

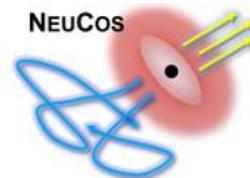
# Blazar phenomenology and the first neutrino emitting CR accelerator TXS 0506+056

Animation by [Science Communication Lab](#) & DESY

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**HELMHOLTZ** RESEARCH FOR  
GRAND CHALLENGES



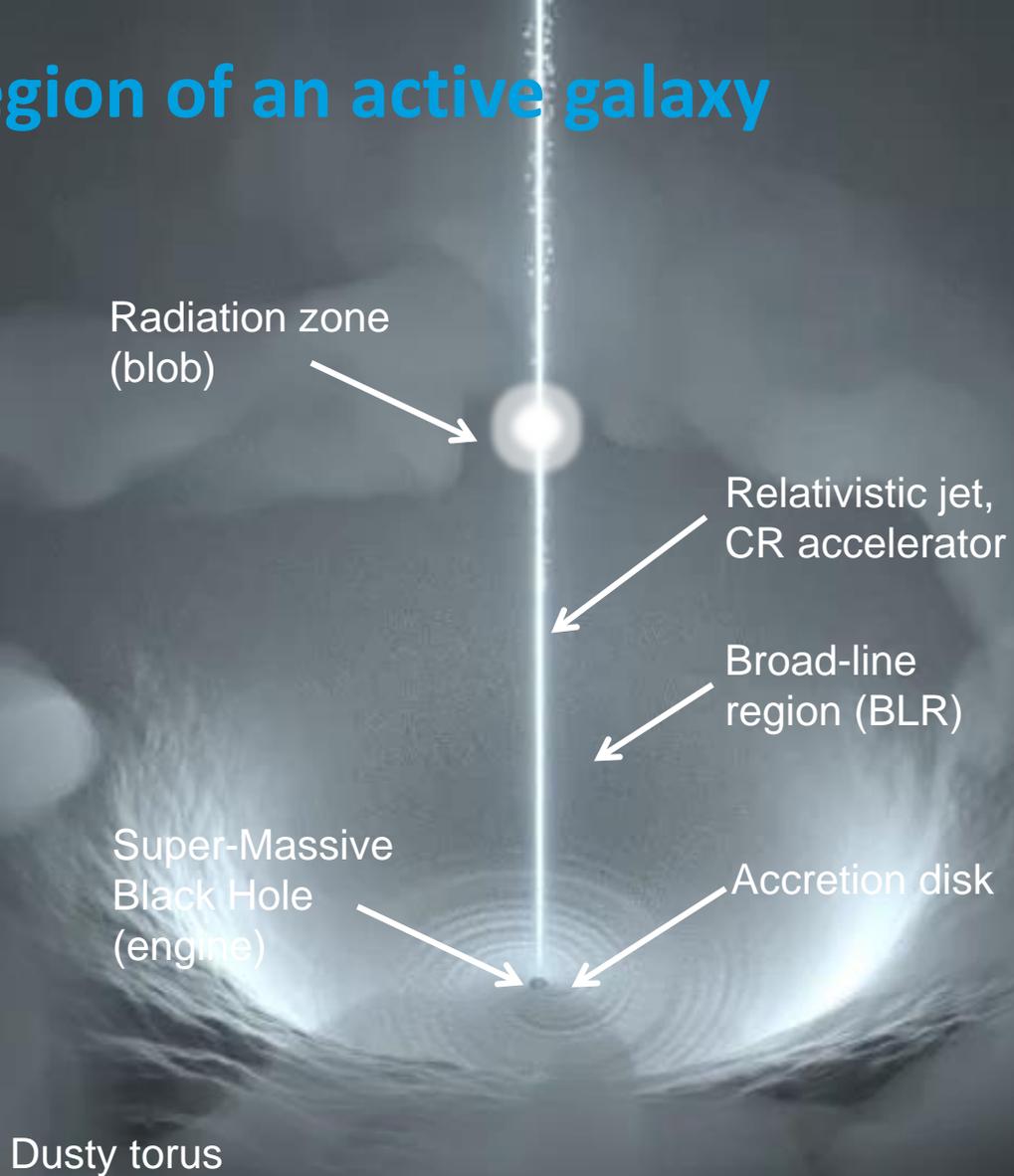
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# What is a blazar?

- Active core (nucleus) of a galaxy
- Energy extracted from the Super-Massive Black Hole (SMBH) drives a jet
- The jet is oriented towards the observer (us)
- Characteristic radiation pattern (SED)
- Emits bright flares every couple of years that last for weeks or months

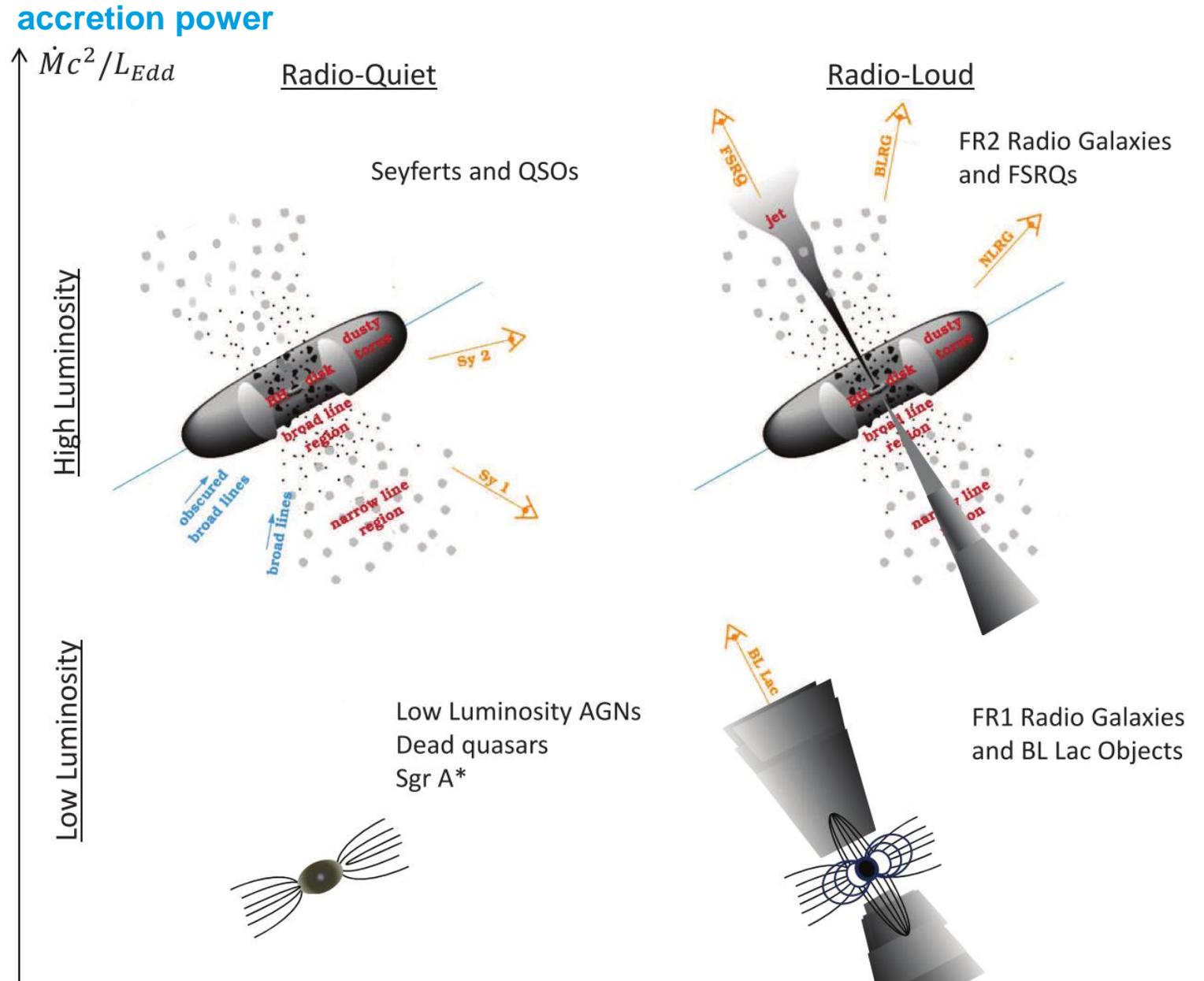
# Core region of an active galaxy



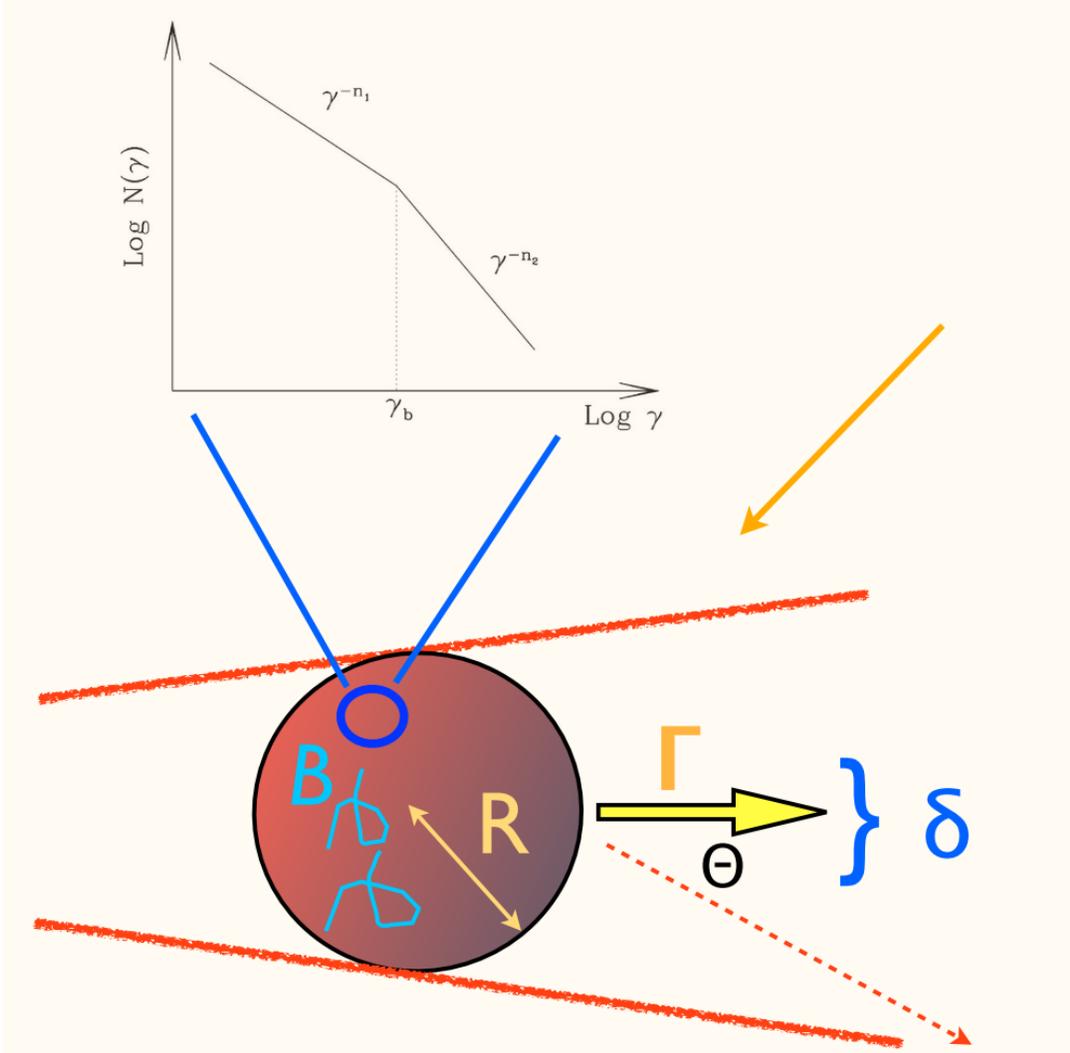
- SMBH drives accretion disk
- The radiation from the disk heats the environment; BLR and Torus
- Accretion of matter drives jet (of galactic dimension  $\sim$  kpc)
- Turbulent flow and plasma instabilities in the jet form radiation zones (blobs)
- Electrons and **protons** accelerate to  $\sim$ PeV energies
- Radiation off relativistic particles produces observed spectrum

# AGN/Blazar types

- In fact there **are many “blazars”**, but they are not necessarily called blazars
- **If emission** of messengers (Cosmic Rays and neutrinos) is **not beamed** then many **more dim sources** as known from gamma-ray catalogs
- Two interesting blazar types for high-energy observations are **BL Lacs & FSRQs**

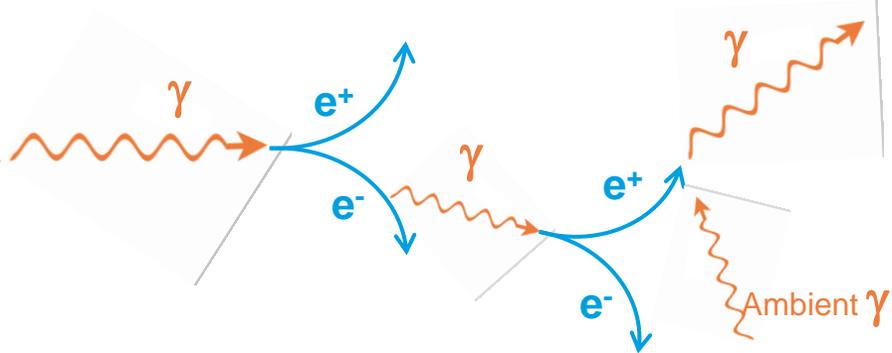


# Radiation from the “blob”

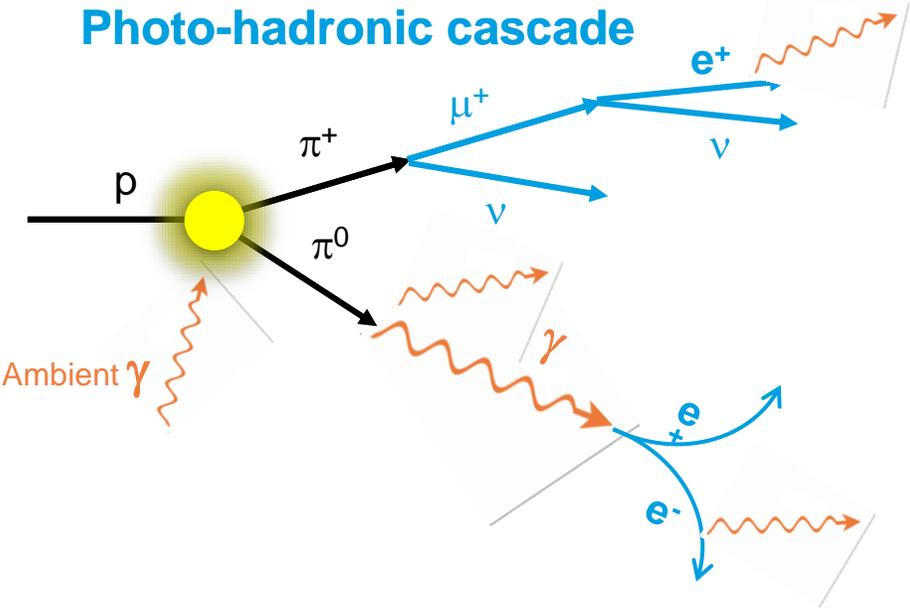


## Leptonic cascade

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma + \gamma &\rightarrow e^+ + e^- \\ \gamma + e &\rightarrow \gamma + e \text{ (IC)} \\ e + B &\rightarrow e + \gamma \text{ (syn.)} \end{aligned}$$



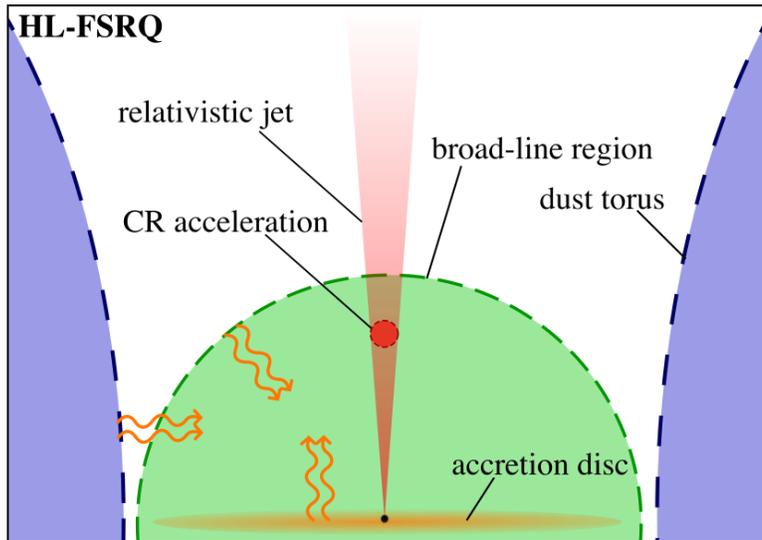
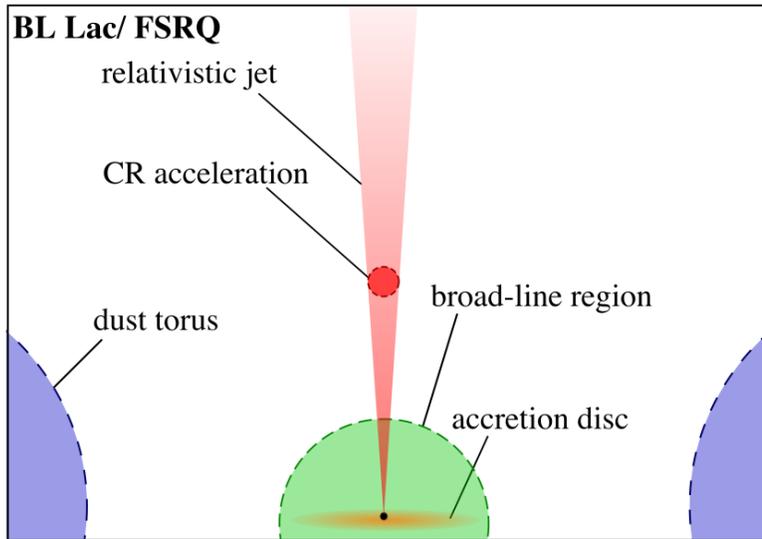
## Photo-hadronic cascade



# BL Lacs vs Flat Spectrum Radio Quasars (FSRQ)

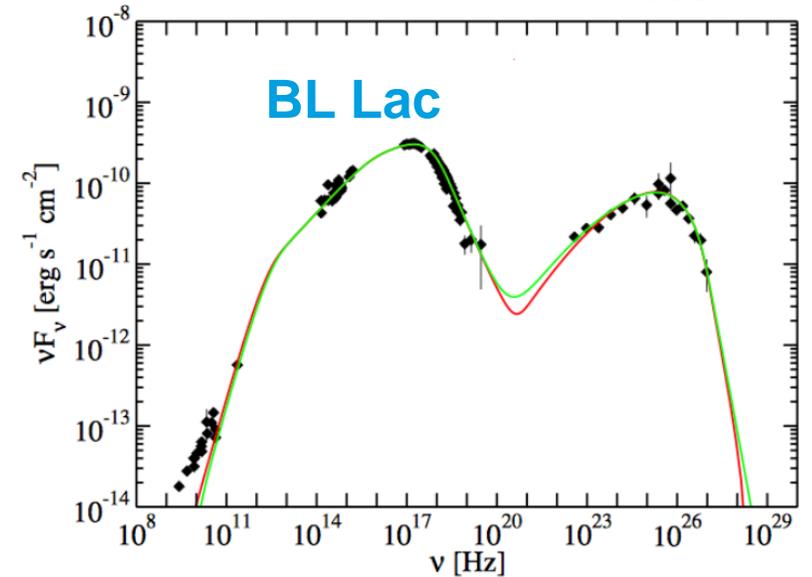
Abdo+ 11

Rodrigues, AF, Gao, Boncioli, Winter, ApJ 854 (2018)

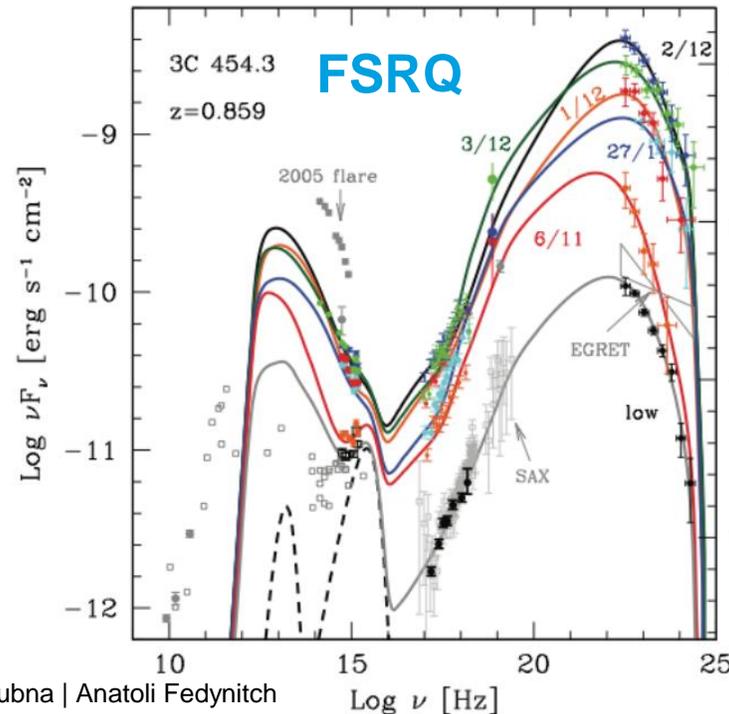


## BL Lac:

1. (left) Synchrotron hump
2. (right) inverse Compton hump
3. No lines, no dust, etc.
4. Less luminous than FSRQ



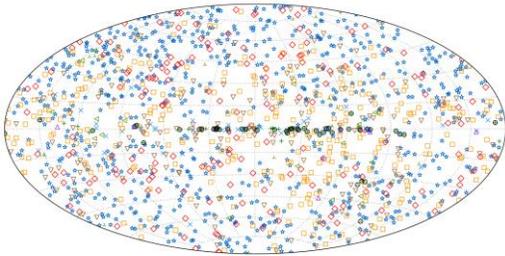
Bonnioli+ 11



## FSRQ:

1. Line, disk and thermal emission
2. High luminosity (high second peak)
3. Low maximal photon energy

# (controversial) Blazar sequence: distribution of source classes

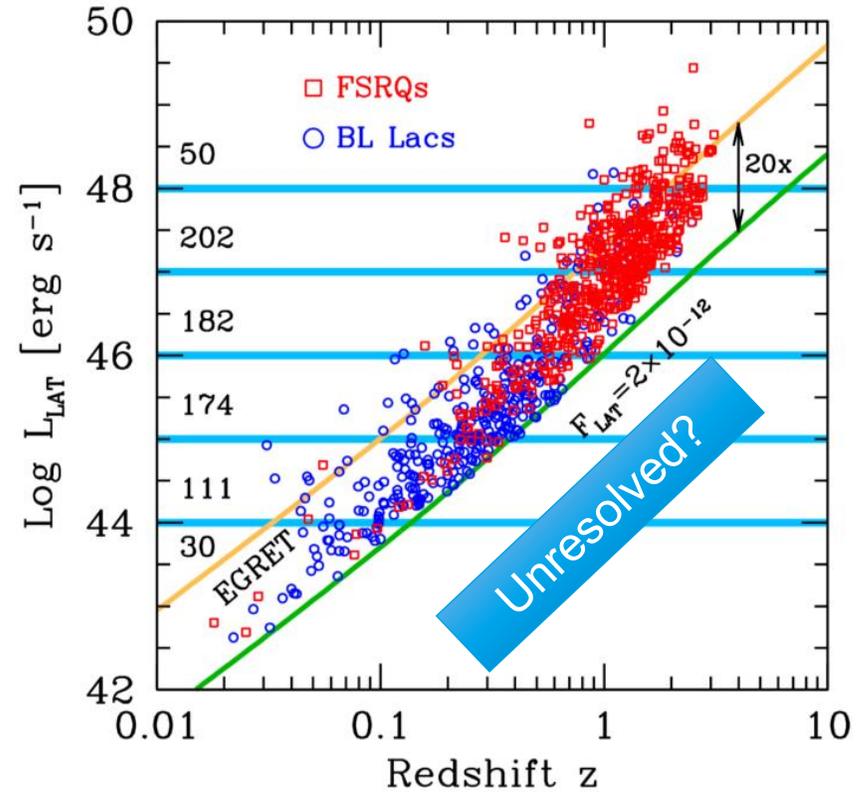
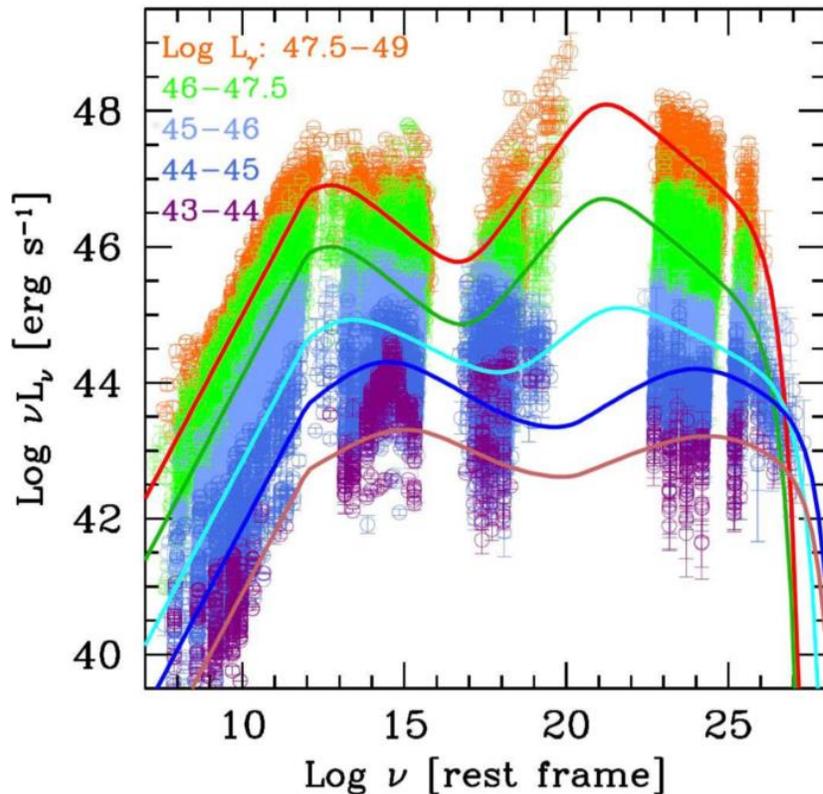


+ SNEs and PWN    + BL Lacs    + Unc. Blazars    + Other GAL    + Unassociated  
 x Pulsars        x FSRQs        x Other EGAL    x Unknown        o Extended

Select blazars with measured redshifts

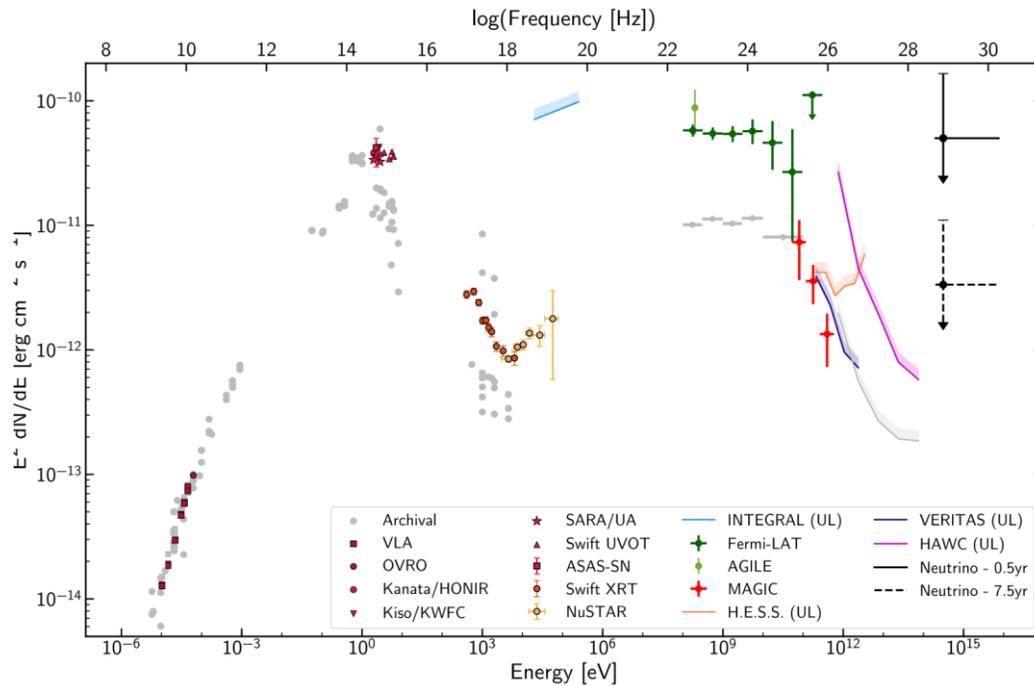
Boost into source frame

Real relation between luminosity, type and distance? Redshift of BL Lacs harder to determine; exp. biases

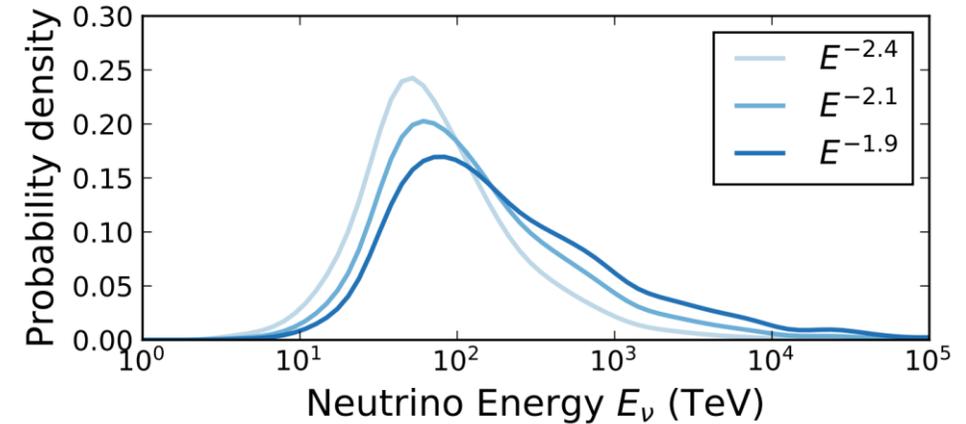


# Theoretical challenges of the TXS0506+056 MM observation

IceCube, Fermi, MAGIC,++, Science 2018

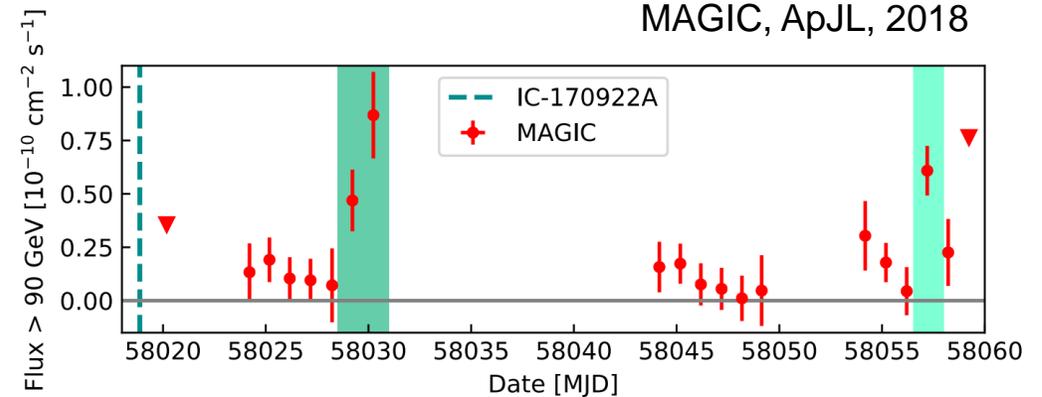


Explain the **neutrino** is detected **during flare and not during quiescence**



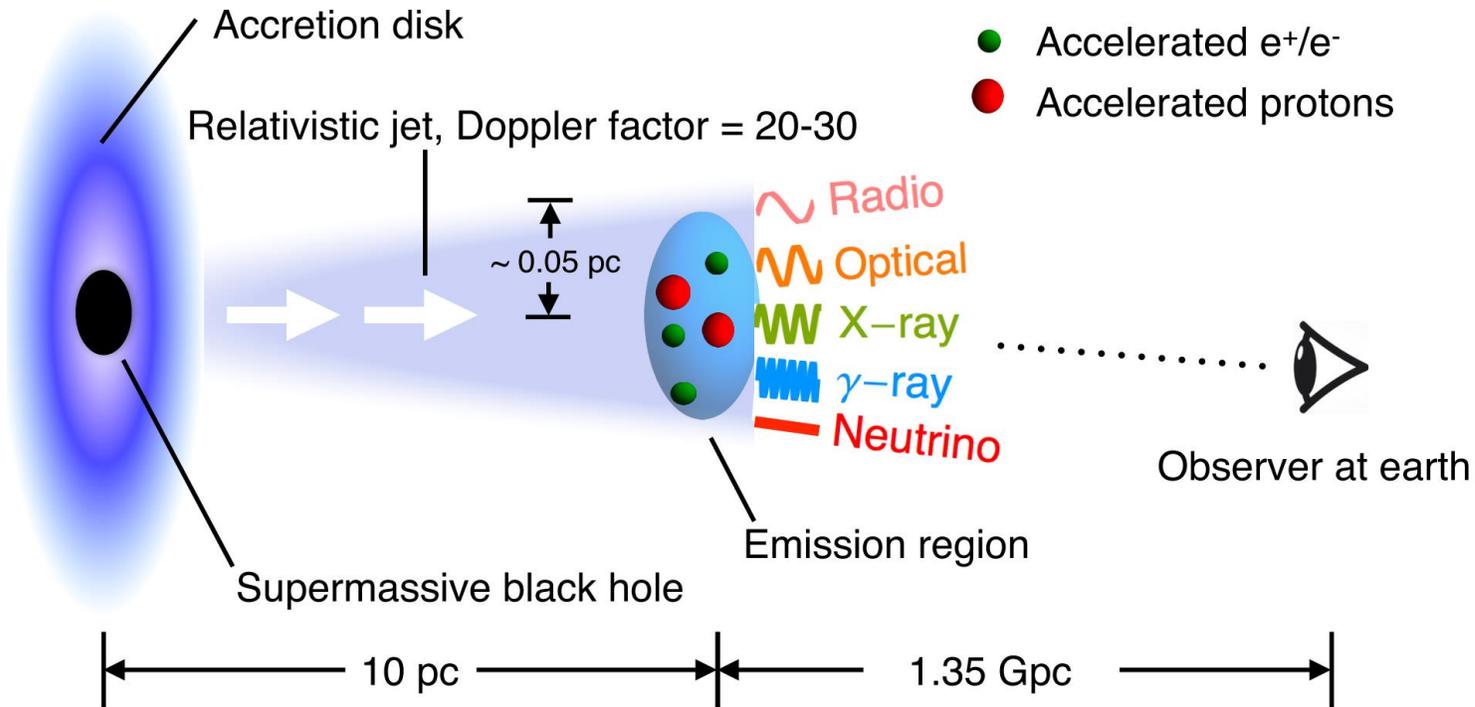
Neutrino energy around a **few hundreds TeV**

MAGIC, ApJL, 2018



Delayed or **flickering** emission of **TeV photons**

# Source model



S. Gao, AF, W. Winter and M. Pohl, to appear soon in Nature Astronomy

- **One or multiple** emission regions (**blob** or plasmoid) is **spherical** in its rest frame
- Radiation and particle momenta assumed **isotropic**
- **Injection** of accelerated particles (**no explicit simulation**)
- Particles **escape** at **constant** rate
- Studied models with a **one** and **two zones**

# Time-dependent hadro-leptonic code (AM<sup>3</sup>)\*

\*Astrophysical Modeling with Multiple Messengers

$$\partial_t n(\gamma, t) = -\partial_\gamma \{ \dot{\gamma}(\gamma, t) n(\gamma, t) - \partial_\gamma [D(\gamma, t) n(\gamma, t)] / 2 \} - \alpha(\gamma, t) n(\gamma, t) + Q(\gamma, t)$$

- **Numerically** solves a set of **coupled** transport **equations** for

|          | injection           | escape                   | synchrotron                                       | inverse Compton  | $\gamma\gamma \leftrightarrow e^\pm$      | Bethe-Heitler                                   | $p\gamma$                             |
|----------|---------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| $e^-$    | $Q_{e, \text{inj}}$ | $\alpha_{e, \text{esc}}$ | $\dot{\gamma}_{e, \text{syn}}, D_{e, \text{syn}}$ | $\dot{\gamma}_{e, \text{IC}}, D_{e, \text{IC}}, \alpha_{e, \text{IC}}, Q_{e, \text{IC}}$ | $\alpha_{e, \text{pa}}, Q_{e, \text{pp}}$ | $Q_{\text{BH}}$                                 | $Q_{e, p\gamma}$                      |
| $e^+$    | –                   | $\alpha_{e, \text{esc}}$ | $\dot{\gamma}_{e, \text{syn}}, D_{e, \text{syn}}$ | $\dot{\gamma}_{e, \text{IC}}, D_{e, \text{IC}}, \alpha_{e, \text{IC}}, Q_{e, \text{IC}}$ | $\alpha_{e, \text{pa}}, Q_{e, \text{pp}}$ | $Q_{\text{BH}}$                                 | $Q_{e, p\gamma}$                      |
| $\gamma$ | –                   | $\alpha_{f, \text{esc}}$ | $\alpha_{f, \text{ssa}}, Q_{f, \text{syn}}$       | $\alpha_{f, \text{IC}}, D_{f, \text{IC}}$  | $\alpha_{f, \text{pp}}, Q_{f, \text{pa}}$ | $\alpha_{f, \text{BH}}$                         | $\alpha_{f, p\gamma}, Q_{f, p\gamma}$ |
| p        | $Q_{p, \text{inj}}$ | $\alpha_{e, \text{esc}}$ | $\dot{\gamma}_{p, \text{syn}}, D_{p, \text{syn}}$ | $\dot{\gamma}_{p, \text{IC}}, D_{p, \text{IC}}, \alpha_{p, \text{IC}}, Q_{p, \text{IC}}$ | –   | $\dot{\gamma}_{p, \text{BH}}, D_{p, \text{BH}}$ | $\alpha_{p, p\gamma}, Q_{p, p\gamma}$ |
| n        | –                   | $\alpha_{f, \text{es}}$  | –   | –  | –   | –   | $\alpha_{n, p\gamma}, Q_{n, p\gamma}$ |
| $\nu$    | –                   | $\alpha_{f, \text{es}}$  | –   | –  | –   | –   | $Q_{\nu, p\gamma}$                    |

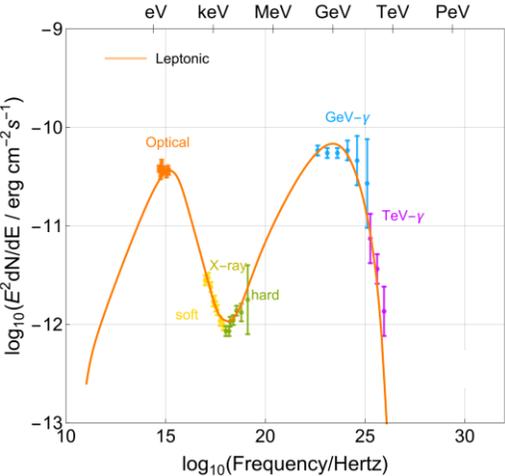
Gao, Pohl, Winter, APJ 843 (2017)

- Photons
- $e^+, e^-$
- Protons and neutrons
- pions + muons (implicit)
- neutrinos
- ~500 energy bins per species
- Energy “bandwidth” ~20 orders of magnitude (Radio-EeV)
- **Very efficient:** < 2 min to reach stationary solution of time-dependent simulation
- Photo-hadronic interactions following Hümmer et al., APJ 712, 2010

# Common types of one-zone models

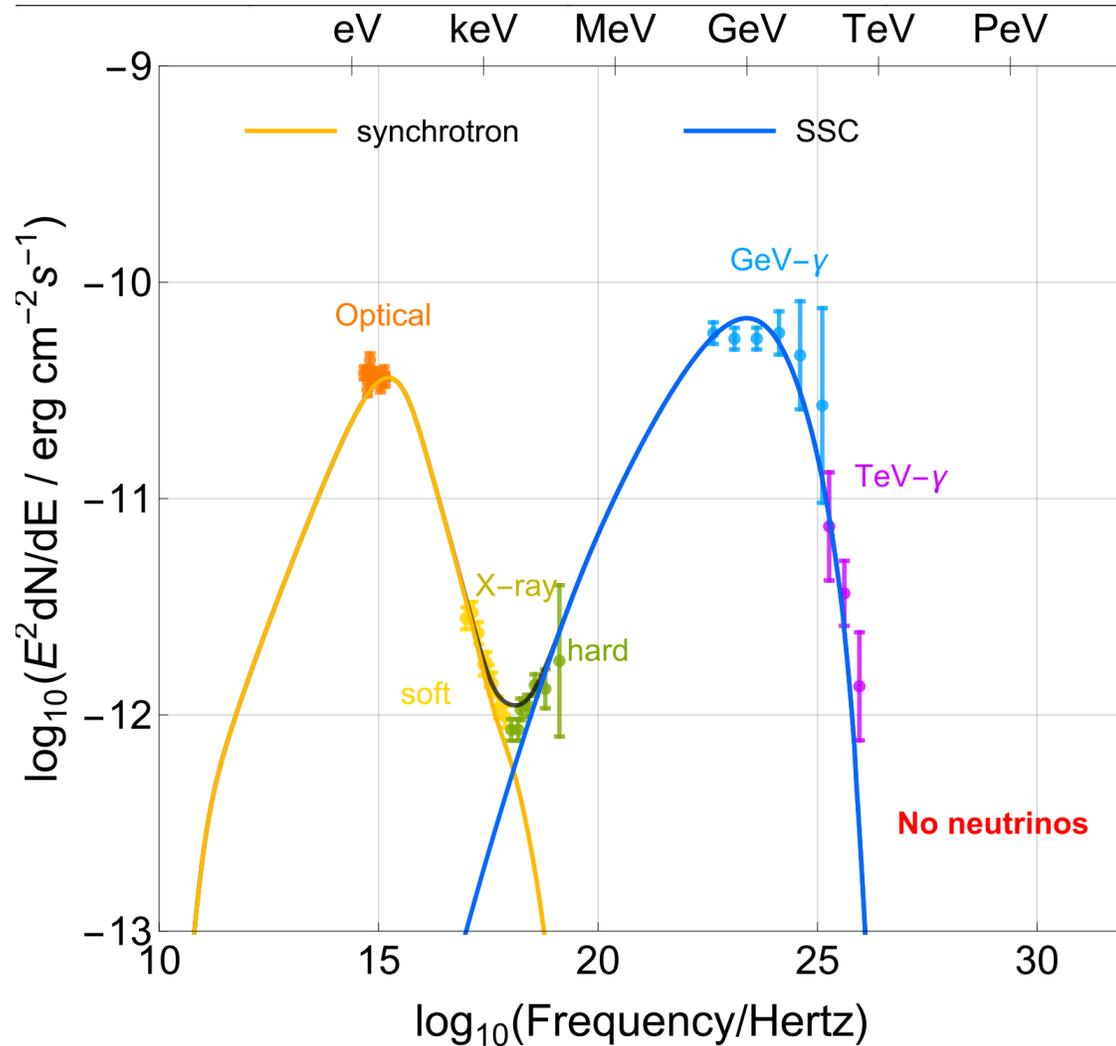
Gao,Pohl,Winter, APJ 843 (2017)

|  | First peak<br>(eV-keV)                | Middle range<br>(keV-MeV)                            | Second peak<br>(MeV-TeV)   | Neutrinos                        |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>SSC</b><br>(Pure leptonic)                  | <b>L</b><br>Primary $e^-$ synchrotron | <b>L</b><br>SSC                                      | <b>L</b><br>SSC  | 0                                |
| <b>LH-SSC</b><br>(Lepto-hadronic)              | <b>L</b><br>Primary $e^-$ synchrotron | <b>H</b><br>Secondary leptonic                       | <b>L</b><br>SSC by primary $e^-$   | $L_\nu < L_\gamma$               |
| <b>LH-<math>\pi</math></b><br>(Lepto-hadronic) | <b>L</b><br>Primary $e^-$ synchrotron | <b>H</b><br>Secondary leptonic                       | <b>H</b><br>Secondary leptonic or $\gamma$ -rays from direct $\pi^0$ decay | $L_\nu = L_\gamma$               |
| <b>LH-psyn</b><br>(Proton synchrotron)         | <b>L</b><br>Primary $e^-$ synchrotron | <b>H</b><br>Proton synchrotron or secondary leptonic | <b>H</b><br>Proton synchrotron   | $L_n < L_g$<br>UHE $E_n$ & $E_p$ |



We test all current one-zone models for compatibility with TXS0506+056 observations

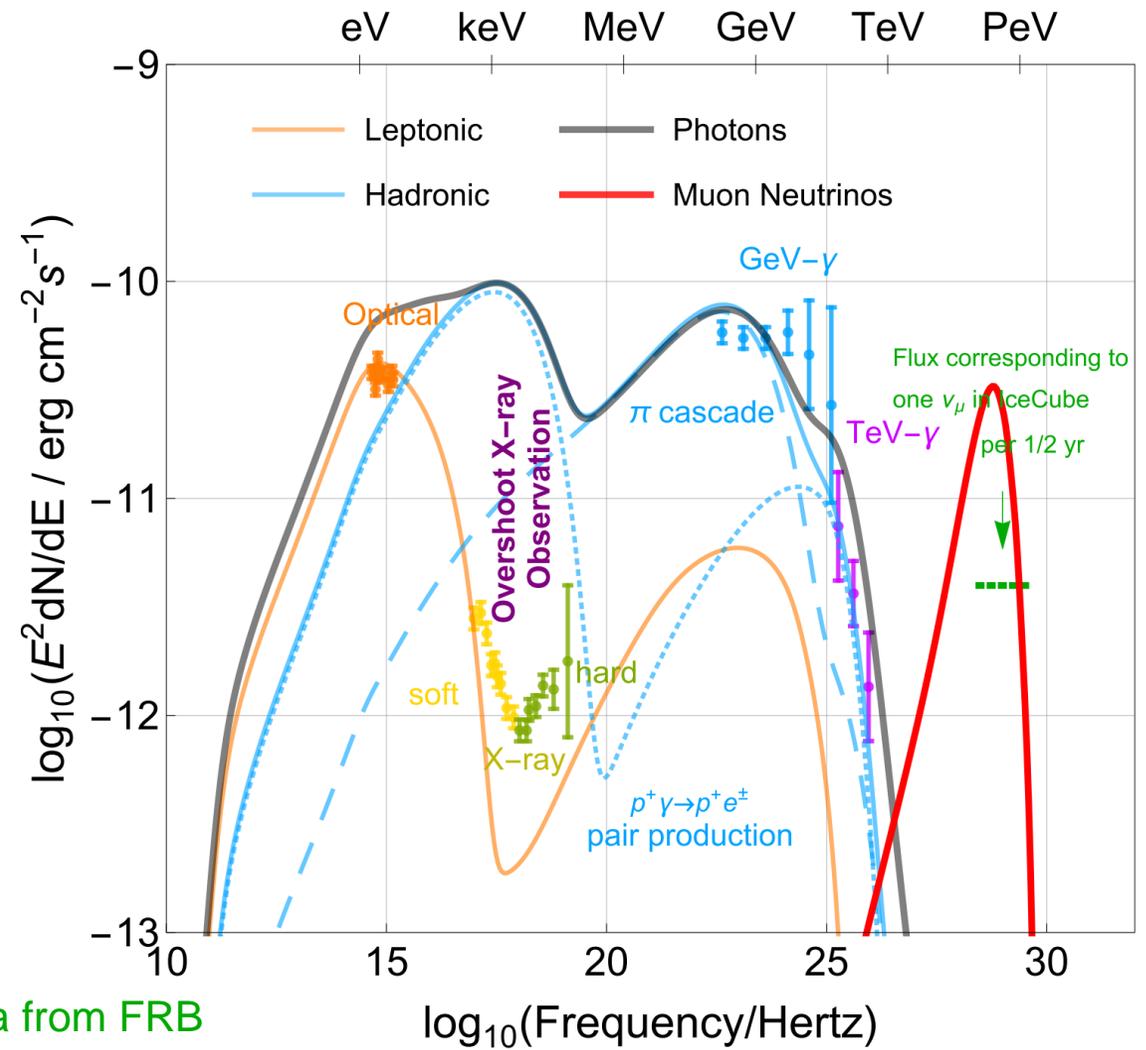
# Leptonic SSC fit of the flare



- We find a **good fit** through **extensive parameter scan**
- **Remarkably simple** assumptions  $r \sim 10^{16}$  cm,  $B \sim 0.16$  G and electrons with a  $E^{-3.5}$  spectrum between  $10^4 < \gamma < 6 \times 10^5$
- **If neutrino** association is **real**, **leptonic model** is **excluded**

# Hadronic model excluded ~~$p\gamma \rightarrow \pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$~~

...from fully time-dependent hadro-leptonic calculations

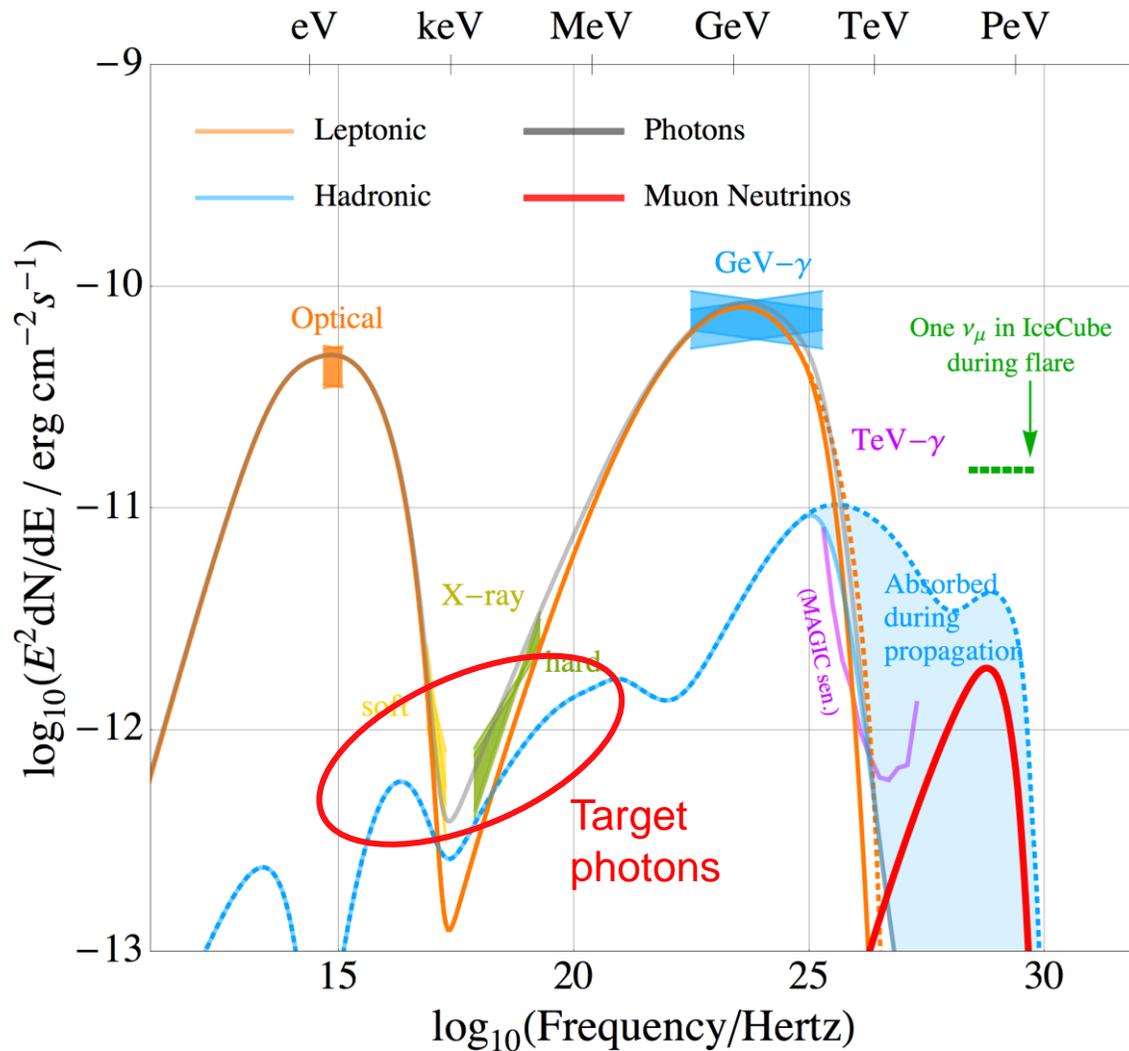


- **Various constraints** from proton-synchrotron, SSC emission, Bethe-Heitler, etc.
- Example (left) for overshooting Bethe-Heitler constrains
- No viable model in large parameter scans
- **Hadronic model excluded**

No obvious correlation between Fermi, TeV and  $\nu$  lightcurves!

IC eff. area from FRB analysis IceCube, ApJ857

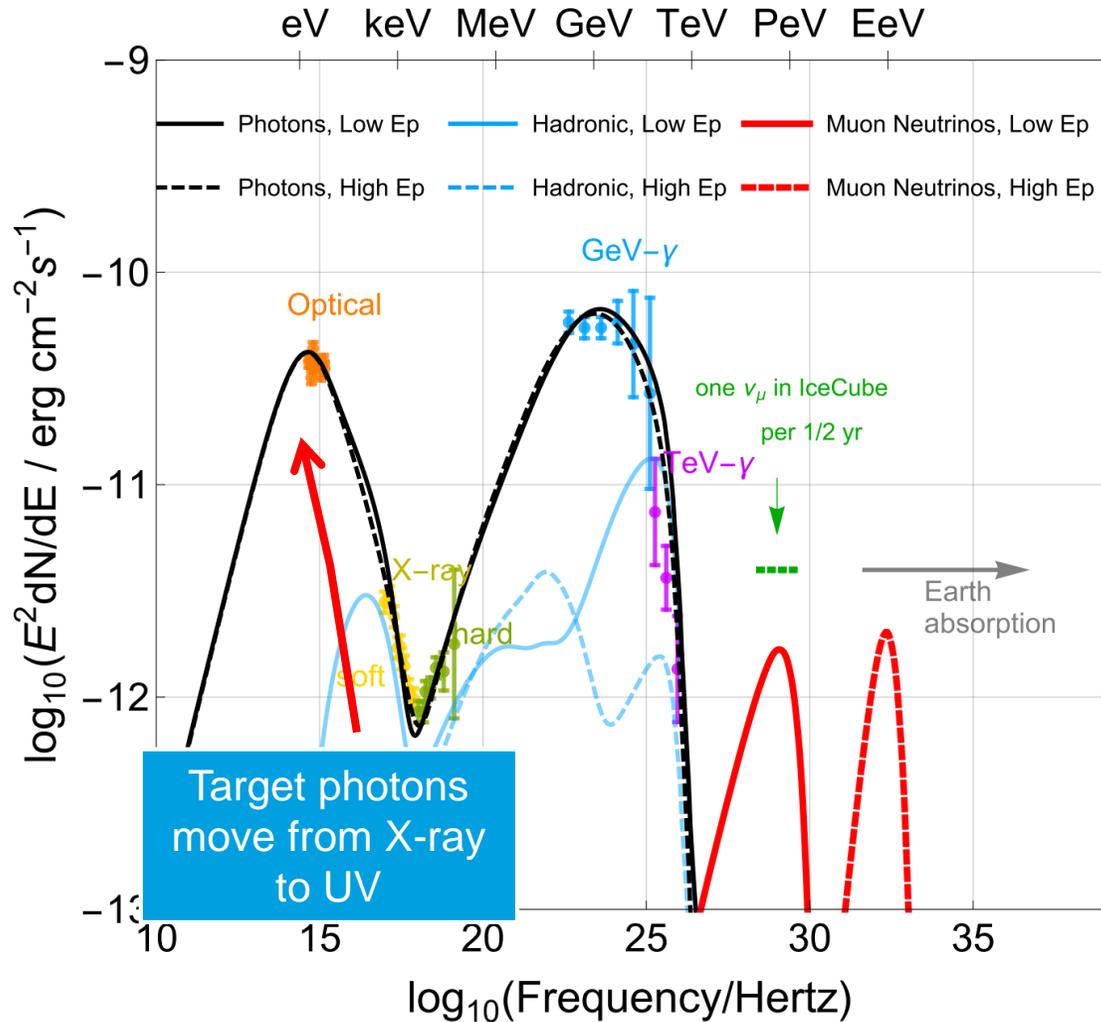
# Hybrid lepto-hadronic one-zone model



- **Dominant** part of the SED originates from **leptonic SSC**
- **Sub-leading hadronic component** from proton injection with **max. energy ~4.5 PeV**
- **Reproduces neutrino energy** ~ 0.2 - few PeV
- $\gamma\gamma$  self-absorption and EBL absorption ( $z=0.34$ ) cascade down PeV photons to GeV energies
- **X-Ray** variability **sensitive to hadronic** component

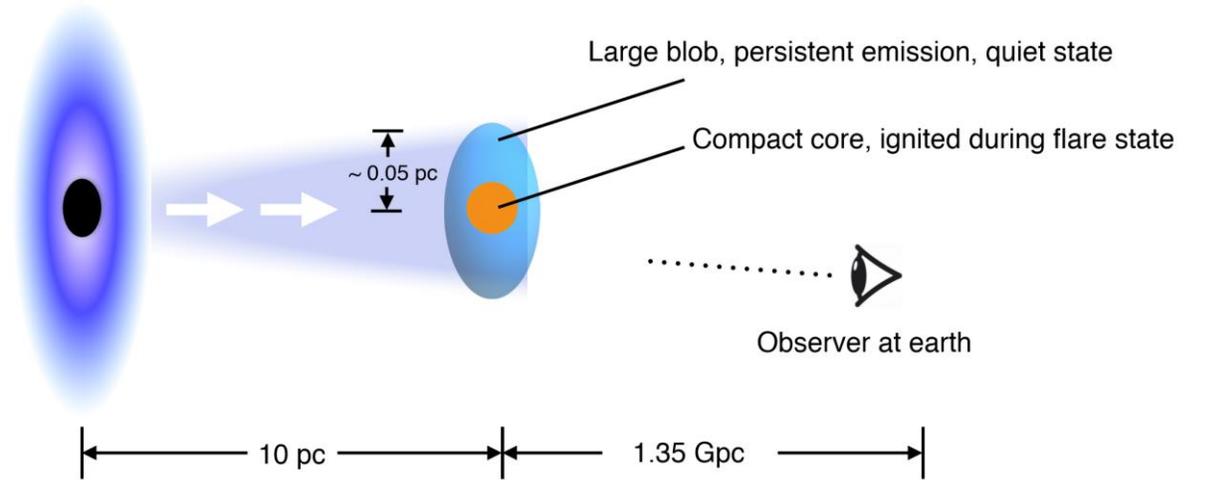
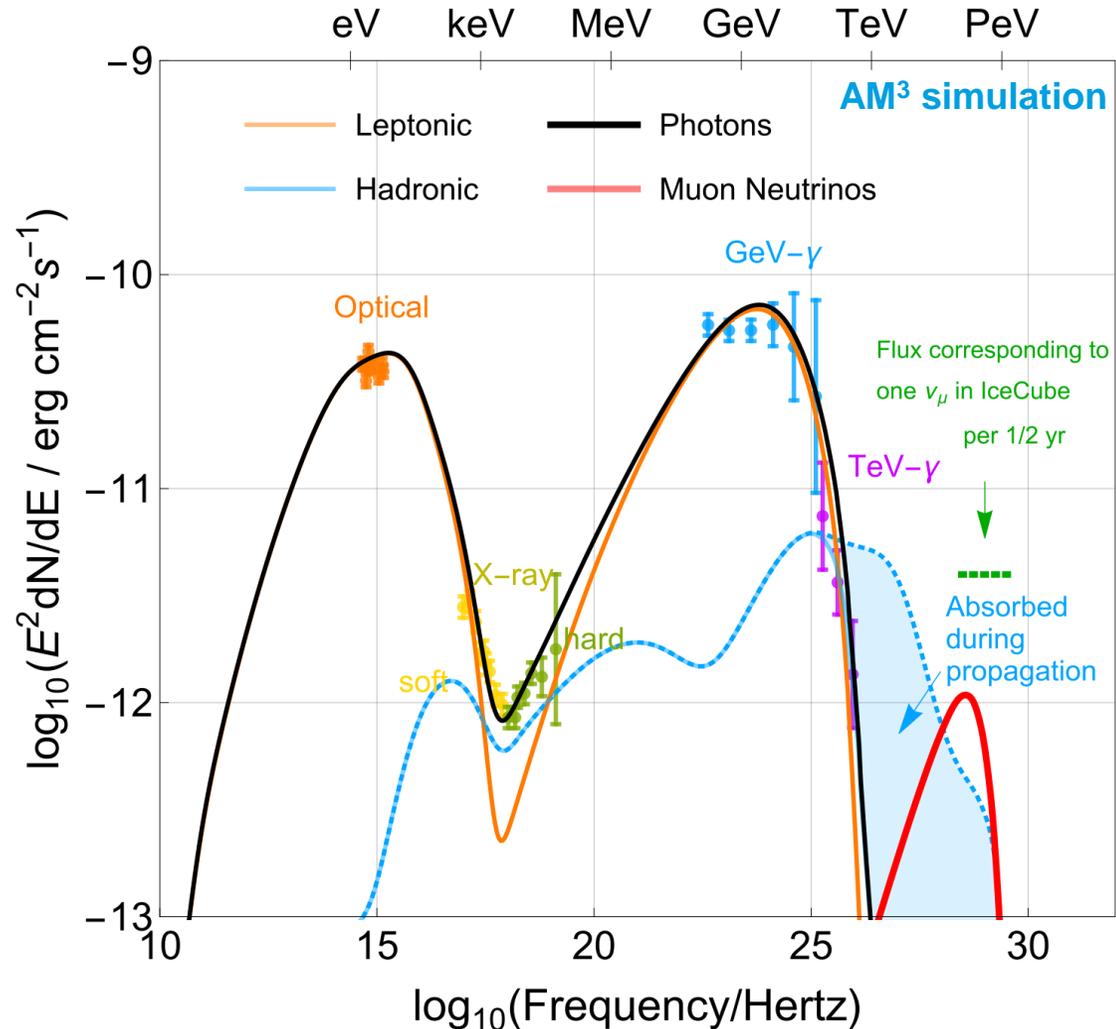
Problem with energy constraints:  
exceeds Eddington luminosity by  $10^3$

# Boost $\nu$ efficiency with UHECR injection



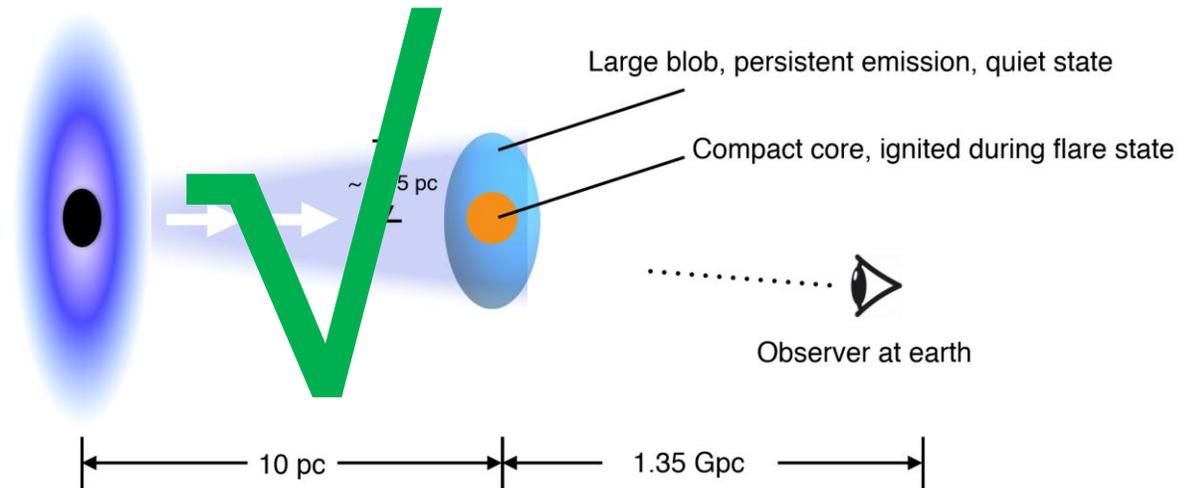
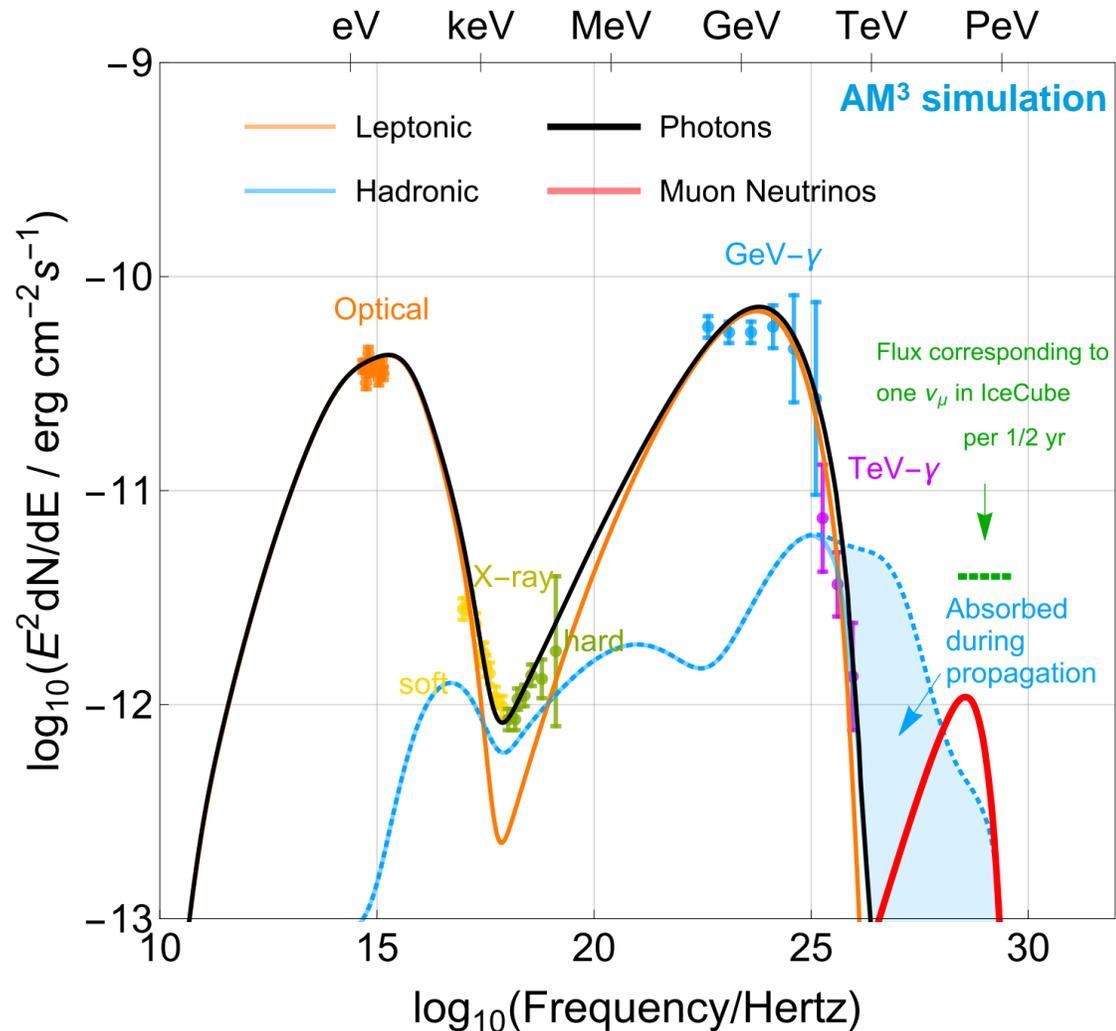
- Instead of protons with  $E_{\text{max}} \sim 4.5 \text{ PeV}$  we injected up to  $E_{\text{max}} \sim 17 \text{ EeV}$
- Target photon energy moves down and the density up the synchrotron peak
- Less power required for the interaction rate and almost identical SEDs (many other models use this fact)
- However, neutrinos production is at wrong energy and a very low rate  $< 10^{-3}/\text{yr}$  expected

# Two zone (core) model



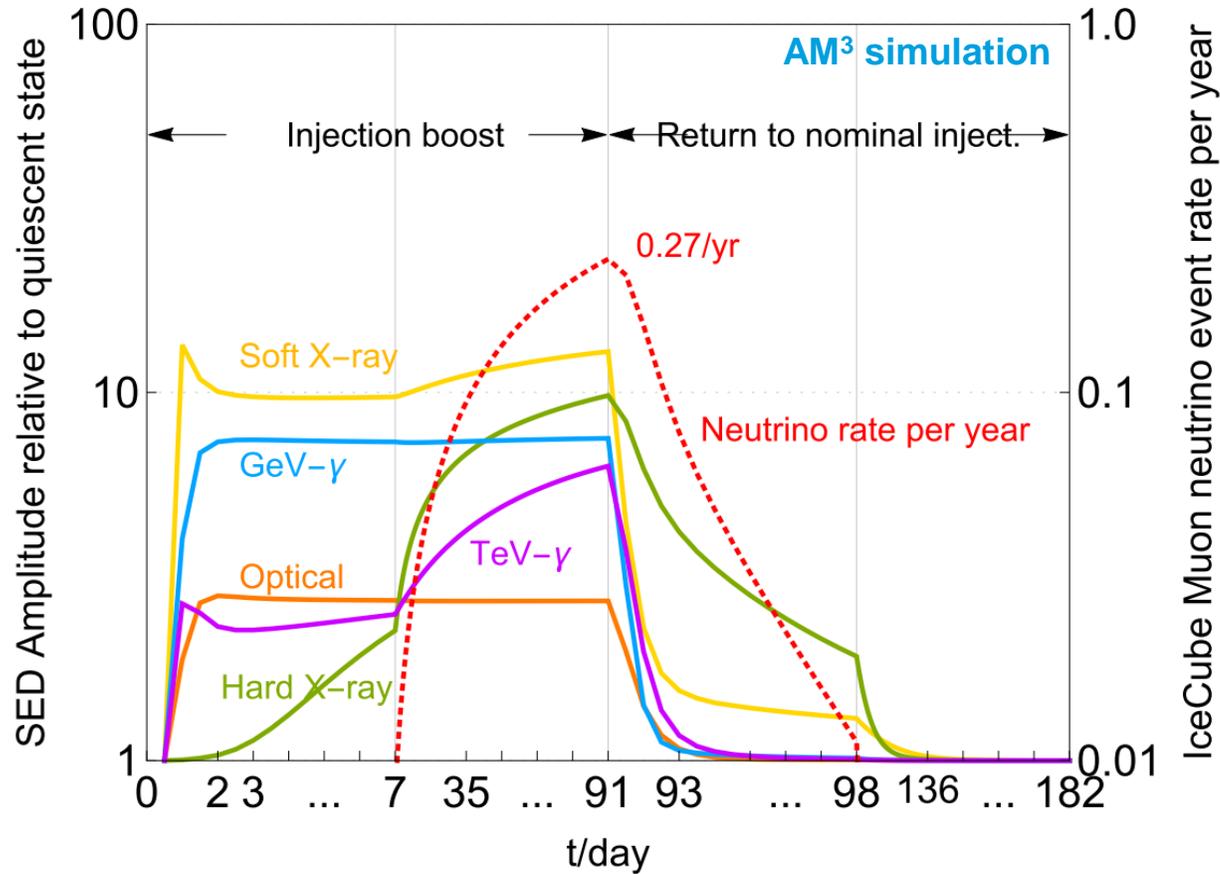
- **Large zone**  $r \sim 10^{17.5}$  cm for **quiescent** state
- **Flare** generated through formation of a **compact core**  $r_{\text{core}} \sim 10^{16}$  cm during the short period of the flare
- To power the core  **$7 \times L_{\text{Edd}}$**  needed to saturate X-ray flux, quiescent state is sub-Eddington
- **Neutrino rate is  $\sim 0.3/\text{yr}$** , consistent with the observation of one neutrino during the flare

# Two zone (core) model

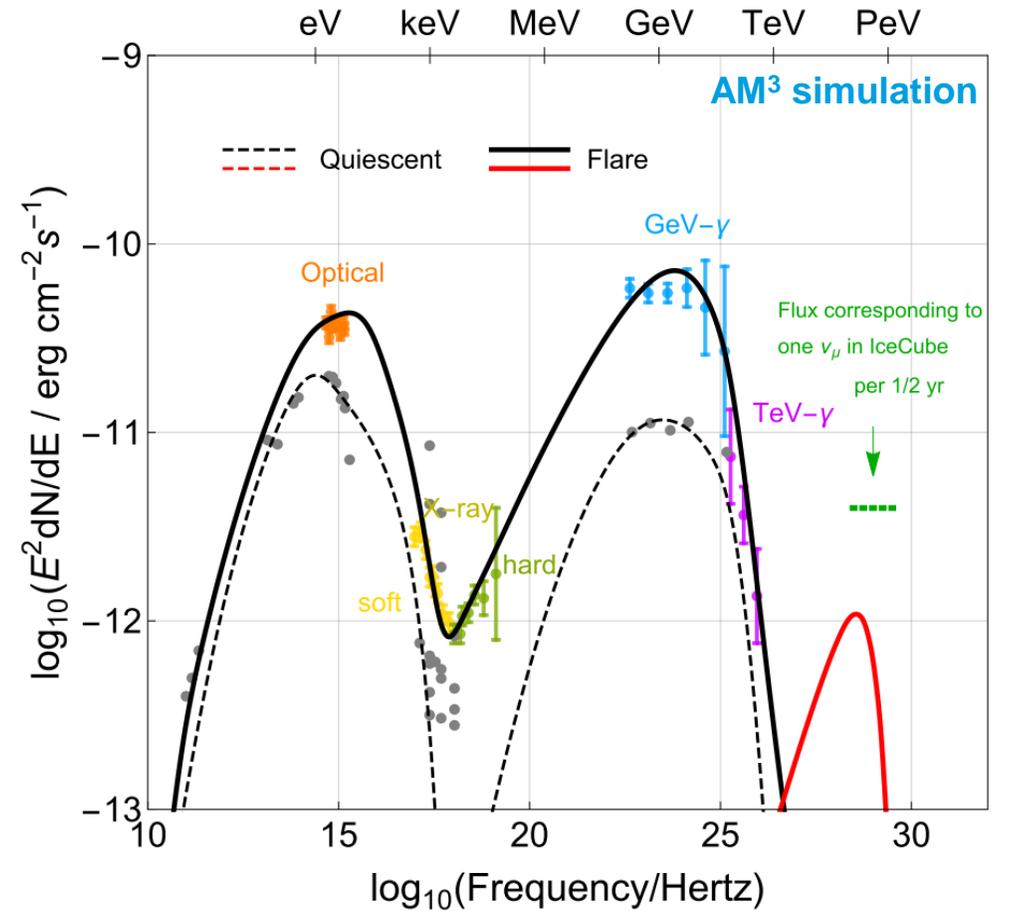


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# Time dependence of the core model

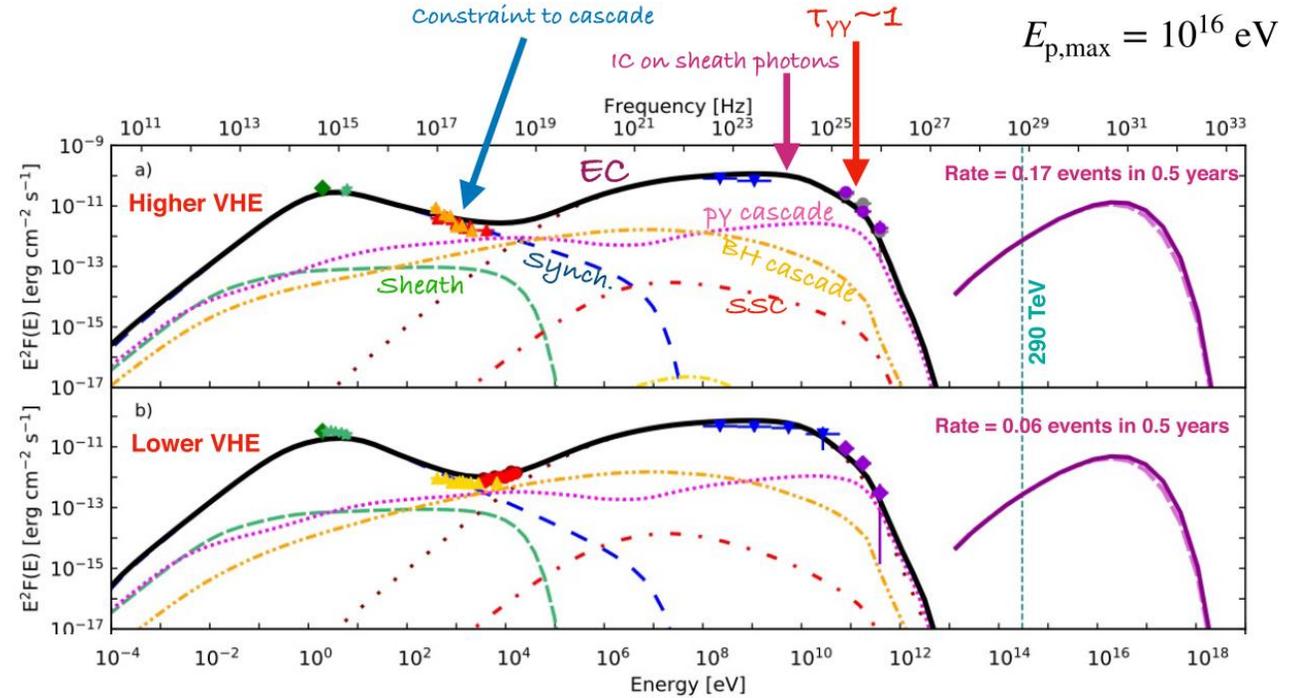
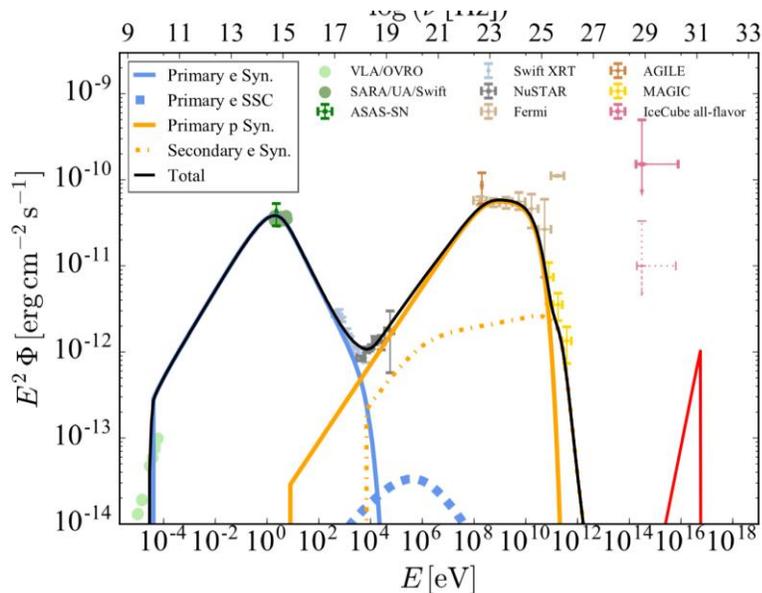
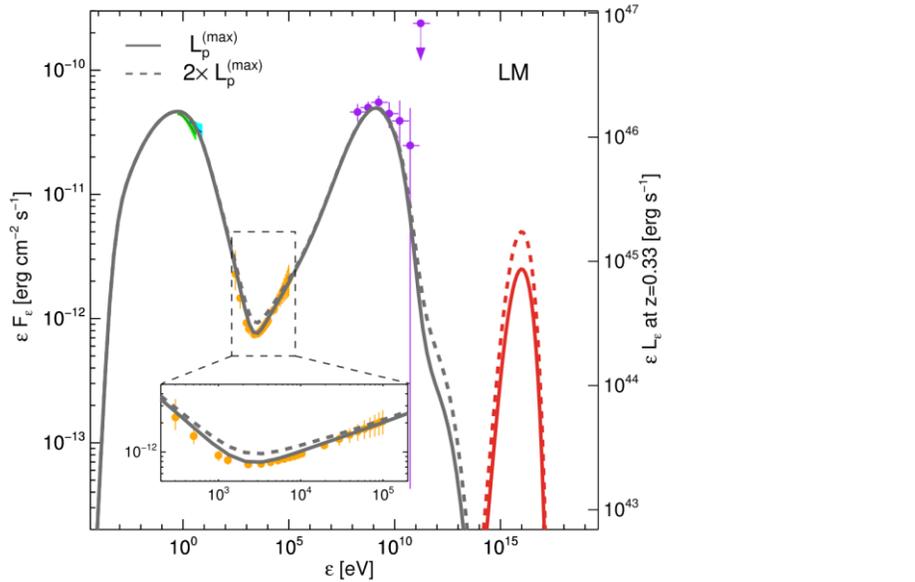


- **Leptonic** processes **react swiftly** to changes in injection
- **Neutrino** emission **needs sustained flare** activity



- **TeV** delay and **flickering** is **natural**
- **Neutrino rate limited by X-rays**

# Overview of other explanations for the MM flare

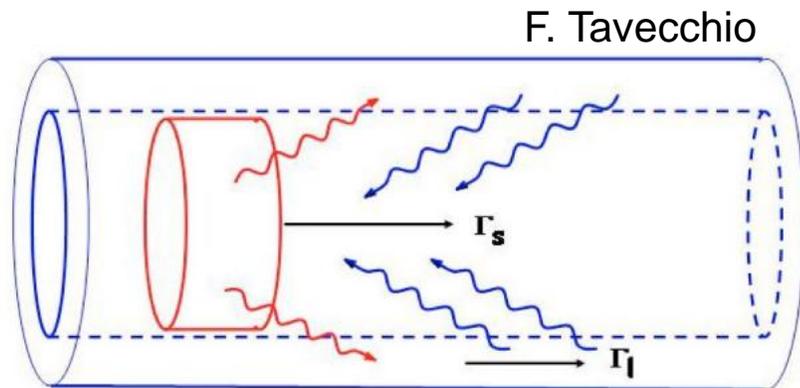


- **Ansoldi et al.** (MAGIC) (1807.04300): UHECR, spine-sheath
- Cerruti et al. (1807.04335): UHECR, proton-syn.
- **Keivani et al.** (AMON) (1807.04537): spine-sheath
- Murase et al. (1807.04748): spine-sheath
- Righi et al. 2018 (ADAF, “re-scattering with acc. disk”)
- **H. Zhang et al.** (2018), UHECR, proton synchrotron

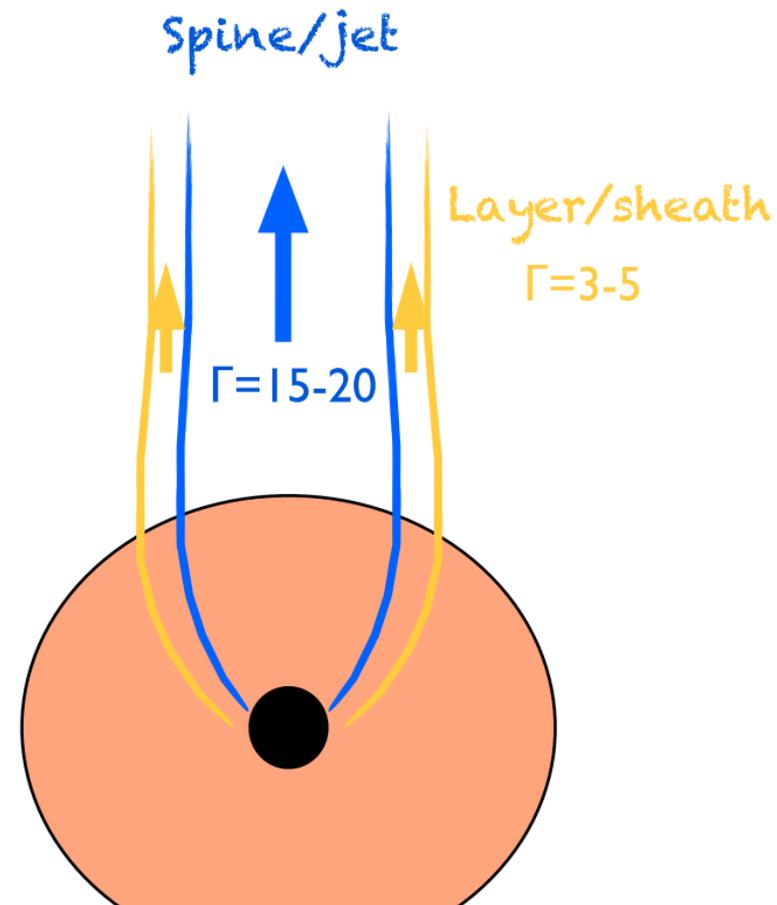
# Spine-sheath models (external radiation fields)

$$\Gamma_{\text{rel}} = \Gamma_s \Gamma_l (1 - \beta_s \beta_l)$$

$$U' \simeq U \Gamma_{\text{rel}}^2$$

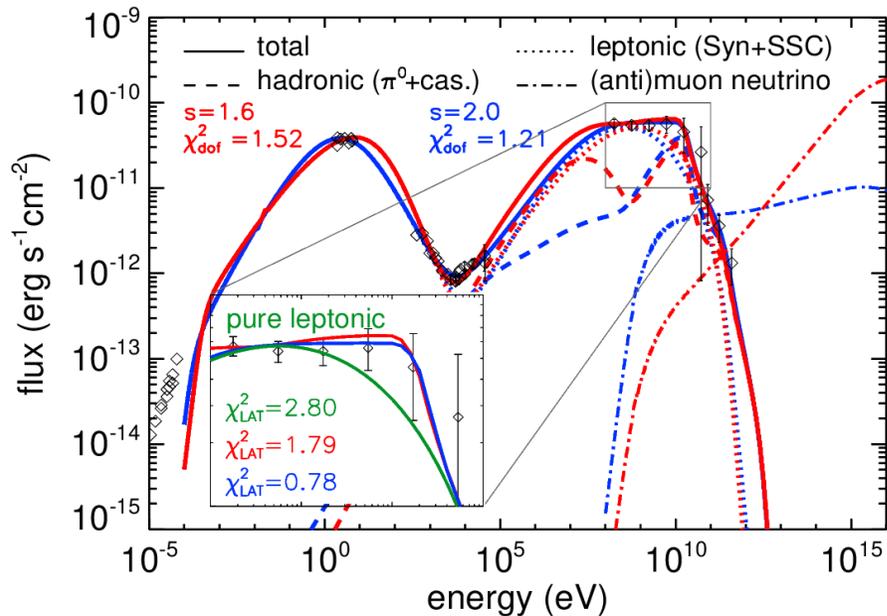
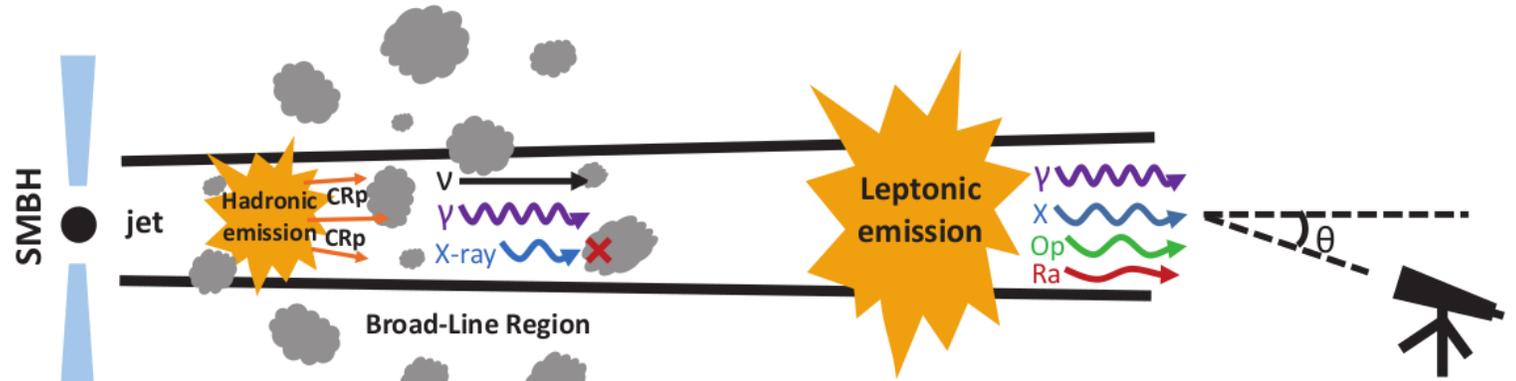
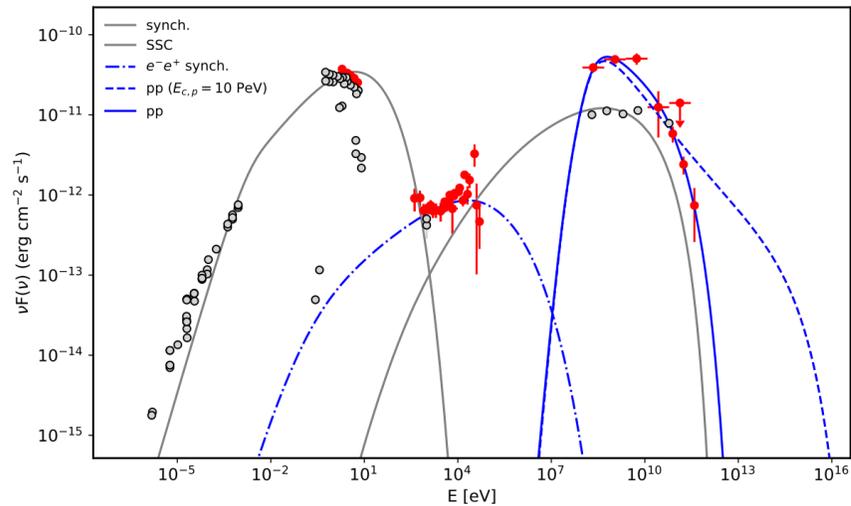


**External fields** disk, dust, BLR,.. (for Spine-Sheath can be synchr.)  
are boosted into jet frame → **more target photons** more neutrinos



Ghisellini, FT and Chiaberge 2005  
FT and Ghisellini 2008

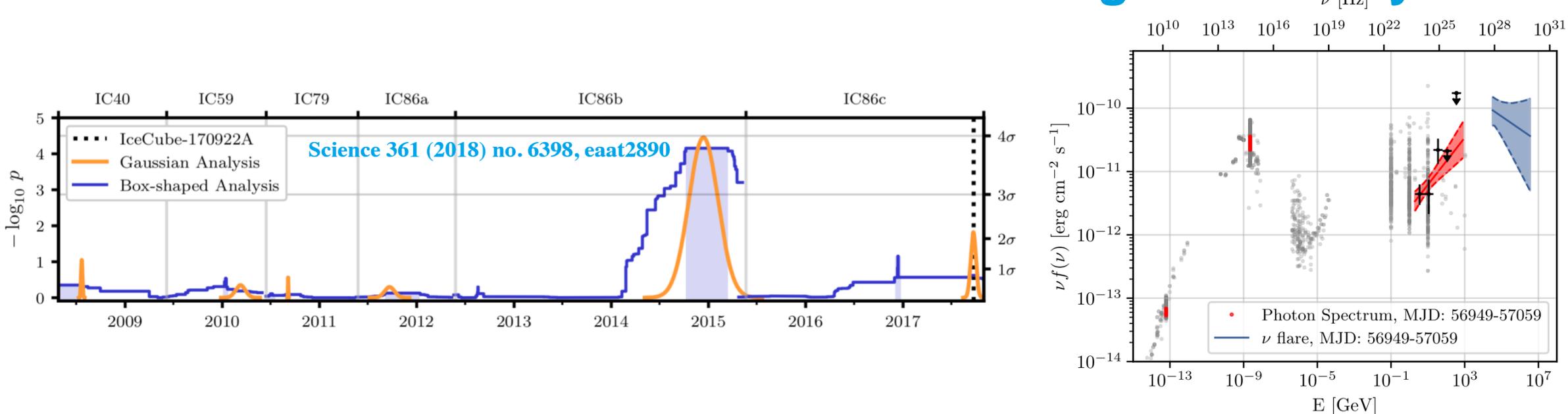
# Proton-proton interactions?



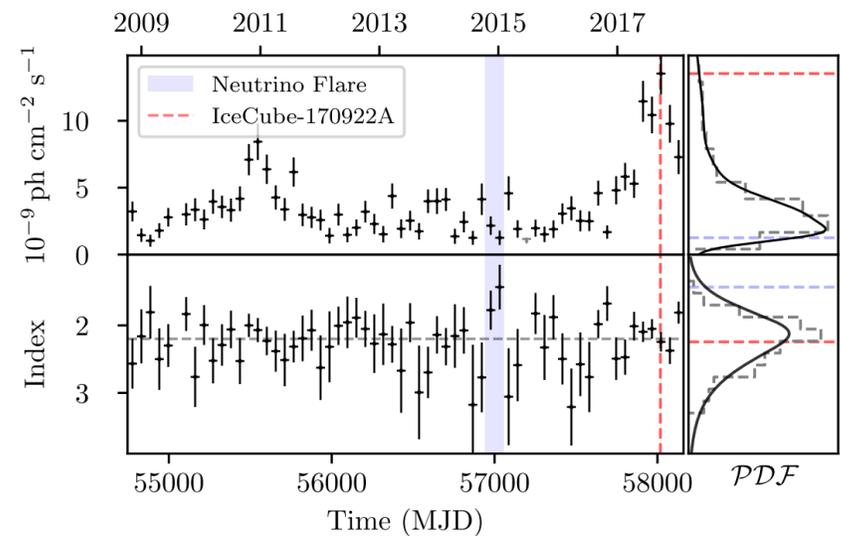
- Liu et al. 2018, (1807.05113)
- Sahakyan (1808.05651)
- + others only qualitatively

...but no obvious coincidence with flare, pp and pgamma emission can lie months or years apart

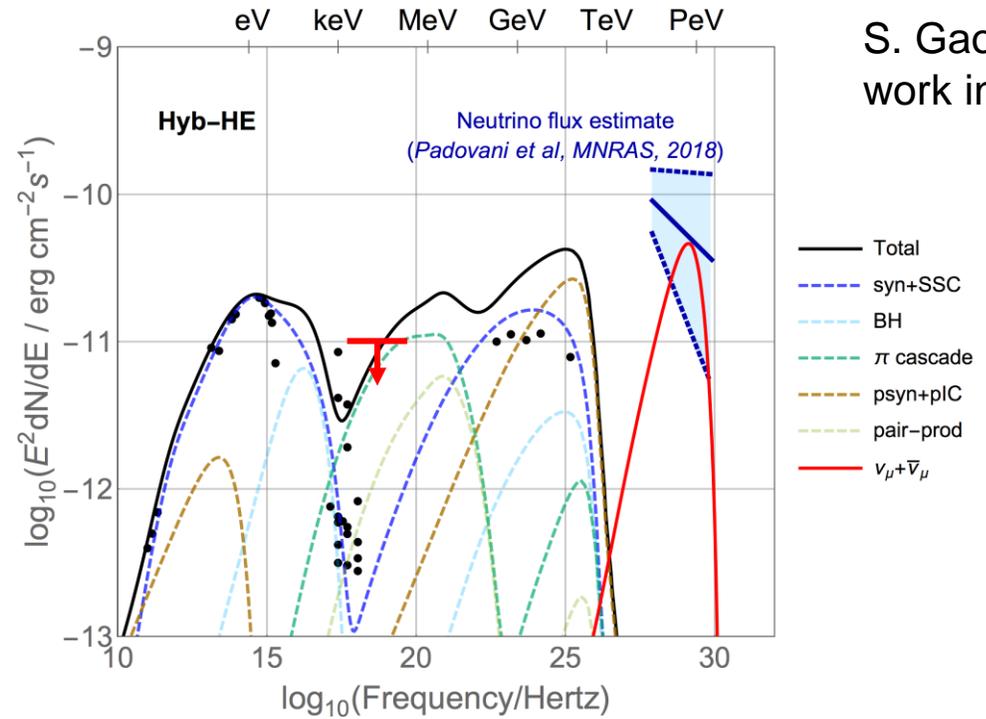
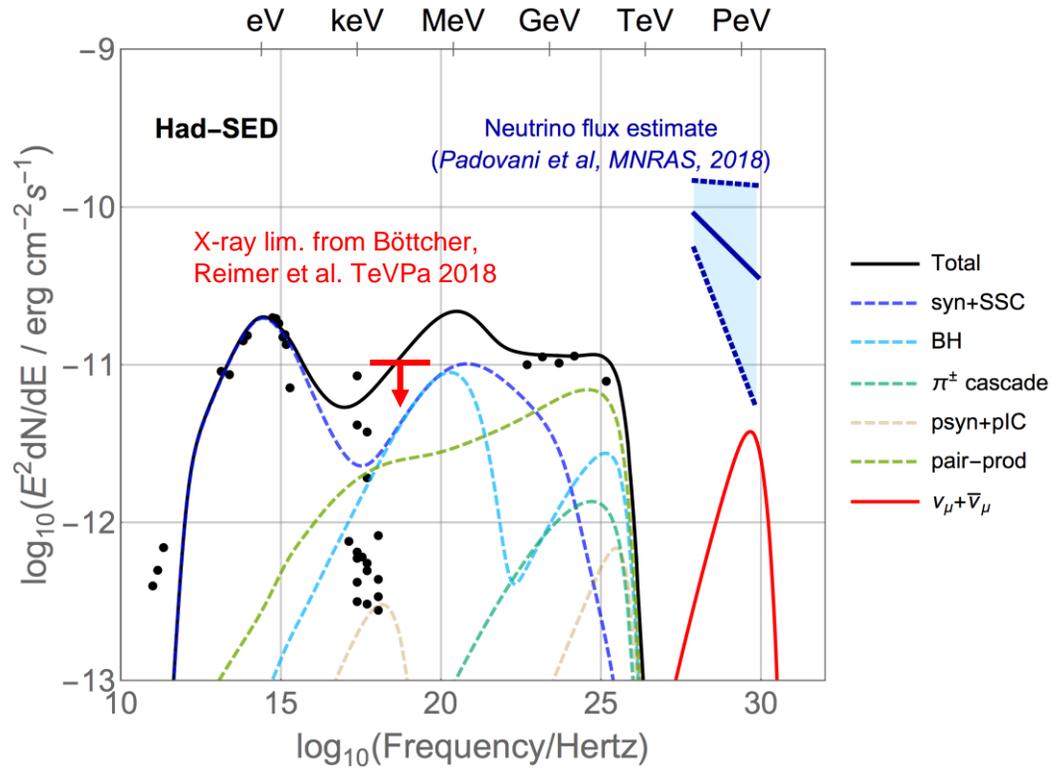
# Historical emission from TXS a real challenge for theory



- Challenges:
  - **No enhanced gamma-ray flux** during this period
  - **Indications for spectral hardening and against it** (Garrappa, Franckowiak, Buson, TeVPA 2018)
  - **Very high flux** 13+-5 neutrinos in~6 months



# Lepto-hadronic models in tension with observation

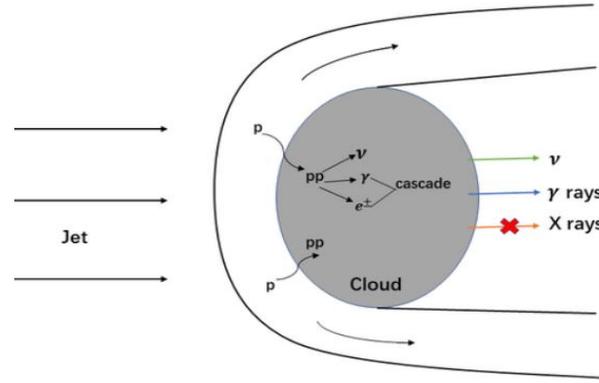


S. Gao et al.,  
work in progress

| Model   | Features   | $R/10^{15}\text{cm}$<br>(all one-zone) | $B'/G$ | $\delta_{\text{Doppler}}$ | $v_{\text{esc}}/c$<br>( $e^\pm$ and $p$ ) | baryonic<br>loading | $L_{\text{jet}}/L_{\text{Edd}}$ | $E_{\nu, \text{peak}}/\text{PeV}$ | $N_\nu$<br>expected during<br>historical flare |
|---------|--|--|--------|---------------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Hyb-HE  | hybrid model<br>high $E_{\nu, \text{peak}}$<br>low cascade | 100                                    | 0.005  | 70                        | 0.1                                       | $10^{8.0}$          | $10^{4.5}$                      | 0.81                              | 8.8  |
| Had-SED | hadronic model<br>fit SED only<br>high cascade             | 1                                      | 7      | 17                        | 1/300                                     | $10^{2.7}$          | 0.07                            | 2.8                               | 0.55   |

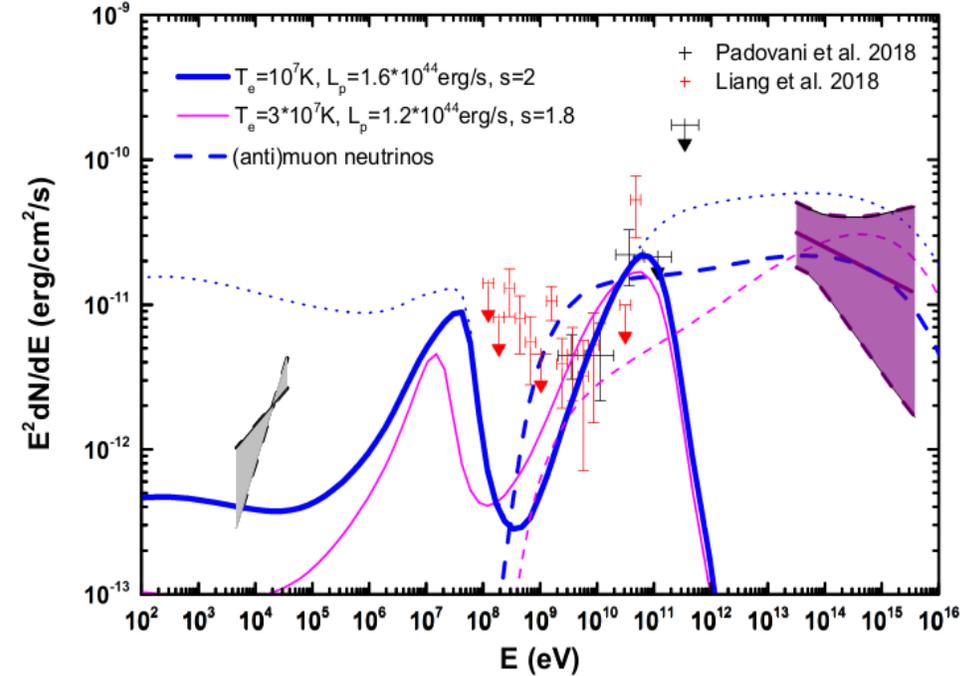
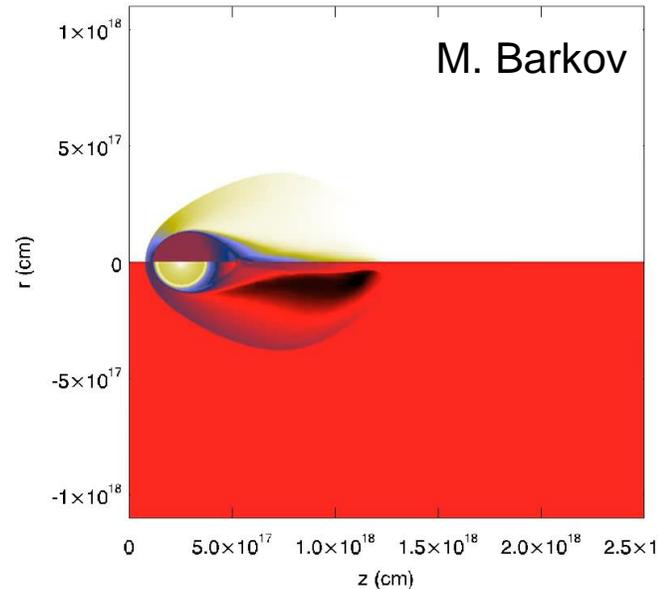
# Jet – star/cloud interaction, a possible scenario?

Ruoyu Liu, TeVPA 2018



M. Barkov et al. 2010, 2012;  
Khangulyan et al. 2013

Rate not well constrained

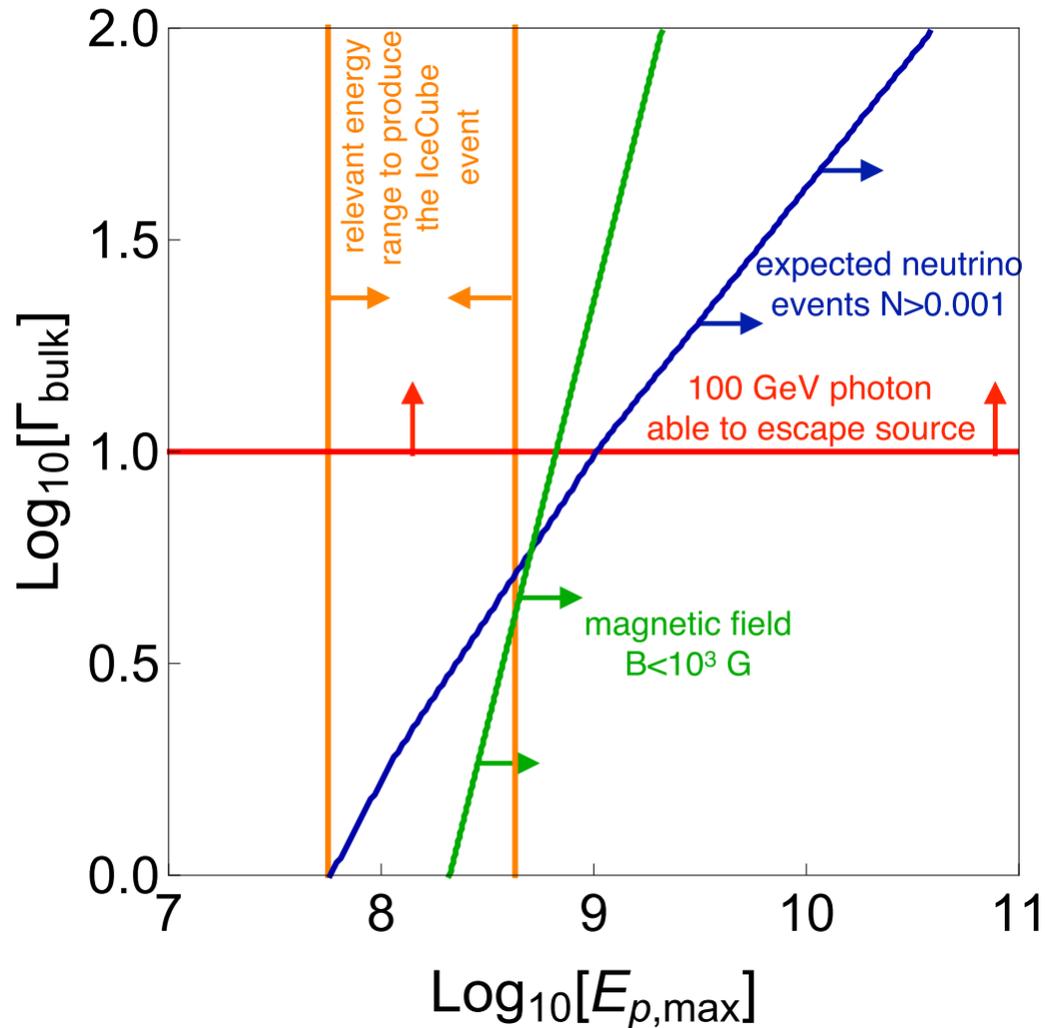


- In Barkov's models the ablated protons still need an additional acceleration mechanism
- Comptonized radiation  $T \sim 10^7$  K "hides" GeV emission

# What we learned from TXS 0506+056 observations

- TXS0506+056 can indeed be the **source of the one neutrino**, but detection is lucky
- The **flare** is an **extraordinary state for neutrino production**
- **Most** of the “elegant” **one zone models excluded** through observational constraints or **energetics**
- **Additional** mechanism (two zones) required to boost **py efficiency**, either through a compact core, or spine-sheath structures, or external fields → **more free parameters** and insufficient experimental constraints ☹️
- Soft/hard **X-ray's and TeV** (+GeV) gammas are the **strictest constraints**, all calculations/authors (e.g. Keivani et al., Cerruti et al.) agree on that
- The explanation of the **historical/orphan** 2014-2015 **flare** is still a **real challenge** due to the lack of accompanying gamma rays
- **Jet-star/cloud interaction is a first possible explanation**. Other groups working on it. Need to address the question of source confusion/background/overfluctuation
- **TXS alone** is unfortunately **not enough to understand** why this particular blazar a **neutrino source** and the others are not

# Proton synchrotron scenario

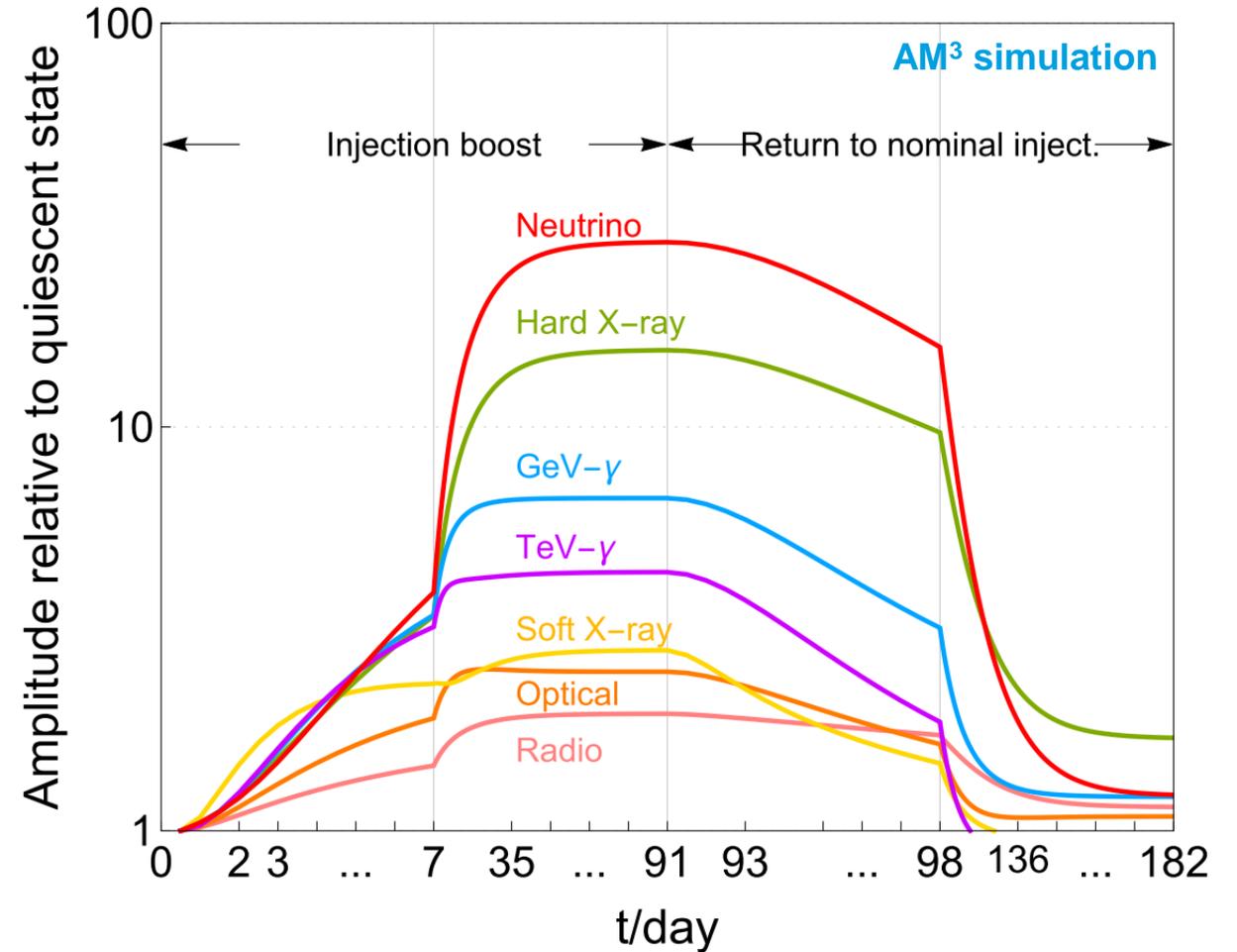
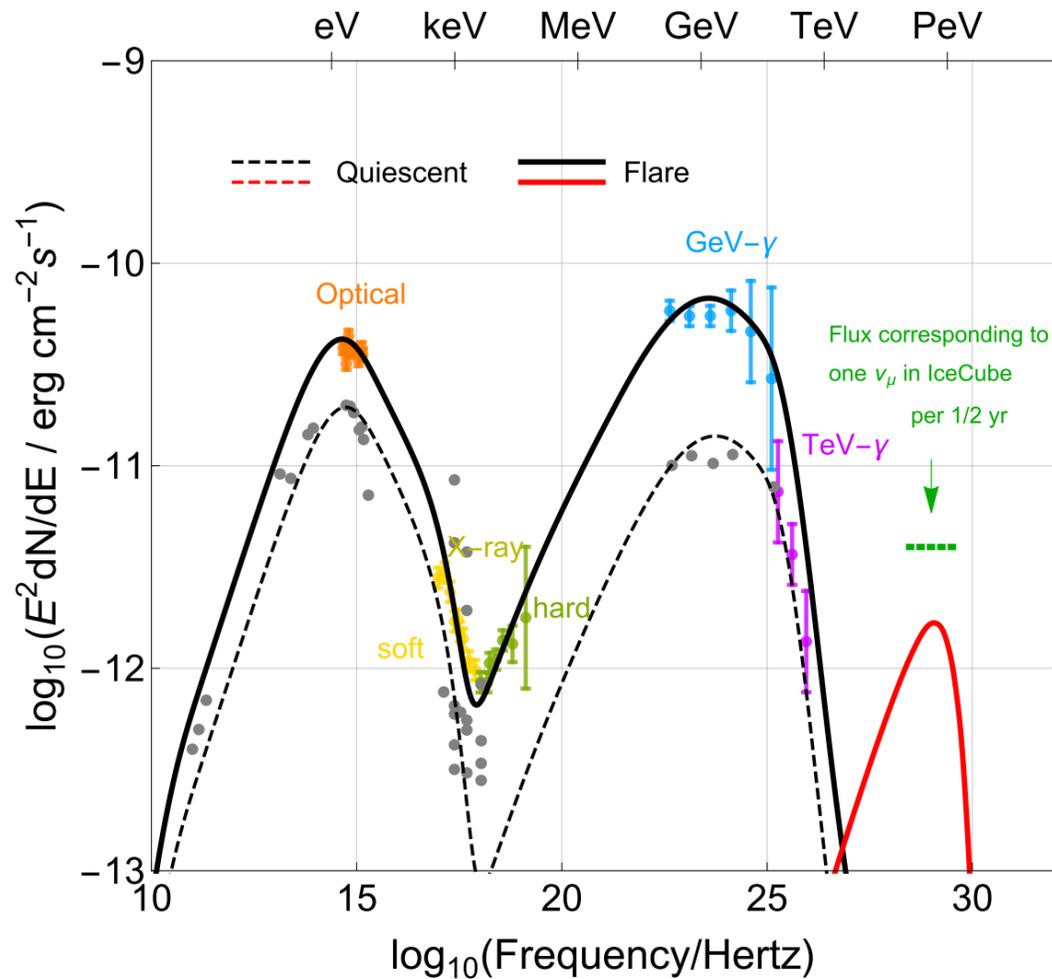


- Requires **UHECR** energies
- Qualitatively **similar** constraints as in **UHECR case**
- Results in **neutrinos at wrong energy** and thus in a negligible rate
- **MAGIC and VERITAS** observations **important** (red line)

# Model parameters

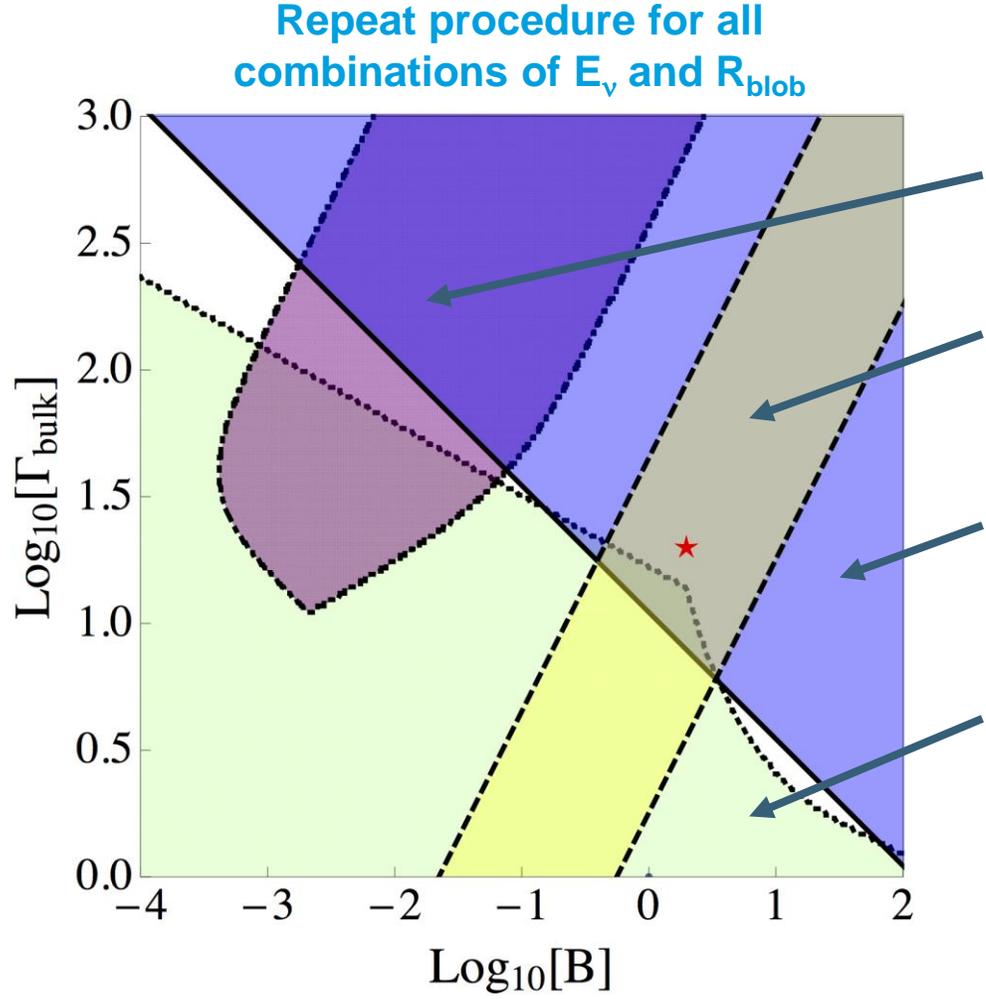
| Parameter                       | Description                                    | Fit   | Hybrid      |             | Hadronic    |
|---------------------------------|--|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                 |  |       | Quiescent   | Flare       | Flare       |
| $z$                             | Redshift                                       | fixed | 0.34        |             | 0.34        |
| $B'$ (G)                        | Magnetic field                                 |       | 0.007       | 0.14        | 2.0         |
| $R'_{\text{blob}}$ (cm)         | Blob size                                      |       | $10^{17.5}$ | $10^{16}$   | $10^{16}$   |
| $\Gamma_{\text{bulk}}$          | Doppler factor                                 |       | 28.0        |             | 20.0        |
| $L'_{e,\text{inj}}$ (erg/s)     | Electron injection luminosity                  |       | $10^{40.5}$ | $10^{40.9}$ | $10^{41.3}$ |
| $\alpha_e$                      | Electron spectral index                        |       | -2.5        | -3.5        | -2.3        |
| $\gamma'_{e,\text{min}}$        | Min. electron Lorentz factor                   |       | $10^{4.2}$  |             | $10^{3.3}$  |
| $\gamma'_{e,\text{max}}$        | Max. electron Lorentz factor                   |       | $10^{5.6}$  | $10^{5.1}$  | $10^{4.4}$  |
| $L'_{p,\text{inj}}$ (erg/s)     | Proton injection luminosity                    |       | $10^{44.5}$ | $10^{45.7}$ | $10^{47.0}$ |
| $\gamma'_{p,\text{min}}$        | Min. proton Lorentz factor                     | fixed | 10.0        |             | 10.0        |
| $\gamma'_{p,\text{max}}$        | Max. proton Lorentz factor                     |       | $10^{5.4}$  |             | $10^{5.6}$  |
| $\alpha_p$                      | Proton spectral index                          | fixed | -2.0        |             | -2.0        |
| $\eta_{\text{esc}}$             | escape velocity of $e^\pm$ and $p$             |       | $c/300$     | $c/300$     | $c/10$      |
| <b>Results</b>                  |  |       |             |             |             |
| $L_{\text{Edd}}$ (erg/s)        | Eddington luminosity *                         |       | $10^{47.8}$ |             | $10^{47.8}$ |
| $L_{\text{jet}}/L_{\text{Edd}}$ | jet physical luminosity (in $L_{\text{Edd}}$ ) |       | 0.4         | 6.2         | 62.8        |
| $E_{\nu,\text{peak}}$ , TeV     | peak energy of neutrino spectrum               |       | 250         |             | 330         |
| $N_\nu/\text{yr}$               | Expected neutrino rate in IceCube              |       | $10^{-3.8}$ | 0.27        | 9.8         |

# Increasing $p$ & $e^-$ injection by factor 3 explains flare



Ratio between QS and FS is x2.5 in optical and x6 in GeV supports SSC model

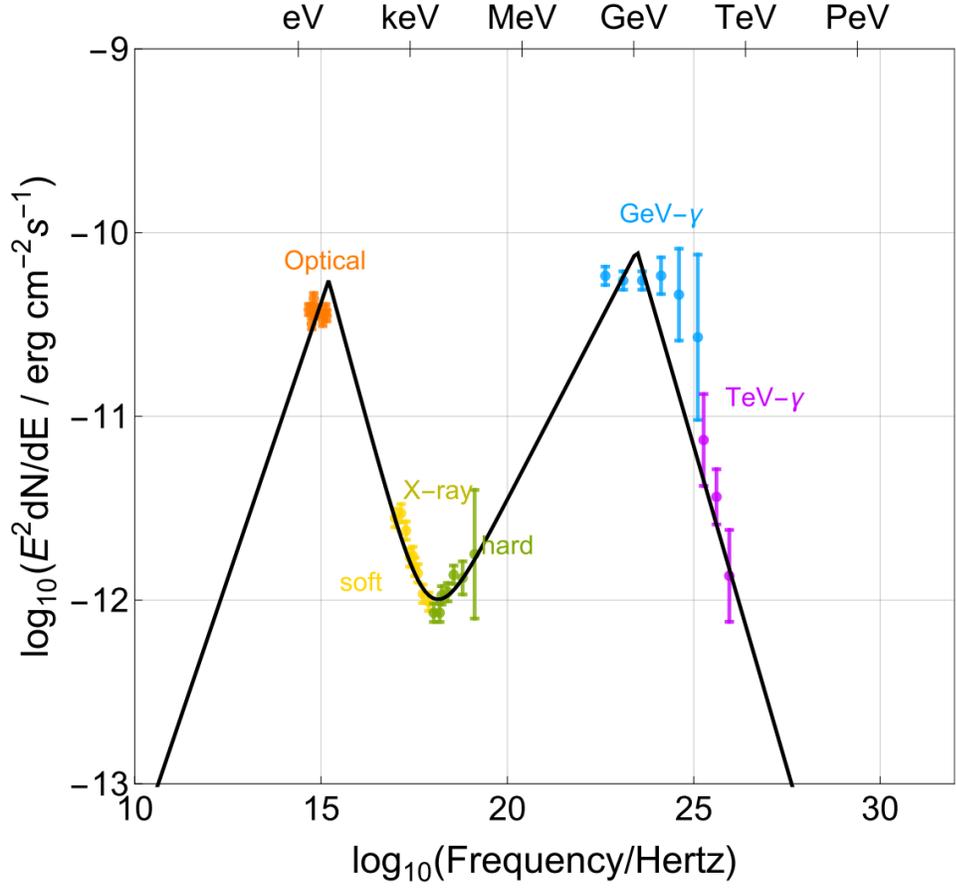
# Scan for hadronic models with semi-analytics



### Constraints

- Bethe-Heitler pair production
- Second peak
- Inv. compton not dominant
- Proton-synchrotron

### 4-powerlaw approximation



see Gao, Pohl, Winter, ApJ (2017) for more details on the method