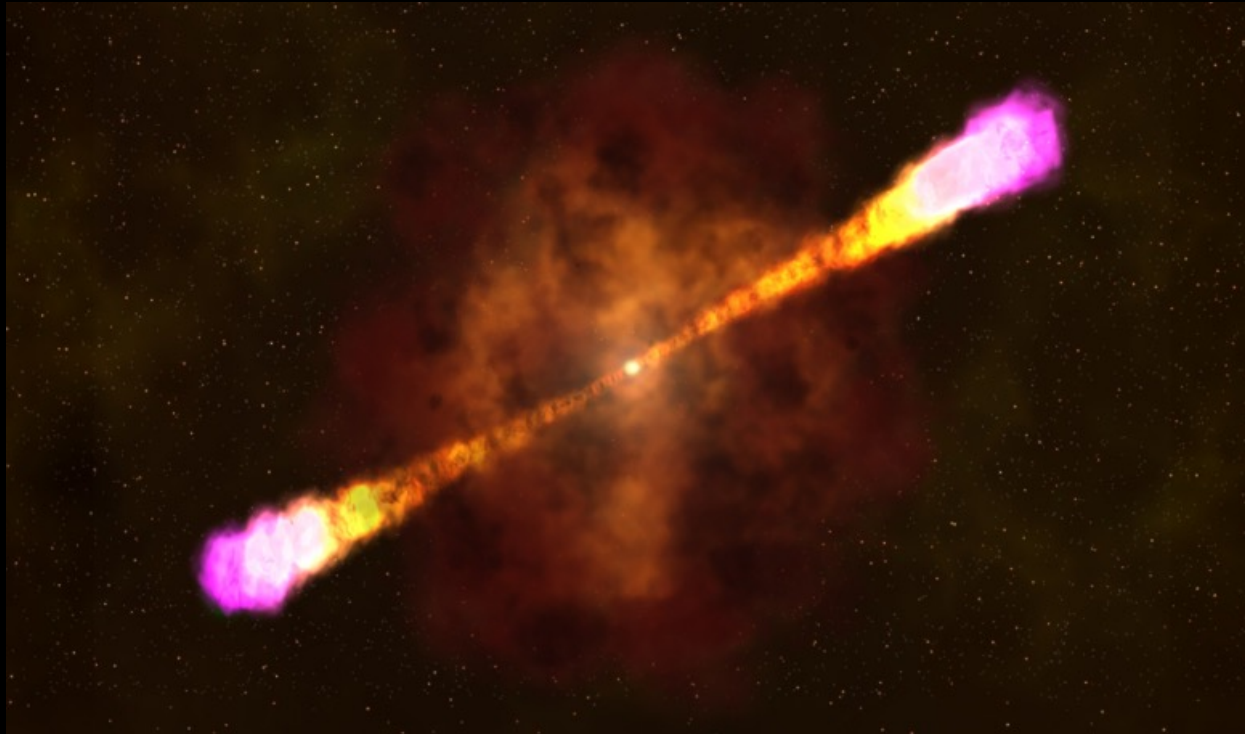


# Recent developments on GRB afterglow modeling in the VHE era



Bing Theodore Zhang

2023/2/27

# The physics of GRBs

Energetic and luminous

$$E_{\gamma, \text{iso}} \sim 10^{49} - 10^{55} \text{ erg}$$

$$L_{\gamma, \text{iso}} \sim 10^{46} - 10^{54} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$$

Relativistic outflow

$$\Gamma > 100$$

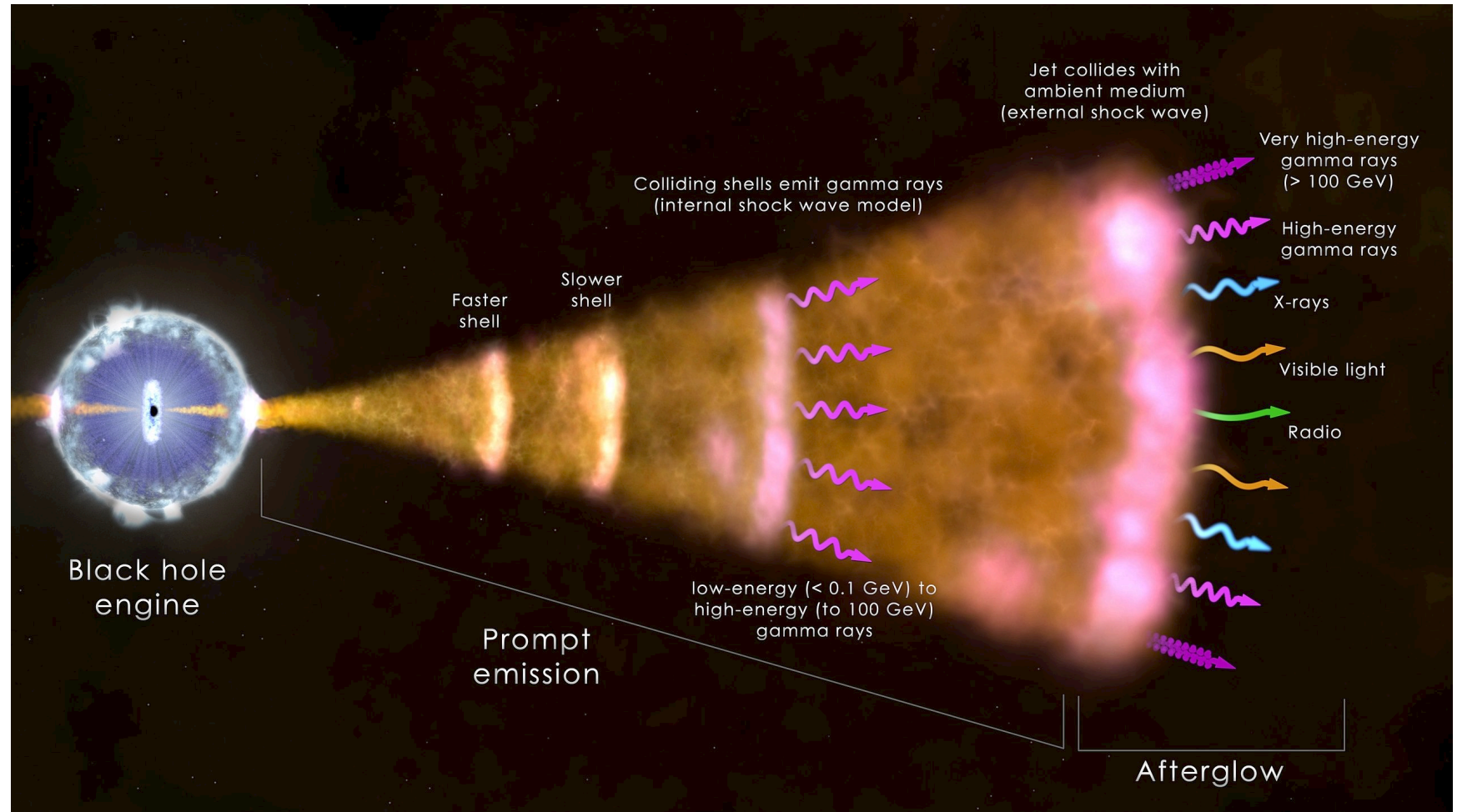
Rapid variability

Below  $\sim 0.1$  seconds

Low-luminosity GRBs

$$\Gamma \gtrsim 10$$

Short GRBs (double neutron star merger)



# The physics of GRBs

Energetic and luminous

$$E_{\gamma, \text{iso}} \sim 10^{49} - 10^{55} \text{ erg}$$

$$L_{\gamma, \text{iso}} \sim 10^{46} - 10^{54} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$$

Relativistic outflow

$$\Gamma > 100$$

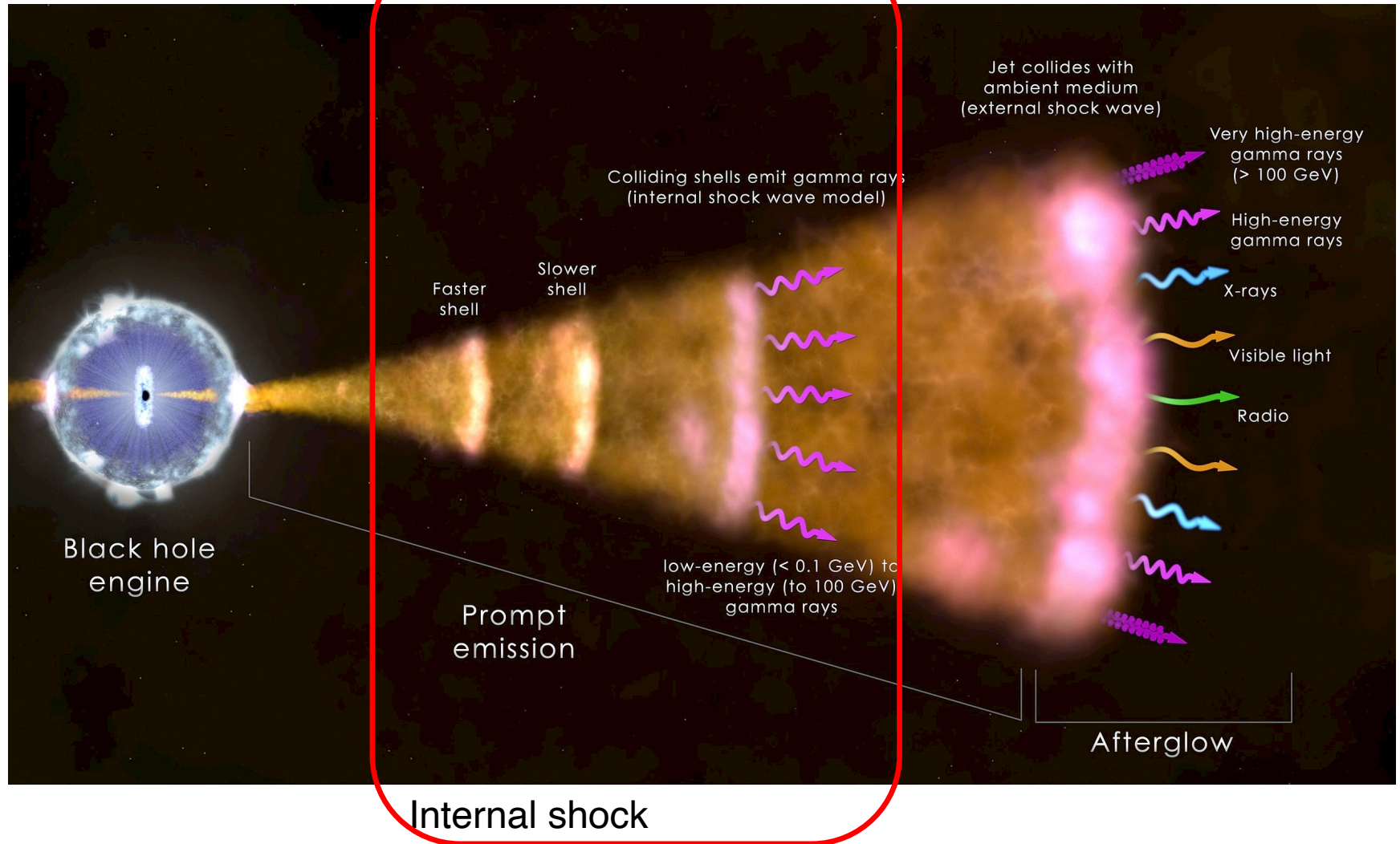
Rapid variability

Below  $\sim 0.1$  seconds

Low-luminosity GRBs

$$\Gamma \gtrsim 10$$

Short GRBs (double neutron star merger)  $R_{\text{IS}} \simeq 2\Gamma^2 c \delta t = 6 \times 10^{12} \Gamma^2 \delta t_{-2} \text{ cm}$



# The physics of GRBs

Energetic and luminous

$$E_{\gamma, \text{iso}} \sim 10^{49} - 10^{55} \text{ erg}$$

$$L_{\gamma, \text{iso}} \sim 10^{46} - 10^{54} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$$

Relativistic outflow

$$\Gamma > 100$$

Rapid variability

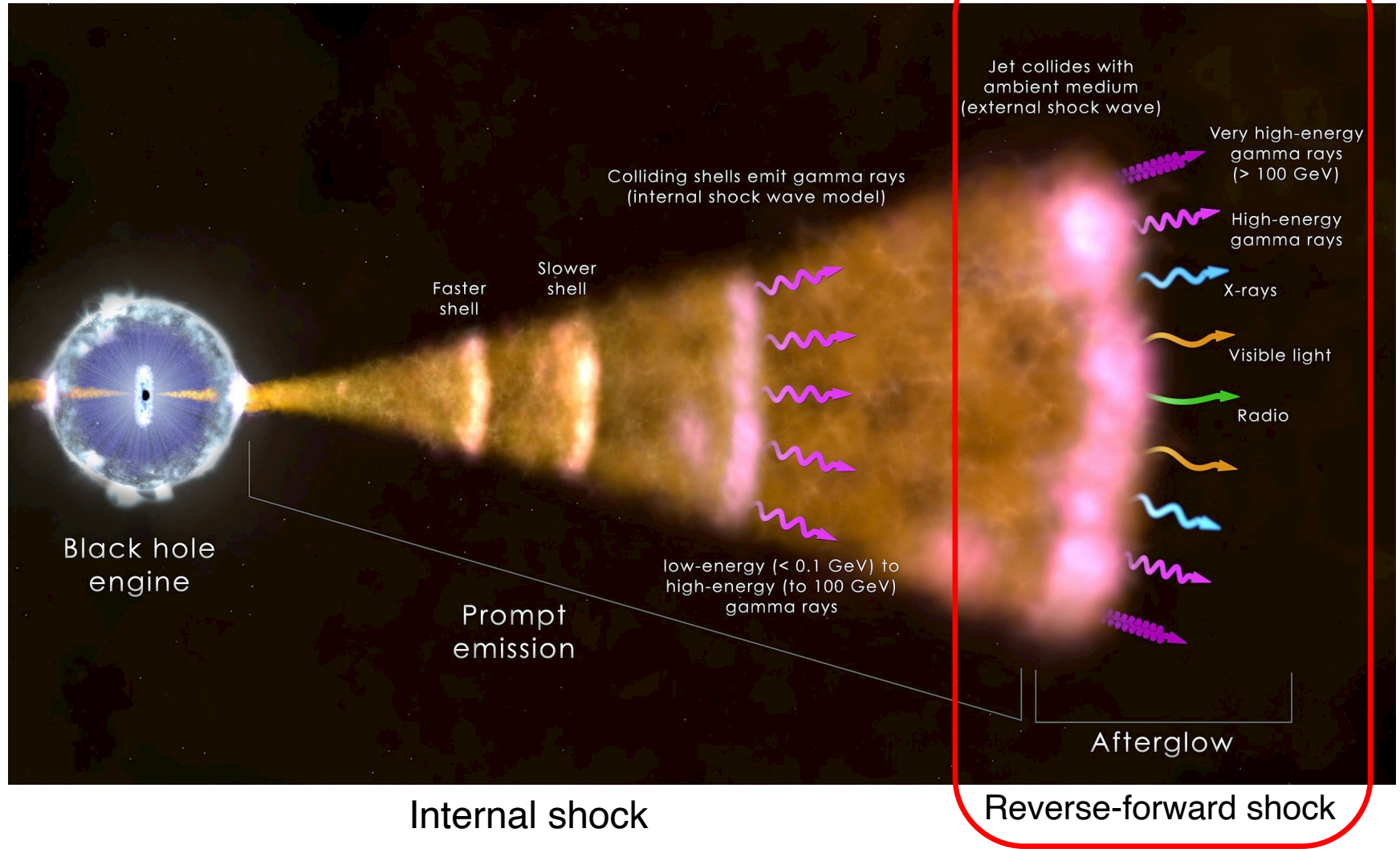
Below  $\sim 0.1$  seconds

Low-luminosity GRBs

$$\Gamma \gtrsim 10$$

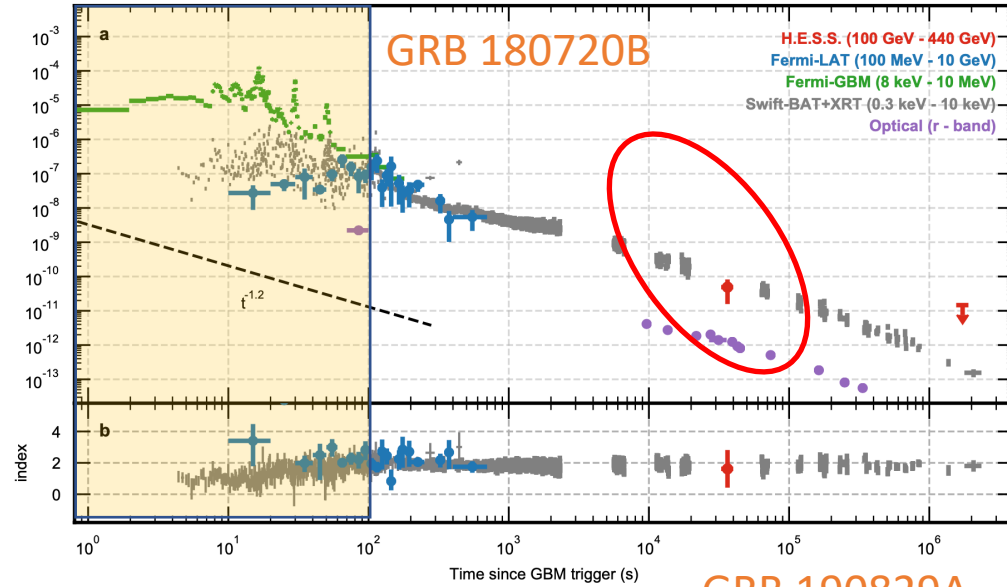
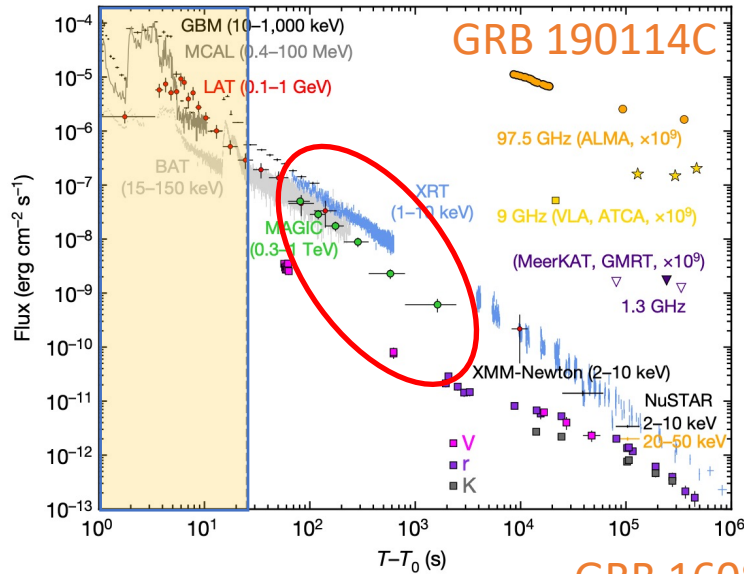
Short GRBs (double neutron star merger)

$$R_{\text{IS}} \simeq 2\Gamma^2 c \delta t = 6 \times 10^{12} \Gamma_{0,2}^2 \delta t_{-2} \text{ cm} \quad R_{\text{dec}} \simeq 6.2 \times 10^{16} \mathcal{E}_{52}^{1/3} \Gamma_{0,2}^{-2/3} n^{-1/3} \text{ cm}$$



# Lightcurves of VHE GRBs

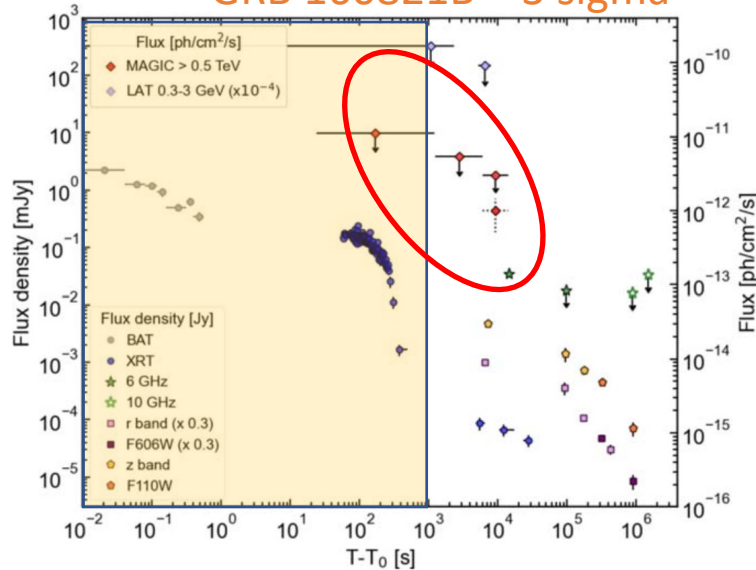
GRB 221009A !



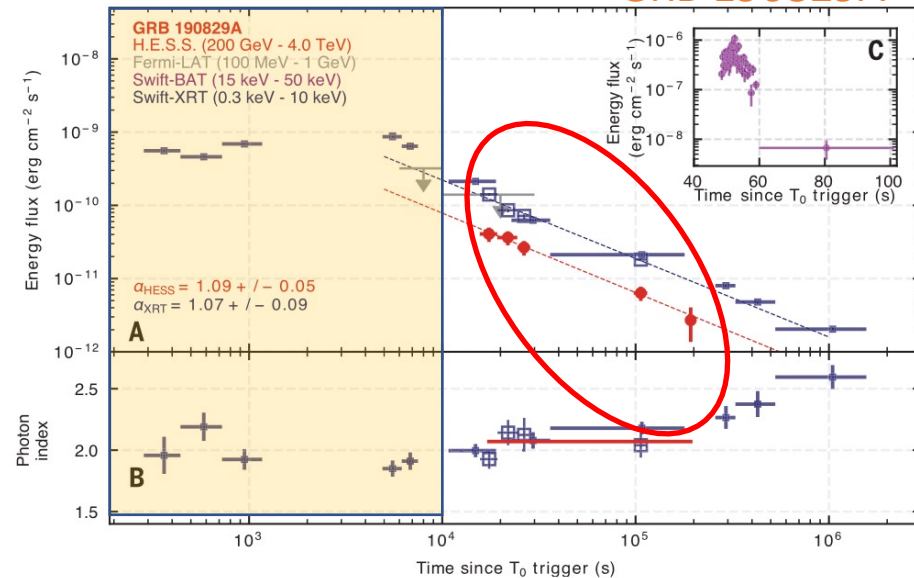
TeV photons from  
afterglow phase

Opening the  
possibility to  
renovate and boost  
afterglow studies

GRB 160821B ~ 3 sigma



GRB 190829A

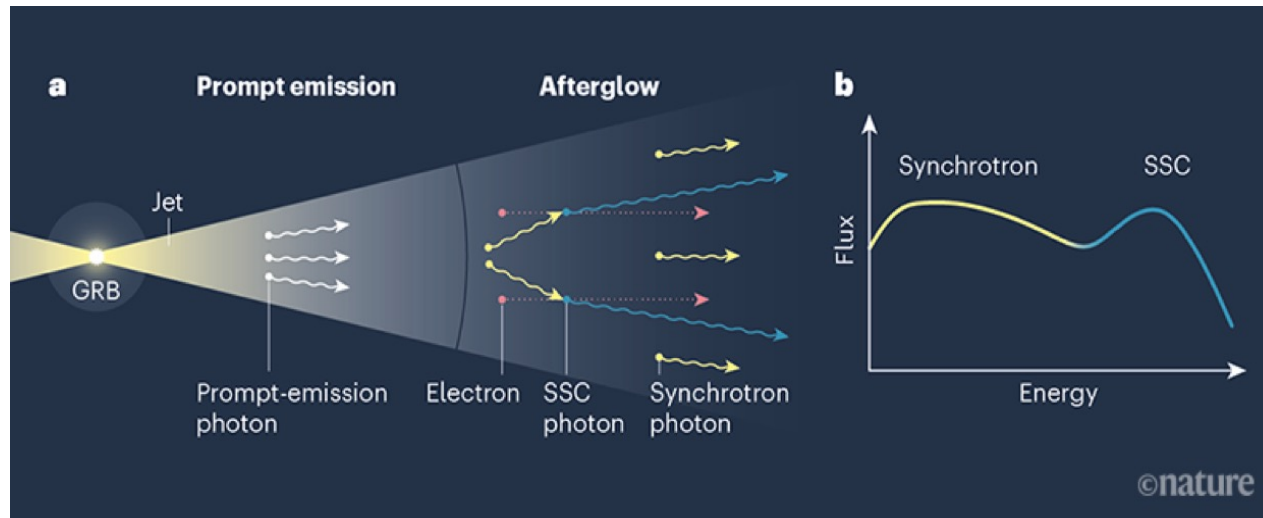


# What we can learn from afterglow modeling?

High-luminosity (typical) long GRB (GRB 190114C, GRB 180720B, GRB 221009A, ...)

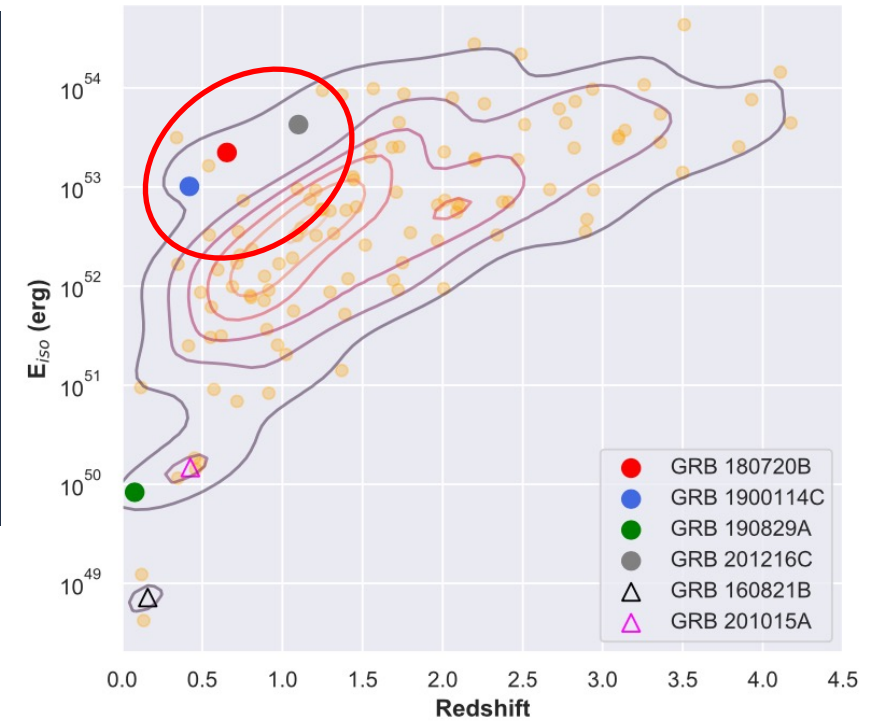
Consistent with the SSC one-zone afterglow model (GRB 190114C, GRB 180720B, GRB 221009A, ...)

Low-energy radio to optical data?



Zhang, 2019

Noda & Parsons, 2022



Isotropic energy output of the GRBs (in the 50–300 keV range)

# What we can learn from afterglow modeling?

**High-luminosity (typical) long GRB** (GRB 190114C, GRB 180720B, GRB 221009A, ...)

Consistent with the SSC one-zone afterglow model (GRB 190114C, GRB 180720B, GRB 221009A, ...)

Low-energy radio to optical data?

Proton synchrotron model? Totani 1998, Zhang & Meszaros, 2001, Murase et al, 2008, Asano et al, 2009, Isravel et al, 2022; BTZ, Murase, Ioka et al, 2022

**Low-luminosity long GRB** (GRB 190829A)

Difficult to explain within the SSC one-zone afterglow model

H.E.S.S. Collaboration et al, 2021

External inverse-Compton (flare)? BTZ, Murase, Veres and Meszaros, 2021

Two-component jet Sato et al, 2022 (including BTZ)

Reverse shock Salafia et al, 2022

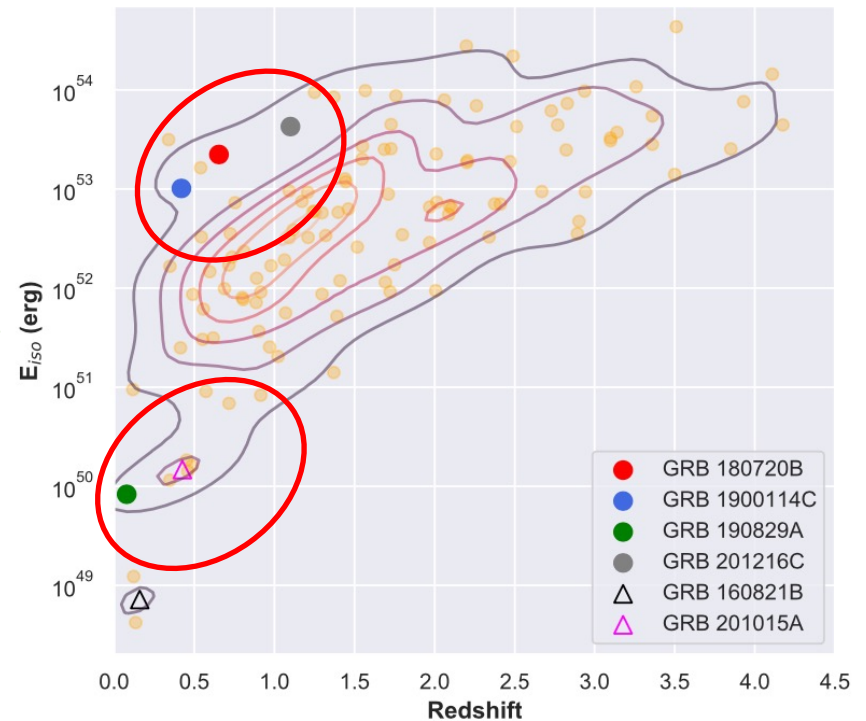
Two-zone SSC model Khangulyan et al, 2022

**Short GRB** (GRB 160821B)

Difficult to explain with the SSC one-zone afterglow model

Magic Collaboration, 2021

External inverse-Compton (flare)? BTZ, Murase, Yuan, Kimura and Meszaros, 2021



Isotropic energy output of the GRBs (in the 50–300 keV range)

# Numerical modeling on GRB afterglow

## One-zone SSC model

Useful for performing MCMC fitting

**Simple analytical models** – Fast and useful for MCMC fitting, not accurate (especially for SSC cooling and SSC component)

**Detailed numerical models** – More physical processes, time consuming for MCMC fitting

With the help of machine learning

Neural network emulation [Boersma et al. 2023](#)



# (AMES) Astrophysical Multi-messenger Emission Simulator

- Code generate neutrino and EM light curves and spectra
- Model parameters are standard ones used in each community given multiwavelength data
- “Source dependent” python interface
- Physics processes are based on C++

## Status:

- GRB (ex. Zhang et al. 2021)
- SN (ex. Murase 2018, Murase et al. 2019)
- PWN (ex. Murase et al. 2021)
- ANG (ex. Zhang & Murase 2023)

# One-zone SSC model – Code comparison

Numerical calculation of the afterglow emission

AMES

EATS, SSC cooling, gamma-gamma attenuation, structured jet, off-axis

Ryan et al, 2020 (Afterglowpy)

EATS, Synchrotron component only, structured jet, off-axis

Granot & Sari, 2002

EATS, Synchrotron component only

Mecili & Nava, 2022

SSC cooling, gamma-gamma attenuation, EATS (Waxman 1997)

...

# The basics of GRB Afterglow

$\mathcal{E}_k$  : Isotropic-equivalent kinetic energy

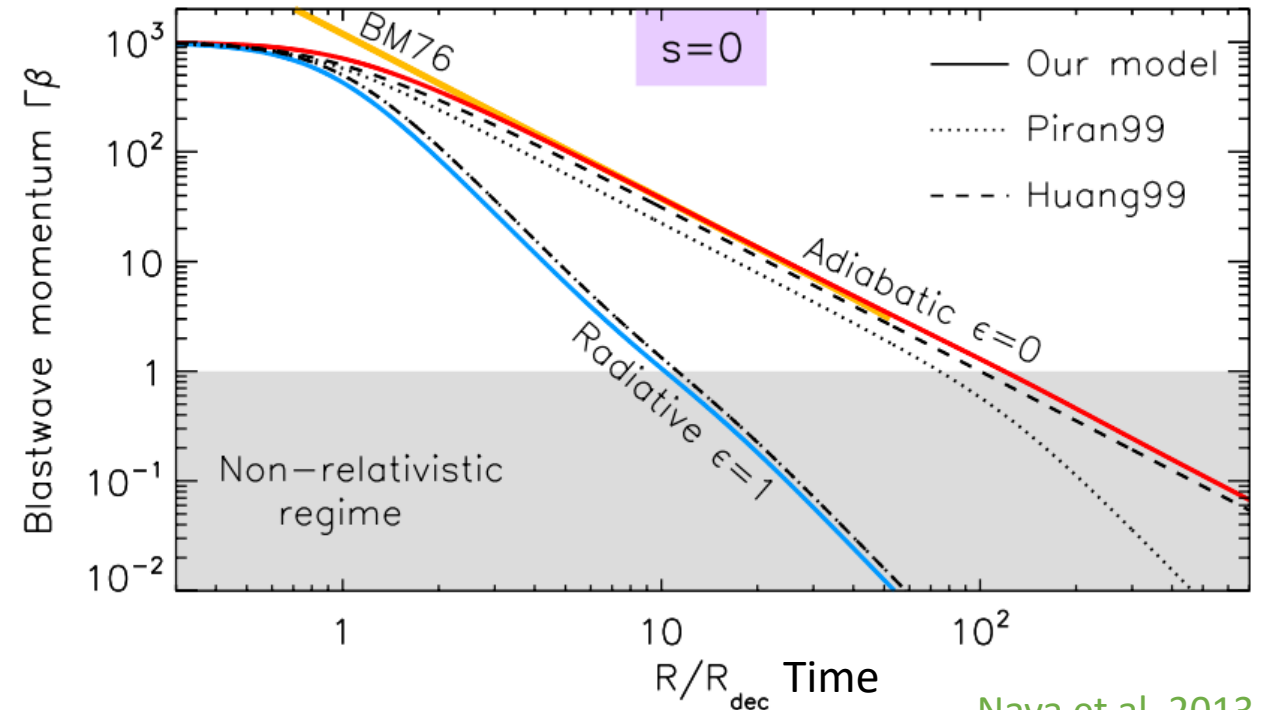
$n_{\text{ex}}$  : External matter density

$\Gamma_0$  : Initial Lorentz factor

$\theta_j$  : Jet opening angle

## Macroparameters

How the shock front radius and the Lorentz factor of the blastwave fluid just behind the shock evolves as a function of the observer time  $t$



Coasting phase:  $\Gamma = \Gamma_0, r \propto t$

Deceleration phase:  $\Gamma \propto t^{-3/8}, r \propto t^{1/4}$

Non-relativistic phase:  $\beta \propto t^{-3/5}, r \propto t^{2/5}$

# Particle acceleration and radiation

Comoving frame shock-dissipated energy

$$u'_{\text{sh}} = 4\Gamma(\Gamma - 1)nm_p c^2$$

$$u'_B = \epsilon_B u'_{\text{sh}} \quad \text{Comoving frame magnetic energy}$$

$$u'_e = \epsilon_e u'_{\text{sh}} \quad \text{Comoving frame accelerated electron energy}$$

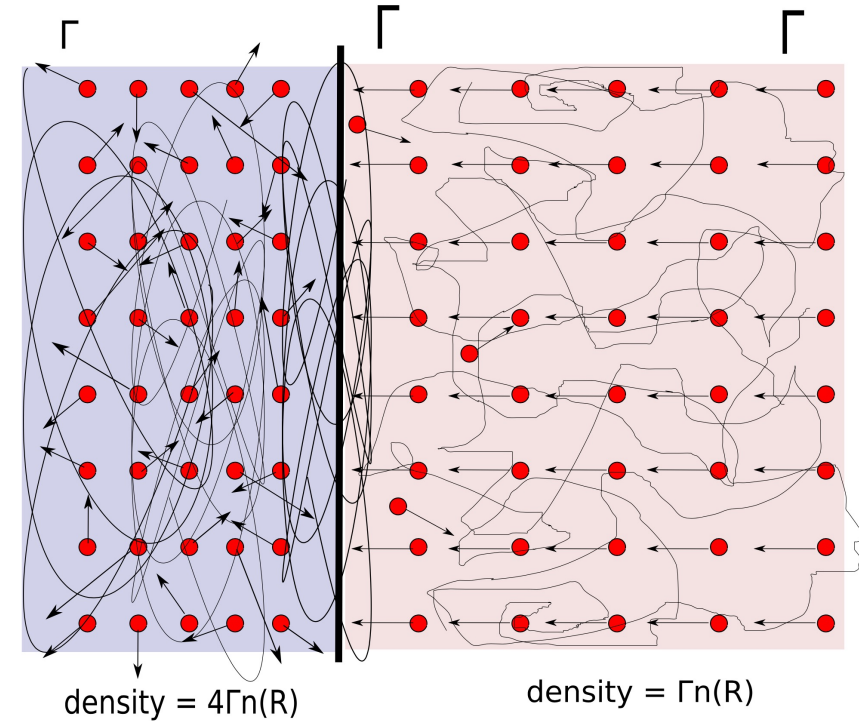
$$n(\gamma_e) d\gamma_e \propto \gamma_e^{-s_e} d\gamma_e$$

$$\gamma_{\text{min}} = \frac{\epsilon_e m_p s_e - 2}{f_e m_e s_e - 1} (\Gamma - 1)$$

$$\frac{\partial n_{\gamma_e}(t')}{\partial t'} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \gamma_e} (n_{\gamma_e}(t') \dot{\gamma}_e) + \frac{n_{\gamma_e}(t')}{t'_{\text{esc}}} = \dot{n}_{\gamma_e}^{\text{inj}}(t')$$

Cooling processes: synchrotron cooling, inverse-Compton cooling, adiabatic cooling

Photon escape

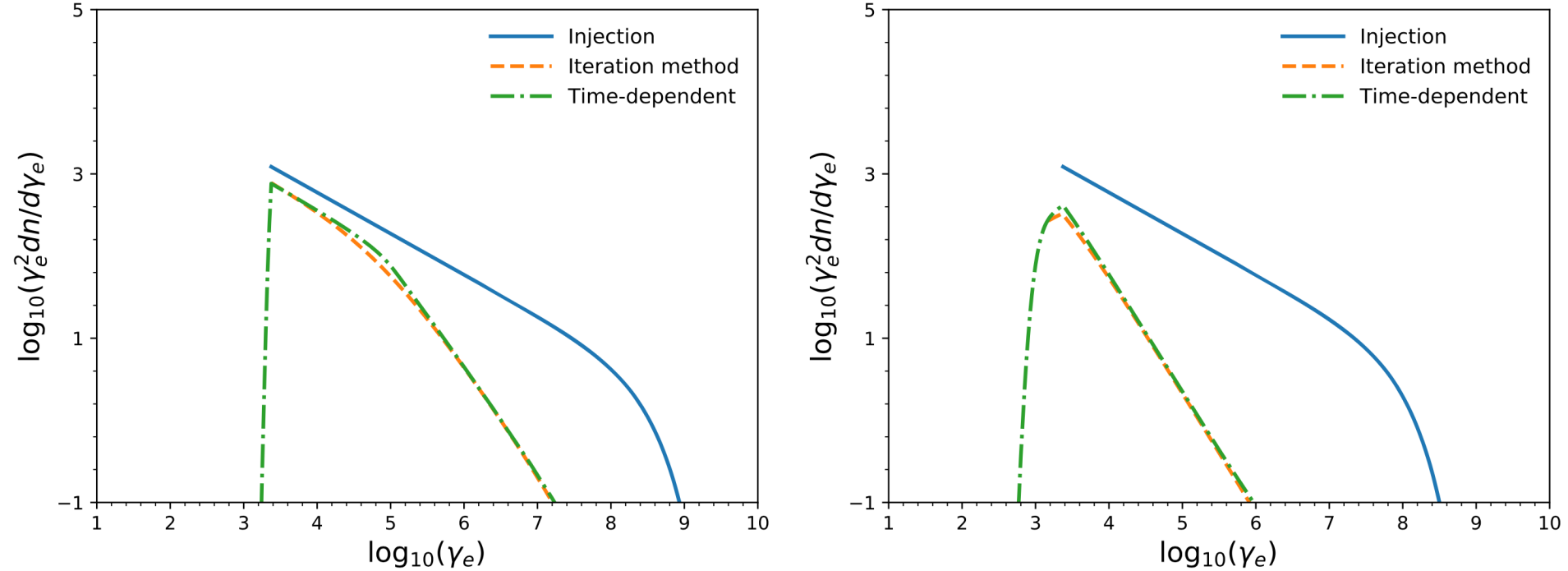


Kumar and Zhang, 2014

Highly relativistic shock as viewed from the mean rest frame of the shocked fluid

Cold, upstream, particles stream toward the shocked plasma with Lorentz factor  $\Gamma$  as viewed in this frame

# Particle acceleration and radiation



**Figure B1.** Comparison of the electron energy spectra derived by the iteration method used for the main results and by solving the kinetic equation at  $t' = 100$  s. We use  $\mathcal{E}_k = 1 \times 10^{52}$  erg,  $n_{\text{ex}} = 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ,  $\epsilon_e = 0.3$ ,  $f_e = 1.$ ,  $s = 2.5$ ,  $\Gamma_0 = 50$ . Left panel: slow cooling regime,  $\epsilon_B = 10^{-3}$ . Right panel: fast-cooling regime,  $\epsilon_B = 10^{-1}$ .

Iteration method is useful for modeling electron quasi steady-state distribution

Fast and SSC cooling included

$$n_{\gamma_e}(t) = \frac{1}{t_{\text{cool}}^{-1}} \frac{1}{\gamma_e} \int d\gamma'_e \dot{n}_{\gamma_e}(t)$$

BTZ, Murase, Veres and Meszaros, 2021

# Code comparison – case I

For synchrotron component,  
consistent within a factor of  $\sim 2$

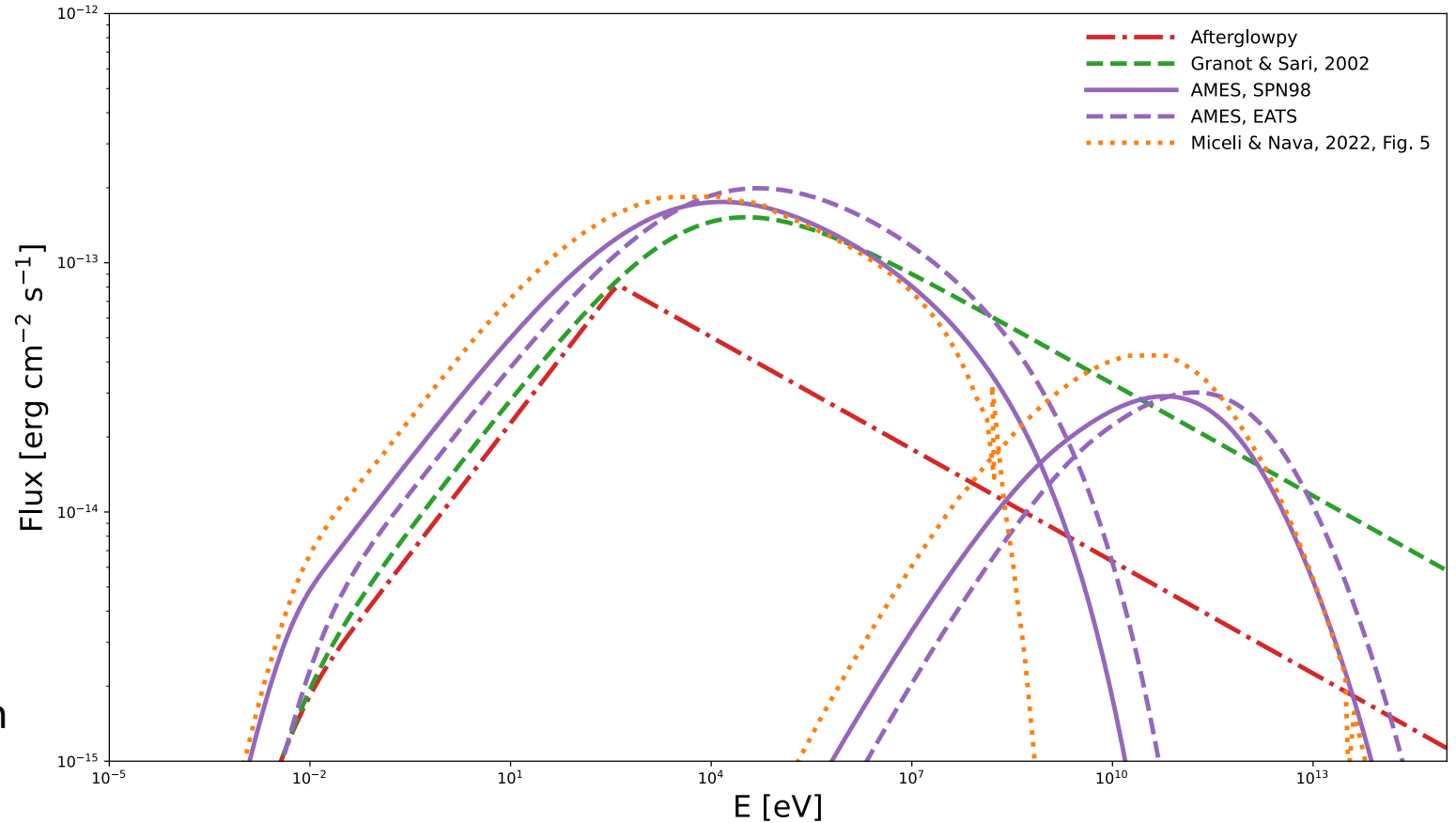
**Afterglowpy** have issue around and  
beyond cooling frequency

Difference between EATS method  
(especially from radio to infrared  
energy range)

The discrepancy on SSC component  
is larger

Target photons depends on electron  
distribution

Observed energy spectrum at  $T_{\text{obs}} = 10000$  seconds



$$\mathcal{E}_k = 1 \times 10^{52} \text{ erg}, n_{\text{ex}} = 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}, \epsilon_B = 5 \times 10^{-4}, \epsilon_e = 0.05, f_e = 1., s = 2.3, \Gamma_0 = 600, z = 1$$

# Code comparison – Case II

$T_{\text{obs}} = 90$  seconds

Observed energy spectrum at 90 seconds (e.g. GRB 190114C)

The discrepancy is larger between MAGIC, 2019 spectrum and others

Different treatment of electron cooling and photon escape time scales ?

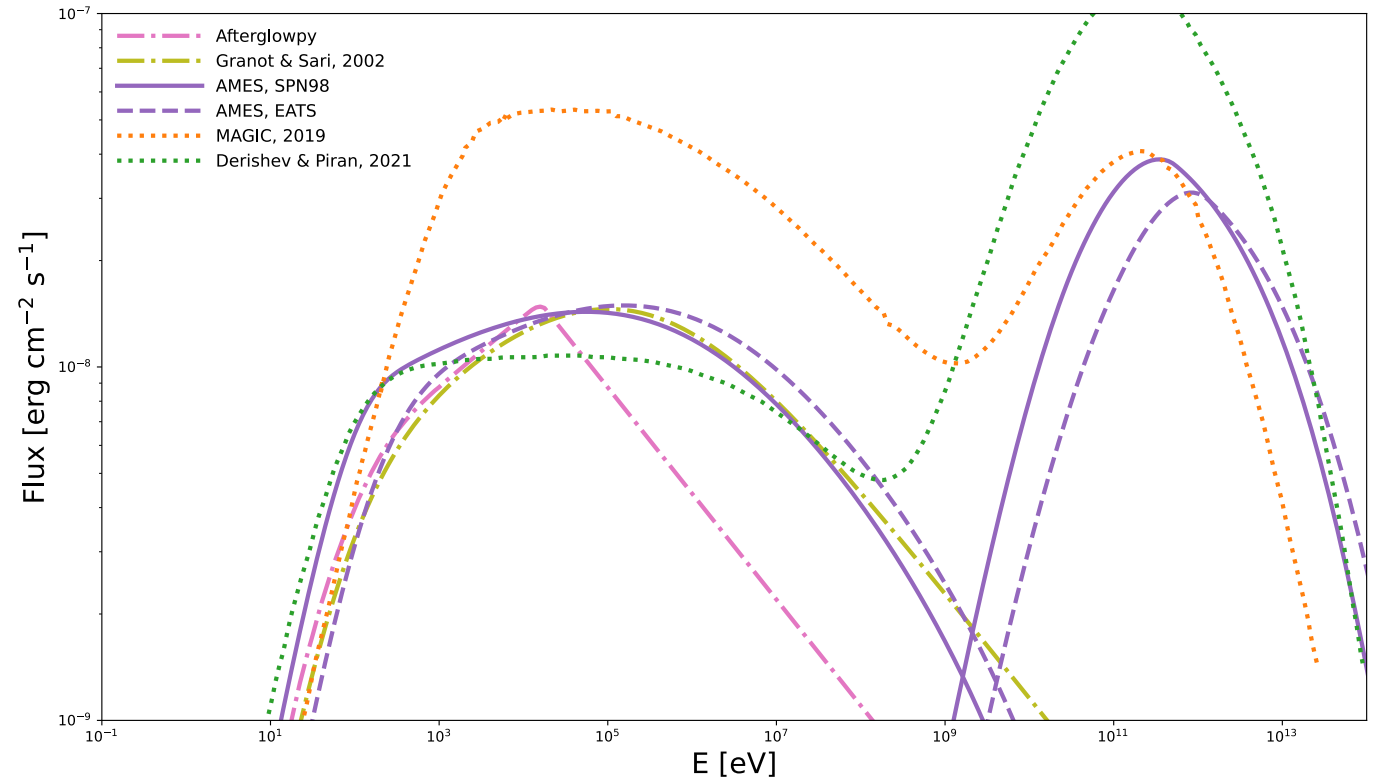
$$t_{\text{dyn}} = CT_{\text{obs}}/(1+z)$$

$$t_{\text{eff,ph}} \sim t_{\text{dyn}}(C \sim 1) \text{ Derishev \& Piran, 2021}$$

$$t_{\text{eff,ph}} \sim t_{\text{dyn}}(C \sim 1/3) \text{ AMES (EATS)}$$

C depends on the geometric effect

$$\mathcal{E}_k = 8 \times 10^{53} \text{ erg}, n_{\text{ex}} = 0.5 \text{ cm}^{-3}, \epsilon_B = 8 \times 10^{-5}, \epsilon_e = 0.07, f_e = 1., s = 2.6, \Gamma_0 = 1000, z = 0.4245$$



# Probe electron acceleration efficiency with VHE gamma-rays

The effect of maximum acceleration energy

$$t_{\text{acc}} = \eta t_L \sim (r_L / \lambda_{\text{coh}}) t_L$$

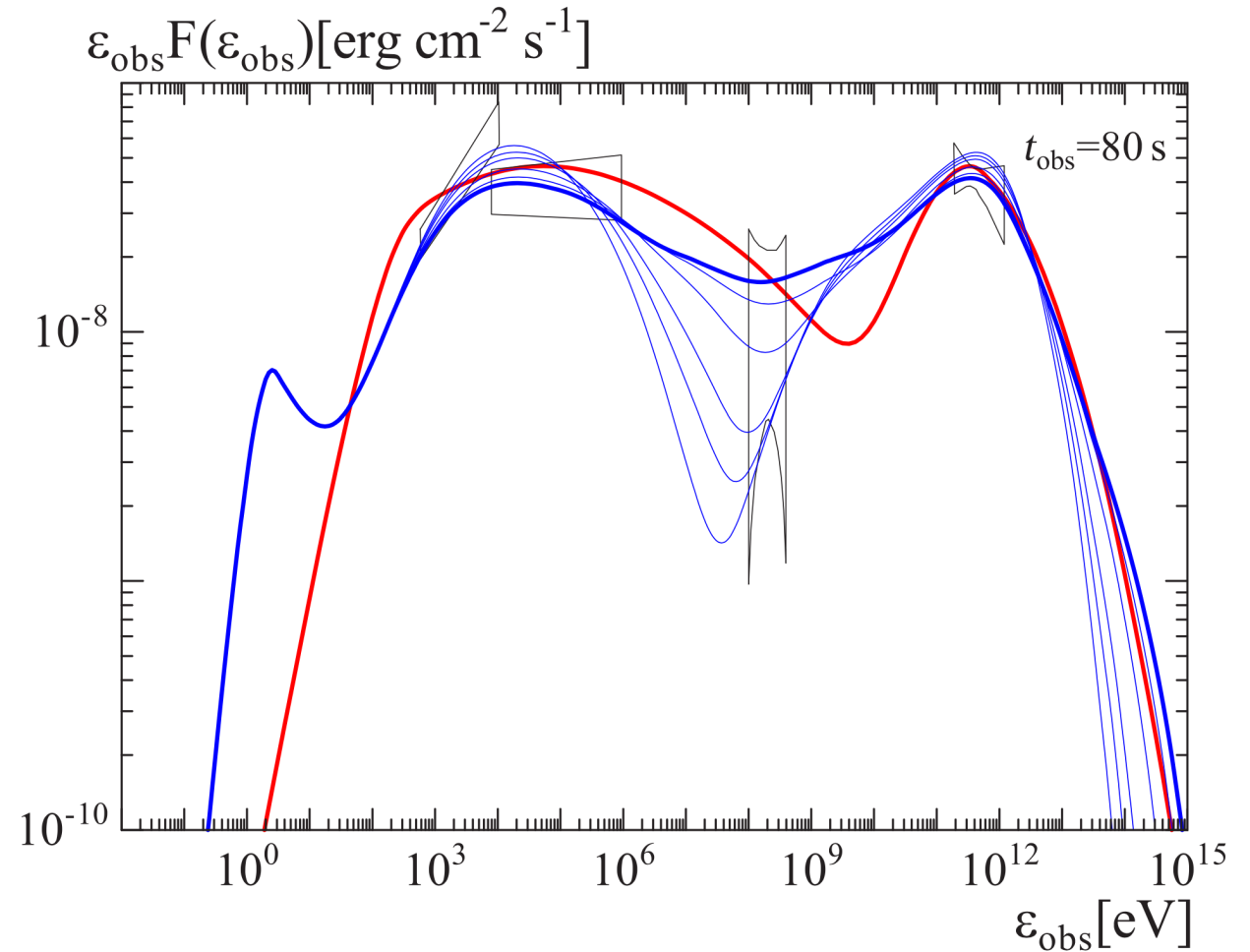
The ratio between Larmor radius and the coherence length scale of plasma turbulence

Thick line:  $\eta = 1$

Thin lines:  $\eta = 10, 100, 1000, 3000$

$\eta < 100$ : flux detected above 0.1 GeV

SSC component not sensitive to the coefficient



Asano, Murase and Toma, 2020



# Probe proton acceleration efficiency with VHE gamma-rays

Energy spectrum of proton synchrotron emission from reverse shock

UHECR acceleration is possible in reverse shock, but difficult for forward shock

Gallant and Achterberg 1999, Murase et al. 2008, Sironi et al. 2015

$$t_{\text{acc}} = \eta t_L$$

Thick-dashed brown line:  $\eta = 1$

Thin-dashed brown line:  $\eta = 10$

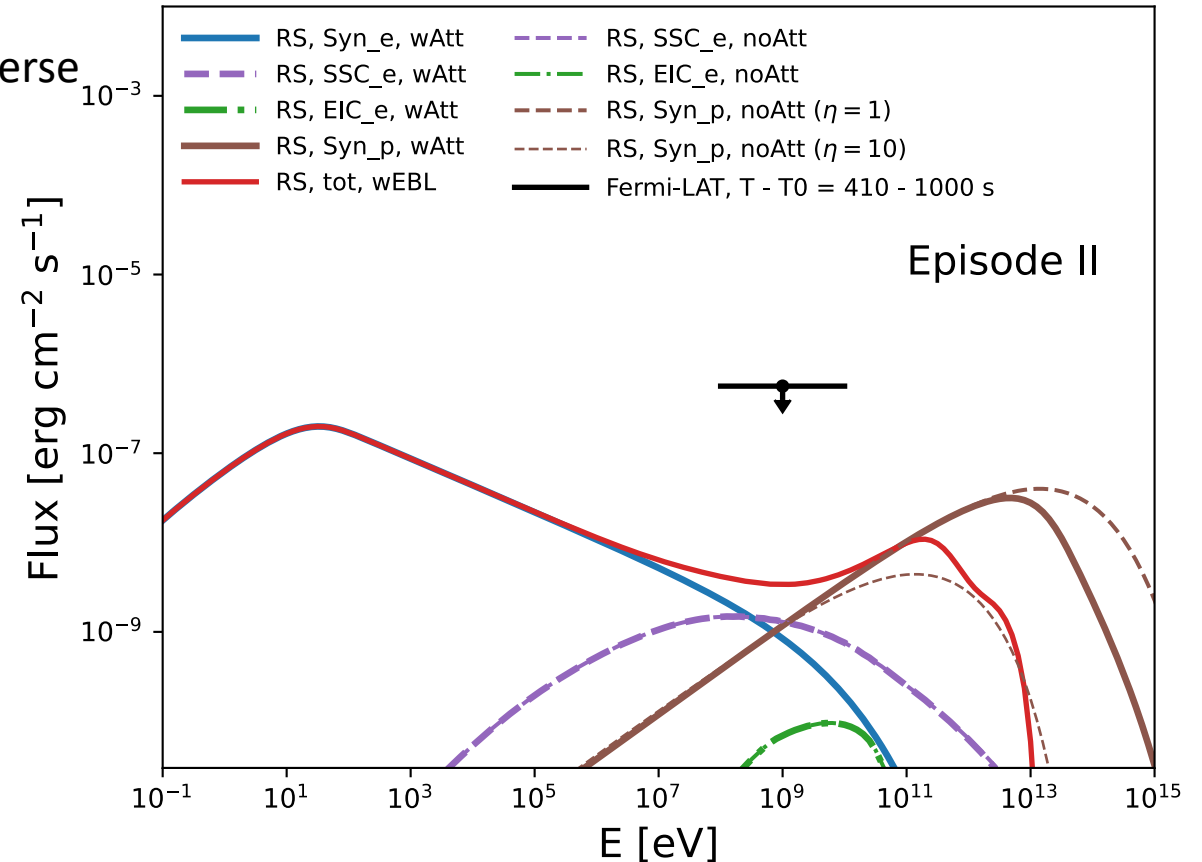
Acceleration at tran-relativistic reverse shock

Ordered upstream magnetic field ?

Large-scale MHD turbulence?

(Could be tested by VHE gamma-rays, e.g. GRB 221009A) RS component may be need for fitting early afterglow data

O'Connor et al, 2022



BTZ, Murase, Ioka et al, 2022

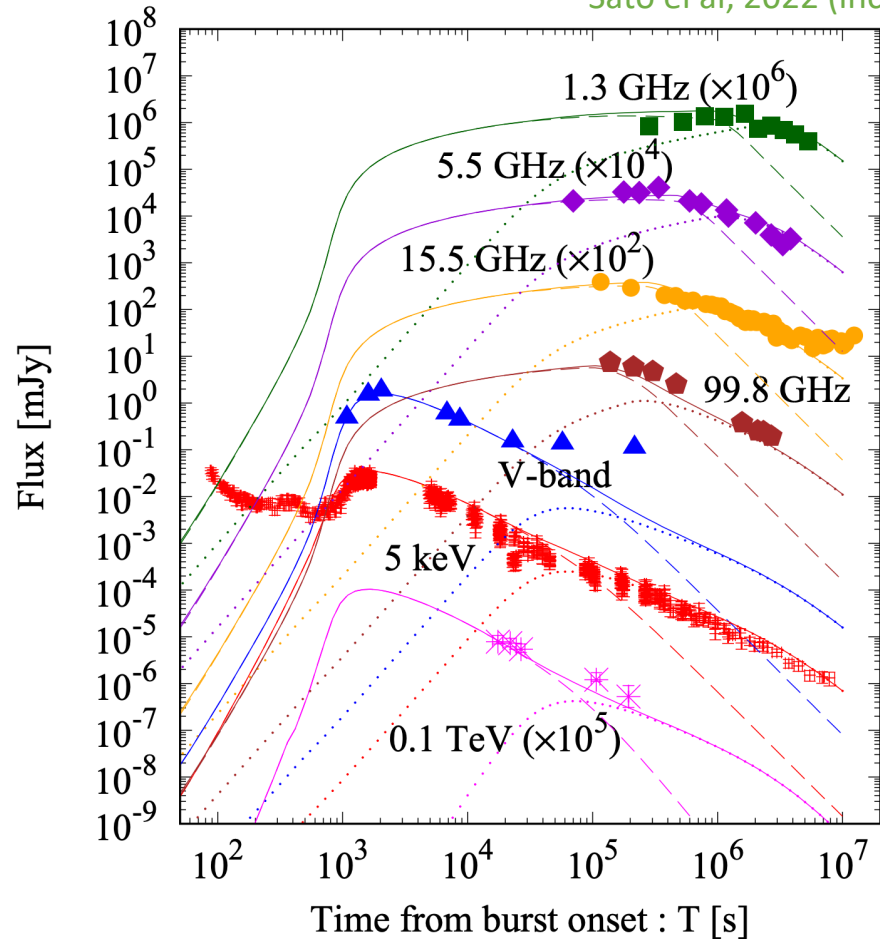


# Two-component jet model

Or structured jet?

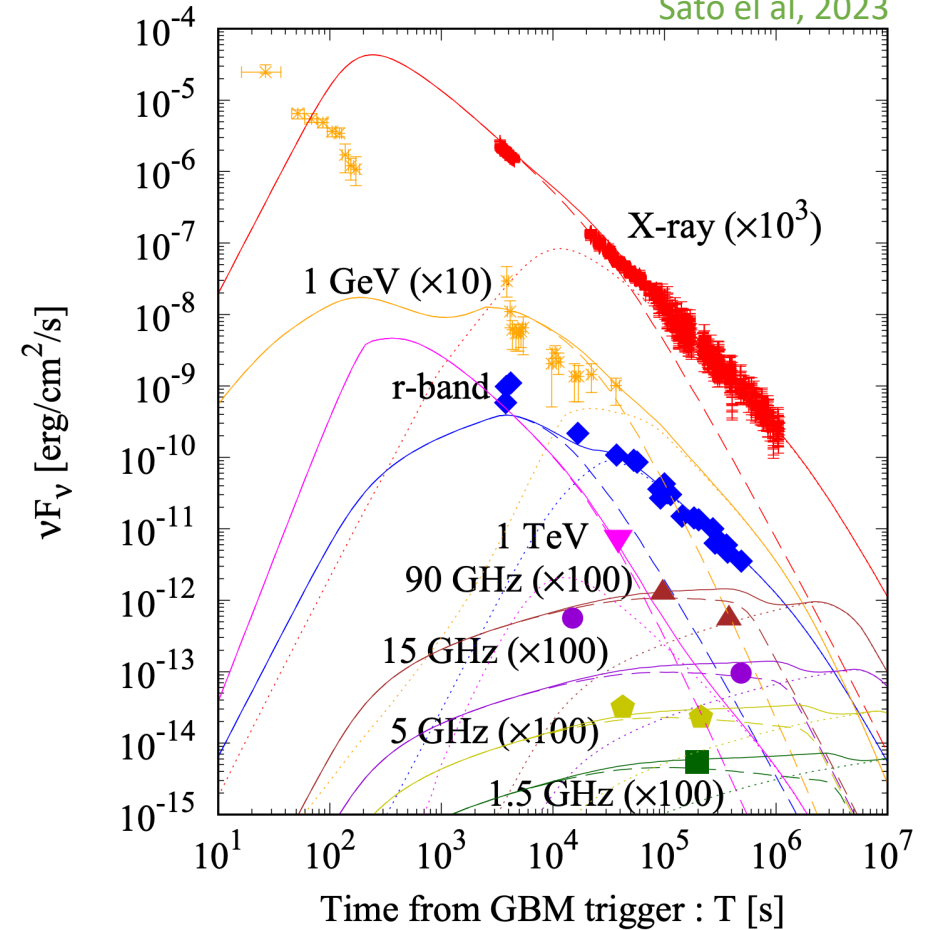
## GRB 190829A

Sato et al, 2022 (including BTZ)



## GRB 221009A

Sato et al, 2023



# Summary and outlook

- The **SSC one-zone afterglow model** is consistent with the observed high-luminosity VHE GRBs
  - Fast and accurate numerical modeling with detailed radiative processes
  - Reverse shock component ?
  - Two-component or structure jet ?
  - External inverse-Compton could enhance VHE gamma-ray flux  
e.g. important for low-luminosity GRBs and short GRBs
- VHE GRBs in **multimessenger astrophysics**
  - $\epsilon_B \ll 1$  for the one-zone afterglow model
  - UHECR acceleration and proton synchrotron emission ( $\epsilon_B > 0.1$ )
- AMES will be publicly available soon.  
**Numerical modeling the high-energy processes** that occurred in various high-energy sources  
(e.g. **GRB, SN, PWN, AGN, ...**)