

Dark Matter and the Galactic Center Radio Filaments



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2011 Fermi Symposium

May 10, 2011

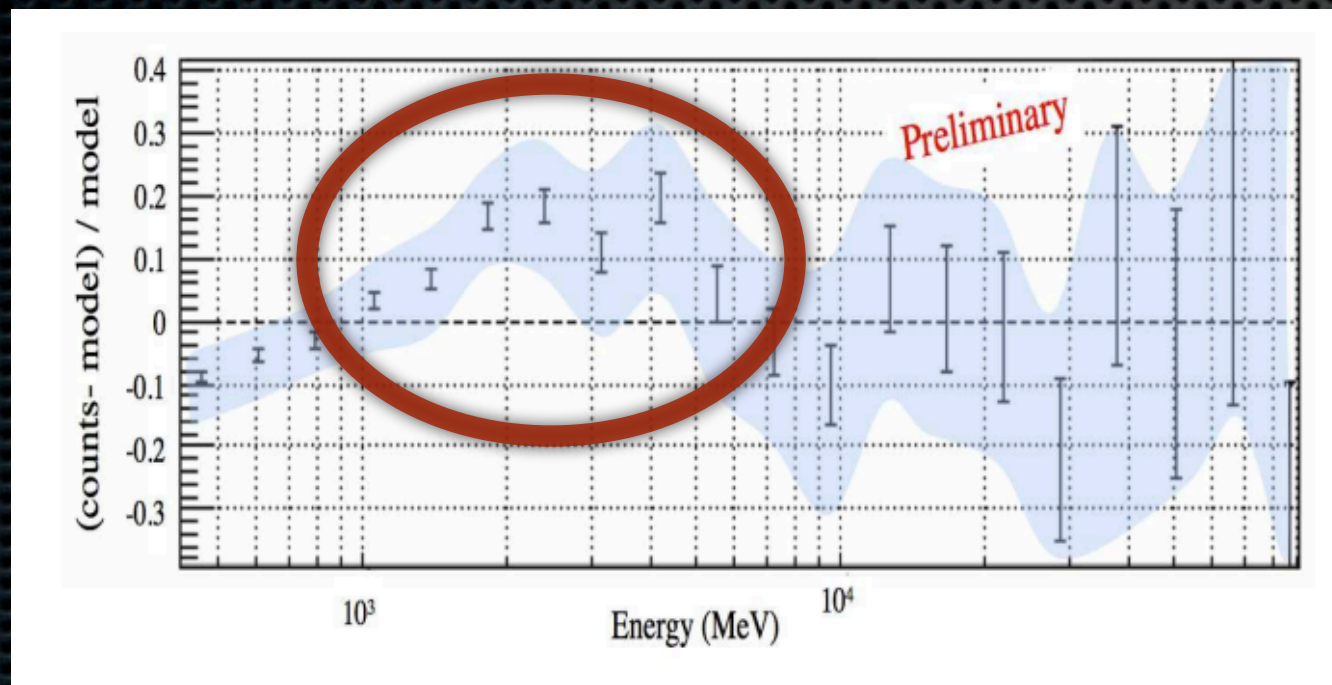
Introduction

- ✧ **γ -rays and synchrotron in the galactic center**
- ✧ **Non-thermal radio filaments in the Galactic Center**
- ✧ **Dark matter spectrum in the filamentary arcs**
- ✧ **Models of specific filaments**
- ✧ **Conclusions and Future Tests**

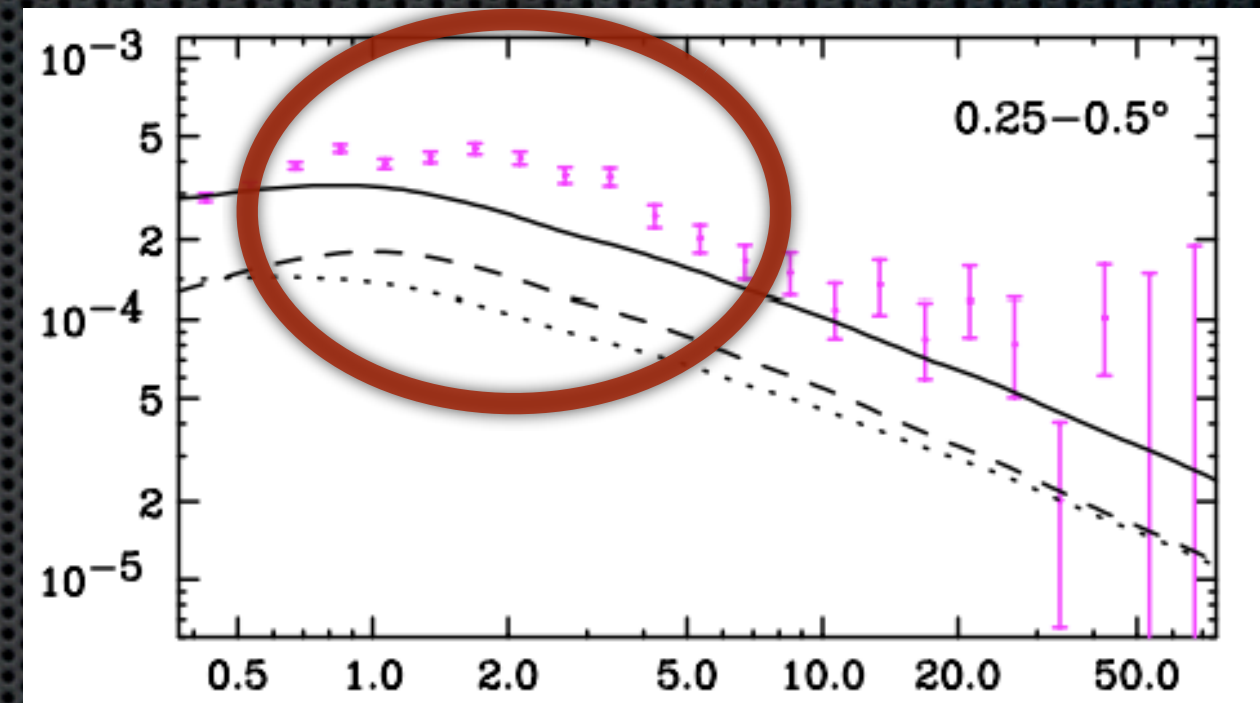
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Fermi Galactic Center Observations

- ✧ Possible (controversial) excess in the galactic center
 - ✧ At energies of 1-5 GeV



Vitale, Morselli et al. (2009)



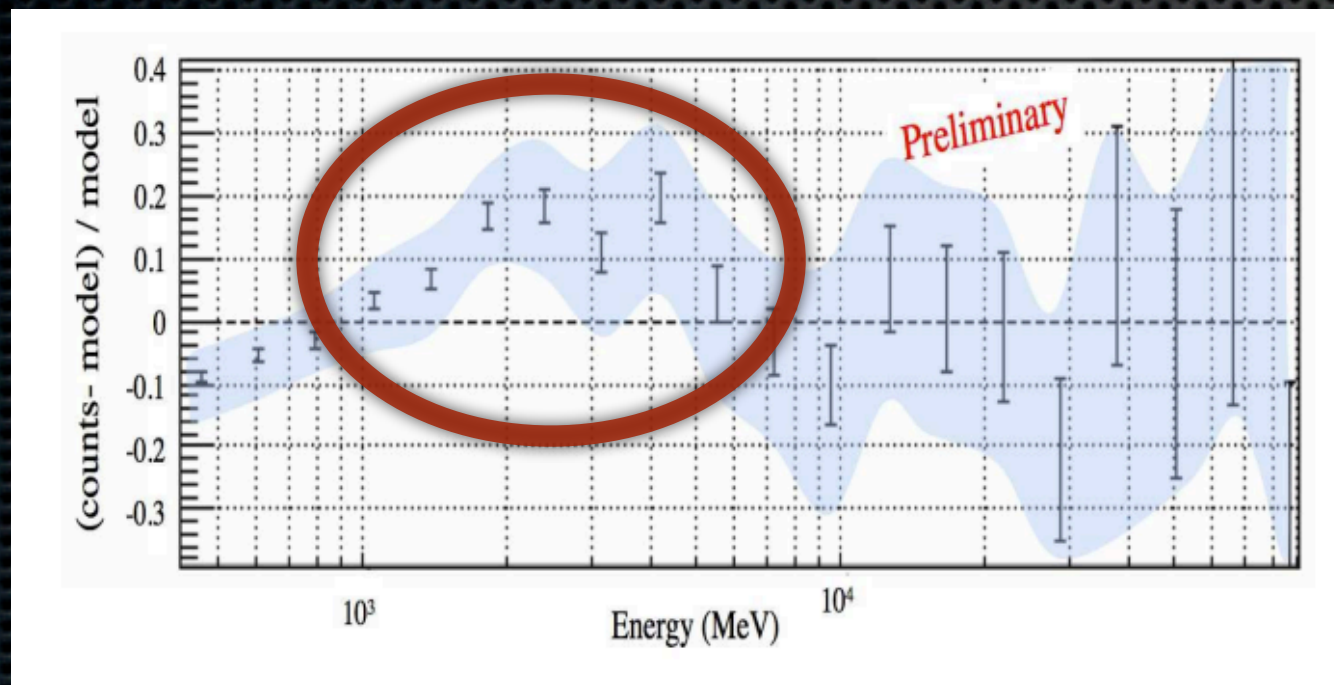
Hooper & Goodenough (2011)

**For alternate view
see poster by
Canãdas et al**

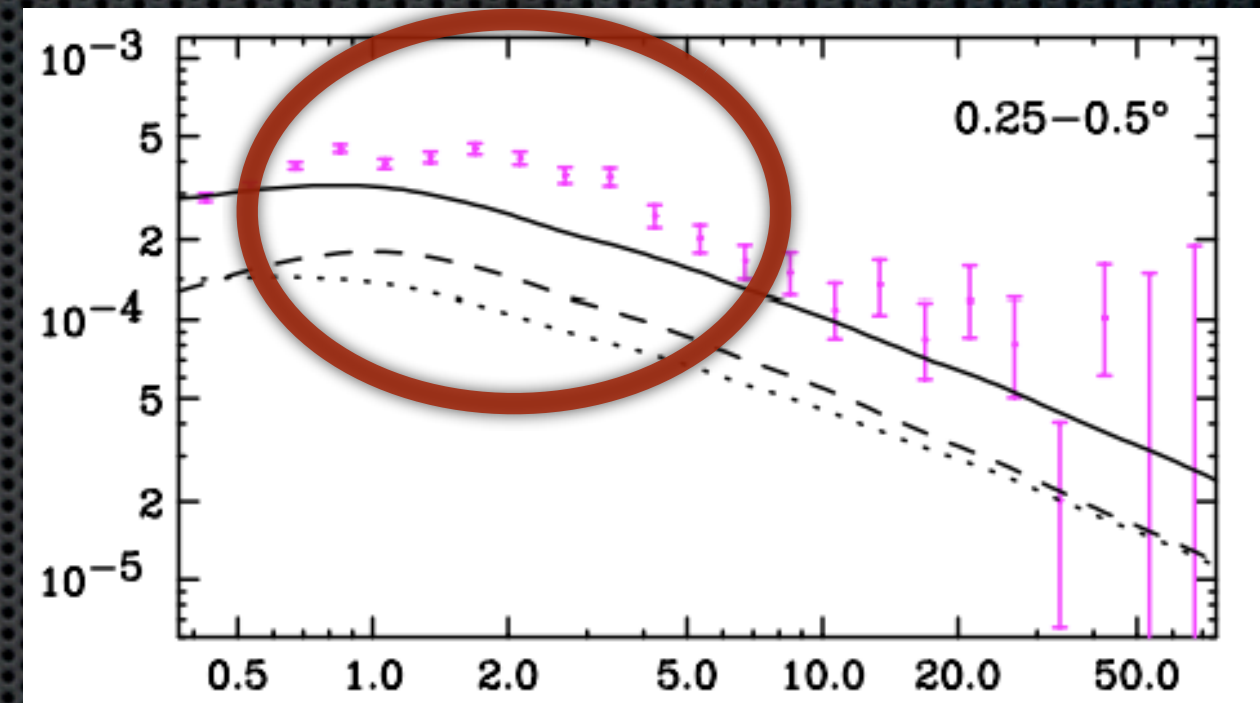
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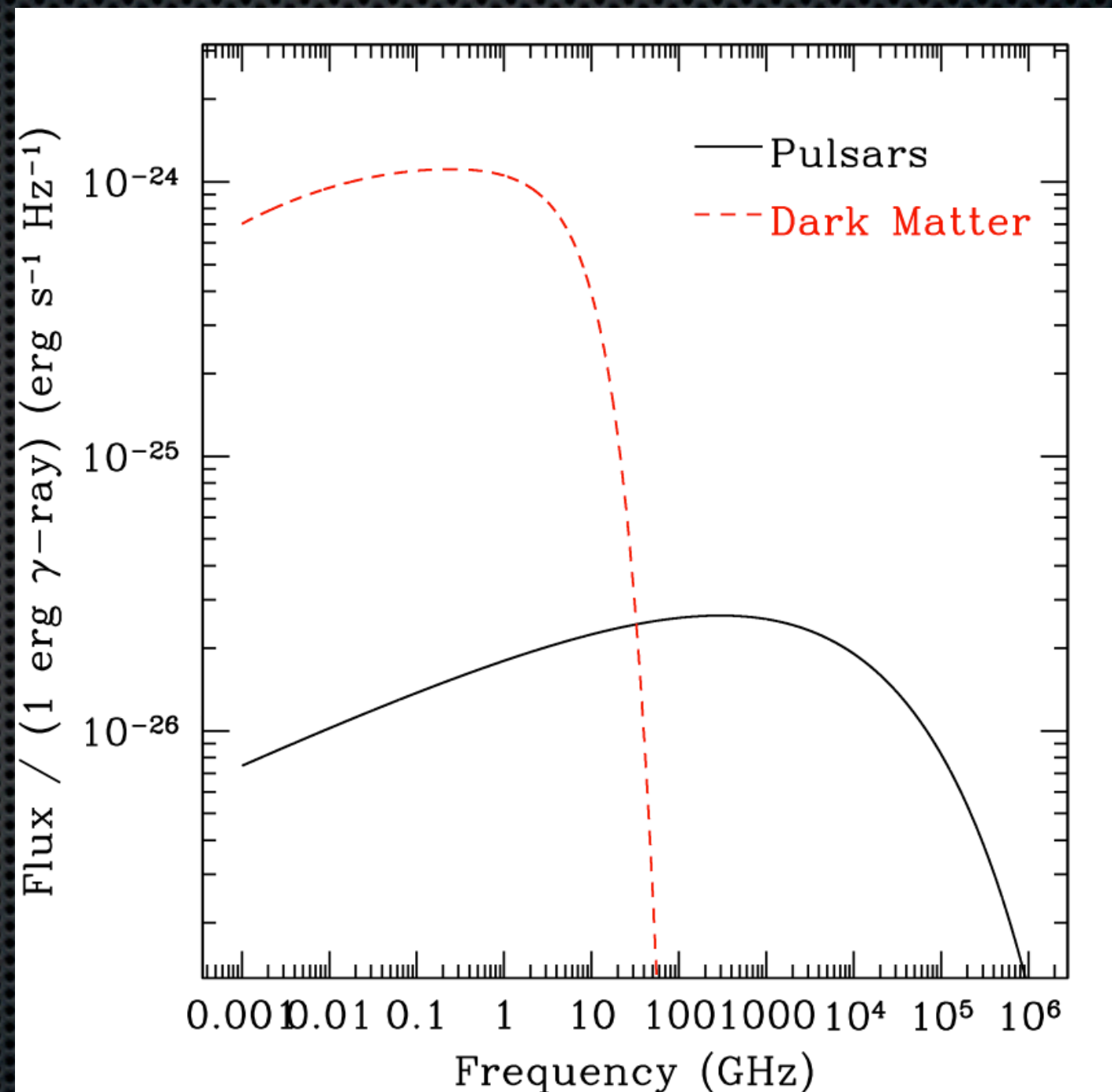
Hooper & Goodenough (2011)

**Can we observe this
at radio frequencies?**

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Synchrotron Observations

- ✦ Sources that appear identical in γ -rays may have different synchrotron signatures
- ✦ One example is MSPs vs. Dark Matter (Abazajian 2011)



8 GeV democratic Dark Matter

Pulsar $e^+e^- \propto E^{-1.5} \exp(-E/1 \text{ TeV})$;

Efficiency = 10%

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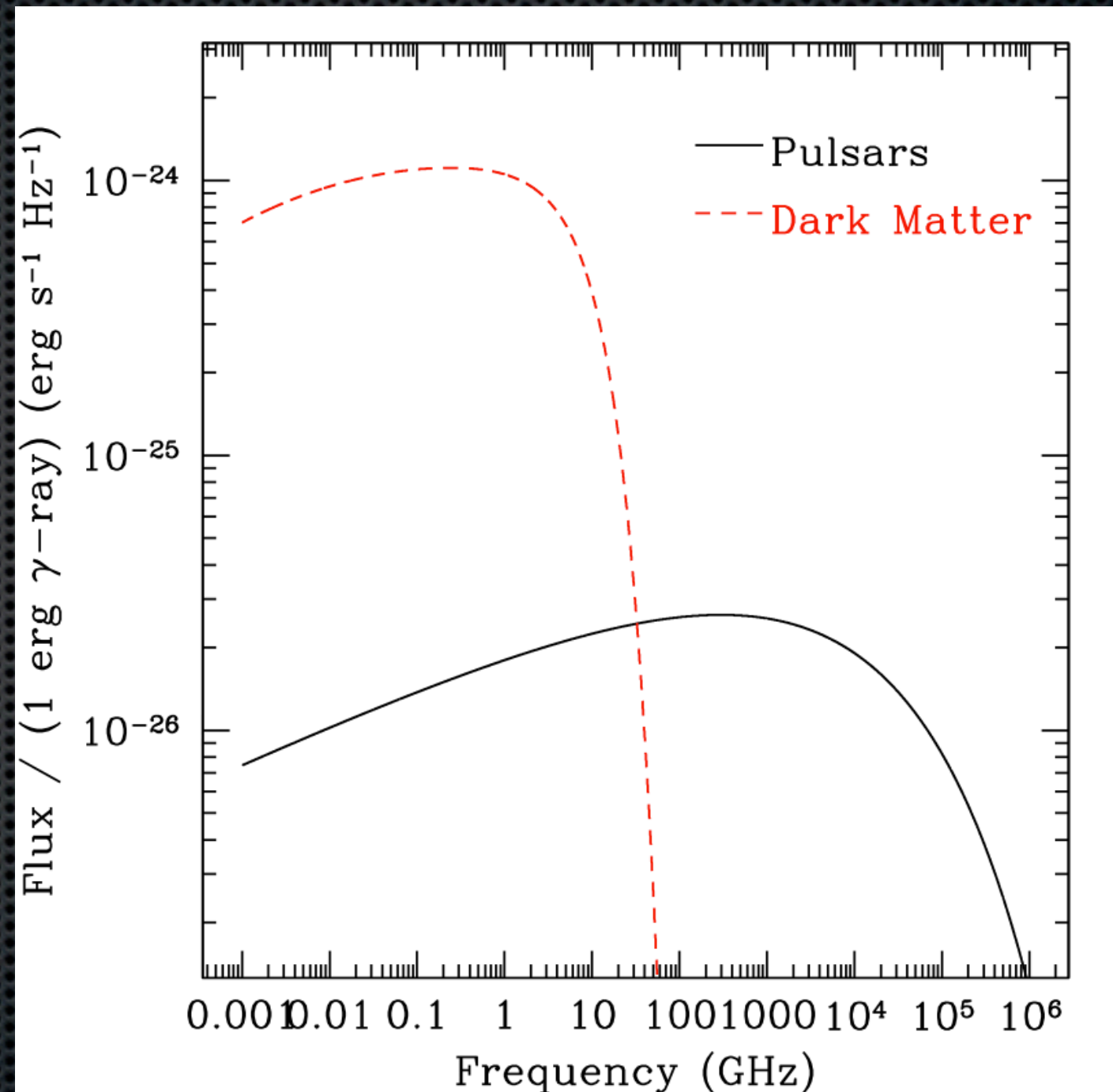
Synchrotron Observations

- ✧ Tradeoff:

- ✧ **Synchrotron observations have higher angular resolution**

- ✧ **Must worry about cosmic ray propagation**

↖ Considerable problem



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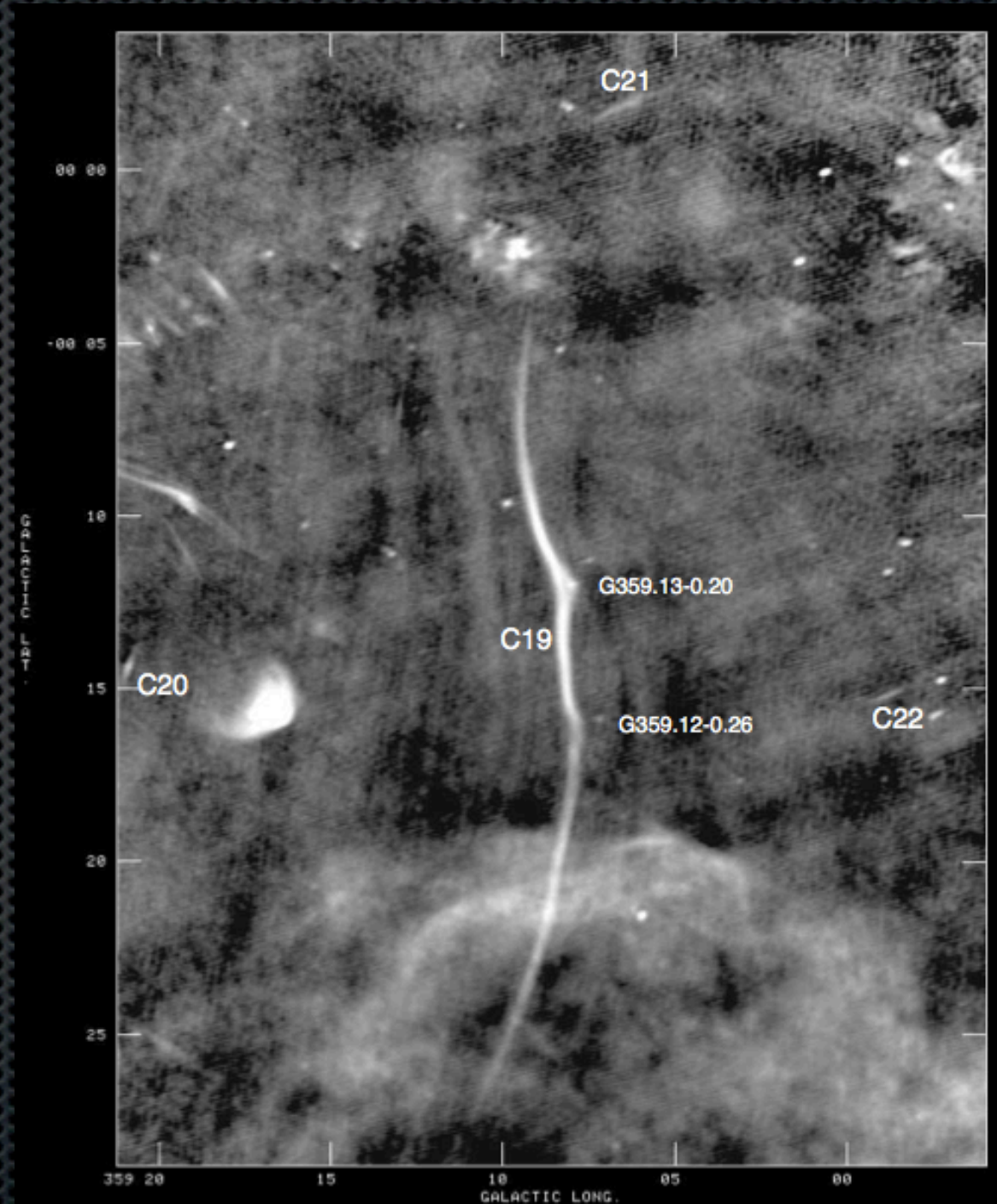
Non-Thermal Radio Filaments

- ✦ Long (~ 30 pc) thin (< 1 pc) “tubes” with enhanced, and ordered, magnetic field

$$B_{\text{tot}} \sim 50\text{--}1000 \mu\text{G}$$

$$\frac{B_{\text{ord}}^2}{B_{\text{tot}}^2} > 0.6$$

- ✦ ~ 30 known sources within 100 pc of galactic center
- ✦ Mechanism for filament creation is unknown



Yusef-Zadeh et al. 2004

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Non-Thermal Radio Filaments

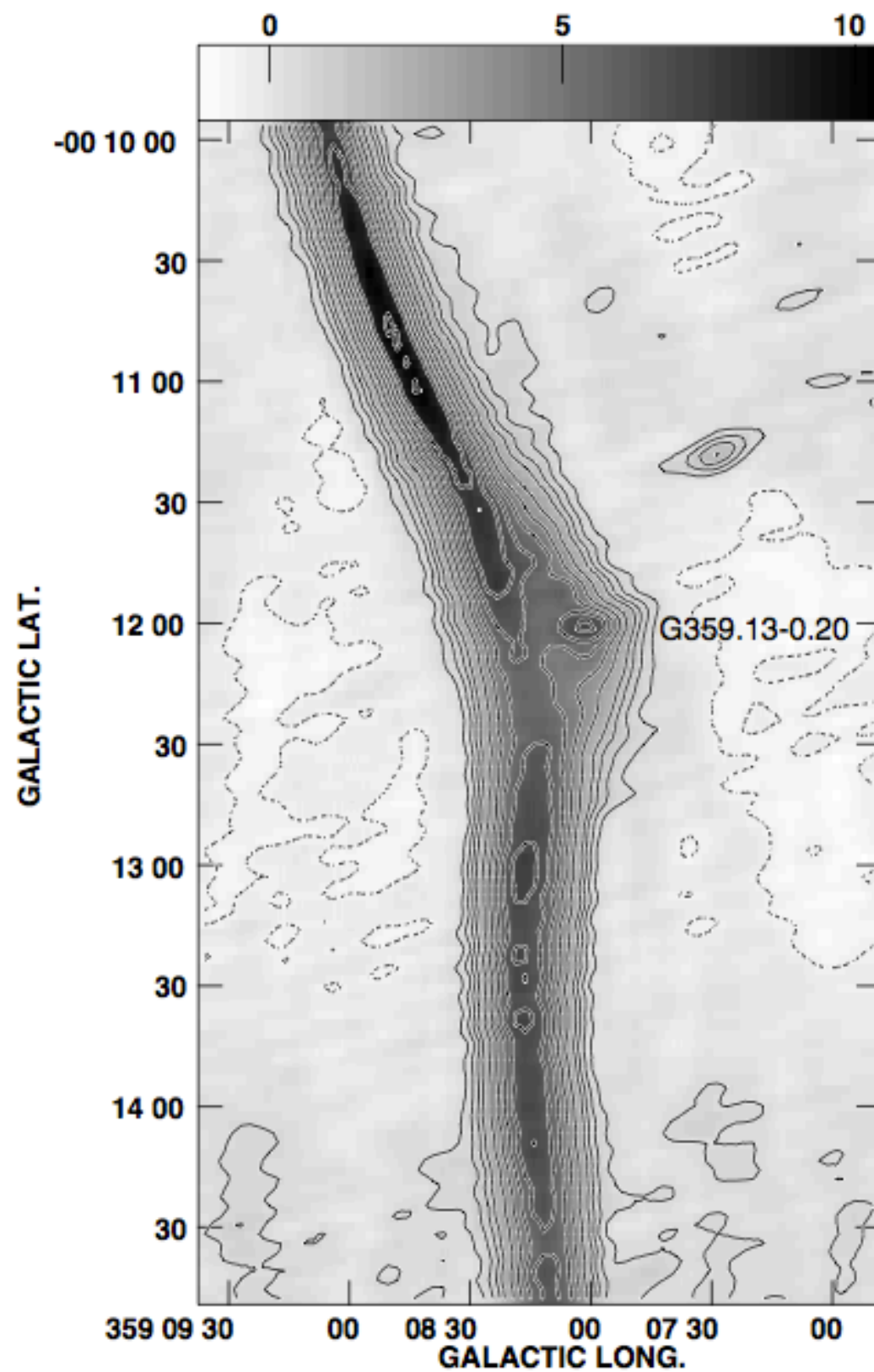
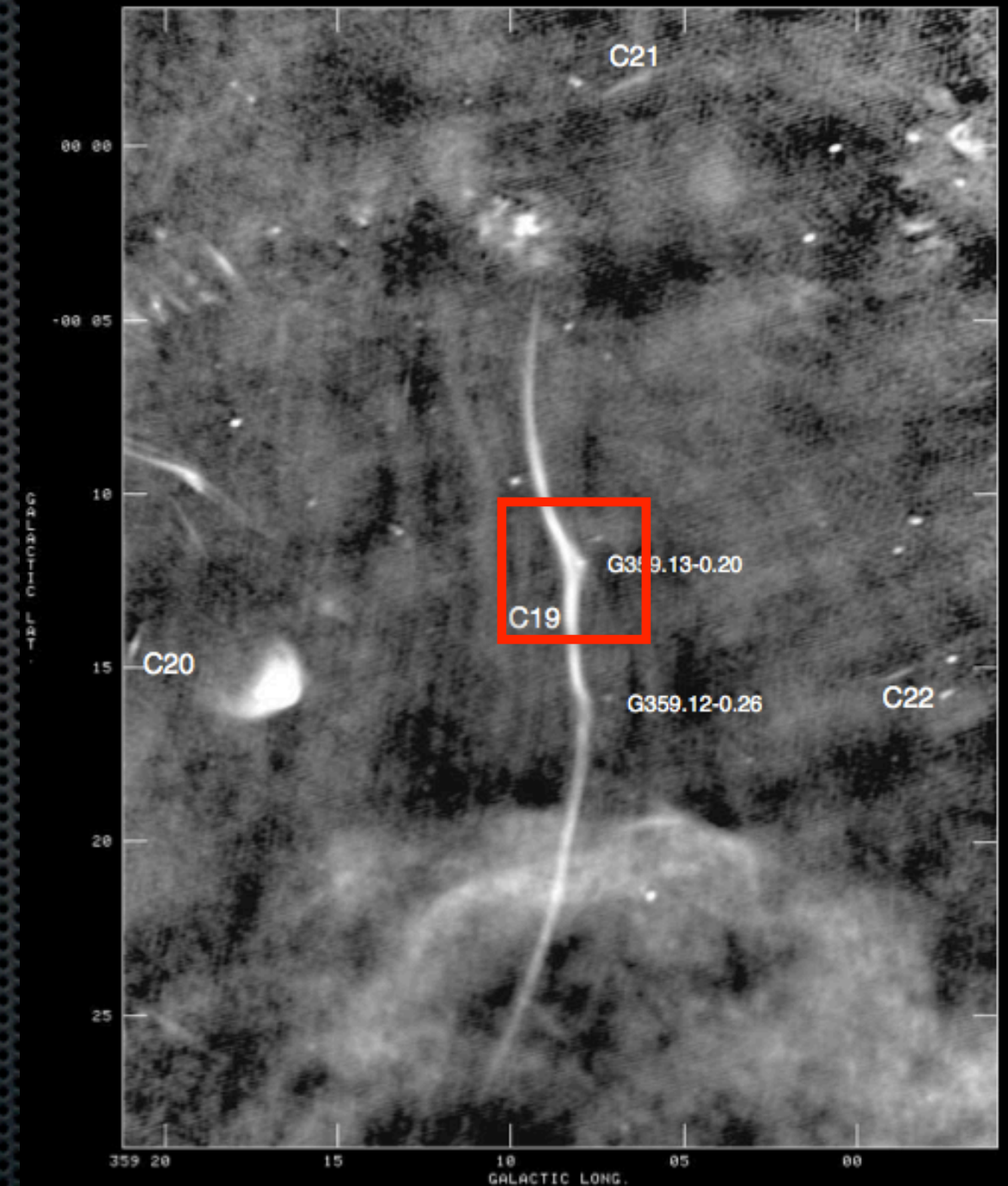


FIG. 12m



Yusef-Zadeh et al. 2004
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Non-Thermal Radio Filaments

- ✧ Synchrotron Spectrum cannot be explained by power-law lepton injection spectra

$$p = 2\alpha + 1$$

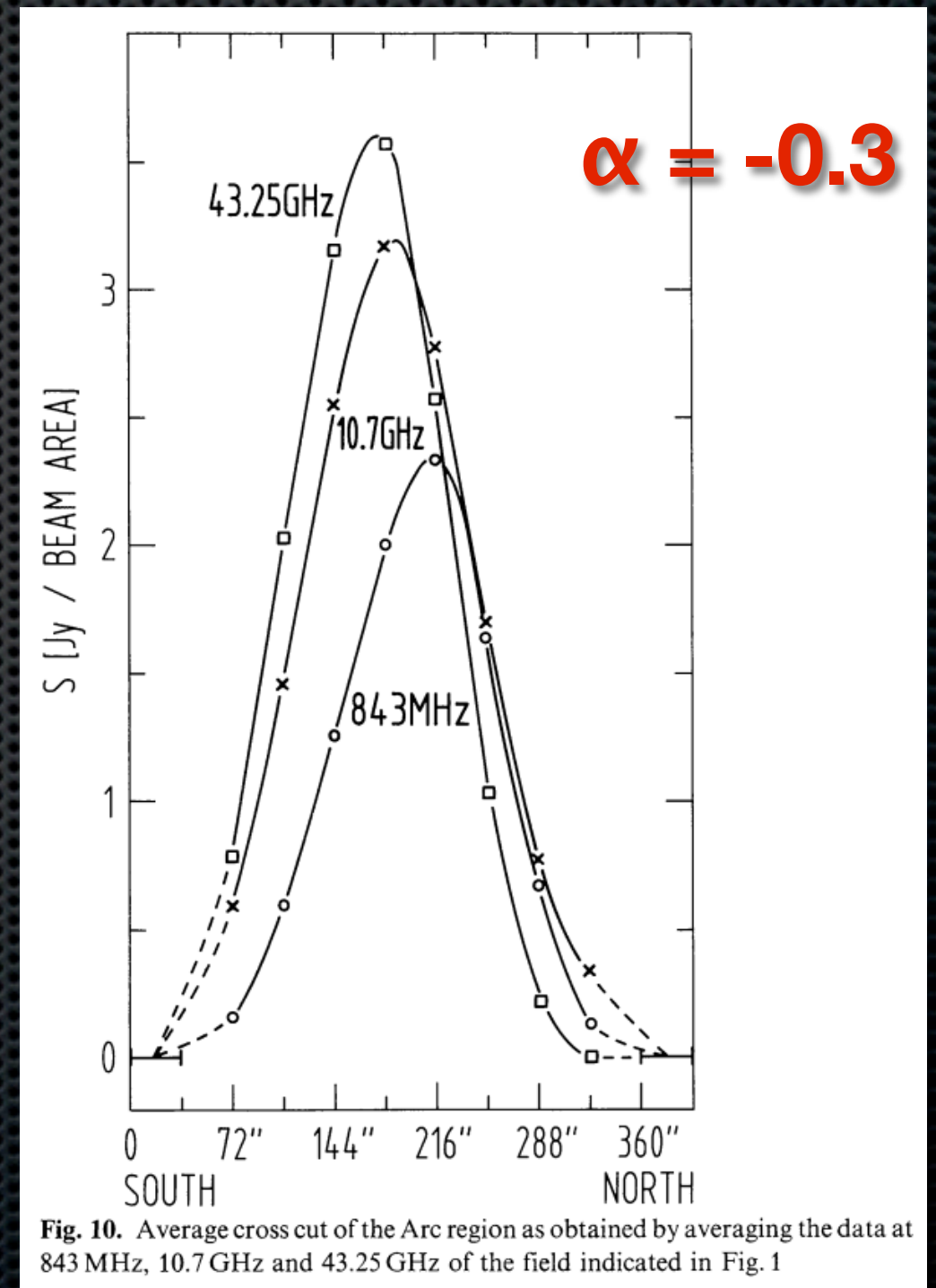
-p is the power-law index of the electron injection spectrum

- α is the power-law index of the synchrotron radiation spectrum

Astrophysical shock has $p > 2$
 $\alpha > 0.5$

Radio Arc

Reich et al. 1988

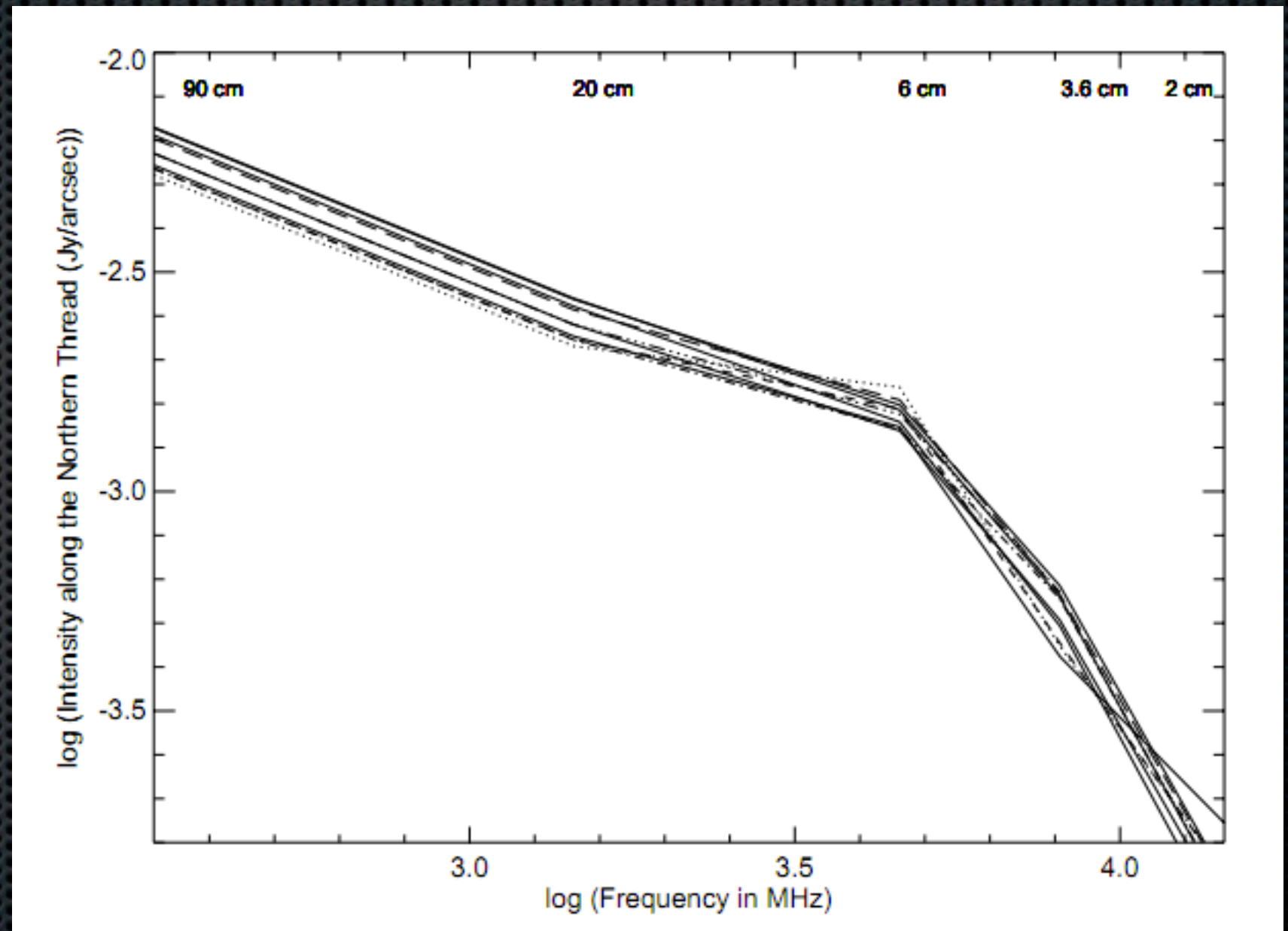


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Non-Thermal Radio Filaments

- ✧ Synchrotron Spectrum cannot be explained by power-law lepton injection spectra

Northern
Thread
G0.08+0.15



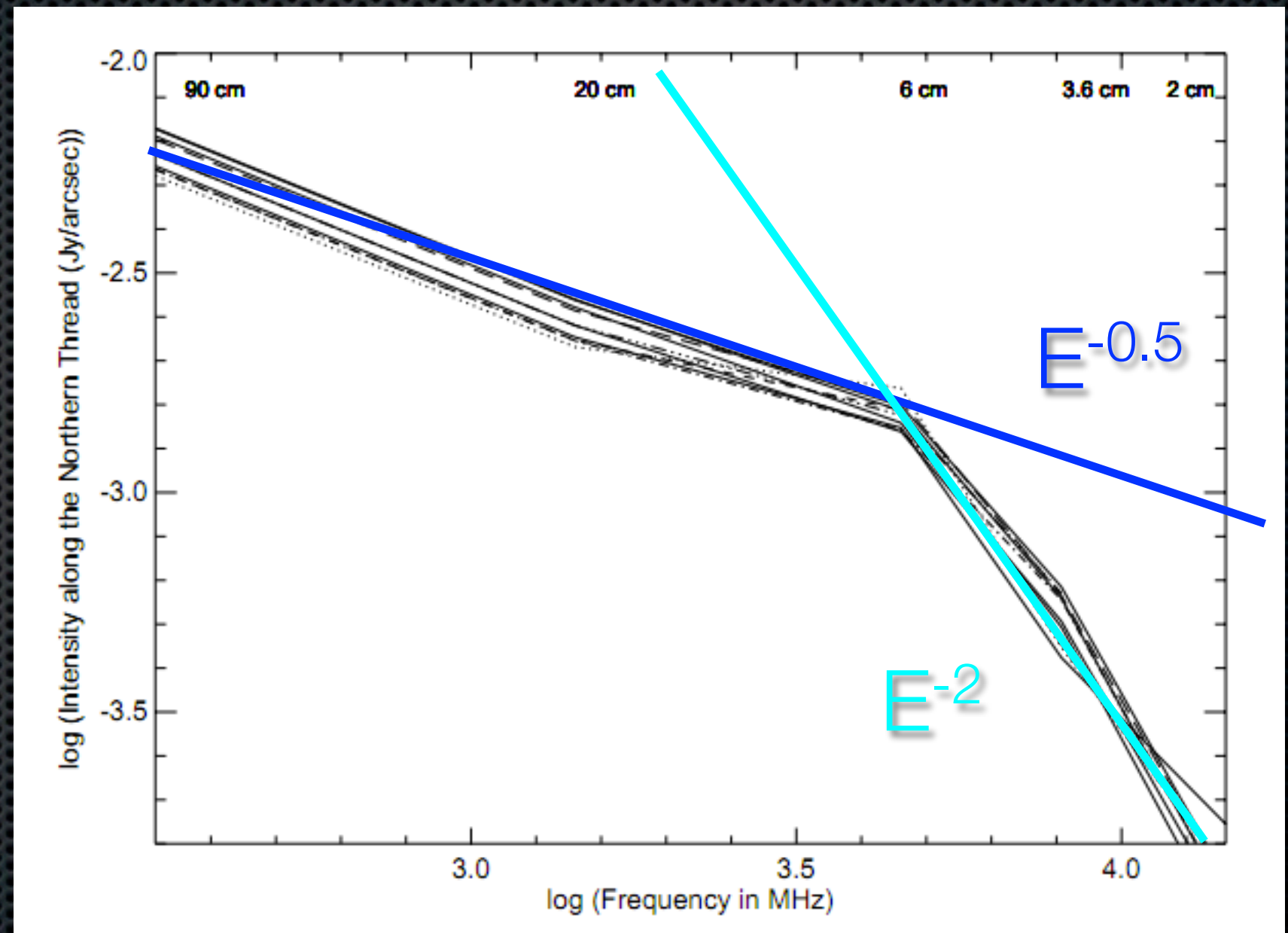
Lang et al. 1999

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Non-Thermal Radio Filaments

- ✧ Synchrotron Spectrum cannot be explained by power-law lepton injection spectra

Northern
Thread
G0.08+0.15



Lang et al. 1999

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Non-Thermal Radio Filaments

* Synchrotron spectrum is similar in many NRFs

Name	Alternative Name	$\alpha_{0.33GHz}^{1.4GHz}$	$\alpha_{1.4GHz}^{4.8GHz}$	$\alpha_{4.8GHz}^{>}$	References
G0.08+0.15	Northern Thread	-0.5	-0.5	-2.0	Lang et al. (1999b); LaRosa et al. (2000)
G358.85+0.47	The Pelican	-0.6	-0.8 ± 0.2	-1.5 ± 0.3	Kassim et al. (1999); Lang et al. (1999a)
G359.1-0.02	The Snake	-1.1	~ 0.0	*	Nicholls & Gray (1993); Gray et al. (1995)
G359.32-0.16	—	-0.1	-1.0	—	LaRosa et al. (2004)
G359.79+0.17	RF-N8	-0.6 ± 0.1	-0.9 to -1.3	—	Law et al. (2008a)
G359.85+0.39	RF-N10	0.15 to -1.1**	-0.6 to -1.5**	—	LaRosa et al. (2001); Law et al. (2008a)
G359.96+0.09	Southern Thread	-0.5	—	—	LaRosa et al. (2000)
G359.45-0.040	Sgr C Filament	-0.5	—	-0.46 ± 0.32	Liszt & Spiker (1995); Law et al. (2008a)
G359.54+0.18	Ripple	—	-0.5 to -0.8	—	Law et al. (2008a)
G359.36+0.10	RF-C12	—	-0.5 to -1.8	—	Law et al. (2008a)
G0.15+0.23	RF-N1 (in Radio Arc)	—	+0.2 to -0.5	—	Law et al. (2008a)
G0.09-0.09	—	—	—	0.15	Reich (2003)

*Two very different values exist in the literature for the high frequency spectrum of the Snake. Gray et al. (1995) cites a value of -0.2 ± 0.2 , while a more recent analysis by Law et al. (2008b) yields $\alpha_{4.8GHz}^{8.33} = -1.86 \pm 0.64$

*Spectrum is highly position dependent, but shows a clear trend towards steeper spectral slopes at high frequencies for any given position

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Non-Thermal Radio Filaments

The origin of monoenergetic electrons in the arc of the galactic center. Particle acceleration by magnetic reconnection

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Received February 27, accepted June 11, 1992

Abstract. The Arc filaments in the Galactic Center exhibit an *inverted* radio spectrum with a spectral index $\alpha \sim 0.3$ ($S_\nu \propto \nu^\alpha$). Such a spectrum can be interpreted as optically thin synchrotron radiation from monoenergetic electrons. We propose magnetic reconnection as the acceleration process for these particles. Quantitative estimates are in agreement with the observed properties of the Arc. The motion of molecular clouds in a strong poloidal magnetic field serves as trigger mechanism for the magnetic reconnection process, which in general is likely an important acceleration process in galactic nuclei.

synchrotron lifetime t_{syn} at an observing frequency of 15 GHz, which is the highest frequency where the filaments have been clearly detected (Inoue et al. 1989)

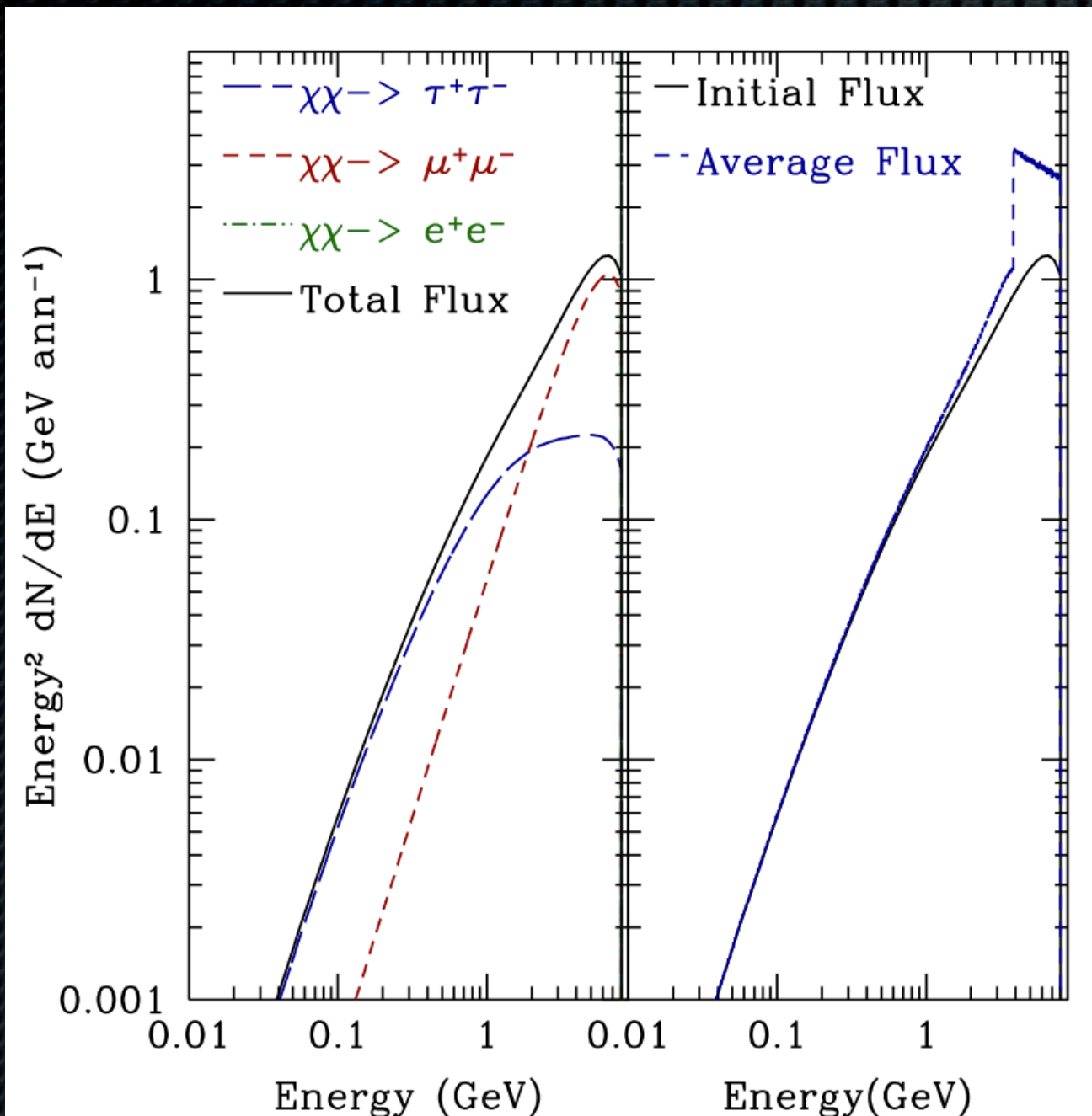
$$t_{\text{syn}} \simeq \frac{5 \cdot 10^8}{\gamma B^2} \simeq 7 \cdot 10^3 \text{ years} \left[\frac{\gamma}{2 \cdot 10^3} \right]^{-1} \left[\frac{B}{10^{-3} \text{ Gauss}} \right]^{-2}, \quad (1)$$

$$E_M = 7 \text{ GeV} \left(\frac{V_A}{2000 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{B^2/8\pi}{8 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ erg cm}^{-3}} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{K_{\parallel}}{10^{24} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ sec}^{-1}} \right)^{-1} \quad (7a).$$

Lesch et al. 1988

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Dark Matter Lepton Spectrum

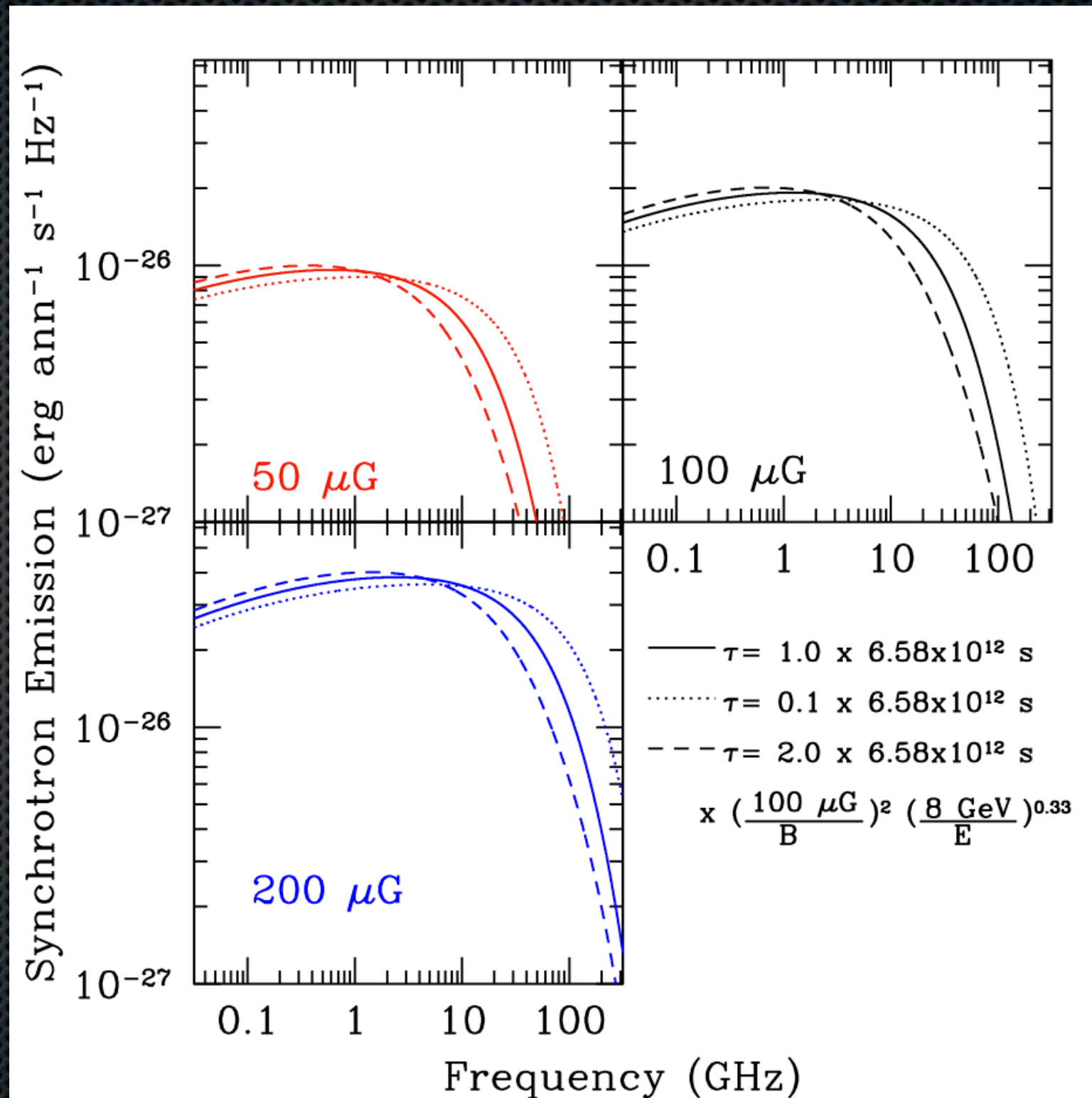


- ✦ Light dark matter model naturally produces ~ 8 GeV leptons
- ✦ Few adjustable parameters
- ✦ Ordered magnetic field may contain leptons for a significant time

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Dark Matter Synchrotron Spectrum

- ✧ Produces the flat spectral slope from 1-10 GHz
- ✧ Cuts off above 10 GHz - in agreement with observations
- ✧ Explains similar spectrum observed in all filamentary arcs

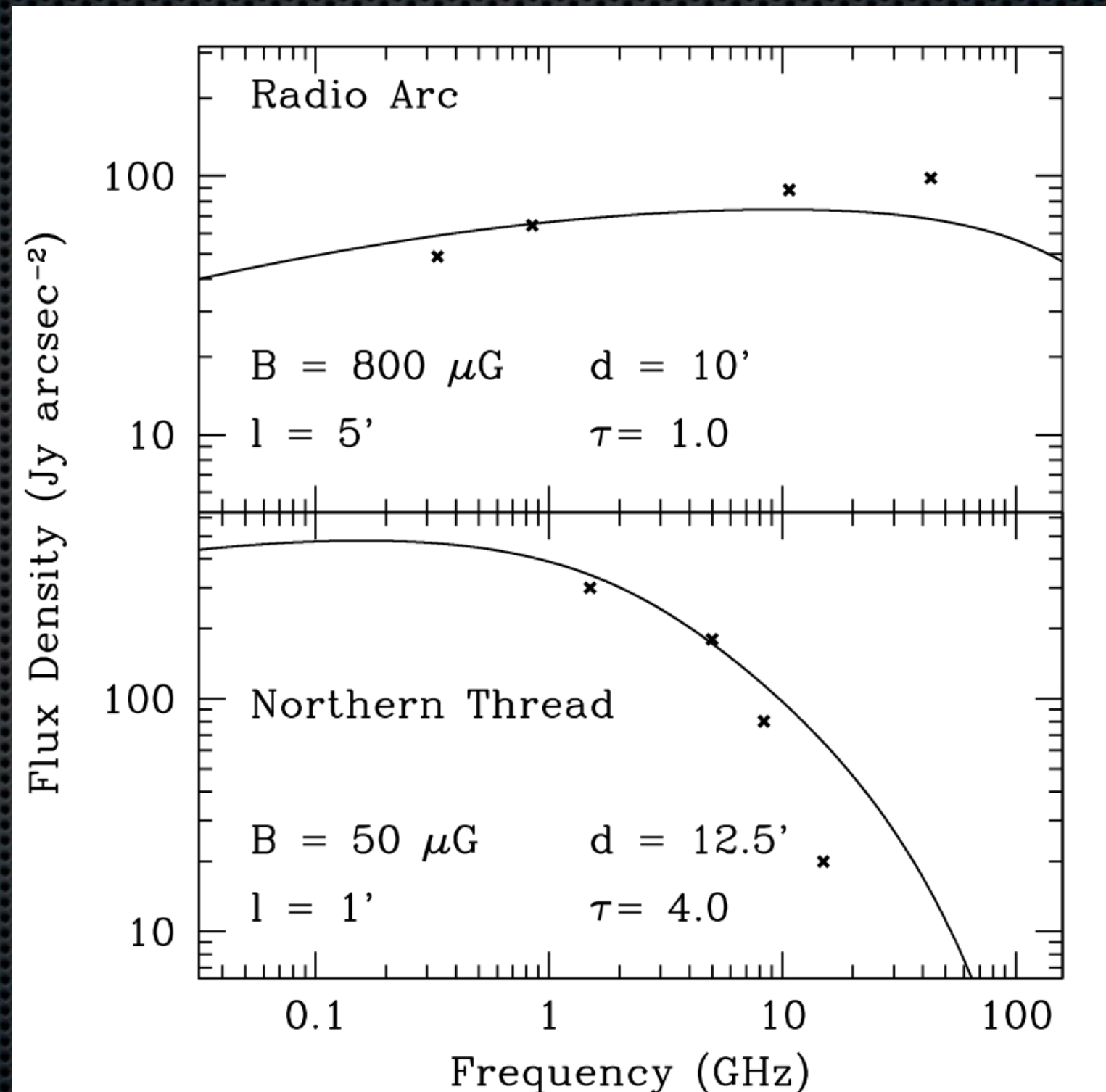


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Comparison to Specific NRFs

Very Preliminary

- ✱ The same electron spectrum can explain the extremely and moderately hard spectra of the Radio Arc and Northern Thread



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Discussion

- ✧ **The dark matter pathway employed to explain the γ -ray signal observed by Fermi-LAT requires the lepton spectrum necessary to explain the filamentary arcs**
- ✧ **Excess of ~ 10 GeV monoenergetic leptons in galactic center suggests correlation between Fermi gamma-ray analysis and radio surveys**

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Testable Predictions

- ✦ **NRFs will have equivalent electron injection spectra**
- ✦ **Regions of high luminosity are astrophysical**
 - ✦ **Will have softer spectra**
 - ✦ **May have lower polarization**
- ✦ **Existence of any under-luminous filament could undermine dark matter explanation**

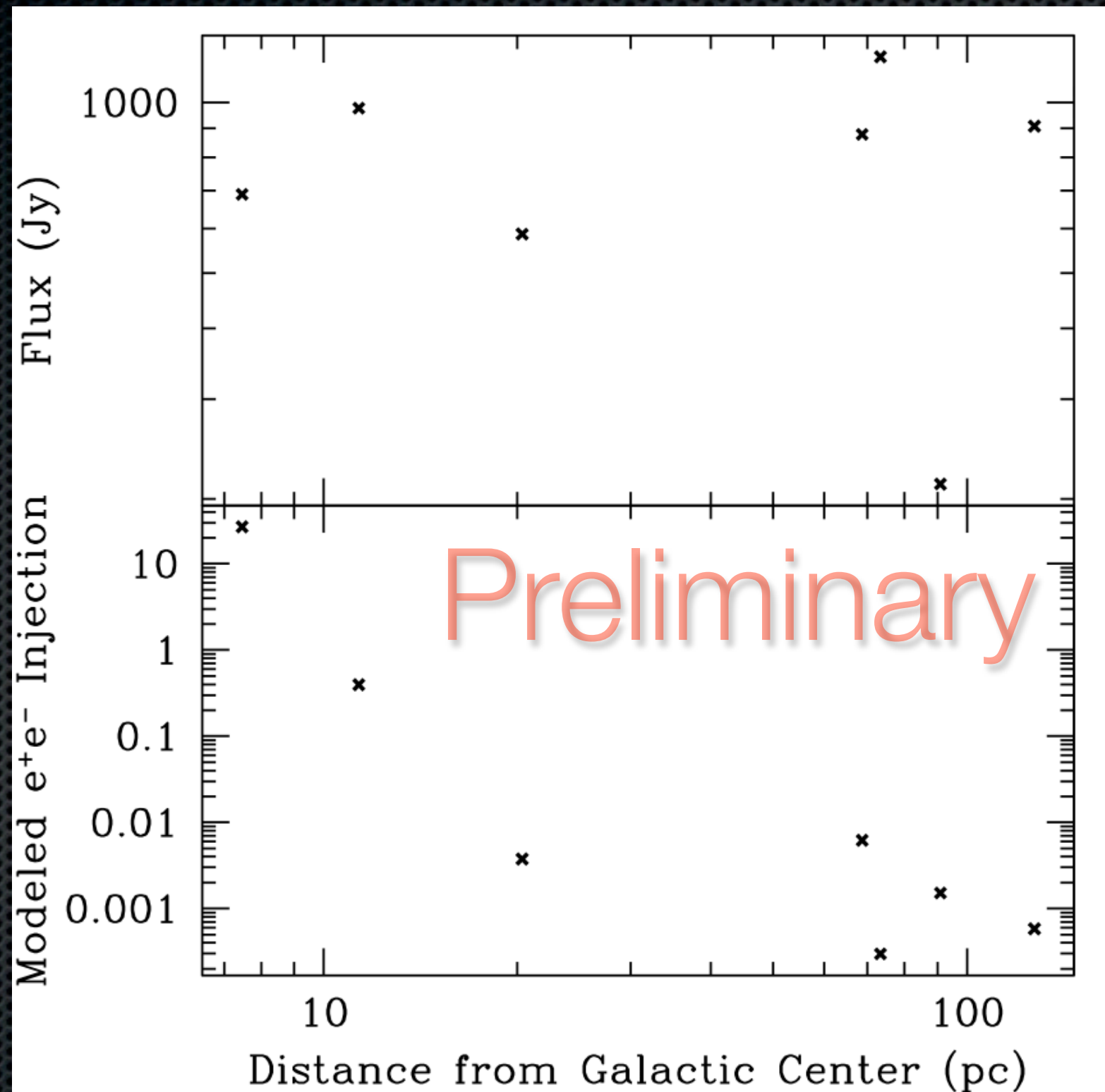
Conclusions

- ✧ **There is currently no accepted astrophysical explanation for the hard lepton spectrum necessary to explain the filamentary arcs**
- ✧ **Light dark matter provides a natural explanation for this lepton population, and additionally explains the spectral similarities and radial symmetry of NRF emission**
- ✧ **The prediction is easily falsifiable and warrants observational tests**

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Extra Slides

Luminosity vs. GC Distance



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