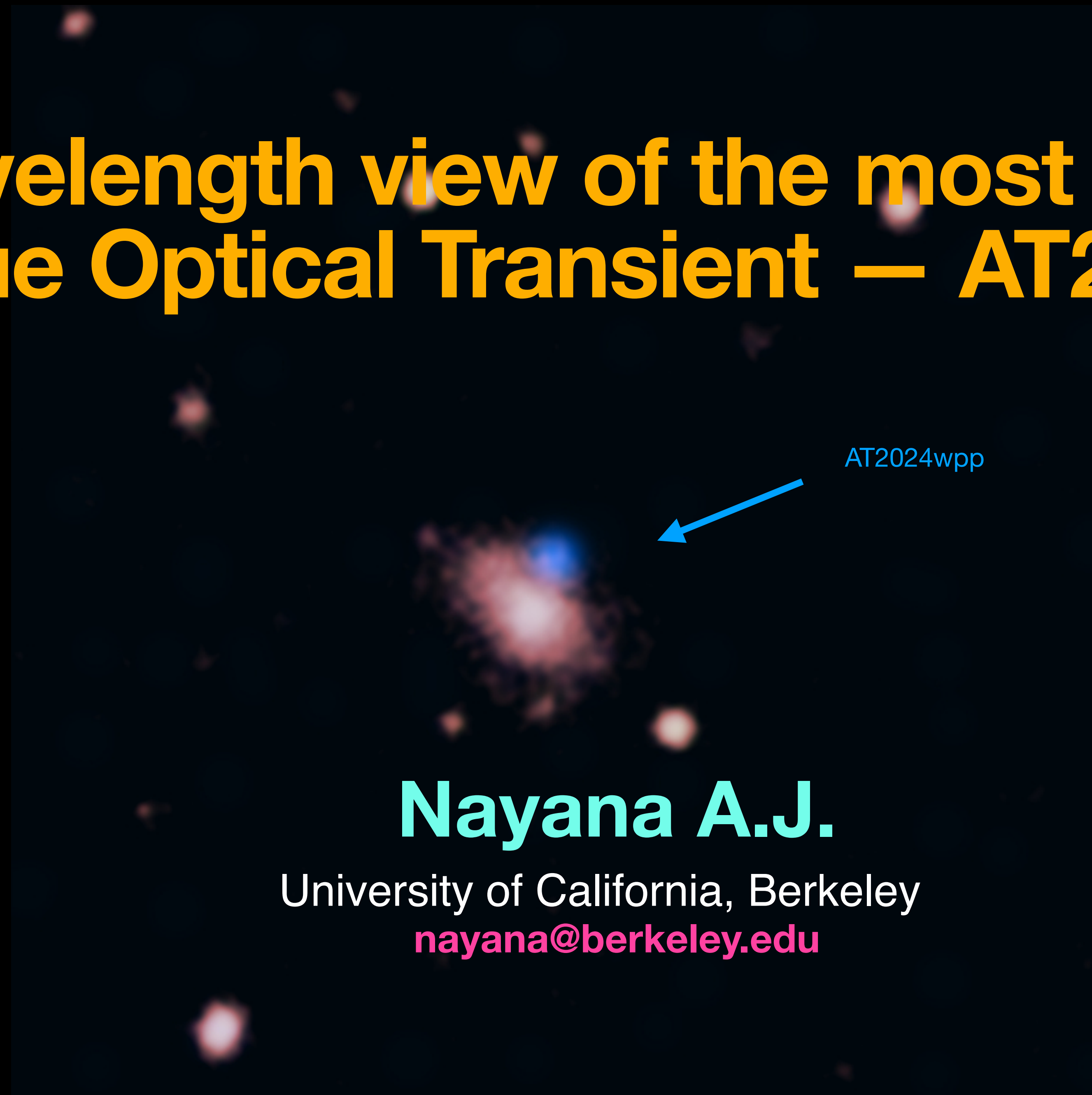


Multiwavelength view of the most luminous Fast Blue Optical Transient — AT2024wpp



Nayana A.J.

University of California, Berkeley
nayana@berkeley.edu

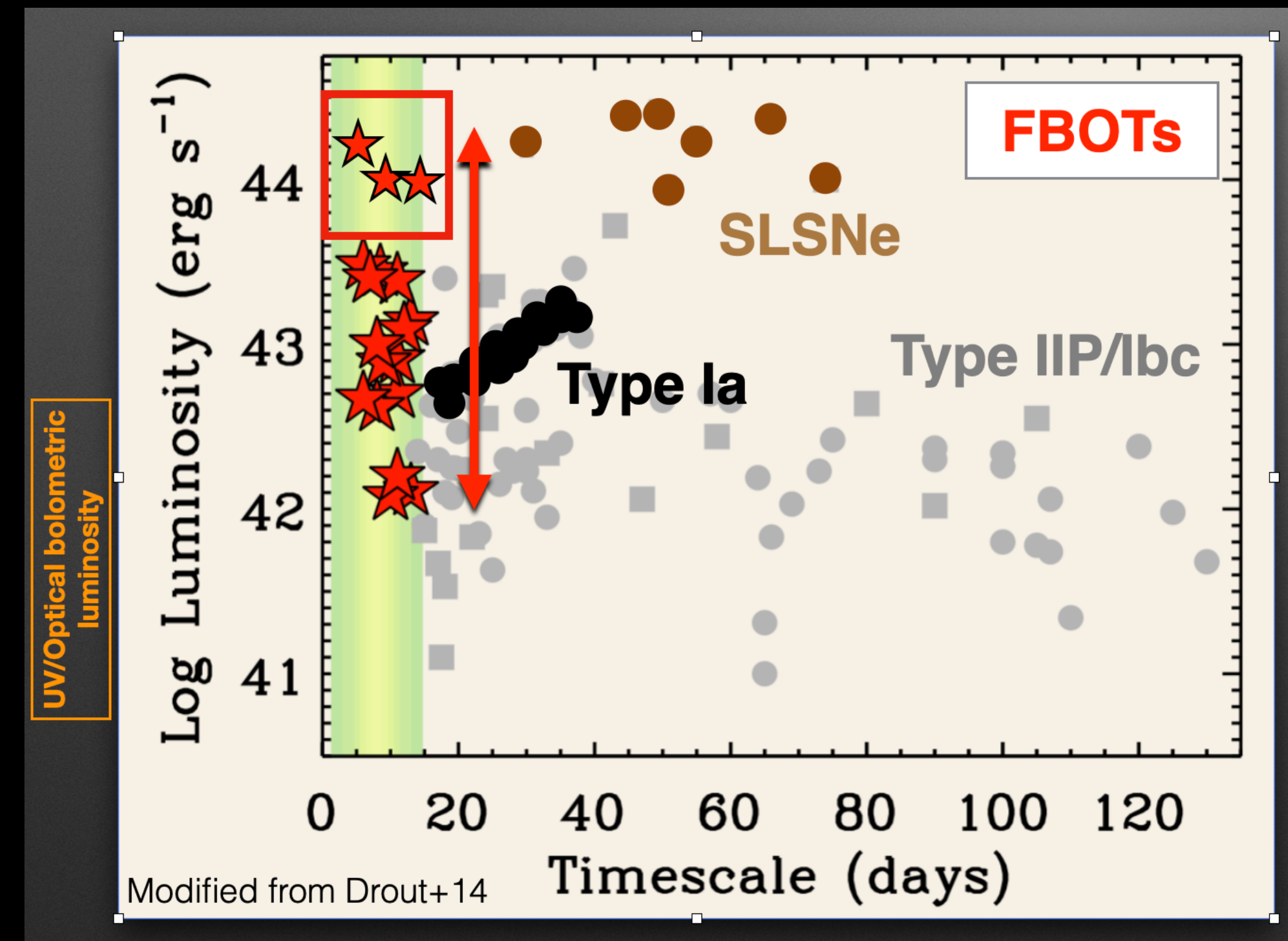
Raffaella Margutti
Ryan Chornock
[Natalie LeBaron](#)
Olivia Aspegren

24 March 2026

RAPID Response: Hot wiring the next generation of time-domain science

Fast Blue Optical Transients (FBOTs)

- Rapid timescales ($t_{\text{rise}} < 10$ days)
- Peak Luminosities $> 10^{44}$ erg/s
- Blue colors
- Featureless spectra
- In tension with traditional SN models



Luminous FBOTs (LFBOTs)

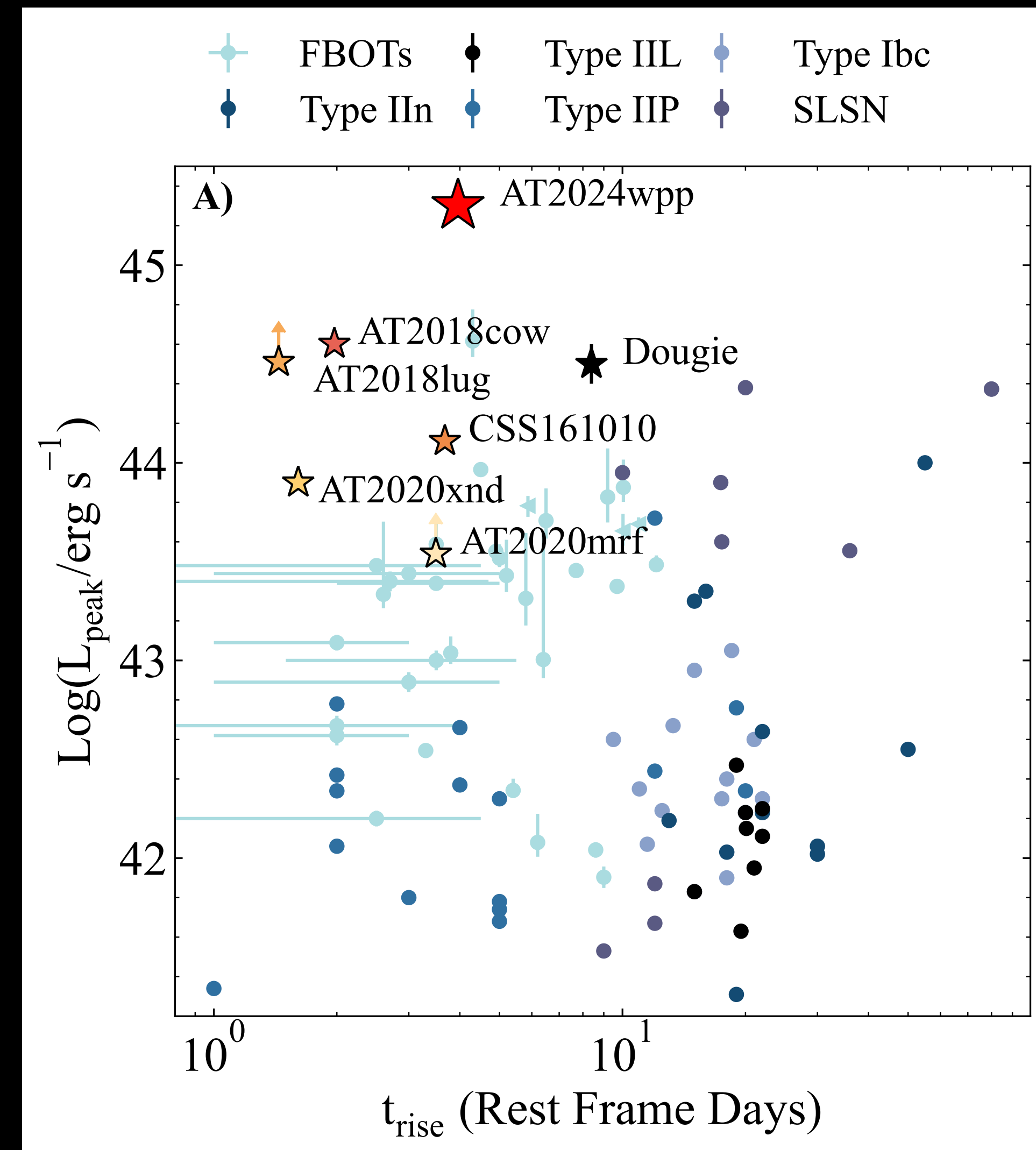
- Rare subclass with extreme luminosities ($L_{\text{pk}} \gtrsim 10^{43}$ erg/s)
- Bright X-ray and Radio Emission
- Intrinsically rare $< 0.1\%$ CCSNe rate
- Prominent examples: **AT2018cow**, **CSS161010**, **AT2022tsd**
- Progenitor models: (i) Engine-driven models
(ii) CSM interaction models

Only 7 LFBOTs with detailed multiwavelength observations

AT2024wpp

- Brightest LFBOT to date
- $L_{\text{pk}} \sim (2 - 4) \times 10^{45} \text{ erg/s}$
- Distance 411 Mpc
- UVOIR observations (first 100 days)
- X-ray and radio observations (first 280 days)

(Perley+ 2026, Omad+ 2026, Liu+ 2026)



(LeBaron+ 2026)

AT2024wpp—UVOIR properties

- UV-optical spectrum is a thermal continuum
- At peak $T > 30,000$ K and maintains a high temperature ($> 20,000$ K)
- $t_{\text{rise}} = 4$ days $M_{\text{ej}} < (1 - 2) M_{\odot}$
- Radiated energy in the first 45 days $> 10^{51}$ erg
- Featureless spectra till ~ 35 days, and then shows faint H and He features
- NIR excess at $t \sim 30$ days
 - (i) Reprocessing by pre-existing dust
 - (ii) Free-free opacity effects ($\rho_0 \sim 7 \times 10^{-16} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ at $R_0 \sim 10^{16} \text{ cm}$)

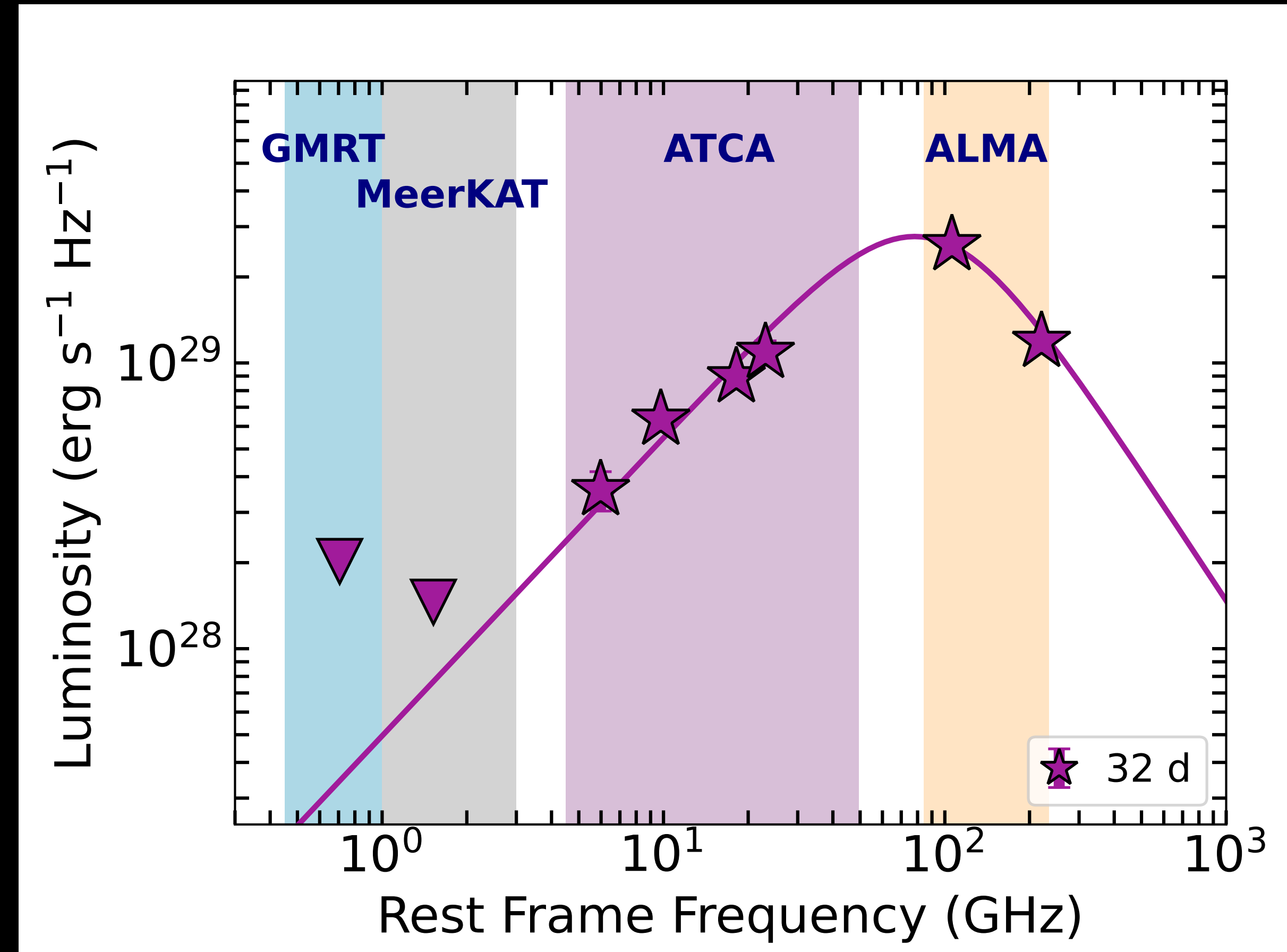
X-ray observations

- Swift XRT (0.3–10 keV) $\delta t \approx 2 - 119$ days $\rightarrow$ light curve
- Chandra (0.3–10 keV) $\delta t \approx 18 - 75$ days (4 epochs)
- XMM-Newton (0.2–12 keV) $\delta t \approx 18 - 75$ days (3 epochs)
- NuSTAR (3–79 keV) $\delta t \approx 6 - 75$ days (5 epochs)

X-ray observations covering 0.3–79 keV at multiple epochs ($t \sim 2-119$ days)

Radio observations

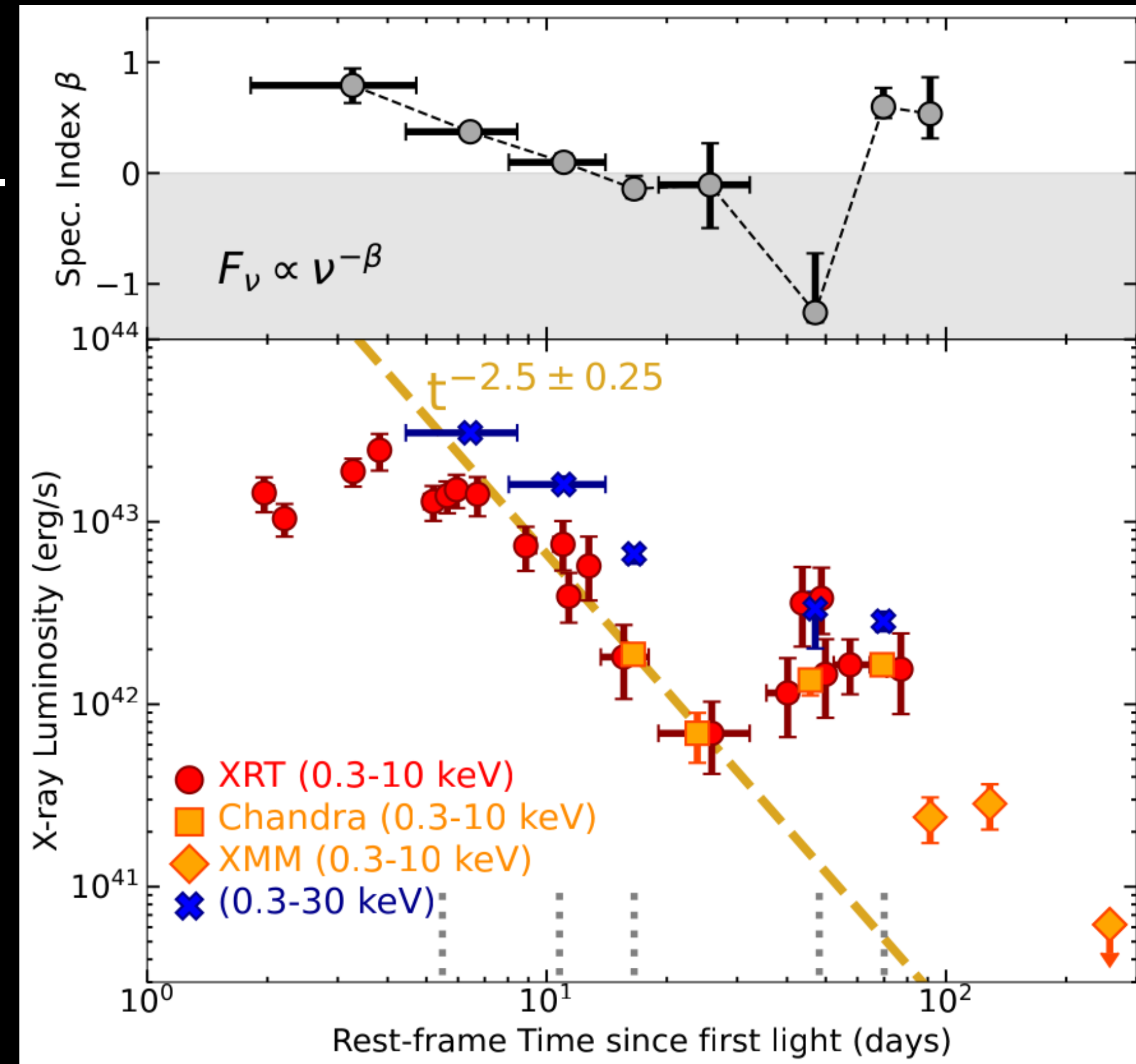
- GMRT (0.25–1.4 GHz)
- MeerKAT (1–1.5 GHz)
- ATCA (5–33 GHz)
- ALMA (100–200 GHz)



Radio spectra covering 0.25–200 GHz at multiple epochs (19–175 days)

X-ray spectral and temporal evolution

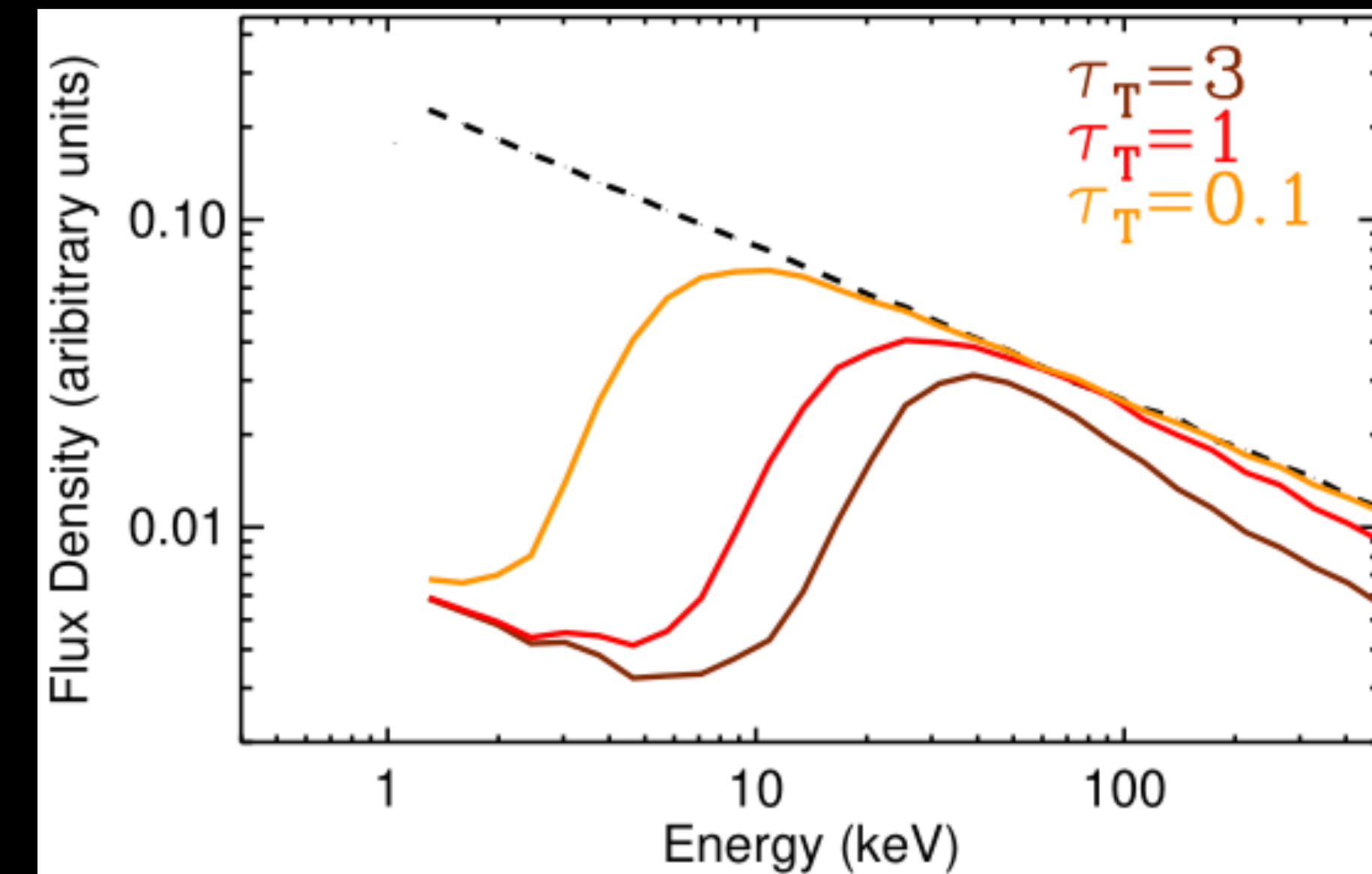
- Luminous, roughly constant emission in the first 7 days.
- Phase of rapid ($t^{-2.5}$) decline until 30 days.
- A major rebrightening from 35 days, peaking at ~50 days.
- Initially, a soft spectrum ($F_\nu \propto \nu^{-0.80}$) that gradually hardens with time.
- Extreme spectral hardening ($F_\nu \propto \nu^{1.25}$) at 50 days.



Physical Implication

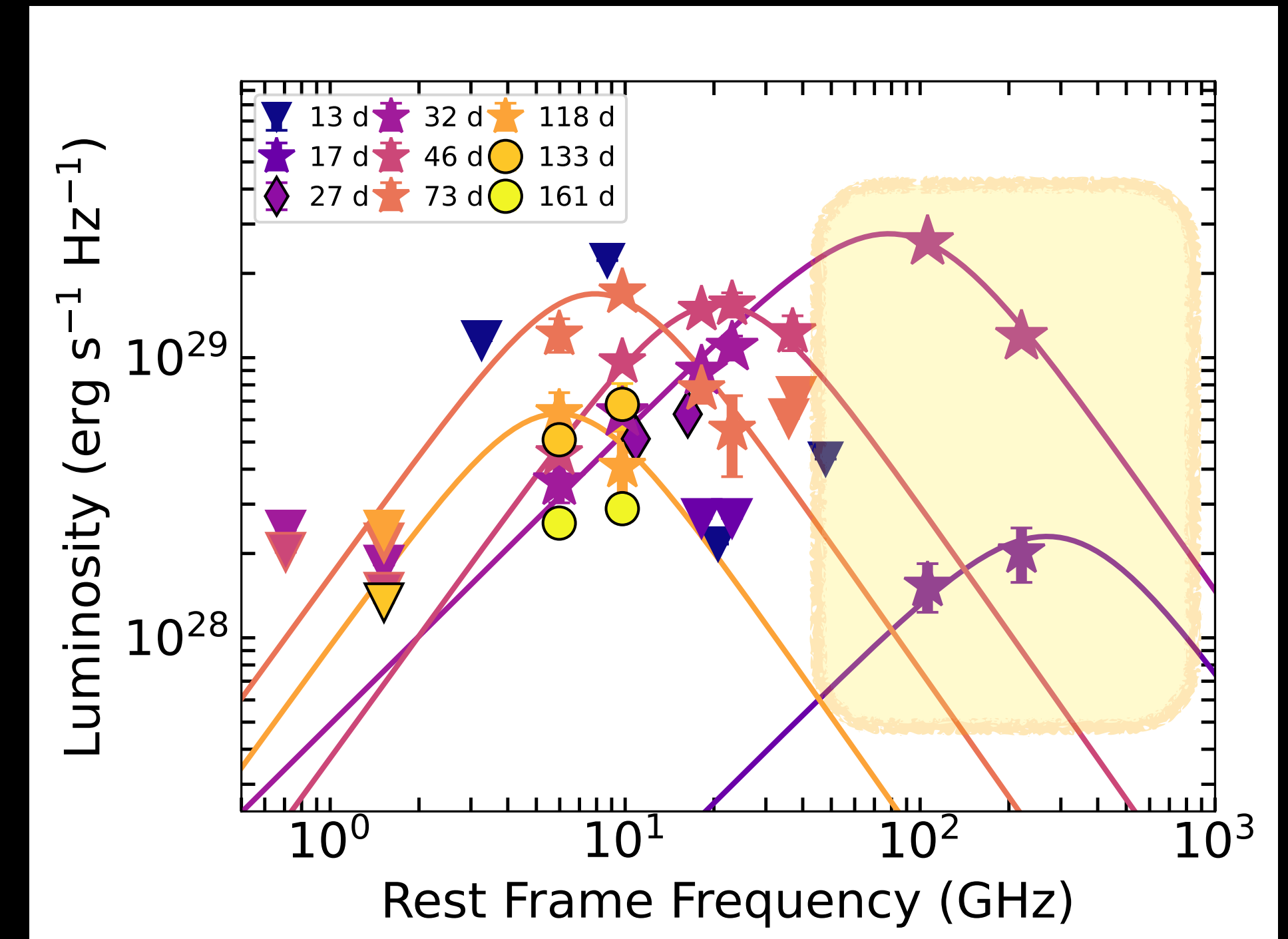
(A transient Compton hump)

- Transmission of radiation from a high-energy source through ejecta with variable optical depth to photoelectric absorption and Compton scattering.
- Hard spectrum — incompatible with fast cooling of non-thermal electrons



Radio spectral evolution

- Extremely rapid rise of the mm emission
- Spectral inversion at $t > 118$ days
- Rapidly growing $R_{\text{sh}} \propto t^{3.12 \pm 0.12}$
- $\Gamma\beta c \approx 0.07 - 0.4$ c at $t \sim 32 - 73$ days
- Shock energies $\sim (0.7 - 33) \times 10^{48}$ ergs



Possible Scenarios

Order of magnitude rise in
mm component in 2 weeks

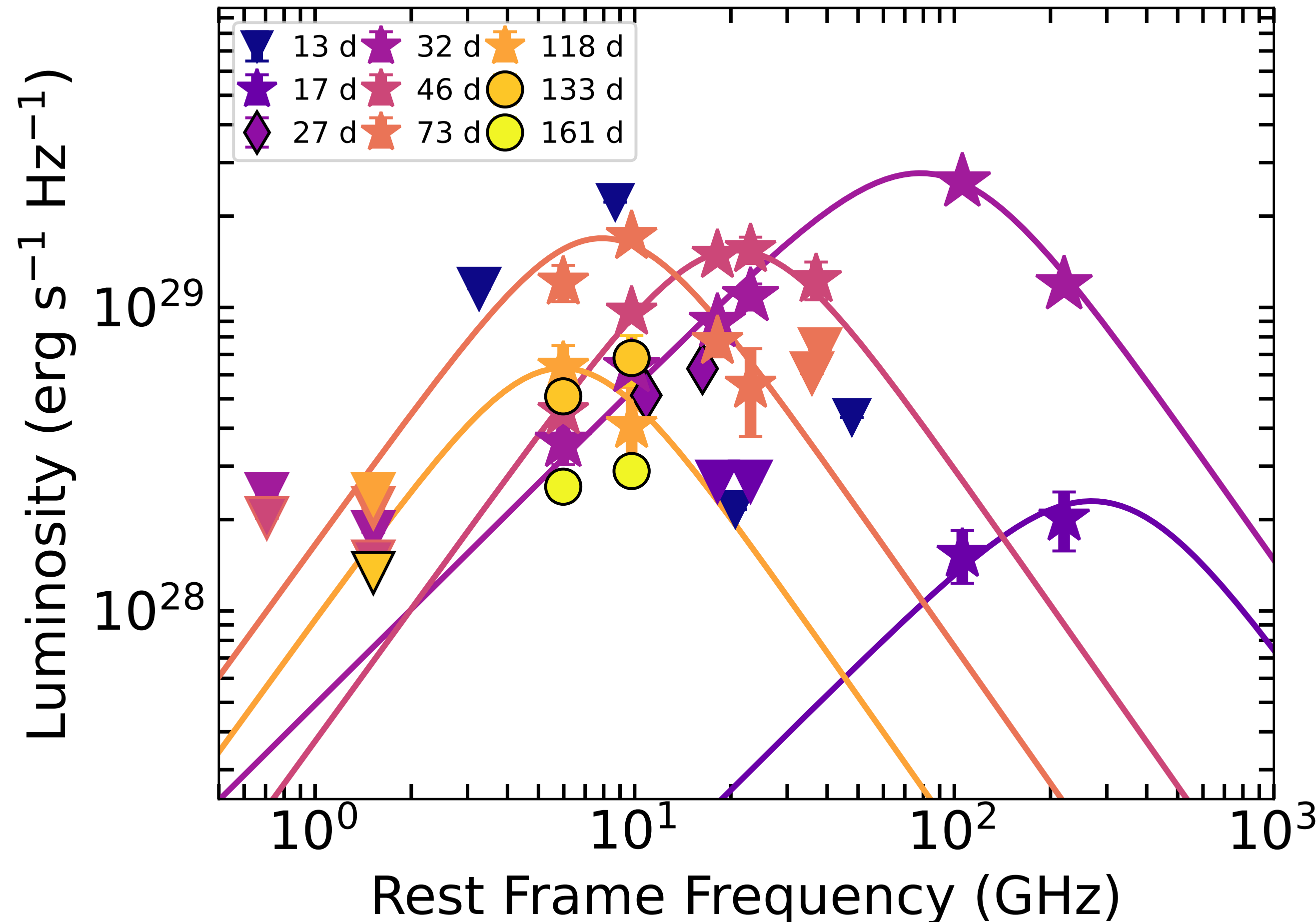
Apparent

Off-axis models

Real

Cooling effects

Shock propagating
in dense medium



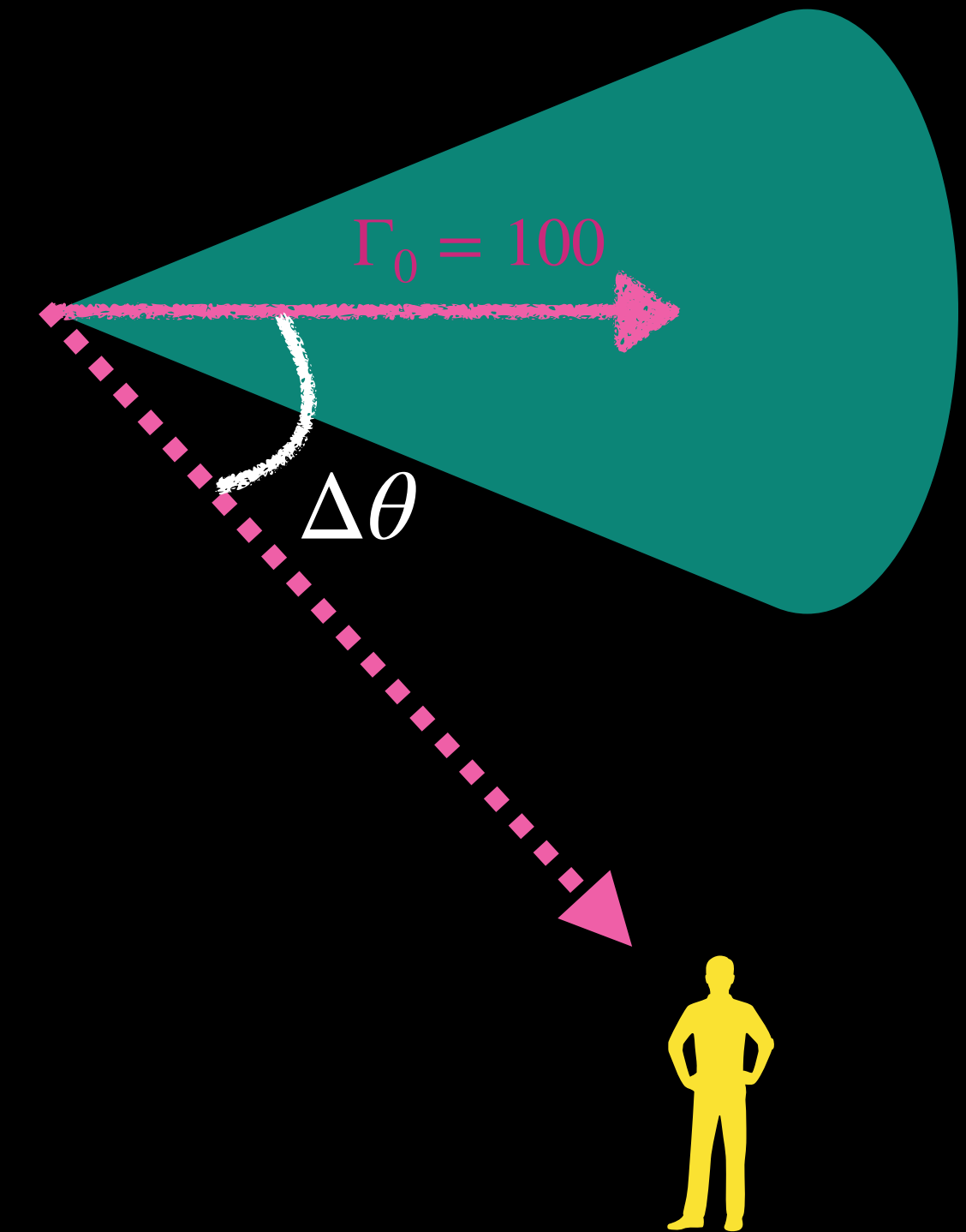
Shock deceleration time scale

$$R_{\text{dec}} = \left[\frac{3E_{\text{K,iso}}}{4\pi n m_p c^2 \beta_0^2 \Gamma_0^2} \right]^{1/3}$$

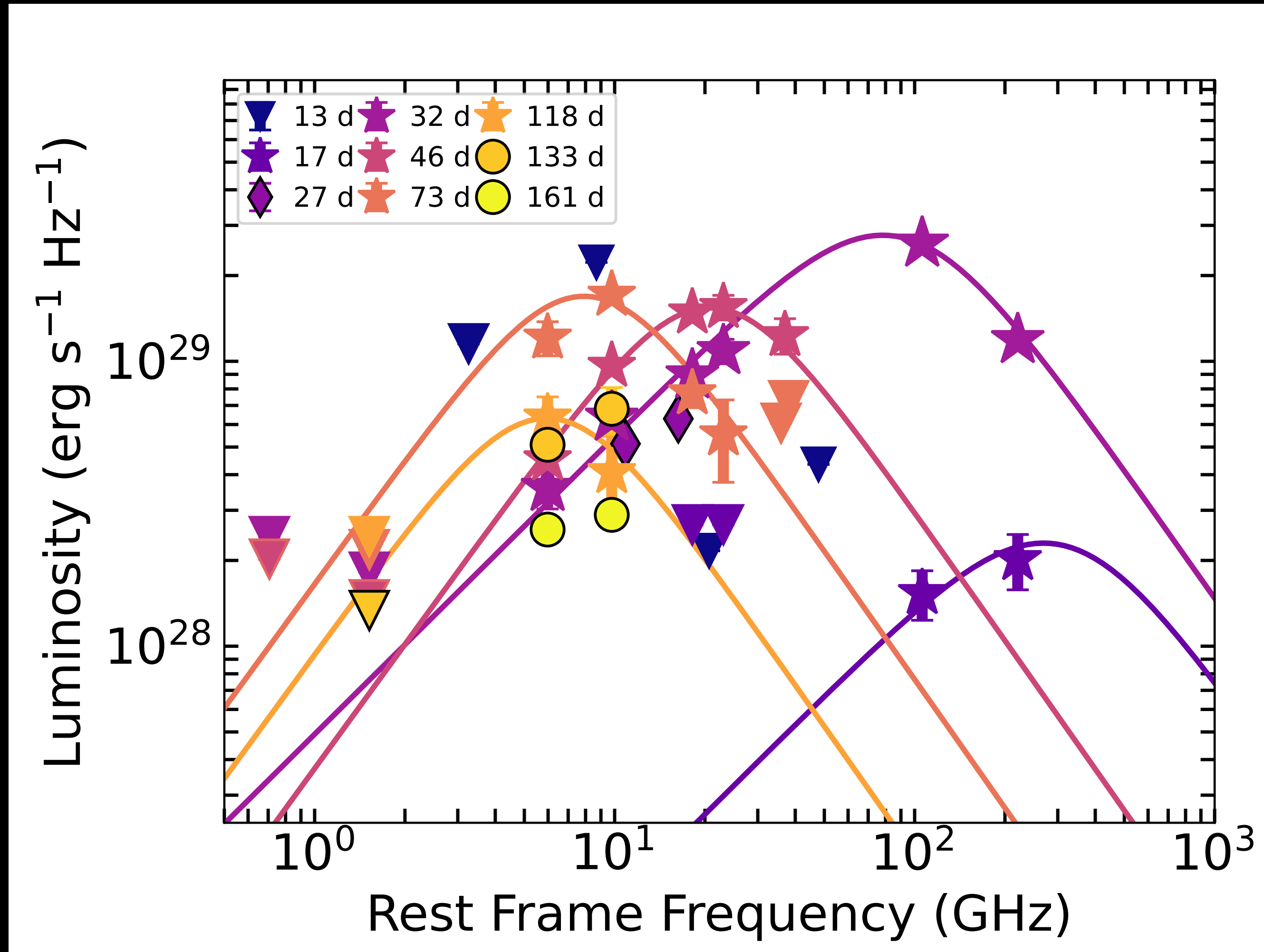
$$t_{\text{dec}} = \frac{R_{\text{dec}}}{2c\beta_0^2 \Gamma_0^2}$$

$$t_{\text{pk}} = t_{\text{dec}} (\Gamma_0 \Delta\theta)^2 < 1 \text{ day}$$

$$t_{\text{pk}} \approx 30 \text{ days}$$



Possible Scenarios



Apparent

~~Off-axis models~~

Real

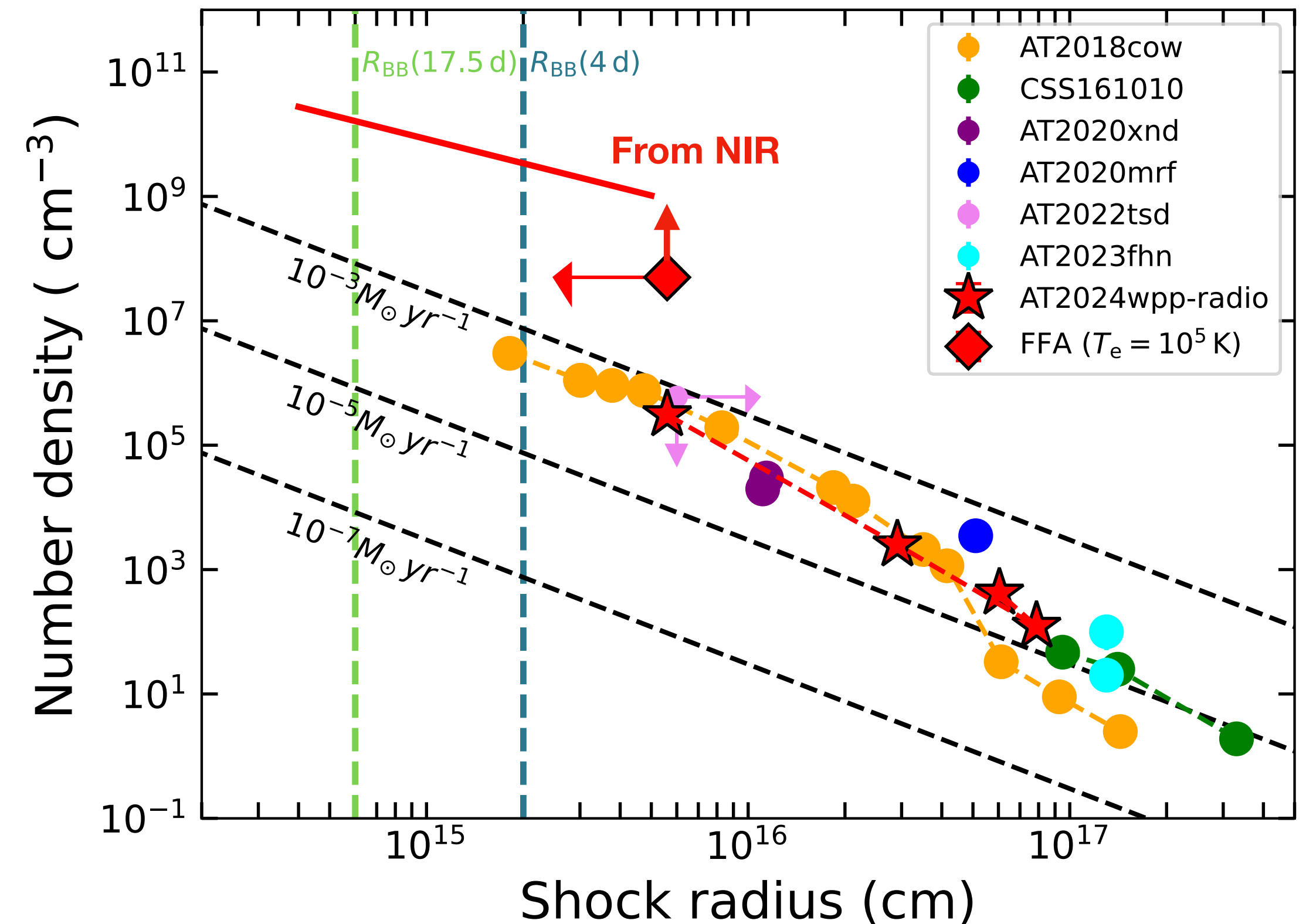
~~Cooling effects~~

Shock propagating
in dense medium

$$\Delta F = e^{-\tau_{\text{FFA}}} \longrightarrow \tau_{\text{FFA}} \propto \int_{R1}^{R2} n^2 dr$$

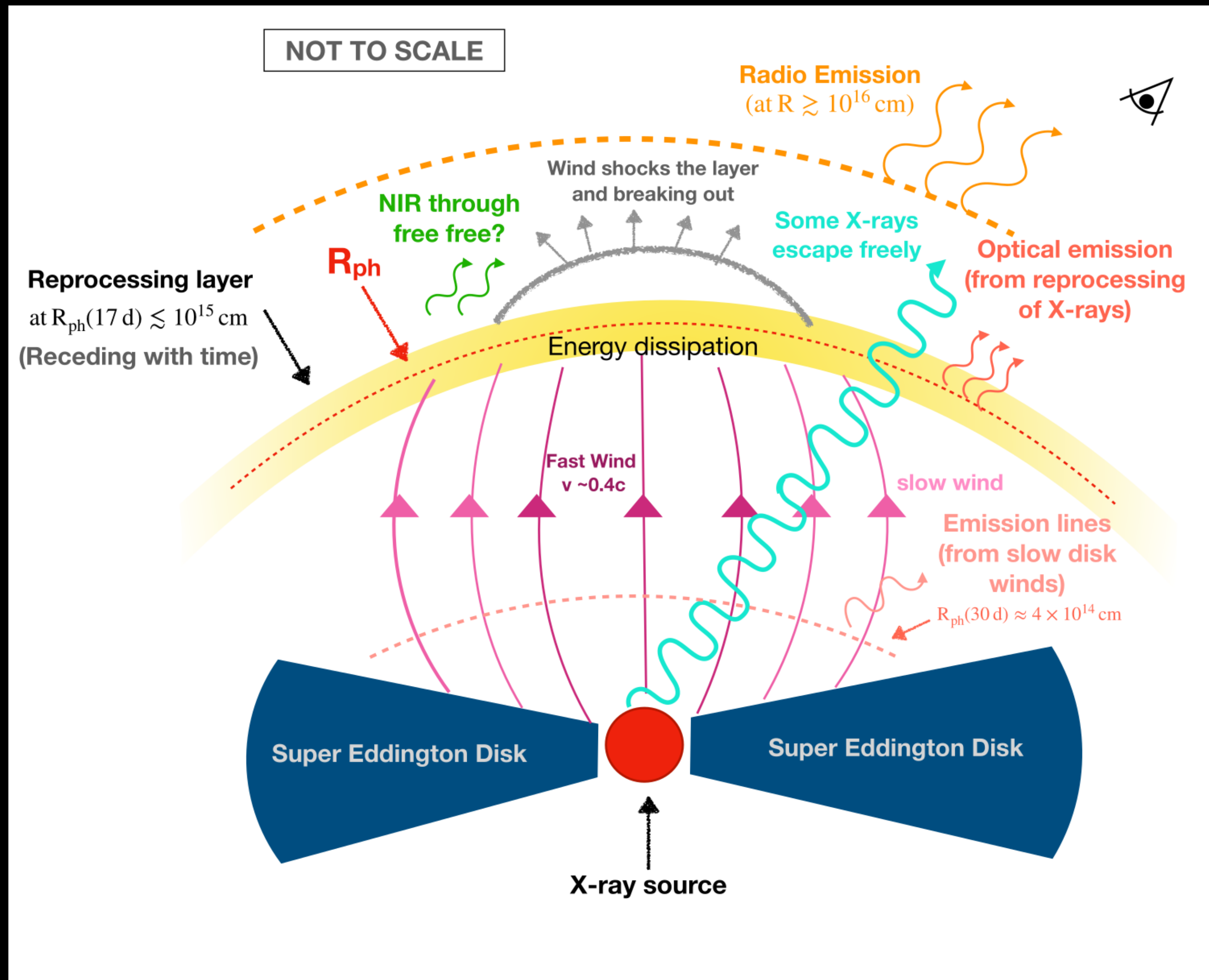
Density profile

- Strikingly similar density profiles
 $\rho_{\text{CSM}} \propto r^{-3}$
- Similar evolutionary phases that set up these environments?
- Relatively flat density profile at $R < 10^{16}$ cm
- Complementary results from NIR



Nayana+ 2025

Comprehensive Physical Picture



Motivated by
Metzger+ 2022
and Tsuna+ 2025

Nayana+ 2025
LeBaron+ 2026

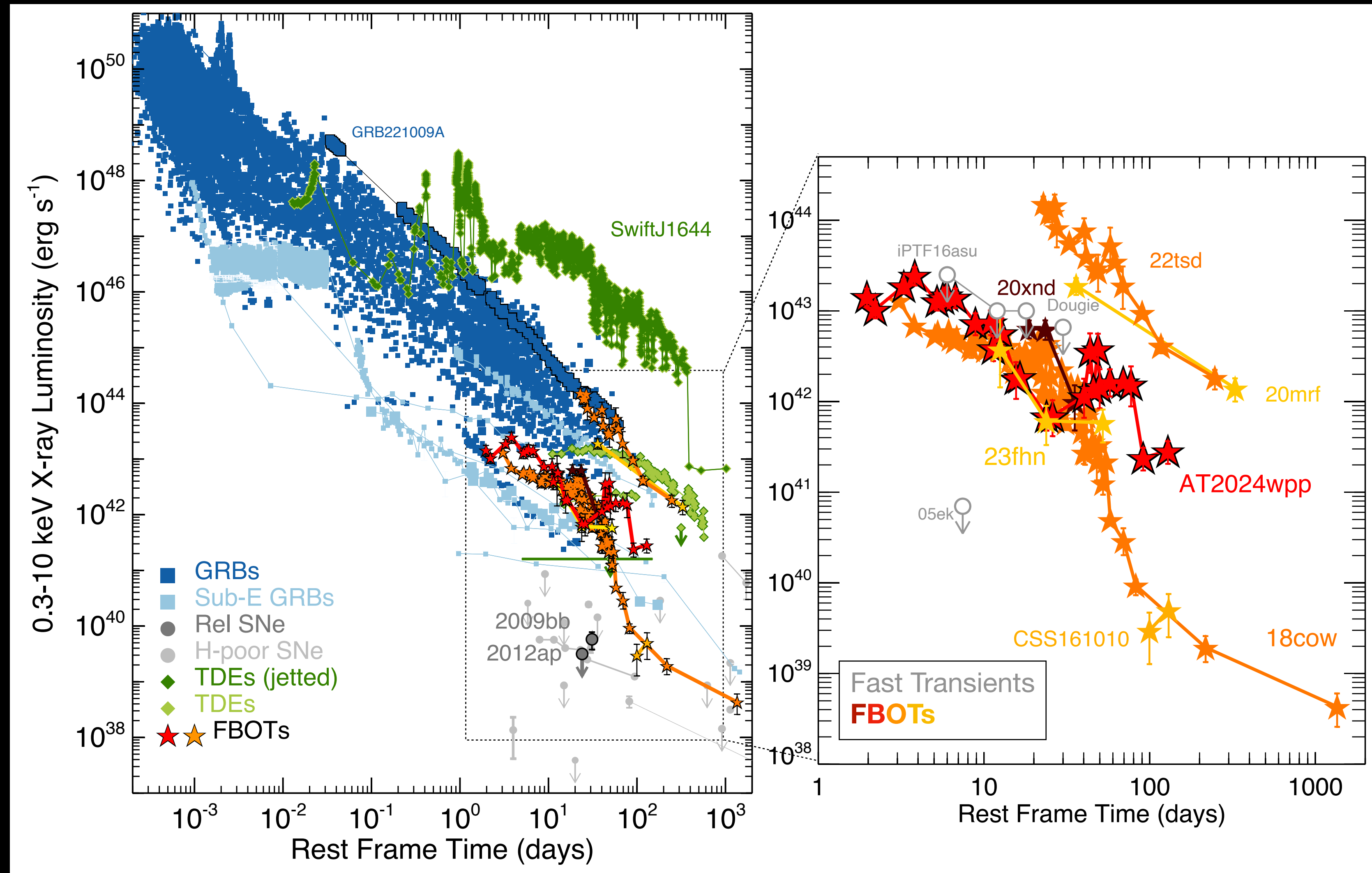
Discussion points

- Coordinated multi-wavelength observations are essential to understand explosion mechanisms and environments
- Prioritization of targets — multiwavelength resources are limited
- Fast response (preferably automated trigger responses) to facilitate early multi-wavelength follow-up
- Facility-level coordination is crucial:
 - Soft+hard X-ray observations
 - Sub-GHz to mm band radio monitoring
- Early-time mm-band observations remain largely unexplored — critical for constraining immediate environments

Thank you!

Backup slides

AT2024wpp and other LFBOTs in X-ray bands



AT2024wpp and other LFBOTs in radio bands

