



faculty of **SCIENCE**  
discover the unknown + invent the future



(Canada Day version)

# A hard **X-ray** look at the **Manatee** (W50) nebula powered by the Galactic microquasar **SS 433**

**Samar Safi-Harb**

7th Heidelberg International Symposium on High-Energy Gamma-Ray Astronomy,  
(Gamma2022)  
04 July 2022, Barcelona



Canada Research  
Chairs



# The team (W50-east)

Univ.of Manitoba



**SSH**



**Brydyn Mac Intyre**



**Matthew Band**



**Chelsea Braun**



**Shuo Zhang  
(Bard College)**

Columbia Univ.



**Kaya Mori**



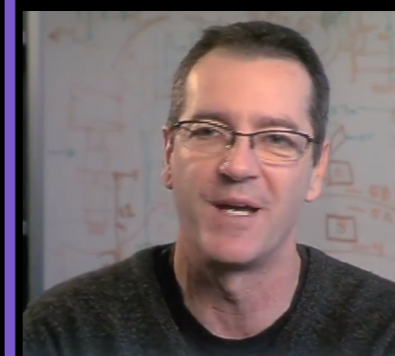
**Isaac Pope**



**Shuhan Zhang**



**Nate Saffold**



**Chuck Hailey**



**Eric Gotthelf**



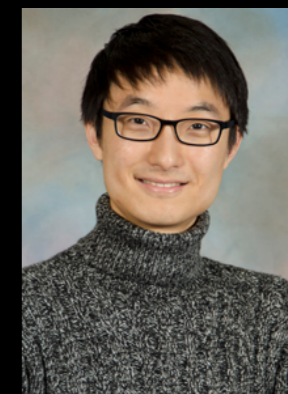
**Felix Aharonian  
(DIAS/MPIK)**



**Mel Nynka (MIT)**

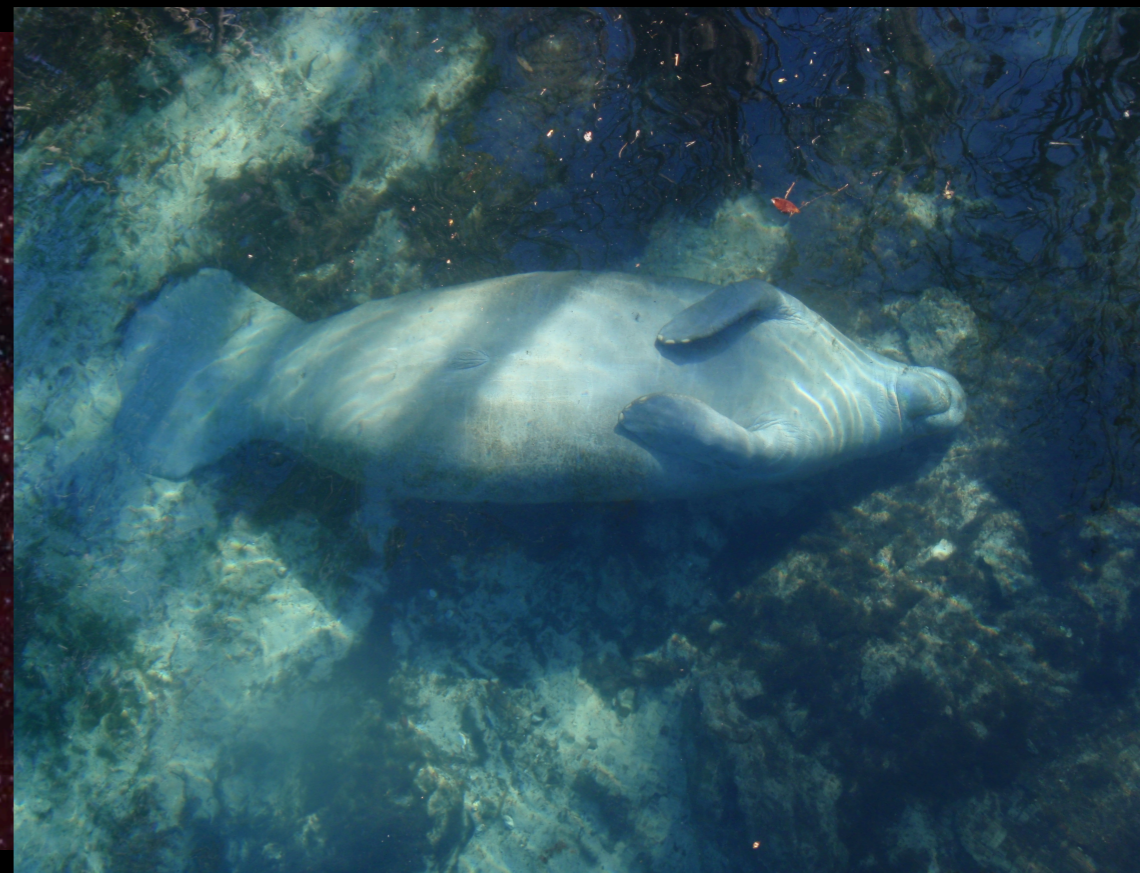


**Ke Fang (U.Wisconsin)**



**Chang D Rho (Seoul)**

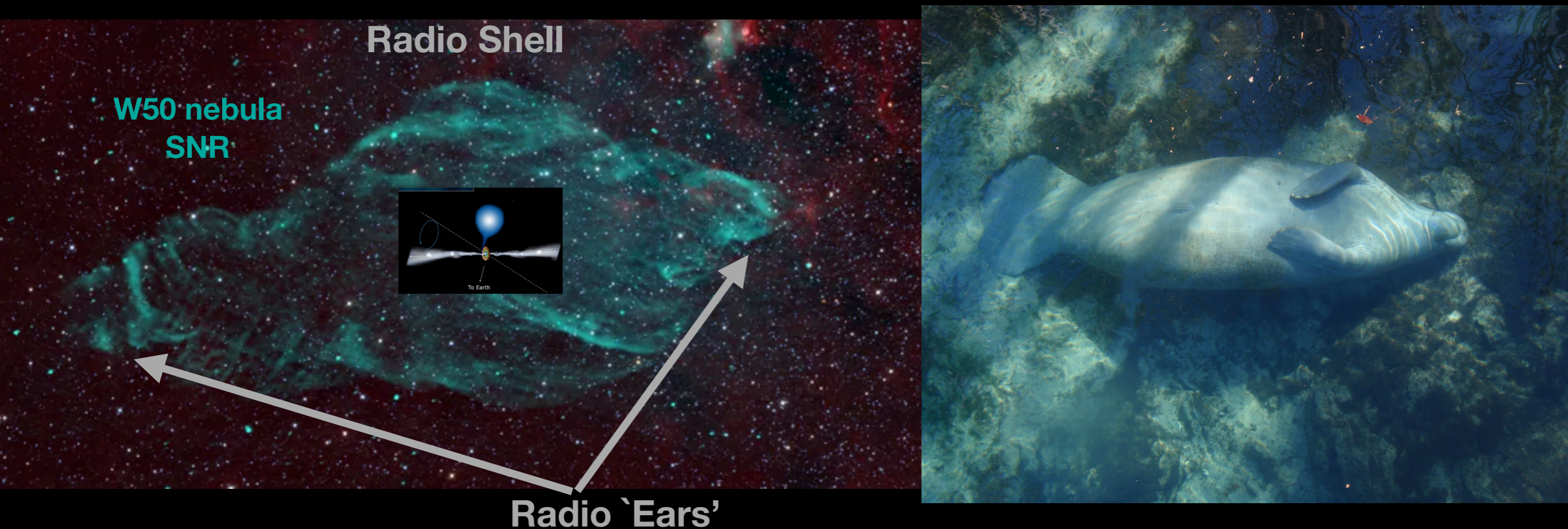
# A manatee in space!



*Left: NSF's Karl G. Jansky VLA, NRAO/AUI/NSF (B. Saxton), K. Golap, M. Goss; NASA's WISE. Right: Tracy Colson*

<https://public.nrao.edu/gallery/w50-the-manatee-nebula/>

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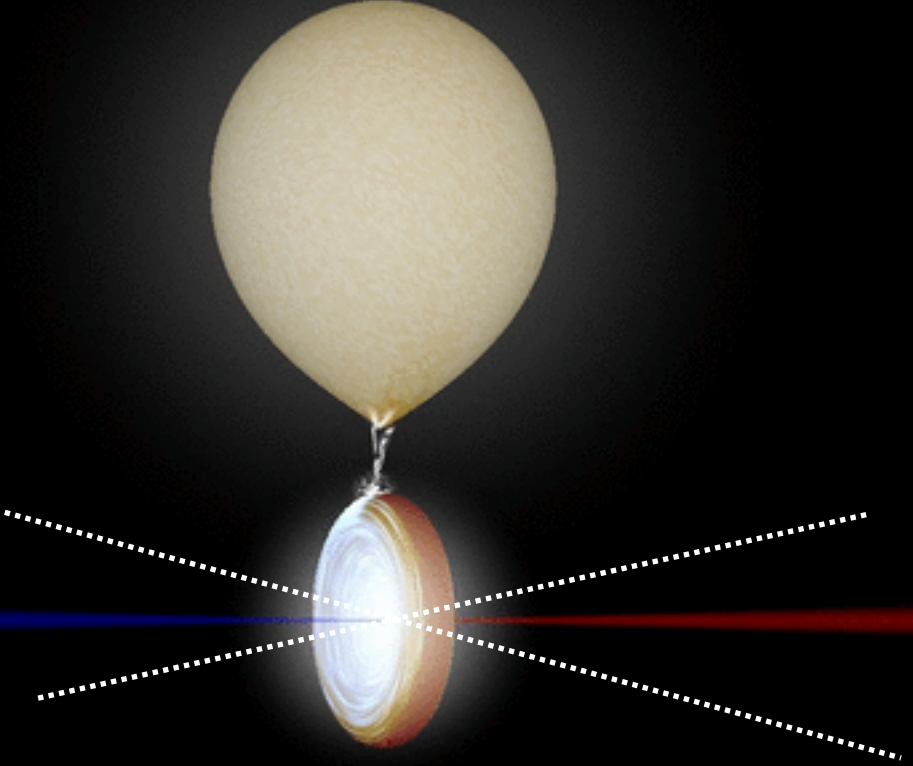
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# SS 433

>700 ADS records since 1978!!

- High-Mass X-ray Binary ( $P_{\text{orb}} \sim 13$  days)
- Microquasar
- **Stellar Mass Black Hole**
- **Super-Critical Accretion**
- **Two-sided baryonic jets**,  $v \sim 0.26 c$
- Precession Period  $\sim 162$  days



*Created using software by Robert  
Hynes, U Texas*

*Review by Fabrika 2004*

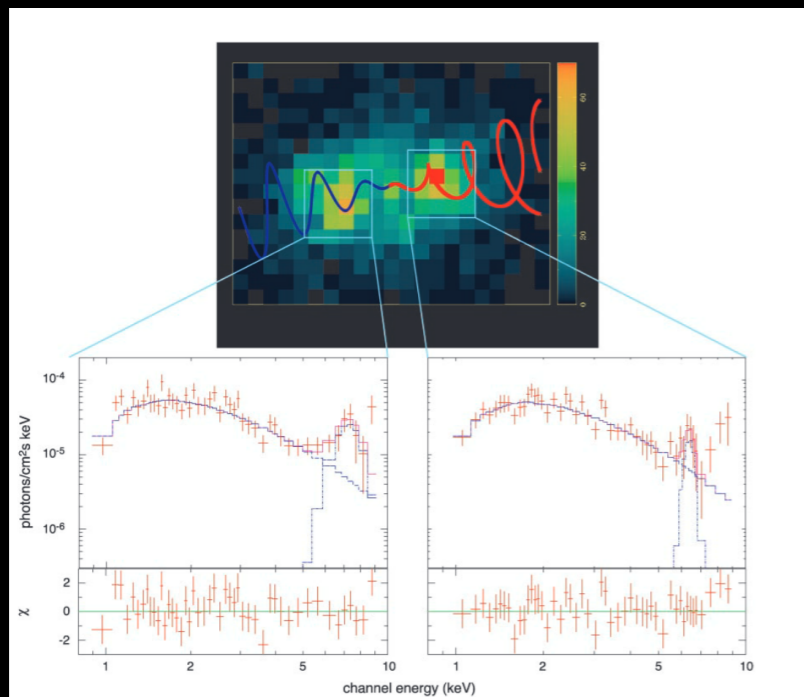
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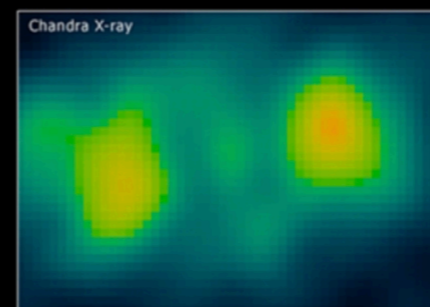
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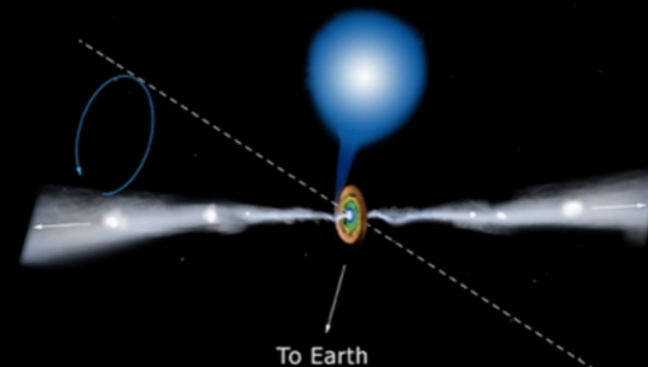


Migliari+2002

## Chandra

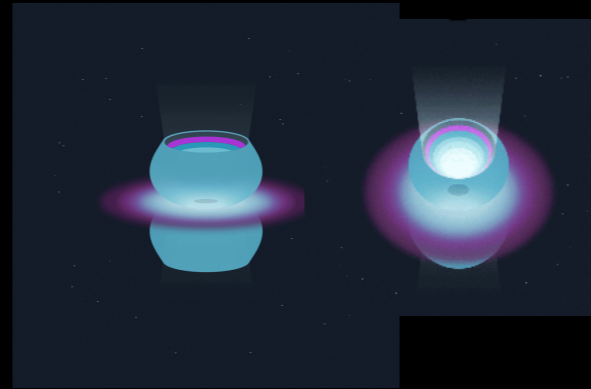


Migliari et al. 2022  
Marshall et al. 2013



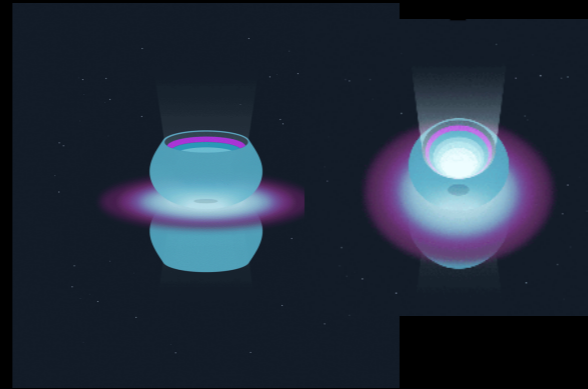
# Testbed for many astrophysical (high-energy) phenomena

- Black hole jets/microquasar
- Ultra-Luminous X-ray Sources
- Black Hole Remnants
- Active Galactic Nuclei
- (Pulsar) Wind Nebula
- Particle Acceleration to very high energies

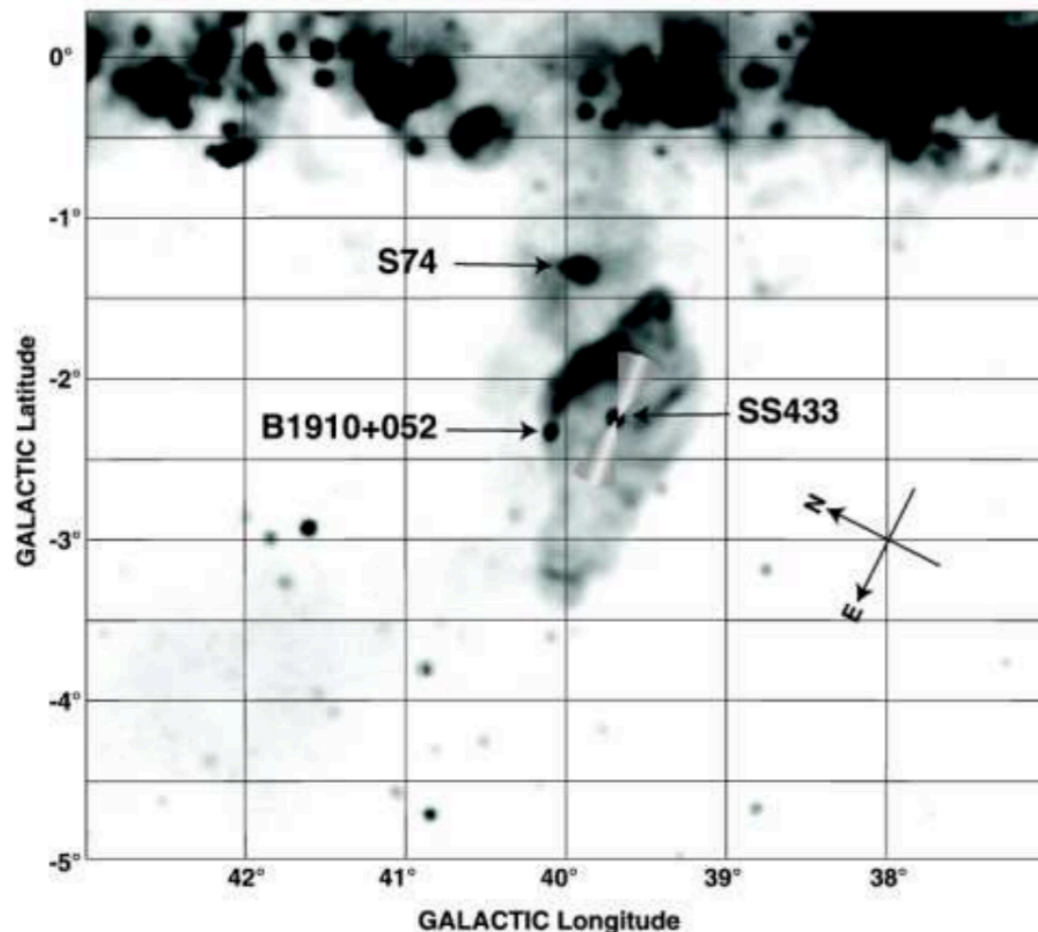


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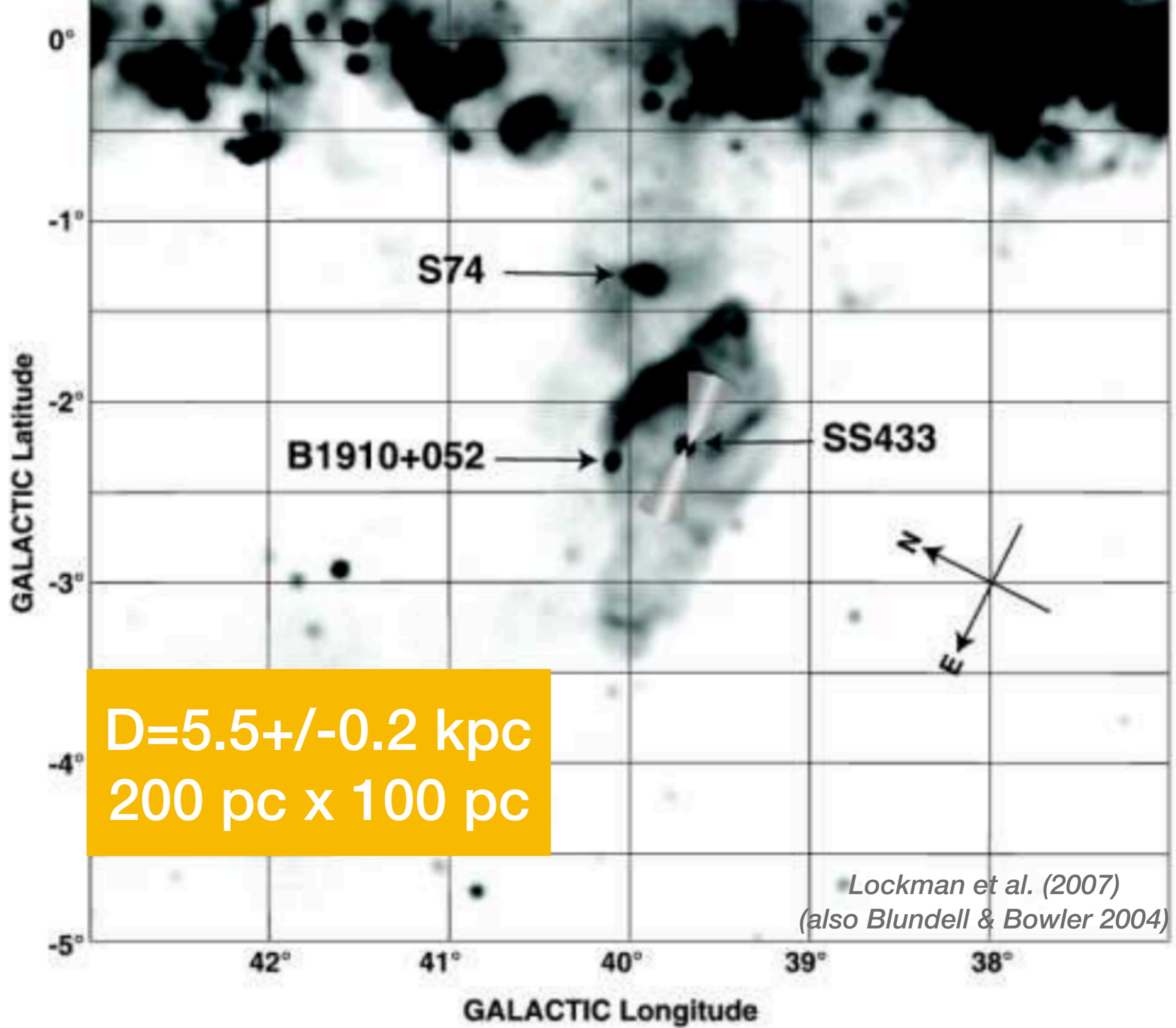
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Among the largest known SNRs in our Galaxy  
and a rare case of a black-hole SNR





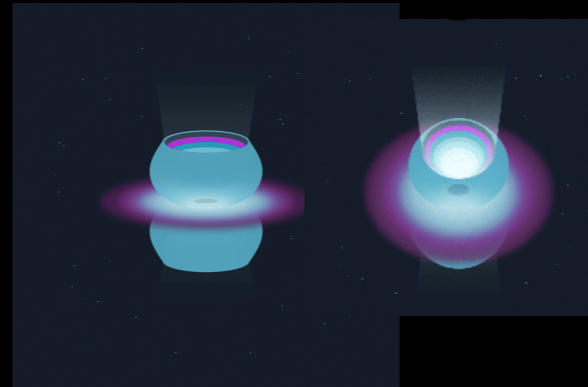


$D=5.5 \pm 0.2$  kpc  
 $200 \text{ pc} \times 100 \text{ pc}$

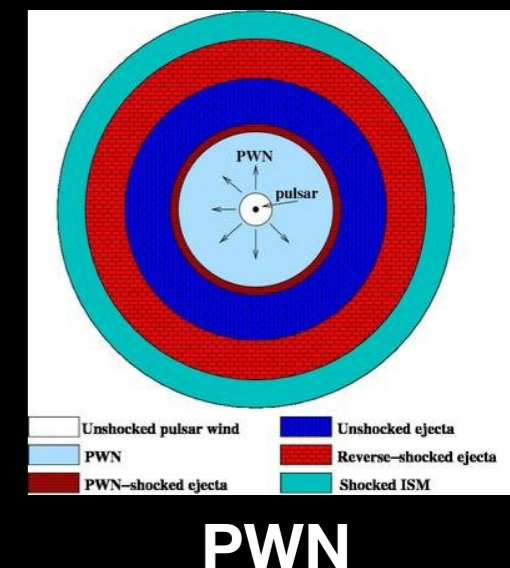
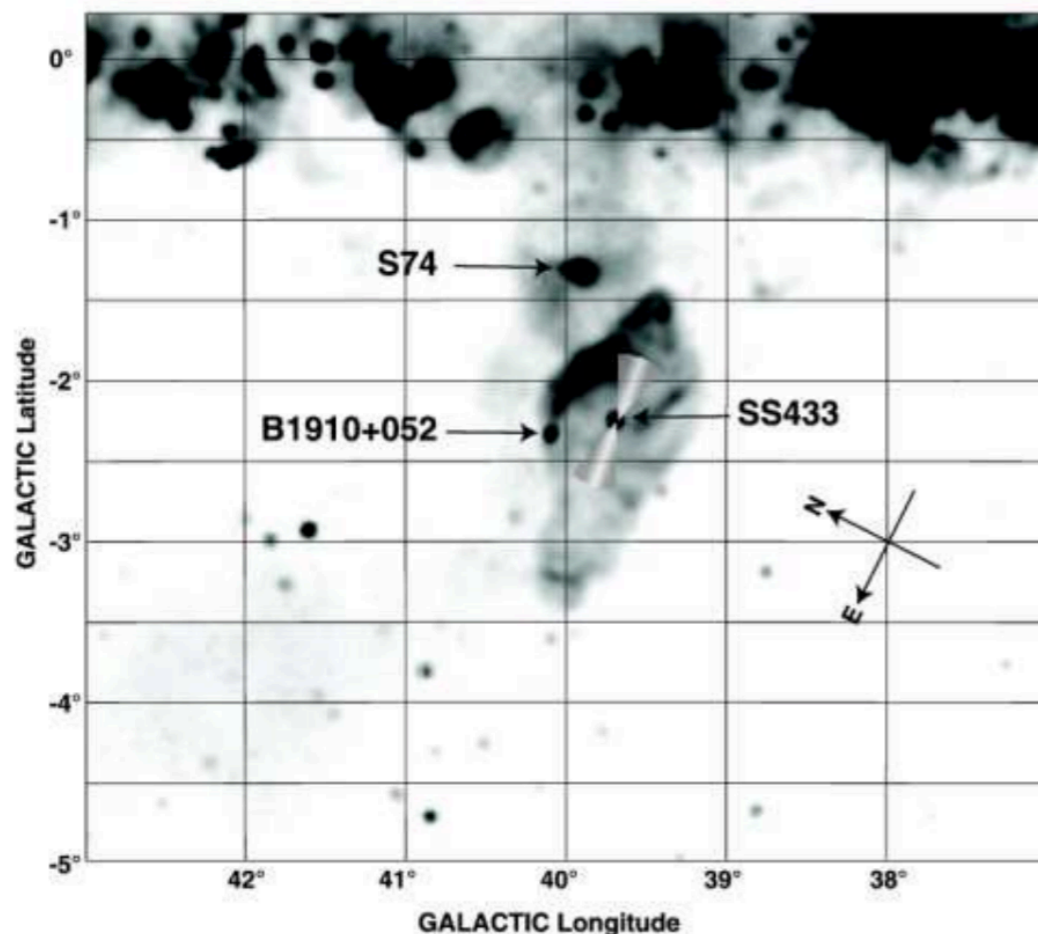
*Lockman et al. (2007)*  
*(also Blundell & Bowler 2004)*

# Testbed for many astrophysical (high-energy) phenomena

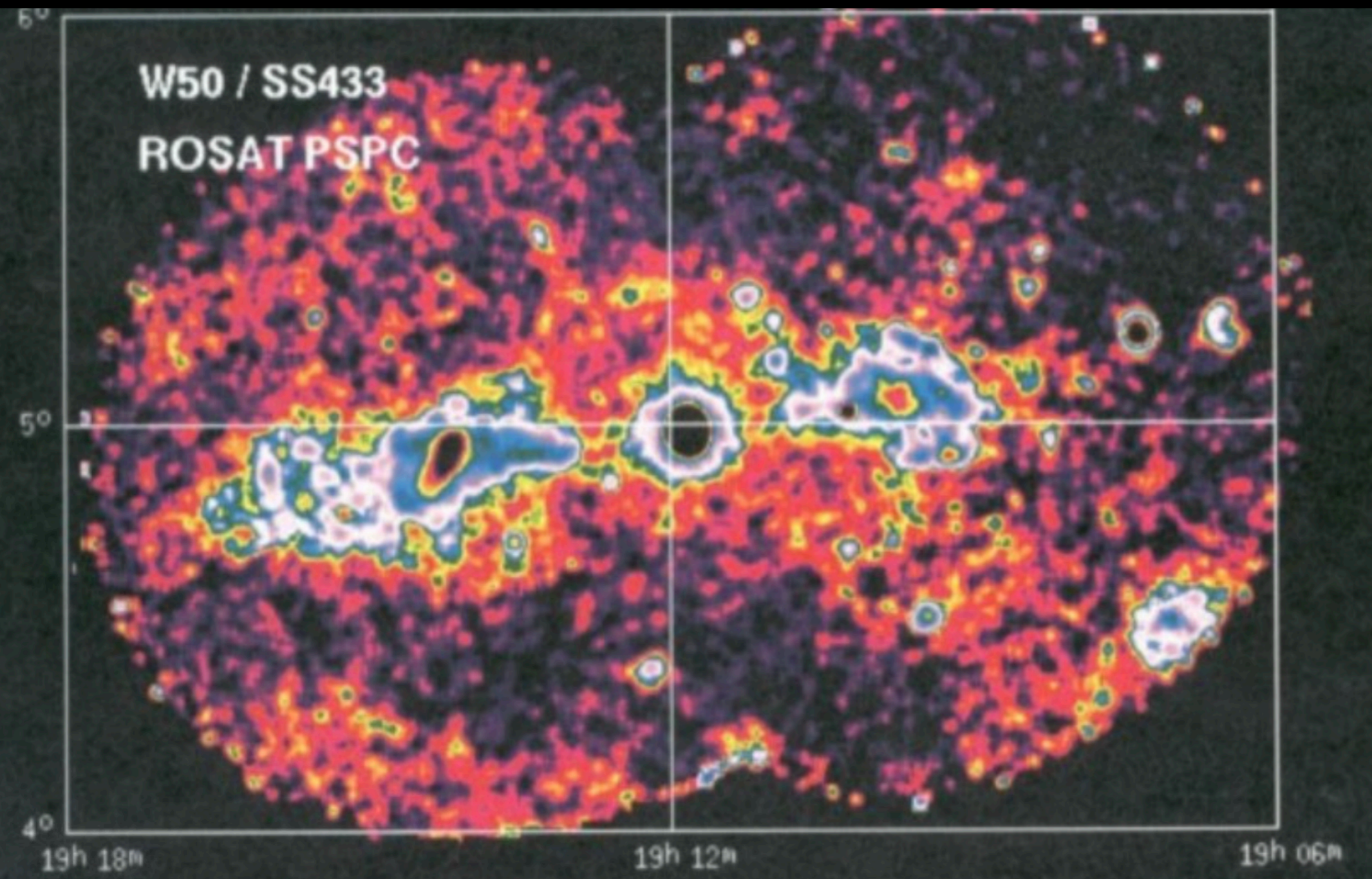
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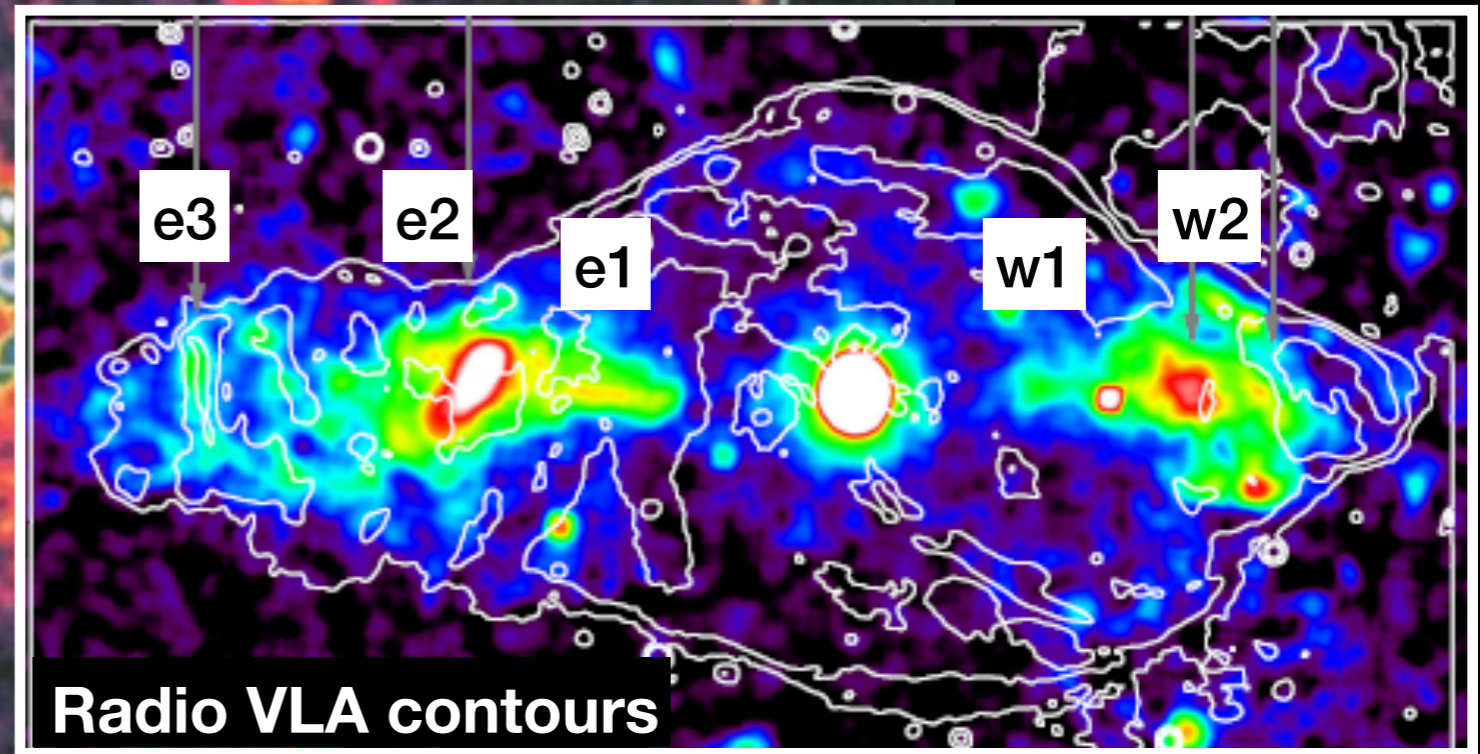


# Early X-ray Observations



# Early X-ray Observations

W50 / SS433  
ROSAT PSPC

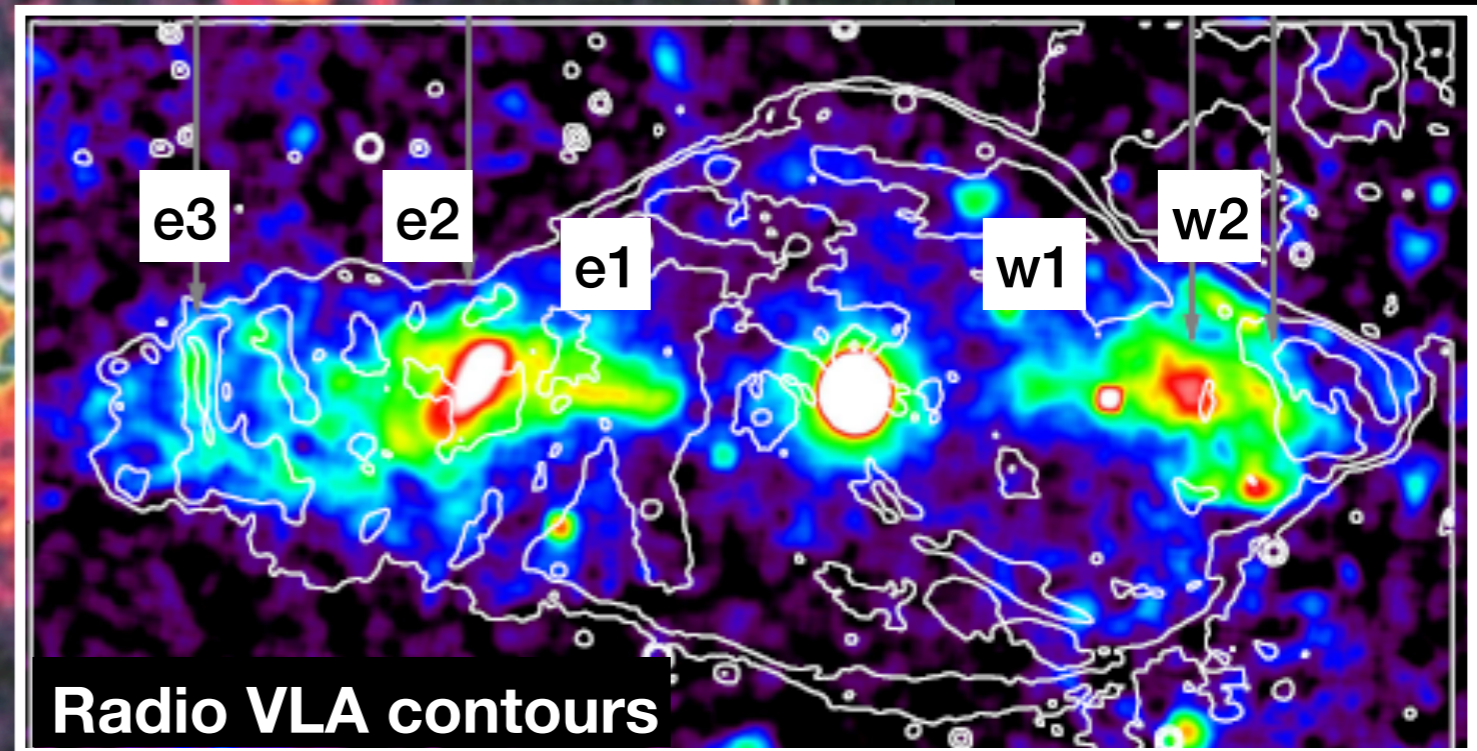
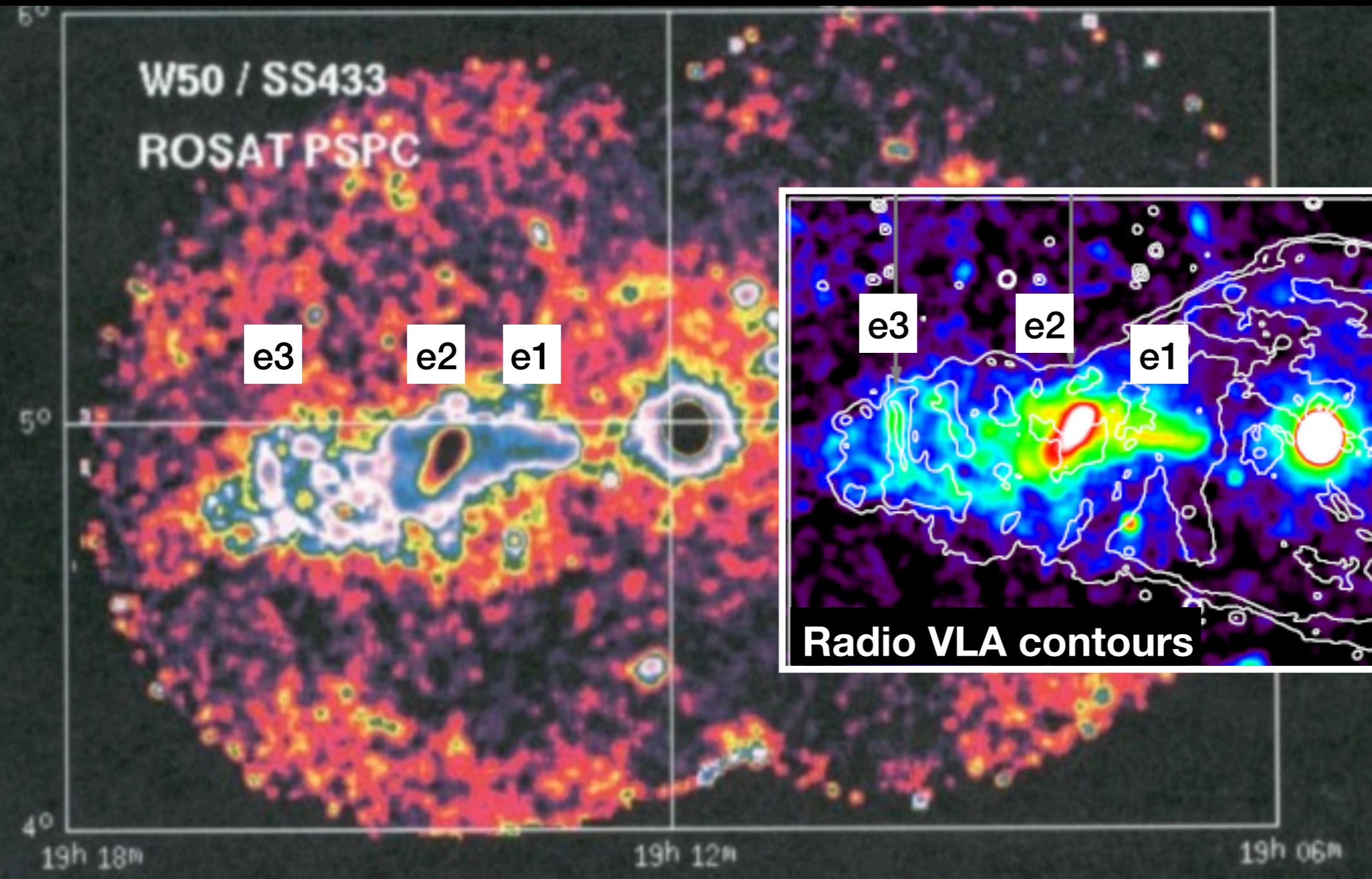


19h 18m

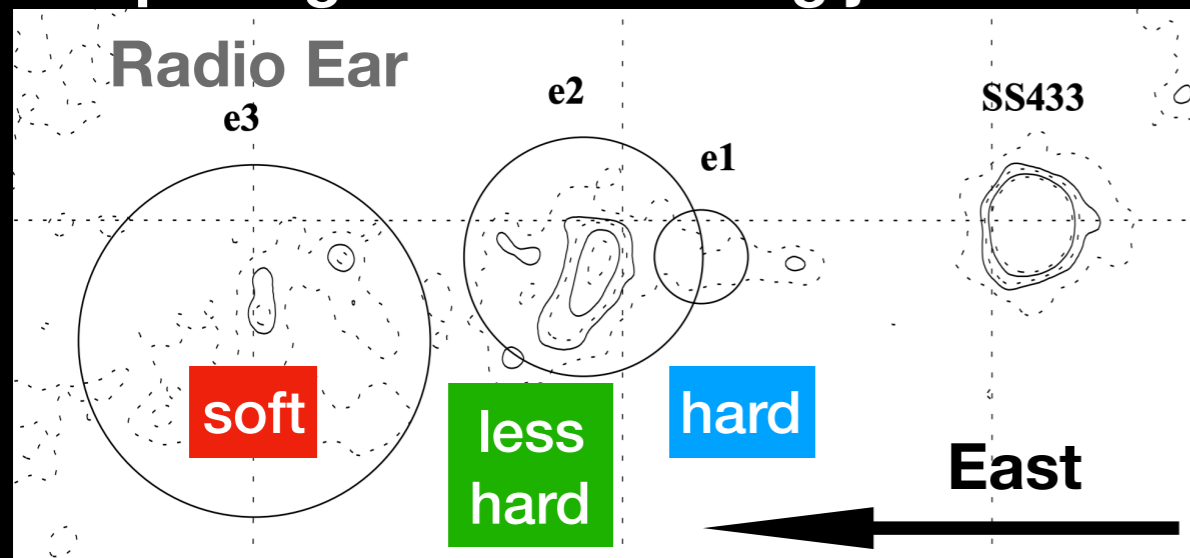
19h 12m

19h 06m

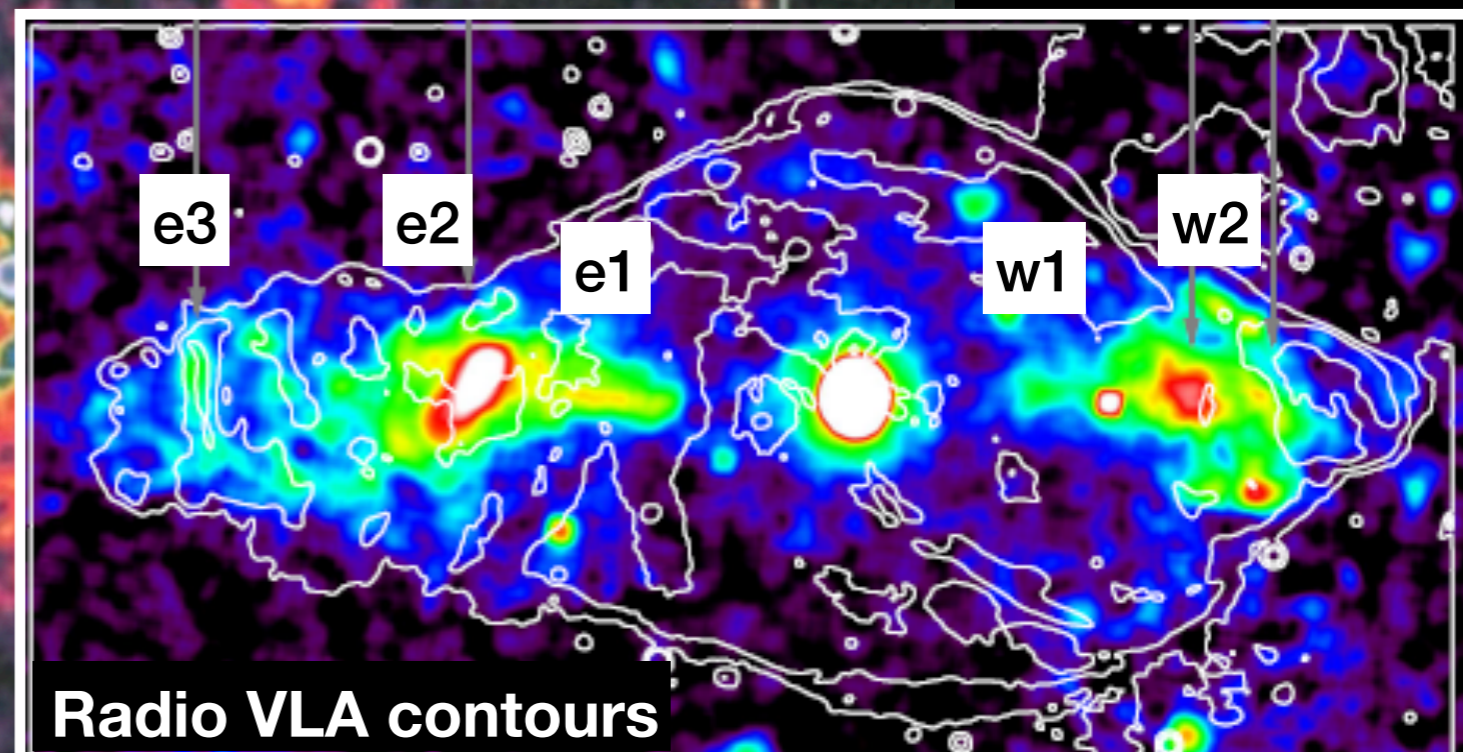
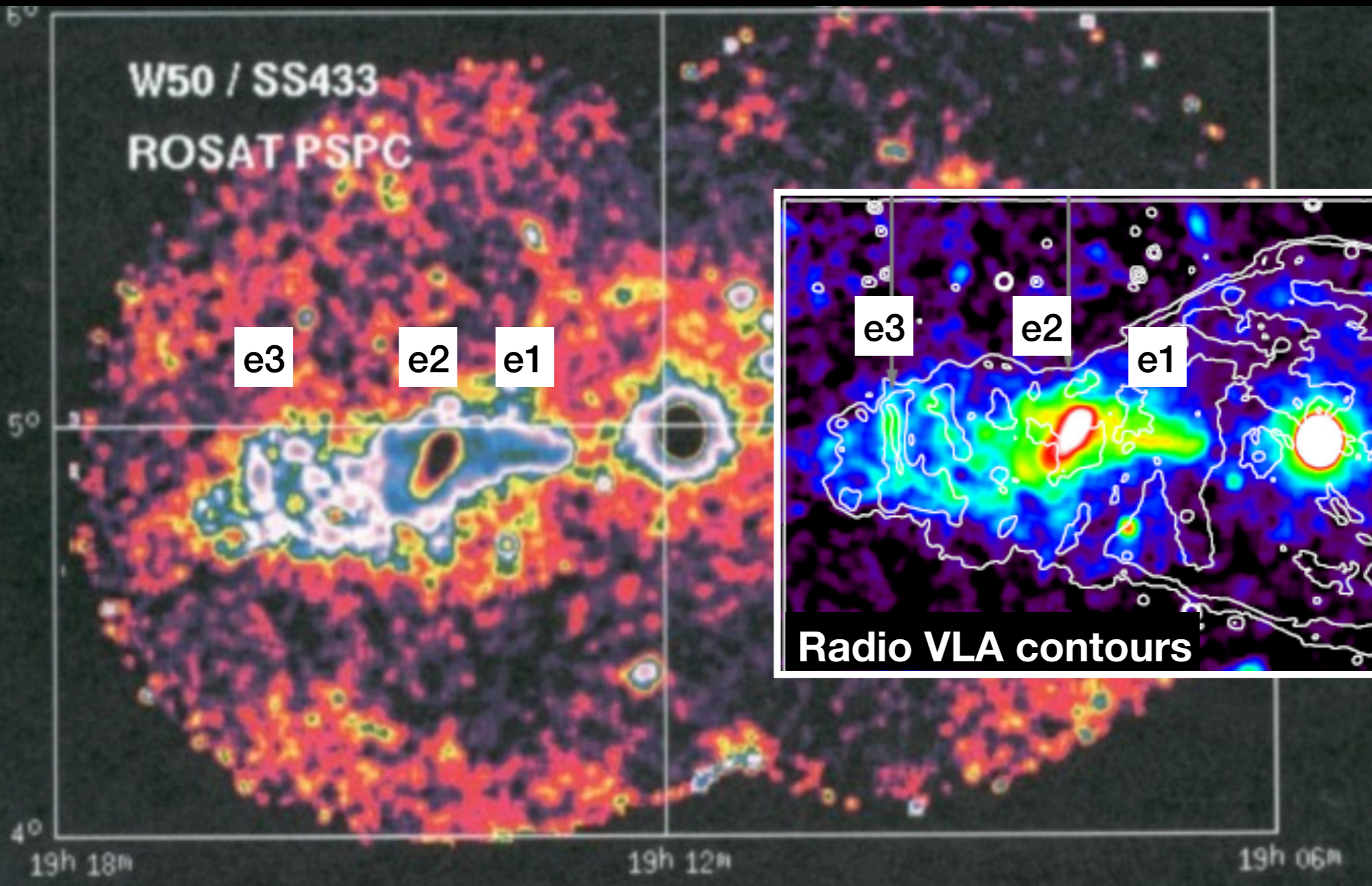
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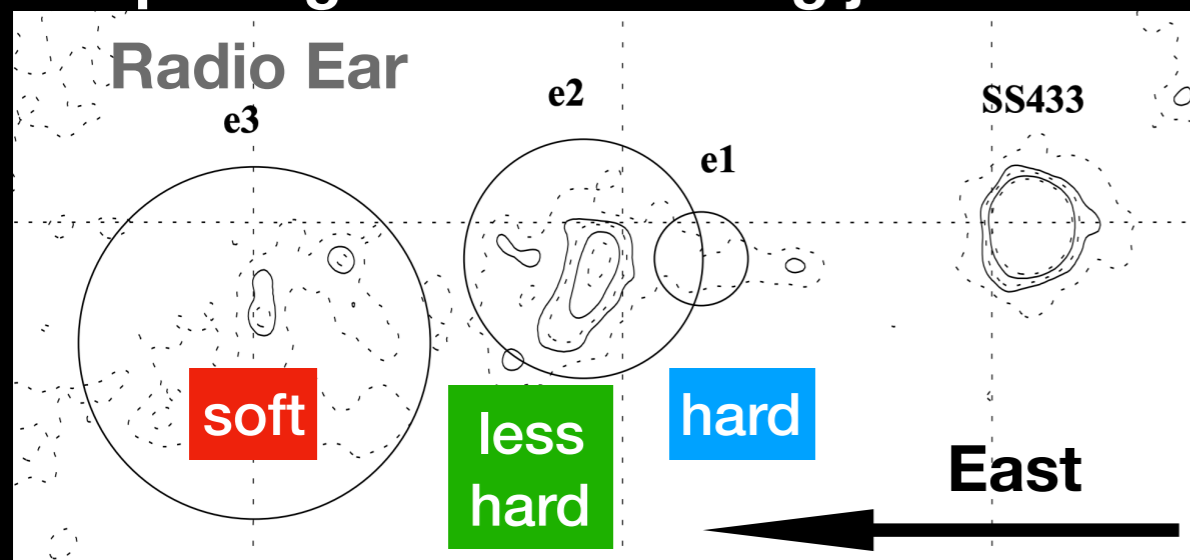
**Steepening eastward along jet direction**



# Early X-ray Observations



Steepening eastward along jet direction

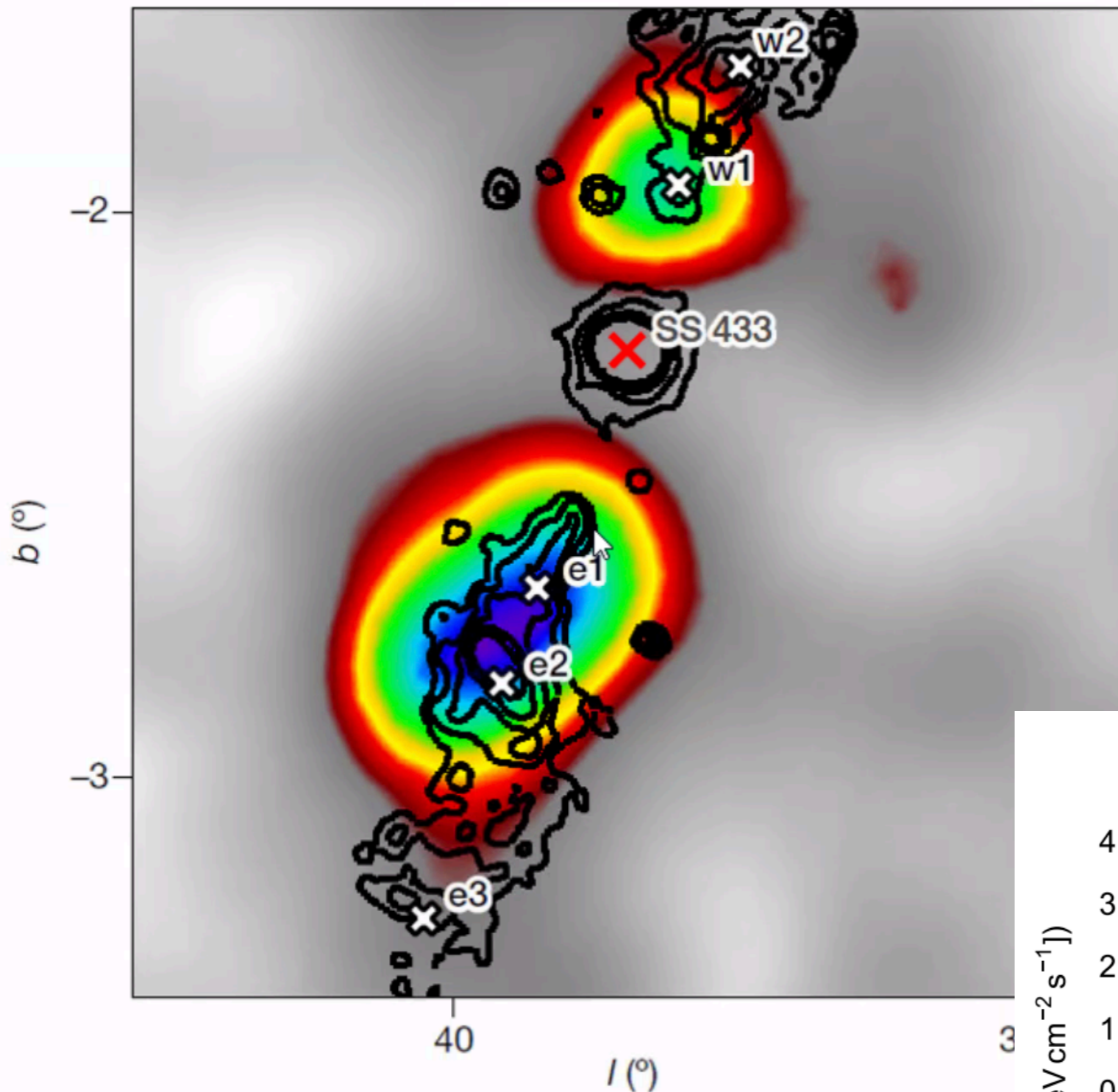


## Galactic PeVatron Candidate

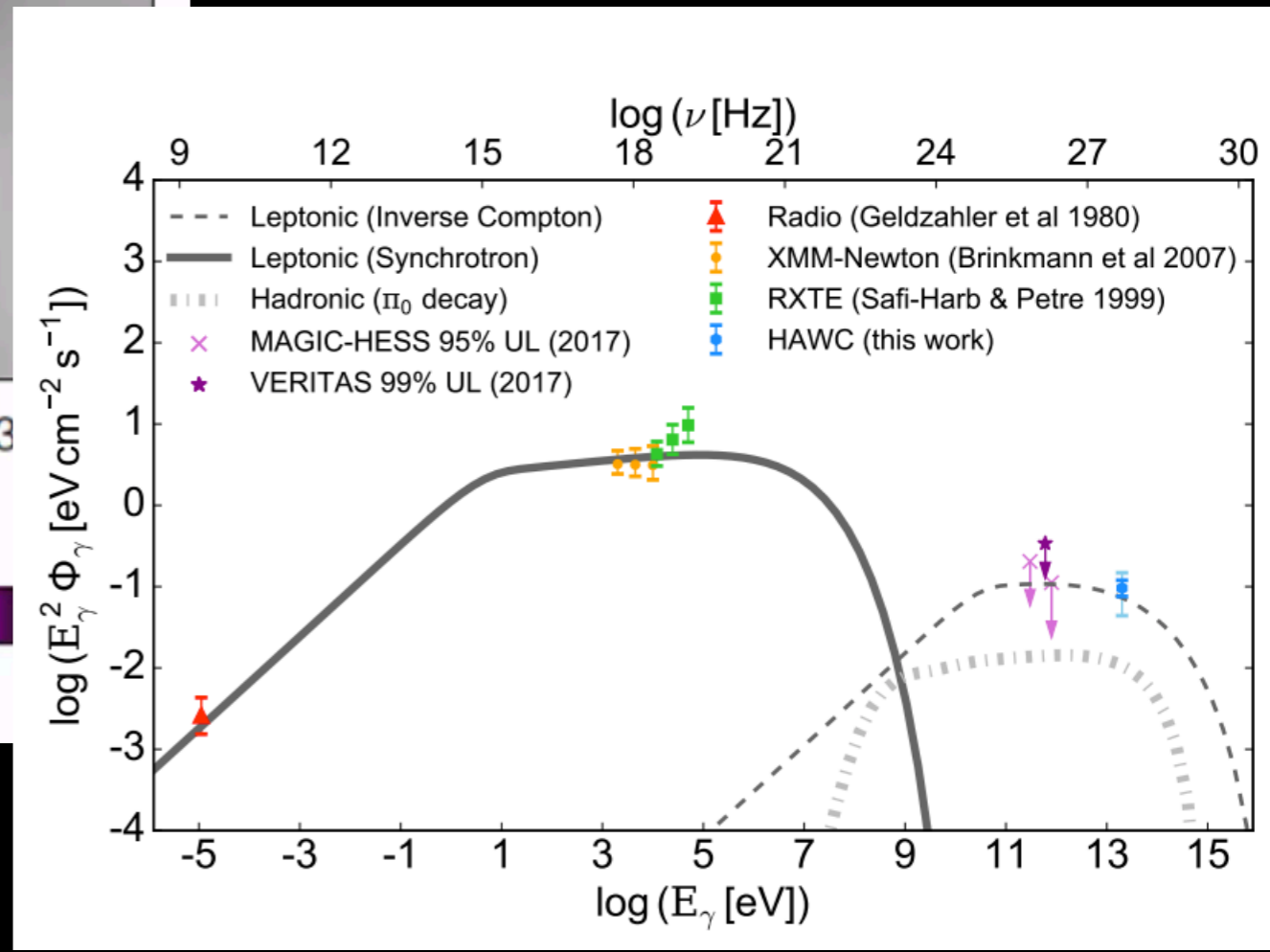
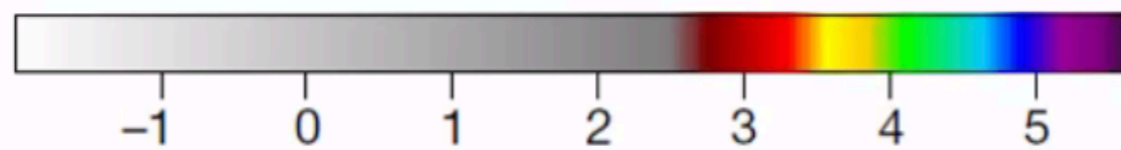
**e1-e2: hard X-ray spectra**  
(same for w1-w2)  
**e1: Gamma~1.4-1.6**  
100's of TeV, 6-15 uG (e1-e2)

**1990's**  
ROSAT, ASCA  
and RXTE  
(0.5-50 keV)

*Safi-Harb & Ogelman 1997*  
*Safi-Harb & Petre 1999*

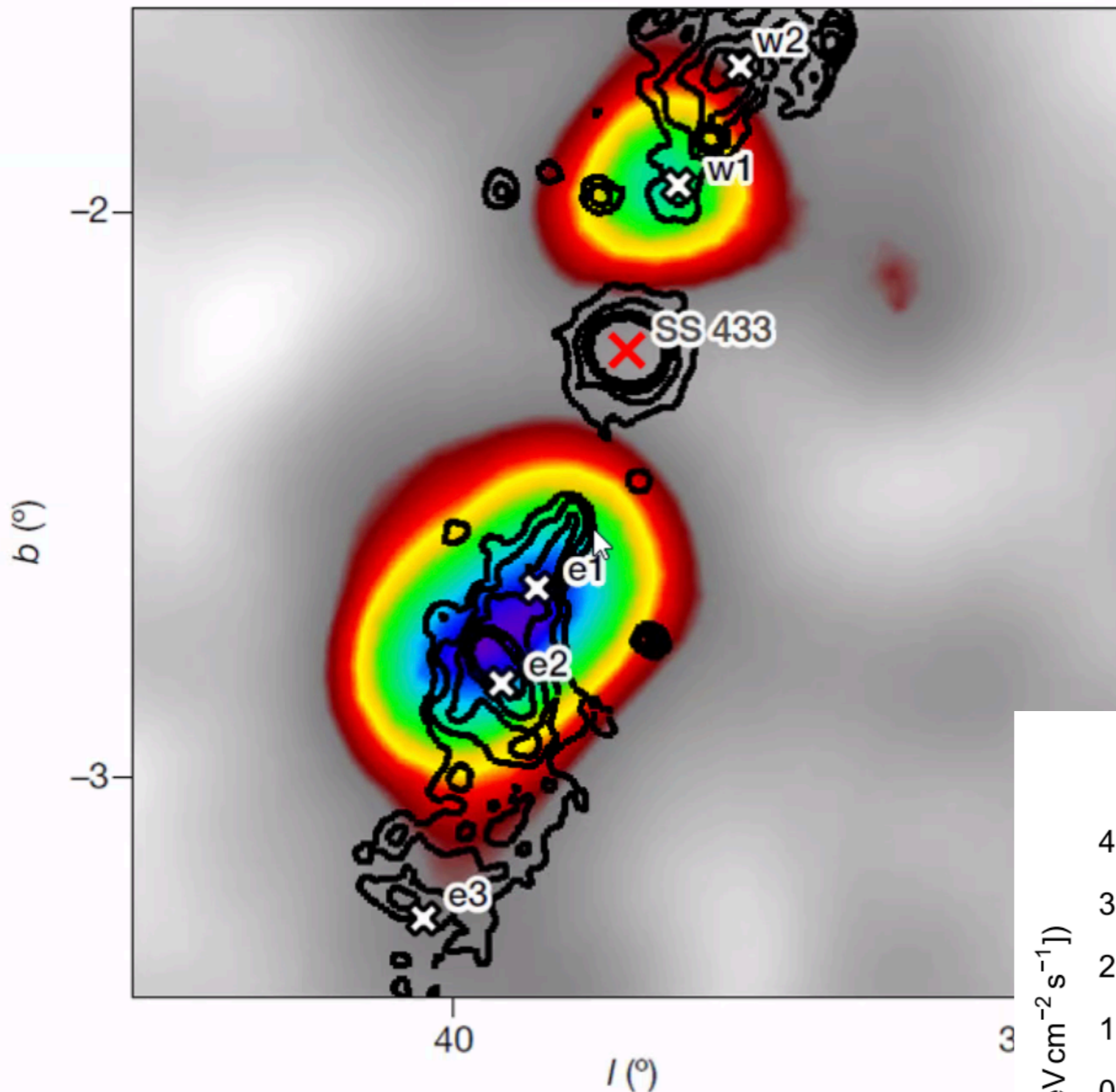


**HAWC Collaboration 2018**

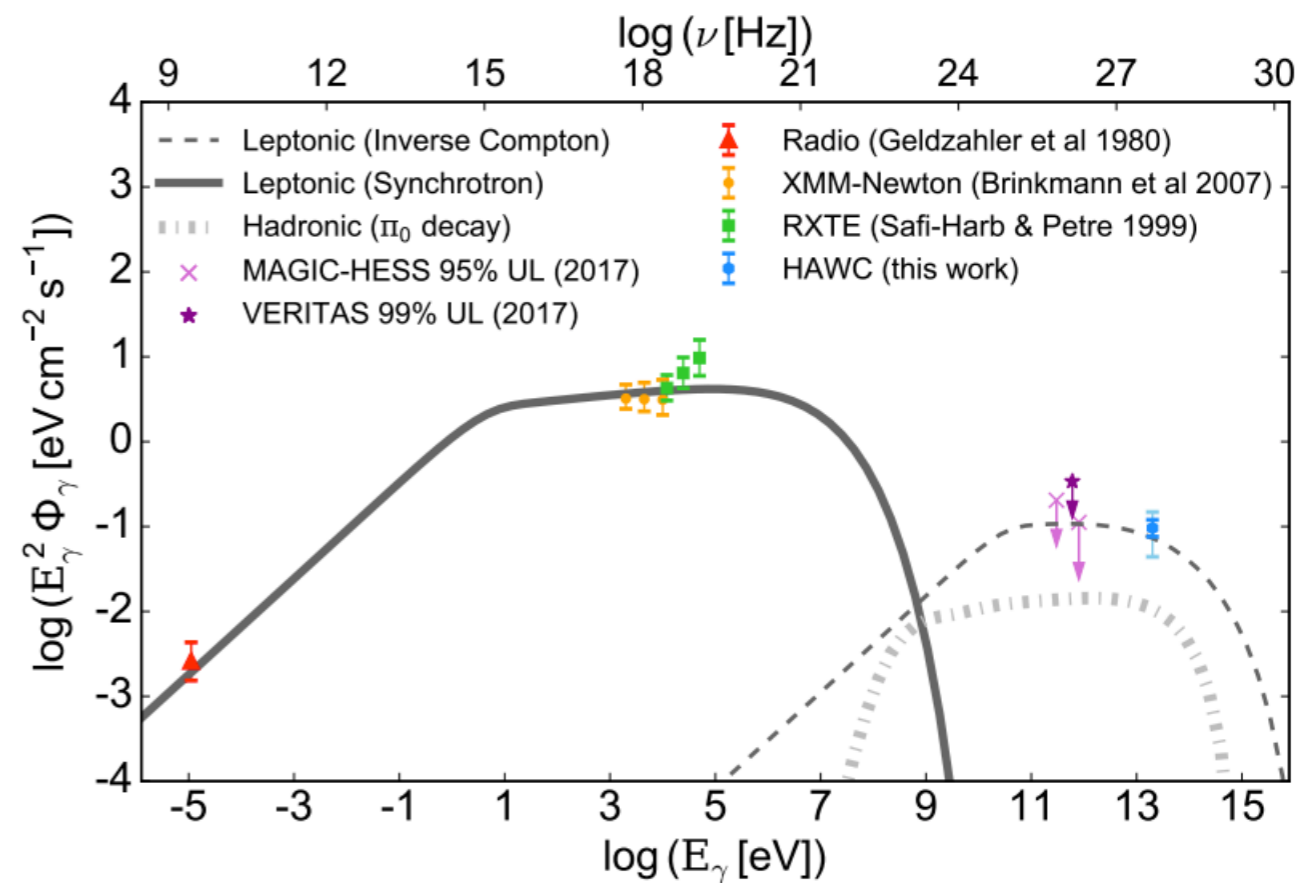
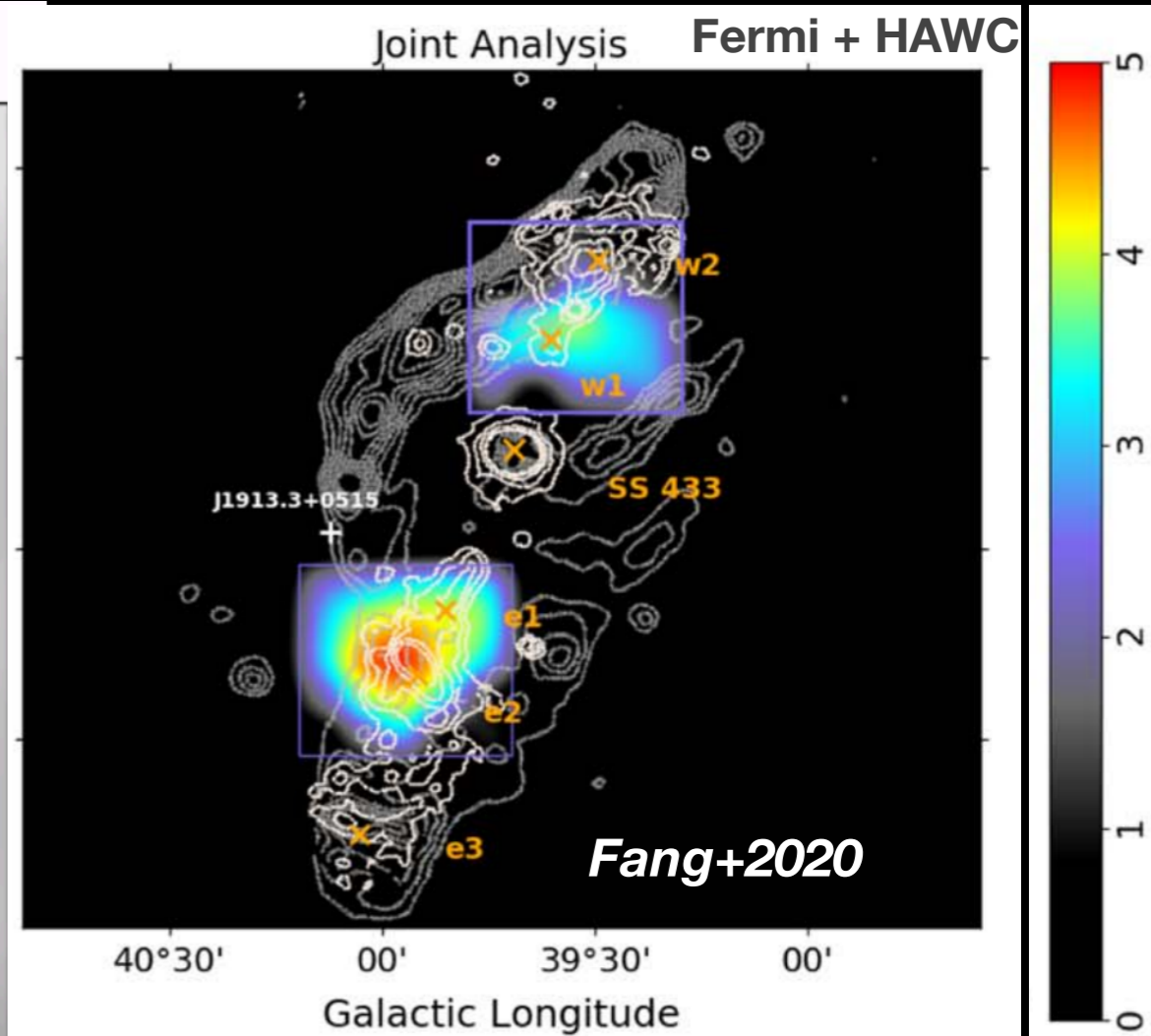
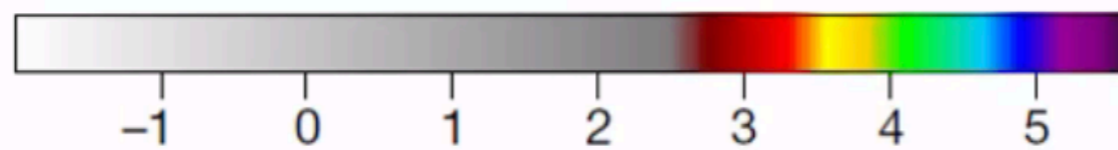


**hadronic? leptonic?**

**See also *Sudoh+2020 Kimura+2020***



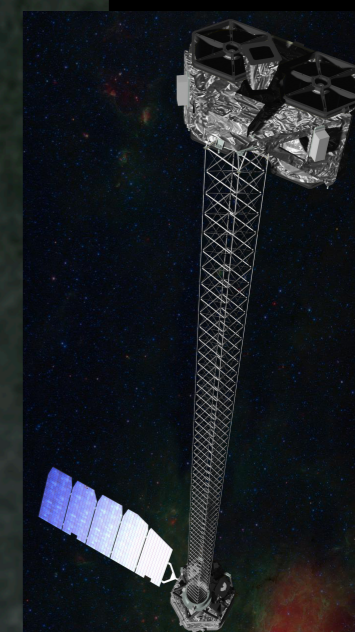
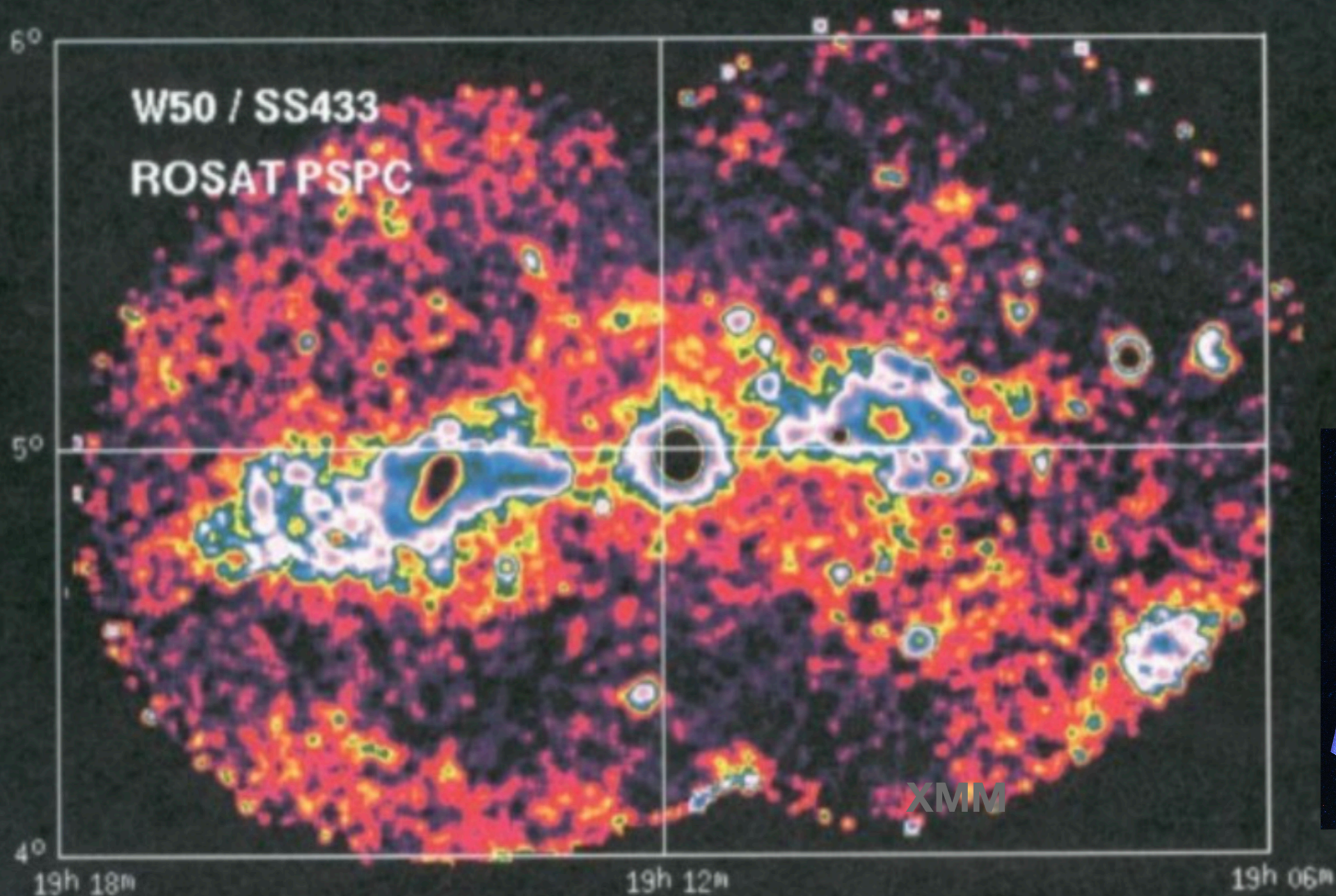
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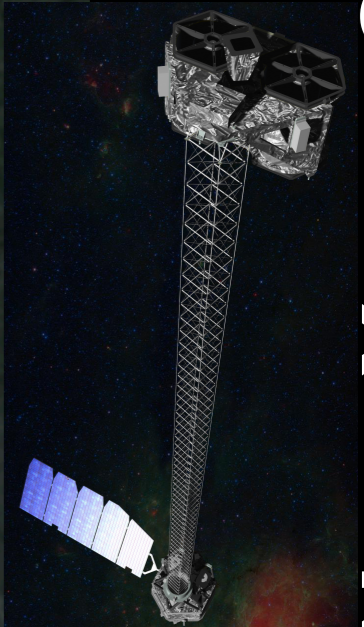
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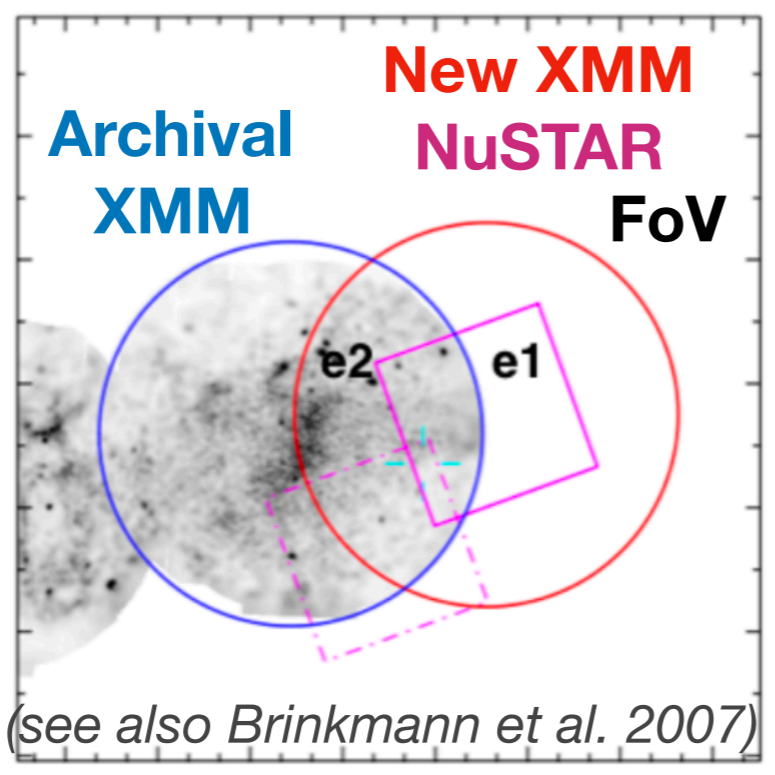
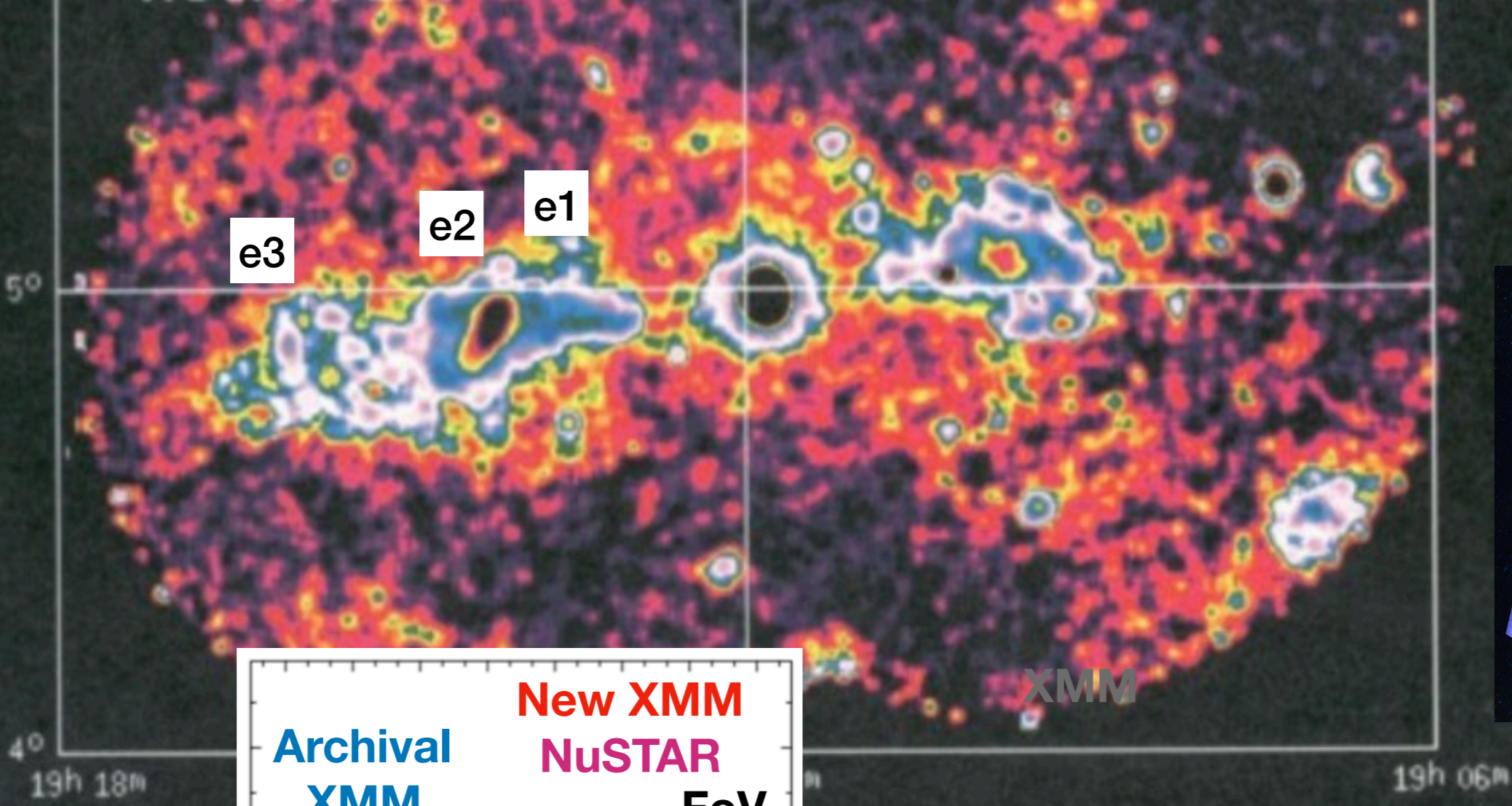
# New X-ray Observations

**NuSTAR 3-30 keV (12'x12' FoV, 18" FWHM)**  
**XMM 0.5-10 keV (30' FoV, ~6" FWHM)**  
+archival XMM and Chandra (0.5-10 keV, 0.5")



# New X-ray Observations

**Eastern Lobe:**  
XMM: e1+(e2): 56 ks  
NuSTAR, e1: 100 ks  
(30 ks off source for background)



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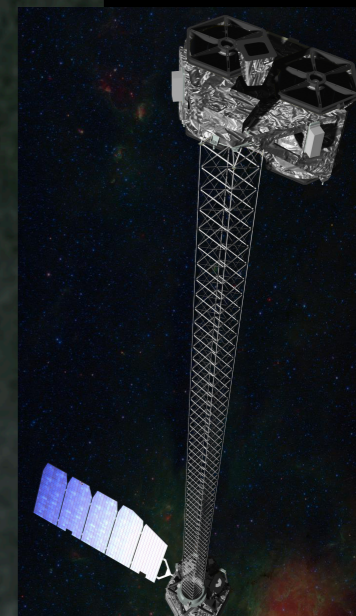
(30 ks off source for background)

Western lobe:

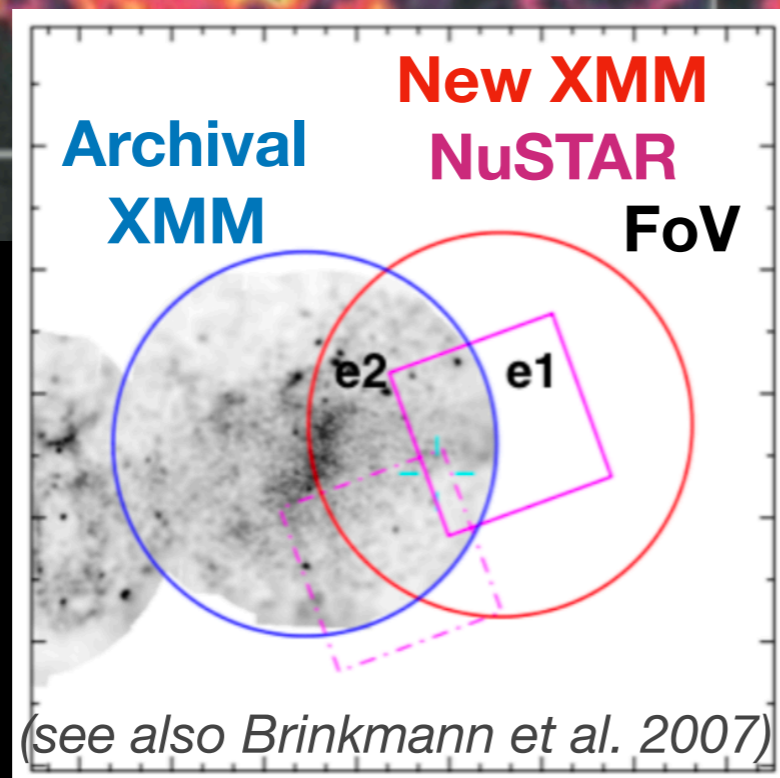
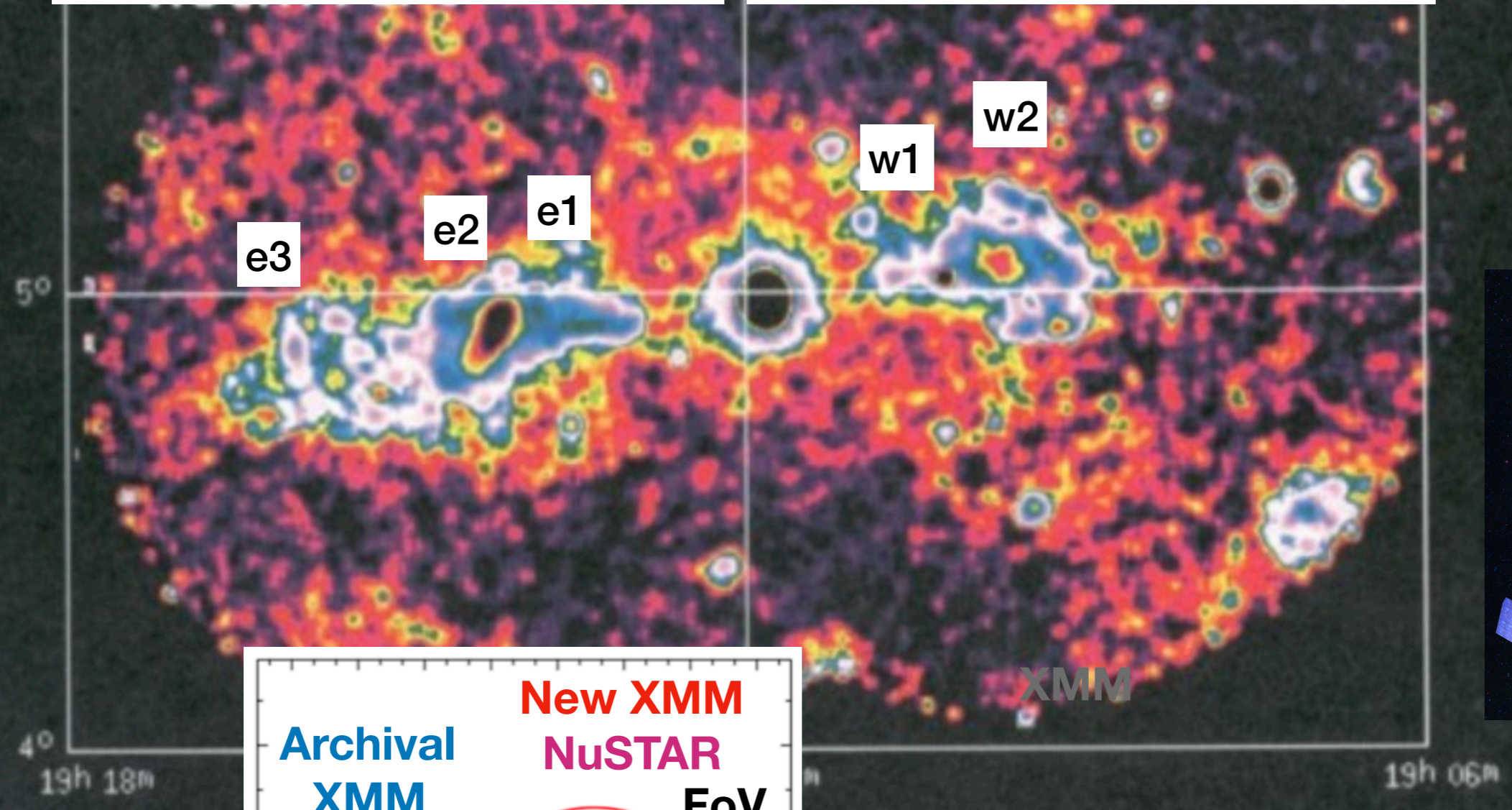
*most recently observed with*

XMM: w1+w2: 50 ks

NuSTAR: w1: 100 ks

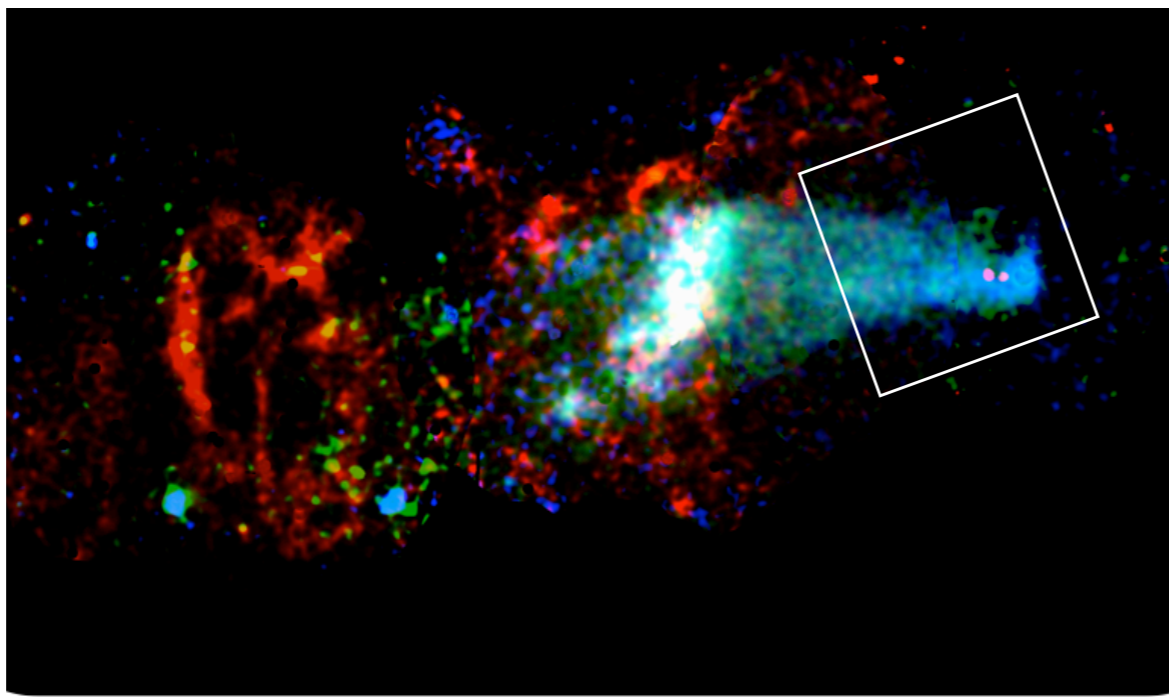


New X-ray Observations



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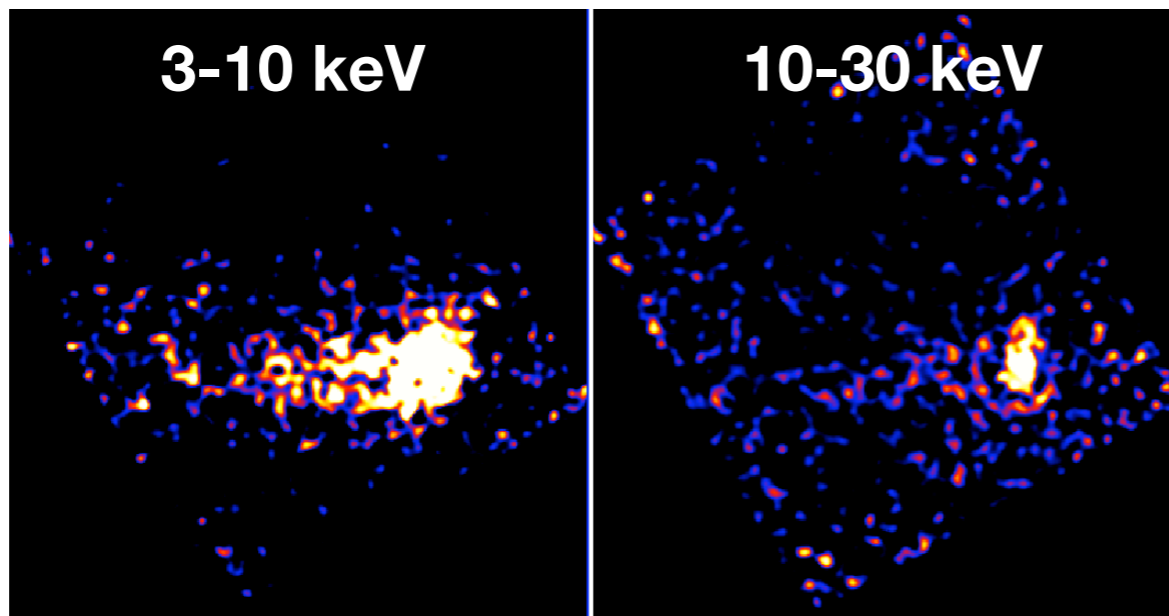


**XMM-Newton RGB image**

**0.5-1 keV**

**1-2 keV**

**2-10 keV**

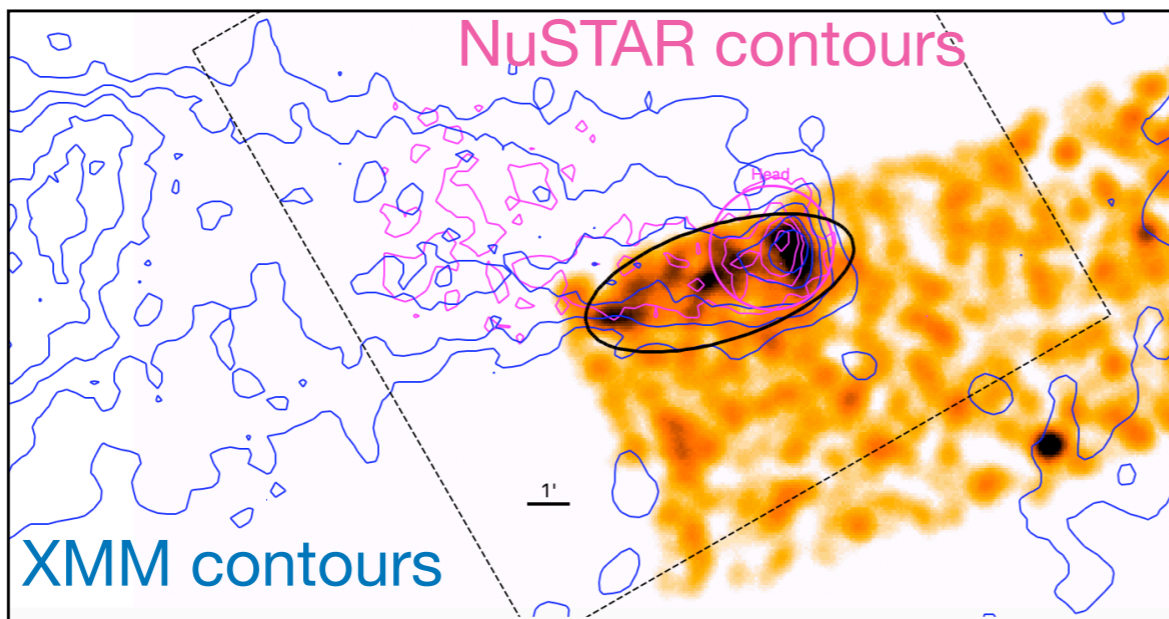


**3-10 keV**

**10-30 keV**

**NuSTAR**

**FPMA and FPMB**



**NuSTAR contours**

**XMM contours**

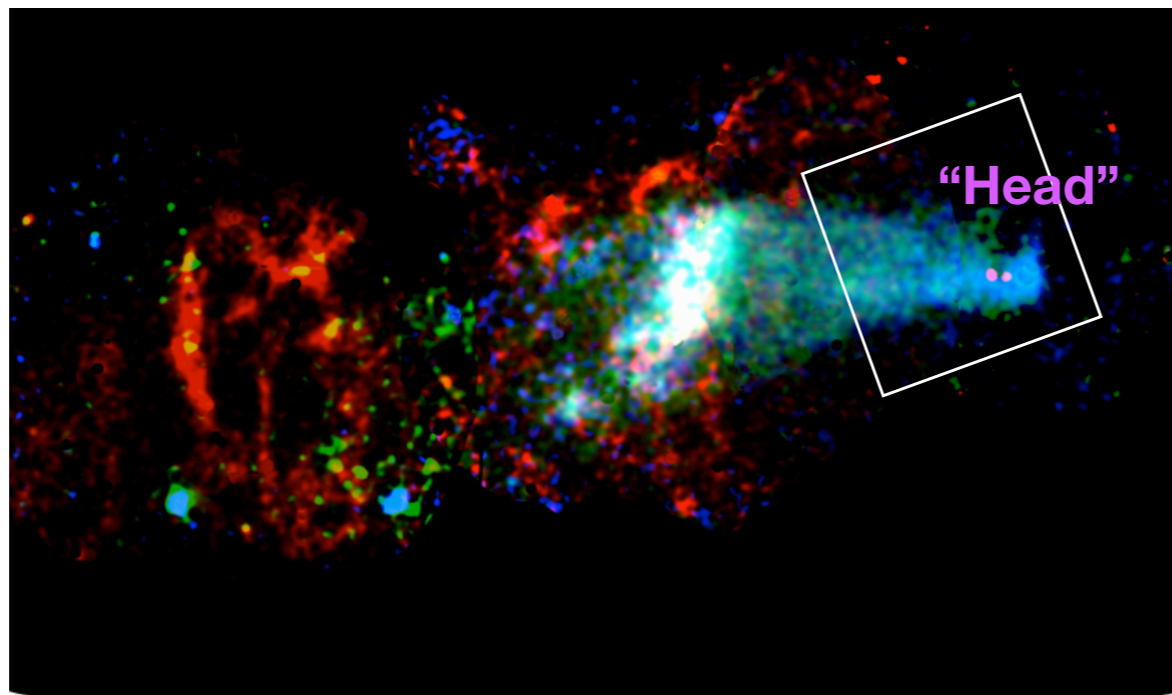
1'

**serendipitous discovery of innermost 'head' region**

**with Chandra**

**(0.5-8 keV)**

# Eastern Lobe



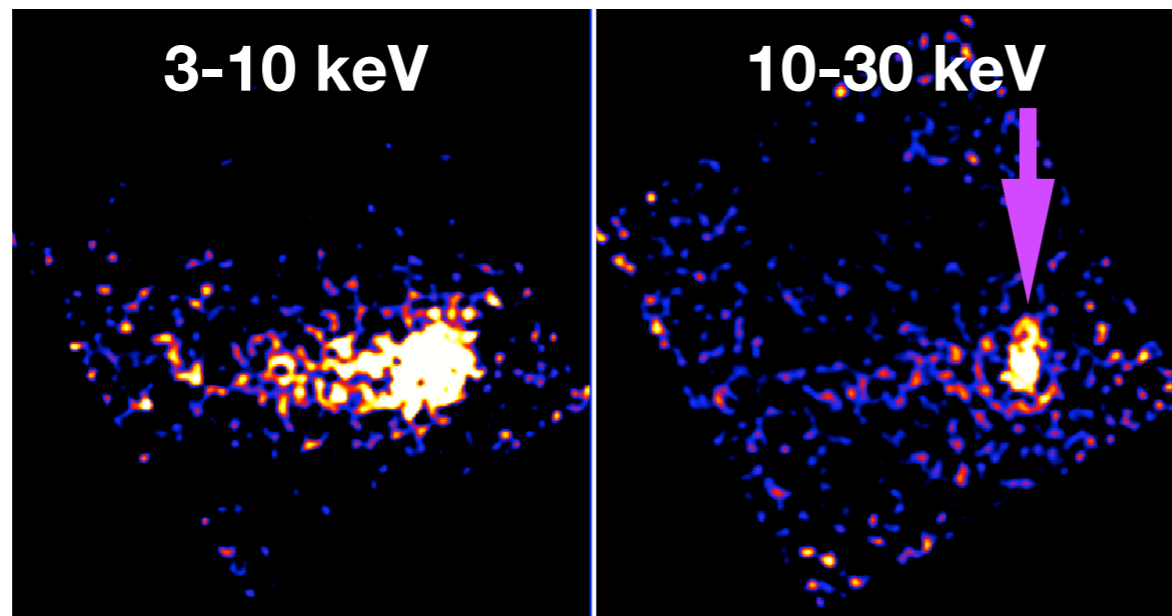
**XMM-Newton RGB image**

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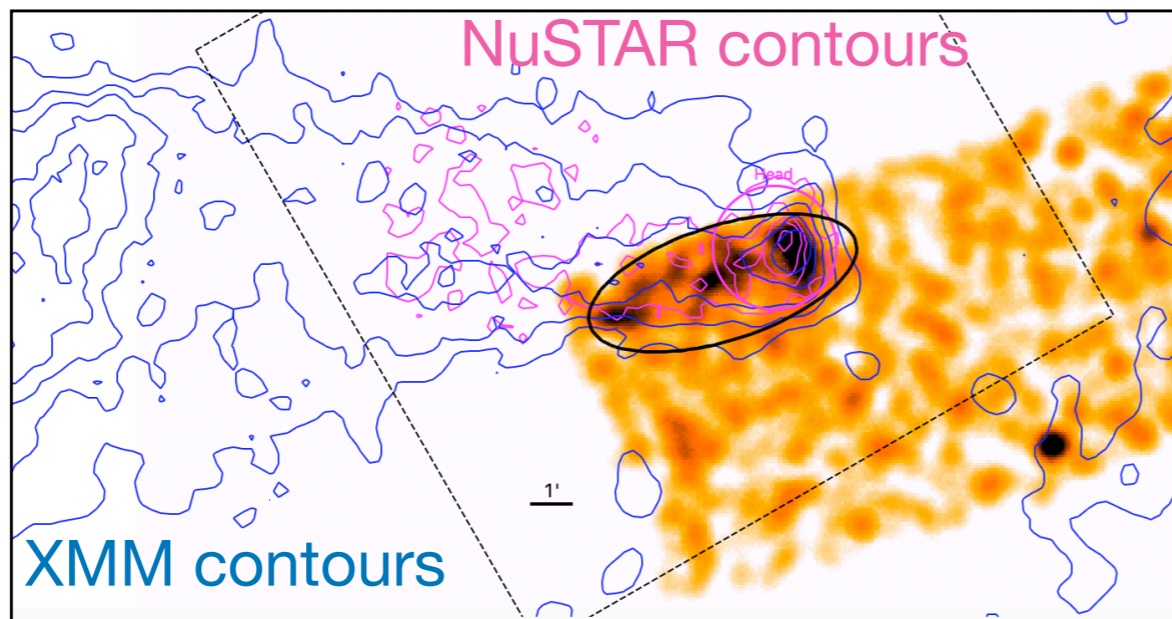
**1-2 keV**

**2-10 keV**

18' east  
of SS 433



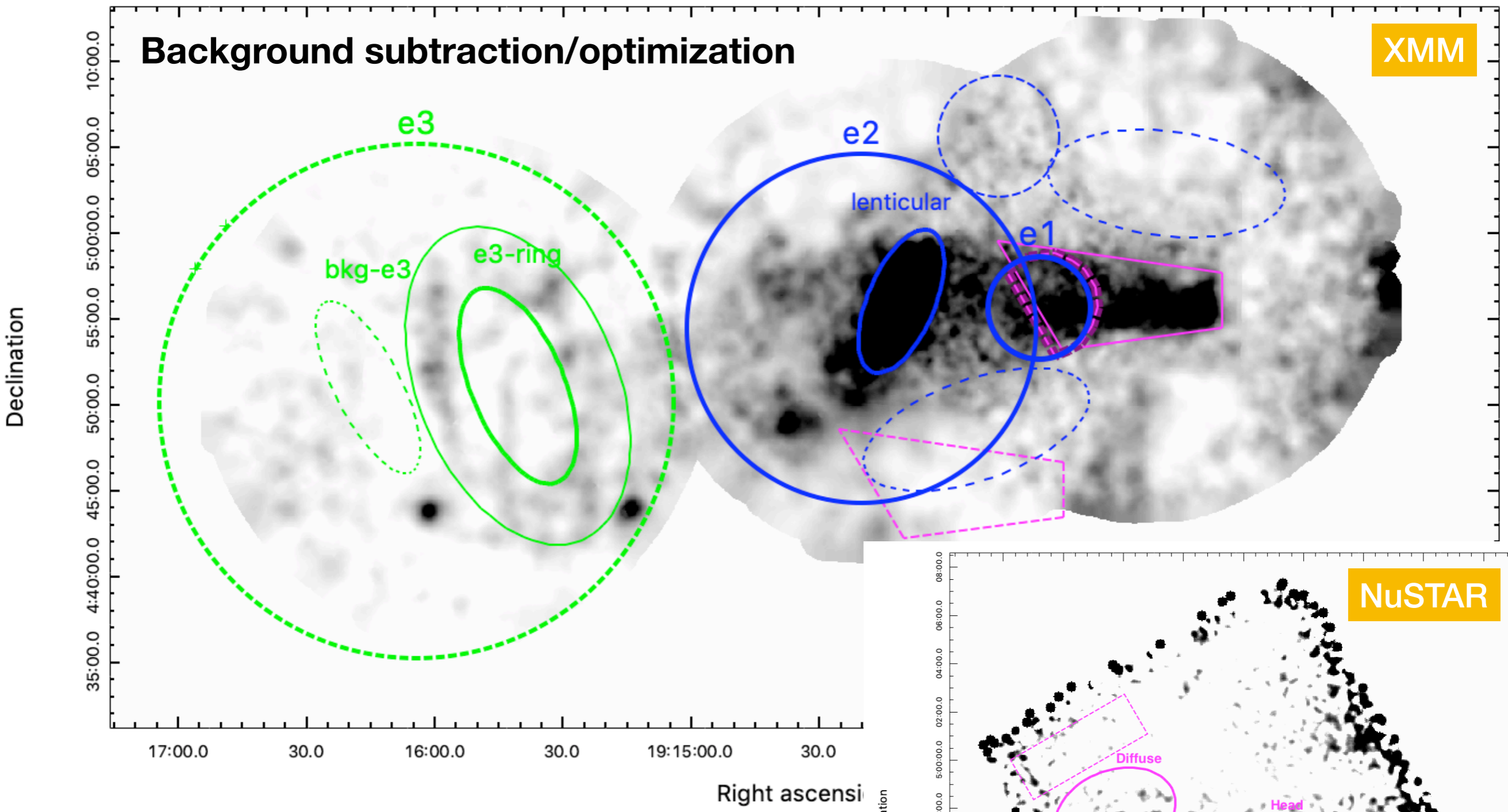
**NuSTAR**  
FPMA and FPMB



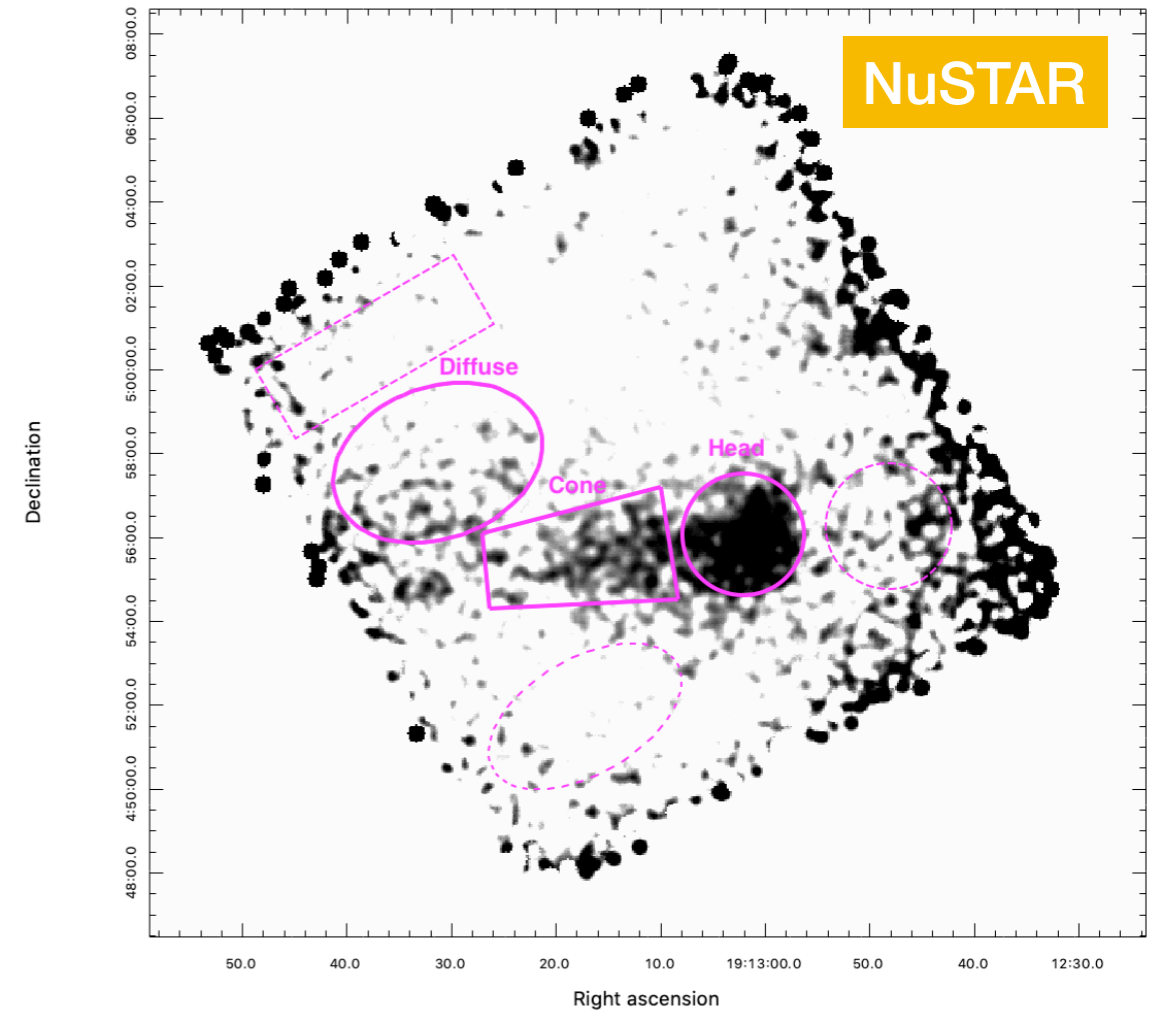
serendipitous discovery of  
innermost 'head' region  
with **Chandra**  
(0.5-8 keV)

XMM

# Background subtraction/optimization



NuSTAR

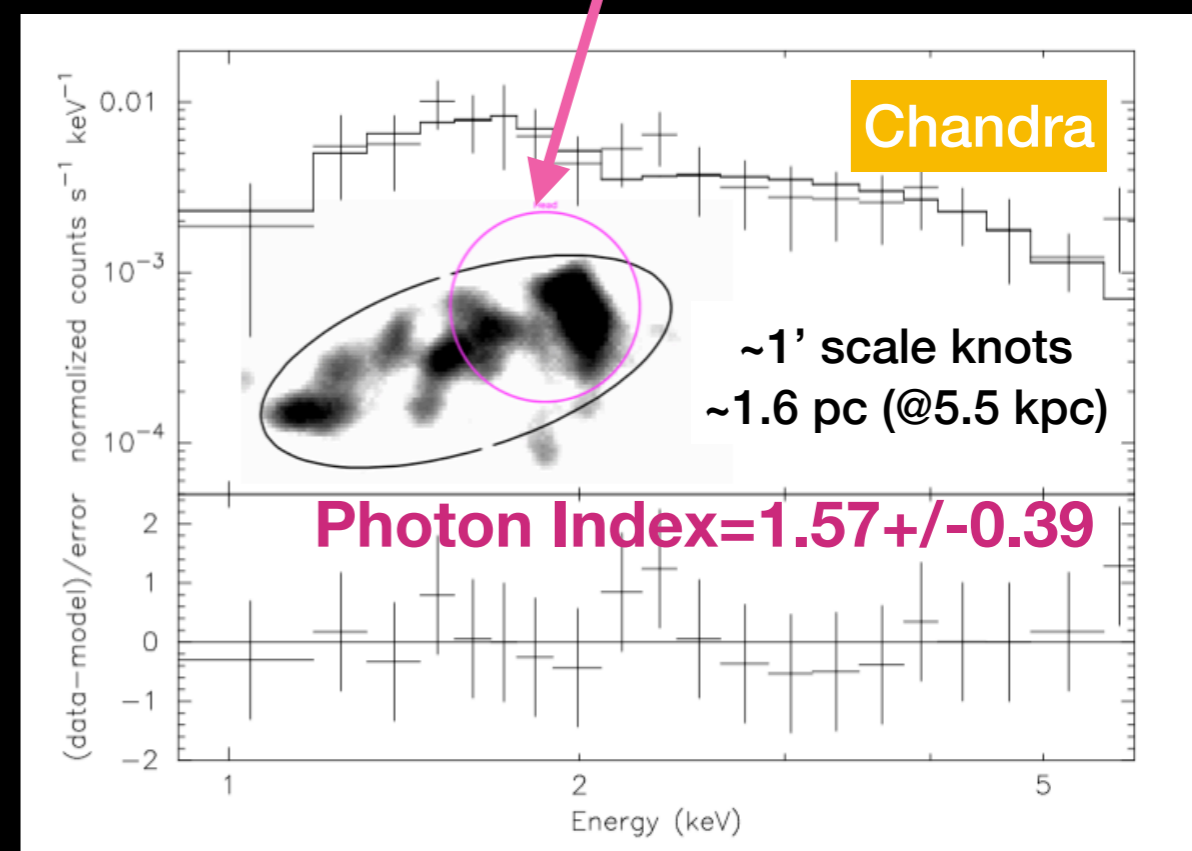
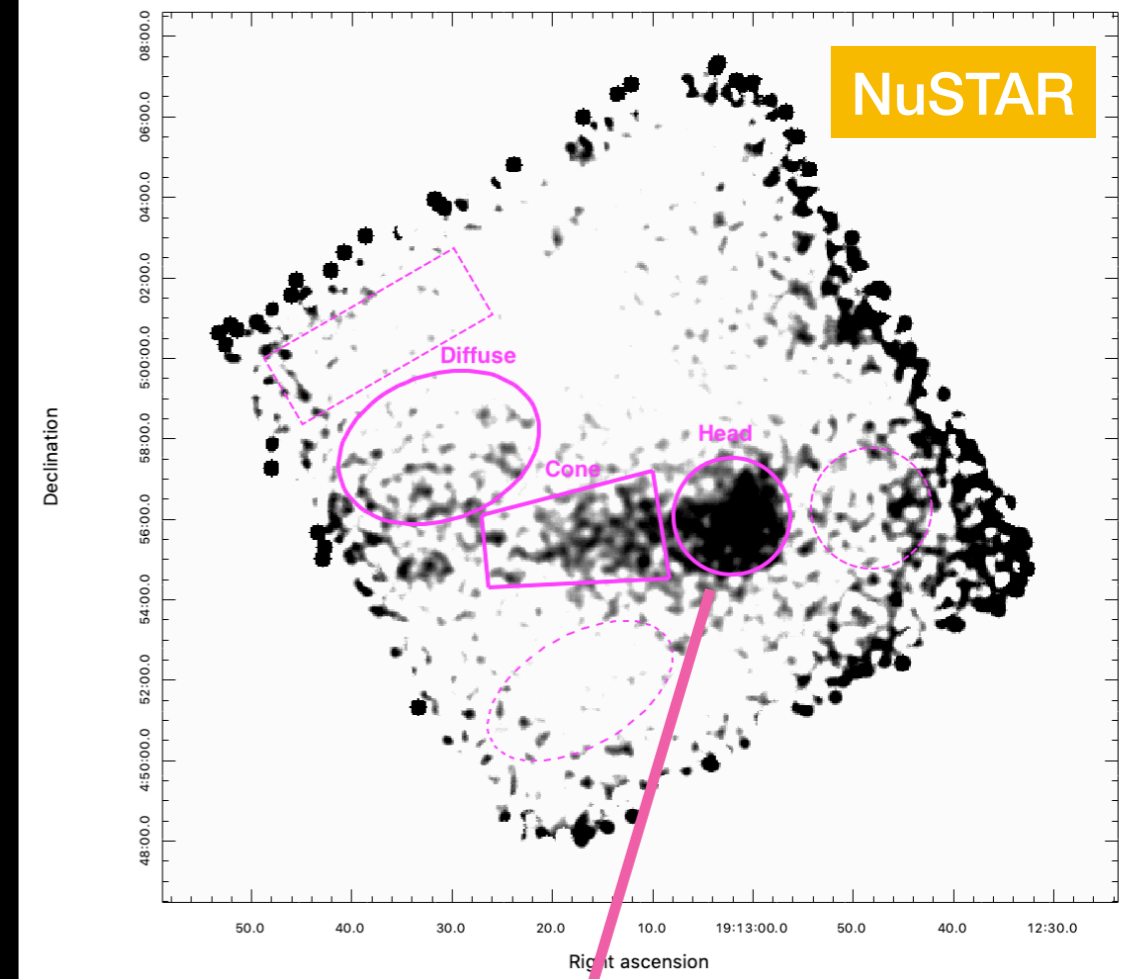
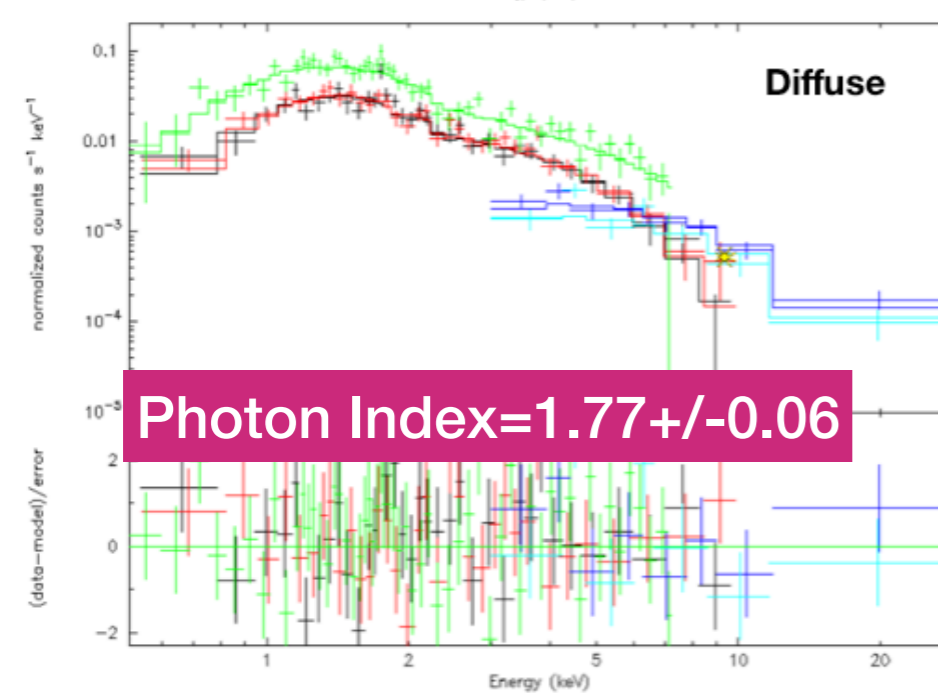
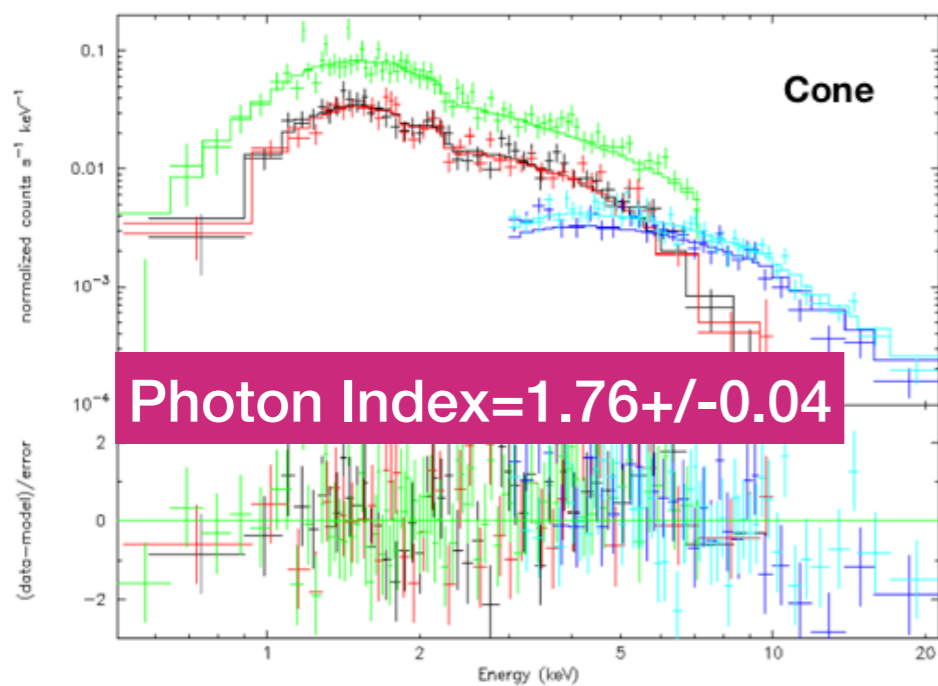
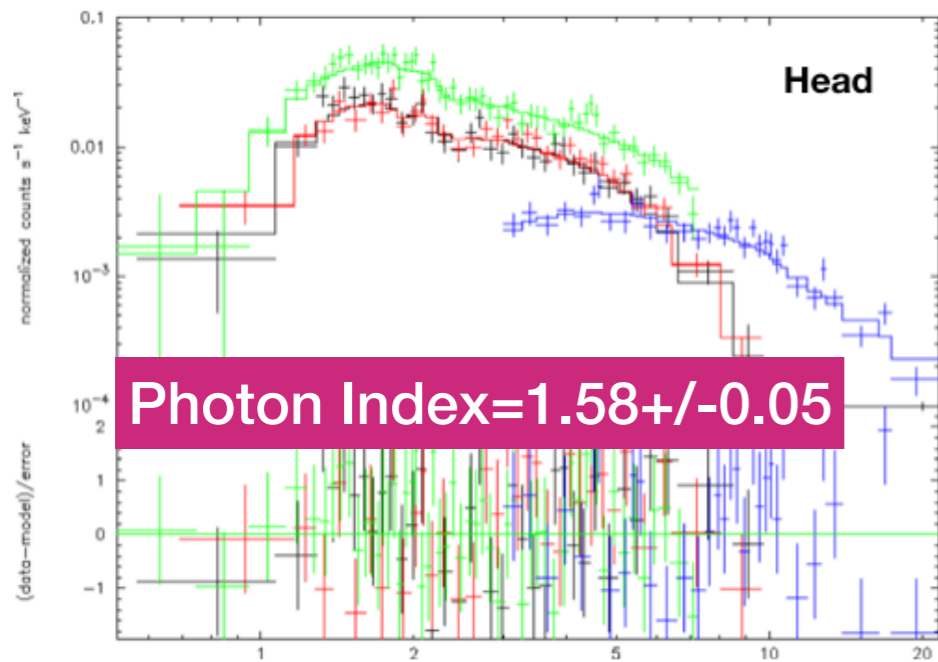


Source regions NuSTAR — XMM — — —

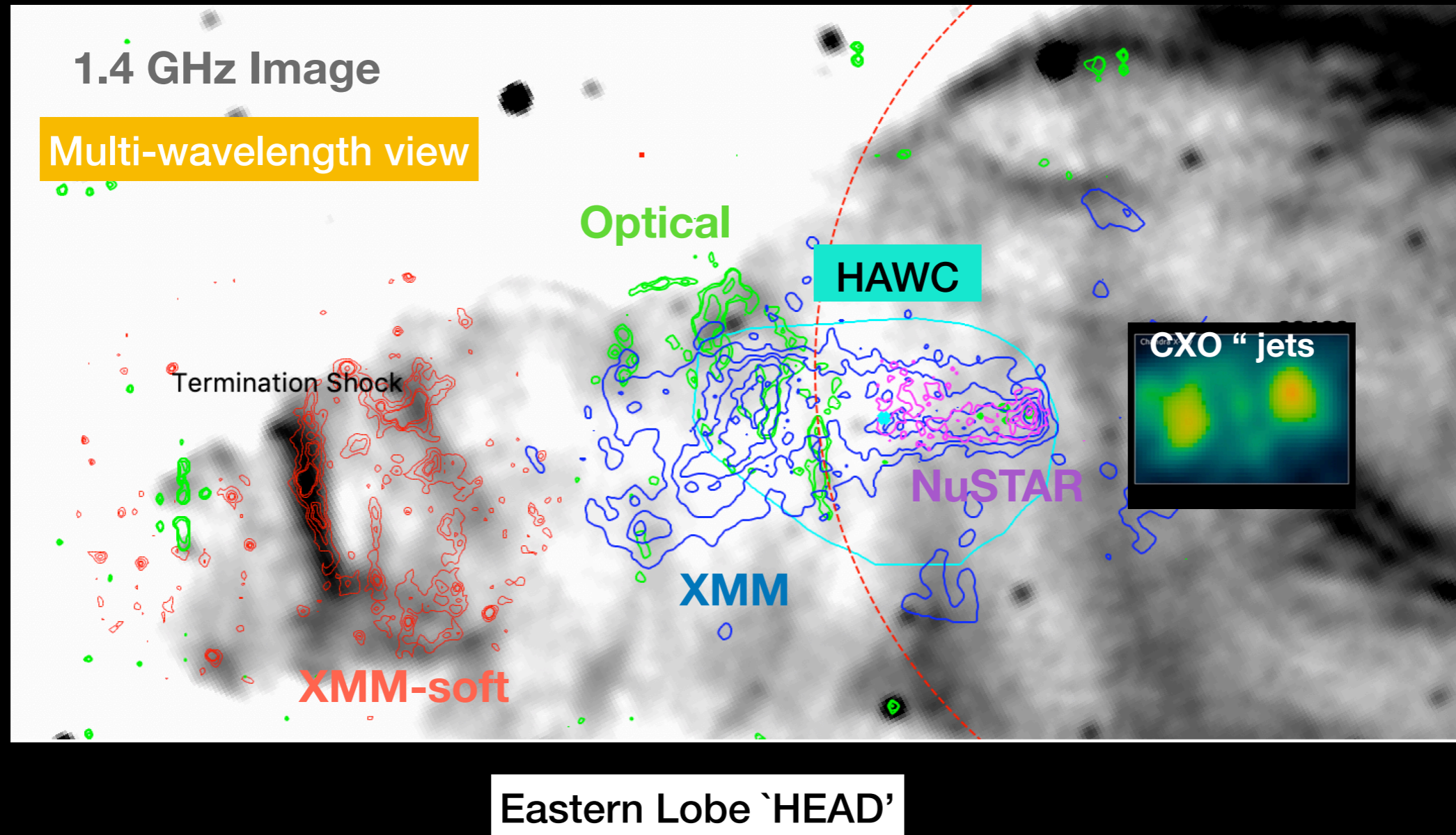
NuSTAR 3-30 keV (12'x12' FoV, 18" FWHM)

XMM 0.5-10 keV (30' FoV, ~6" FWHM)

Background regions - - - dashed



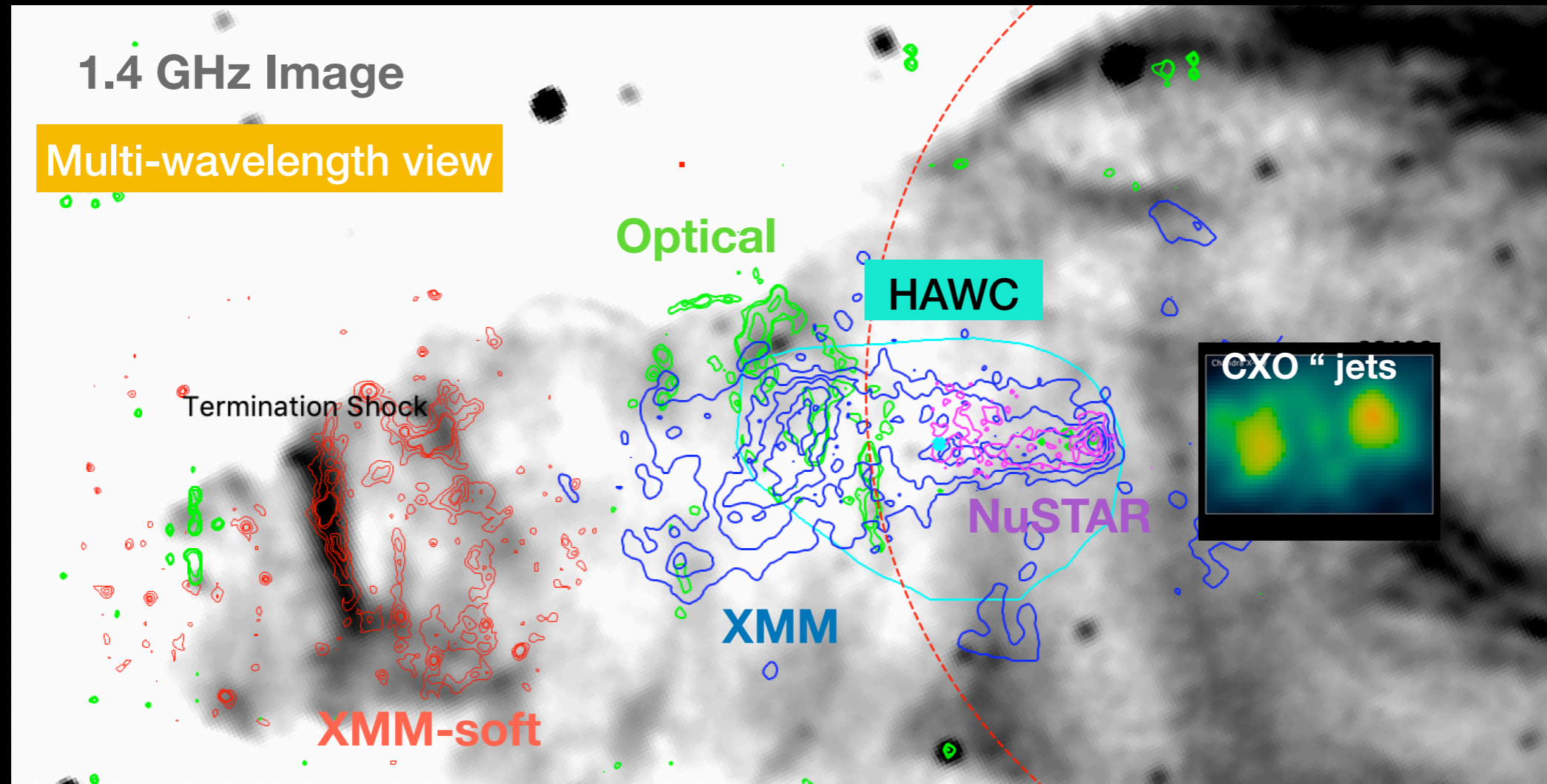
# Implications



- ★  $L_x$  (Head)  $\sim 1.1 \cdot 10^{34}$  erg/s (0.3-30 keV);  $L_x$  (eastern lobe)/Power (jets)  $< \sim 10^{-3}$
- ★ Photon index  $\sim 1.5 \Rightarrow$  particle index  $\sim 2 \Rightarrow E^{-2}$  distribution of electrons.  
(similar to what is seen in some AGN jets and PWNe)
  - Column density varies along jet: mass entrainment, internal shocks?
- ★ Harder than typical DSA (Hard differential injection spectrum, harder than  $E^{-1}$ )
- ★ **Challenges traditional particle acceleration process**



# Implications

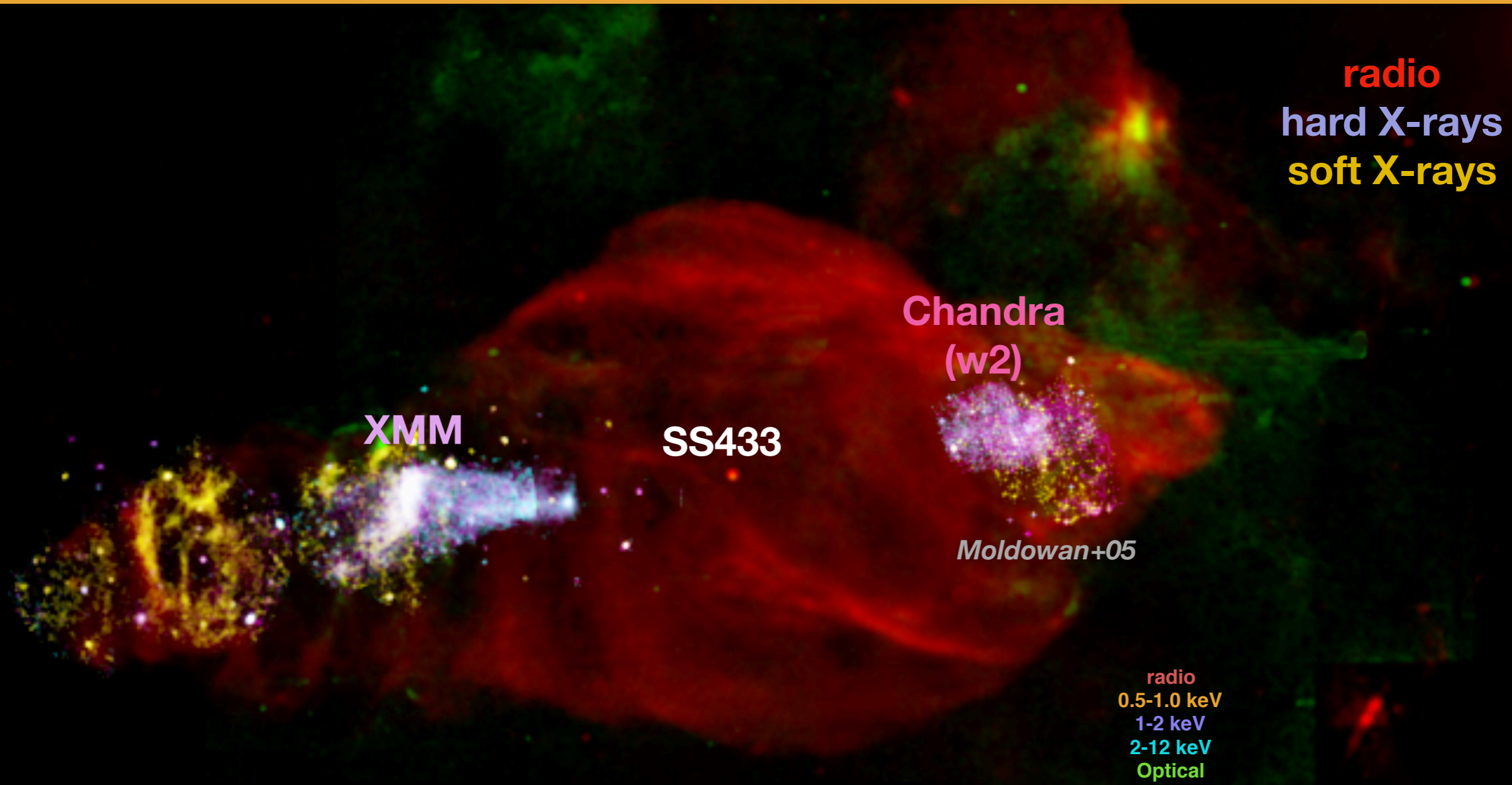


## Eastern Lobe 'HEAD'

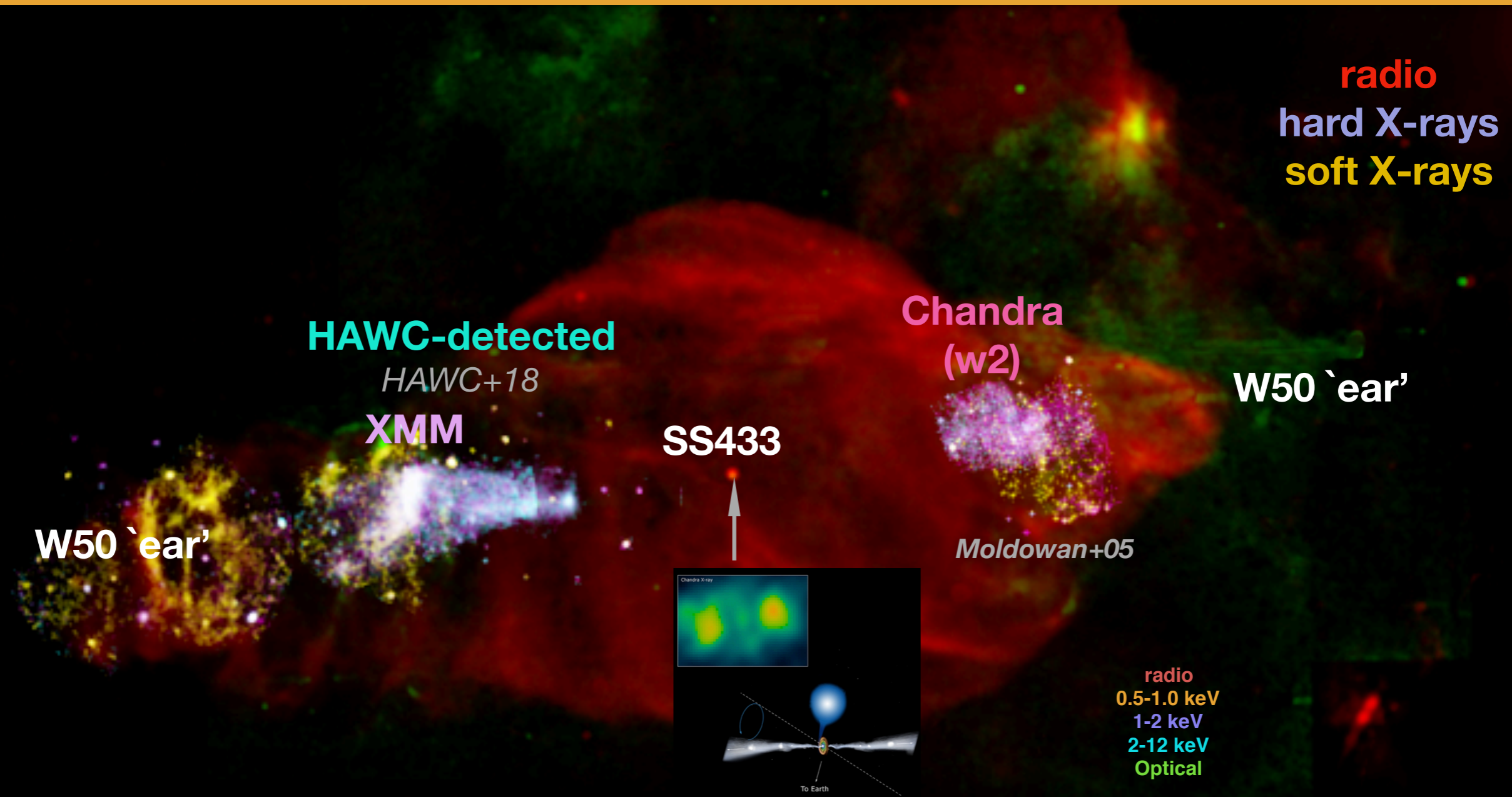
- ★  $B_{\text{equipartition}}(\text{Head}) > \sim 12 \text{ micro-Gauss}$  (Volume  $\sim 1.6 \cdot 10^{58} \text{ cm}^3$  @5.5 kpc)
- ★ Radiative Loss Timescale  $\sim 1 \text{ kyr} \ll W50\text{-age} (< \sim 30 \text{ kyr})$
- ★ Max Energy of Electrons:  $E_{\text{max}}(\text{Head}) \sim 250 \text{ TeV}$

**Injection and re-acceleration of SS 433 jets**

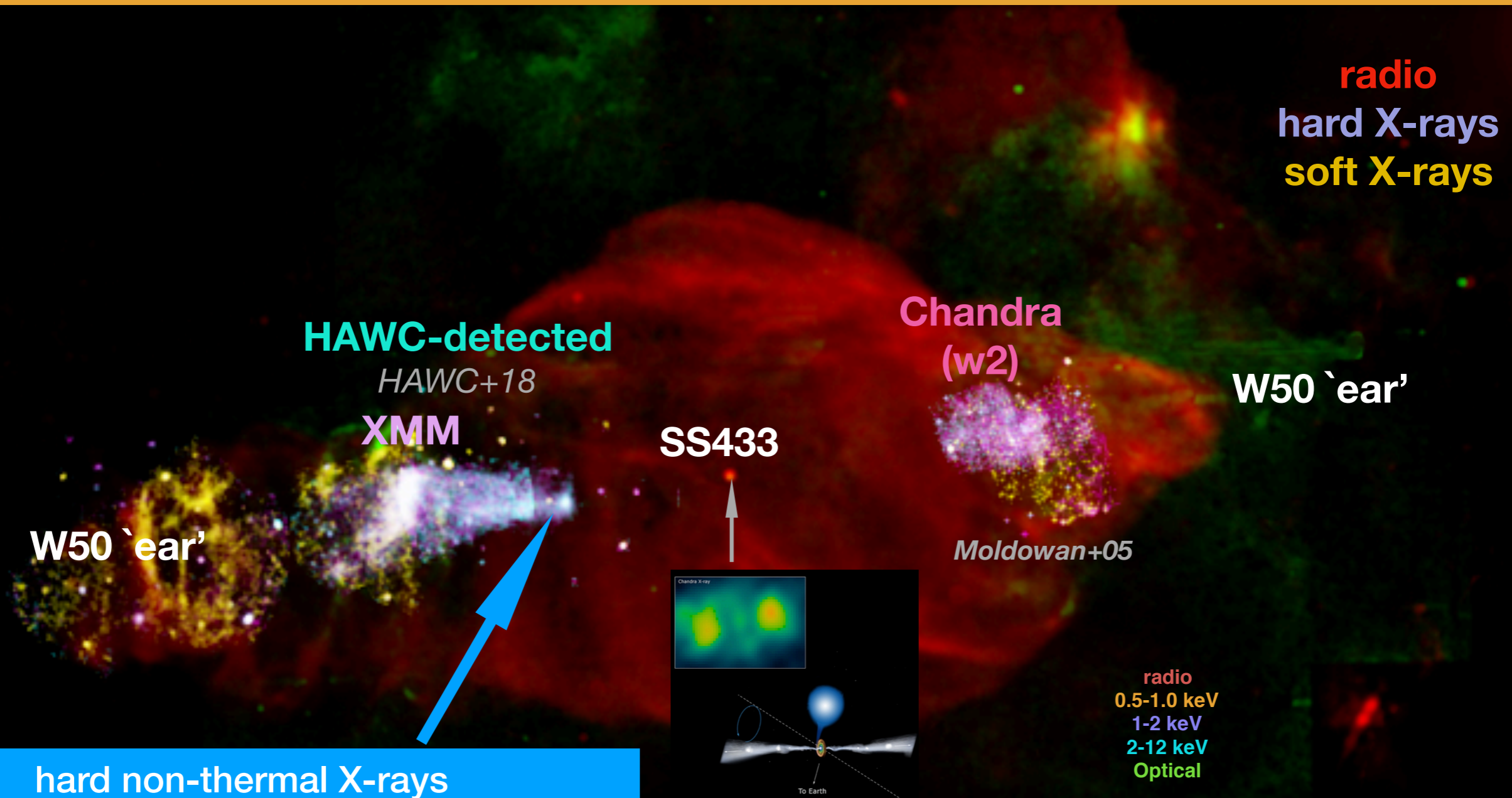
# Conclusions



# Conclusions



# Conclusions



hard non-thermal X-rays

Power law: **Photon index~1.5**

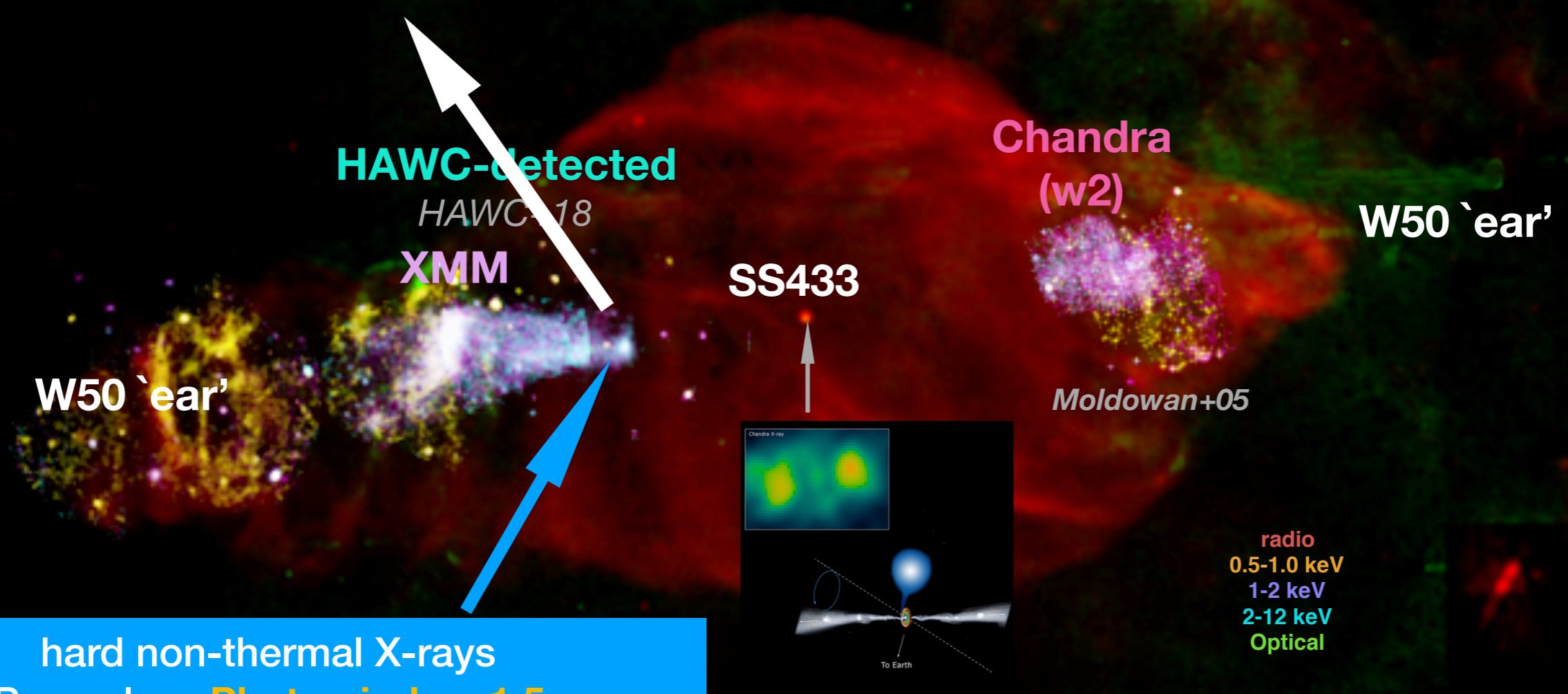
(NuSTAR and XMM and Chandra)

challenging traditional acceleration processes

# Conclusions

@29 pc away: the site of freshly injected/accelerated particles  
(similar to what we see in PWNe and extragalactic jets)

radio  
hard X-rays  
soft X-rays



hard non-thermal X-rays

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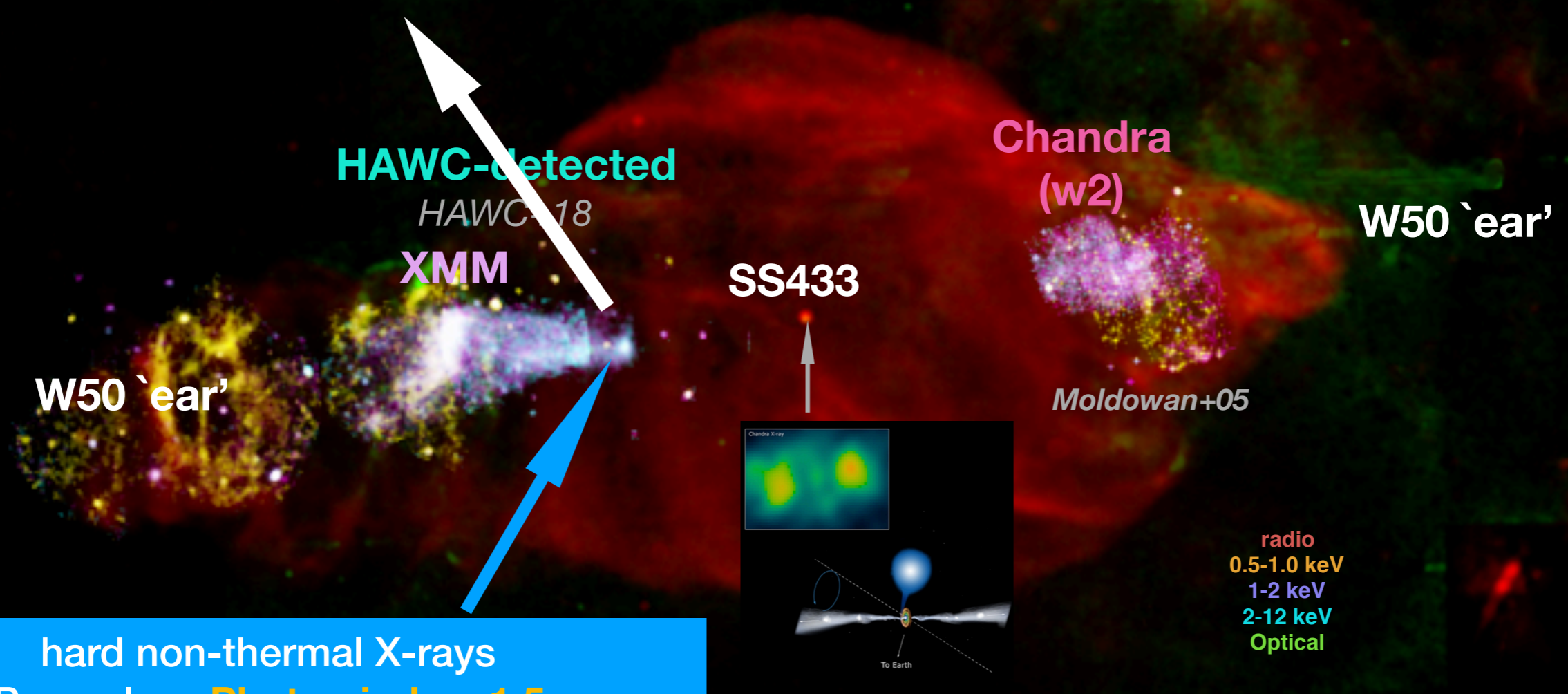
challenging traditional acceleration processes

radio  
0.5-1.0 keV  
1-2 keV  
2-12 keV  
Optical

# Conclusions

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(NuSTAR and XMM and Chandra)

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0.5-1.0 keV  
1-2 keV  
2-12 keV  
Optical

ongoing campaign to cover the whole  
nebula-stay tuned!

Safi-Harb et al. (to appear in ApJ)

arXiv:2207.00573 , ESA release (2022/07/04)

radio  
0.5-1.0 keV  
1-2 keV  
2-12 keV  
Optical

**NEXT: Ongoing/Upcoming X-ray, ALMA and multi-wavelength SED modelling**  
*in collaboration with Naomi Tsuji, Dmitry Khangulyan and Takahiro Sudoh et al.*

Preview of newly acquired  
XMM-Newton Observations  
of w1+w2; (NuSTAR of w1).  
Stay tuned!

radio  
0.5-1.0 keV  
1-2 keV  
2-12 keV  
Optical

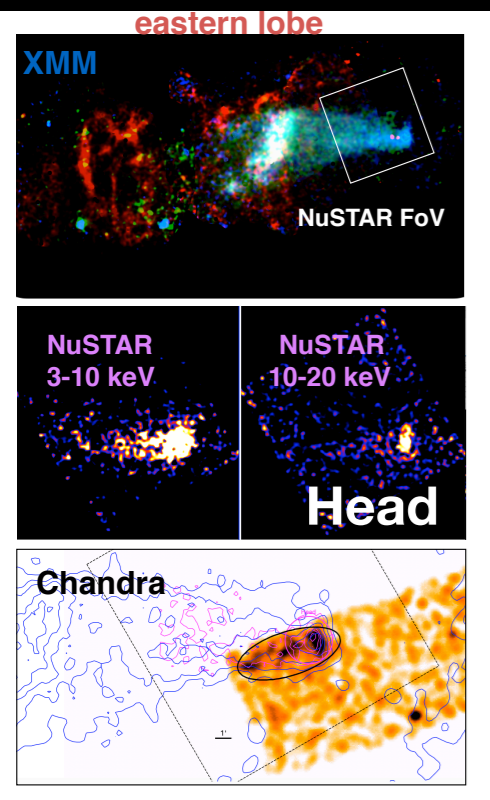
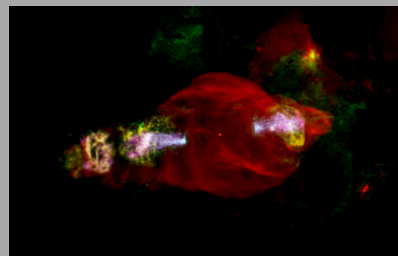
w1 w2

A multi-wavelength astronomical image showing two sources, w1 and w2. The image is composed of several overlapping energy bands: radio (red), 0.5-1.0 keV (orange), 1-2 keV (yellow), 2-12 keV (green), and Optical (blue). Source w1 is on the left and source w2 is on the right. The background is dark with some diffuse emission. The labels 'w1' and 'w2' are placed near their respective sources.

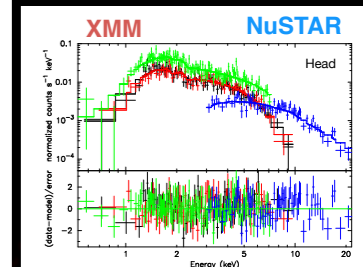
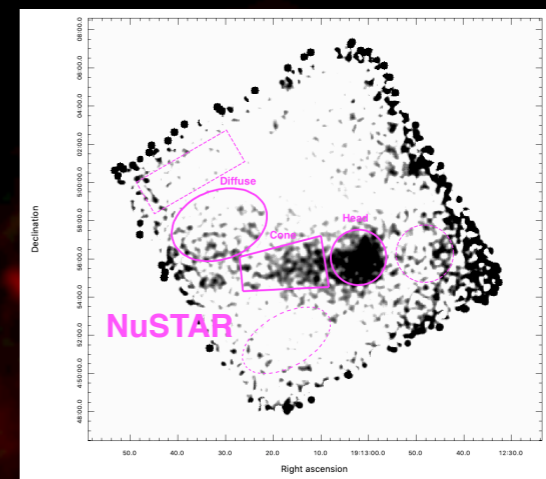
**NEXT: Ongoing/Upcoming X-ray, ALMA and multi-wavelength SED modelling**  
*in collaboration with Naomi Tsuji, Dmitry Khangulyan and Takahiro Sudoh et al.*



# A hard X-ray look at the Manatee Nebula (W50) powered by the Galactic Microquasar SS 433



- Discovery with **NuSTAR (+XMM+Chandra)** of hard x-ray emission starting at **~18' (29 pc) east of SS433**
- Called **'Head'**: **Photon index ~1.5-1.6, very hard!**
- This challenges traditional particle acceleration process
- Hard photon index similar to AGN jets and PWNe
- Particle injection and re-acceleration of SS 433 jet



soft x-rays dominated by thermal emission  $kT \sim 0.2$  keV

radio (VLA)  
0.5-1.0 keV  
1-2 keV  
2-12 keV  
Optical (Skinakas)

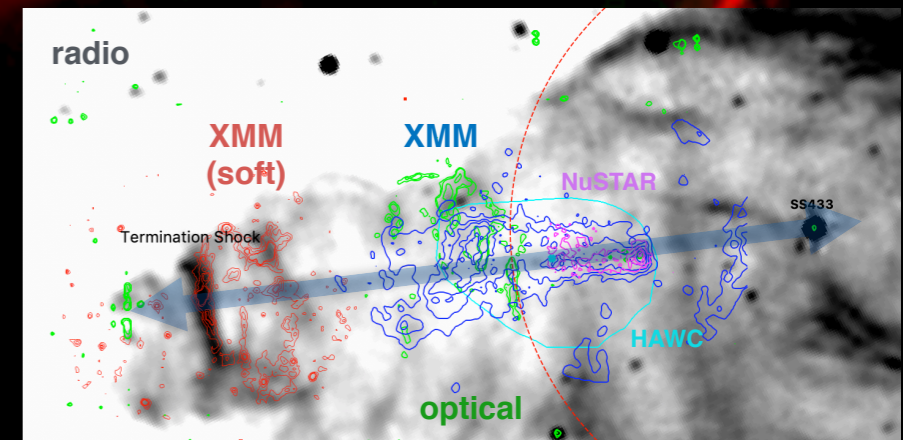
Latest XMM observations (05/2022)+NuSTAR— stay tuned!

radio

**Physical Properties (synchrotron)**  
Radiative loss timescale  $< \sim 1$  kyr  
 $\ll$  W50 age ( $\sim 30$  kyr)  
B (Head)  $\sim 12$  uG  
 $E_{\text{max}}$  (Head)  $\sim 250$  TeV  
 $L_x$  (eastern lobe)/Power (jets)  $< \sim 10^{-3}$

## Outlook

- ★ multi-wavelength SED modelling, new observations upcoming!
- ★ Nearby Laboratory for ULX bubbles!
- ★ Fascinating source for upcoming missions including CTA, ATHENA, (AXIS, HEX-P).....



Thank you gamma2022!

# **Extra Slides**

	Parameter	XMM 0.5 – 10 keV	NuSTAR 3 – 30 keV	Joint 0.5 – 30 keV <sup>c</sup>
Head $N_{\text{H}} = 1.77 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	Photon Index $\Gamma$	$1.58 \pm 0.06$	$1.6 \pm 0.1$	$1.58 \pm 0.05$
	$F [\times 10^{-12}]^{a,c}$ (abs.)	$1.23 \pm 0.06$	$2.0 \pm 0.1$	$2.45 \pm 0.07$
	$F [\times 10^{-12}]^{b,c}$ (unabs.)	$1.80 \pm 0.06$	$2.0 \pm 0.1$	$3.0 \pm 0.1$
	$\chi^2_{\nu}$ (DoF)	0.96(295)	1.19(79)	1.00 (375)
Cone $N_{\text{H}} = 1.18 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	Photon Index $\Gamma$	$1.65 \pm 0.05$	$2.00^{+0.08}_{-0.07}$	$1.76 \pm 0.04$
	$F [\times 10^{-12}]^a$ (abs.)	$1.29 \pm 0.05$	$1.55 \pm 0.09$	$2.13 \pm 0.06$
	$F [\times 10^{-12}]^b$ (unabs.)	$1.81 \pm 0.06$	$1.58^{+0.10}_{-0.09}$	$2.71 \pm 0.08$
	$\chi^2_{\nu}$ (DoF)	0.96 (440)	0.98 (197)	1.03 (638)
Diffuse $N_{\text{H}} = 0.76 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	Photon Index $\Gamma$	$1.75 \pm 0.06$	$2.0 \pm 0.2$	$1.77 \pm 0.06$
	$F [\times 10^{-12}]^a$ (abs.)	$1.02^{+0.06}_{-0.05}$	$1.00^{+0.05}_{-0.14}$	$1.61 \pm 0.08$
	$F [\times 10^{-12}]^b$ (unabs.)	$1.39 \pm 0.06$	$1.00^{+0.15}_{-0.14}$	$1.99 \pm 0.09$
	$\chi^2_{\nu}$ (DoF)	0.98 (467)	1.33 (59)	1.02 (527)
Full $N_{\text{H}} = 1.03 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	Photon Index $\Gamma$	$1.58 \pm 0.03$	$1.99 \pm 0.07$	$1.65 \pm 0.03$
	$F [\times 10^{-12}]^a$ (abs.)	$5.60 \pm 0.14$	$8.8 \pm 0.4$	$11.4 \pm 0.2$
	$F [\times 10^{-12}]^b$ (unabs.)	$7.5 \pm 0.2$	$9.0 \pm 0.4$	$13.4 \pm 0.2$
	$\chi^2_{\nu}$ (DoF)	1.03 (1589)	0.97 (98)	1.07 (1688)
Nue1 $N_{\text{H}} = 0.78 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	Photon Index $\Gamma$	$1.73 \pm 0.05$	$2.2 \pm 0.2$	$1.76 \pm 0.05$
	$F [\times 10^{-12}]^a$ (abs.)	$1.62 \pm 0.07$	$2.0 \pm 0.2$	$2.89 \pm 0.19$
	$F [\times 10^{-12}]^b$ (unabs.)	$2.20 \pm 0.08$	$2.0 \pm 0.2$	$3.48 \pm 0.12$
	$\chi^2_{\nu}$ (DoF)	1.05 (652)	1.53 (35)	1.09 (688)
Lenticular <sup>d</sup> $N_{\text{H}} = 0.71 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	Photon Index $\Gamma$	$2.05 \pm 0.02$	–	–
	$F [\times 10^{-12}]^a$ (abs.)	$3.74 \pm 0.06$	–	–
	$F [\times 10^{-12}]^b$ (unabs.)	$5.68 \pm 0.08$	–	–
	$\chi^2_{\nu}$ (DoF)	1.04 (1101)	–	–
e3-ring $N_{\text{H}} = 0.79 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	Photon Index $\Gamma$	$2.0^{+0.4}_{-0.5}$	–	–
	$kT$ (keV)	$0.2 \pm 0.1$	–	–
	$\chi^2_{\nu}$ (DoF)	1.14 (797)	–	–

**Table A2.** XSPEC fits using `const*tbabs*power` with the `cFlux` model added to acquire flux values. Column densities frozen to their best fit value using the XMM-Newton data. For the ‘e3-ring’ region, the additional component shown corresponds to a thermal (`mekal` in XSPEC) model with solar abundances. Quoted uncertainties for 90% C.L.

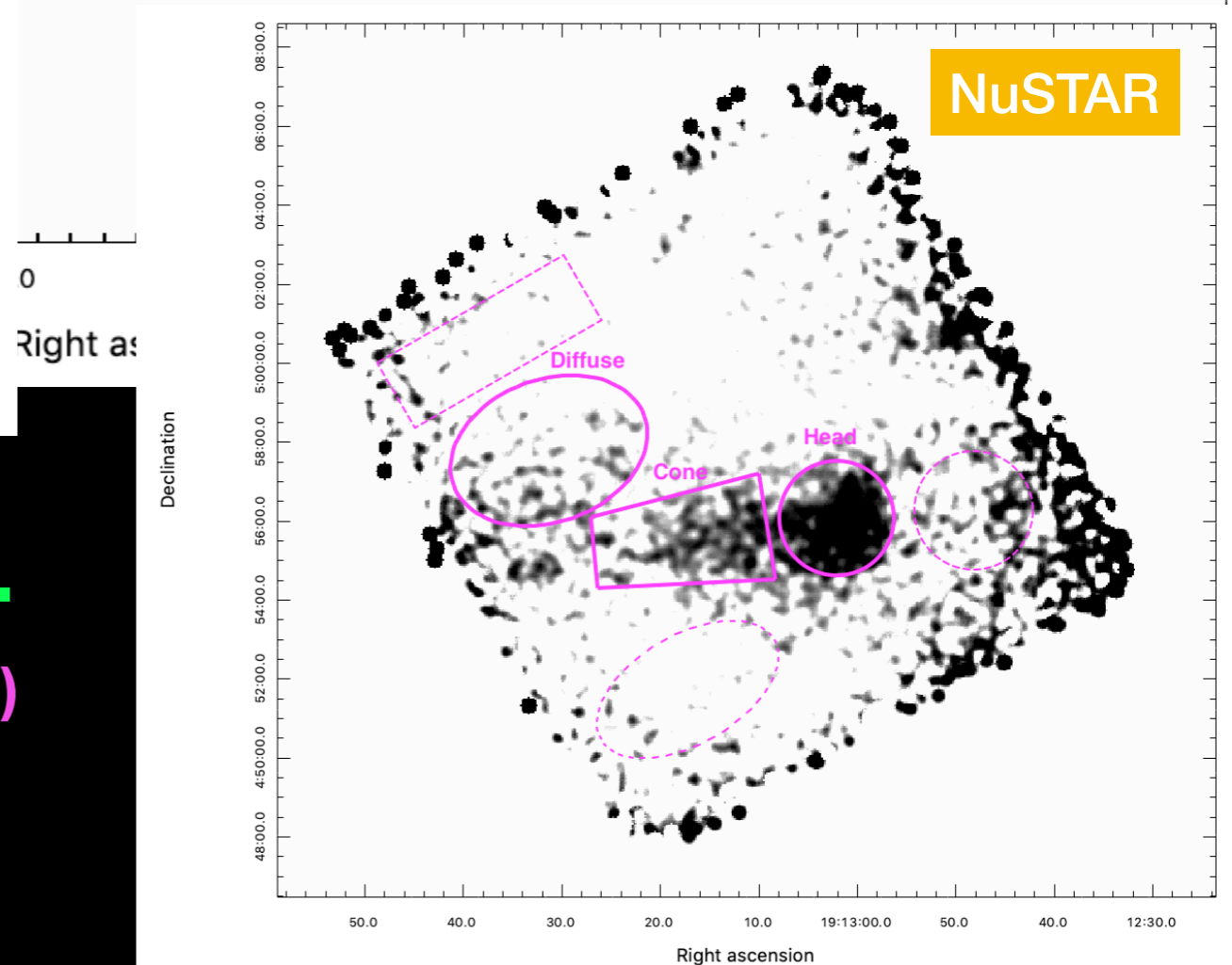
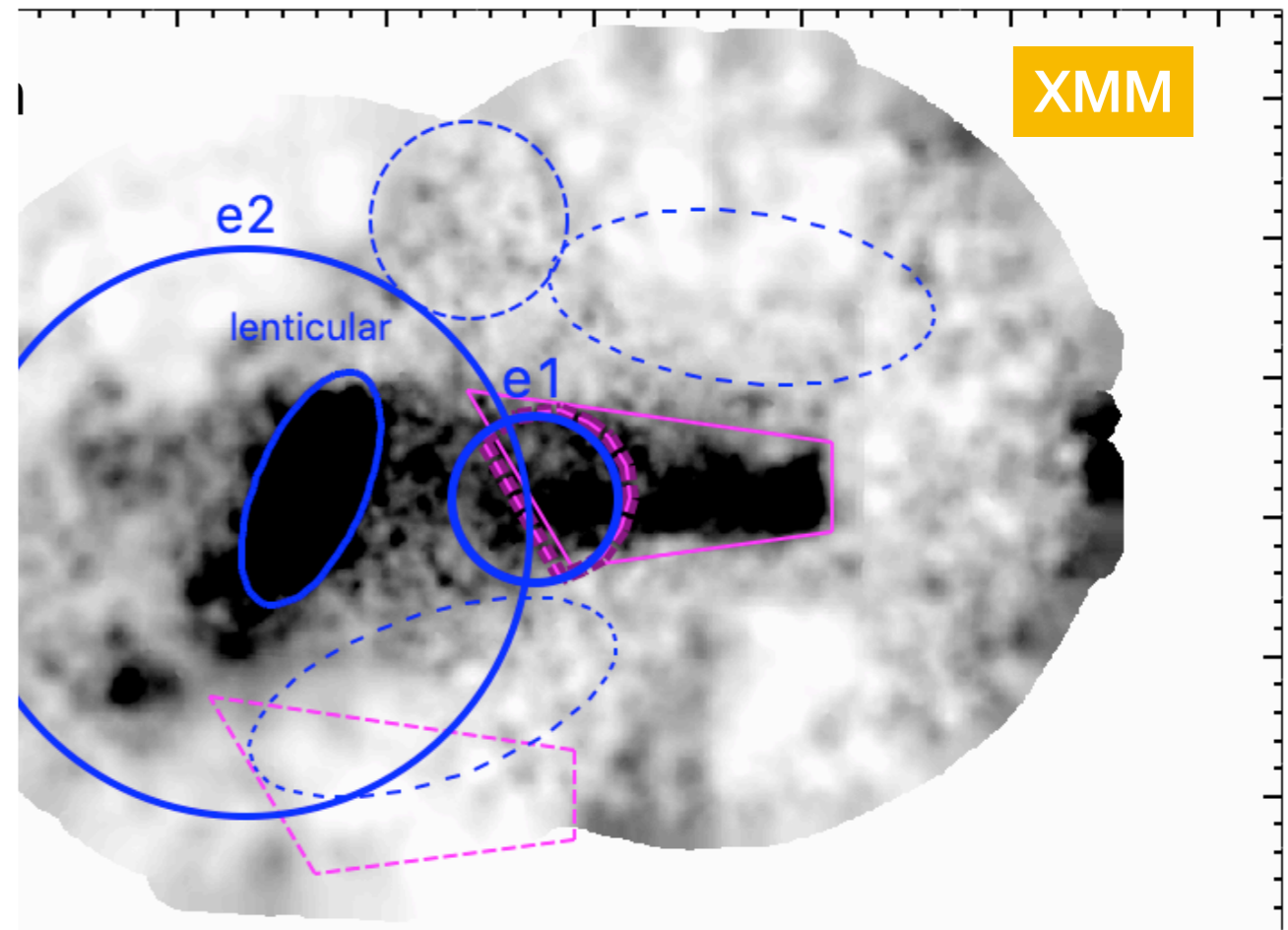
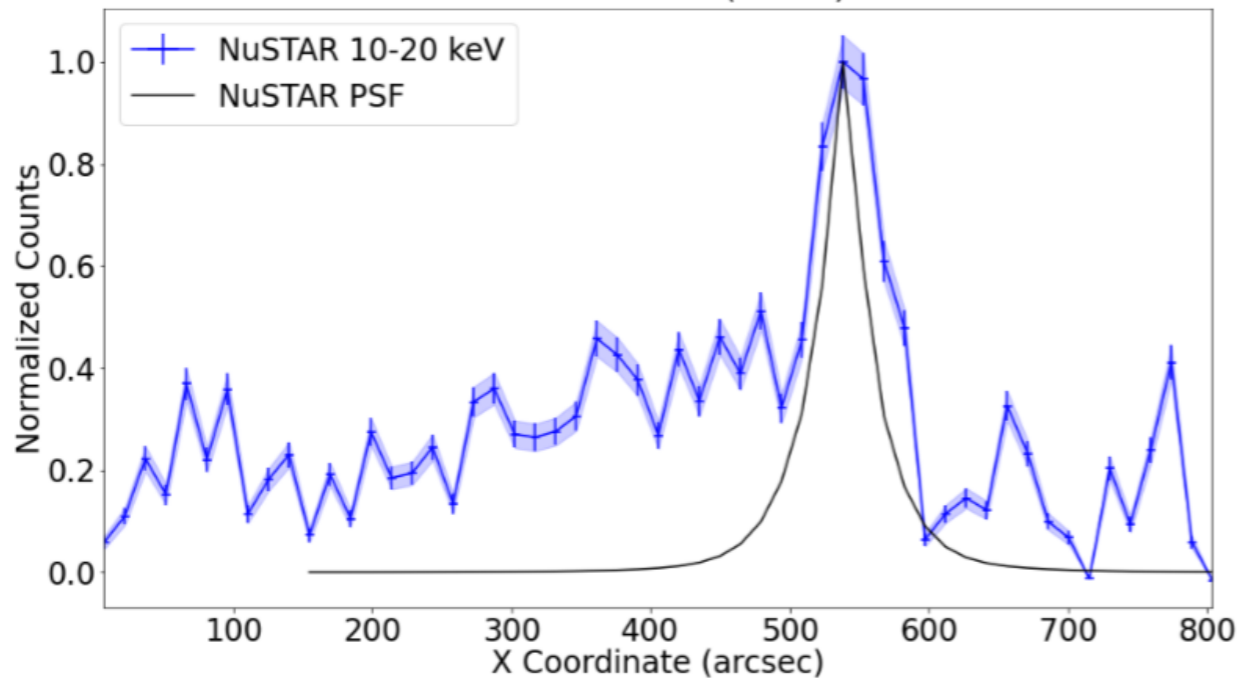
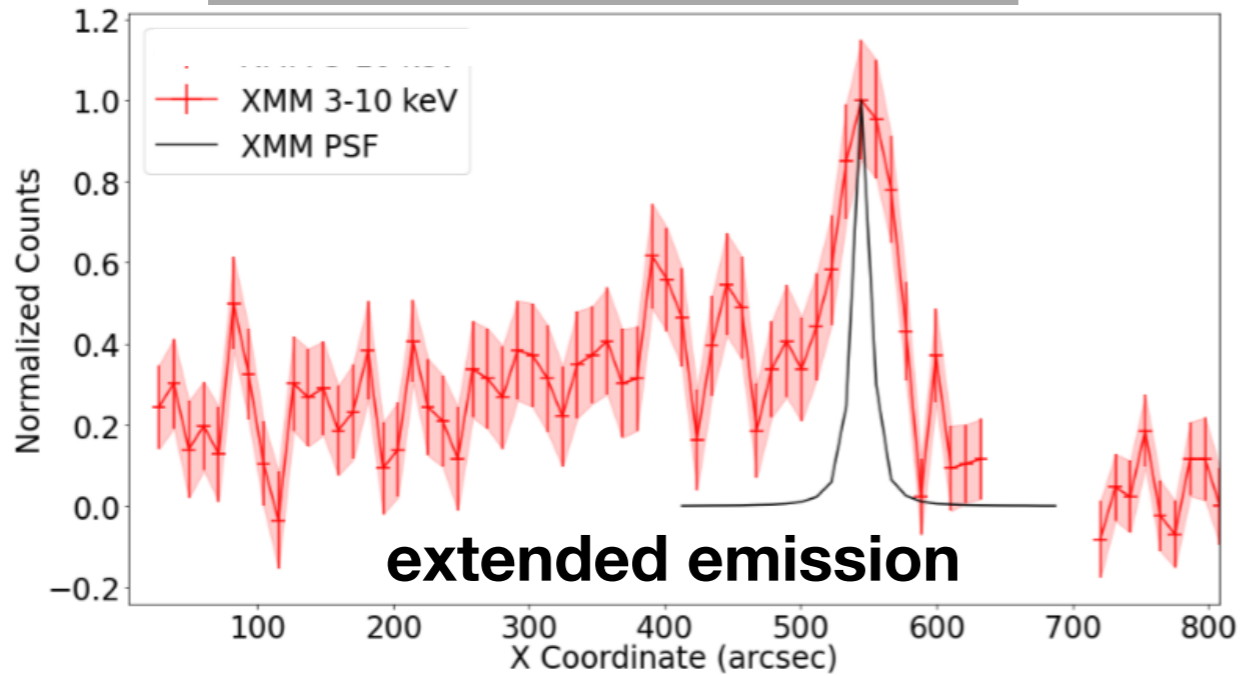
<sup>a</sup>Absorbed flux in  $\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

<sup>b</sup>Unabsorbed flux in  $\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

<sup>c</sup> For the joint 0.5–30 keV flux, we list the combined 0.5–10 keV (XMM) and 10–30 keV (NuSTAR) fluxes with the model parameters frozen to their best values from the joint fit.

<sup>d</sup> The larger ‘e2’ region encompassing the ‘lenticular’ region (see Figure 2) shows evidence of soft thermal X-ray emission with  $kT \lesssim 0.2$  keV, however with the thermal parameters poorly constrained.

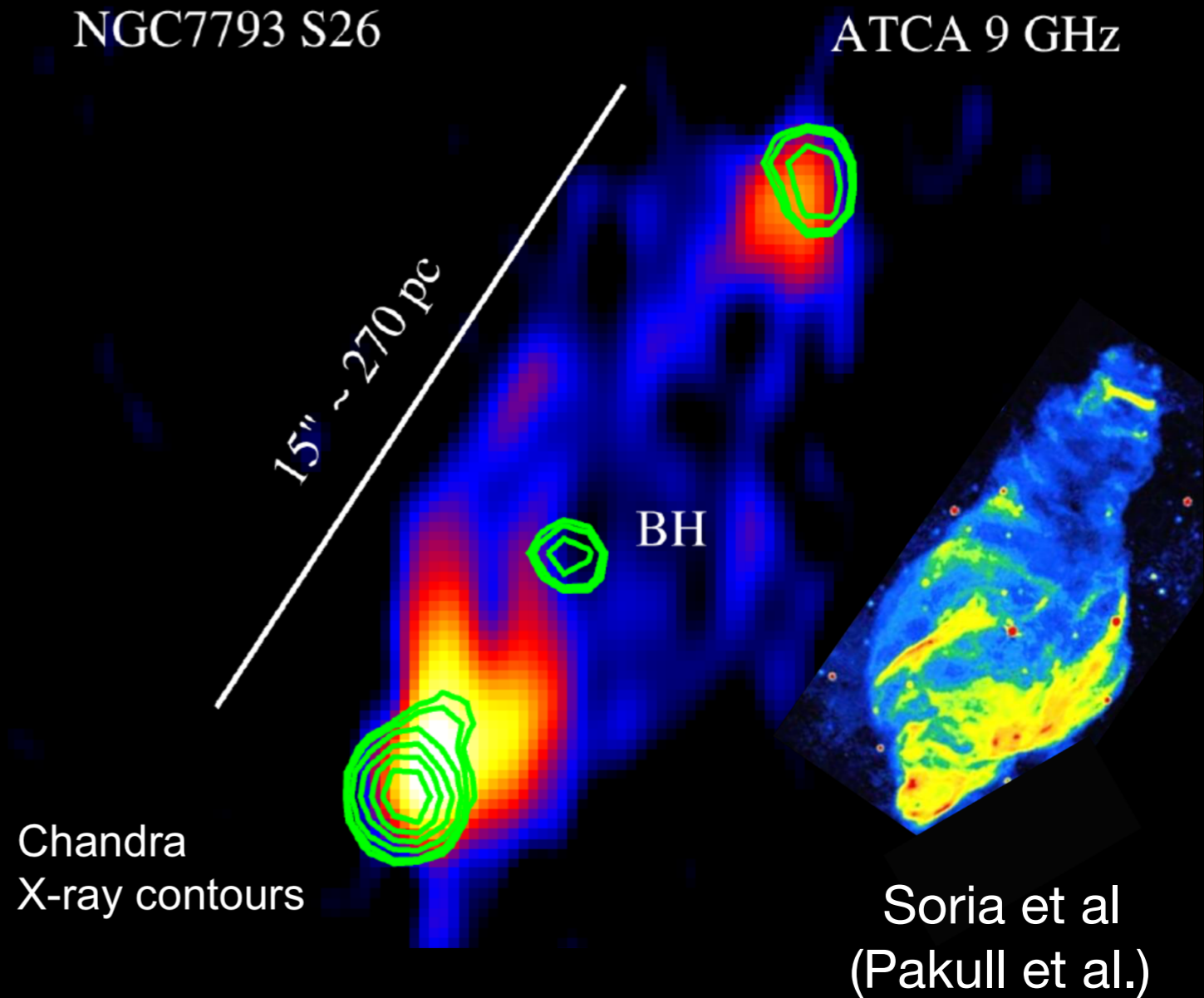
# spatial profile of head into e1



Source regions NuSTAR — XMM — —  
 NuSTAR 3-30 keV (12'x12' FoV, 18" FWHM)  
 XMM 0.5-10 keV (30' FoV, ~6" FWHM)  
 Background regions - - - dashed

# ULX bubbles

- SS 433: suggested as the nearest ULX catalog (*Fabrika & Mescheryakov 2001*)—BUT seen edge-on==> atypical ULX
- W50 nebula: **the most accessible ULX bubble analog**
- ULX bubbles: a few 100's parsecs: radio and optical nebulae; a few detected in X-rays but mostly thermal (likely termination hot spots)
- Many similarities between W50 and a few ULX bubbles, but to date, **no non-thermal X-ray emission has been reported from the diffuse emission in an ULX bubble** (resulting from jets/ISM interaction)



# W50: Wind-blown bubble?

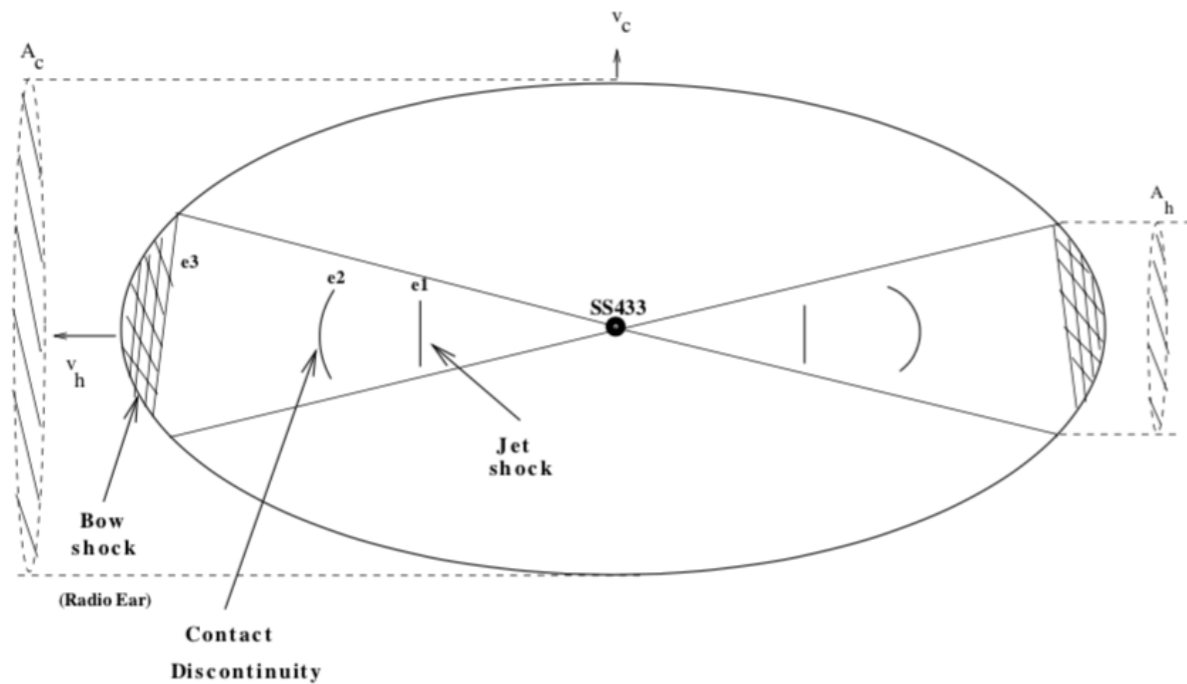


FIG. 12.—A sketch of the jet model adopted for the interpretation of the morphology of W50 and the derived jets parameters:  $v_h$  and  $v_c$  represent the head and the cocoon's speed, respectively, and  $A_h$  and  $A_c$  are the corresponding cross-sectional areas.

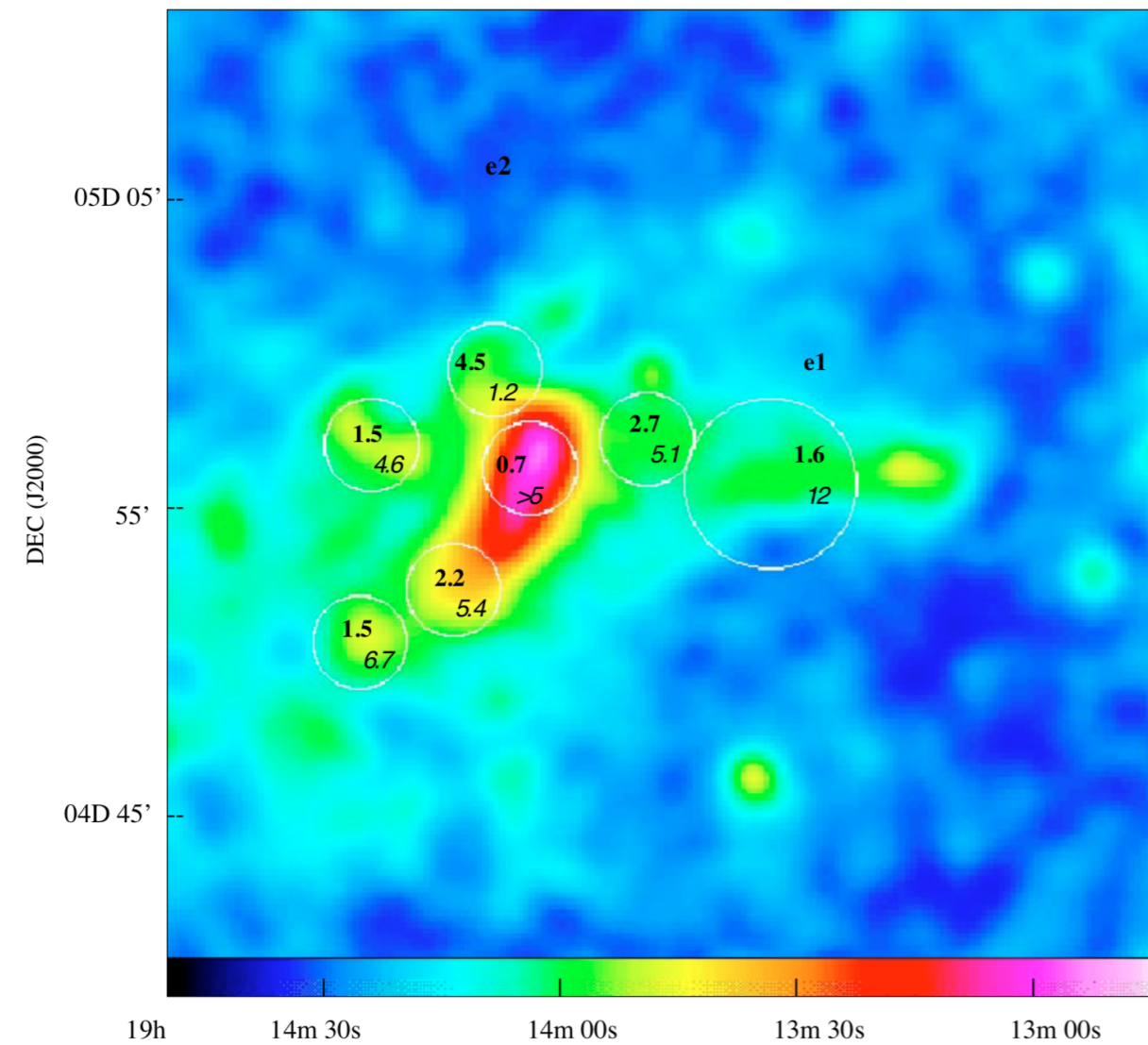
TABLE 8  
DERIVED JET PARAMETERS<sup>a</sup>

Parameter	Value
$\rho_j v_j$ ( $\text{g cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ).....	$4 \times 10^{11}$
$M_j$ ( $M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1}$ ).....	$5 \times 10^{-5}$
$L_j$ ( $\text{ergs s}^{-1}$ ).....	$\leq 10^{41}$
$W$ (ergs).....	$\leq 10^{53}$
$\rho_j$ ( $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ ).....	$\sim 2.5 \times 10^{-28}$
$R_j$ .....	6'

<sup>a</sup> Assuming a distance of 5.5 kpc, an ambient density of  $3 \times 10^{-26} \text{g cm}^{-3}$ , and an age of  $3 \times 10^4$  yr. The average jet density,  $\rho_j$ , and effective radius,  $R_j$ , are estimated at 35' from SS 433.

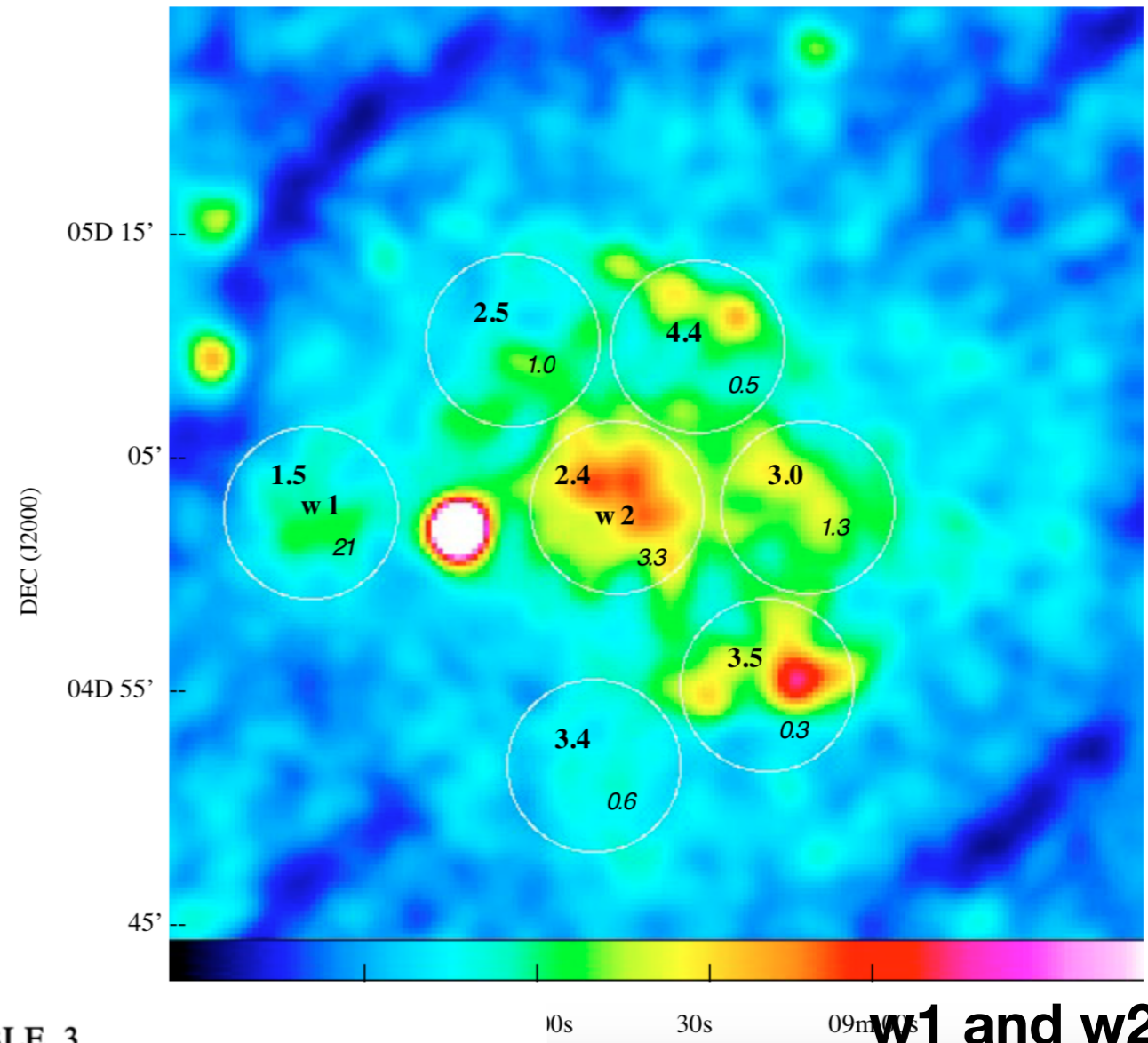
SSH & Ogelman 1997  
(Begelman & Cioffi 1989)

# EARLY ROSAT AND ASCA OBSERVATIONS



**e1 and e2**

R. A. (J2000)



**w1 and w2**

TABLE 3

POWER-LAW MODEL RESULTS<sup>a</sup>

Region	$N_{\text{H}}$ ( $10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ )	$\Gamma$	$L_{\text{x}}$ ( $10^{34} \text{ ergs s}^{-1}$ )	$\chi^2$
e1 .....	$2.7^{+1.5}_{-1.2}$	$1.6^{+0.18}_{-0.15}$	0.73	260/99 = 2.63
e2 .....	$2.5^{+0.8}_{-0.7}$	$2.0 \pm 0.1$	1.2	194/95 = 2.11
w1 .....	$6^{+4}_{-3}$	$1.45 \pm 0.35$	0.65	118/94 = 1.26
w2 .....	$5.9^{+2.3}_{-1.9}$	$2.41^{+0.34}_{-0.26}$	1.83	134/95 = 1.41

<sup>a</sup> With both GIS detectors as well as the *ROSAT* spectra coincident with the circular regions e1 and e2 selected from the eastern lobe, and centered at 24' and 35' east of SS 433, respectively. We also show the power-law fits for the regions w1 and w2 selected from the western lobe, and centered at 19' and 31' west of SS 433, respectively. The errors are  $3\sigma$ .

**e3: soft with some thermal X-rays**

TABLE 3

THERMAL BREMSSTRAHLUNG (TB) AND POWER-LAW (PL) MODEL RESULTS FOR REGION e1 WITH THE ASCA, PCA, AND HEXTE SPECTRA (OBSERVATION 02-05)<sup>a</sup>

Model	Model Parameter	Normalization ( $10^{-3}$ photons $\text{cm}^{-2}$ $\text{s}^{-1}$ $\text{keV}^{-1}$ )	$\chi^2$ (dof)
TB.....	$kT = 105$ (keV) <sup>b</sup>	1.92	1.54 (107)
PL.....	$\Gamma = 1.43 \pm 0.1$	$1.04 \pm 0.1$	1.36 (110)

<sup>a</sup> The parameters for e2 have been frozen to the values indicated in Table 1. The TB parameters are unconstrained, and the errors quoted on the PL parameters are at the  $3\sigma$  level.

<sup>b</sup> The TB temperature and the normalization are inconsistent with the ASCA fits (see Fig. 4).

TABLE 2

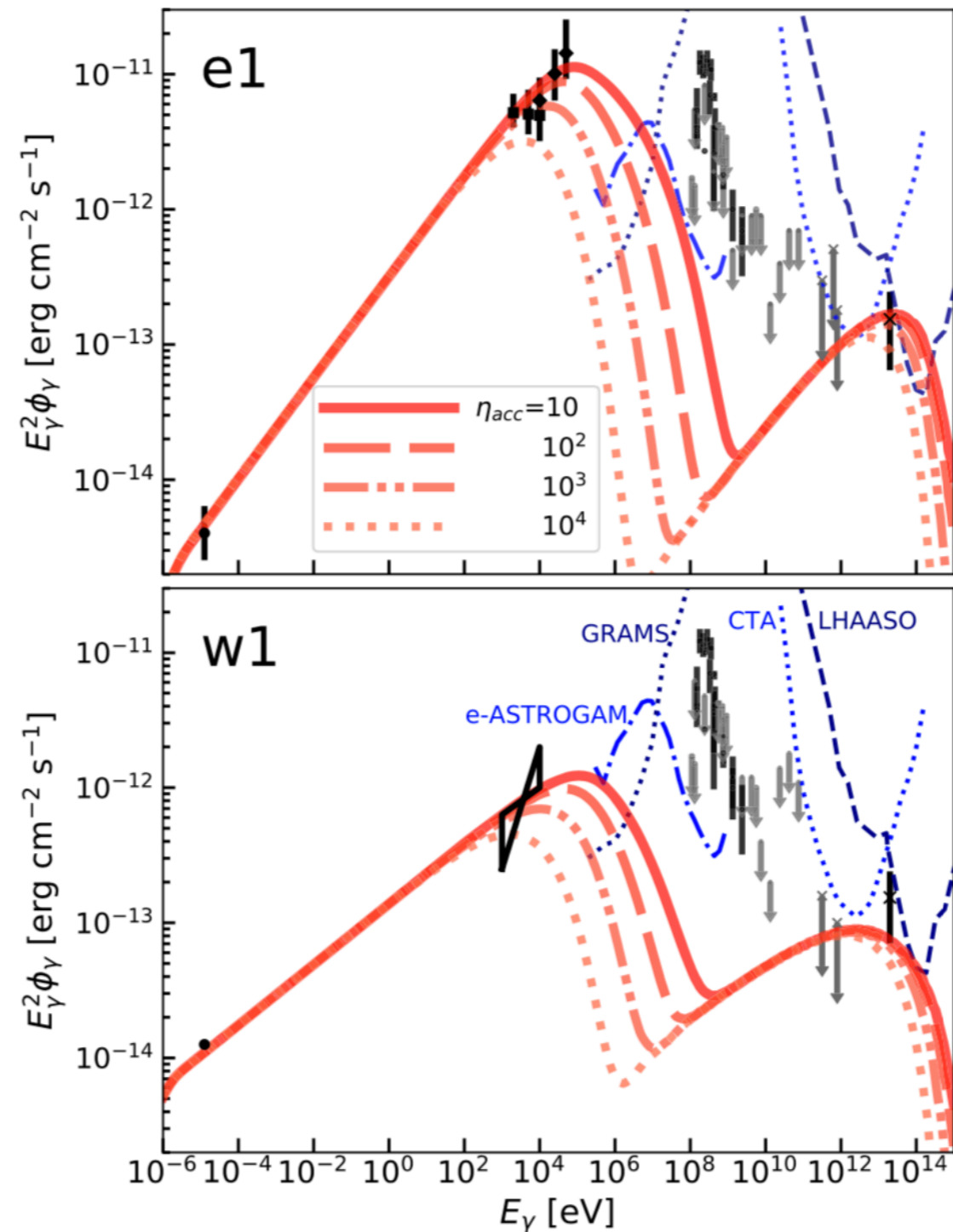
PL AND TB MODEL FITS TO THE PCA AND HEXTE SPECTRA OF W50 IN THE 10–50 keV RANGE (SEGMENT 02-05)<sup>a</sup>

Model	Region	Model Parameter	Normalization ( $10^{-3}$ photons $\text{cm}^{-2}$ $\text{s}^{-1}$ $\text{keV}^{-1}$ )	$\chi^2$ (dof)
PL .....	e1	$\Gamma = 1.4$	1.04	1.38 (30)
Broken PL.....	e2	$\Gamma_1 = 1.6$ $\Gamma_2 = 2.6$ $E_b = 3$ keV	1.33	...
TB .....	e1	$kT = 12$ keV	1.56	2.15 (29)
	e2	$kT = 5$ keV	1.71	...

<sup>a</sup> The fit parameters correspond to the values derived from fitting the combined ROSAT and ASCA spectra of the regions e1 and e2 of the eastern lobe (see Fig. 1).

**“The detection of X-rays from W50 up to energies of  $\sim 50$  keV implies electron energies,  $E_e \sim 300$ -450 TeV, for an estimated B-field of 6-15 micro-Gauss (synchrotron interpretation)  $\implies$  an important site for CR acceleration!”**





**Figure 2.** Broadband spectral energy distribution of the e1 (top) and w1 (bottom) region. Orange curves are model predictions for different choices of  $\eta_{acc}$ , as labeled. Black and gray points are observational data and upper limits, respectively, from Geldzahler et al. (1980) (radio), Brinkmann et al. (2007), Safi-Harb & Ögelman (1997), Safi-Harb & Petre (1999) (X-ray), Bordas et al. (2017), Xing et al. (2019), Rasul et al. (2019), Sun et al. (2019) (HE), Ahnen et al. (2018), Kar (2017), Abeysekara et al. (2018) (VHE). Expected sensitivities are also shown for CTA (North, 50 hours; Acharya et al. 2019), LHAASO (one year; Bai et al. 2019), *e-ASTROGAM* (three years; De Angelis et al. 2017), and *GRAMS* (three years; Aramaki et al. 2020).

***Sudoh et al. 2020***  
***(see Kimura+2020)***