

# Inverse Compton pulse profiles inferred from global PIC simulations

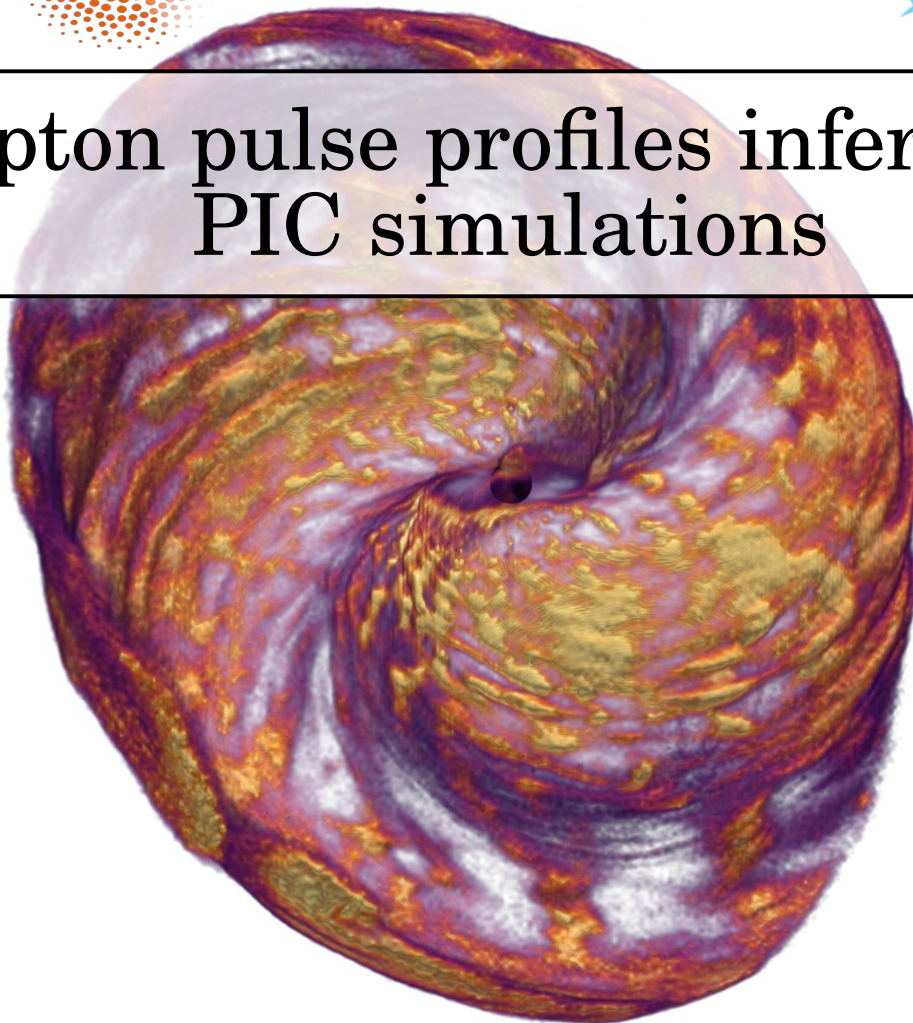
**Benoît Cerutti**

*CNRS & Univ. Grenoble Alpes  
IPAG  
France*

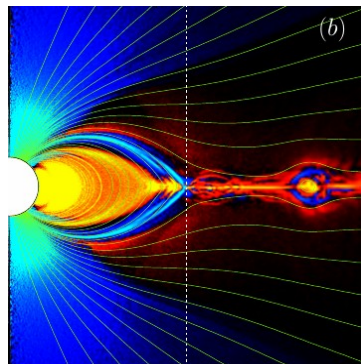
**Collaborators :**

**I. Contopoulos** (Athens)  
**G. Dubus** (Grenoble)  
**E. Figueiredo** (Grenoble)  
**A. Soudais** (Grenoble)

*Cerutti et al., submitted  
Soudais et al., A&A, 2024*



# Global PIC model (2014-): A mini-revolution in the field



## Columbia

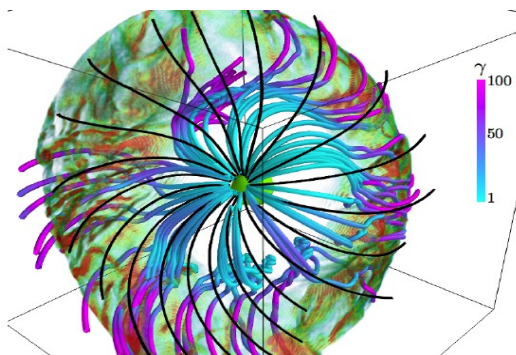
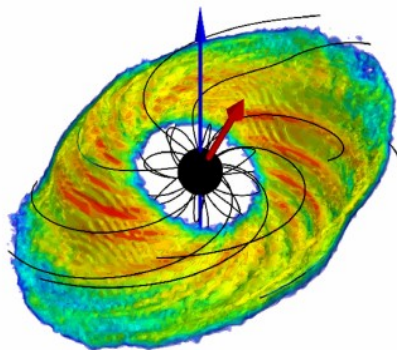
Andrei Beloborodov  
Alex Chen  
Rui Hu

*Code : Aperture*

## Grenoble

Benoît Cerutti  
Guillaume Dubus  
Enzo Figueiredo  
Claire Guépin  
Valentina Richard-Romei  
Adrien Soudais

*Code : Zeltron*



## Princeton/UMD

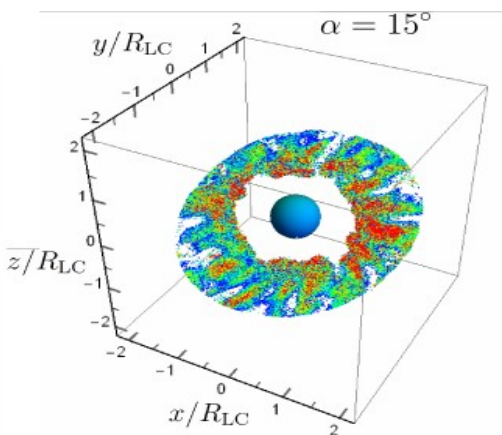
Sasha Philippov  
Anatoly Spitkovsky  
Hayk Hakobyan

*Code : Tristan*

## NASA/UMD

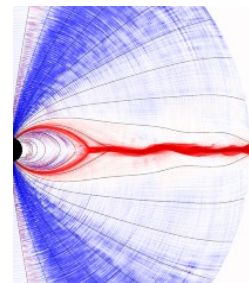
Brambilla  
Alice Harding  
Konstantinos Kalapotharakos  
Andrei Timokhin

*Code : C-3PA*



## Lisbon

Fabio Cruz  
Thomas Grismayer  
Luis Silva  
Rui Torres



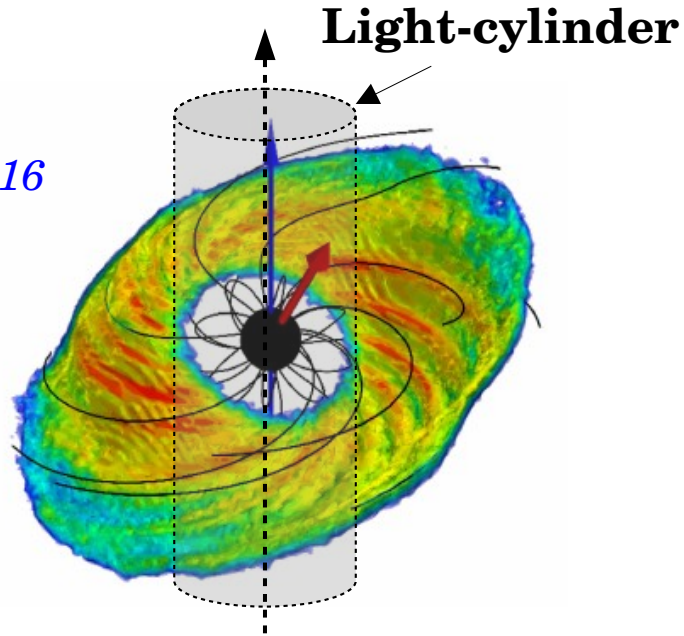
*Code : Osiris*

**Consensus :  $\gamma$ -rays originate from the wind current sheet**

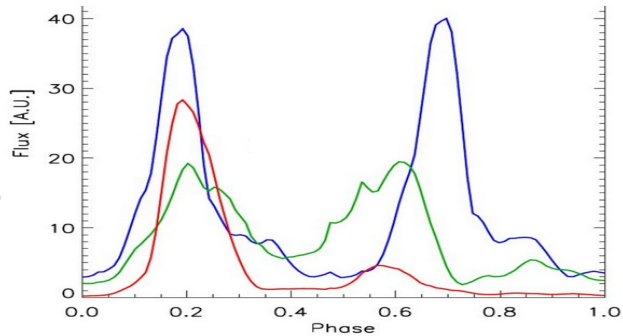
# Global PIC model: reconnection-powered pulses

2016

*Cerutti et al. 2016*



**Synchro-curvature**



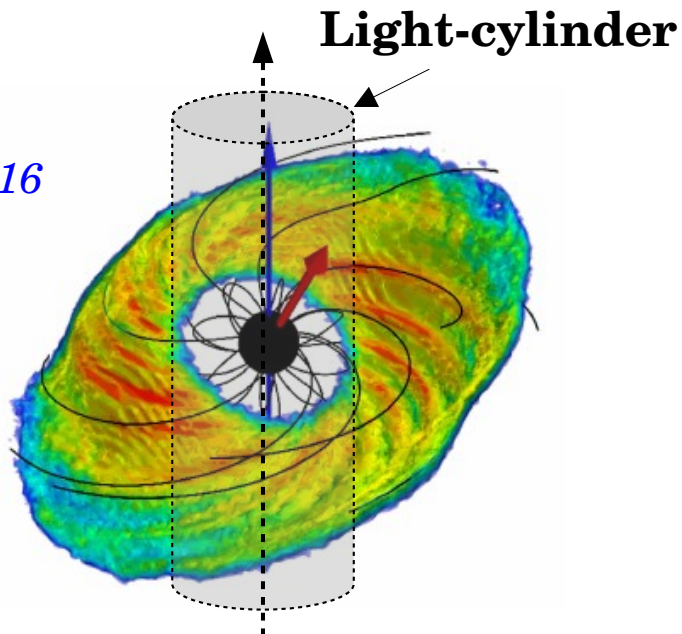
**Synthetic  
pulse profiles**



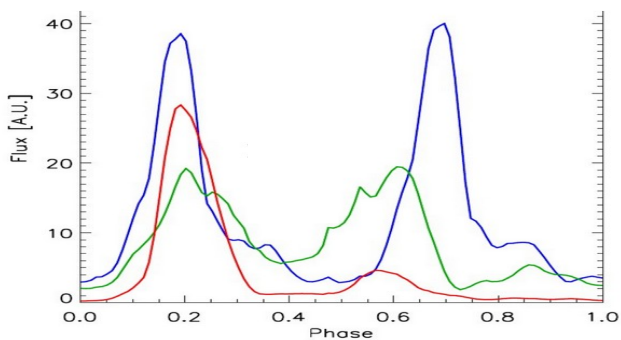
# Global PIC model: reconnection-powered pulses

2016

*Cerutti et al. 2016*



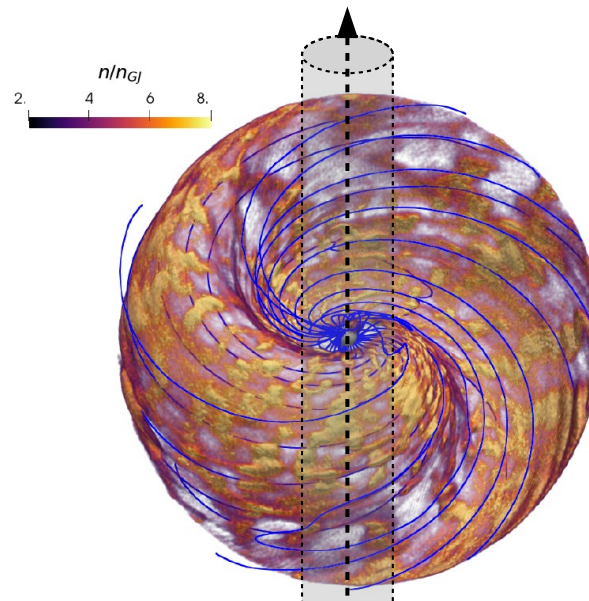
**Synchro-curvature**



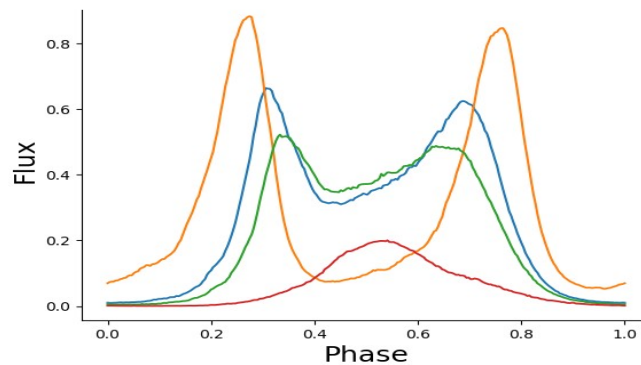
**This work**

2024

*Cerutti et al. (submitted)*



**Synchro-curvature + Inverse Compton**



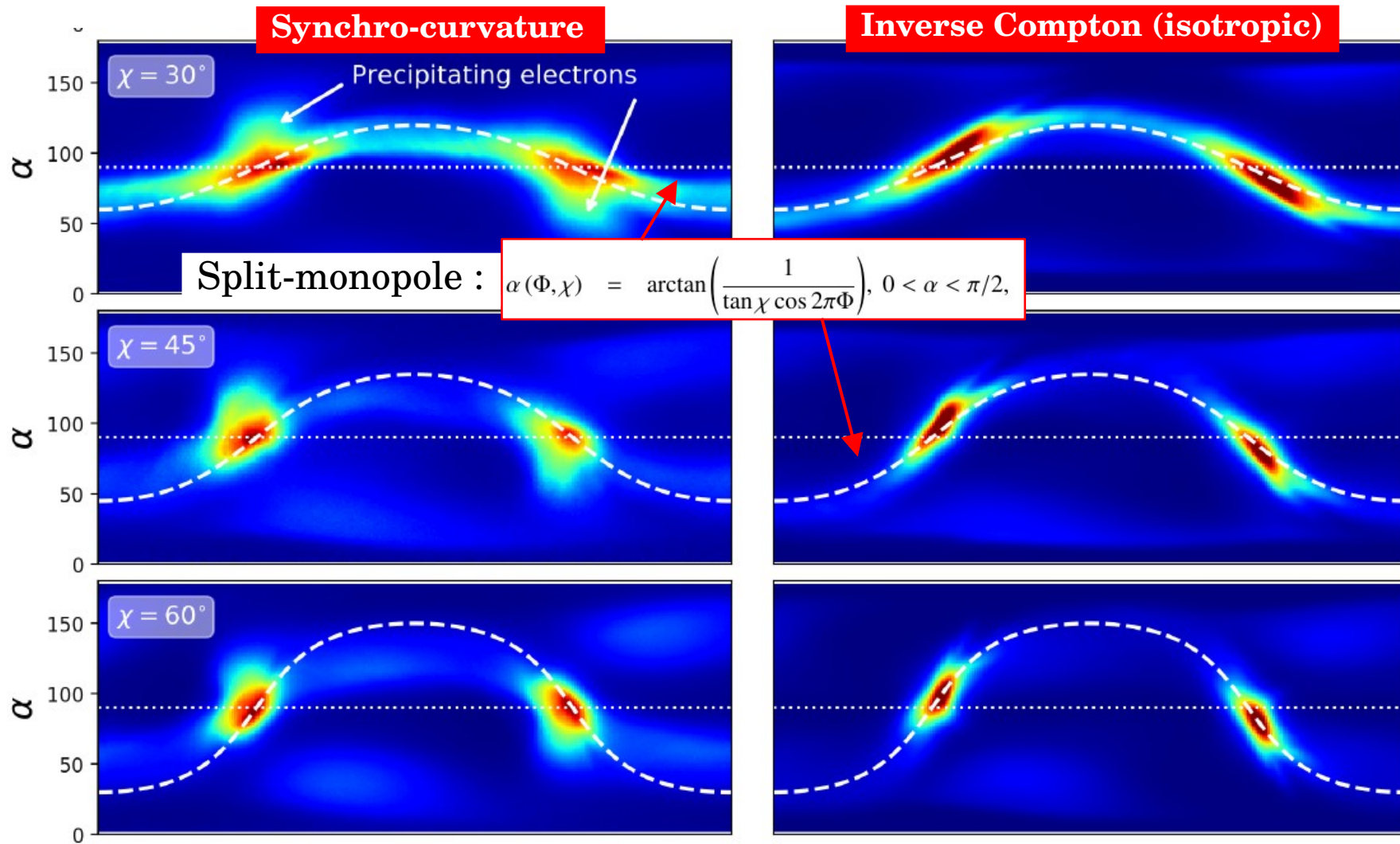
**Target photons :**

1. Isotropic
2. Radial

**(IC cooling negligible)**

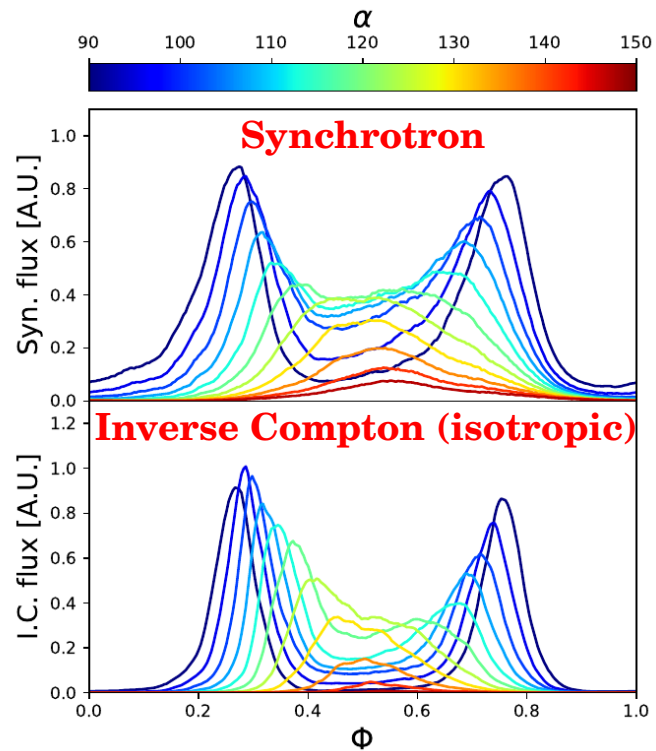
**Synthetic pulse profiles**

# Ab-initio modeling of emitted skymaps



The model can reproduce generic feature of *Fermi* pulse profiles

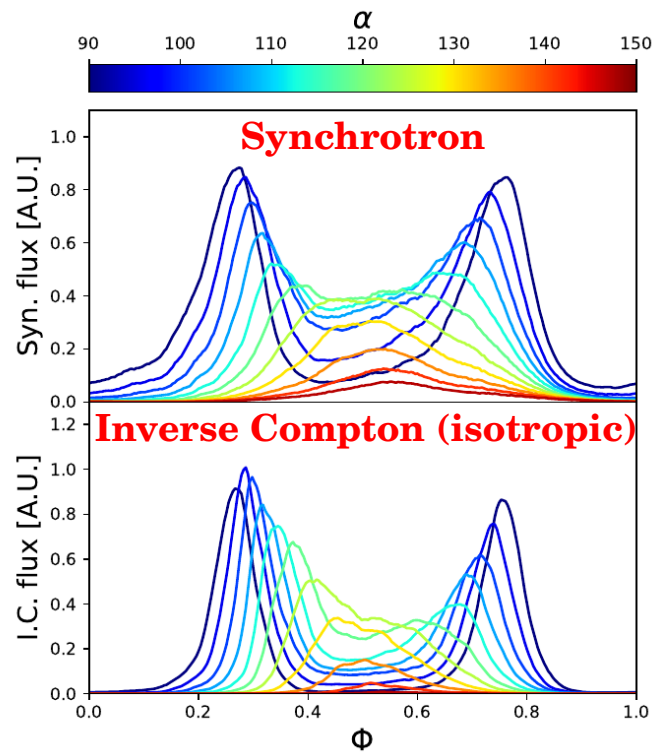
## Synthetic skymap



IC lightcurves (TeV) **thinner** but **similar** to synchrotron (GeV)

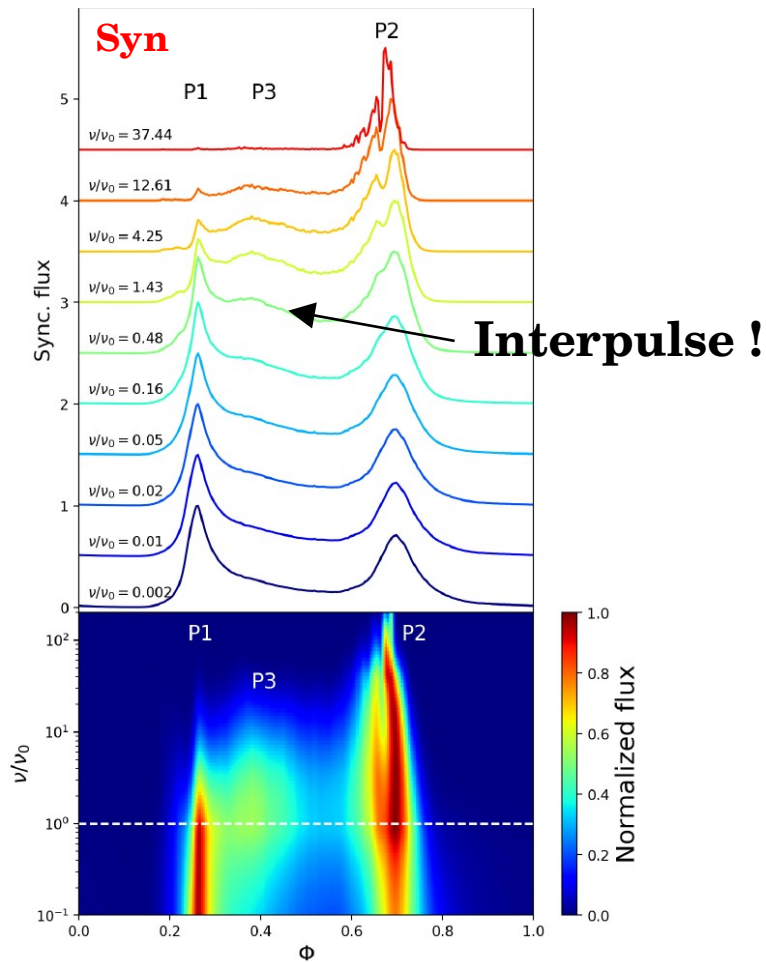
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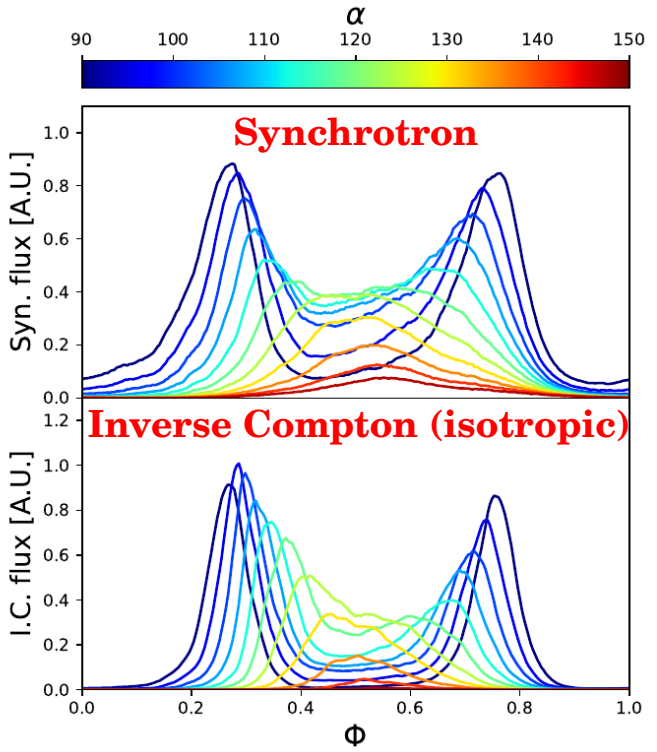
## Energy evolution for **Vela-like** pulsar





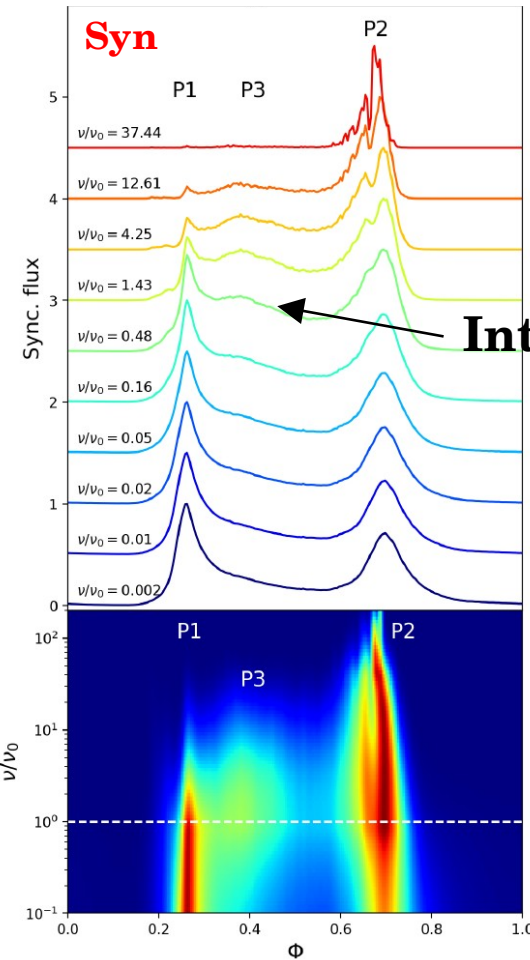
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## Synthetic skymap

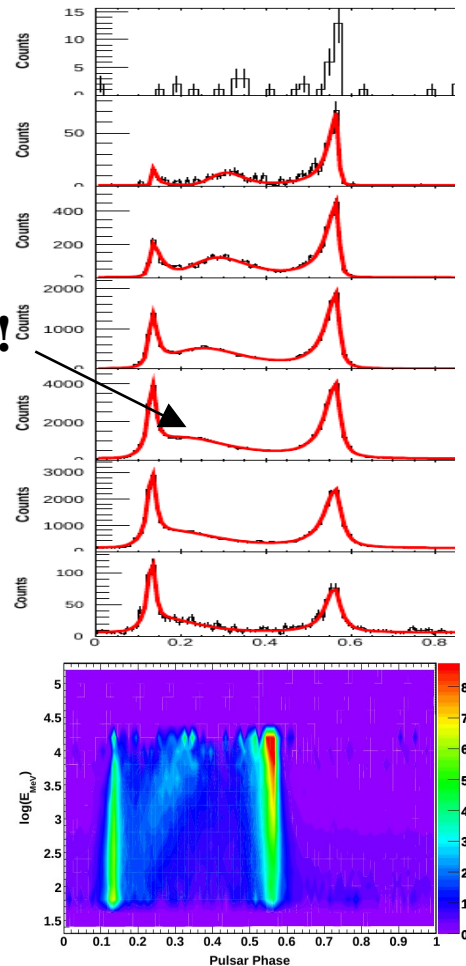


IC lightcurves (TeV) **thinner** but **similar** to synchrotron (GeV)

## Energy evolution for **Vela-like** pulsar



## Vela (*Abdo+2010*)

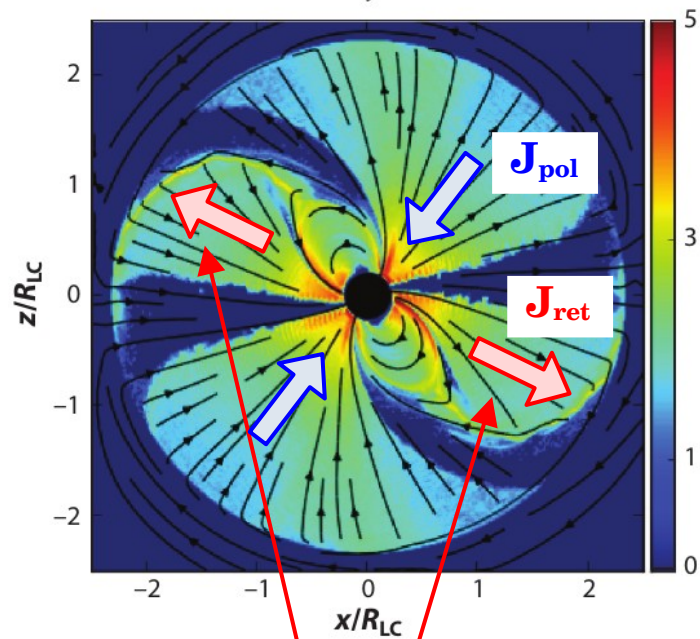




# Origin of the Vela-like third peak

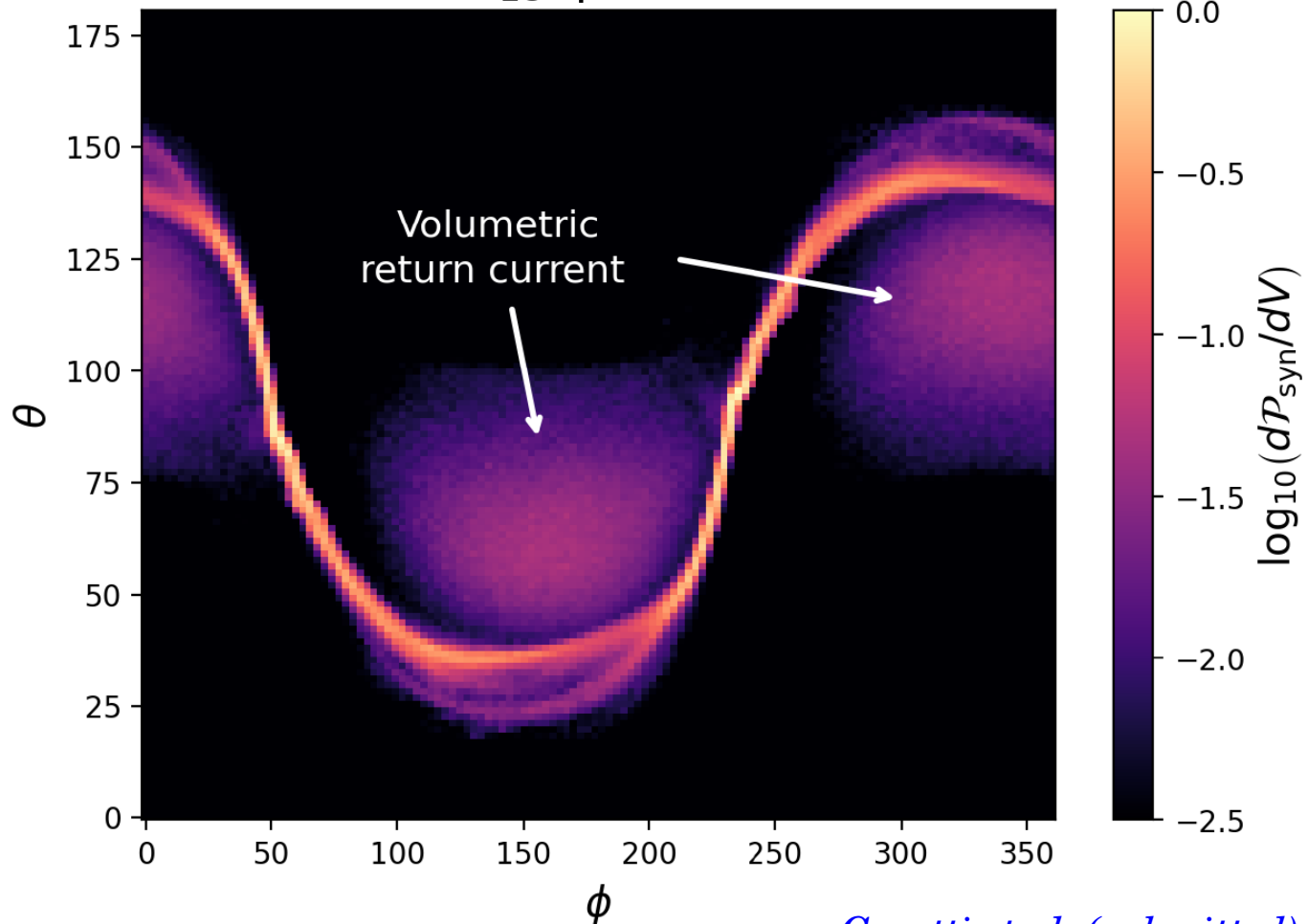
(Philippov & Spitkovsky+2018)

**b** Positron density



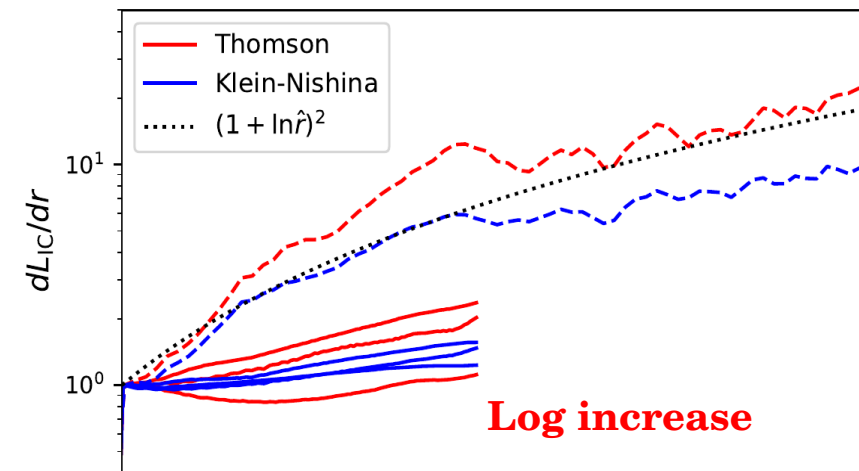
**Volumetric return current**

$r = R_{LC}$  (positrons)

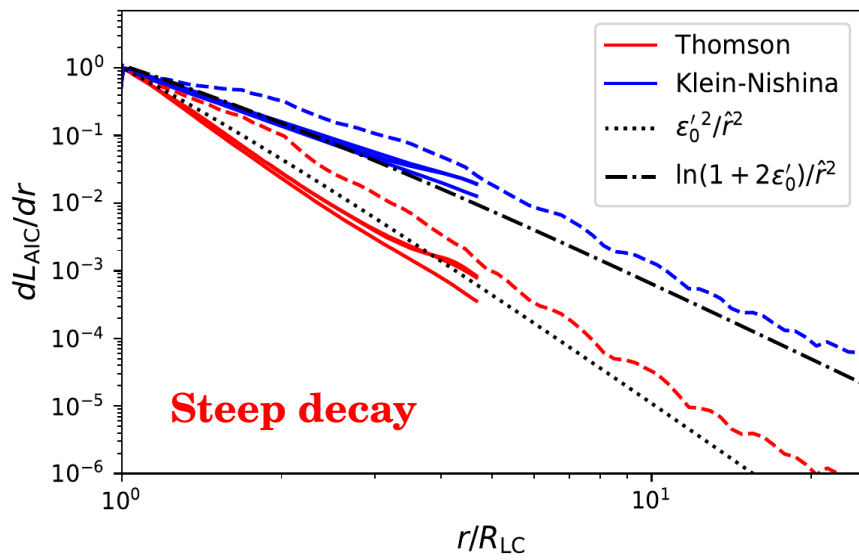


Cerutti et al. (submitted)

# Radial VS isotropic photon field

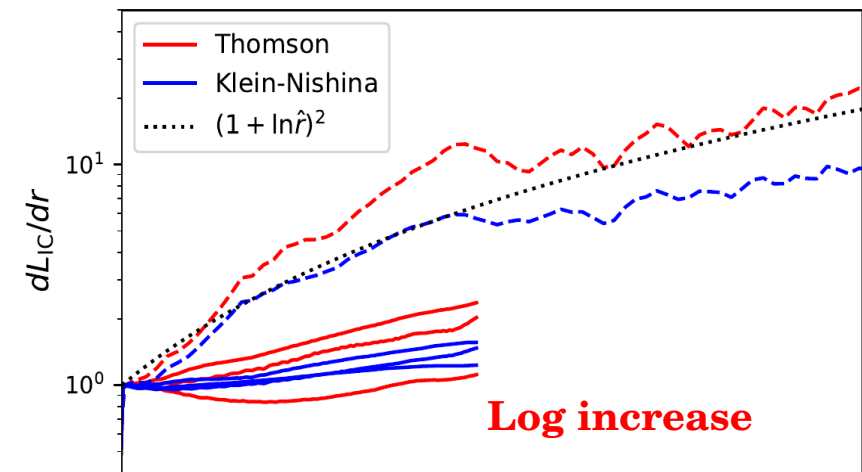


**Homogeneous  
Isotropic**

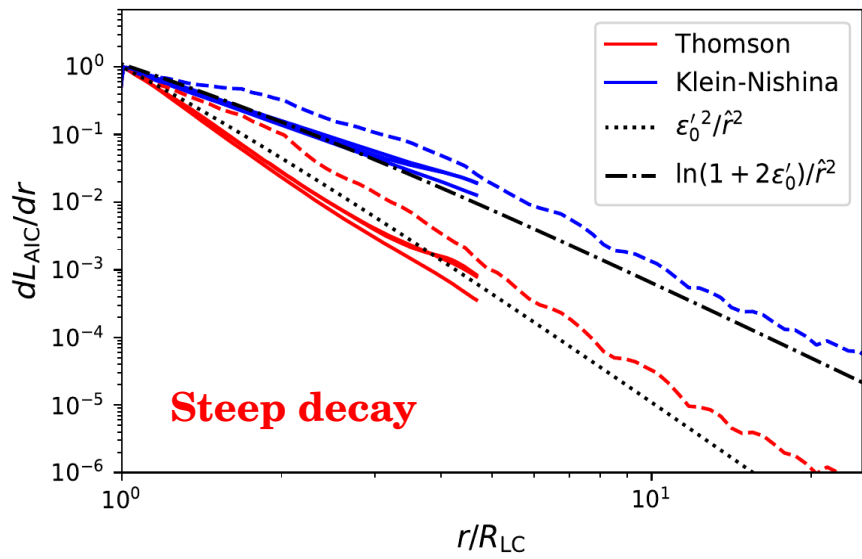


**Radial field**

# Radial VS isotropic photon field

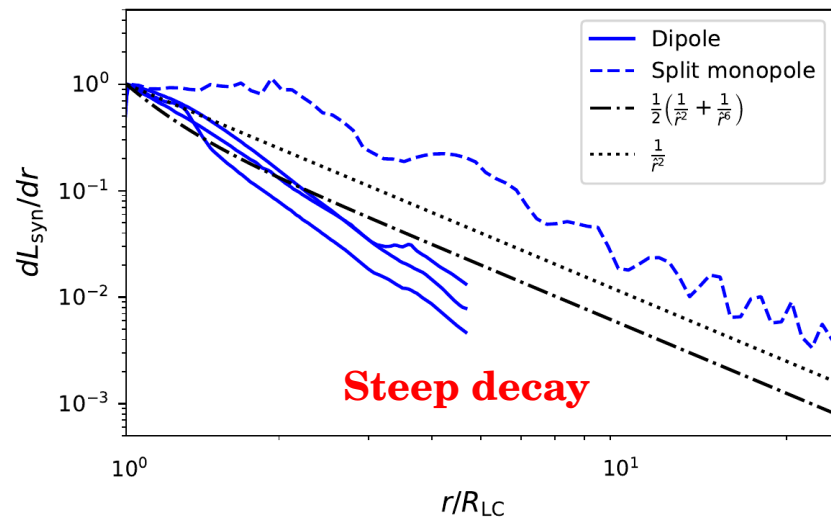


**Homogeneous  
Isotropic**



**Radial field**

## Synchrotron power distribution

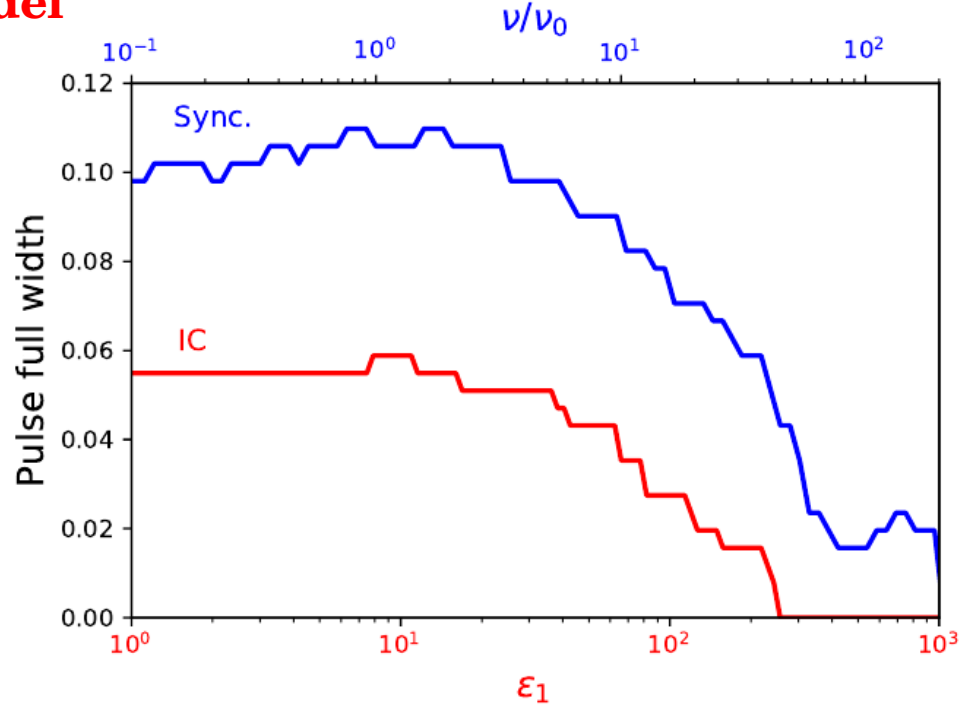


**In Vela, the need to push the accelerating zone away from the light cylinder **disfavors a radial photon field****

**=> Pulse width may tell us about the photon distribution**

# Origin of pulse width: radial and energy evolutions

## Model



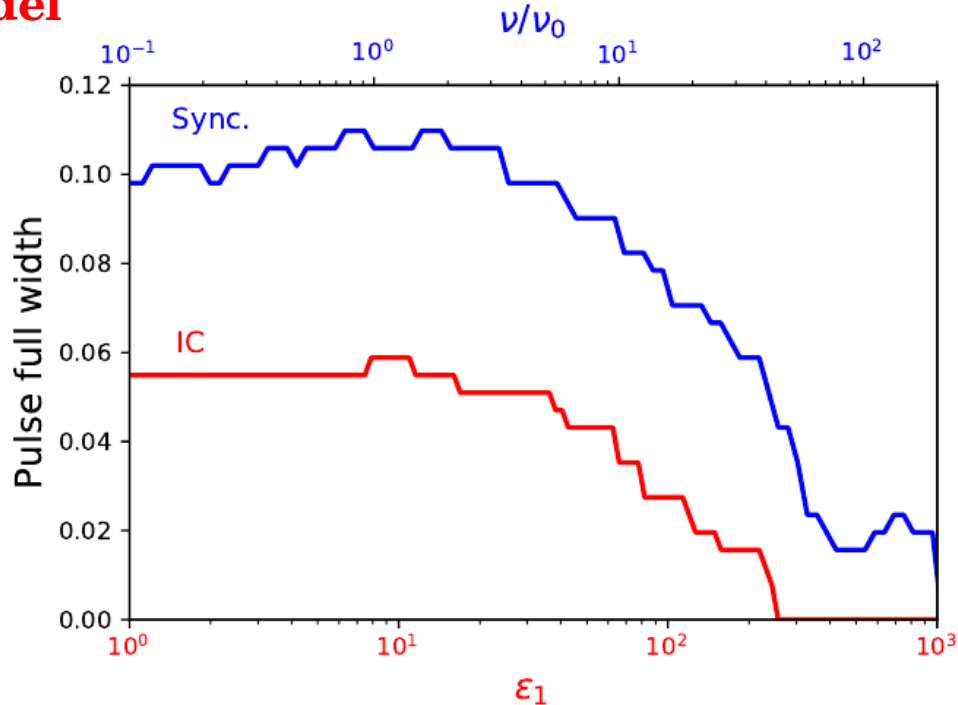
Pulses become **thinner** at higher energies

=> Higher energies are produced further away where the wind is more relativistic (stronger beaming)



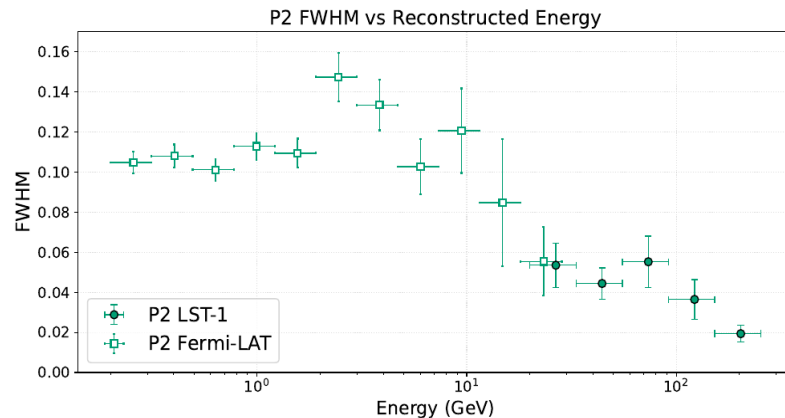
# Origin of pulse width: radial and energy evolutions

**Model**



**HE-VHE observations**

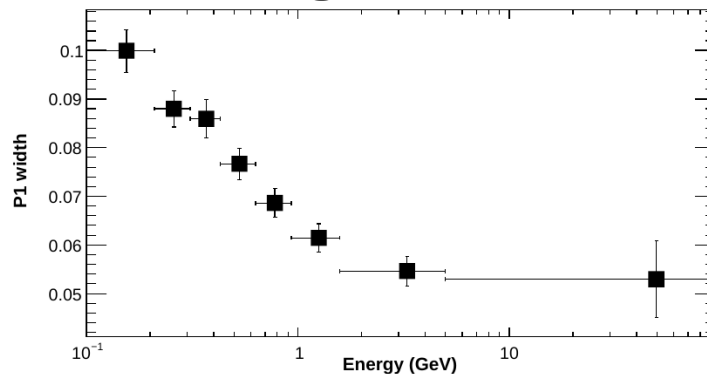
**Crab (Abe+2024)**



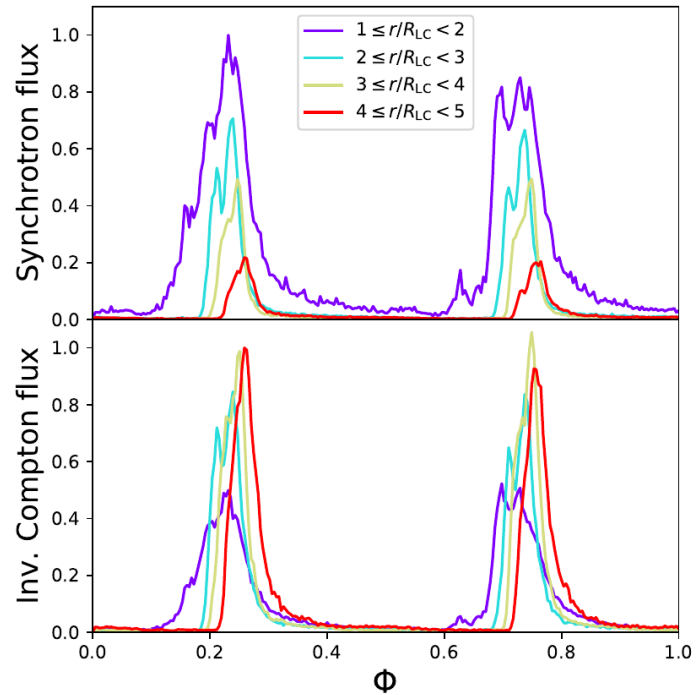
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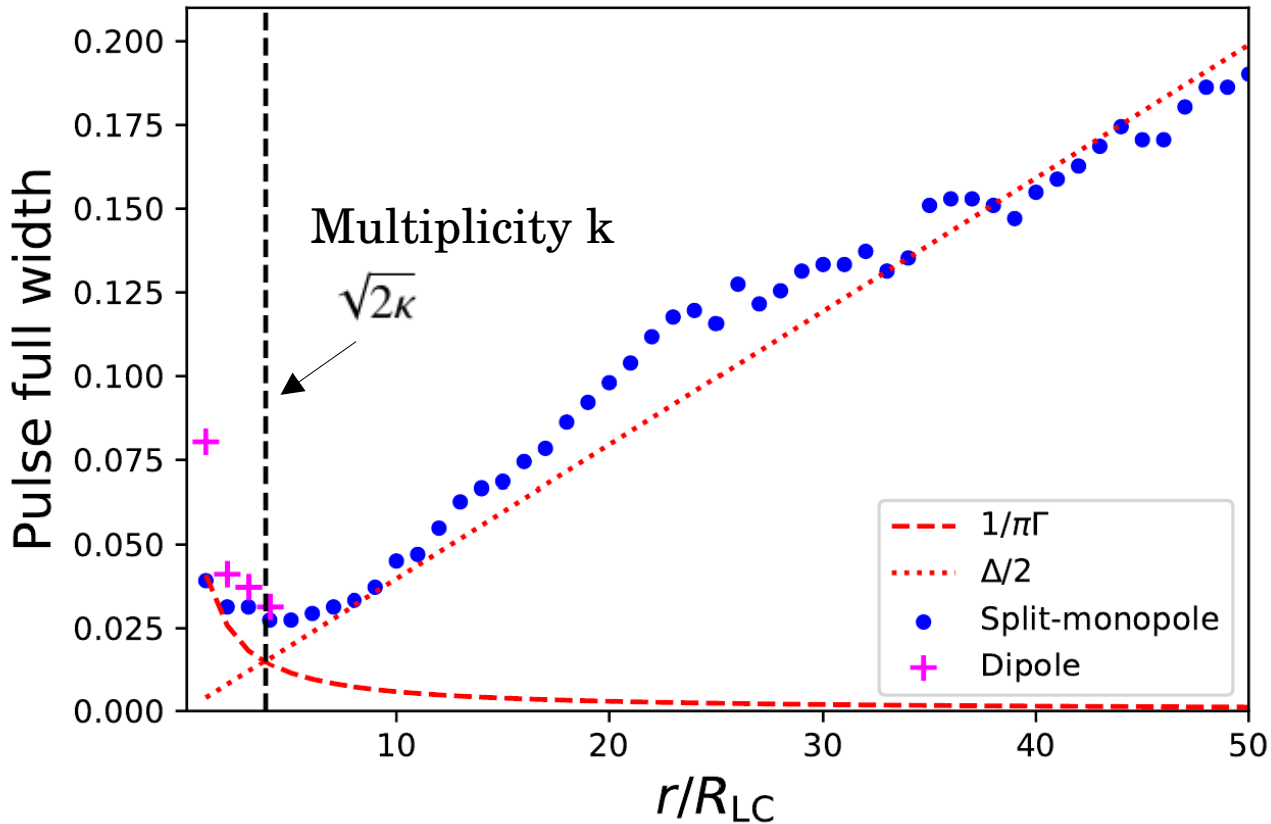
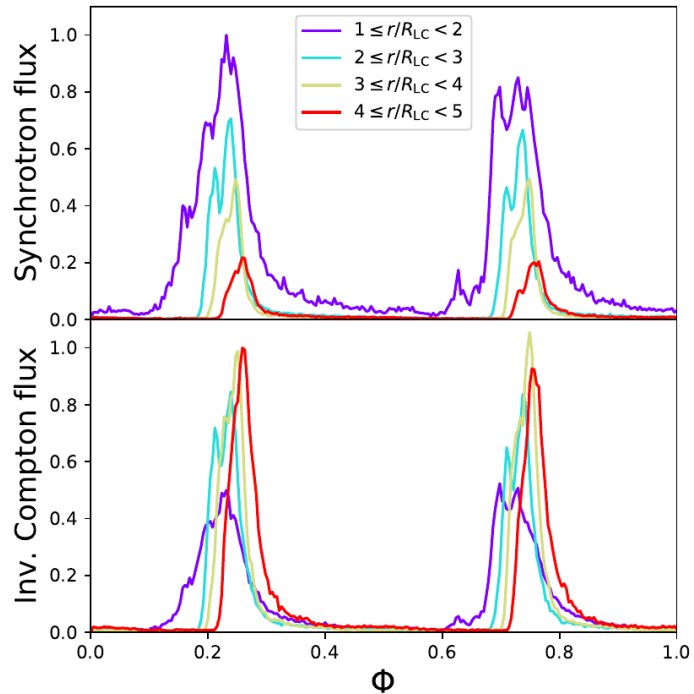
**Geminga (Abdo+2010)**



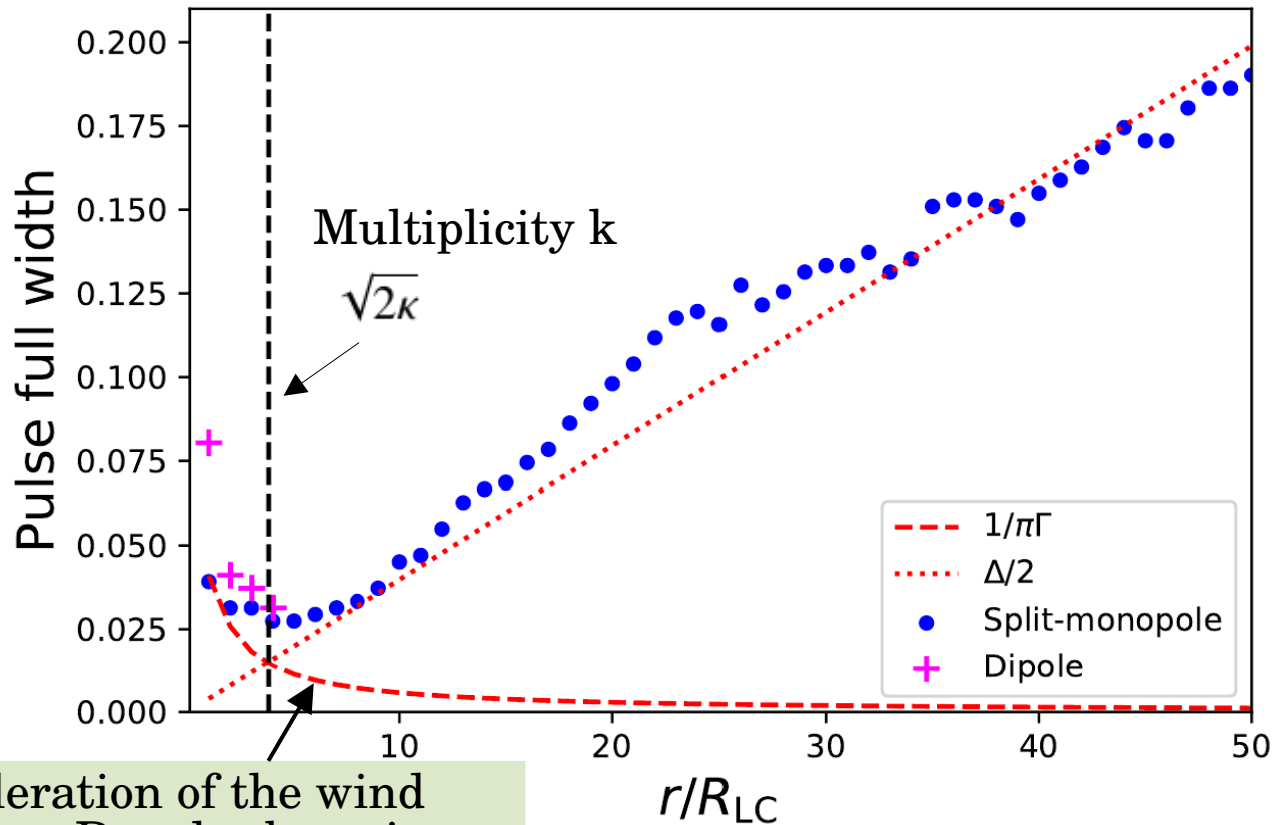
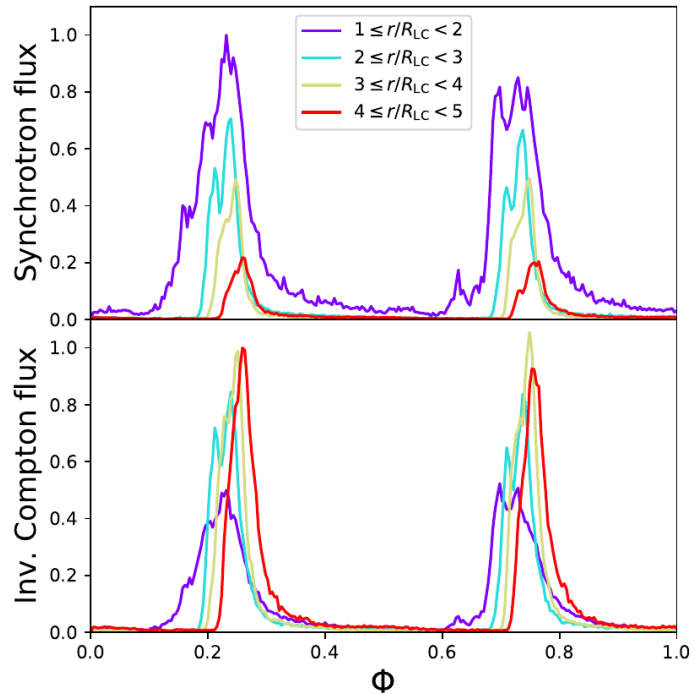
# Origin of pulse width: radial and energy evolutions



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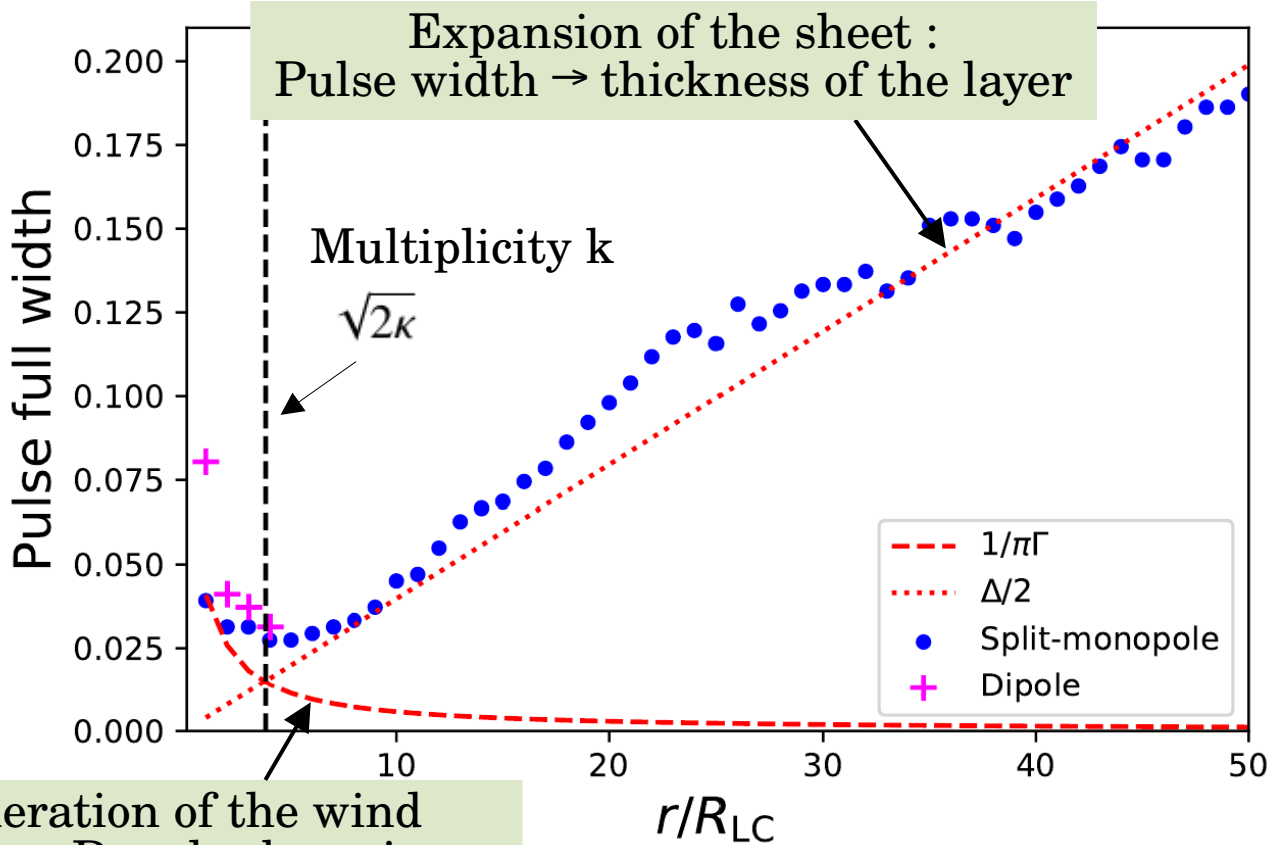
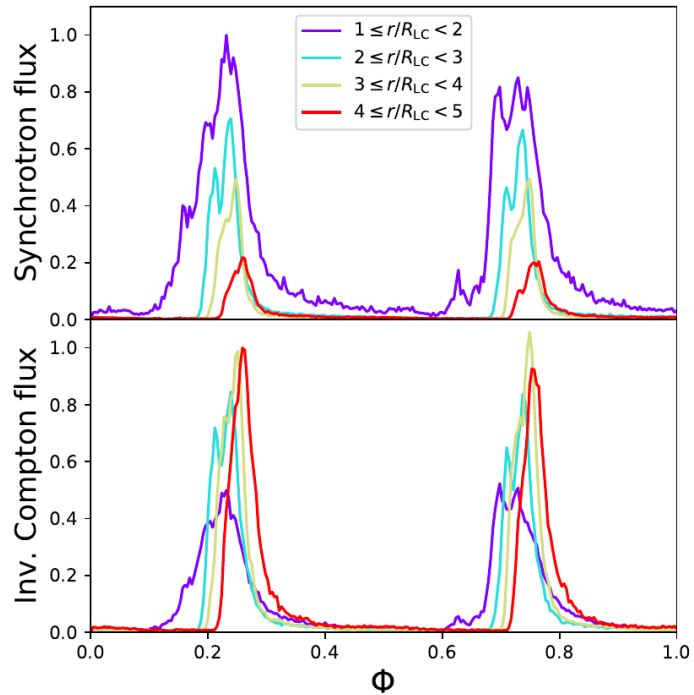
# Origin of pulse width: radial and energy evolutions



Bulk acceleration of the wind  
Pulse width  $\rightarrow$  Doppler beaming

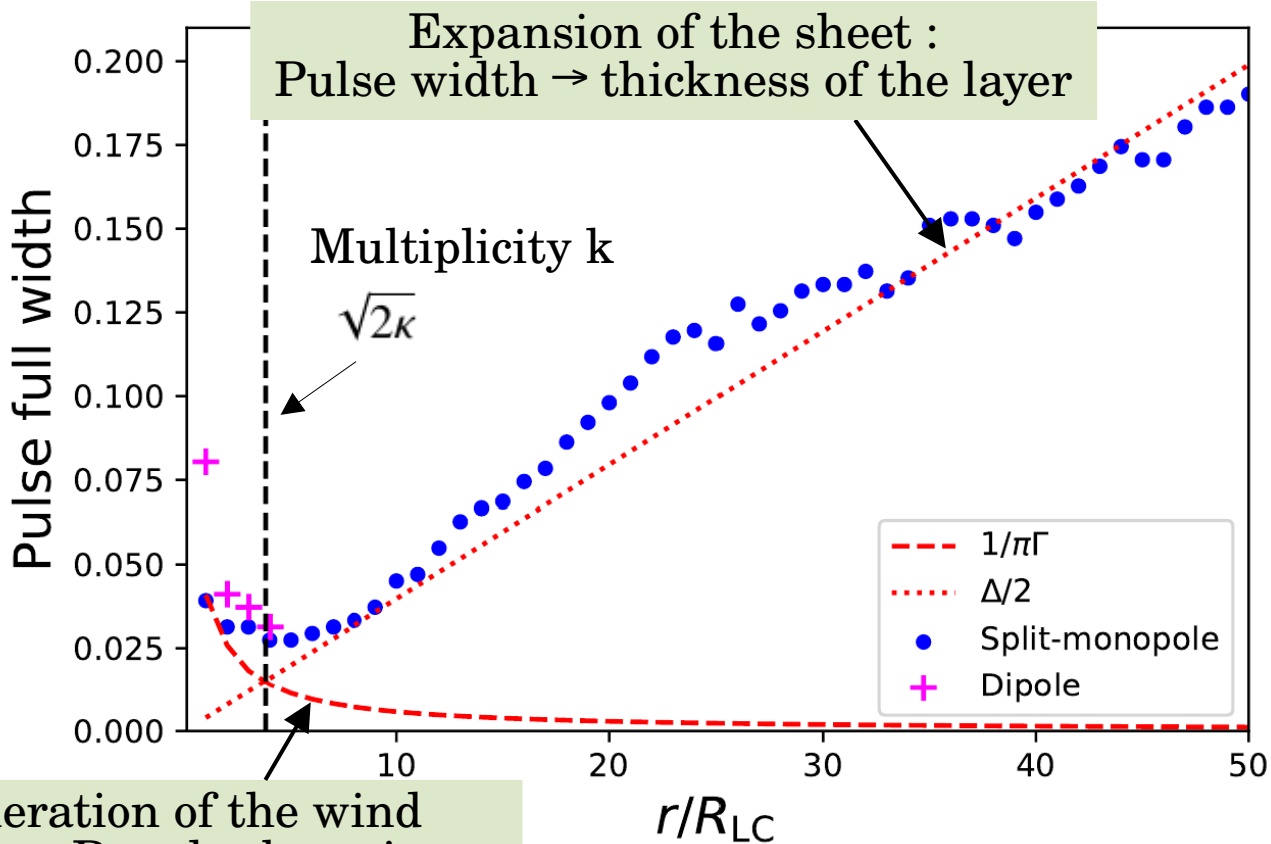
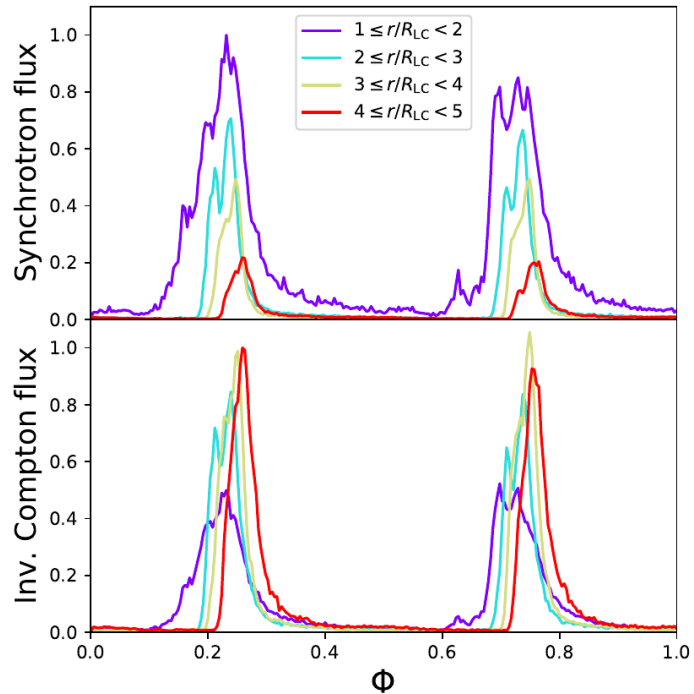


# Origin of pulse width: radial and energy evolutions



Bulk acceleration of the wind  
Pulse width  $\rightarrow$  Doppler beaming

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Bulk acceleration of the wind  
Pulse width  $\rightarrow$  Doppler beaming

## Implications :

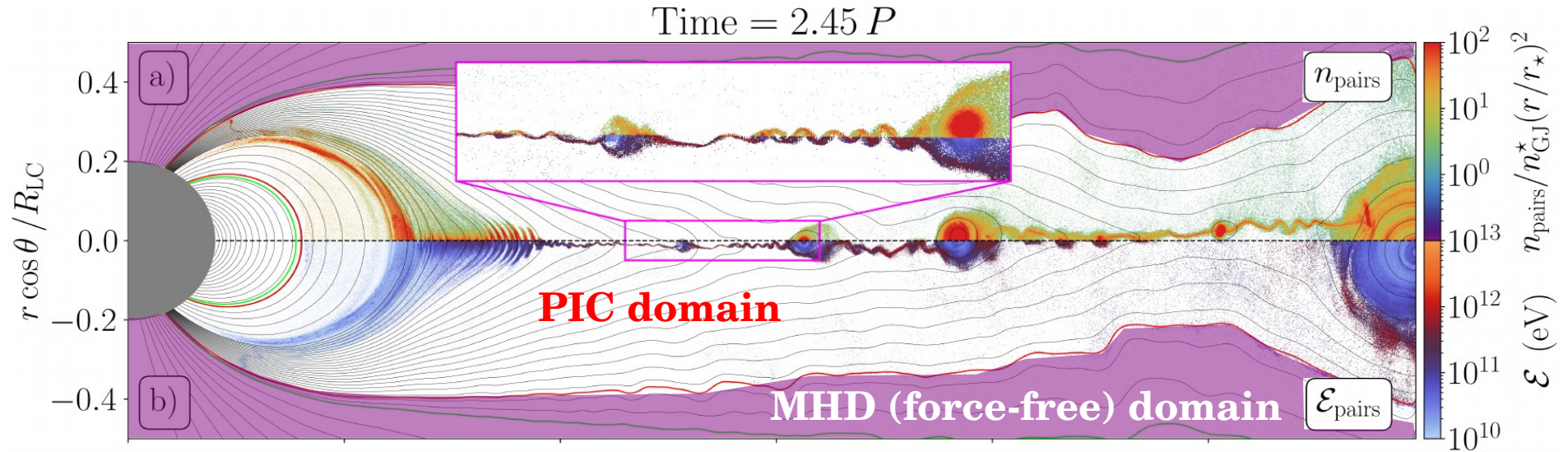
- The TeV emission in Vela probably shifted away from the light cylinder, but within  $\sim 10-100 R_{LC}$
- Photon bath cannot be nebular, **must be local**, SSC from secondary pair emission ?

# Hybrid PIC/MHD model: a (weak) ms *Fermi* pulsar in a box

(Soudais et al. 2024)

Pulsar period : **1ms**

Surface magnetic field :  **$10^7$  G (no rescaling)**



# Hybrid PIC/MHD model: a (weak) ms *Fermi* pulsar in a box

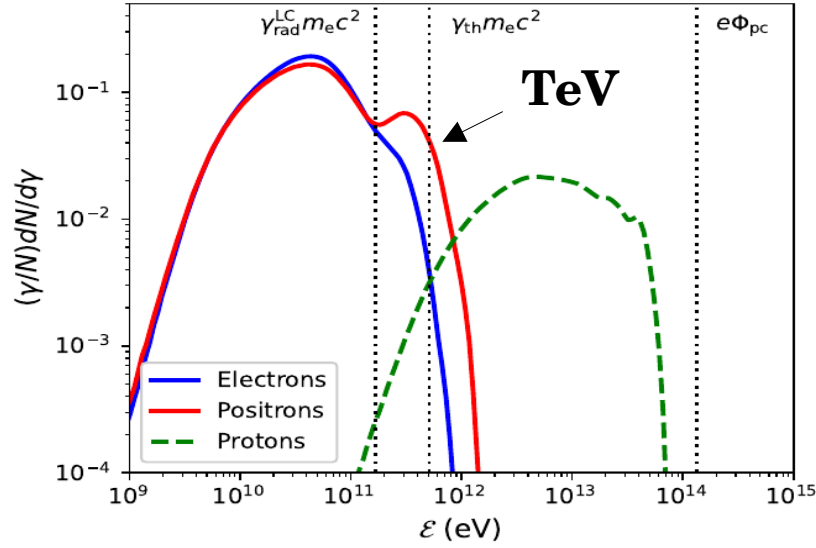
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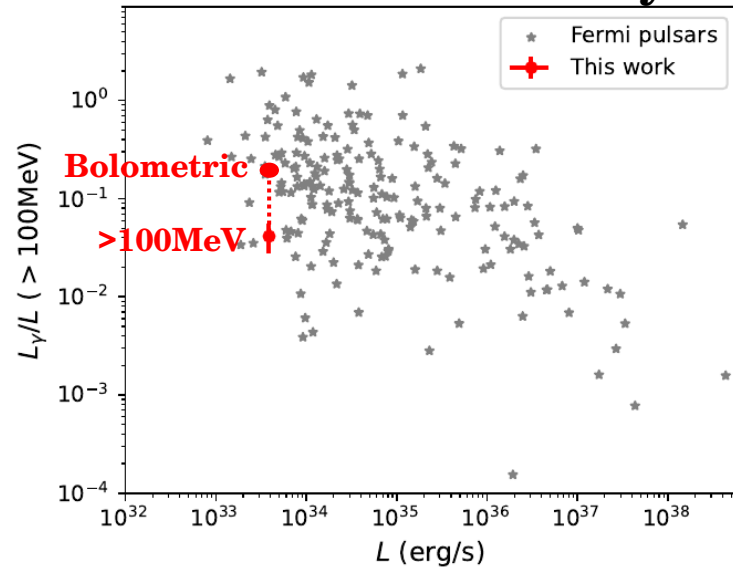
Surface magnetic field :  **$10^7$  G** (no rescaling)

**Particle acceleration**

**Pairs** : TeV  
**Protons** : >10TeV



## Radiative efficiency



**Canonical ( $10^8$ - $10^9$ G) millisecond pulsars could be TeV emitters**  
**Narrow TeV spectral feature ?**



# Where to go next?

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- **Scale separation problem** : Need to scale simulations up !  
Develop innovative methods :
    - GPU acceleration and **exa-scale computing** => large  $10,000^3$  grid cells simulations, and broader exploration of the parameter space in 3D
    - **Hybrid methods** => MHD + PIC, MHD + subgrid models + test particles
  - We need to better understand **how pairs are created at light cylinder scales**
    - Along field lines carrying the **volumetric return and super-GJ currents**?
    - Local **photon field emitted by secondary pairs**, spatial and energy distribution ?  
Include SSC in global PIC models.
-



# Feeling the pull and the pulse of relativistic magnetospheres

6-11 Apr 2025 Les Houches (France)

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## MAIN MENU

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Registration

Venue and practical information

List of Participants

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## Overview

This workshop aims at bringing together world experts in the field of relativistic plasma astrophysics to discuss recent progress in the understanding of magnetized plasmas surrounding neutron stars and black holes and related astrophysical phenomena from an observational, theoretical and computational perspectives.

## Important dates

Conference dates: Sunday April 6, 2025 - Friday April 11, 2025.

Application and abstract submission: September 16, 2024 - December 1, 2024.

Notification to all applicants: December 15, 2024.

## Registration fee

The registration fee is fixed to a flat rate of **300€** (taxes included). It will cover all expenses during your stay in Les Houches (meals and accommodation). Payment can be made by credit card, bank transfer or purchase order. A link to the online payment platform (Azur-Colloque) will be available soon.

## Confirmed invited speakers

- Andrei Beloborodov, Columbia University, USA
- Roger Blandford, Stanford University, USA
- Arache Djannati-Ataï, APC/CNRS, France
- Gwenael Giacinti, Tsung-Dao Lee Institute, China
- Hayk Hakobyan, Columbia University, USA
- Yuri Lyubarsky, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel
- Monika Mościbrodzka, Radboud University, Netherlands
- Kohta Murase, Penn State, USA
- Cherry Ng, LPC2E/CNRS, France
- Nanda Rea, CSIC-ICE, Spain
- Bart Ripperda, CITA-University of Toronto, Canada
- Dmitri Uzdensky, University of Oxford, UK
- Alexandra Veledina, University of Turku, Finland
- Yajie Yuan, Washinton Univeristy, USA

**Preregistration  
closes on Dec 1!**

**SOC :**

- B. Cerutti (chair)
- B. Crinquand
- N. Globus
- C. Guépin
- A. Levinson
- K. Parfrey
- A. Philippov

<https://r-magnetosphere.sciencesconf.org/>