



U.S. NAVAL
RESEARCH
LABORATORY



The Population of Gamma-ray Emitting Novae

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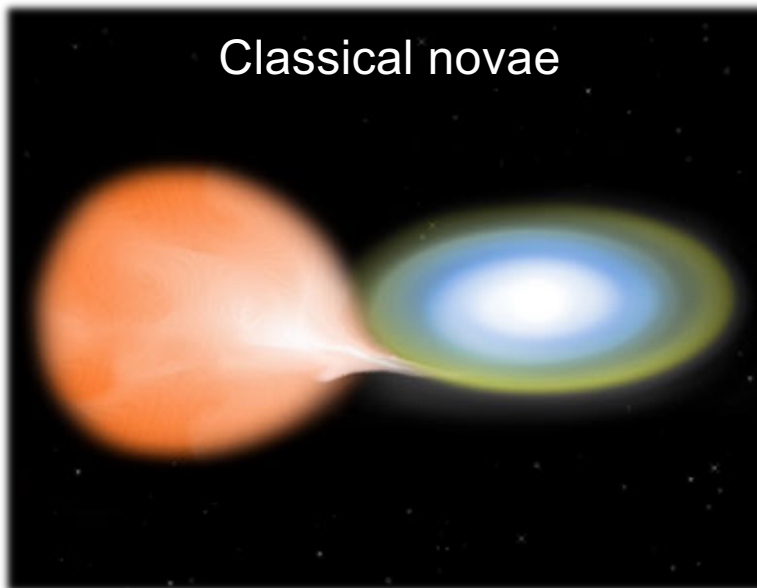
White Dwarfs in Close Binary Systems

Compact cataclysmic variable:

WD + Main Sequence



Roche lobe overflow



Classical novae

Hydrogen burning in degenerate conditions on top of the **white dwarf**

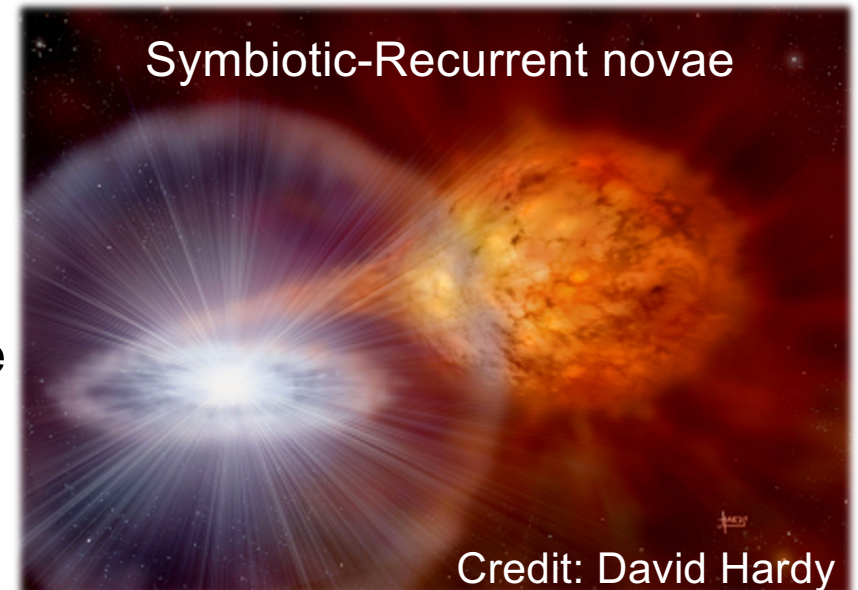
- separations $\sim R_{\odot}$
- orbital periods \sim hours
- recurrence times $\gtrsim 10^4$ yr
- rate $\sim 30 - 50$ / yr in Galaxy

Symbiotic system:

Massive WD + Red Giant



accretion from red giant wind



Symbiotic-Recurrent novae

Credit: David Hardy

- separations ~ 100 's R_{\odot}
- orbital periods \sim years
- recurrence times < 100 yrs
- ~ 10 known symbiotic/recurrents

Compact cataclysmic variable:

WD + Main Sequence



Roche lobe overflow

Classical novae

- V1324 Sco 2012
- V959 Mon 2012
- V339 Del 2013
- V1369 Cen 2013
- V5668 Sgr 2015

(Ackermann+14, Cheung+16)

Symbiotic system:

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accretion from red giant wind

Symbiotic-Recurrent novae

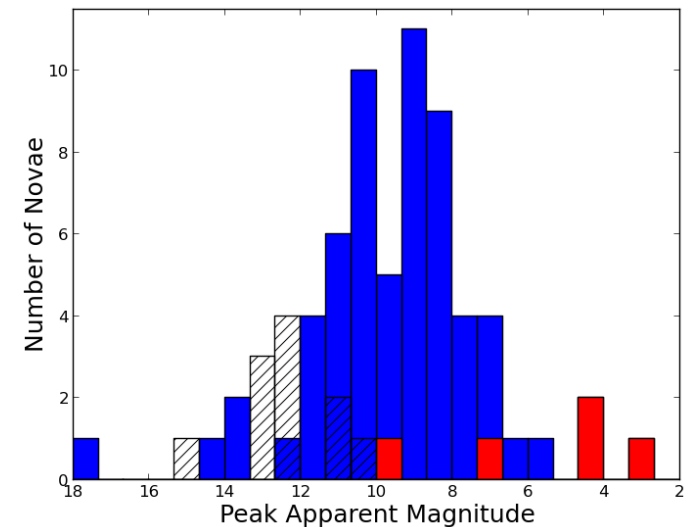
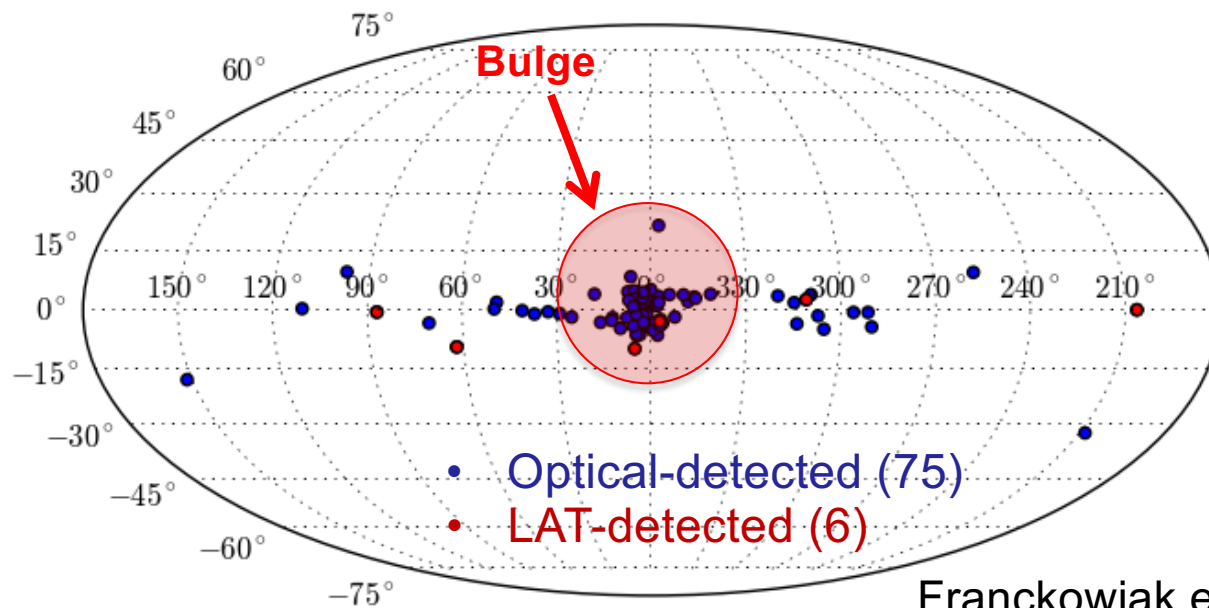
- V407 Cyg 2010

Credit: David Hardy

(Abdo+10)

- Other systems at 2σ (Franckowiak+18)
- Non-symbiotic recurrents were **not** detected (Franckowiak+18)

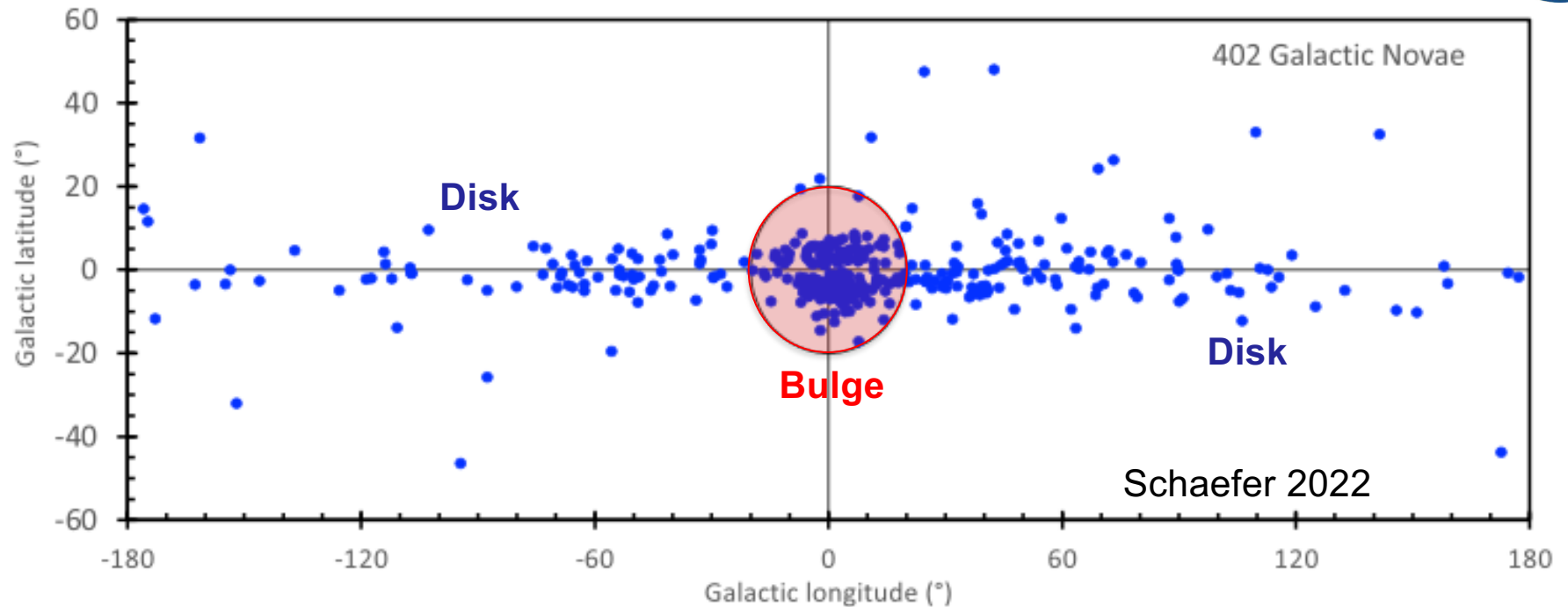
- Fermi-LAT search of 75 Galactic novae from Aug 2008-Dec 2015
- LAT detected 6 total (average ~ 1 per year)



Franckowiak et al. 2018 ("1st LAT nova catalog")

- **Average ~ 10 novae detections per year** in optical/IR surveys
(ASAS-SN, OGLE-IV, Palomar-IR, NEOWISE; Mroz+2015, De+2020, Kawash+ 2021, 2022)
- **Galactic nova rate $\sim 30-50$ per year implied by detection rates**
(depends on spatial distribution models adopted; e.g., Shafter 1997, 2017)

New: Distances to Galactic Novae



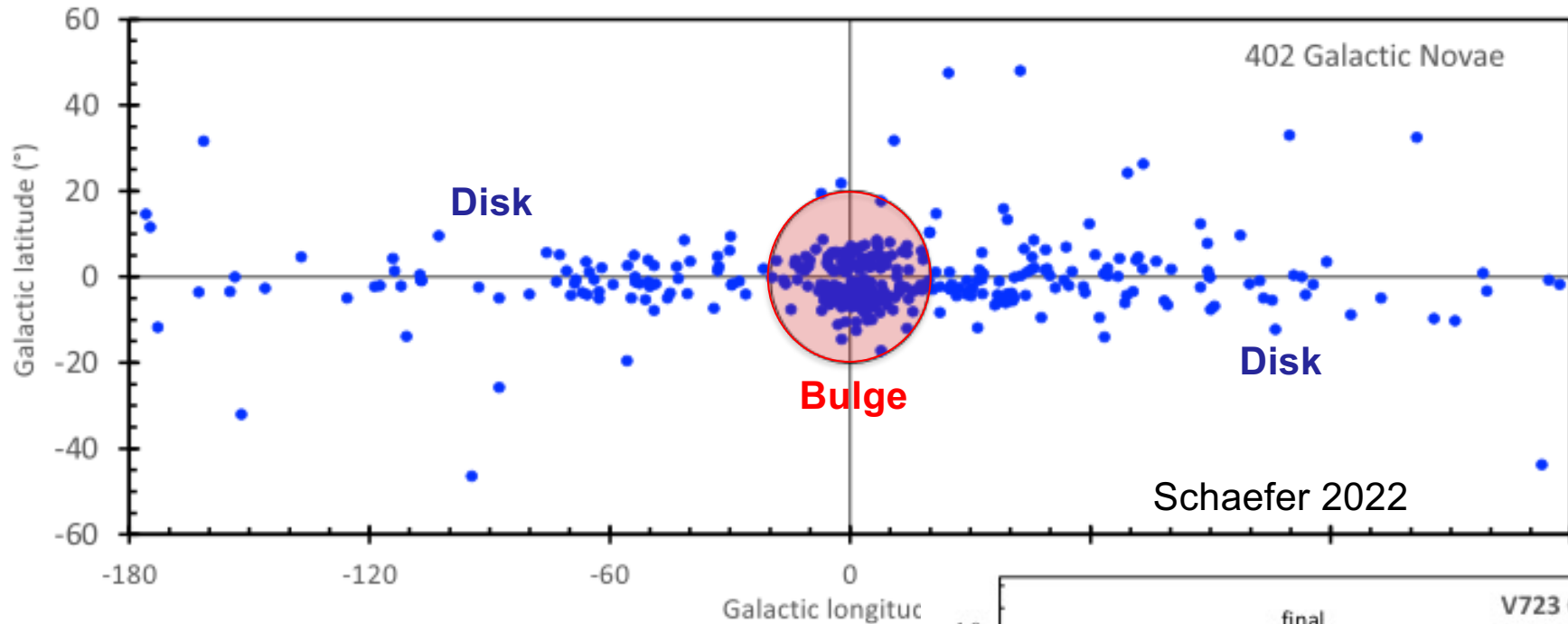
Bayesian distances to 402 Galactic novae (Schaefer 2022)

- Derived 220 distances with <30% uncertainty
- Combined Gaia DR3 parallaxes (74 w/ <30% uncertainty) & non-parallax methods
- **124 novae during Fermi era (2008 – 2021.6)**

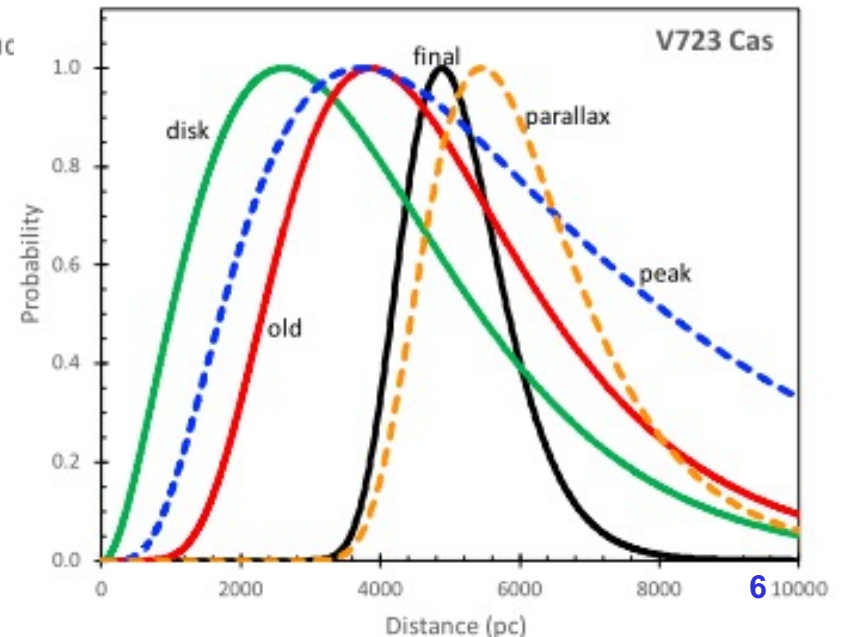
Two populations:

- ~40% in Galactic Bulge ($D \sim 8.0 \pm 0.8$ kpc)
- ~60% in Galactic Disk (scale height 140 ± 10 pc), i.e., local population to Earth

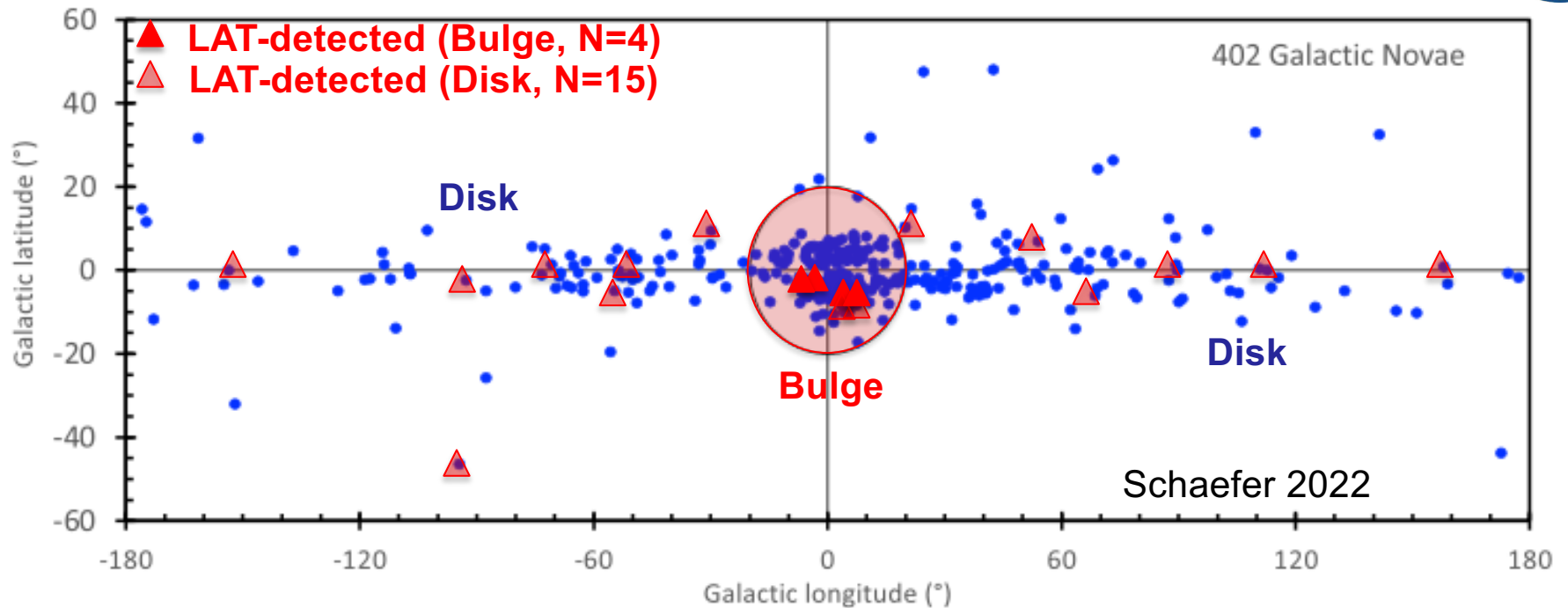
New: Distances to Galactic Novae



- 74 with <30% uncertainty from Gaia DR3 parallaxes; 215 total Gaia DR3 counterparts
- 29 expansion parallax distances (Downes & Duerbeck 2000; also Schaefer 2018)
- 81 ISM extinction-based distances (Ozdonmez et al. 2018)
- 68 peak-mag / lightcurve shape distances (Hachisu & Kato 2021)
- Handful of blackbody distances for companions
- Few from other methods



Fermi-LAT GeV Novae Population



N = 19 total LAT detections from 2008 – 2022:

- N=15 LAT detections in Galactic disk (2/15 seen through the sightline of the bulge)
- N = 4 LAT detections in Galactic Bulge (including symbiotic-recurrent V3890 Sgr 2019)

* Triangles placed using powerpoint

Fermi-LAT GeV Novae: 2008 - 2022

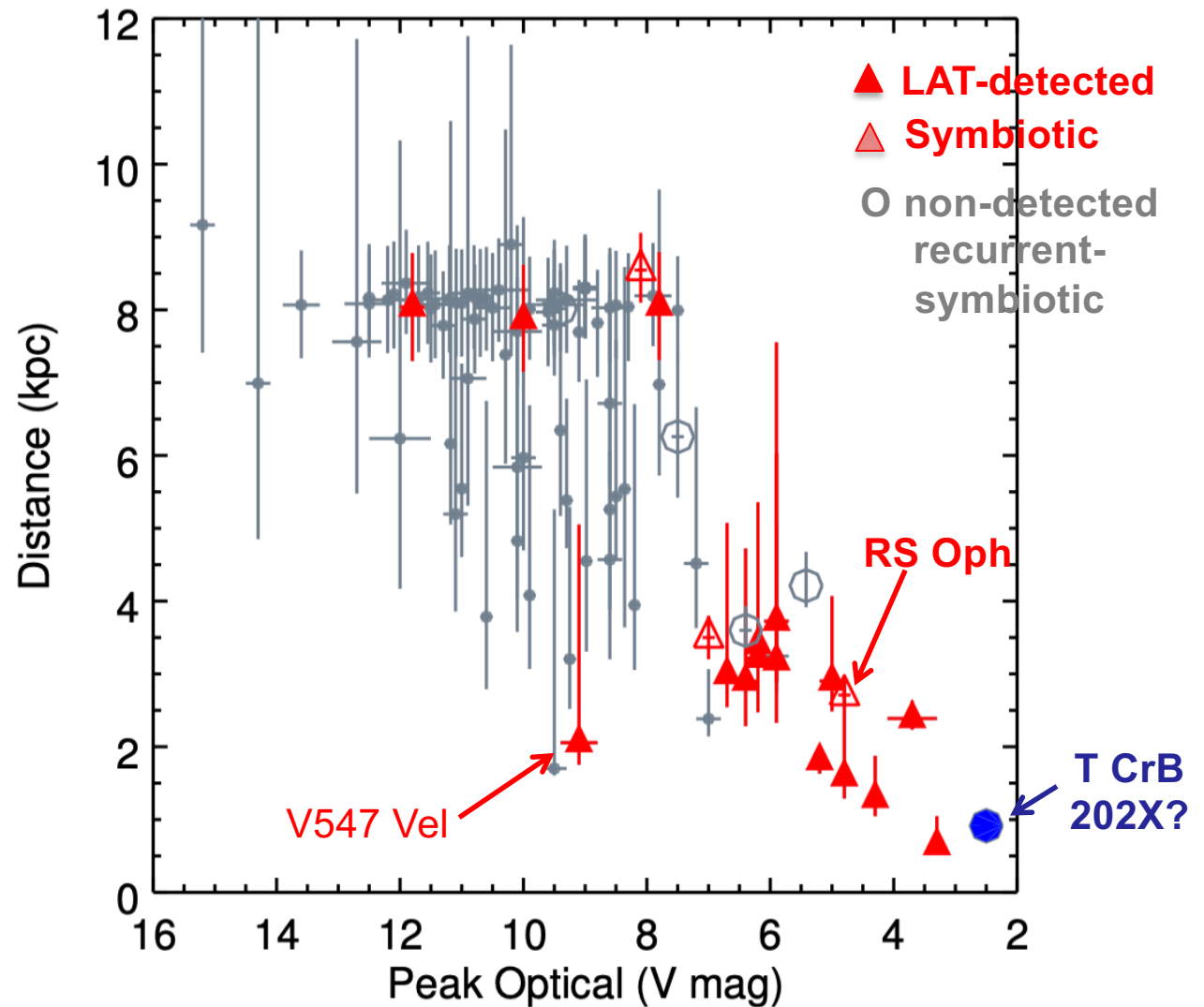
N=19 LAT detections, 0-3 novae each year, average ~1.3 per year

Nova	D (kpc)	t_{γ}^a (days)	Γ^b	E_c^c (GeV)	F_{γ}^d ($10^{-7} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$)	Refs	
V407 Cyg 2010	3.5 ± 0.3	22	1.3 ± 0.2	2.0 ± 0.5	3.5 ± 0.4	1,14,20	
V1324 Sco 2012	7.1 – 8.6	17	1.9 ± 0.2	7.7 ± 4.7	4.4 ± 0.9	2,14,21	
V959 Mon 2012	2.5 – 4.1	22	1.5 ± 0.3	1.3 ± 0.5	2.6 ± 0.5	2,14,22	2008 - 2015
V339 Del 2013	1.3 – 2.9	27	1.7 ± 0.2	3.0 ± 1.8	1.5 ± 0.2	2,14,23	
V1369 Cen 2013	0.53 – 1.0	39	2.0 ± 0.3	2.0 ± 1.0	2.5 ± 0.5	3,14,24	
V5668 Sgr 2015	1.0 – 1.9	55	2.1 ± 0.1	-	0.6 ± 0.1	3,14,5	“First six”
V407 Lup 2016 ^e	2.3 – 4.7	3	2.2 ± 0.3	-	1.6 ± 0.7	4,5	
V5855 Sgr 2016	7.3 – 8.8	26	2.3 ± 0.1	-	3.0 ± 0.8	6	
V5856 Sgr 2016 ^f	2.3 – 6.0	15	1.9 ± 0.1	5.9 ± 2.6	5.4 ± 0.5	7,5	
V549 Vel 2017 ^g	1.8 – 5.1	33	1.8 ± 0.2	-	0.4 ± 0.2	8,5	2016 - 2020
V357 Mus 2018	2.5 – 5.1	27	2.2 ± 0.1	-	1.3 ± 0.2	5	
V906 Car 2018 ^h	2.9 – 7.6	> 20 ⁱ	1.8 ± 0.1	5.9 ± 1.1	12.2 ± 0.4	9	
V392 Per 2018	3.1 – 4.2	≈ 8 ^j	2.0 ± 0.1	-	2.2 ± 0.4	10,25	From Chomiuk+21, ARAA
V1707 Sco 2019	7.3 – 8.8	5	2.1 ± 0.2	-	2.9 ± 1.0	11,12	
YZ Ret 2020	2.2 – 2.6	18	2.2 ± 0.1	-	2.6 ± 0.2	12,13,26	
V1405 Cas 2021	1.6 – 1.8						2021 - onward
V1674 Her 2021	2.5 – 5.4						
RS Oph 2021	2.6 – 2.9						
V1716 Sco, V6598 Sgr 2023; V1723 Sco 2024 (P. Fauverge’s Tuesday talk)							
V3890 Sgr 2019	8.1 – 9.1						

Fermi-LAT GeV Novae: 2008 - 2022

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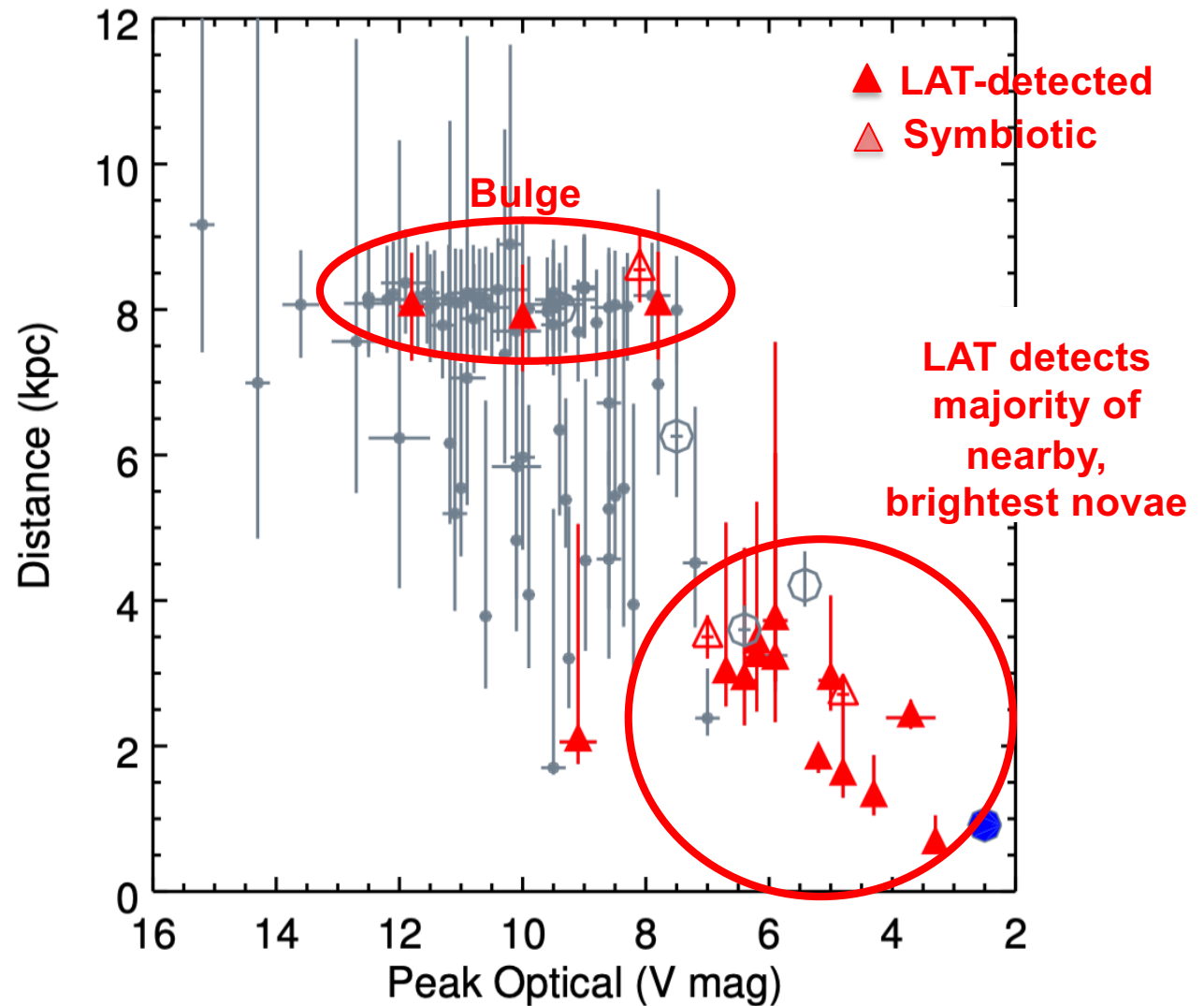
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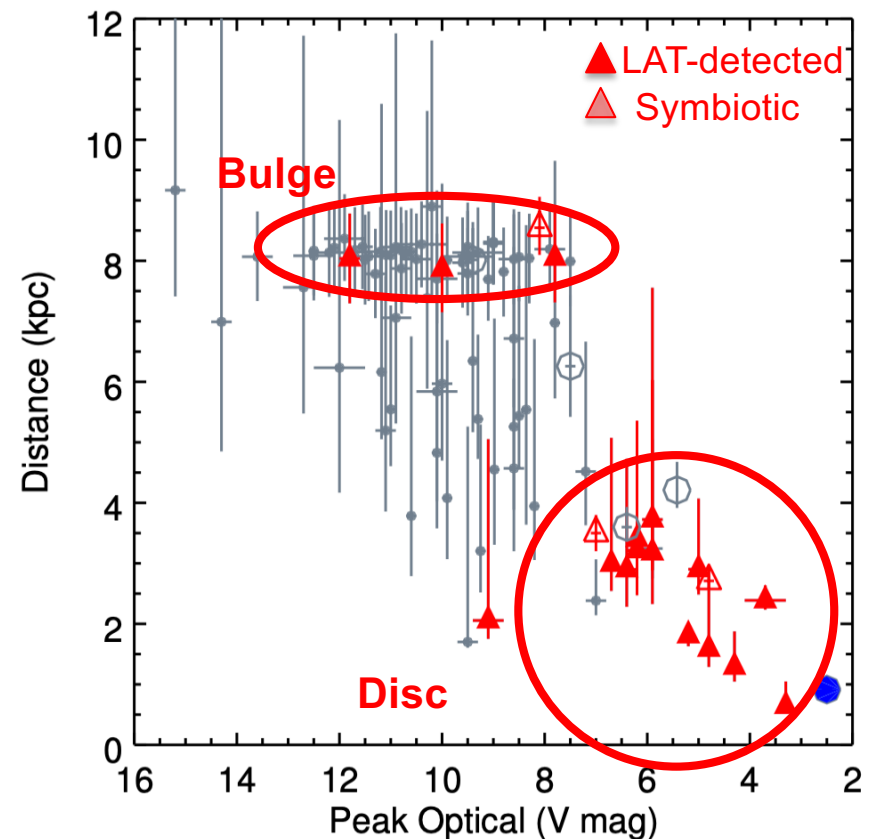
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- **LAT-detected novae in Galactic disc tend to be closest and brightest !**
- LAT detected 13/17 of the optically brightest novae during Fermi era. Exceptions:
 - KT Eri ($V = 5.4$), T Pyx ($V = 6.4$) are non-symbiotic (recurrent) novae
 - FM Cir ($V = 5.9$) – greater distance and multi-peaked; possible LAT detection in Wang+2024
 - V5583 Sgr ($V = 7$) viewed thru bulge
- **4 LAT detections are in the Galactic bulge with range of V peaks consistent with general bulge population (includes symbiotic-recurrent V3890 Sgr)**
(These 4 would be very unusual novae if placed in the disk)



Recurrent Novae

- Red giant wind in symbiotic systems have **outsized** role in γ -ray production, e.g., RS Oph and T CrB
- Interesting subset of optical novae in non-symbiotic recurents were not detected by LAT (U Sco 2010, 2022; T Pyx 2011, KT Eri 2009)

T CrB, RS Oph, V3890 Sgr, V745 Sco

Red giant secondary, $P \sim$ few 100d

$$M_{WD} \sim M_{Ch}$$

Very fast optical decline, $v_{ej} > \sim 4000$ km/s

$$M_{ej} \sim 10^{-7} - 10^{-6} M_{\odot}$$

Shock acceleration in red giant wind producing γ rays by π^0 decay



U Sco, V394 CrA, CI Aql (+V2487 Oph?)

Evolved/sub-giant secondary, $P \sim$ day

$$M_{WD} \sim M_{Ch}$$

Very fast optical decline, $v_{ej} \sim 10,000$ km/s

$$M_{ej} \sim 10^{-7} M_{\odot}$$

T Pyx, IM Nor, KT Eri

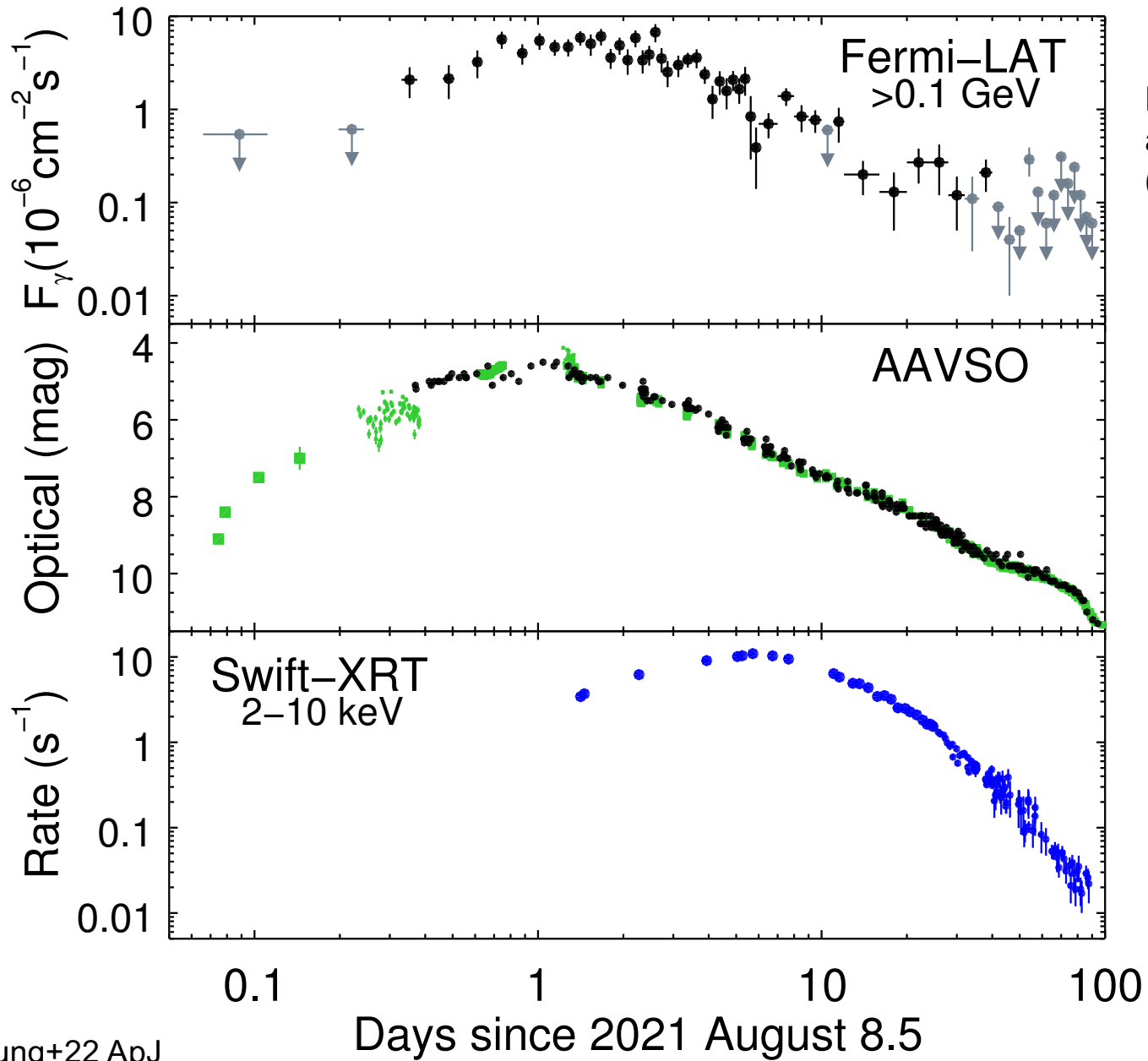
MS/sub-giant secondary, $P \sim$ hrs - day

$$M_{WD} < M_{Ch}$$

Slower optical decline, $v_{ej} \sim 800-2500$ km/s

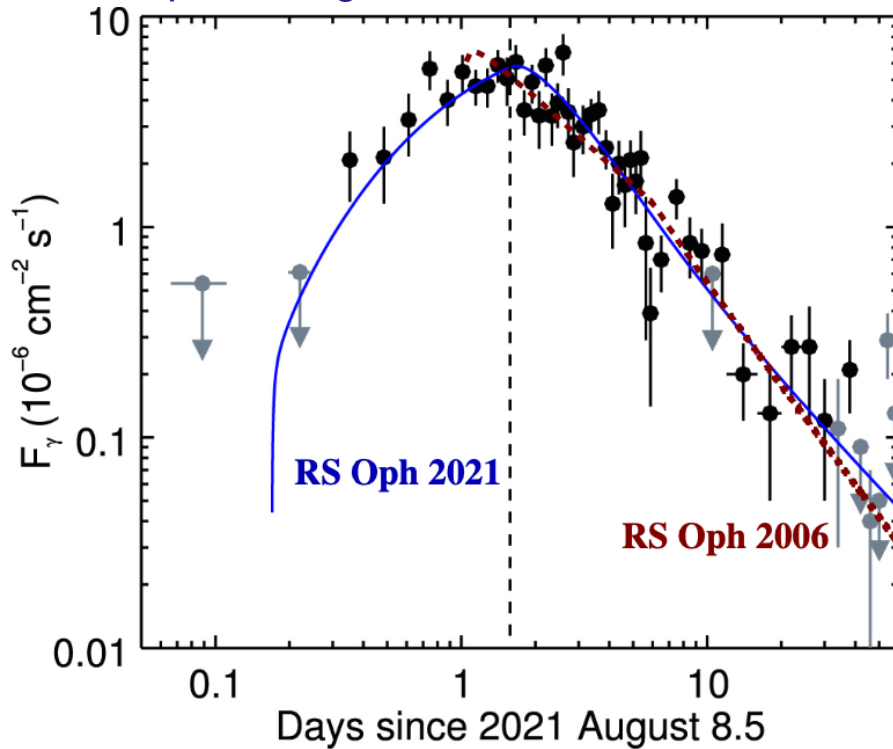
$M_{ej} \sim 10^{-5} M_{\odot}$, spectral development as CN

RS Oph 2021



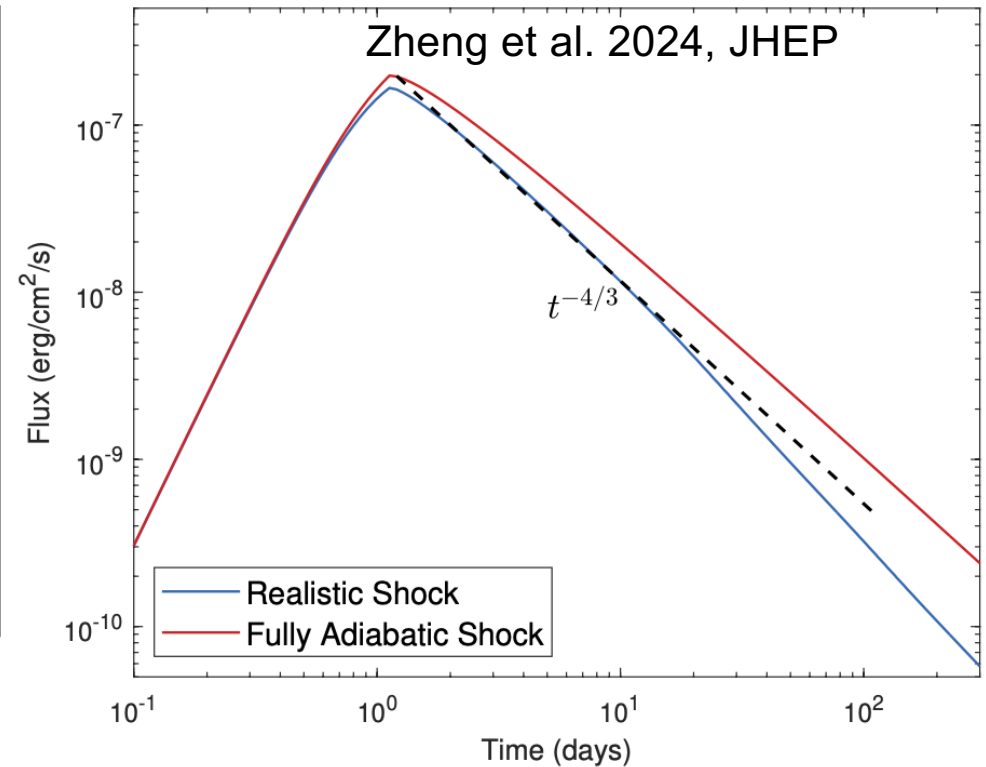
First nova detected
at VHE gamma rays
(HESS, MAGIC) !

RS Oph LAT lightcurve w/ Hadronic model



Tatischeff & Hernanz arXiv:2302.01276
Original predictions from 2006 outburst:
Tatischeff & Hernanz (2008 ApJL)

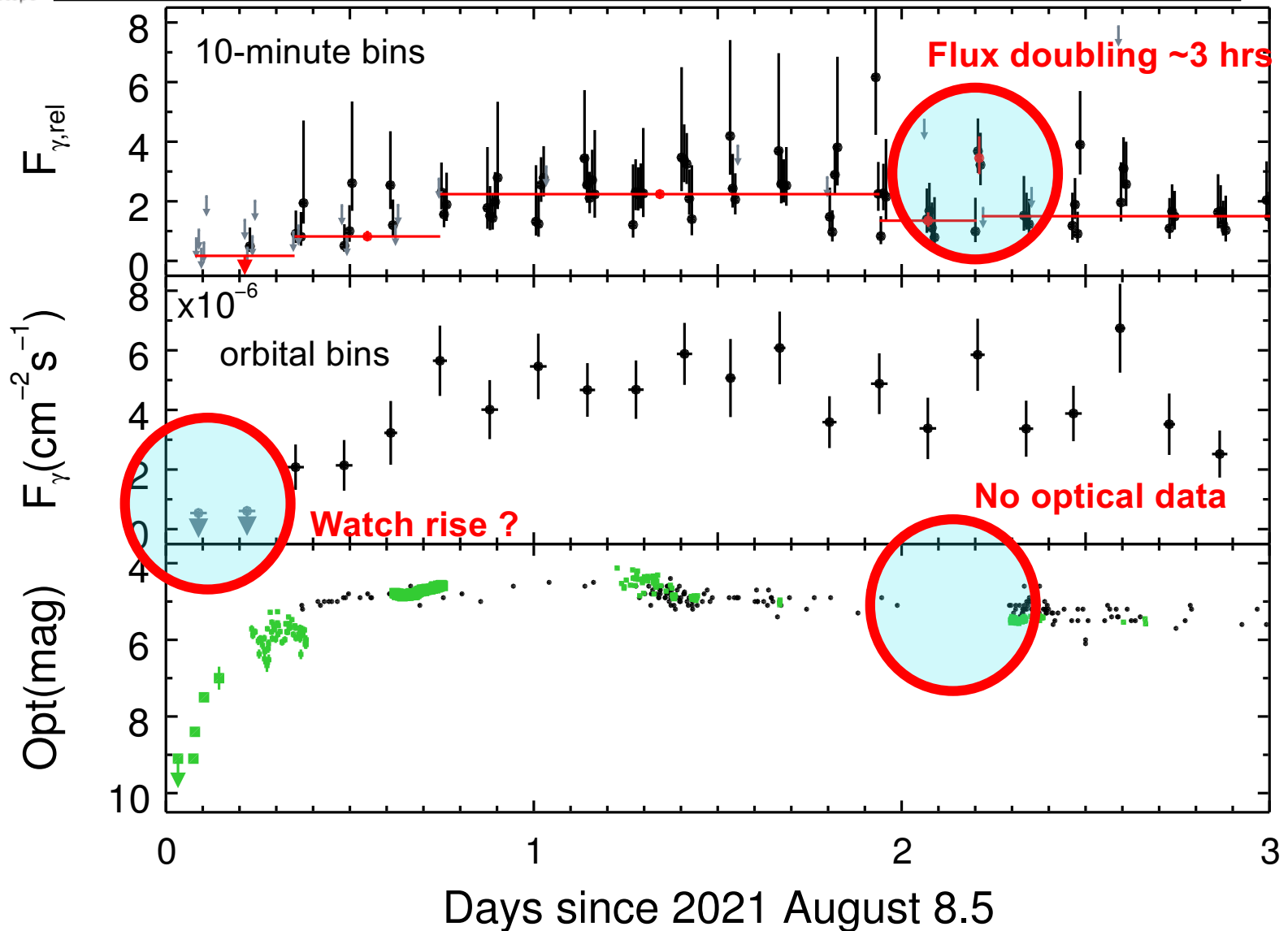
Expected Fermi-LAT lightcurve for T CrB



Naively scale by distance (d~ 0.9 kpc):

- T CrB peak >100 MeV flux ~ (1-2) x 10⁻⁵ ph/cm²/s (~1-2x Vela flux)
- Detectable for ~100 days

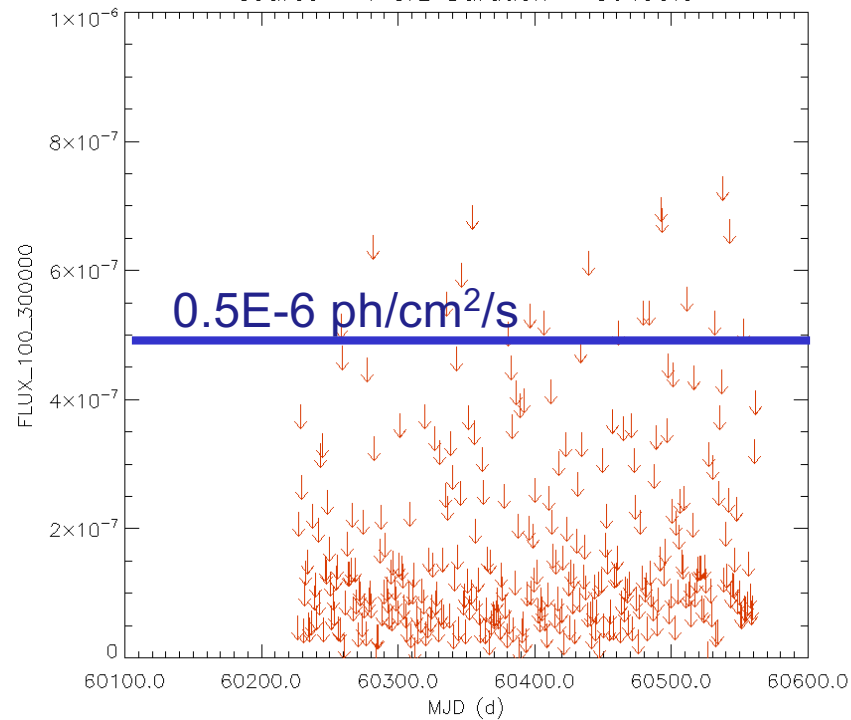
RS Oph 2021 in detail



T CrB (D~0.9 kpc) will be 3-4x brighter

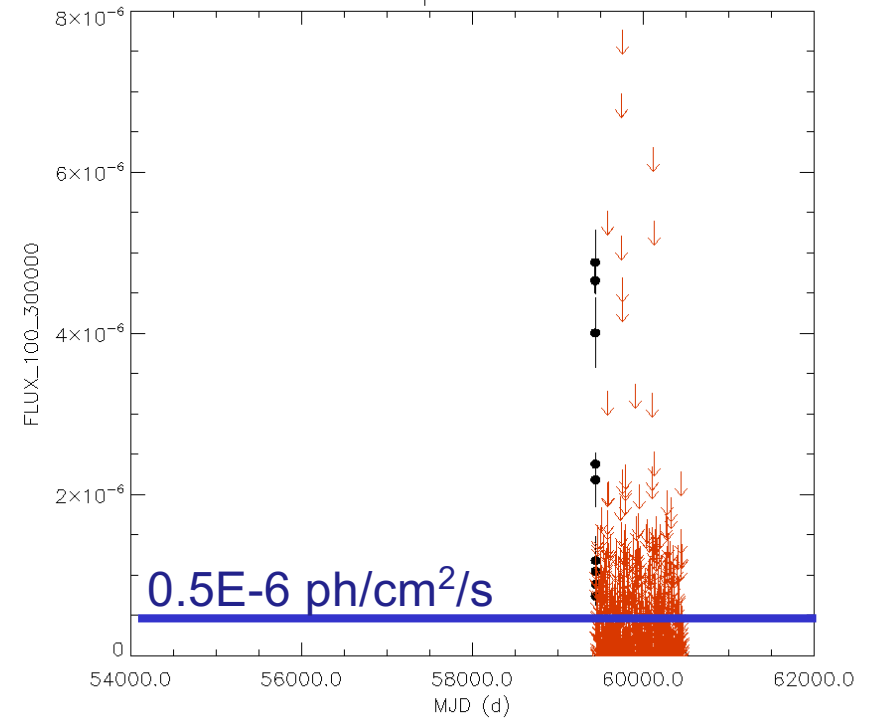
T CrB Daily

Source = T CrB Duration = 86400.0



RS Oph Daily

Source = RS Oph Duration = 86400.0



https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/access/lat/msl_lc/source/T_CrB
See Cheung et al. ATel #16336

- **What we know now: are all novae GeV gamma-ray sources ?**
 - **Yes.** LAT detected majority of novae within $D \sim 4$ kpc; subset of 4 novae within Galactic bulge ($D \sim 8$ kpc)
- **Symbiotics (and recurrents) as keystone systems**
 - RS Oph 2021 gamma-ray data (LAT+VHE) well-matched to hadronic emission model (Tatischeff & Hernanz 2007); likely explains other symbiotics
 - Expect remarkable outburst from T CrB ($D \sim 0.9$ kpc)
 - Additional outbursts from other symbiotics (RS Oph 203X?) and other recurrents

Classical novae have wide-ranging LAT properties (E. Aydi's talk)