

Gamma-rays from halos around stars

E. Orlando, A.W. Strong

Inverse Compton scattering by cosmic-ray electrons produces a major component of the diffuse gamma-ray emission from the Galaxy. Calculations of the inverse Compton (IC) distribution have usually assumed a smooth interstellar radiation field, but in fact a large part of the Galactic luminosity comes from the most luminous stars, which are rare. Therefore we expect the ISRF, and hence inverse Compton, to be clumpy at some level - which could be detectable by instruments such as GLAST. Even individual nearby stars could be detectable assuming just the NORMAL cosmic-ray electron spectrum.

SIMPLE ESTIMATE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF IC EMISSION FROM LUMINOUS STARS

The optical luminosity of the Galaxy is about $3 \times 10^{10} L_{\odot}$, and a typical O star has $10^5 L_{\odot}$ i.e. about $10^{-5} L_{\text{GALAXY}}$. Consider such a star at 100 pc distance: compared to the entire Galaxy (distance to center = 8.5 kpc) this IC source is about a factor 100 closer and hence the inverse Compton flux is $10^{-5} \times 100^2$ of the Galactic IC, suggesting it could be significant. Therefore we have pursued this subject in more detail.

SINGLE STAR THEORY

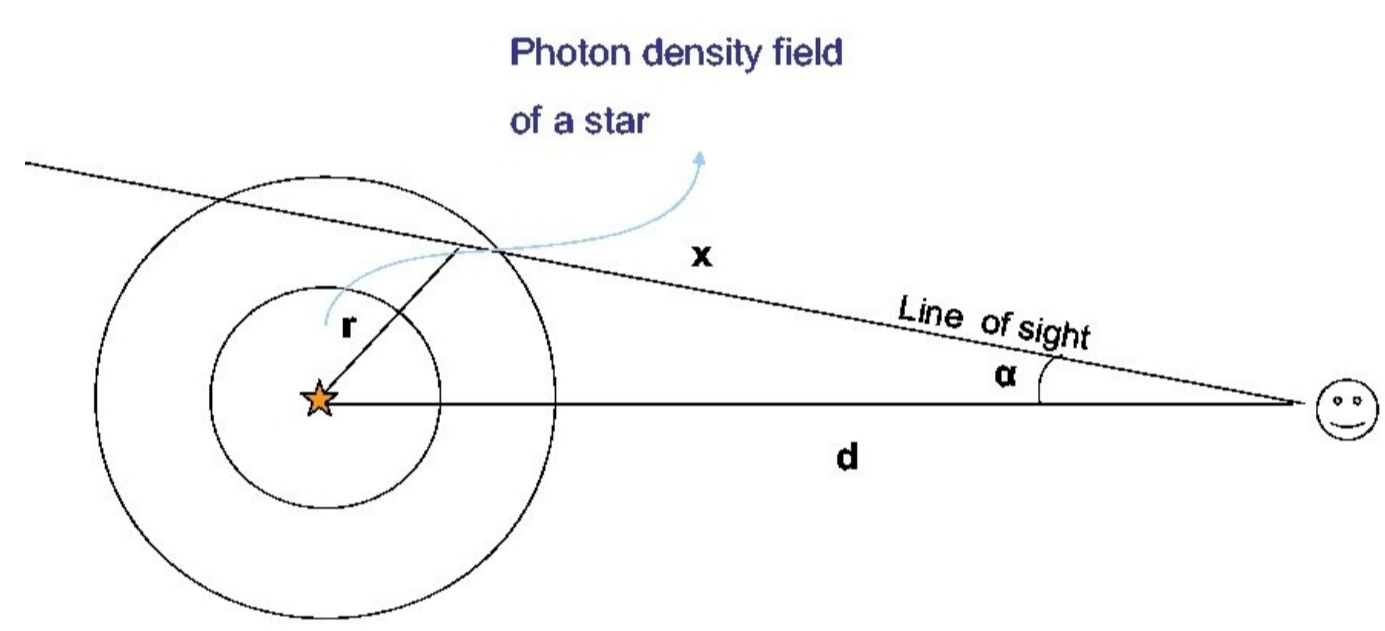
The inverse-Compton luminosity L_{IC} within a volume surrounding a star goes as the radius r around the star and the optical luminosity:

$$L_{\text{IC}} \sim L_{\text{STAR}} r^2$$

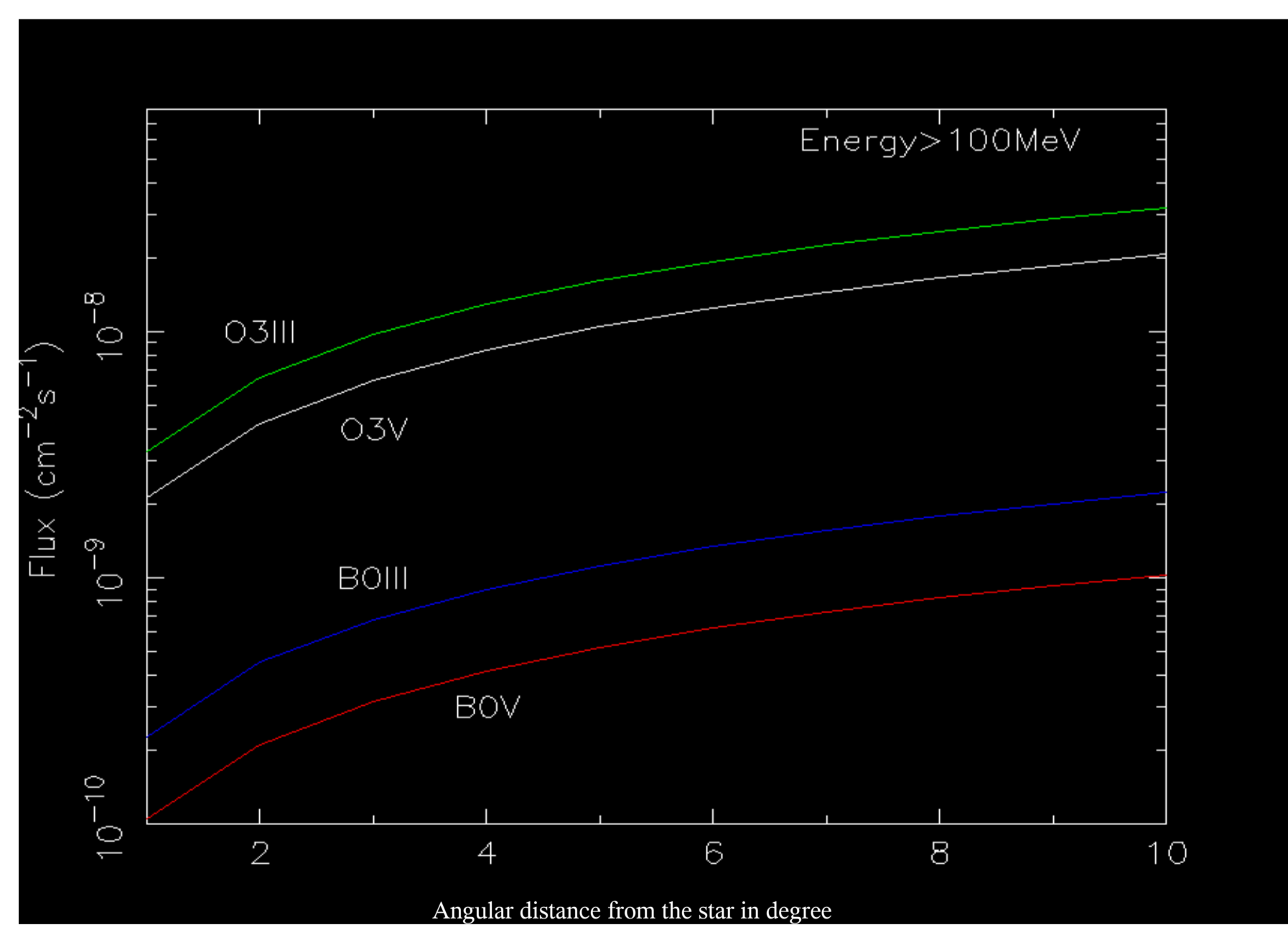
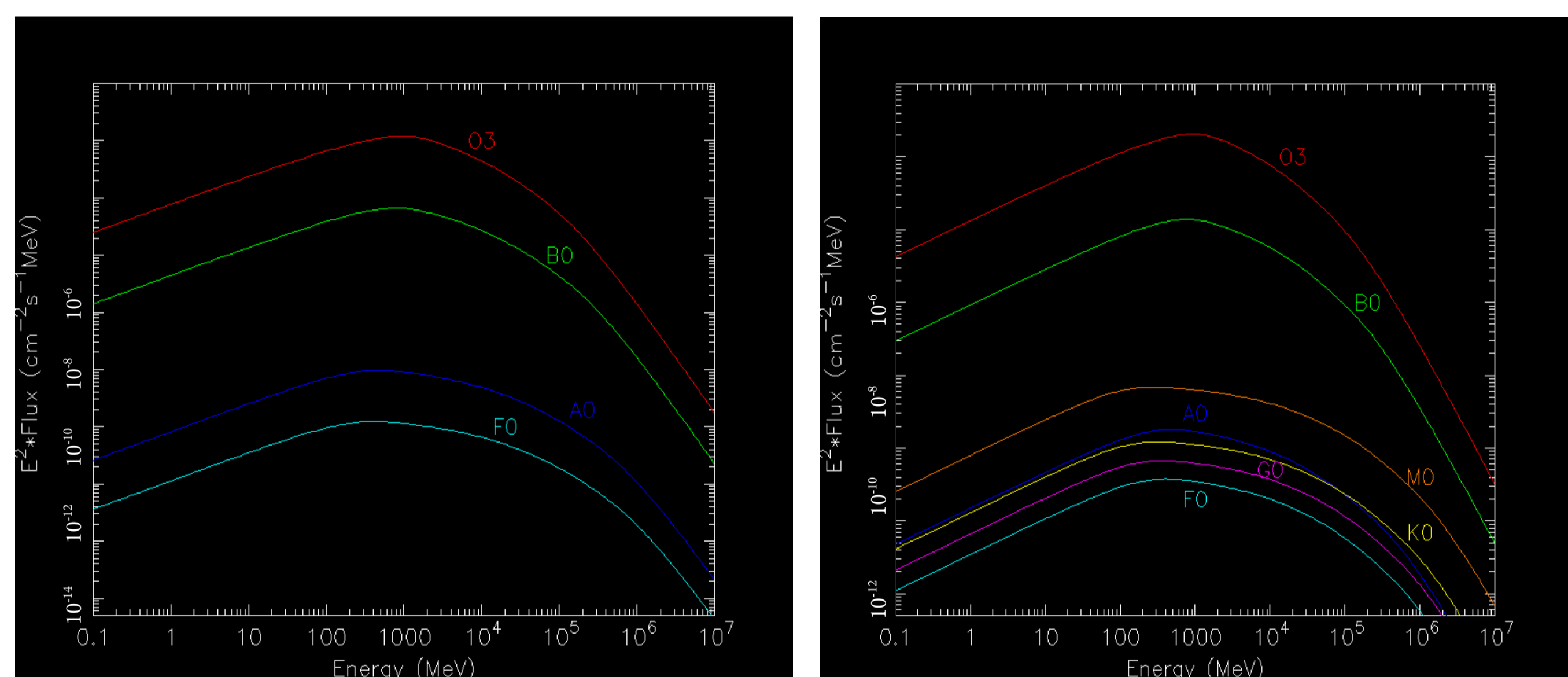
but the flux depends on the star's distance d :

$$\text{flux}_{\text{IC}} \sim L_{\text{IC}} / d^2$$

For angle α
 $\alpha \sim r/d \rightarrow \text{flux}_{\text{IC}} \sim L_{\text{STAR}} \alpha / d$



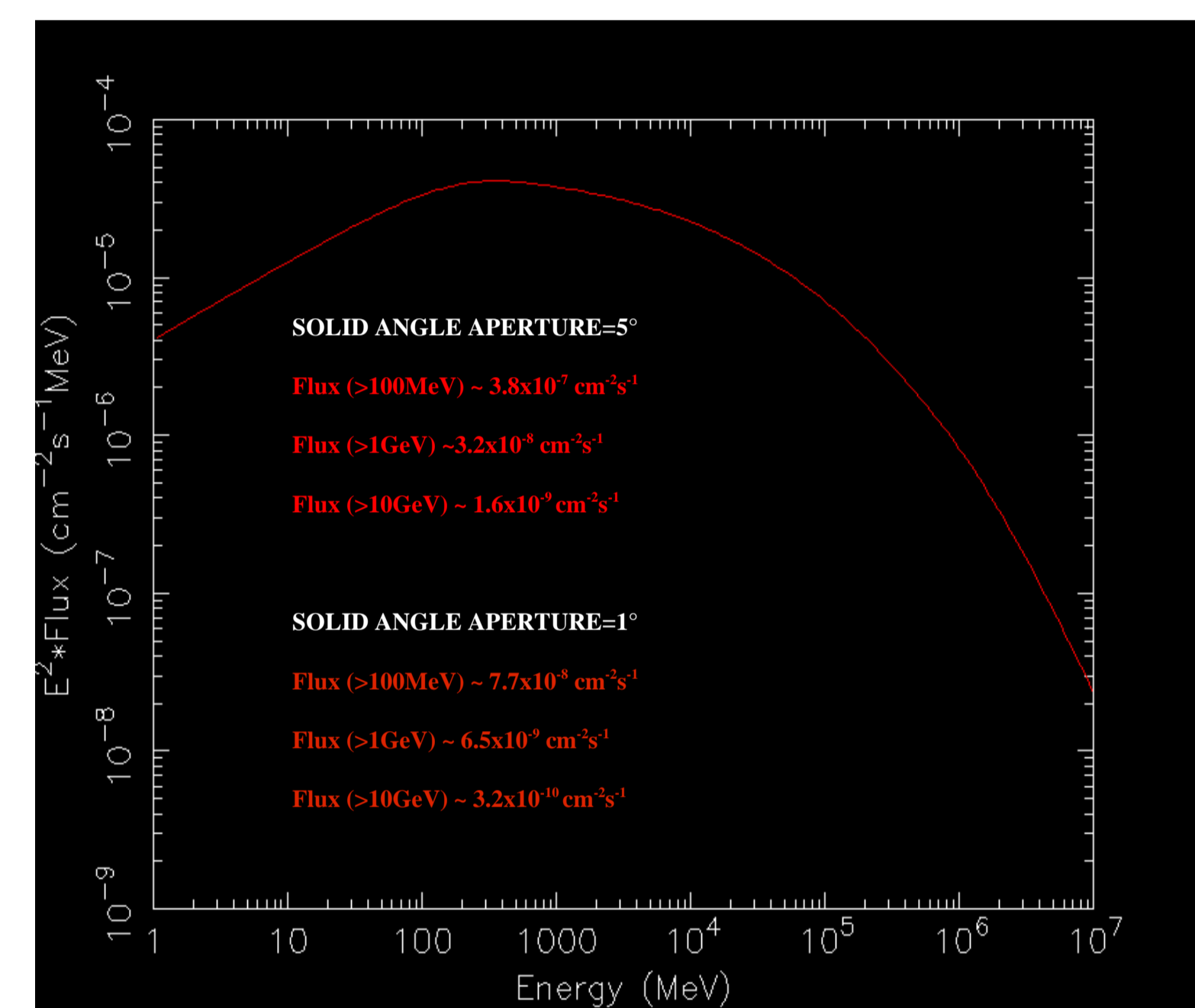
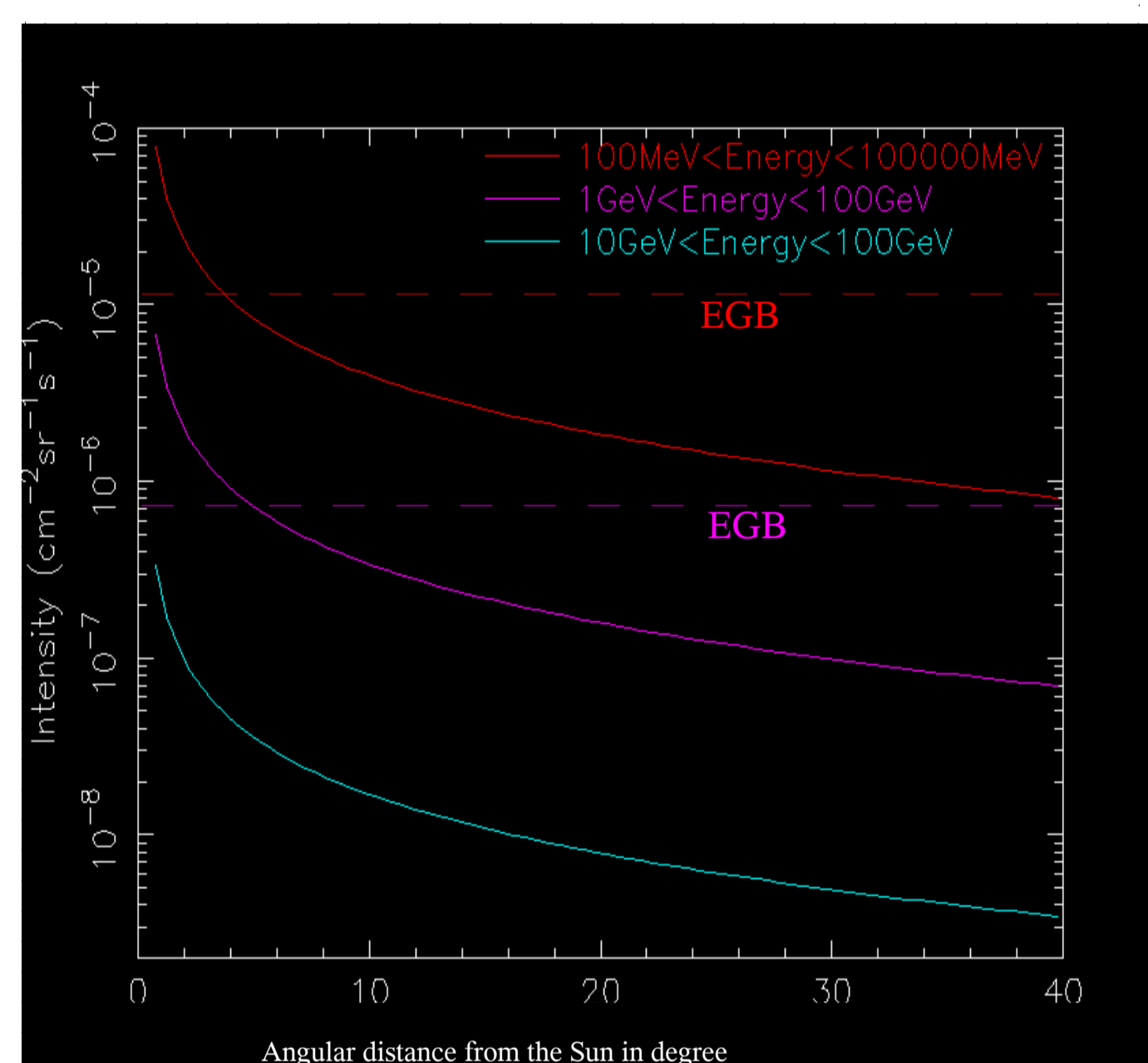
The plots below show the IC spectrum of main sequence stars (left) and giants stars (right) of different spectral type at 100 pc distance. Flux is integrated over 5° .



The gamma flux integrated over solid angle from stars at 100 pc distance as a function of angle for energy > 100 MeV

THE SUN

The IC emission from the region around the Sun is not negligible. In future a model of the gamma flux from the Sun will be implemented, in order to take it into account for diffuse background emission.



Flux ~ 0.1 Crab in 100 MeV - 10 GeV

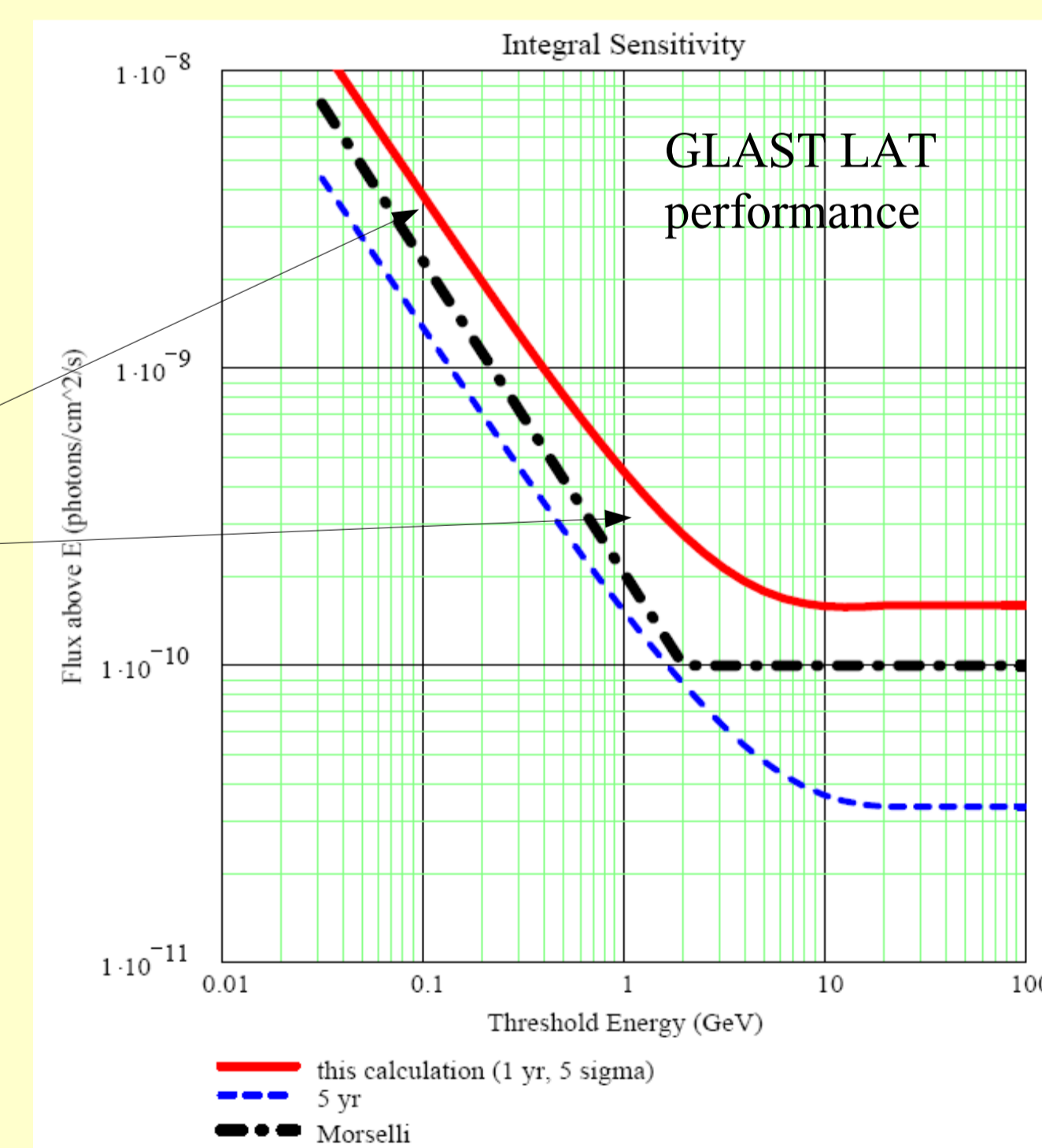
ESTIMATION OF POSSIBLE STELLAR CANDIDATES FOR GLAST

η Carinae

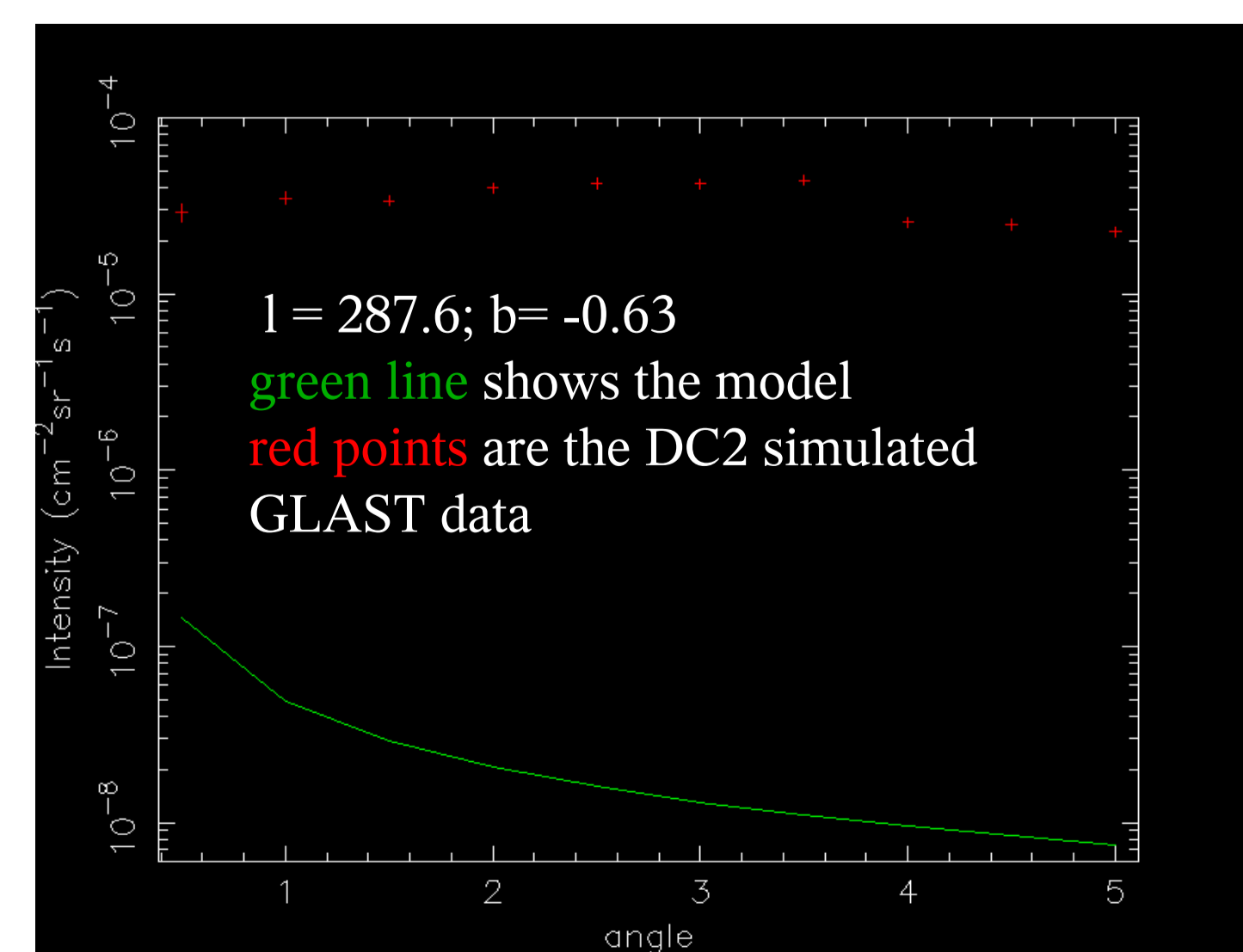
$T_e = 30000 \text{ K}$; $L \sim 7 \times 10^6 L_{\odot}$; distance = 2.3 kpc;
 Flux($<5^\circ$) $\sim 3 \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (100 MeV-100 GeV)
 Flux($<5^\circ$) $\sim 3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (1 GeV-100 GeV)
 Flux($<5^\circ$) $\sim 1 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (10 GeV-100 GeV)

ζ Puppis

$T_e = 42400 \text{ K}$; $L \sim 10^{5.9} L_{\odot}$; distance = 429 pc;
 Flux($<5^\circ$) $\sim 1.4 \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (100 MeV-100 GeV)
 Flux($<5^\circ$) $\sim 1.5 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (1 GeV-100 GeV)
 Flux($<5^\circ$) $\sim 4 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (10 GeV-100 GeV)

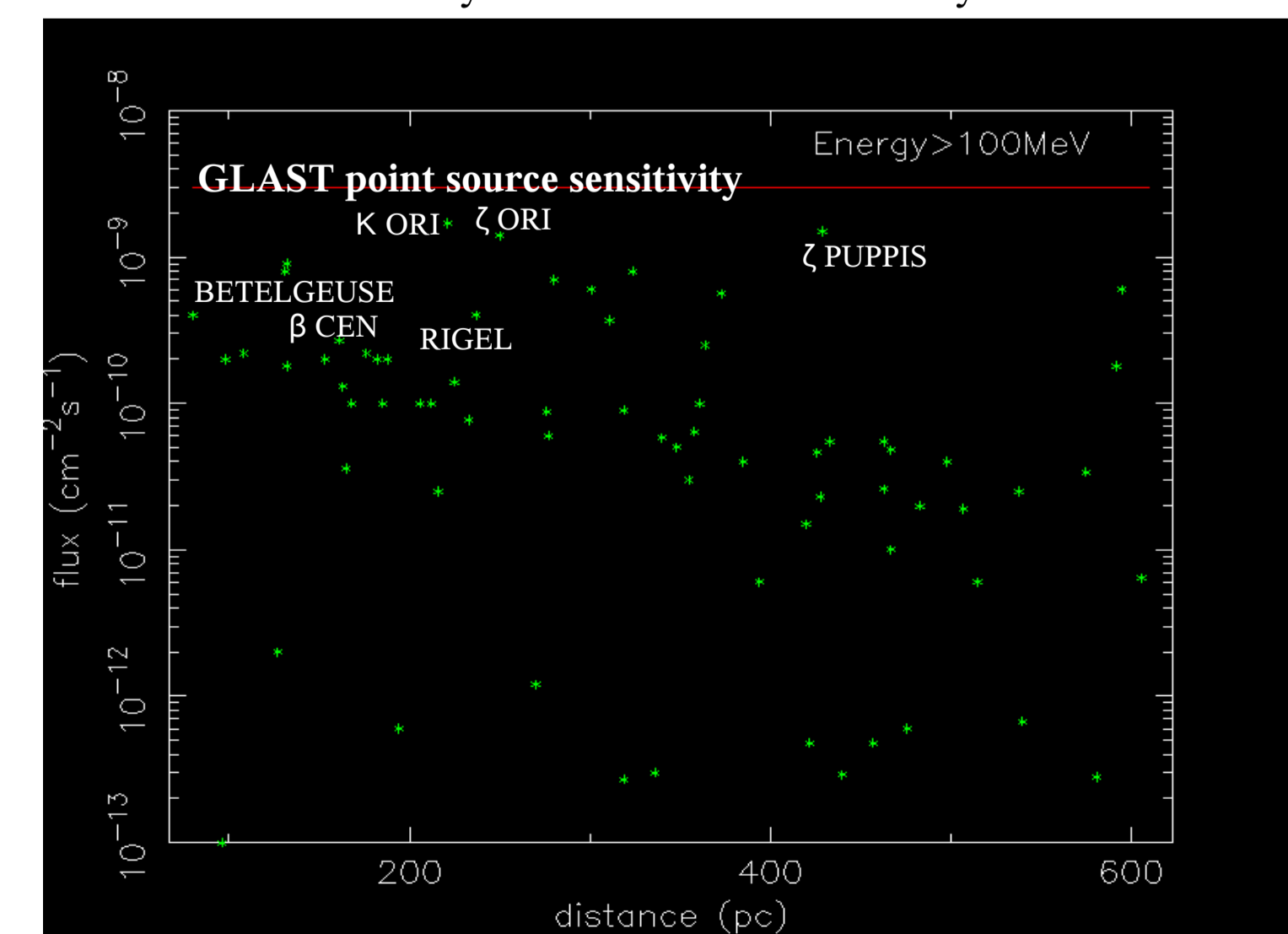


η CARINAE AND COMPARISON WITH GLAST SIMULATION



FURTHER CONTRIBUTION OF KNOWN STARS (from Hipparcos catalogue)

These are mostly too weak to be detected by GLAST



FLUX ESTIMATION FROM OB ASSOCIATIONS: CYGNUS OB2

distance = 1.7 kpc

“Conservative” assumptions:

120 O9V stars ($T_e = 33000 \text{ K}$, $L = 9 \times 10^4 L_{\odot}$)
 2489 B9V stars ($T_e = 10500 \text{ K}$, $L = 95 L_{\odot}$)

Flux $\sim 6.5 \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (100 MeV-100 GeV)
 Flux $\sim 6.8 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (1 GeV-100 GeV)
 Flux $\sim 2.4 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (10 GeV-100 GeV)

“Optimistic” assumptions:

120 O6V stars ($T_e = 41000 \text{ K}$, $L = 4.2 \times 10^5 L_{\odot}$)
 2489 B5V stars ($T_e = 15400 \text{ K}$, $L = 830 L_{\odot}$)

Flux $\sim 2.4 \times 10^{-8} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (100 MeV-100 GeV)
 Flux $\sim 2.6 \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (1 GeV-100 GeV)
 Flux $\sim 7.6 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (10 GeV-100 GeV)