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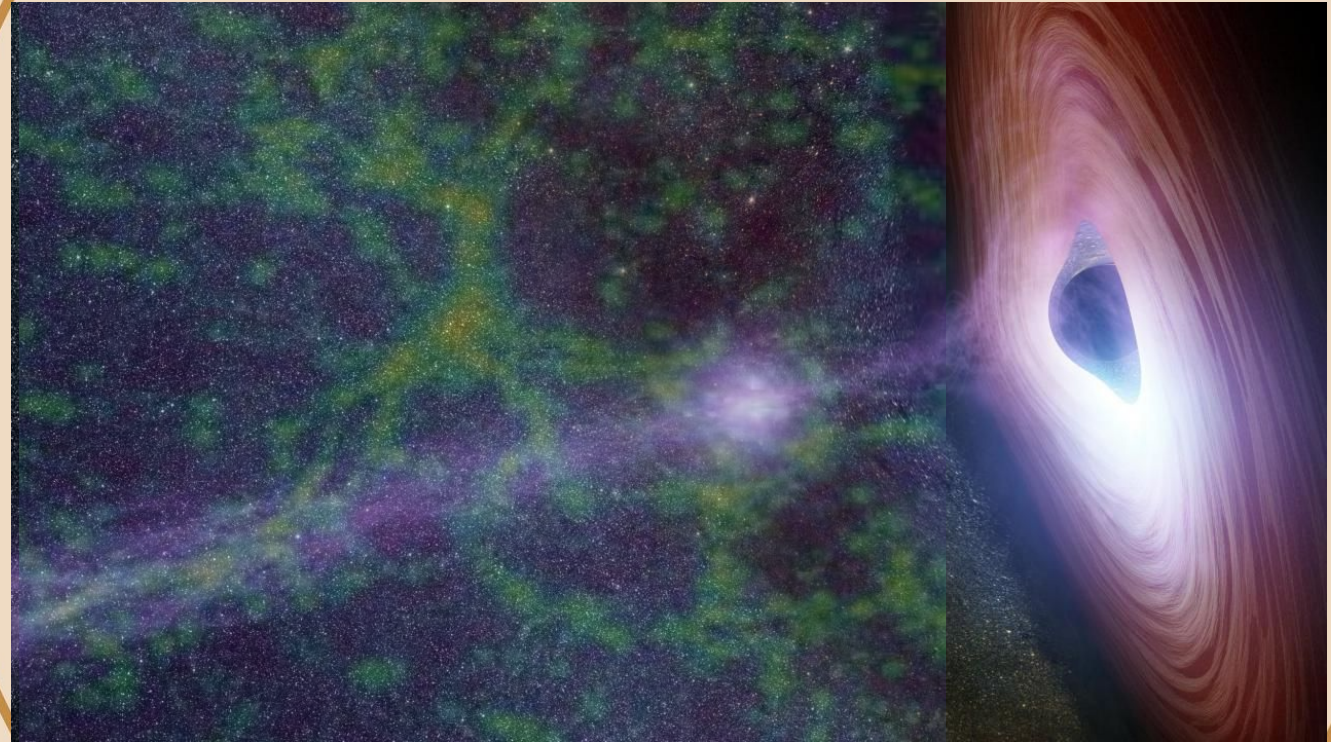


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# Constraints on the intergalactic magnetic field from Fermi-LAT observations of GRB 221009A

**Paolo Da Vela**, Guillem Martí Devesa,  
Manuel Meyer, Lea Burmeister,  
Francesco Saturni, Antonio Stamerra,  
Peter Veres, Francesco Longo on behalf  
of the *Fermi*-LAT coll.

11<sup>th</sup> International Fermi Symposium  
College Park, MD, 9-13 September, 2024





# Magnetic Fields in galaxies

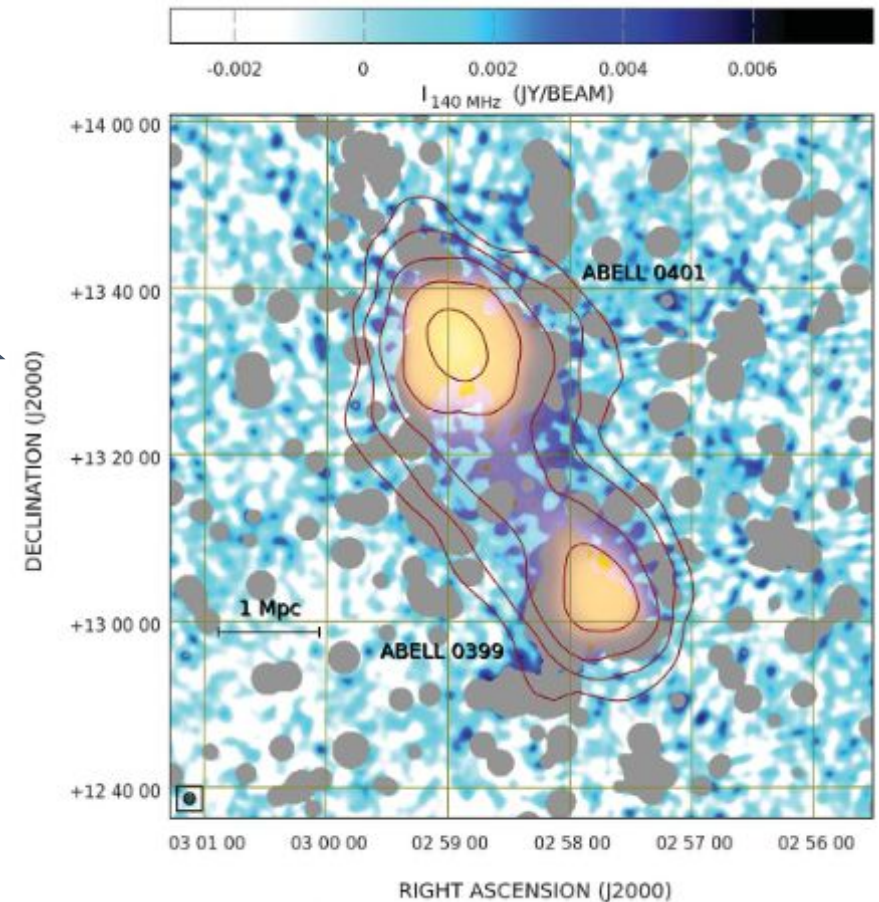


Borlaff et al. 2021

$B < 1 \mu\text{G}$

$B \approx 15 \mu\text{G}$

Most of the models that explain these magnetic fields assume a pre-existing magnetic field



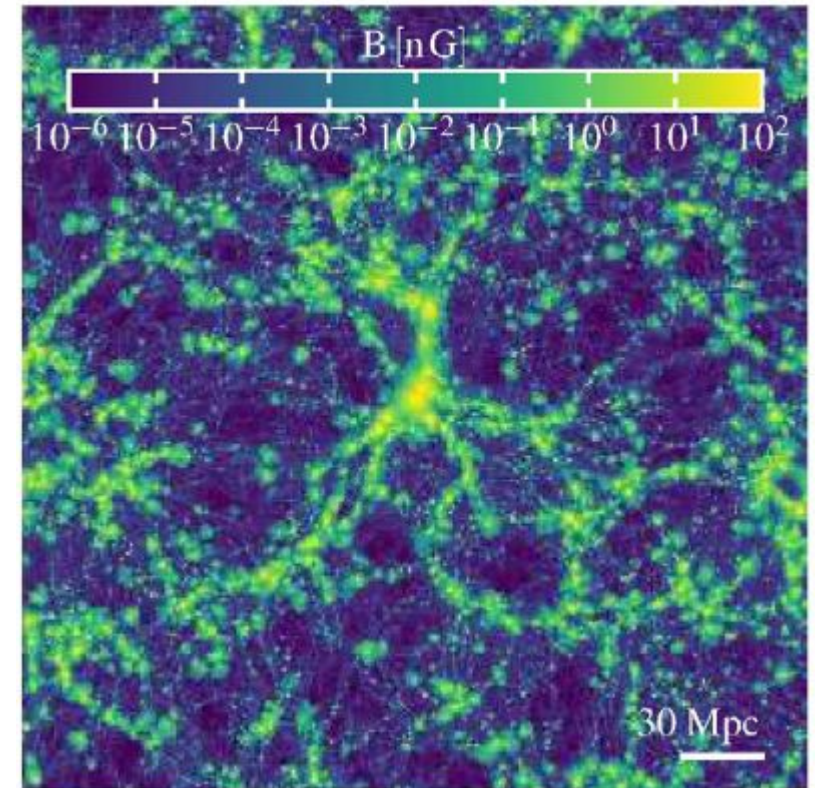
Govoni et al. 2019





## On the nature of the seed fields

- ❖ The nature of the seed fields is largely unknown. Two main hypothesis exist:
  - the cosmological scenario
  - the astrophysical scenario
- ❖ Observationally we need measurement of magnetic fields in the intergalactic medium



Marinacci et al. 2019

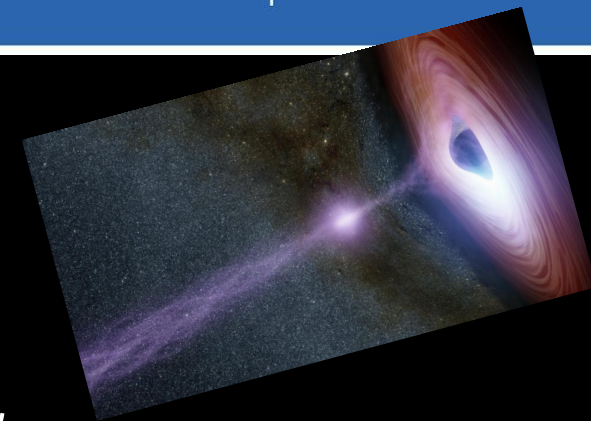
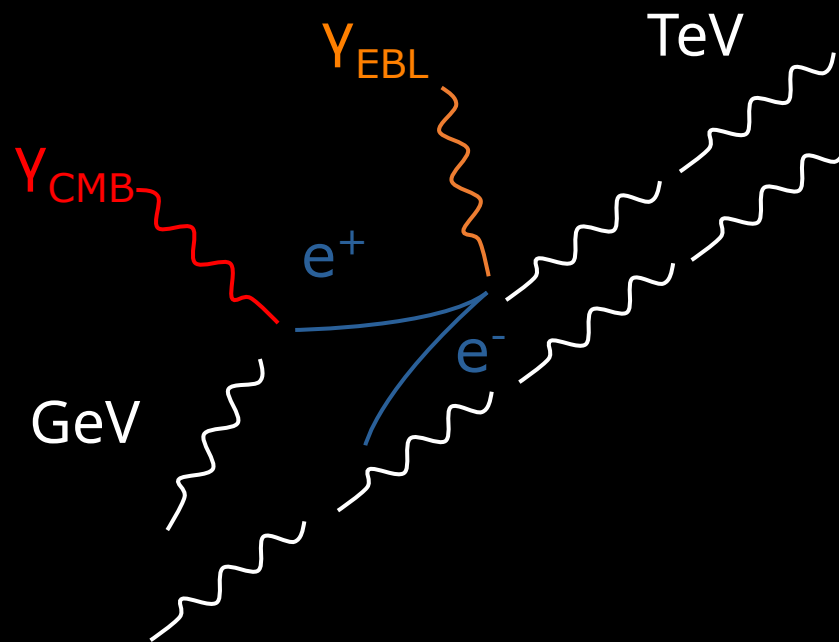


# Physical process

Excess at lower energies

$$E \simeq 70 \left[ \frac{E_0}{10 \text{ TeV}} \right]^2 \text{ GeV}$$

Neronov et al. 2009





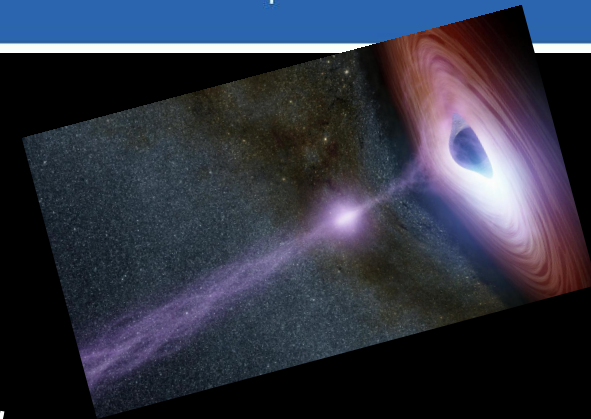
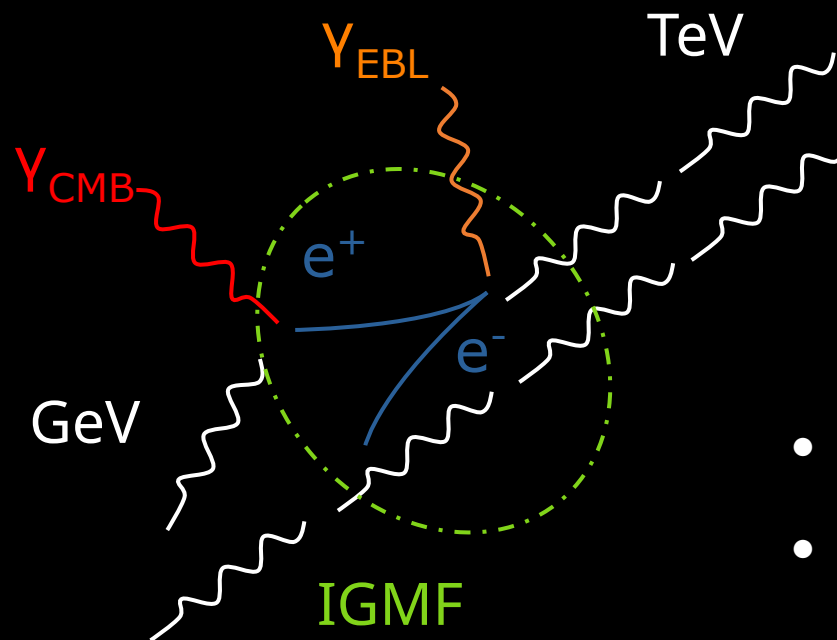
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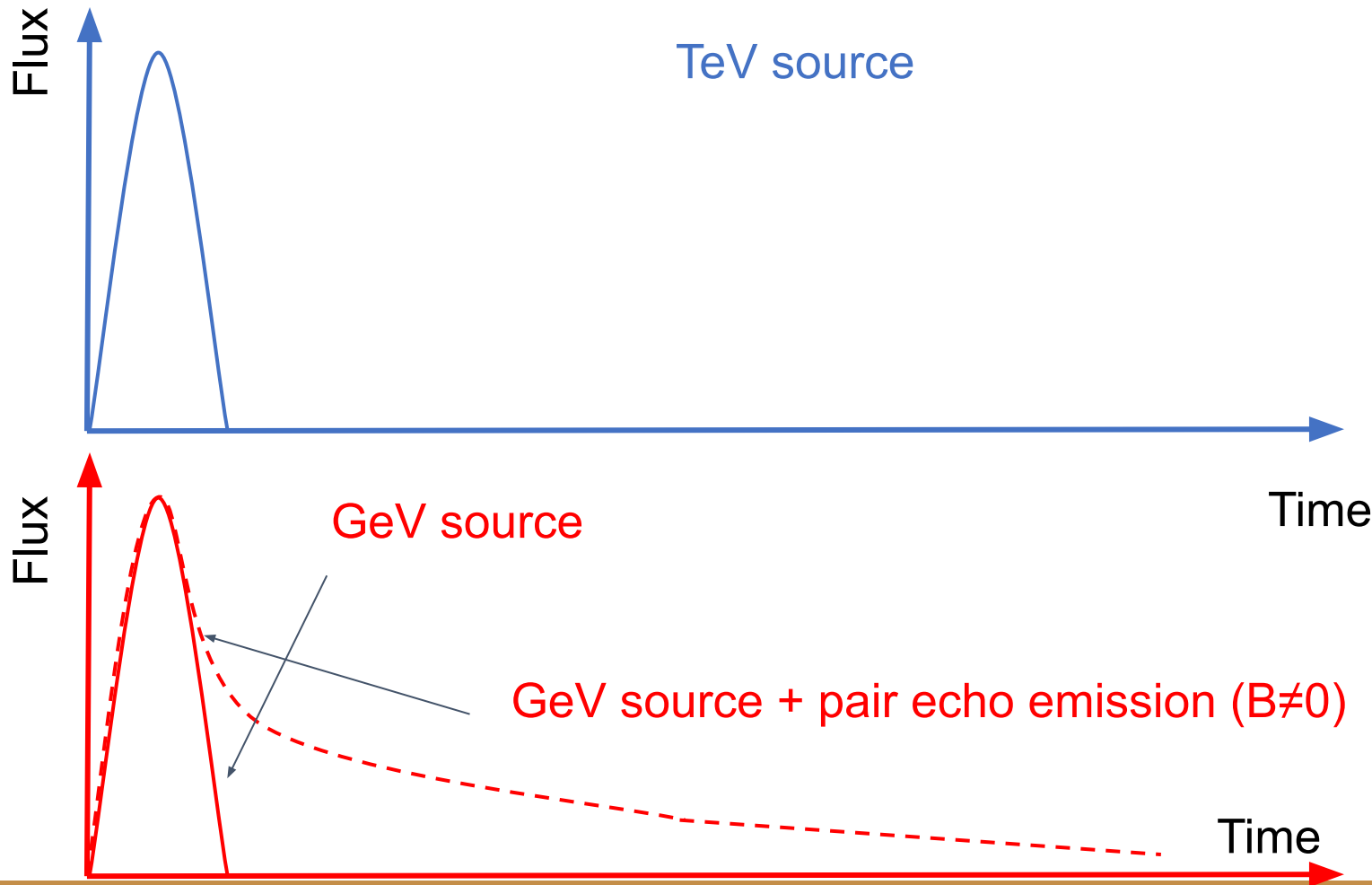
Indirect detection of the IGMF



- Extended  $\gamma$  rays halos
- Spectral features
- Time delayed  $\gamma$ -ray emission



# Search for the “pair-echo” emission



$$T_{delay} \propto E^{-5/2} B^2$$

Neronov et al. 2009

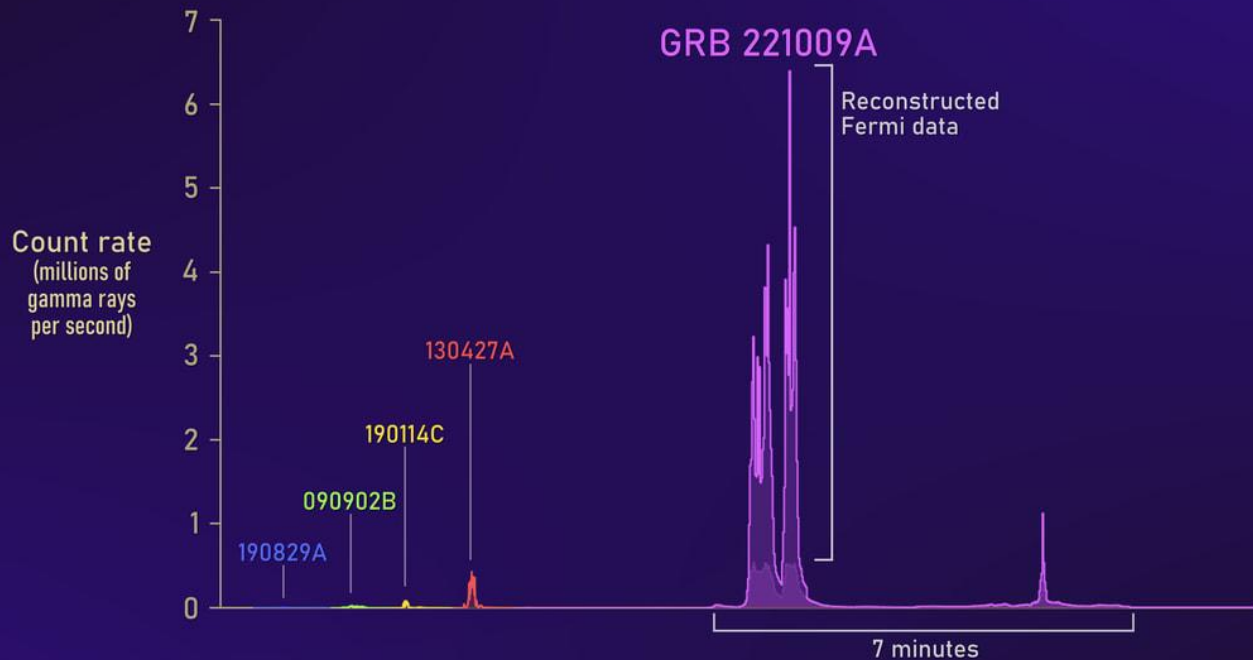
Interesting for transient events, particularly for GRB





## GRB 221009A: BOAT

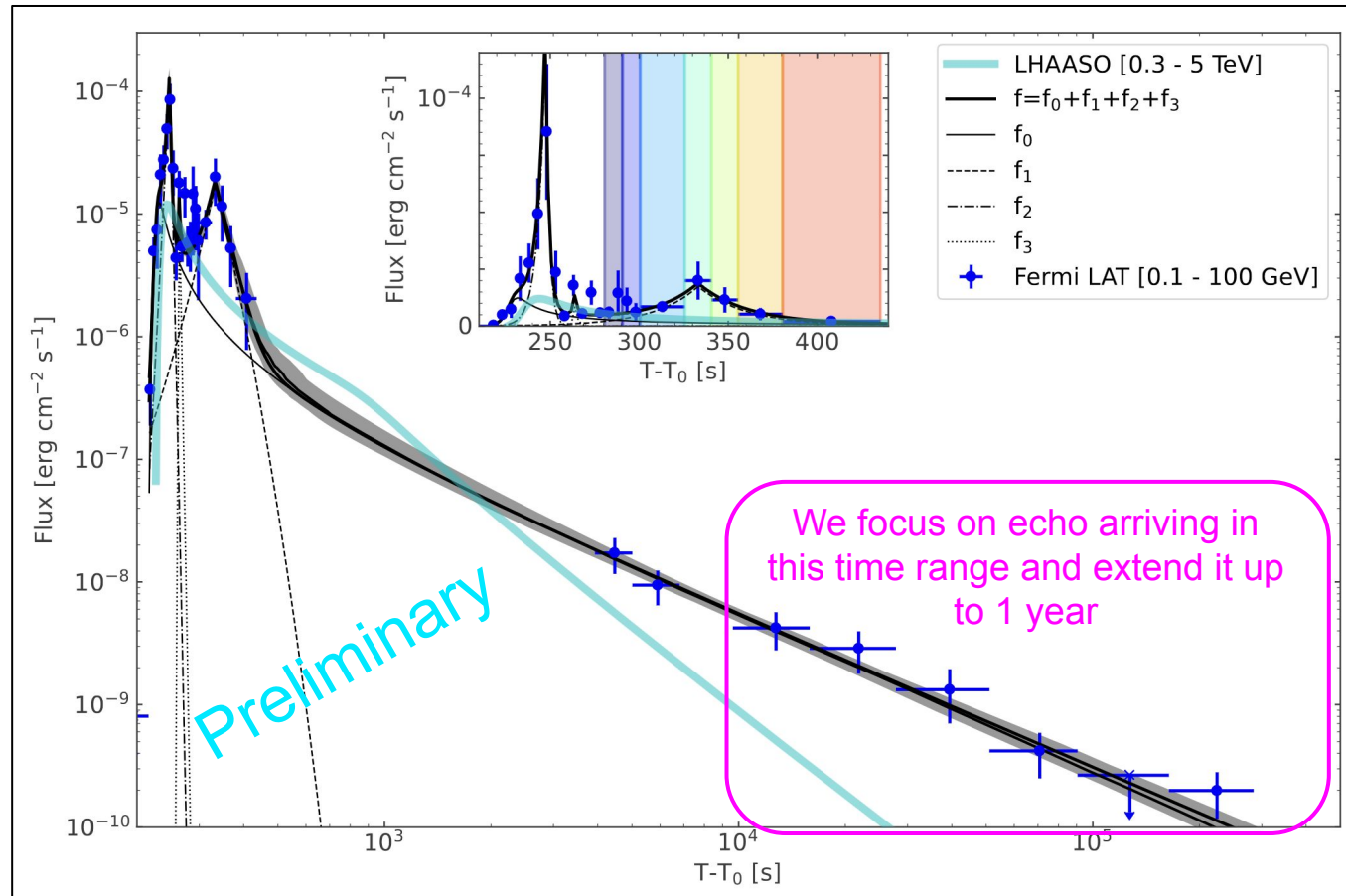
### The BOAT GRB in Context



- ❖ Brightest GRB ever observed
- ❖ Redshift from Cal, II absorption lines:  
 $z=0.1505$
- ❖ *Fermi*-LAT detected 99.4 GeV photon (new record from GRB) at  $T_0+240$ s
- ❖ LAT also detected 400 GeV photon at  $T_0+33$  ks (preliminary:  $4\sigma$  association with GRB)
- ❖ Detected at very high energies with LHAASO:
  - WCDA: between 0.2 and 7 TeV in  $\sim 3000$  s
  - KM2A: between 3 and 13 TeV in  $\sim 900$  s



# Composite LAT and LHAASO lightcurves



Fermi-LAT coll., submitted





## Modeling the temporal and spectral cascade structure with CRPropa3

- ❖ CRPropa3 Monte Carlo Code used to generate 4D (spatial + energy + delay time) templates
- ❖ IGMF:
  - Kolmogorov turbulent spectrum
  - $B_{\text{rms}} = 10^{-20} \text{ G}, \dots, 10^{-15} \text{ G}$
  - Coherence length:  $\ell_B \approx 6 \text{ Mpc}$
- ❖ EBL model of Franceschini et al. (2008)
- ❖ Jet opening angle:  $1.6^\circ$  (from LHAASO coll. 2023), jet aligned with the line of sight

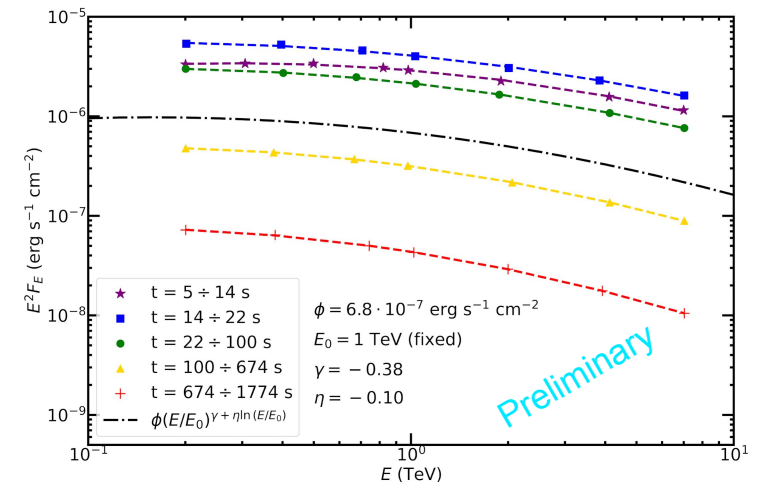
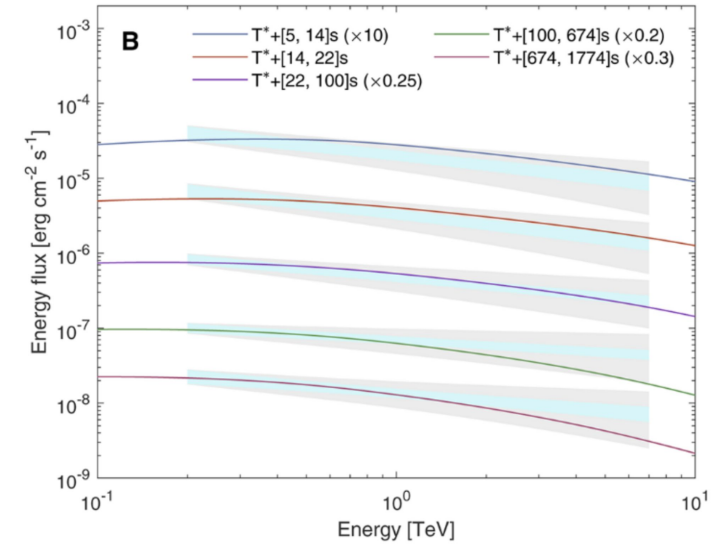


## Assumed Intrinsic spectrum: from LHAASO WCDA

- ❖ LHAASO Collaboration fitted physical GRB model to their observations
- ❖ We approximated this model with a logparabola and derived time averaged spectrum:

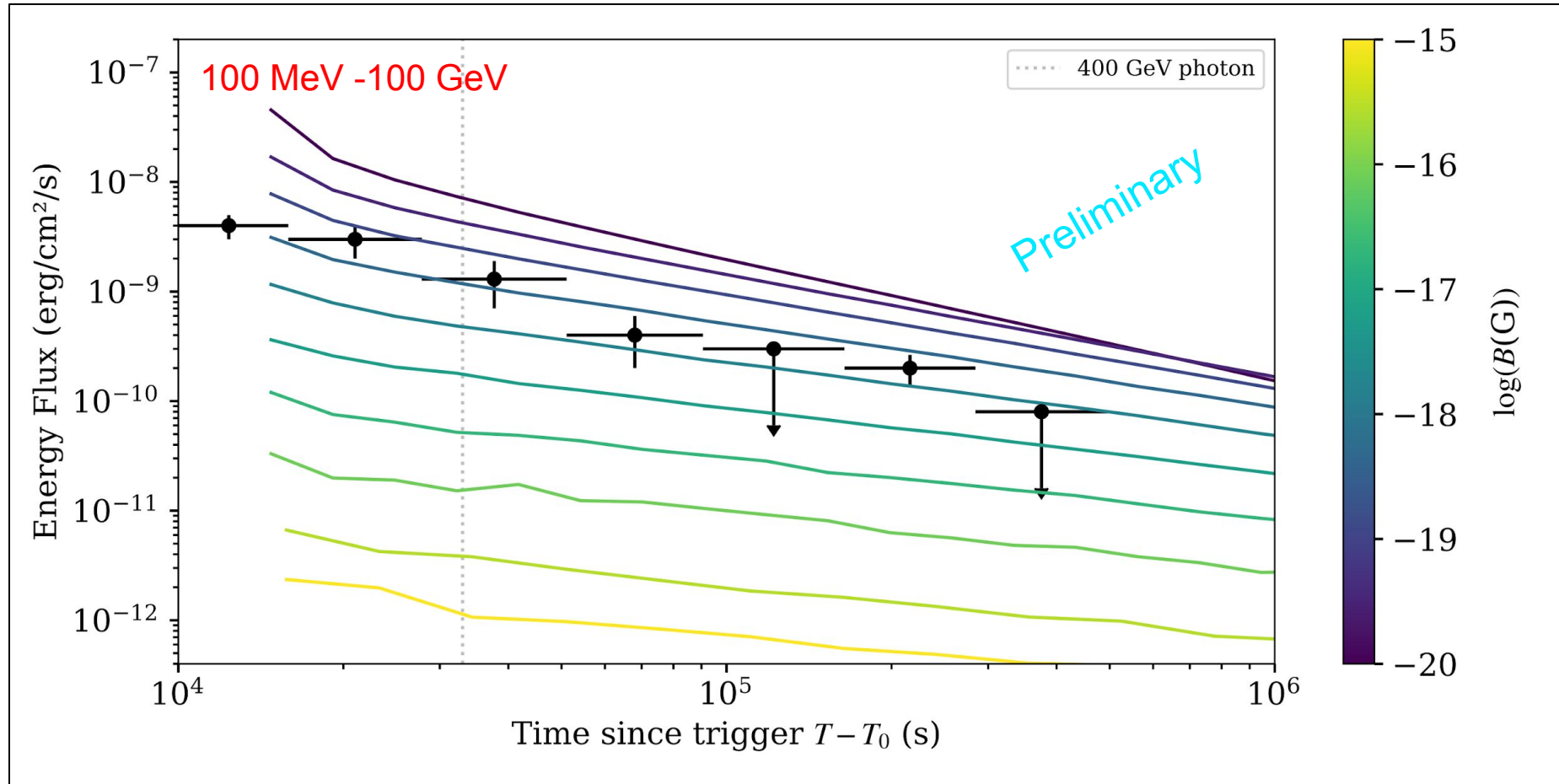
$$E^2 F_E = \phi_0 \left( \frac{E}{E_0} \right)^{\gamma + \eta \ln(E/E_0)}$$

- ❖ Additionally multiplied with exponential cutoff at 7 TeV
- ❖ Assumed emission time: 3000s





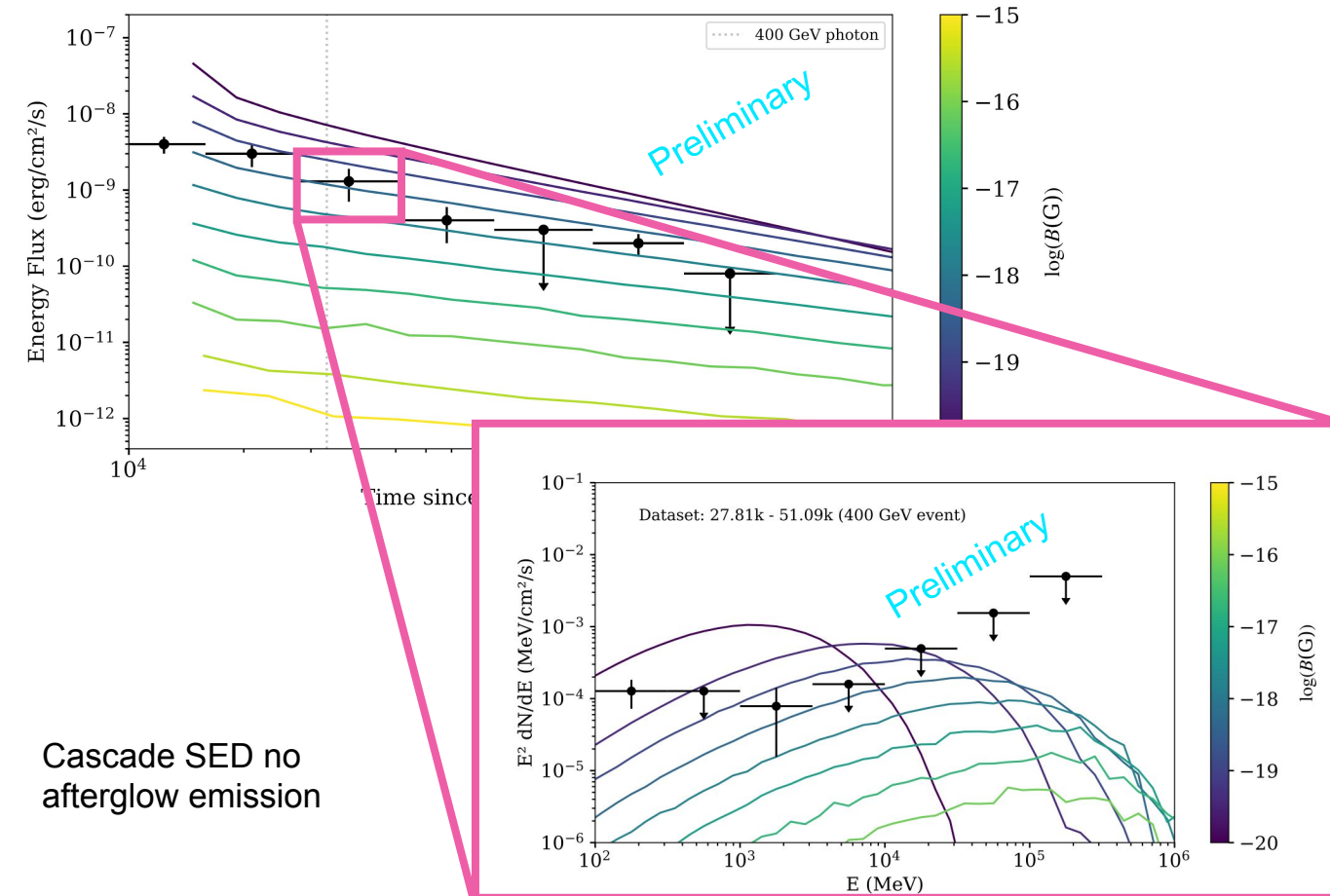
# Fermi-LAT LAT lightcurve vs pair echo predictions







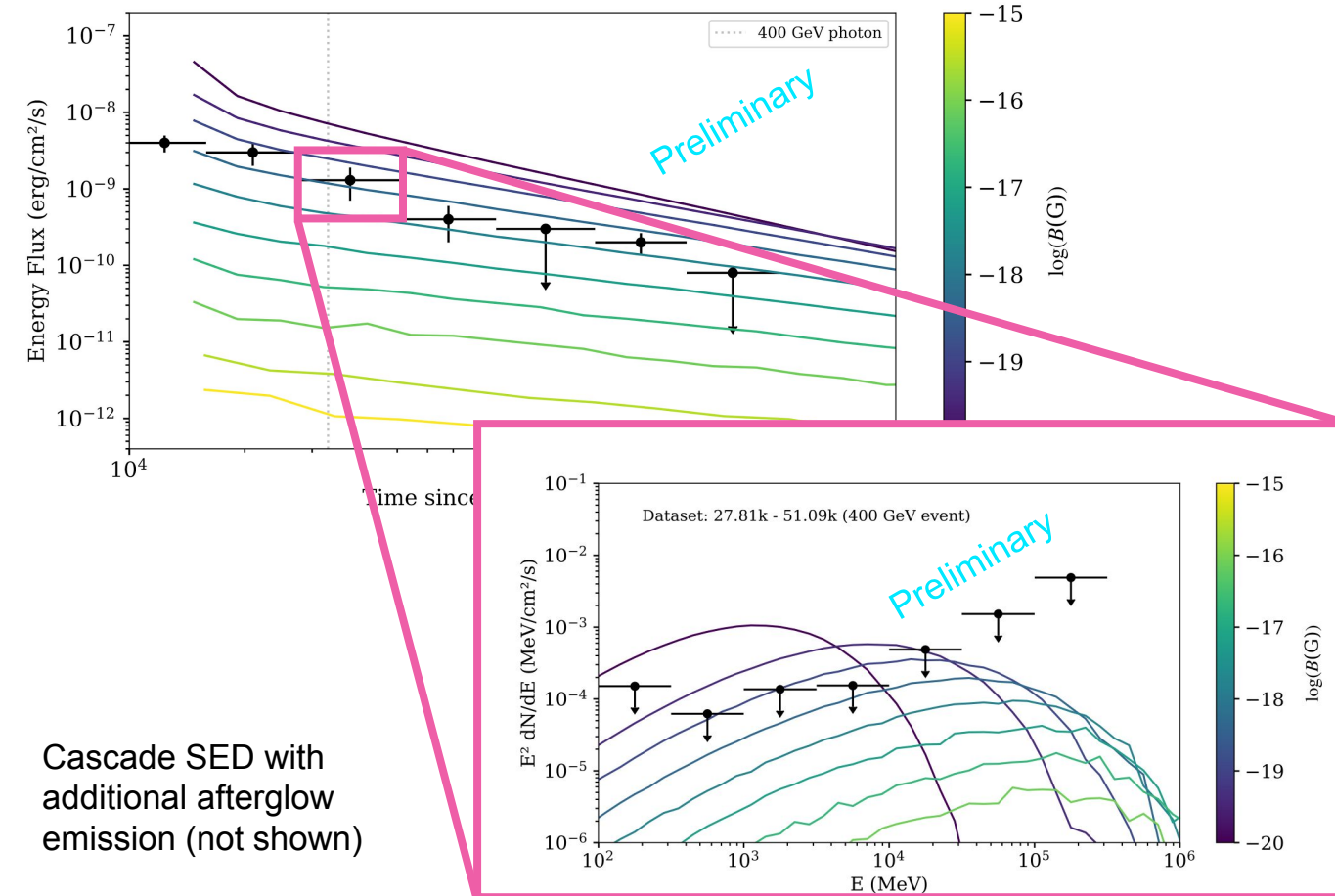
## Statistical analysis: spectral and temporal likelihood



- ❖ For each time bin  $i$ :
  - Add cascade prediction for fixed  $B_{rms}$
  - Compute log likelihood summed over energy bins  $j$ :
 
$$\ln \mathbf{L}_i = \sum_j \ln \mathbf{L} \left( B_{rms}, \hat{\theta} | D_{ij} \right)$$
  - $\theta$ : optimized nuisance parameters
- ❖ Consider two cases for  $T < T_0 + 3$  days:
  - No afterglow emission
  - Afterglow emission modeled with powerlaw with index  $\Gamma = 2$



## Statistical analysis: spectral and temporal likelihood

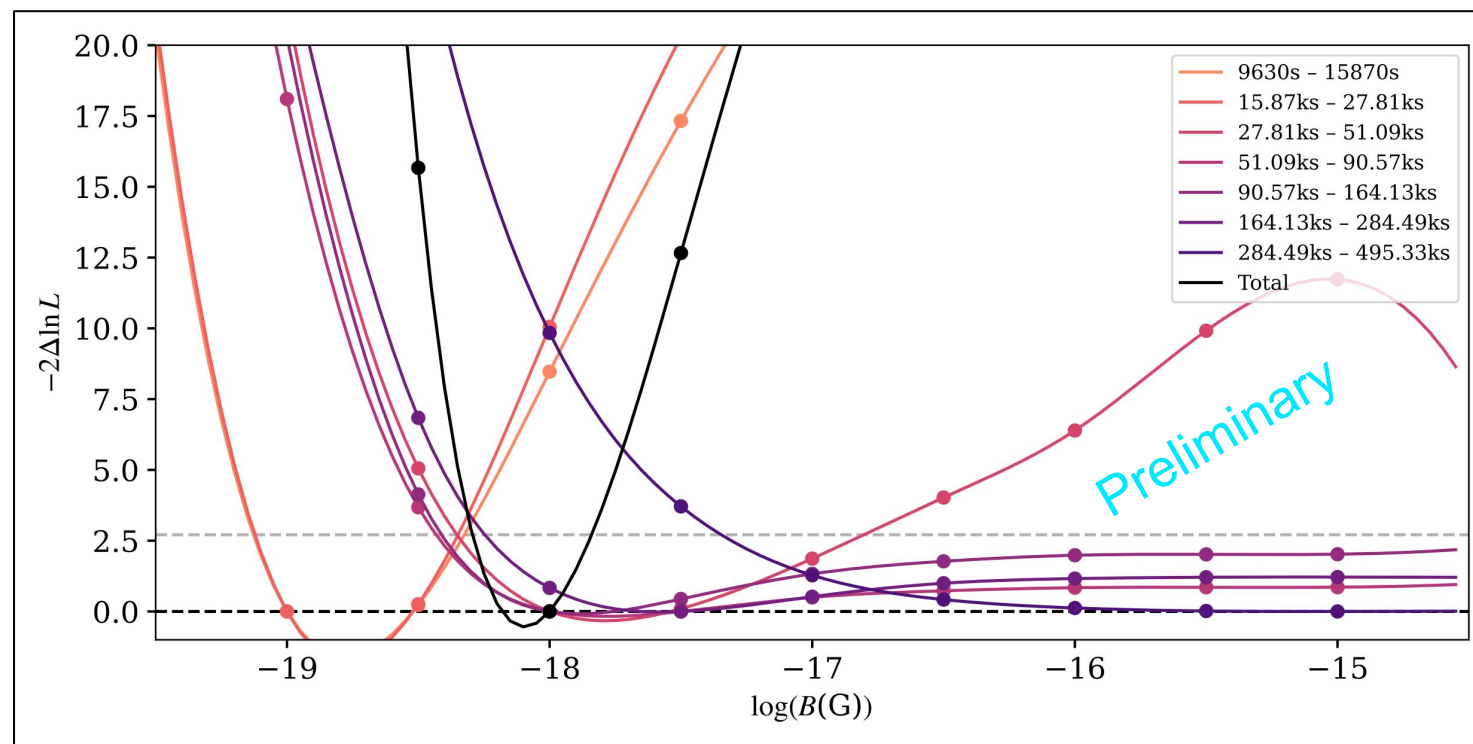


Cascade SED with additional afterglow emission (not shown)

- ❖ For each time bin  $i$ :
  - Add cascade prediction for fixed  $B_{rms}$
  - Compute log likelihood summed over energy bins  $j$ :
 
$$\ln \mathbf{L}_i = \sum_j \ln \mathbf{L} \left( B_{rms}, \hat{\theta} | D_{ij} \right)$$
  - $\theta$ : optimized nuisance parameters
- ❖ Consider two cases for  $T < T_0 + 3$  days:
  - No afterglow emission
  - Afterglow emission modeled with powerlaw with index  $\Gamma = 2$

## Likelihood profiles: no astrophysical afterglow emission added

- ❖ “Detection” of pair echo emissions at early times
- ❖ Pair echo takes role of astrophysical afterglow, which is expected to present

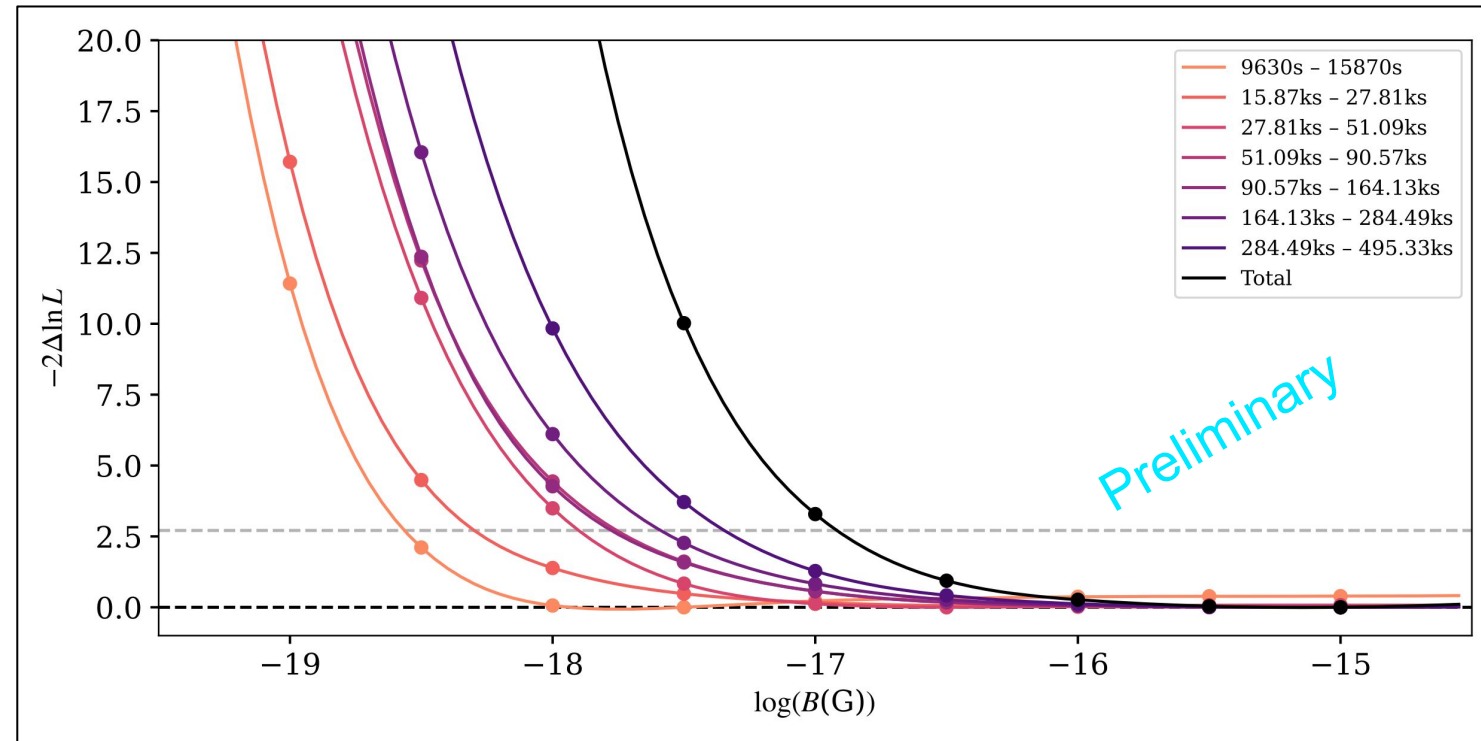






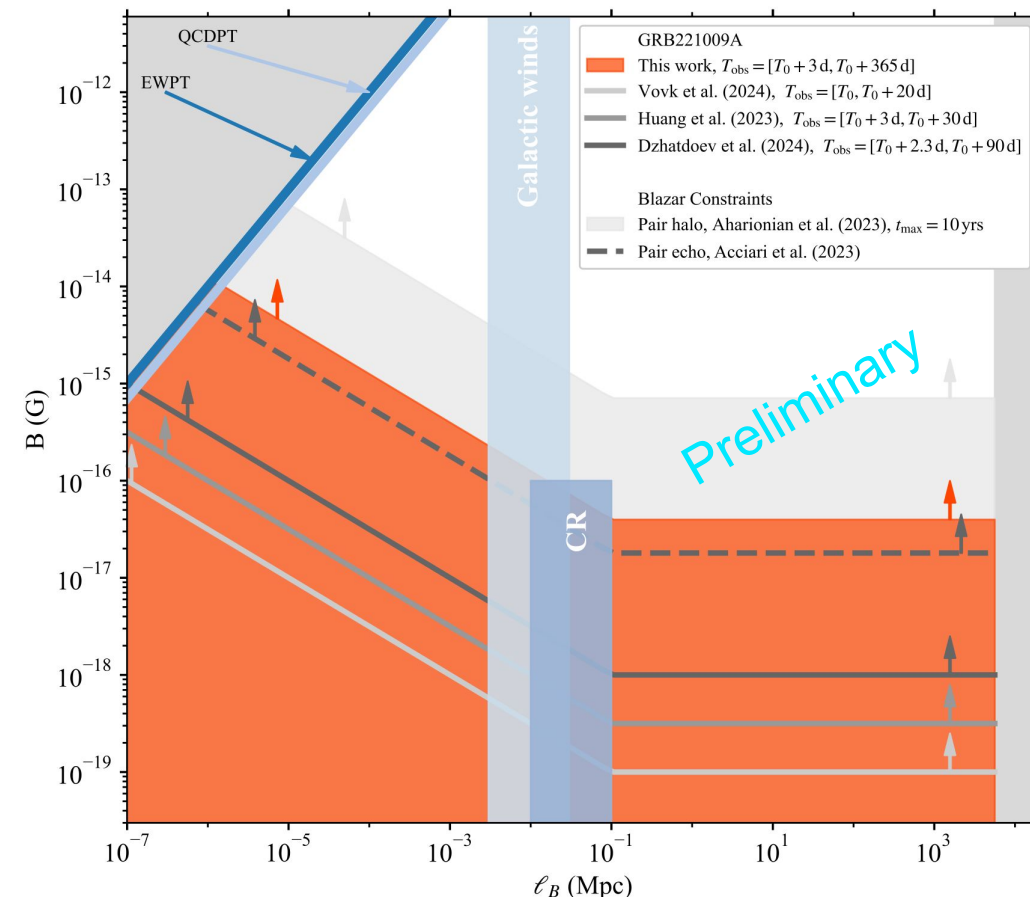
## Likelihood profiles: no astrophysical afterglow emission added

- ❖ With added afterglow: “detection” disappears
- ❖ We can rule out magnetic fields where summed log-likelihood is  $> 2.71$
- ❖ For  $T \in [T_0 + 3 \text{ days}, T_0 + 365 \text{ days}]$ :  
 $B_{\text{rms}} \gtrsim 4 \times 10^{-17} \text{ G}$  (95% confidence)



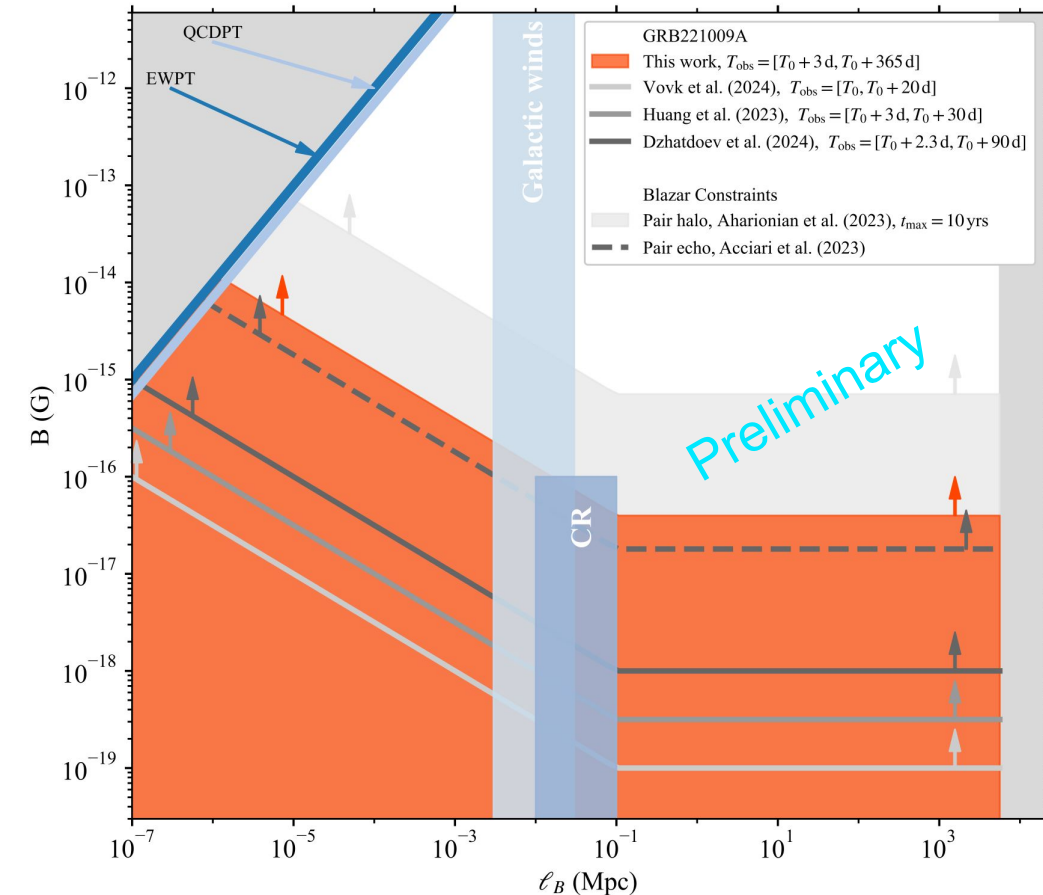
## Comparisons with previous constraints

- ★ Best constraints so far on IGMF with pair echo technique
- ★ Compared with previous constraints also using GRB 221009A:
  - we include more data
  - Robust statistical analysis
  - Include astrophysical afterglow
- ★ Compared to pair halo searches:
  - No assumptions on activity time necessary
  - Plasma instabilities that coils suppress cascade probably not relevant here



## Summary and Conclusions

- ★ GRB 221009A offers a wealth of opportunities to study GRB physics and photon propagation
- ★ We have derived new constraints on IGMF with  $B_{\text{rms}} \gtrsim 4 \times 10^{-17}$  G
- ★ Best constraints so far from pair echo technique
- ★ Constraints depend mildly on chosen EBL model
- ★ Outlook: use predictions from GRB afterglow model instead of powerlaw with  $\Gamma=2$







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**Back up**

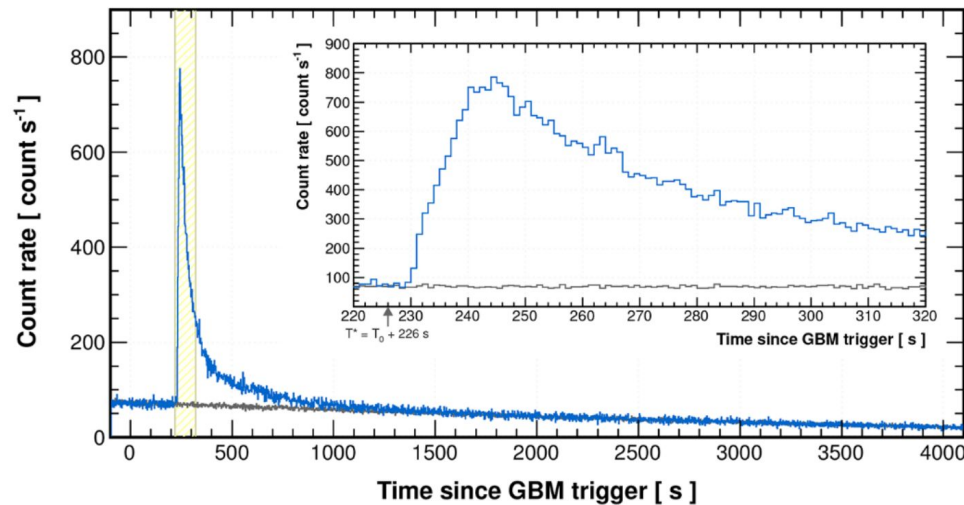


## VHE photons seen with LHAASO

- WCDA: > 64,000 gamma rays between 0.2 and 7 TeV in ~3000 s
- KM2A: 140 gamma rays between 3 and 13 TeV in ~900 s
- Lightcurve suggests jet opening angle of  $1.6^\circ$
- Distance and highest energies: strong absorption on EBL



LHAASO



LHAASO Coll. [Science 2023](#)

