The **parsec-scale jets** of the **SS 433 microquasar** seen in **very-high-energy γ-rays** with **H.E.S.S.**

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&

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on behalf of the **H.E.S.S. collaboration**

CTAO Symposium

Bologna, Italy

16 . 04. 2024

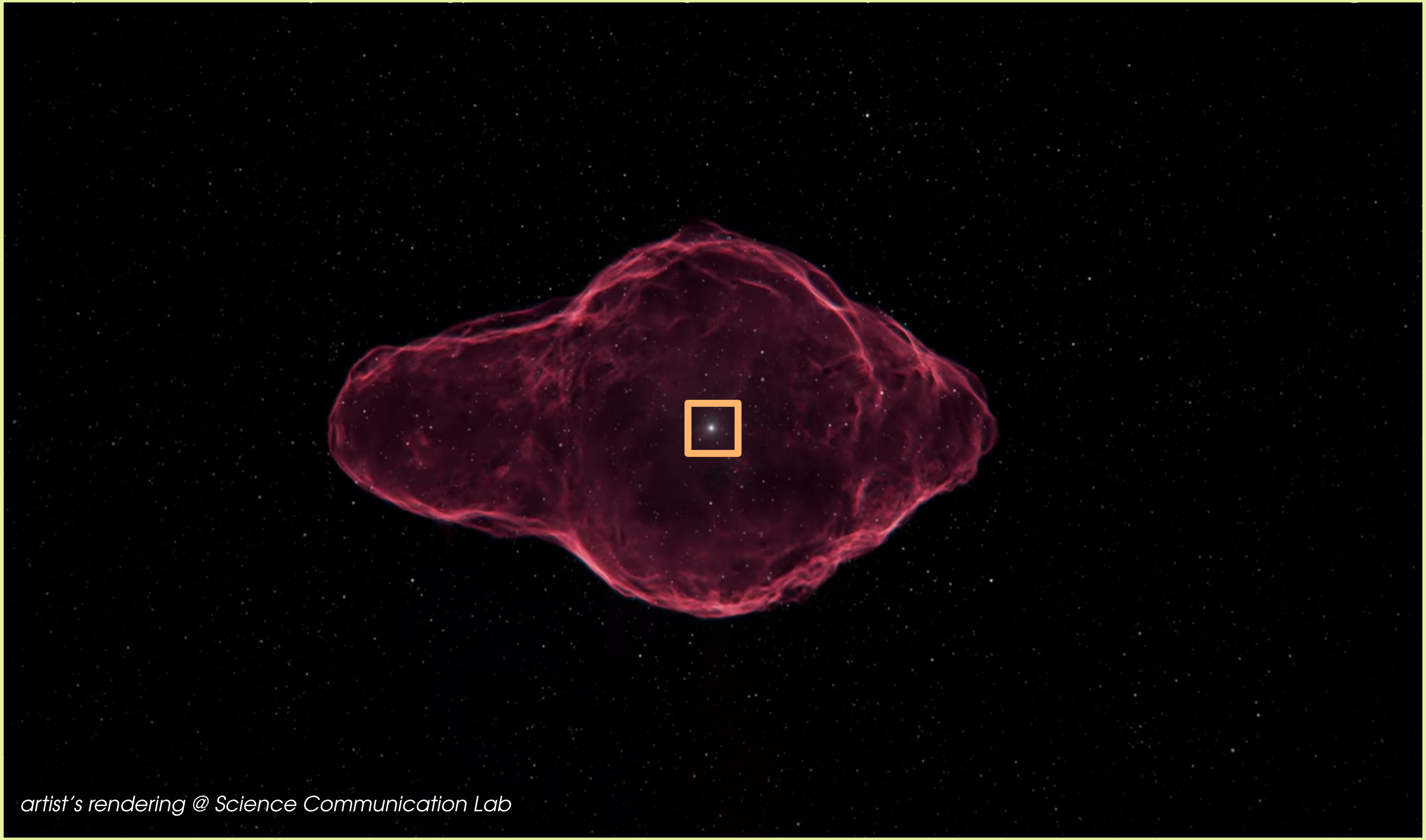
artist's rendering @ Science Communication Lab

"Manatee nebula" :
W 50 / SNR G039.7-02.0
Supernova remnant
seen in radio

~ age : [10 -100] kyr

Credit : H.E.S.S. / MPIK

YT link



artist's rendering @ Science Communication Lab

At the "centre" of W 50

d ~ 5.5kpc from us

Credit : H.E.S.S. / MPIK

YT link

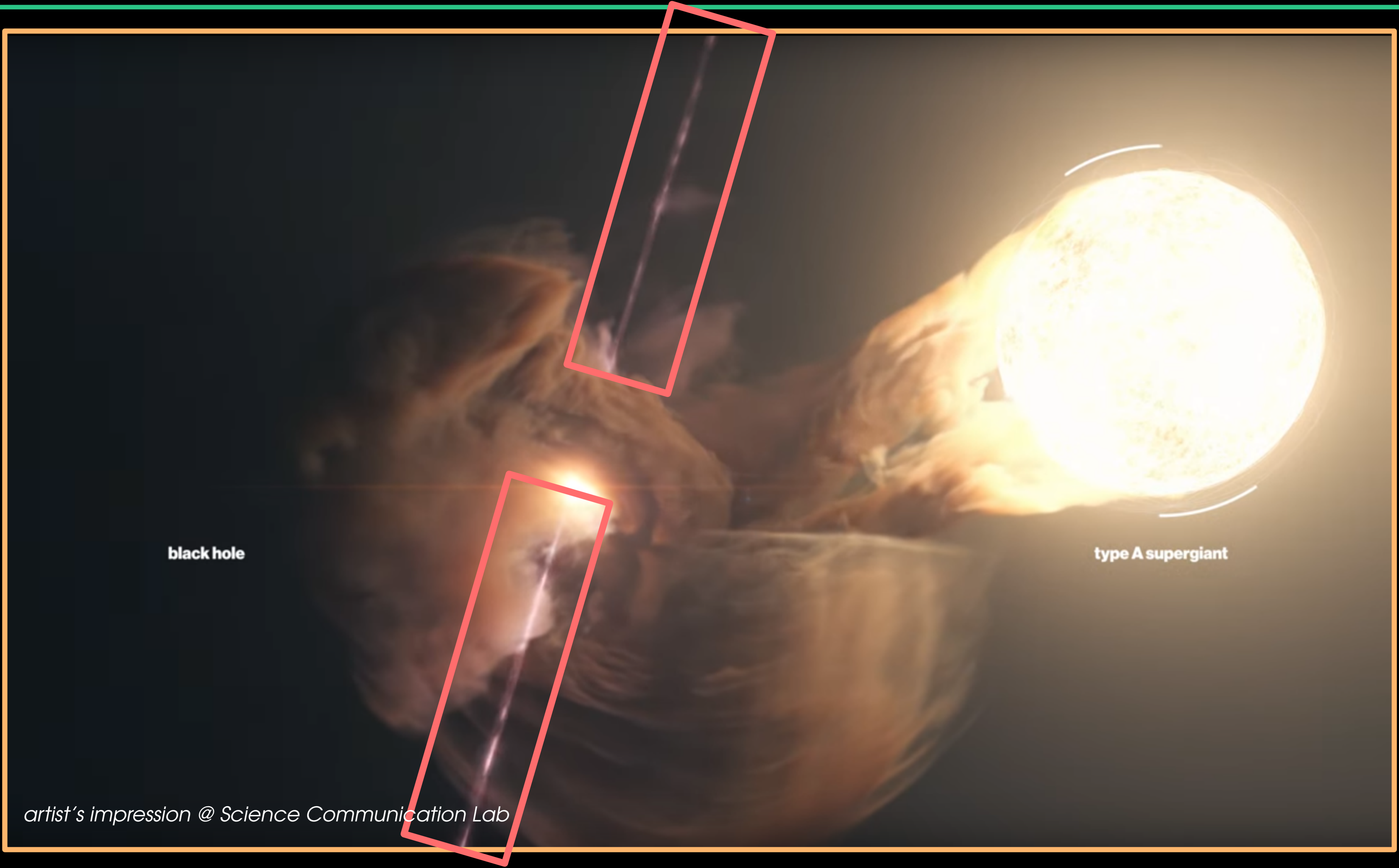
The curious case of SS 433 : an extraordinary microquasar

Binary system :
Compact object
(likely BH ~ 10 $M_\odot$)
orbiting its
companion star
with a period
~ 13 days

Credit : H.E.S.S. / MPIK

YT link

The curious case of SS 433 : an extraordinary microquasar



artist's impression @ Science Communication Lab

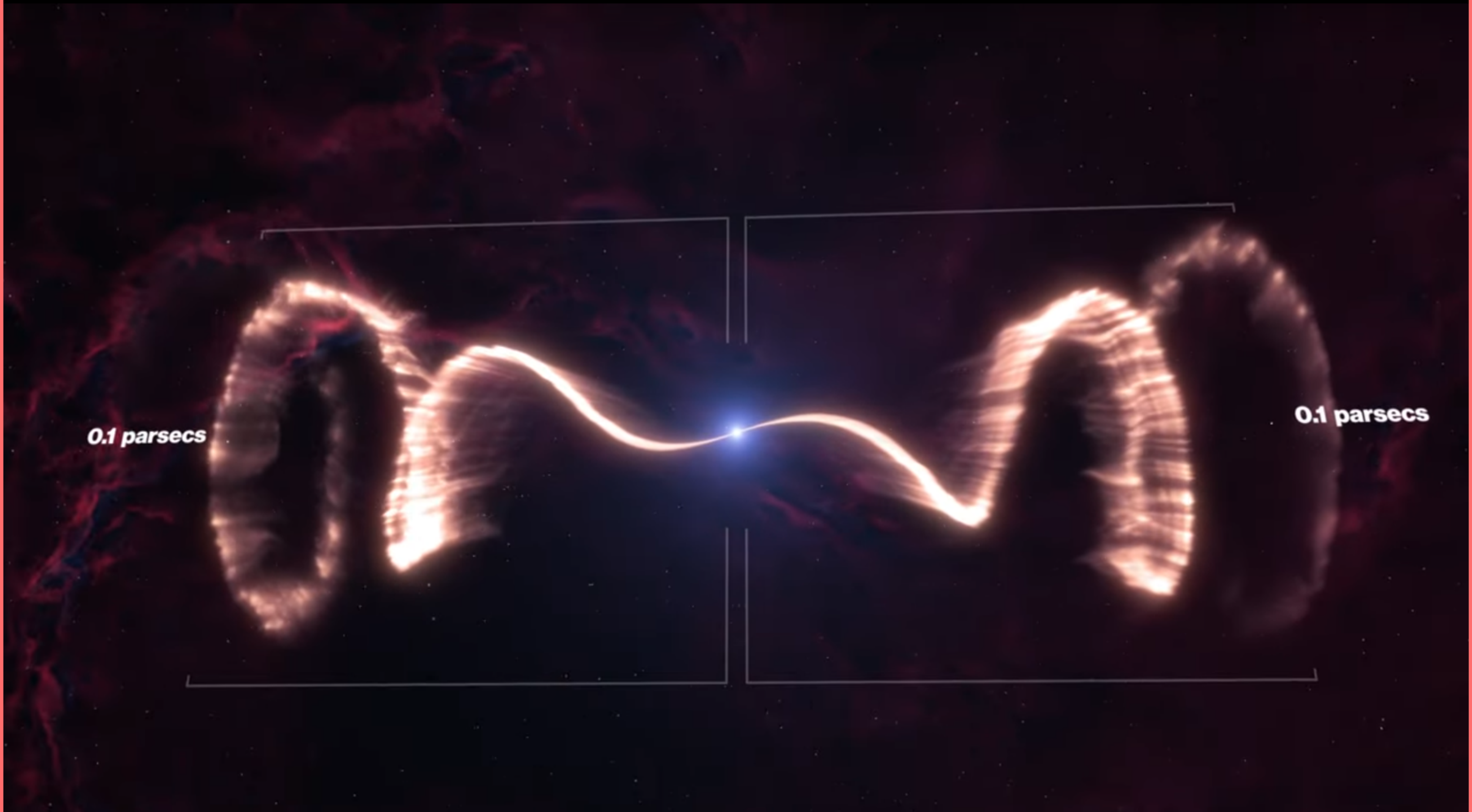
→ high accretion rate
→ jet launching

What about the electromagnetic beams?

Credit : H.E.S.S. / MPIK

YT link

The curious case of SS 433 : an extraordinary microquasar



artist's rendering @ Science Communication Lab

"Inner jets" :
Collimated beams
precessing with
$\theta \sim 20°$
period ~162 days
Seen in radio
$\rightarrow v_{jet} \sim 0.26c$

Credit : H.E.S.S. / MPIK

YT link

The curious case of SS 433 : an extraordinary microquasar

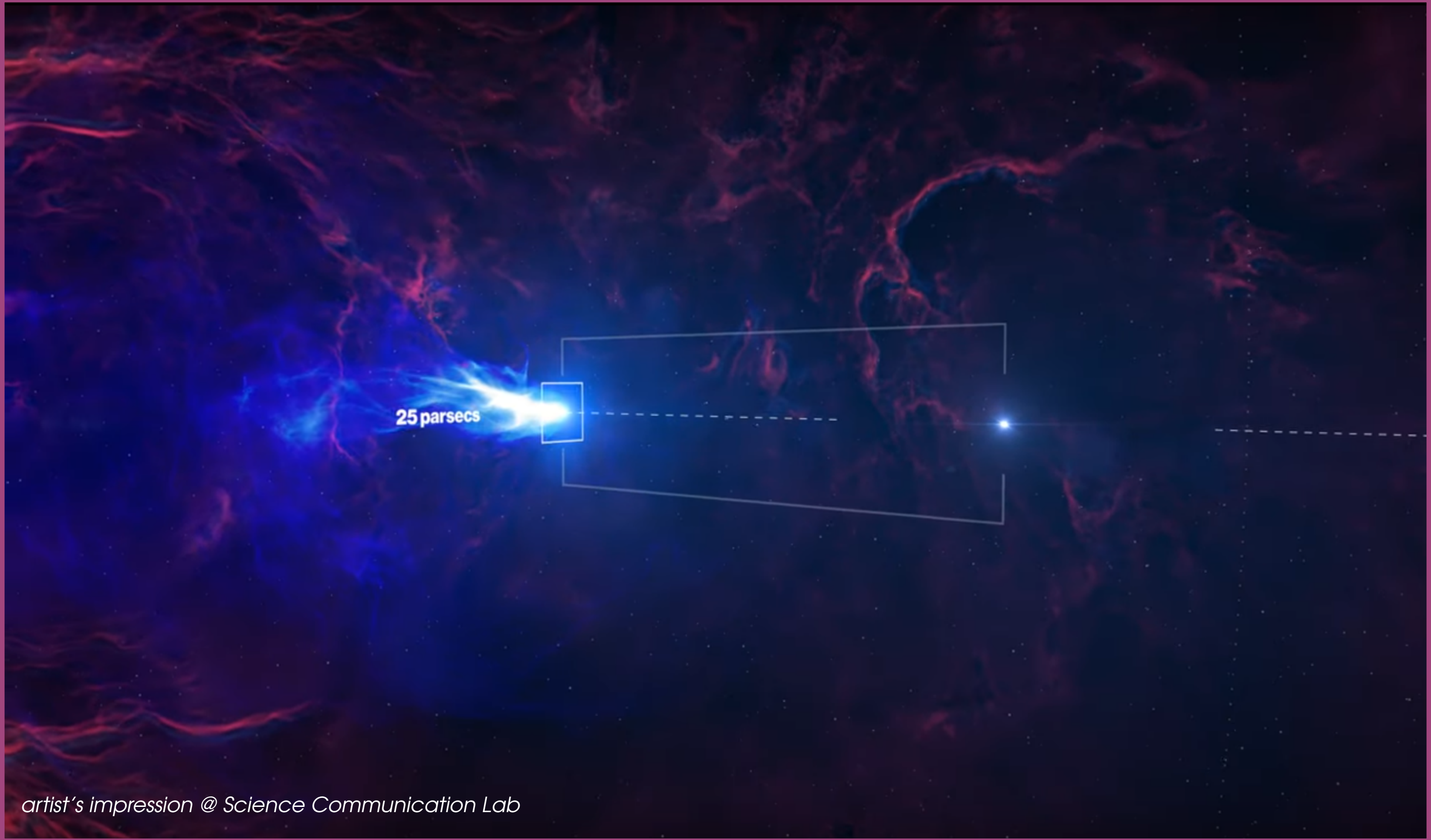
artist's rendering @ Science Communication Lab

"Inner jets" :
What about beyond 0.1 pc?

→ emission too dim

Credit : H.E.S.S. / MPIK

YT link



artist's impression @ Science Communication Lab

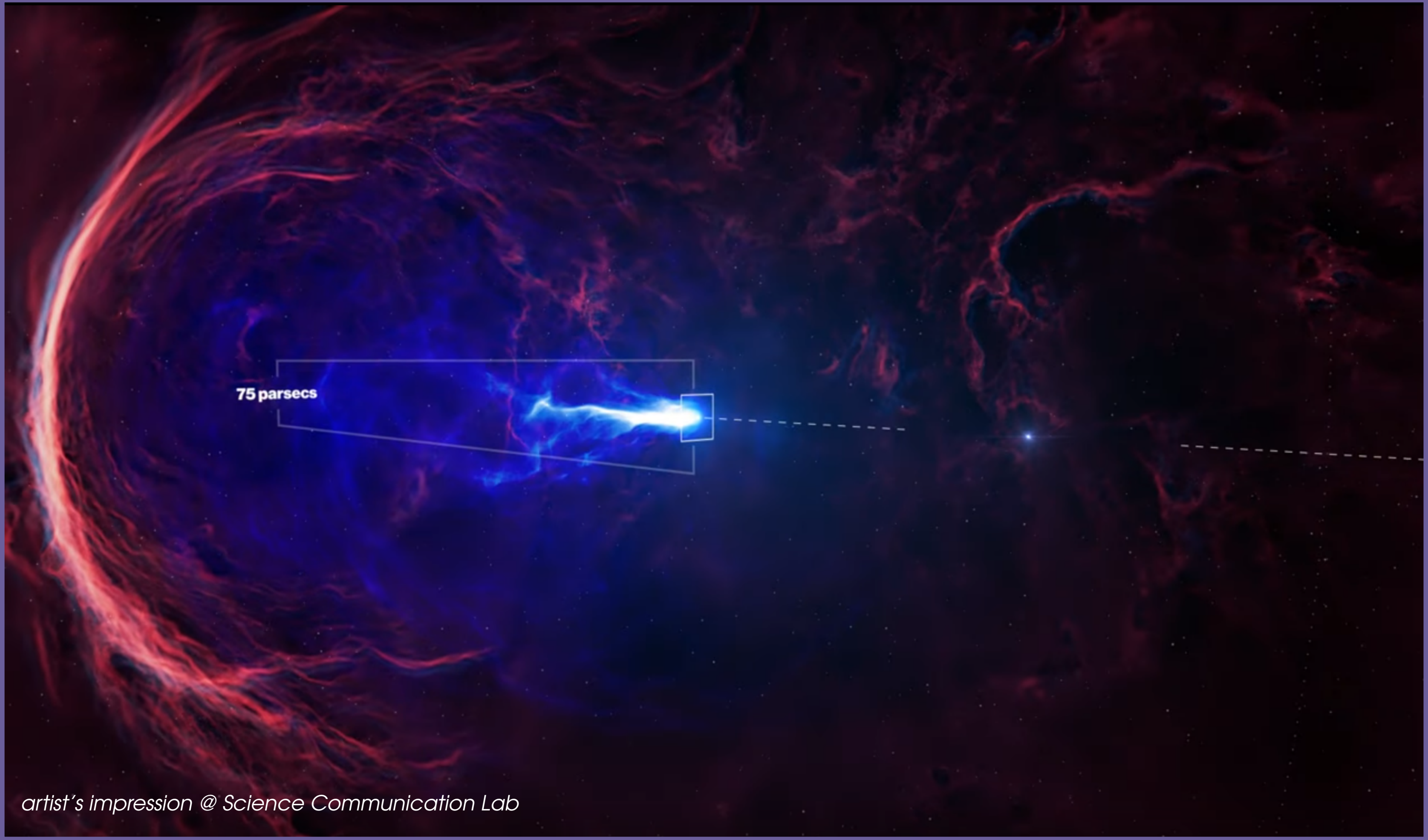
"Outer jets" :
Bright X-ray emission

re-collimated outflow w/o detected motion

Credit : H.E.S.S. / MPIK

YT link

The curious case of SS 433 : an extraordinary microquasar



artist's impression @ Science Communication Lab

"Outer jets" :

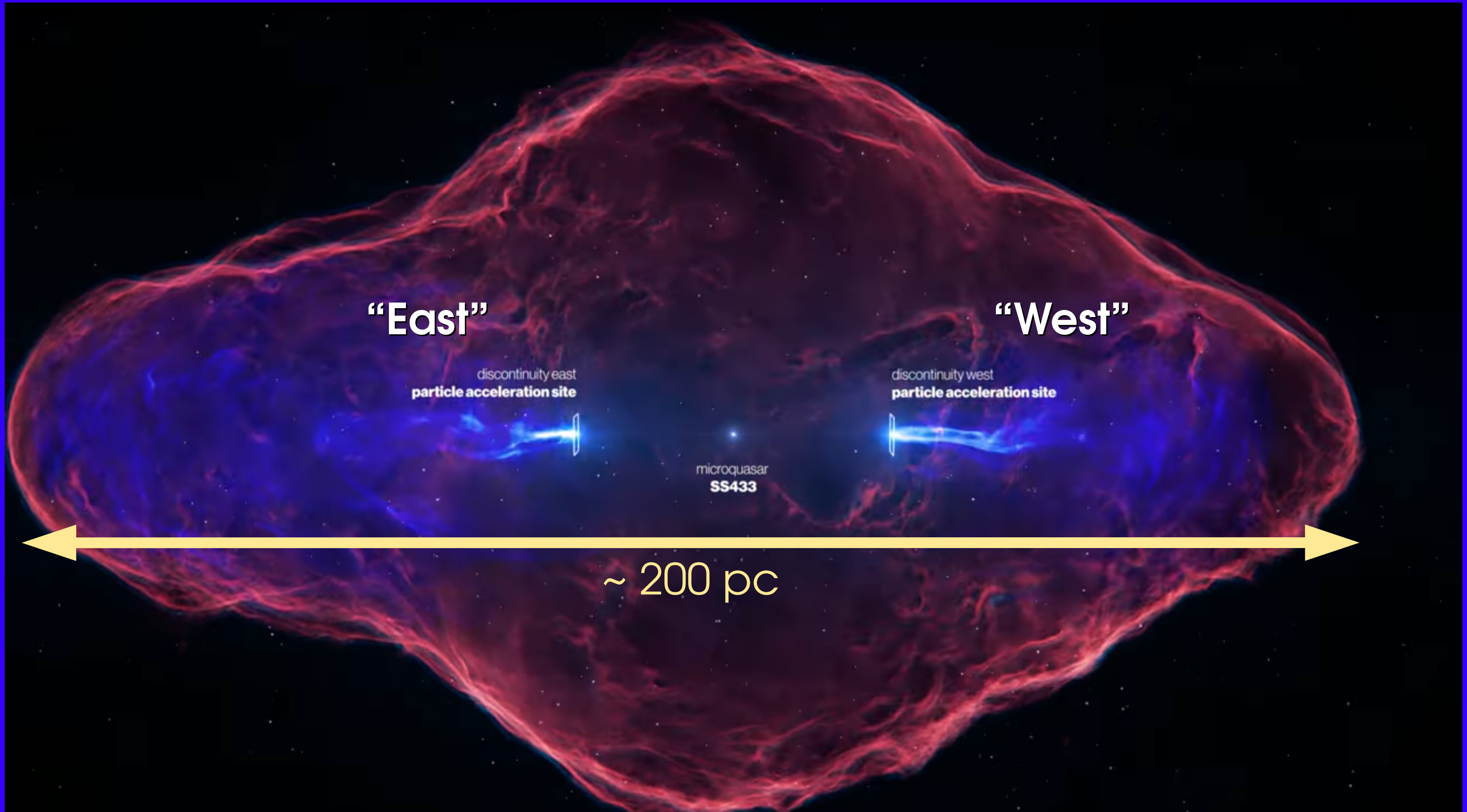
Terminating ~ 100 pc from the BH

UL v_{jet} at the edge ~ 0.023c

Credit : H.E.S.S. / MPIK

YT link

The curious case of SS 433 : an extraordinary microquasar



artist's rendering @ Science Communication Lab

"Outer jets" :

Parsec-scale re-collimated jets of e^-/e^+

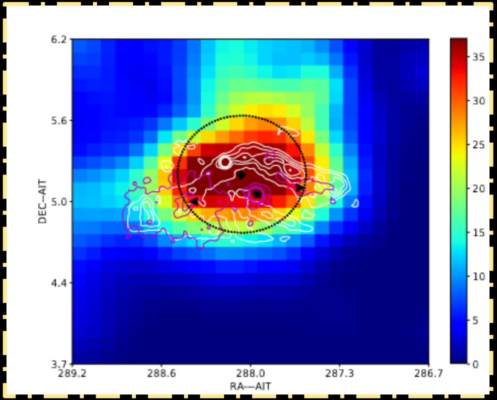
Credit : H.E.S.S. / MPIK

YT link

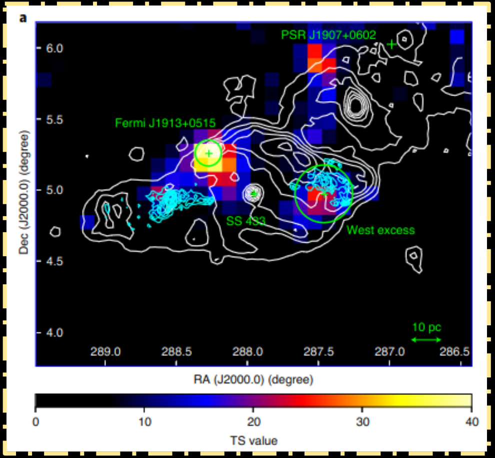
Claims of observed γ-ray emission : no consensus!

High-energies (MeV-GeV)

Sun et al, 2019
(> 500 MeV)



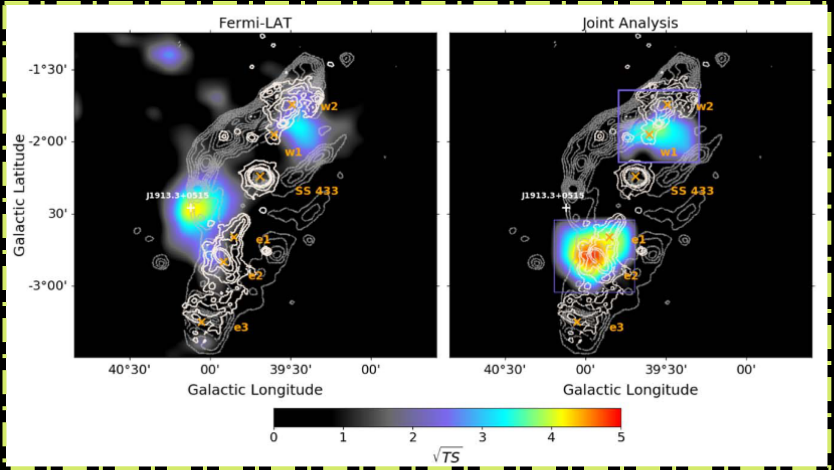
Li et al, 2020
(100 MeV – 300 GeV)
OFF phase PSR J1907+0602



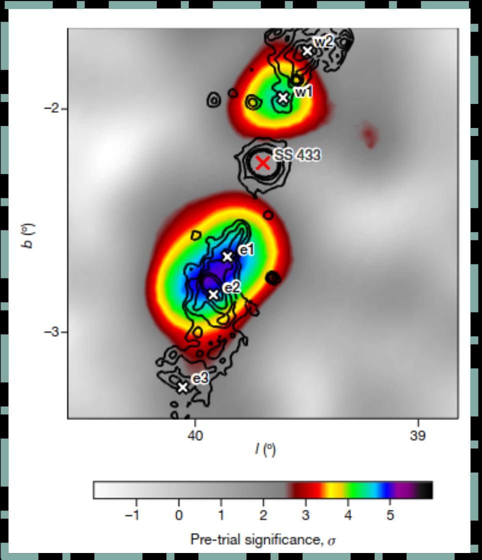
→ **Where** is the γ-ray emission coming from?

→ What are its **characteristics**?

Fang et al, 2020, "hotspots"
(100 MeV - 300 GeV) (Fermi-LAT + HAWC)



Very-high-energies (TeV)



HAWC collaboration, 2018
(2 "hotspots" at 20 TeV)

+ many many more
also interesting studies
throughout the years!

- Archival observations (centered on HESS J1908+063, source at the north-west FoV)
- Observation campaign in 2020-2021 to homogenise the exposure

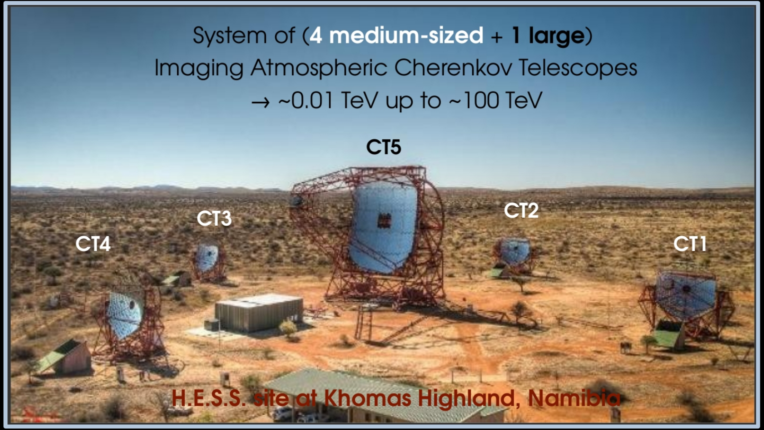
  → **~ 200 hours of H.E.S.S. data**

- Use of a new analysis technique, with **optimisation for higher E and "faint" emission** :

  use the large CT to **improve background rejection**!

  → Olivera-Nieto et al, EPJC 81 1101 (2021) Muons as a tool for bkg rejection in IACTs

  \+ Olivera-Nieto et al, EPJC 82 1118 (2022) Algorithm for Background Rejection using Image Residuals (ABRIR)



Detection of **extended VHE γ-ray emission** correlating spatially with the **outer jets**

→ spectro-morphological analysis

Science, 383, 6681, pp. 402-406 (2024)

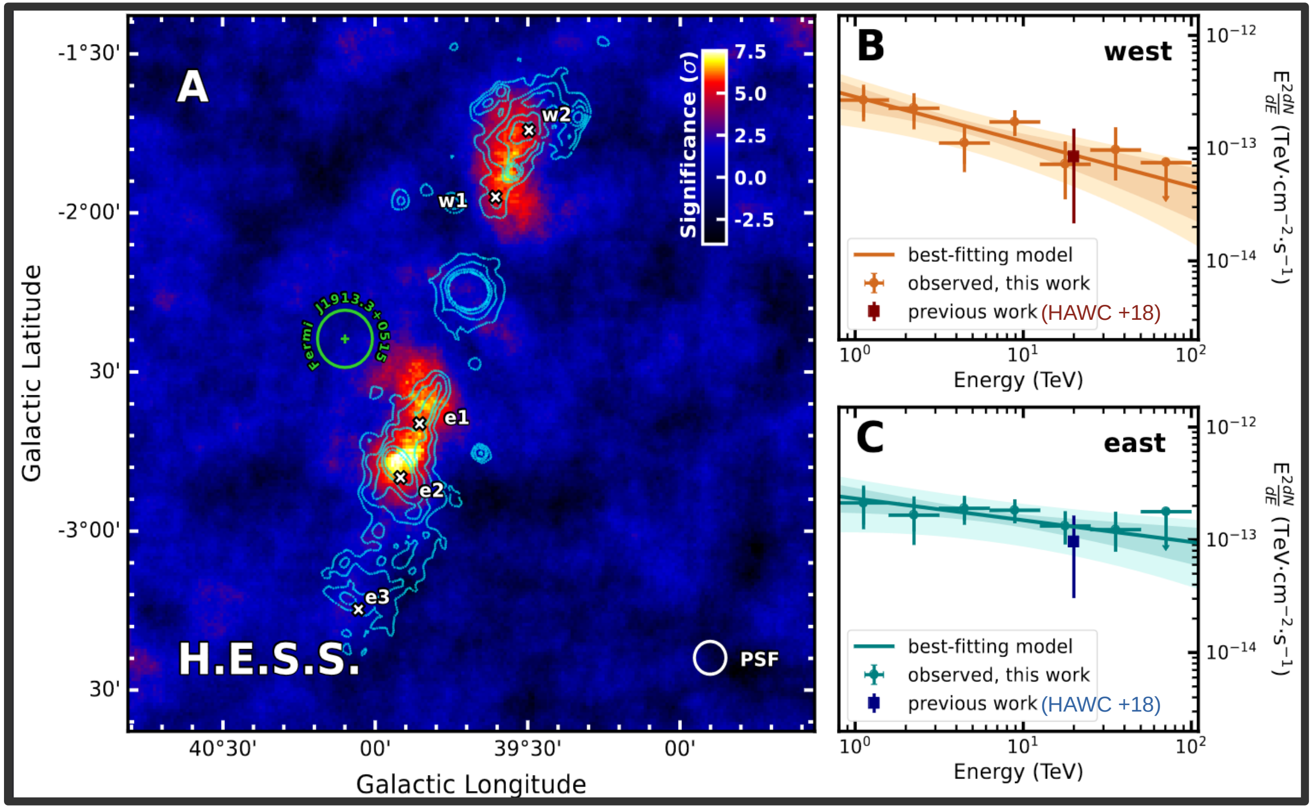
H.E.S.S Collaboration

Detection of the SS 433 system with H.E.S.S. : first time with an IACT array

Only < 1.5σ preference for spectral steepening
→ confirming hard spectra for both!

No TeV emission from Fermi J1913+0515

DOI: 10.1126/science.adi2048



Overlaid ROSAT X-ray contours for ref

West :

- **6.8σ** detection
- Gaussian$_{asym}$:
  - 3.5σ w.r.t a Gaussian$_{sym}$
  - 4.7σ w.r.t a point-like description
- φ spectral index :
  2.40 ± 0.15$_{stat}$ ± 0.13$_{syst}$

East :

- **7.8σ** detection
- Gaussian$_{asym}$:
  - 5.8σ w.r.t a Gaussian$_{sym}$
  - 7.8σ w.r.t a point-like description
- φ spectral index :
  2.19 ± 0.12$_{stat}$ ± 0.12$_{syst}$

ULs on emission from regions

DOI: 10.1126/science.adi2048

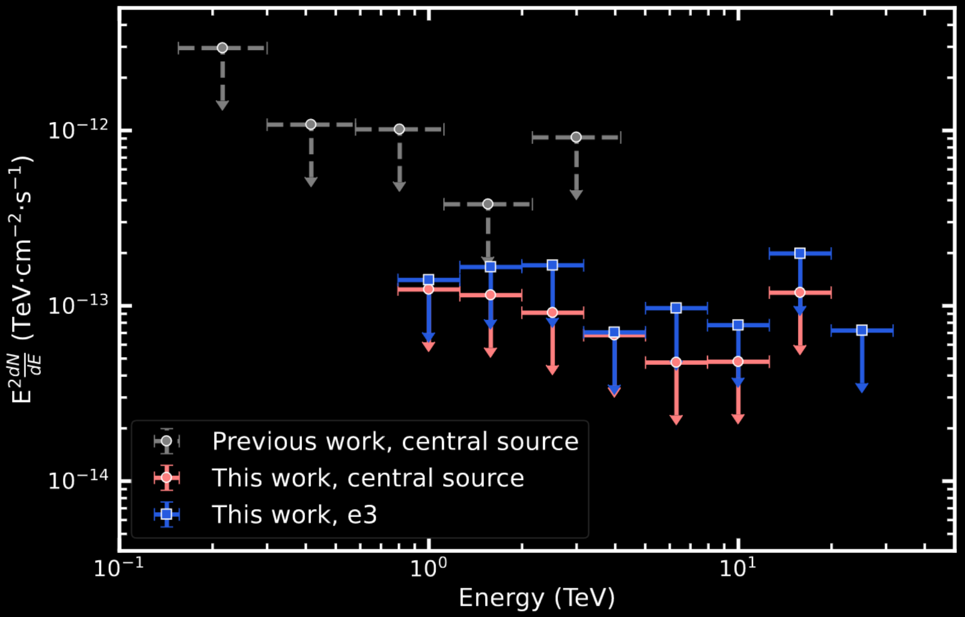
- No periodic variability seen by H.E.S.S.

- No > 5σ emission
  - from the central binary

nor

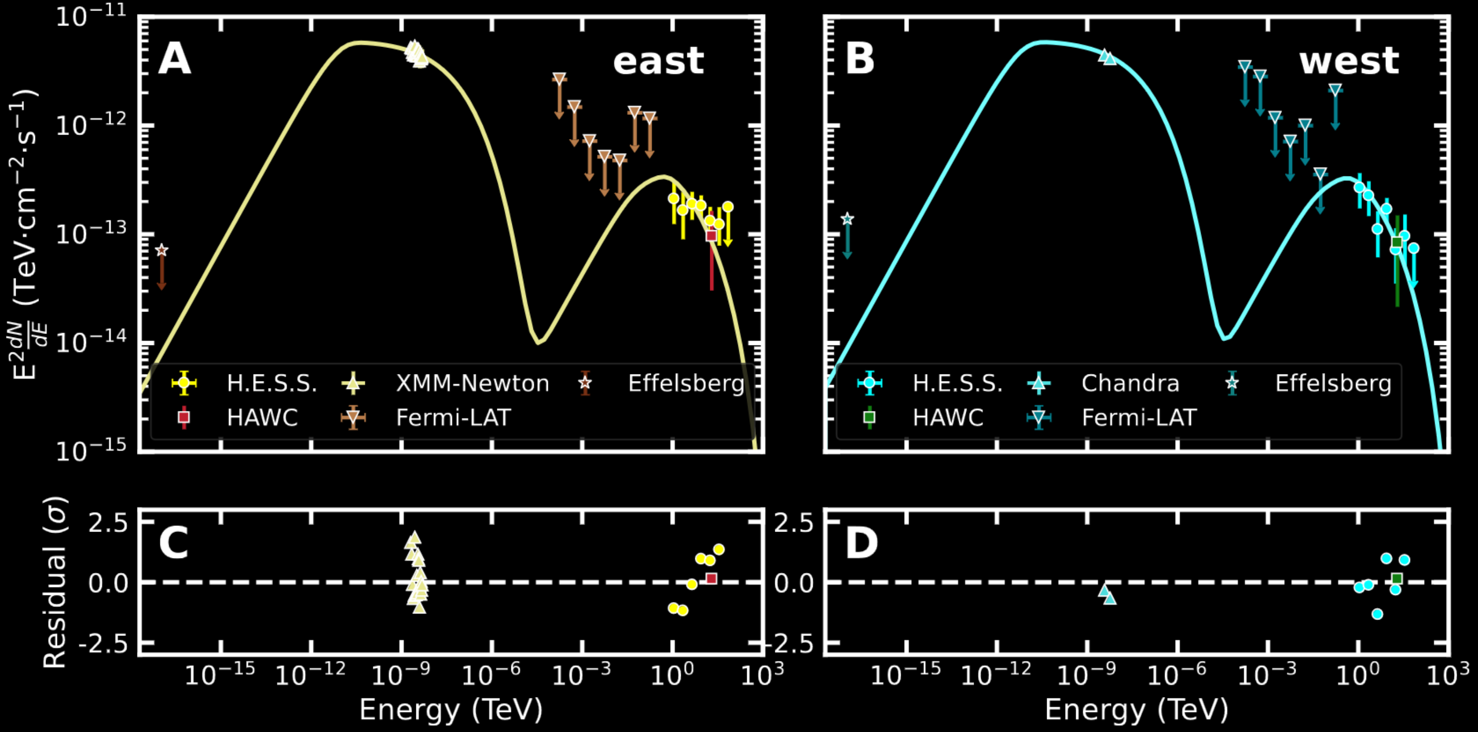
  - from the far eastern region of the X-ray jet (e3)

→ only thermal radiation seen in X-rays?



Leptonic scenario : synchrotron and inverse Compton scattering

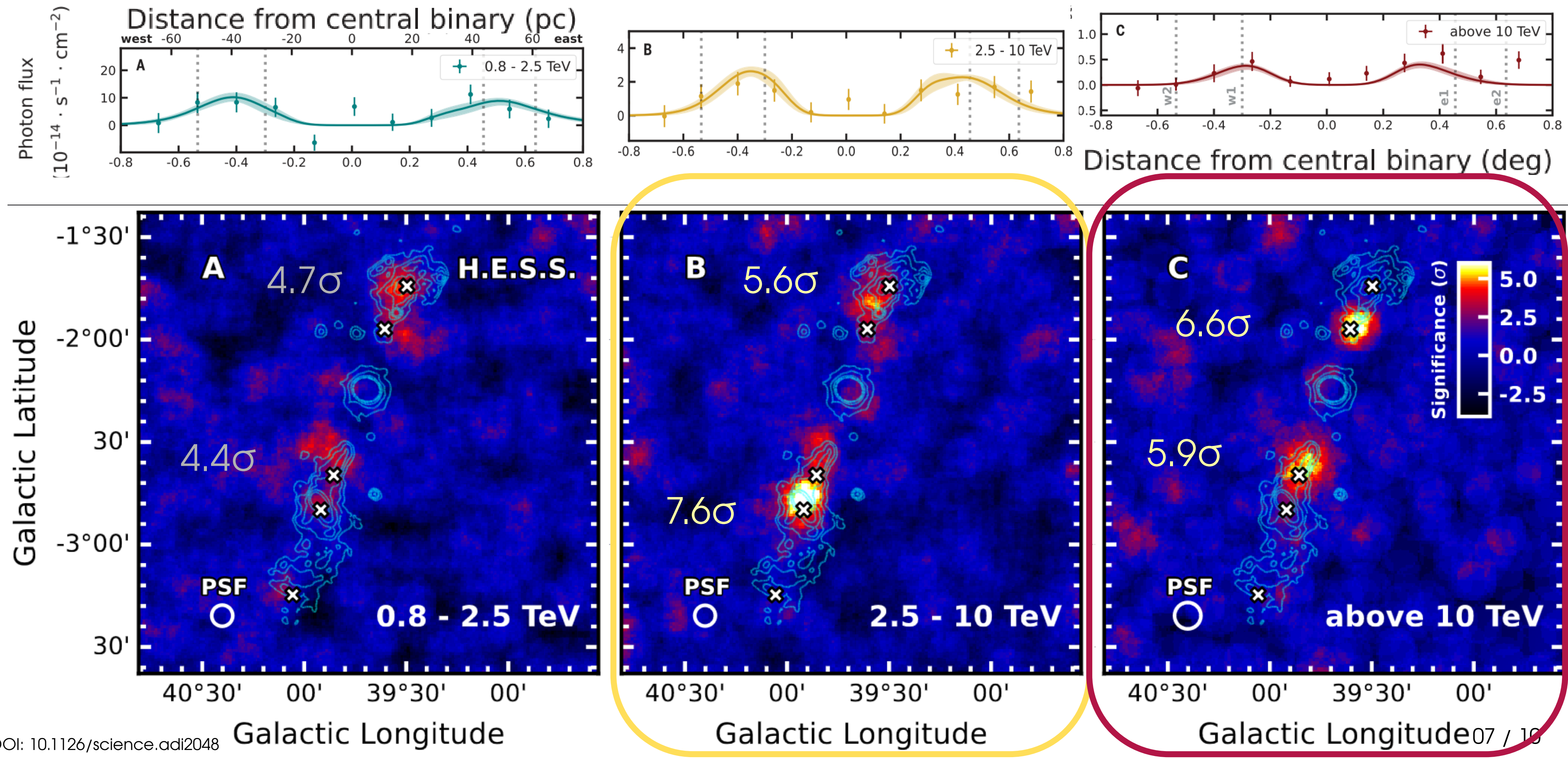
DOI: 10.1126/science.adi2048



	east	west
Γ_e	2	2
$E_{\rm cut}$ (TeV)	>200	
α	$(1.287 \pm 0.029)\cdot10^{-3}$	
B (μG)	19.5±2.7	21.1±1.8

Electron index
Energy cut-off
% jet kinetic power
B-field (1-zone)

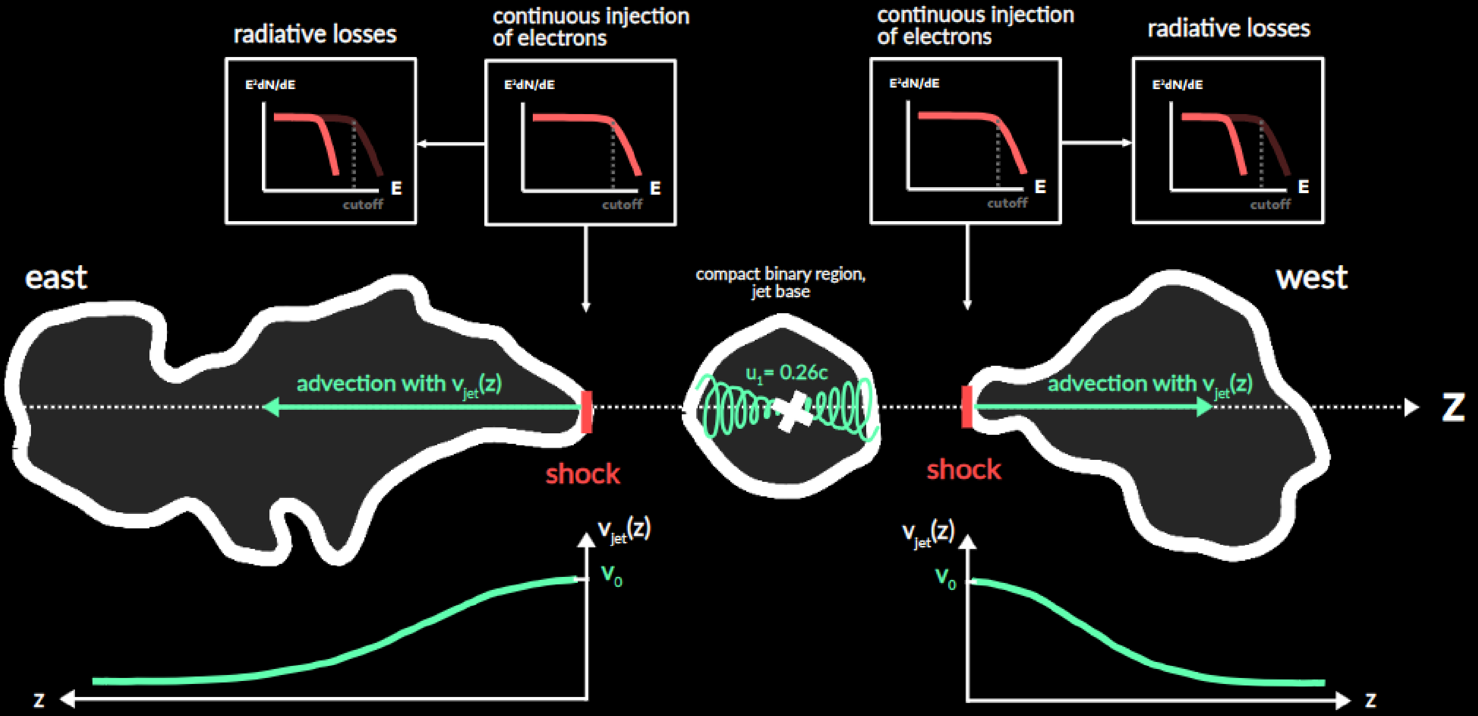
Energy-dependent morphology



DOI: 10.1126/science.adi2048

1D MC transport simulation along jet axis :

→ e^- spectrum, v(z), B



- e^- injected at z =0
- advected by $z_{adv} = v_{jet}(z)\ t$
- scaled with $\lambda = (2\ D_{diff}\ t)^{1/2}$
- cooled

Why SS 433 (and this study) should be/remain on CTA's "radar"?

- Proof of concept → large-sized CT for bkg rejection
  + analysis optimisation to higher energy ranges

- **Spatially-resolved emission of jets in VHE?**

→ **IACTs** can provide tremendous info on
sites of VHE emission → **sites of particle acceleration/fresh injection**
→ *unparalleled observational evidence*
for **processes behind jets & their dynamics**

- Not all microquasars are thought to be HE nor VHE sources...
  we may need to prove or disprove it!

▷▷▷ **CTA** has the potential to change our landscape of
microquasars, binary systems and astrophysical jets ◁◁◁

- SS 433 : still a lot of unsolved questions...

- No detection < 1 TeV of any significant emission from SS 433 or other HE hotspots in the FoV
- No detection of the central binary
- No significant variability

- **Significant detection of extended emission for the east and west parsec-scale jets**
- **Energy-dependent** morphology :

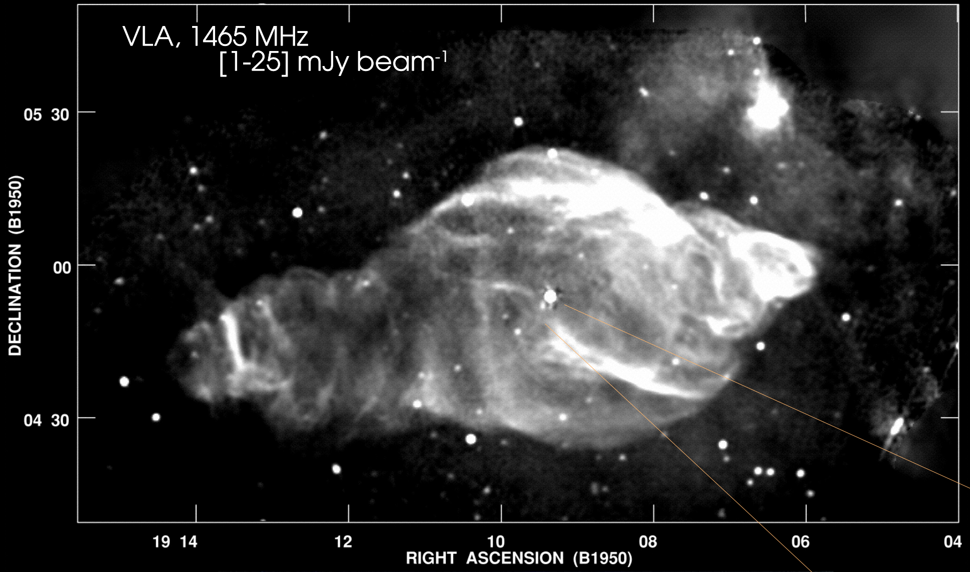
  shift of VHE centroid **towards the outer jet base** as a function of E

- Leptonic dominant process : IC scattering on target φ fields

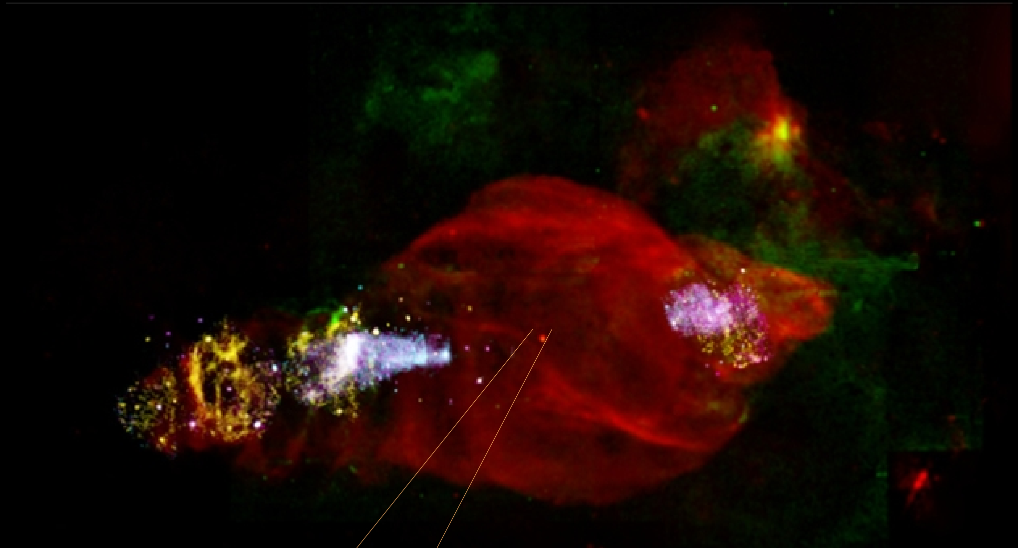
- Inference of a CD/shock at the jet base, **accelerating $e^{-/+}$ to > 200 TeV** ranges

γ-ray astronomy community needs to continue observing such systems!

Radio/X-ray comparison



Dubner et al, 1998



Safi-Harb et al, 2022 + ref within

radio

optical

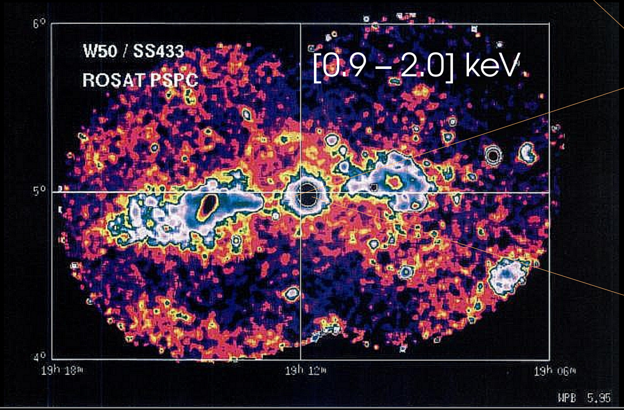
[0.5 – 1] keV

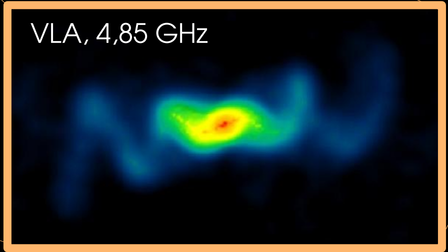
[1 – 2] keV

[2 -12 keV]

(X-ray : Newton-XMM & Chandra)

Brinkmann et al, 1996





Blundell & Bowler, 2004

Contamination from the bright HESS J1908+063

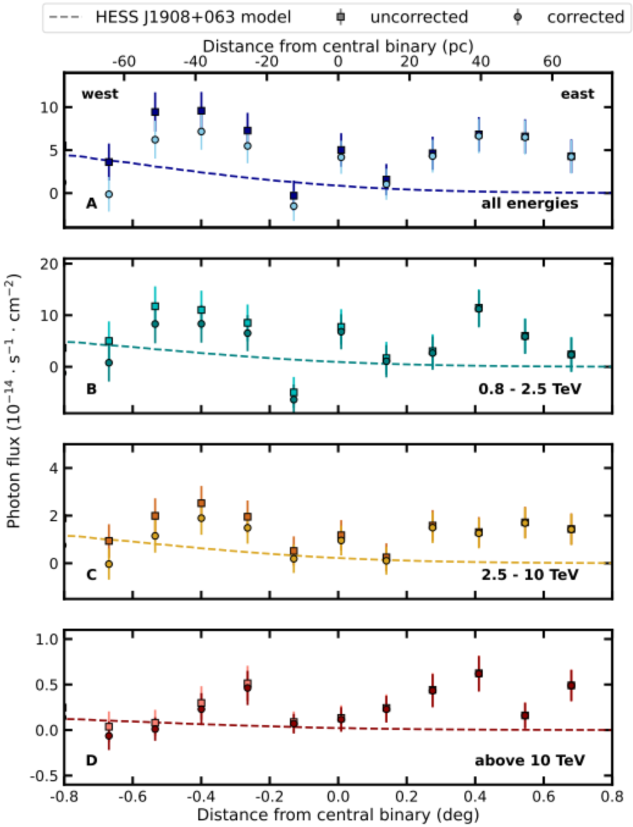


Figure S3: **Gamma-ray flux profiles along the jets showing the contamination of HESS J1908+063.** The data points represent the measured flux in spatial bins of 0.14° along the axis joining both jets through the central binary (Figure S2) for energies (**A**) above 0.8 TeV, (**B**) 0.8 to 2.5 TeV, (**C**) 2.5 to 10 TeV and (**D**) above 10 TeV. Squares and circles indicate the flux before and after subtracting HESS J1908+063. Error bars indicate the combined statistical (1σ) and systematic uncertainties. Circles in panels B-D are the same data as shown in Figure 4. The dashed lines show the flux of the HESS J1908+063 model at each location. The top axis assumes a distance to the system of 5.5 kpc (*7*).

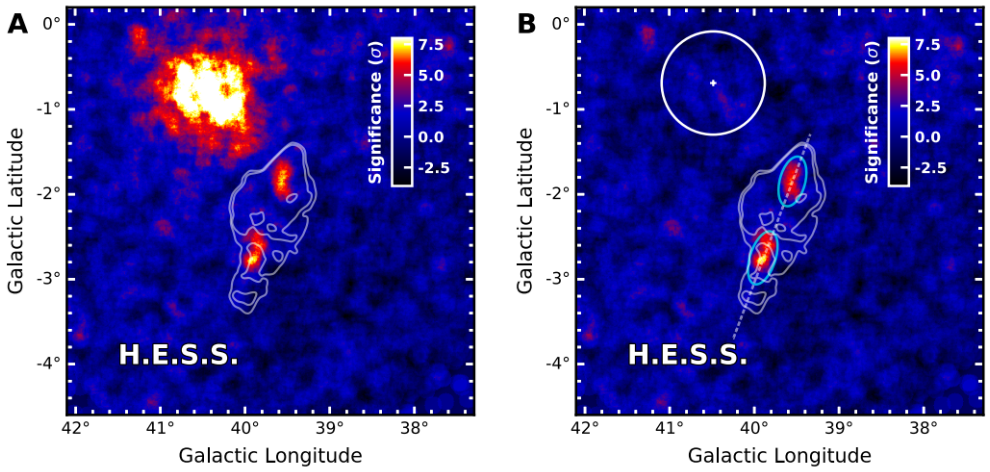
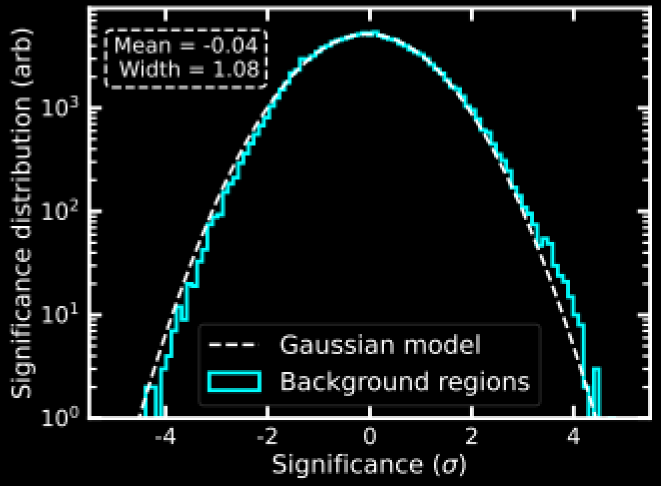


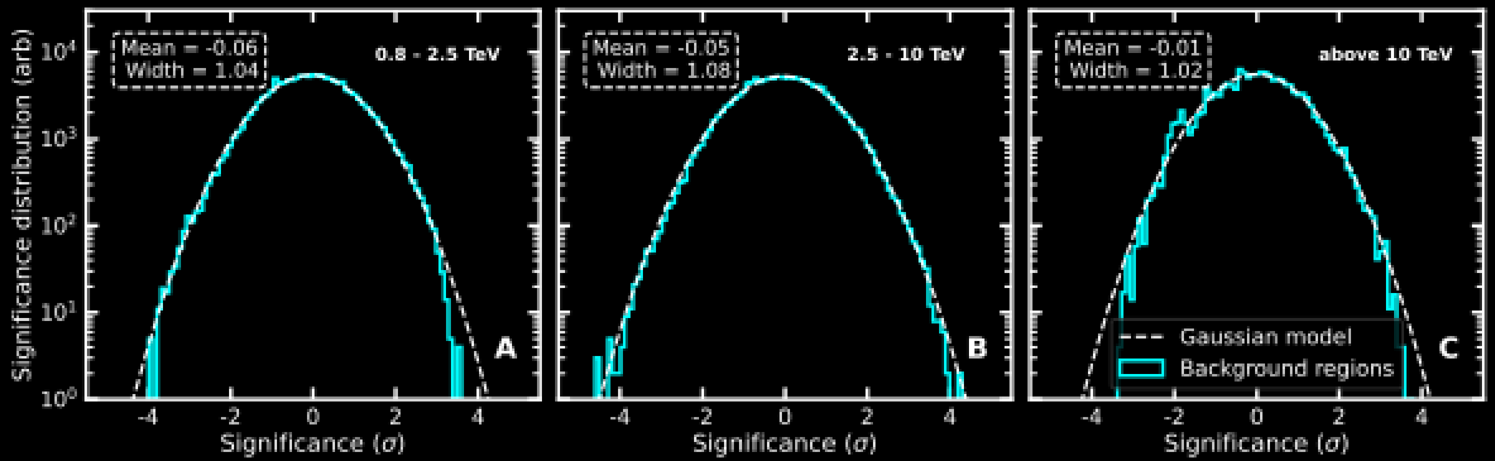
Figure S2: **Subtraction of HESS J1908+063.** Same as Figure 1A, but (**A**) before and (**B**) after subtracting the emission from the nearby extended source HESS J1908+063. In panel **B**, the white circle indicates the 68% containment region of the model fitted to HESS J1908+063, and the white cross is its bes-fitting position. In both panels, the solid white contours show radio emission from the W 50 nebula (*63–65*). In panel **B**, the blue ellipses show the regions from where the spectral measurement of the jets is extracted (Figure 1B-C). The dashed line shows the axis across the jets used to derive the gamma-ray spatial profiles shown in Figures 4 and S3.

Background distribution



unabridged E range

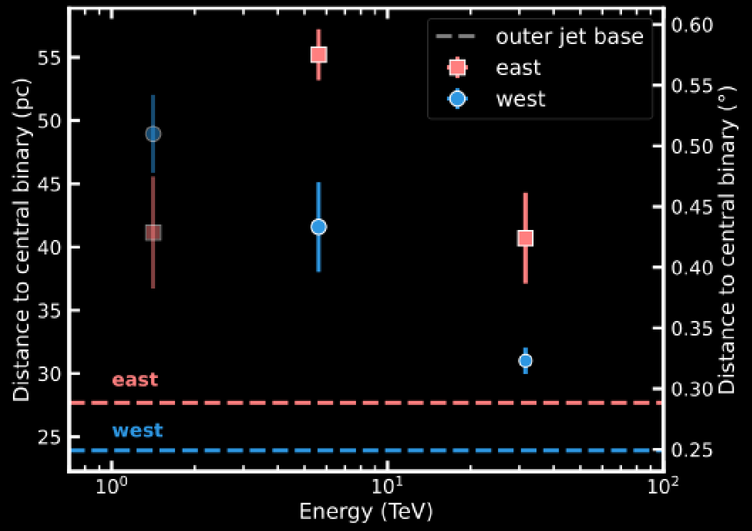
Energy bins



Morphology results, assuming d = 5.5 kpc

Best fit for G_{asym}, all E :

	unit	l	b	r_{maj}	r_{min}	θ
east	deg	39.875 ± 0.018	-2.687 ± 0.027	0.205 ± 0.035	0.044 ± 0.014	-19
	pc			19.68 ± 3.36	4.22 ± 1.35	
west	deg	39.564 ± 0.013	-1.853 ± 0.027	0.134 ± 0.036	0.046 ± 0.015	-19
	pc			12.86 ± 3.46	5.37 ± 1.44	



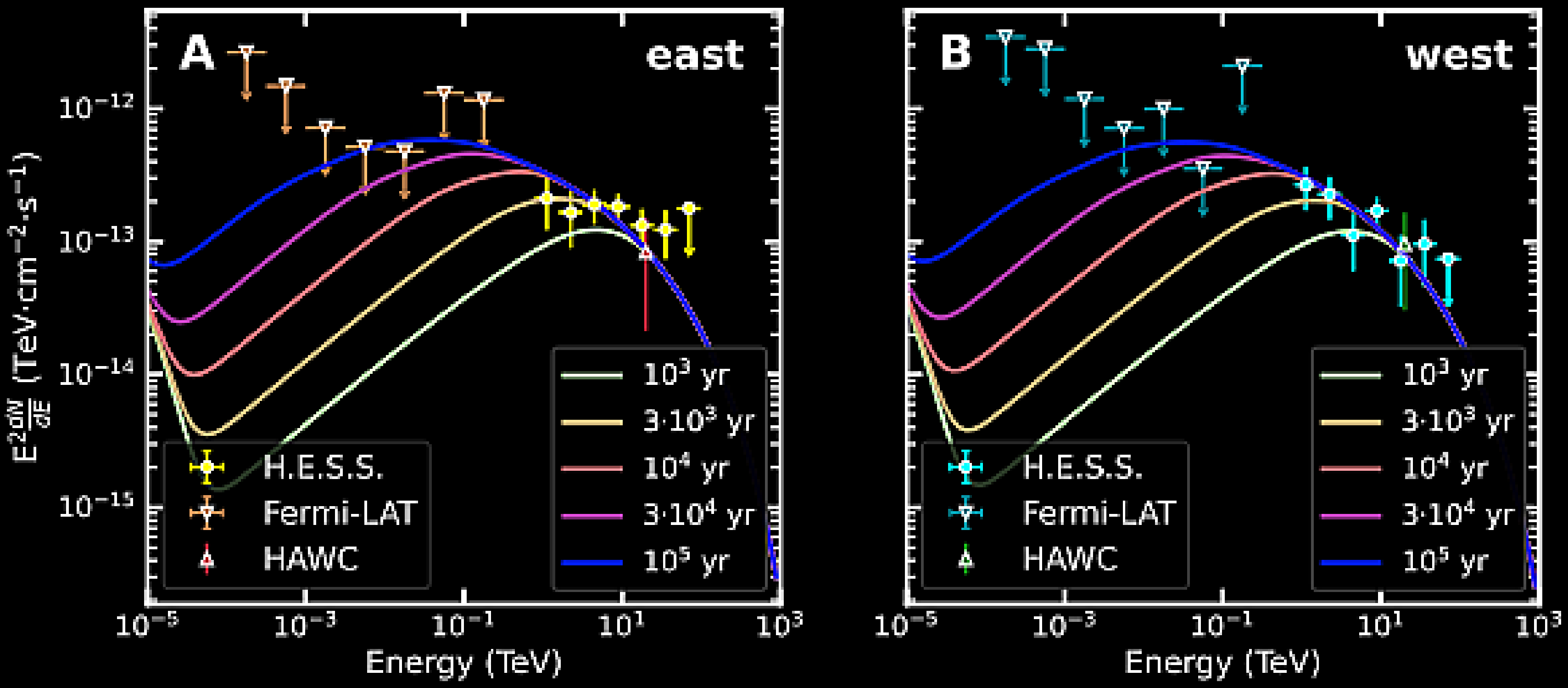
Best fit for G_{sym}, 3 E-bins :

side	energy (TeV)	l (deg)	b (deg)	r (deg)	$d_{SS\,433}$ (deg)	$d_{SS\,433}$ (pc)
east	0.8 to 2.5	39.913 ± 0.044	-2.614 ± 0.047	0.125 ± 0.022	0.428 ± 0.046	41.148 ± 4.424
	2.5 to 10	39.924 ± 0.018	-2.772 ± 0.021	0.085 ± 0.015	0.575 ± 0.021	55.212 ± 2.007
	above 10	39.840 ± 0.031	-2.643 ± 0.038	0.013 ± 0.029	0.424 ± 0.037	40.693 ± 3.593
west	0.8 to 2.5	39.537 ± 0.024	-1.759 ± 0.033	0.080 ± 0.016	0.510 ± 0.032	48.946 ± 3.089
	2.5 to 10	39.582 ± 0.024	-1.826 ± 0.037	0.095 ± 0.018	0.433 ± 0.037	41.590 ± 3.552
	above 10	39.560 ± 0.010	-1.951 ± 0.011	-	0.323 ± 0.011	31.015 ± 1.038

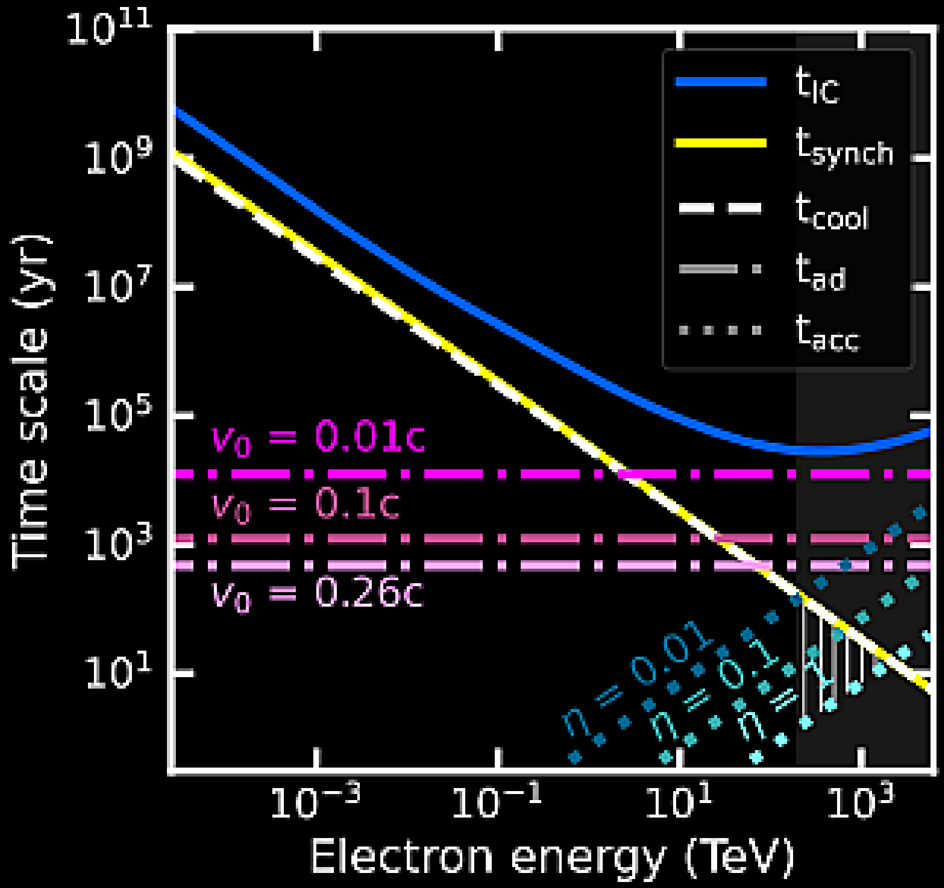
> 5σ : [2.5 – 10] TeV & > 10 TeV

--- : base (derived from X-rays)

Different injection duration



Timescales



t_{ad} : adiabatic loss

$$t_{acc} = \frac{3}{u_1 - u_2}\left(\frac{D_1}{u_1} + \frac{D_2}{u_2}\right) \approx \frac{8}{\eta}\frac{D_{Bohm}}{u_1^2}$$

Assuming $u_1 = 0.26c$ (before the shock)

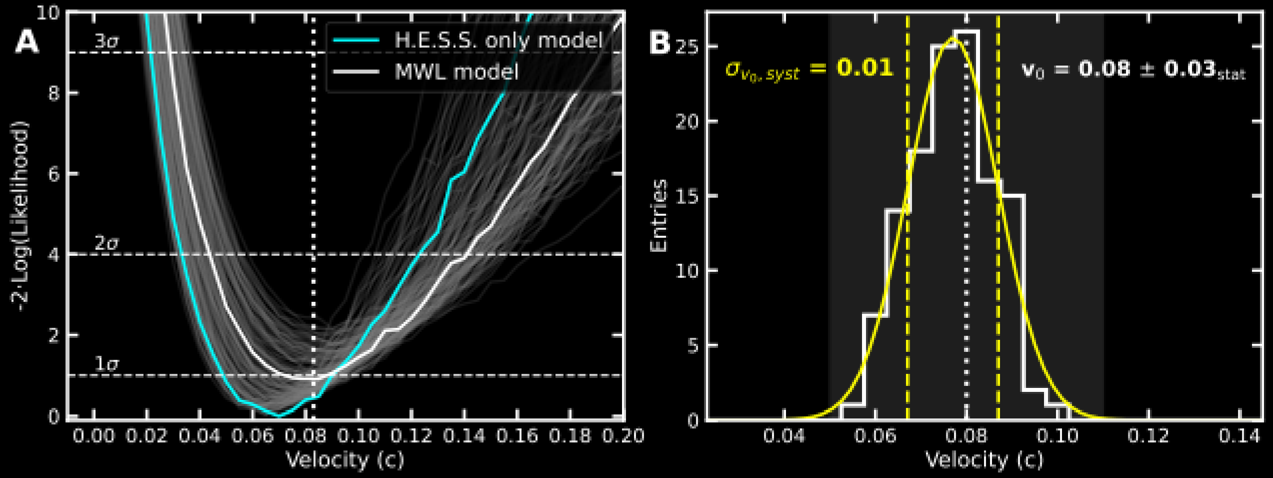
Greyish band :

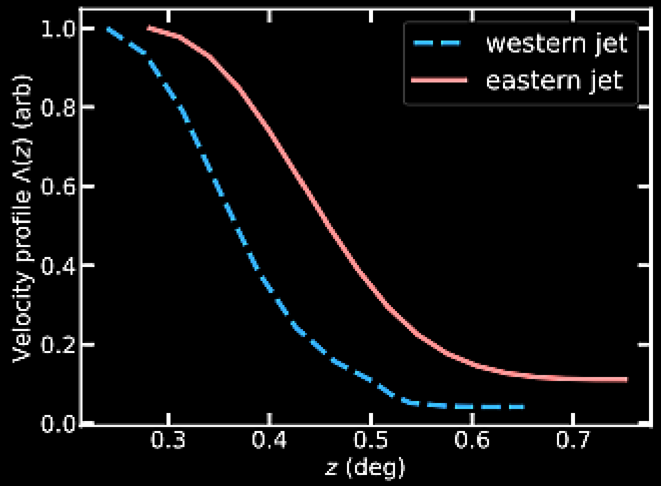
$E_{e-,max} > 200$ TeV

Systematics from model parameters

Combination of
B and e- spectrum
params

Initial v_0
systematics
from MWL SED fit





Deceleration profiles vs distance
from the central binary

→ from X-ray data
(H.E.S.S. PSF smoothing)

Material for hadronic processes

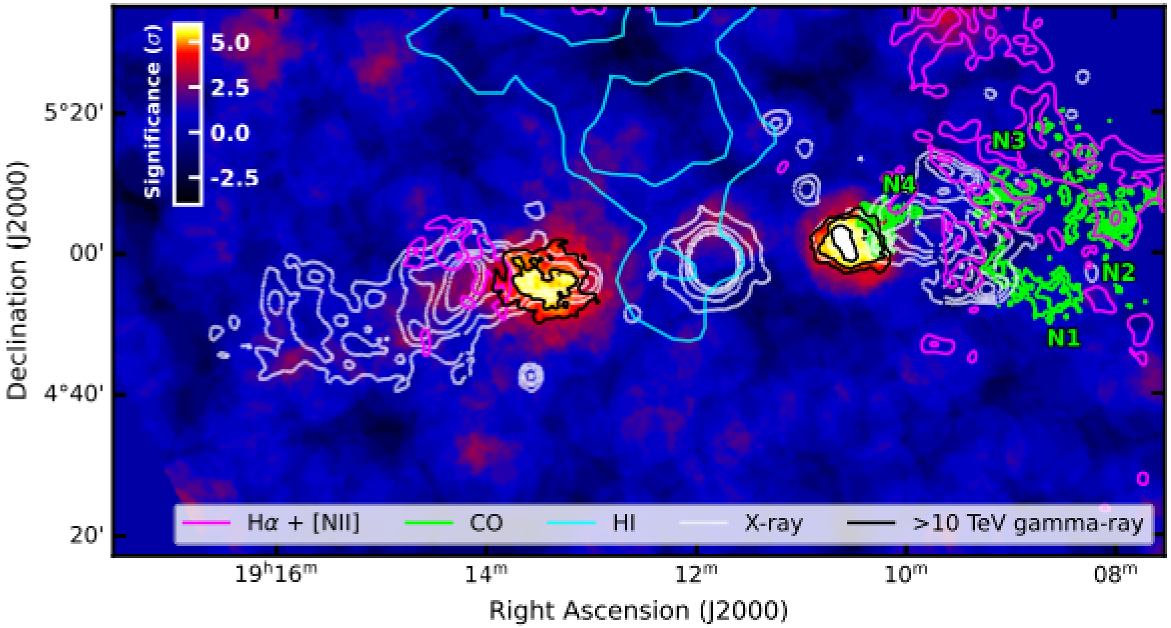


Figure S16: **Location of possible sites of hadronic interactions.** The H.E.S.S. significance map above 10 TeV (rotated from the orientation in Figure 2C) compared to observed gas locations, which are possible target material for hadronic interactions. Equatorial coordinates are shown for the J2000 equinox. Black contours indicate significances of 4, 5 and 6σ in the H.E.S.S. map. The pink contour indicates Hα + [NII] emission from ionised gas (*83*), green corresponds to CO observations revealing four molecular clouds N1 to N4 (*82*) and light blue to neutral hydrogen emission from diffuse neutral gas (*79*). The ROSAT X-ray contours (*14*) are shown for reference in white. There is no correlation between any of the potential targets and the H.E.S.S. emission above 10 TeV.