

Detection of M 87 with LHAASO

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ALMA 230 GHz
1300 light years

VLBA 43 GHz
0.25 light years

EHT 230 GHz
0.0063 light years

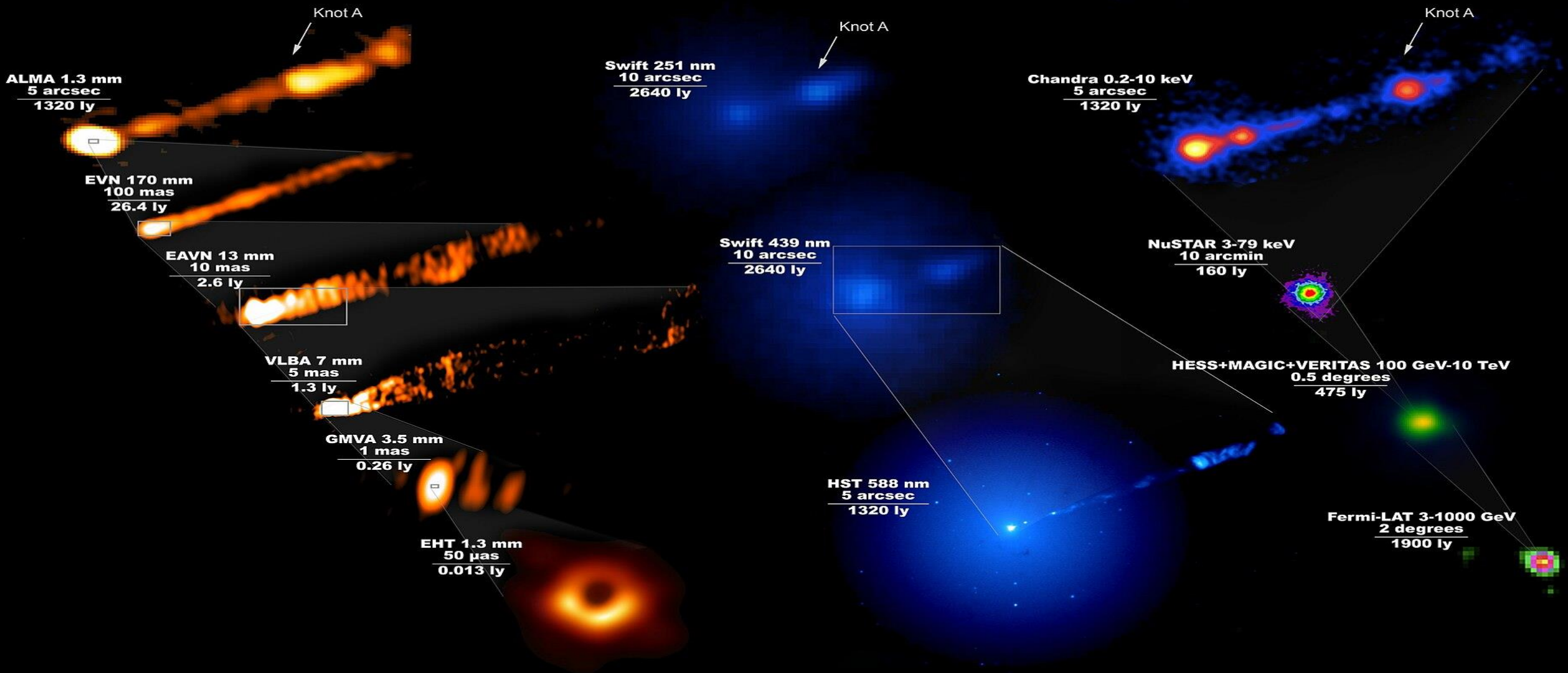


Image Credit: The EHT Multi-wavelength Science Working Group; the EHT Collaboration; ALMA (ESO/NAOJ/NRAO); the EVN; the EAVN Collaboration; VLBA (NRAO); the GMVA; the Hubble Space Telescope; the Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory; the Chandra X-ray Observatory; the Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array; the Fermi-LAT Collaboration; the H.E.S.S collaboration; the MAGIC collaboration; the VERITAS collaboration; NASA and ESA. Composition by J. C. Algaba

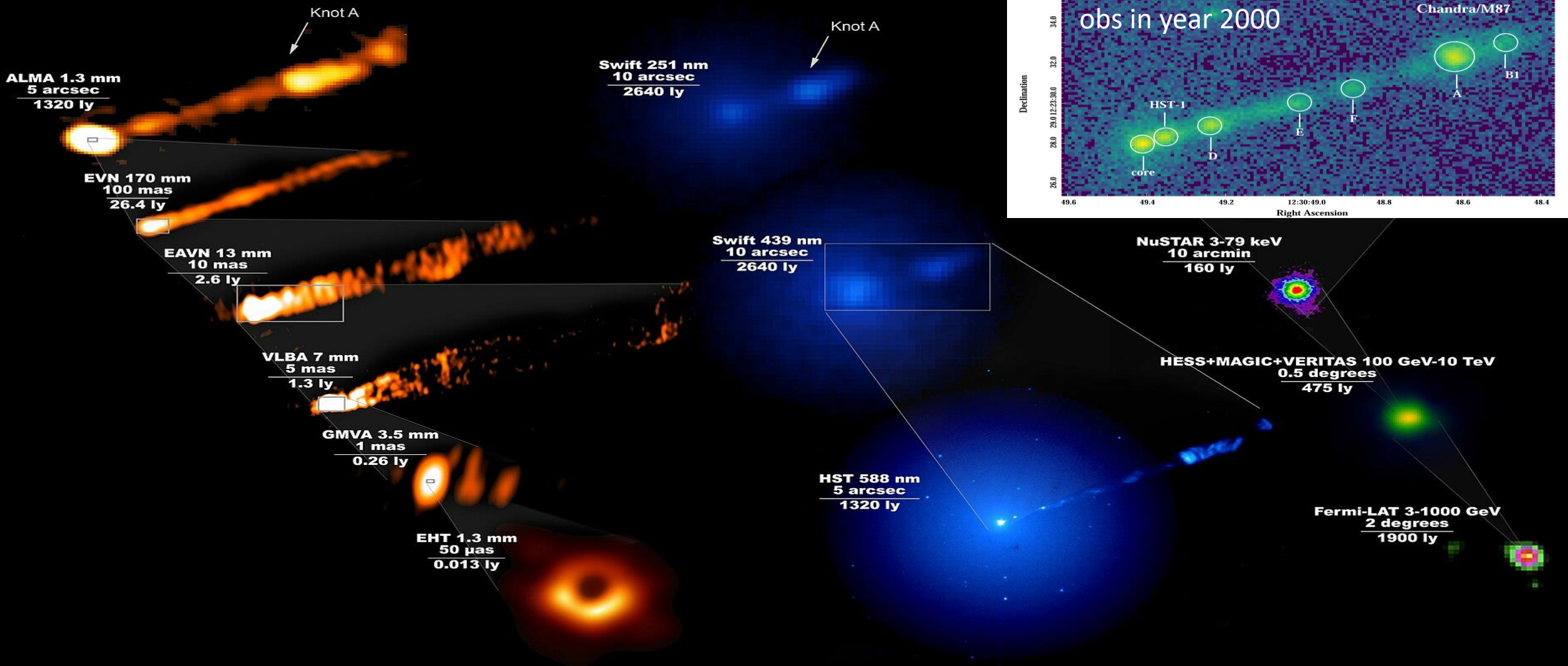
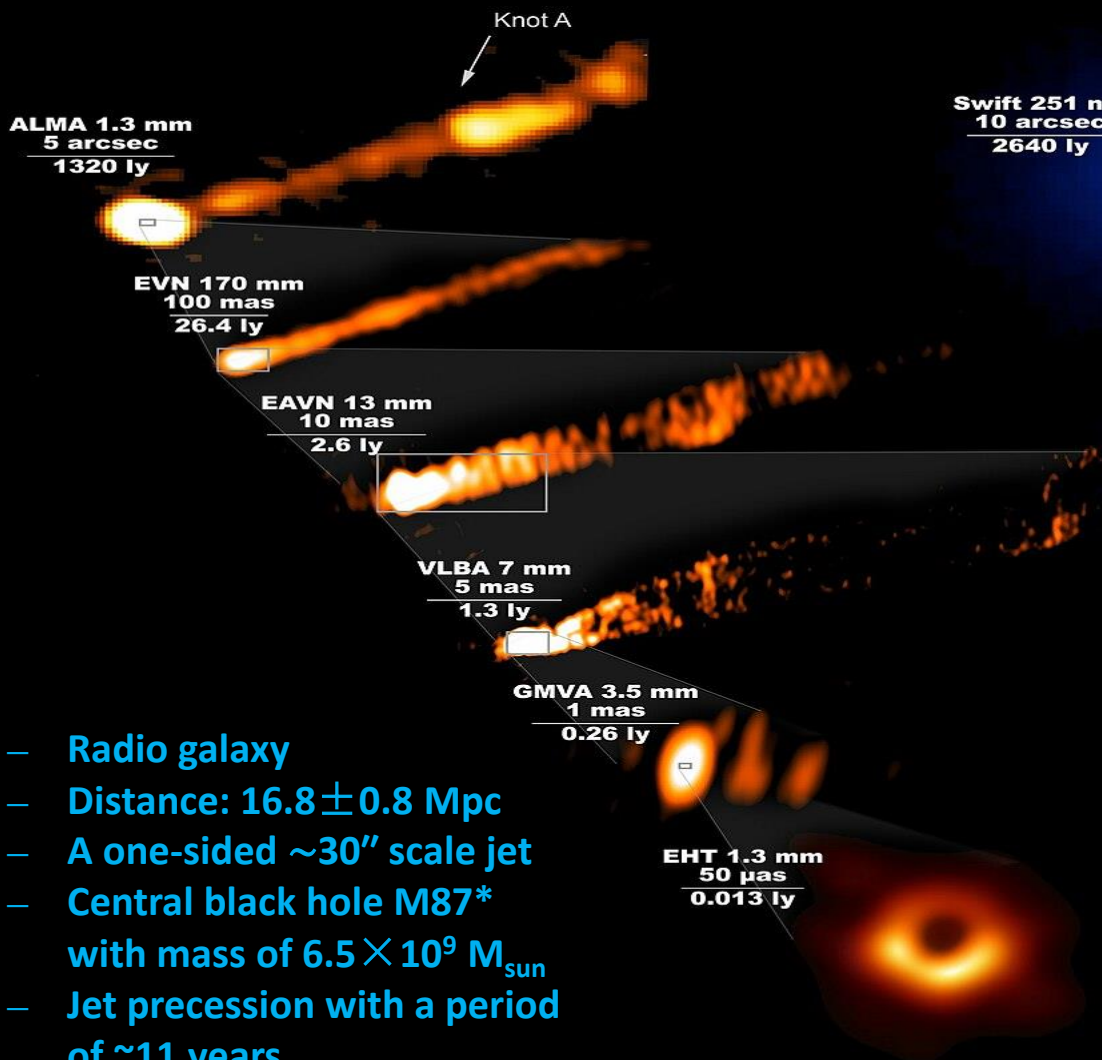


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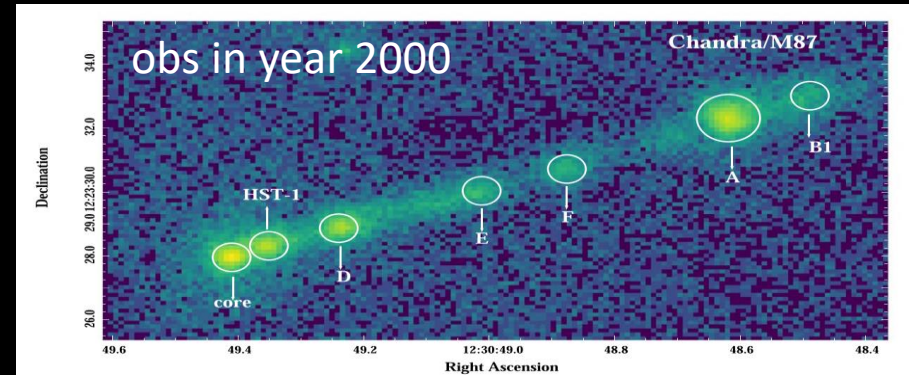


- Radio galaxy
- Distance: 16.8 ± 0.8 Mpc
- A one-sided $\sim 30''$ scale jet
- Central black hole M87* with mass of $6.5 \times 10^9 M_{\text{sun}}$
- Jet precession with a period of ~ 11 years

Swift 251 nm
10 arcsec
2640 ly

Swift 439 nm
10 arcsec
2640 ly

HST 588 nm
5 arcsec
1320 ly



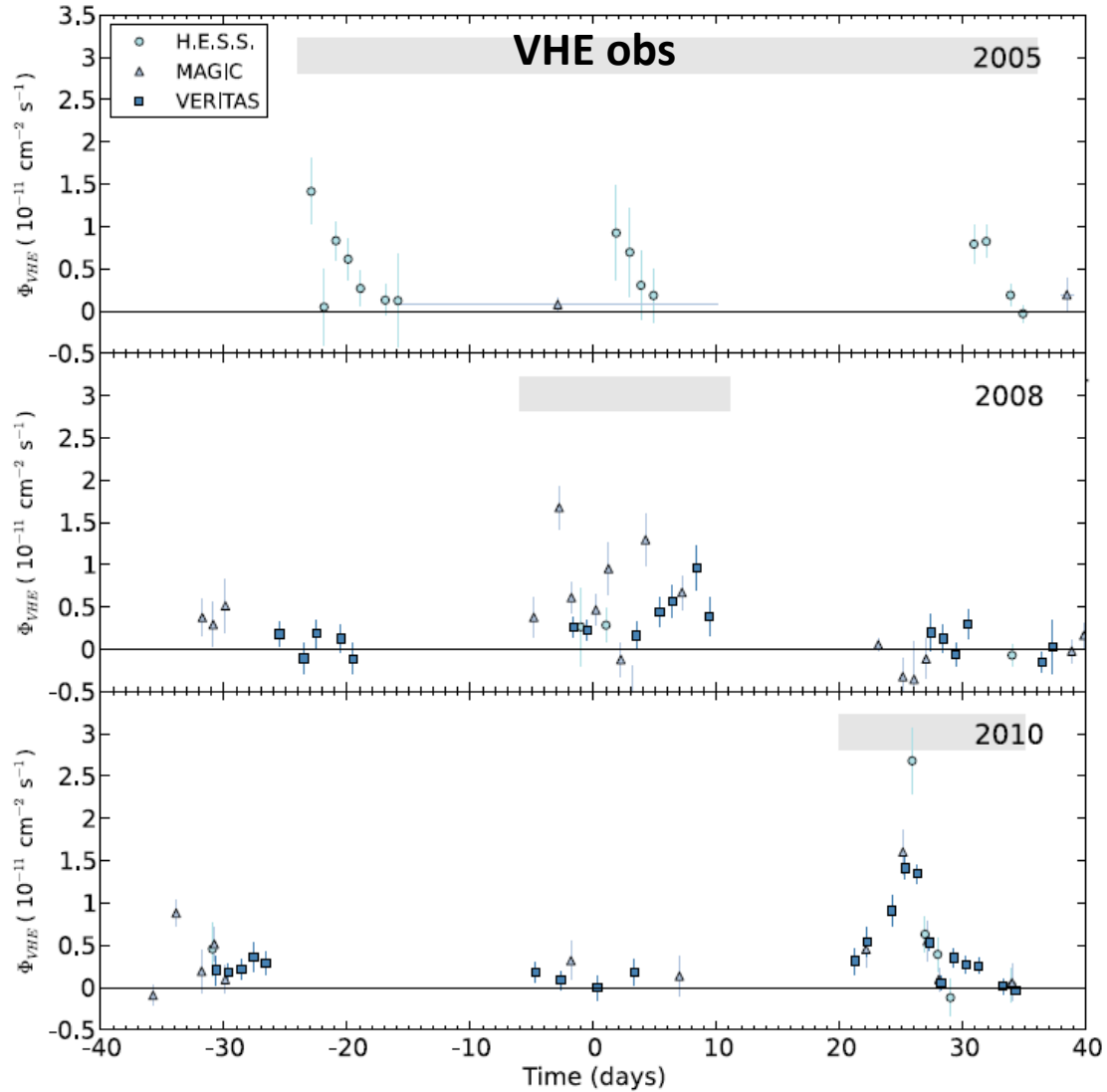
NuSTAR 3-79 keV
10 arcmin
160 ly

HESS+MAGIC+VERITAS 100 GeV-10 TeV
0.5 degrees
475 ly

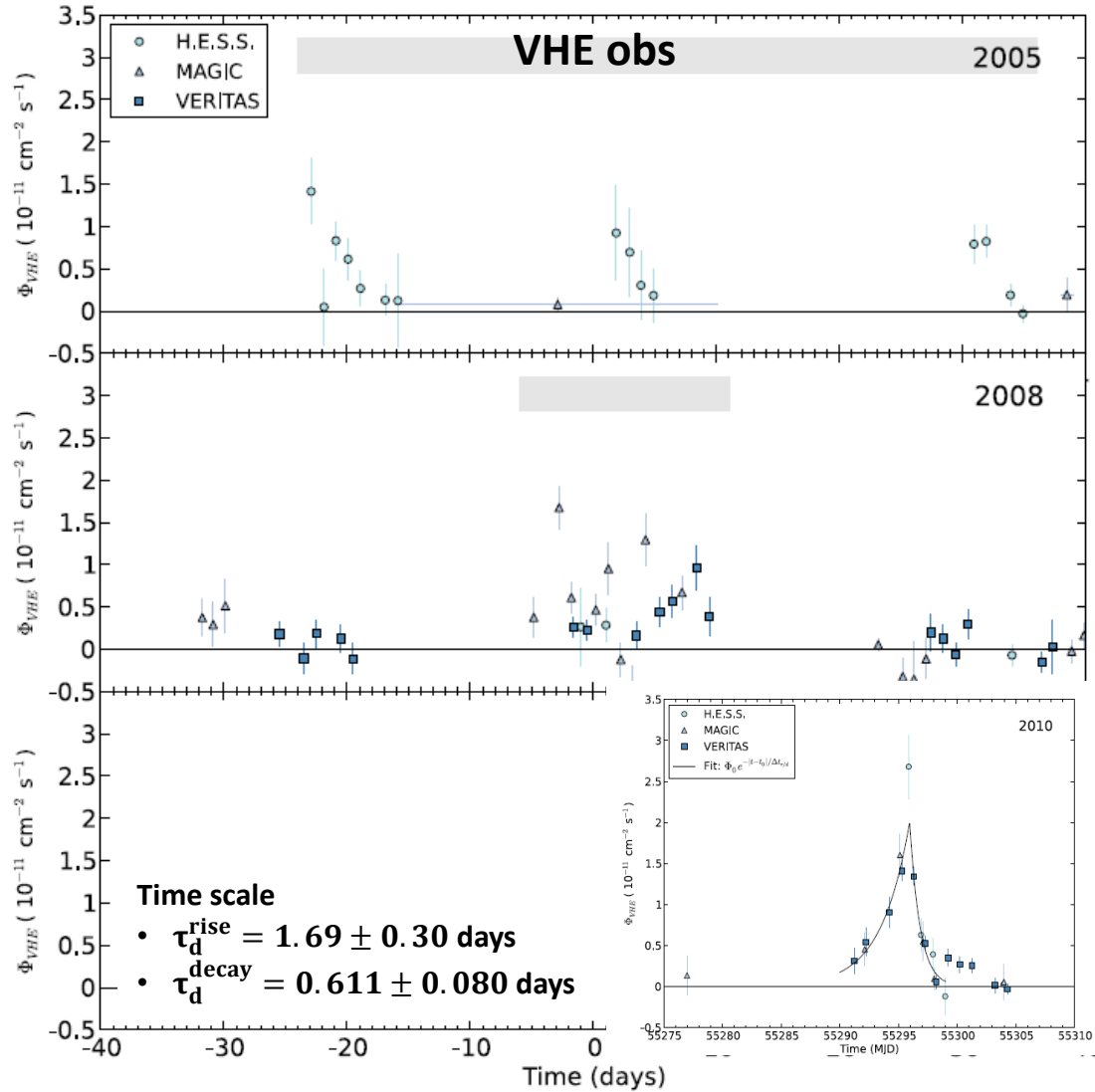
Fermi-LAT 3-1000 GeV
2 degrees
1900 ly



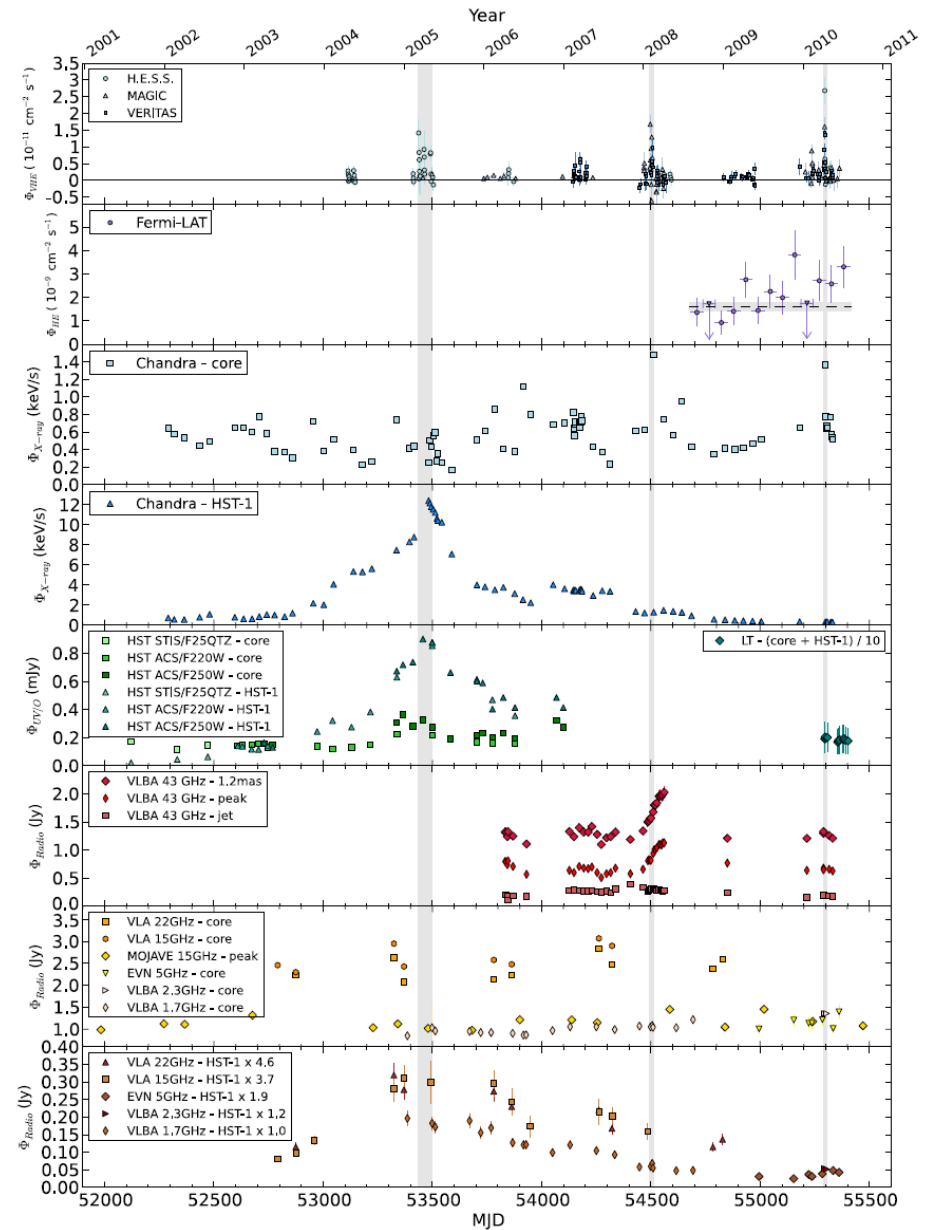
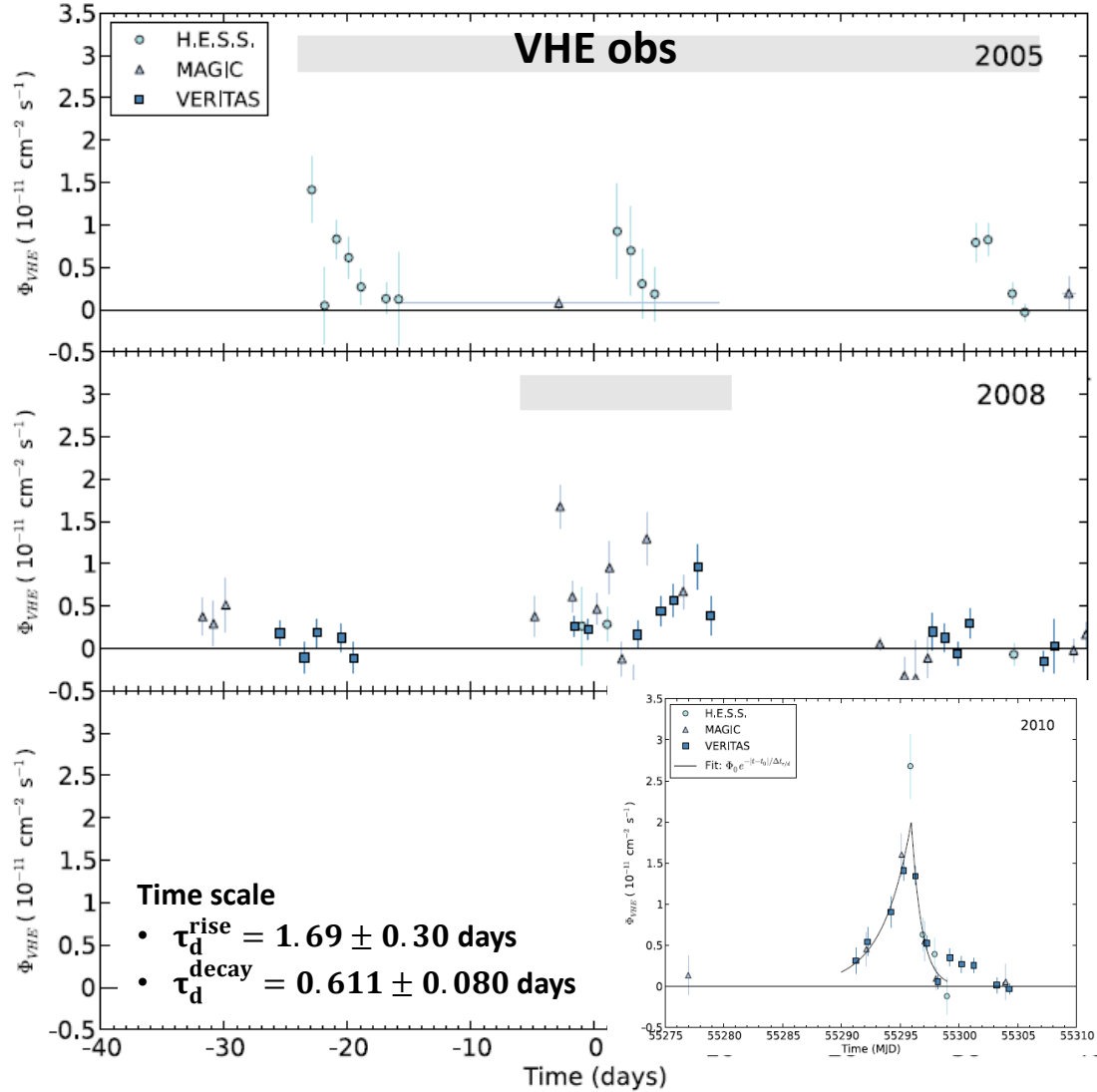
VHE observations of M 87



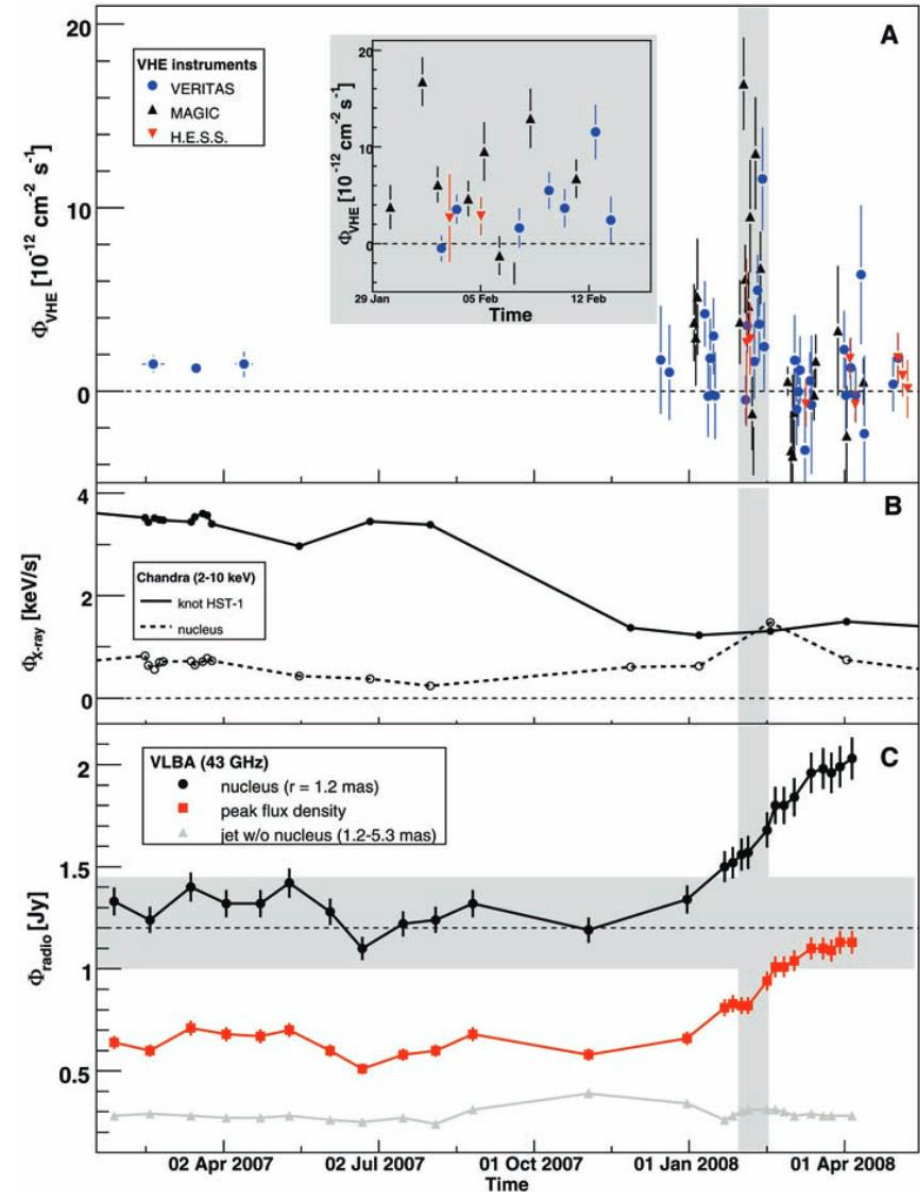
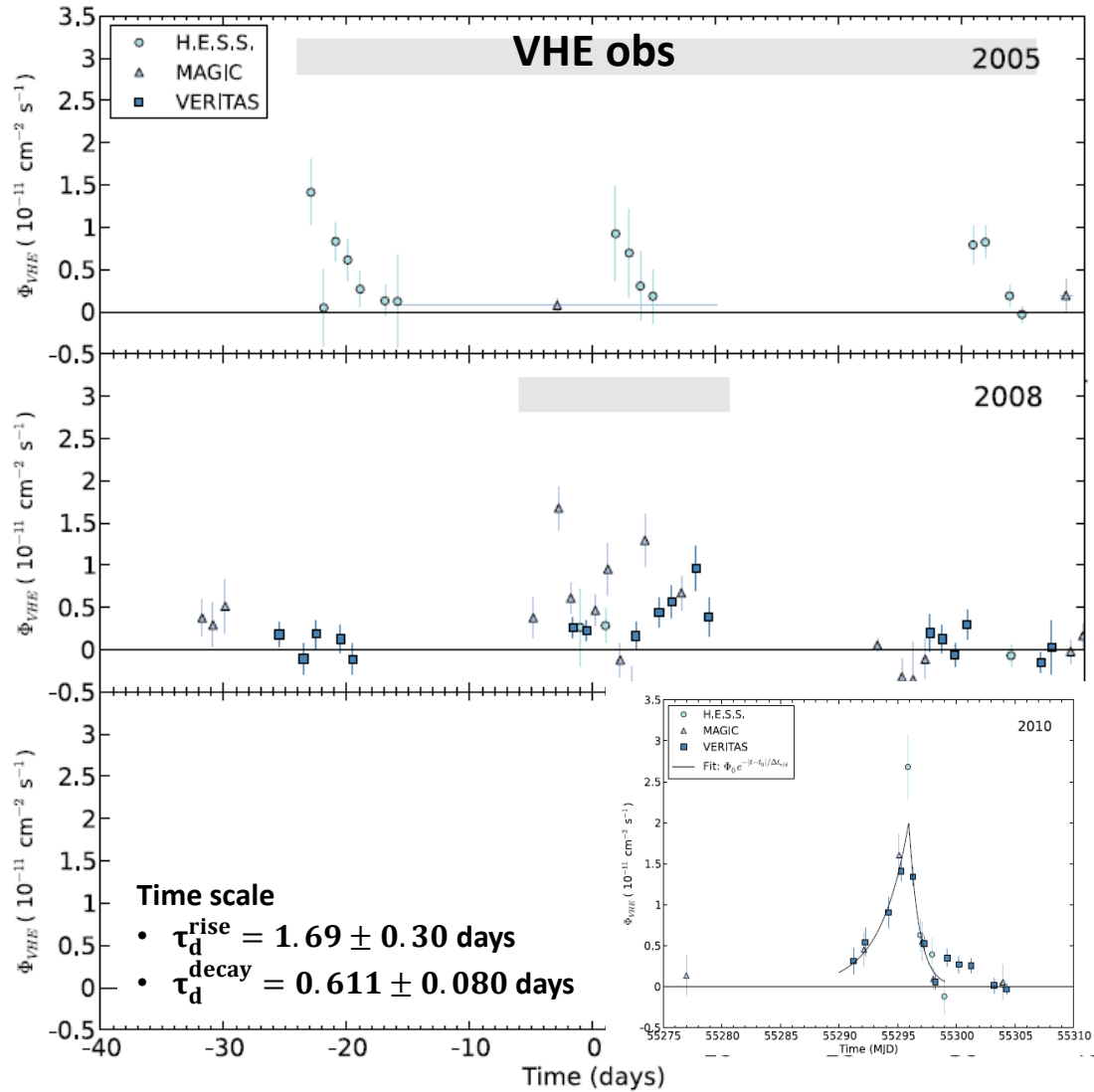
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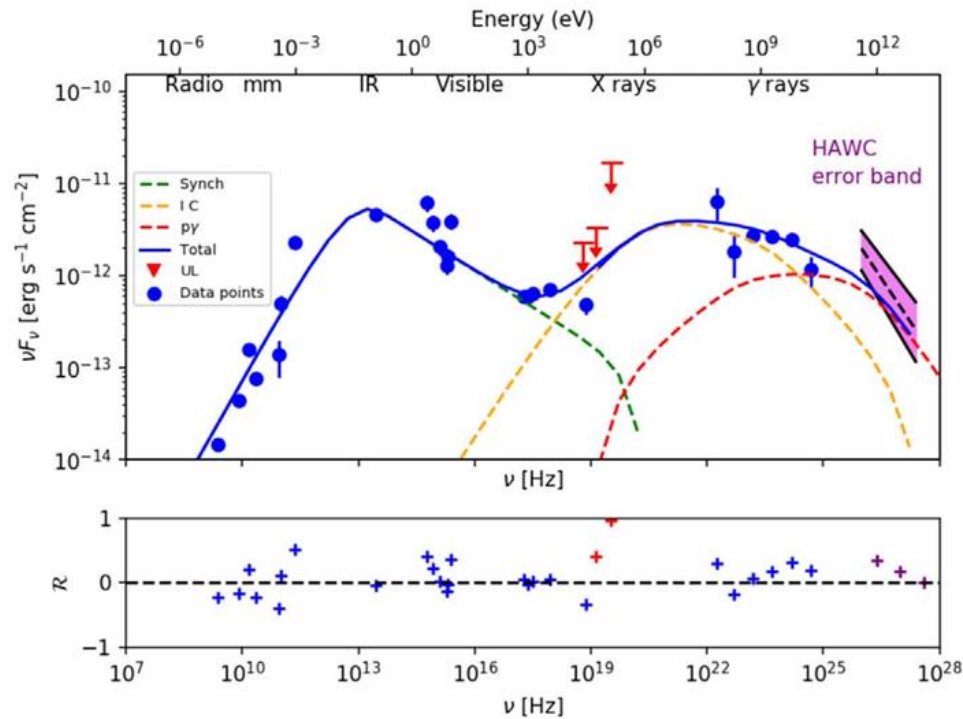
VHE observations of M 87



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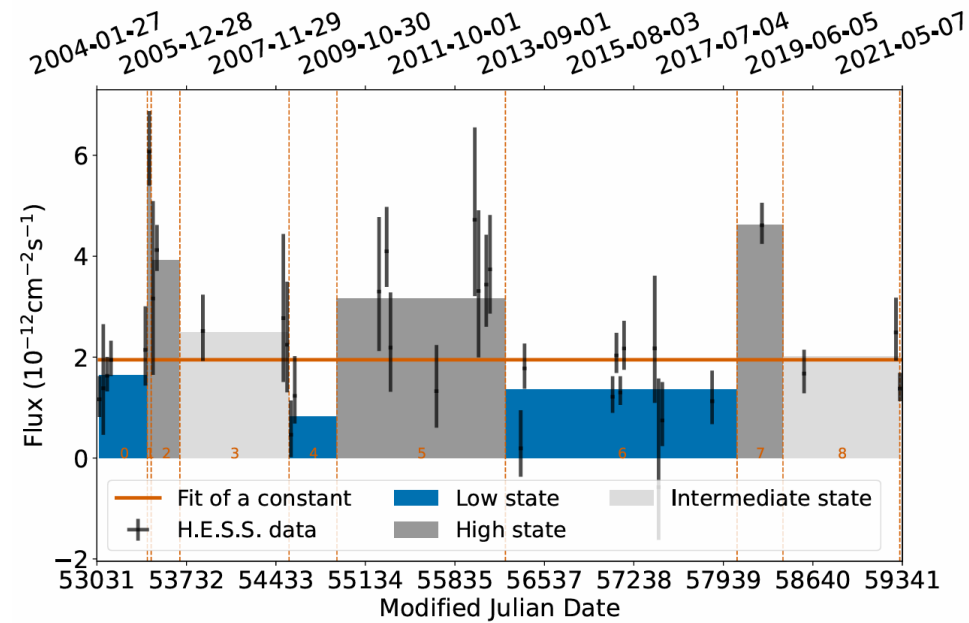


HAWC, 2022



- Significance: $\sim 4 \sigma$
- EBL model: Domínguez et al. (2011)
- Intrinsic $\Gamma = 2.63 \pm 0.22_{\text{sta}} \pm 0.10_{\text{syst}}$

H.E.S.S., 2023-2024



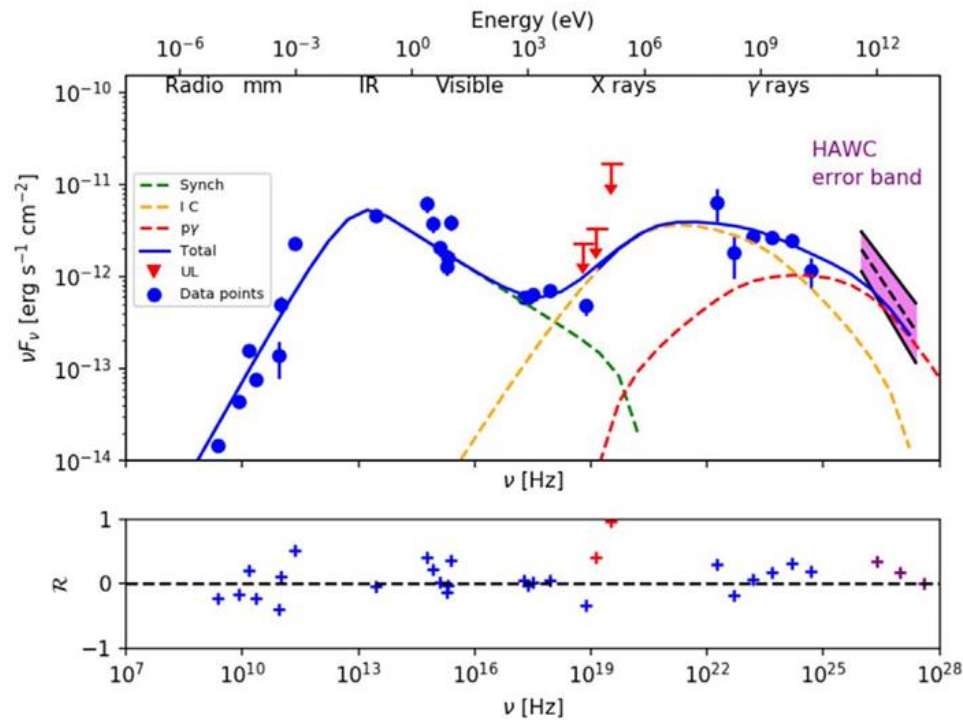
Low state

- Observed $\Gamma = 2.63 \pm 0.09$

High state

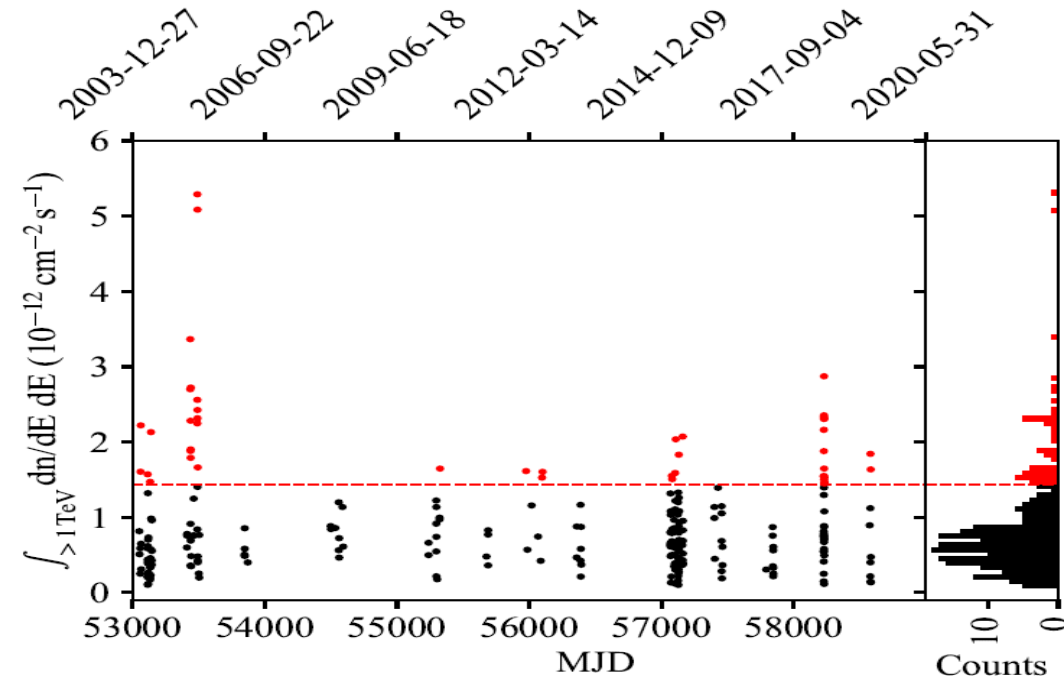
- Spectrum: log-parabola
- EBL model: Finke 2022
- Intrinsic $\Gamma = 1.80 \pm 0.08, \beta = 0.27 \pm 0.08$

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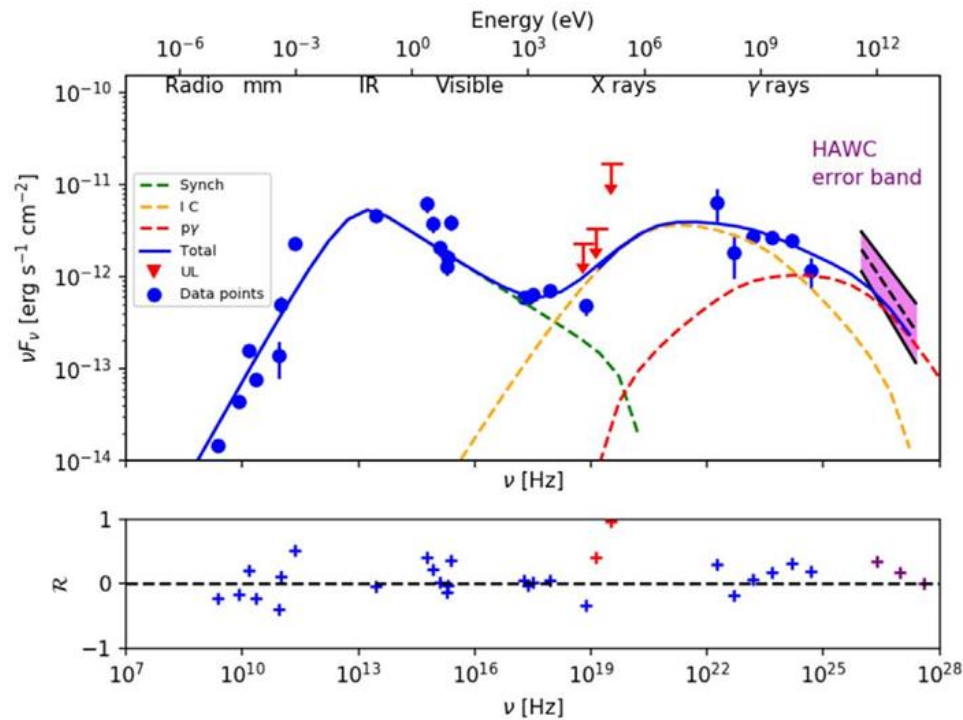
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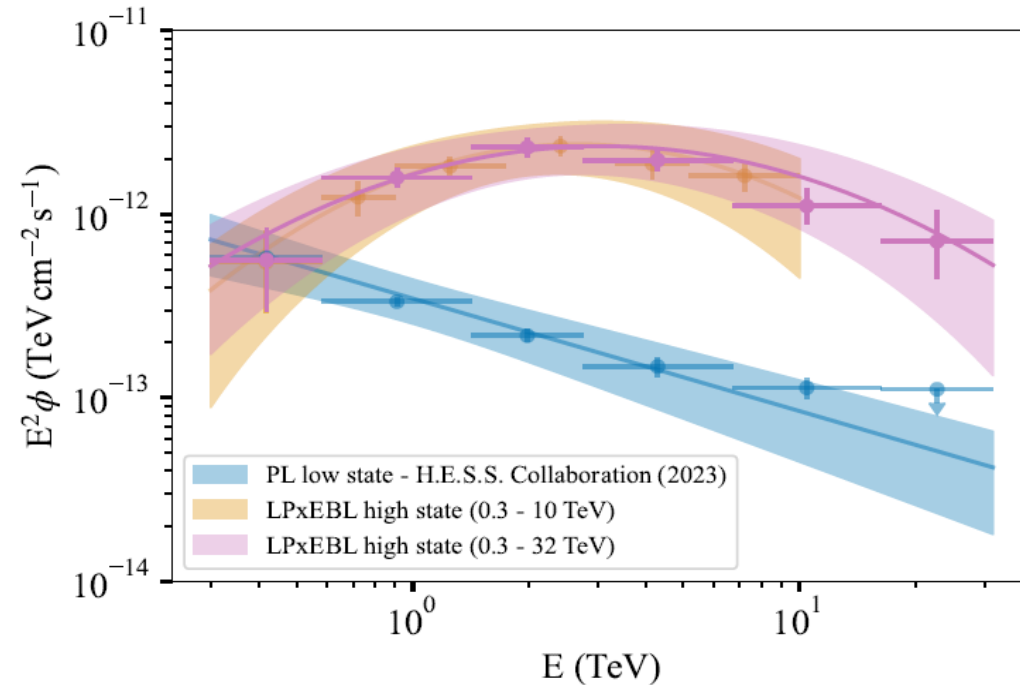
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High state

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LHAASO observations

Data

- WCDA 1026 days + KM2A 884 days

Method

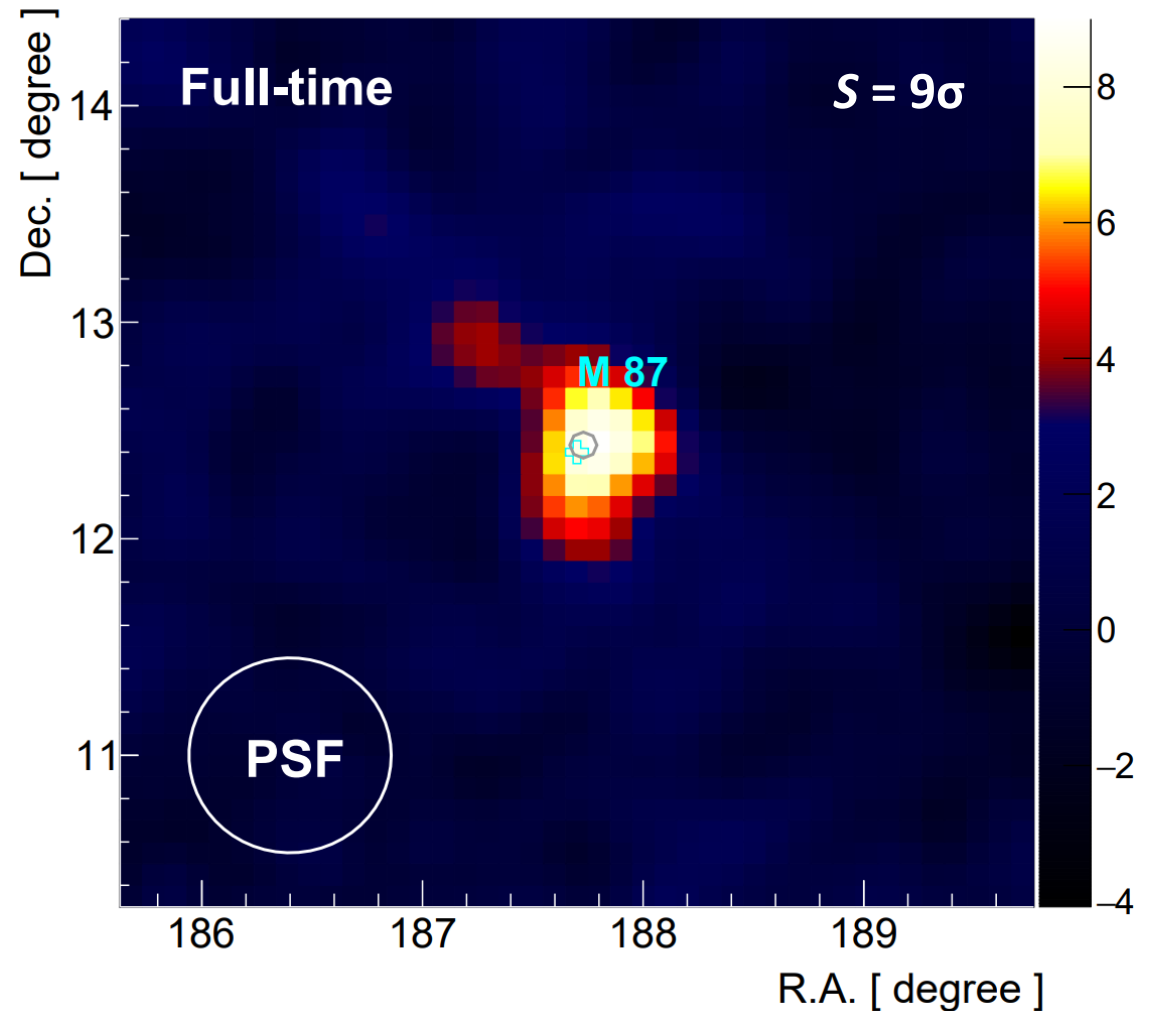
- Background estimation
 - Direct integral method
- Binned maximum likelihood fitting

- Best-fit position 0.03° away from the radio position of core

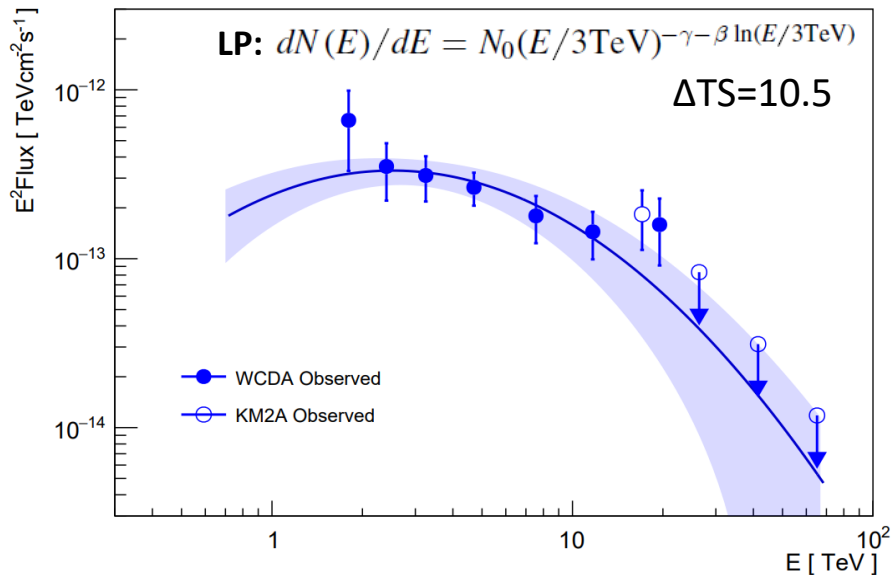
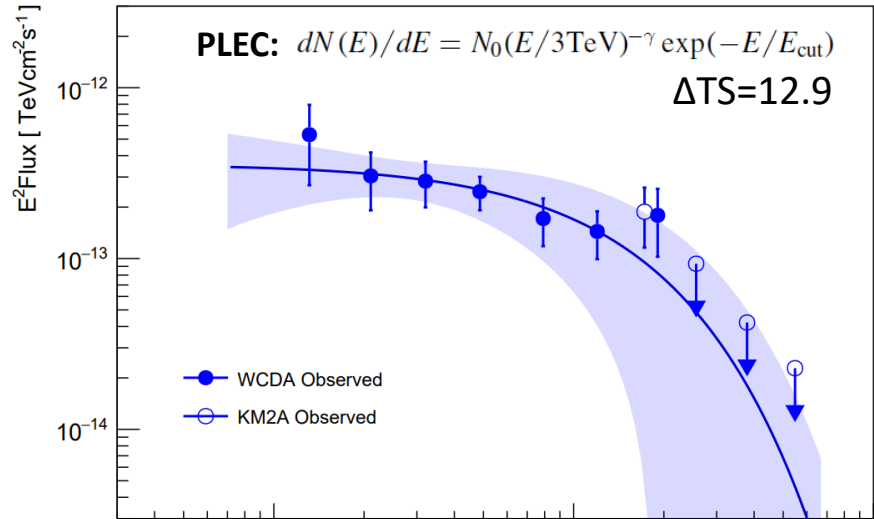
➔ **spatially associated with M 87**

- TS between point-like model and extended gaussian model is smaller than 0.1

➔ **no extended emission detected.**



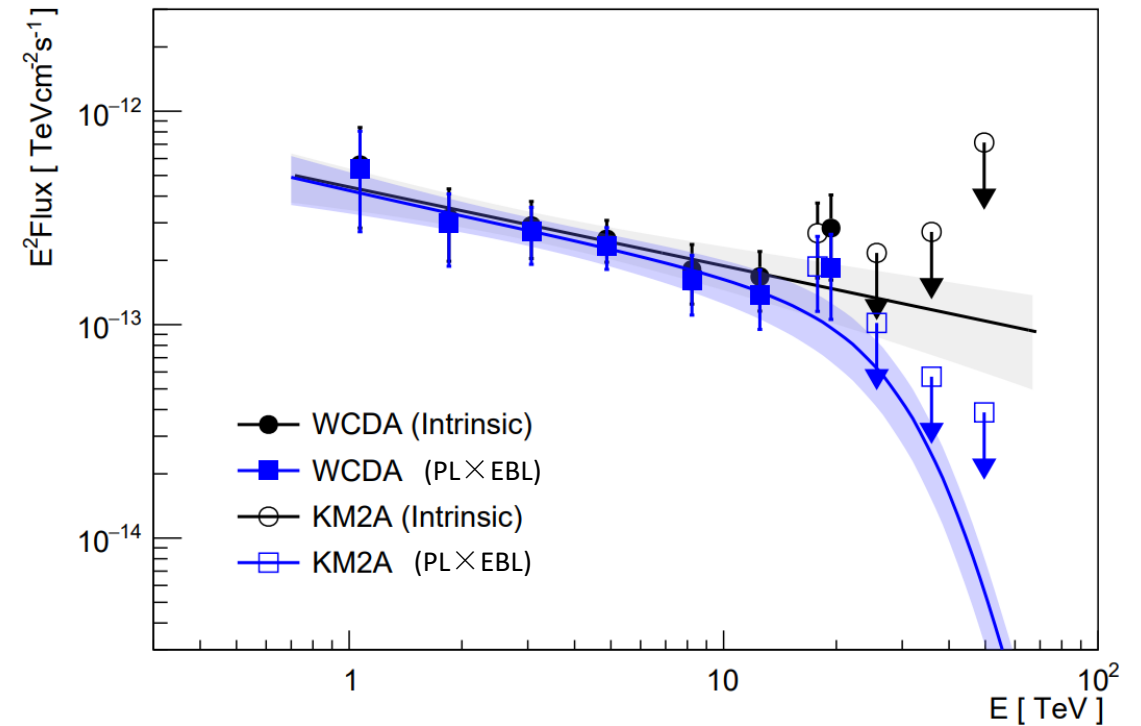
➤ Observed full-time VHE spectra of M87



? origin of cutoff shape: absorption of EBL or curved intrinsic SED

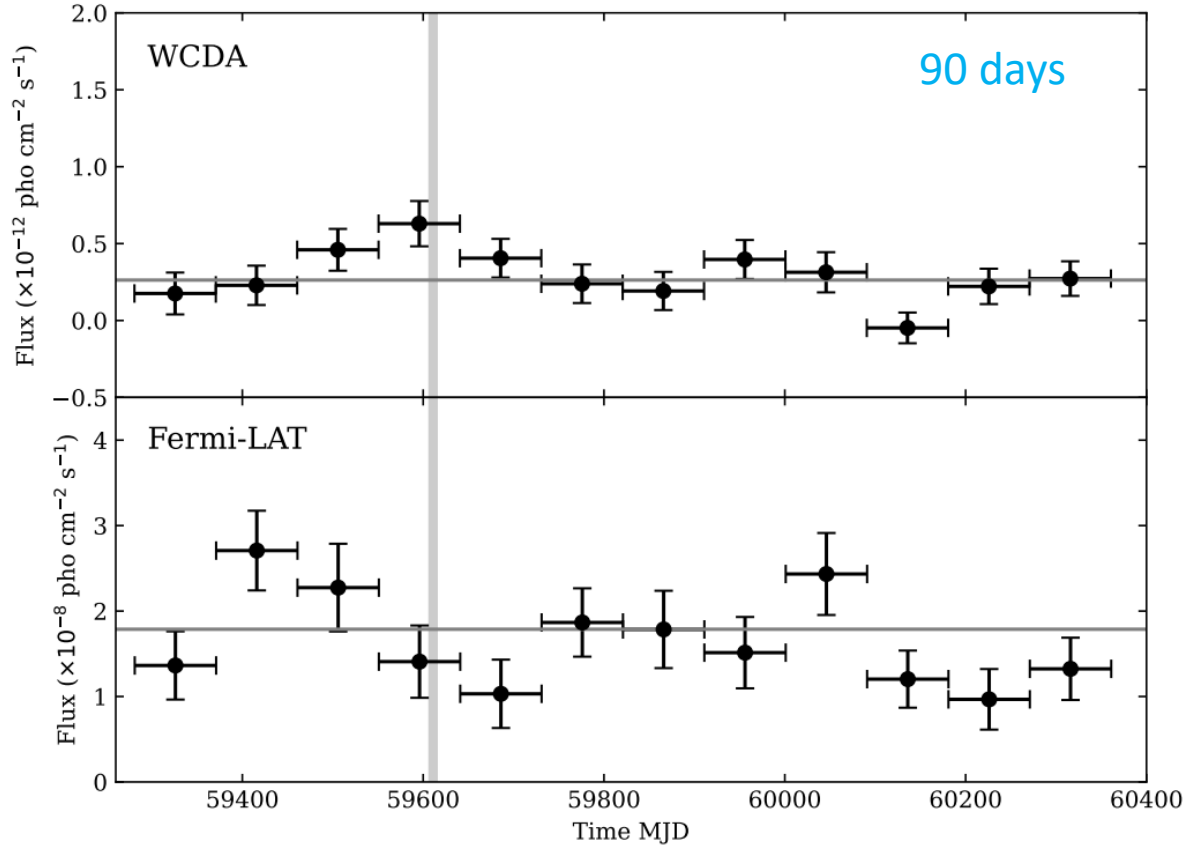
➤ Intrinsic full-time VHE spectra of M87

SED model	$N_0@3\text{ TeV}$ ($10^{-13}\text{ TeV}^{-1}\text{ cm}^{-2}\text{ s}^{-1}$)	γ	$\beta (E_{\text{cut}}/\text{TeV})$	$E_{\gamma,\text{max}}$ (TeV)	ΔTS
PL	0.327 ± 0.050	2.37 ± 0.14	...	19.4	0
LP	0.327 ± 0.056	2.37 ± 0.17	$\beta = 0.00 \pm 0.78$	19.4	-0.12
PLEC	0.337 ± 0.058	2.30 ± 0.18	$E_{\text{cut}} = 117 \pm 309$	19.1	0.07

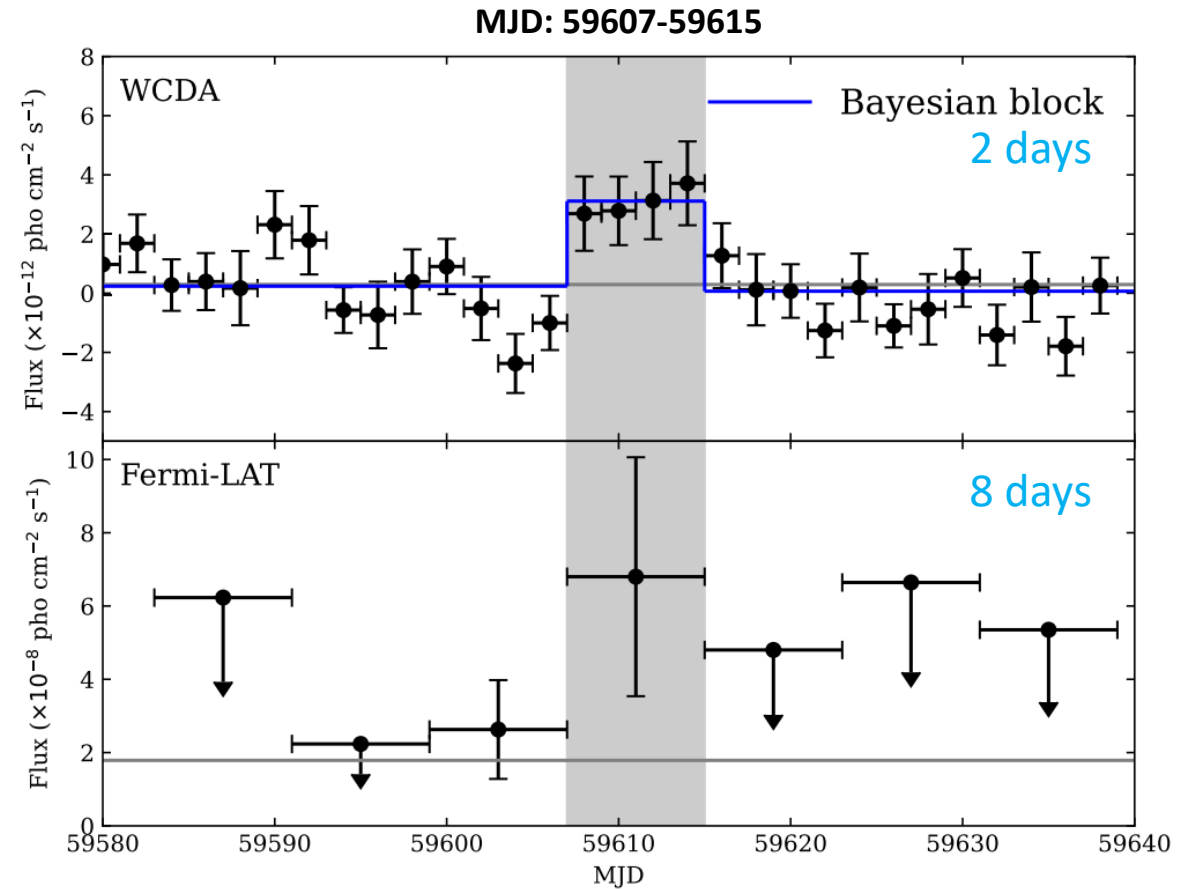


➔ cutoff shape in the observed SED could be fully caused by EBL

➤ WCDA and Fermi-LAT light curve

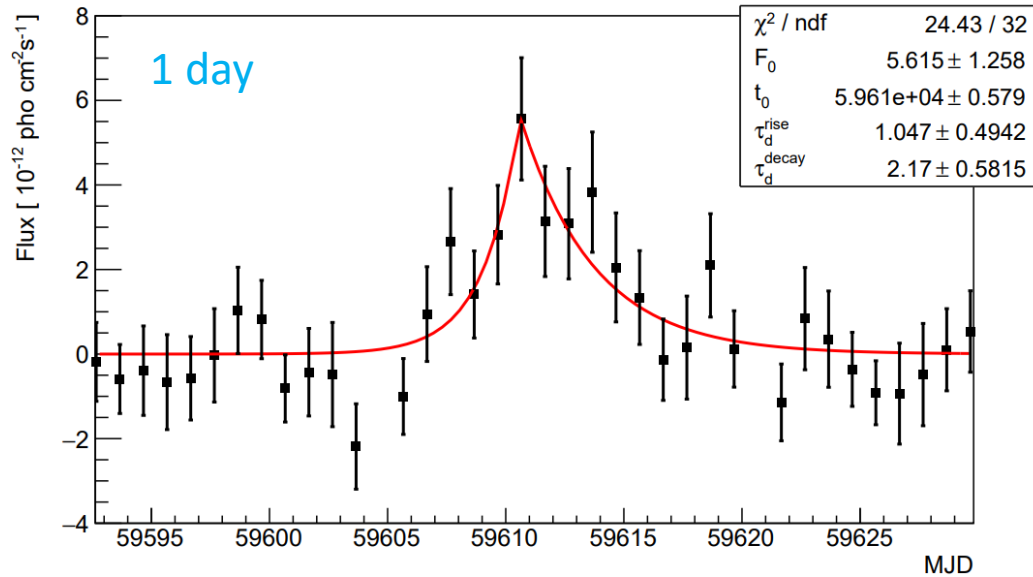


- TS of each time interval larger than 4
➔ **detection of long-term steady emission**



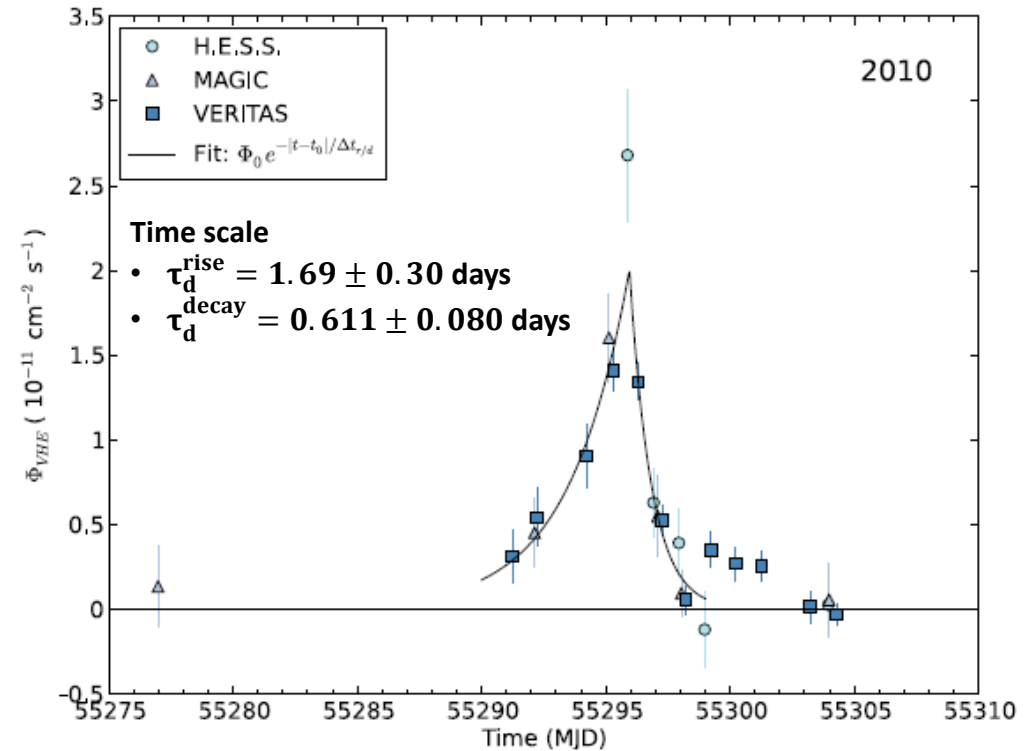
- For 2-days WCDA light curve, likelihood variability test of a constant flux \rightarrow p-value of 4×10^{-3}
- Post-trial significance of M 87 within the block is 4.4σ

➤ Temporal analysis: time scale of the flare



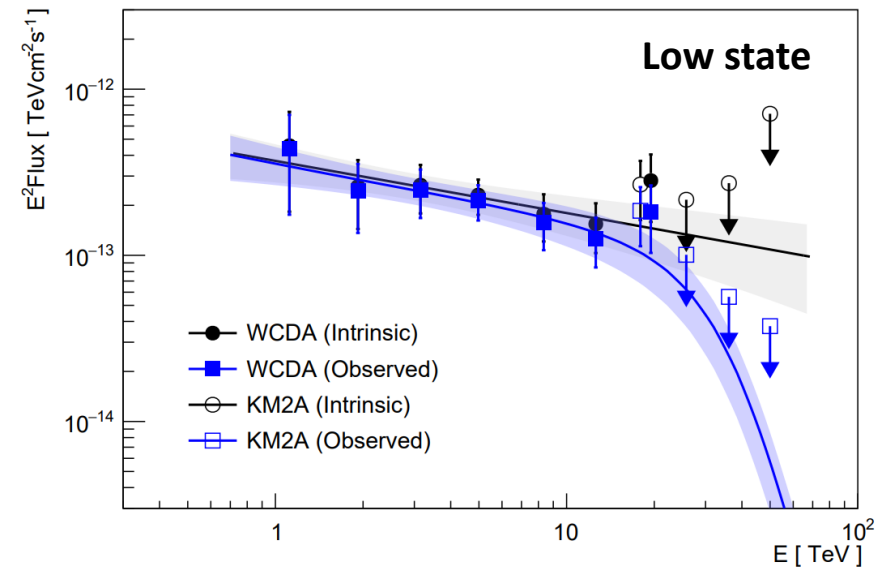
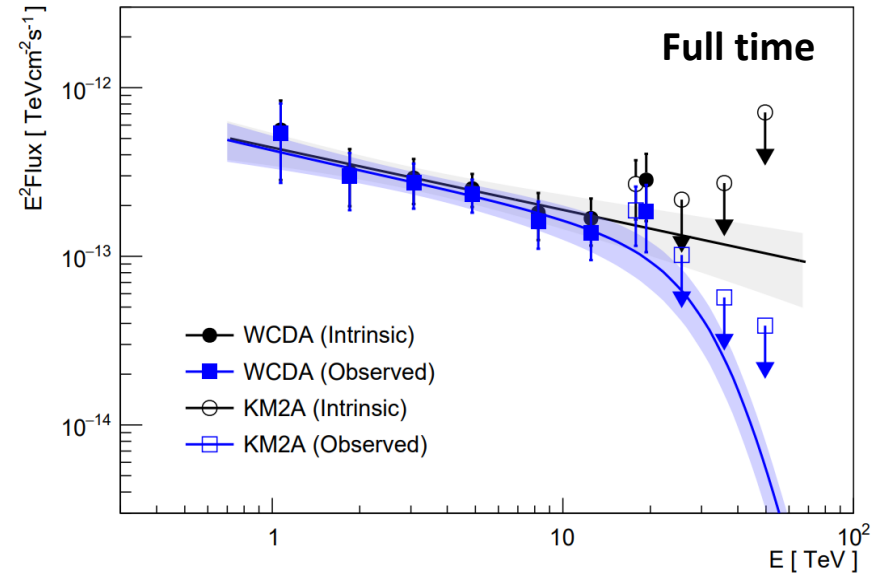
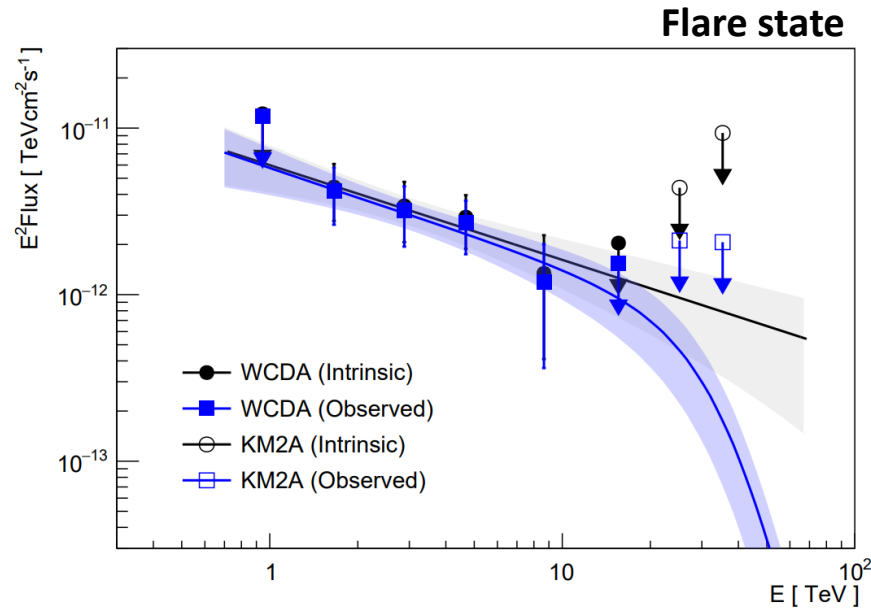
$$\Phi = \Phi_0 \times e^{-|t-t_0|/\Delta\tau} \text{ with } \begin{cases} \Delta\tau = \Delta\tau^{\text{rise}} & \text{for } t < t_0 \\ \Delta\tau = \Delta\tau^{\text{decay}} & \text{for } t \geq t_0 \end{cases}$$

Parameter	Value	Unit
Fit range	59593–59629	MJD
F_0	$(5.43 \pm 1.22) \times 10^{-13}$	$\text{TeV}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$
t_0	59610 ± 0.58	MJD
τ_d^{rise}	1.05 ± 0.49	day
τ_d^{decay}	2.17 ± 0.58	day



➔ The variability time scale is ~ 1 day, similar to that of the 2010 flare

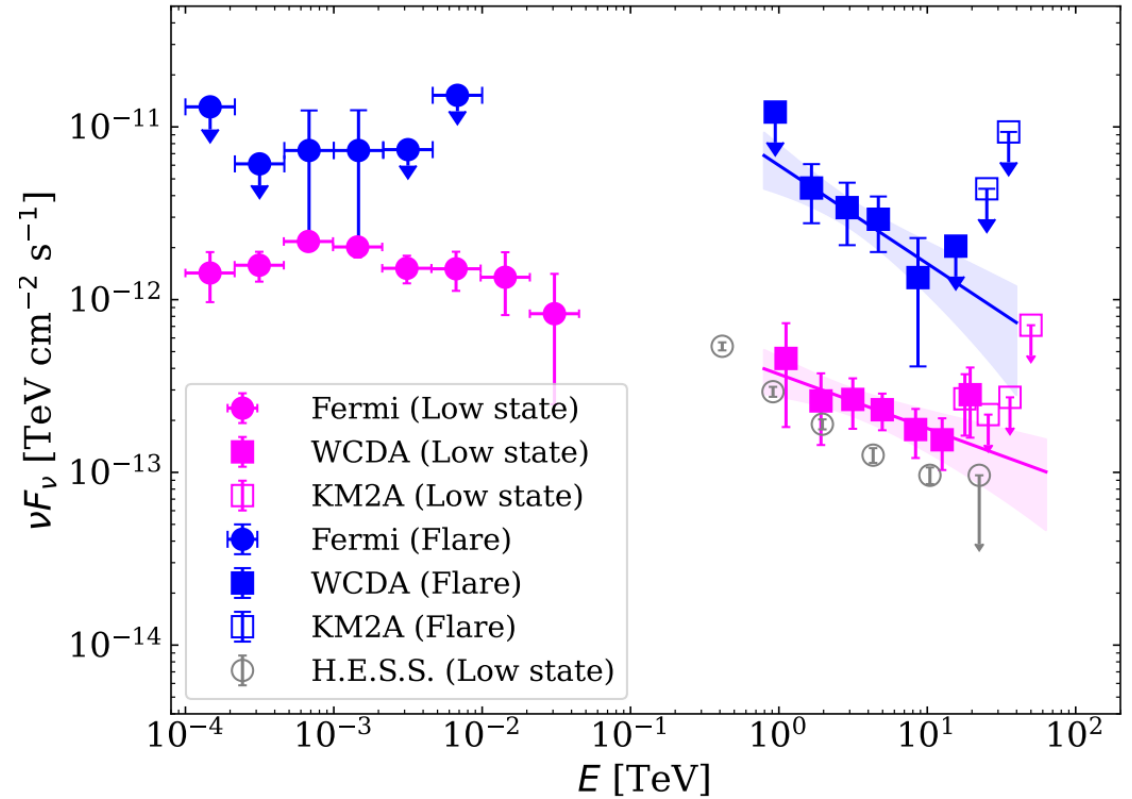
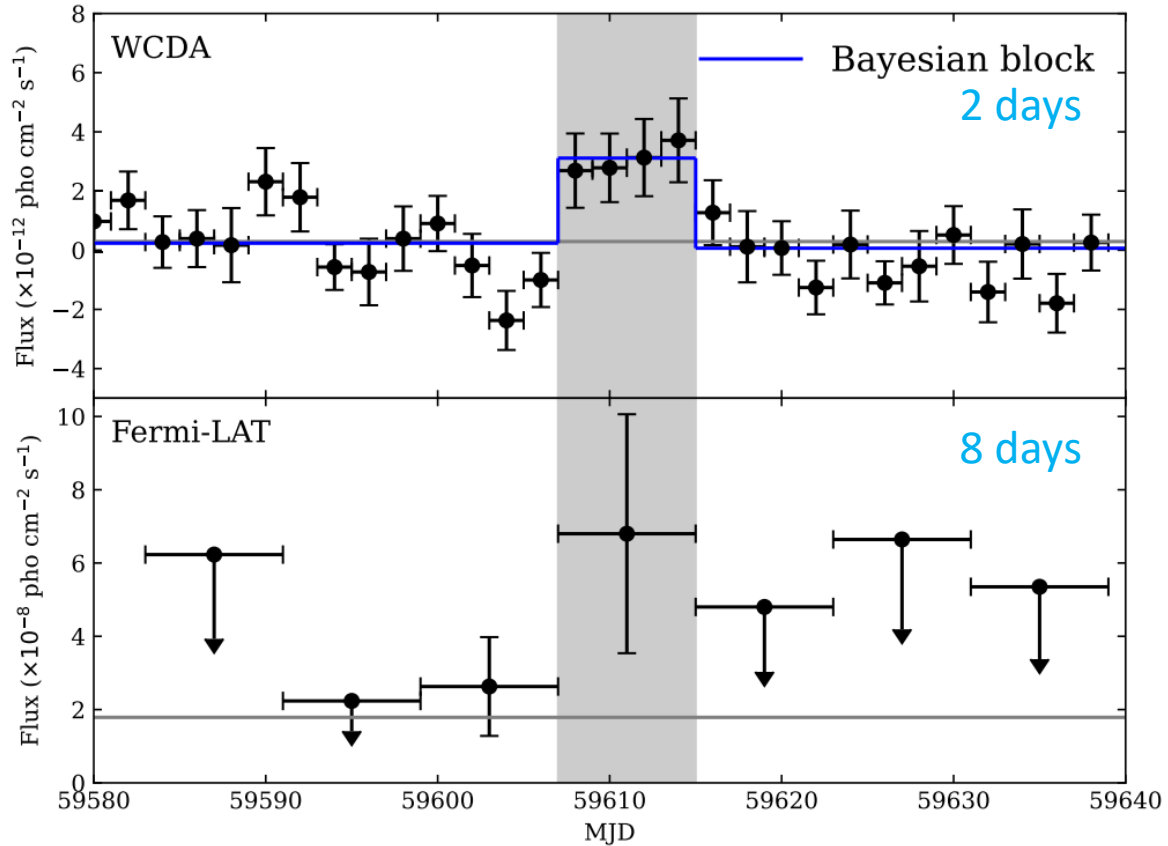
Temporal analysis: SED



State	TS	$N_0@3 \text{ TeV}$ ($\text{TeV}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$)	γ
Full time	87.4	$(3.27 \pm 0.50) \times 10^{-14}$	2.37 ± 0.14
Flare	40.1	$(3.56 \pm 0.67) \times 10^{-13}$	2.57 ± 0.23
Low	76.0	$(2.91 \pm 0.53) \times 10^{-14}$	2.31 ± 0.17

- The spectral index of the flare is slightly softer than that of the full-time data.
- The integral flux of flare state is 13 times higher than that of low state.

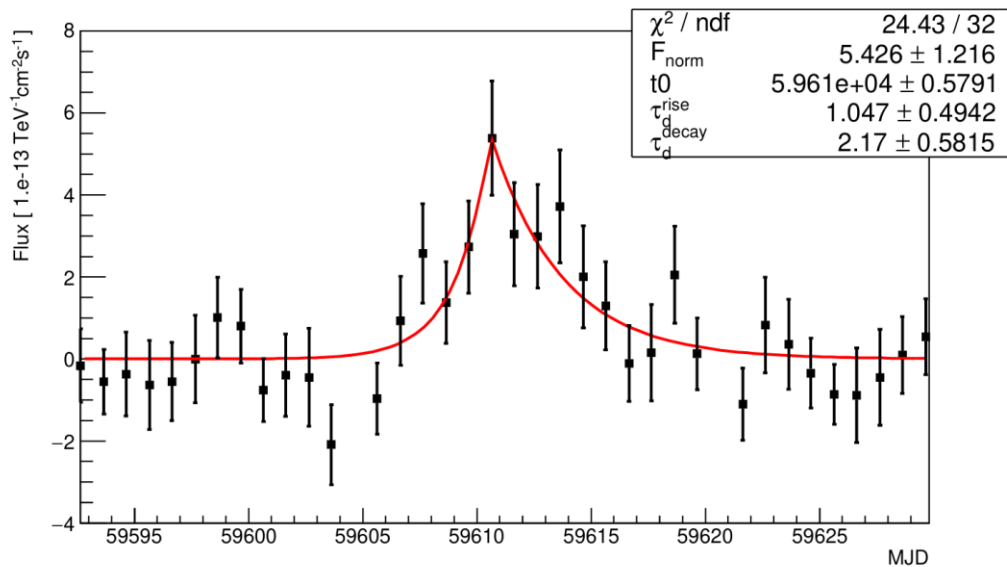
➤ Simultaneous Fermi-LAT observations



Time Interval (MJD)	TS	N_0 (photons $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$)	Γ_{LAT}
54682.65–60385	2434.31	$(1.67 \pm 0.05) \times 10^{-12}$	2.05 ± 0.03
59281–60385	505.29	$(1.78 \pm 0.13) \times 10^{-12}$	2.06 ± 0.05
59607–59615	9.50	$(2.75 \pm 1.48) \times 10^{-12}$	2.40 ± 0.35

- For the low-state SED, the VHE emission is consistent with the extrapolation of the GeV spectrum

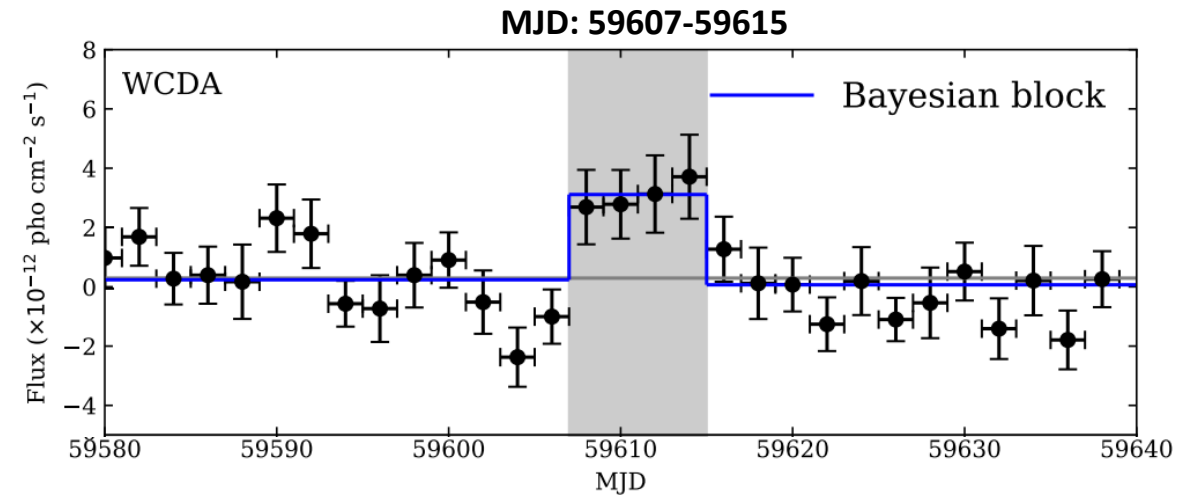
➤ The VHE flare



Parameter	Value	Unit
Fit range	59593–59629	MJD
F_0	$(5.43 \pm 1.22) \times 10^{-13}$	$\text{TeV}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$
t_0	59610 ± 0.58	MJD
τ_d^{rise}	1.05 ± 0.49	day
τ_d^{decay}	2.17 ± 0.58	day

the time scale is 1.05 days

➔ The size of the emission region $< 2.7 \times 10^{15} \delta \text{ cm}$, only a few Schwarzschild radii of the SMBH ($\sim 2 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}$)



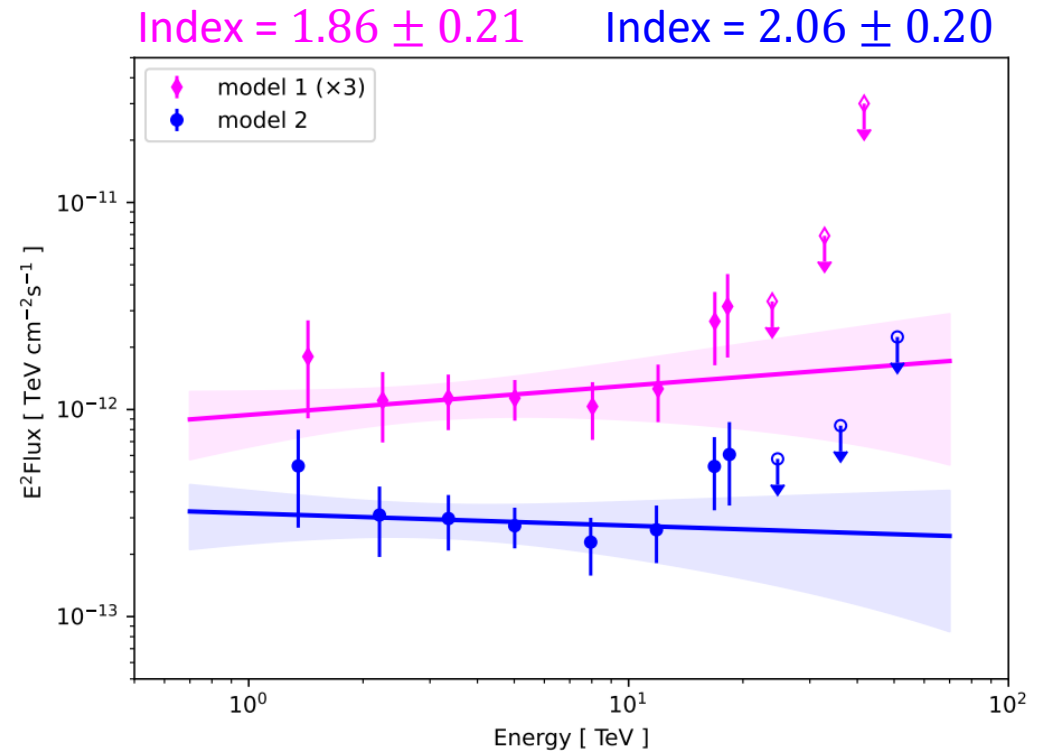
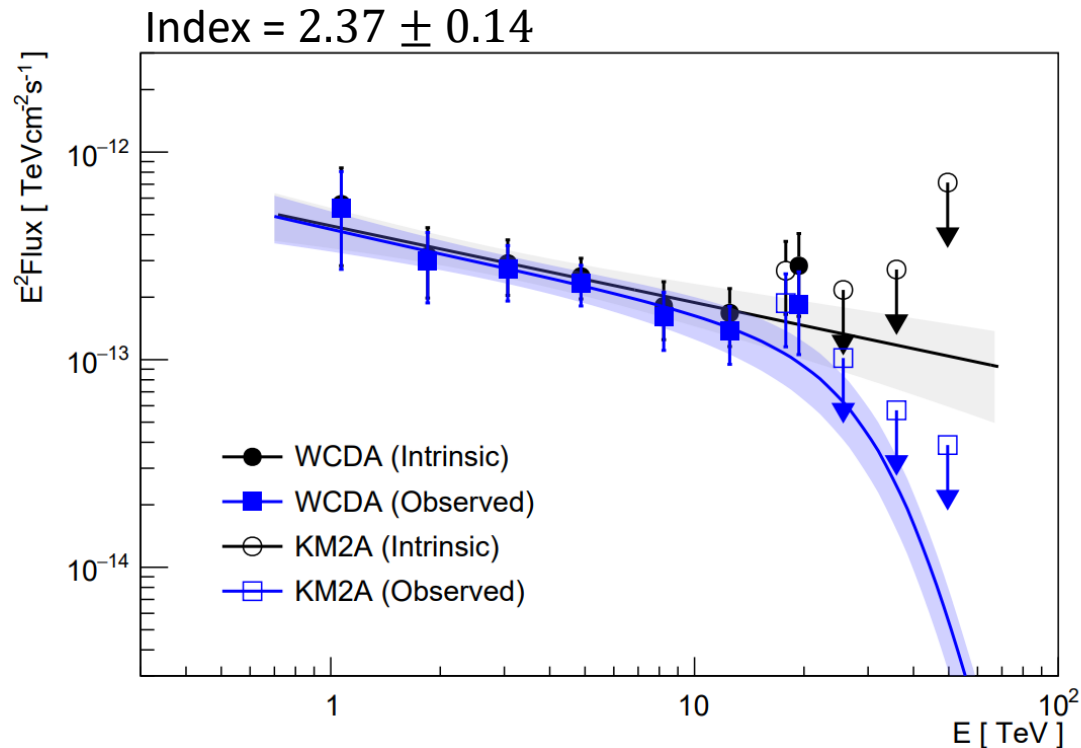
the duration of the flare is ~ 8 days

➔ **duty cycle** is 8days/3years $\sim 1\%$ for energy flux reaching $1.38 \times 10^{-11} \text{ erg/cm}^2/\text{s}$ in 1-20 TeV

duty cycle reported by IACT are $\sim 14\%$, 7% and 4% for flux of $0.5 \times 10^{-11}/\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$, $0.8 \times 10^{-11}/\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$ and $10^{-11}/\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$

(A. Abramowski et al. 2012)

➤ Influence of the possible internal absorption on the spectrum

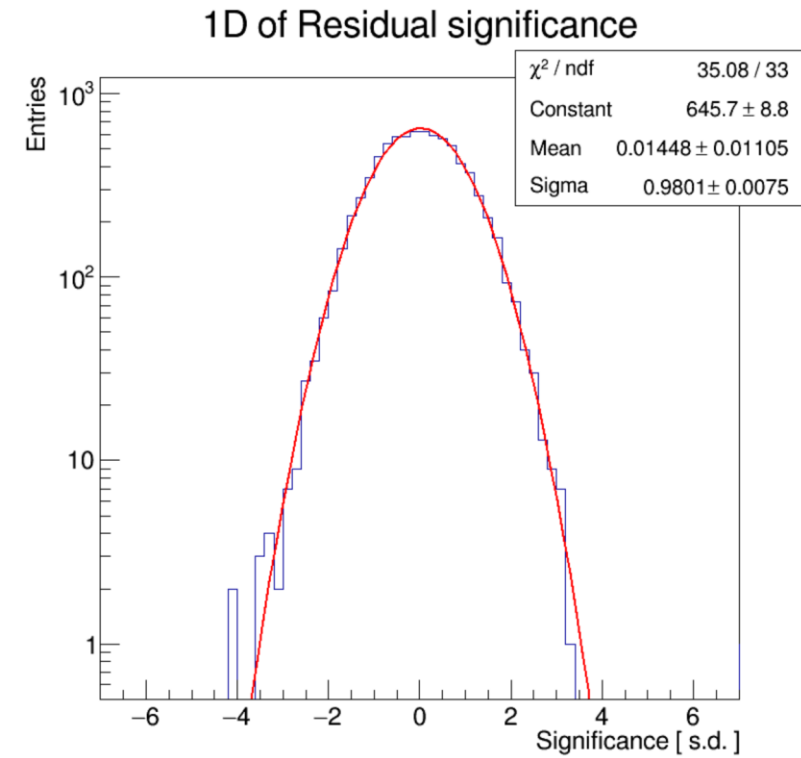
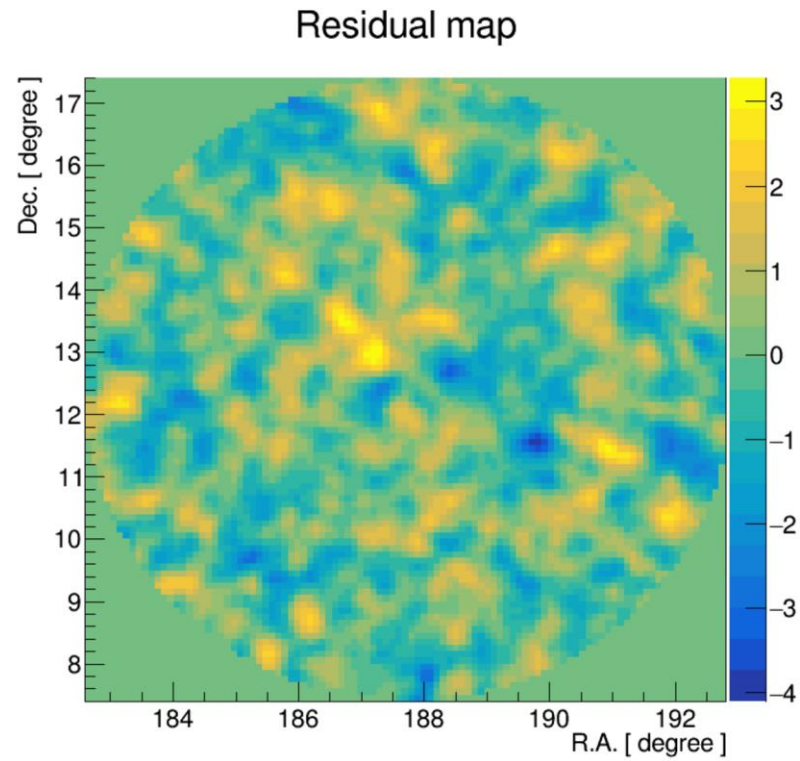
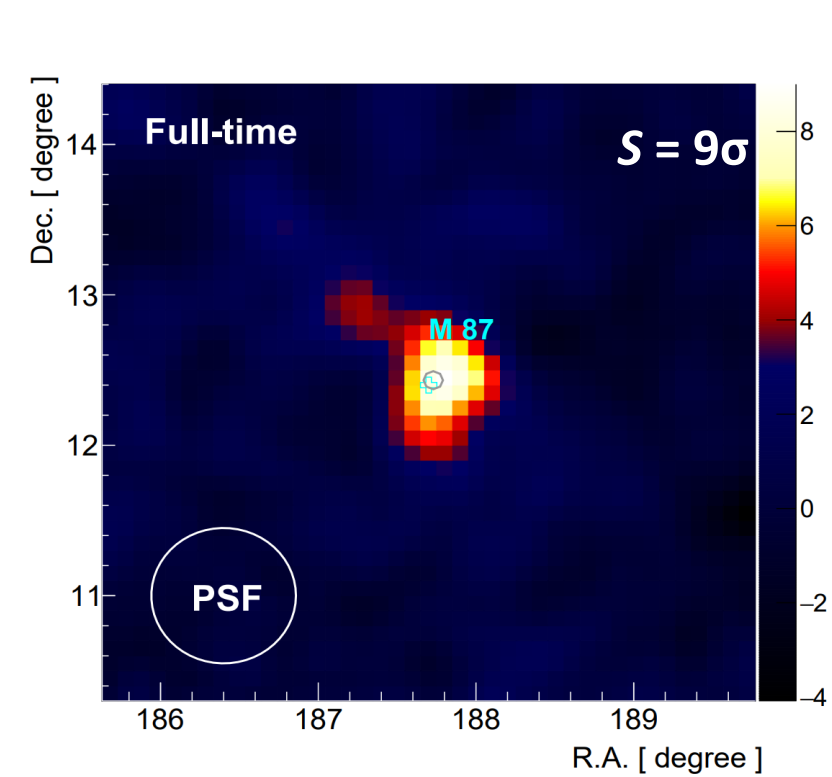


- assumed that the emitting region of the VHE emission during the low state is close the AGN core
- adopt two internal absorption models: [A. Neronov & F. A. Aharonian \(2007\)](#) and [K. A. Brodatzki et al. \(2011\)](#) and found that spectra become harder and the excess at 20 TeV becomes more pronounced

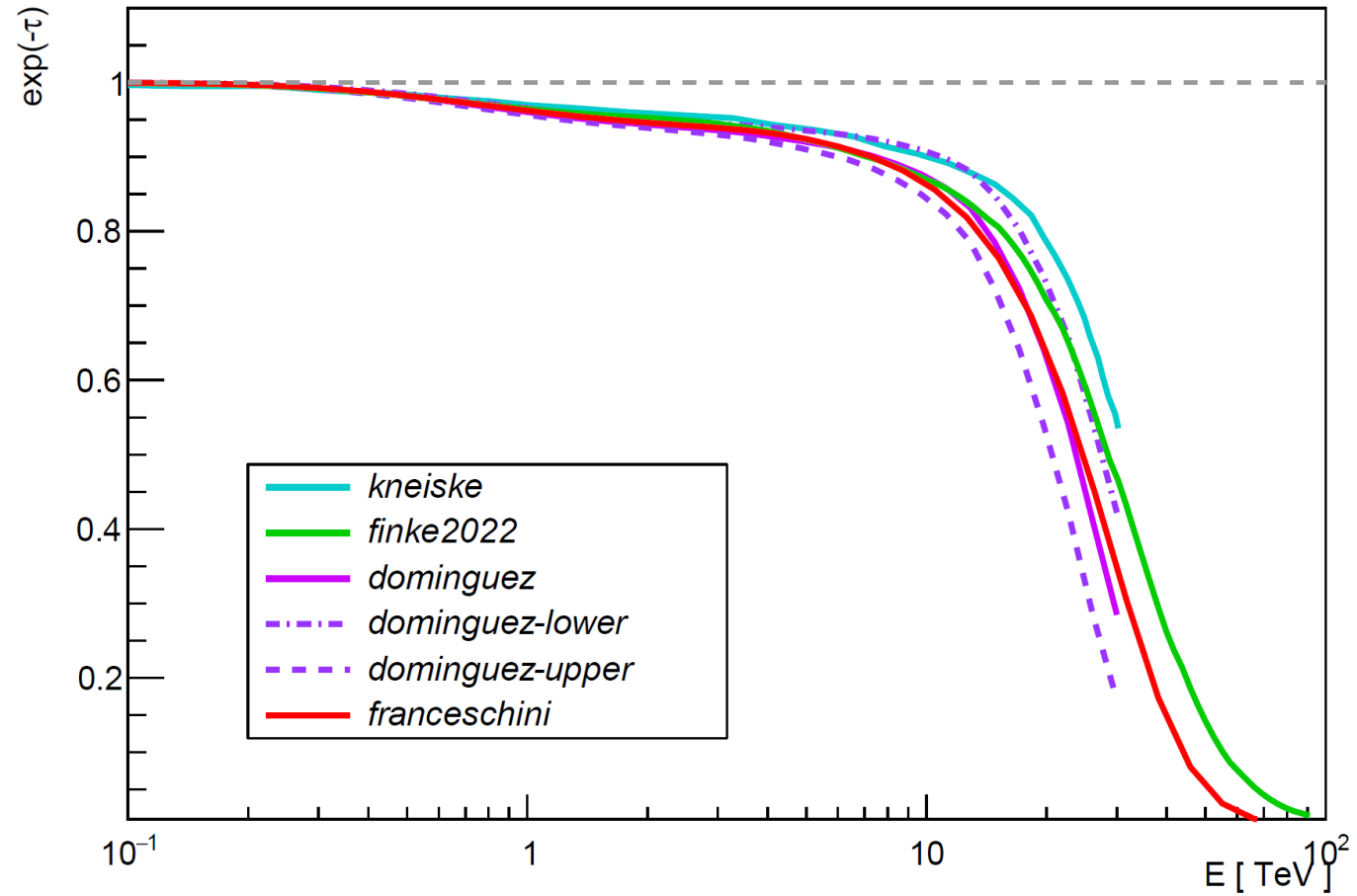
Summary

- With three years of LHAASO-WCDA data, M87 is detected with significance of 9σ . Full-time spectrum index is $\Gamma = 2.37 \pm 0.14$ and extends to $\sim >20\text{TeV}$.
- For the first time, 90-days light curve presents an steady flux, $F_0@3\text{TeV} = (0.327 \pm 0.050) \times 10^{-13}\text{TeV}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$.
- A flare with duration of a few days is detected with pre-trail significance of 6σ . Fitting with a two-sided exponential function gives time scale of ~ 1 day, which is consistent with IACTs' observations of the 2010 flare.
- Spectrum of flaring period is softer than that of full-time period and is roughly consistent with H.E.S.S. high state spectrum.

➤ Residual map



Optical depth (z=0.0042)



EBL Model	$N_0@3 \text{ TeV}$ ($10^{-13} \text{ TeV}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$)	γ	$E_{\gamma, \text{max}}$ (TeV)	TS	χ^2/ndf
<i>dominguez-upper</i>	0.323 ± 0.055	2.25 ± 0.18	18.4	87.5	3.47/4
<i>franceschini</i>	0.327 ± 0.050	2.37 ± 0.14	19.4	87.4	3.00/4
<i>kneiske</i>	0.330 ± 0.044	2.56 ± 0.12	20.6	84.4	3.97/4