

A bright electron-positron annihilation line in the BOAT GRB221009A



报告人：张镇



ZZ^{*}, H. Lin^{*}, Z. Li^{*}, S.-L. Xiong^{*} et al. (2024), **ApJL**, 2405.12977

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Discovery of γ -ray lines

by GECAM Group: **the highest-energy γ -ray line detected in the universe!**

央视、新华社
等先后报道：

伽马暴观测研究里程碑！我国科学家发现宇宙迄今最高能量伽马谱线

央视新闻客户端 | 2024-07-25 11:25:14 浏览量639931

记者今天（25日）从中国科学院高能物理研究所获悉，近日，该所牵头的科研团队，通过分析极目空间望远镜和费米卫星的联合观测数据，在伽马暴中发现能量高达37兆电子伏特的伽马射线谱线，且谱线的能量和光度均以幂律形式演化，这是迄今观测到的宇宙天体产生的能量最高、证据最确凿的谱线。这些发现为破解伽马暴及相对论性喷流产生之谜提供了全新的重要线索，是伽马暴观测研究的里程碑。相关研究成果7月25日以封面论文形式在《中国科学：物理学 力学 天文学》（英文版）期刊正式发表。

Science

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RESEARCH ARTICLE | GAMMA-RAY BURSTS

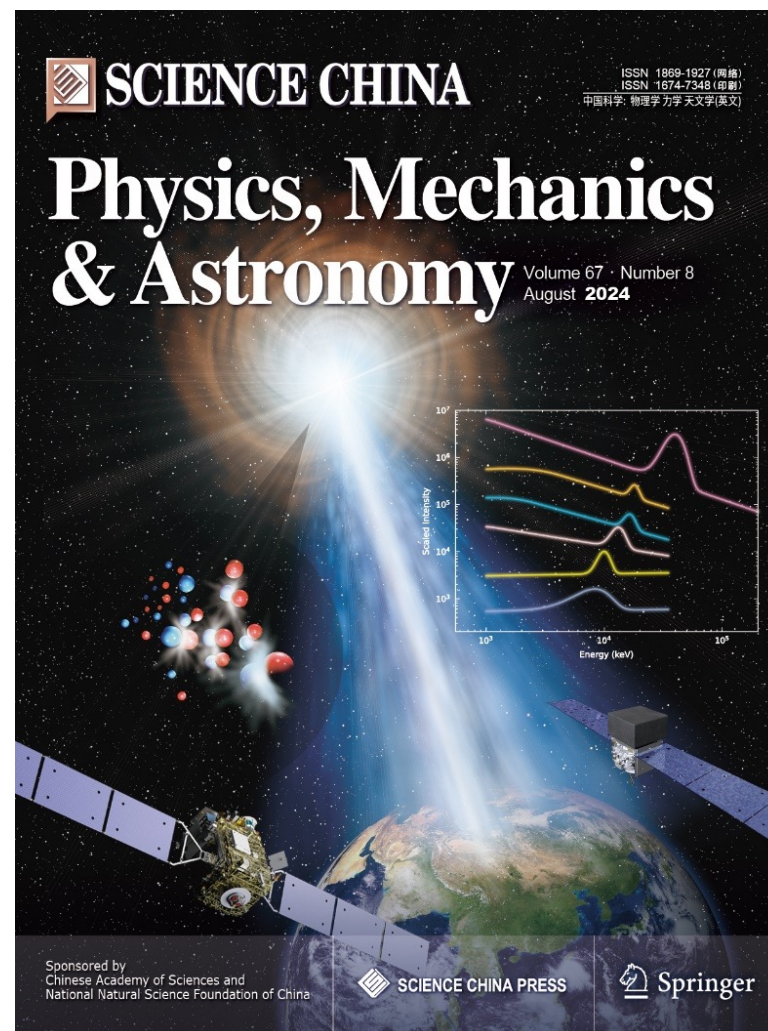
A mega-electron volt emission line in the spectrum of a gamma-ray burst

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Ravasio et al. (2024)



GECAM Collaboration* Y.-Q. Zhang et al. (2024)

Brightest-of-all-time (BOAT) GRB 221009A

□ GECAM-C/HXMT/Fermi-GBM: main burst (keV-MeV-sub GeV)

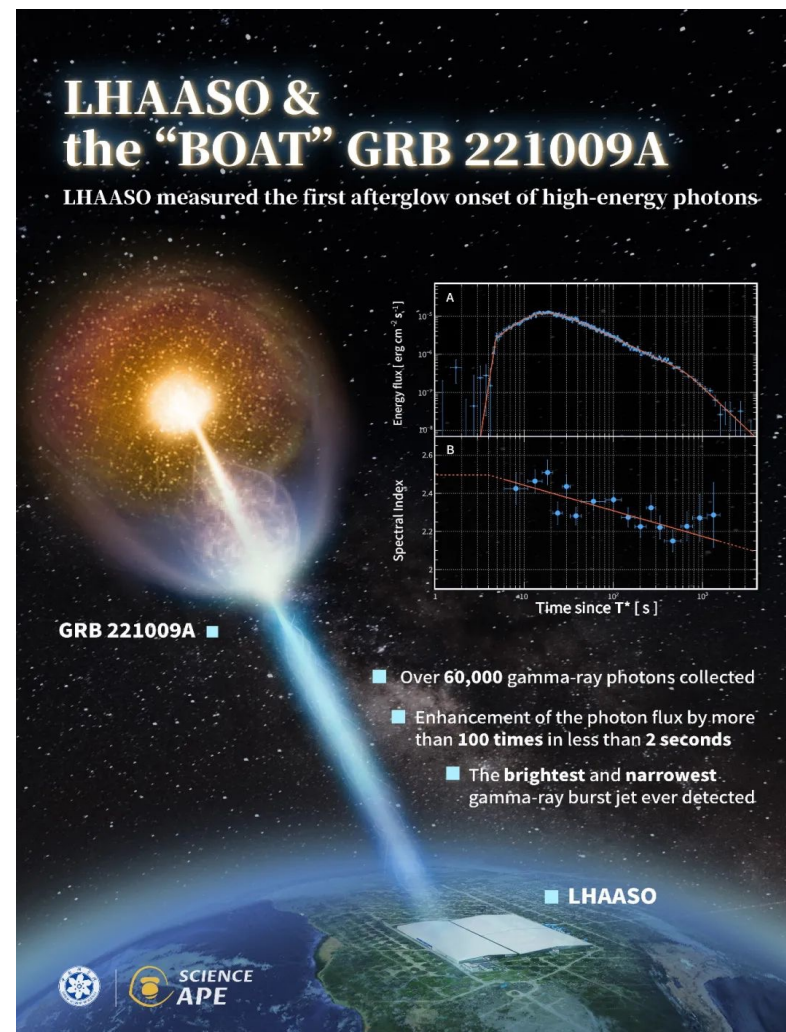
- this burst is so bright that the Fermi-GBM detector suffered significant **data loss** and **pile-up effect** during the bright part of the burst, making reliable data analysis very difficult. (HXMT & GECAM 2024)
- Fortunately, GECAM-C did not experience such problems thanks to its dedicated design of the instrument; thus, the GECAM-C data was used to correct the Fermi/GBM data. (Y.-Q. Zhang et al. 2024)

□ LAHHSO: **TeV afterglow**

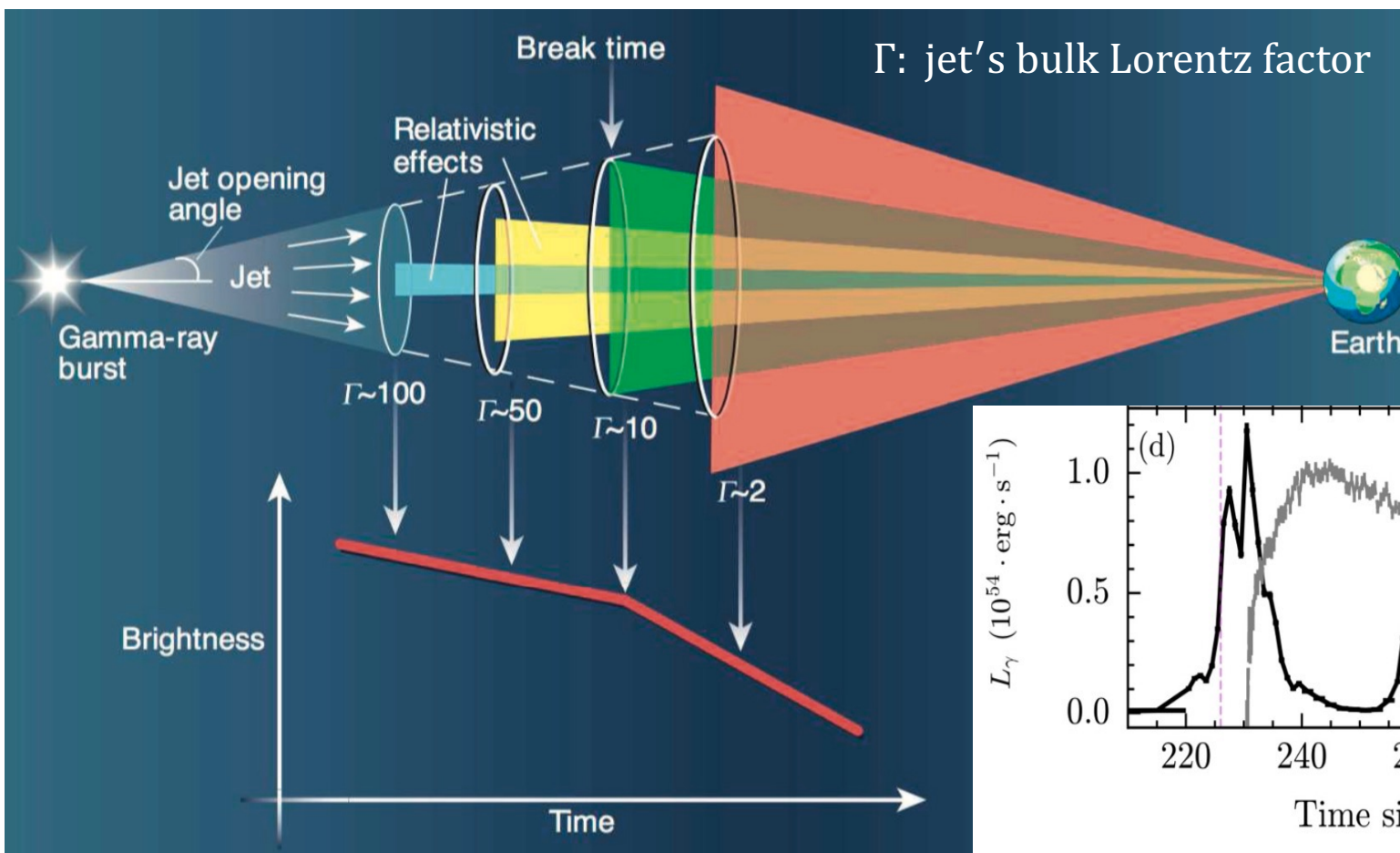
□ MeV lines: **the biggest surprise in the prompt GRB spectra in at least a decade**

--- 某国际会议上

中国十大科学进展 (2023年)



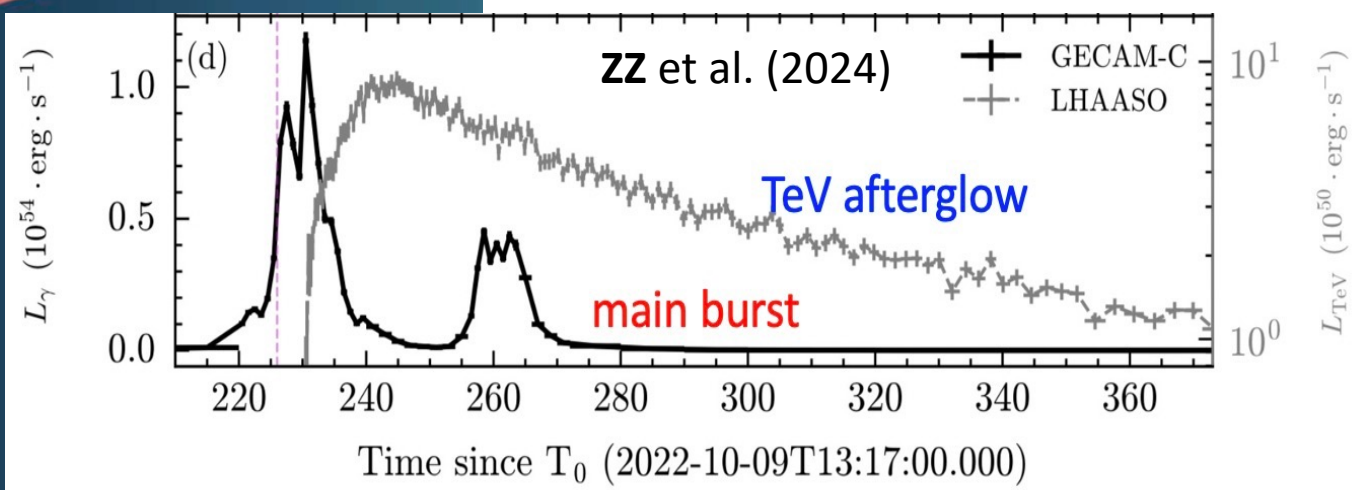
The global picture of γ -bursts (GRBs)



Jet structure:

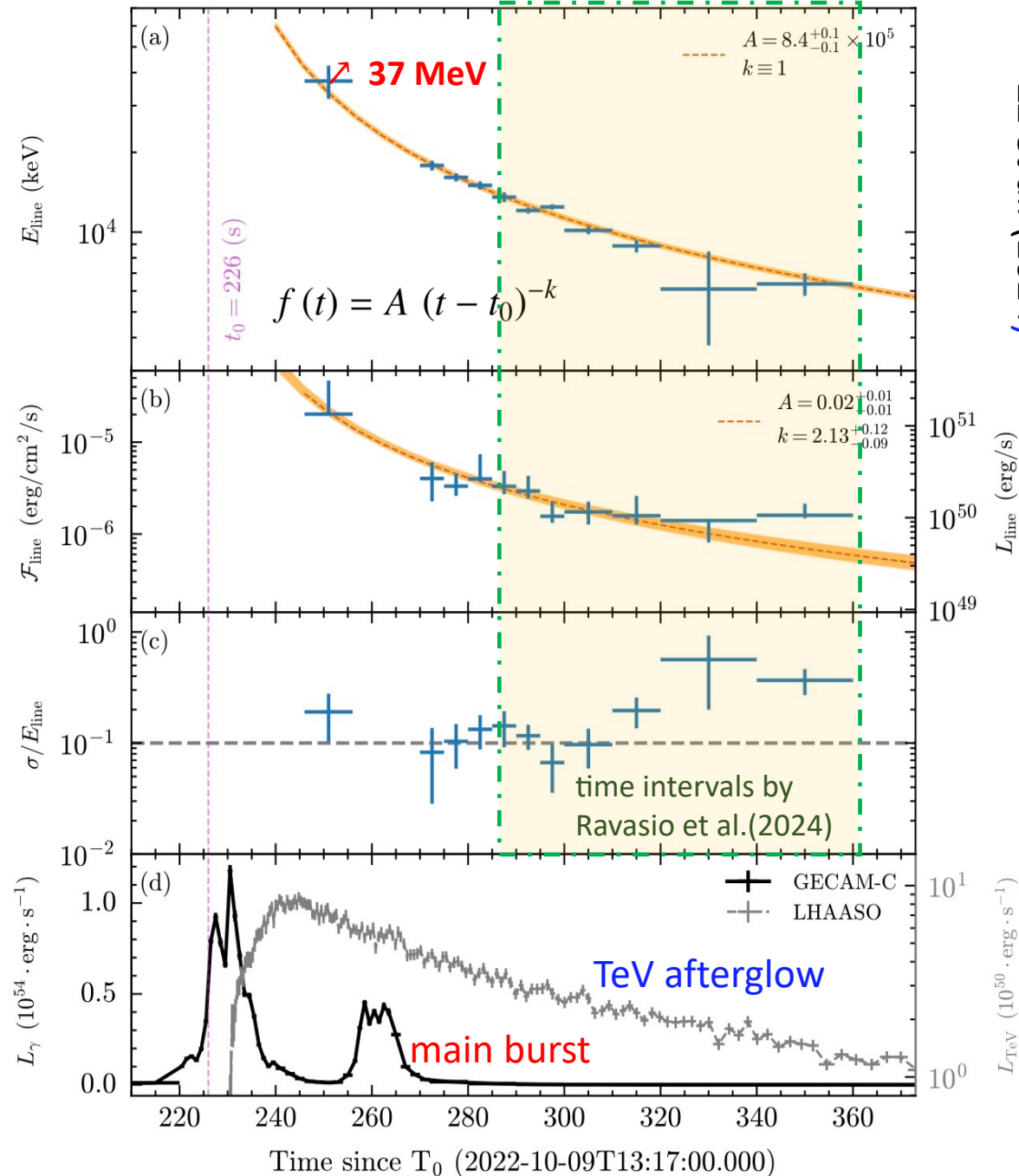
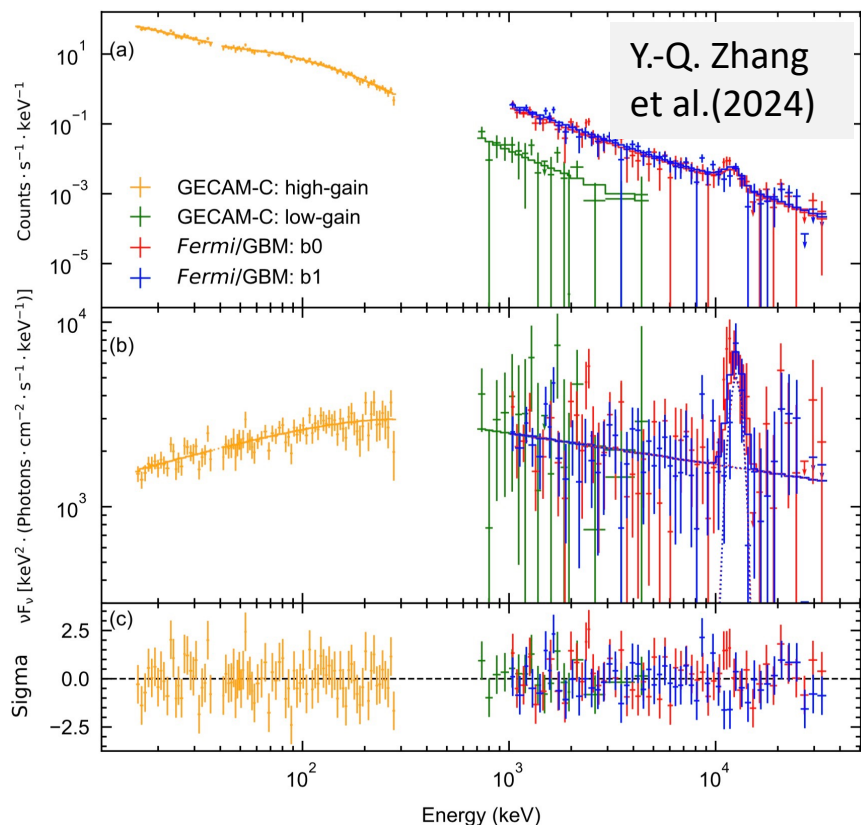
→ imprints on **main burst**

$$\epsilon^*(\theta) = \frac{dE_{\text{line}}}{d\Omega} = \begin{cases} \epsilon_0^* \left(\frac{\theta}{\theta_{\text{jet}}} \right)^{-\alpha}, & \theta \leq \theta_{\text{jet}}, \\ 0, & \theta > \theta_{\text{jet}}, \end{cases}$$



relativistic jet $\Rightarrow$ e.g., internal shocks $\rightarrow$ **main burst** Synchrotron radiation (SR) external shocks $\rightarrow$ **TeV afterglow** Inverse Compton (IC) scattering

- Gaussian lines: *non-blackbody*
 - non-thermal continuum
- ⇒ γ -rays from *optically thin* plasma



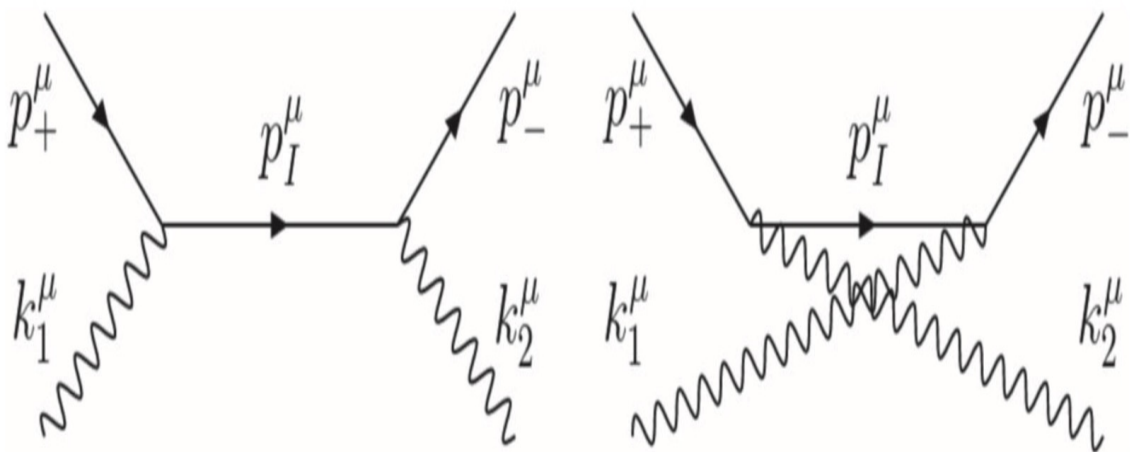
- ✓ line central energy: $E_{line} \propto (t - t_0)^{-1}$
- ✓ high line luminosity: $L_{line} \propto (t - t_0)^{-2.1}$
- ✓ narrow line width: $\sigma / E_{line} \sim 0.1$

Creation, annihilation, and decoupling of $e^\pm$ pairs

no assumptions on $e^\pm$ pairs' particle physics origin

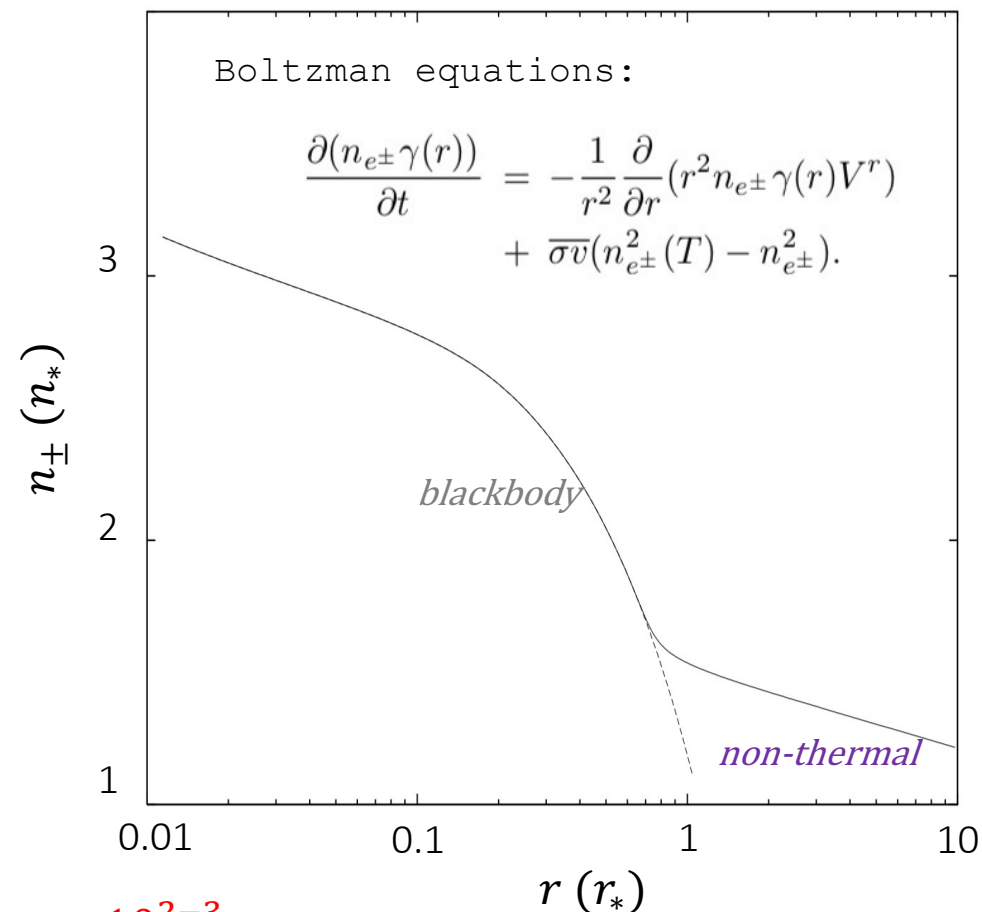
$$\gamma + \gamma \leftrightarrow e^+ + e^-$$

- Decoupling of $e^\pm$ -pairs from **pair plasma** (Ruffini et al. 1999, 2000, 2001)



- Super-QED interactions** in ultra-strong magnetic fields (Kostenko & Thompson 2018, 2019)
- Pair annihilation lines** @ $E'_{\text{line}} \sim 2m_e c^2 \sim 1 \text{ MeV} \ll 37 \text{ MeV}$

Ultra-relativistic effect $\rightarrow E_{\text{line}} \sim \delta_D E'_{\text{line}}, \delta_D = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\beta \cos \theta)} \sim 10^{2-3}$



类似于暗物质的宇宙学退耦

Model and Assumption

An expanding sphere (i.e. a jet with opening angle θ_{jet}) that moves at $\beta = \frac{v}{c} \sim 1$ and produce line emission from r to $r + \Delta r$

- Equal arrival time surface (EATS):

$$\frac{1}{1+z} (t - t_0) = (1 - \beta \cos \theta) \frac{r}{\beta c}$$

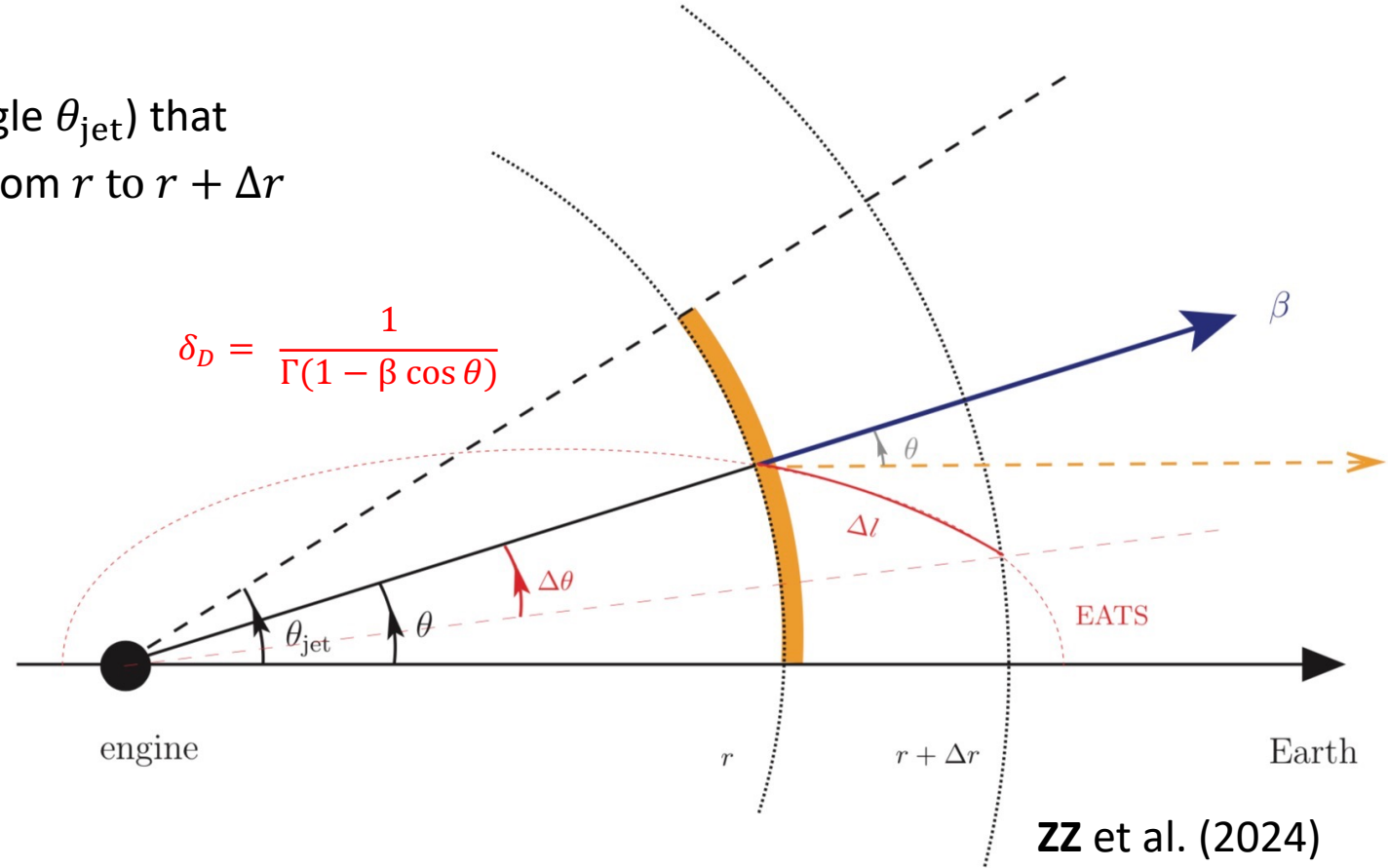
- *High-latitude curvature* effect:

$$\delta_D = \frac{r}{\Gamma} \frac{1+z}{\beta c} (t - t_0)^{-1}$$

$$\rightarrow E_{\text{line}} \sim \delta_D E'_{\text{line}} \propto (t - t_0)^{-1}$$

- Line flux evolves as:

$$\mathcal{F} = \frac{c}{2d_L^2} \frac{\delta_D^3 \epsilon^*}{r \Gamma} \xrightarrow{\epsilon^* \propto \theta^{2a}} \propto (t - t_0)^{-3+a}$$



Observations [zz et al. (2024)]

- Line central energy:

$$\rightarrow E_{\text{line}} \sim \delta_D E'_{\text{line}} \propto (t - t_0)^{-1}$$

- Line flux $\mathcal{F}_{\text{line}}$ evolves as:

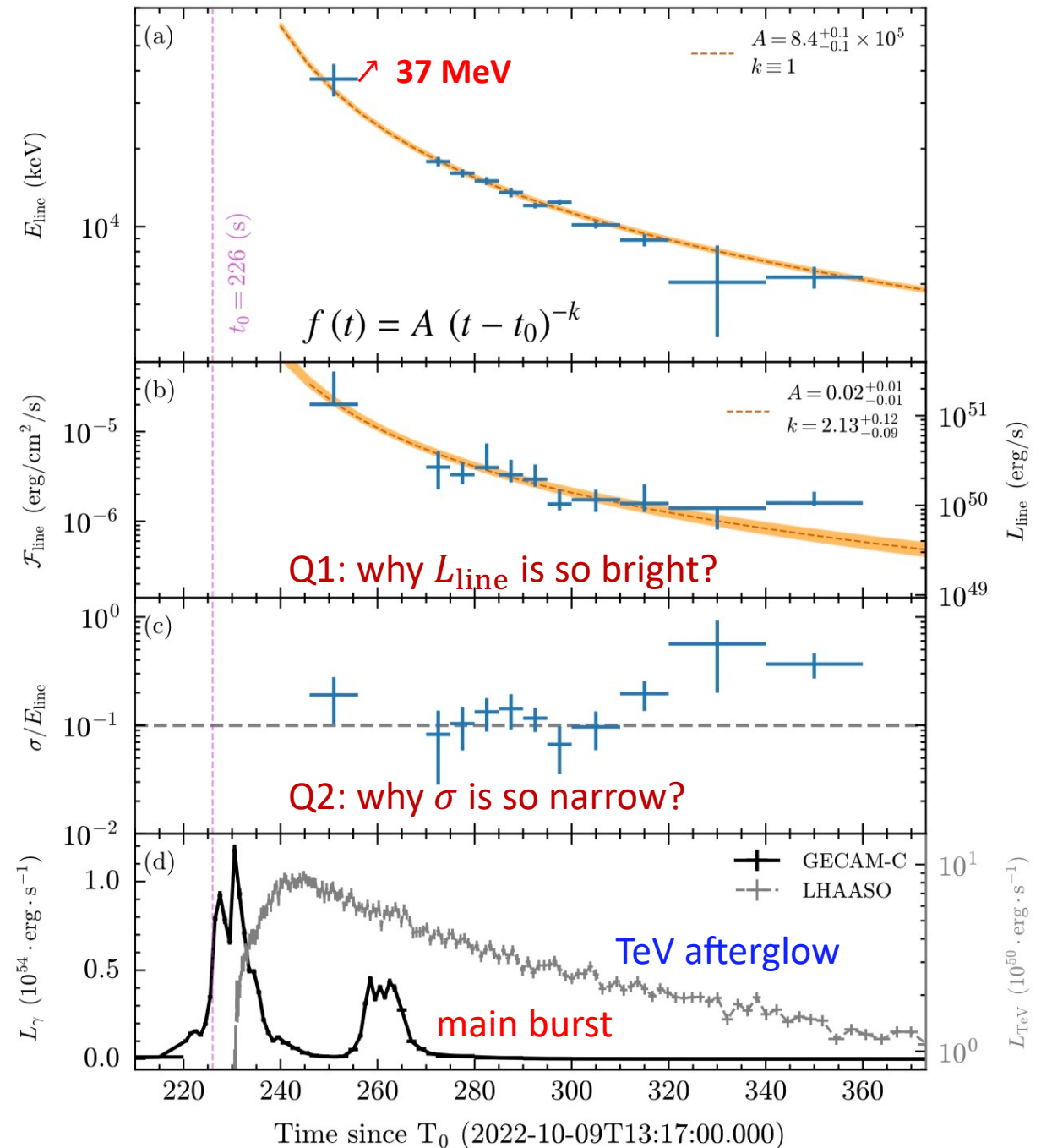
$$\epsilon^* \propto \theta^{2a}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{F}_{\text{line}} \propto (t - t_0)^{-3+a}$$

$$\rightarrow a \sim 0.9$$

- Line width: $\sigma/E_{\text{line}} \sim 0.1$

$\Rightarrow$ non-relativistic
(**NR**, comoving frame)

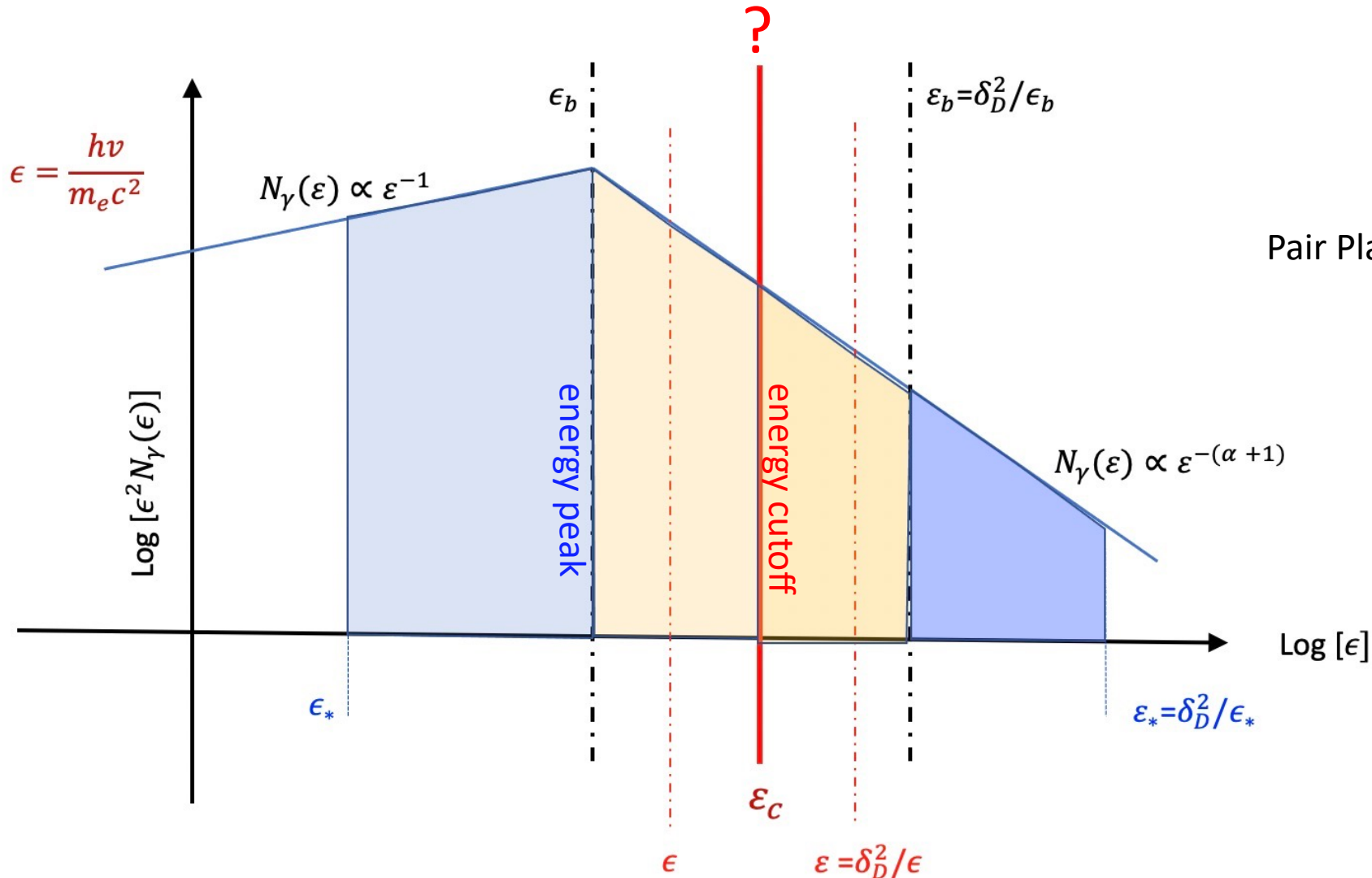


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Why the MeV line is so bright ?

- GRB spectra

Z.Li 2010; ZZ et al. (2024)



$$f_{\pm} = \frac{\int_{\epsilon_c} \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dT d\epsilon} d\epsilon}{\int \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dT d\epsilon} d\epsilon} \leftarrow L_{\epsilon}/\epsilon \equiv \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dT d\epsilon}$$

Pair Plasma:

$$\frac{dN_{\pm}}{dT} \approx \int_{\epsilon_c} \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dT d\epsilon} d\epsilon$$

$$L_{\text{ann}} \approx \delta_D m_e c^2 \frac{dN_{\pm}}{dT} \approx \delta_D f_{\pm} \frac{L_{\text{peak}}}{\epsilon_{\text{peak}}}$$

(Li 2010) $\Downarrow$ $\epsilon_c \sim 1\text{-}100 \text{ GeV} ?$

Line luminosity:

? $L_{\text{line}} \sim 10^{50} - 10^{51} \text{ erg/s}$

Pair production optical depth $\tau_{\gamma\gamma} \Rightarrow \epsilon_c$

$$\frac{dN_{\pm}}{dt' dN_{\gamma}(\epsilon'_1)} \approx \frac{c}{2} \int (1 - \mu') \frac{d\Omega'}{4\pi} \int \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dV' d\epsilon'_2} \sigma_{\gamma\gamma} d\epsilon'_2$$

(Svensson, R. 1987, MNRAS, 227, 403)

$$= (\eta_{\alpha}/2) c \sigma_T (1/\epsilon'_1) \left. \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dV' d\epsilon'_2} \right|_{\epsilon'_2=1/\epsilon'_1}$$

$$\approx \frac{(\eta_{\alpha}/2) \sigma_T}{4\pi R^2} (\delta_D^2/\epsilon_1) \left. \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dt' d\epsilon_2} \right|_{\epsilon_2=\delta_D^2/\epsilon_1}$$

$$(1) \quad \tau_{\gamma\gamma}(\epsilon_1) = \frac{dN_{\pm}}{dN_{\gamma}(\epsilon_1)} \approx \frac{(\eta_{\alpha}/2) \sigma_T}{4\pi R^2} (\delta_D^2/\epsilon_1) \left. \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{d\epsilon_2} \right|_{\epsilon_2=\delta_D^2/\epsilon_1}$$

$$= \frac{(\alpha \eta_{\alpha}/2) \sigma_T N_{>\delta_D^2/\epsilon_1}}{4\pi R^2} \approx \frac{(11/180) \sigma_T N_{>\delta_D^2/\epsilon_1}}{4\pi R^2}$$

$$dN_{\gamma}/d\epsilon \propto L_{\epsilon}/\epsilon \propto \epsilon^{-(\alpha+1)}$$

$$\alpha \approx p/2 \approx 1, \eta_{\alpha}/2 = 11/180$$

$$(2) \quad N_{>\delta_D^2/\epsilon} \approx (\delta_D^2/\epsilon)^{-\alpha} \delta N_{\gamma}$$

δN_{γ} : photon number above the spectral peak;

$$\delta E_{\gamma} = \delta N_{\gamma} \delta_D m_e c^2;$$

(3)

$$\epsilon|_{\tau_{\gamma\gamma}=1} = \frac{\Gamma^2}{\epsilon_p} \left[\frac{4\pi r^2 \epsilon_p m_e c^2}{(\alpha \eta_{\alpha}/2) \sigma_T \delta E_{\gamma}} \right]^{1/\alpha}$$

$$= 6300 \left(\frac{r}{10^{16} \text{ cm}} \right)^{2/\alpha} \left(\frac{\Gamma}{500} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\delta E_{\gamma}}{10^{54} \text{ erg}} \right)^{-1/\alpha}$$

$$\Rightarrow \epsilon_c \sim \max(\epsilon|_{\tau_{\gamma\gamma}=1}, \delta_D) \quad \text{at } \alpha = 1)$$

$L_{\text{line}} \gg 10^{51} \text{ erg/s}$ is required!

- δN_γ : photon number above the spectral peak;
- $\delta E_\gamma = \delta N_\gamma \delta_D m_e c^2$

$$\frac{L_\epsilon}{\epsilon} \propto N_\gamma(\epsilon) \propto \epsilon^{-(\alpha+1)}$$

$$\frac{dN_\pm}{dT} \approx \int_{\epsilon_c} \frac{dN_\gamma}{dT d\epsilon} d\epsilon = \int_{\epsilon_c} \frac{L_\epsilon/\epsilon}{m_e c^2} d\epsilon \approx \frac{\int_{\epsilon_c} \epsilon^{-(\alpha+1)} d\epsilon}{\int_{\epsilon_p} \epsilon^{-(\alpha+1)} d\epsilon} \dot{N}_\gamma \sim \epsilon_c^{-\alpha} \dot{N}_\gamma$$

ZZ et al. (2024)

$$\dot{N}_\gamma \approx L_\gamma / (\epsilon_p m_e c^2)$$



$$L_{\text{ann}} \approx \delta_D m_e c^2 \frac{dN_\pm}{dT}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \epsilon_c \approx \Gamma, \quad L_{\text{line}} \sim L_\gamma. \\ \epsilon_c > \Gamma, \quad L_{\text{line}} = 7.9 \times 10^{52} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \left(\frac{L_\gamma}{10^{54} \text{ erg s}^{-1}} \right) \end{array} \right.$$

When $\Gamma = \epsilon|_{\tau_{\gamma\gamma}=1}$, we have

$$r_\Gamma = 0.28 \times 10^{16} \text{ cm} \left(\frac{\Gamma}{500} \right)^{-\alpha/2} \left(\frac{\delta E_\gamma}{10^{54} \text{ erg}} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\left(\frac{r}{10^{16} \text{ cm}} \right)^{-2} \left(\frac{\Gamma}{500} \right)^{-(2\alpha-1)} \left(\frac{\delta E_\gamma}{10^{54} \text{ erg}} \right);$$

$$\gtrsim 10^{52} \text{ erg/s}$$

$$\gg 10^{51} \text{ erg/s}$$



Why the MeV line is so narrow ?

Constraint on thermal motion

○ line width: $\sigma/E_{\text{line}} \sim 0.1 \rightarrow e^{\pm}$ velocity: $\beta'_e \lesssim 0.1$

○ Background magnetic field:

$$B = \sqrt{8\pi \left(\frac{L_\gamma}{4\pi r^2 \Gamma^2 c} \right) \left(\frac{\epsilon_B}{\epsilon_e} \right)} = \sqrt{8\pi \left(\frac{L_B}{4\pi r^2 \Gamma^2 c} \right)}$$
$$\sim 1.6 \times 10^3 \text{ G} \left(\frac{L_B}{10^{54} \text{ erg s}^{-1}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{r}{10^{16} \text{ cm}} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{\Gamma}{500} \right)^{-1}$$

○ Cooling mechanisms:

Synchrotron radiation: $U'_B = L_B / 4\pi r^2 \Gamma^2 c$

Inverse Compton (IC) scattering: $U'_\gamma = L_\gamma / 4\pi r^2 \Gamma^2 c$

Fast cooling mechanisms

- Cooling equation → Energy-loss rate: $U' = U'_B + U'_\gamma$

$$\frac{d\gamma'_e}{dt'} = -\frac{4}{3} \frac{\gamma'^2_e \beta'^2_e \sigma_T c U'}{m_e c^2} = -\frac{\gamma'^2_e \beta'^2_e}{2\tau} \quad [\text{see ZZ et al. (2024)}]$$

- Timescale for Cooling of $e^\pm$ pairs: $\tau = 3\pi r^2 \Gamma^2 m_e c^2 / 2\sigma_T L_{\text{em}}$

$$\beta'^2_e = 4 e^{-t'/\tau} \left(2 + e^{-t'/\tau}\right)^{-2}$$

⇓ cooling of $e^\pm$ pairs to NR

$$\beta'_e = 0.1 \rightarrow t' = t'_{\text{NR}} = 4.6 \tau$$

Why the MeV line is so narrow?

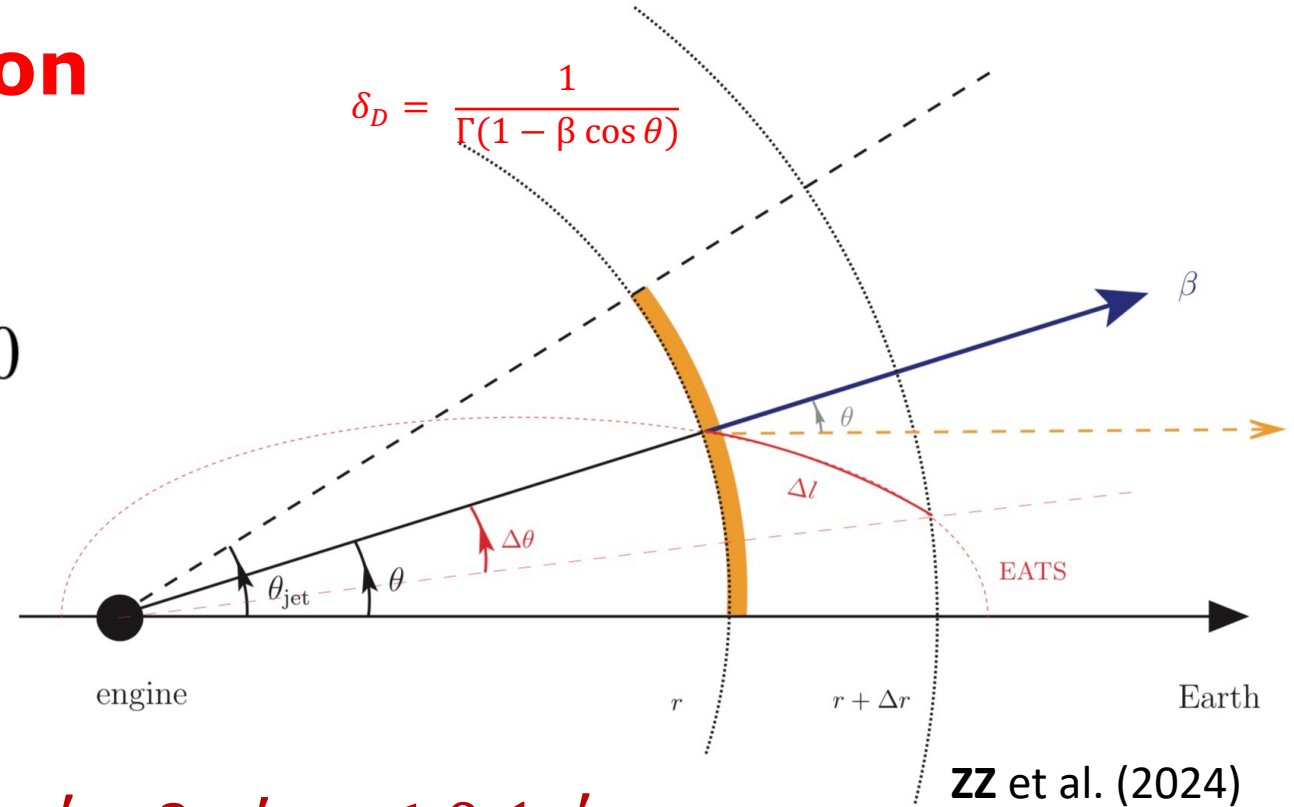
Constraint on bulk motion

- Variations over EATS:

$$\Delta(1 - \beta \cos \theta)r + (1 - \beta \cos \theta)\Delta r = 0$$

- Narrow line width of $\sim 10\%$

$$\frac{\Delta r}{r} = \frac{\Delta \delta_D}{\delta_D} \lesssim 0.1$$



- Fast cooling & annihilation timescales: $t'_{\text{NR}} \text{ \& } t'_{\text{ann}} \lesssim 0.1 t'_{\text{dyn}}$

✓ The line central energy evolving as $t^{-1} \Rightarrow t'_{\text{dyn}} = \frac{r}{\Gamma c} = A/m_e c^2 = 1.64 \times 10^3 \text{ s}$

$\Rightarrow$ further constraints on $e^\pm$ pair's creation, cooling, and annihilation

Further constraints

- $t'_{\text{NR}} = 4.6 \tau \lesssim 0.1 t'_{\text{dyn}} \Rightarrow$ **fast cooling mechanism:**

3

$$r \lesssim \sigma_T L_{\text{em}} / 69 \pi \Gamma^3 m_e c^3 \Rightarrow r \lesssim 10^{16} \text{cm} \left(\frac{\Gamma}{500} \right)^{-3} \left(\frac{L_{\text{em}}}{10^{55} \text{erg s}^{-1}} \right)$$

fast cooling of $e^\pm$ pairs to NR

- $t'_{\text{ann}} \lesssim 0.1 t'_{\text{dyn}} \Rightarrow$ **fast annihilation** of $e^\pm$ pairs :

- Cross section of annihilation: $\sigma_{e^+e^-} = \frac{3}{8} \sigma_T \beta_e'^{-1}$
- Timescale for pair annihilation: $t'_{\text{ann}} \simeq \frac{1}{n'_\pm \sigma_{e^+e^-} \beta_e' c} = \frac{8}{3} \frac{1}{\sigma_T n'_\pm c} \lesssim 0.1 t'_{\text{dyn}}$

How to estimate the number density $n'_\pm$ of $e^\pm$ pairs ?

Number density of NR $e^\pm$ pairs $n'_\pm = ?$

If the spatial distribution of NR pairs is **clumpy** with volume filling factor $f_v < 1$, then

$$n'_\pm = f_v^{-1} \langle n'_\pm \rangle$$

- Here, $f_v < 1$ may arise from magnetic connection, shocks, baryonic interaction, and NP mechanisms?

○ **Balance** between **formation** and **annihilation** of $e^\pm$ pairs:

formation rate density = annihilation rate density

$$\boxed{\dot{N}_\gamma|_{>\epsilon_c}}/4\pi r^2 c \Gamma t'_{\text{dyn}} \simeq (\epsilon_c/\epsilon_p)^{-\alpha} L_\gamma / 4\pi r^3 m_e c^2 \epsilon_p \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \langle n'_\pm \rangle / t'_{\text{ann}} \simeq (3/8) \langle n'_\pm \rangle n'_\pm \sigma_T c$$

(spatially averaged)(spatially averaged)

↑
observation

$$\Rightarrow n'_\pm = f_v^{-1/2} [(8/3)(\epsilon_c/\epsilon_p)^{-\alpha} L_\gamma / 4\pi r^3 m_e c^3 \sigma_T \epsilon_p]^{1/2}$$

$n'_{\pm}$ & t'_{ann}

$$n'_{\pm} = f_v^{-1/2} [(8/3)(\epsilon_c/\epsilon_p)^{-\alpha} L_{\gamma} / 4\pi r^3 m_e c^3 \sigma_T \epsilon_p]^{1/2}$$

$$\Downarrow \quad \epsilon_c \sim \max(\epsilon|_{\tau_{\gamma\gamma=1}}, \delta_D)$$

$$\circ \quad t'_{\text{ann}} \simeq \frac{8}{3} \frac{1}{\sigma_T \boxed{n'_{\pm}} c} \lesssim 0.1 t'_{\text{dyn}}:$$



$$r \lesssim 10^{15} \text{ cm} \times \min \left[0.065 f_v^{-1} \left(\frac{\Gamma}{500} \right)^{-(\alpha+2)} \left(\frac{L_{\gamma}}{10^{54} \text{ erg s}^{-1}} \right), \right. \\ \left. 0.80 f_v^{-1/3} \left(\frac{\Gamma}{500} \right)^{-(2\alpha+2)/3} \left(\frac{\delta E_{\gamma}}{10^{54} \text{ erg}} \right)^{1/3} \left(\frac{L_{\gamma}}{10^{54} \text{ erg s}^{-1}} \right)^{1/3} \right]$$

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Optical depth problem

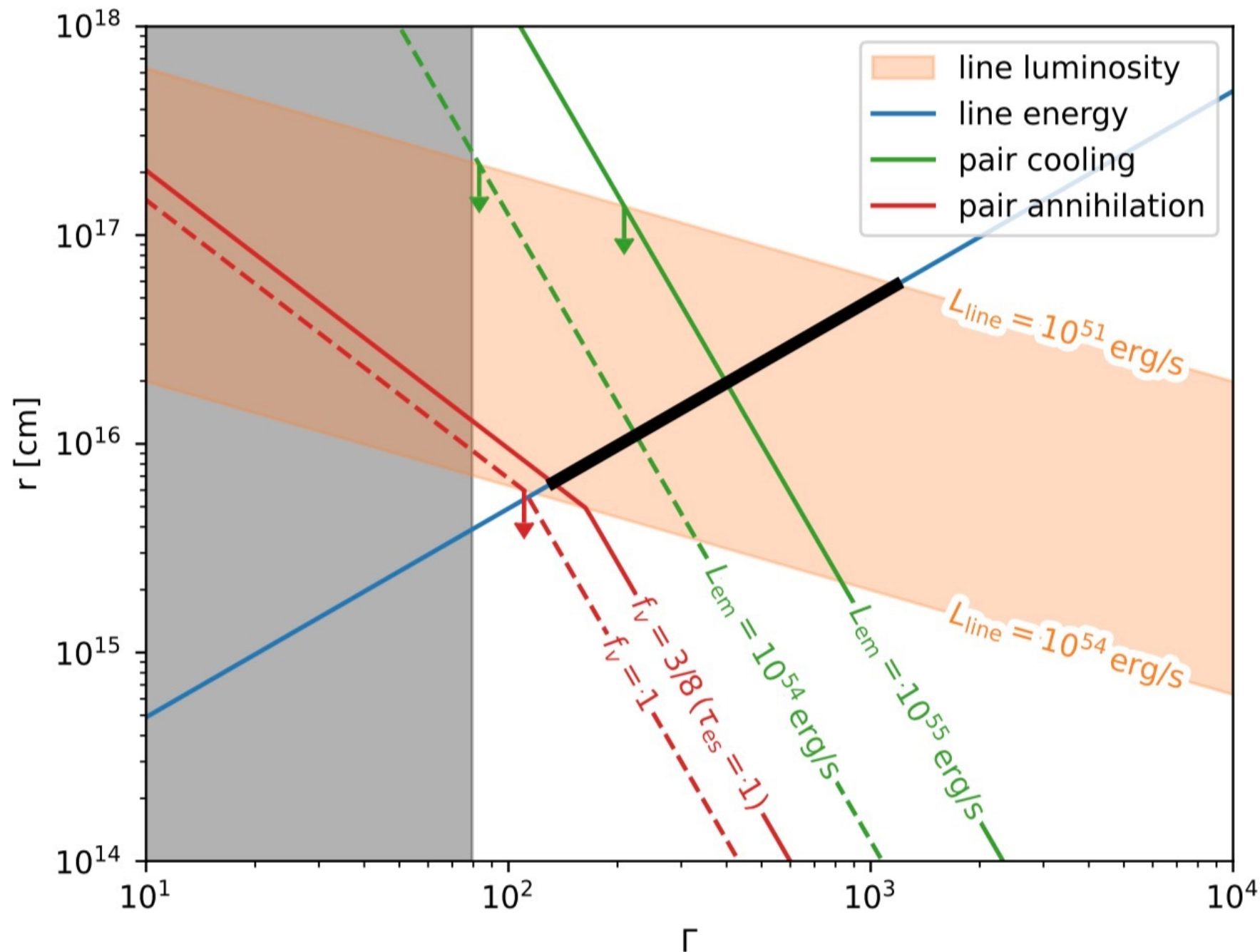
- Generally, the Thompson optical depth of a GRB jet for a photon:

$$\tau_{\text{es}} = \langle n'_{\pm} \rangle \sigma_T r / \Gamma = \frac{8}{3} f_v \frac{t'_{\text{dyn}}}{t'_{\text{ann}}} \sim \frac{80}{3} f_v$$

- Traditionally, $f_v = 1 \rightarrow \tau_{\text{es}} \gg 1$ (*always*). If so, any **spectral line** should appear as **blackbody** emission, **inconsistent with observations**. [That's why we introduce $f_v < 1$]
 - If $\tau_{\text{es}} = 1$, $f_v = \frac{3}{80} = 0.038 \Rightarrow$ **highly clumpy**?
- As **fast pair annihilation** occurs, it **reduces the time** that a photon can interact with pairs **to 0.1 t'_{dyn}** . Thus, the Thompson optical depth of the line emission


$$\tau_{\text{es}} = 0.1 \langle n'_{\pm} \rangle \sigma_T r / \Gamma = \frac{8}{30} f_v \frac{t'_{\text{dyn}}}{t'_{\text{ann}}} \sim \frac{8}{3} f_v$$

- If $\tau_{\text{es}} = 1$, $f_v < \frac{3}{8} \Rightarrow$ the presence of a **slightly clumpy** region;
- The MeV line is able to freely escape from the pair plasma.



→ directly restrict the physics of GRB jets with observations, leaving a **large parameter space available**.

- 1) $r \gtrsim 10^{16} \text{ cm}$, $\Gamma \gtrsim 130$;
- 2) Line energy $\propto t^{-1}$
- 3) → high-latitude effect;
- 4) Line flux $\propto t^{-2.1}$ → angle dependence of line emission;
- 5) If $\Gamma \gtrsim 400$, a magnetic-energy dominated jet is required;
- 6) $t'_{\text{NR}}, t'_{\text{ann}} \lesssim 0.1 t'_{\text{dyn}} = 164 \text{ s}$;
- 7)
- 8) $\tau_{\text{es}} = 1$ → a slightly clumpy region with $f_v < 3/8$;

→ The MeV line can be naturally attributed to **the High-latitude emission from annihilation of $e^\pm$ pairs!**

Dynamic mechanism / TeV afterglow origin !?

Jet's bulk Lorentz factor: $\Gamma \propto (t - t_0)^{-k}$ Medium density: $n \propto r^{-s}$

If $s \in [0, 3)$, $k = (3 - s)/(8 - 2s) < 3/8$

If $s \gtrsim 3$, n will decrease steeply with r and the shock even speeds up with r

✓ $k \approx 1 \rightarrow$ density bumps in the medium in front of the shock

✓ Γ decreases to 20 within $t_{\text{dur}} \sim 100\text{s}$, in contradiction with the TeV afterglow data ($\Gamma \sim 440$)

At the deceleration radius (LHAASO 2024),

$$r_{\text{dec}} \sim 10^{17} \text{ cm} (E_k / 10^{55} \text{ erg})^{1/3} (\Gamma_0 / 440)^{-2/3} (n / 1 \text{ cm}^3)^{-2/3}$$

✓ $\rightarrow$ The born pairs are unable to reach a NR state because the luminosity L_{TeV} of the external shock emission is too low

Atomic line / Nuclear line !?

- keV-scale atomic line of heavy element

- $E_{\text{line}} \sim 8 - 10 \text{ MeV} \rightarrow \Gamma \sim 800 - 10^3$  (Ravasio et al.(2024) Wei et al.(2024) $(\Gamma \sim 440 \nearrow 700: 2404.03229)$)
- If $E_{\text{line}} \sim 37 \text{ MeV}$, $\Gamma \gg 10^3$,  in contradiction with the TeV afterglow data

- nuclear decay line

- line central energy: $E_d \sim 0.1 - 3 \text{ MeV}$
- mean lifetime (τ_d): $t_{\text{dur}} \sim 135 \text{ s}$, i.e., $\tau_d \gtrsim \Gamma t_{\text{dur}} \gtrsim 10^3 - 10^4 \text{ s}$
- total mass of radioisotope (M_{iso}):

$$L_{\text{line}} = \Gamma^2 f_d E_d M_{\text{iso}} / (\tau_d A_{\text{iso}} m_b) \sim 10^{51} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \Rightarrow M_{\text{iso}} \gtrsim A_{\text{iso}} f_d^{-1} M_{\odot}$$

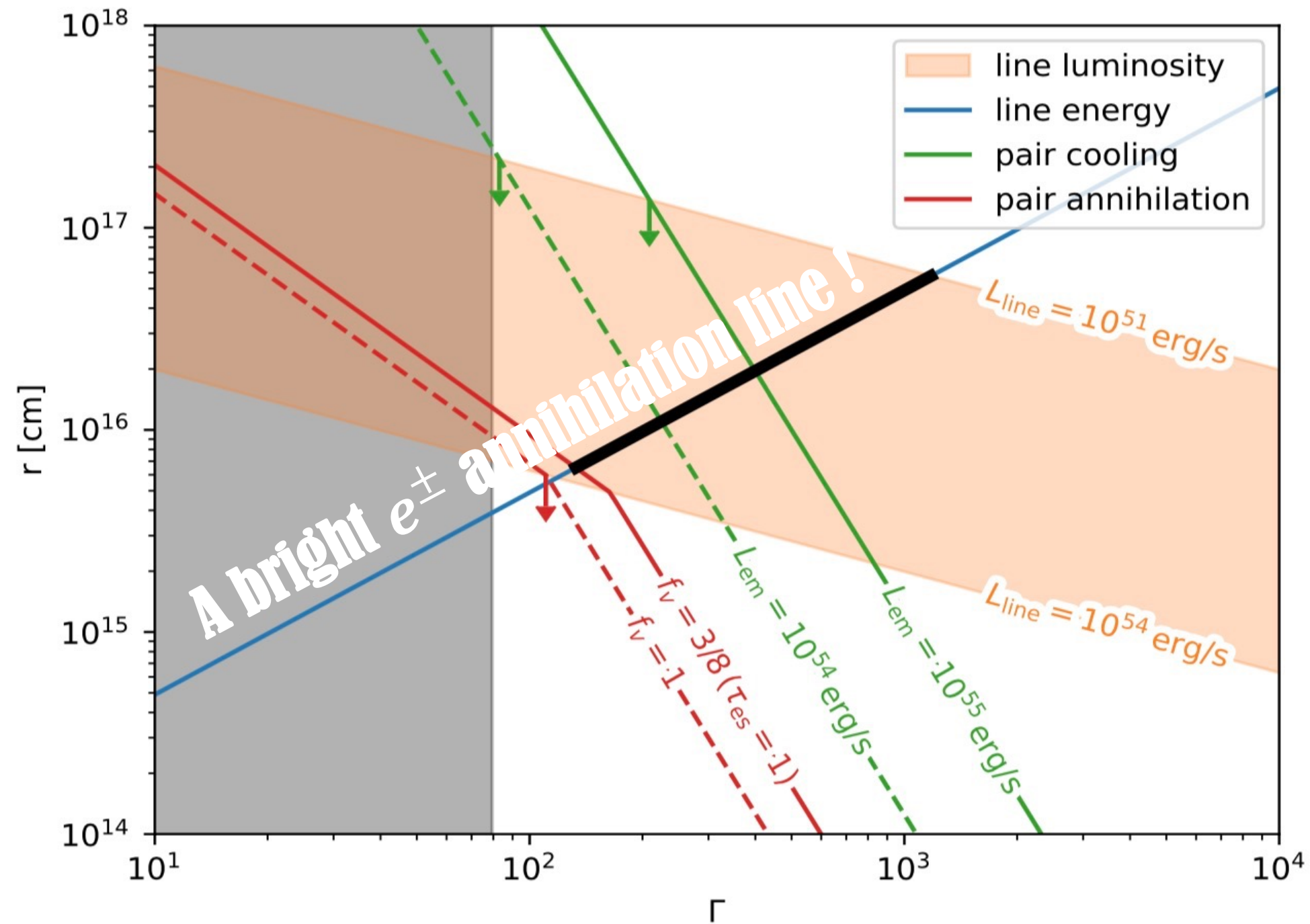
branching ratio of nuclear line: $f_d < 1$

A traditional core collapse supernova: $\lesssim 0.1 M_{\odot} \text{ } ^{56}\text{Ni}$ with $\tau_d \sim 10^6 \text{ s}$

Summary and Conclusions

- Restricted the jet physics with observation, leaving a large parameter space available for the origin and mechanism of $e^\pm$ pair annihilation
- Solved problems on ~ 37 MeV, the high brightness, narrow width, and timing evolution of the MeV line, as well as those regarding creation, fast cooling and annihilation, balance between pair creation and annihilation, Thompson optical depth, the presence of clumpy regions with $\tau_{es} = 1$ and $f_v < 3/8$, and relevant physical processes [mostly ignored in the literature]
 - 1) $r \gtrsim 10^{16}$ cm, $\Gamma \gtrsim 130$;
 - 2) $L_{\text{line}} \propto t^{-2.1} \rightarrow$ angle dependence of line as high-latitude emission ($E_{\text{line}} \propto t^{-1}$);
 - 3) $\Gamma \gtrsim 400 \rightarrow$ a magnetic-energy dominated jet is required;
- Excluded other origins and mechanisms, such as the atomic line, nuclear line

Corollary. $\rightarrow$ The MeV line is indeed a bright $e^\pm$ pair annihilation line !



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you