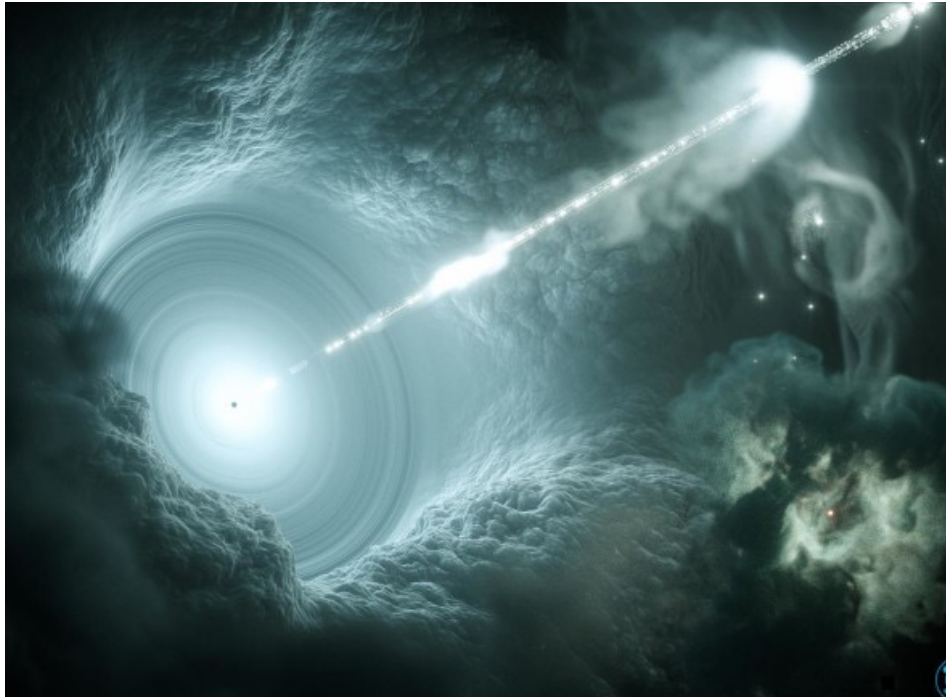


# CTAO science perspective on black hole physics

2<sup>nd</sup> CTAO Science Symposium – Bologna 15-18 April 2024

**Elisa Prandini** [elisa.prandini@unipd.it](mailto:elisa.prandini@unipd.it)





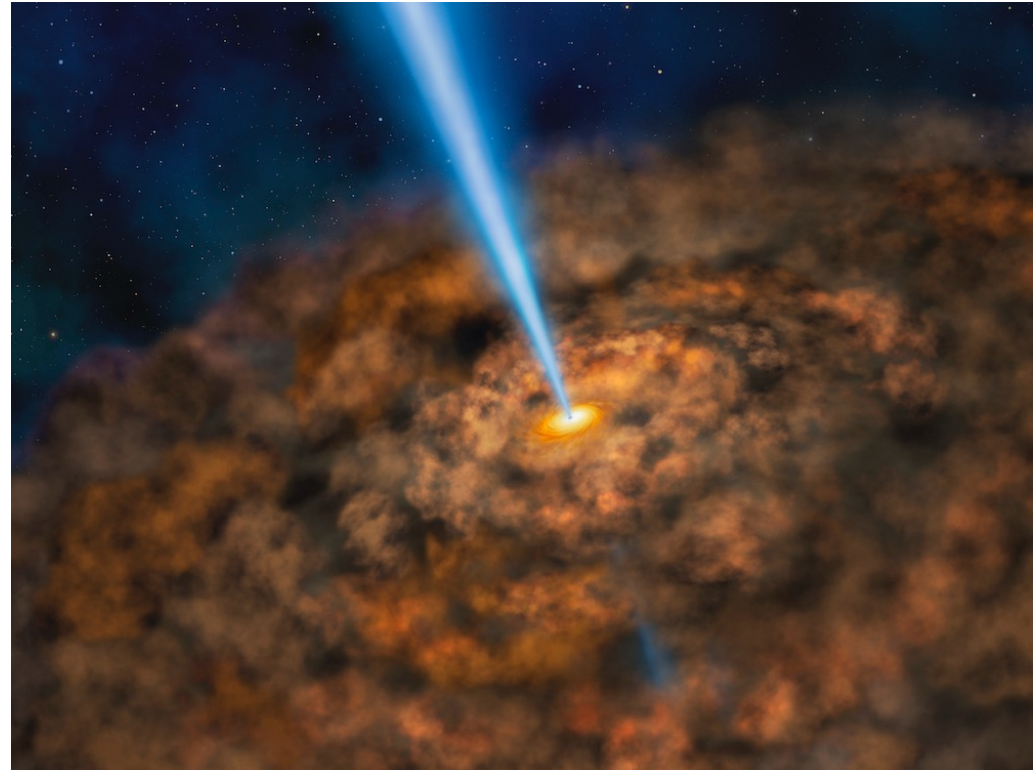
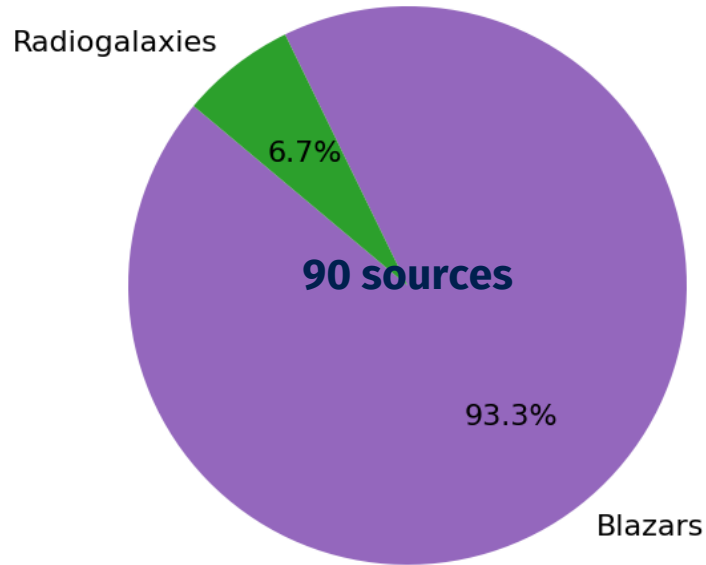
**Focus** on blazars: selected recent results and studies

- Towards a TeV blazar sequence
  - CTAO Extragalactic survey
- Variability at different scales
  - AGN monitoring and flares

# TeV-detected extragalactic black holes

From TeVCAT

<http://tevcat2.uchicago.edu/>

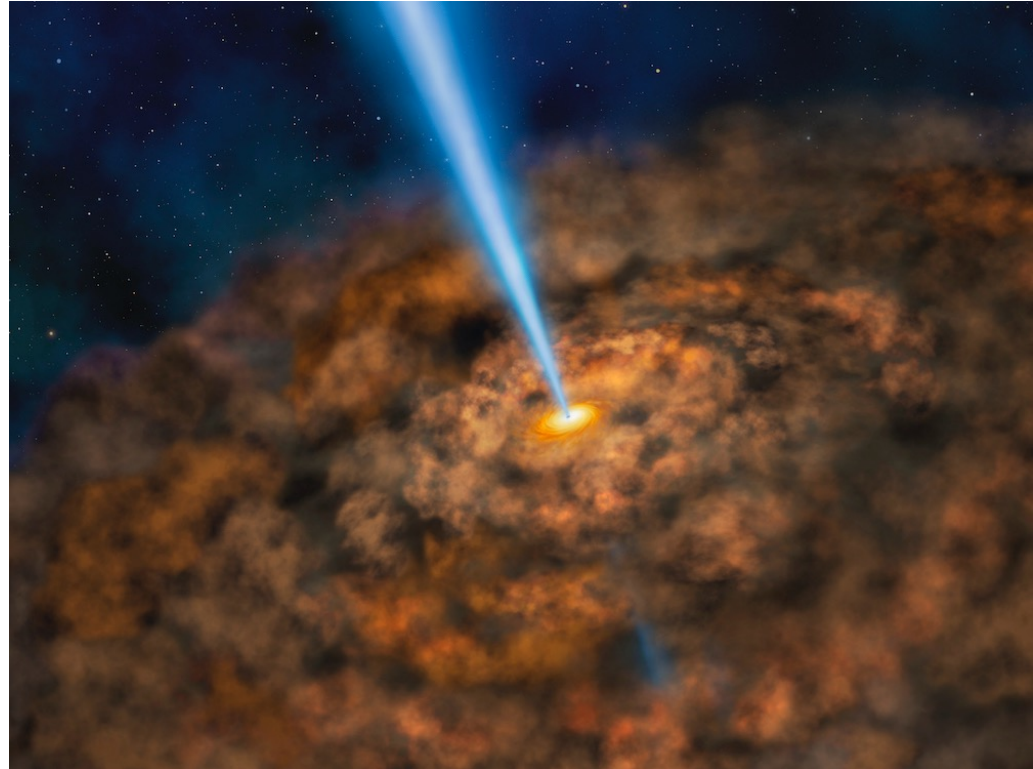
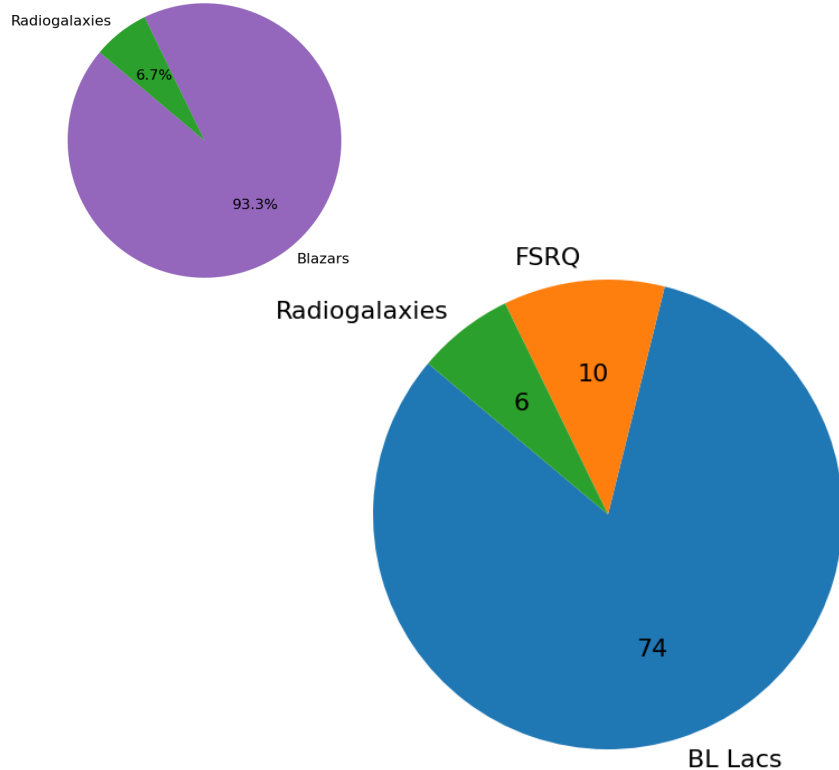




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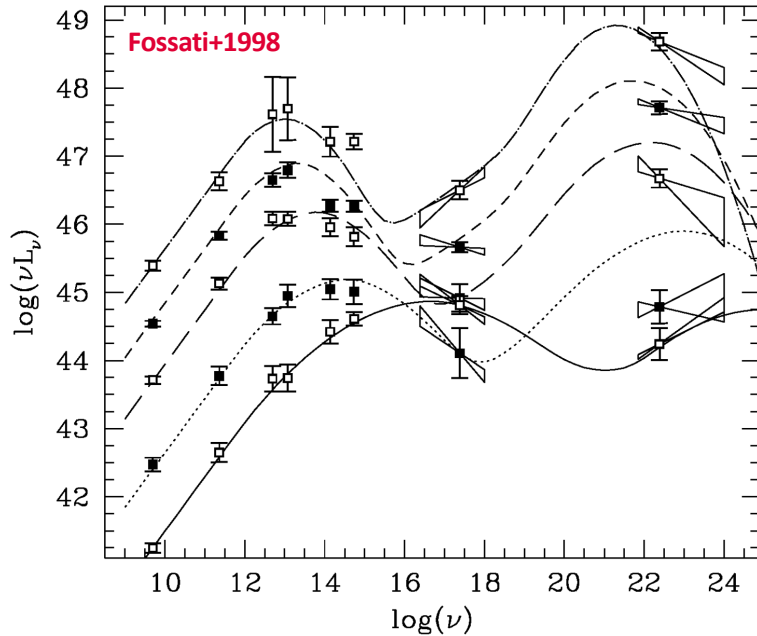




cherenkov  
telescope  
array

# The TeV blazar population

# Towards a TeV-blazar sequence

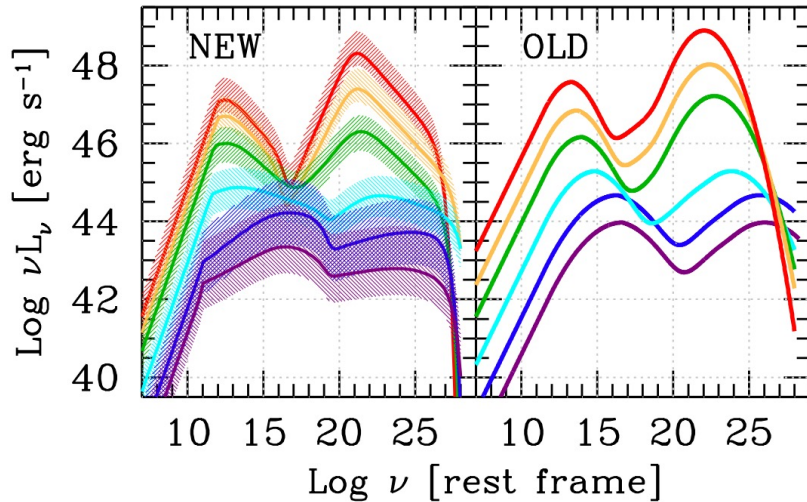


- Anti-correlation between **synchrotron peak location** and **radio luminosity** (Fossati+1998)
  - Debated (Giommi 2012, Potter and Cotter 2015, Fan 2017, Keenan+ 2021, Wan+ 2024)

# Towards a TeV-blazar sequence



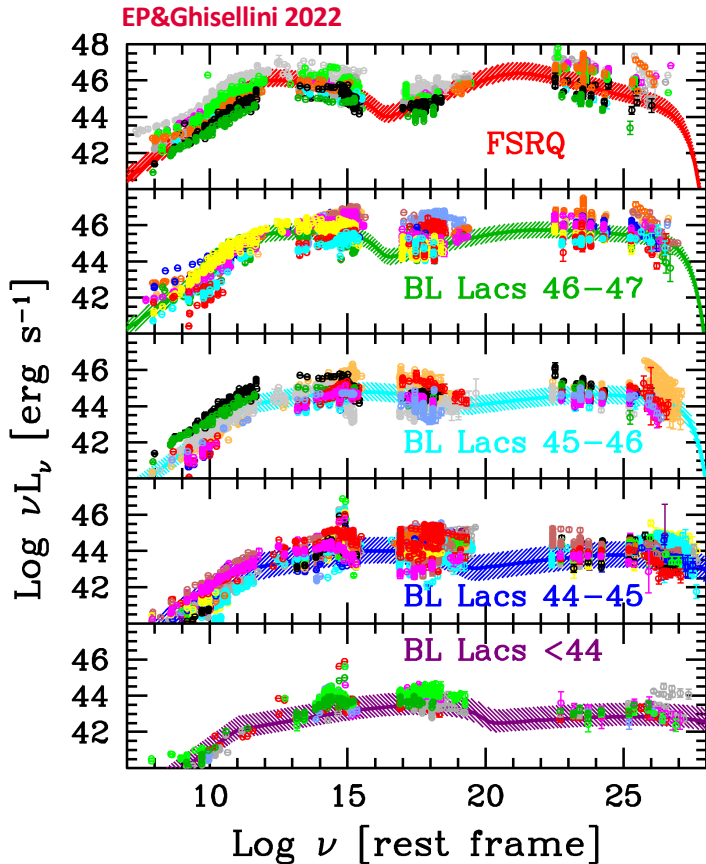
Ghisellini+ 2017



- Anti-correlation between **synchrotron peak** location and radio **luminosity** (Fossati+1998)
  - Debated (Giommi 2012, Potter and Cotter 2015, Fan 2017, Keenan+ 2021, Wan+ 2024)
- Fermi-blazar sequence (Ghisellini+2017):
  - Bins in *Fermi*-LAT luminosity
  - FSRQs: synchro peak stable
  - BL Lacs: synchro peak anticorrelates with luminosity



# Towards a TeV-blazar sequence

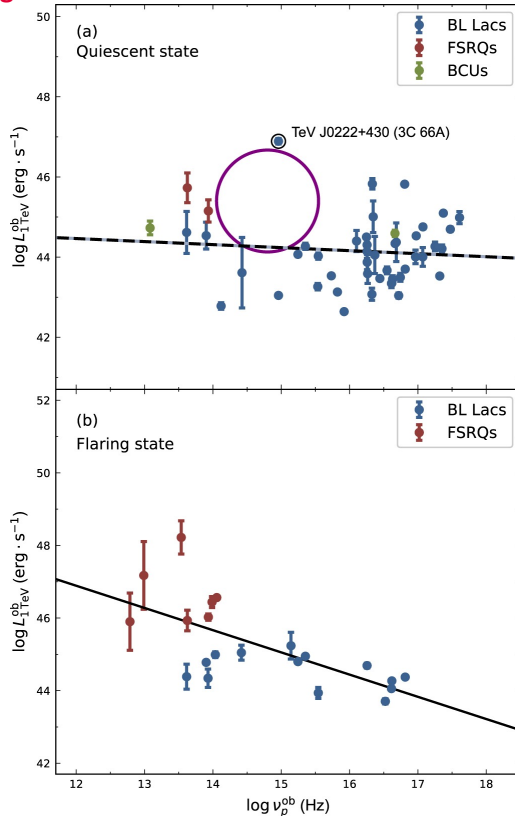


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  - No strong differences between the SED of *Fermi* blazars and TeV-detected ones
  - X-ray luminosity is generally larger than the average of the *Fermi* blazars

# Towards a TeV-blazar sequence

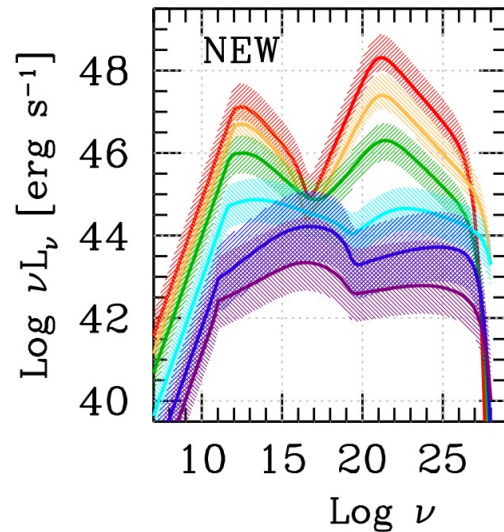
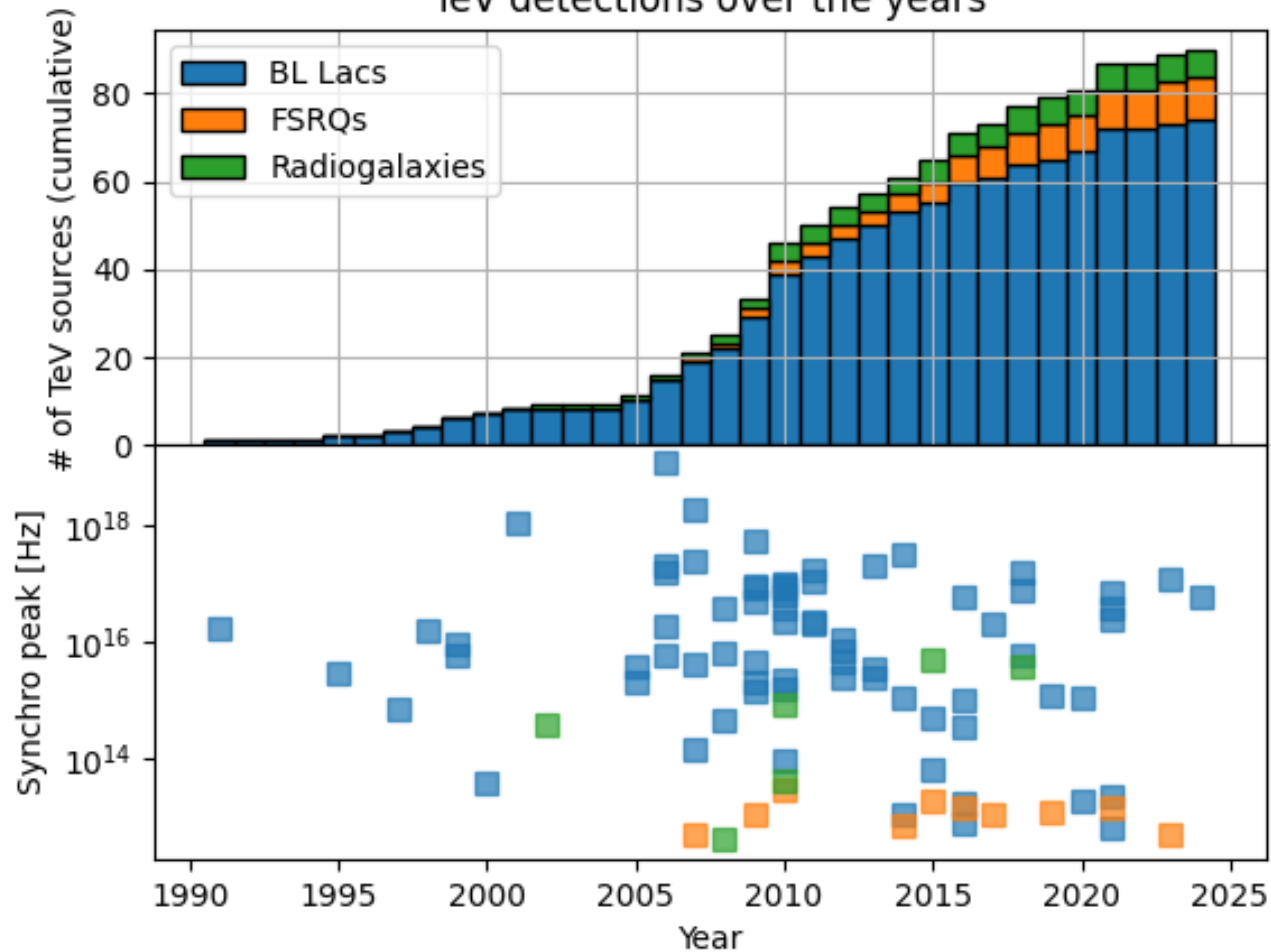


Ouyang+ 2023



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  - X-ray luminosity is generally larger than the average of the *Fermi* blazars
- TeV luminosity and variability (Ouyang+ 2023)
  - Anticorrelation only in sources during flaring states

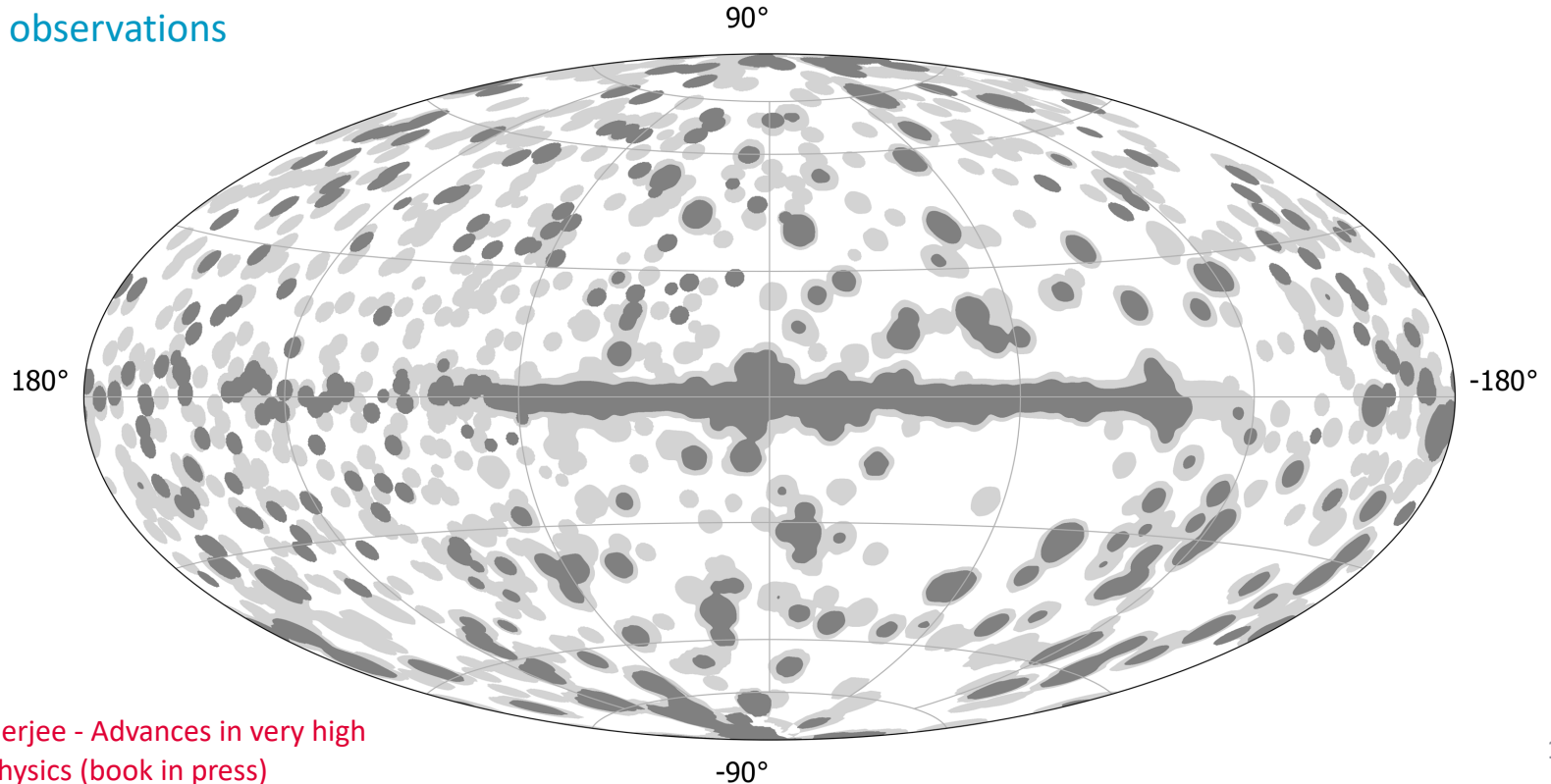
## TeV detections over the years



# Current generation of IACTs: exposure



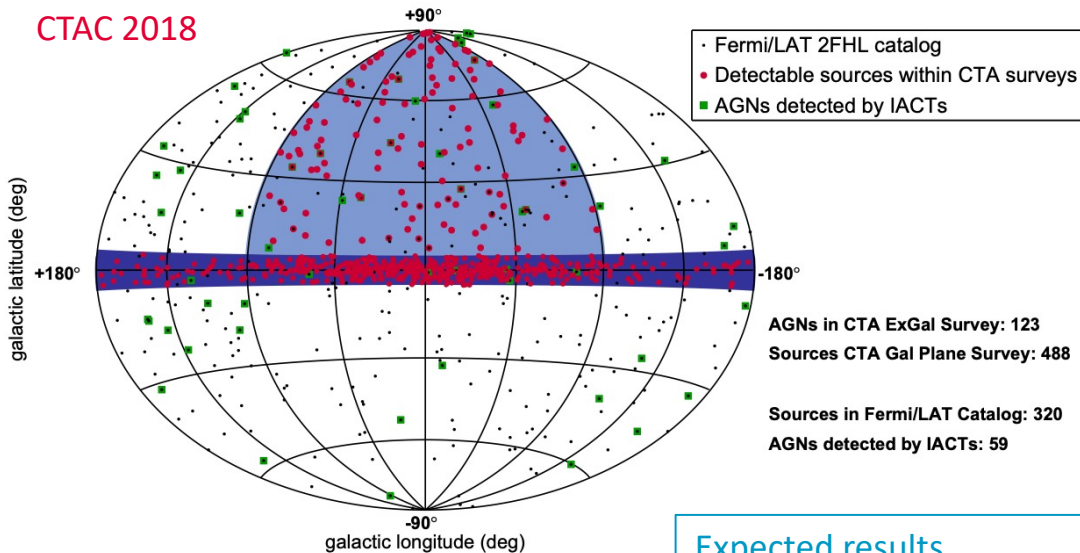
The current knowledge of the TeV sky is strongly **biased** by a highly non-uniform coverage in the observations



# The extragalactic survey



- Consists of a **survey** with uniform exposure of a contiguous portion of the extragalactic sky
- From the 'Science with CTA' book:
  - $\frac{1}{4}$  of the sky
  - **6 mCrab** of integral sensitivity  $E > 125$  GeV
- These values and observation strategy could be revised by the CTAC team



## Expected results

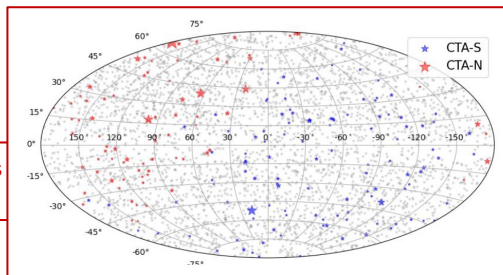
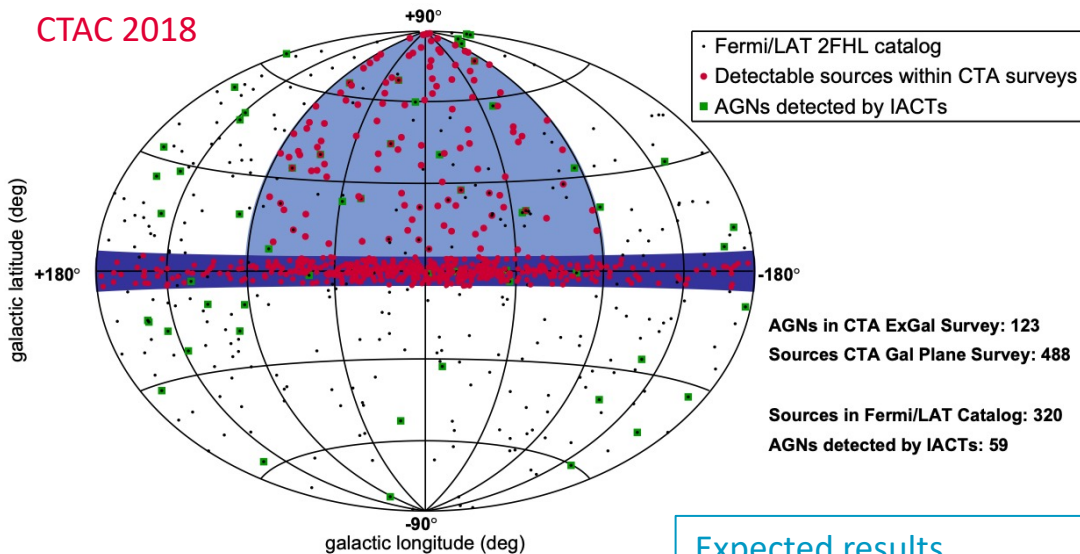
- 1<sup>st</sup> unbiased VHE catalog
- LogN/LogS
- Serendipitous discoveries
- Variable sources

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CTAC 2018



See Poster By A. Acharyya: Active Galactic Nuclei population studies with the Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory

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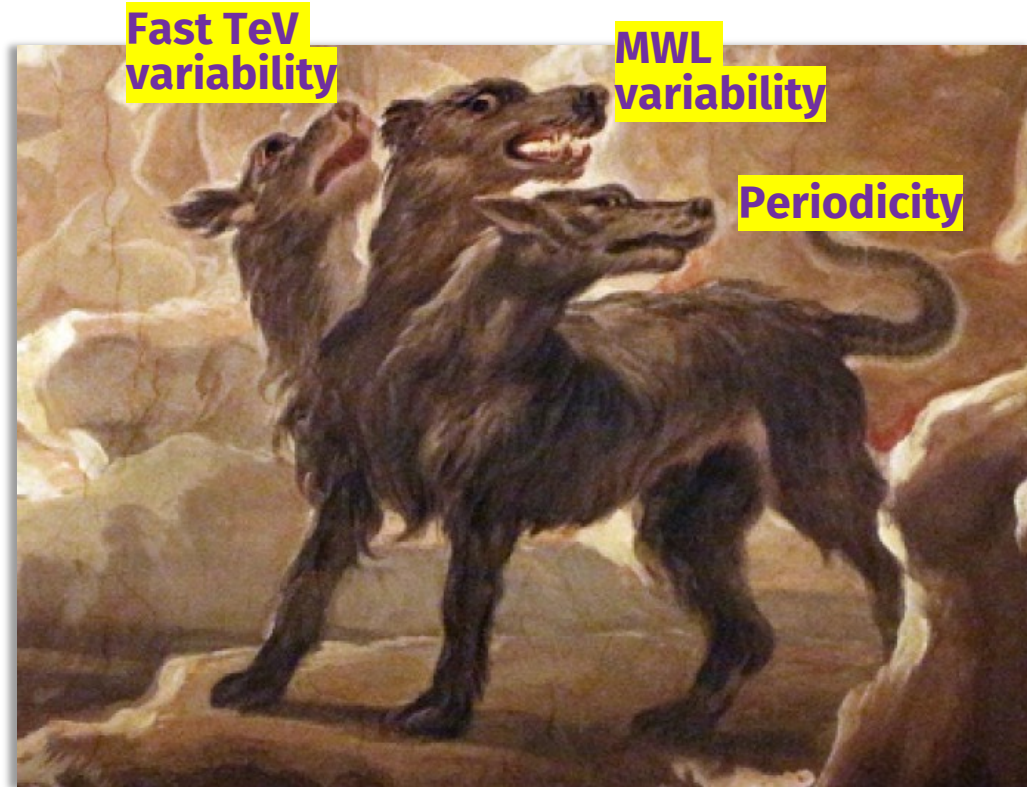


cherenkov  
telescope  
array

# Blazar variability

The background of the slide is a vibrant, multi-colored cosmic scene. It features a dense field of stars in various colors (blue, red, purple, yellow) and a complex, filamentary structure of interstellar dust and gas. A prominent, bright blue and white point source, likely a blazar, is visible on the right side of the image, emitting a strong glow and surrounded by a nebula of blue and purple light.

# Variability studies



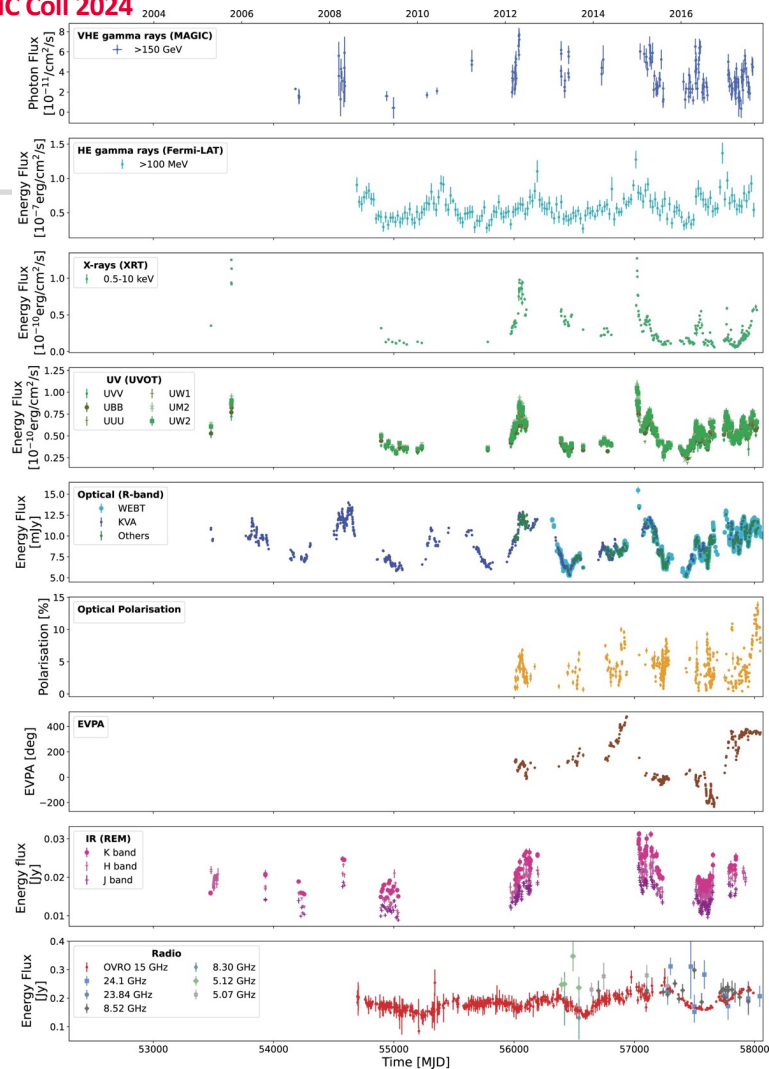
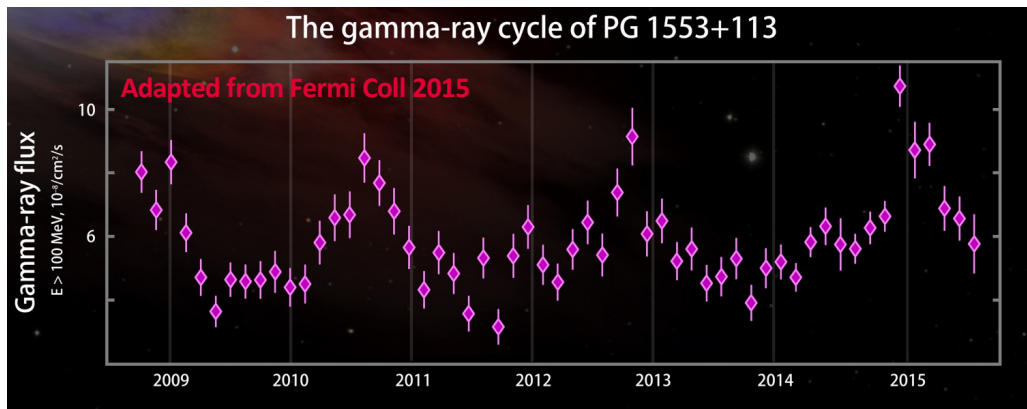
Cerberus the three heads dog from 'Divina Commedia' by Dante Alighieri (1265 – 1321)





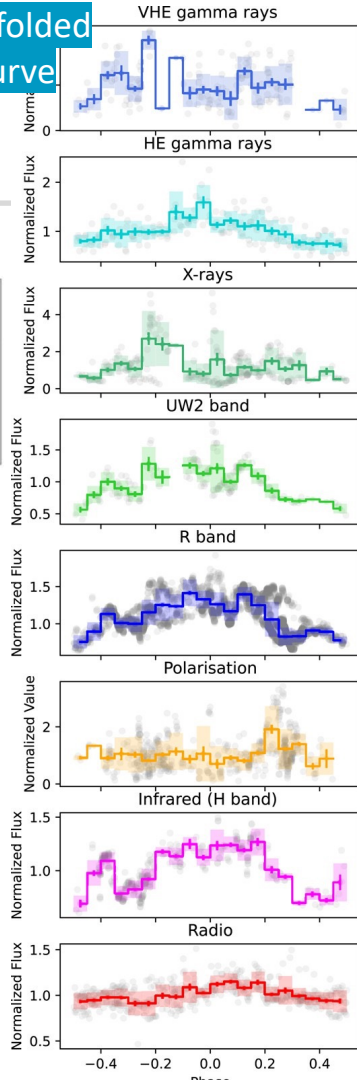
# Search for periodicity in PG 1553+113 with MAGIC

- The HBL PG 1553+113 is located at  $z \sim 0.4$  (Dorigo Jones 2021)
- 2.2y periodicity** in *Fermi*-LAT and, possibly, in optical
- Monitored regularly with MAGIC since 2015



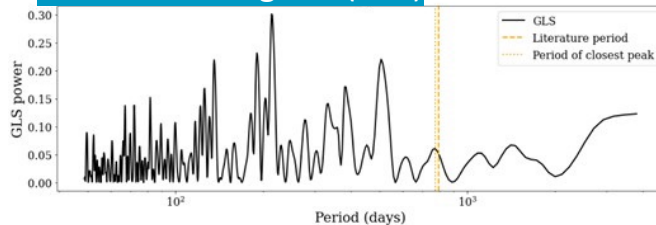
# Search for periodicity in PG 1553+113 with MAGIC

MWL folded  
lightcurve



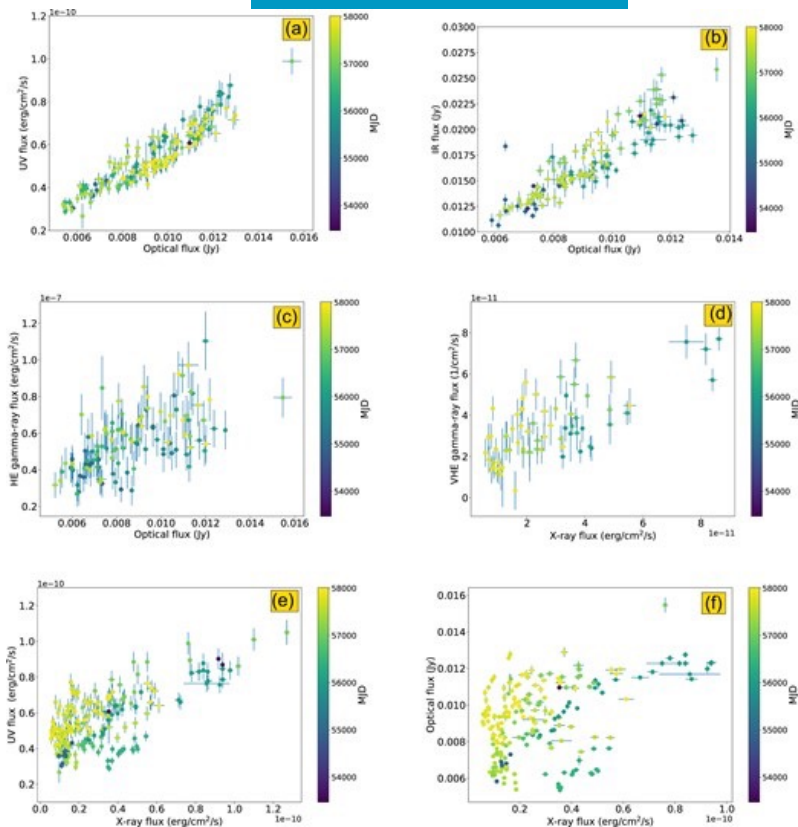
MAGIC Coll 2024

## MAGIC Periodogram (GLS)



- **No periodicity** in VHE gamma rays and X-rays, confirmed periodicity in HE gamma rays
- Intra-band correlations: complex interplay between bands
  - Multiple zone emission model

## Intra-band correlations



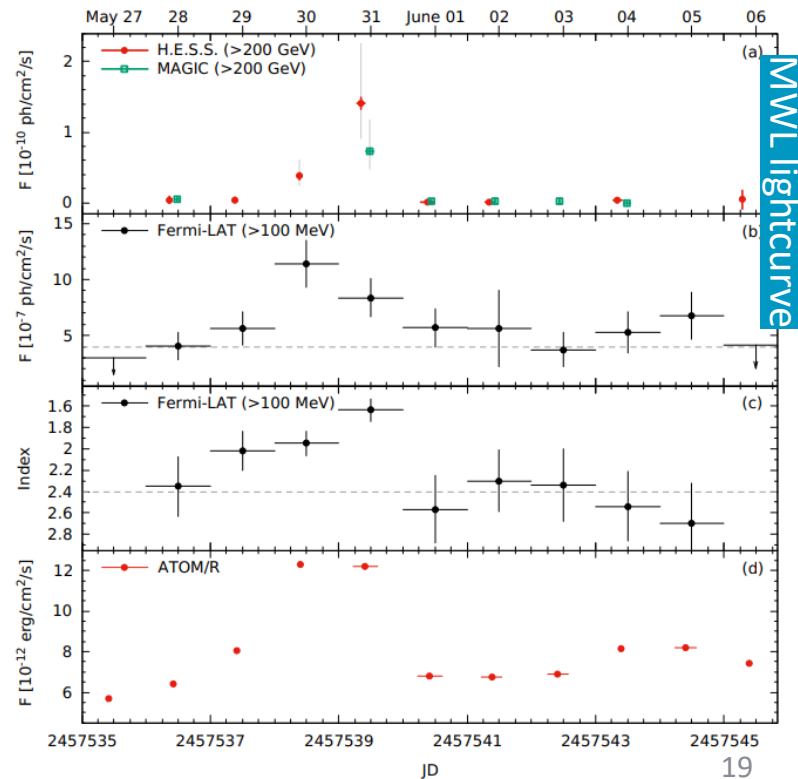
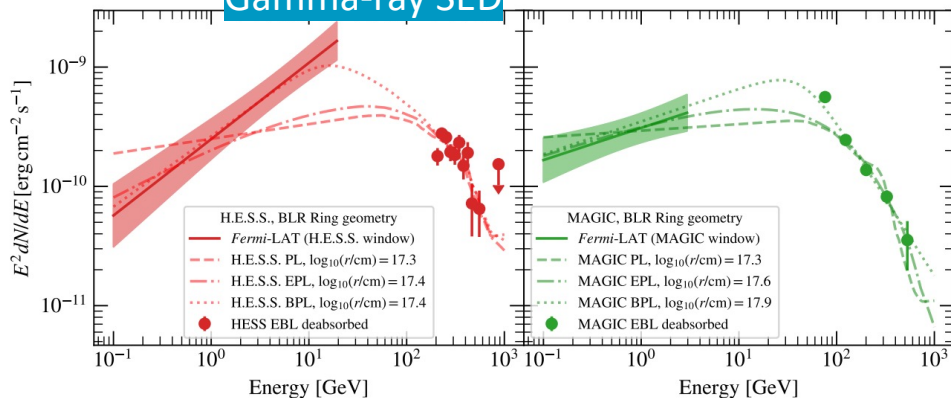
# FSRQ PKS 1510-089: intranight variability (in the currently best monitored FSRQ)



H.E.S.S. and MAGIC Coll. 2021

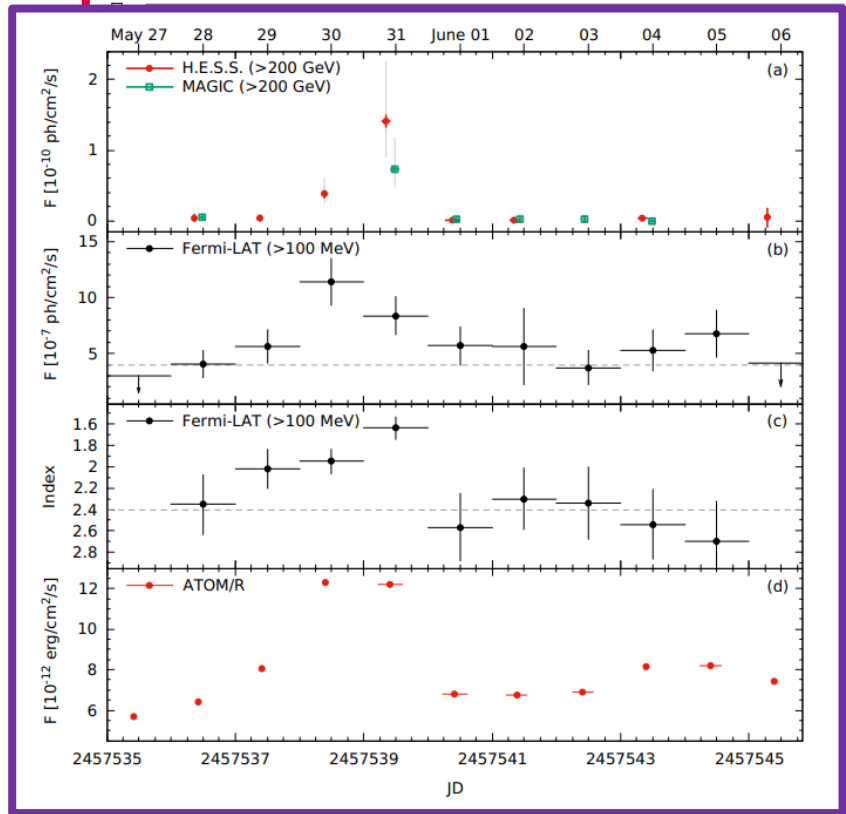
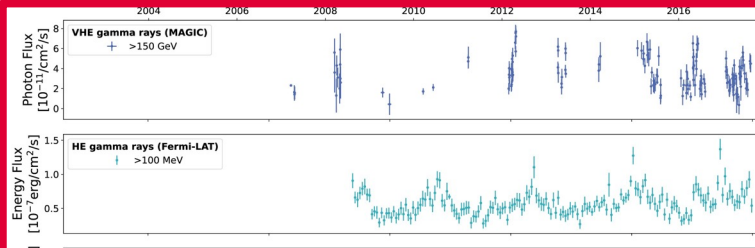
- PKS 1510-089 is the only FSRQ detected at TeV both in low and high-state
- H.E.S.S. and MAGIC: during regular **monitoring** in 2016, found a common intra-night variability timescale of **1.5hr**
- Combined with radio and MWL observations: **emission constrained outside the BLR**

## Gamma-ray SED



# Source monitoring with CTAO

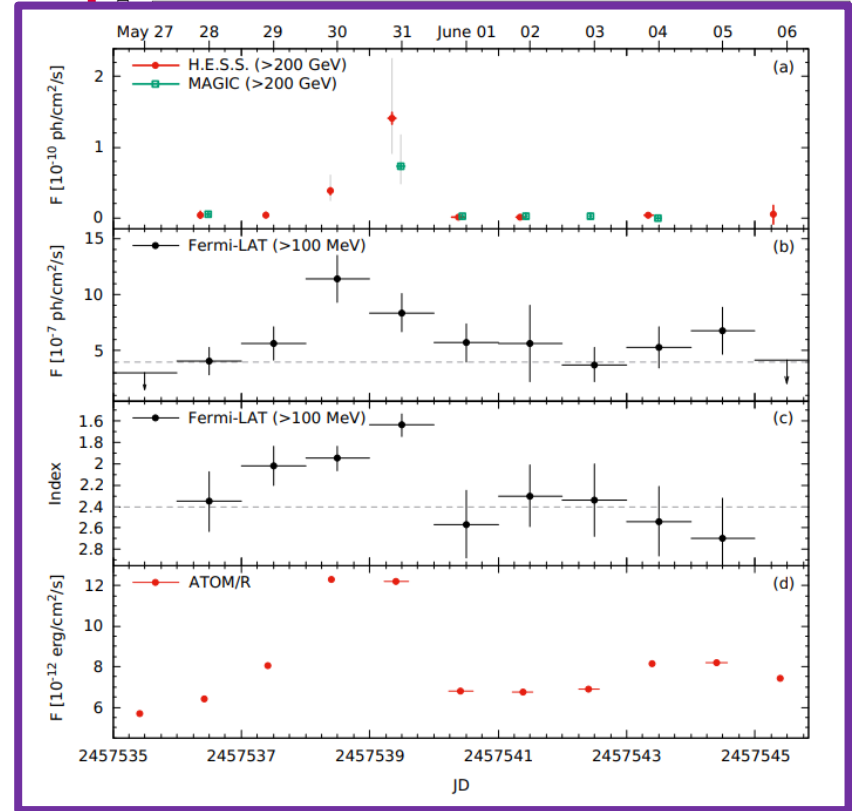
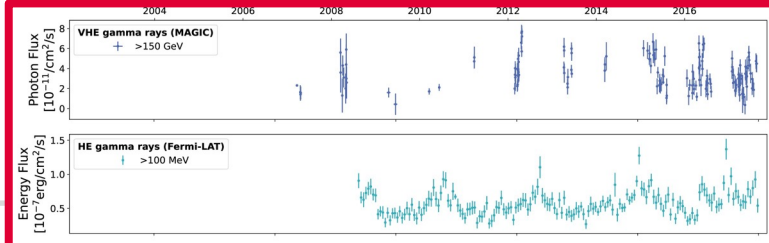
- Part of the **AGN KSP**: monitoring of selected sources, covering different source classes and variability patterns
- Regular sampling and unprecedented sensitivity
  - Extremely accurate and unbiased correlation studies
  - Precise SED modeling
  - Intranight variability



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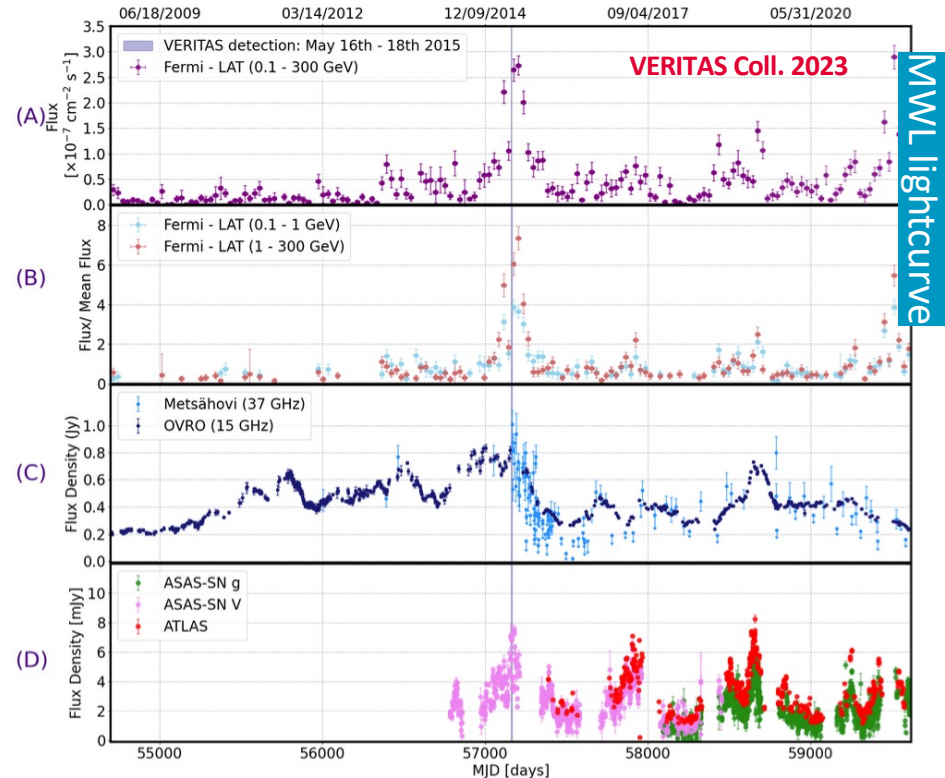
**Require MWL coverage and simultaneity**



# Detection of rare VHE emitters during MWL flares



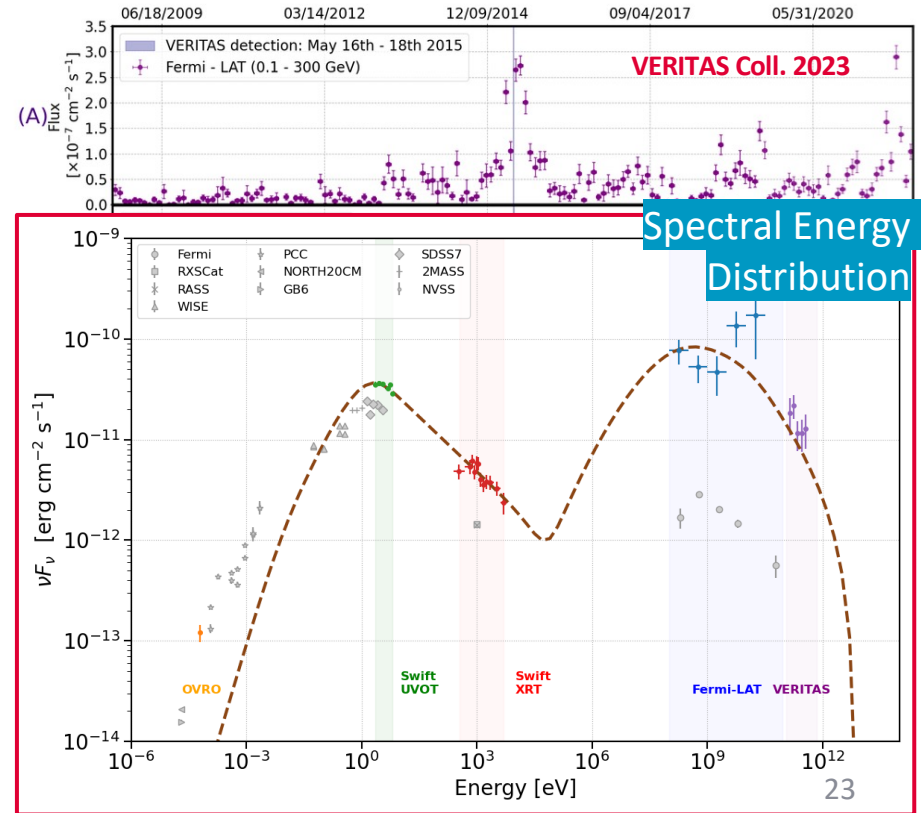
- IBL source S3 1227+25 located at redshift 0.325 (debated)
- *Fermi*-LAT hard state **triggered** VERITAS observations and detection
- MWL campaign initiated
- Fast variability of timescale 6.2 hours
  - Compact region



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- SED well fitted by a **single-zone SSC model**

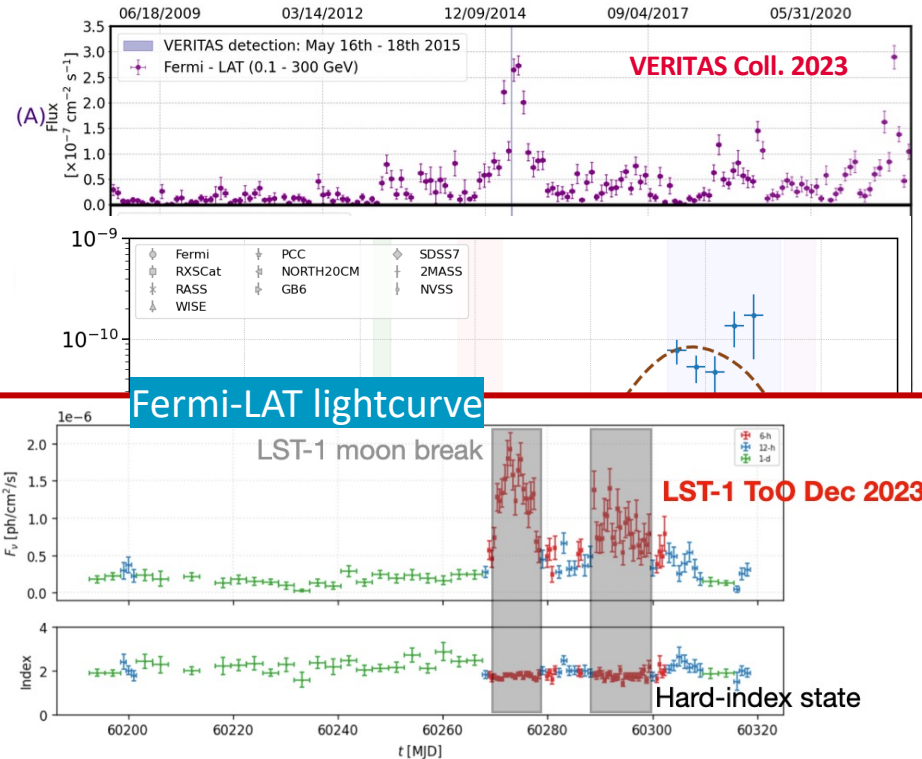


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See talk by [D. Morcuende-Parrilla](#) VHE emission at the cosmic gamma-ray horizon: Detection of quasar OP313 at redshift  $z=0.997$  with LST-1





# Ingredients for groundbreaking variability studies



**Excellent sensitivity + regular monitoring of a few,  
snapshotting of many, and fast reaction to alerts**

**Part of the AGN key science project**



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snapshotting of many, and fast reaction to alerts

## Part of the AGN key science project

See Talk by G. Grolleron: Active Galactic Nuclei variability studies with the Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory

See poster by L. Nikolić Benchmarking the CTAO through observations of the TeV blazar PKS 2155-304

See talk by D. Morcuende-Parrilla VHE emission at the cosmic gamma-ray horizon: Detection of quasar OP313 at redshift  $z=0.997$  with LST-1

See poster by L. Greaux: Extragalactic Background Light insights from current and upcoming gamma-ray observatories

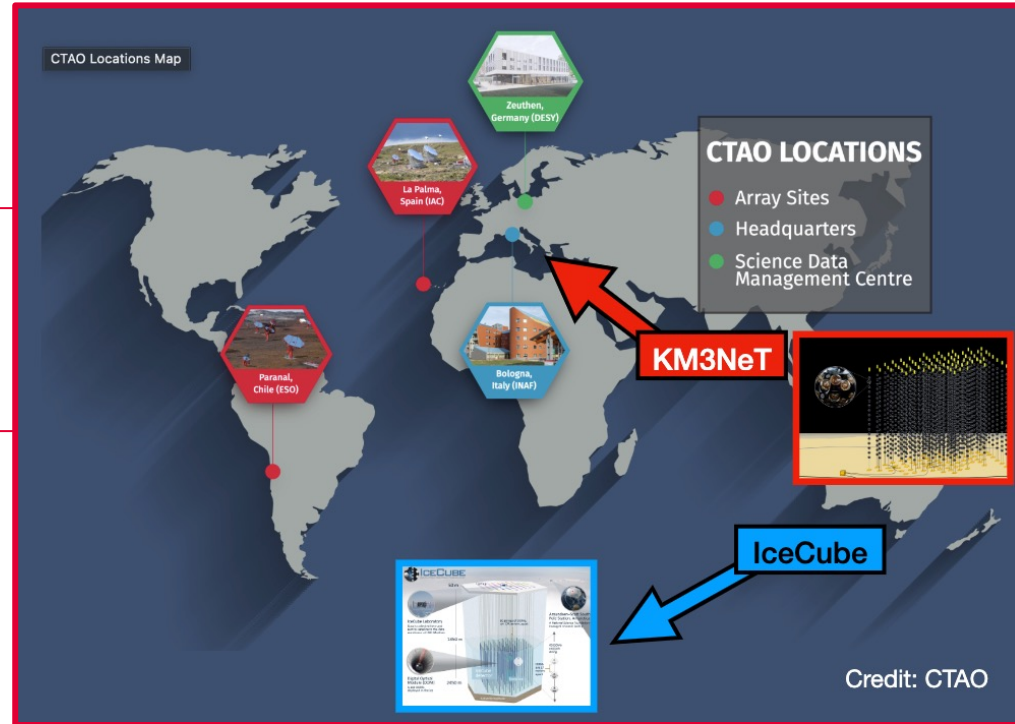
See poster by C. Buisson Lorentz invariance violation search with the Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory Large-Sized Telescope

# TeV blazars and their role in neutrino astronomy



[See talk by G. M. Cicciari](#) Evaluation of the Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory performance to the gamma-ray emission from neutrino sources detectable by the IceCube and KM3NeT neutrino telescopes

[See poster by O. Sergijenko](#) Sensitivity of the Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory to the gamma-ray emission from neutrino sources detected by IceCube



# Thank you!



Dante Alighieri in Heaven - Divina Commedia



cherenkov  
telescope  
array

**Extra slides**



