

# PROBING BLAZAR PHYSICS WITH ASTROPHYSICAL NEUTRINOS

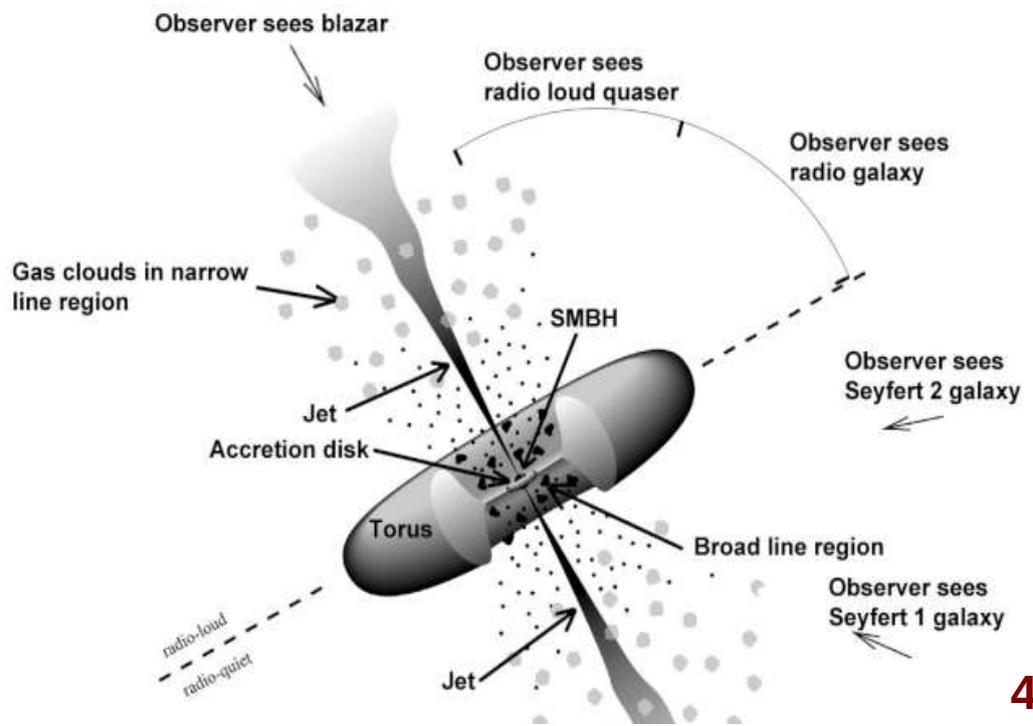
Maria Petropoulou

Lyman J. Spitzer Postdoctoral Fellow

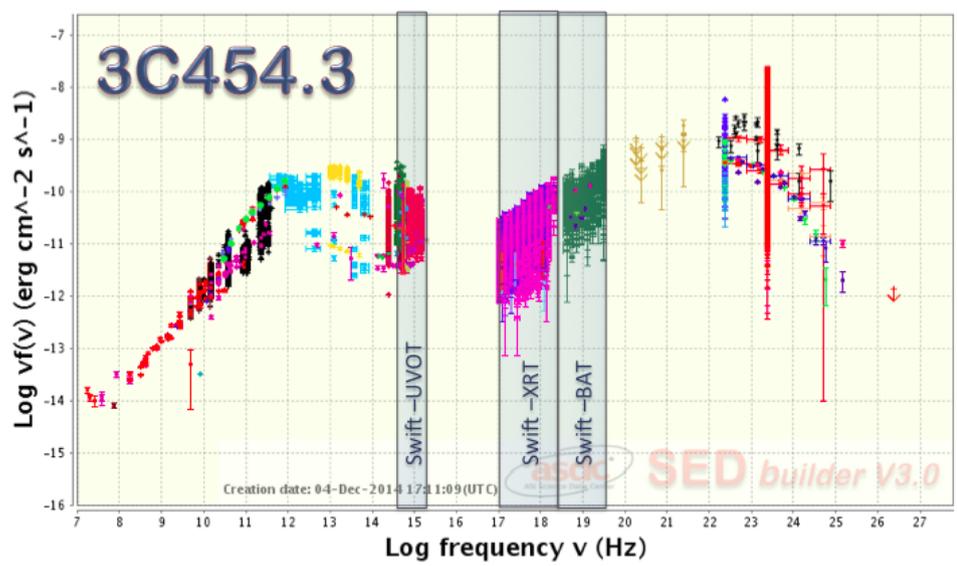
Department of Astrophysical Sciences  
Princeton University

MARLAM 7 @ UMD College Park  
31 October 2019

# Blazars: AGN with jets viewed face-on



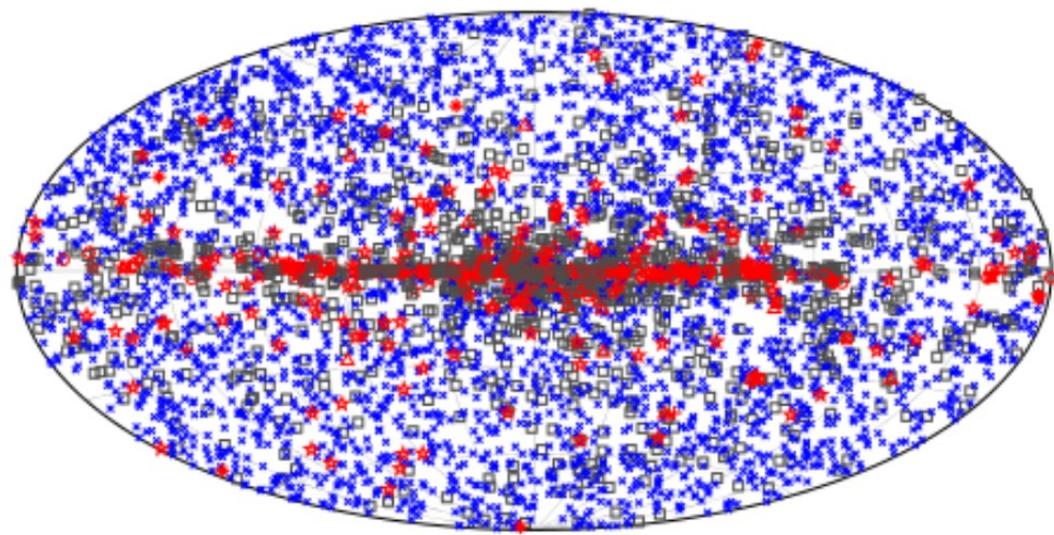
Giommi 2015, JHEA (<https://tools.asdc.asi.it/SED/>)



4FGL

Urry & Padovani 1995

- 8yr science data
- ~5000 sources
- ~60% blazars



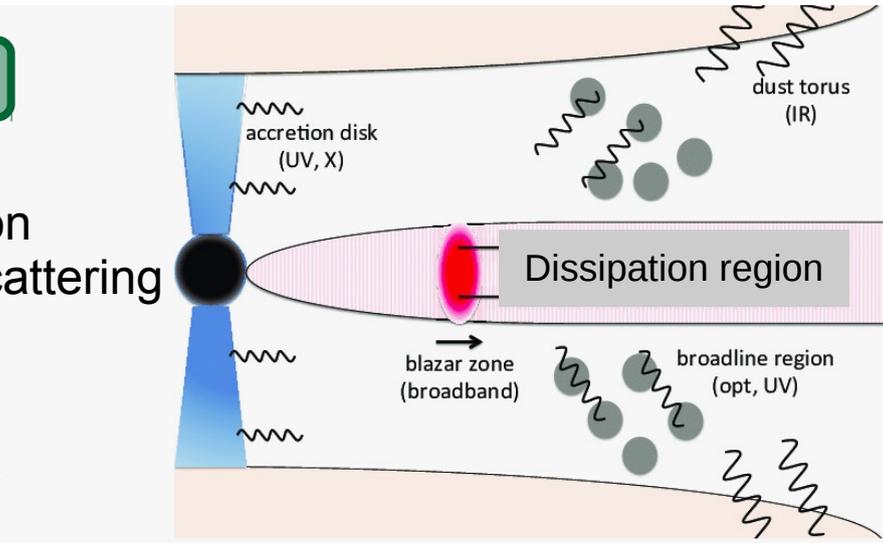
□ No association	■ Possible association with SNR or PWN	■ AGN
★ Pulsar	▲ Globular cluster	◆ PWN
✕ Binary	✦ Galaxy	● Nova
★ Star-forming region	□ Unclassified source	○ SNR

Abdollahi et al. 2019

# Origin of $\gamma$ -rays: leptonic or hadronic ?

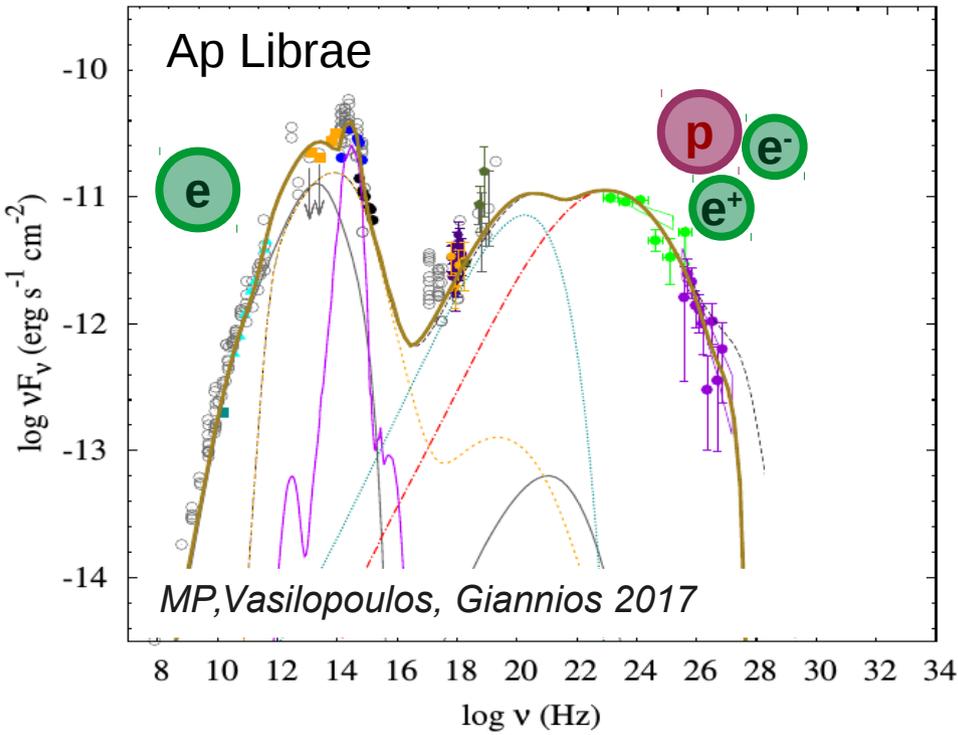
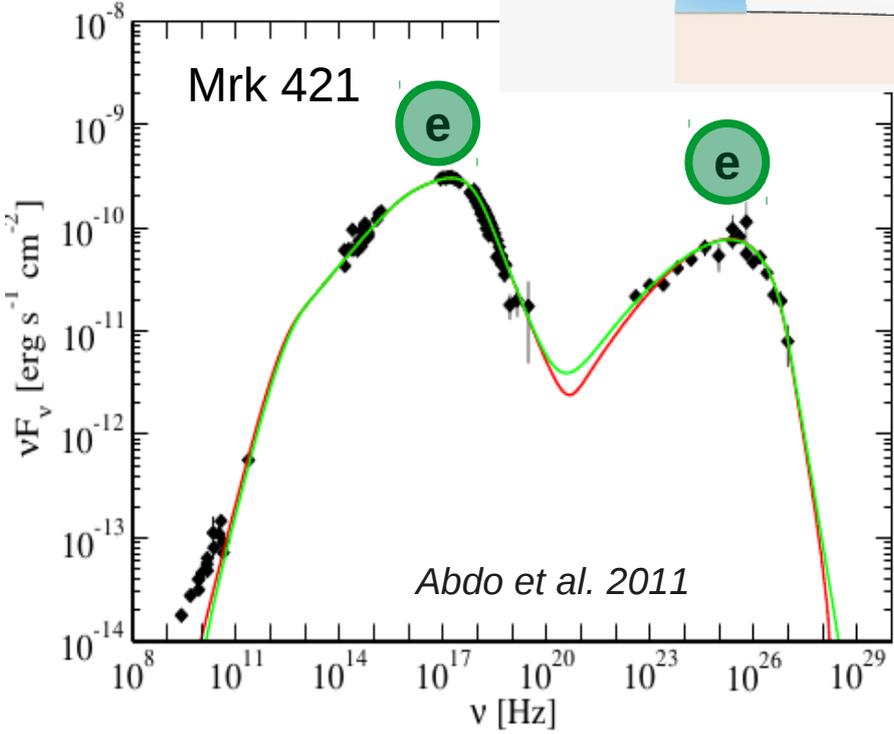
## Leptonic models

- Synchrotron radiation
- Inverse Compton scattering
- Pair production



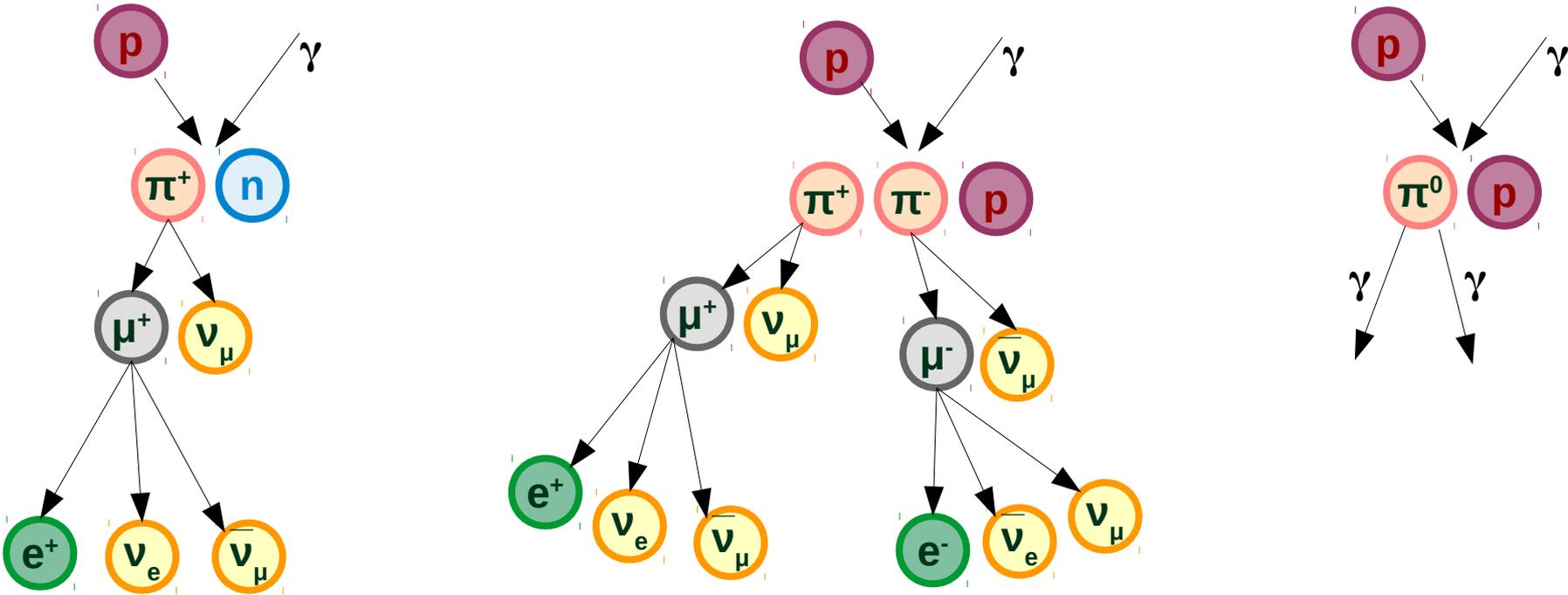
## Hadronic models

- Synchrotron radiation
- Inverse Compton scattering
- Pair production
- Photo-meson production
- Photo-pair (Bethe-Heitler) production
- Hadro-nuclear collisions



**Early studies:** Mannheim & Biermann 1992; Sikora+1994; Dermer & Schlickeiser 1994; Mastichiadis & Kirk 1995; Bloom & Marscher 1996; Rieger +1998; Aharonian 2000, Atoyan & Dermer 2001; Muecke+2003

# Neutrinos: the smoking gun of hadrons



All-flavor  $\nu$  luminosity:

$$\epsilon_\nu L_\nu \approx \frac{3}{8} f_{p\gamma} \boxed{\epsilon_p L_p} \text{ Proton power}$$

Photo-meson efficiency:

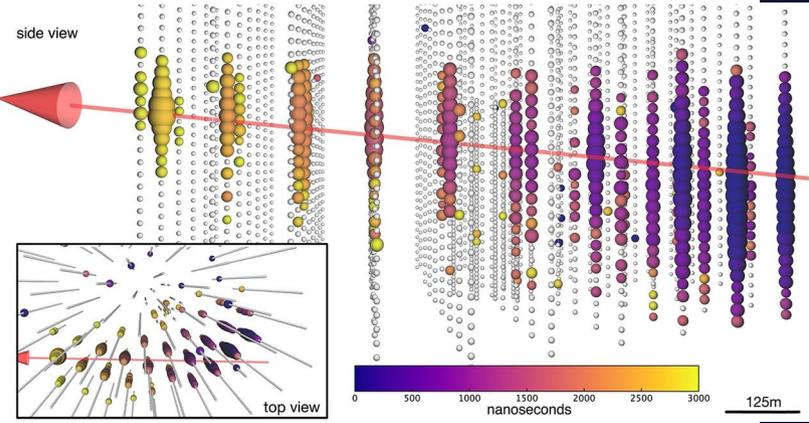
$$f_{p\gamma}(E'_p) \approx \frac{t_{\text{dyn}}}{t_{p\gamma}} \approx \frac{2\kappa_\Delta \sigma_\Delta}{1 + \beta} \frac{\Delta \bar{\epsilon}_\Delta}{\bar{\epsilon}_\Delta} \boxed{\frac{3L_{\text{rad}}^s}{4\pi r_b \Gamma^2 c E'_s}} \left( \frac{E'_p}{E'_p{}^b} \right)^{\beta-1} \text{ Proton Energy}$$

Typical neutrino energy:

$$E'_\nu{}^b \approx 0.05 E'_p{}^b \simeq 80 \text{ PeV } \Gamma_1^2 (E'_s/10 \text{ eV})^{-1}$$

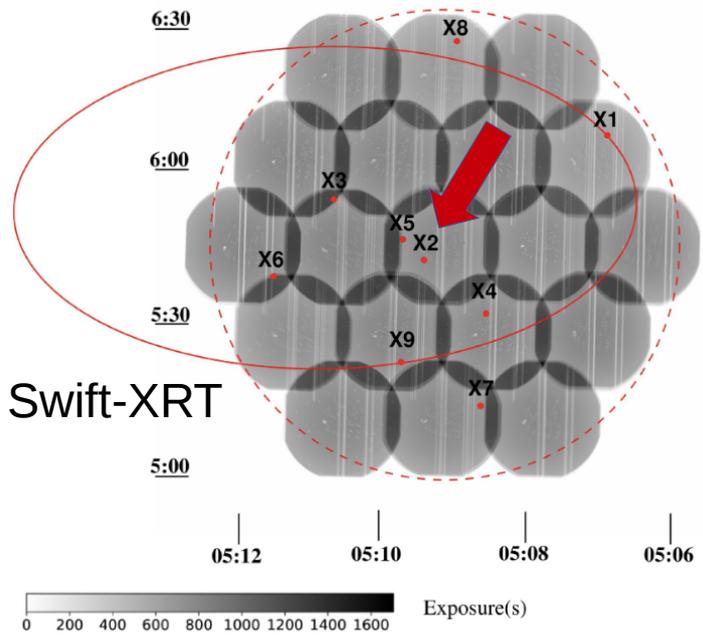
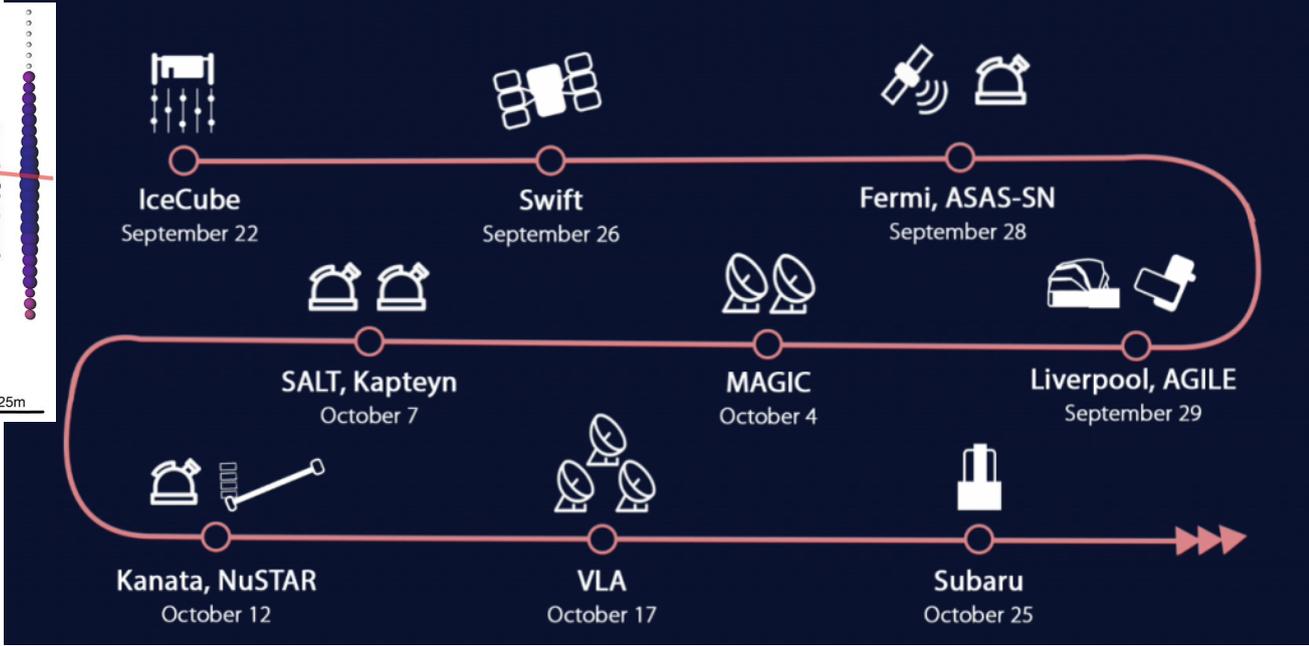
# The multi-messenger flare of TXS 0506+056

## IC-170922A: a 290 TeV neutrino



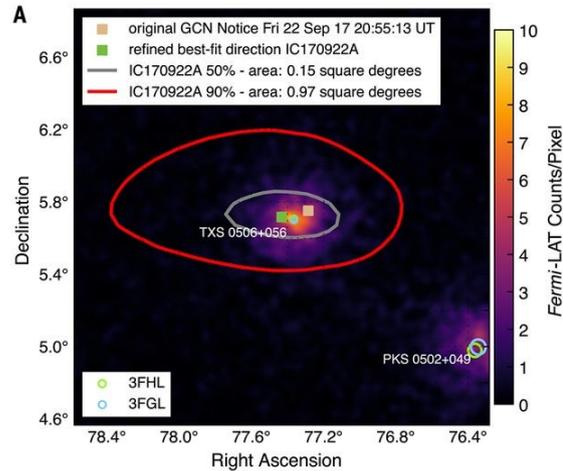
*IceCube Collaboration et al. 2018a*

## Follow-up detections of IC170922 based on public telegrams



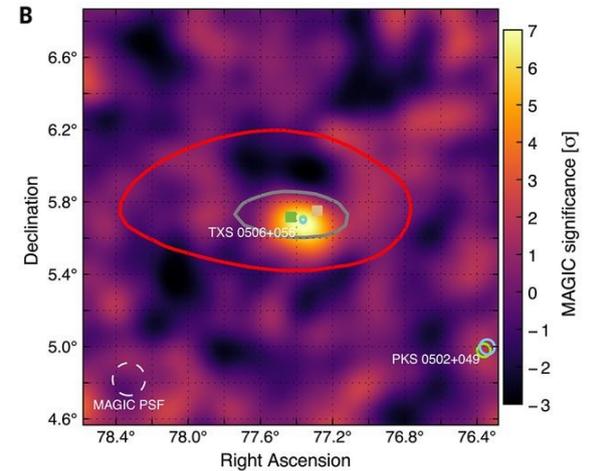
*Keivani, Murase, MP, Fox et al. 2018*

## Fermi-LAT



*IceCube Collaboration et al. 2018a*

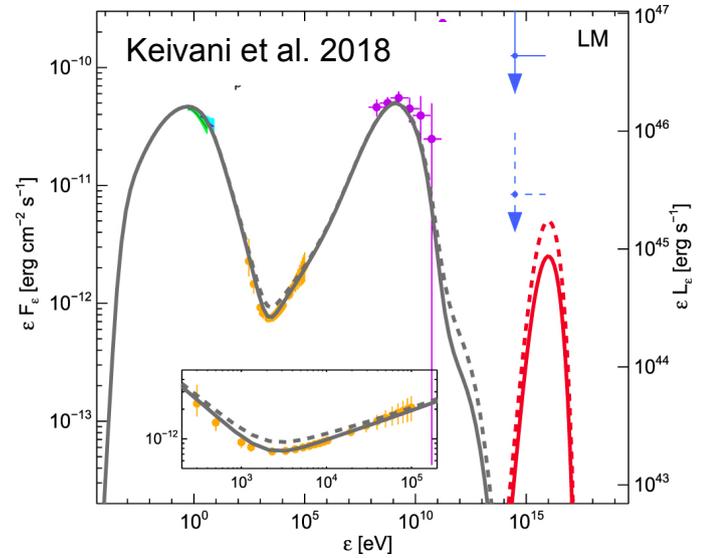
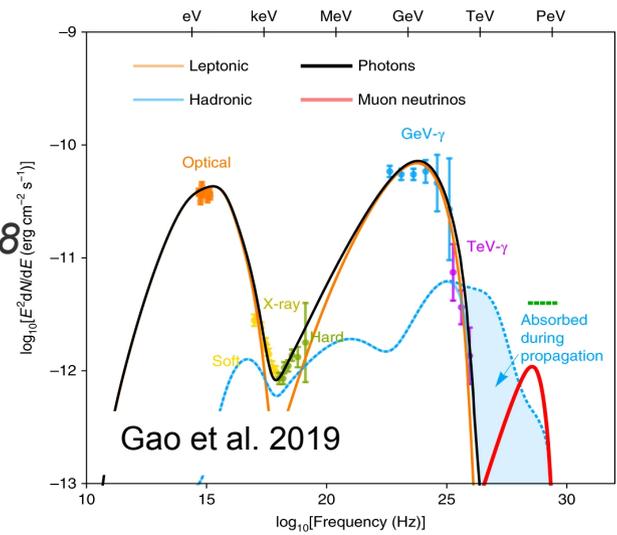
## MAGIC



# Models for the 2017 multi-messenger flare

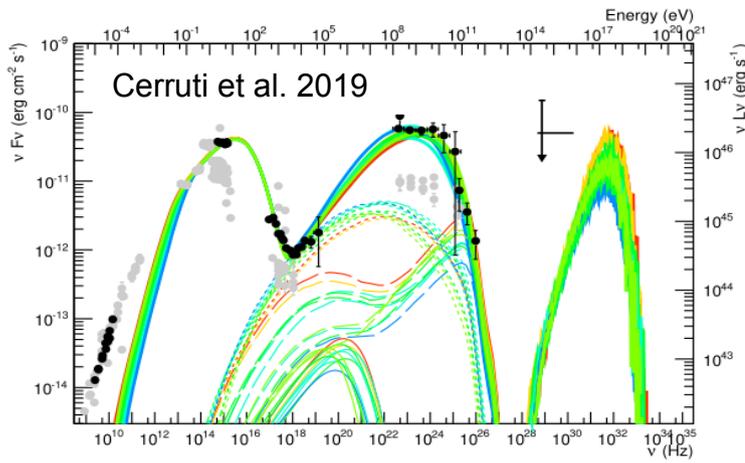
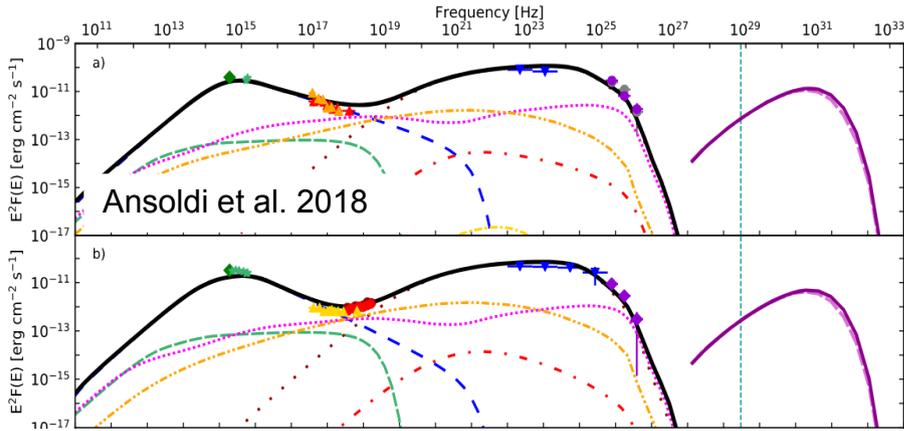
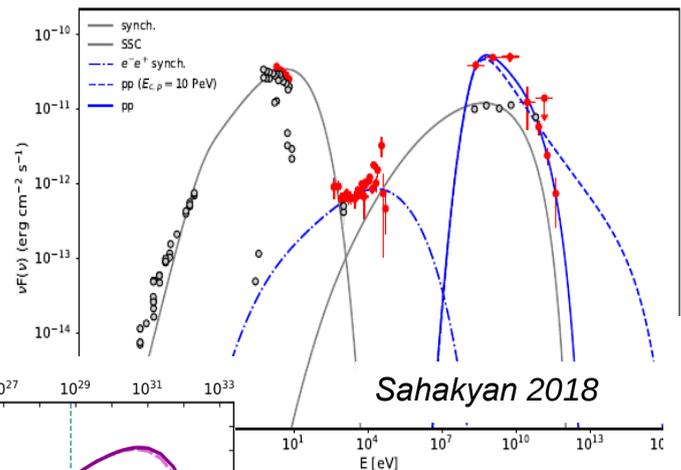
## Photo-hadronic

- *Ansoldi et al. 2018 for MAGIC*
- *Keivani, Murase, MP, Fox et al. 2018*
- *Murase, Oikonomou, MP 2018*
- *Cerruti et al. 2019*
- *Gao et al. 2019*
- ...



## Hadro-nuclear

- *Sahakyan 2018*
- *Murase, Oikonomou, MP 2018*
- *Liu et al. 2019*
- ...



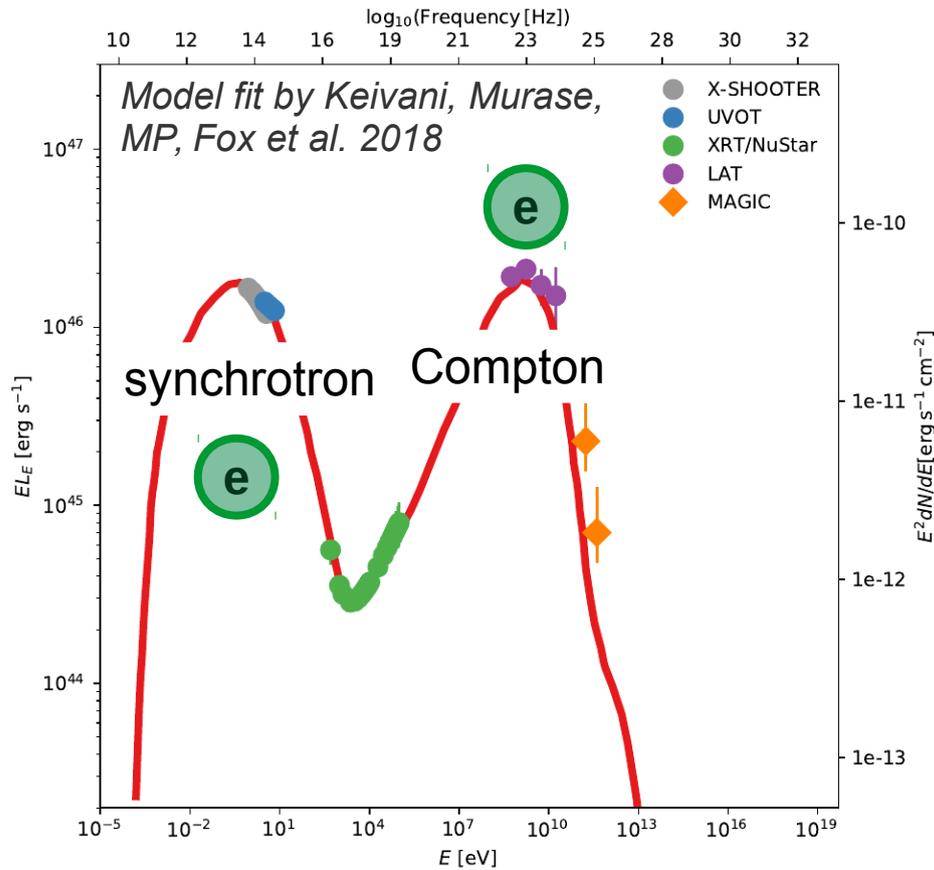
# Summary of results for the 2017 flare

	Origin of $\gamma$ -rays	$E_{p,max}$	# of $\nu_\mu$ in 0.5 yr
<i>Ansoldi et al. 2018</i>	Leptonic – ECS	0.4 EeV	$\sim 0.06$
<i>Keivani et al. 2018</i>	Leptonic – ECS	$\sim 0.04 - 2$ EeV	$\sim 0.001 - 0.01$
<i>Cerruti et al. 2019</i>	Leptonic – SSC	$\sim (0.6-20) \times (\delta/10)$ EeV	$\sim 0.004 - 0.05$
<i>Gao et al. 2019</i>	Leptonic – SSC	4.5 PeV	$\sim 0.13$

- Past studies of neutrinos from blazars predicted hadronic  $\gamma$ -rays. Modeling of TXS 0506+056/IC-170922A requires a **leptonic** origin of  $\gamma$ -rays.
- Maximum proton energies below  $\sim$ EeV  $\rightarrow$  TXS 0506+056 is **unlikely** to be an UHECR & PeV neutrino source.
- Number of muon neutrinos per yr  $< 1$ . Still, the predictions are **statistically consistent** with the detection of 1 event in 0.5 yr (*e.g. Strotjohann et al. 2019*).

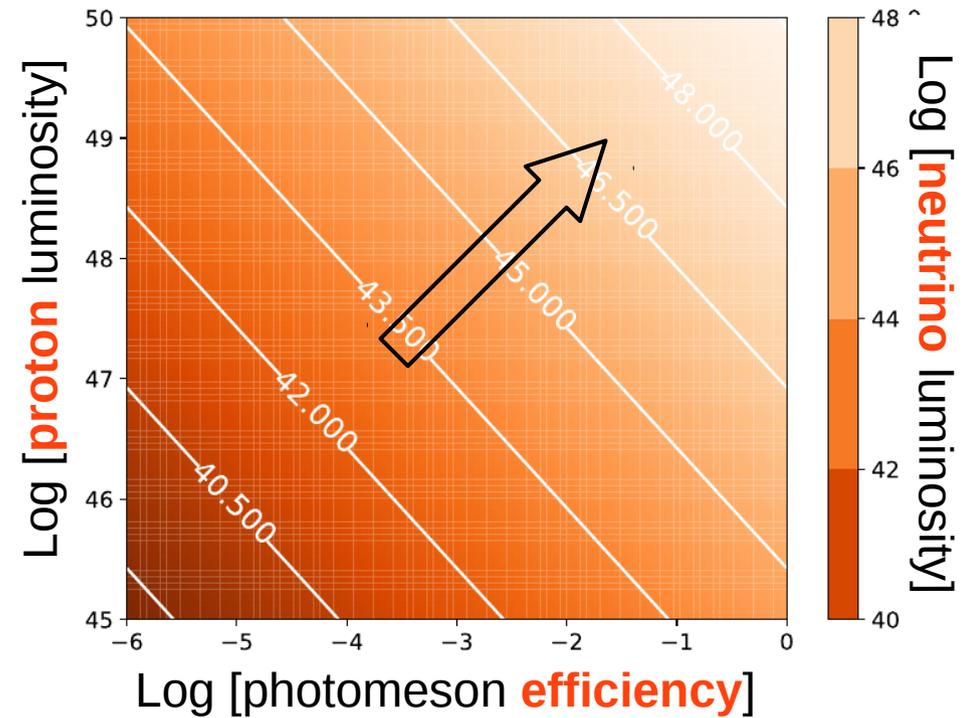
# What sets the maximum neutrino flux?

Murase, Oikonomou, MP 2018

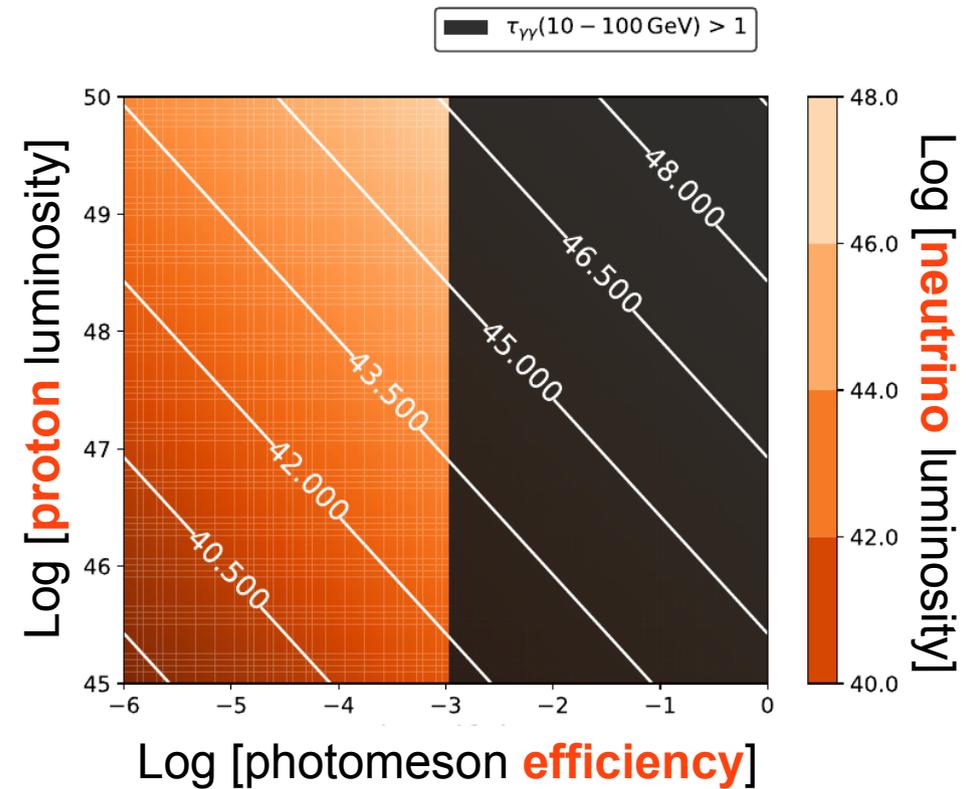
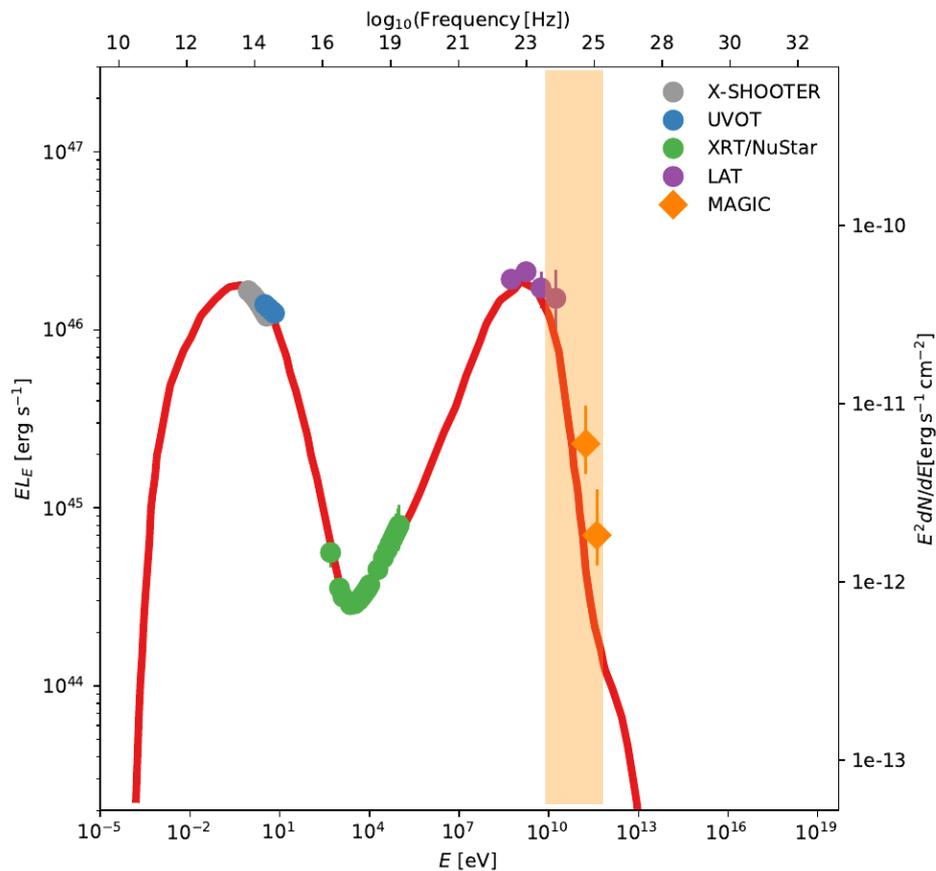


$$\epsilon_\nu L_\nu \approx \frac{3}{8} f_{p\gamma} \epsilon_p L_p$$

\*  $\epsilon_\nu L_\nu^{0.1-1\text{PeV}}$



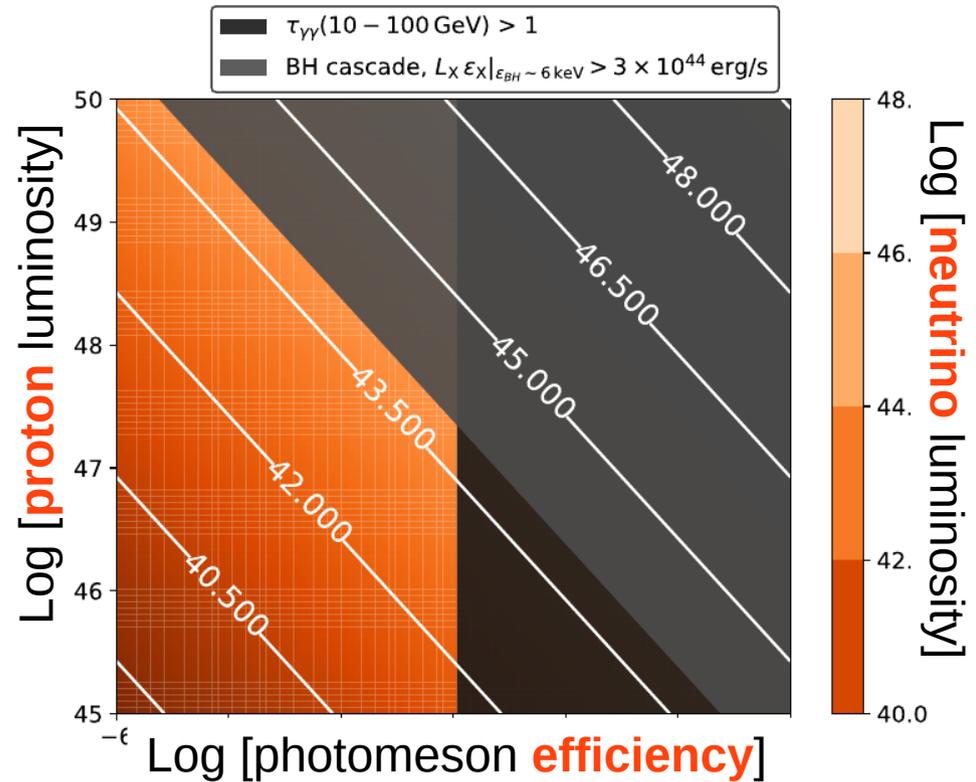
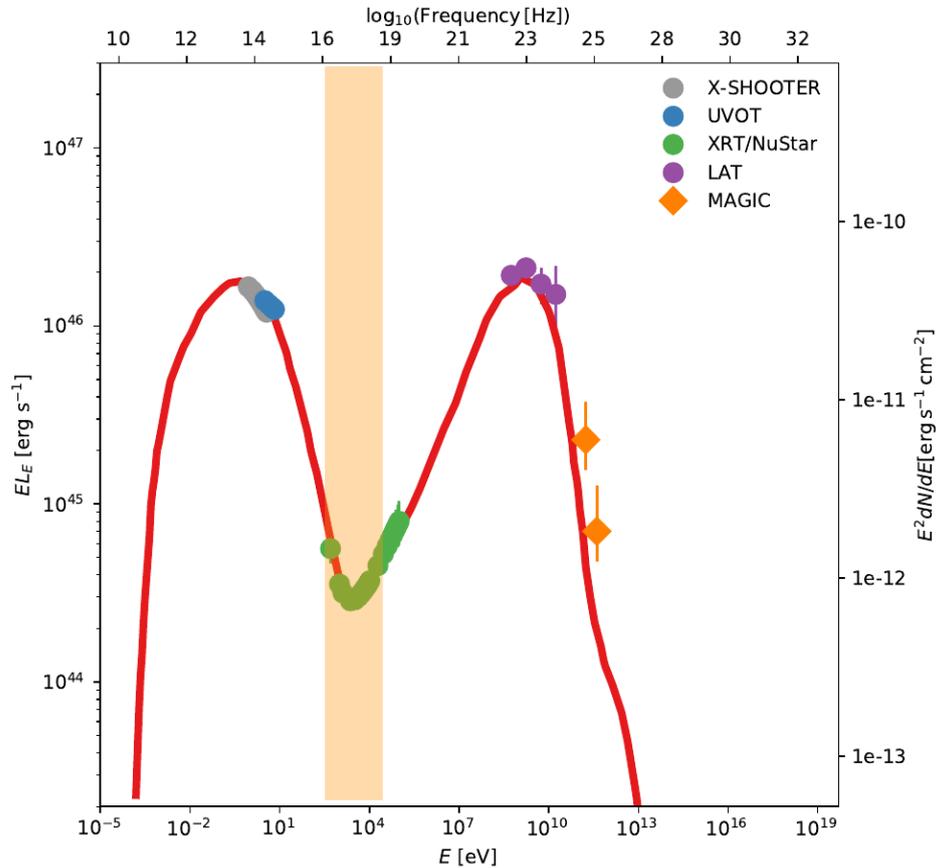
# What sets the maximum neutrino flux?



I. Optical depth for absorption of 10-100 GeV  $\gamma$ -rays must be low:  $\tau_{\gamma\gamma}(10 - 100 \text{ GeV}) \lesssim 1$

*Note:* main source of opacity for PeV  $\gamma$ -rays: co-spatial synchrotron photons

# What sets the maximum neutrino flux?

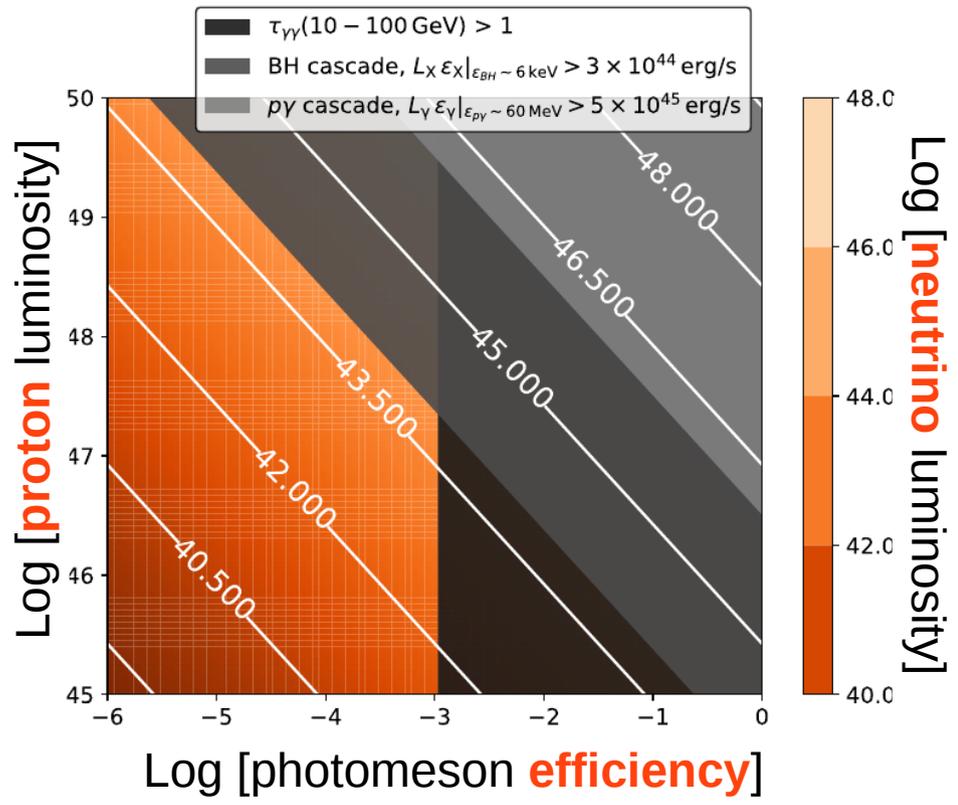
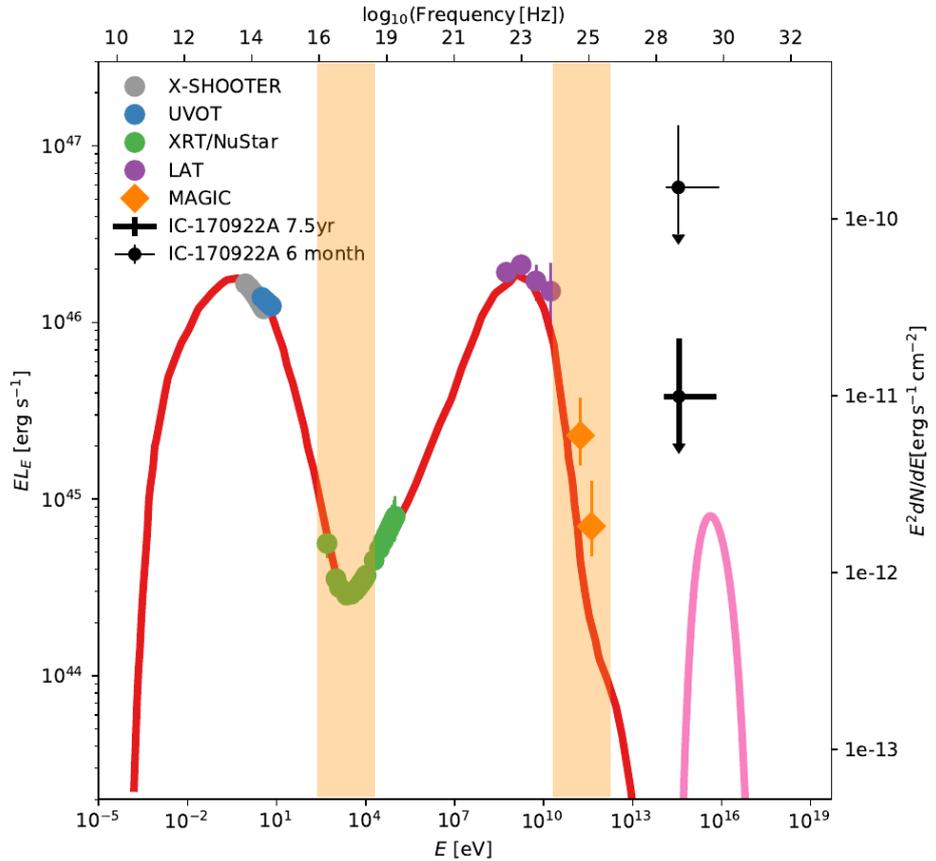


II. Synchrotron emission from Bethe-Heitler pairs must not overshoot X-ray data:

$$\epsilon_\nu L_{\epsilon_\nu}^{0.1-1 \text{ PeV}} \sim \epsilon_\gamma L_{\epsilon_\gamma} |_{\epsilon_{\text{syn}}^{\text{BH}}} \sim \frac{1}{4} g[\beta] f_{p\gamma} \epsilon_p L_p \leq 3 \times 10^{44} \text{ erg/s}$$

$$\epsilon_{\text{syn}}^{\text{BH}} \approx 6 \text{ keV} B_{0.5 \text{ G}} (\epsilon_p / 6 \text{ PeV})^2 (20/\delta)$$

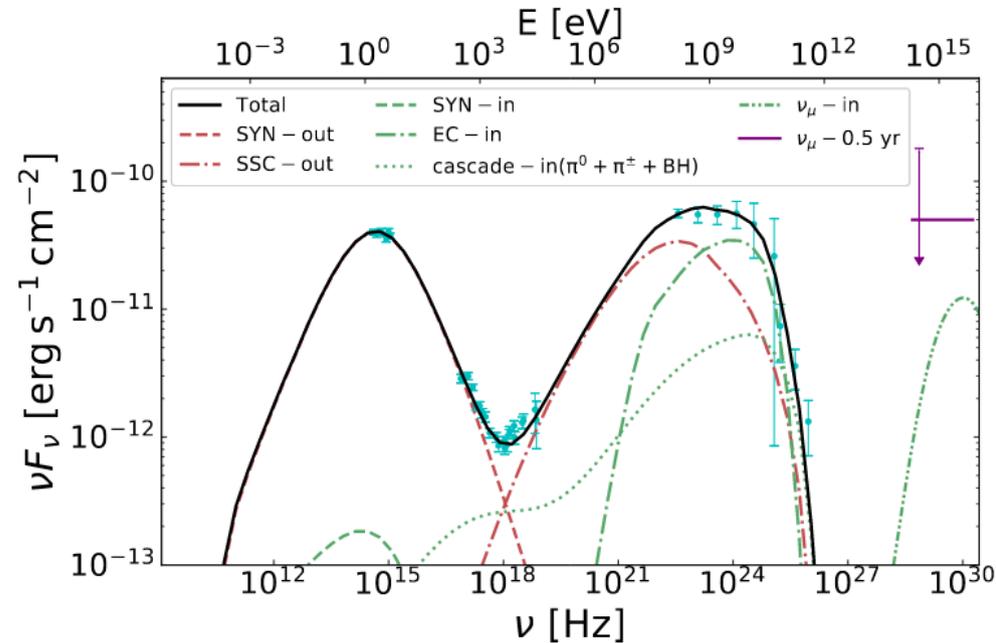
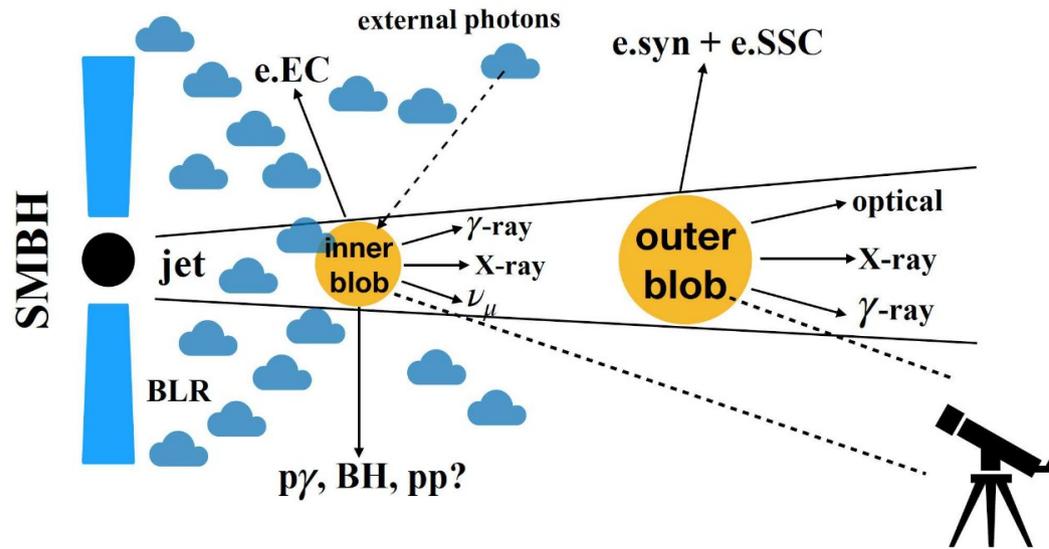
# What sets the maximum neutrino flux?



Maximum all-flavor neutrino flux: 
$$E_\nu L_{E_\nu} \lesssim 10^{45} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \frac{L_{X,\text{lim}}}{3 \times 10^{44} \text{ erg s}^{-1}} \frac{0.1}{f_x}$$

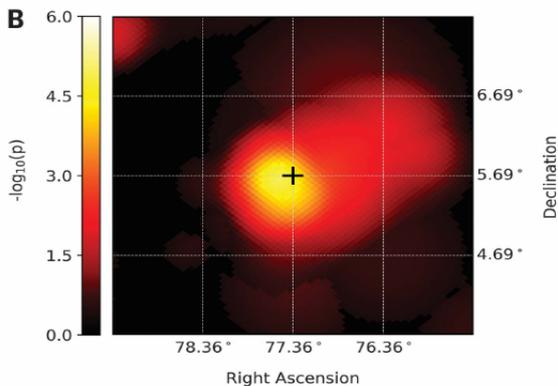
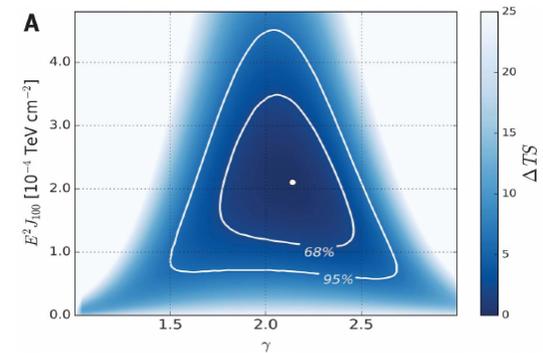
# A two-zone model for the 2017 flare

Xue, Liu, MP et al. 2019 (arXiv:1908.10190)

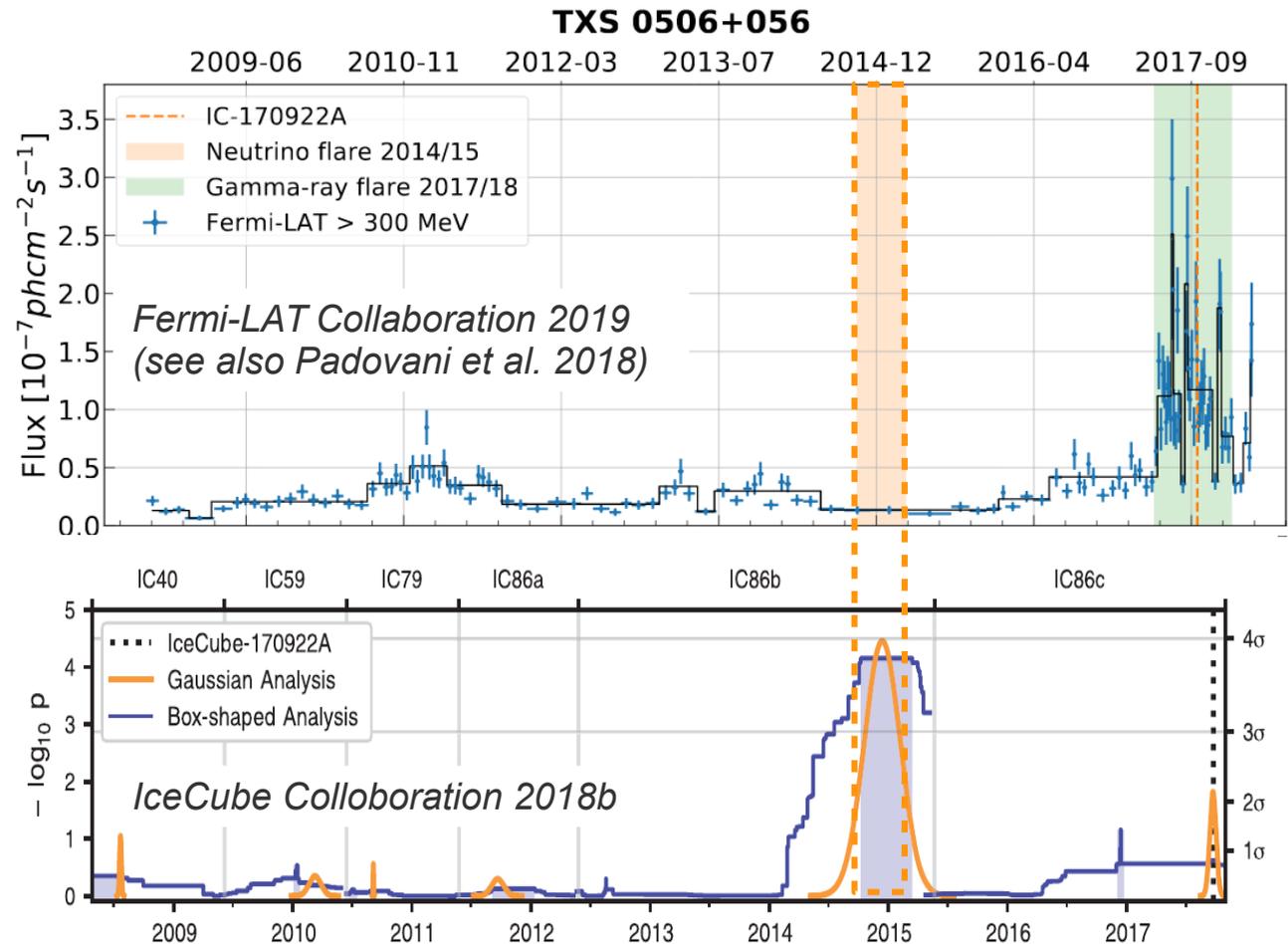


- Two zones with different conditions.
- Suppression of cascade emission in inner blob because of reduced  $\gamma\gamma$  opacity.
- Prediction of **~10 times** higher neutrino flux than single-zone models.
- **Many free** parameters  $\rightarrow$  model degeneracies.

# Are there more neutrinos from TXS 0506+056?



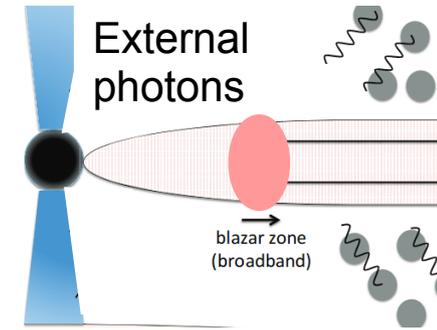
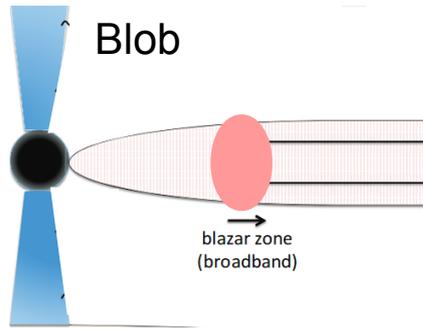
*IceCube Collaboration 2018b*



- 13 +/- 5 neutrinos above atmospheric background over ~6 months (~3.5  $\sigma$ )
- Neutrino luminosity (averaged in ~6 months) **4 times larger** than average  $\gamma$ -ray luminosity!
- **No  $\gamma$ -ray** flaring activity in 2014-15. No evidence for flares at other energies either.

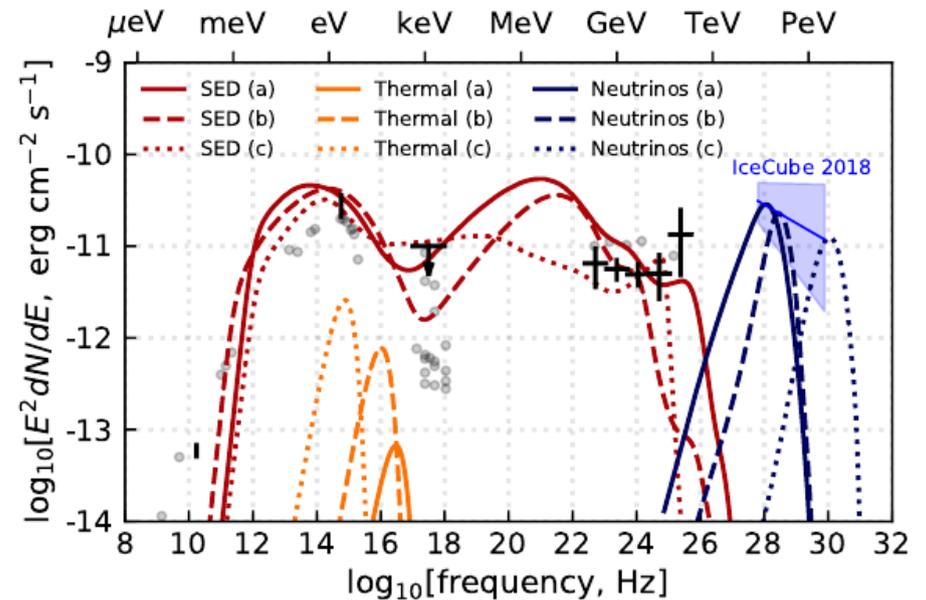
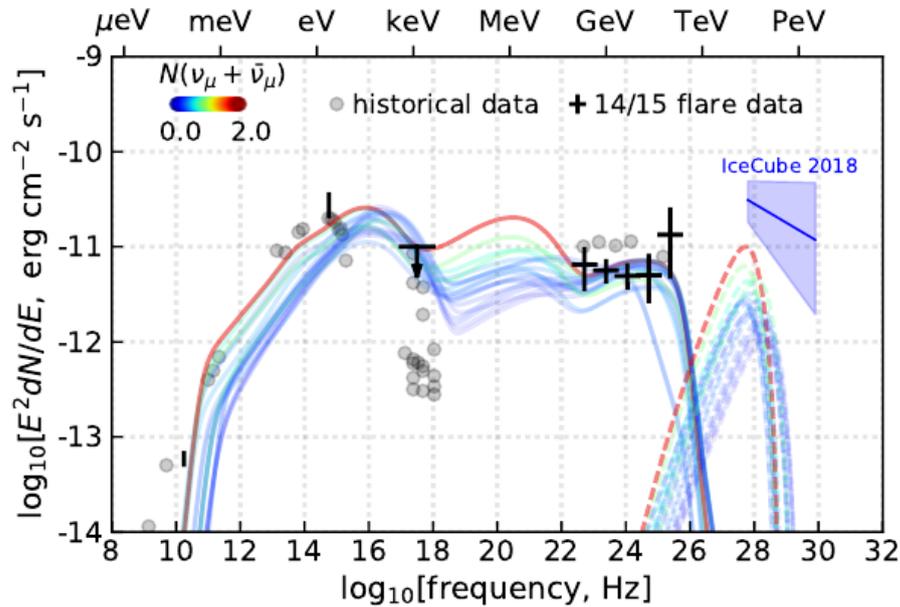
# A challenge for one - zone models

Rodrigues et al. 2018



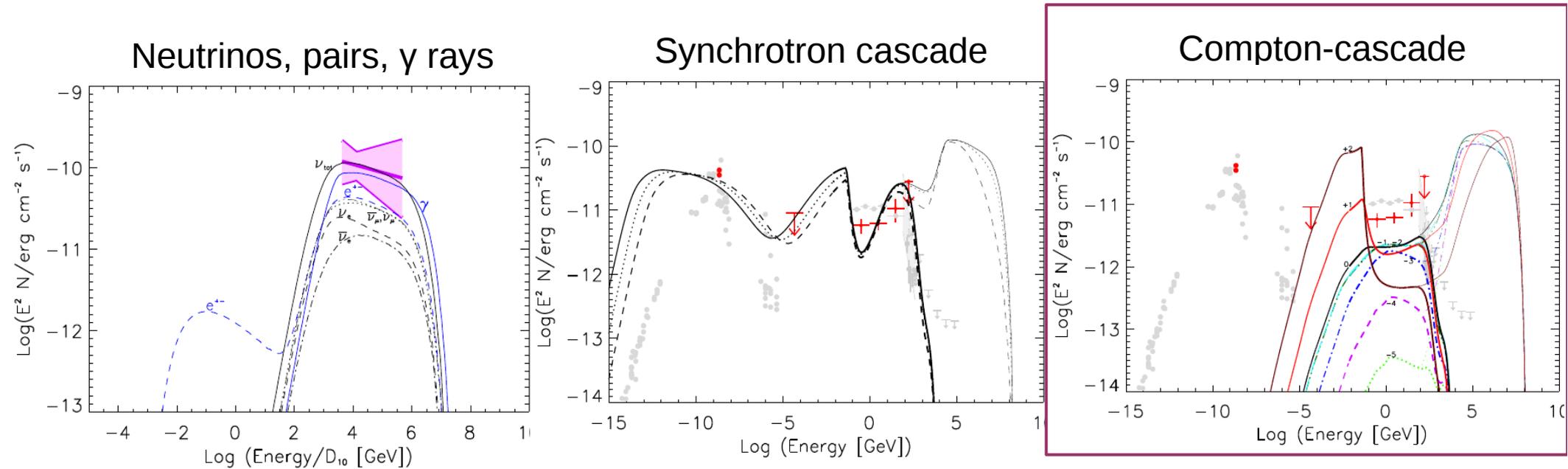
- **< 1.8 events**
- MeV band unconstrained!
- X-ray flux close to UL

- **< 4.8 events**
- Attenuation > 10 GeV
- X-ray flux close to UL



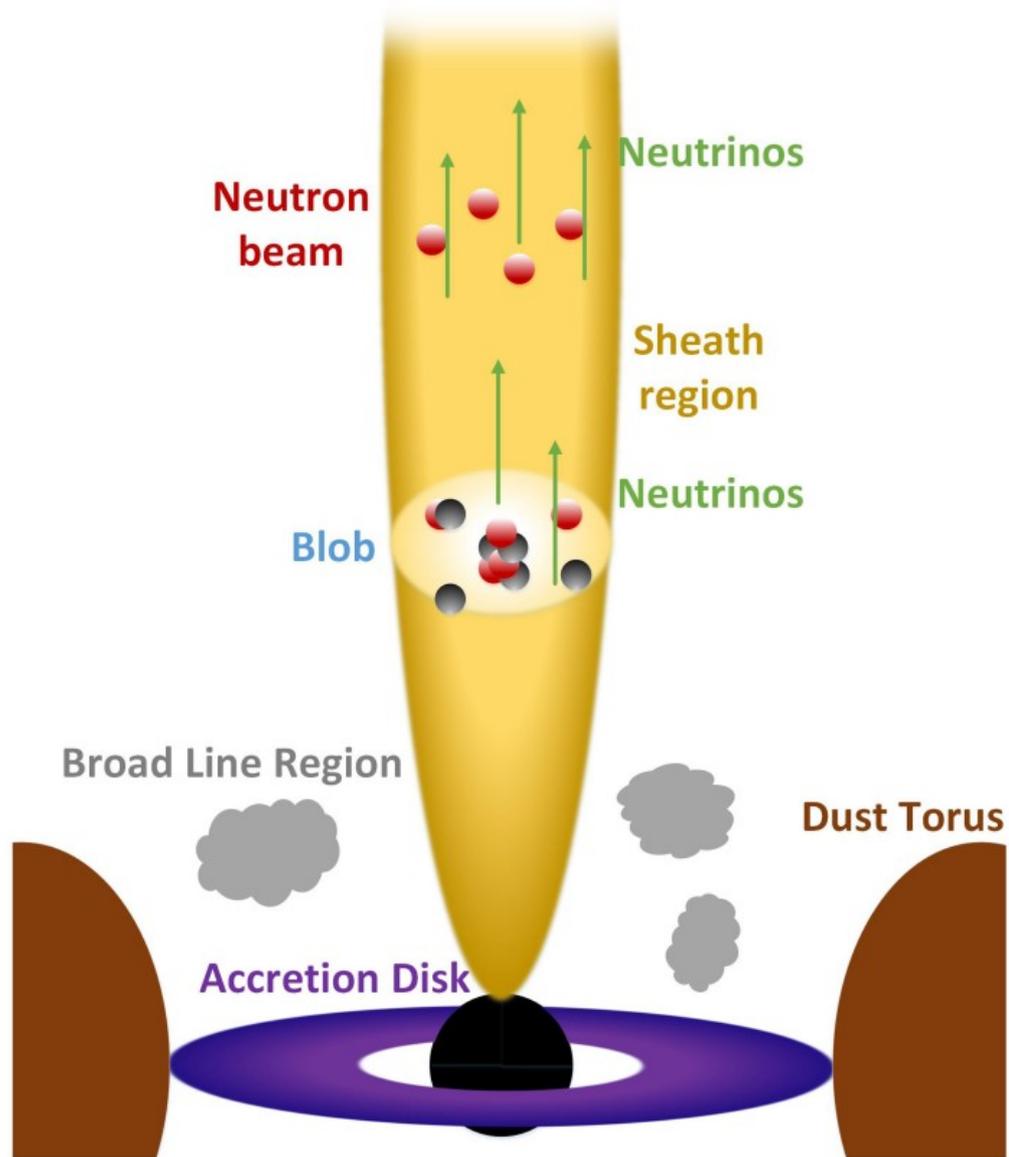
# Minimal requirements for the 2014-15 neutrinos

Reimer, Boettcher & Buson 2019



- **Goal:** find the required target photon field to explain neutrino “excess”
- Synchrotron-& Compton-supported *linear* cascades
- Stationary **X-ray photon field** as target for photo-meson interactions
- **No correlation** between TeV/PeV neutrinos with GeV  $\gamma$  rays
- The blazar EM emission is **not co-spatially** produced with the neutrinos

# The neutral beam model



## A two-zone model

- **Blob:** Photo-disintegration + Photo-meson+Bethe Heitler processes of nuclei → pairs,  $\gamma$ -rays neutrinos & neutrons
- **Beam:** Photo-meson interactions of neutrons with external photons → pairs,  $\gamma$ -rays, neutrinos

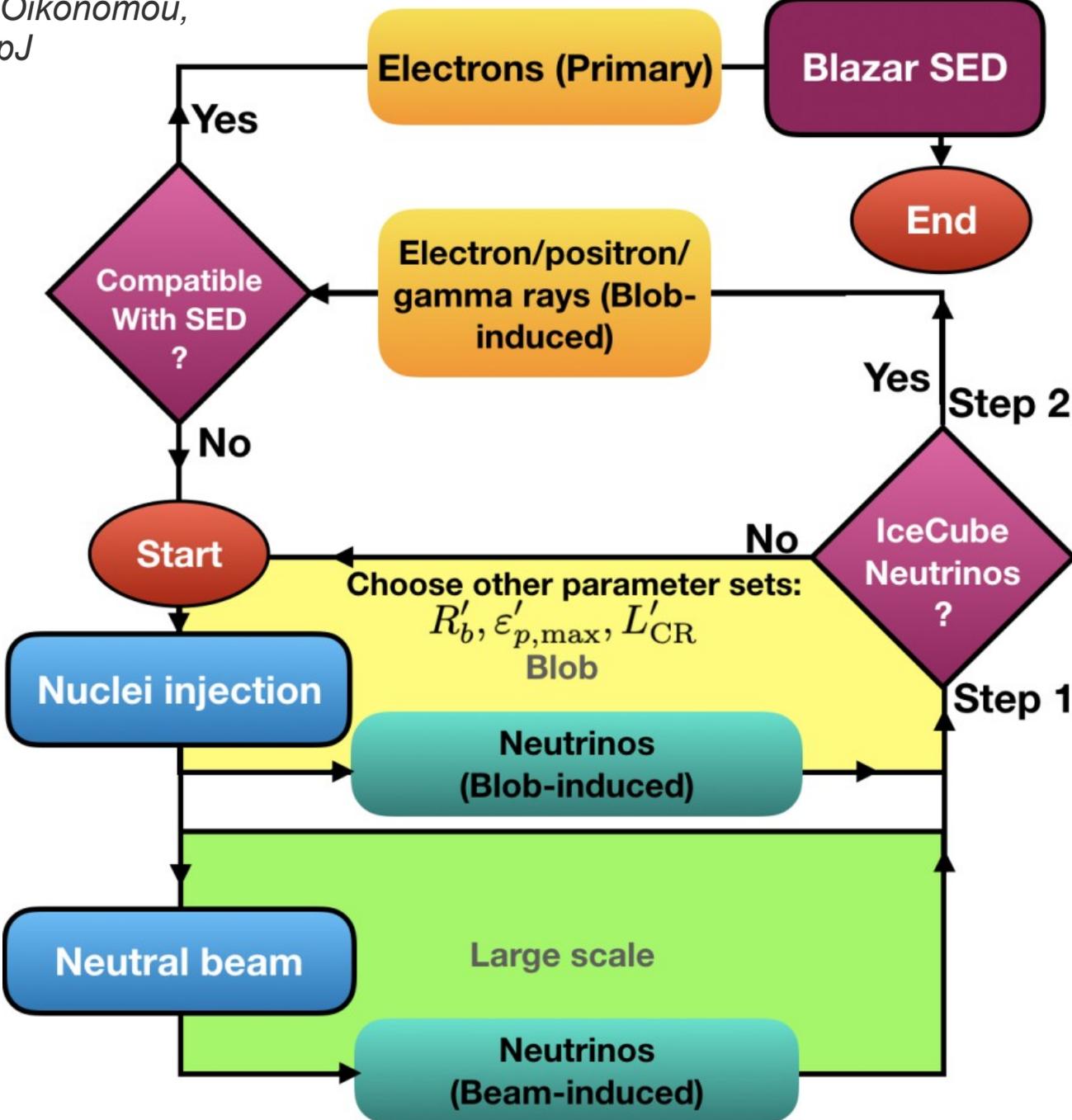
## Model parameters

- **Blob:** radius, magnetic field, Lorentz factor
- **Cosmic rays:** composition, luminosity, maximum energy, power-law index
- **External radiation fields:** energy density, spectrum, luminosity

*Atoyan & Dermer 2003; Dermer et al. 2012, 2014; Murase, Oikonomou, MP 2018*

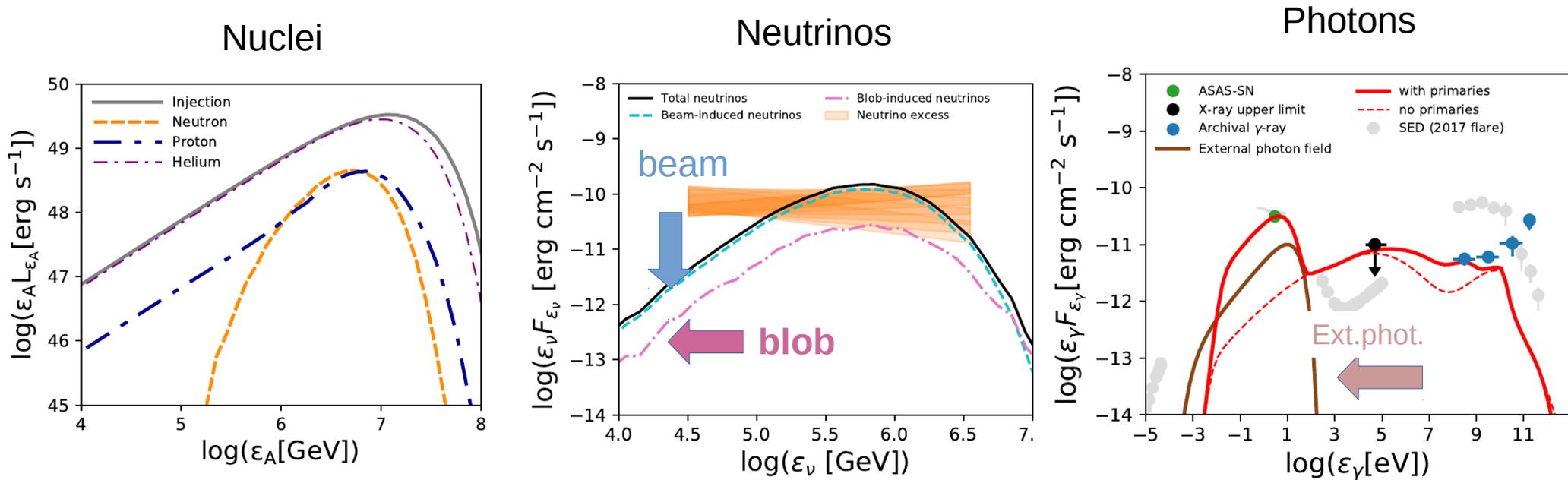
# Methodology

Zhang, MP, Murase, Oikonomou, 2019, submitted in ApJ



# The 2014-15 neutrino excess

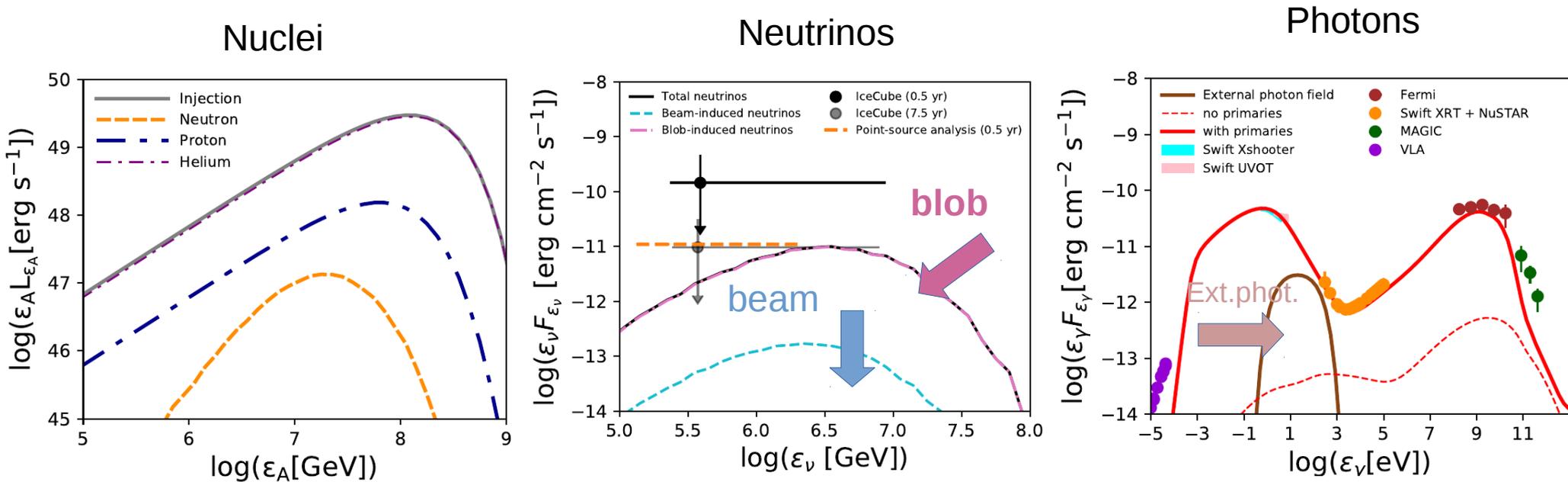
Zhang, MP, Murase, Oikonomou, 2019, submitted in ApJ



- Light composition of nuclei (proton & He).
- Neutrino flux dominated by the **beam**.
- Stationary **(UV) photon field** with **high energy density** as target for photo-meson/photo-disintegrations.
- **Compact blob** ( $\sim 10^{15} - 10^{16}$  cm) with **strong** ( $\sim 80$  G) magnetic fields.
- Attenuation of  $\gamma$ -rays **> 100 GeV** in blob.

# The 2017 flare

Zhang, MP, Murase, Oikonomou, 2019, submitted in ApJ

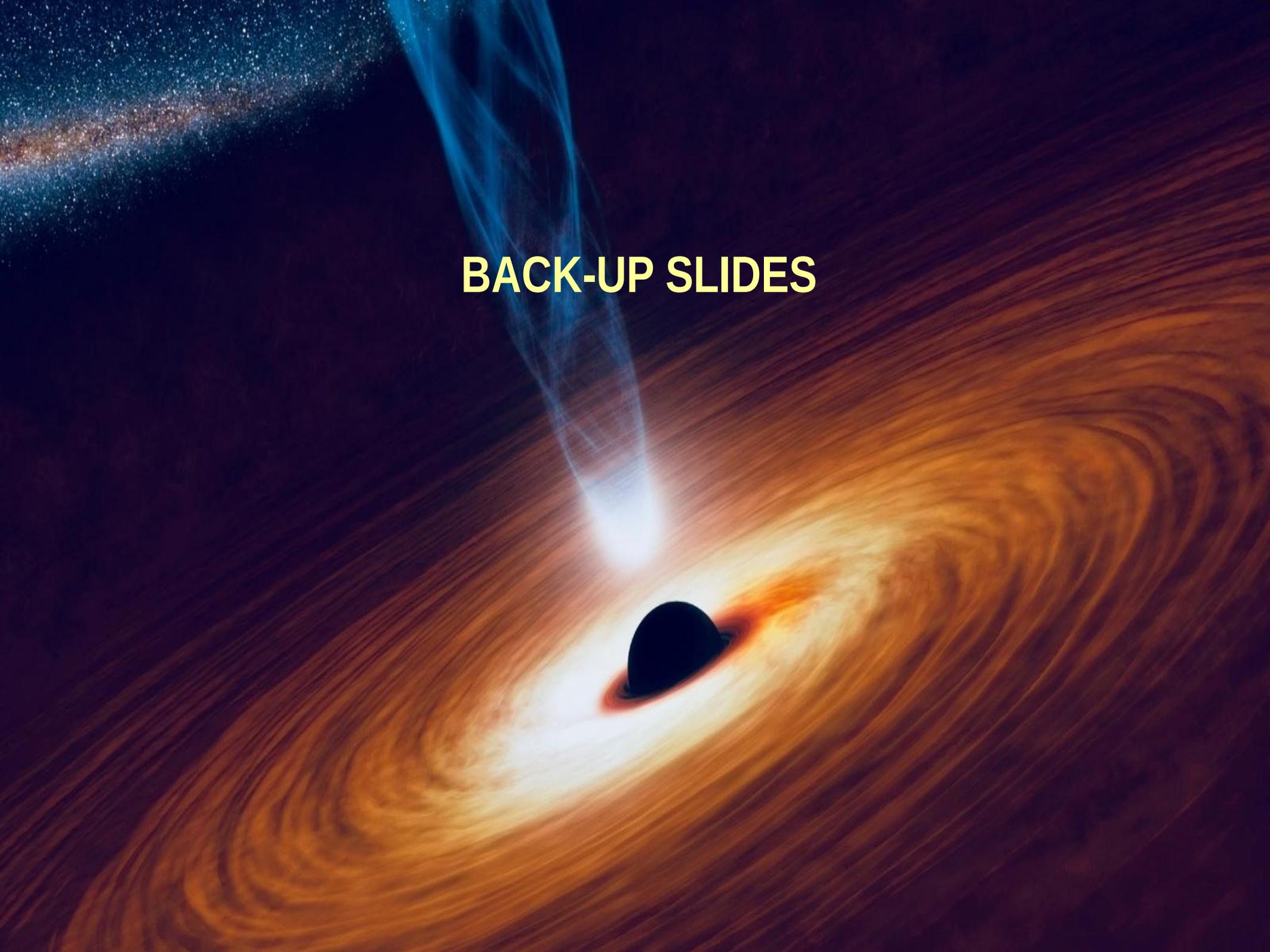


- Light composition of nuclei (proton & He).
- Neutrino flux dominated by the **blob**.
- Stationary **(UV) photon field** with **low energy density** ( $< 1 \text{ erg/cm}^3$ ) as target for photo-meson/photo-disintegrations.
- **Extended blob** ( $\sim 10^{17} \text{ cm}$ ) with weak ( $< 1 \text{ G}$ ) magnetic fields.
- Attenuation of  $\gamma$ -rays  $> 100 \text{ GeV}$  in blob.

# Conclusions

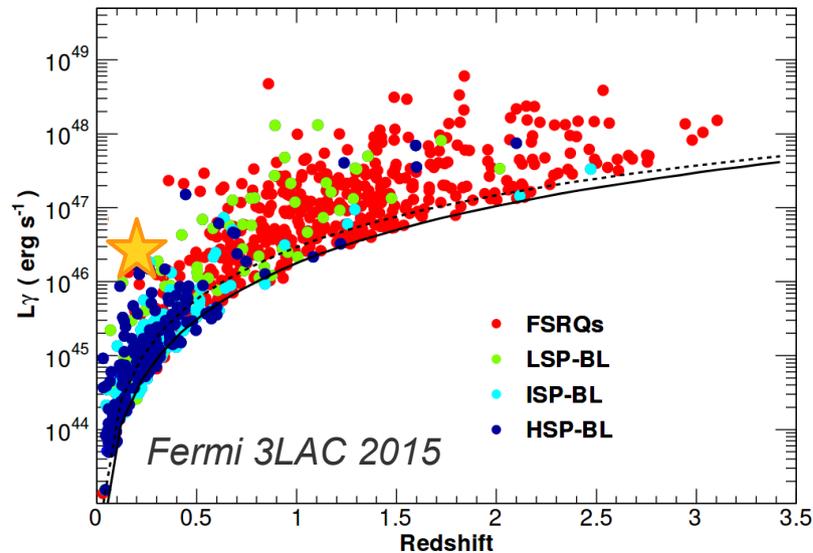
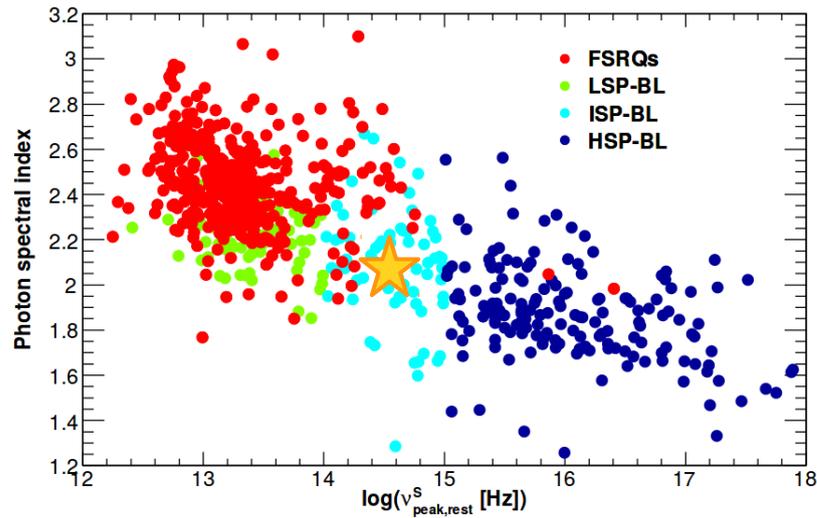
- TXS 0506+056 is the first source to be ever associated with a high-energy neutrino (at  $\sim 3\sigma$ ).
- More high-energy neutrinos ( $\sim 13$ ) were discovered from the direction of TXS 0506+056 in 2014-15 (neutrino “excess” at  $\sim 3.5\sigma$ ).
- The 2017 multi-messenger flare of TXS 0506+056 can be explained by one-zone leptonic models with a radiatively sub-dominant hadronic component.
- The neutrino luminosity from TXS 0506+056 is bound by X-ray data ( $< 10^{45}$  erg/s) in one-zone models of the 2017 flare.
- Two-zone models can relax the cascade constraints, leading to higher neutrino luminosities than single zone models (by factor of  $\sim 10$ ).
- The 2014-15 neutrino “excess” & EM radiation cannot be explained by one-zone models → need for more complex models (e.g., multi-zone models).
- The **neutral beam model** provides a physically plausible scenario for the 2014-15 and 2017 neutrino detections and requires that:
  - the CR composition is light (He:P = 5:1)
  - there is a luminous ( $\sim 10^{46}$  erg/s) external photon field, variable on year-long scales.
  - the blob properties vary on year-long scales.

Thank you!

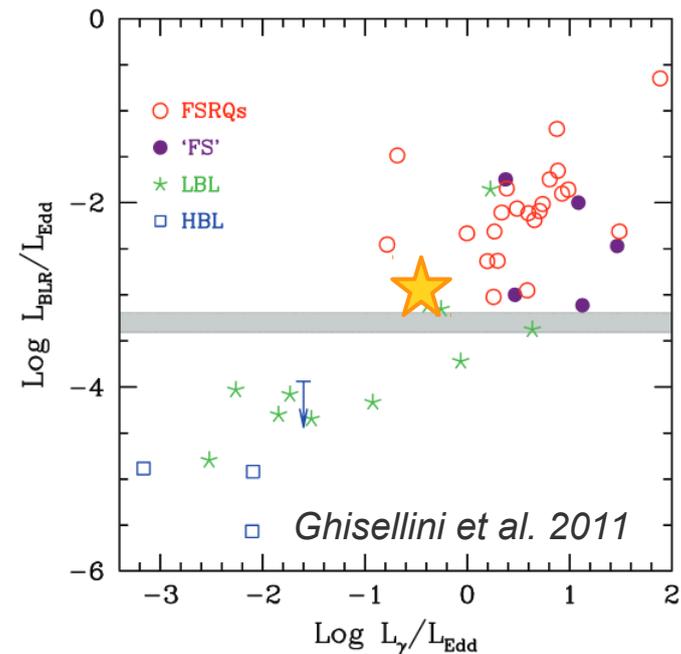
A black hole is depicted with a dark, spherical event horizon. Surrounding it is a glowing accretion disk with a color gradient from yellow to red. A bright blue jet of light extends upwards from the black hole. The background features a dark space with a band of stars and a blue nebula-like structure.

**BACK-UP SLIDES**

# Fact sheet of TXS 0506+056

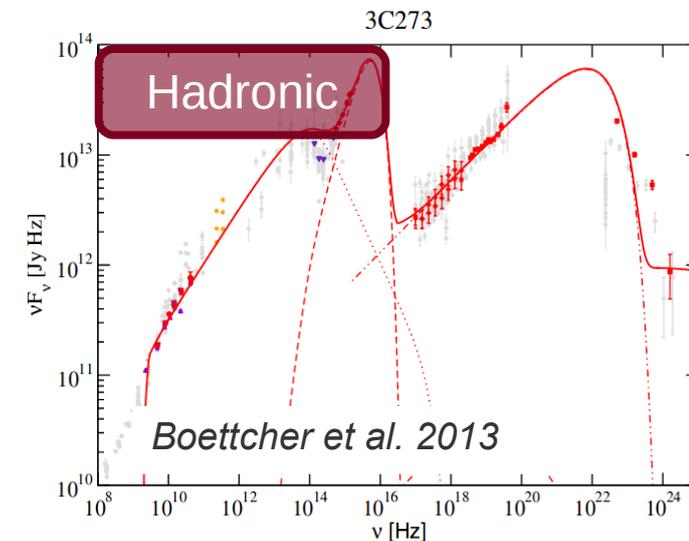
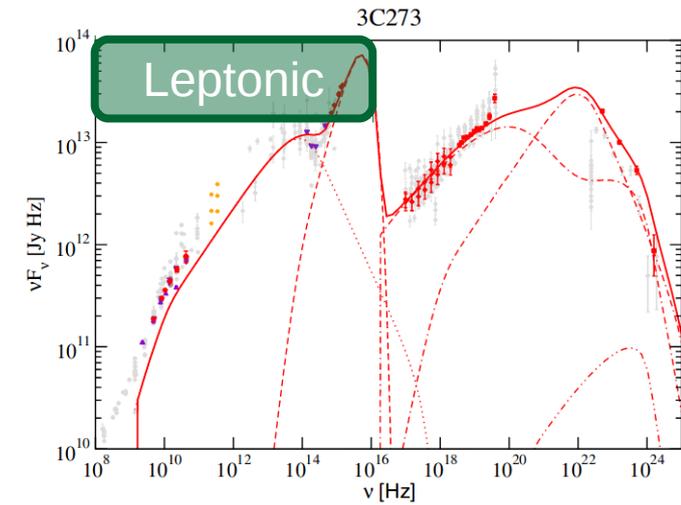


- Redshift  $z=0.336(5)$  (Ajello et al. 2014; Paiano et al. 2018)
- Among  $\sim 4.5\%$  of 3LAC blazars with highest energy flux (Fermi-LAT Collaboration 2015; 2019)
- Among the brightest radio sources ( $\sim 0.3\%$ ) (Padovani et al. 2018)
- ISP BL Lac, if classified with line width (Stickel et al. 1991; Stocke et al. 1991) or  $\gamma$ -ray properties (3LAC)
- “Masquerading” BL Lac  $\rightarrow$  with BLR whose emission is swamped by the jet (Padovani et al. 2007; Padovani, Oikonomou, MP et al. 2019)



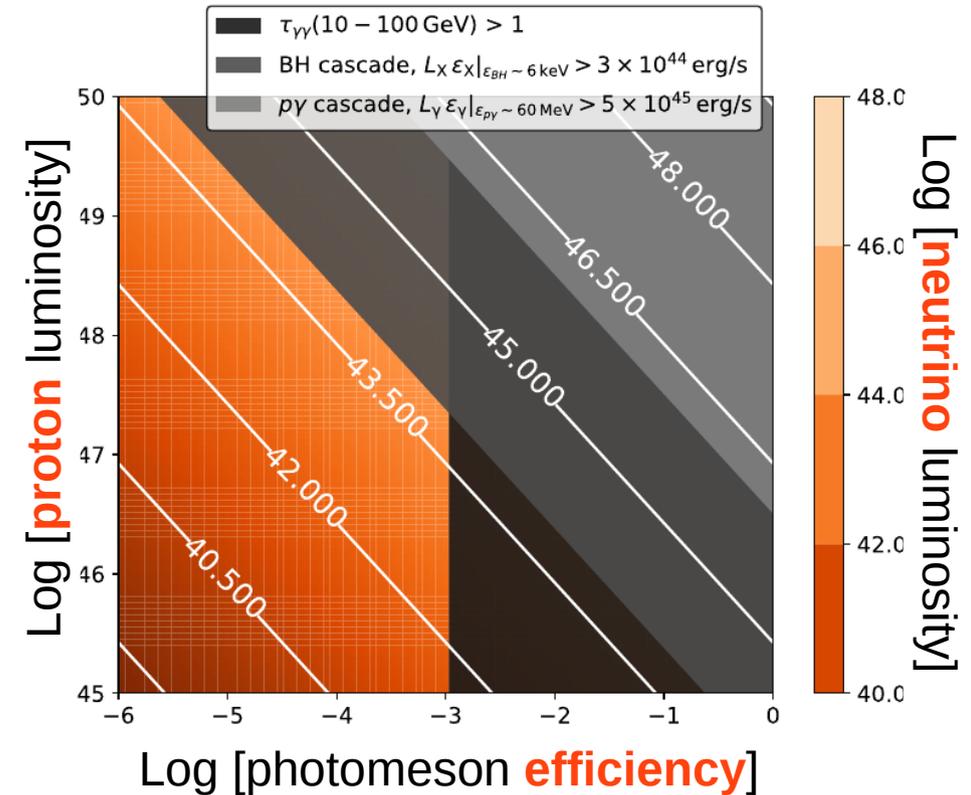
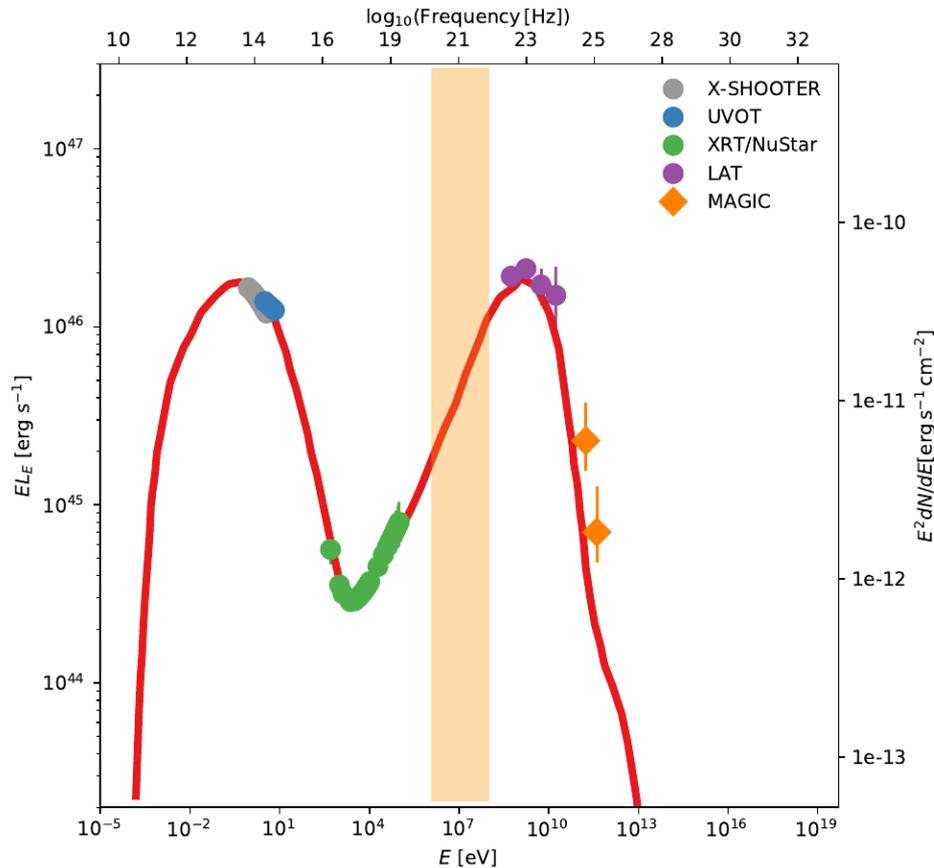
# Status of the field prior to 2017

- Both models describe equally well the photon spectra.
- **Leptonic** models:
  - a) Work for both FSRQs and BL Lacs.
  - b) Jet power  $L_j \sim 10^{44} - 10^{46}$  erg/s for BL Lacs,  $\sim 10^{46} - 10^{48}$  erg/s for FSRQs
  - c) Particle-dominated emitting regions in BL Lacs.
  - d) **No** neutrinos.
- **Proton-synchrotron hadronic** models:
  - a) Work for both FSRQs and BL Lacs
  - b) High jet power  $L_j \sim 10^{47} - 10^{48}$  erg/s for FSRQs, but **lower for BL Lacs**
  - c) High proton energies, e.g.  $E_{pmax} \sim 10$  EeV (for BL Lacs)
  - d) Strong magnetic fields, e.g.  $B \sim 1-100$  G
  - e)  $\sim$  **EeV** neutrinos
- **Photo-pion hadronic** models:
  - a) Work for BL Lacs, but unlikely for FSRQs
  - b) High jet power  $L_j \sim 10^{47} - 10^{48}$  erg/s
  - c) Moderate proton energies e.g.  $E_{pmax} \sim 10$  PeV
  - d) Moderate magnetic fields, e.g.  $B \sim 0.1-1$  G
  - e)  $\sim$  **PeV** neutrinos



**Modeling studies:** Ghisellini et al. 2010; Boettcher et al. 2013; Dimitrakoudis, MP, Mastichiadis 2014; MP 2014; MP, Dimitrikoudis et al. 2015; Cerruti et al. 2015; Diltz, Boettcher & Fossati 2015; MP & Dermer 2016; Gao, Winter & Pohl 2017; MP, Nalewajko et al. 2017; Cerruti et al. 2017 +++

# What sets the maximum neutrino flux?



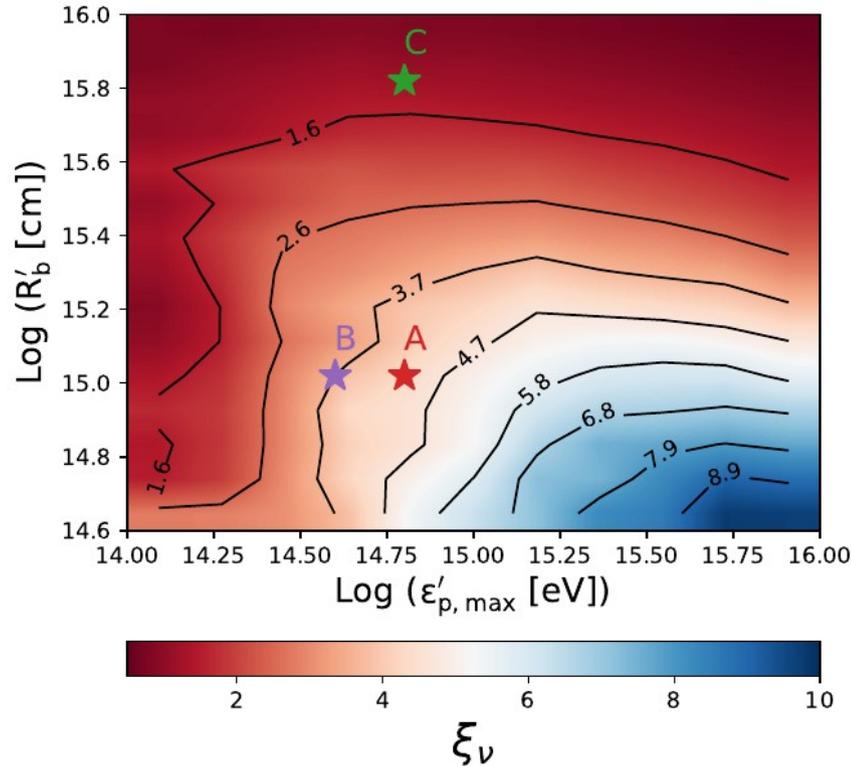
III. Synchrotron emission from photo-meson pairs produces  $\sim \text{MeV}$  emission:

$$\epsilon_\gamma L_{\epsilon_\gamma} |_{\epsilon_{\text{syn}}^{\text{p}\gamma}} \sim \frac{5}{12} \epsilon_\nu L_{\epsilon_\nu} \sim \frac{1}{4} \frac{5}{8} f_{\text{p}\gamma} \epsilon_p L_p \leq 5 \times 10^{45} \text{ erg/s}$$

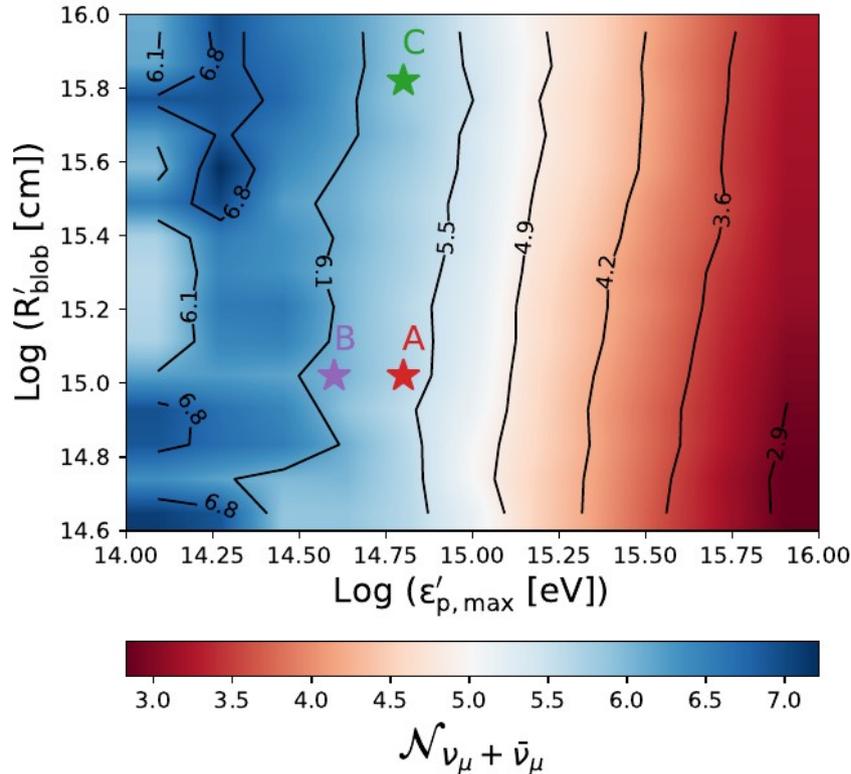
$$\epsilon_{\text{syn}}^{\text{p}\gamma} \approx 60 \text{ MeV} B_{0.5 \text{ G}} (\epsilon_p / 6 \text{ PeV})^2 (20/\delta)$$

# Neutral beam model: parameter scan - 1

Ratio of beam-to-blob neutrino flux

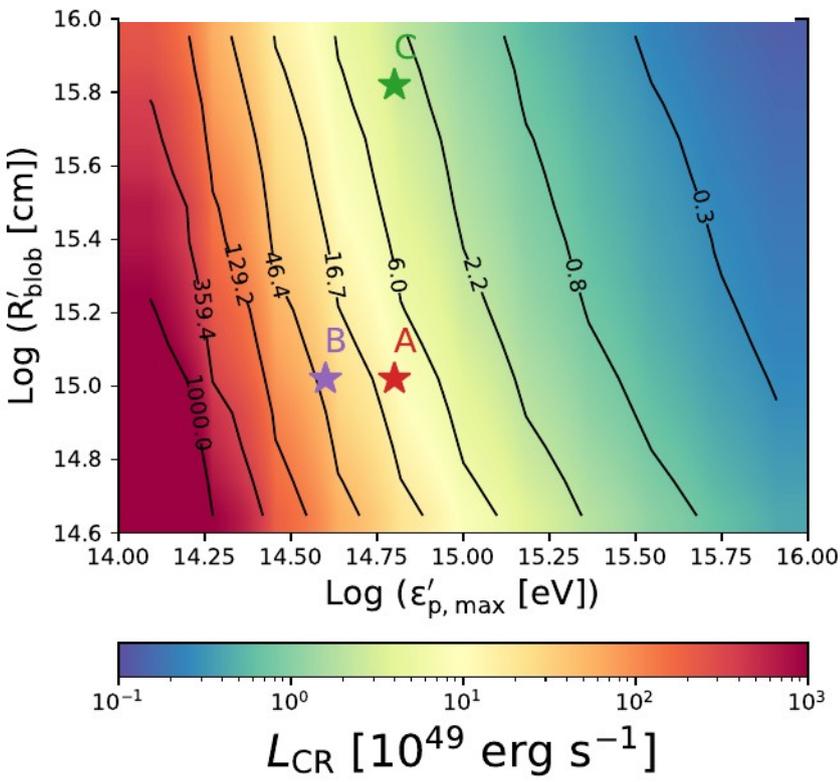


Number of muon neutrinos in 0.5 yr

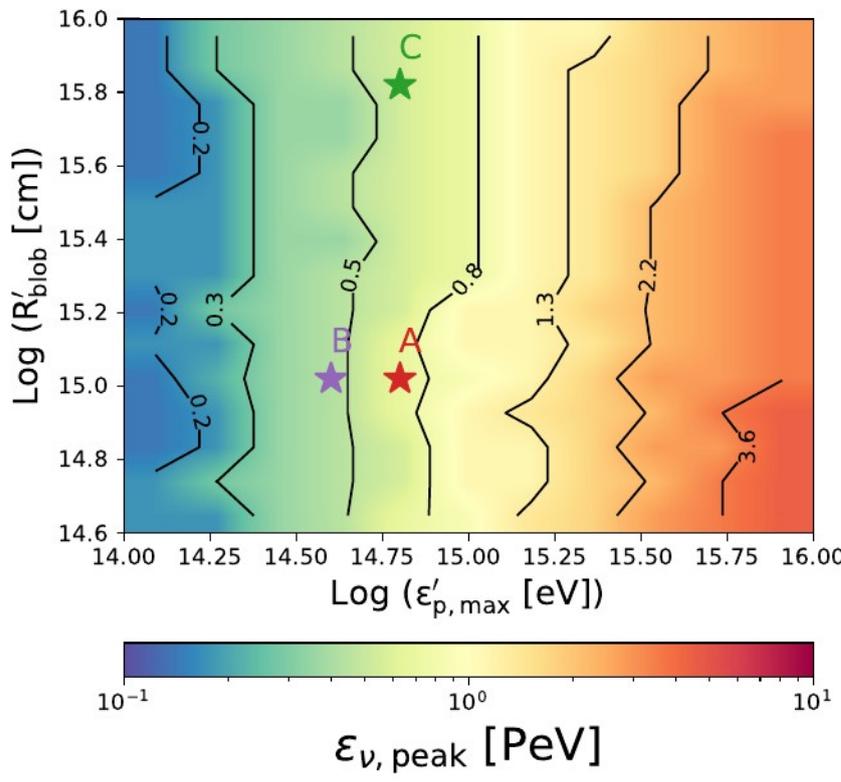


# Neutral beam model: parameter scan - 2

Observed isotropic-equivalent CR luminosity

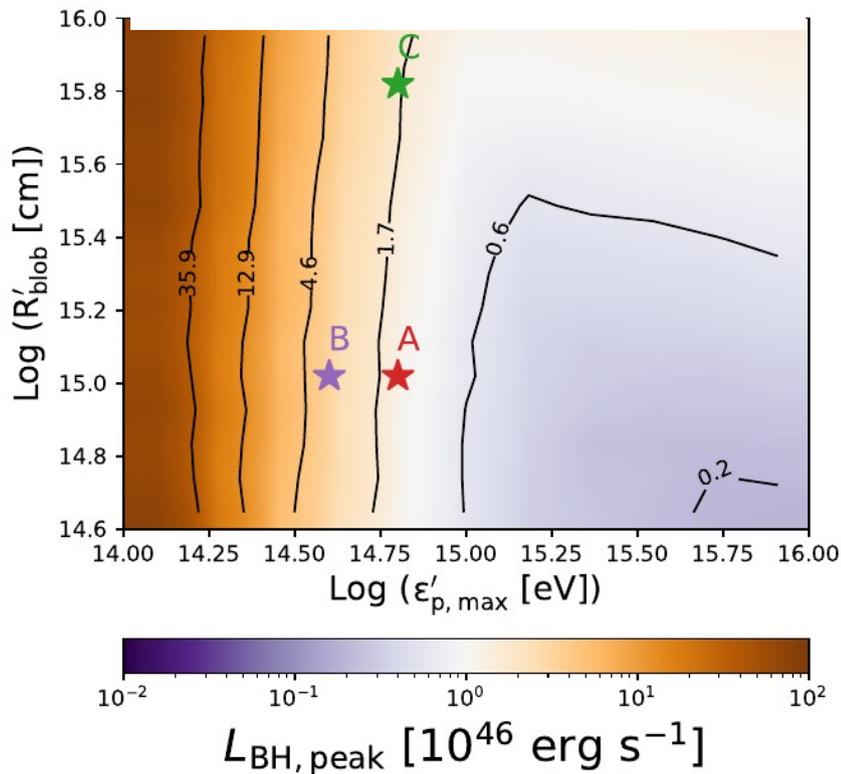


Observed peak neutrino energy

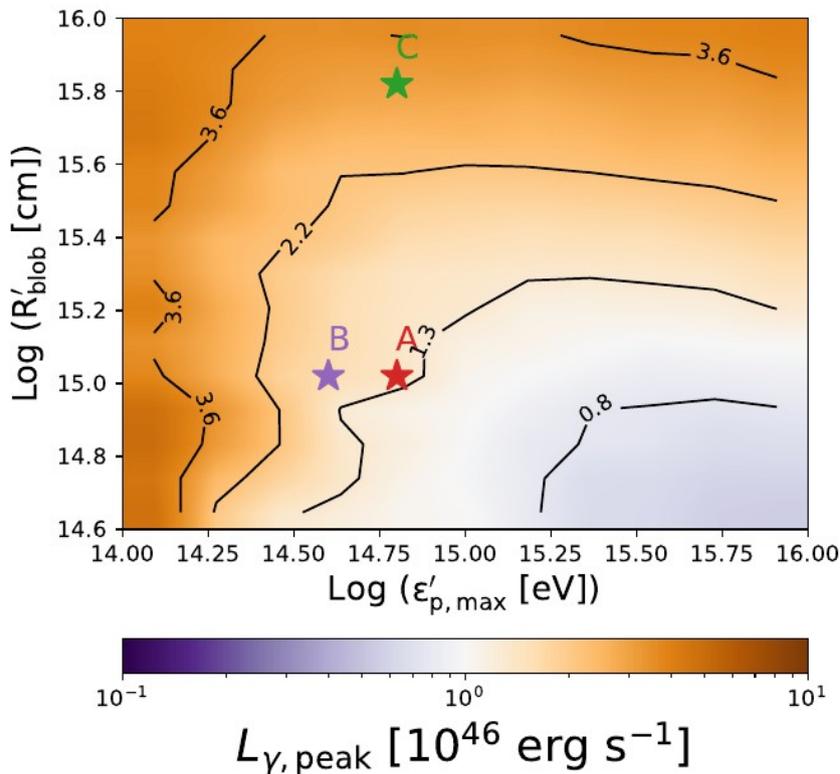


# Neutral beam model: parameter scan - 3

Observed isotropic-equivalent BH pair injection luminosity

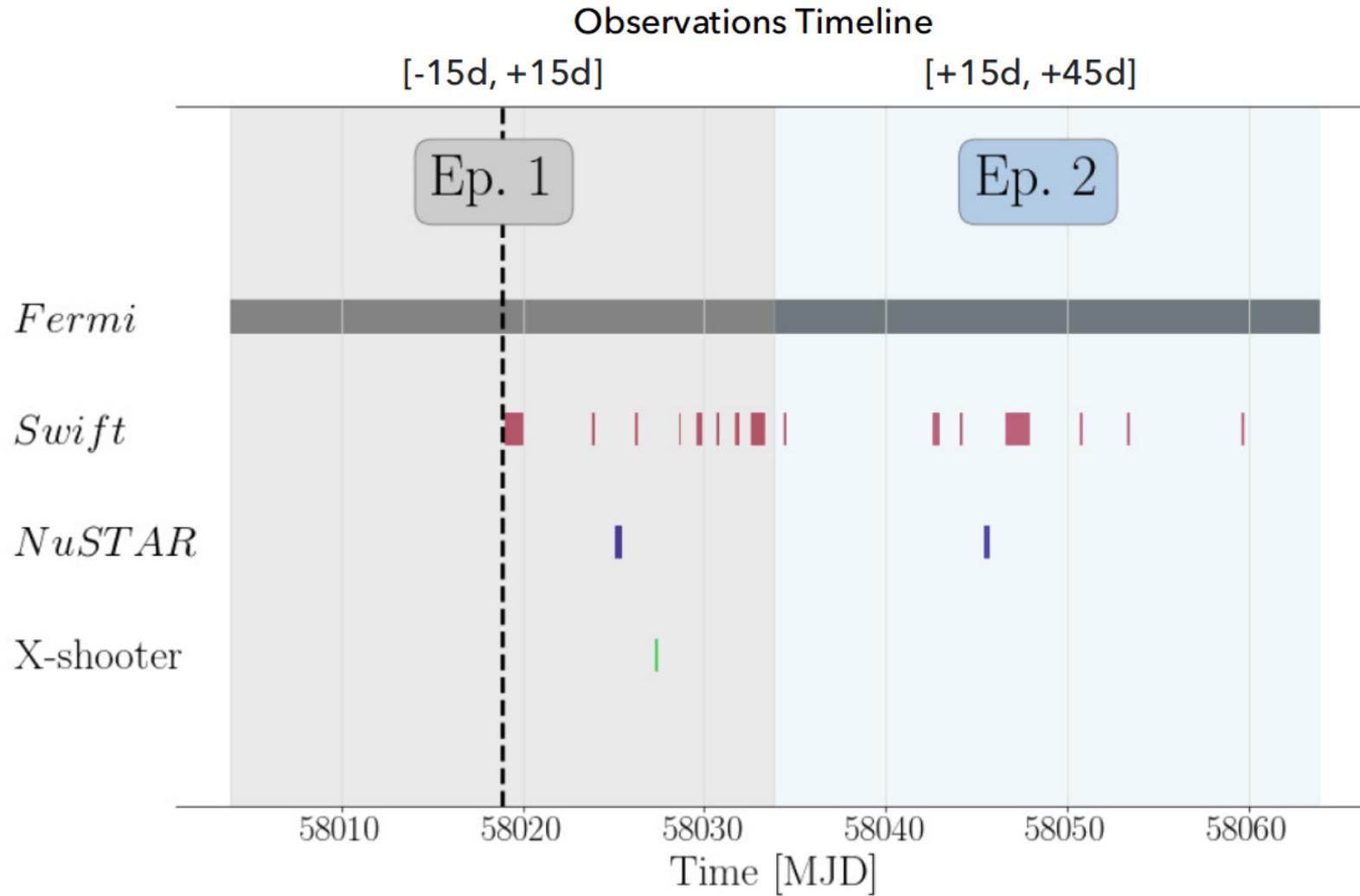


Observed isotropic-equivalent y-ray injection luminosity



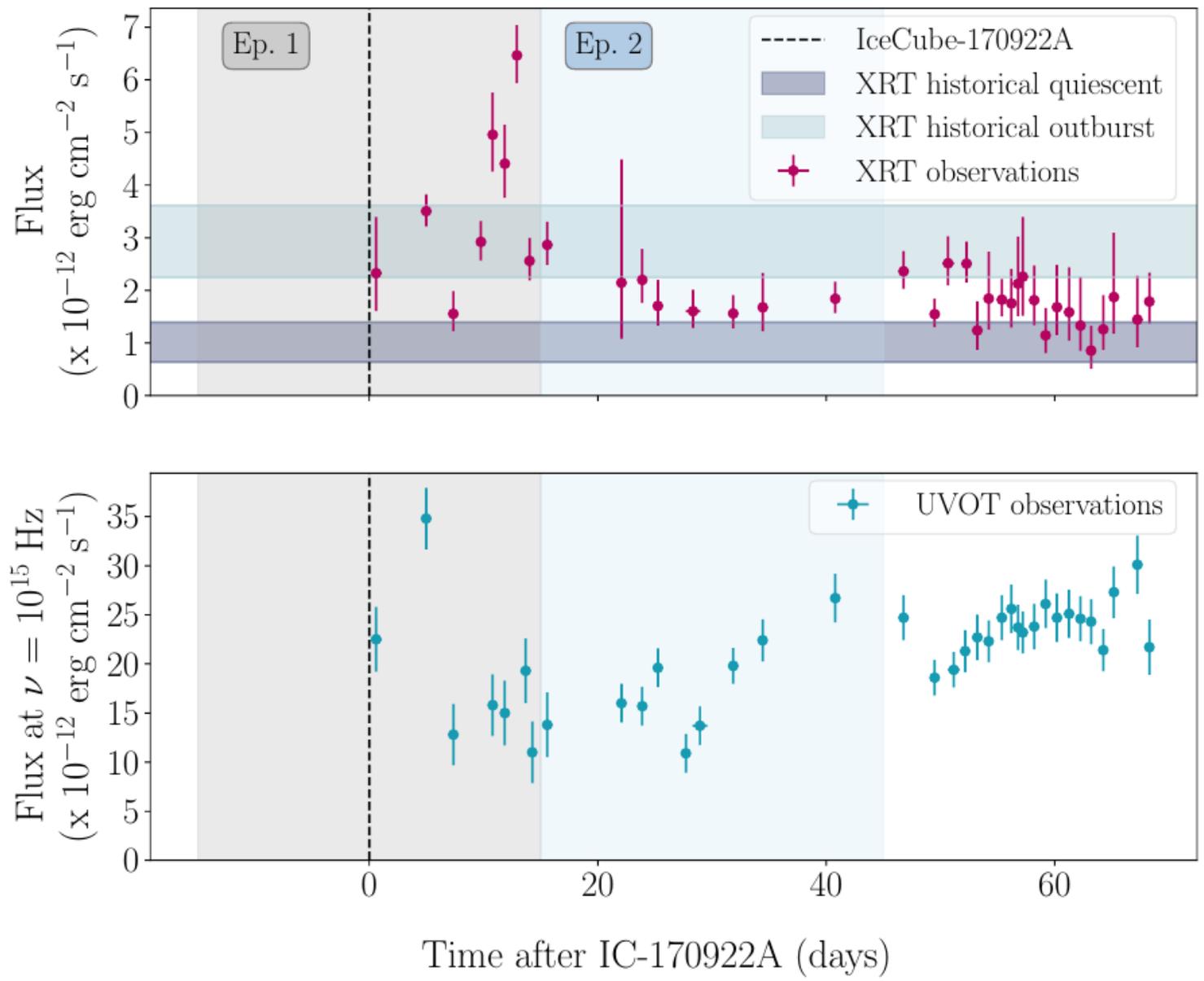
# Multi-wavelength observations

Keivani, Murase, MP, Fox et al. 2018



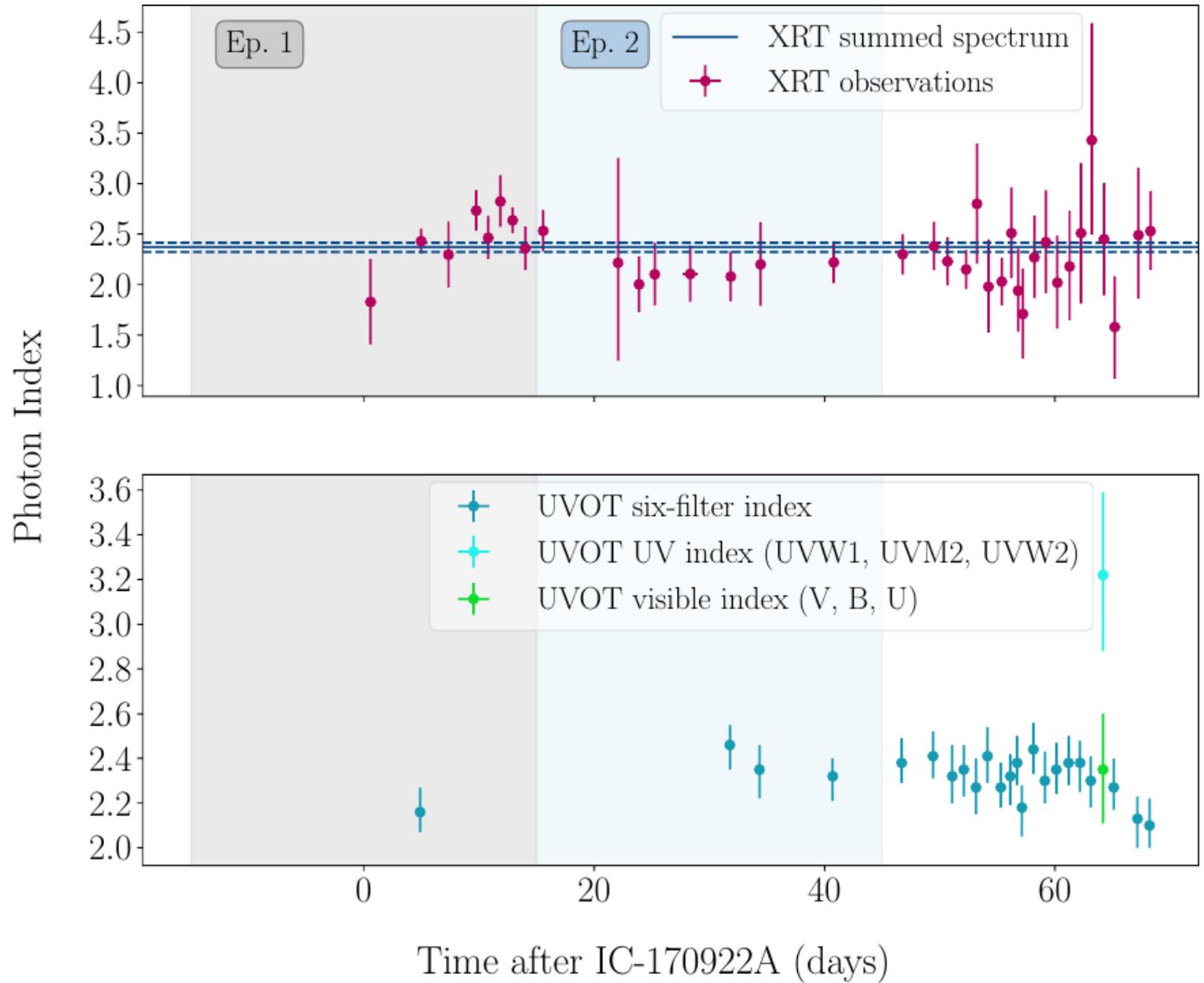
# Swift flux variability

Keivani, Murase, MP, Fox et al. 2018

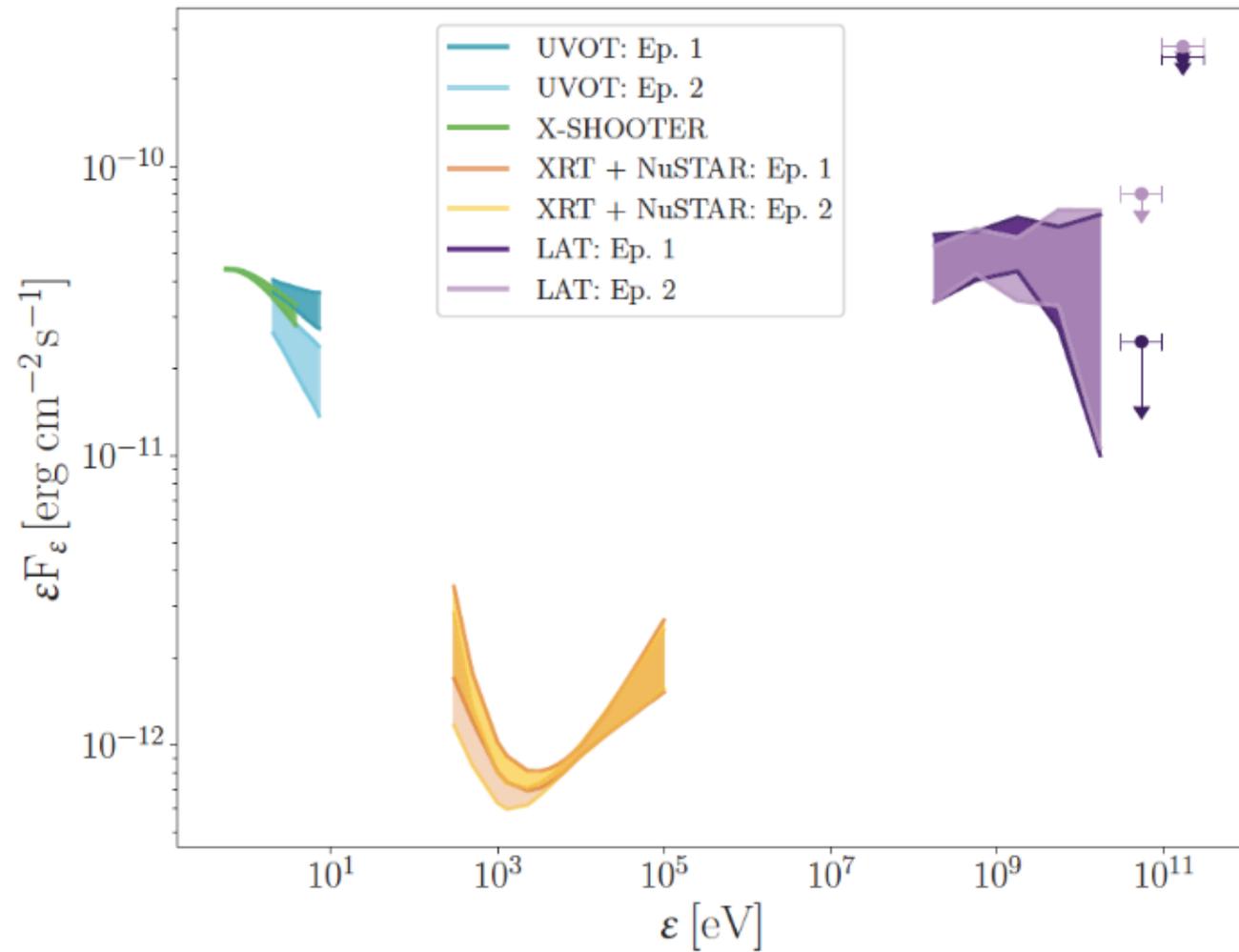


# Swift spectral variability

Keivani, Murase, MP, Fox et al. 2018

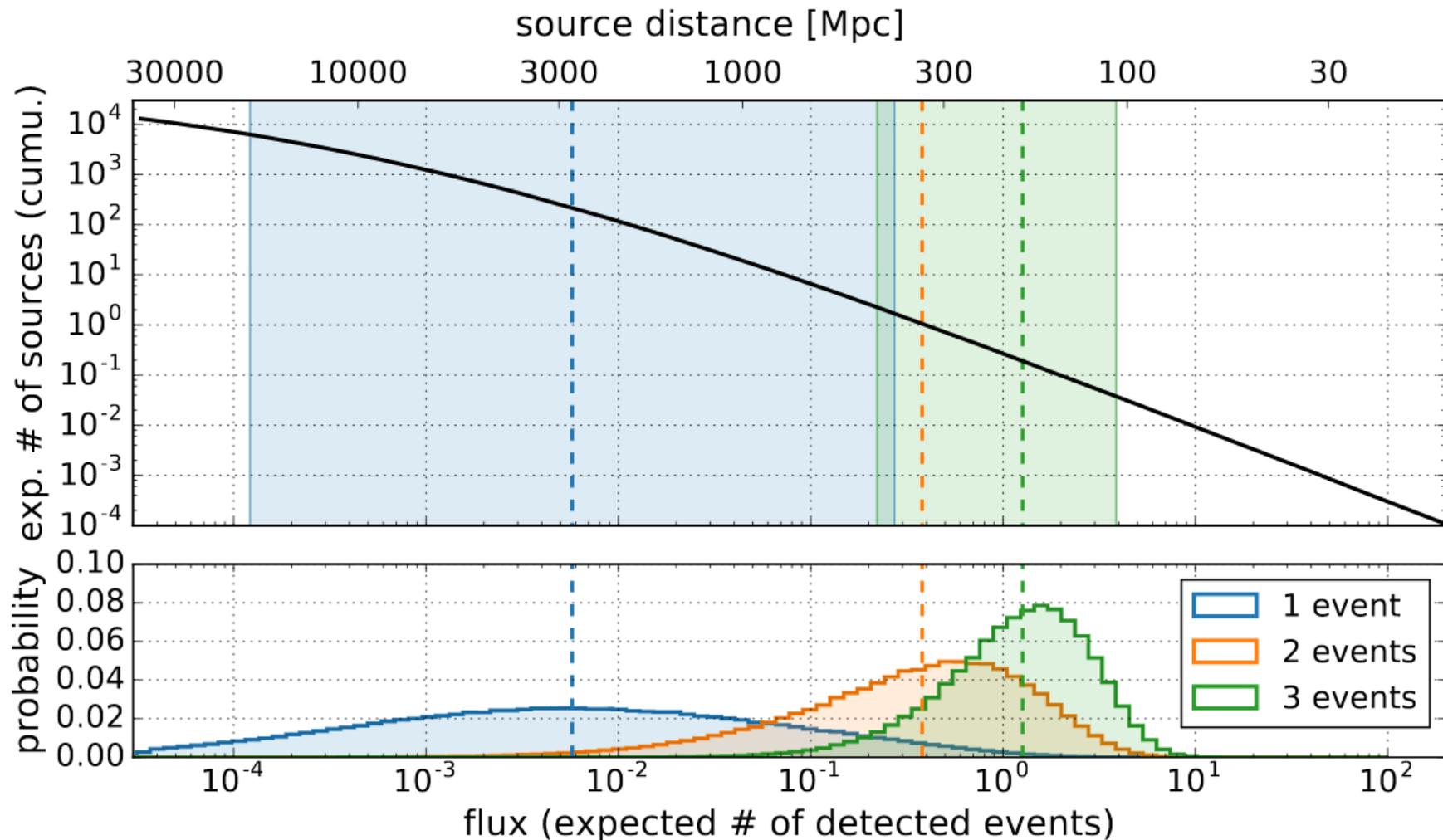


# Multi-wavelength spectrum



# Eddington bias for neutrino sources

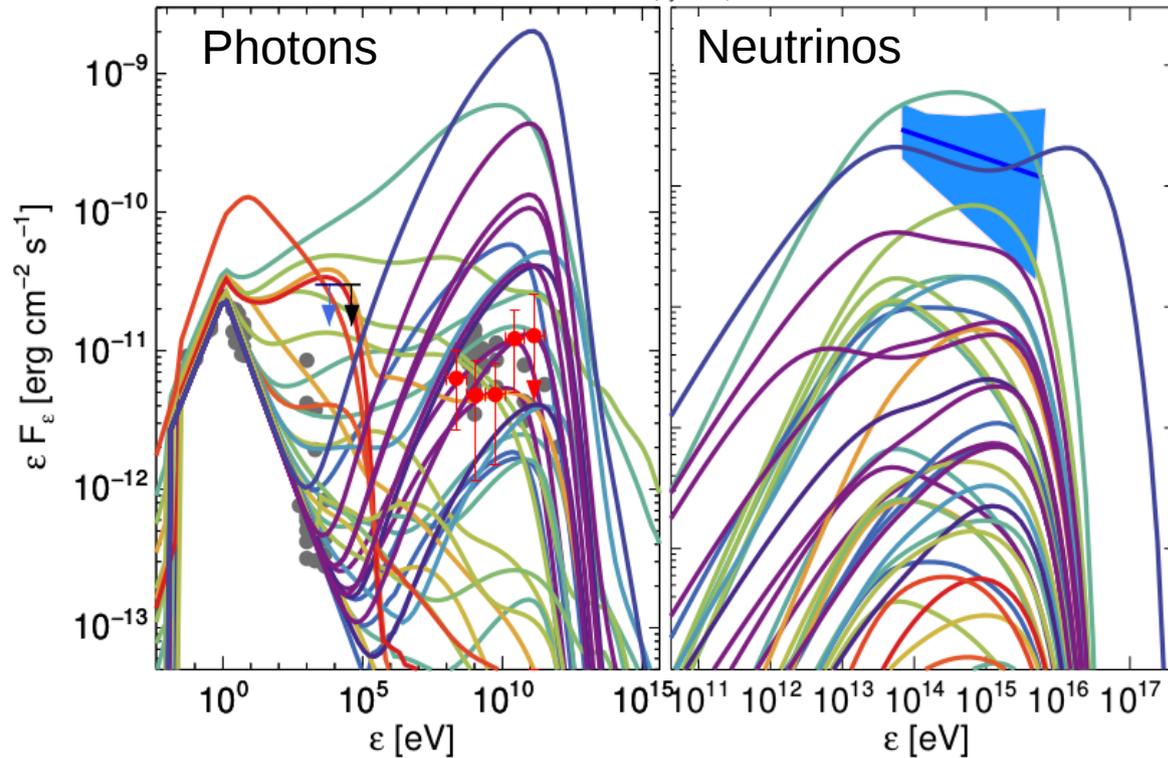
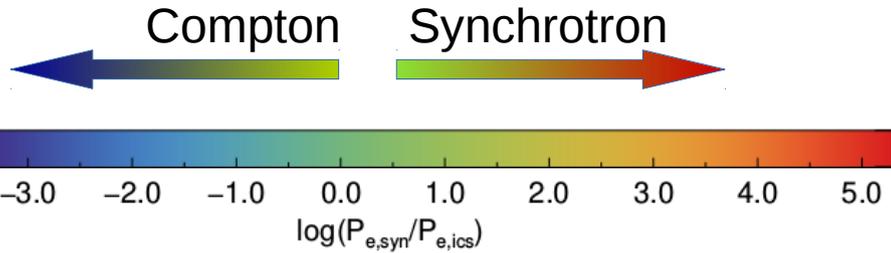
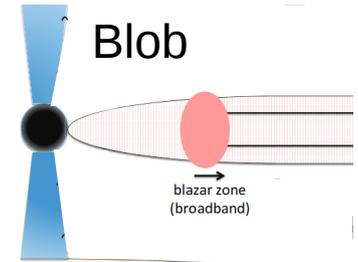
Strotjohann et al. 2019



- More likely to detect 1 neutrino from sources with median flux  $\ll 1$
- Bright rare sources are more likely to be detected with  $>1$  events
- The size of bias depends on: source evolution & luminosity function

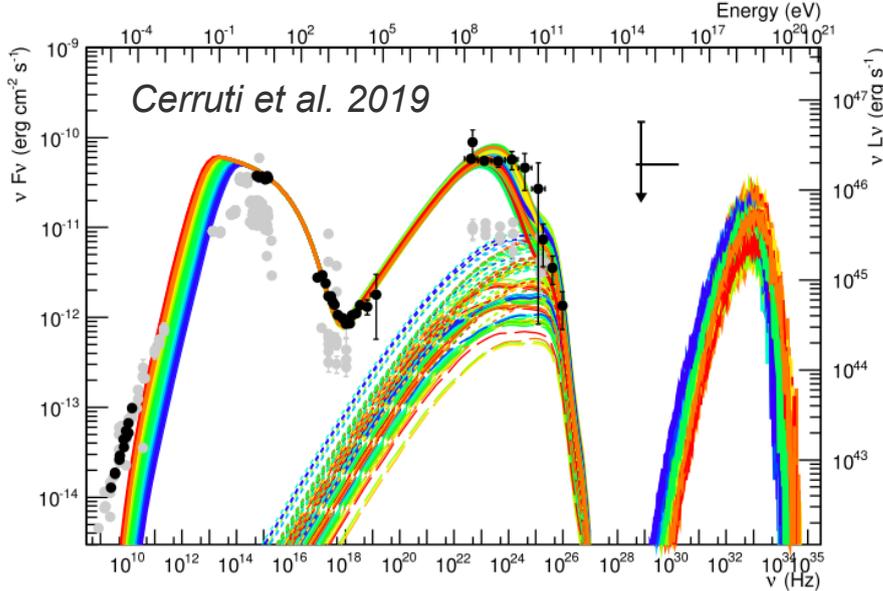
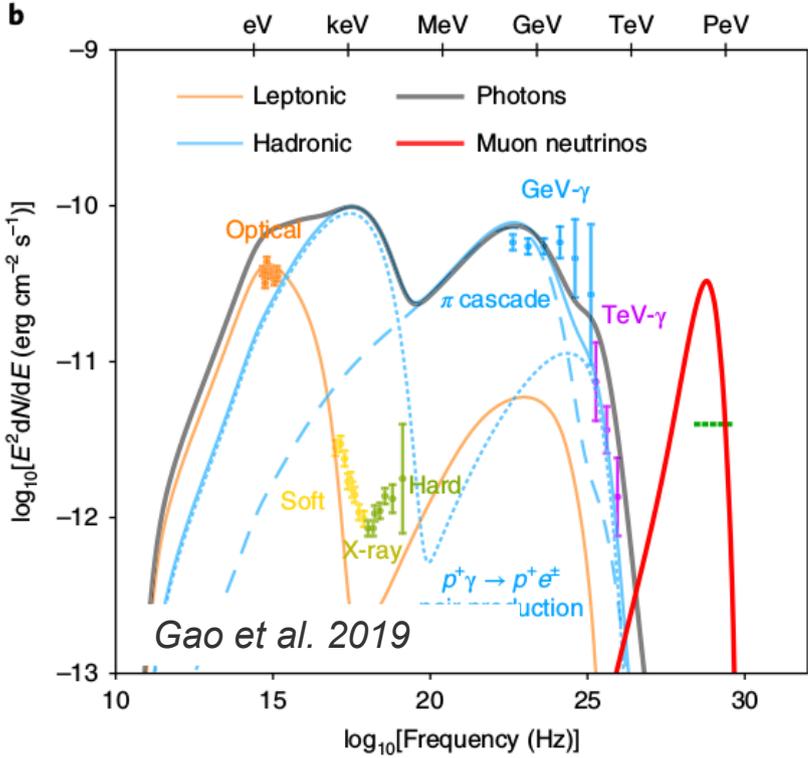
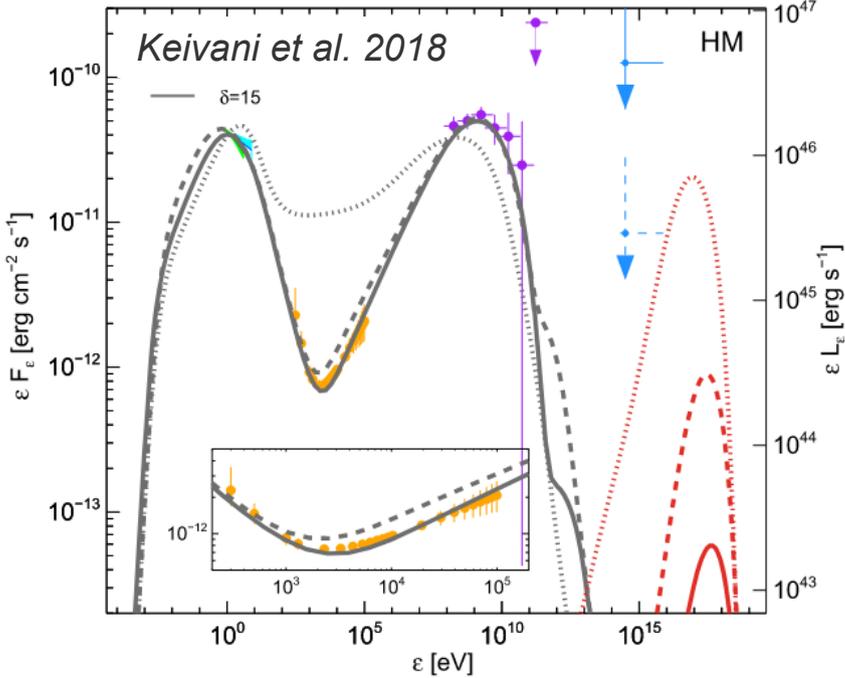
# A challenge for one - zone models

MP, Murase et al., in prep.



- Wide parameter search
- Linear & non-linear cascades
- Synchrotron & Compton supported cascades
- **No model consistent with  $L_\nu > L_\gamma$  and EM data.**

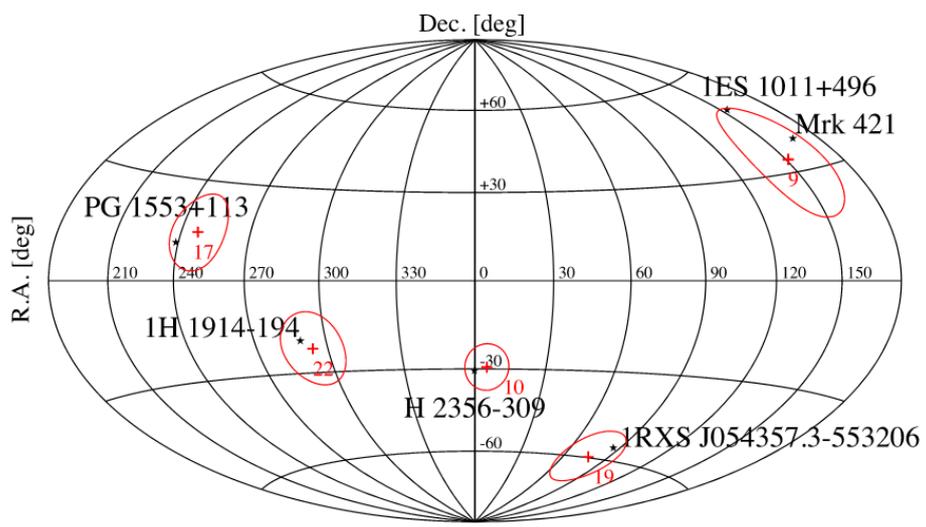
# Lepto-hadronic models for the 2017 flare



- Lepto-hadronic SED models for TXS 0506+056/IC-170922A are excluded.
- EeV neutrinos are predicted.
- Low neutrino flux, unless cascade emission overshoots X-rays.

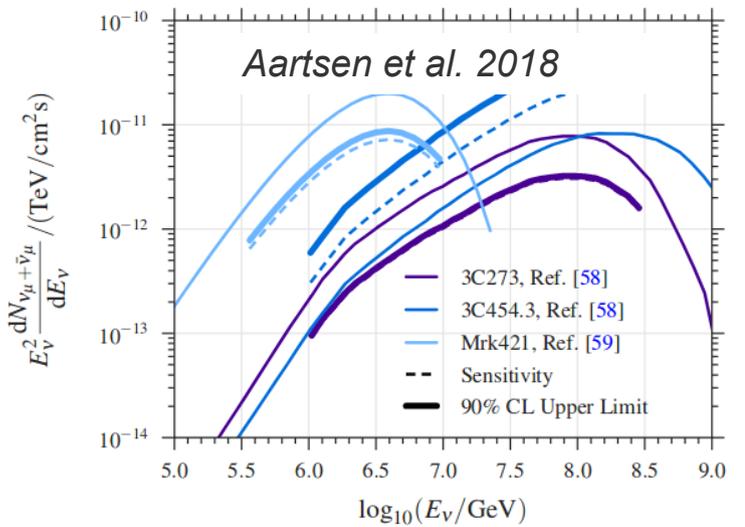
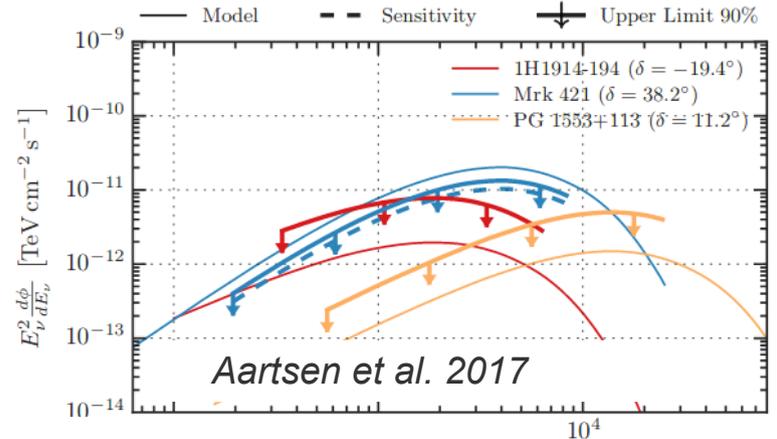
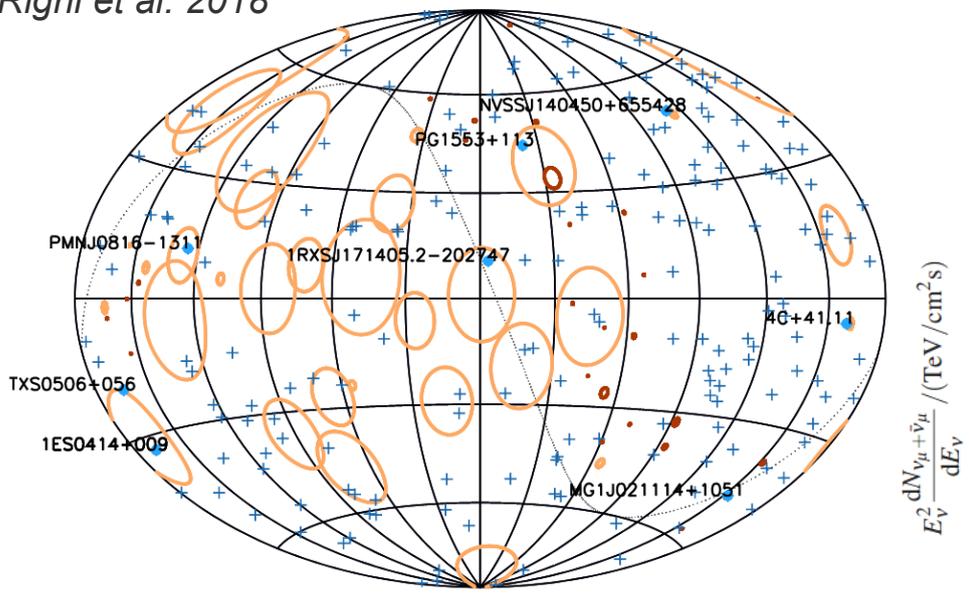
# Status of the field prior to 2017 - neutrinos

Padovani & Resconi 2014; MP et al. 2015



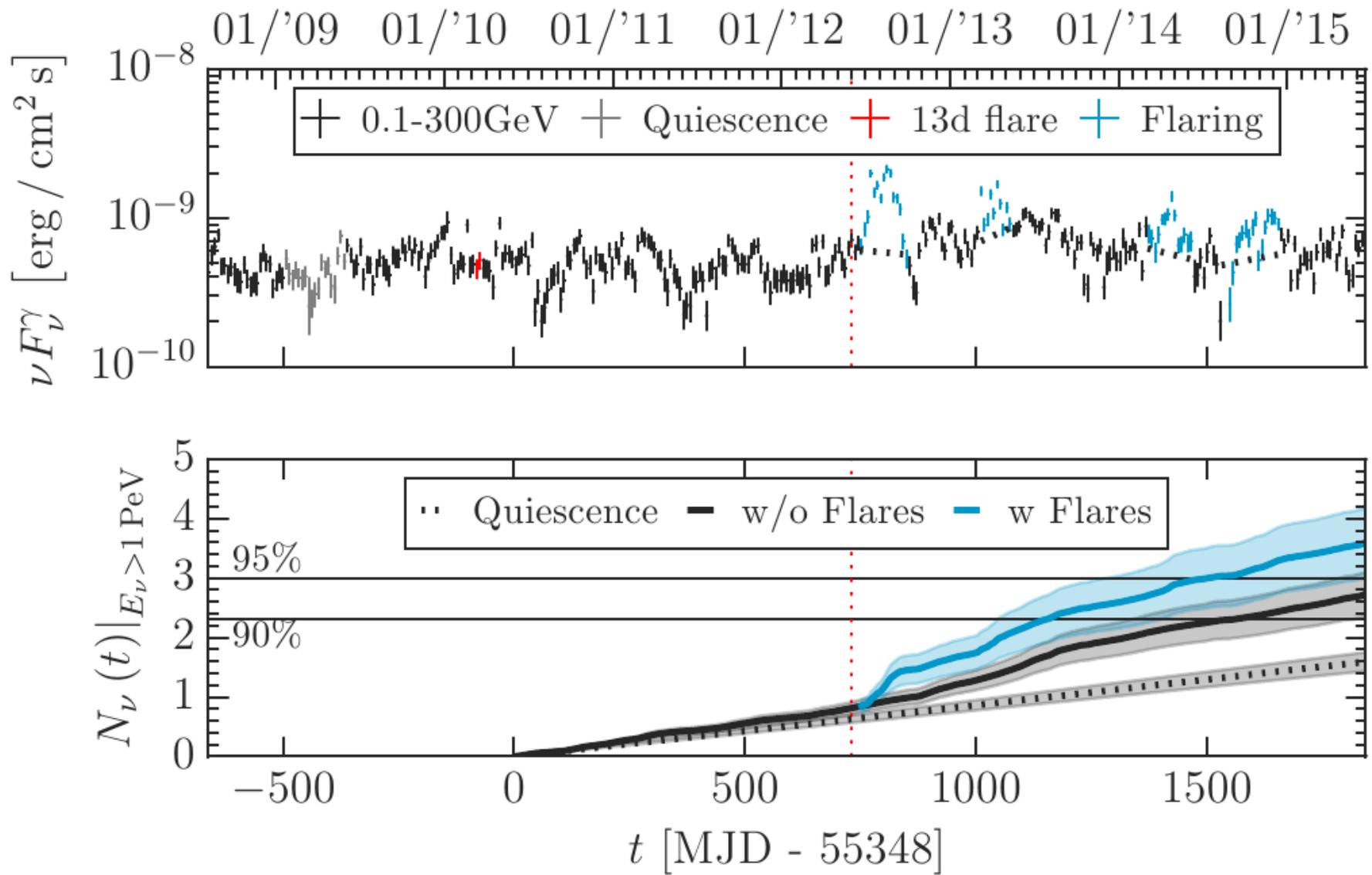
- BL Lacs as probable counterparts of high-energy neutrinos (*Padovani & Resconi 2014, 2016; Righi et al. 2017; 2018*)
- IceCube constrains most optimistic models of constant neutrino emission (*e.g. Aartsen et al. 2017; 2018*)

Righi et al. 2018



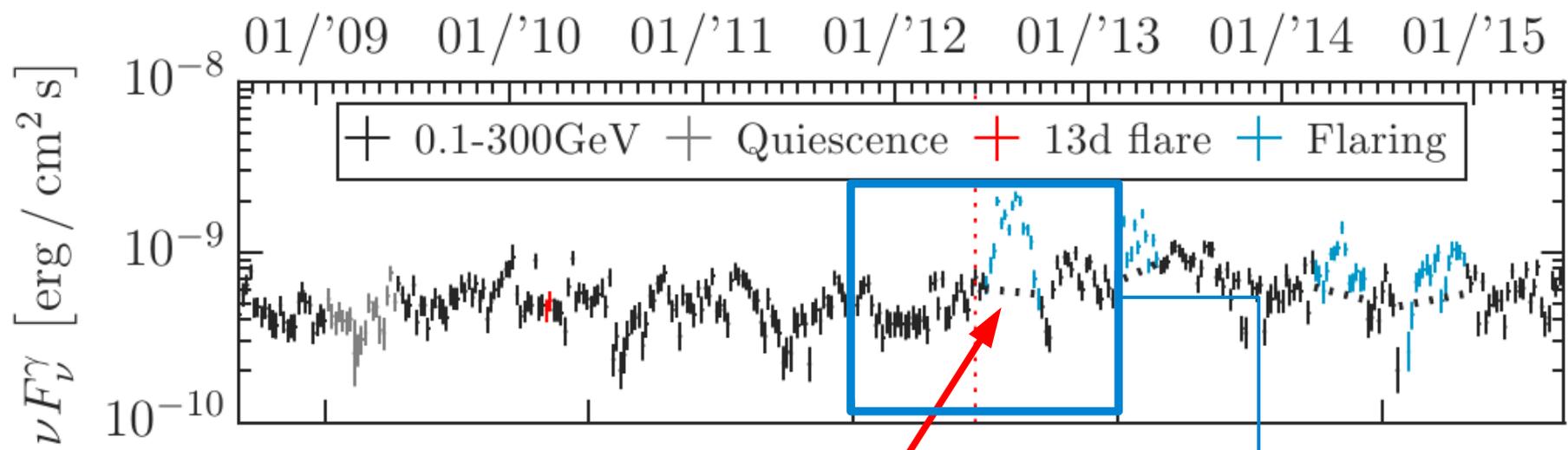
# Blazar flares & neutrino prediction for Mkr 421

MP, Coenders & Dimitrakoudis, 2016



$\gamma$ - $\nu$  correlation

# Blazar flares & neutrino prediction for Mkr 421



## Major GeV flares

No.	T (days)	$\nu_\mu + \bar{\nu}_\mu$	$P_{N_\nu \geq 1}(\%)$
Flares 1a+1b	105	$0.61 \pm 0.16$	$46 \pm 8$
Flare 2	70	$0.32 \pm 0.07$	$27 \pm 5$
Flare 3	98	$0.26 \pm 0.05$	$23 \pm 4$
Flares 4a+4b	112	$0.26 \pm 0.05$	$23 \pm 4$
$\Sigma$ Flares	385	$1.46 \pm 0.32$	$77 \pm 7$

## Without major GeV flares

Season	T (days)	$\nu_\mu + \bar{\nu}_\mu$	$P_{N_\nu \geq 1}(\%)^{\dagger}$
06/2010-05/2011	364	$0.43 \pm 0.06$	$34 \pm 4$
06/2011-05/2012	364	$0.38 \pm 0.05$	$32 \pm 3$
06/2012-05/2013	371	$0.71 \pm 0.11$	$51 \pm 5$
06/2013-05/2014	364	$0.70 \pm 0.11$	$50 \pm 5$
06/2014-05/2015	350	$0.47 \pm 0.06$	$38 \pm 4$
$\Sigma$ w/o Flares	1834 <sup>a</sup>	$2.73 \pm 0.38$	$94 \pm 2$
$\Sigma$ w Flares	1834	$3.59 \pm 0.60$	$97 \pm 2$

\* Similar probability for detecting at least 1 neutrino from the 2012 flare alone OR the whole IC Season 3

\* Still <50%

# Fraction of neutrinos produced during flares - (1)

Murase, Oikonomou, MP 2018

- Model-predicted scaling (e.g., Murase et al. 2015, Tavecchio et al. 2015, MP et al. 2016):

$$L_\nu \propto L_\gamma^\gamma \text{ with } \gamma \sim 1.5 - 2$$

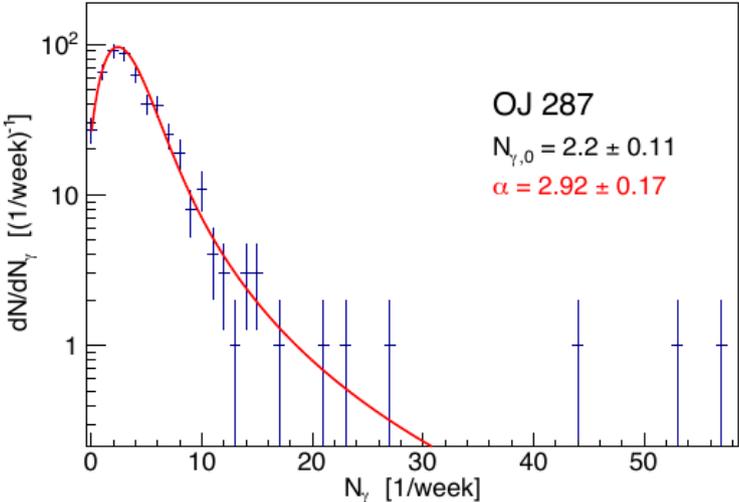
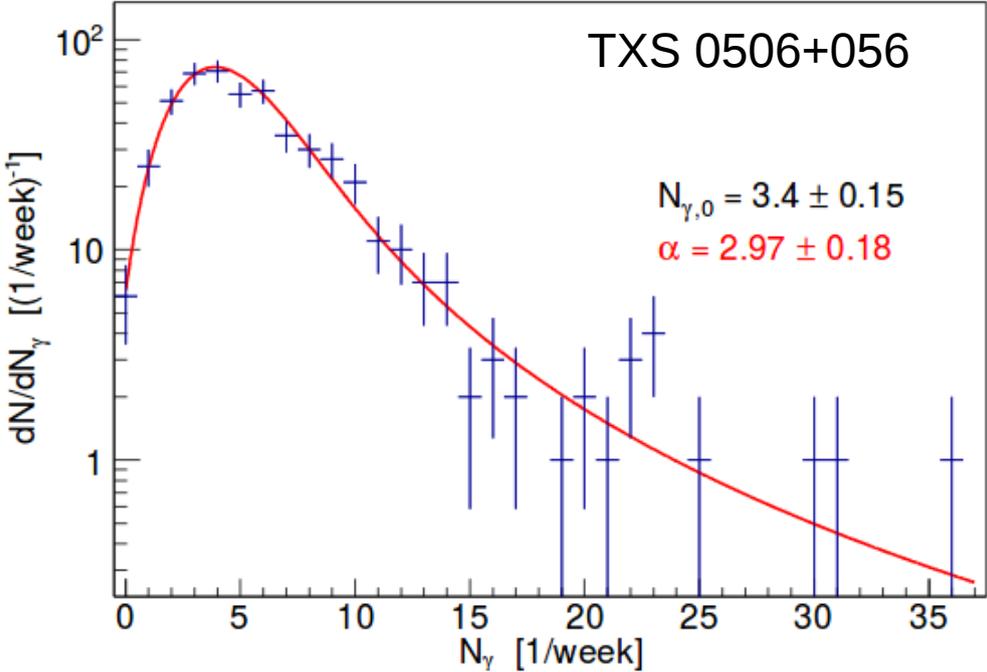
- Neutrino luminosity distribution:

$$L_\nu^2 \frac{dN}{dL_\nu} \propto L_\nu^{1 - \frac{\alpha - 1}{\gamma}}$$

- Flares dominate neutrino output, if  $\alpha < 3$

FAVA sample of 6 blazars

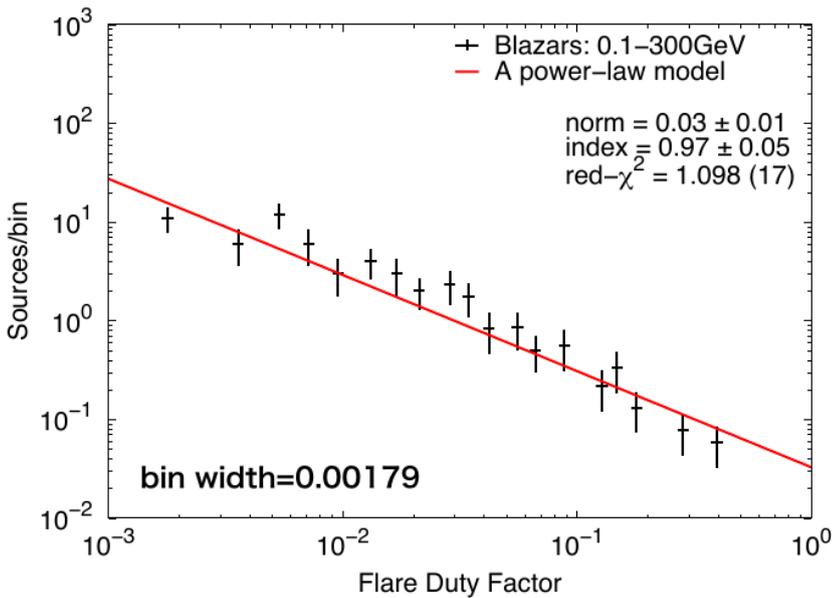
- Duty factor ( $>5\sigma$ ):  $\sim 0.3-10 \%$
- Fraction of flare energy release:  $\sim 10\%$
- Luminosity distribution:  $dN/dL_\gamma \propto L_\gamma^{-\alpha}$  ( $\alpha \sim 2-4$ )



# Fraction of neutrinos produced during flares - (2)

Yoshida, MP, Oikonomou, Vasilopoulos, Urry, Murase, in prep.

*Fermi*-LAT sample of 124 blazars



- Duty factor ( $>6\sigma$ ): power-law with index  $-1$  ( $\sim 0.3-10\%$ )
- Fraction of flare energy release: power-law with index  $-1$  ( $\sim 1-60\%$ )

