

Recent Extragalactic Observations at Very High Energies by LST-1

Abhradeep Roy

On behalf of: CTAO-LST Collaboration



CTAO

LST
COLLABORATION

Outline

1. Motivation

2. The Large Sized Telescope-1

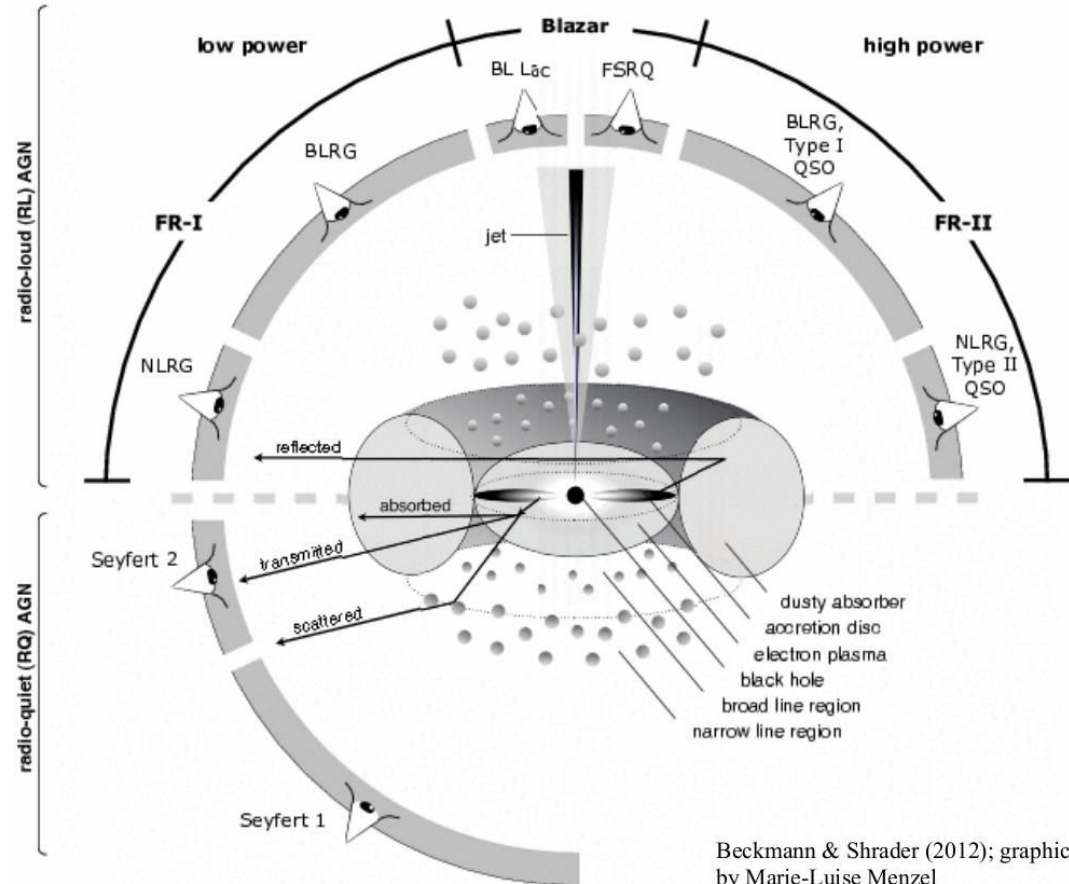
3. Observed blazars

- a. Mrk 421
 - b. Mrk 501
 - c. 1ES 1959+650
 - d. BL Lac
- } Nearby sources ($z < 0.1$)

- e. 1ES 0647+250
 - f. PG 1553+113
 - g. OP 313
- } Distant sources ($z > 0.4$)

h. 1ES 1218+304

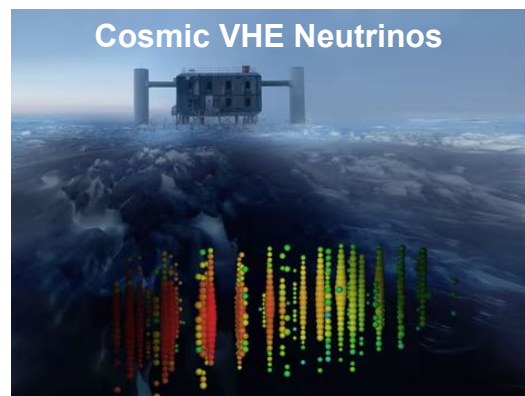
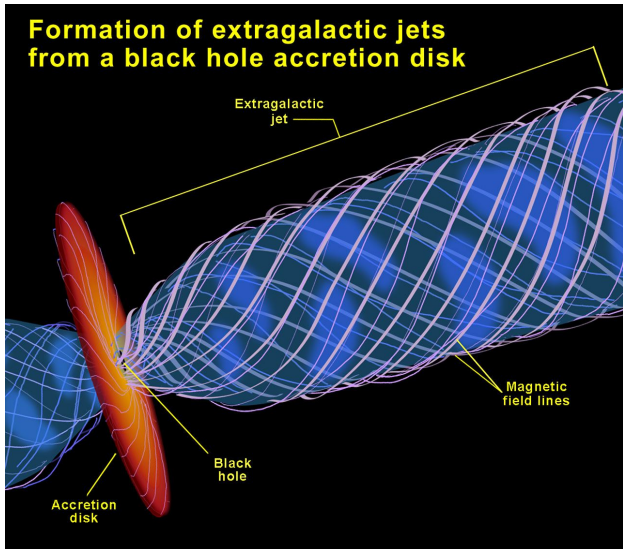
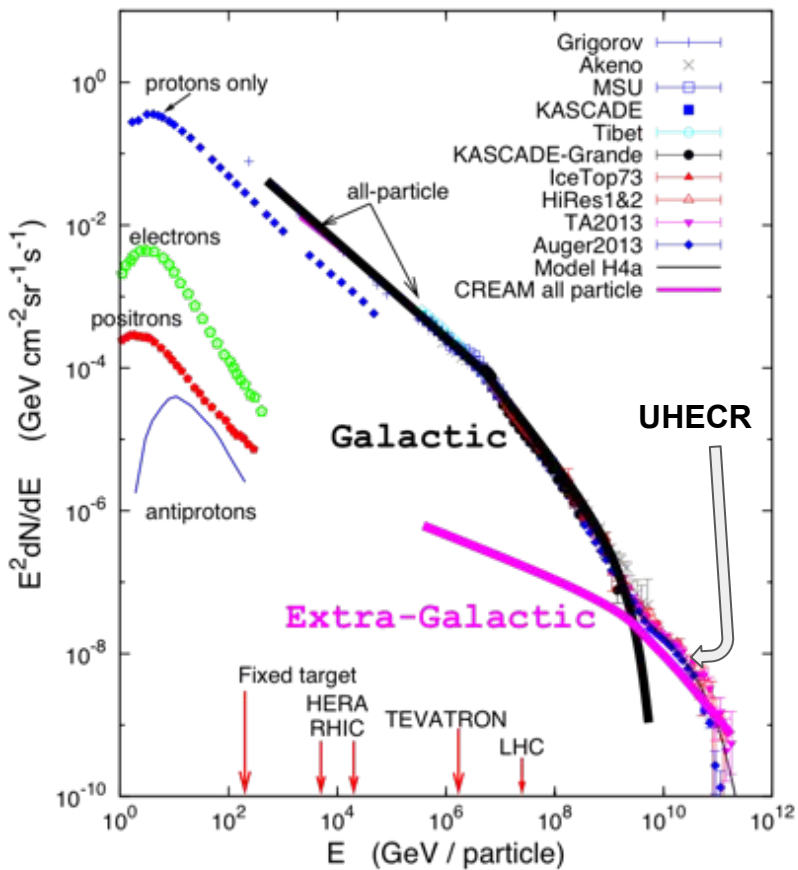
4. Summary

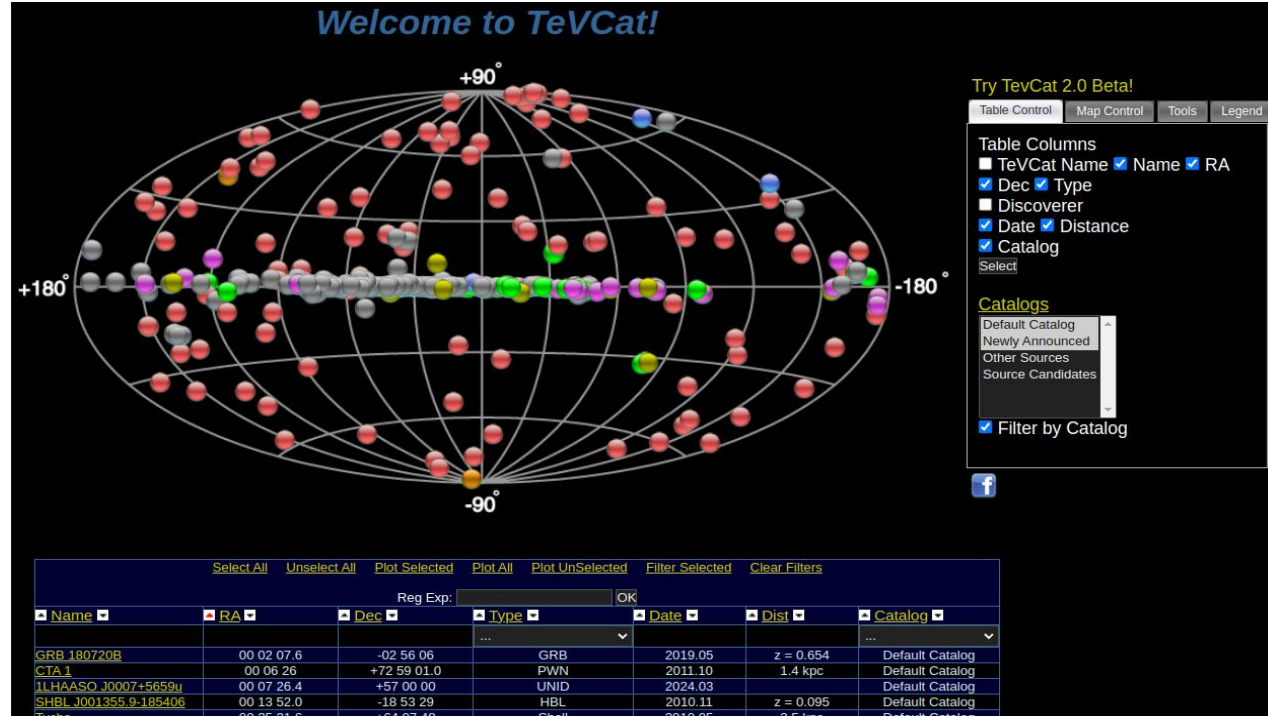


Beckmann & Shrader (2012); graphic by Marie-Luise Menzel

Motivation behind Extragalactic Observations

Energies and rates of the cosmic-ray particles





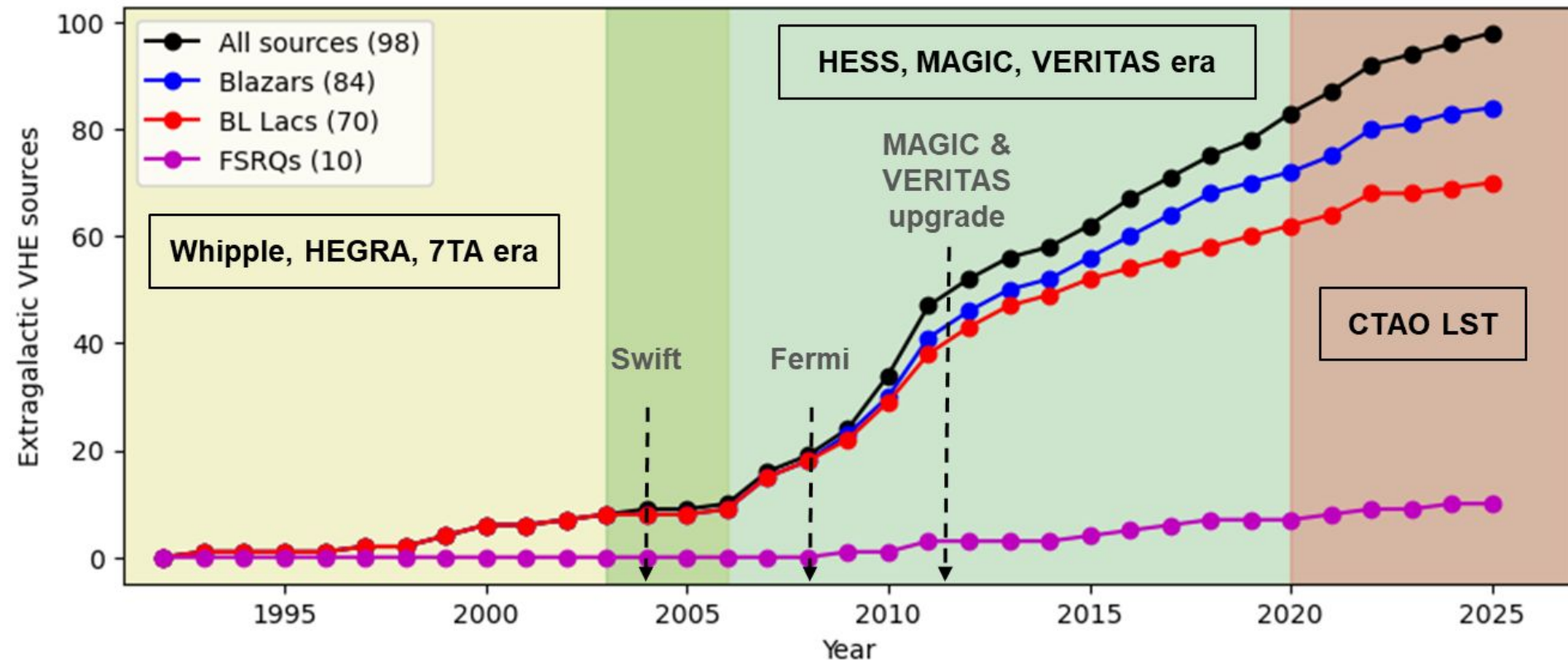
- Total VHE sources: 308
- Extragalactic sources: 98
 - AGN (88)
 - Starburst galaxies (3)
 - GRB (7)

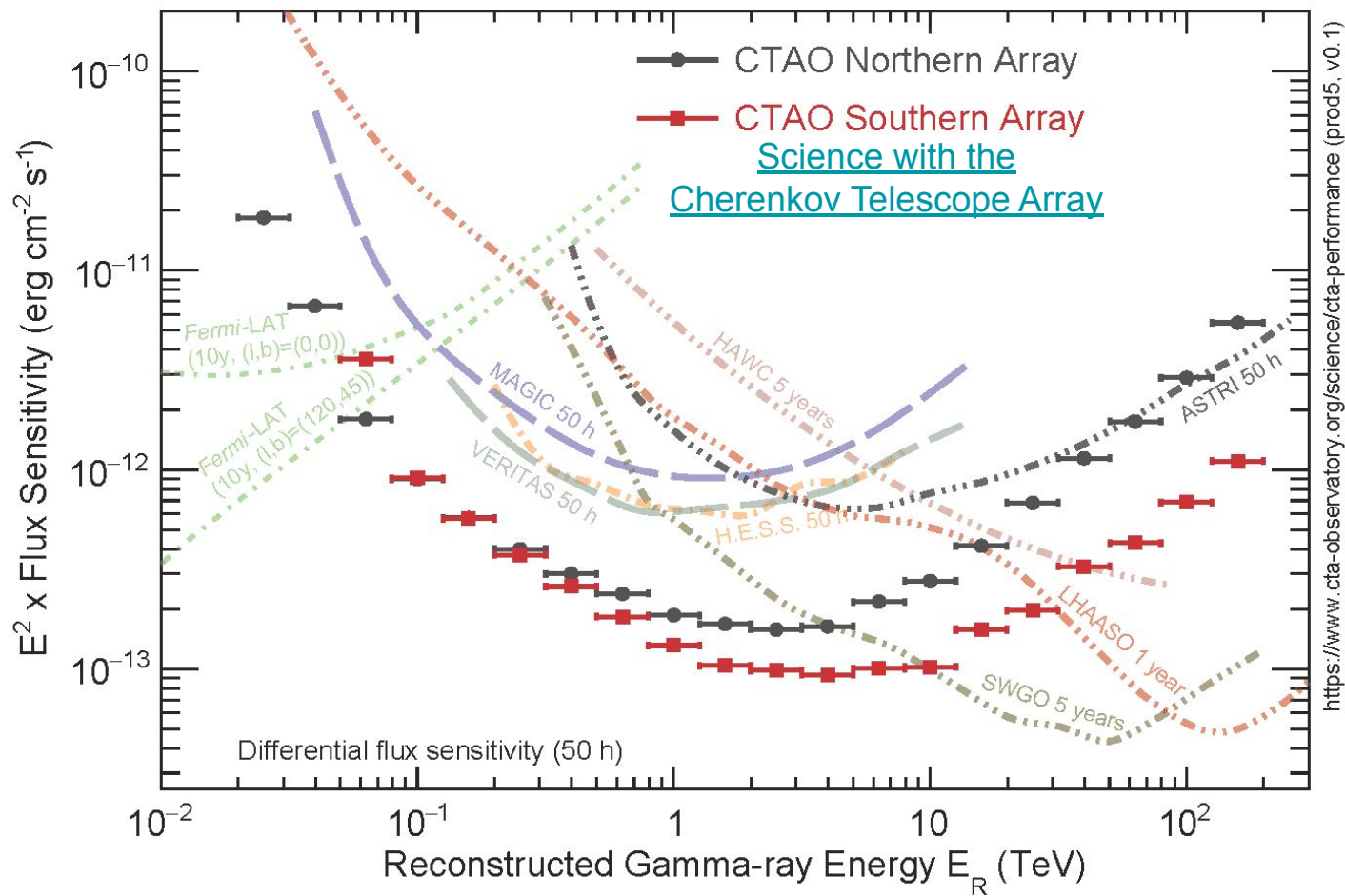
<http://tevcat.uchicago.edu/>

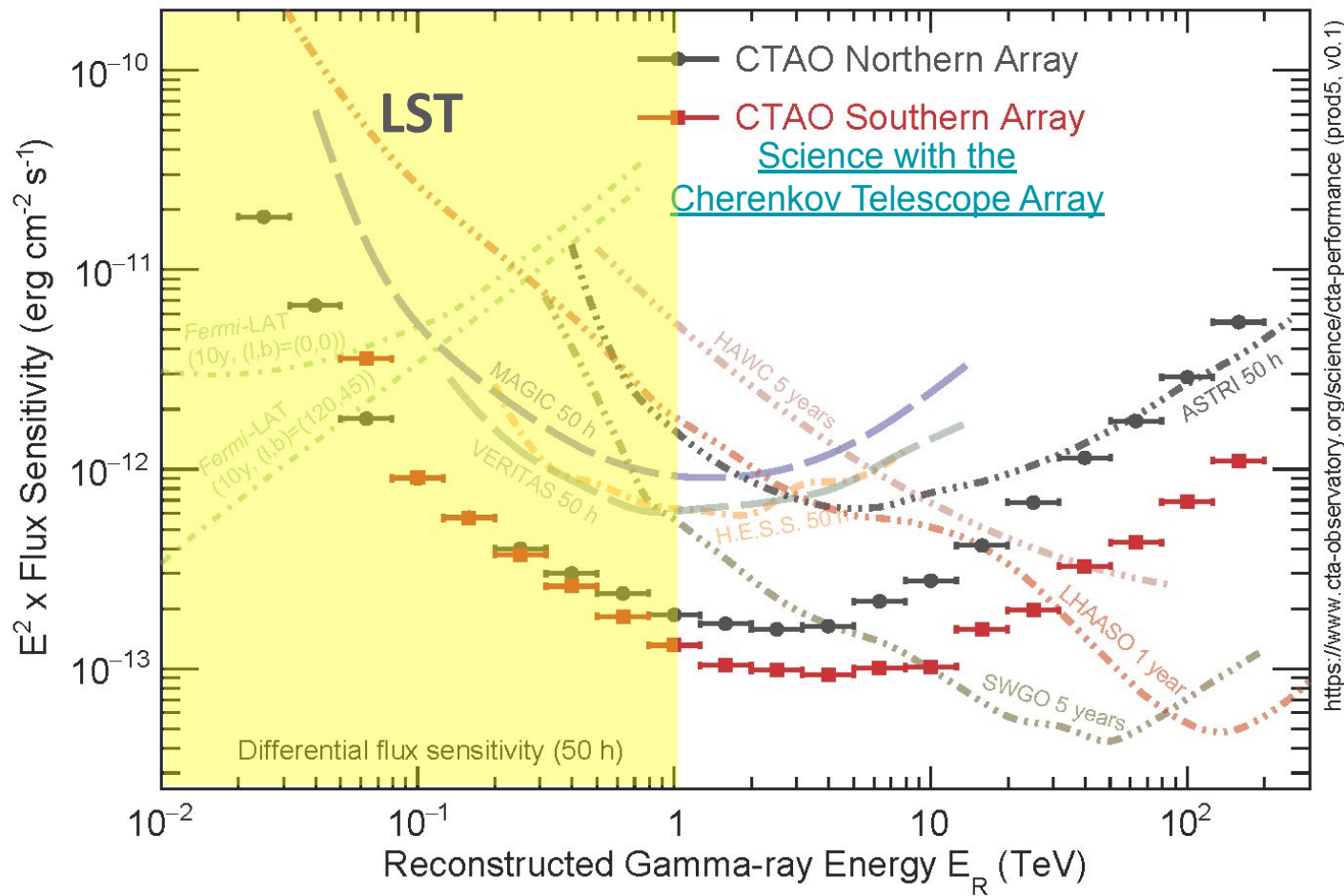
Or

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

The Extragalactic Sky at VHE with CTA-LST



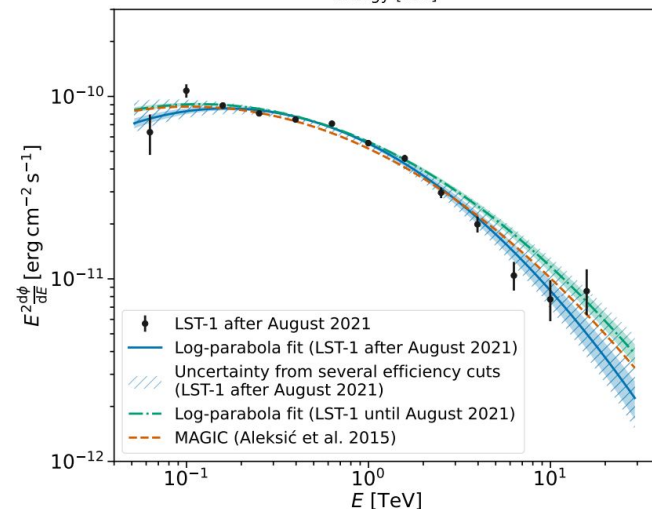
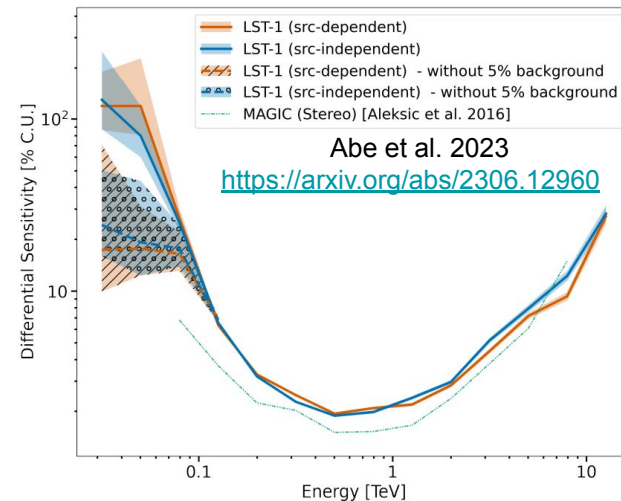




The Large Sized Telescope-1

Credit: Tomohiro Inada

Diameter 23 m
Pixels 1855 PMT
FOV 4.5°
E_{min} ~20 GeV

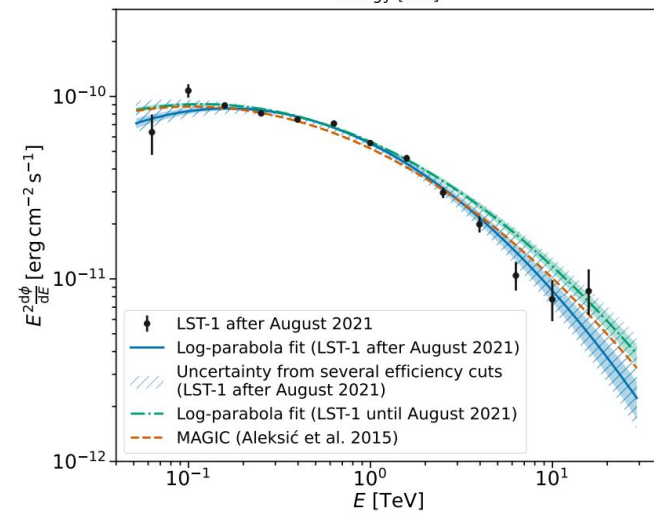
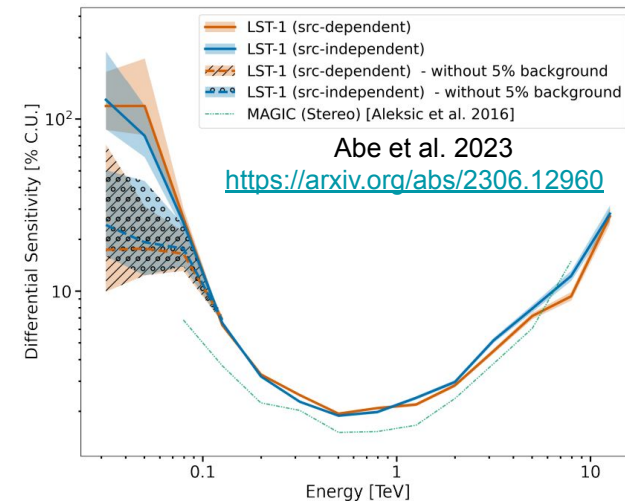


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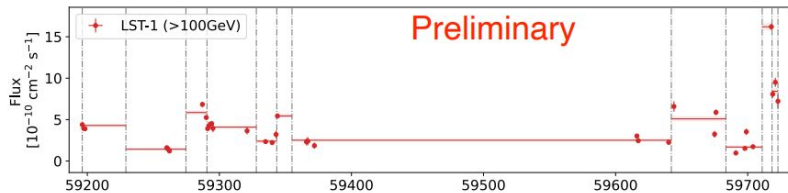


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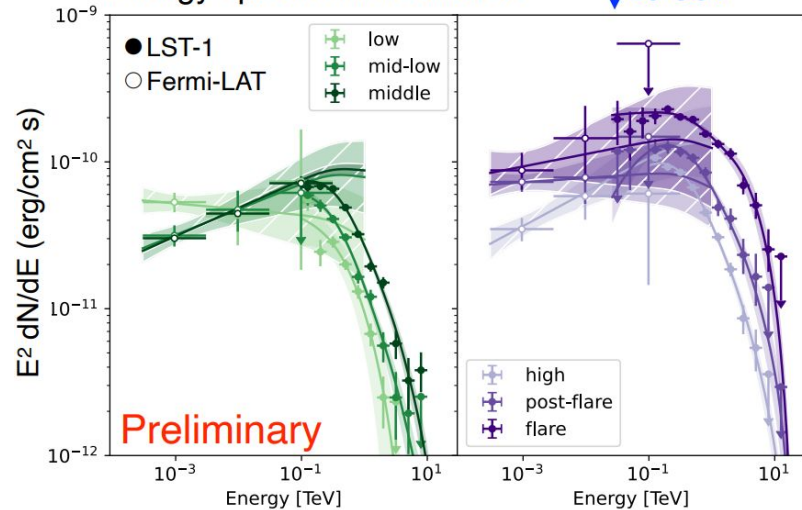


Mrk 421 ($z = 0.031$)

- Observation time: 31.9 hrs (2020 to 2022)
- Detection significance: 53σ
- Bayesian blocks to identify states of activity

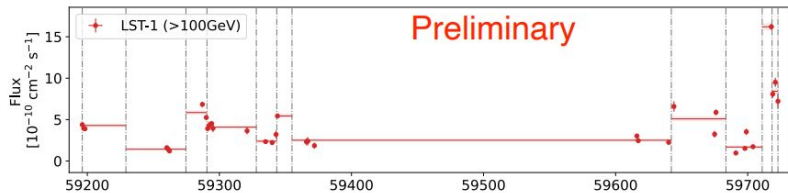


Energy spectra in each state $\downarrow 25 \text{ GeV}$

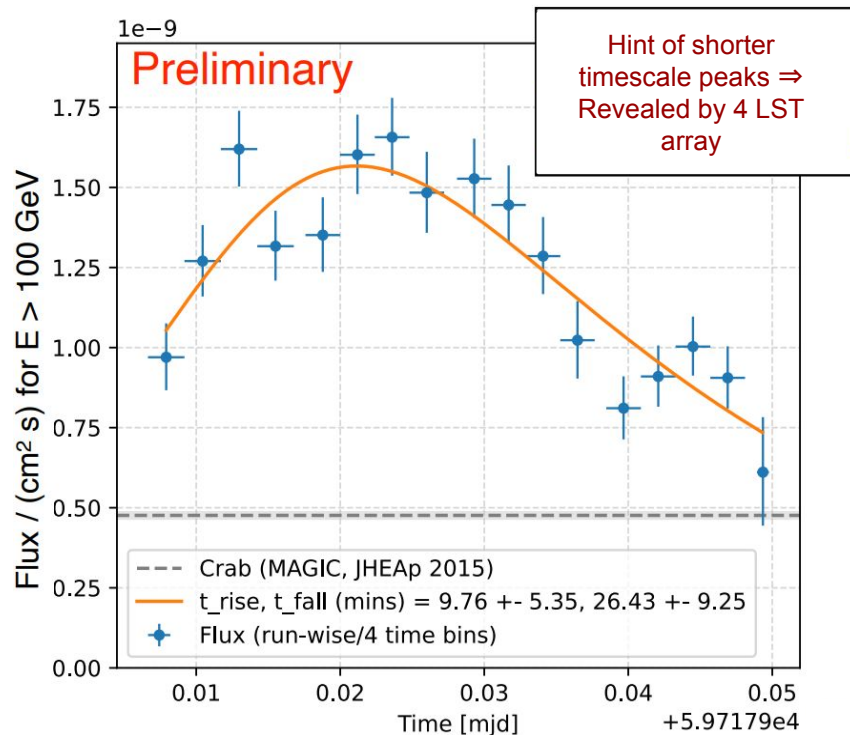
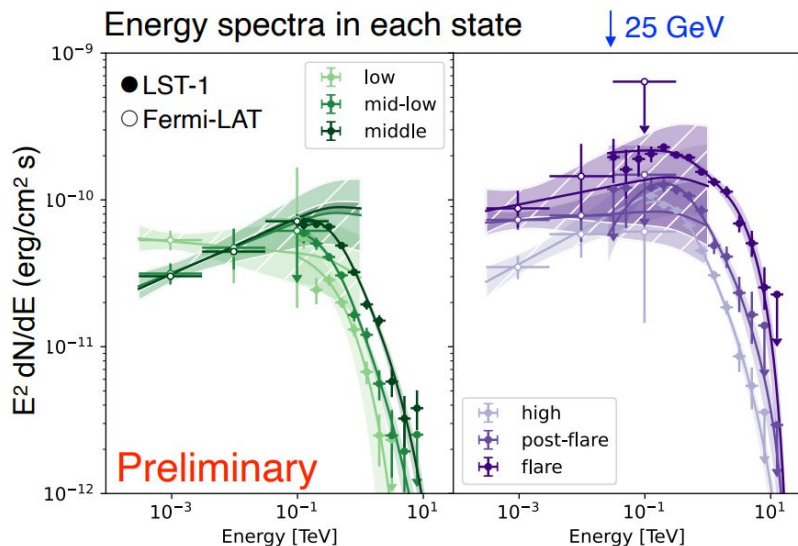


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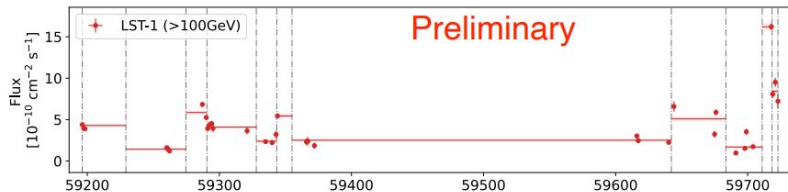


- Flare on 2022-05-18 (~3 crabs at >100 GeV)
- Fast variability observed during flare.
- Rise time: ~10 min, Fall time: ~26 min
- Compact emission region: $0.2 - 3 \times 10^{15}$ cm

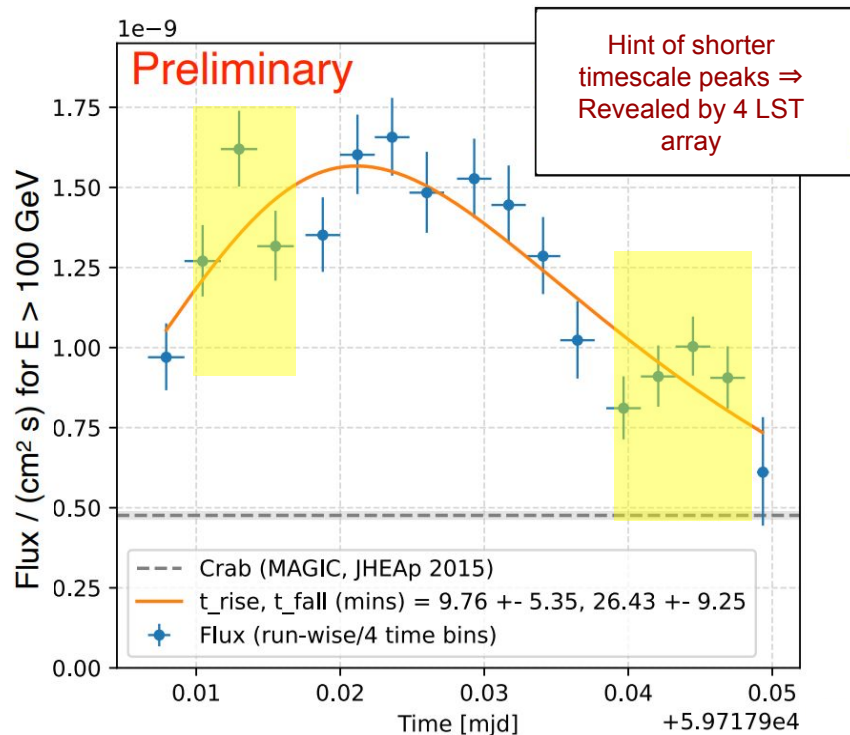
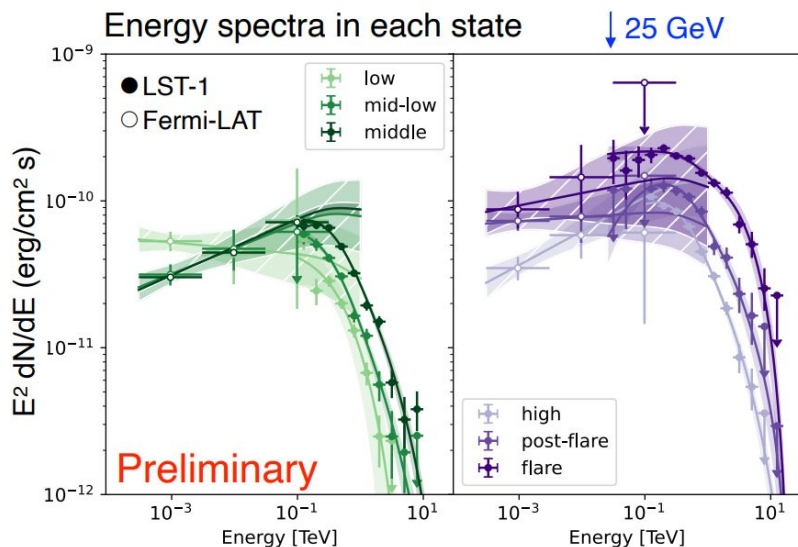


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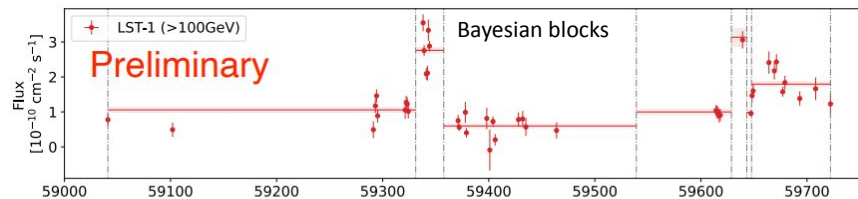


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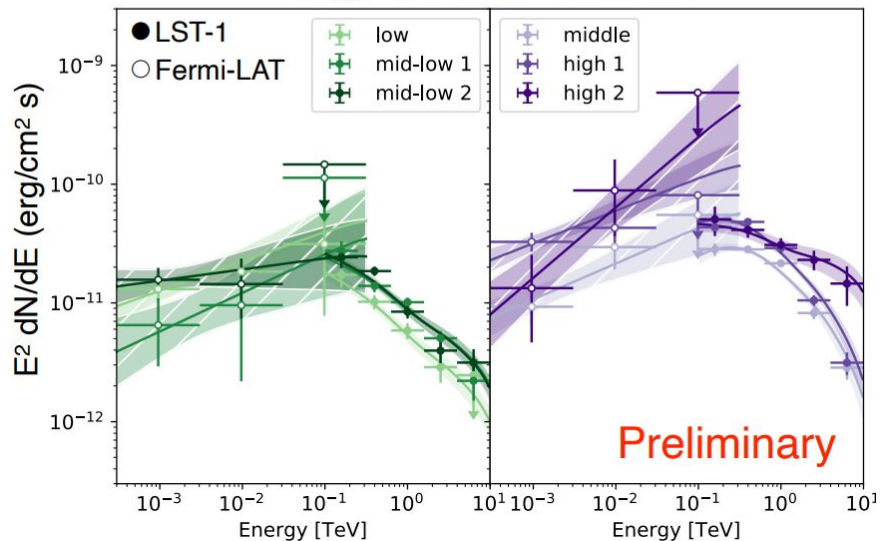


Mrk 501 ($z = 0.034$)

- Observation time: 39.7 hrs (2020 to 2022)
- Detection significance: 21σ

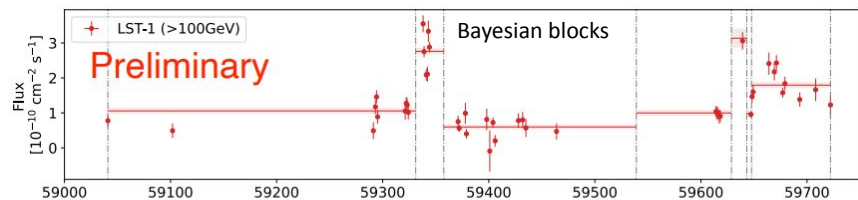


Energy spectra in each state

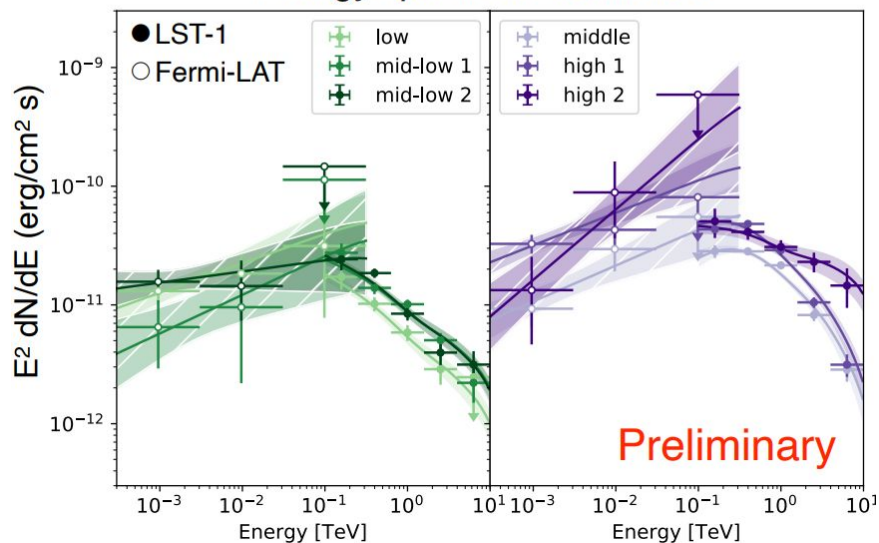


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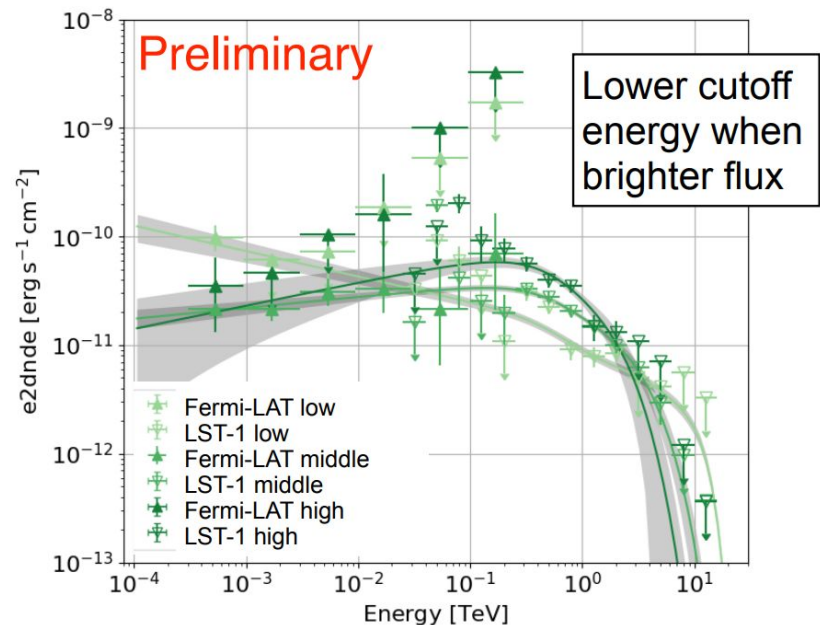
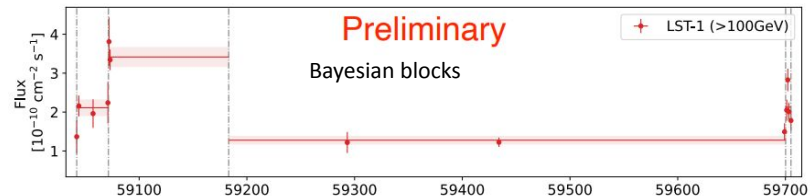


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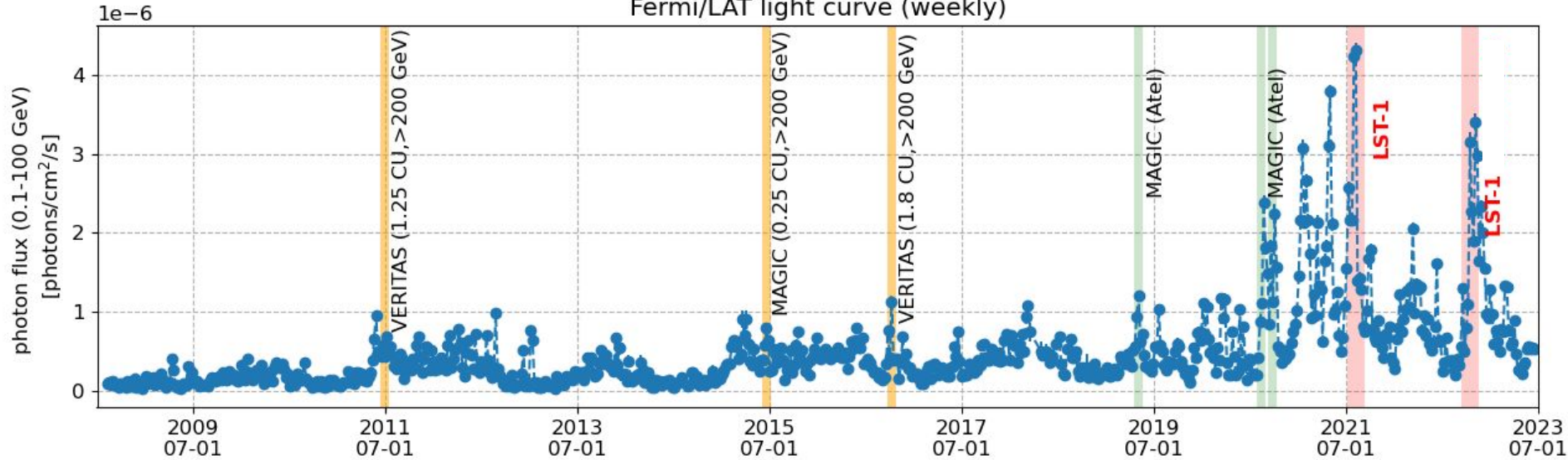
1ES 1959+650 ($z = 0.048$)

- ➔ Observation time: 11.8 hrs (2020 to 2022)
- ➔ Detection significance: 13σ



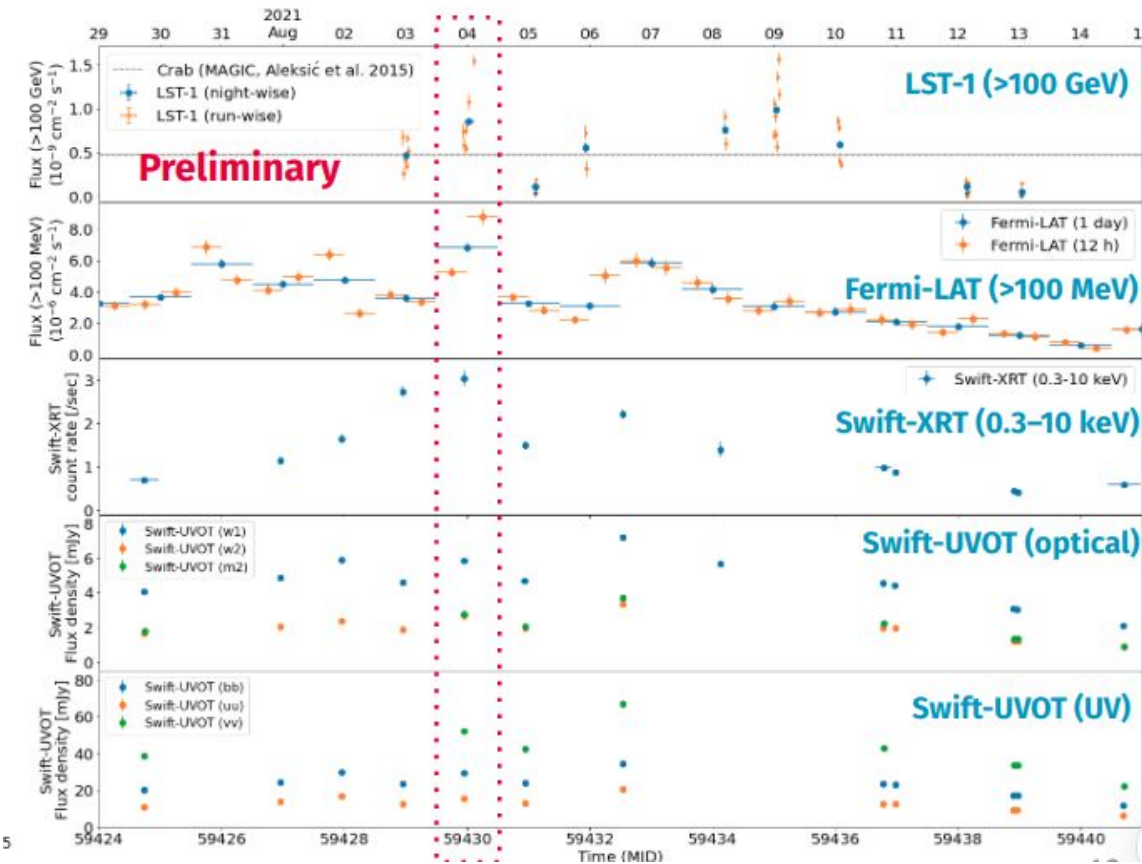
BL Lac ($z = 0.07$)

Fermi/LAT light curve (weekly)



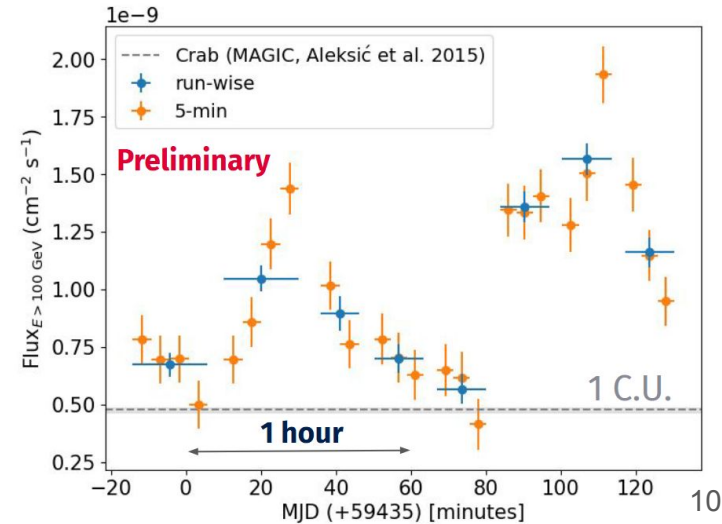
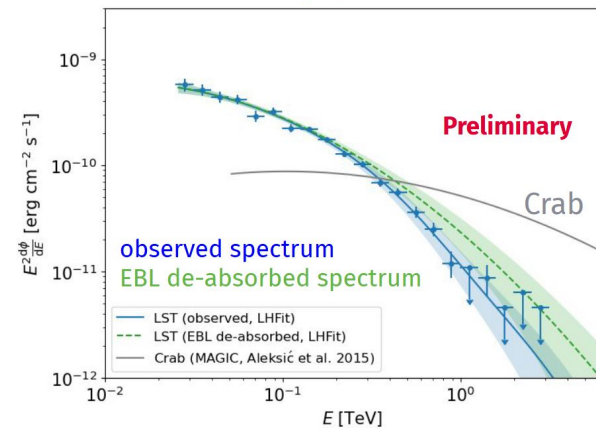
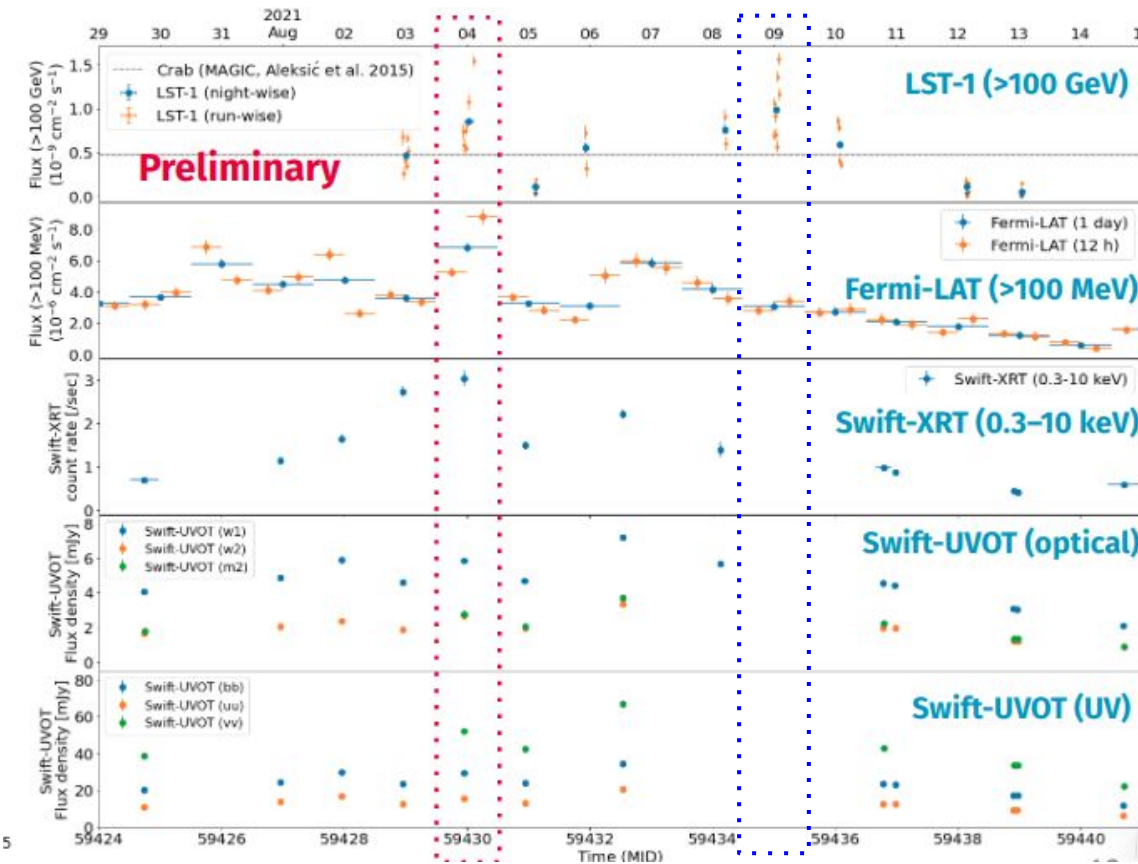
→ Two major flares in 2021 and 2022, brightest emission ever observed from BL Lac in VHE.

BL Lac (z = 0.07) in 2021



Aug 9, 2021

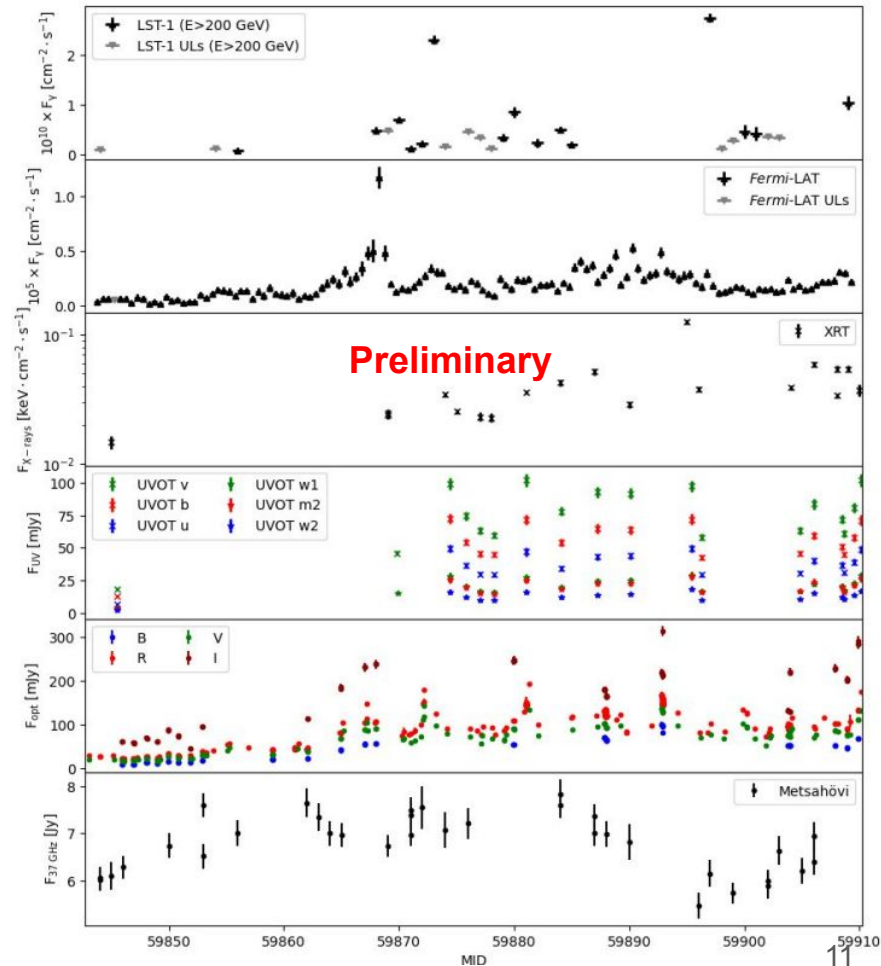
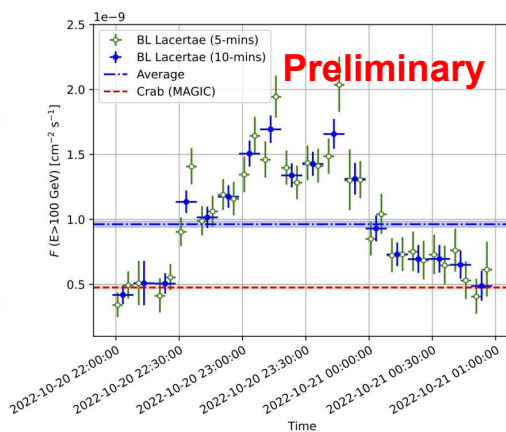
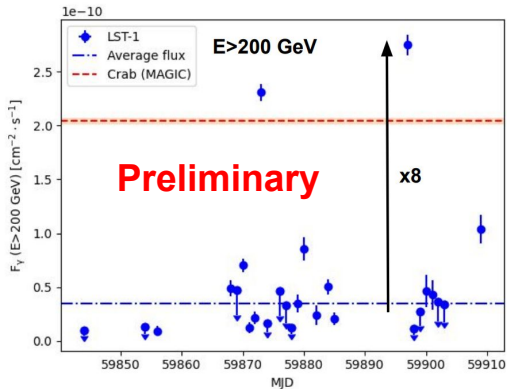
BL Lac (z = 0.07) in 2021



BL Lac ($z = 0.07$) in 2022

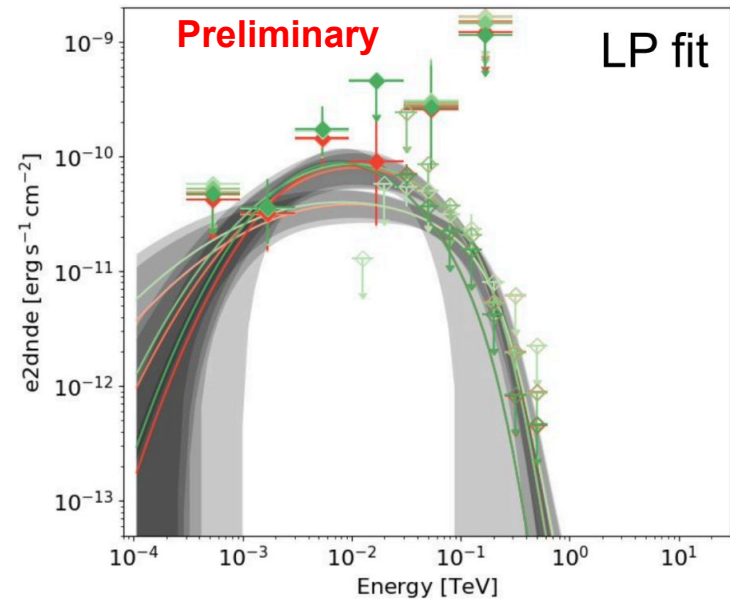
- 36 hours of good quality data \Rightarrow 28σ significance (>100 GeV).
- Brightest night: 20 Oct. (40σ) & 13 Nov. (27σ).
- Flux peaking above 2 C.U.

- Short timescale variability:
 - ◆ Rise time = 22 ± 3 min
 - ◆ Decay time = 34 ± 5 min
 - ◆ Region ($\delta = 30 - 50$) $\approx 10^{15}$ cm.



1ES 0647+250 ($z = 0.45$)

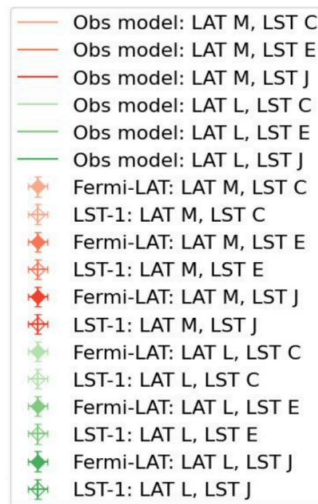
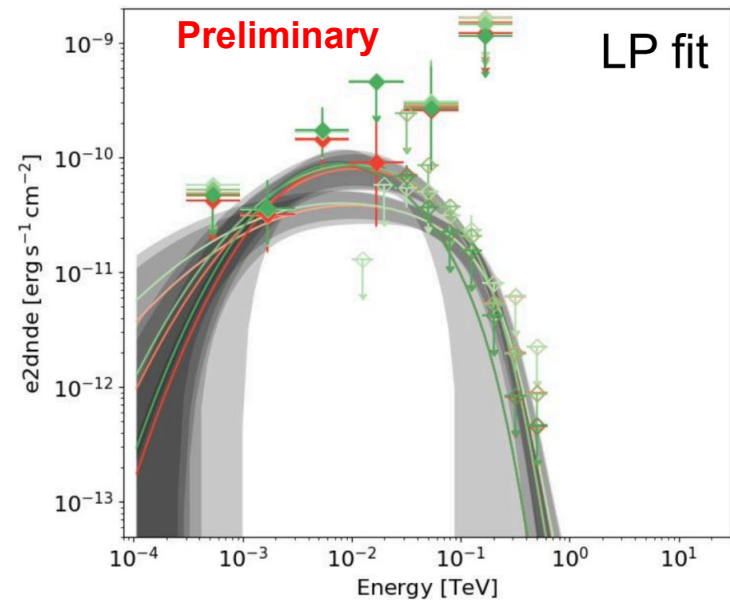
- Observation time: 8.2 hrs (2020 to 2022)
- Detection significance: 7σ
- Joint Fermi-LAT + LST1 fit performed



- Obs model: LAT M, LST C
- Obs model: LAT M, LST E
- Obs model: LAT M, LST J
- Obs model: LAT L, LST C
- Obs model: LAT L, LST E
- Obs model: LAT L, LST J
- ◆ Fermi-LAT: LAT M, LST C
- ◆ LST-1: LAT M, LST C
- ◆ Fermi-LAT: LAT M, LST E
- ◆ LST-1: LAT M, LST E
- ◆ Fermi-LAT: LAT M, LST J
- ◆ LST-1: LAT M, LST J
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- ◆ LST-1: LAT L, LST C
- ◆ Fermi-LAT: LAT L, LST E
- ◆ LST-1: LAT L, LST E
- ◆ Fermi-LAT: LAT L, LST J
- ◆ LST-1: LAT L, LST J

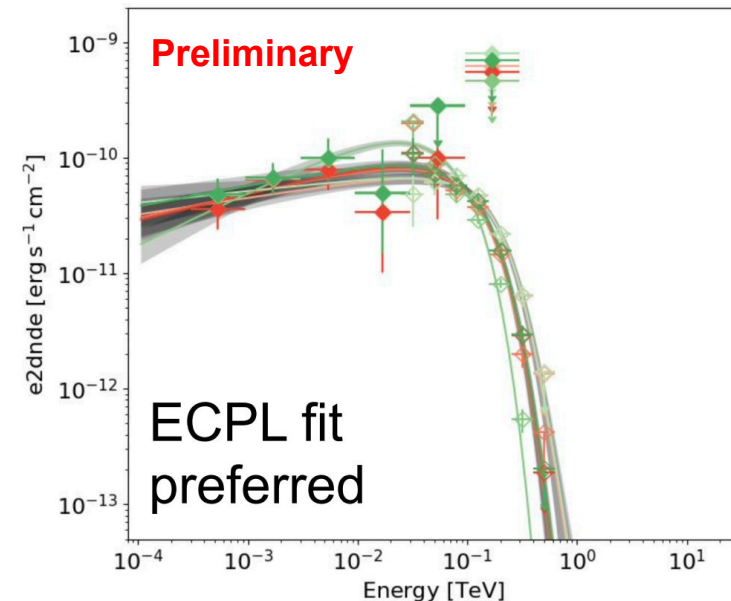
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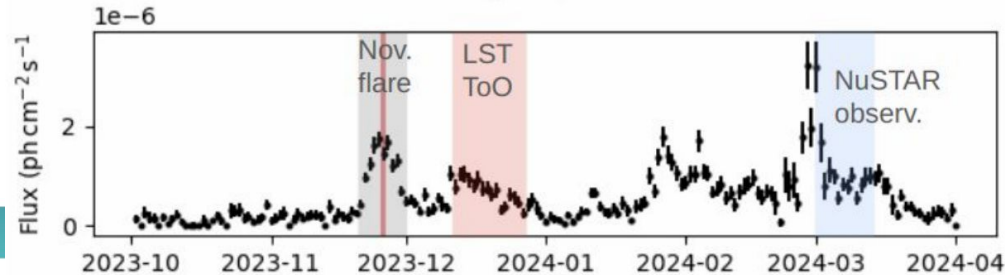
PG 1553+113 ($z = 0.433$)

- Observation time: 9.9 hrs (2020 to 2022)
- Detection significance: 16σ
- Joint Fermi-LAT + LST1 fit performed



OP 313 ($z = 0.997$)

- The most distant quasar detected in VHE by LST1 ([ATel #16381](#)).
- Only 10th FSRQ in VHE.
- LST-1 observation started on December 9.
- Pointing zenith angle >30 deg. Energy threshold 40 GeV.



LST-1 Discovers the Most Distant AGN at Very High Energies

DATE

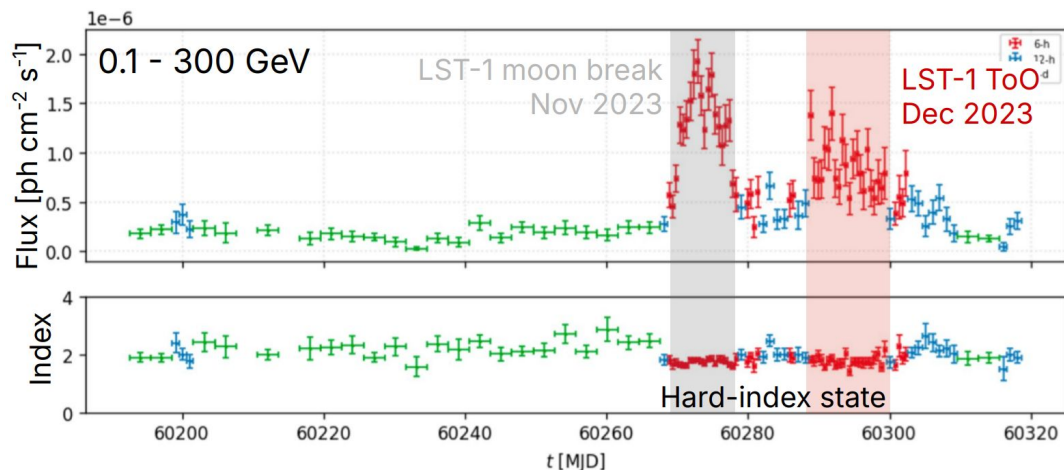
26 December 2023

TOPICS

Telescopes, Press Releases, CTAO-North, LST, Science

OP 313 ($z = 0.997$)

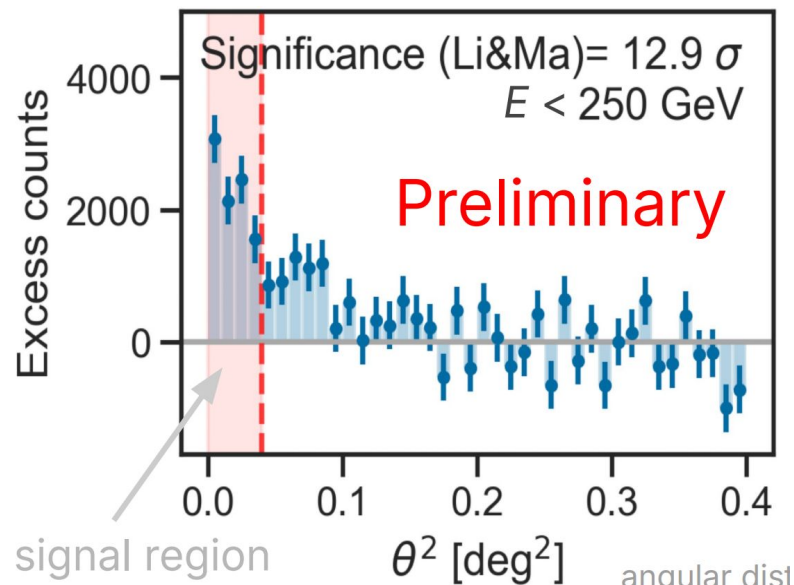
- The most distant quasar detected in VHE by LST1 ([ATel #16381](#)).
- Only 10th FSRQ in VHE.
- LST-1 observation started on December 9.
- Pointing zenith angle >30 deg. Energy threshold 40 GeV.
- Observation time: 15 hrs (During flare in December 2023)
- Detection significance: 13σ
- Flux = 0.28 Crabs (>100 GeV)
- Multiple ongoing projects: variability, EBL, MWL etc.



First detection of VHE gamma-ray emission from FSRQ OP 313 with LST-1

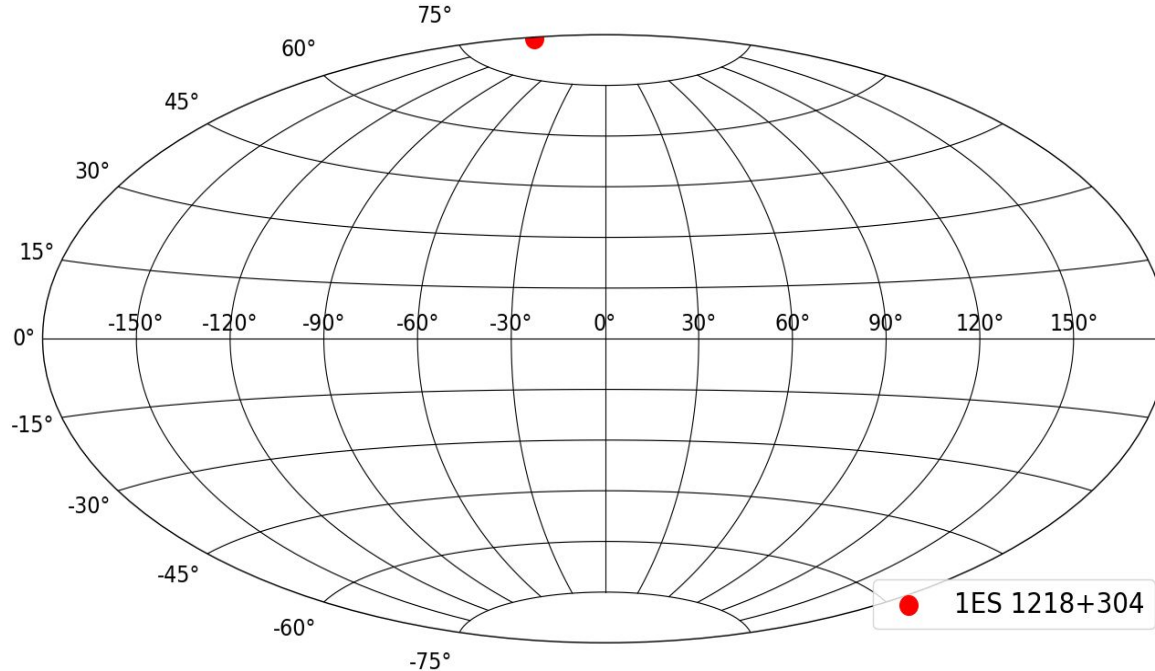
ATel #16381; *Juan Cortina (CIEMAT) for the CTAO LST collaboration*
 on 15 Dec 2023; 14:31 UT
 Credential Certification: Juan Cortina (Juan.Cortina@ciemat.es)

Subjects: Gamma Ray, >GeV, TeV, VHE, Request for Observations, AGN, Blazar, Quasar



1ES 1218+304 ($z = 0.182$)

- High-energy peaked BL Lac – TeV discovery by MAGIC on 2006-05 ([Albert et al. 2006](#))
- VHE variability observed by VERITAS ([Acciari et al. 2010](#))
- Observed spectral index ~ 3.0 (MAGIC and VERITAS)



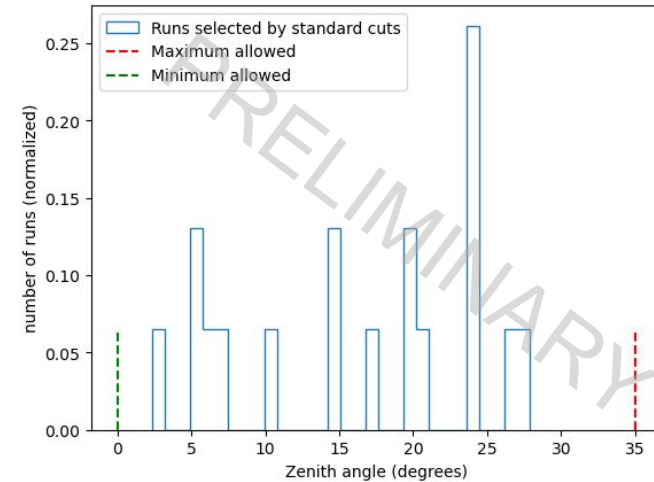
More details: [TeVCat Gamma-Ray Source Summary: 1ES 1218+304](#)

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LST-1 Observation

- **Period:** 2023-02-28 to 2023-04-12
- **Duration:** 18 hours – 40% in moonlight (Rejected by standard cuts!)
- **Tools:** lstchain-v0.10.11 (DL1 to DL3) → gammapy-1.1 (post DL3)

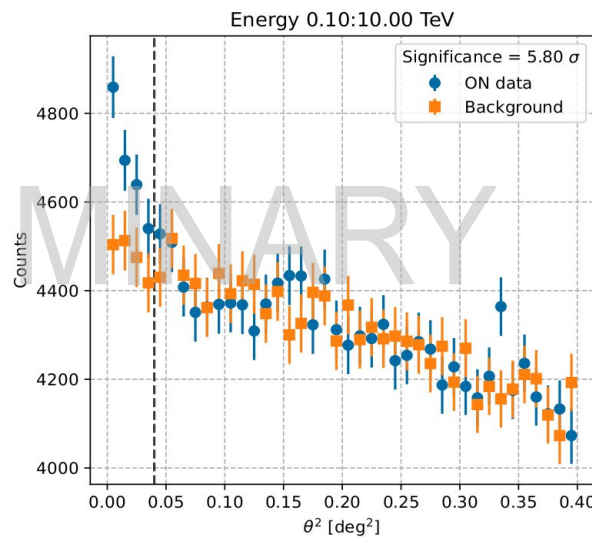
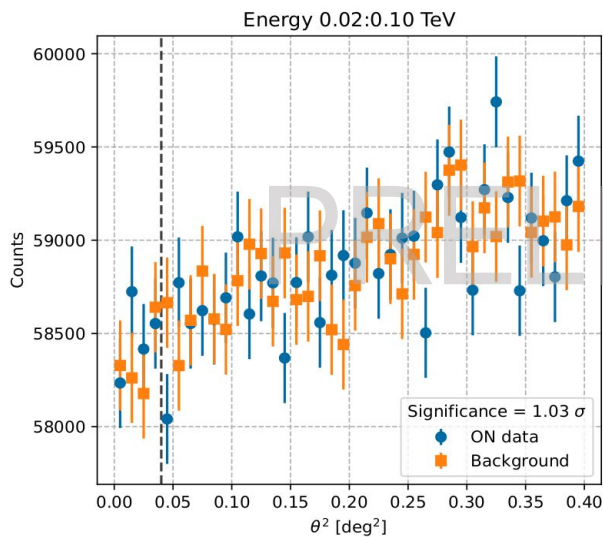
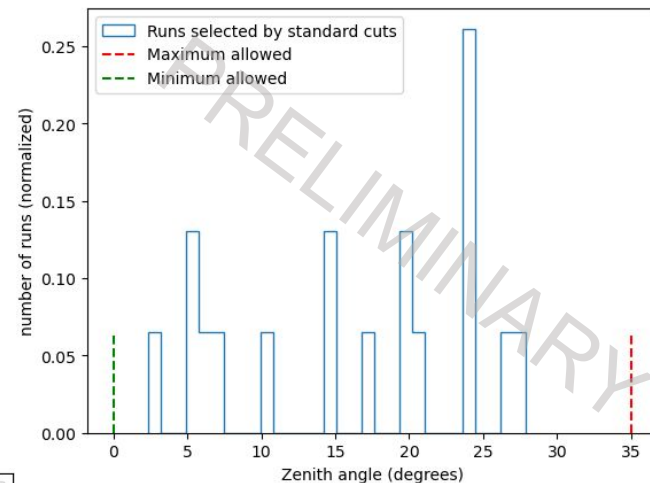


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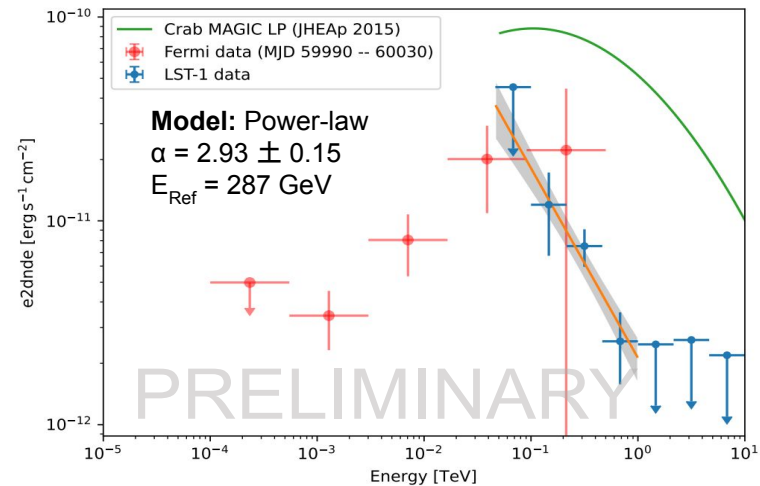
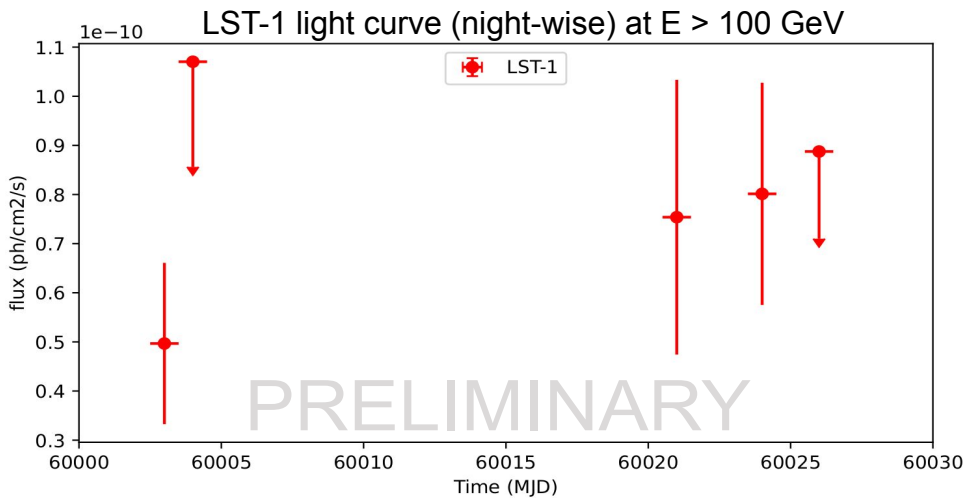
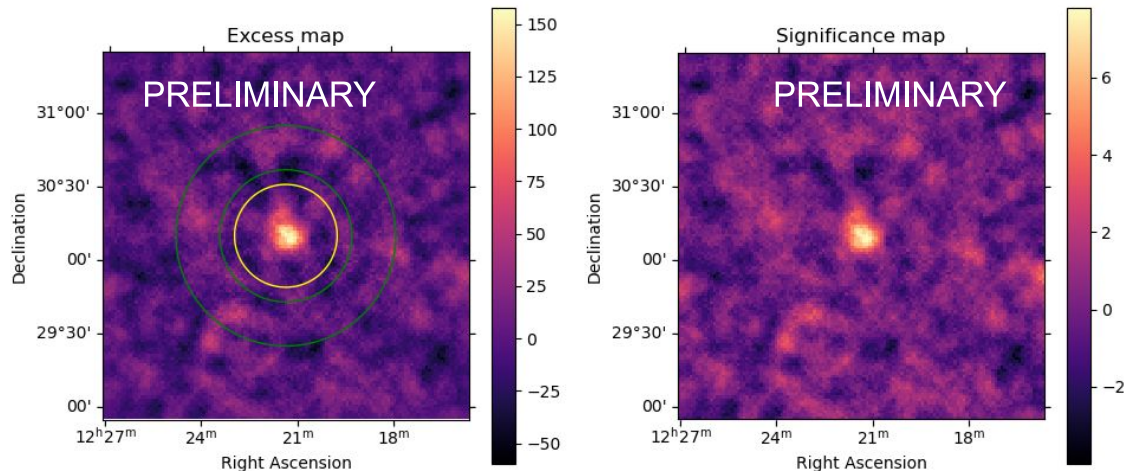


Source Detection:

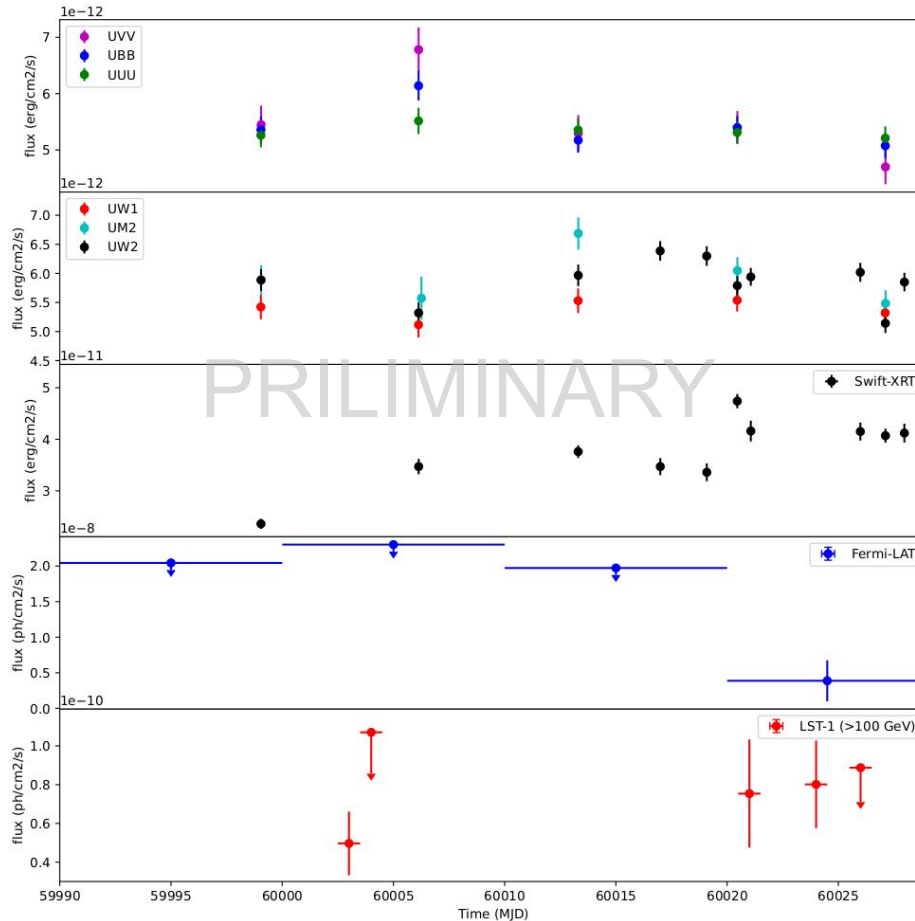
- Selected duration by quality cuts: 4.4h
- Energy-dependent dynamic gammaflux cut with 70% efficiency.
- Detection with 5.8σ significance.

1ES 1218+304 ($z = 0.182$)

- Flux (> 100 GeV) $\approx 12\%$ Crab
- VHE spectral slope is comparable to literature.
- Flux variability study is not possible.



1ES 1218+304 ($z = 0.182$)



Multi-wavelength lightcurves

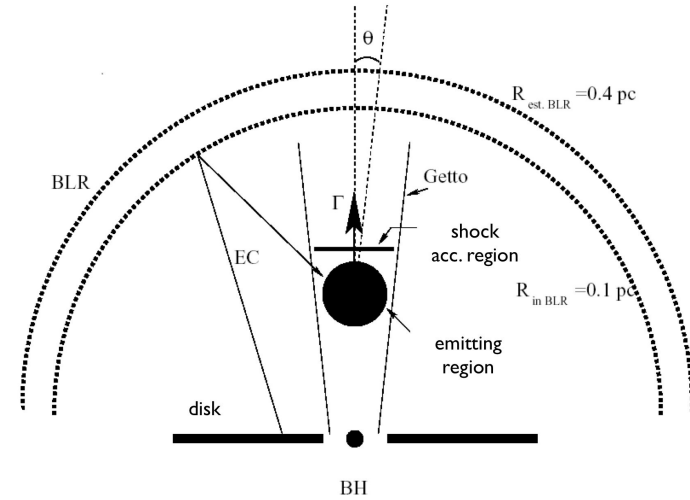
- 10 Swift observations.
- Optical-UV data from Swift-UVOT filters.
 - Galactic reddening and extinction correction
- Swift-XRT (0.3 to 10 keV)
 - Corrected for pile-up effect.
 - Correction for neutral Hydrogen column density during modelling.
- Fermi-LAT (100 MeV to 500 GeV)
 - Low emission state
 - Kept 1ES 1215+303 free during modelling
 - Spectral index ~ 1.59
- No significant variability observed in gamma-rays
 - No time-resolved SED study
 - One overall average SED

1ES 1218+304 ($z = 0.182$)

- Quasi-simultaneous Swift-UVOT, Swift-XRT and Fermi-LAT data.
- Leptonic Synchrotron Self-Compton model with a spherical emission zone.
- $t_{\text{var}} \lesssim 1$ day [[Sato et al. 2008](#), [Acciari et al. 2010](#)].
- Log-parabolic particle energy distribution:

$$f(\gamma) = (\gamma/\gamma_0)^{-(s+r \log(\gamma/\gamma_0))}$$

- **Fixed parameters:** $R = 2.5 \times 10^{16}$ cm; $\delta = 20$
- EBL absorption: [Franceschini et al. 2008](#)

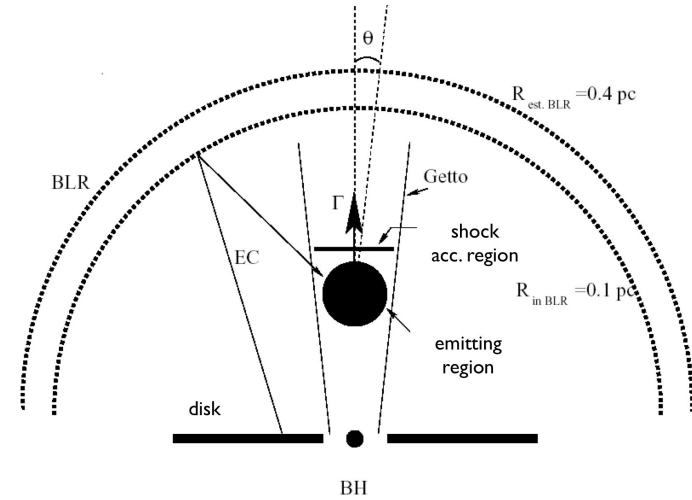
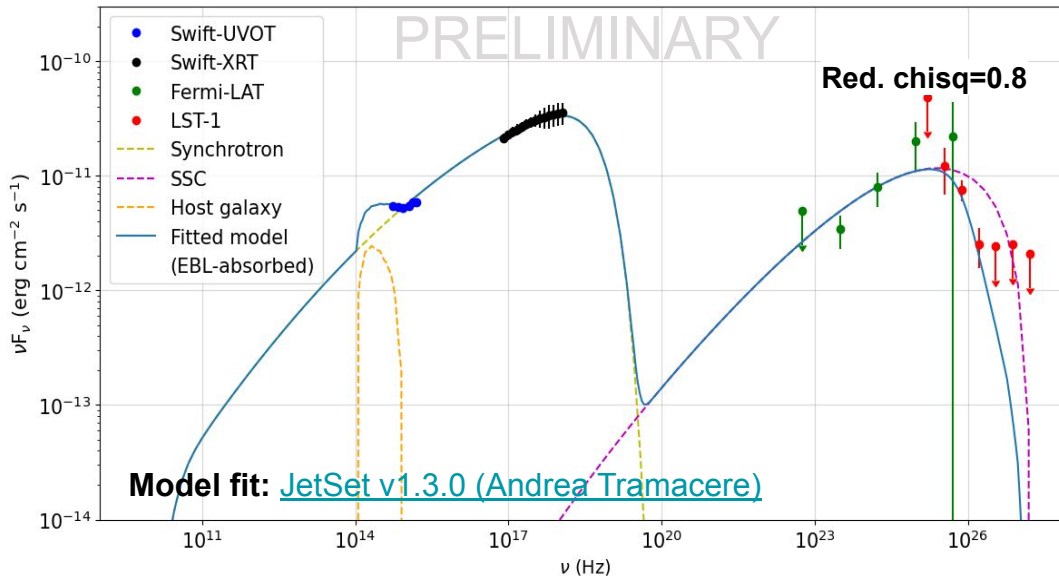


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SED model parameters:

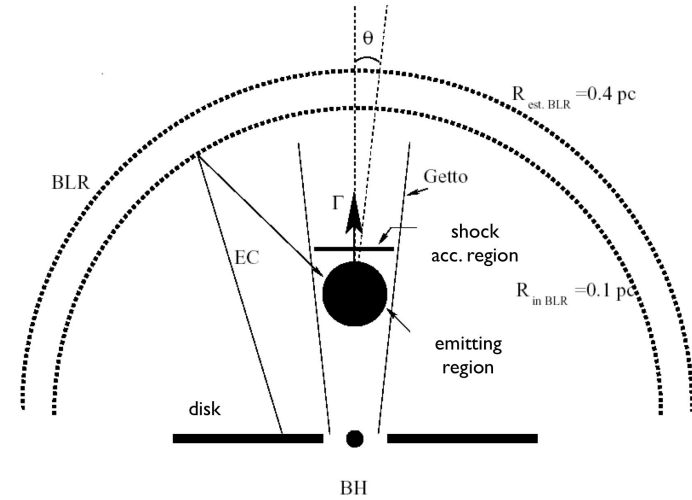
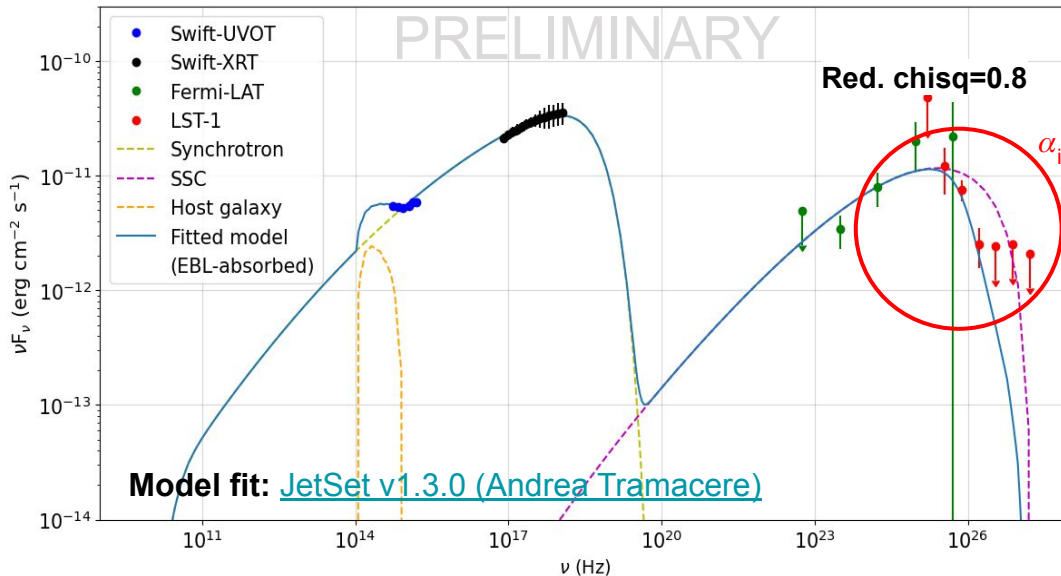
Particle density, N	$= 12.7 \pm 1.9 \text{ cm}^{-3}$
Magnetic field, B	$= 0.09 \pm 0.01 \text{ G}$
Index, s	$= 2.17 \pm 0.04$
Curvature parameter, r	$= 0.13 \pm 0.02$
Minimum Lorentz factor, γ_{min}	$= 44 \pm 7$
Maximum Lorentz factor, γ_{max}	$= (9 \pm 1) \times 10^5$
Reference Lorentz factor, γ_0	$= (1.0 \pm 0.1) \times 10^4$

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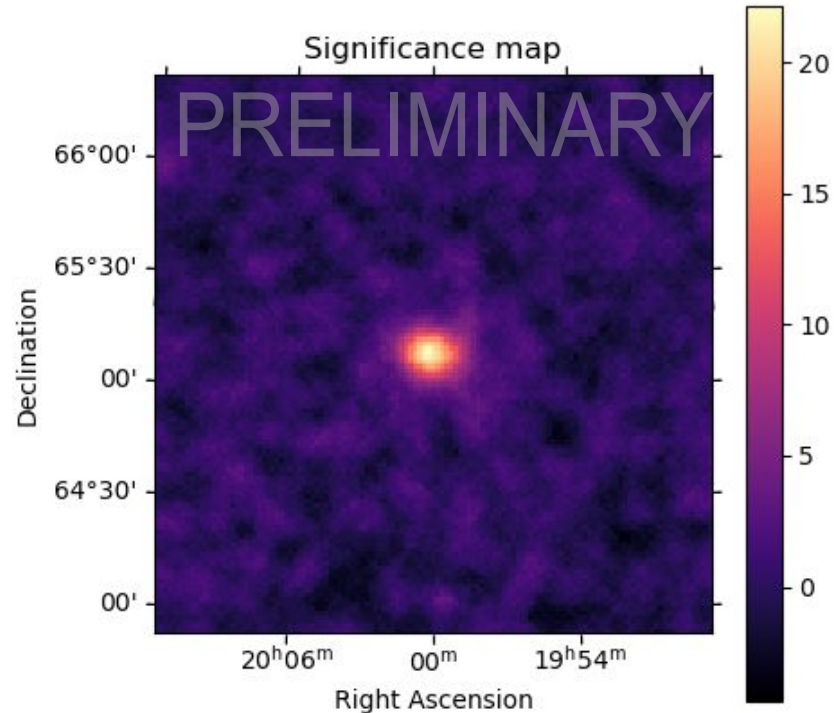
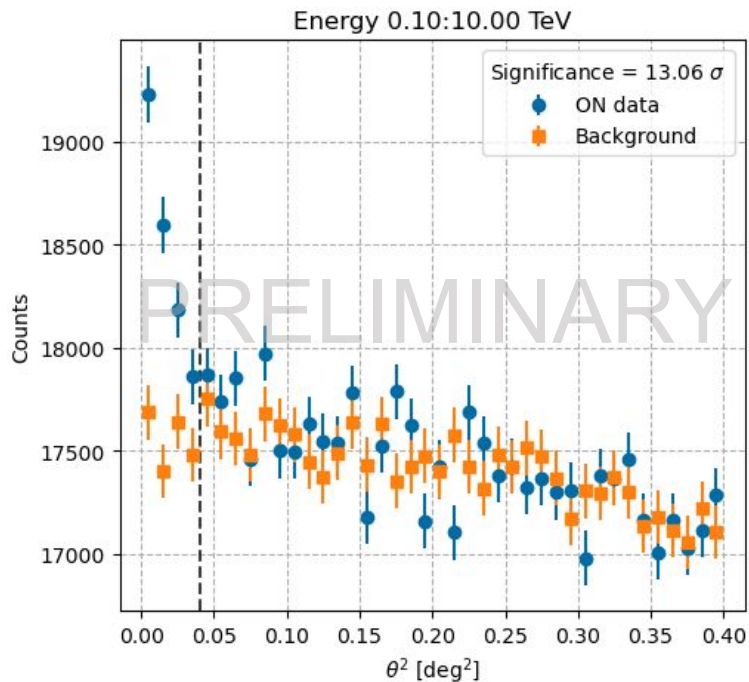


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Curvature parameter, r	$= 0.13 \pm 0.02$
Minimum Lorentz factor, γ_{min}	$= 44 \pm 7$
Maximum Lorentz factor, γ_{max}	$= (9 \pm 1) \times 10^5$
Reference Lorentz factor, γ_0	$= (1.0 \pm 0.1) \times 10^4$

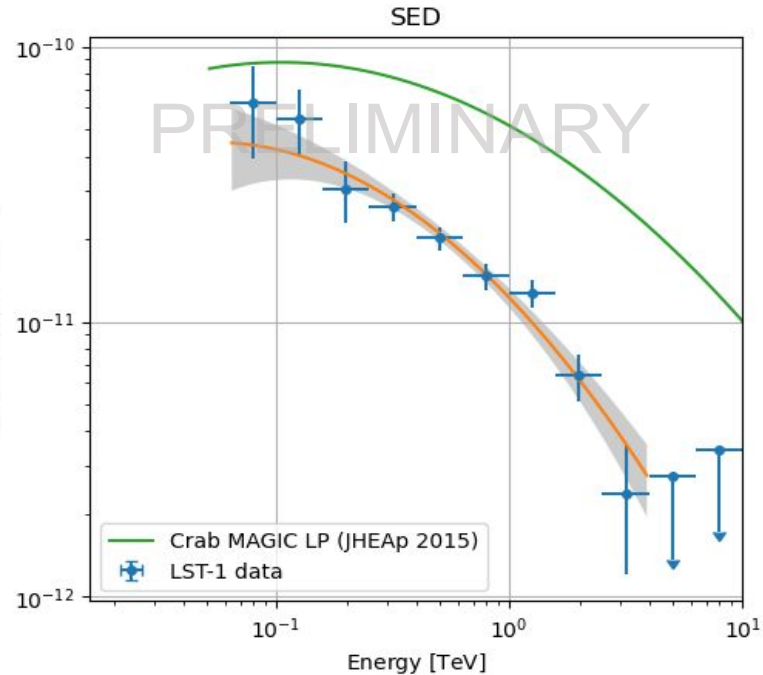
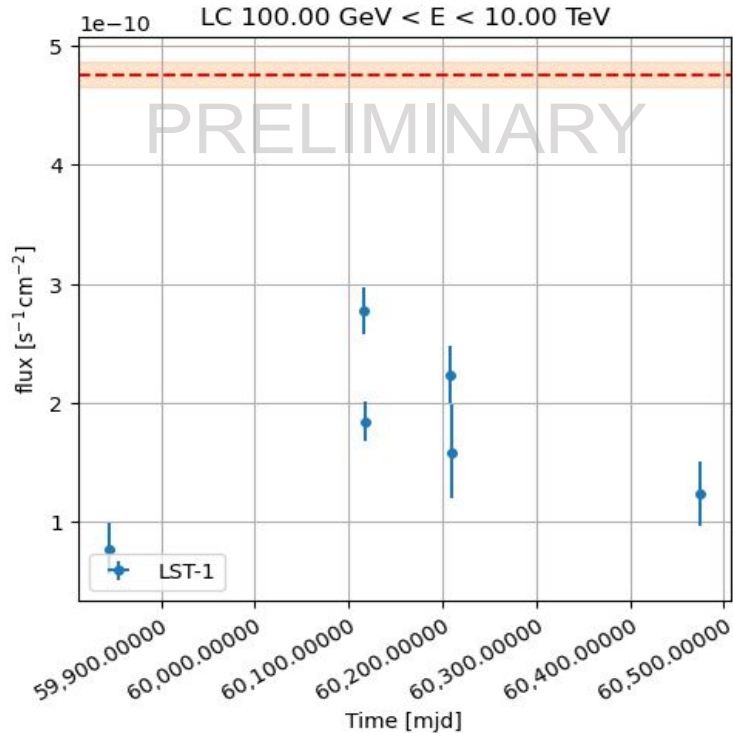
1ES 1959+650 ($z = 0.048$)

- LST1 observations since May, 2022.
- Standard data quality cut: 5.63 hrs (total obs = 20 hrs).
- Detection significance 13σ .



1ES 1959+650 (z = 0.048)

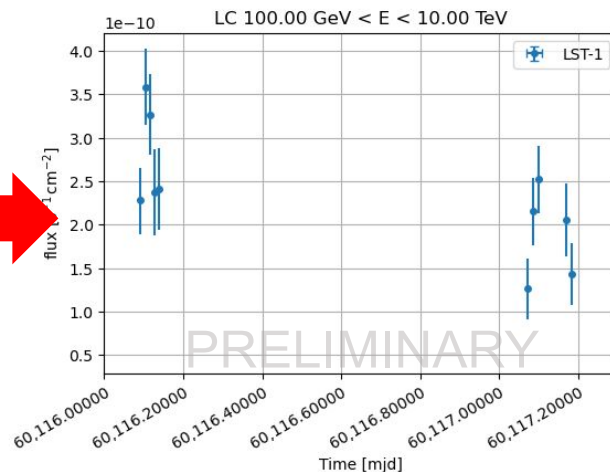
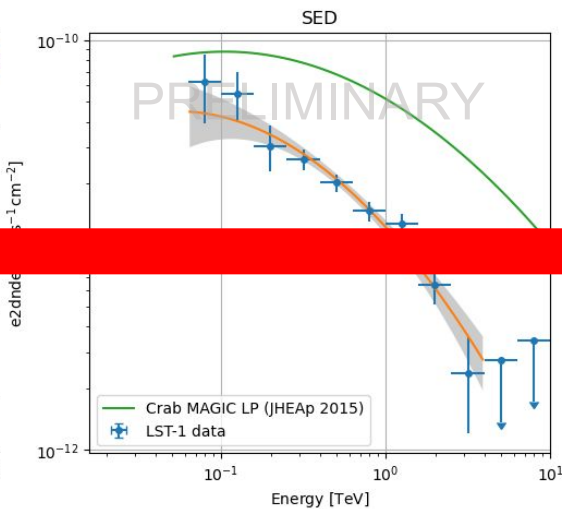
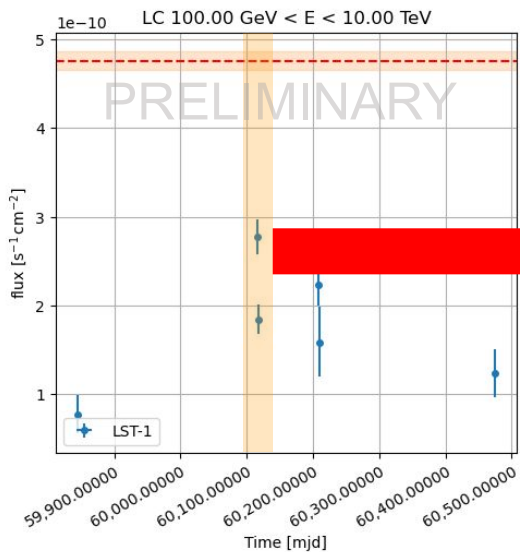
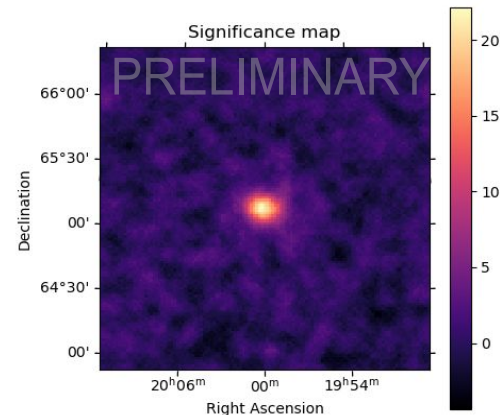
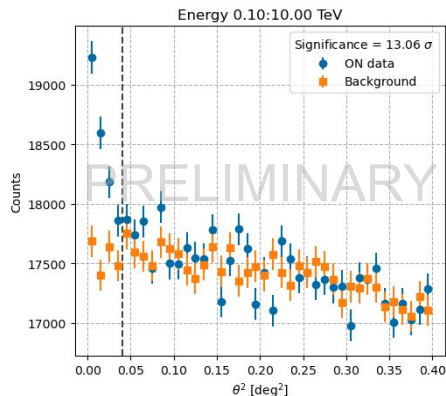
- LST1 observations since May, 2022.
- Standard data quality cut: 5.63 hrs (total obs = 20 hrs).
- Detection significance 13σ .
- Similar flux level as 2020 – 2022 period (~40% Crab).



1ES 1959+650 ($z = 0.048$)

- LST1 observations since May, 2022.
- Standard data quality cut: 5.63 hrs (total obs = 20 hrs).
- Detection significance 13σ .
- Similar flux level as 2020 – 2022 period ($\sim 40\%$ Crab).
- Hint of intraday variability.
- Shortest flux doubling timescale, $t_{\text{var}} = 26$ min
- Assuming $\delta = 10 - 50$, emission region size, $(0.4 - 2) \times 10^{15}$ cm.
- Time-resolved broadband SED might be interesting.

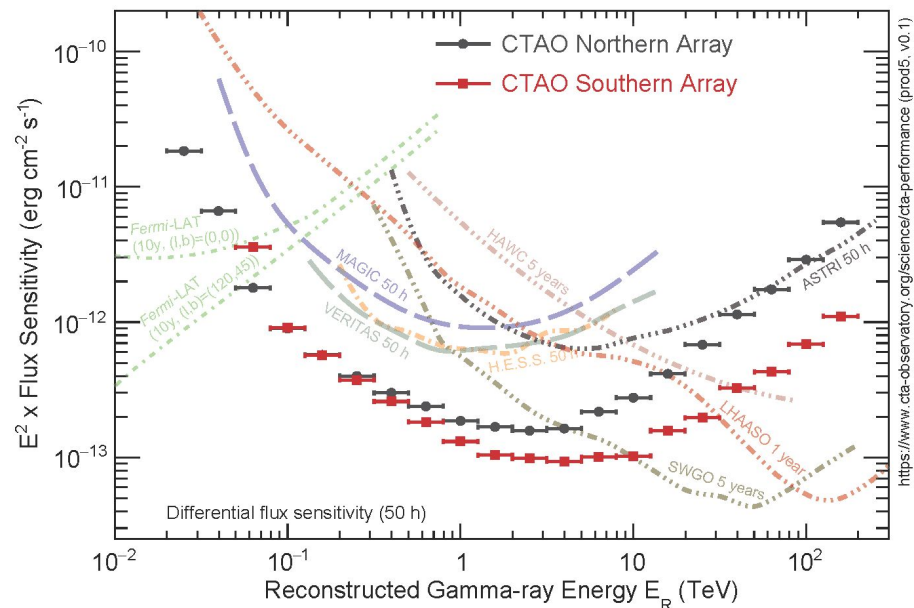
$R \lesssim$



Summary

- Spectral variability study of well-known AGN with LST1 data in 2020 – 2022.
- Good agreement between simultaneous Fermi-LAT and LST-1 spectrum.
- Sensitive to variable gamma-ray sources above 25 GeV for low zenith observations.
- Detection of OP 313, the highest redshift ($z = 0.997$) FSRQ till date.
 - ◆ Several projects on OP 313 are ongoing.
- Detection of 1ES 1218+304 with 4.4 hours of LST1 observation
 - ◆ Comparable VHE spectral index
 - ◆ Multiwavelength SED modelling
 - ◆ Diffusive shock acceleration is viable
- Ongoing projects:
 - ◆ BL Lac: LST-1 observation of flares in 2021 and 2022.
 - ◆ OP 313: VHE flux variability, MWL SED, BLR study, EBL
 - ◆ PG 1553+113: IDV
- My involvements:
 - ◆ MAGIC + LST1 joint observations of 1ES 1218+304
 - ◆ Multiwavelength study of 1ES 1959+650
- Future: 4 LSTs coming soon – new EGAL sources.

Looking forward...



Backup Slides

The Extragalactic Sky at VHE with CTA-LST

