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How do pulsars generate extended VHE sources? A PWN tale

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Currently, the bulk of Galactic VHE sources are associated with isolated, rotation powered neutron stars (i.e. pulsars). However, how pulsars produce such sources is poorly understood. Answering this question requires understanding the evolution of the pulsar wind nebulae (PWN) produced by the neutron star – where particles are believed to be accelerated to the required PeV energies and then injected into their surroundings. In this presentation, I will discuss a simple one-zone model for such sources, and how the application of this model to PWNe in different stages of their evolution can be used to understand the origin of the highest energy sources in the Milky Way.

Summary

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Session Classification: Afternoon session I