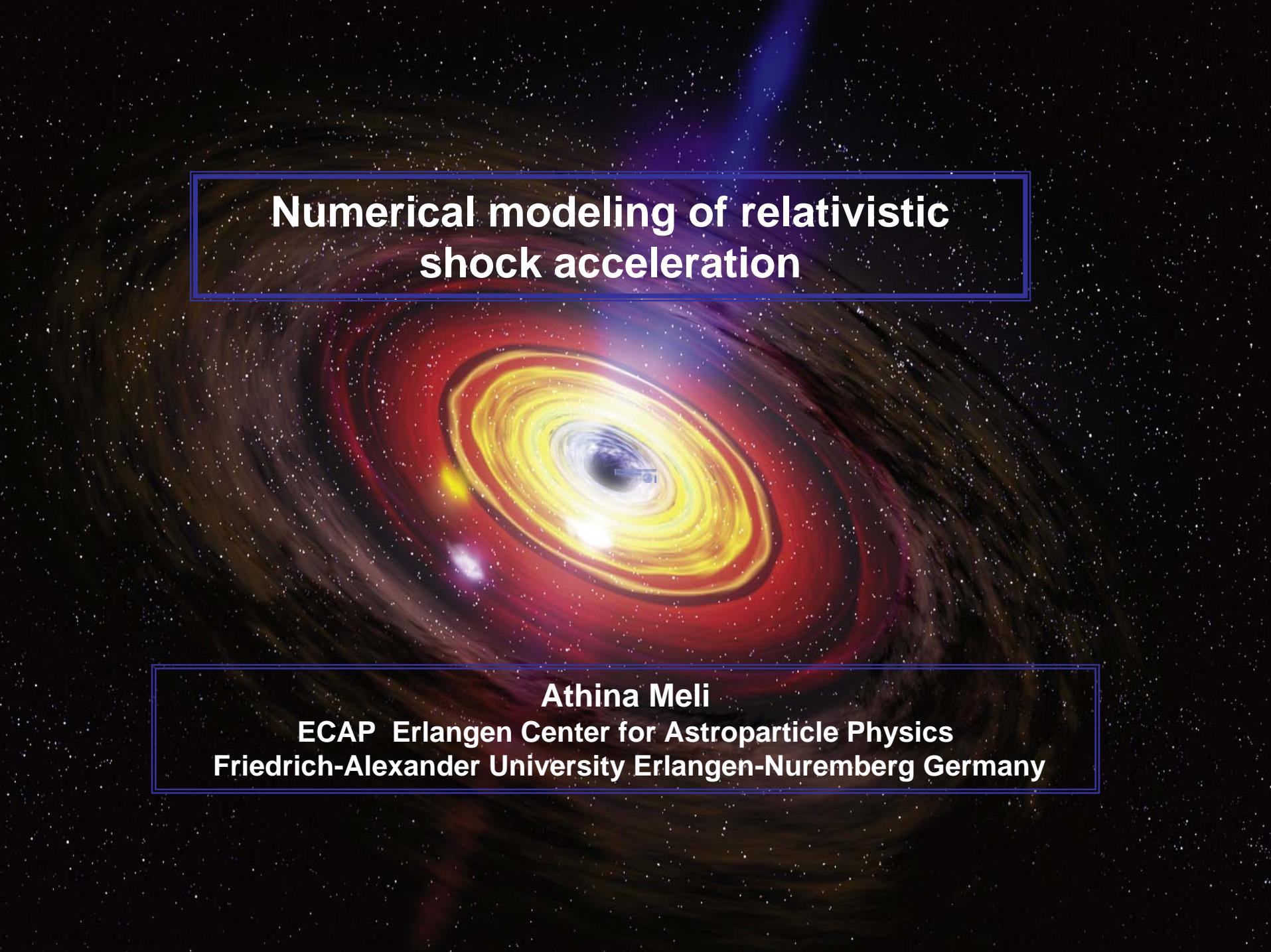


# Numerical modeling of relativistic shock acceleration



Athina Meli

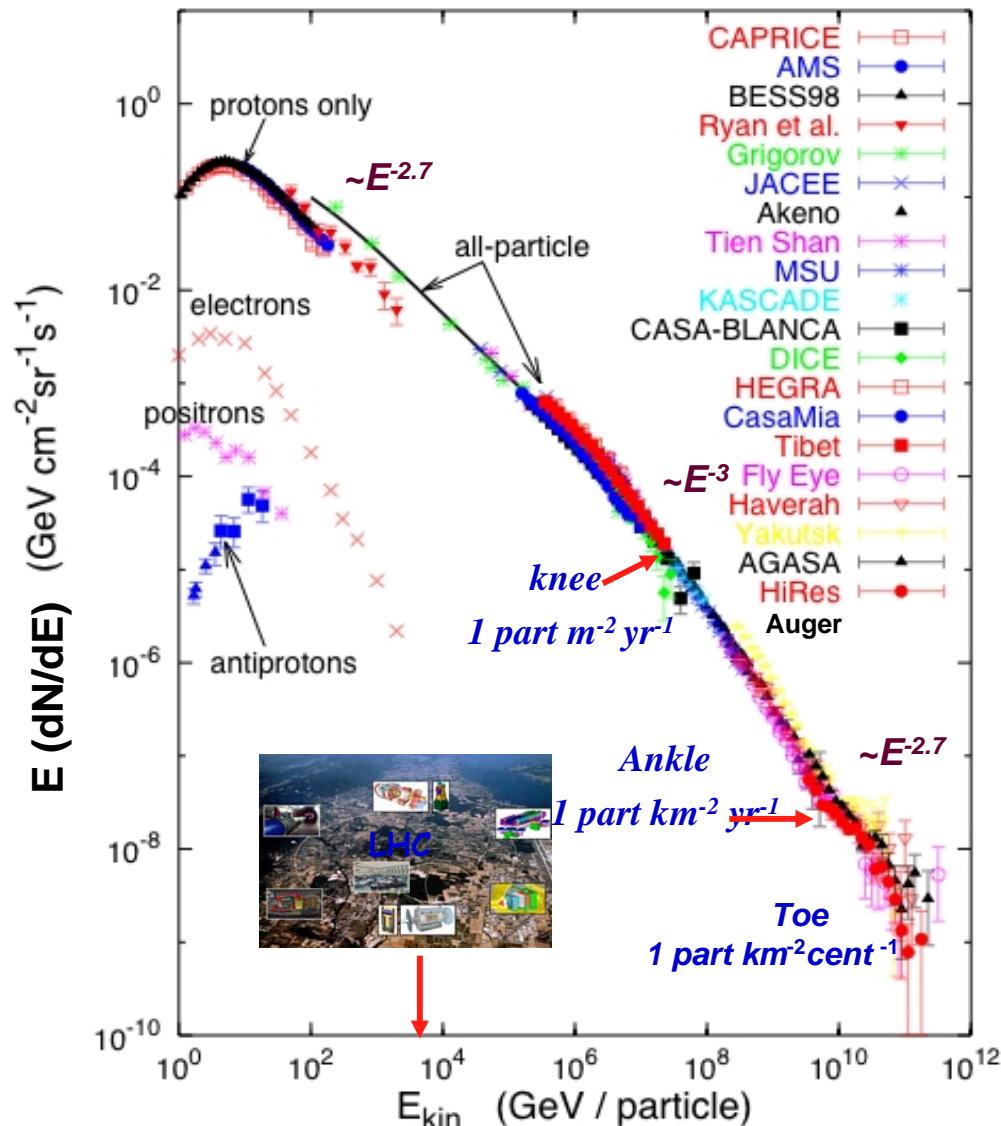
ECAP Erlangen Center for Astroparticle Physics  
Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg Germany

# Outline



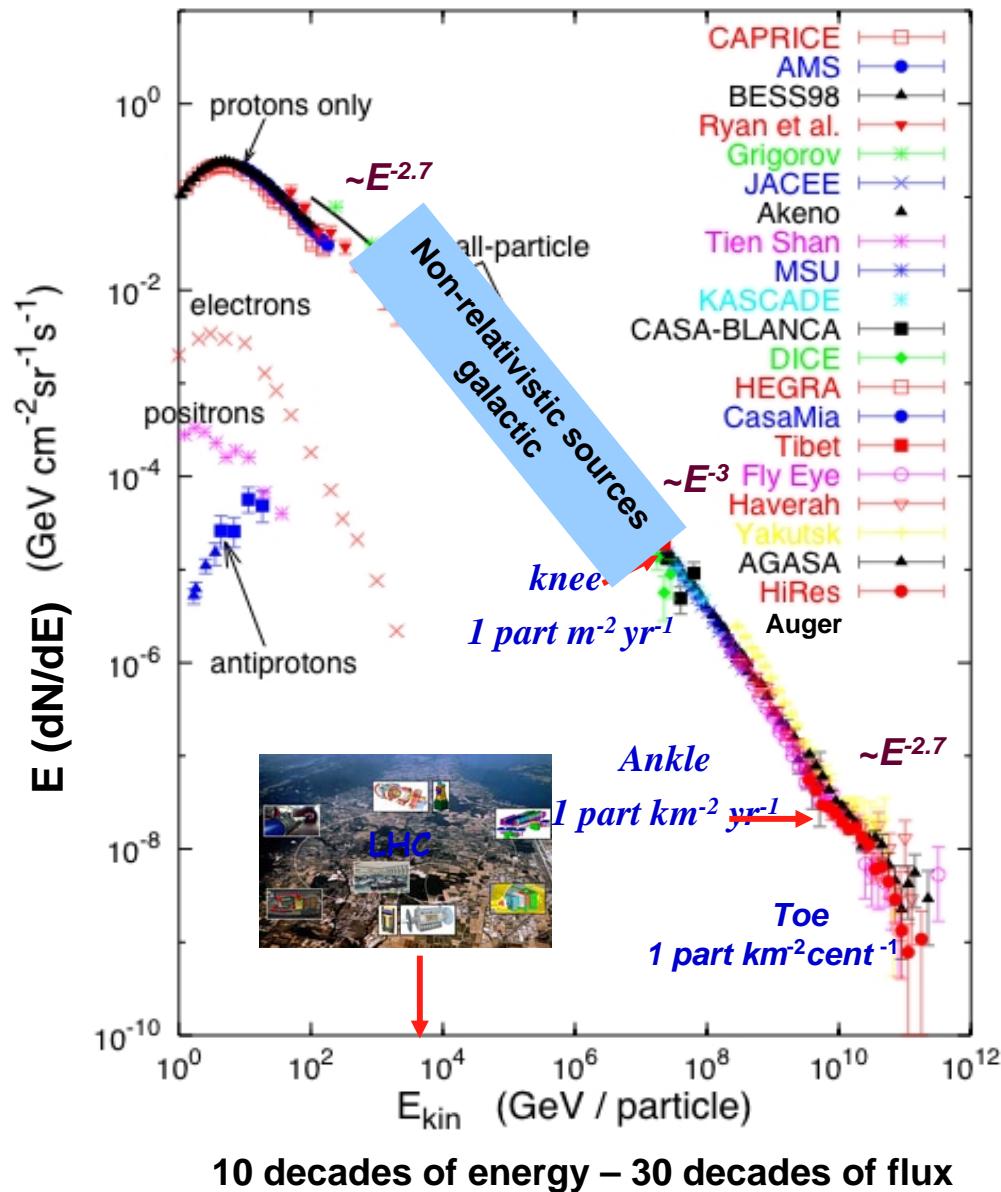
- **Cosmic ray spectrum and relativistic sources**
- **Shocks**
  - **Properties**
  - **Particle acceleration mechanism**
- **Simulations**
  - **Numerical Method**
  - **Studies**
- **Conclusions**

## Energies and rates of the cosmic-ray particles



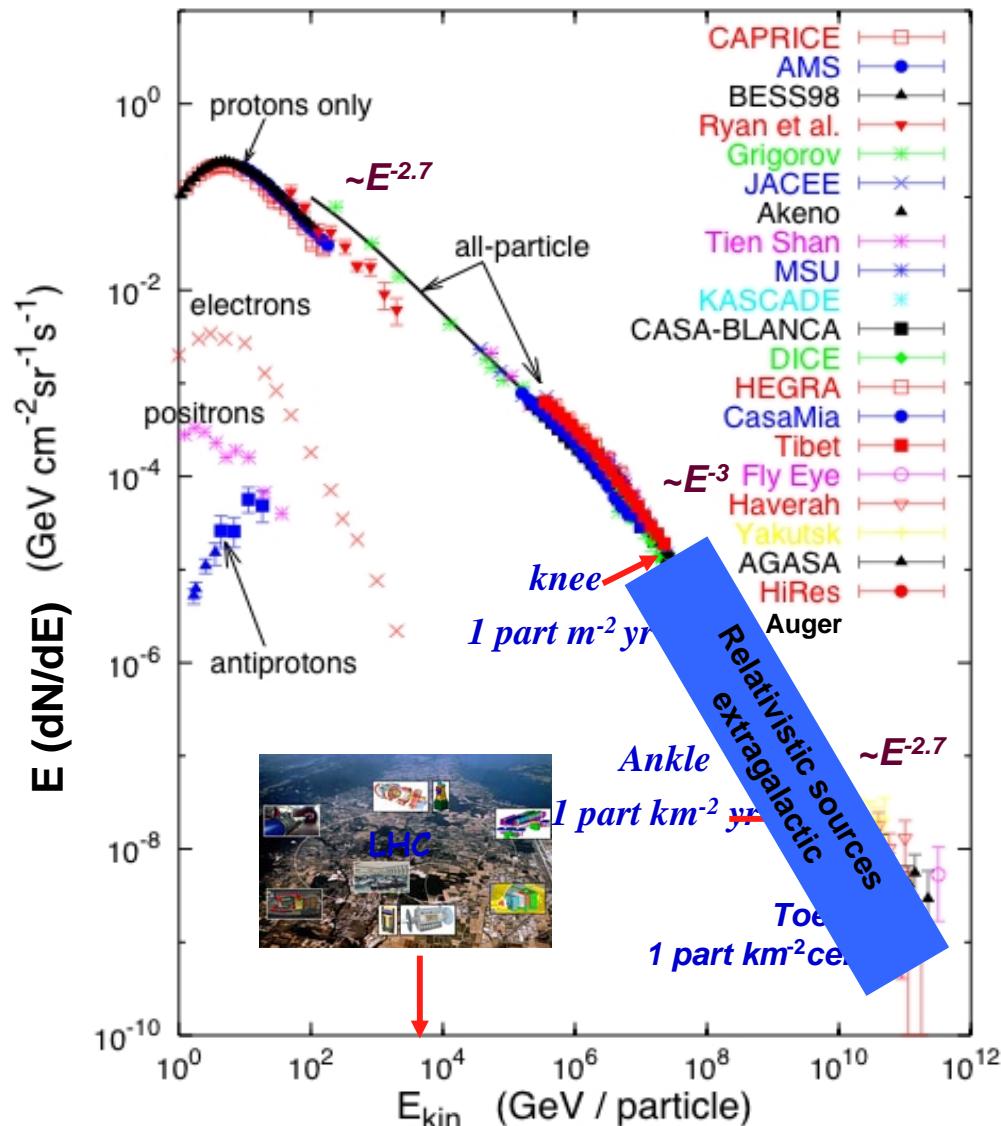
10 decades of energy – 30 decades of flux

## Energies and rates of the cosmic-ray particles



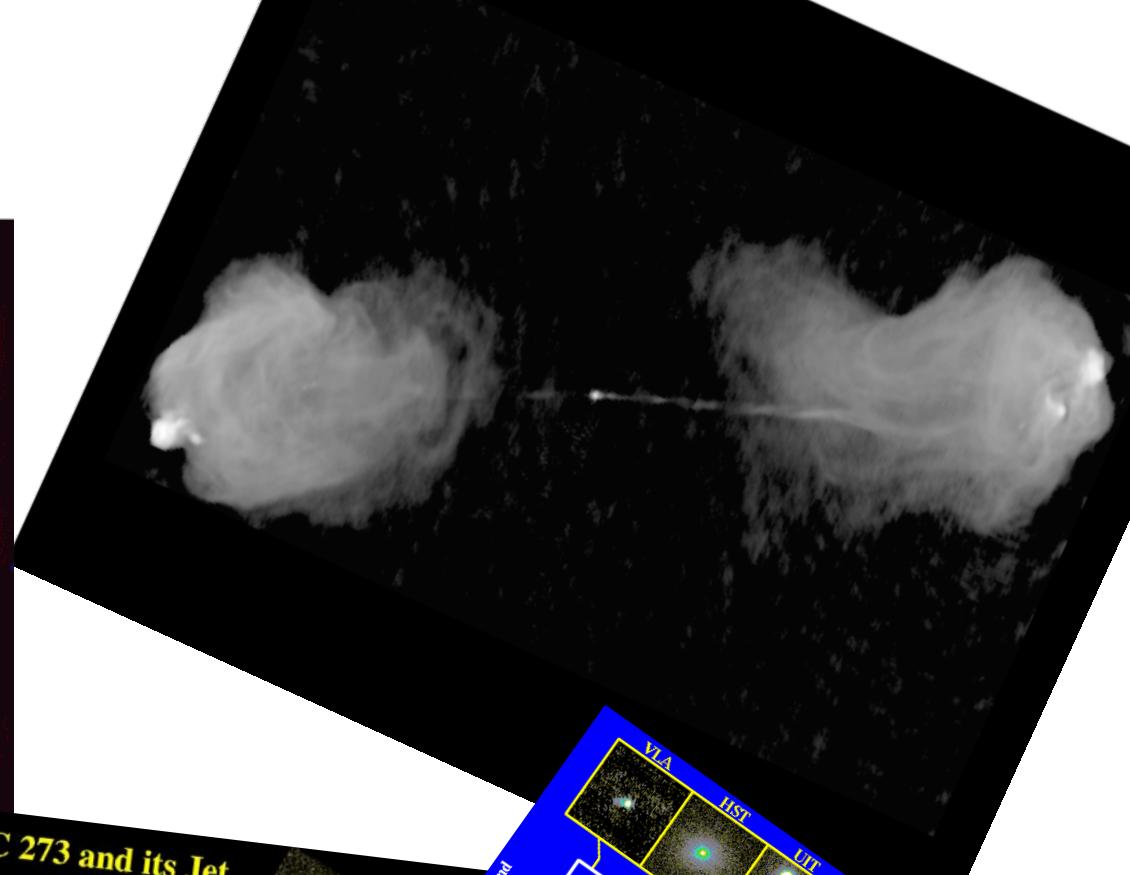
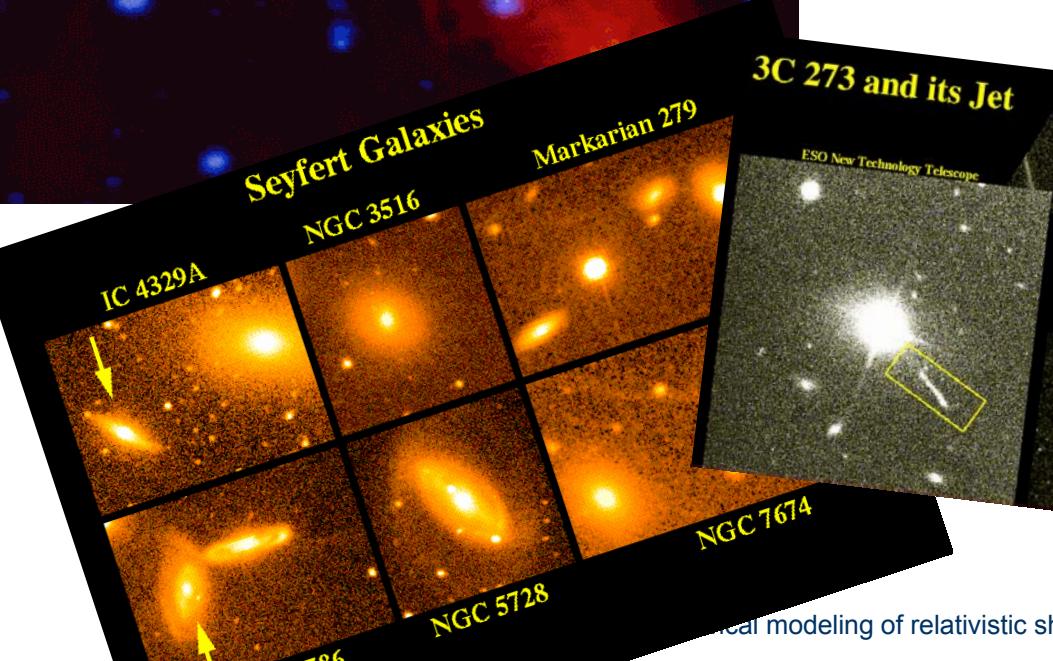
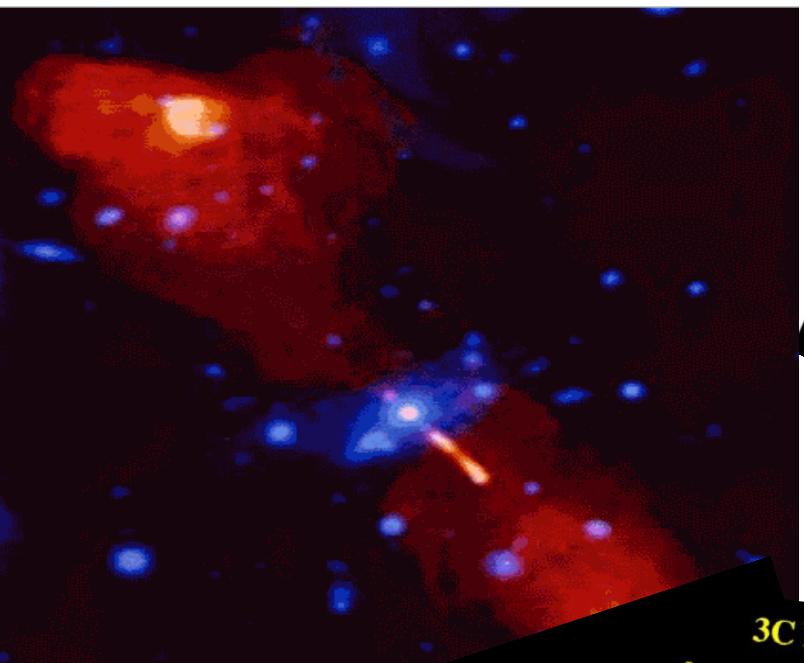
10 decades of energy – 30 decades of flux

## Energies and rates of the cosmic-ray particles

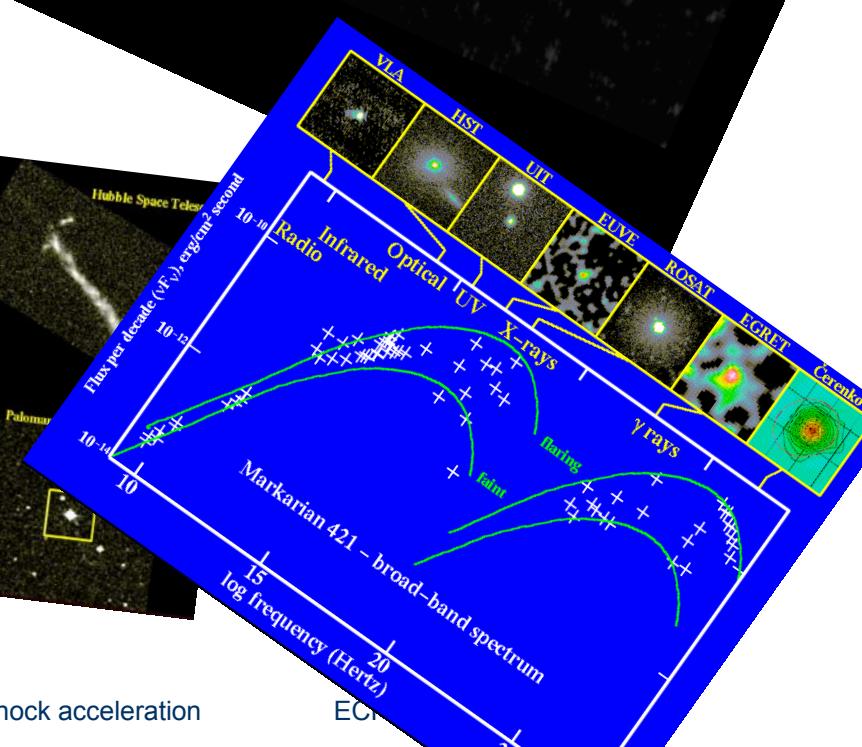


# Relativistic sources

# Active Galactic Nuclei case

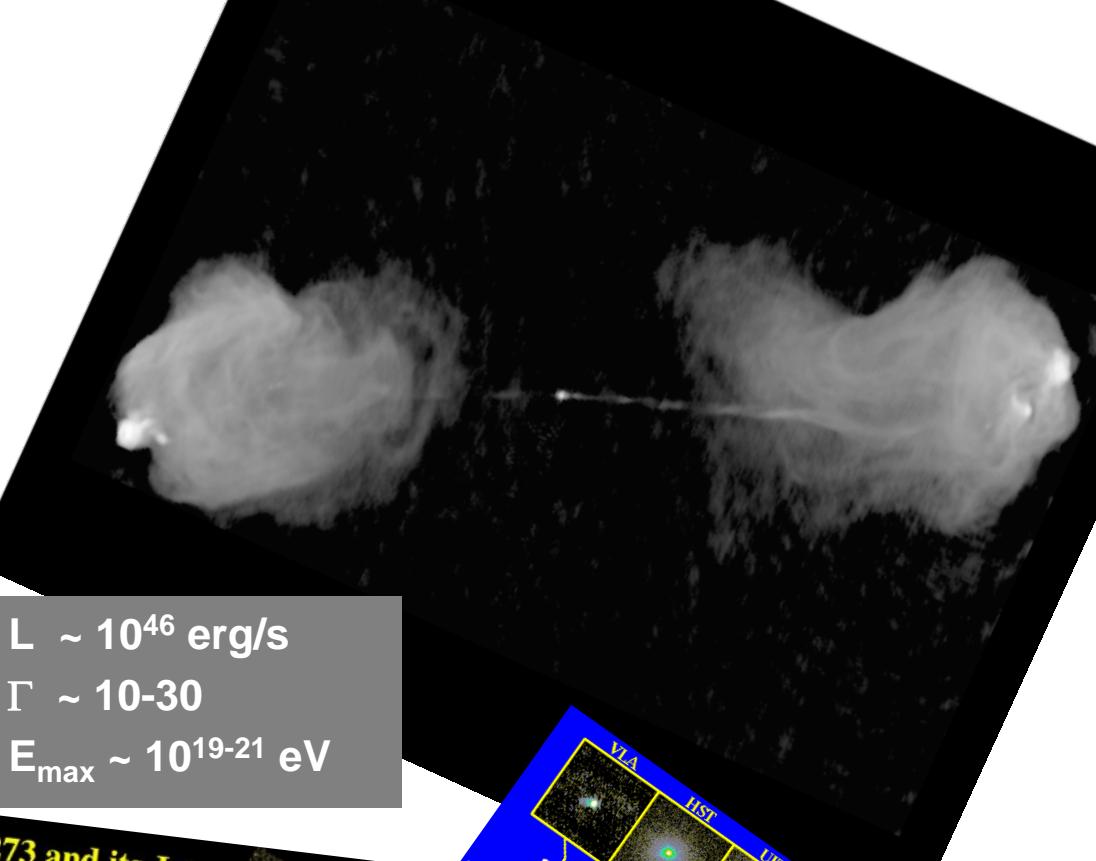
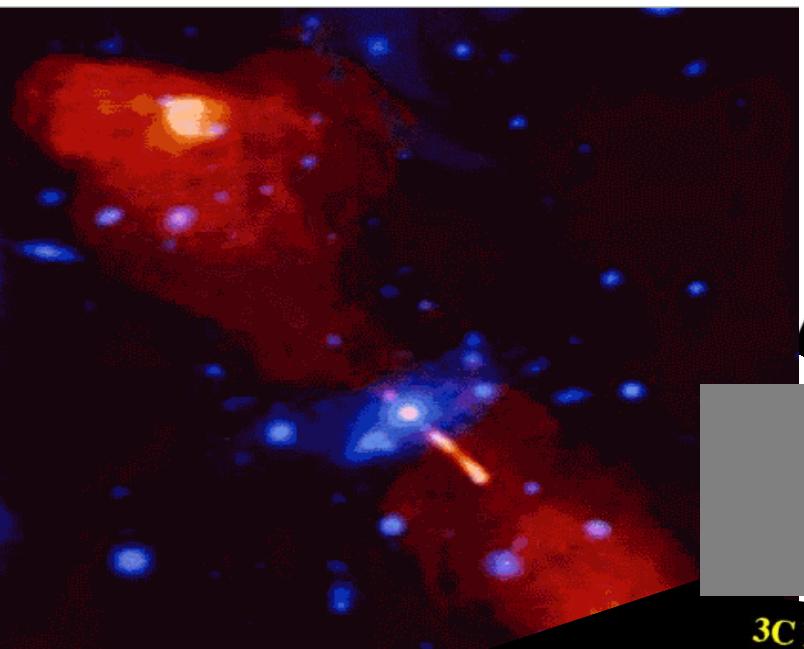


3C 273 and its Jet



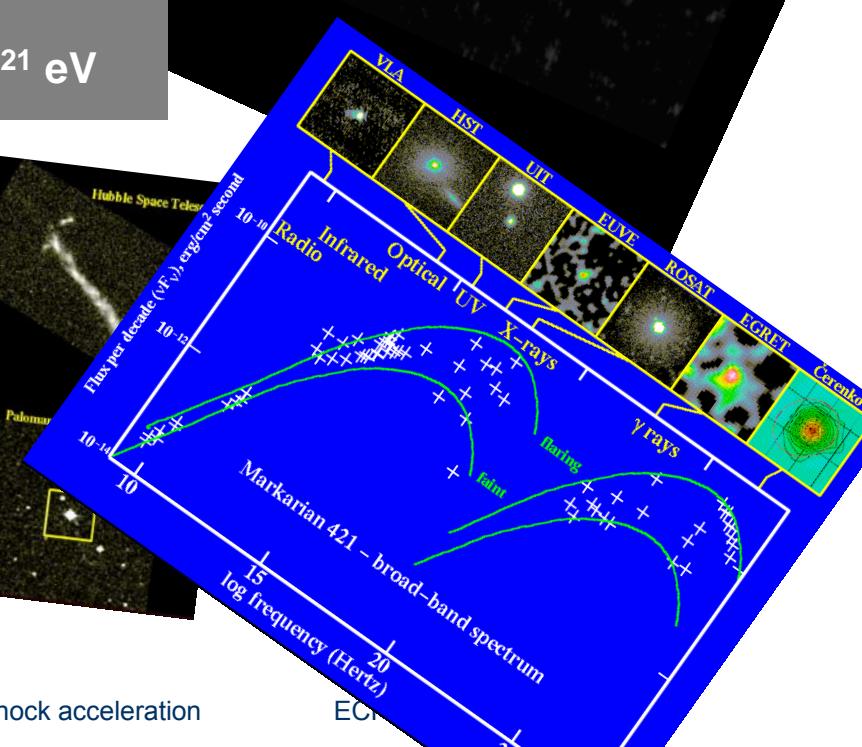
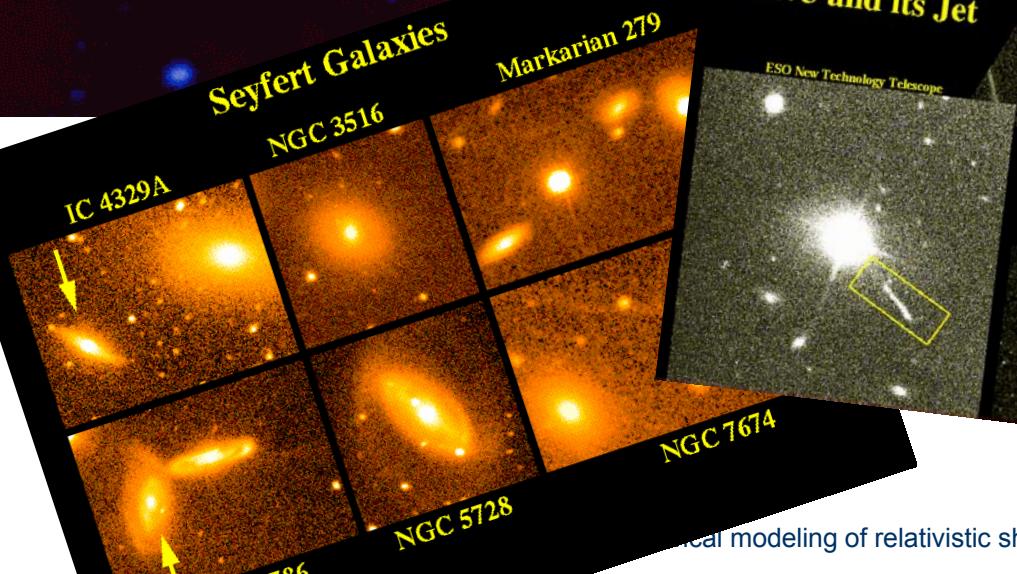
Physical modeling of relativistic shock acceleration

# Active Galactic Nuclei case



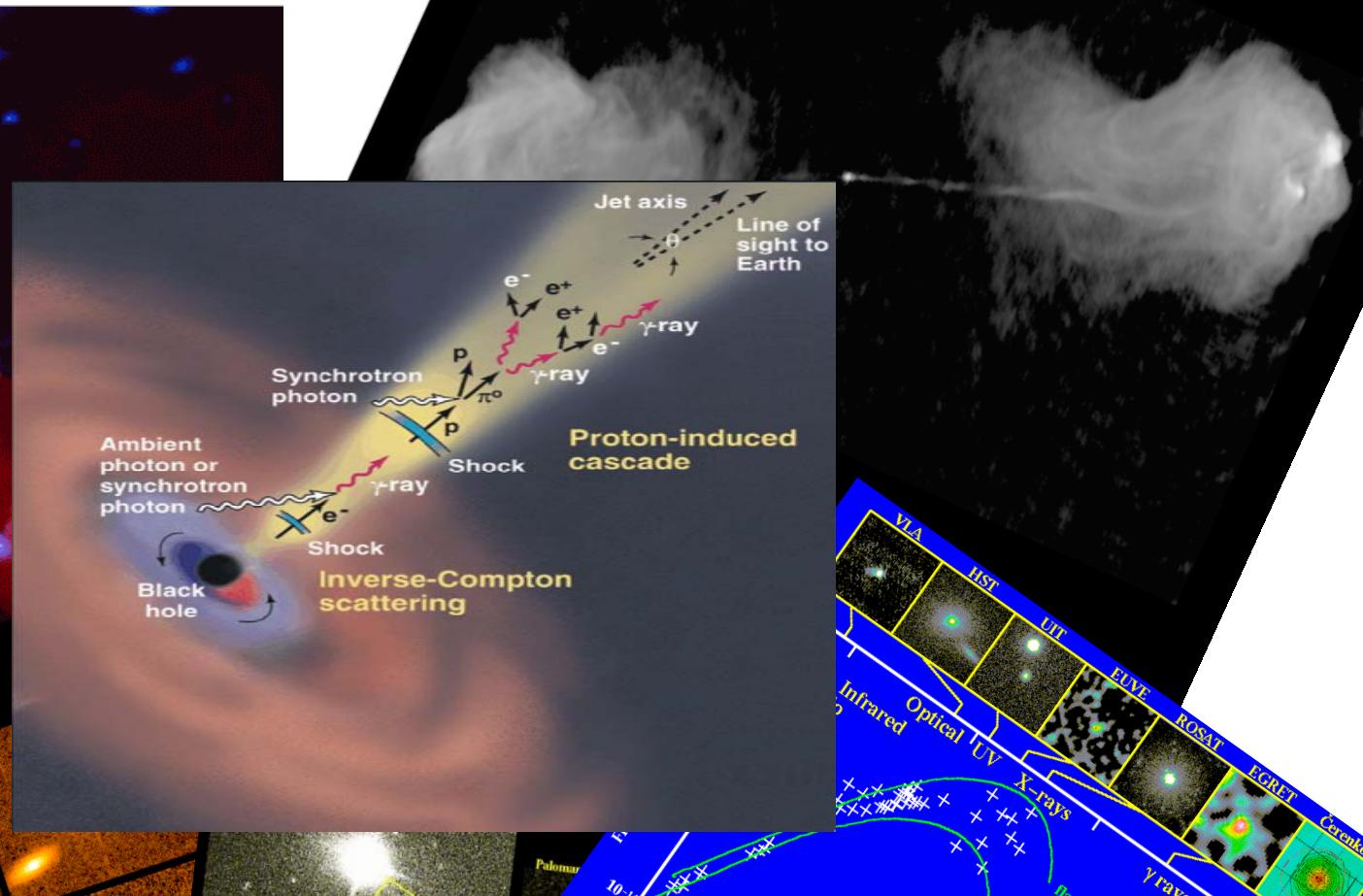
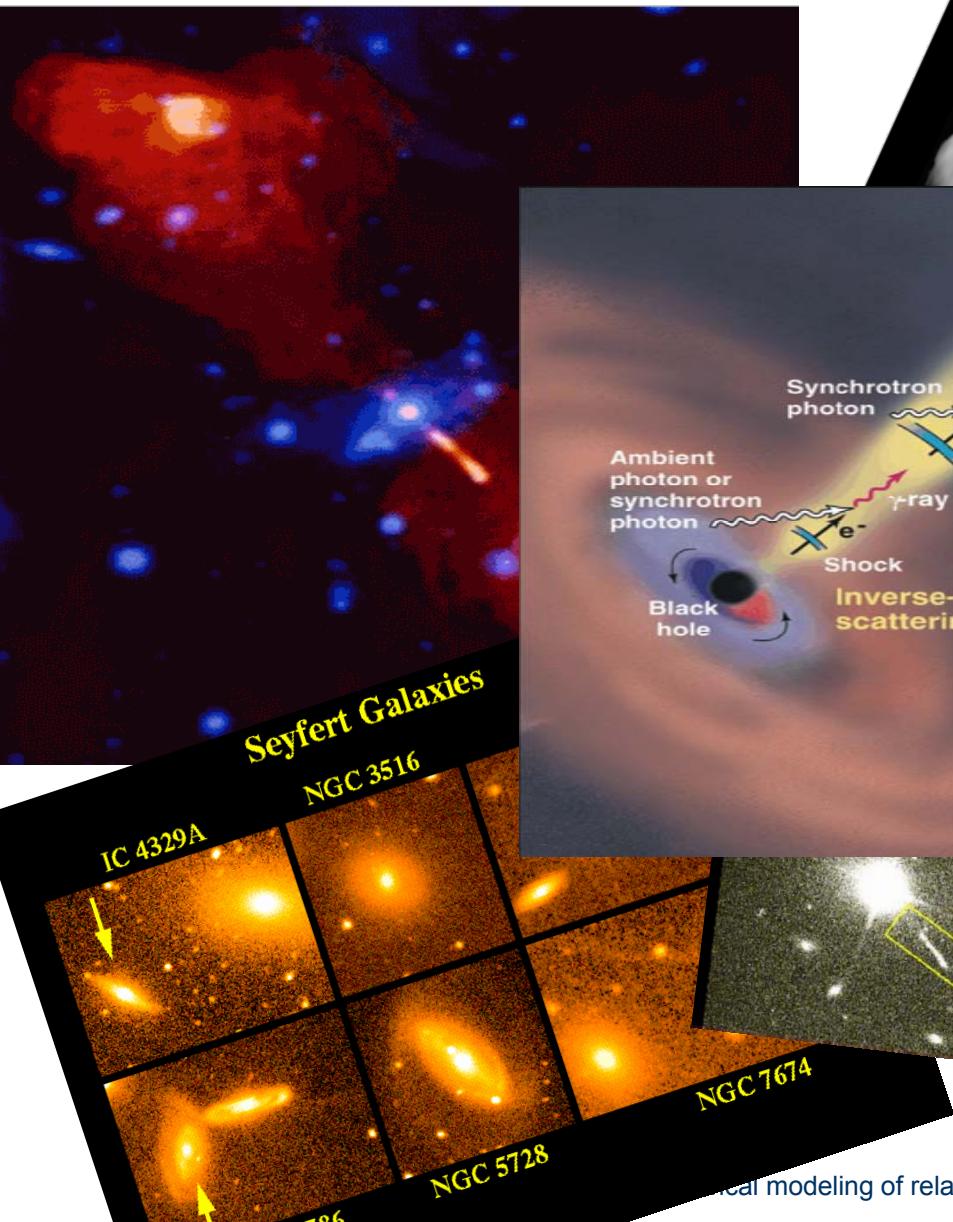
$$\begin{aligned}L &\sim 10^{46} \text{ erg/s} \\ \Gamma &\sim 10-30 \\ E_{\max} &\sim 10^{19-21} \text{ eV}\end{aligned}$$

Seyfert Galaxies  
IC 4329A  
NGC 3516  
Markarian 279



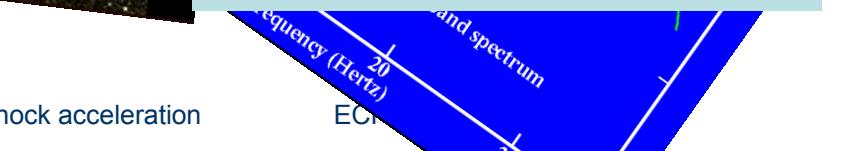
Physical modeling of relativistic shock acceleration

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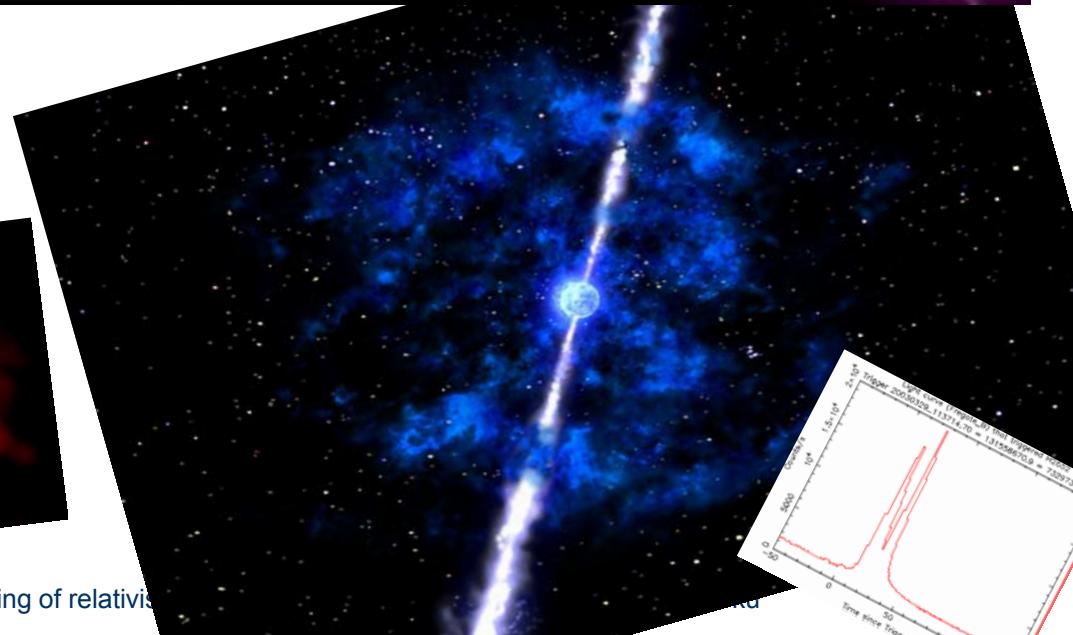
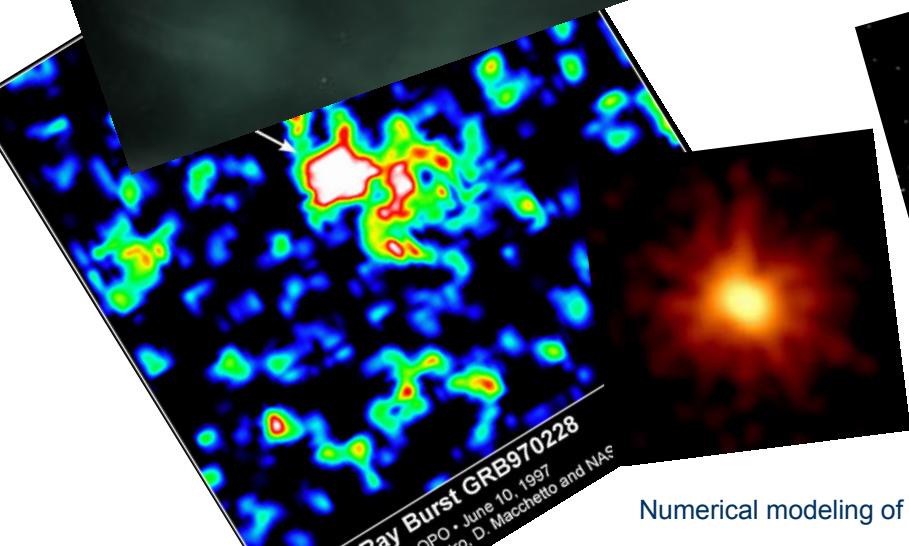
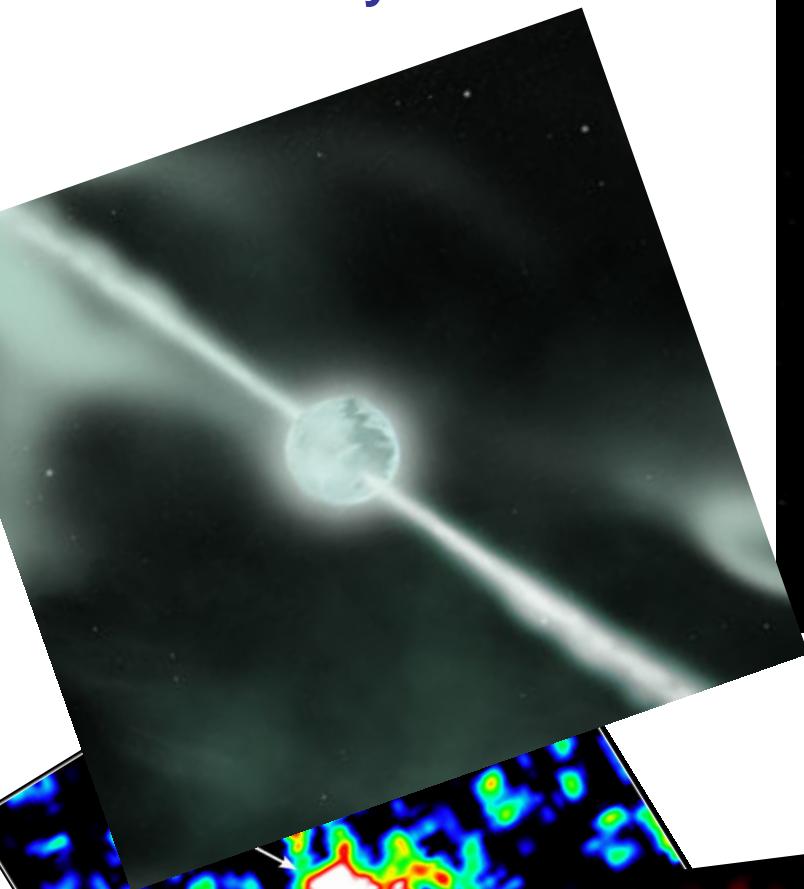


e.g. Lynden-Bell '69,  
Meier '03, Georganopoulos '05,  
Marcher et al. '08, etc

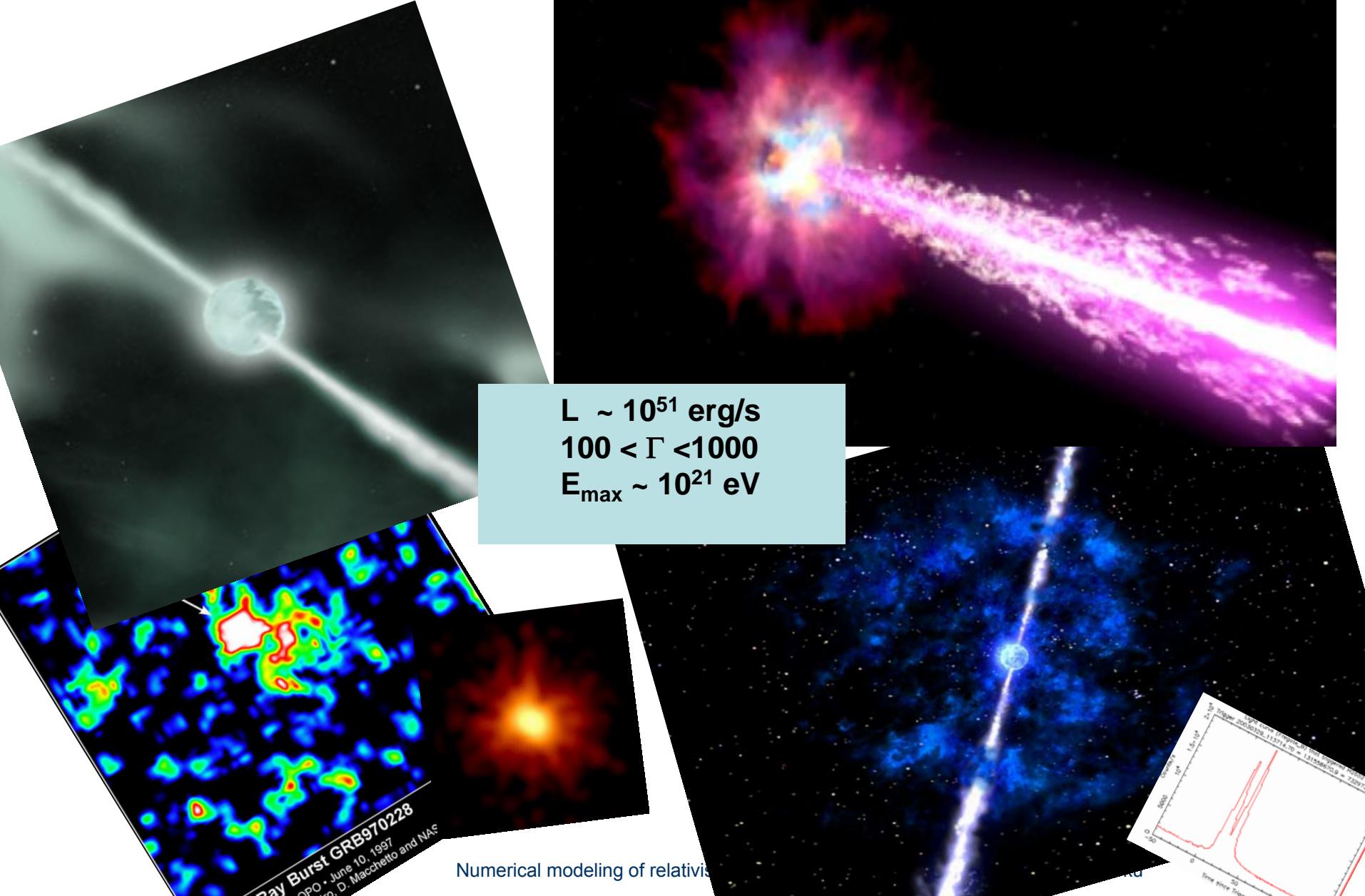
Physical modeling of relativistic shock acceleration



## Gamma Ray Bursts case



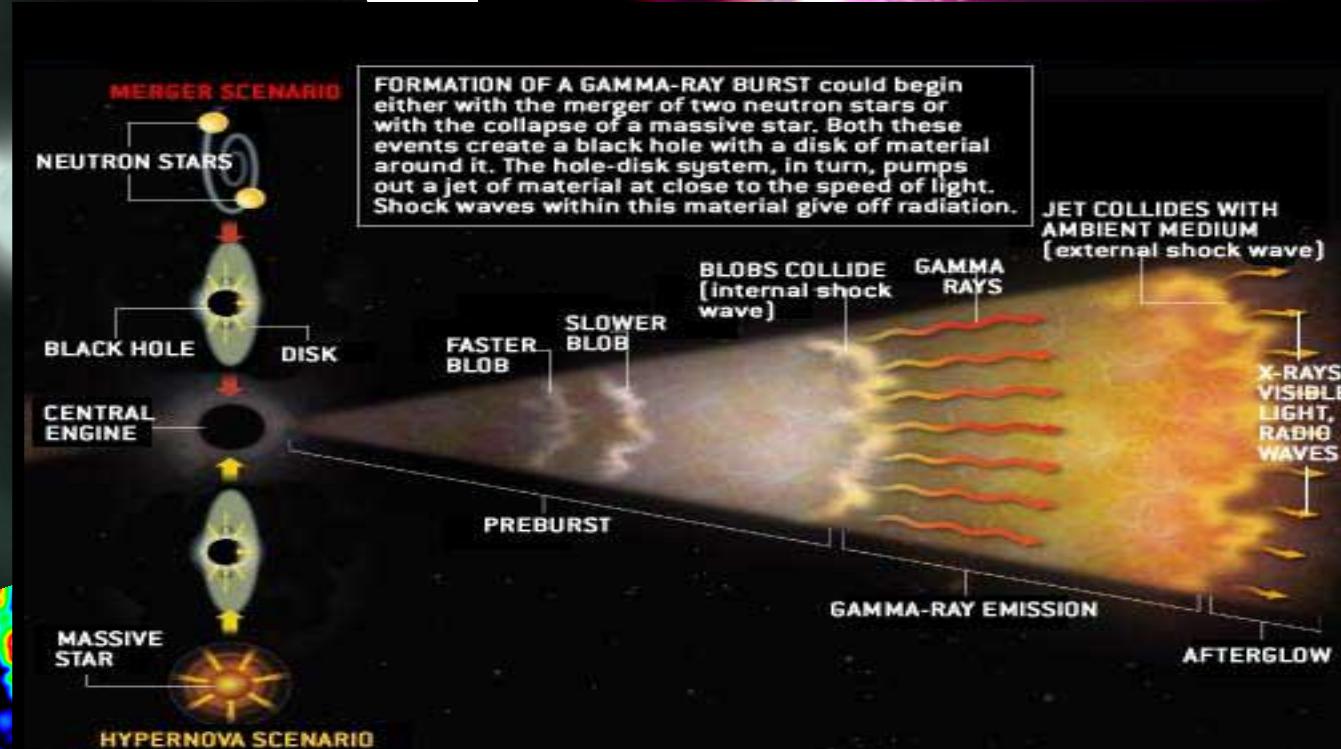
## Gamma Ray Bursts case



Numerical modeling of relativistic

Ray Burst GRB970228  
OPO • June 10, 1997  
D. Macchietto and NAS

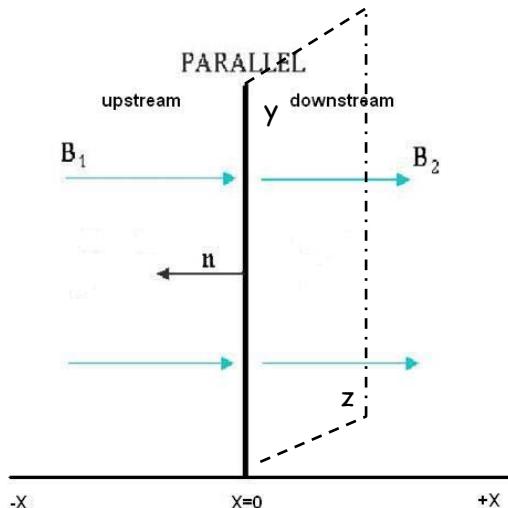
# Gamma Ray Bursts case



e.g. Cavallo & Rees '78, Goodman '86, Paczynski '86,  
Vietri '95, Waxmann '00, etc

# Shocks

# Jump conditions and shock inclinations

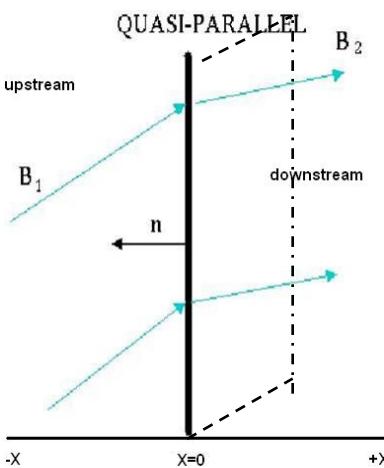


**Rankine-Hugoniot conditions**  
For a stationary HD shock (1D)

$$\rho_1 u_1 = \rho_2 u_2$$

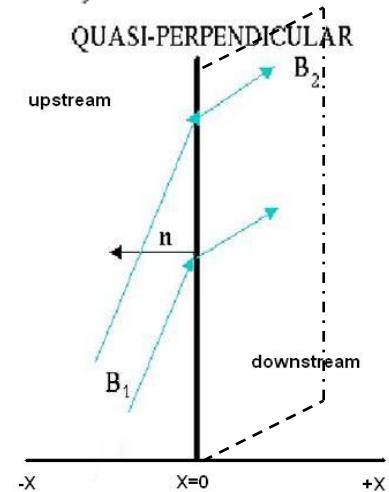
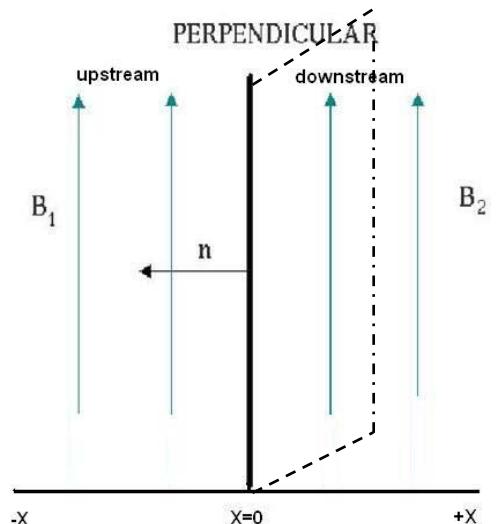
$$\rho_1 u_1^2 + p_1 = \rho_2 u_2^2 + p_2$$

$$\rho_1 u_1 \left( e_1 + \frac{1}{2} u_1^2 + p_1 / \rho_1 \right) = \rho_2 u_2 \left( e_2 + \frac{1}{2} u_2^2 + p_2 / \rho_2 \right).$$



$$\frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1} = \frac{\frac{p_2}{p_1}(\gamma + 1) + (\gamma - 1)}{(\gamma + 1) + \frac{p_2}{p_1}(\gamma - 1)} = \frac{u_1}{u_2}$$

$$\frac{p_2}{p_1} = \frac{\frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1}(\gamma + 1) - (\gamma - 1)}{(\gamma + 1) - \frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1}(\gamma - 1)}.$$



# Particle shock acceleration mechanism

# Particle shock acceleration mechanism

**No doubt collisionless astrophysical  
shocks accelerate particles**

**Convincing evidence for efficient acceleration in  
heliospheric shocks and in young SNRs**

# 1<sup>st</sup> order Fermi acceleration

## Non-relativistic shocks

- Test particle - diffusion -  $n$  acceleration shock cycles

$$E_n = (x+1)^n \cdot E_0$$

(e.g. Krymskii '77, Bell '78a,b,  
Drury '83, etc)

- Energy gain: fraction of initial energy

$$\Delta E = E - E_0 = x \cdot E_0$$

- Average energy gain per collision:

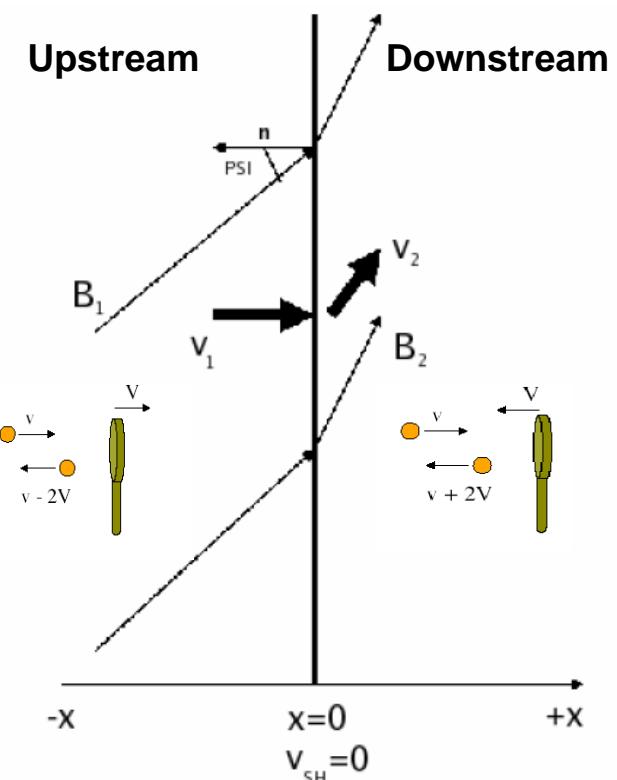
$$\langle \Delta E / E \rangle \approx (2V / c)$$

- Leading to a power-law energy behaviour

$$N(>E) = \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} (1 - P_{esc})^{n(E)} = \dots \propto E^{-\sigma}$$

$$\sigma = (r+2)/(r-1), \quad r = V_1/V_2 = (\gamma+1) / (\gamma-1)$$

for mono-atomic gas:  
 $\gamma = 5/3 \rightarrow r = 4 \rightarrow E^{-2}$



Note: For relativistic shocks  $V \sim c$  and particle distributions are not isotropic across reference frames – difficult analytically

## Facts for *non-relativistic* shock acceleration:

- Particles are everywhere in isotropy and the diffusive approximation for solution of the transport equation can apply
- Spectral index independent of: inclination, scattering nature, strength of magnetic field

Concepts are well understood and well studied - they work nicely  
as a comparison basis for relativistic studies

# Modeling relativistic shock acceleration

## Four techniques

- **Semi-analytic (simplified) solutions to diffusion-convection equation**  
(e.g. Eichler '84, Berezhko & Ellison '99, Blasi & Gabici '02-'05, etc)
- **Numerical solutions to diffusion-convection equation** with flow hydrodynamics & momentum dependent diffusion  
(e.g. Berezhko, Voelk et al. '96, Kang & Jones '91-'05, Malkov '97-'01, etc)
- **Monte Carlo simulations** (!)  
(e.g. Ellison et al. '81-'05, Baring '03-'05, Meli & Quenby '03-'05 etc)
- **Particle-in-cell (PIC) plasma simulations**  
(e.g. Nishikawa et al. '05, Meli & Dieckmann '10, etc)

# Monte Carlo technique



- **Random number generation** → simulation of the random nature of a physical process (Cashwell & Everett '59)
- **Powerful tool** – **large dynamic ranges** in spatial and momentum scales
- Notion of '**test particles**' - very efficient & very fast in describing particle **random walks** - **large number** of particles
- **Scattering** can be treated via pitch angle diffusion approach (e.g. Kennel & Petscheck '66, Forman et al. '74, Jokipii '87, Quenby & Meli '05, Meli & Biermann '06)

$$\kappa_{\perp} = \kappa_{\parallel} \cdot (1 + (\lambda/r_l)^2)^{-1} \quad \kappa = \kappa_{\parallel} \cos^2 \psi + \kappa_{\perp} \sin^2 \psi \quad \kappa_{\parallel} \gg \kappa_{\perp} \quad (!)$$

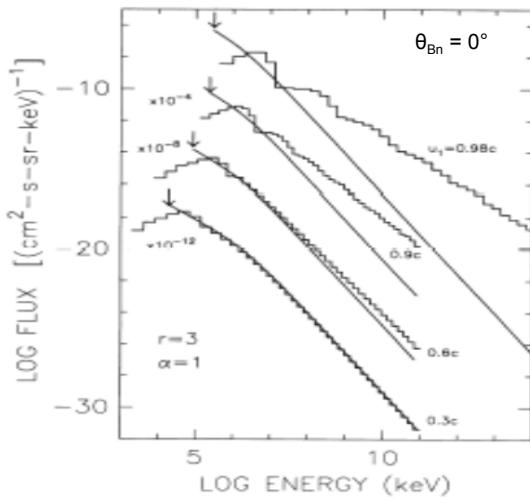
Particles scatter as (Kennel&Petscheck '66):

$$\delta\theta^2 = 2D_{\theta}\delta t \qquad \qquad \delta\theta^2 = \frac{25}{\Gamma^2} = \frac{2\omega^2}{v_{\parallel}B^2} P_{\circ}(k) \frac{\omega^s}{v_{\parallel}^s} \frac{10\sqrt{3}v_{\perp}}{c\omega}$$

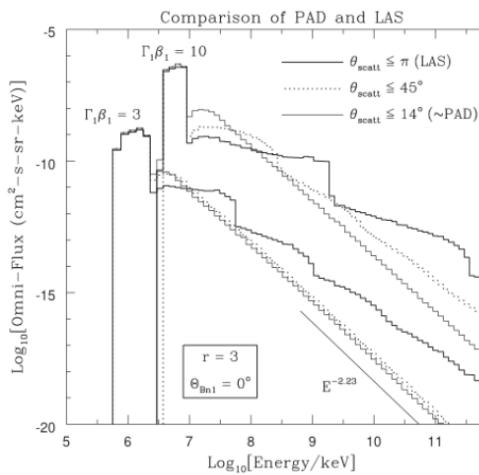
- Fully relativistic Lorentzian transformations

# **Simulation studies on relativistic shocks: flow speed, inclination, scattering**

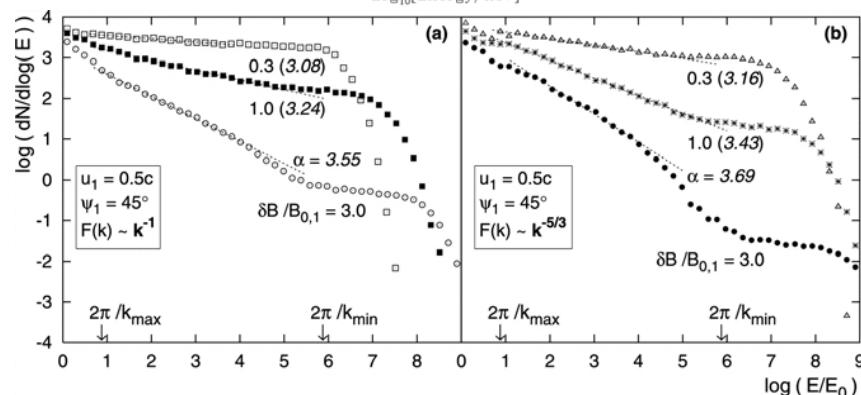
# Spectra



Ellison et al. '90



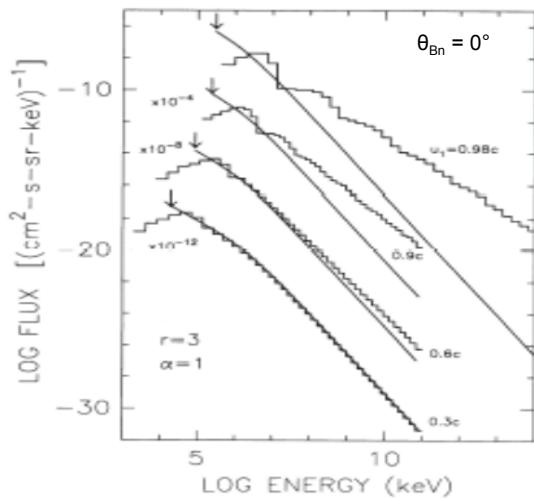
Baring '04



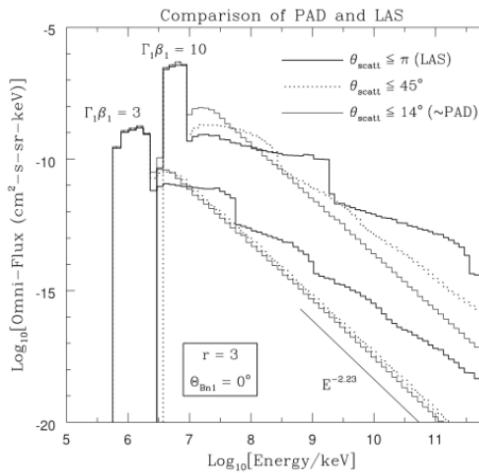
Niemiec & Ostrowski '04

- Spectrum flattens with velocity
- Spectrum depends on the scattering type – magnetic field configurations
- Large angle scattering yields kinematically structured distributions

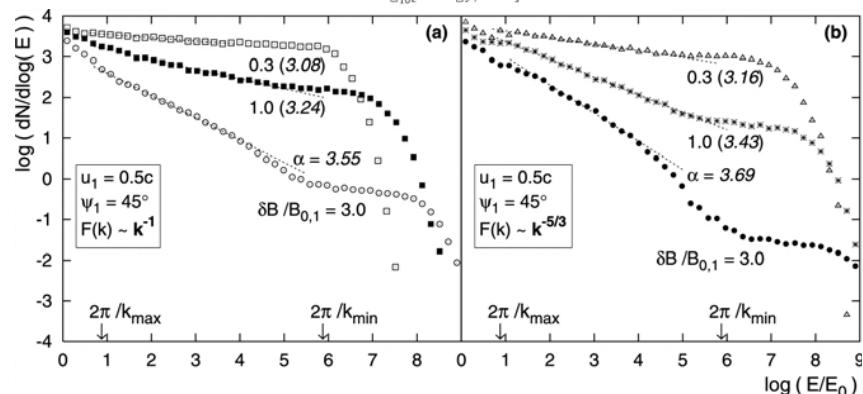
# Spectra



Ellison et al. '90



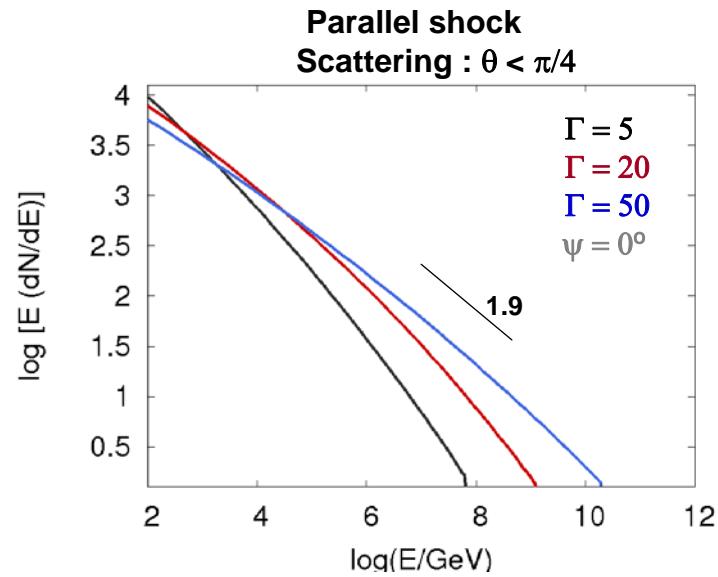
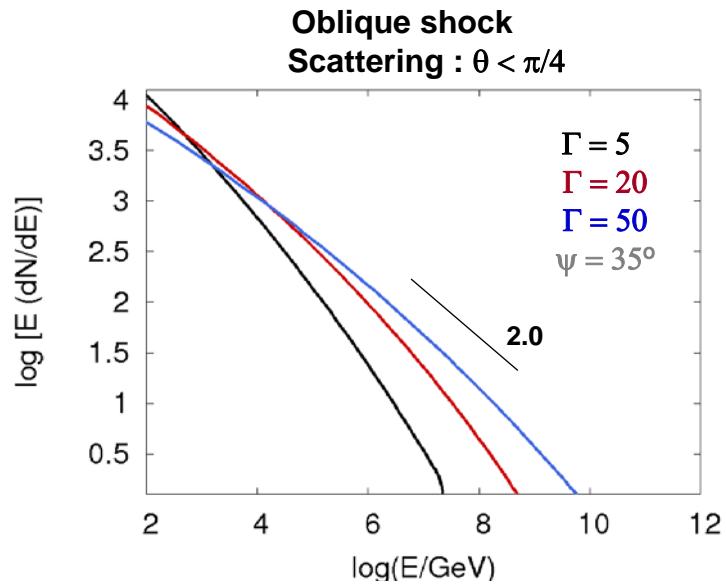
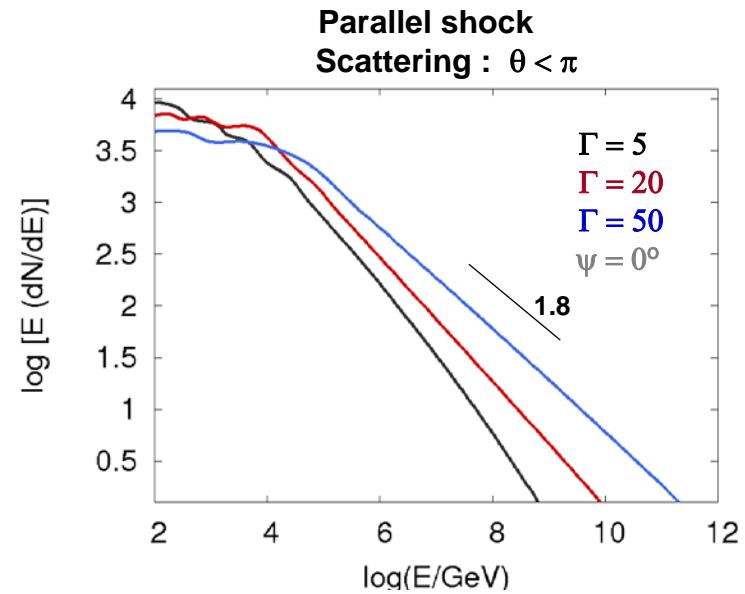
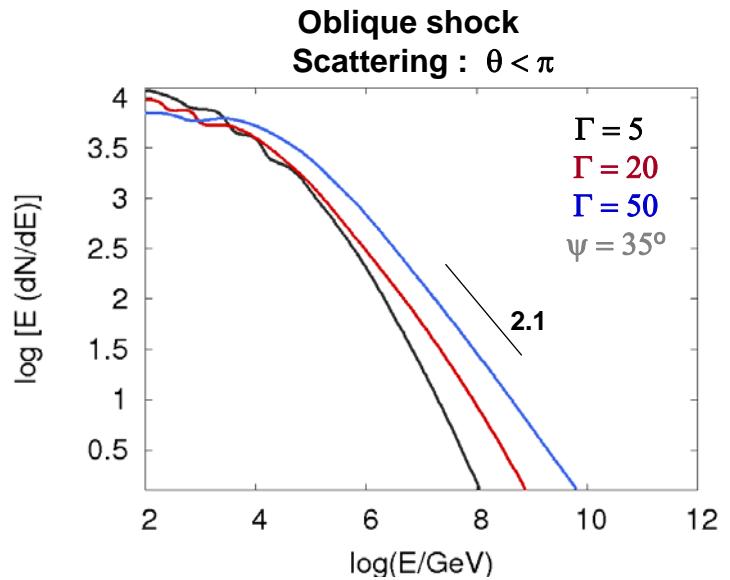
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Niemiec & Ostrowski '04

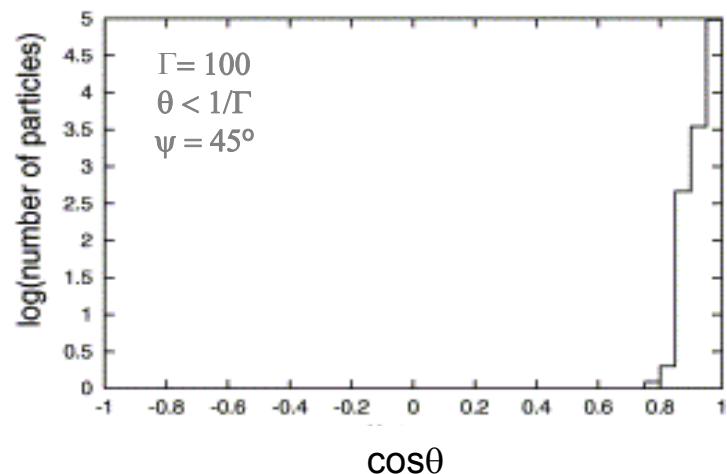
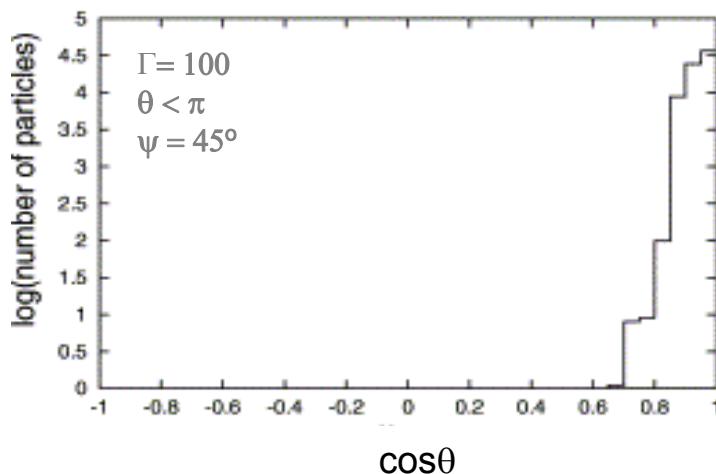
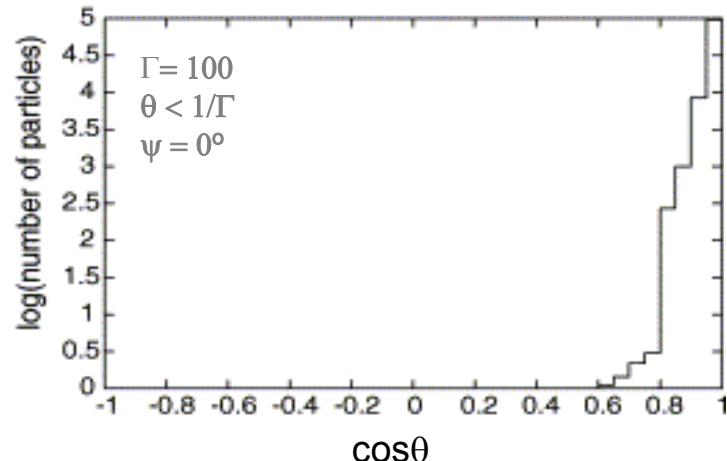
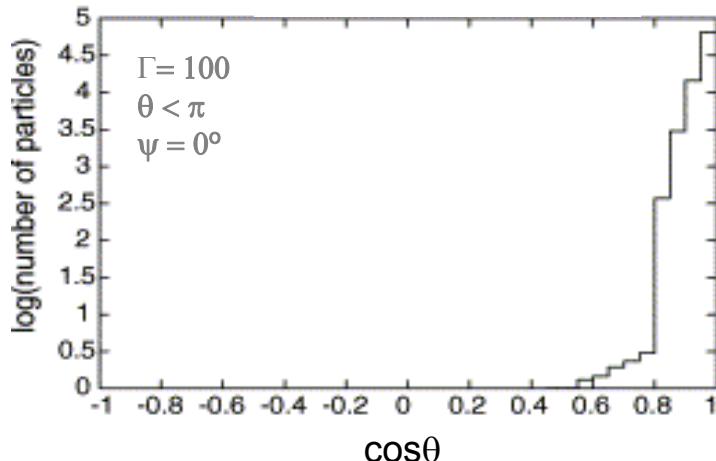
- Spectrum flattens with velocity
- Spectrum depends on the scattering type – magnetic field configurations
- Large angle scattering yields kinematically structured distributions

Note: ‘Universal power-law of -2.2’  
(e.g Achterberg et al '01, etc)  
→ only for ‘fine scattering’ &  
parallel relativistic shocks!



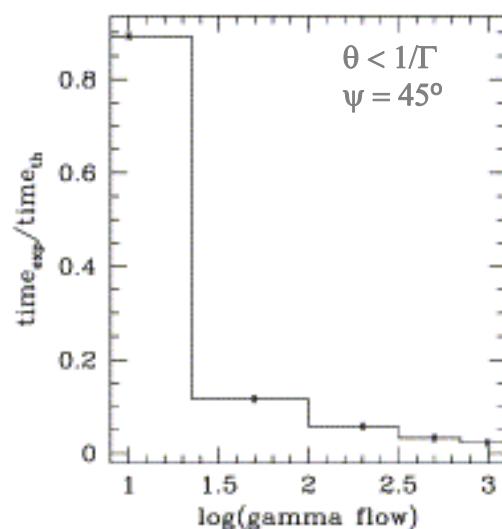
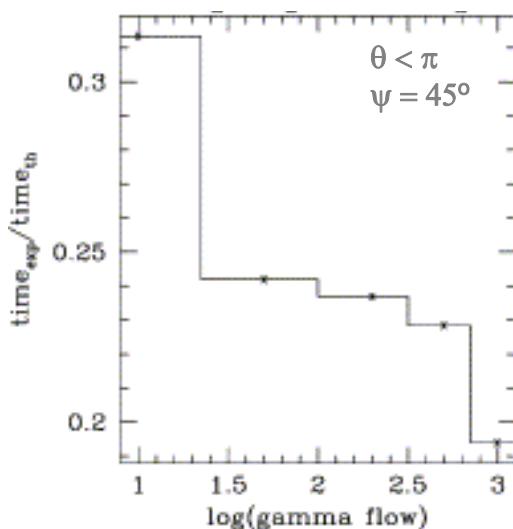
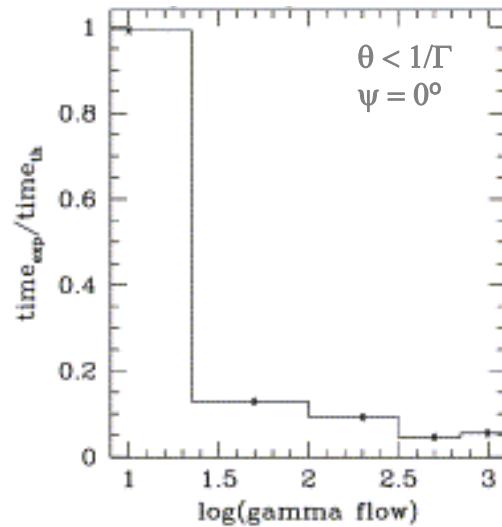
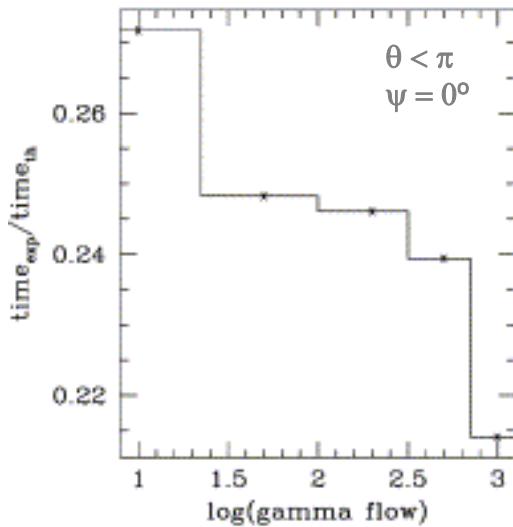
**Meli & Quenby '02**

# Angular distribution anisotropy



Meli & Quenby '03a

# Acceleration ‘speed-up’

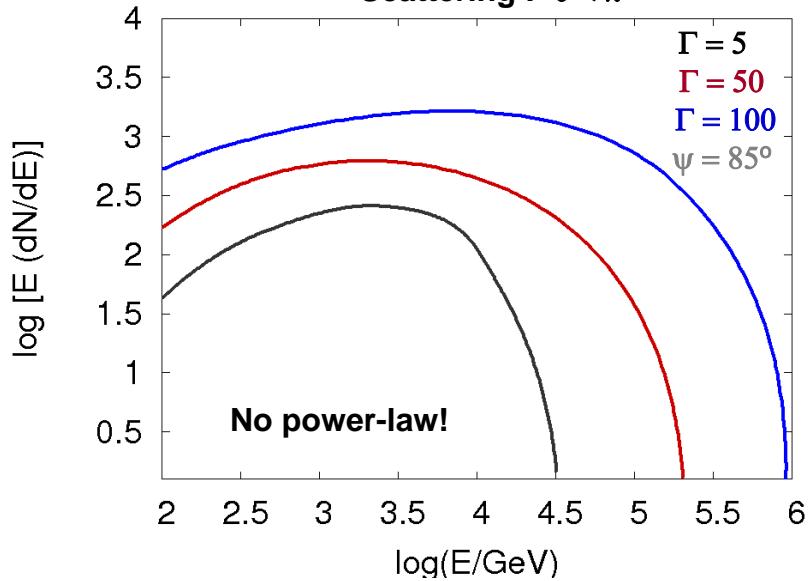


**The ratio of the simulation time  
time<sub>exp</sub> to the theoretical accel. time  
constant time<sub>th</sub>  
Versus the log of flow speed**

$$\text{time}_{\text{th}}(E) = [3/(V_1 - V_2)](\kappa_1/V_1 + \kappa_2/V_2)$$

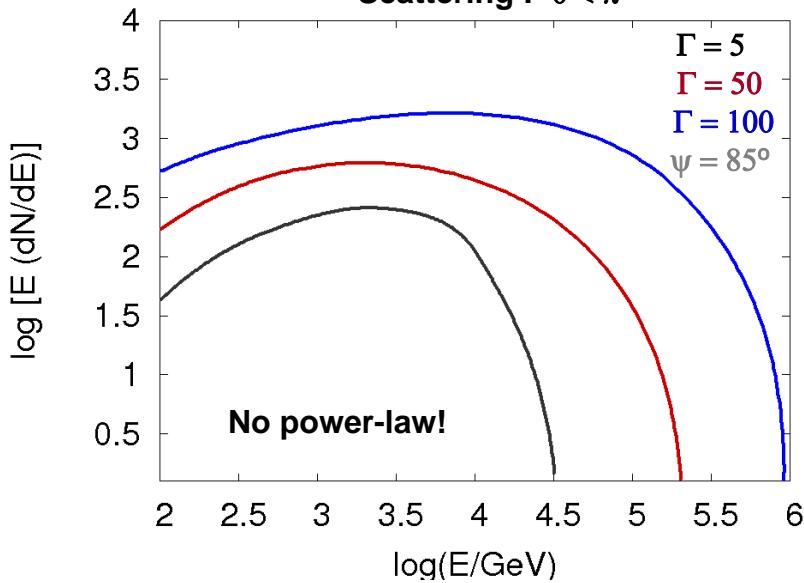
# Applications to UHECR & extragalactic astronomy

**Superluminal (oblique) shock  
Scattering :  $\theta < \pi$**



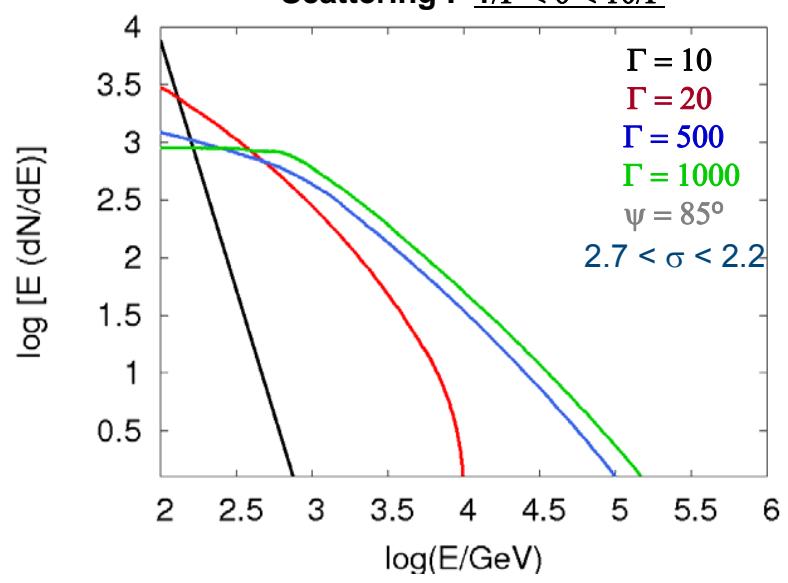
**Meli & Quenby '05**

**Superluminal (oblique) shock**  
Scattering :  $\theta < \pi$



Meli & Quenby '05

**Superluminal (oblique) shock**  
Scattering :  $1/\Gamma < \theta < 10/\Gamma$

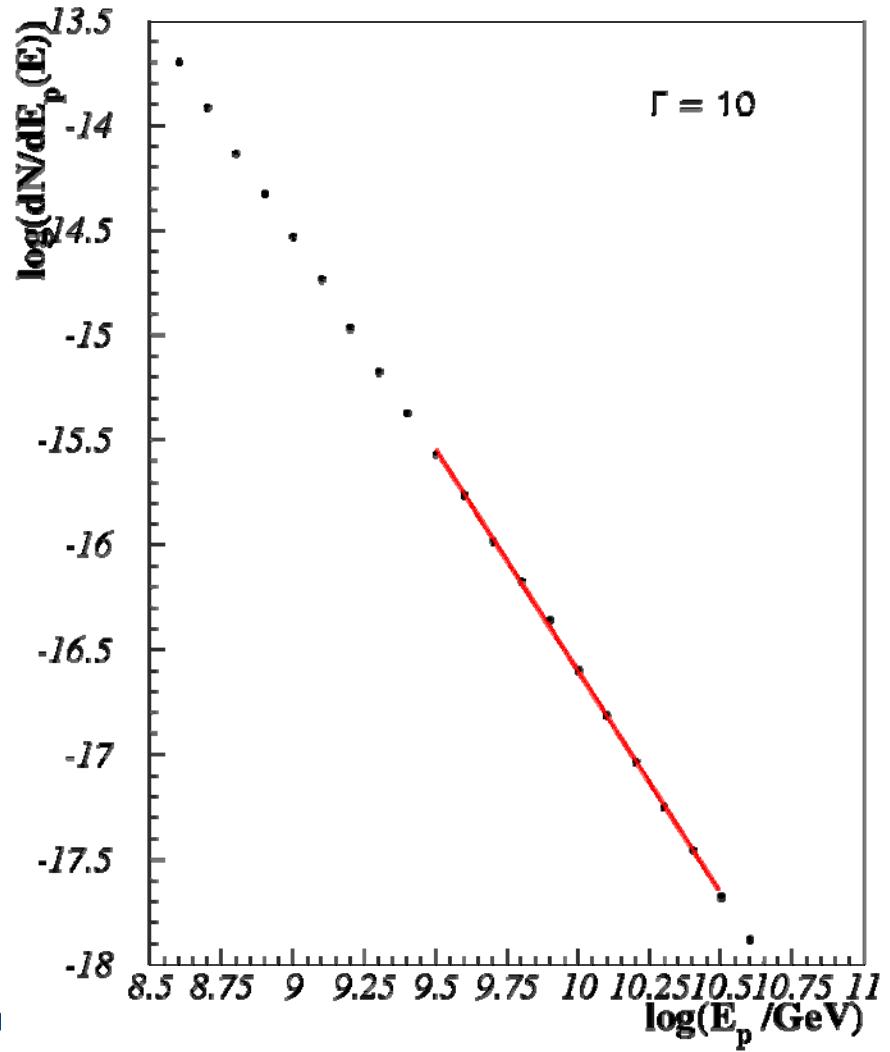


Meli, Becker, Quenby '08

**Superluminal shocks  $\rightarrow$  not efficient accelerators**

**Subluminal (oblique) shocks**  
**Scattering :  $1/\Gamma < \theta < 10/\Gamma$**

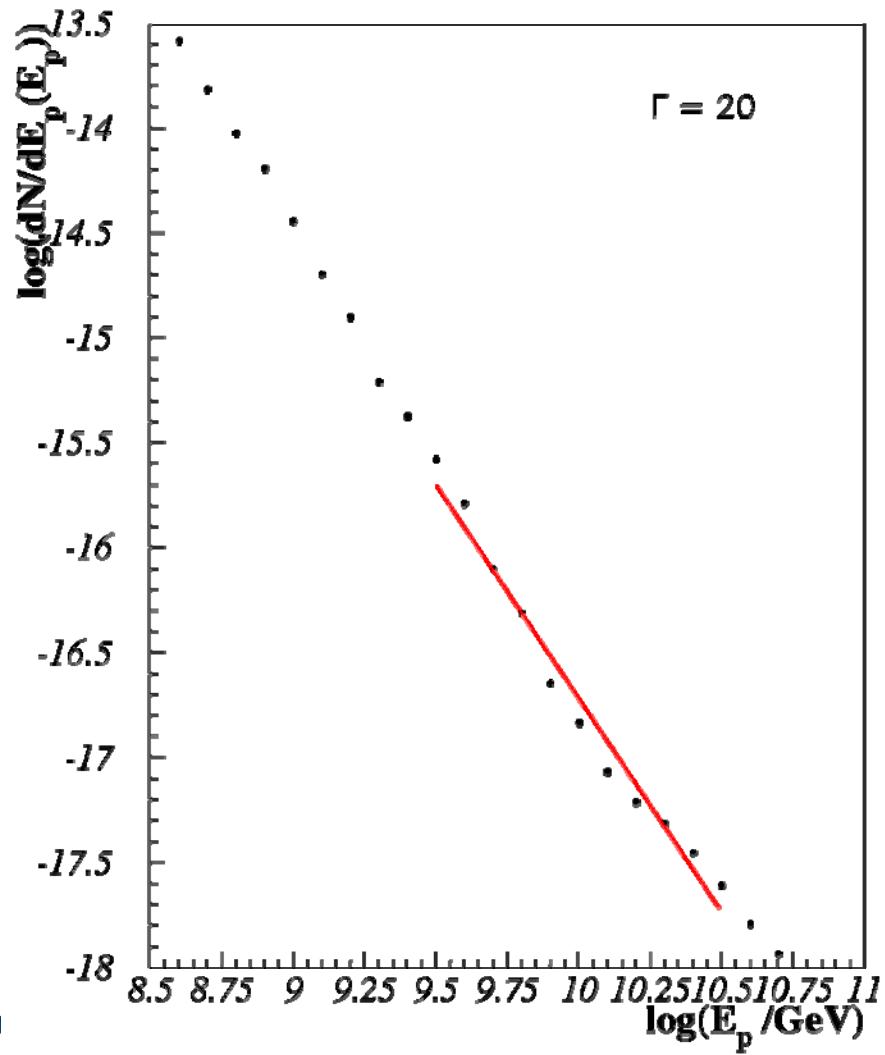
$\Gamma_{sh}$	$s (\psi_{sh} = 23^\circ)$	$s (\psi_{sh} = 33^\circ)$	$s (\psi_{sh} = 43^\circ)$
10	2.1	2.1	2.3
20	2.0	2.0	2.3
30	2.1	2.0	2.2
100	1.8	1.8	2.2
300	2.0	1.8	2.0
500	1.9	1.7	1.6
700	1.8	1.4	1.7
900	1.5	1.0	1.3
1000	1.2	1.2	1.5



Meli, Becker, Quenby '08

**Subluminal (oblique) shocks**  
**Scattering :  $1/\Gamma < \theta < 10/\Gamma$**

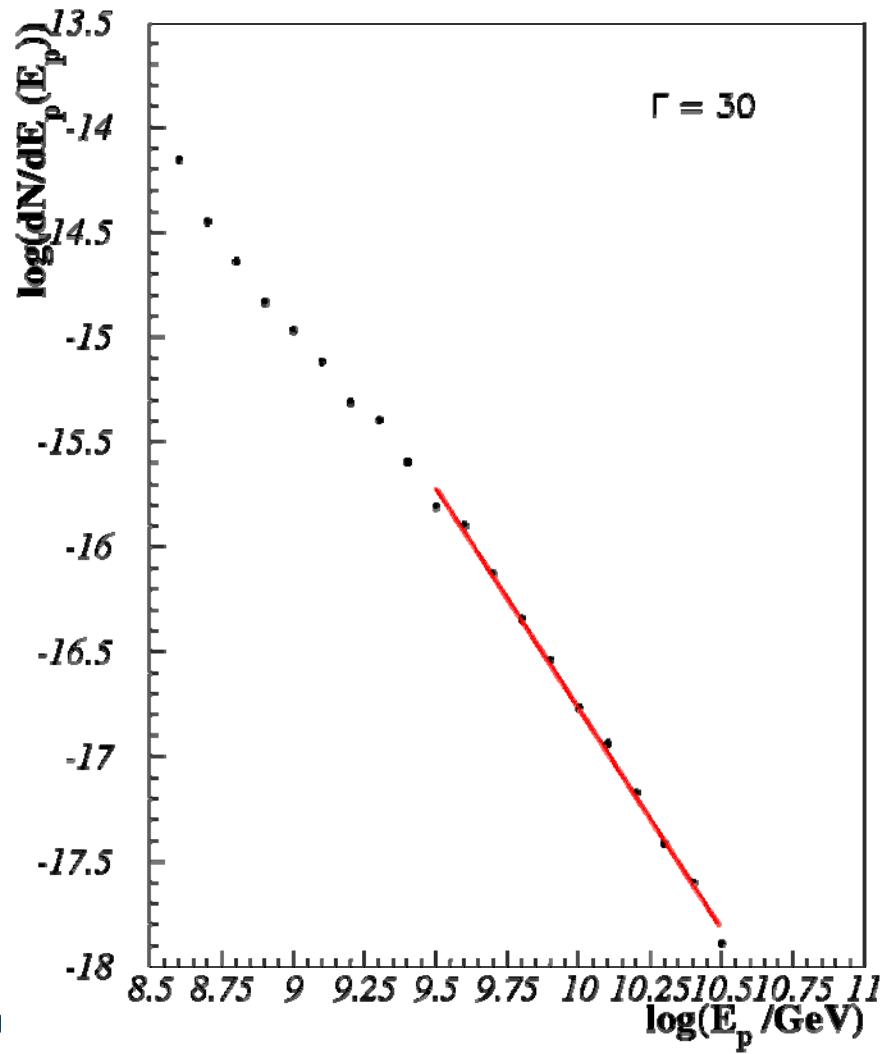
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Meli, Becker, Quenby '08

**Subluminal (oblique) shocks**  
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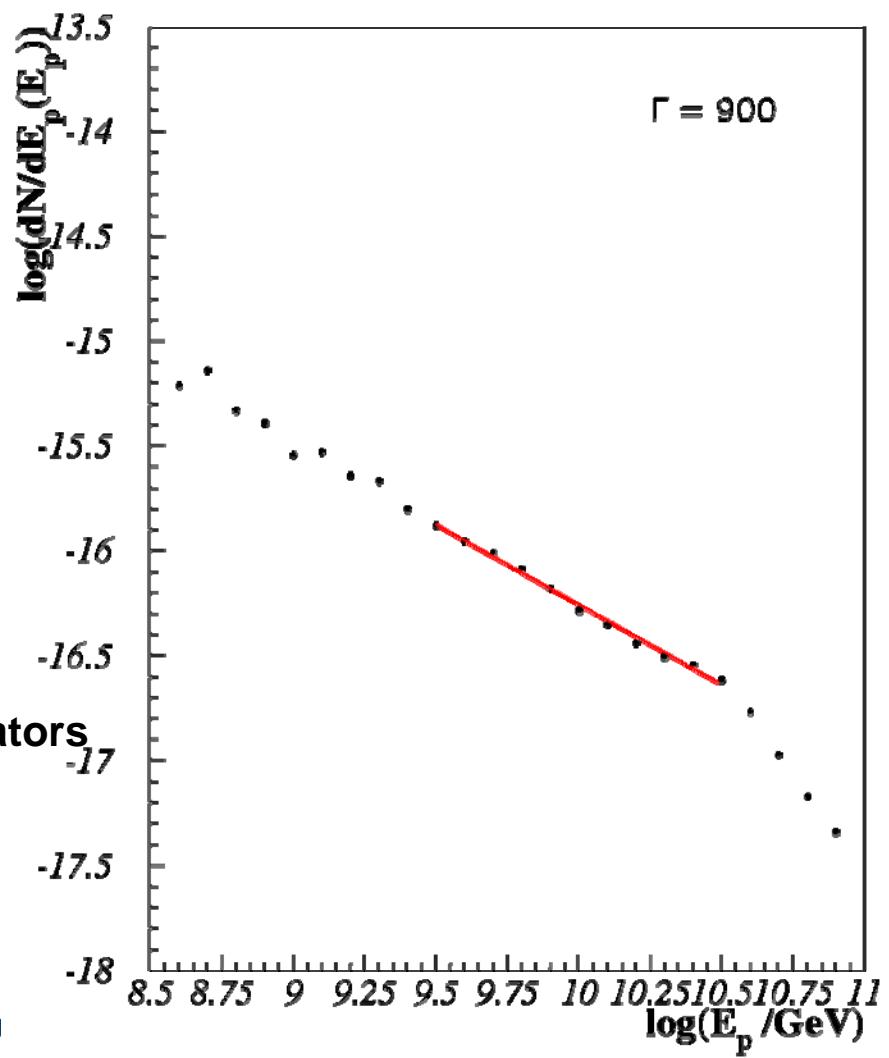


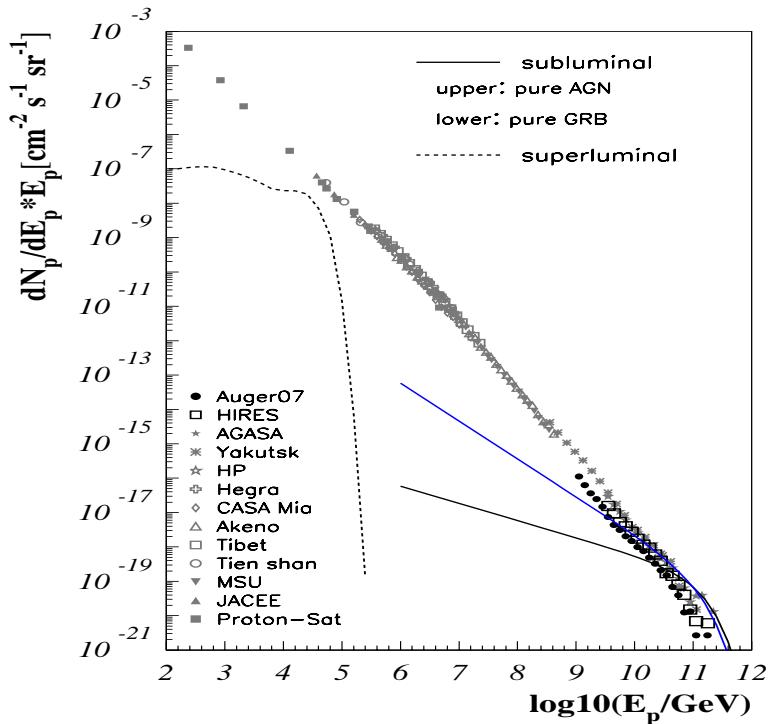
Meli, Becker, Quenby '08

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500	1.9	1.7	1.6
700	1.8	1.4	1.7
900	1.5	1.0	1.3
1000	1.2	1.2	1.5

**Subluminal shocks → Efficient (flat) accelerators**

Meli, Becker, Quenby '08



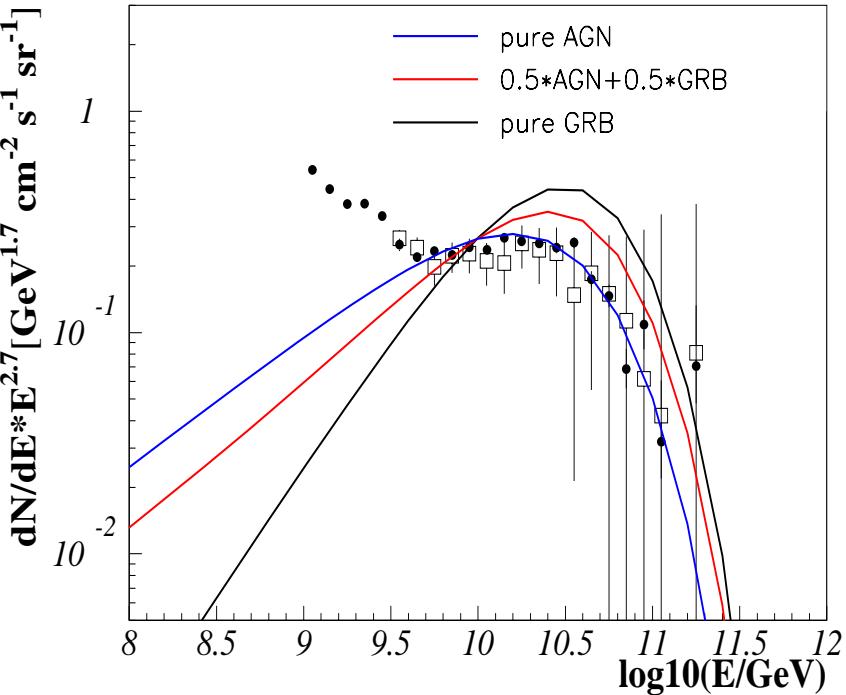


**1a. The diffuse energy spectrum of sources, compared to the total diffuse spectrum**  
(Meli, Becker, Quenby '08)

## The total spectrum as observed at Earth

$$\frac{dN_p}{dE_p} = A_p \int_{z_{\min}}^{z_{\max}} \left( x \cdot \frac{d\Phi_{\text{AGN}}}{dE_p}(E_p(z)) + (1 - x) \cdot \frac{d\Phi_{\text{GRB}}}{dE_p}(E_p(z)) \right) \times (1 + z)^{-1} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{E_p(z)}{E_{\text{cut}}(z)}\right) \cdot g(z) dz \quad (1)$$

**Assumption: UHECRs from AGN contribute a fraction  $0 \leq x \leq 1$  and for GRBs  $1-x$  with  $0.001 < z < 7$  (main contribution:  $z \sim 1-2 \rightarrow$  high no.of sources)**

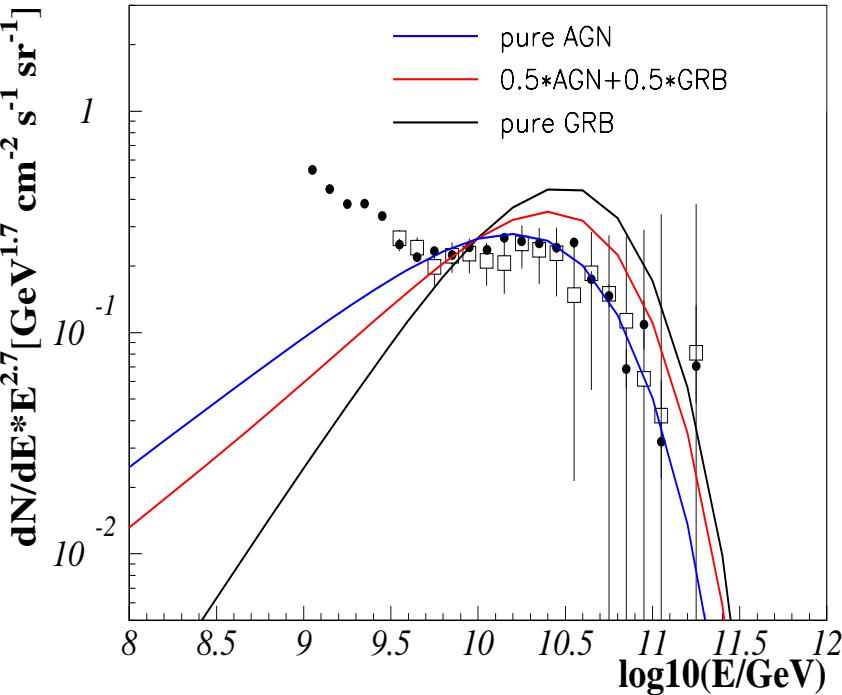


**1b. The diffuse energy spectrum of sources, multiplied by an  $E^{2.7}$ , compared to the total diffuse spectrum. Dots and squares correspond to Hires and Auger data.**

## The total spectrum as observed at Earth

$$\frac{dN_p}{dE_p} = A_p \int_{z_{\min}}^{z_{\max}} \left( x \cdot \frac{d\Phi_{\text{AGN}}}{dE_p}(E_p(z)) + (1 - x) \cdot \frac{d\Phi_{\text{GRB}}}{dE_p}(E_p(z)) \right) \times (1+z)^{-1} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{E_p(z)}{E_{\text{cut}}(z)}\right) \cdot g(z) dz \quad (1)$$

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**The diffuse energy spectrum of sources, multiplied by an  $E^{2.7}$ , compared to the total diffuse spectrum. Dots and squares correspond to Hires and Auger data.**

## The total spectrum as observed at Earth

$$\frac{dN_p}{dE_p} = A_p \int_{z_{\min}}^{z_{\max}} \left( x \cdot \frac{d\Phi_{\text{AGN}}}{dE_p}(E_p(z)) + (1 - x) \cdot \frac{d\Phi_{\text{GRB}}}{dE_p}(E_p(z)) \right) \times (1 + z)^{-1} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{E_p(z)}{E_{\text{cut}}(z)}\right) \cdot g(z) dz$$

**Assumption: UHECRs from AGN contribute a fraction  $0 \leq x \leq 1$  and for GRBs  $1 - x$  with  $0.001 < z < 7$  (main contribution:  $z \sim 1-2 \rightarrow$  high no.of sources)**

**2. Flat spectra recent confirmation:  
GRB090816c  $\rightarrow E^{-1.2} - E^{-2.0}$  (Meli et al. '09)**

# Conclusions



High energy cosmic ray acceleration in astrophysical shocks is  
a favourable and attractive theme of study (especially numerically)

## Relativistic shocks:

- Power-law spectrum and  $\sigma$  of -2.2 not universal ! (observations confirm)
- Relativistic shocks can generate very high energy cosmic rays with a multitude of spectral forms, power-law incides dependent on shock parameters: flow speed, inclination and scattering properties :

→ Faster shocks generate flatter primary distributions:

- Subluminal shocks (quasi-parallel) *efficient* accelerators  $\rightarrow \sim 10^{21}$  eV
- Superluminal (quasi-perpendicular) shocks *not efficient*  $\rightarrow \sim 10^{15}$  eV

→ LAS ( $\theta < \pi$ ): flatter distributions

PAD ( $\theta \ll \pi$ ): steeper distributions (but still flat)

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**Important implications to gamma-ray and neutrino astronomy!**



A large, luminous nebula dominates the center of the image, displaying a rich palette of blues, greens, and hints of orange and red. It appears to be a reflection nebula, with light from a central source reflecting off dust particles. The nebula is set against a dark, textured background of numerous small, white stars of varying sizes.

Thank you !

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