ridge + dozen sources + dark matter?

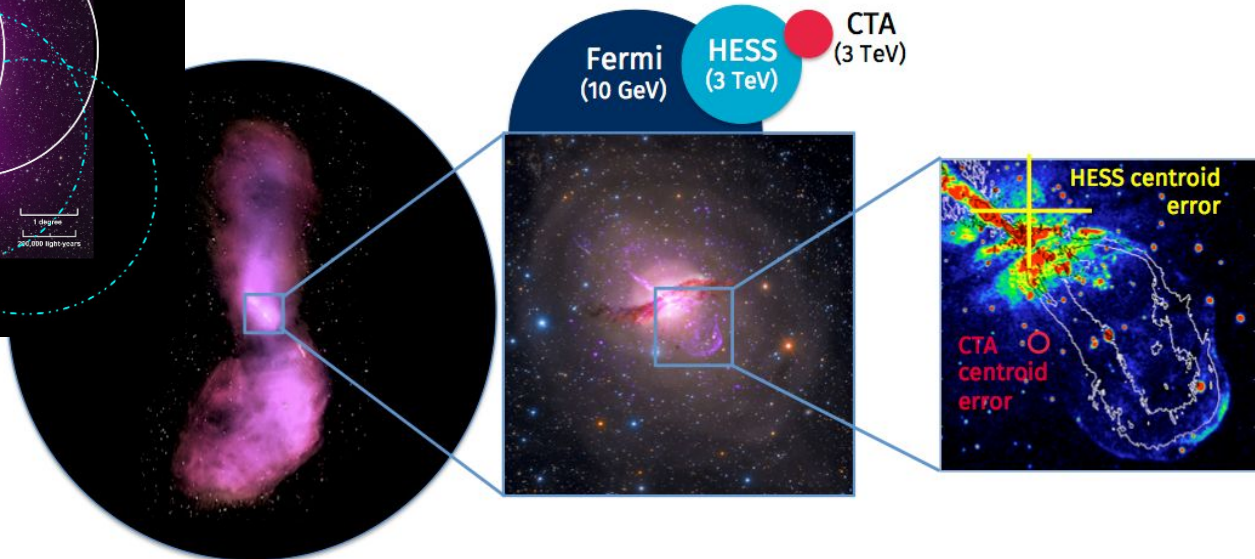
High-quality imaging

Field of view & Angular resolution



Example: Cen A - 150h (within AGN KSP)

- . southern radio lobe fully covered
- . kpc scales can be resolved (already demonstrated by HESS)
- . high-fidelity centroid location



+ M87 - 100h (AGN KSP) - radio lobe

High-quality spectra

Energy dispersion



Cosmic-ray Pevatrons - 300h

RX J1713.7-3946 + candidate PeVatrons
detected in the Galactic Plane Survey

Active Galactic Nuclei

- 300h on high-quality spectra
- 200h on M87 & CenA

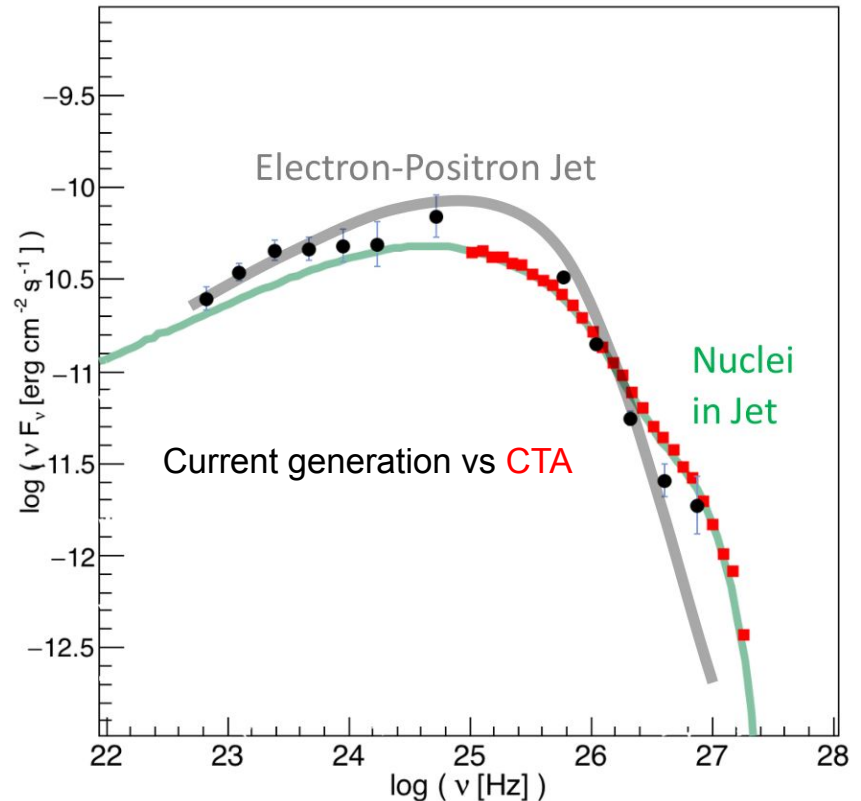
~40 objects targeted:

- 3/4 already detected at TeV energies
- 1/4 based on *Fermi*-LAT extrapolations

→ acceleration processes

→ radiative processes

→ propagation



Transients & Outbursts

Effective area, Slewing & Alerts



Transients - 2000h (full-array follow-up)

[Galactic transients](#) (e.g Novae), [Gamma-ray bursts](#),
 [\$\nu\$](#) & [gravitational waves](#)

Active Galactic Nuclei

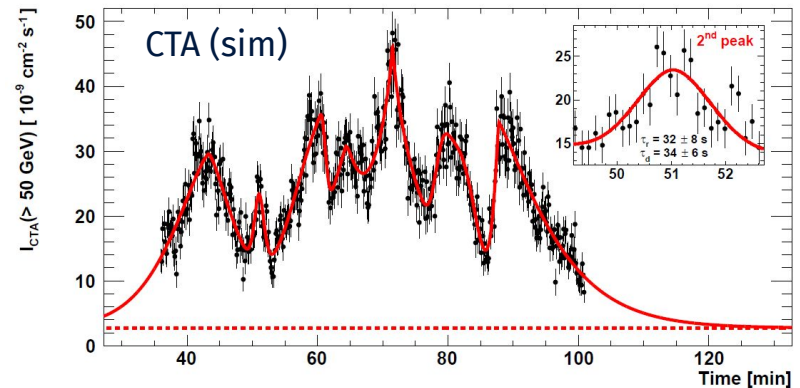
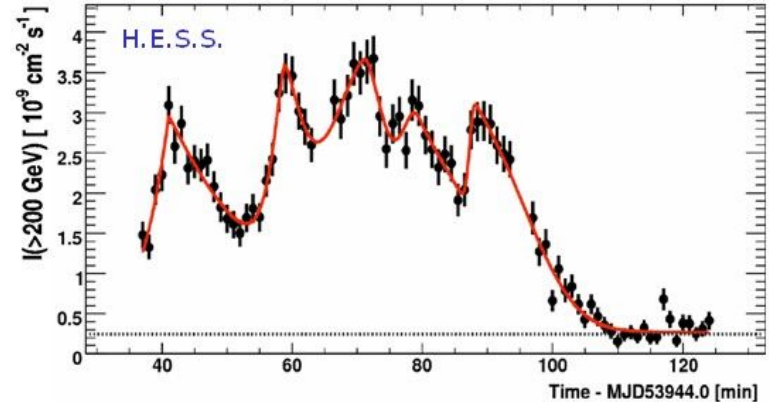
- 1500h of long-term monitoring (full array)
- + snapshots with sub-arrays & external alerts follow up
- + follow-up + 1200 h (full-array)

→ [AGN variability on time scales from >10 years down to sub-minute](#)

Triggers to/from the outside world

[Minute time-scale response](#) (slewing, processing)

Open-question (investigated e.g. in the Paris area):
[how to deal with external alerts](#) in time-domain astronomy era (Rubin: [> 10 million alerts per night](#))



Astrophysics & beyond

Fundamental physics & cosmology



Galaxy clusters - 300h on Perseus

Perseus: structure formation shocks + cosmic-ray content of the intra-cluster medium + NGC 1275 & IC 310 + decaying DM and γ -WISPs (axion-like) coupling

Dark Matter Program - Gal. Center + dSphs(300h) + 700h

Down to the thermal cross section for WIMPs

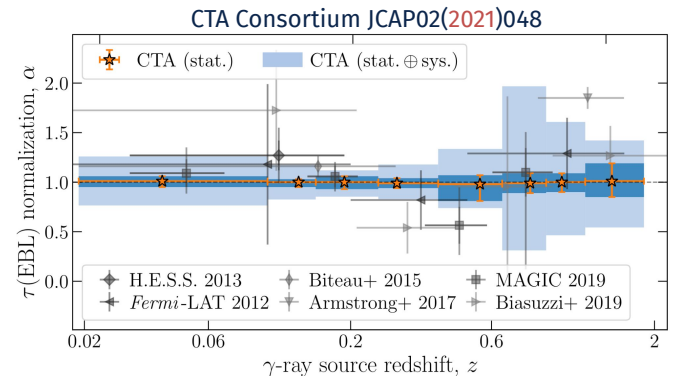
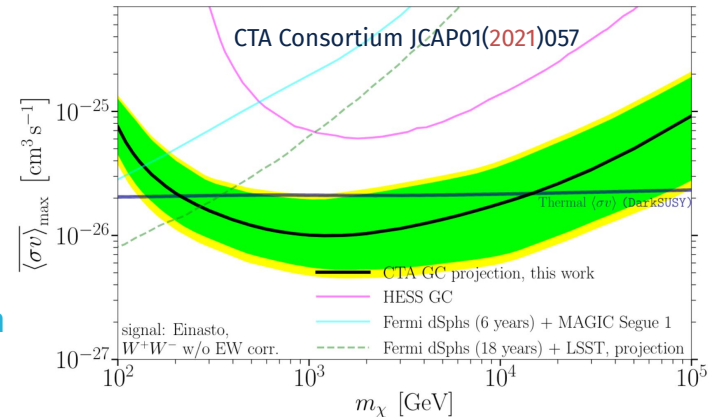
γ -ray propagation - AGN + Transients + Pulsars (GPS)

Extragalactic Background Light, down to 5% (stat.), 12% (syst.)

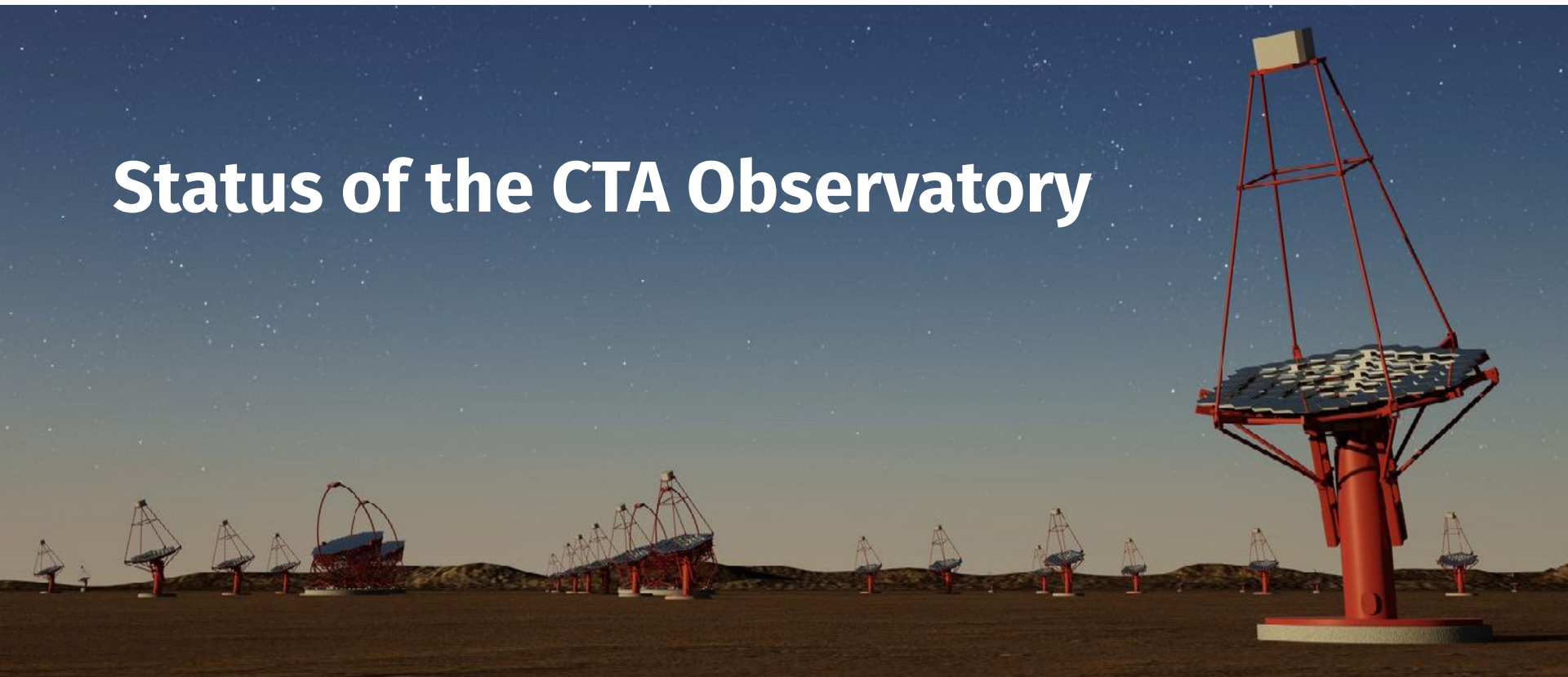
Intergalactic Magnetic Fields: > 0.3 pG

Lorentz Invariance Violation: 2-3 \times better than current

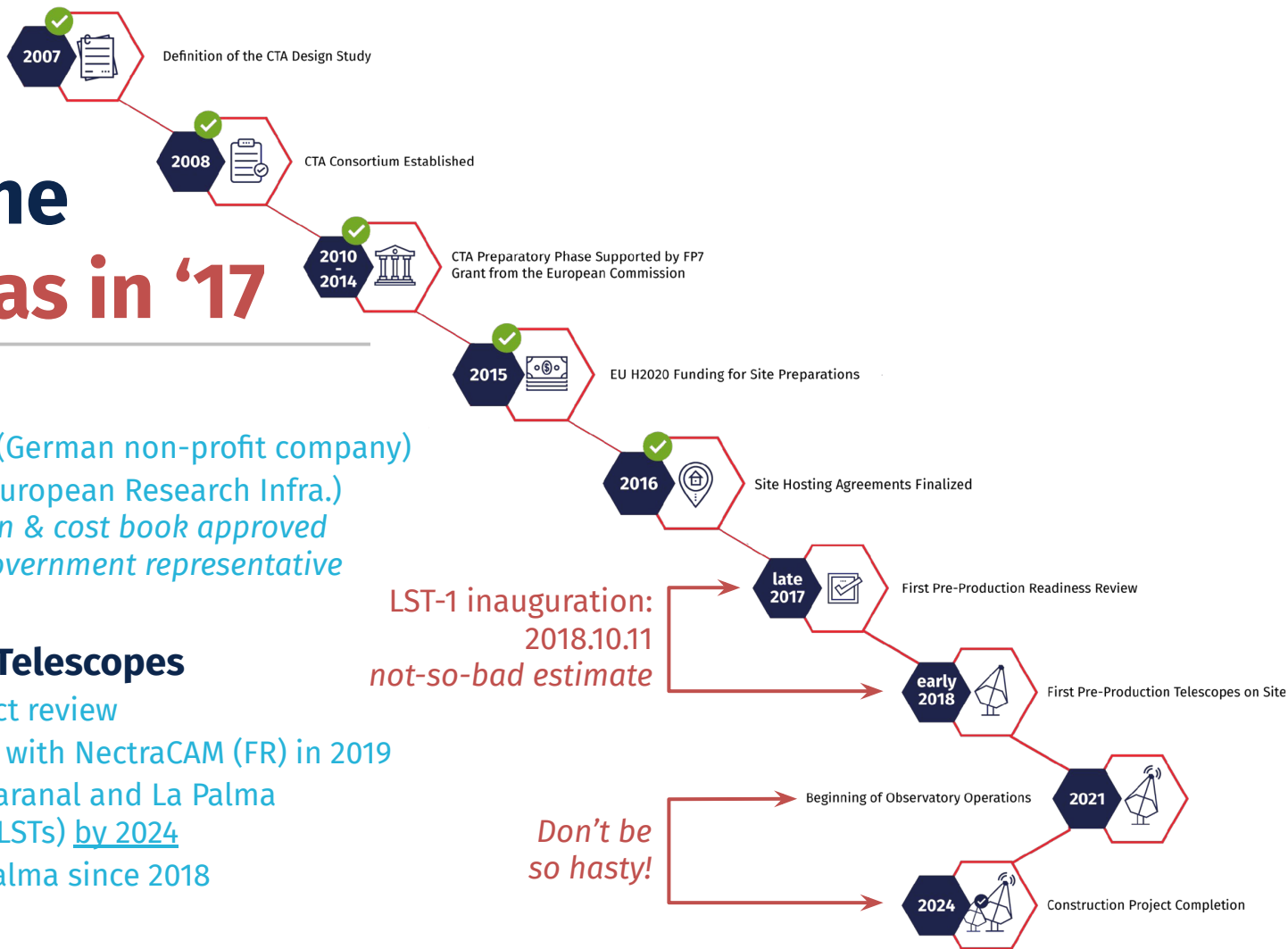
Axion-like Particles: probe of dark-matter parameter space



Status of the CTA Observatory



CTA Timeline as it was in '17



Observatory

- Was a gGmbH (German non-profit company)
- ERIC in 2023 (European Research Infra.)
α configuration & cost book approved by board of government representative in June 2021

Cameras and Telescopes

- SSTs: in product review
- Prototype MST with NectraCAM (FR) in 2019
- First MSTs in Paranal and La Palma (+ some other LSTs) by 2024
- 1st LST in La Palma since 2018

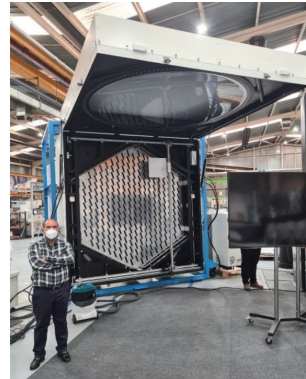
Cameras & telescopes



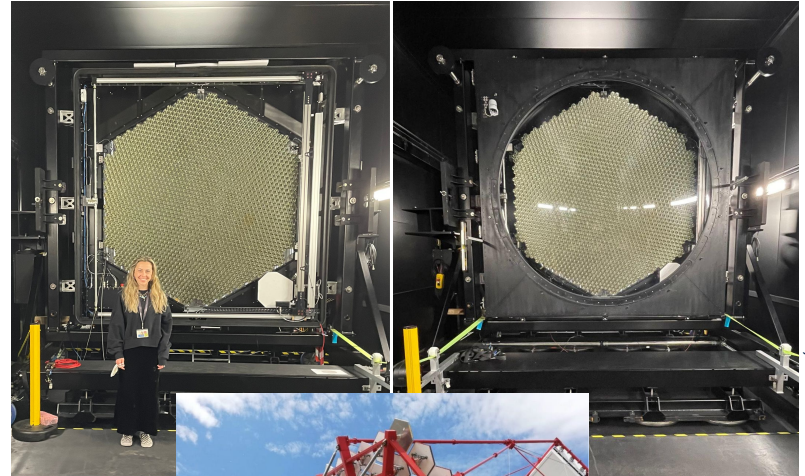
LST-1 on site



LST-2/4 in prod



1st full MST cameras



Credits: F. Bradascio, IRFU-CEA



LST-1 commissioning



LST-1 inauguration on Oct. '18

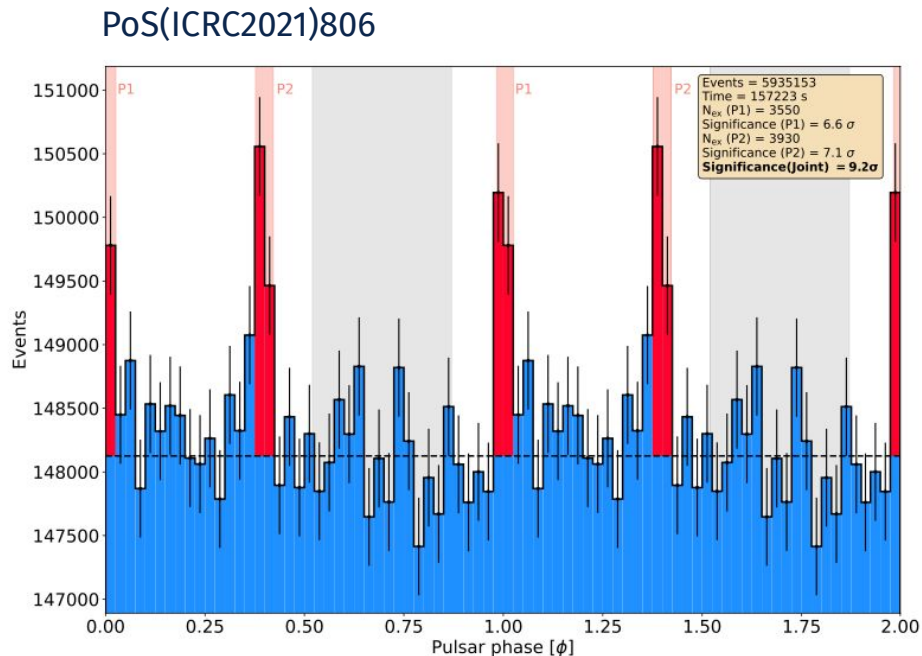
Commissioning, science verification

Crab Nebula detection in Nov. '19

AGN Detections

Mrk 501, Mrk 421, 1ES 1959+650,
1ES 0647+250 and PG 1553+113

Crab Pulsar detection in June '20



Until...

Sep. to Dec. 2021

No permanent damage on LST1



Michele Fiori

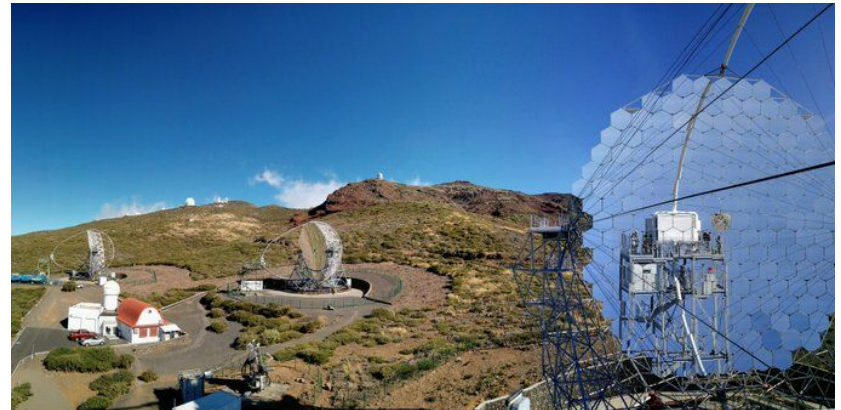
First scientific observations?

Until we have this

hopefully by the time of my next talk on
the Key Science Projects of CTA

Initiate relevant observations with that

e.g. long-term monitoring of brightest AGNs



Backup



CTA Users



The CTA Observatory

First true open observatory for very-high-energy gamma-ray astronomy

Time distribution

~40% Key Science Projects (CTA Consortium)

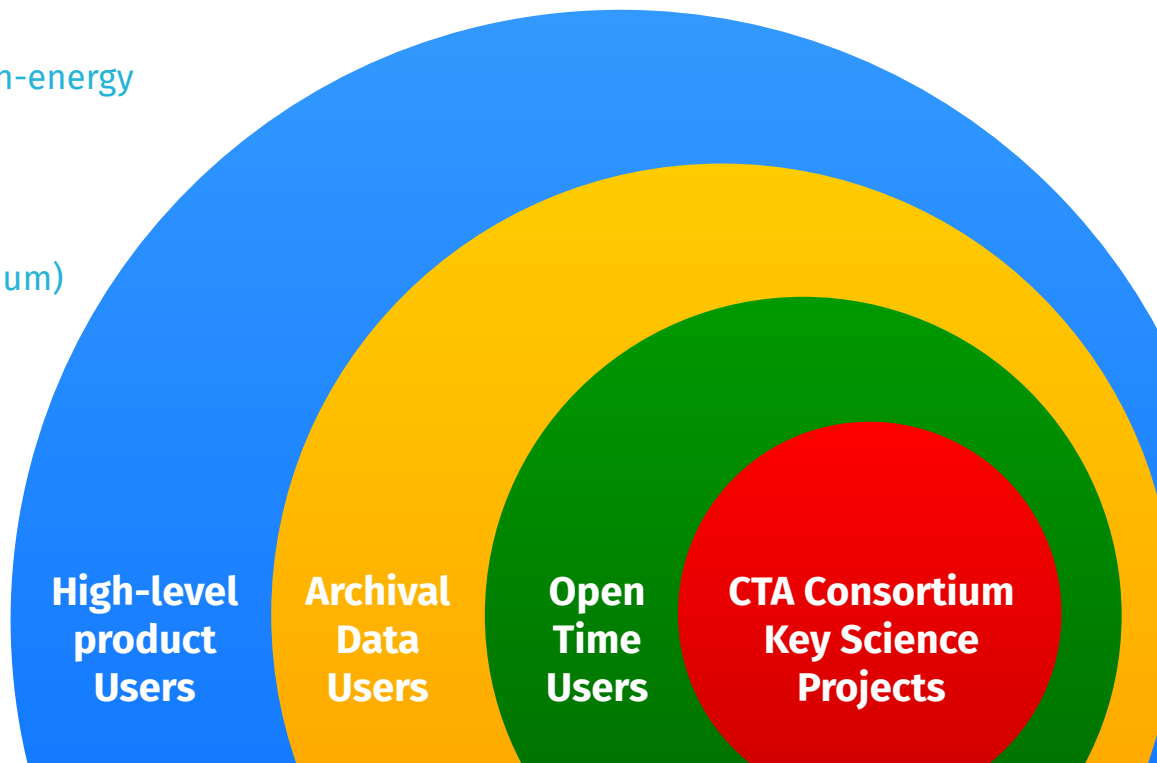
~20% Host-country time

~40% User time

Annual Guest Observer proposals with P.I. from contributing countries or non-contributing (small fraction)

Open data

High-level data accessible after a one-year proprietary period



CTA Users

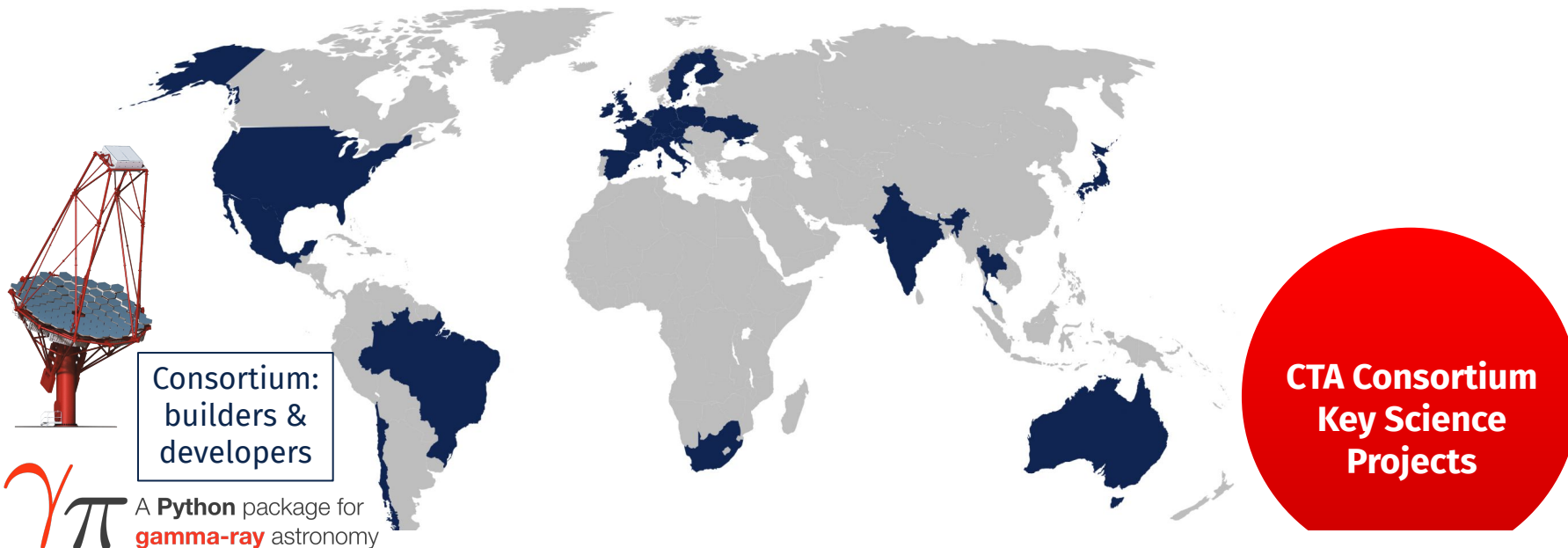


The CTA Consortium

25 countries, 150 institutes: 1500 members (~500 FTE) as of June 2021

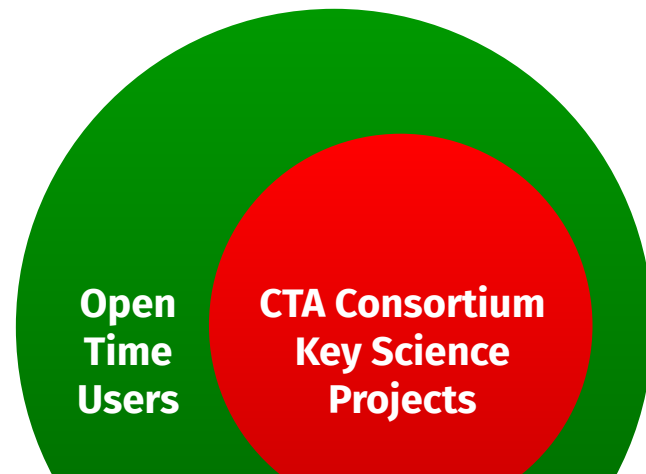
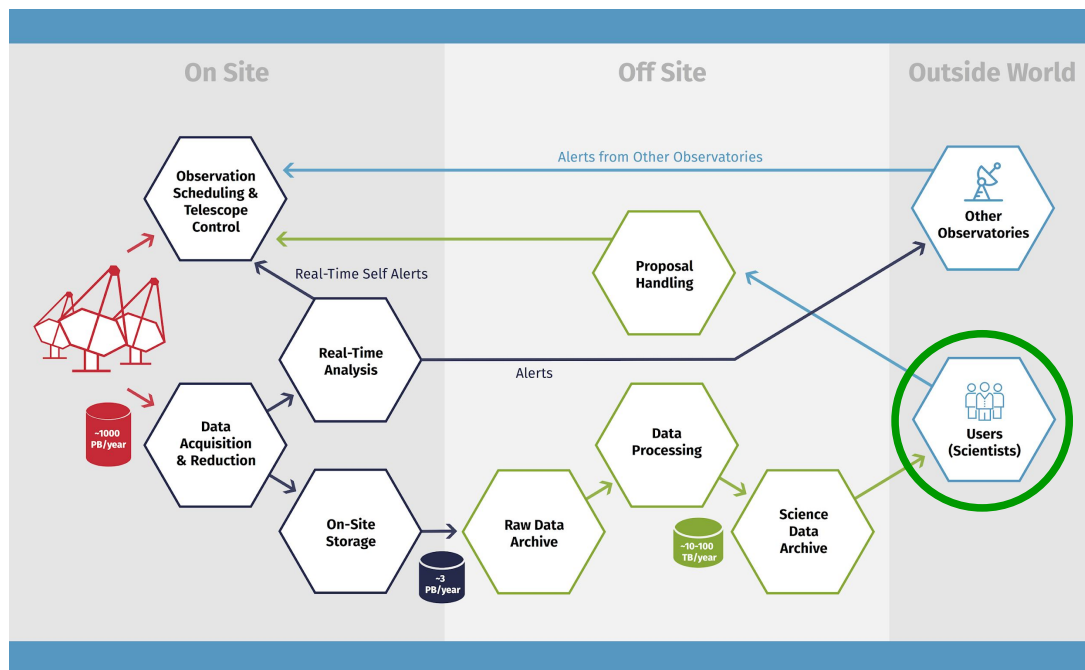
Definition of the project and of its component - definition of the Key Science Projects

Release of catalogs, maps, likelihood/posterior profiles...



Guest observers

Estimated Co-Is of guest-observer proposals $O(5000)$. CTA → data products and support.

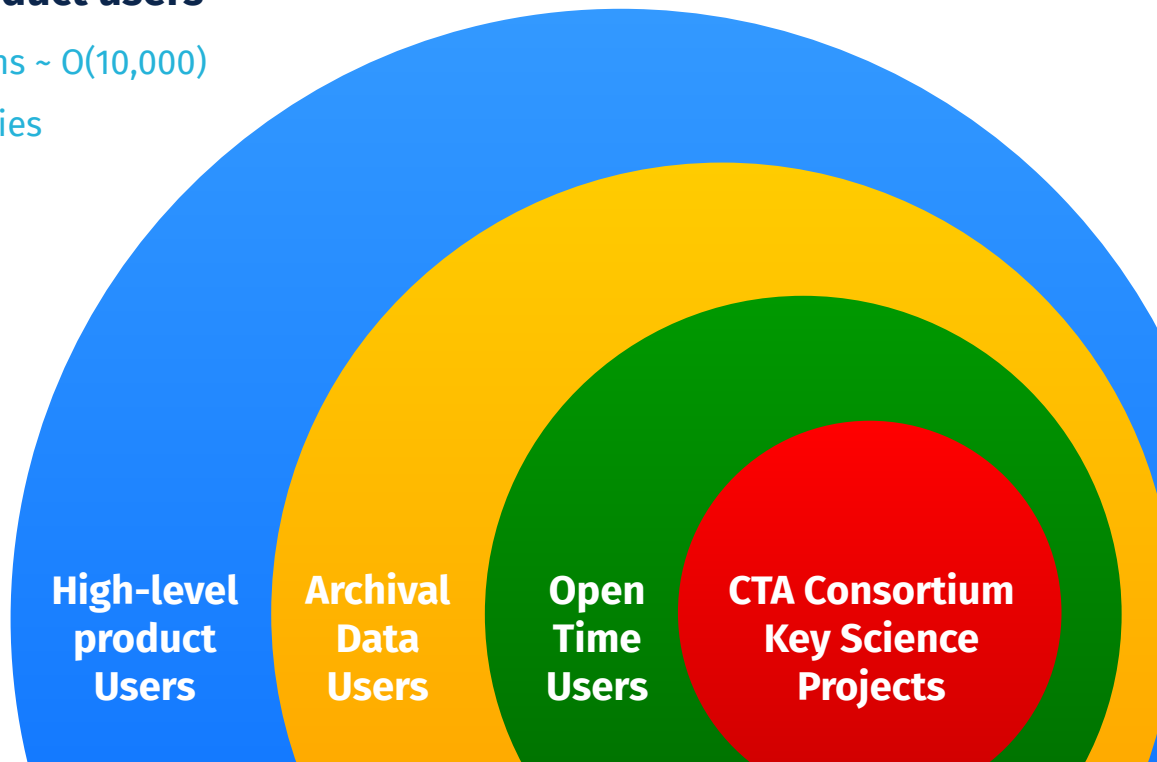
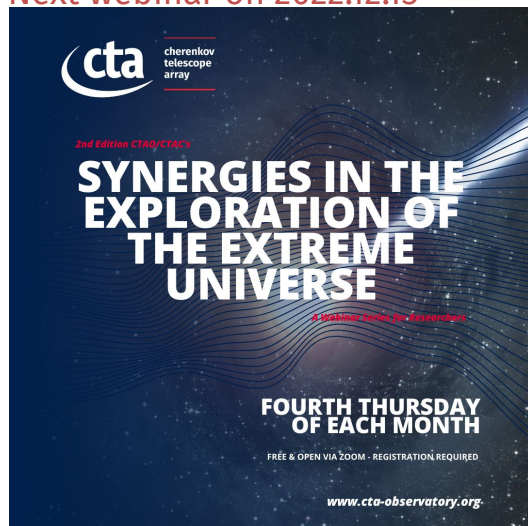


Archival data and high-level-product users

Co-authors of archive-based publications ~ O(10,000)

Wide community engaged through a series of workshops and **webinars**

Next webinar on 2022.12.15



High-quality imaging

Field of view & Angular resolution

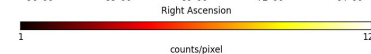
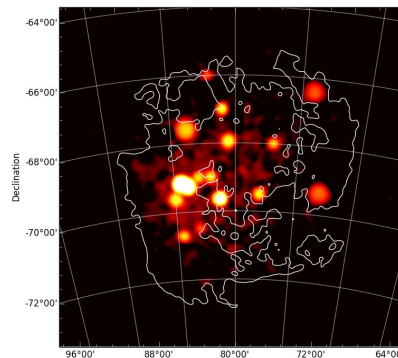
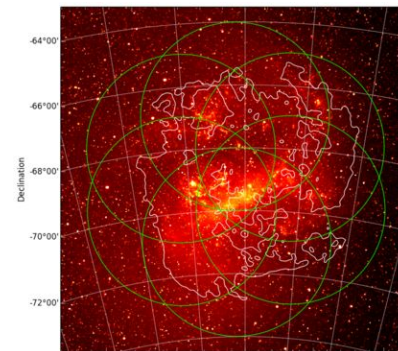
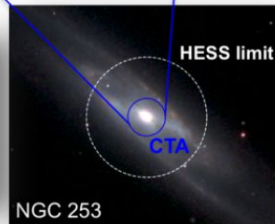
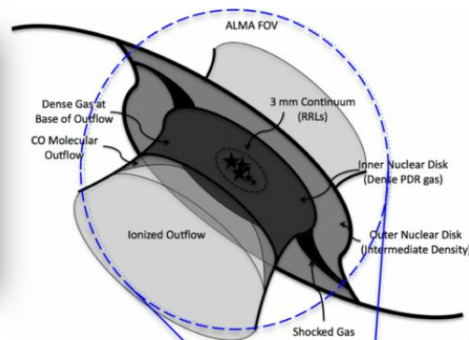
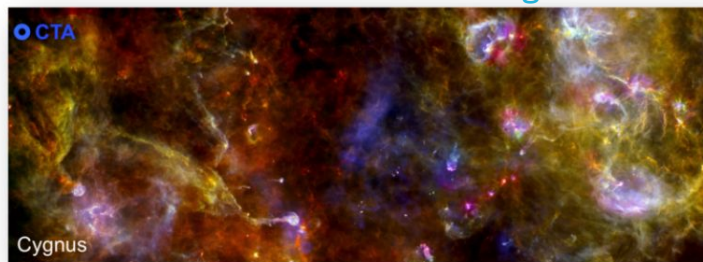


Large Magellanic Cloud Survey - 250h

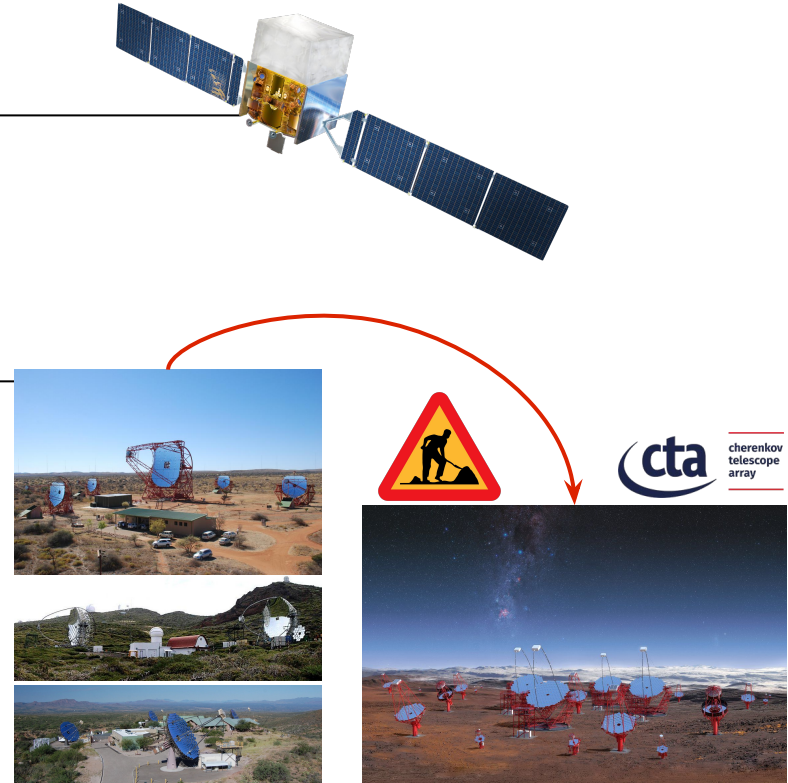
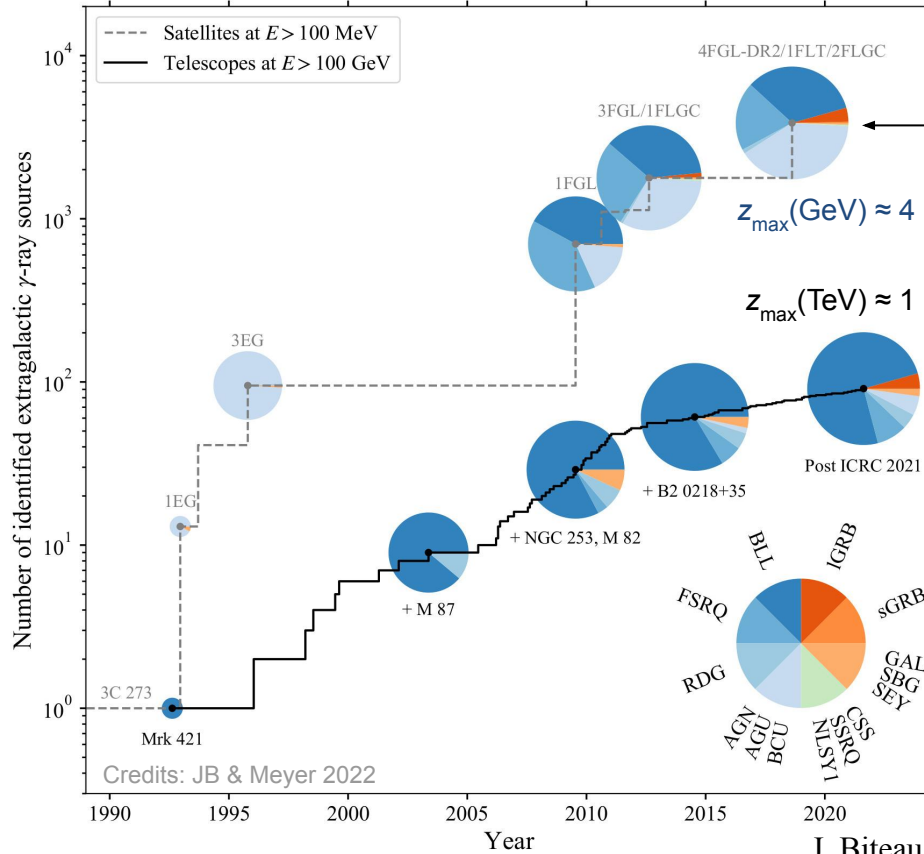
Face-on, dozen sources incl. SN 1987A, superbubble, two powerful pulsars

Star-forming systems - GPS + 450h: M31, NGC253, M82, Arp220

From stellar clusters to starburst galaxies

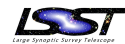
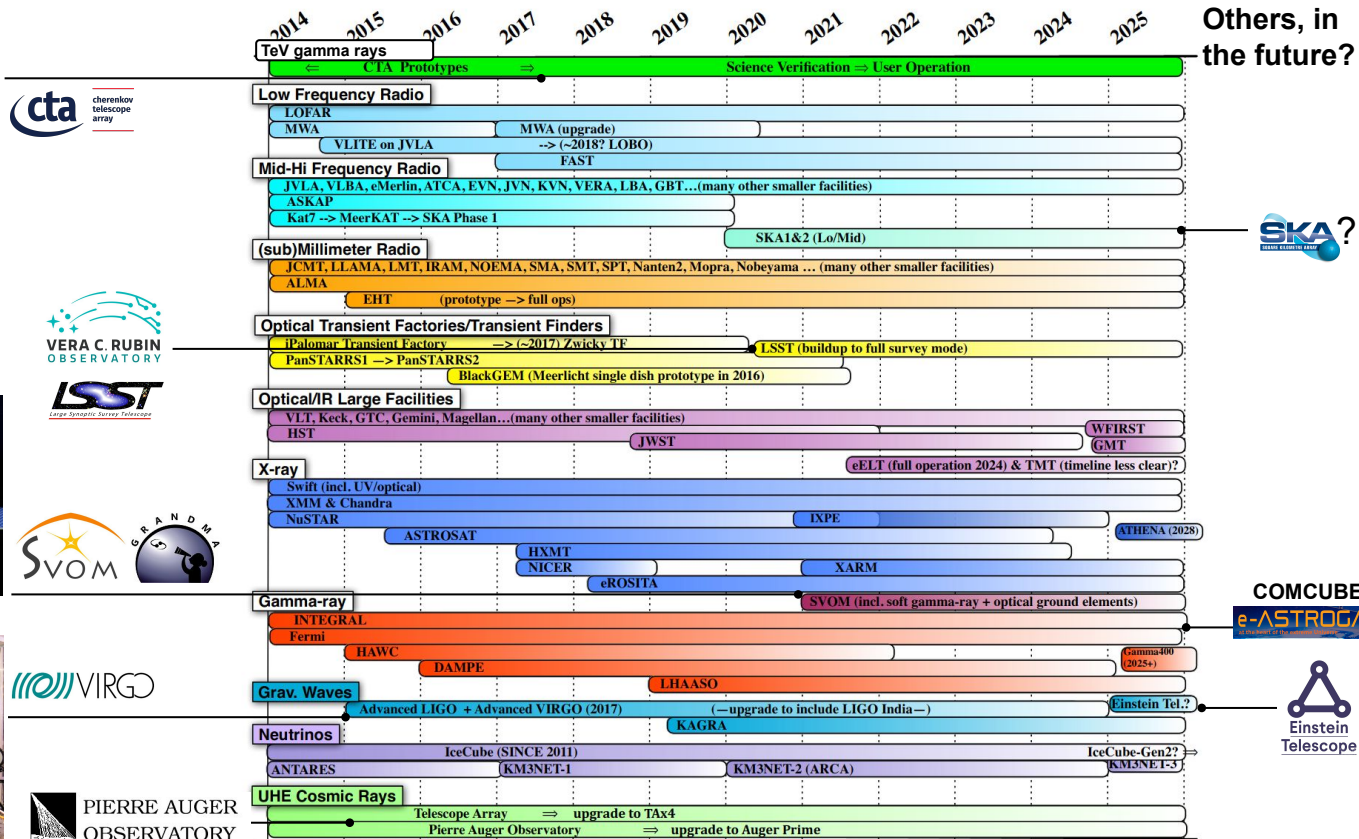
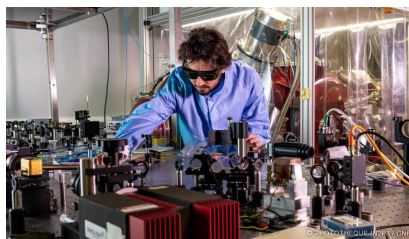


Status of extragalactic γ -ray astronomy



Multi-wavelength / -messenger observatories

Ongoing @ IJCLab



Some fundamental questions in blazar (jetted AGN) physics

Jet formation: Accretion - Ejection

Blandford-Znajek (B -field in ergosphere)
or Blandford-Payne (B -field in disk)?

Jet composition: Baryons & Leptons

Pure e^+/e^- jet excluded for stability
but which e/p ratio, and baryon origin?

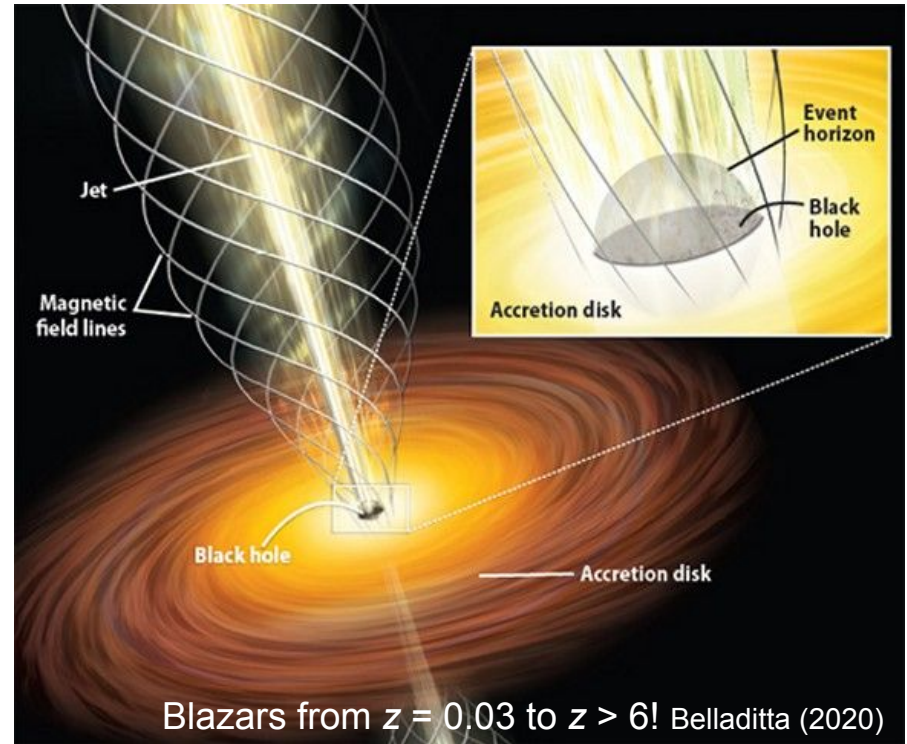
Jet bulk acceleration

Poynting dominated at basis
→ $\Gamma \sim 10$ bulk motion beyond pc scales

Particle acceleration

Transfer of magnetization / bulk motion to leptons (& baryons?) up to $\gamma > 10^5$:

- Shock acceleration?
- Magnetic reconnection?
- Others?



Some of Fermi's lessons on blazars

Detections

- 2863 sources at $|b| > 10^\circ$ 4LAC, Fermi-LAT 2019
 - > 79% are AGNs
 - ~98% of these AGNs are blazars
 - 24% FSRQs, 38% BL Lacs, 38% unclear

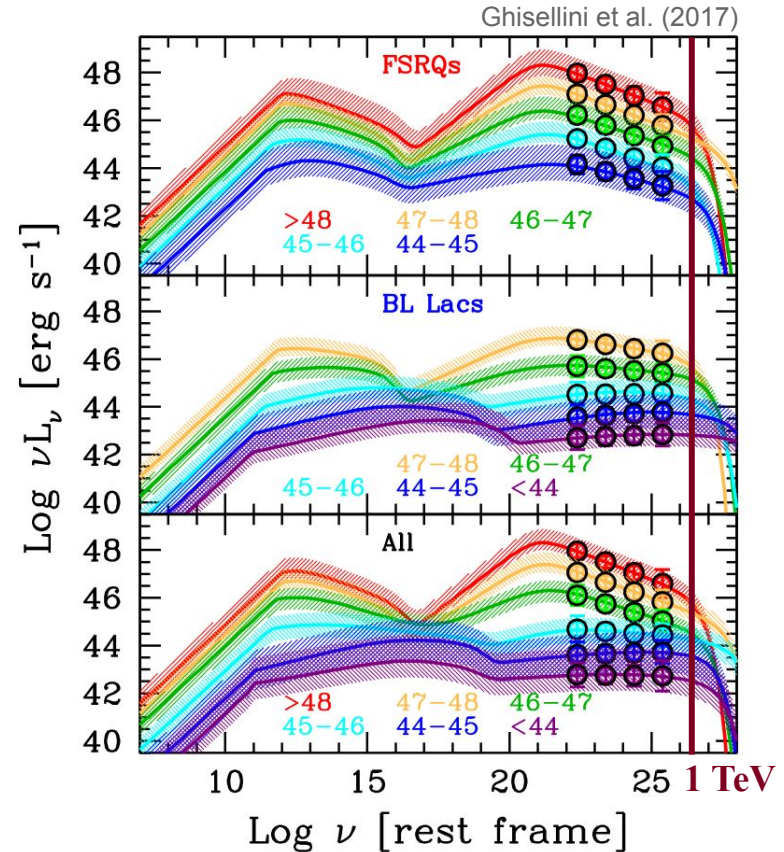
Blazar sequence?

- Inferred anti-correlation of peak power with peak frequency
- Initially: (biased?) X-ray/radio selection Fossati et al. (1998)
- Confirmed with Fermi-only selection Ghisellini et al. (2017)
→ links maximum energy, jet power and accretion rate
(FSRQ / BL Lac lines = reprocessed disk emission)

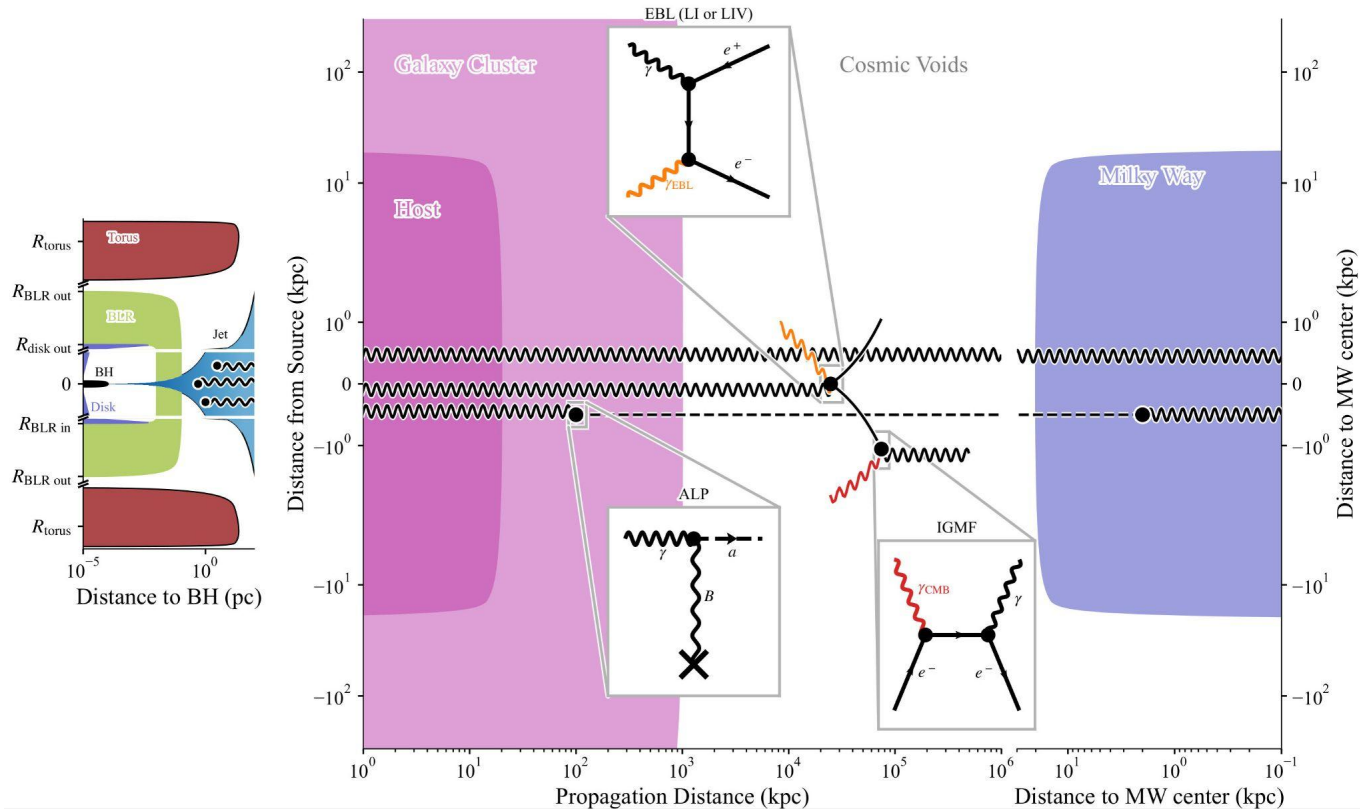
Extreme blazars

The high-energy frontier of the sequence

→ two dozen known to date Biteau et al. (2020)



γ -ray propagation from sources down to Earth



Status of the COB and CIB as of 2022

Measurements

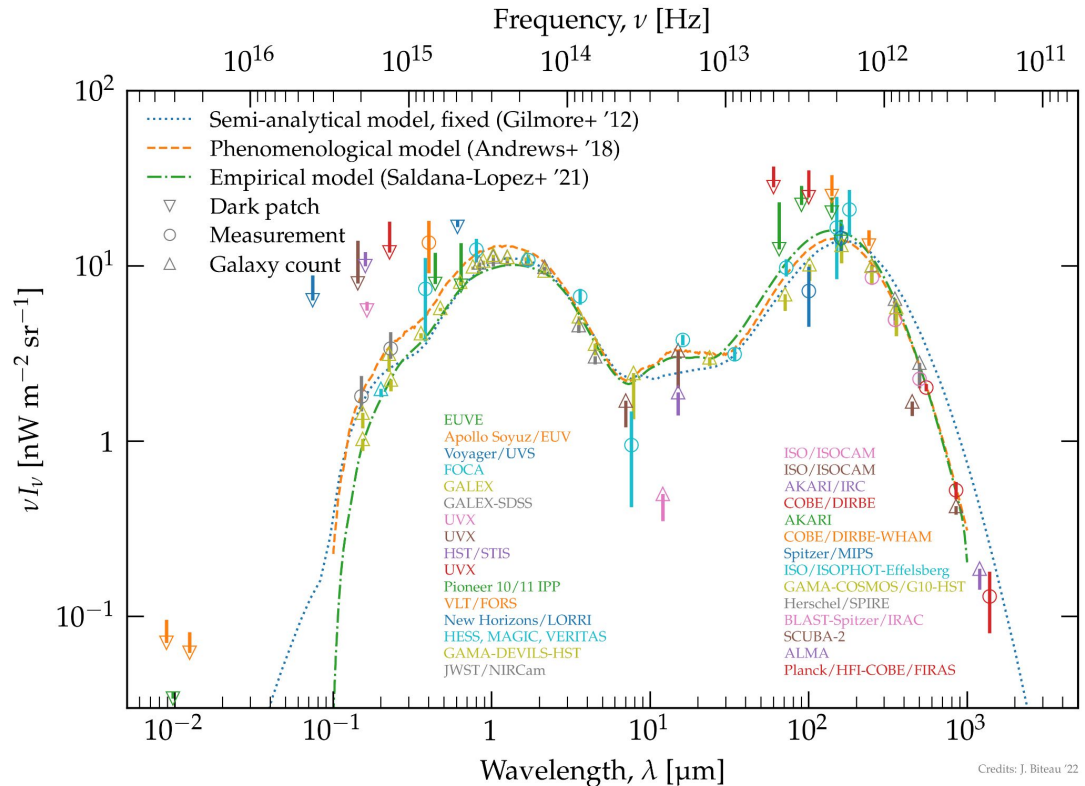
- ❑ Galaxy counts: 5-10% accuracy, 1% in coming years?
- ❑ Dark-patch estimates suggest unaccounted Zodi component. Puzzle from New Horizons.
- ❑ γ -ray measurements still lack accuracy to solve the puzzle.

Models

- ❑ Impressive convergence over the past ten years.

CTA and precursors

- ❑ Beat the systematics.
- ❑ Solve the optical controversy.
- ❑ Measure AGN & PAH contributions.

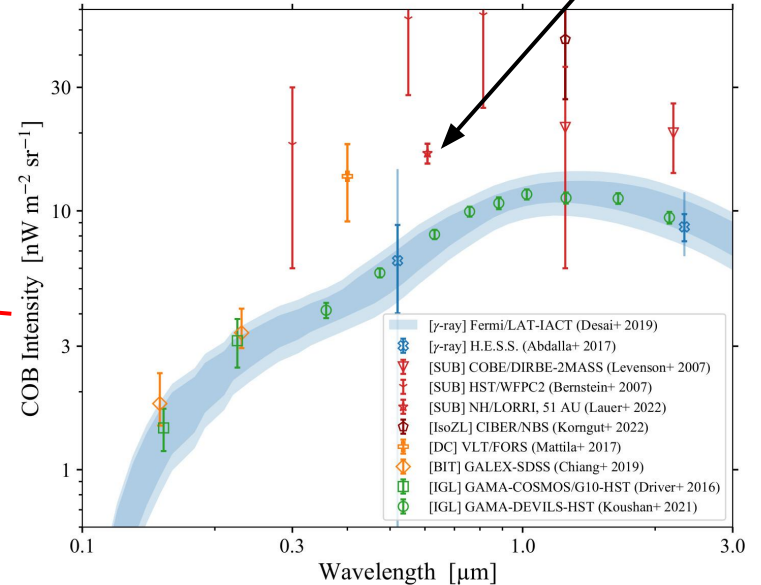
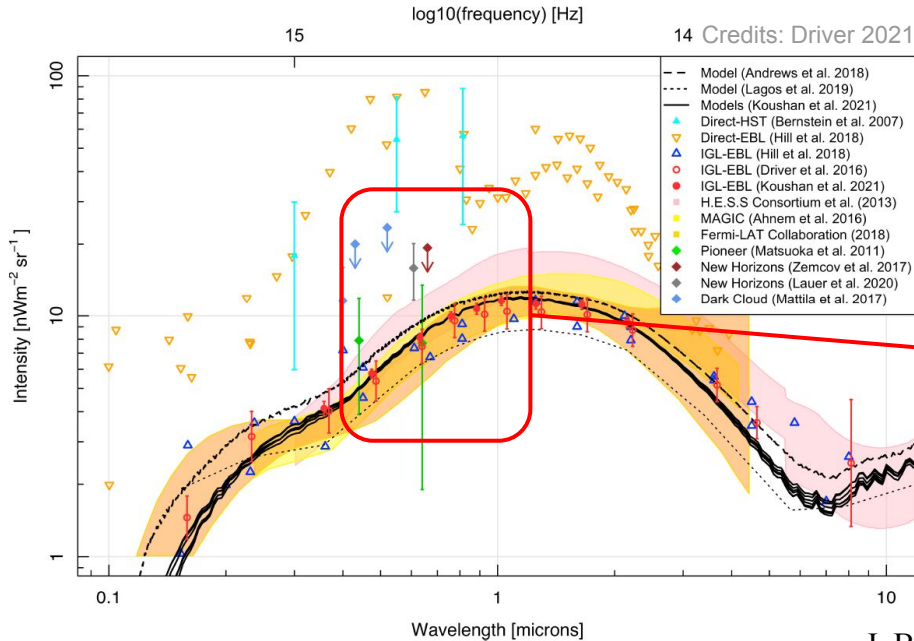
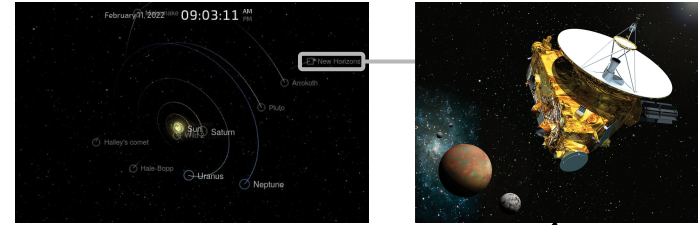


The “optical controversy”

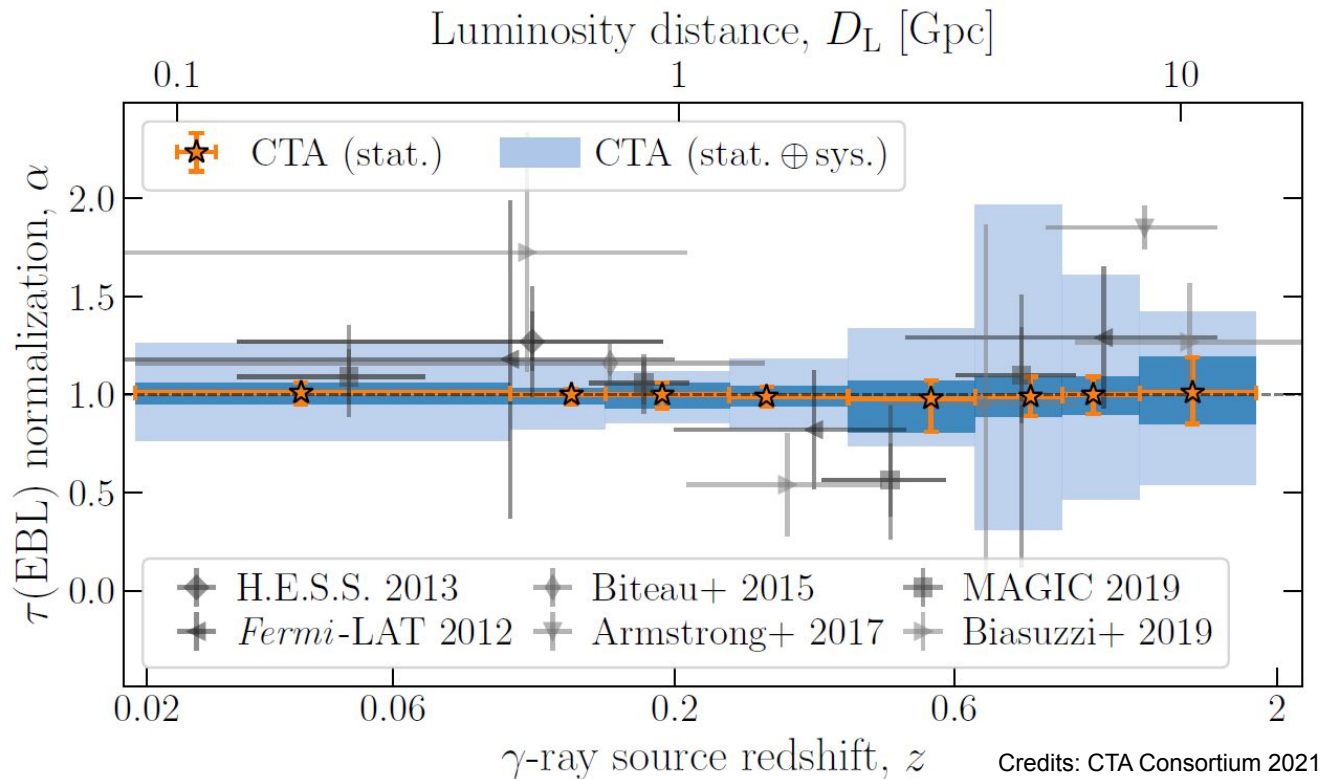
Spacecrafts out of the Solar System at [this link](#)

Recent news: New Horizons / LORRI

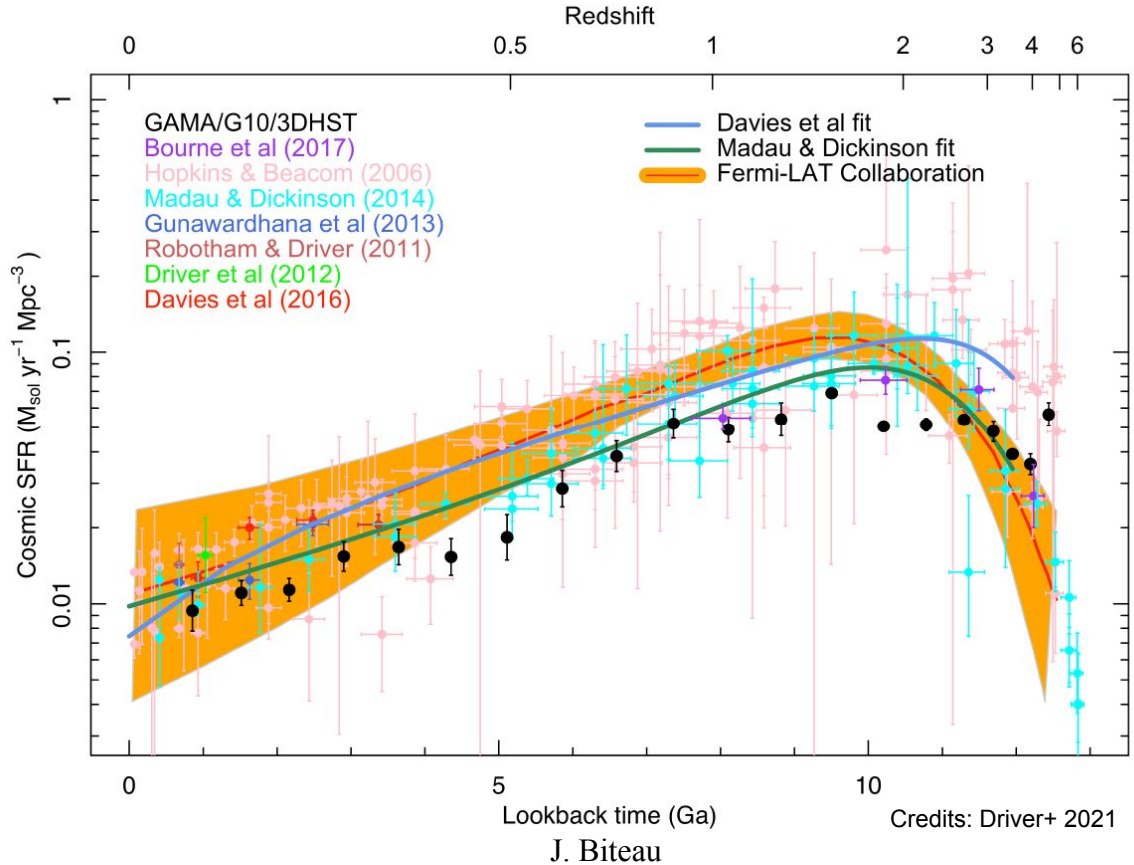
- Darkest, reliable field: $16.4 \pm 1.5 \text{ nW m}^{-2} \text{ sr}^{-1}$ (Lauer+ 2022)
- If of extragalactic origin: galaxy counts = half of EBL @ $0.6 \mu\text{m}$



EBL (and SFR): expectations from CTA



Cosmic star-formation history



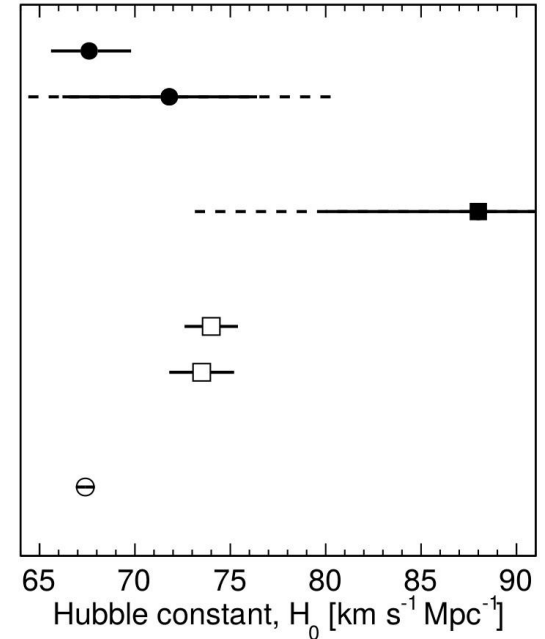
Hubble constant

γ -ray / CSFH (Dominguez+ '13, '19)

γ -ray / local EBL (Biteau+ '15)

Distance ladder (Riess+ '18, '19)

CMB (Planck Collaboration '18)



Credits: Pueschel & JB 2021

How to:

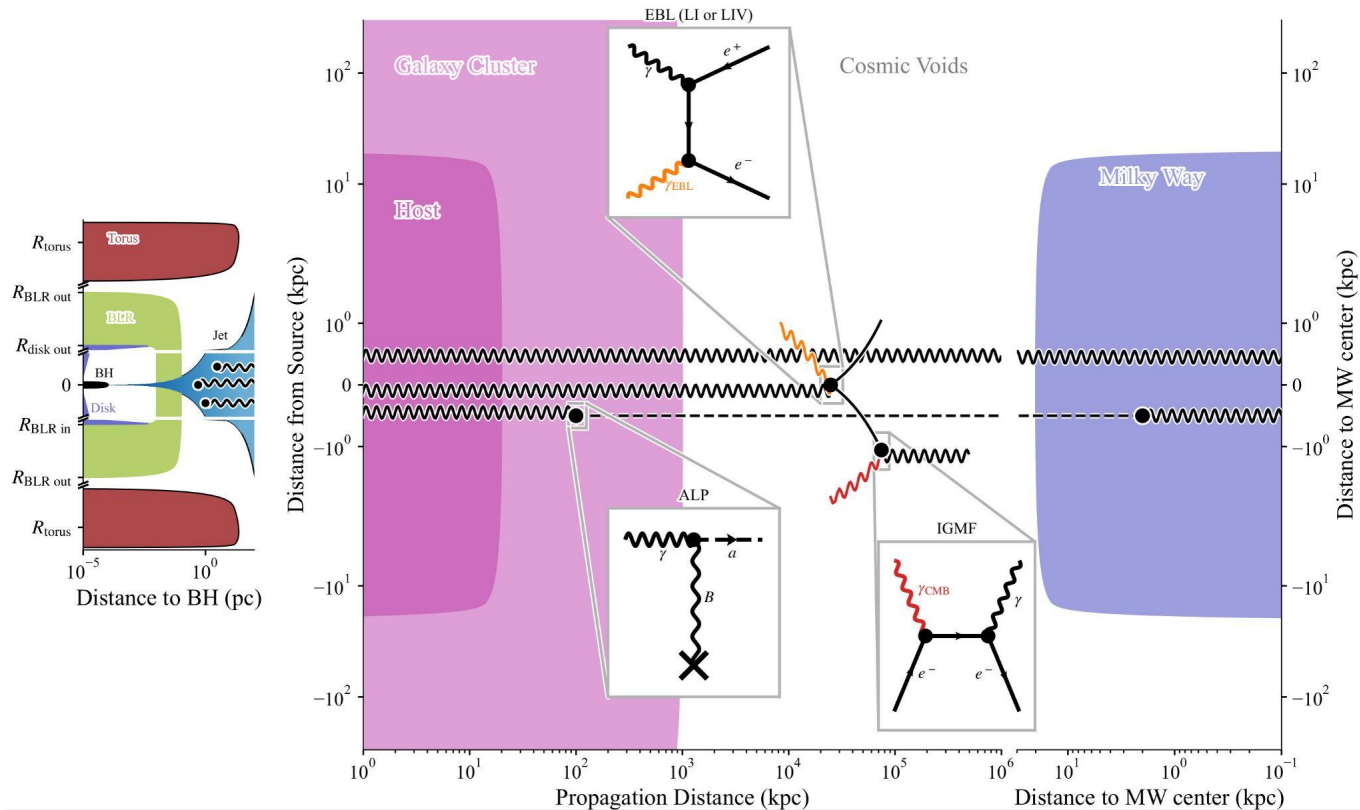
$$F_{\text{obs}}(E) = F_{\text{emitted}}(E(1+z_0)) \times \exp[-\tau_{\gamma\gamma}(E, z_0)]$$

$$\tau_{\gamma\gamma}(E, z_0) = \int_0^{z_0} \Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}^{-1}(E(1+z), z) \frac{d\ell(z)}{dz} dz$$

$$\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}^{-1}(E', z) = \int_0^\infty d\epsilon' \frac{dn(\epsilon', z)}{d\epsilon'} \int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta' \frac{1 - \cos\theta'}{2} \sigma_{\gamma\gamma}(\beta') \Theta(\epsilon' - \epsilon'_{\text{th}})$$

$$\partial n / \partial \epsilon = (1+z)^3 / c \times \int_z^\infty dz' d\ell / dz' \times j(\epsilon', z') / \epsilon'$$

γ -ray propagation from sources down to Earth

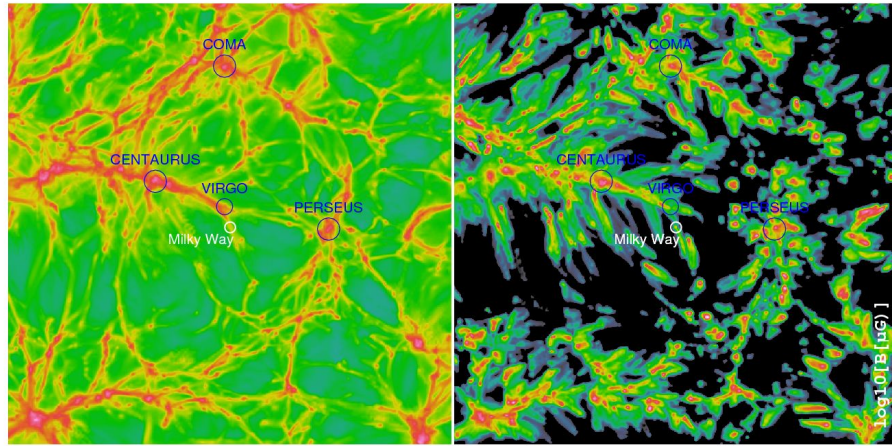


Magnetic fields in voids

Status and expectations (if low plasma instabilities)

Current-generation (GeV+TeV - TeV extension): $B > 10\text{-}100$ fG

5 σ CTA-discovery potential up to 300 fG



Credits: Hackstein+ 2018

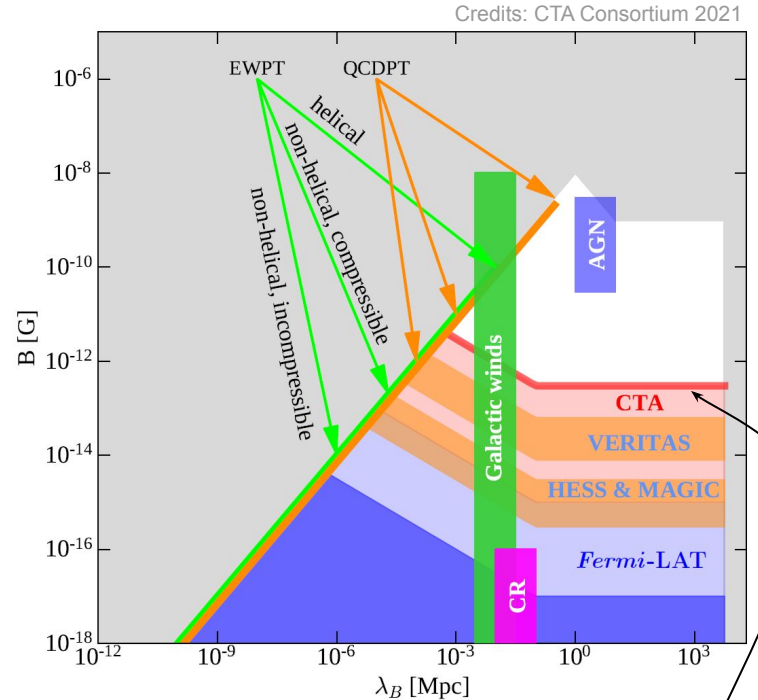
Primordial origin simulation

$B(\text{void}) < 1$ nG

Astrophysical origin simulation

$B(\text{void}) < 1$ pG

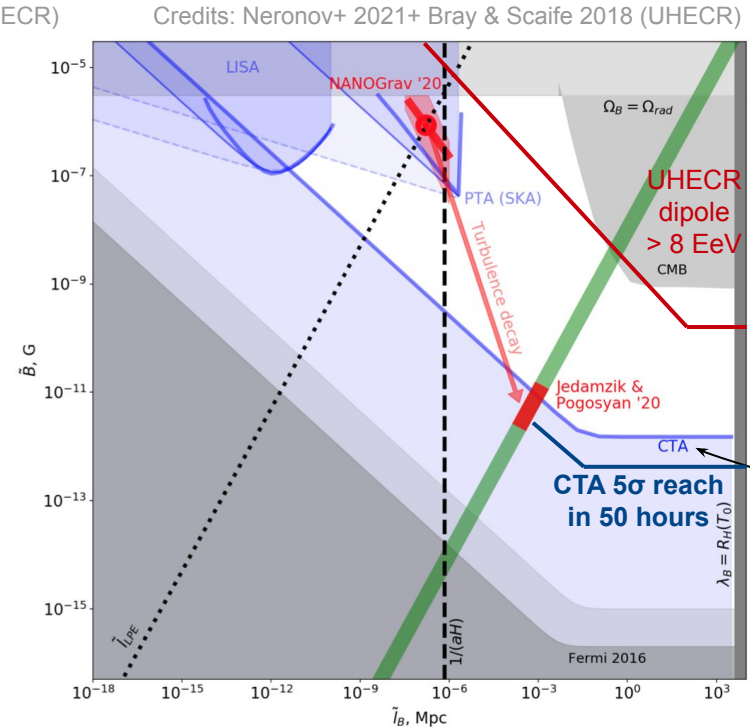
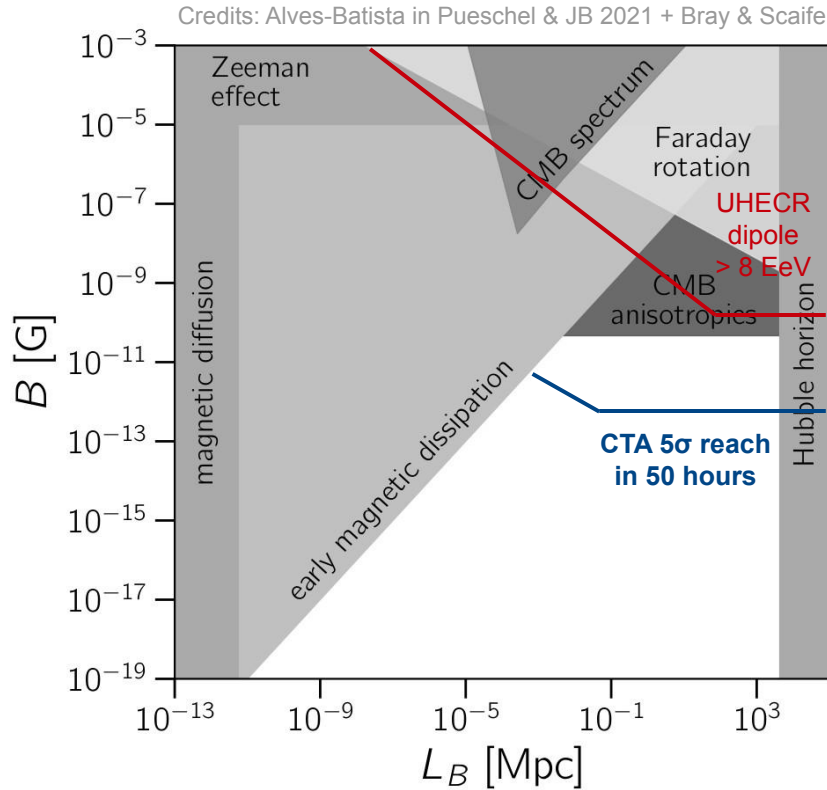
In practice... largely unknown!



Credits: CTA Consortium 2021

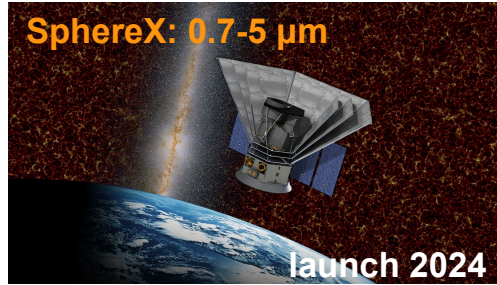
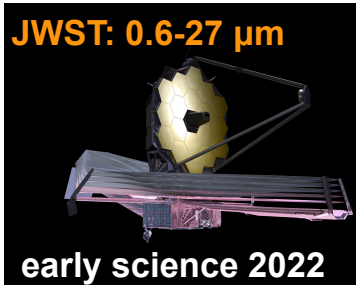
1ES 0229+200 ($z=0.14$) up to $E_{\text{cut}} = 10$ TeV,
50h of CTAO-North to reach 5 σ

Multi-wavelength and multi-messenger constraints

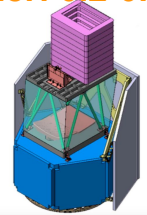


Mrk 501 ($z=0.03$) up to $E_{cut} = 100$ TeV,
350h of CTAO-North to reach 5σ

Gamma-ray cosmology in the upcoming CTA era



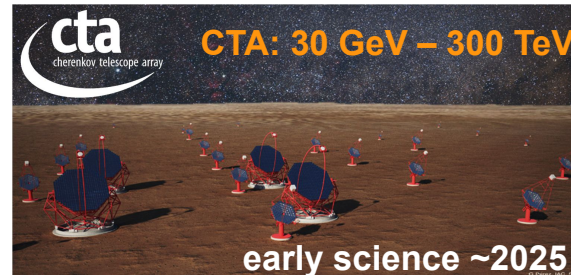
Messier: 0.2-0.9 μm



**proposed to ESA-F2
not selected**

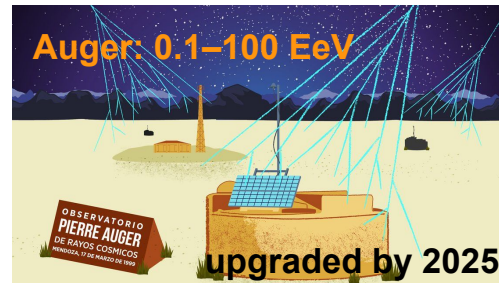
Light in voids and faint galaxies

- Low-end of the galaxy luminosity function
- Redshift surveys \cap Broadband intensity mapping
- Low-surface brightness universe
- Gamma-ray absorption



Cosmic magnetism

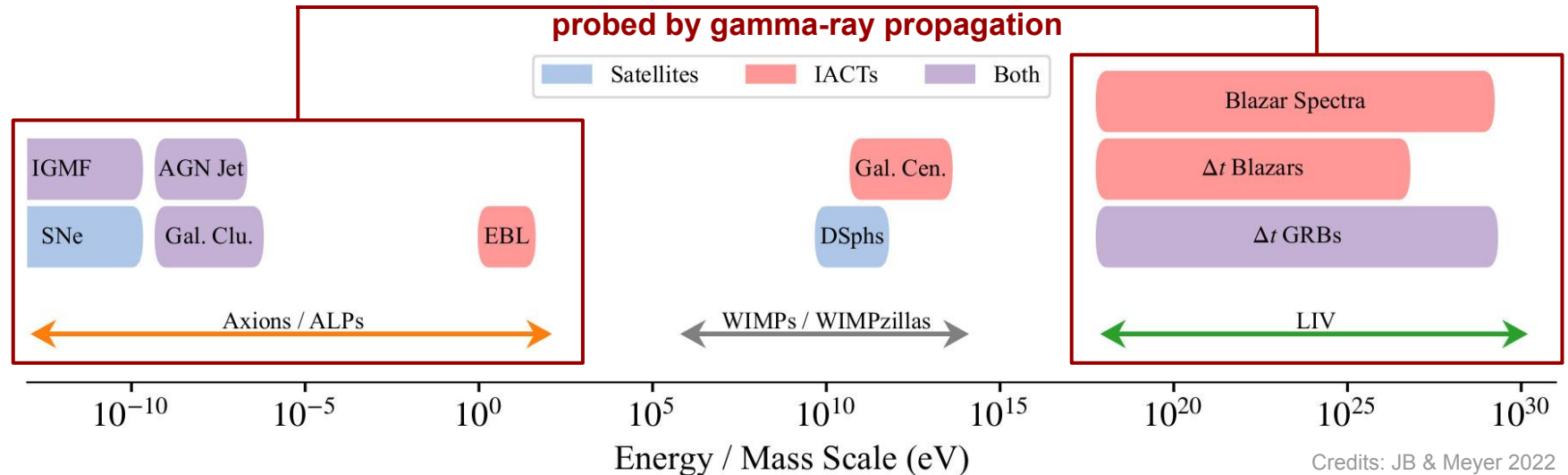
- Gamma-ray halo and spectral bump
- UHECR deflections in the cosmic web
- Synchrotron mapping and Faraday rotation



Aparté: γ -ray propagation and fundamental physics

Dark matter: what is that? Theories beyond QFT and GR: is there anything to observe?

- Top-down processes (*heavy axion-like particles* / *or WIMPs* /): decay / *or self annihilation* / into photons
 - Mixing with light axion-like particles (ALP): CTA will start probing ALP dark-matter parameter space CTA 2021
 - LIV linearly modified dispersion relation (CPT-odd): Planck scale \sim excluded by spectra & Δt !
- \Rightarrow *High-risk / high-gain themes. Notes: ALP constraints dependent upon B-field morphology in jet*



Extreme-TeV blazars as cosmological beacons

Absorption on the line of sight - *observed since 2012*

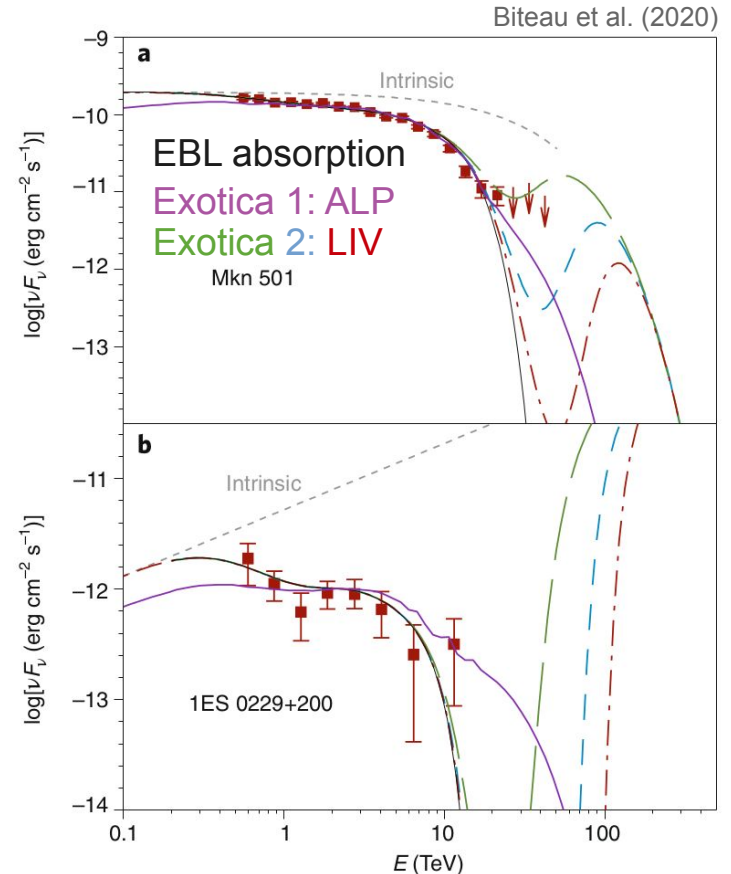
- $\gamma(\text{TeV}) + \gamma(\text{eV}) \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$
→ 0.1-10 eV target photon field: extragalactic background light
- Extreme-TeV emission > 10 TeV: unique integral probe of EBL at ~ 0.1 eV (mid- to far-infrared), complementarity with JWST!

Cooling of e^+/e^- pairs - *not observed, tight constraints*

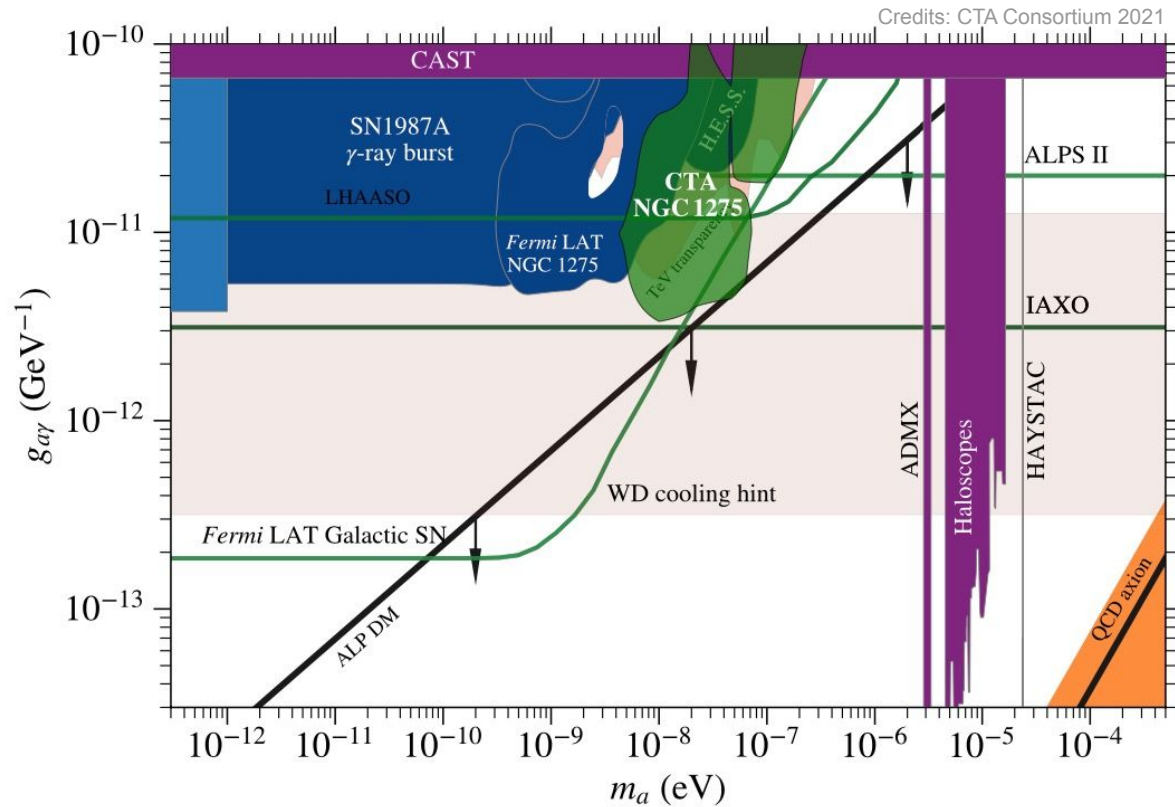
- Either plasma instabilities
→ intergalactic medium heating
- Or inverse Compton on CMB (secondary γ -rays > 1 GeV)
→ probe of intergalactic B -fields up to pG level CTA (2021)

Exotic physics - *not observed, tight constraints*

- Lorentz invariance violation (LIV) or axion-like particles (ALPs)
→ increased transparency at highest energies / optical depths



Constraints on γ -ray coupled axions

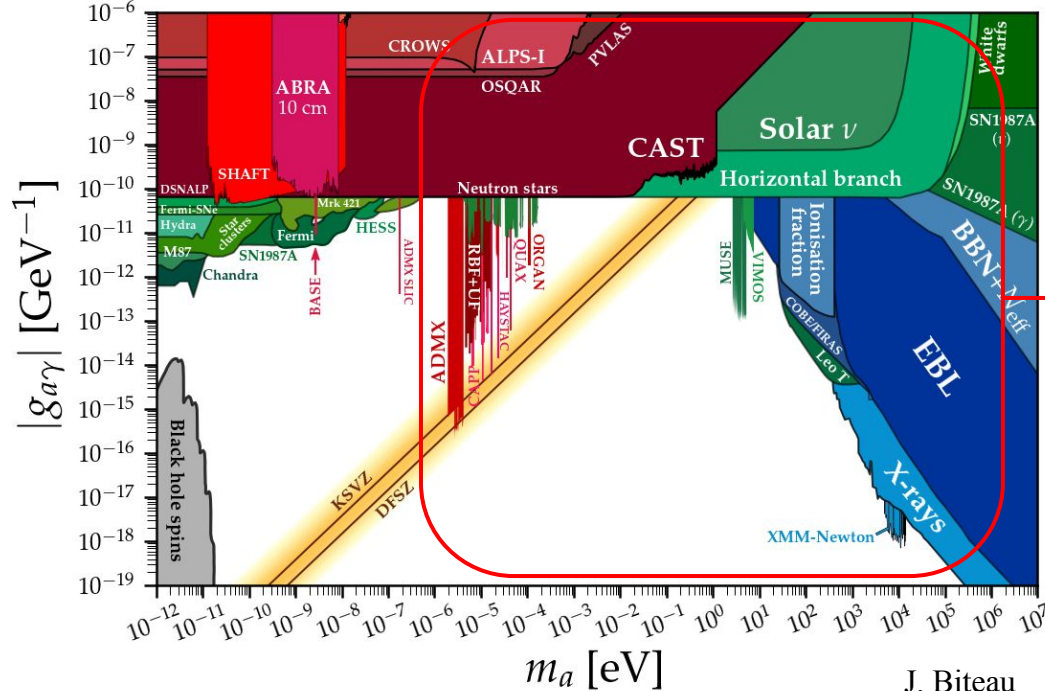


Constraints on decaying axions

Exotic contributions to the night-sky brightness?

- Top-down process: decay of heavy (eV) axion-like particles. **Update of ALP constraints from EBL TBD!**

Credits: O'Hare 2020 at [this link](#)



Credits: Arias+ 2012

