

# Modeling Gamma-Ray Burst Afterglows

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# Introduction

- **Gamma-Ray Bursts**

**Prompt emission**  
(oscillatory, early)

*Internal shocks* or magnetic  
reconnection

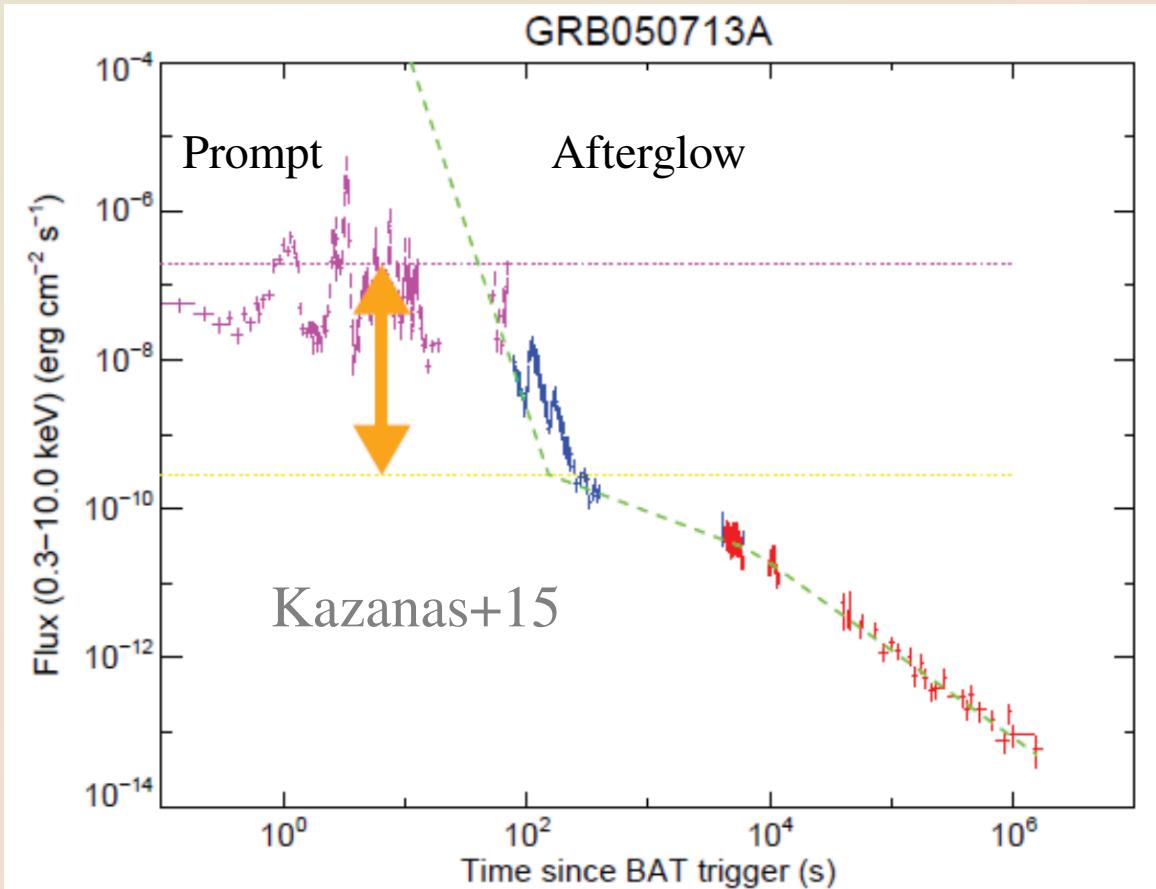
*Convert fraction of jet energy to  
radiation*

**Afterglow**

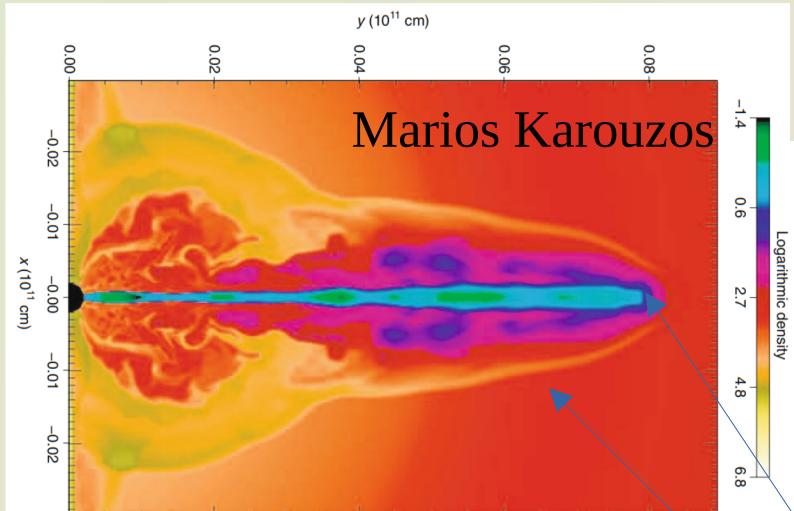
(smooth, late)

*External shocks*  
(forward/reverse)

Synchrotron emission (based on  
spectra)

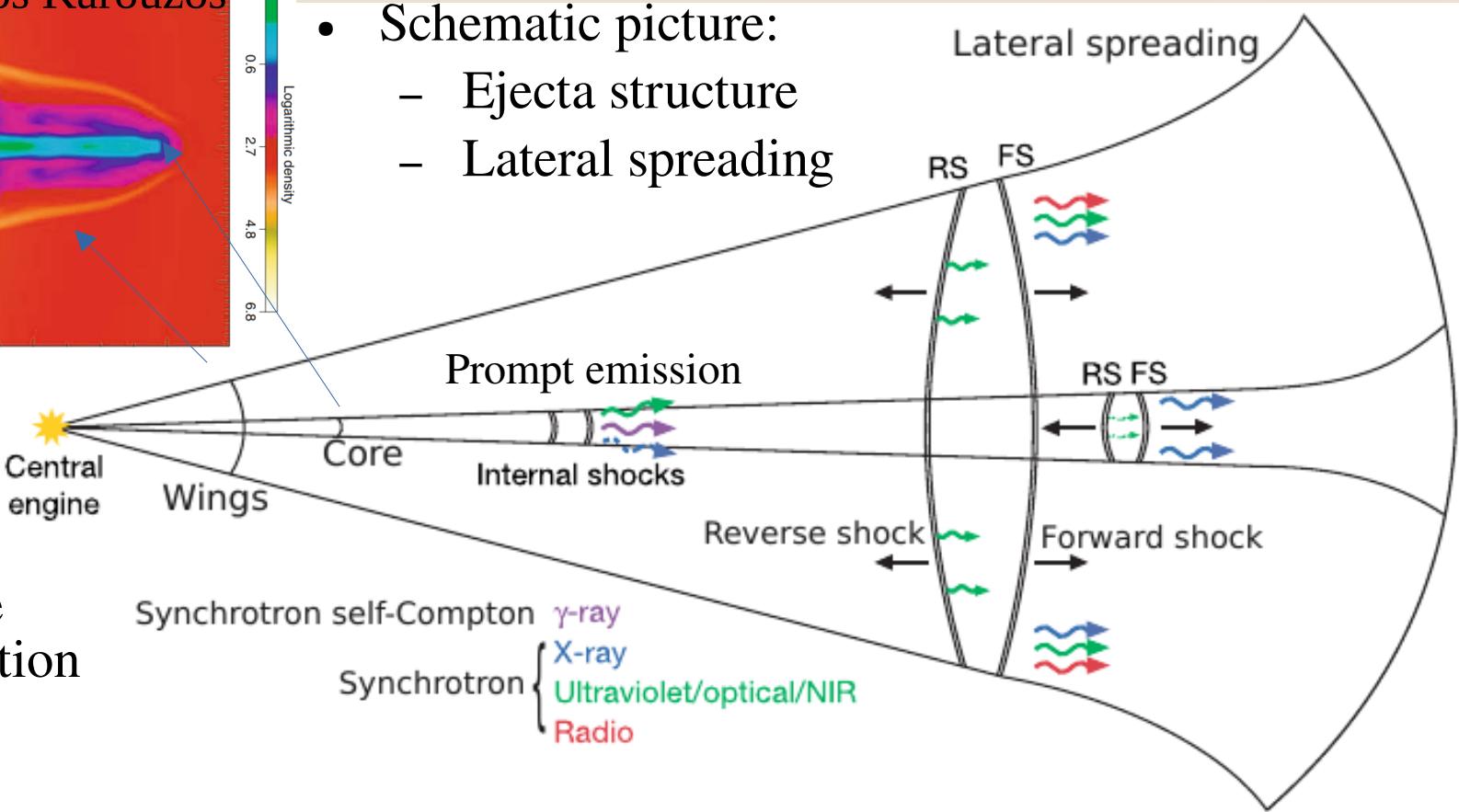


# General Picture: Origin of GRBs

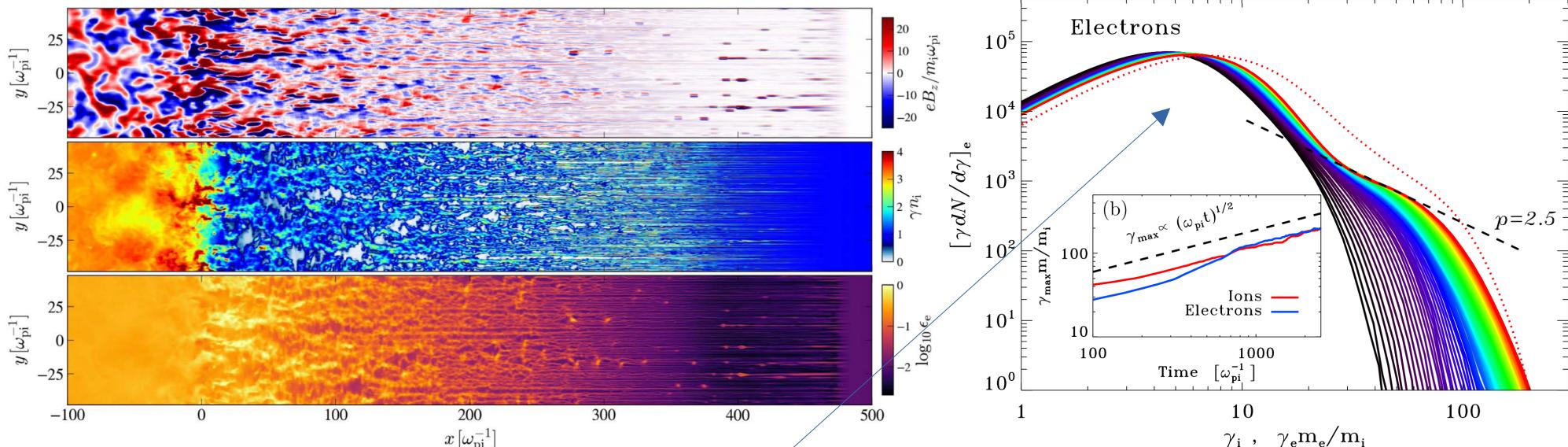


- **Engine:**
  - disk accretion
  - burst energy
  - ejecta structure
  - ejecta composition

- Schematic picture:
  - Ejecta structure
  - Lateral spreading



# General Picture: Collisionless Shocks

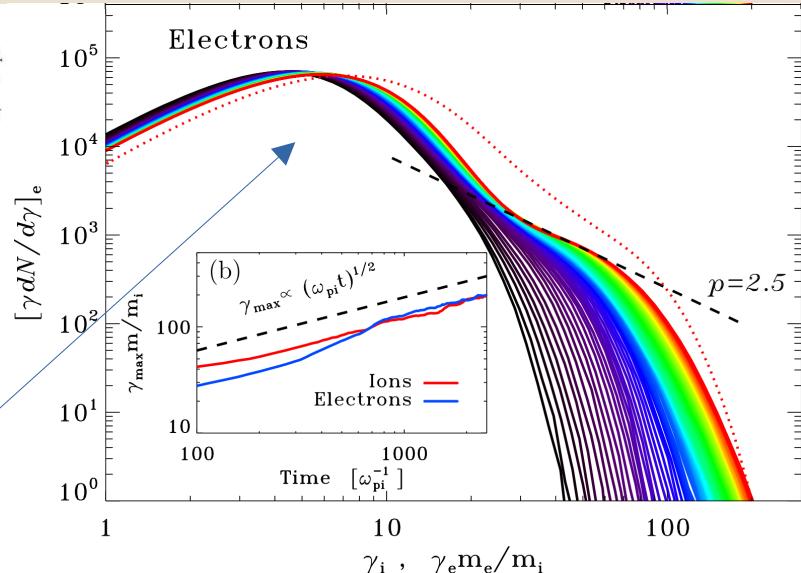


## Collisionless shocks

- mediated by electromagnetic processes
  - few gyro-radii scale
  - At shocks:
    - **magnetic field amplification**
    - **particle acceleration**
- fermi first order acceleration →  
thermal core + power-law tail)

Vanthieghem+22

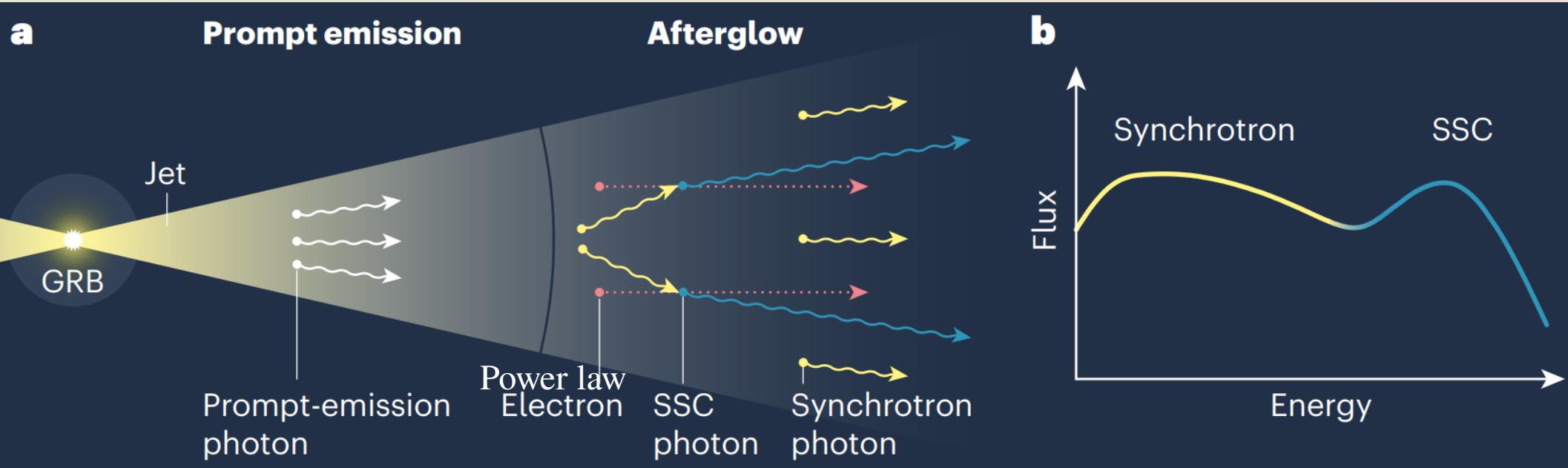
Sironi+13



*Synchrotron  
Radiation*

# General Picture: Summary

From Bing Theodore Zhang (Zhang+19)



- **Jet structure:** (energy/velocity angular dependency)
- **Ejecta dynamics:** coasting; deceleration; spreading
- **Collisionless shocks:** magnetic field amplification & article acceleration:
- Synchrotron emission (self-absorption, inverse-Compton...)

# Examples: Very High Energy Afterglow

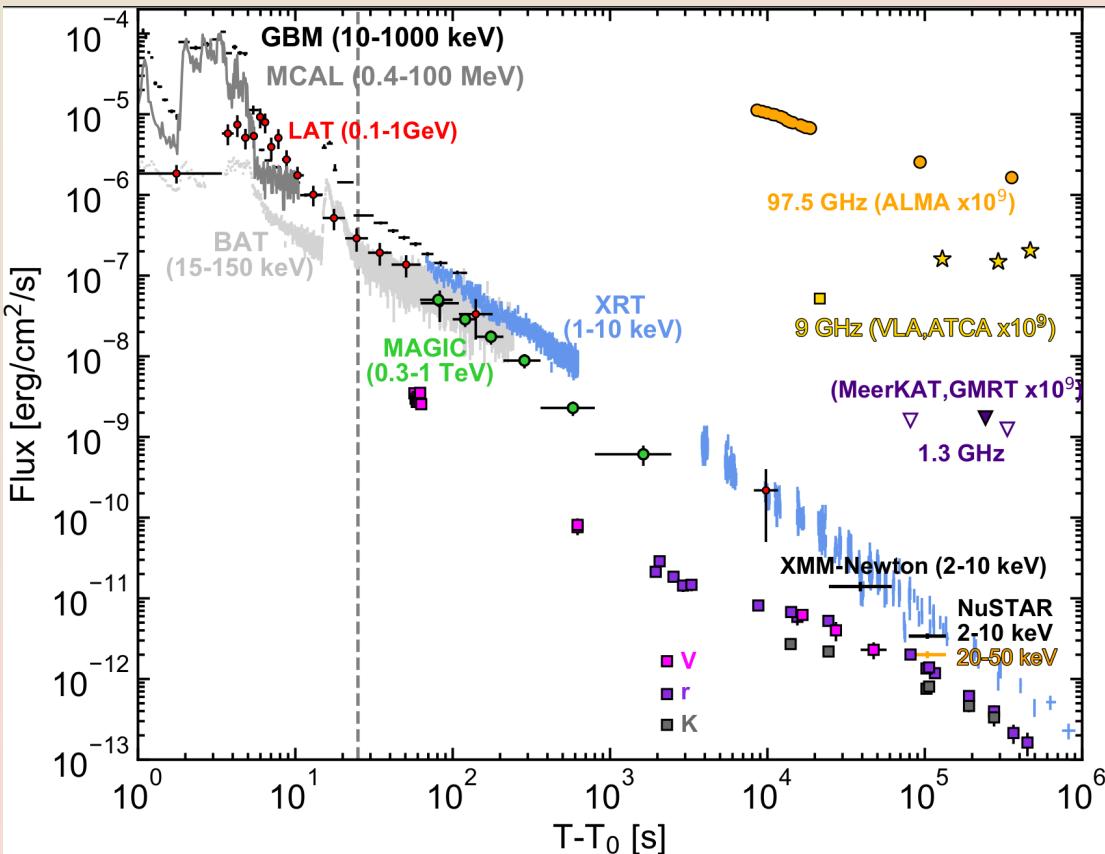
- GRB 190114C (Acciari+20, MAGIC Collaboration)  
TeV photons had distinct spectrum

Leading explanation: **SSC**  
(KN regime & g-g absorption)

- Other examples of VHE:
  - GRB 180720B
  - GRB 221009A

Other possible sources of VHE

- Proton synchrotron
- Synchrotron self-Compton
- External inverse Compton



# Examples: Structure & Radio Images

- GRB 170817A showed **slow rise** (not an off-axis tophat GRB)

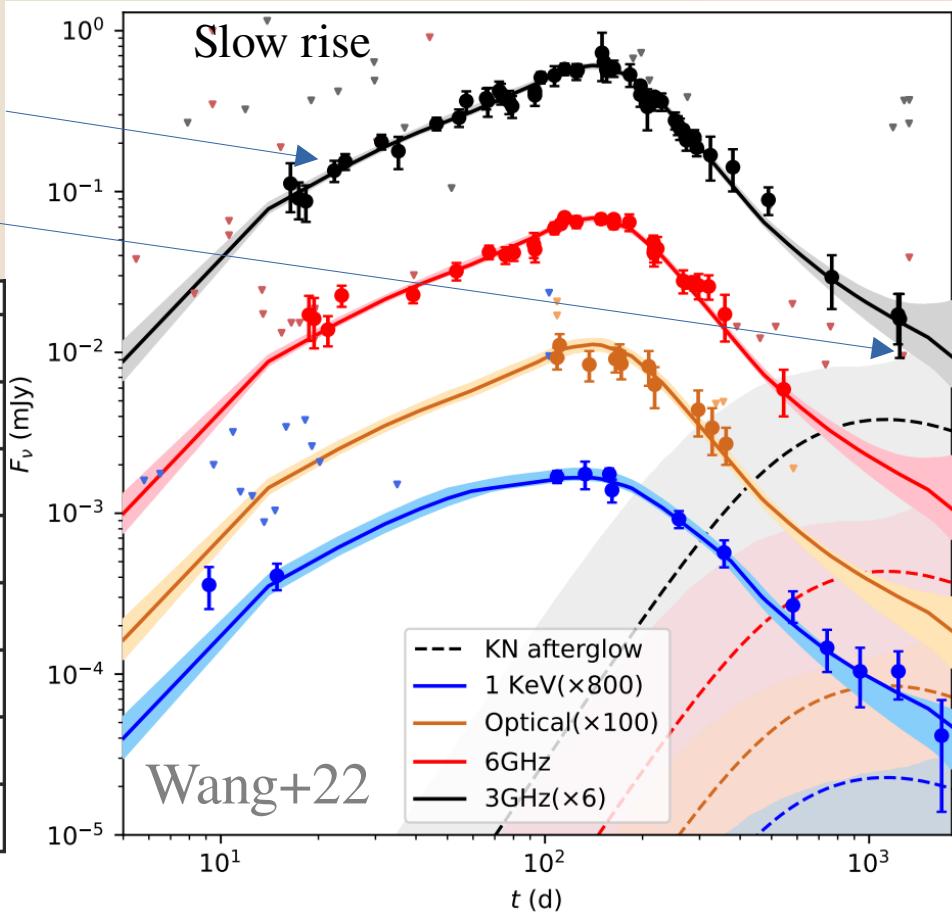
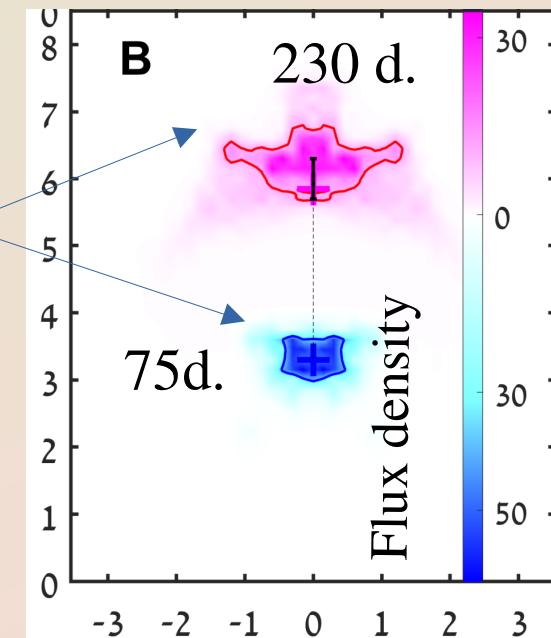
*Leading explanation:*

- structured jet observed off-axis

**Shallow decay:** lateral spreading

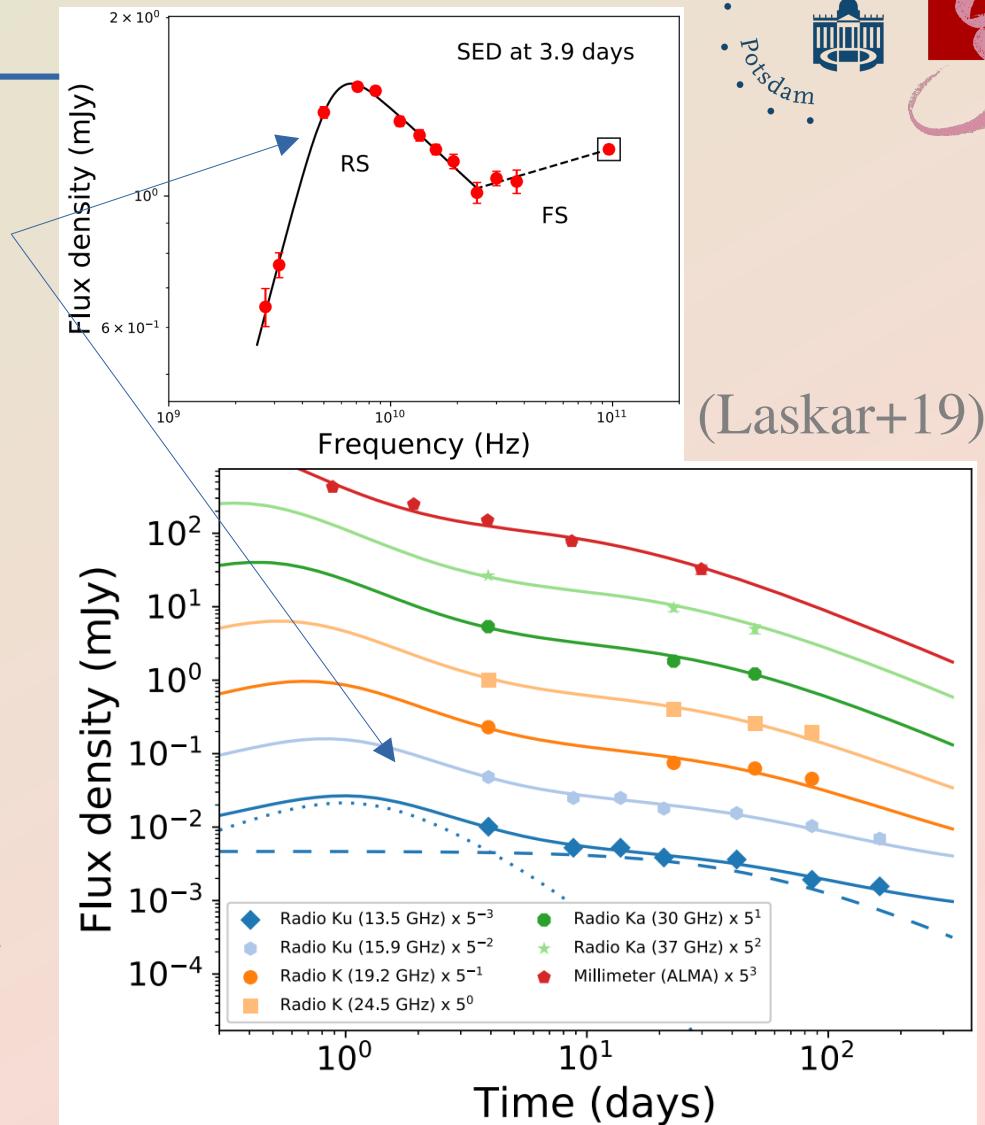
- VLA observed radio image (*centroid motion gives additional constraints*)

Mooley+18



# Examples: Reverse Shock

- GRB 181201A showed **distinct spectra** at 3.9 days, in radio  
*Leading explanation:* emission from mildly relativistic reverse shock)
- Other examples:
  - GRB 160821B showed reverse shock & kilonova & energy injection (Lamb+20)
  - GRB 190114C also showed early decaying IR component attributed to the reverse shock



(Laskar+19)

# State of the afterglow modeling & Goal

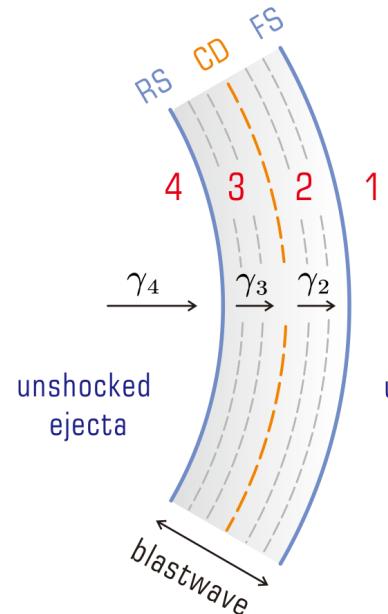
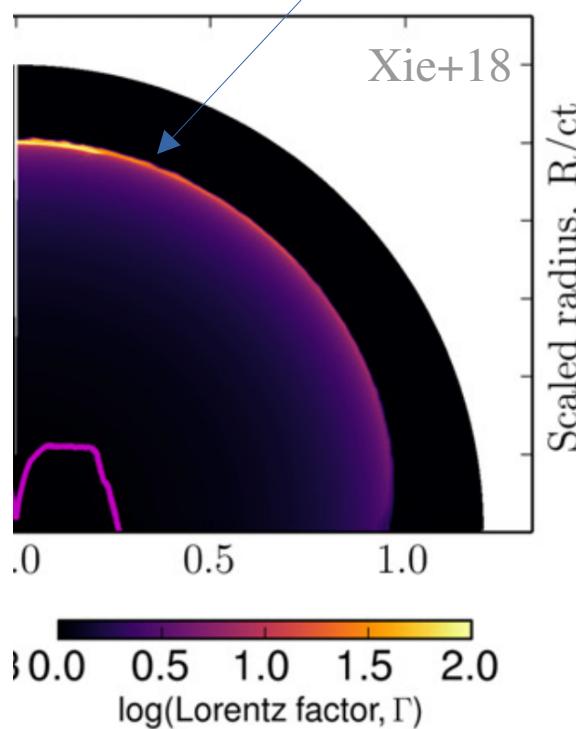
- Numeric codes (BoxFit...) - Computationally expensive.
- Semi-analytic codes (afterglowpy...) - FS & synchrotron only.
- Code requirements for multimessenger studies (*semi-numeric code*):
  - **speed** (suitable for inference or NN training) – semi-analytic dynamics;
  - **jet structure** (layers with different properties);
  - **FS & RS**;
  - **synchrotron & SSC** – numerical evolution of electron spectra;
  - **multiple observables**: spectra & sky maps;
  - **extendable** (possibility to implement new physics & approximants).

# Building an Afterglow Model

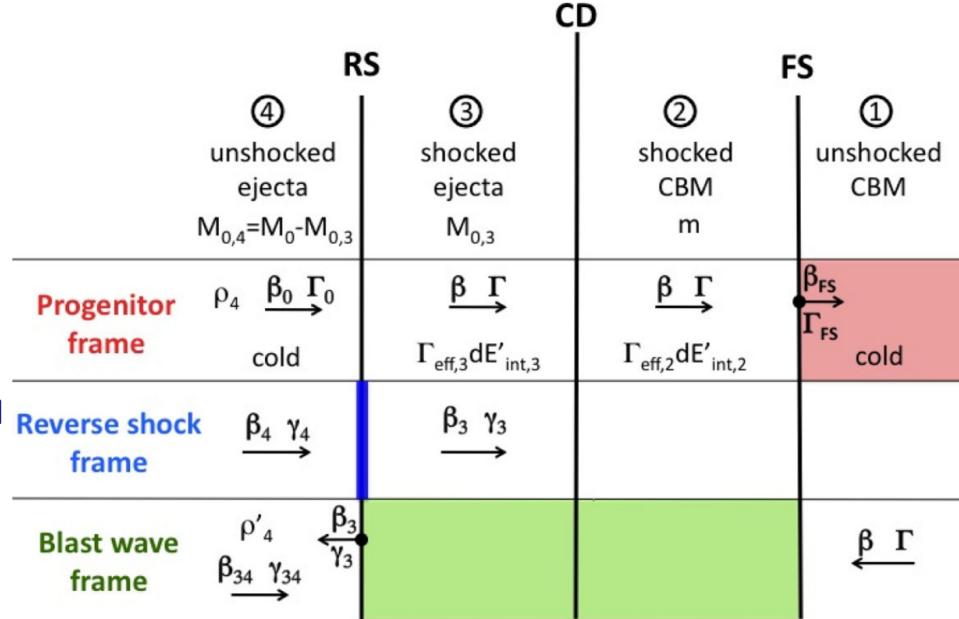
# Building Afterglow Model: FS & RS dynamics

Numerical HD simulation of a jet

Thin shell forms



Z. L. Zhang+22



Nava+13

Write evolution equations for the System (blastwave) Lorentz factor

# Building Afterglow Model: FS & RS dynamics

## Total blast wave energy

$$E_{\text{tot}} = \Gamma_0 m_{0;4} c^2 + \Gamma m_{0;3} c^2 + \Gamma_{\text{eff};3} E'_{\text{int};3} + \Gamma_0 m_{0;2} c^2 + \Gamma_{\text{eff};2} E'_{\text{int};2}.$$

## Energy conservation equation

$$dE_{\text{tot}} = \Gamma dm c^2 + \Gamma_{\text{eff};2} dE'_{\text{rad};2} + \Gamma_{\text{eff};3} dE'_{\text{rad};3},$$

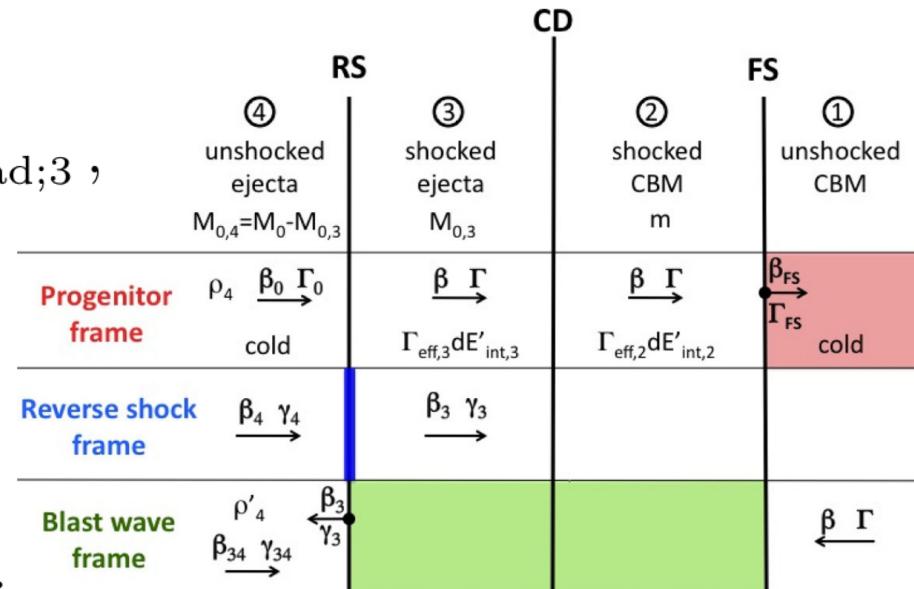
$$dE'_{\text{int};2} = dE'_{\text{sh};2} + dE'_{\text{ad};2} + dE'_{\text{rad};2},$$

$$dE'_{\text{int};3} = dE'_{\text{sh};3} + dE'_{\text{ad};3} + dE'_{\text{rad};3},$$

## Accreted mass and lateral spreading

$$dm = 2\pi\rho \left[ (1 - \cos(\omega)) + \frac{1}{3} \sin(\omega) r d\omega \right] r^2.$$

$$\frac{d\omega}{dt} = v_\perp \frac{c}{R} \times \begin{cases} 1 & \text{core} \\ \tan(\omega_0/2)/\tan(\omega_c/2) & \text{wings} \end{cases}$$



sound-speed-based;  
calibrated with numerical simulations

# Building Afterglow Model: FS & RS dynamics

**Evolution equation:**  
after some algebra...

$$d\Gamma = -\frac{N}{D}, \text{ where}$$

$$N = (\Gamma - 1)(\Gamma_{\text{eff};2} + 1)dm$$

$$+ (\Gamma - \Gamma_0 + \Gamma_{\text{eff};3}(\Gamma_{43} - 1))dm_{0;3}$$

$$+ \Gamma_{\text{eff};2}(\hat{\gamma}_2 - 1)E'_{\text{int};2}(d \ln m - d \ln \rho)$$

$$- \Gamma_{\text{eff};3}(\hat{\gamma}_3 - 1)E'_{\text{int};3}(d \ln m_{0;3} - d \ln \rho_4)$$

$$D = (m + m_{0;3}) + E'_{\text{int};2} \frac{d\Gamma_{\text{eff};2}}{d\Gamma} + E'_{\text{int};3} \frac{d\Gamma_{\text{eff};3}}{d\Gamma}$$

$$+ \frac{\Gamma_{\text{eff};2}}{\Gamma}(\hat{\gamma}_2 - 1)E'_{\text{int};2} + \frac{\Gamma_{\text{eff};3}}{\Gamma_{43}}(\hat{\gamma}_3 - 1)E'_{\text{int};3} \frac{d\Gamma_{43}}{d\Gamma}.$$

Assumed ejecta shell density profile

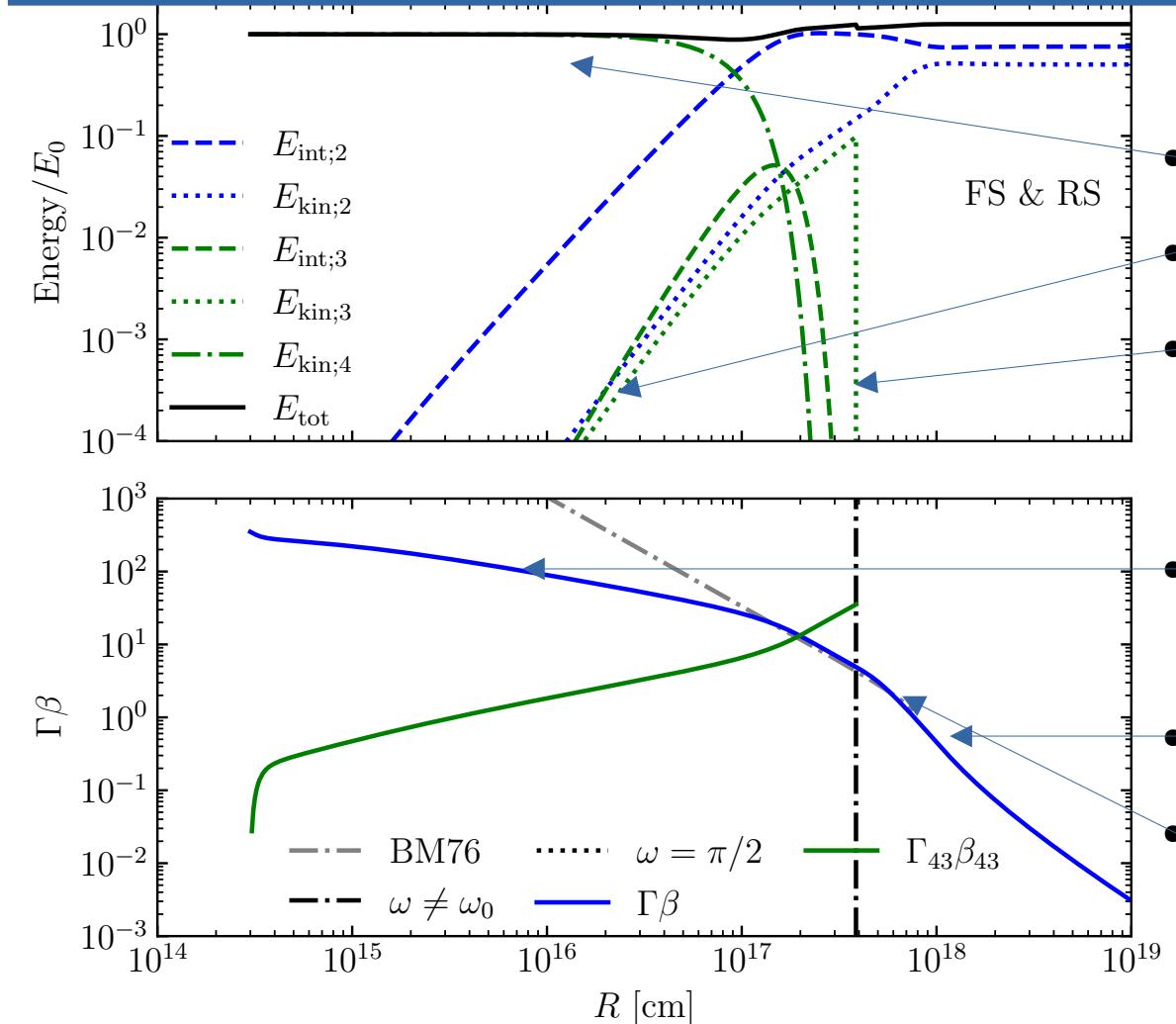
$$\rho_4 = \frac{M_0}{2\pi(1 - \cos(\omega))R_{\text{rsh}}\Delta_0} \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta_4}{\Delta_0}\right),$$

Mass accreted by RS

$$\frac{dm_{0;3}}{dR} = 2\pi R_{\text{rsh}}^2(1 - \cos(\omega))\rho_4 \frac{d\Delta'_4}{dR},$$

System of ODEs is solved numerical  
with DOP8(53) method

# Building Afterglow Model: FS & RSexample



During the evolution

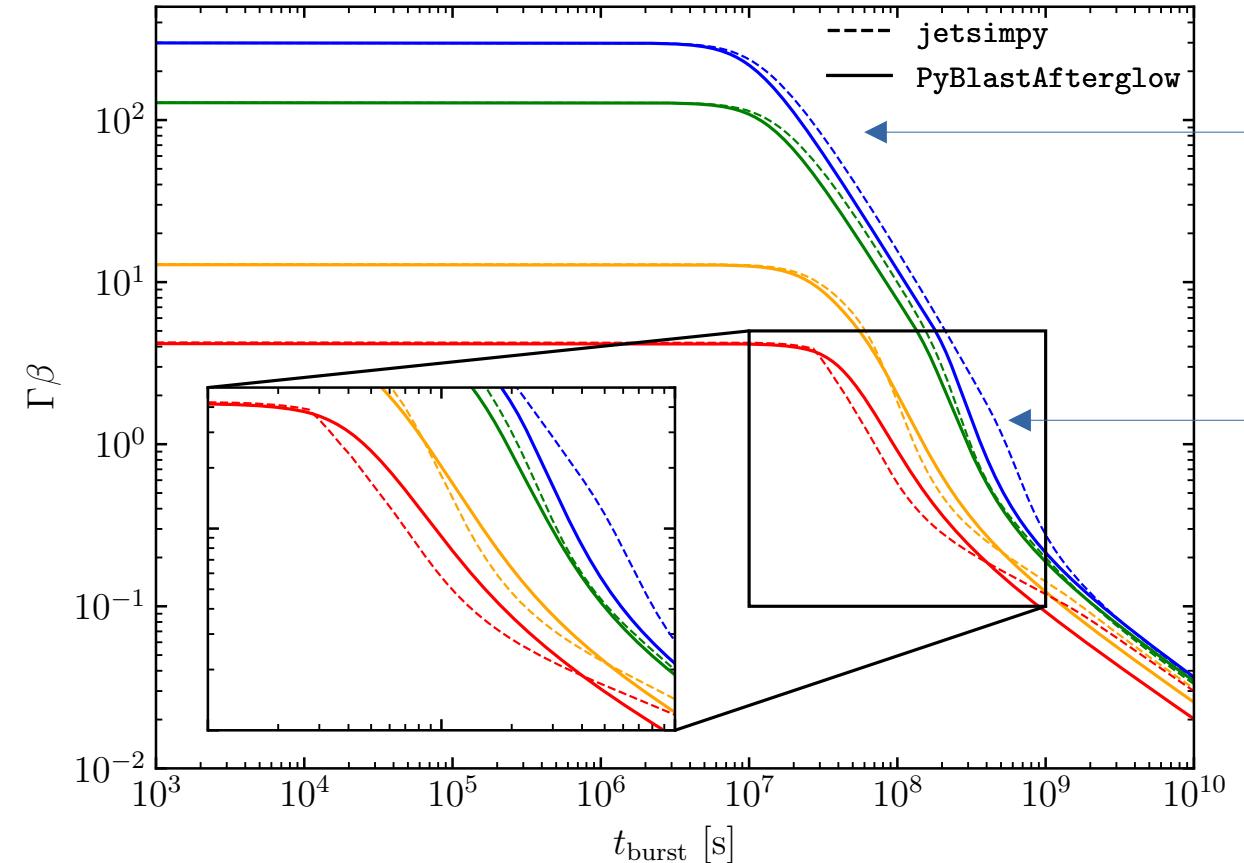
- Total energy  $\sim$  conserved
- Reverse shock *shocks* ejecta
- RS crosses the ejecta

## Dynamics

- deceleration when RS is crossing ejecta
- Lateral spreading
- BM solution is recovered close to RS crossing

# Building Afterglow Model: Comparison

- Dynamics with lateral spreading against  
2D thin-shell hydrodynamics model (using structure and Spreading)



calibration to BM can be added

spreading prescription  
can be improved

# Building Afterglow: Shock Microphysics

Energy Density  $e' = E'_{\text{int}}/V'$

Magnetic Field  $B' = \sqrt{8\pi\epsilon_b e'}$

Injection spectrum

Free parameter

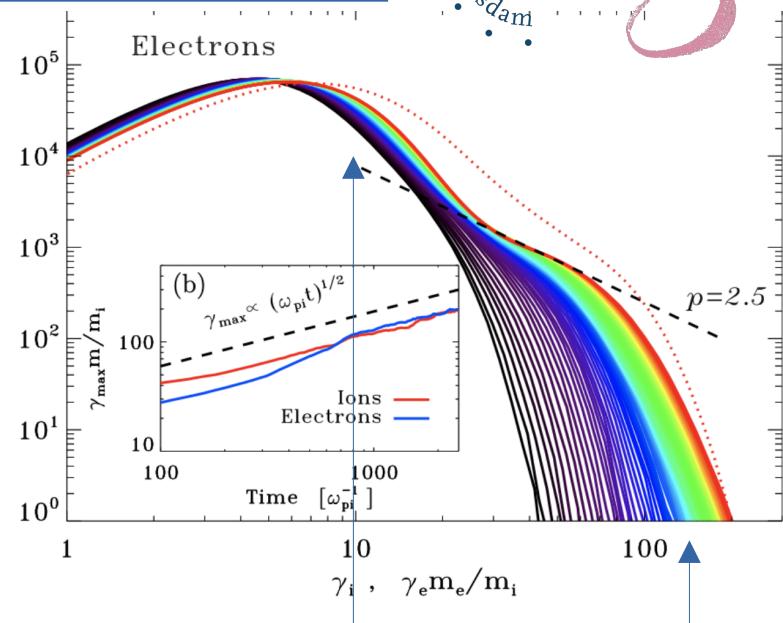
$$dN_e/d\gamma_e \propto \gamma_e^{-p} \text{ for } \gamma_e \in (\gamma_{e; m}, \gamma_{e; M})$$

Limits of the injection spectrum

$$\gamma_{e; M} = \sqrt{\frac{6\pi q_e}{\sigma_T B' \zeta (1 + \tilde{Y})}}$$

$$\epsilon_e \frac{e'}{\rho'} \frac{m_p}{m_e c^2} = \langle \gamma_e \rangle = \left( \frac{p-1}{p-2} \right) \left( \frac{\gamma_{e; M}^{-p+2} - \gamma_{e; m}^{-p+2}}{\gamma_{e; M}^{-p+1} - \gamma_{e; m}^{-p+1}} \right)$$

Free parameter



$m$

$M$

Solving for minimum

# Building Afterglow: Electron Evolution

Electron distribution evolution

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t'} \frac{dN_e'}{d\gamma_e'} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \gamma_e'} \left( \dot{\gamma}_{e,\text{tot}'} \frac{dN_e'}{d\gamma_e'} \right) = d\dot{N}_{e,0}' = N_e' \frac{p-1}{\gamma_m'} \left( \frac{\gamma_e'}{\gamma_m'} \right)^{-p} d\gamma_e',$$

Electron energy loss

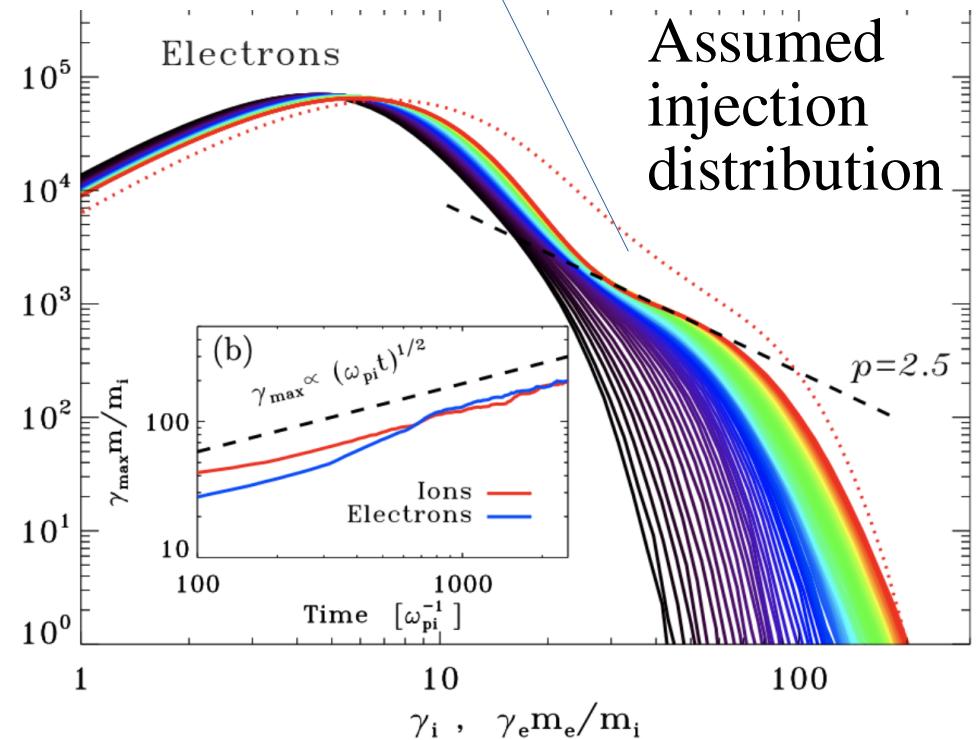
$$\dot{\gamma}_{e,\text{tot}'} = \dot{\gamma}_{e,\text{adi}'} + \dot{\gamma}_{e,\text{syn}'} + \dot{\gamma}_{e,\text{IC}}'.$$

Solved using Chang-Cooper scheme with substeps for cooling.

**Numerically compute**

- synchrotron emissivity  $j'_{\text{syn}}(\nu')$ ,
- SSA coefficient  $\alpha'_{\text{syn}}(\nu')$ ,
- SSC emissivity  $j'_{\text{ssc}}(\nu')$ .

Source term



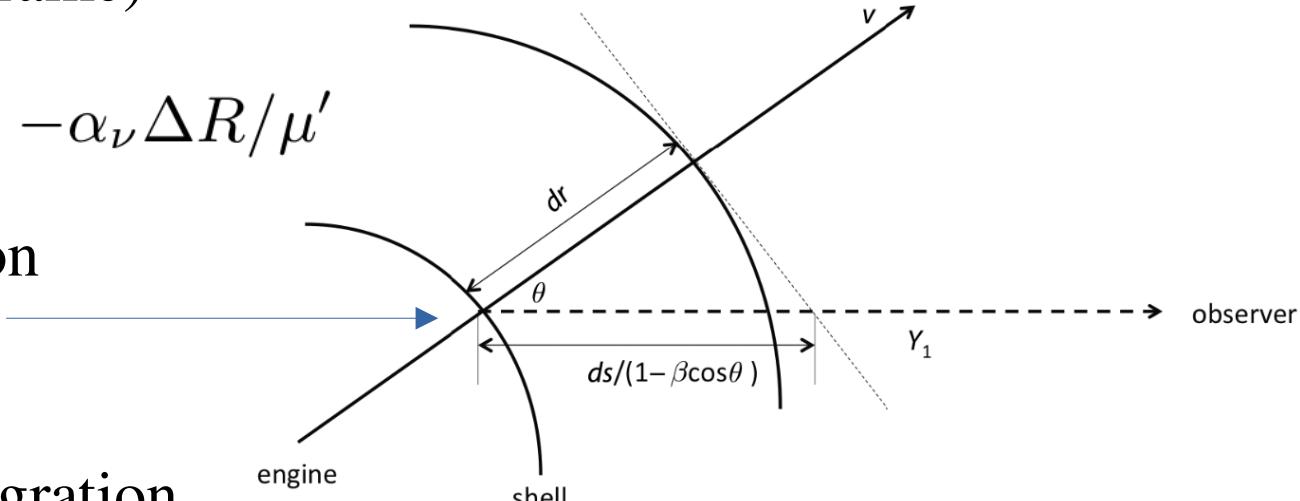
# Building Afterglow: Intensity and Flux Density

Radiation transport in a thin, homogeneous shell.

Radiation intensity (*observer* frame)

$$I_\nu = \frac{j_\nu}{\alpha_\nu} (1 - e^{-\tau_\nu}) \quad \tau_\nu \approx -\alpha_\nu \Delta R / \mu'$$

Thickness of the emitting region  
depends on the observer.

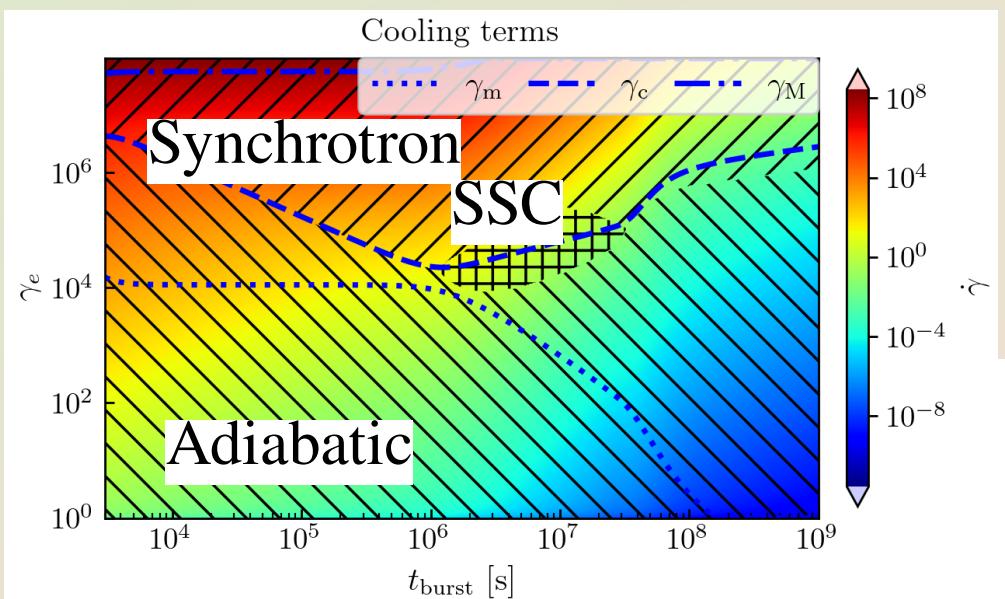


Equal-arrival time surface integration

$$F_\nu = \frac{1+z}{2\pi d_L^2} \sum_i^{\text{layers}} \int_{\theta_{i;l}}^{\theta_{i;h}} \int_{\phi_0=0}^{\phi_1=\pi/2} I_{i,\nu}(\theta, \phi) d\theta d\phi$$

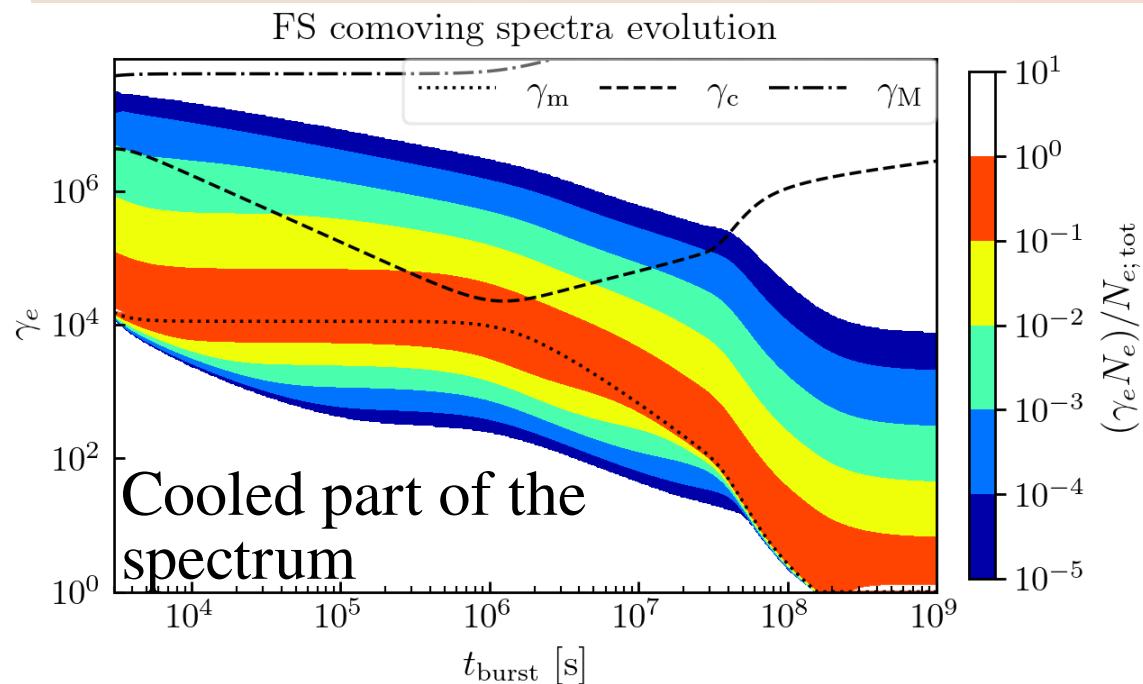
# Preliminary Results

# Preliminary results: Electron Spectrum



Dominant cooling process

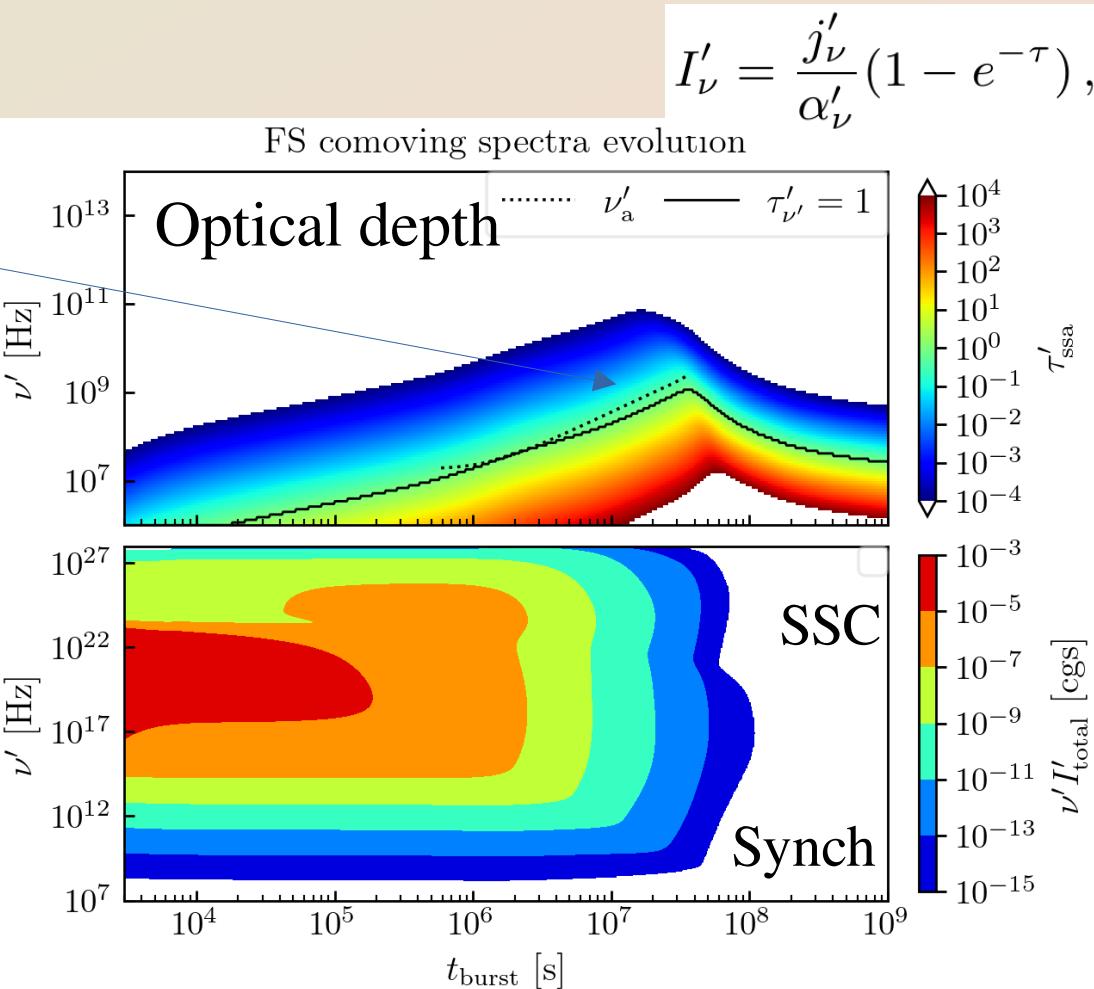
## Electron spectrum evolution



# Preliminary results: Radiation Spectra

Spectrum is primarily optically thin

Comoving synchrotron  
and SSC spectra



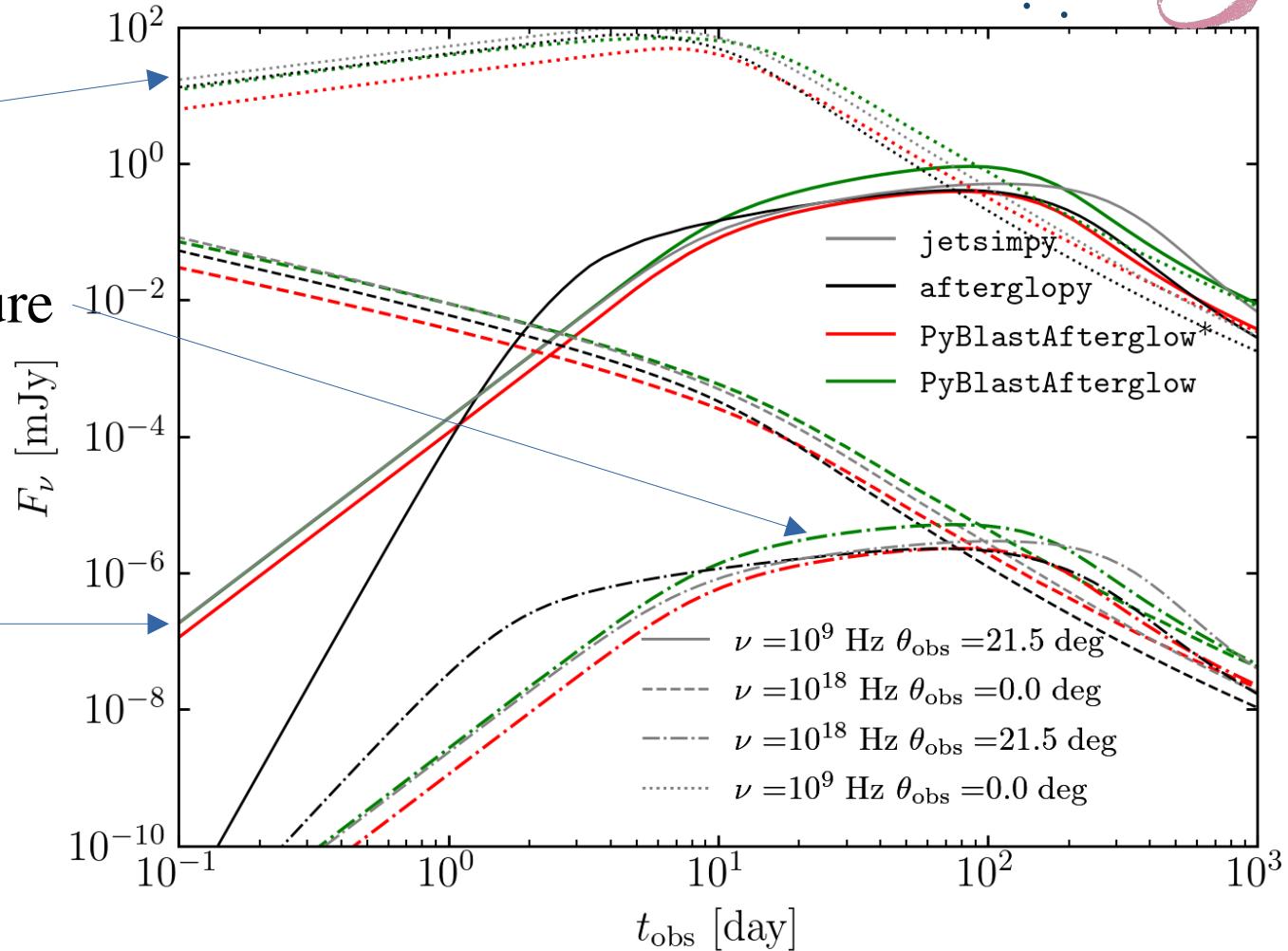
# Comparison with afterglowpy; jetsimpy

On-axis afterglow

Shallow slope due to structure

Off-axis afterglow

**Comparison:**  
 Gaussian jet;  
 forward shock only;  
 synchrotron only.



# Example: sky map

**Sky map** – intensity distribution projected onto a plane orthogonal to the line of sight.

## Properties:

- centroid position,
- image size.

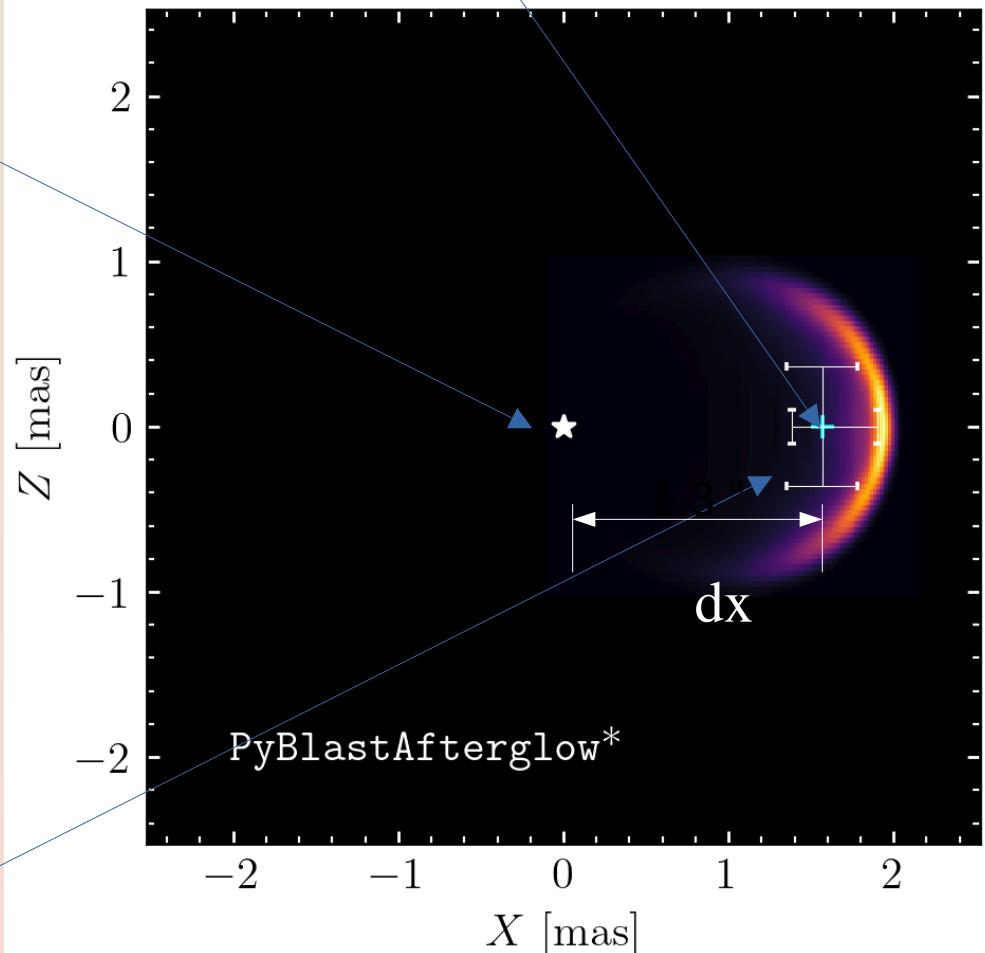
## Sky map shows:

- geometry of the ejecta,
- jet Lorentz factor,
- jet inclination angle.

Image size (FWHM)

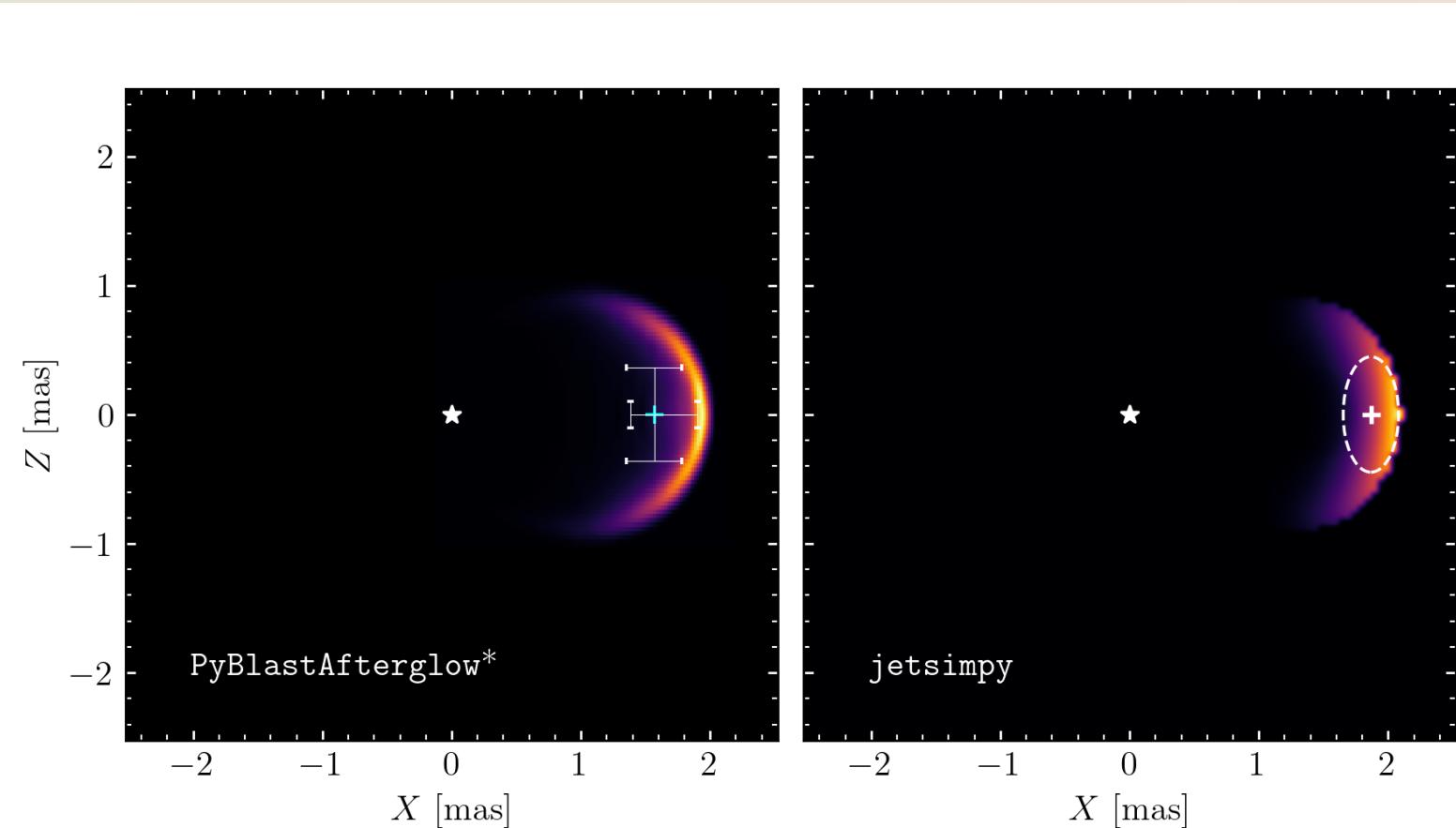
Origin

Flux centroid



# Comparison with jetsimpy

**Comparison:** Gaussian structure; forward shock only; synchrotron only



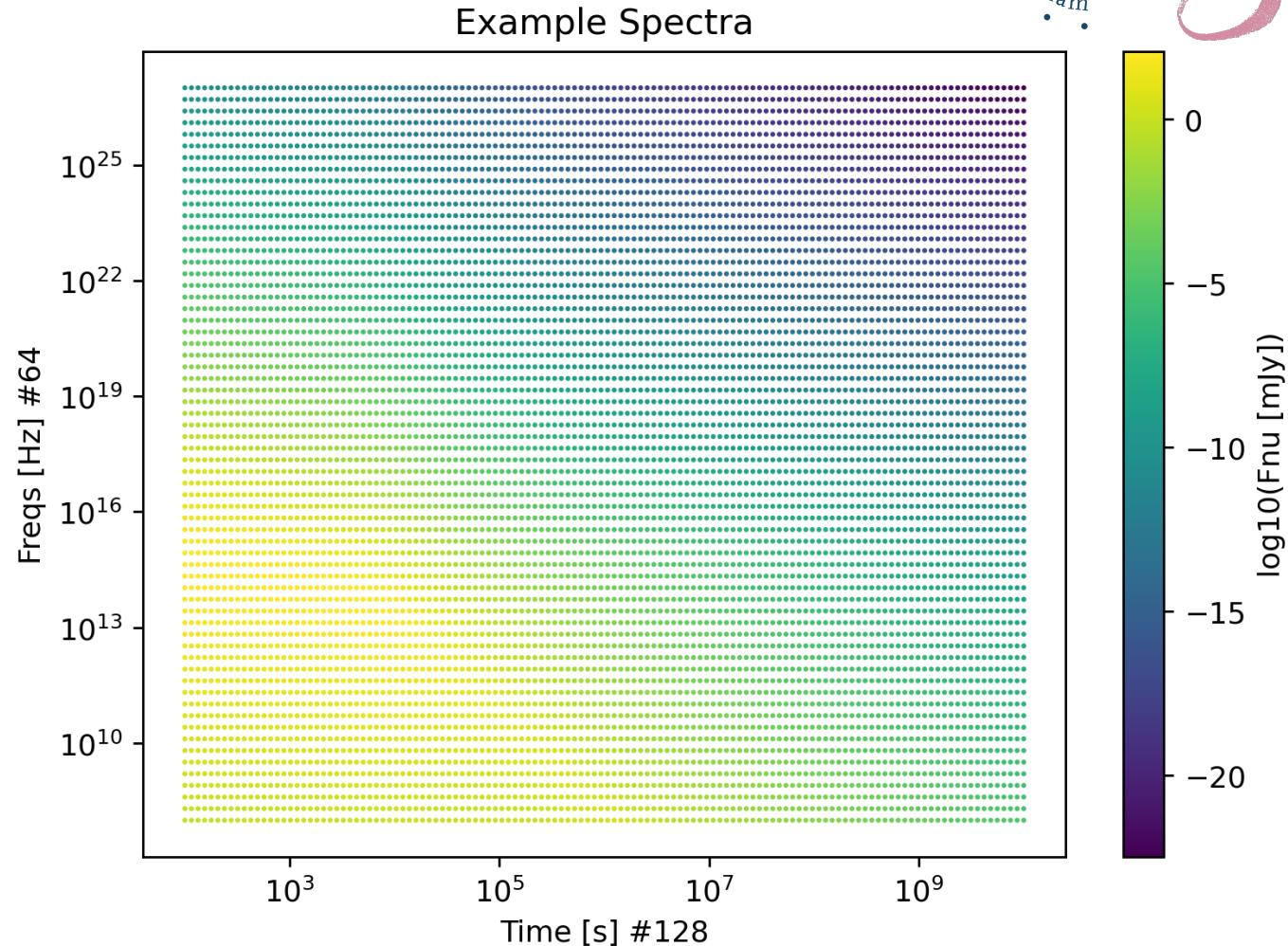
# Building a Surrogate Model: Dataset

Building train dataset  
(with afterglowpy)

**Data:**  
set of time-dependent  
spectra for tophat jet.

**Features:**  
- Microphysics (3)  
- Jet structure (3)  
- Observer (3)

**Metadata:**  
- 10000 spectra,  
- 26 GB training set.



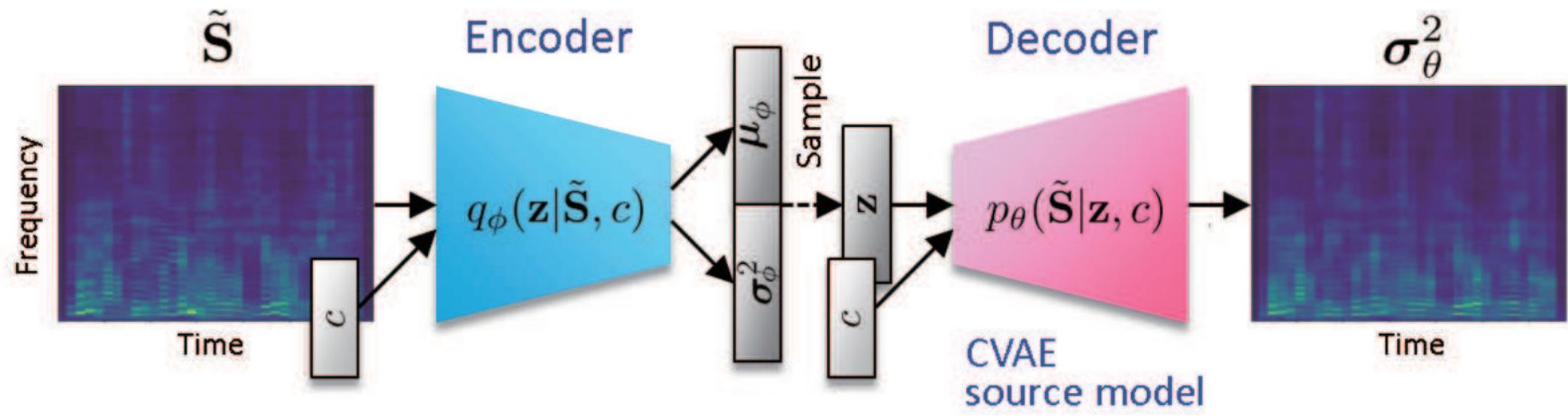
# Building a Surrogate Model: Architecture

## Neural network:

- generative model
  - conditional variational autoencoder (cVAE)

Model allows to create a latent space that represents the space of real spectra from which we can sample new spectra

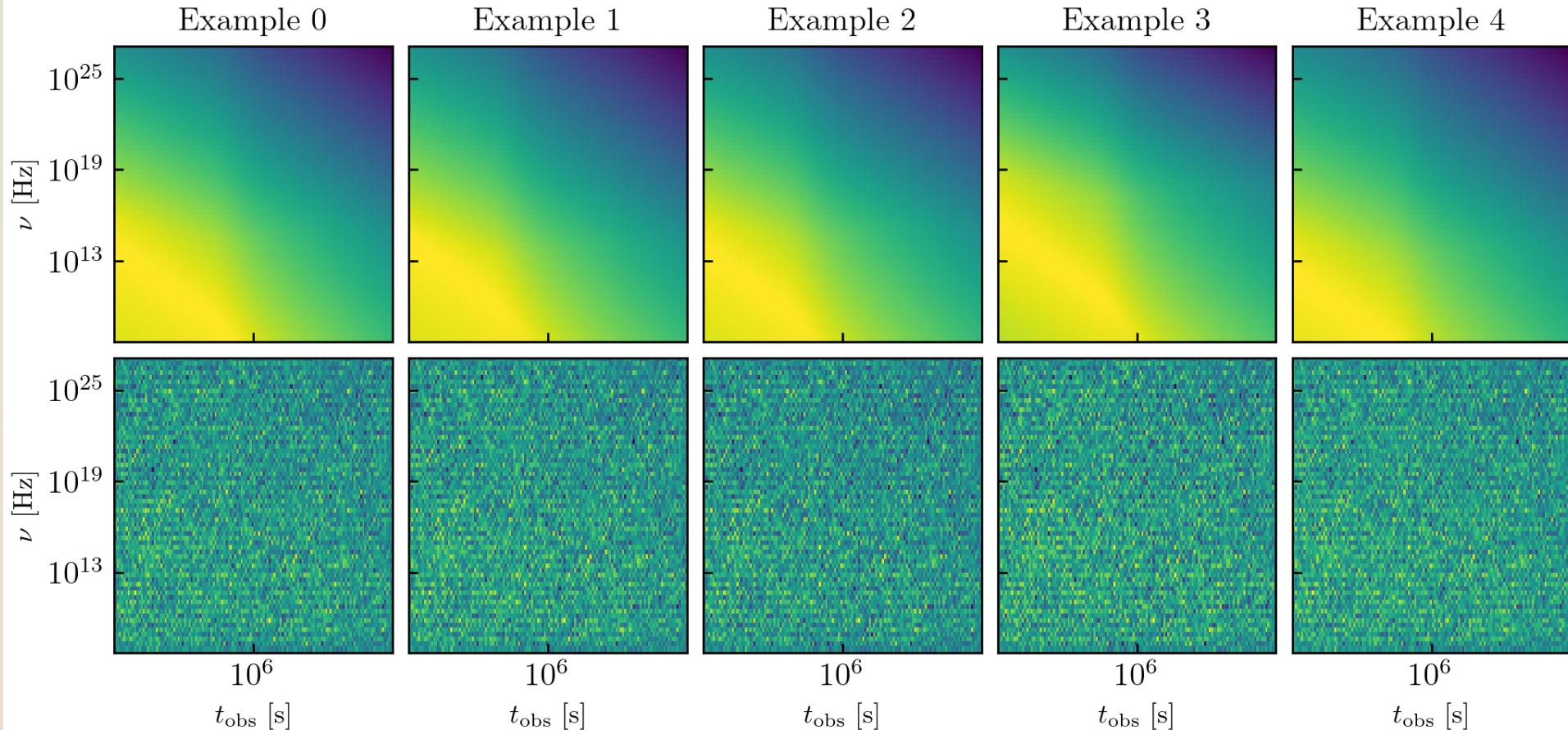
Kameoka+18



# Building a Surrogate Model: Training

Training model on a 1000 spectra : starting epoch

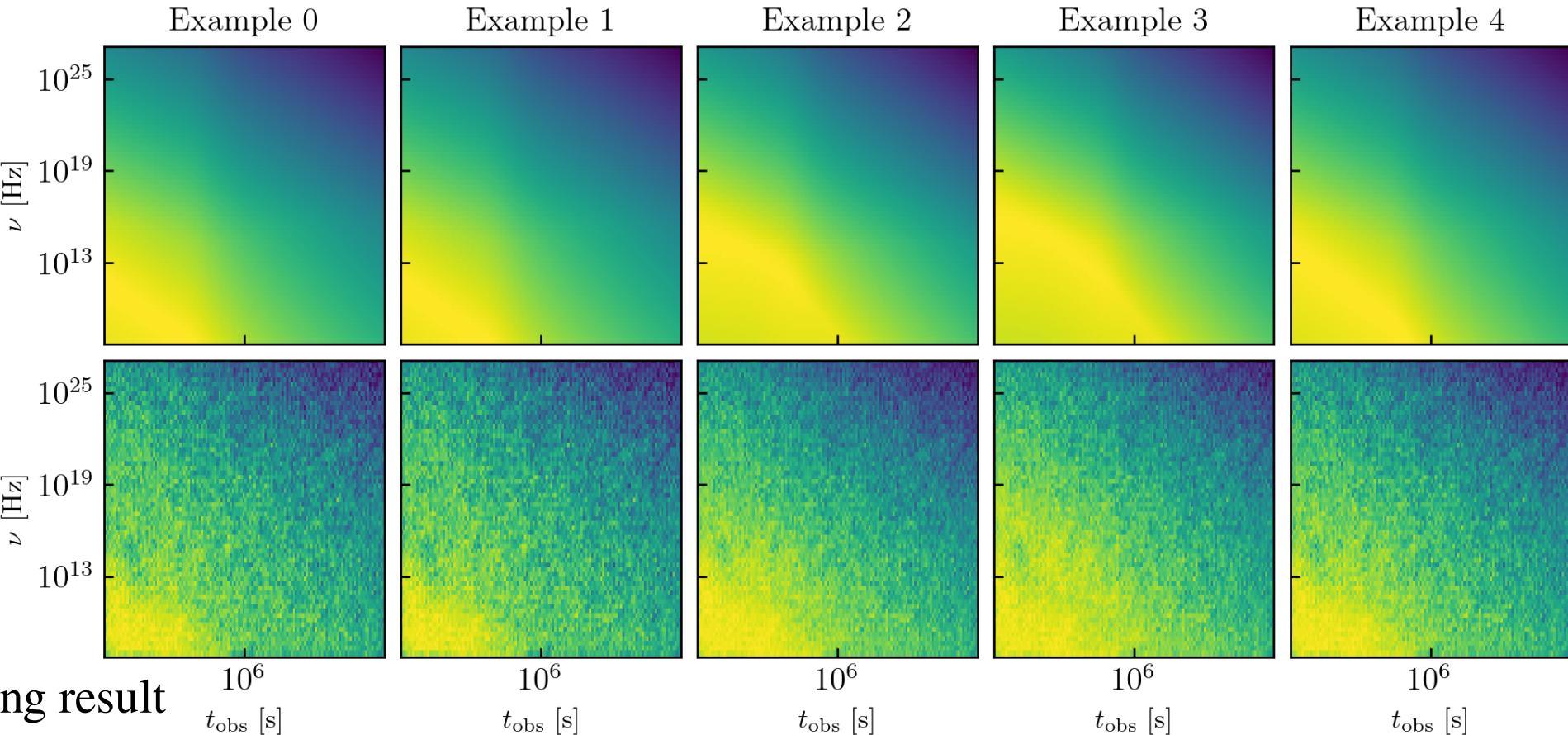
Epoch 1 / 50 — log(loss) = 5.58 — log(validation loss) = 5.42



# Building a Surrogate Model: Training

Training model on a 1000 spectra : last epoch

Epoch 50 / 50 — log(loss) = 5.46 — log(validation loss) = 5.41



# Summary

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- **NMMA** – using observational data and models for transients to constrain the fundamental physics
- **PyBlastAfterglow** – semi-numeric GRB afterglow model with advanced physics input that generates spectra and sky maps, fast enough to train a surrogate model. Key features:
  - GRB ejecta structure (non-interacting layers)
  - Forward & reverse shock dynamics and emission
  - Numerical evolution of electron distribution
  - Synchrotron, synchrotron self-absorption, synchrotron self-Compton
  - Spectra and sky maps

# Building Afterglow: Cooling terms

## Cooling terms

$$\dot{\gamma}_{\text{syn}} = -\frac{4}{3} \left( \frac{\sigma_T B'^2}{8\pi m_e c} \right) \gamma_e^2. \quad \text{Synchrotron cooling}$$

$$\dot{\gamma}_{\text{adi}} = \frac{d \ln(V')}{dR} \left( \frac{\gamma_e^2 - 1}{3\gamma_e} \right), \quad \text{Adiabatic cooling}$$

$$\dot{\gamma}_{\text{ssc}} = \frac{3}{4} \frac{h\sigma_T}{m_e c \gamma_e^2} \int_{\tilde{\nu}'_0}^{\tilde{\nu}'_1} \frac{n_{\tilde{\nu}'}}{\tilde{\nu}'} \left[ \int_{\nu'_0}^{\nu'_1} h\nu' K(\tilde{\nu}', \gamma_e, \nu') d\nu' \right] d\tilde{\nu}' \quad \text{SSC cooling}$$

SSC kernel

$$K(\tilde{\varepsilon}', \gamma_e, \varepsilon) = 2q \ln(q) + (1 + 2q)(1 - q)$$

$$+ 0.5(1 - q) \frac{(4\gamma_e \tilde{\varepsilon} q)^2}{(1 + 4\gamma_e \tilde{\varepsilon})}$$

# Building Afterglow: Synchrotron Emission

Convolving the emission of a single electron gyrating around magnetic field lines with electron distribution function

$$j'_{\text{syn}}(\nu', \gamma_e) = \frac{3q_e^3 B'}{m_e c^2} 2y^2 \left( K_{4/3}(y) K_{1/3}(y) \right.$$

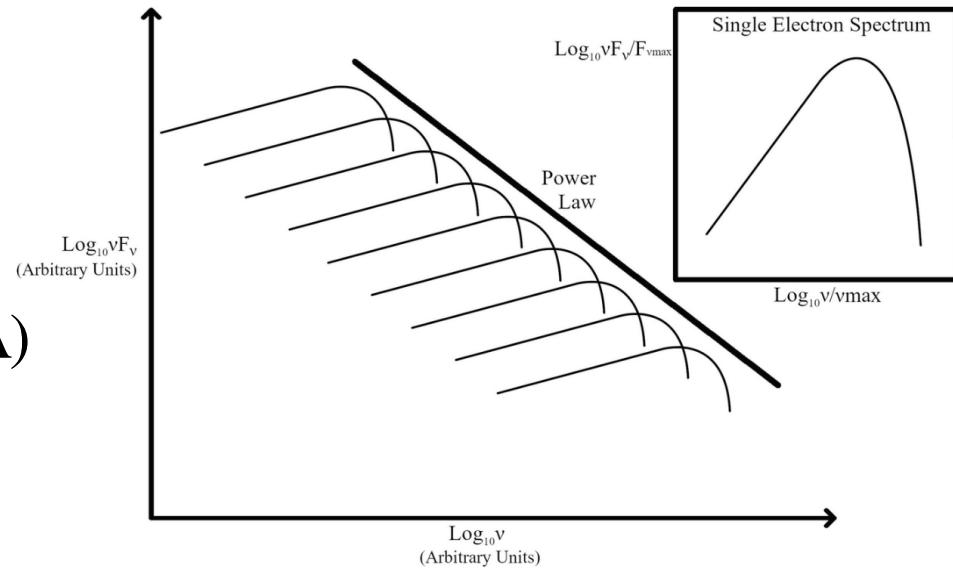
$$\left. - \frac{3}{5} y (K_{4/3}^2(y) - K_{1/3}^2(y)) \right),$$

$$j'_{\text{syn}}(\nu') = \int_{\gamma_{e;0}}^{\gamma_{e;1}} N_e(\gamma_e) j'_{\text{syn}}(\nu', \gamma_e) d\gamma_e,$$

$$\alpha'_{\text{syn}}(\nu') = -\frac{1}{8\pi m_e \nu'^2} \times \int_{\gamma_{e;0}}^{\gamma_{e;1}} j'_{\text{syn}}(\nu', \gamma_e) \gamma_e^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial \gamma_e} \left[ \frac{N_e(\gamma_e)}{\gamma_e^2} \right] d\gamma_e$$

**Synchrotron self-absorption (SSA)**

Emission power by a single electron



# Building Afterglow: SSC emission

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Synchrotron self-Compton spectrum

$$j'_{\text{ssc}}(\nu', \gamma_e) = \frac{3}{4} h \sigma_T c \frac{\nu'}{\gamma_e^2} \int_{\nu'_0}^{\nu'_1} \frac{n_{\tilde{\nu}'}}{\tilde{\nu}'} F(\tilde{\varepsilon}', \gamma_e, \varepsilon') d\tilde{\nu}' ,$$

Seed photon spectrum

$$n_{\nu'} = n_{\nu'; \text{syn}} + n_{\nu'; \text{ssc}} = \left( \frac{j'_{\text{syn}}(\nu')}{h\nu'} + \frac{j'_{\text{ssc}}(\nu')}{h\nu'} \right) \frac{\Delta t'}{V'} ,$$

Comoving escape time

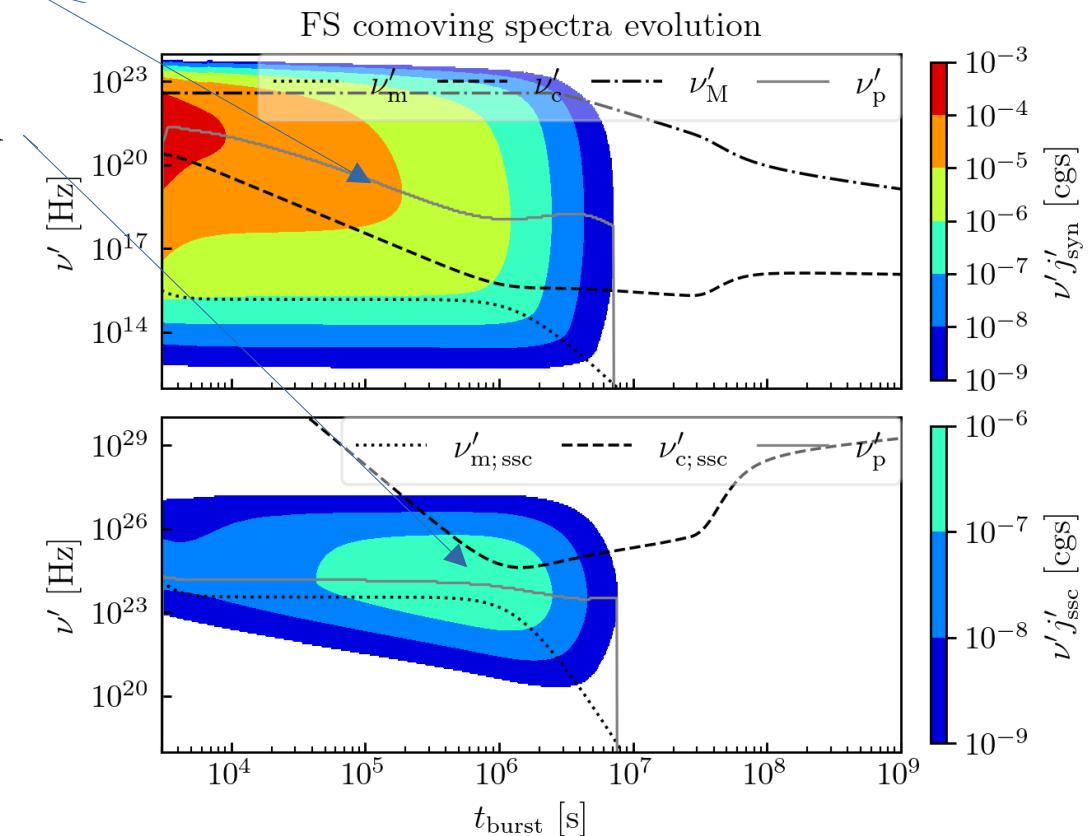
$$\Delta t' = \Delta R'/c = \Delta R \Gamma_{\text{sh}}/c$$

# Preliminary results: Radiation Spectra

Comoving synchrotron and SSC spectra

Numerical spectrum peak > analytical

SSC reaches peak at BW deceleration



# Building Afterglow Model: FS & RS dynamics

## Total blast wave energy

$$E_{\text{tot}} = \Gamma_0 M_{0,4} c^2 + \Gamma M_{0,3} c^2 + \Gamma m c^2 + \Gamma_{\text{eff},3} E'_{\text{int},3} + \Gamma_{\text{eff},2} E'_{\text{int},2}.$$

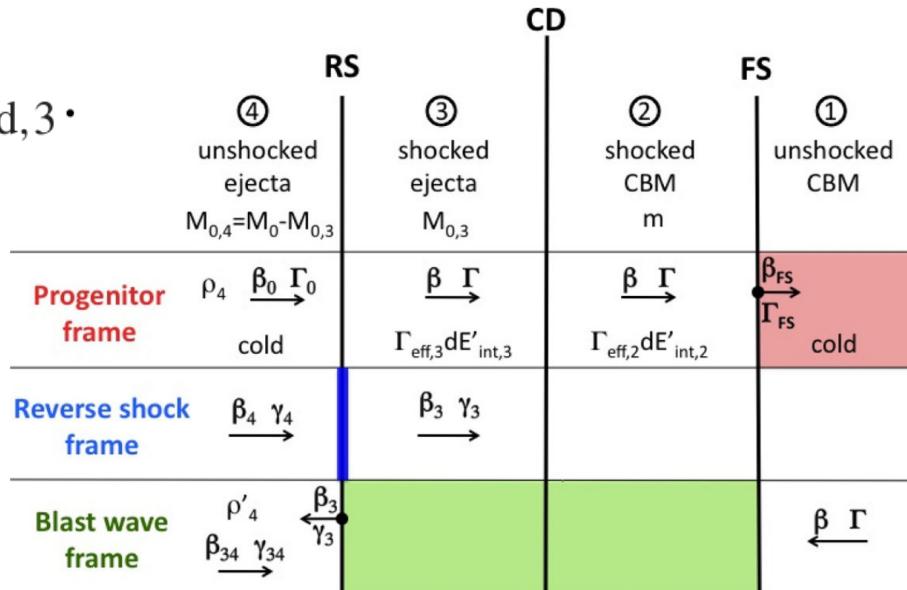
## Energy conservation equation

$$dE_{\text{tot}} = dm c^2 + \Gamma_{\text{eff},2} dE'_{\text{rad},2} + \Gamma_{\text{eff},3} dE'_{\text{rad},3}.$$

$$dE'_{\text{int}} = dE'_{\text{sh}} + dE'_{\text{ad}} + dE'_{\text{rad}}.$$

**Evolution equation:** after some algebra...

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\Gamma}{dR} = & - \frac{(\Gamma_{\text{eff},2} + 1)(\Gamma - 1) \frac{dm c^2}{dR} + \Gamma_{\text{eff},2} dE'_{\text{ad},2}}{(M_{0,3} + m)c^2 + E'_{\text{int},2} \frac{d\Gamma_{\text{eff},2}}{d\Gamma} + E'_{\text{int},3} \frac{d\Gamma_{\text{eff},3}}{d\Gamma}} \\ & - \frac{(\Gamma - \Gamma_0 - \Gamma_{\text{eff},3} + \Gamma_{\text{eff},3}\gamma_{34}) \frac{dM_{0,3}c^2}{dR} + \Gamma_{\text{eff},3} dE'_{\text{ad},3}}{(M_{0,3} + m)c^2 + E'_{\text{int},2} \frac{d\Gamma_{\text{eff},2}}{d\Gamma} + E'_{\text{int},3} \frac{d\Gamma_{\text{eff},3}}{d\Gamma}} \end{aligned}$$



Adaptive ODE solve used

# Building Afterglow Model: FS only example

**Total blast wave energy** (assume ejecta is already shocked)

$$E_{\text{tot}} = \Gamma(M_0 + m)c^2 + \Gamma_{\text{eff}} E'_{\text{int}},$$

**Energy conservation equation**

$$d[\Gamma(M_0 + m)c^2 + \Gamma_{\text{eff}} E'_{\text{int}}] = dm c^2 + \Gamma_{\text{eff}} dE'_{\text{rad}}.$$

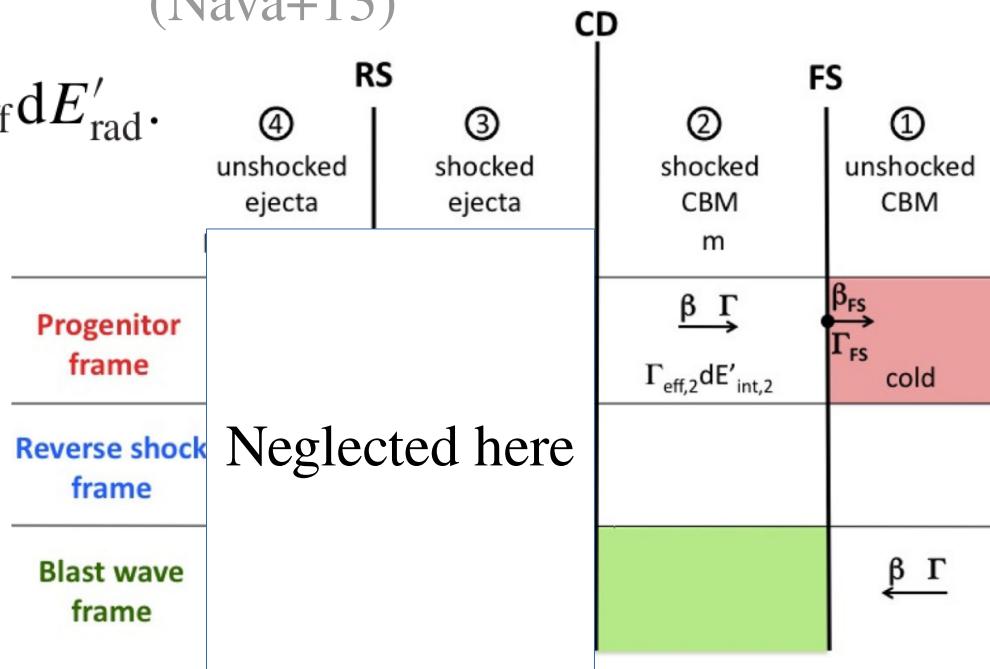
$$dE'_{\text{int}} = dE'_{\text{sh}} + dE'_{\text{ad}} + dE'_{\text{rad}}.$$

**Evolution equation:** after some algebra...

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dR} = - \frac{(\Gamma_{\text{eff}} + 1)(\Gamma - 1) c^2 \frac{dm}{dR} + \Gamma_{\text{eff}} \frac{dE'_{\text{ad}}}{dR}}{(M_0 + m) c^2 + E'_{\text{int}} \frac{d\Gamma_{\text{eff}}}{d\Gamma}},$$

Final set of ODEs we solve numerically

Schematic picture of a Blast wave  
(Nava+13)

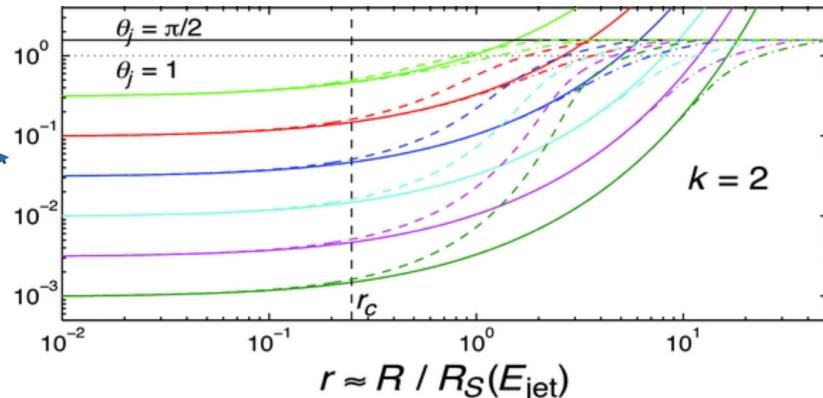


# Building Afterglow Model: lateral spreading

Required 2D HD simulations. Using approximants. Many options...

**Calibrated with early HD simulation** (Granot+12)

$$\frac{d\omega}{dR} = R^{-1} \Gamma^{-1-a}$$



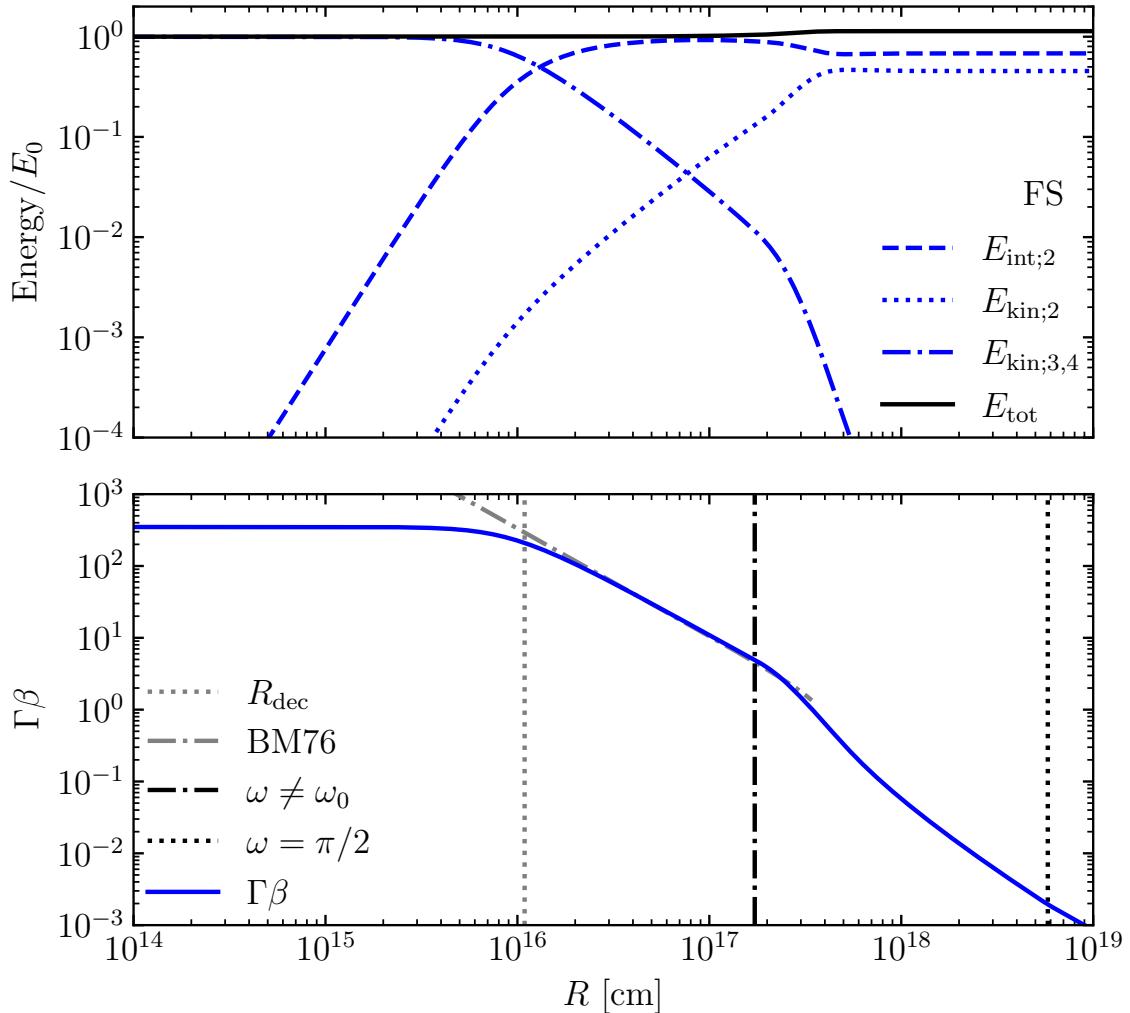
**Sound-speed based formulation** (Huang+00)

$$\frac{d\omega}{dR} = \frac{c_s}{R\Gamma\beta c} \quad c_s^2 = \frac{\hat{\gamma}p'}{\rho'} \left[ \frac{(\hat{\gamma}-1)\rho'}{(\hat{\gamma}-1)\rho' + \hat{\gamma}\rho'} \right] c^2 = \frac{\hat{\gamma}(\hat{\gamma}-1)(\Gamma-1)}{1+\hat{\gamma}(\Gamma-1)} c^2$$

**Structured-jet aware formulation** (Ryan+20)

$$\frac{d\omega}{dt} = v_\perp \frac{c}{R} \times \begin{cases} 1 & \text{core} \\ \tan(\omega_0/2)/\tan(\omega_c/2) & \text{wings} \end{cases} \quad v_\perp = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\beta_{\text{sh}}}{\Gamma} \sqrt{\frac{2(\Gamma\beta)^2 + 3}{4(\Gamma\beta)^2 + 3}}$$

# Building Afterglow Model: FS only example



## Energy:

- kinetic  $\rightarrow$  internal energy
- total energy is conserved

## Dynamics:

- free coasting (constant momentum)
- deceleration (BM solution)
- lateral spreading
- non-relativistic stage (ST solution)