

# Simulations of $\gamma$ -rays propagation in magnetised astrophysical environments

student: **Gaetano Di Marco**  
supervisors: **Rafael Alves Batista**  
**Miguel A. Sánchez-Conde**



(J. Pollock, 1948-49 )

# outline

- gamma-ray propagation & extragalactic magnetic field (EGMF)

- simulation framework

**goal:** characterizing the observables in dependence to the EGMF model's parameters

- perspectives for axion-like particle gamma-ray searches:

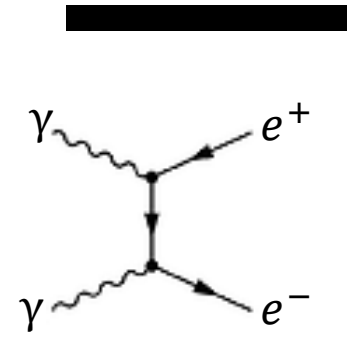
combination **CRPropa simulations/Fermi-LAT observations**



# on gamma-ray propagation

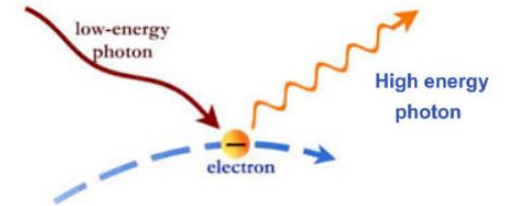
- pair production:  $\gamma + \gamma_{\text{BKG}} \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$  ( $E_{\text{thr}} = 2m_e c^2$ )

- double:  $\gamma + \gamma_{\text{BKG}} \rightarrow e^+ + e^- + e^+ + e^-$



- inverse Compton scattering:  $e + \gamma_{\text{BKG}} \rightarrow e + \gamma$

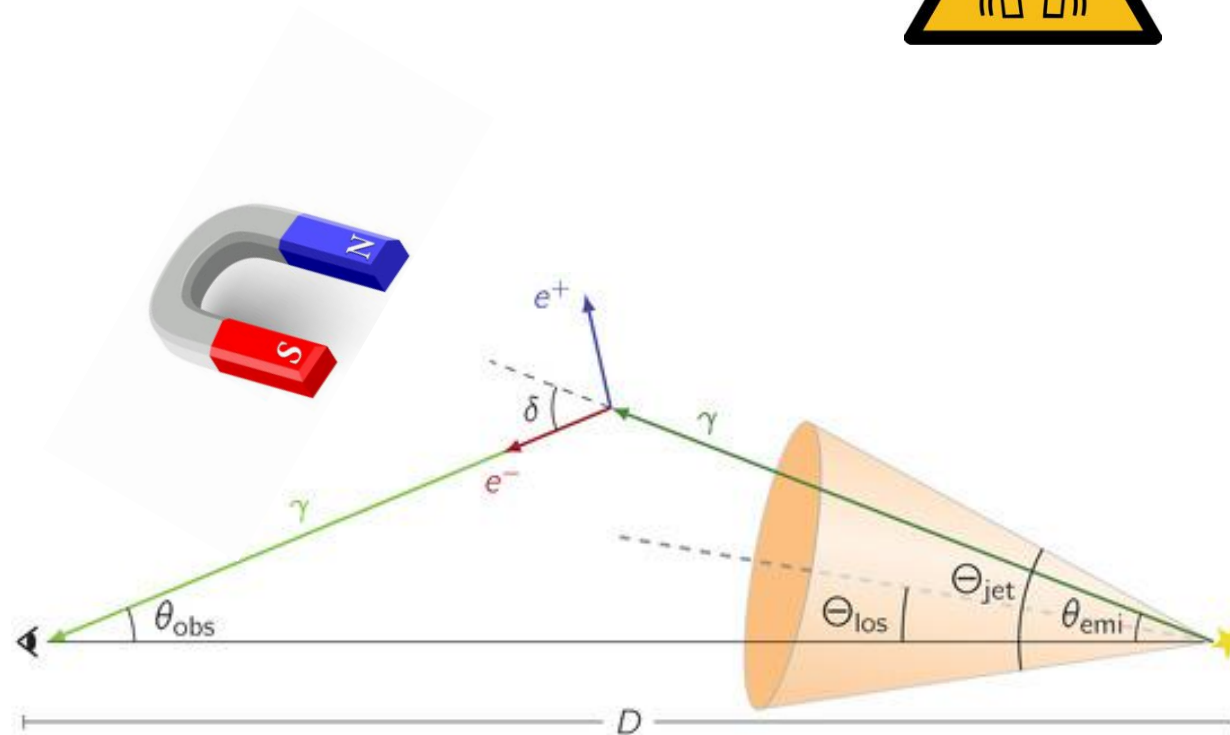
- triplet pair production:  $e + \gamma_{\text{BKG}} \rightarrow e + e^- + e^+$



$$\gamma_{\text{BKG}} \begin{cases} \text{URB} \rightarrow \text{Radio} & (\text{Nitu+}, 2021) \\ \text{CMB} \rightarrow \text{MicroWave} & (\text{Planck coll.}, 2018) \\ \text{EBL} \rightarrow \text{UV, optical, IR} & (\text{Gilmore+}, 2012) \end{cases}$$



# «deflection» of gamma rays



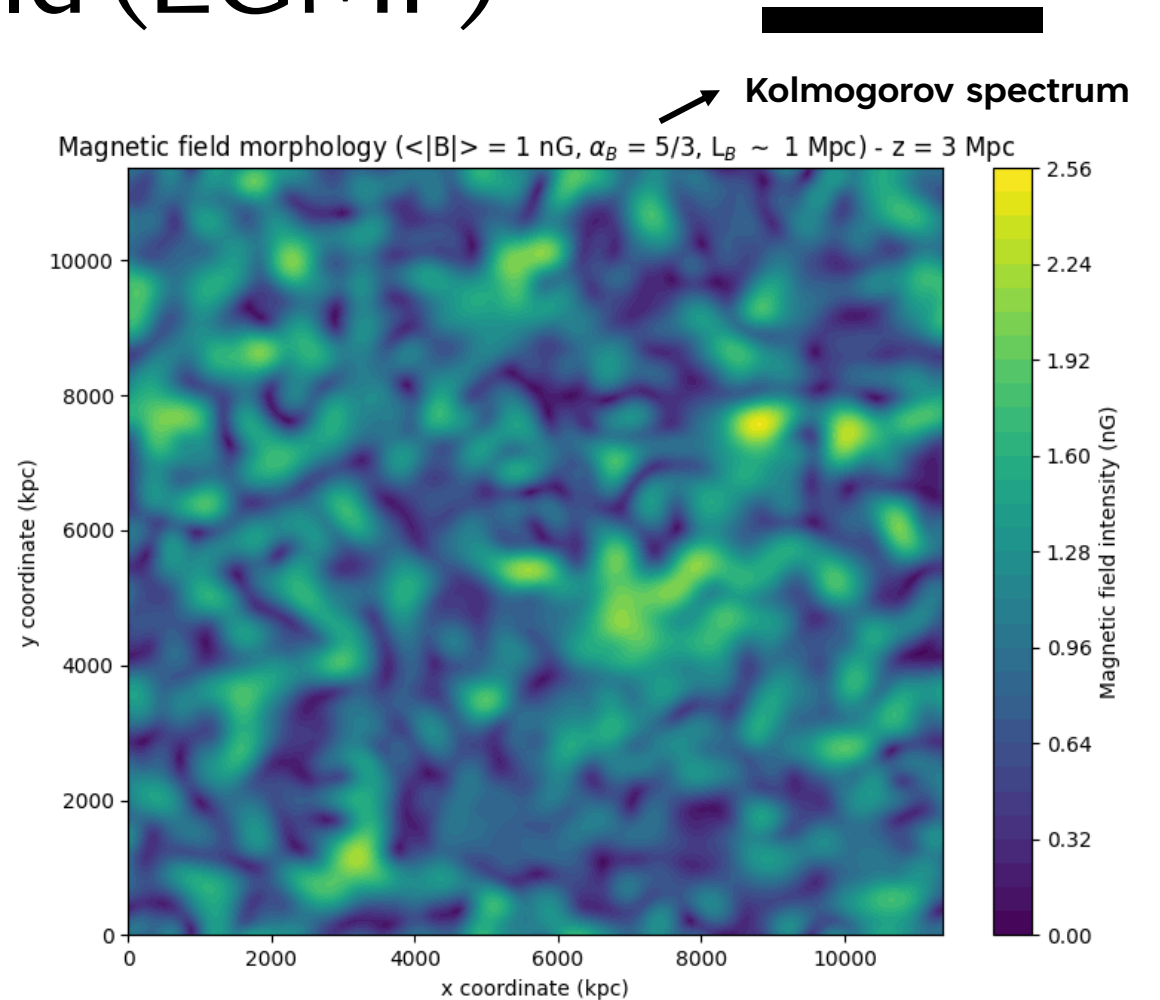
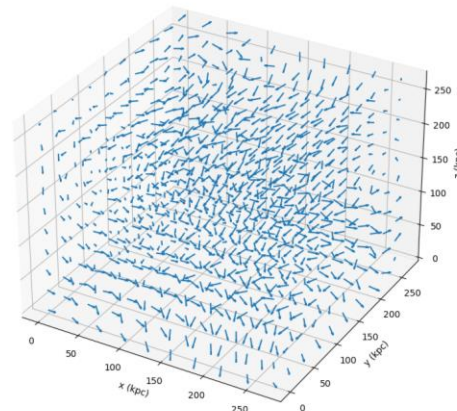
(Alves Batista & Saveliev, 2021)



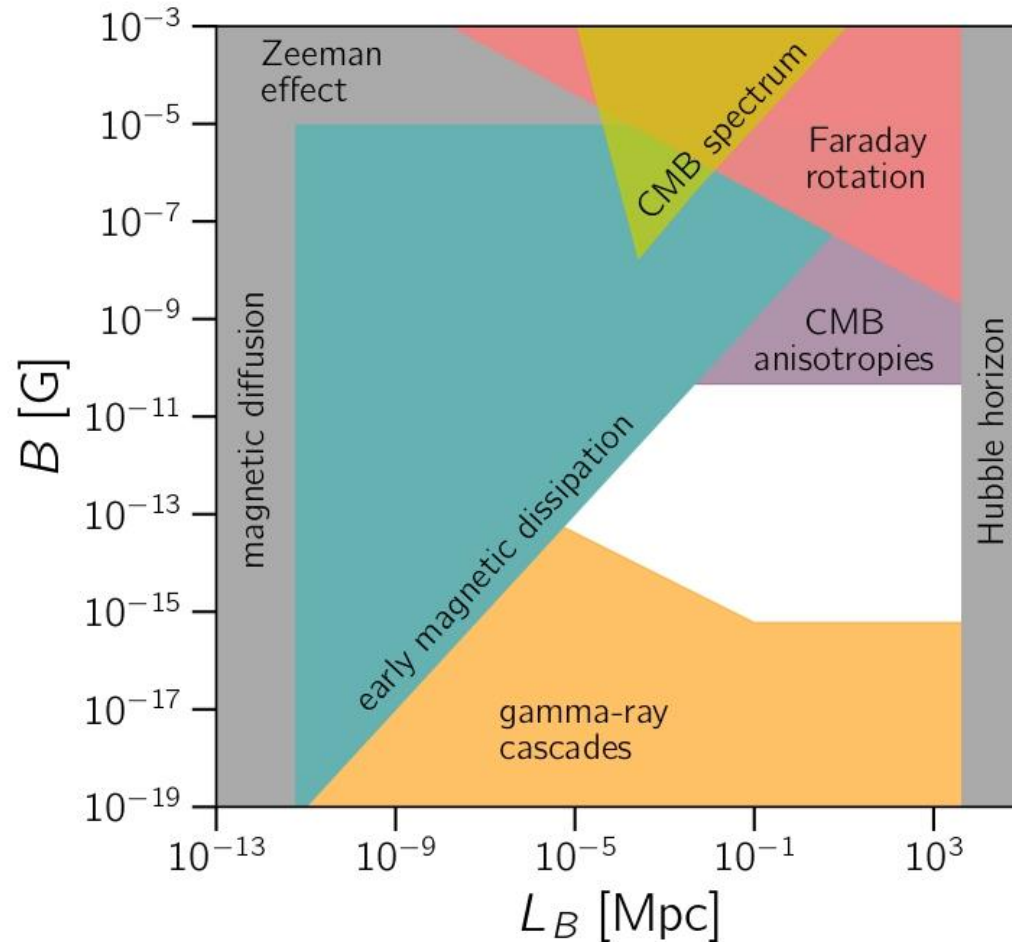
# extragalactic magnetic field (EGMF)

Stochastic field's parameters:

- root mean square  $B_{rms}$
- coherence length  $L_B$
- spectral energy index  $\alpha_B$
- helicity  $H_B$ ?



# constraints on the EGMF



in the following:

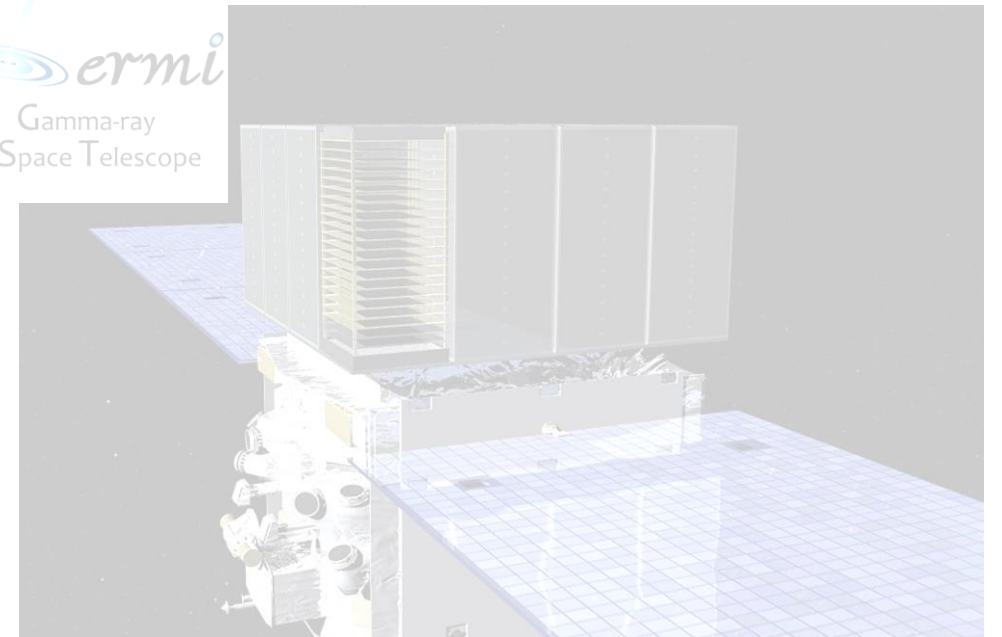
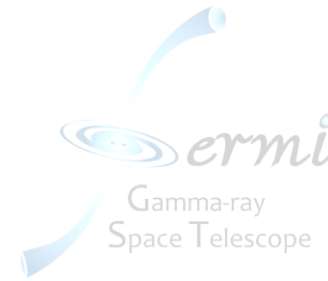
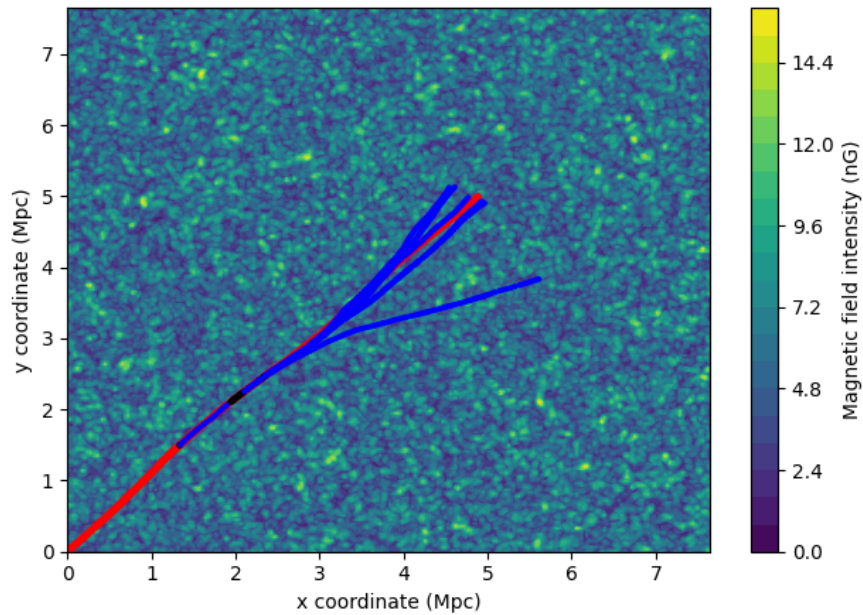
- $L_B$  fixed to 1 Mpc
- $B_{rms}$  alternatively  $1e-16$  G and  $1e-17$  G (and turned off)

(Durrer & Neronov, 2013)

(Ackermann+, 2018) lower limits from Fermi-LAT

# simulation software

**CR/Propa** (Alves Batista +, 2022)



Large Area Telescope:  $20 \text{ MeV} \lesssim E_\gamma \lesssim 300 \text{ GeV}$

Constraining ALPs properties with Gamma-ray data: spectral distortion, spatial morphology...

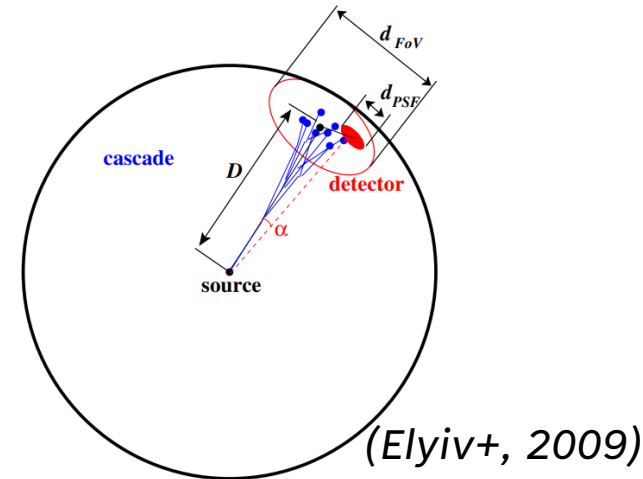
# simulation setup

- magnetic field:

```
Bfield = SimpleGridTurbulence(turbSpectrum, gridprops, seed)
```

- «large sphere observer»:

```
obs = Observer()  
obs.add(ObserverSurface(Sphere(Vector3d(0., 0., 0.) * Mpc, 606. * Mpc)))  
sim.add(MinimumEnergy(10. * GeV))  
sim.add(obs)
```



- e.g. blazar 1ES 0229+200

```
source = Source()  
source.add(SourcePosition(Vector3d(0., 0., 0.) * Mpc))  
source.add(SourceEmissionCone(Vector3d(-1., 0., 0.) * kpc, 0.1))  
source.add(SourcePowerLawSpectrum(10 * GeV, 100 * PeV, specIndex))  
source.add(SourceParticleType(22))  
source.add(SourceRedshift(0.14))
```

→ specIndex = -1.5, Ecutoff = 5 TeV

→ sim.run(source, 1000) x10

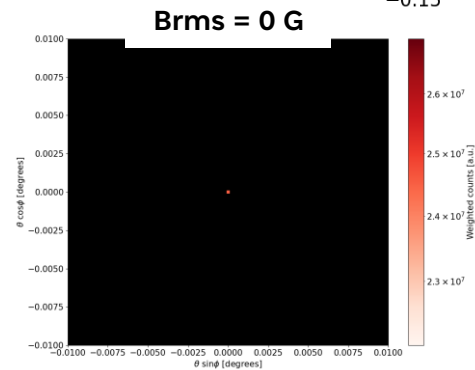
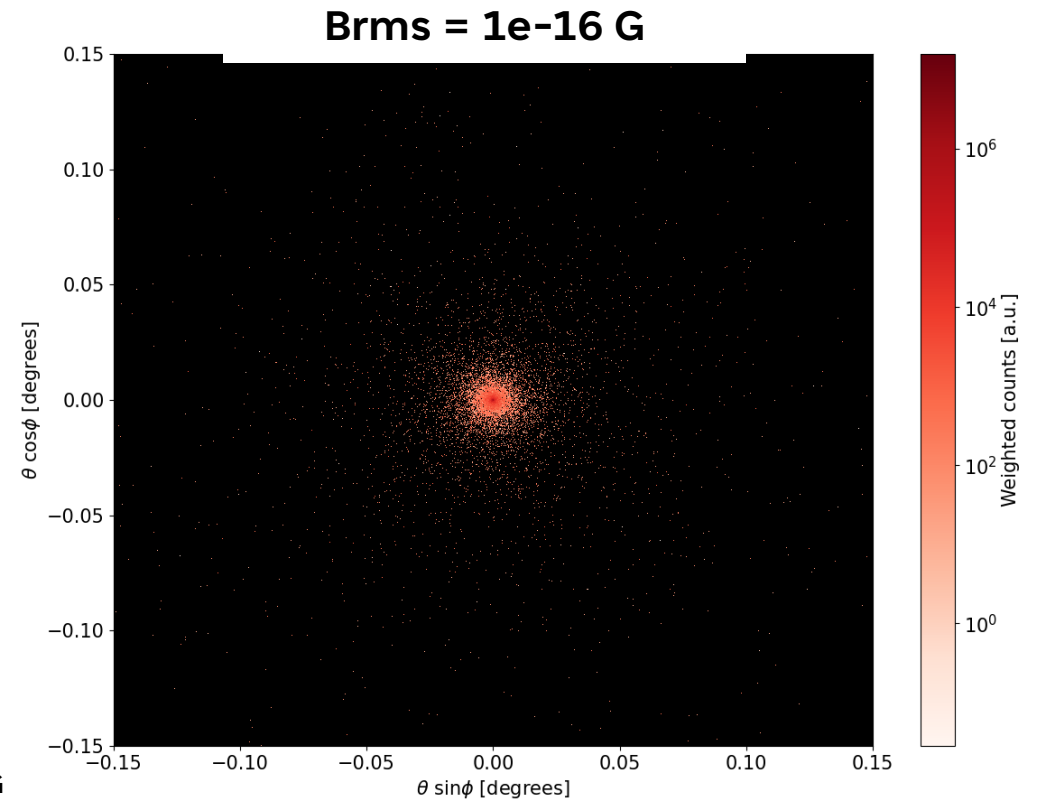
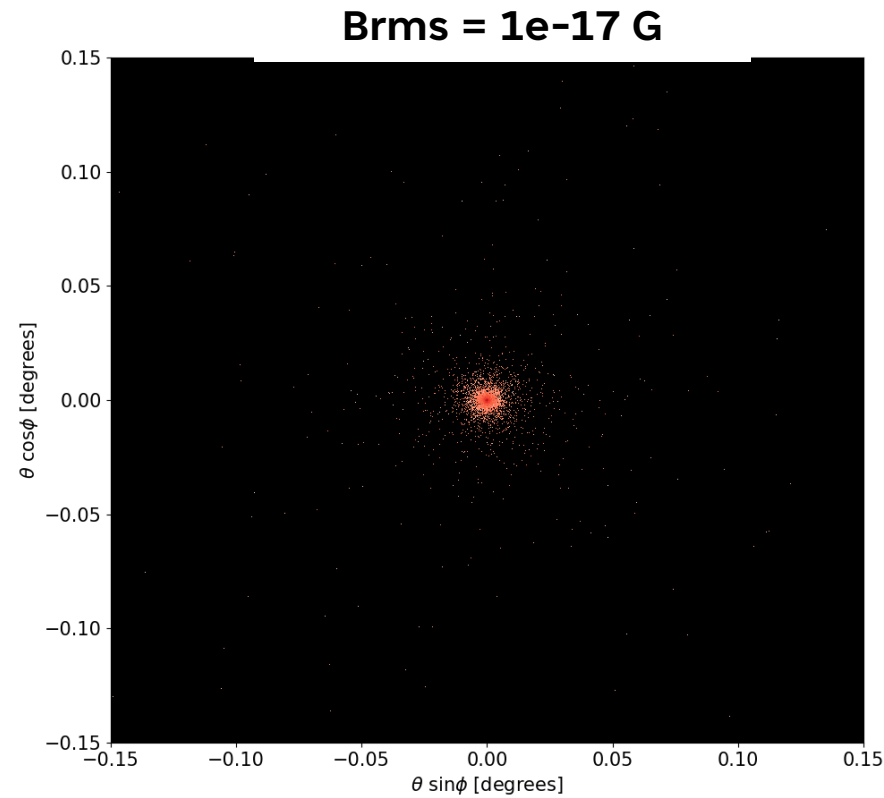
→ total injected events: 1e4



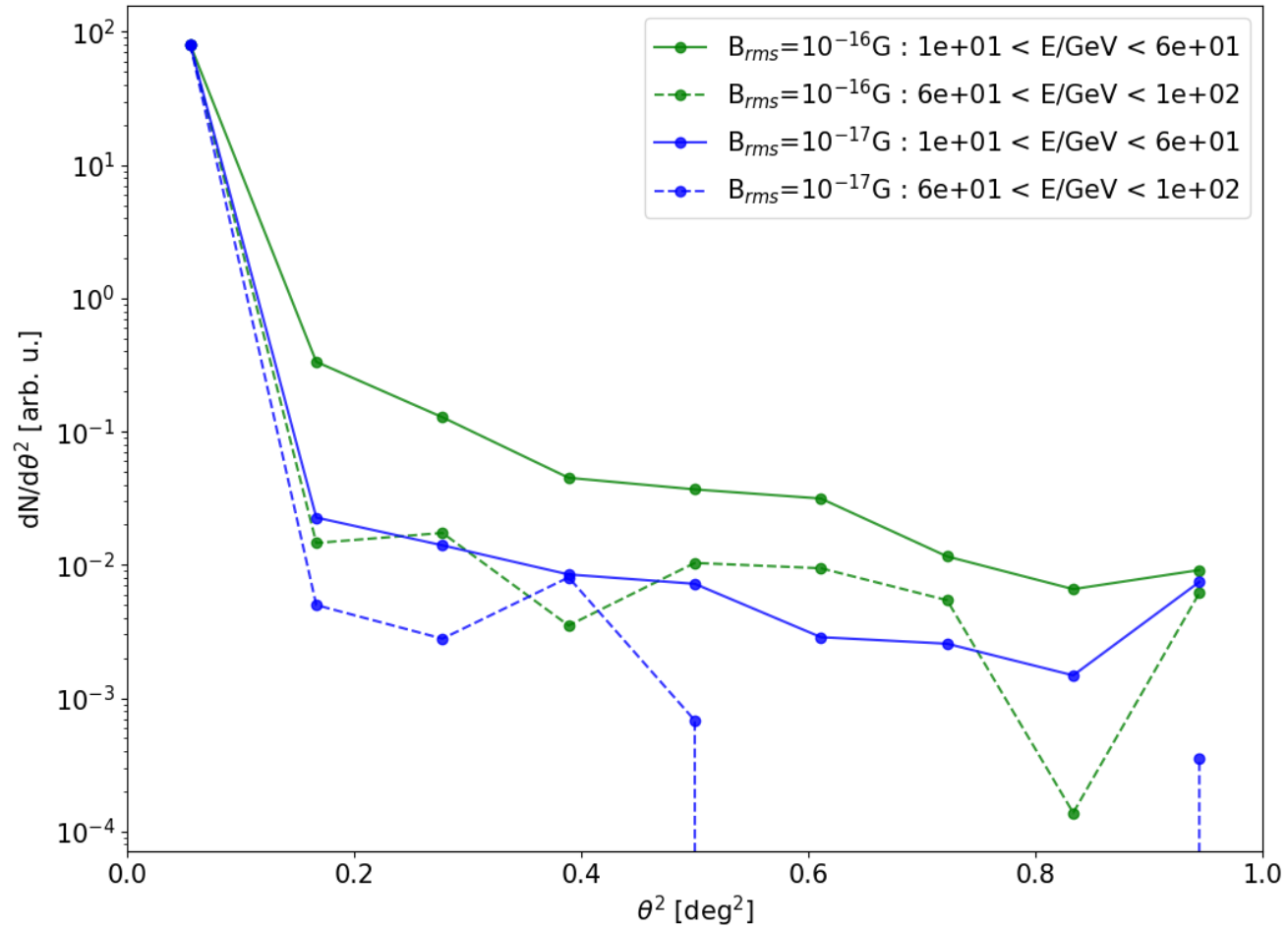
low statistics!



# arrival directions

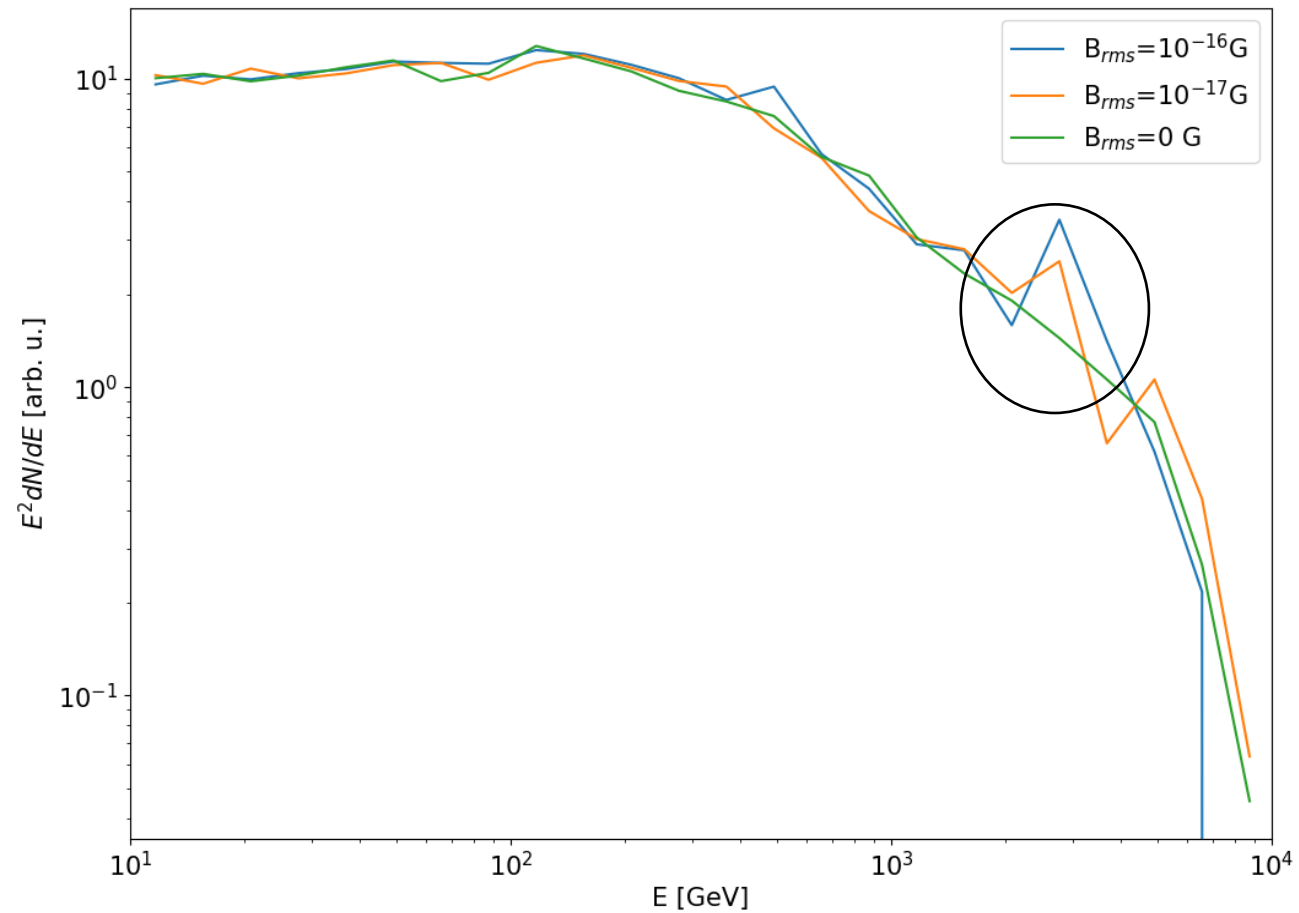


# surface brightness



large contribution to the halo  
from the lowest energy photons

# spectral energy distribution



dramatic differences would have been seen at lower energies or by increasing the  $B_{rms}$



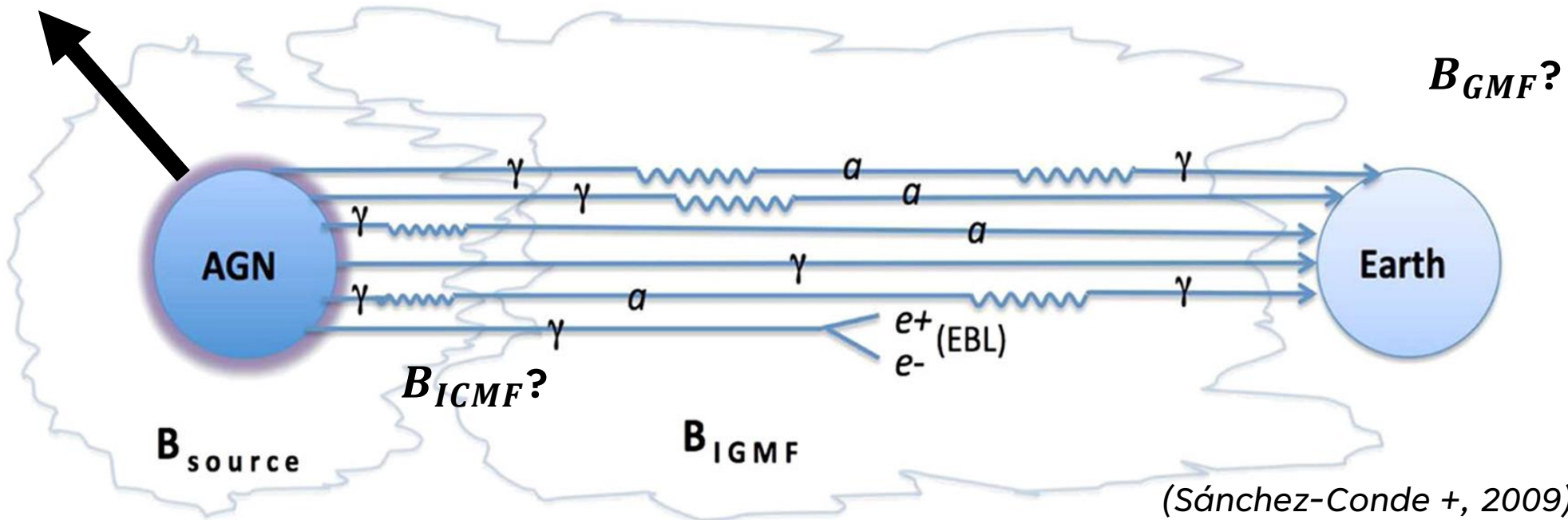
perspectives in searching for axion-like  
particles (ALPs), dark matter candidate...



# gamma/ALP mixing in astrophysical environments

$$\mathcal{L}_{ALP-\gamma} = g_{a\gamma} \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}_{ext} a$$

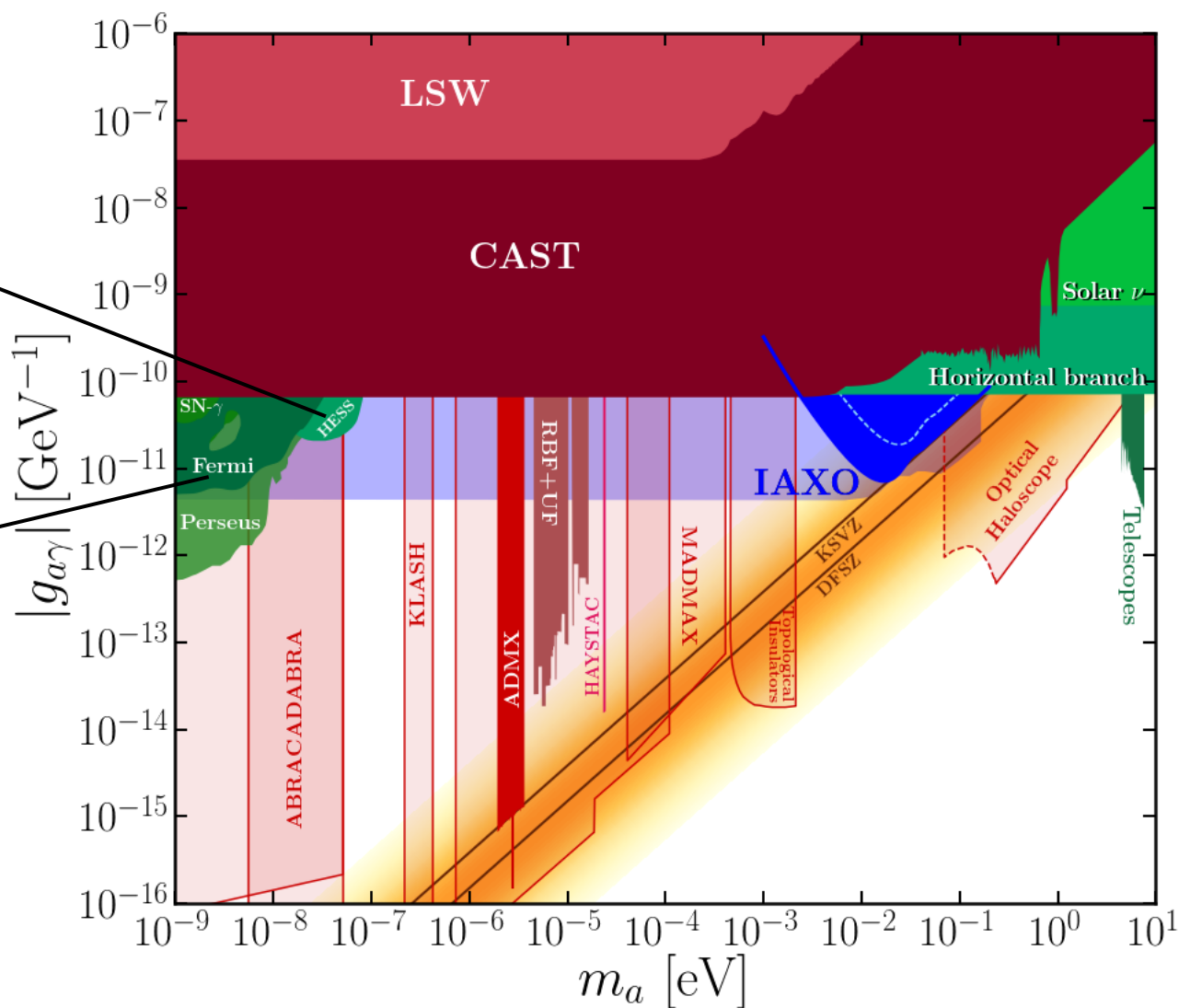
intrinsic emission?



# constraints $m_a$ & $g_{a\gamma}$

H.E.S.S. observing PKS 2155-304  
(Abramowski +, 2013)

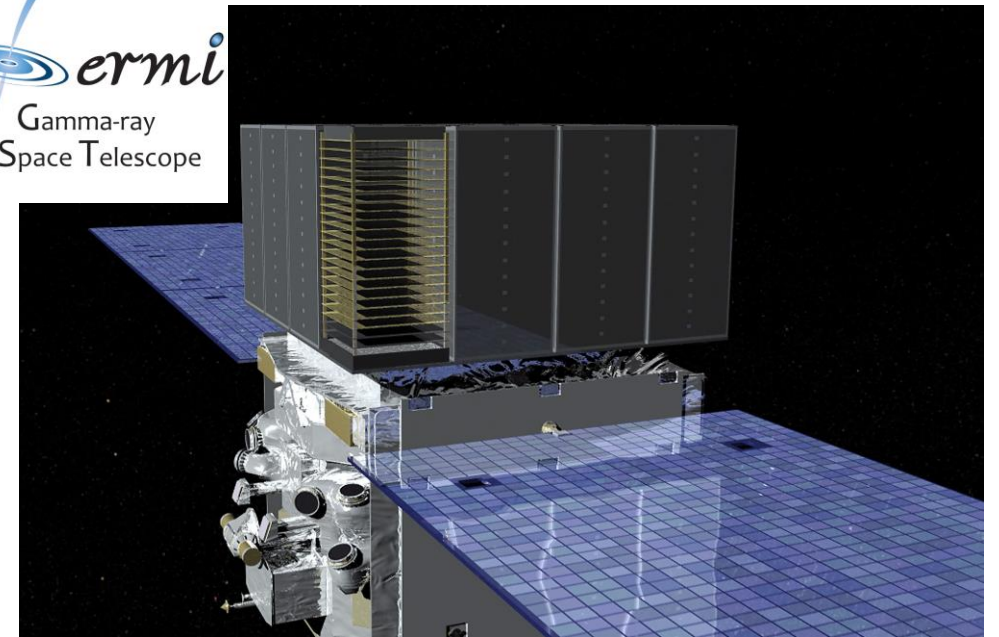
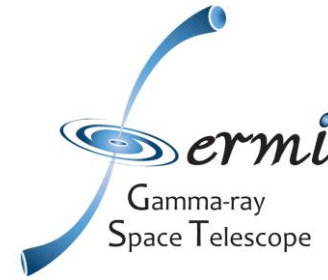
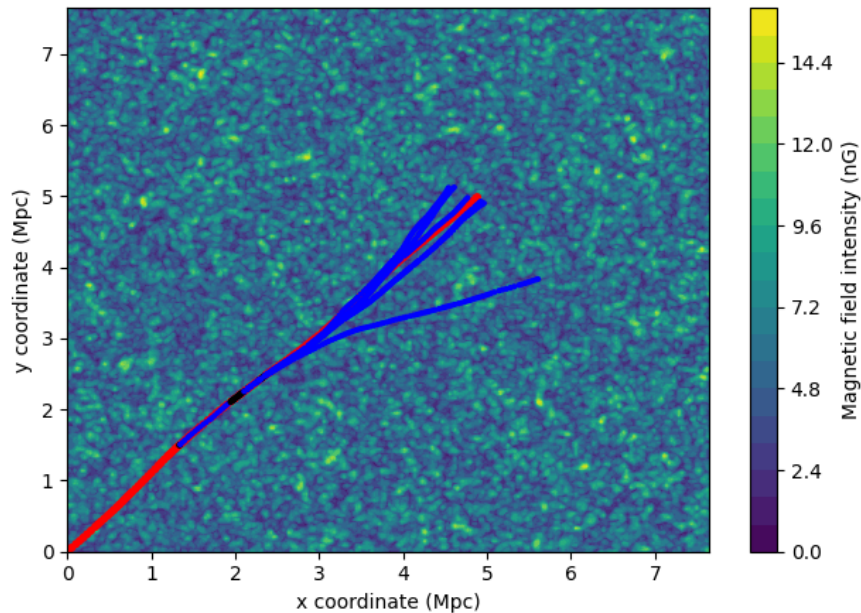
from Fermi-LAT  
observations of NCG 1275  
(Ajello +, 2018)



(Ciaran +, 2018)

# sinergy between gamma-ray simulations & observations

**CR/Propa** (Alves Batista +, 2022)




Large Area Telescope:  $20 \text{ MeV} \lesssim E_\gamma \lesssim 300 \text{ GeV}$

to constrain **ALPs properties with gamma-ray data** (spectral distortion, spatial morphology...) taking into account the propagation effects, as before



thanks!

questions? comments?

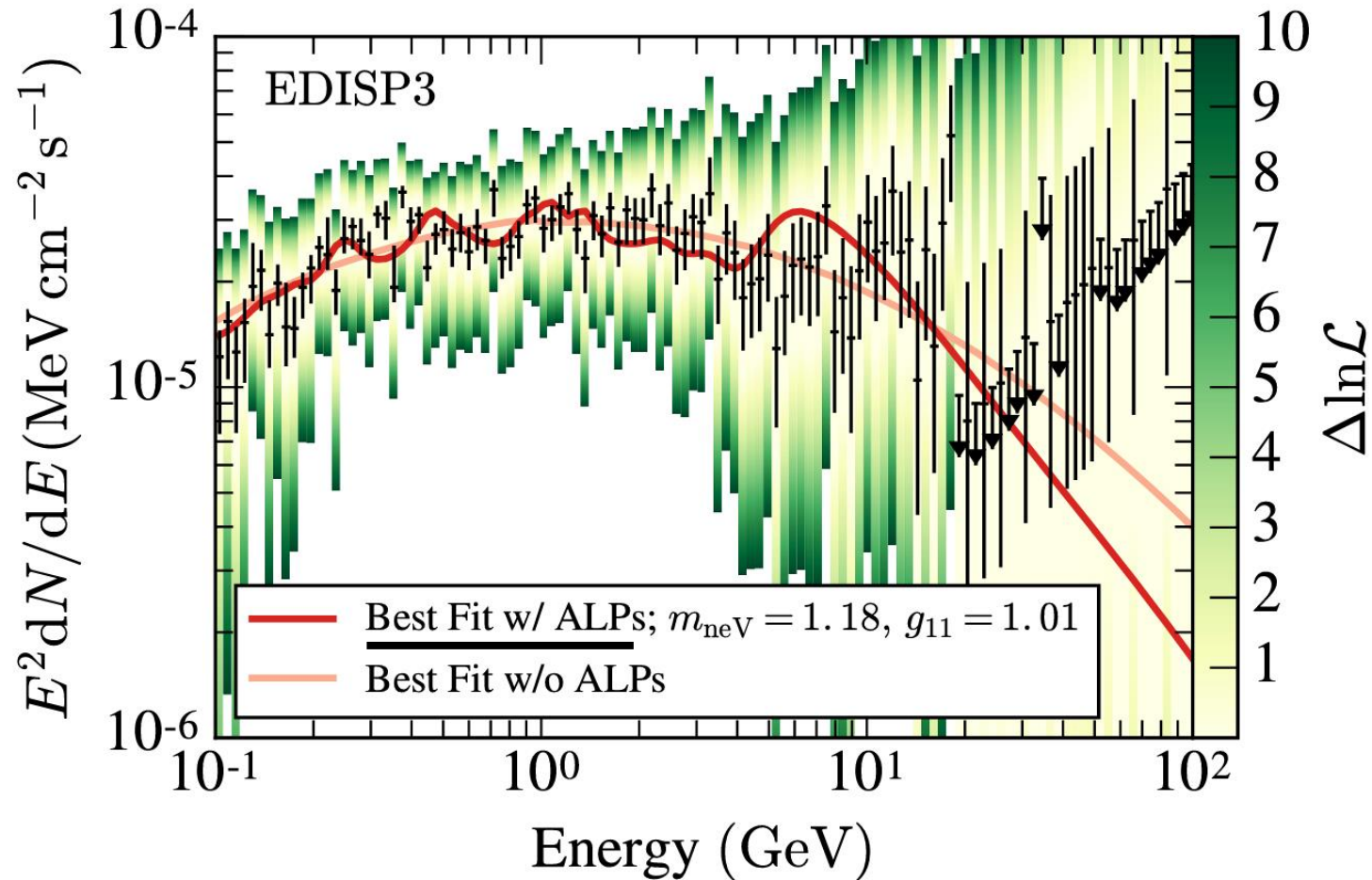




backup...



# FERMI-LAT ALPs SEARCH IN PERSEUS GALAXY CLUSTER



Considering only the  
**Turbulent Intra Cluster**  
Magnetic field

(Ajello +, 2018)