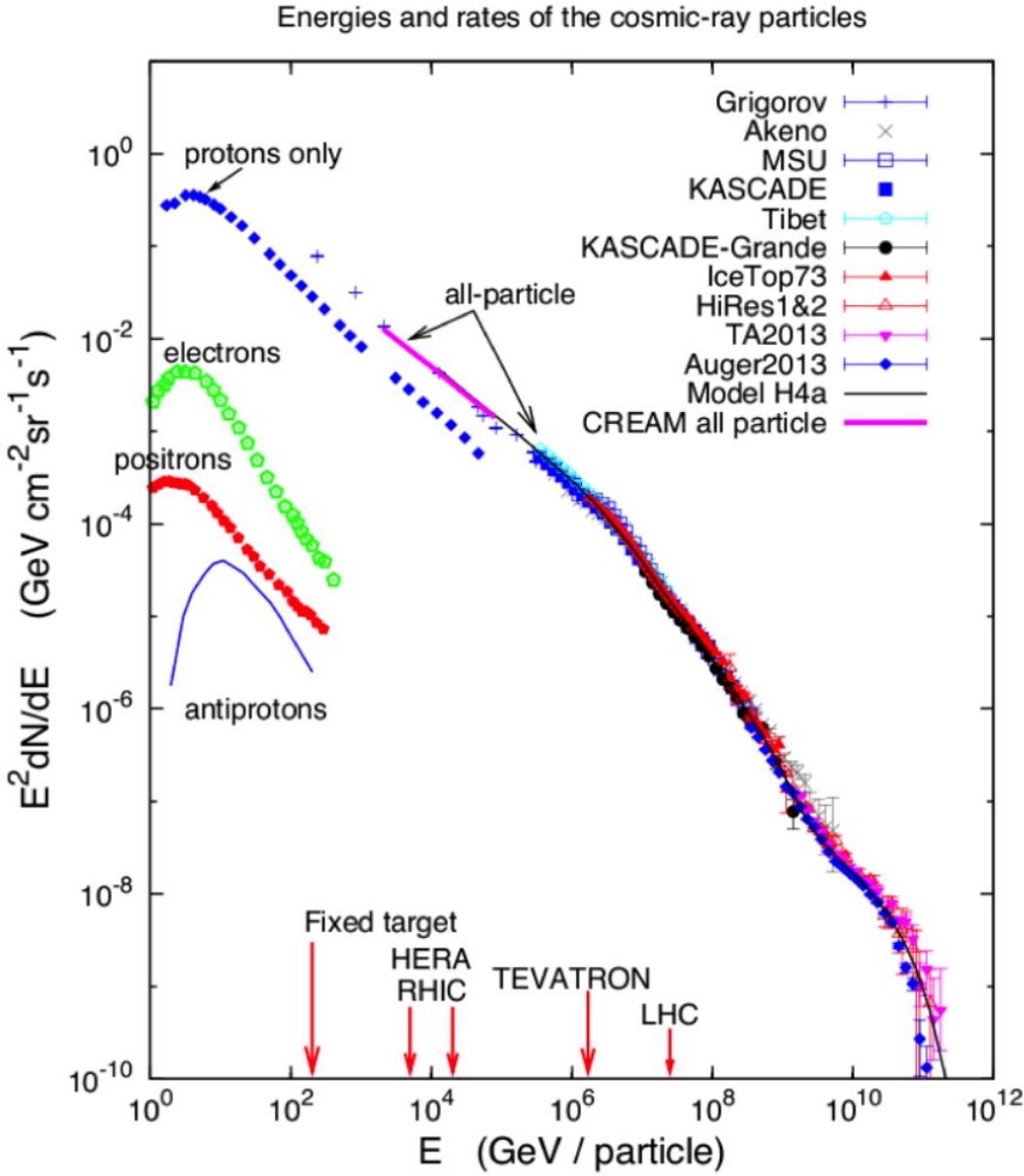


# High Energy Neutrino Astrophysics– A. A. 2020-21

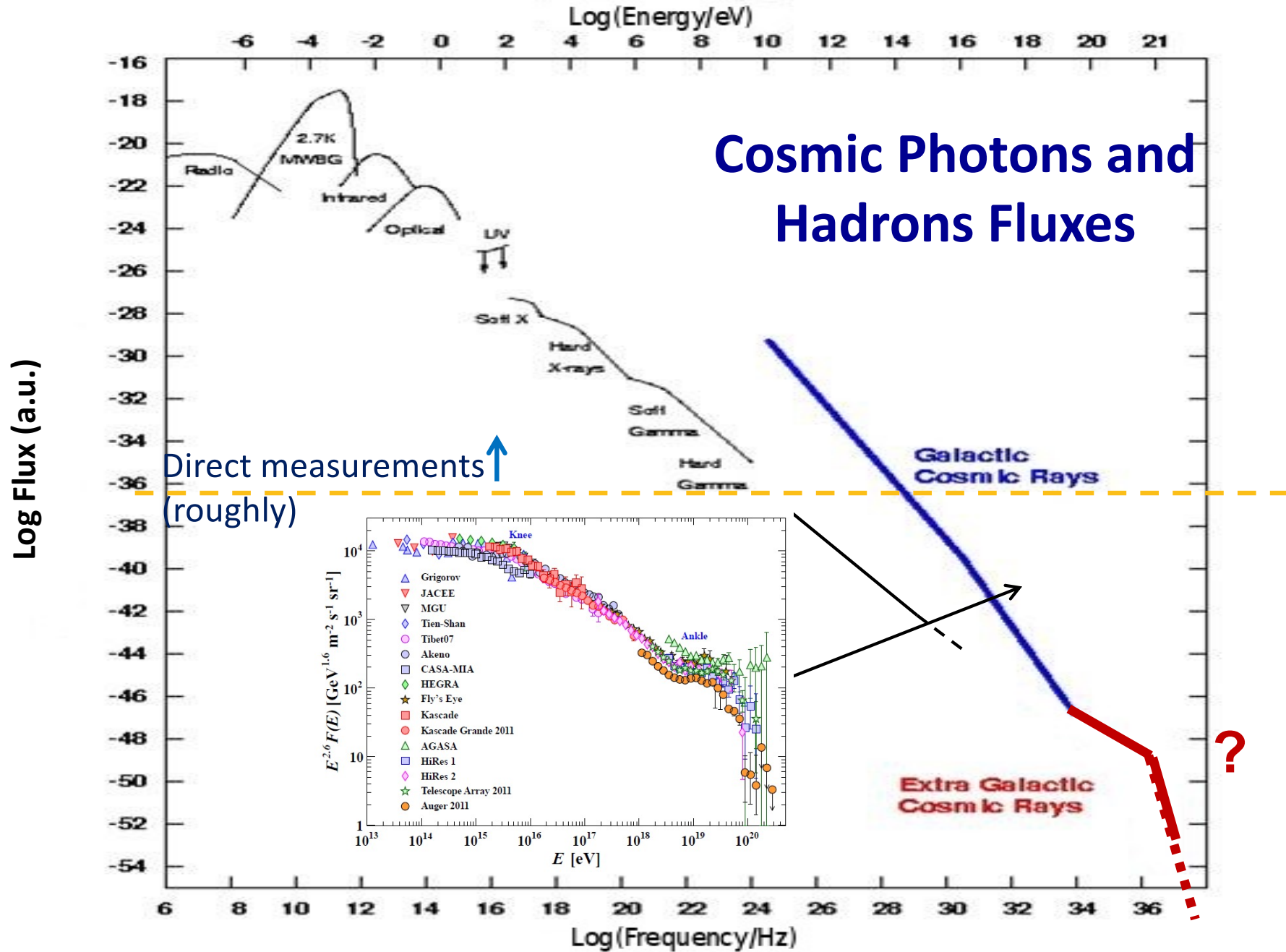
## Lessons 5 and 6

- Measurement of the C.R. electromagnetic component: primary photons and electrons: how to detect photons and electrons ?
- Detection of primary cosmic rays with  $E < \text{few } 100 \text{ GeV}$ .
- "FERMI": the detector and the obtained results.
- The Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS) detector on the International Space Station: experimental capabilities, resolutions, results obtained for: fraction  $e^+/(e^+ + e^-)$  and antiproton/proton ratio.
- Indirect detection of photons with  $50 \text{ GeV} < E_g < 100 \text{ TeV}$ .
- Characteristics of Extensive Atmospheric Showers (EAS), measurable quantities (energy, nature and direction of the primary,  $X_{\text{max}}$ , etc.) with detectors "at ground".
- Detection of EAS: detection of the Cherenkov and "fluorescence" radiations.
- Cherenkov Telescopes, basic working principle and characteristics: "effective area", angular and energy resolutions, threshold in energy, sensitivity.
- "Cherenkov Imaging" telescopes: the mono and stereo images of the EAS.
- Detection of VHE g induced events: the background due to charged C.R. events, the signal-background separation.
- HEGRA, MAGIC, HESS, Veritas: detectors and main results

# Let's recall ...



# Photons are also present in C.R.



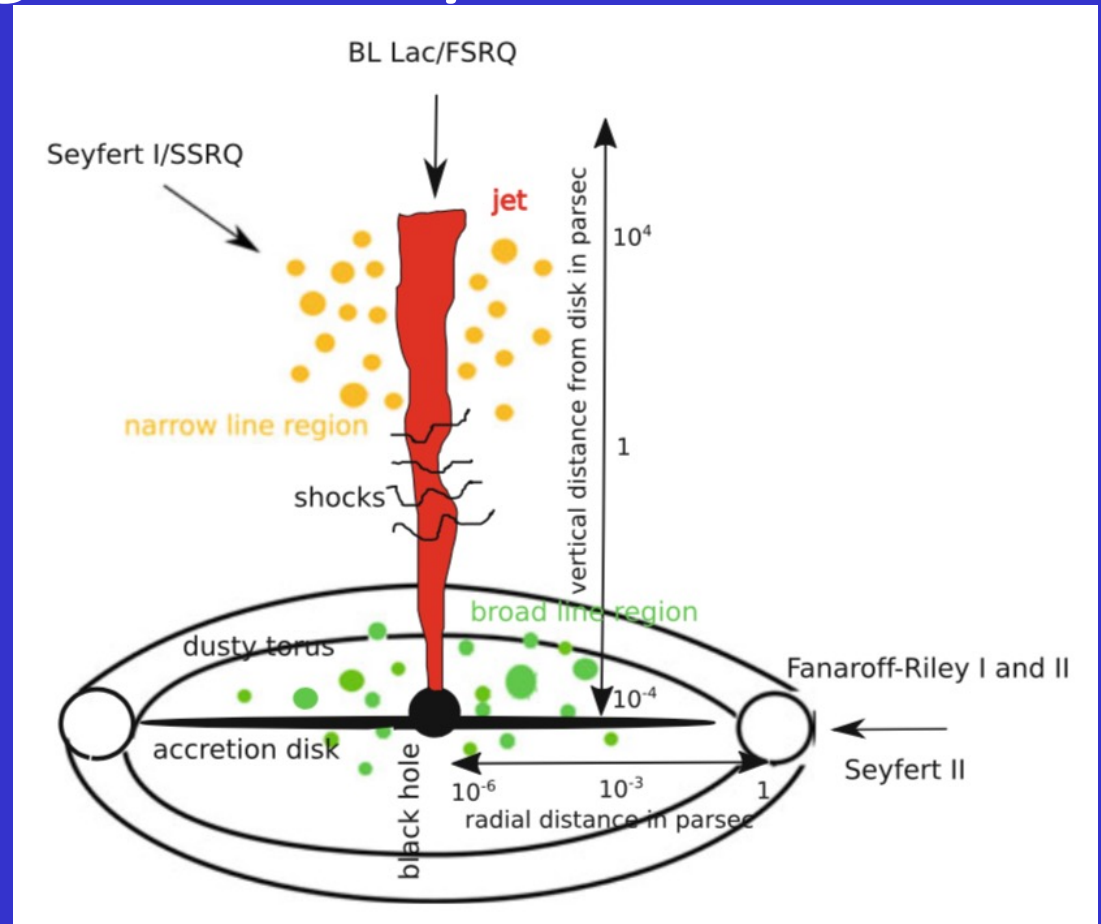
# INTERNATIONAL Gamma-Ray Astrophysics Laboratory



# Astrophysical gamma rays sources

The extragalactic high energy sources most relevant for us are active galactic nuclei (AGNs) and Gamma Ray Bursts (GRBs). All AGNs are believed to be powered by a supermassive black hole at the center of a galaxy. The supermassive black hole will accrete gas in a disk-like configuration.

Sketch of the typical geometry of an AGN on a logarithmic length scale. Depending on the viewing direction, the AGN appears as a BL Lac object or flat spectrum radio quasar (FSRQ), a Seyfert-I galaxy or steep spectrum radio quasar (SSRQ), or as an high luminosity Fanaroff-Riley-II (FR-II) galaxy, a low luminosity Fanaroff-Riley-I (FR-I) galaxy or a Seyfert-II galaxy, respectively, as indicated.



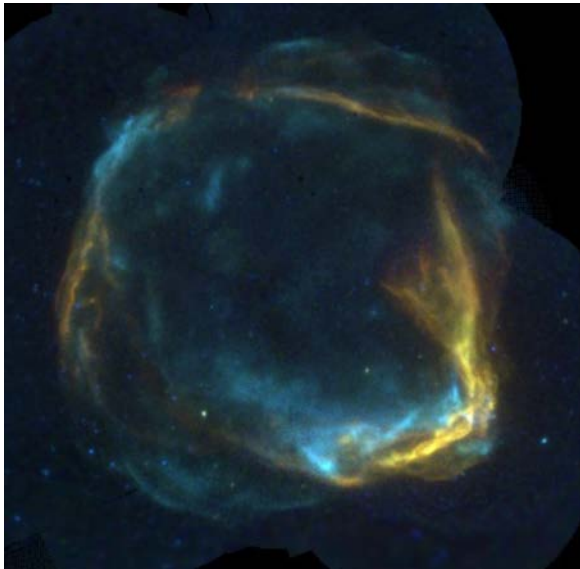
**Perpendicular to the accretion disk two jets are emitted that consist of relativistic matter and magnetic fields and whose formation is probably related to MHD effects. Immersed in these jets are shocks that form knots and hot spots in which particles can be accelerated to very high energies. Particle acceleration can also occur in the immediate environment of the supermassive black hole but due to the intense radiation fields there the maximal energies achieved are expected to be lower.**

# Cosmic Accelerators: Supernova Remnants



Credit: NASA

# Cosmic Accelerators: Supernova Remnants



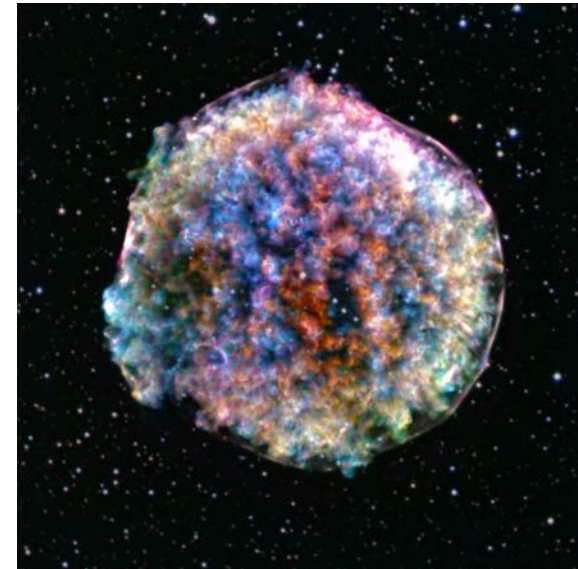
**RCW 86 – X rays signals**

Associated to 185 AD explosion, distance 7500 l.y.; diameter 90 l.y.



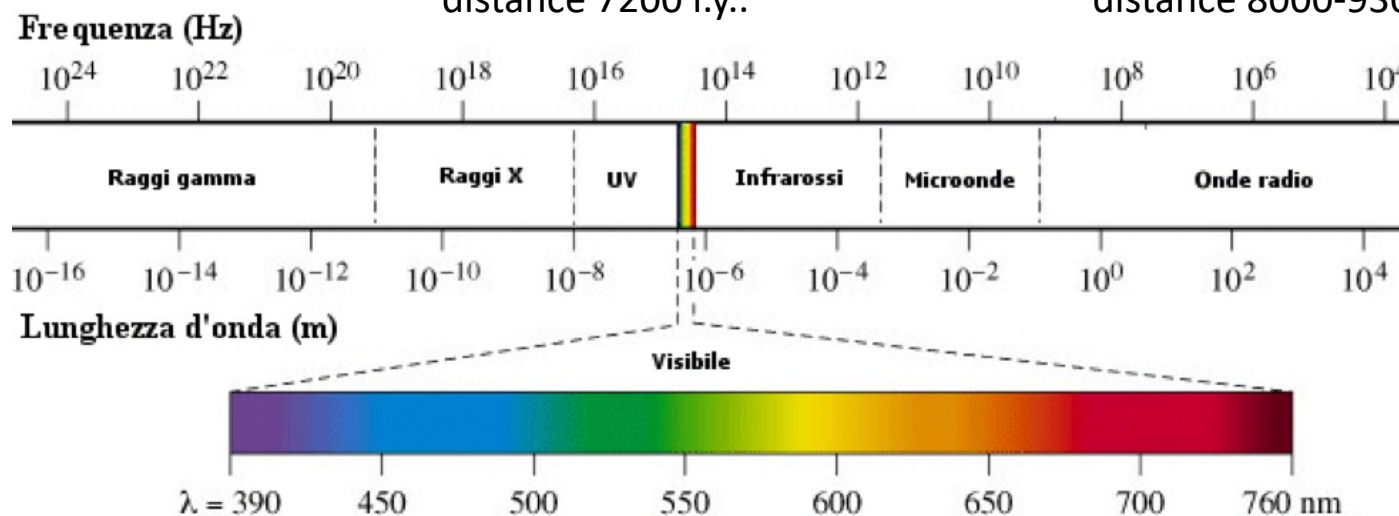
**SN 1006 – X rays (blu), radio (red), visible (yellow)**

Associated to 1006 AD explosion, distance 7200 l.y..

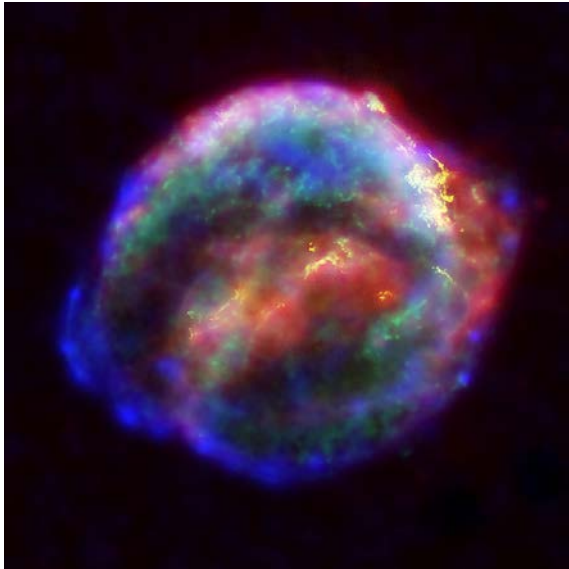


**Tycho 86 – X rays (blu) radio (red), visible (yellow)**

Associated to 1572 AD explosion, distance 8000-9300 l.y.



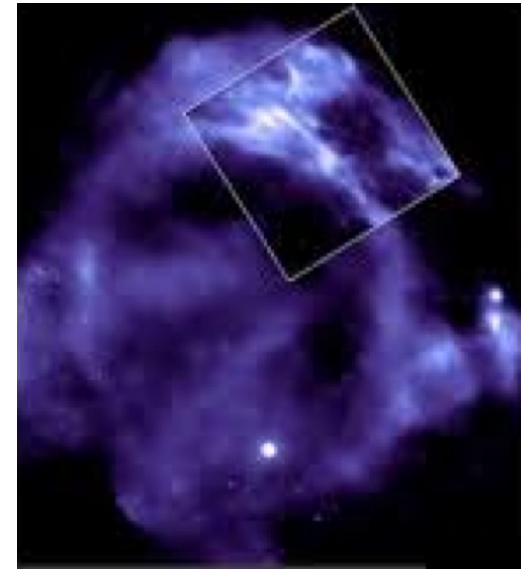
# Cosmic Accelerators: Supernova Remnants



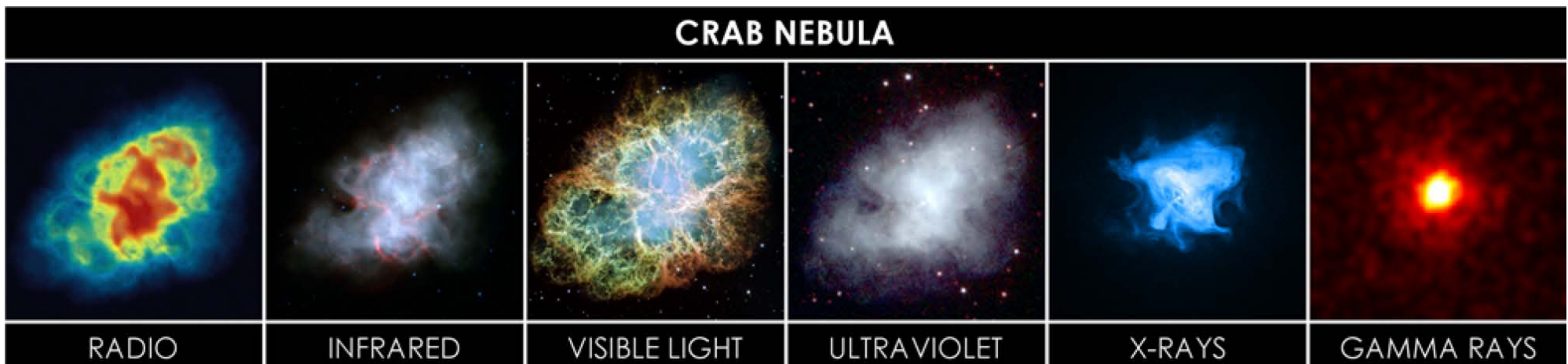
**Kepler – X rays (blu), infra-red (red), visible (yellow)**  
Associated to 1604 AD explosion, distance 20000 l.y.



**CasA 1006 – X rays (blu), radio (red), visible (yellow)**  
Probably associated to 344 AD explosion, distance 11000 l.y..

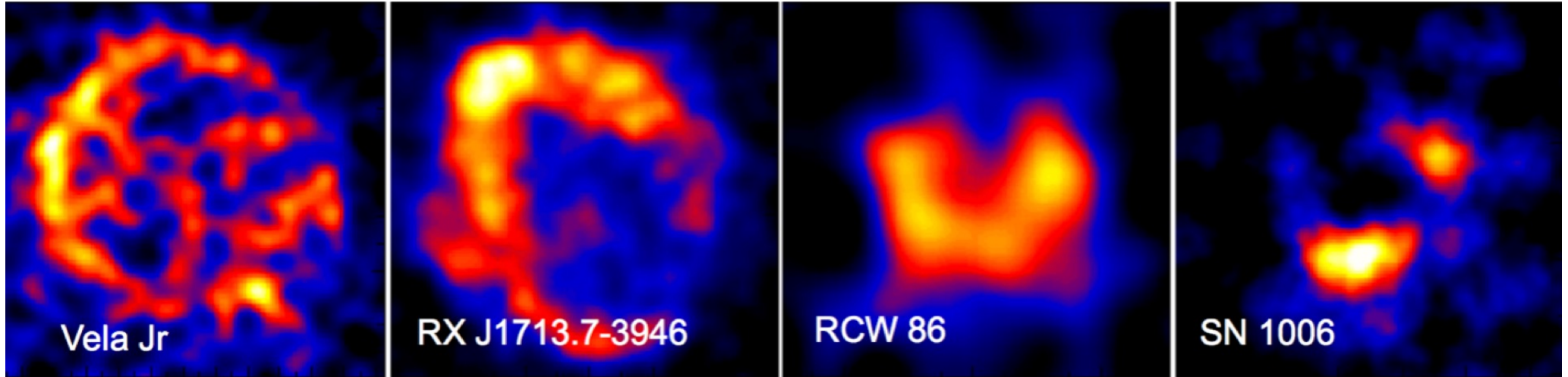


**RXJ1713.7-3946 – X rays**  
probably ssoociated to 393 AD explosion, distance 4200 l.y.

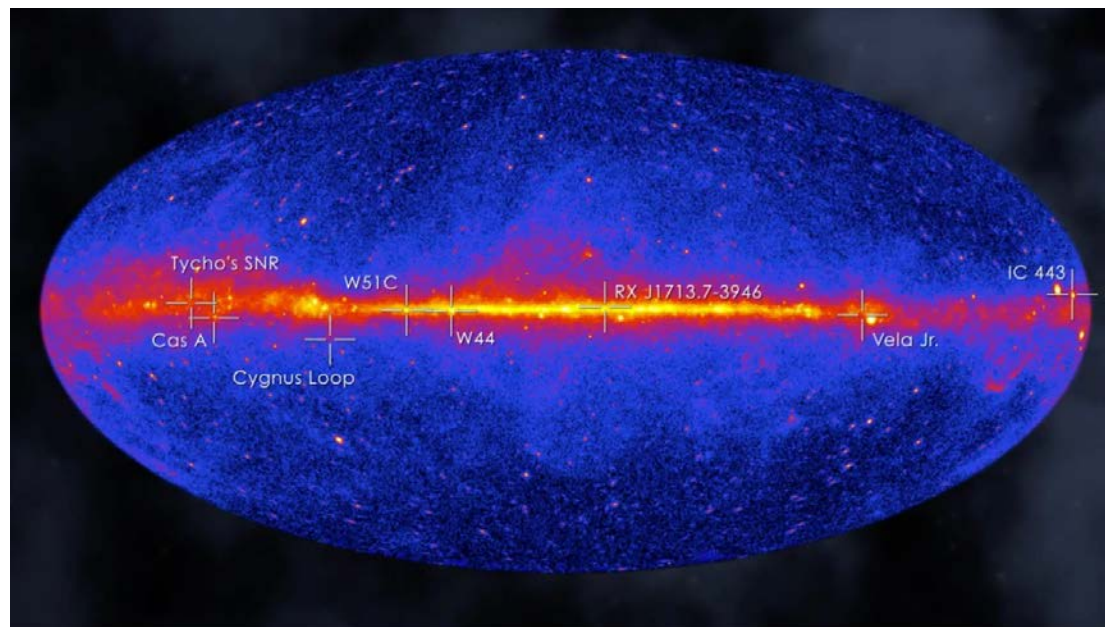




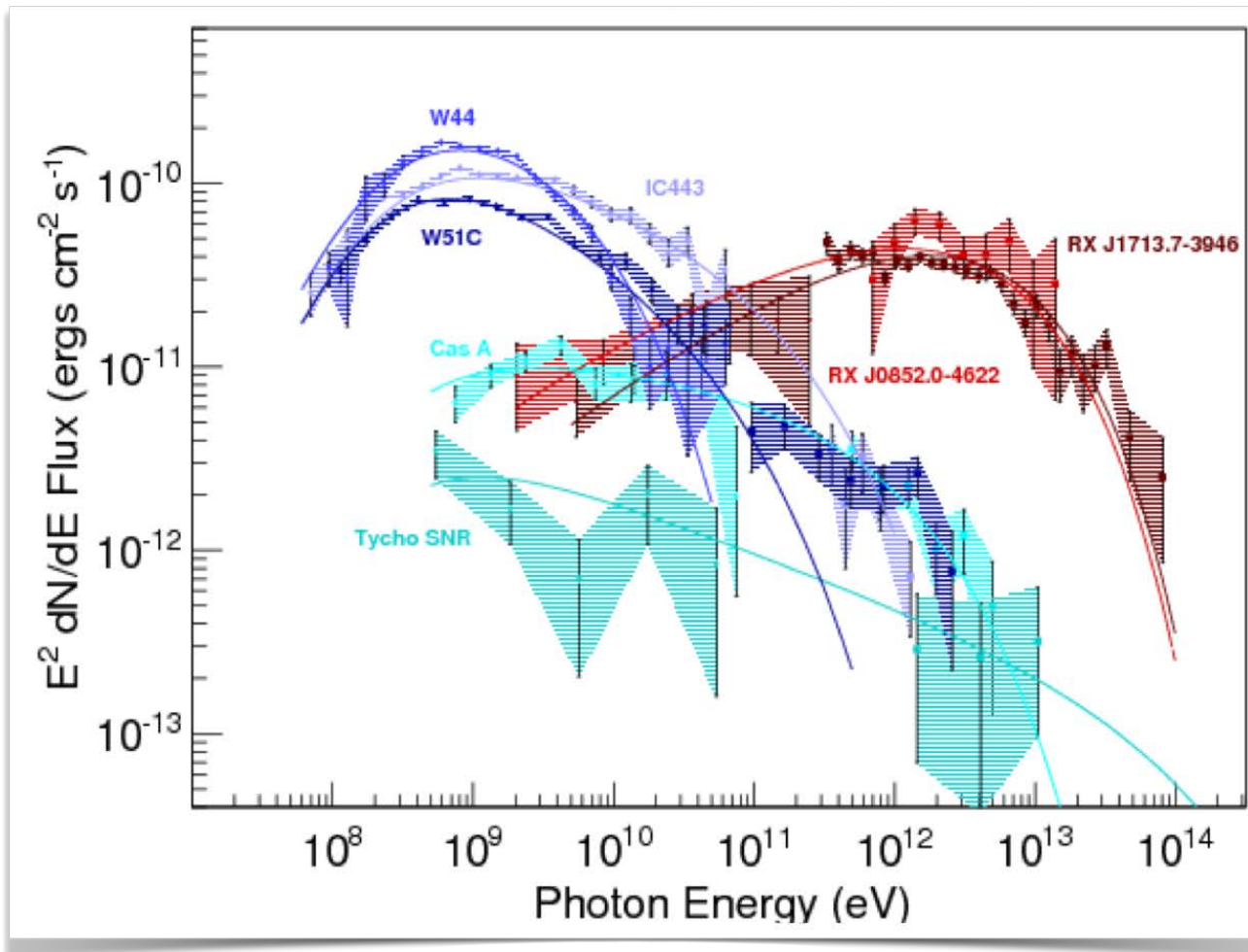
# Cosmic Accelerators: Supernova Remnants



**Several S.N.R. observed with gamma rays !!!**



# Gamma rays from SNRs



## Temporal evolution of sources

### Middle-aged SNRs (20000 yrs)

- hadronic emission
- steep spectra
- $E_{\text{max}} < 1 \text{ TeV}$

### Young SNRs (2000 yrs)

- hadronic/leptonic ?
- hard spectra
- $E_{\text{max}} = 10 - 100 \text{ TeV}$

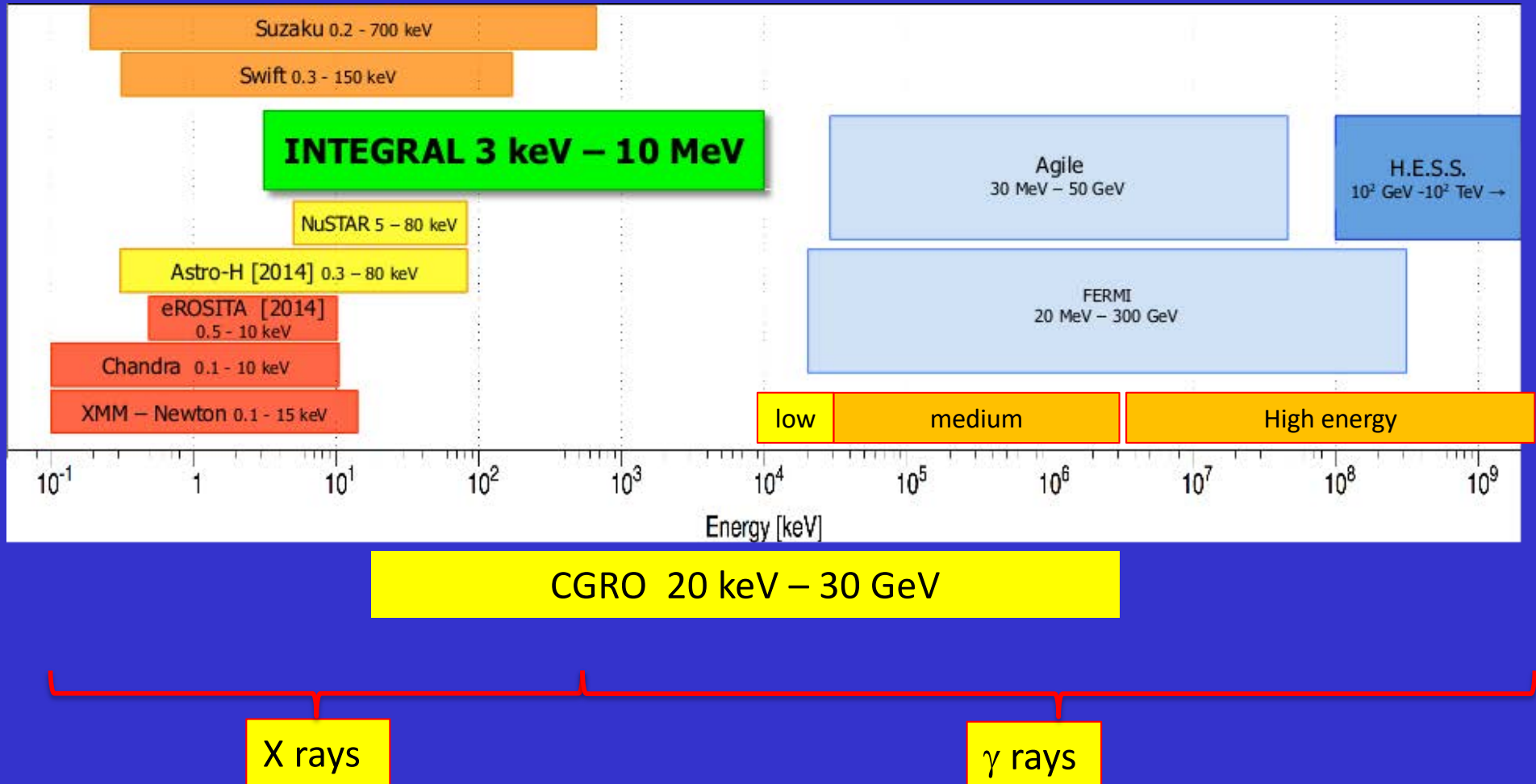
### Very young SNRs (300 yrs)

- hadronic ?
- steep spectra  $E^{-2.3}$
- $E_{\text{max}} = 10 - 100 \text{ TeV}$

# Searching for astrophysical EM radiation

*Soft X-ray to high-energy gamma-ray observatories in operation*

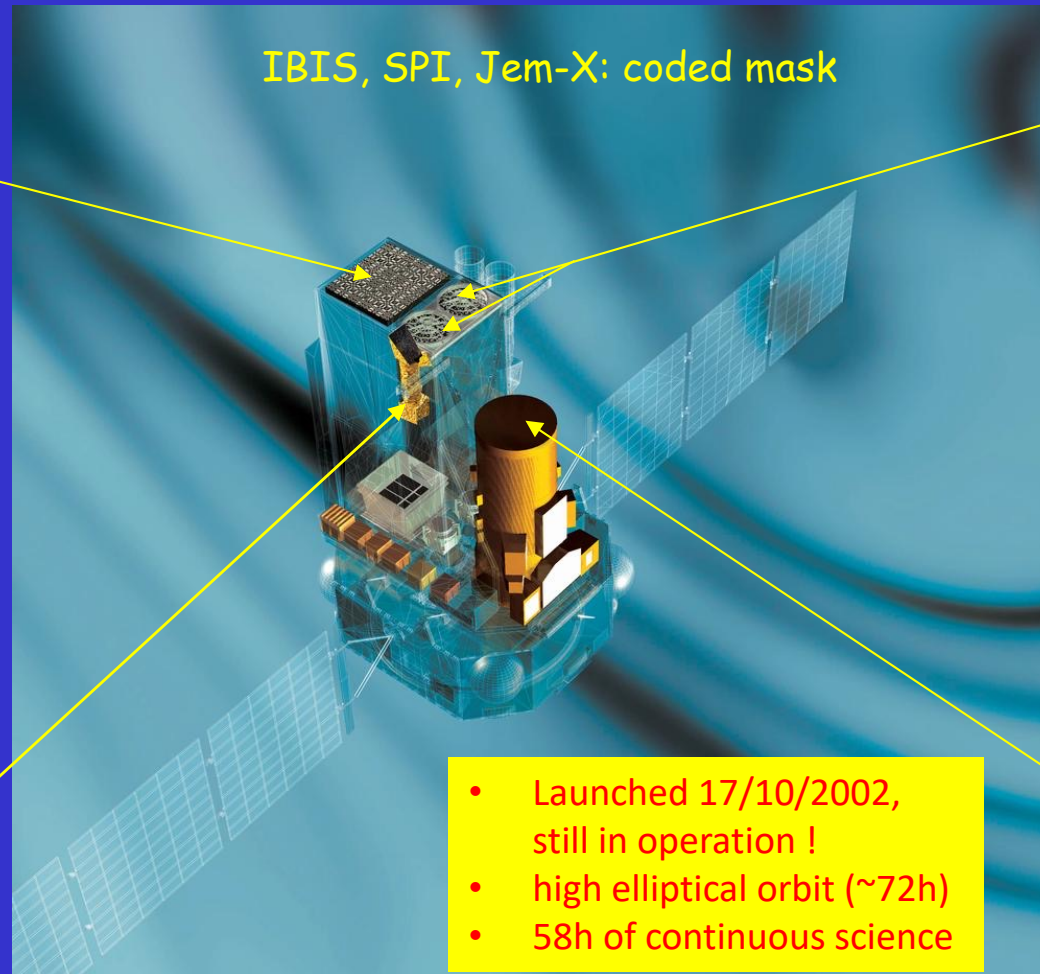
The list below is not complete !!!



# The INTEGRAL Gamma Ray Observatory

**IBIS - The gamma-ray Imager:**  
15 keV-10 MeV (ISGRI/PICsIT)  
12' FWHM imaging  
<30" source location

**OMC - Optical Monitor Camera:**  
500-600 nm



**Jem-X - The Joint Euro-pean X-ray Monitor:**  
3-35 keV; 3'

**SPI - The gamma-ray Spectrometer:**  
20 keV - 8 MeV  
E/DE ~ 500  
1.3° source location

- Is the link between soft X-ray and high energy  $\gamma$ -ray science
- High Sensitivity for photons  $3 \text{ keV} < E_{\gamma} < 10 \text{ MeV}$
- Wide Field Of View  $\sim 100 - 1000 \text{ deg}^2$
- All-Sky monitor capability for  $80 \text{ keV} < E_{\gamma} < 2.5 \text{ MeV}$
- Real time transmission of "transient" to Earth laboratory

# INTEGRAL an instrument to hunt $\gamma$ -ray transients

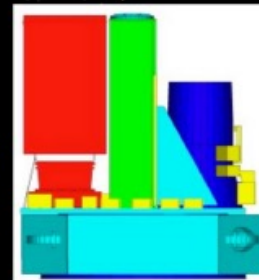
The SPI/ACS detectors view  $\sim 4\pi$  solid angle of the sky.  
 $E > 75$  keV,  $T_{res} = 50$  ms  
Effective area: up to  $1\text{m}^2$



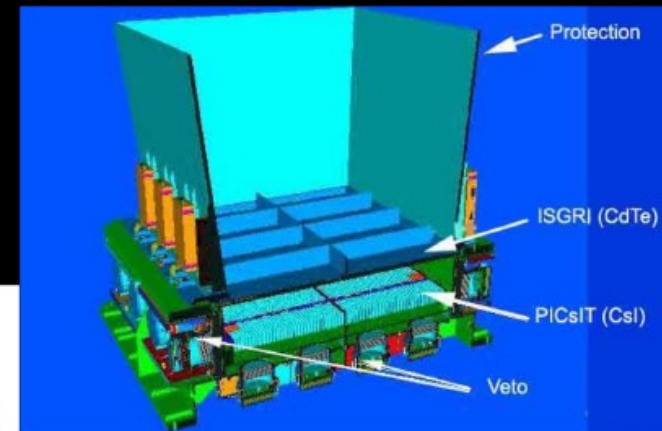
The IBIS detectors ISGRI and PICsIT have max sensitivity to directions normal to SPI/ACS  
factor of 5 at least



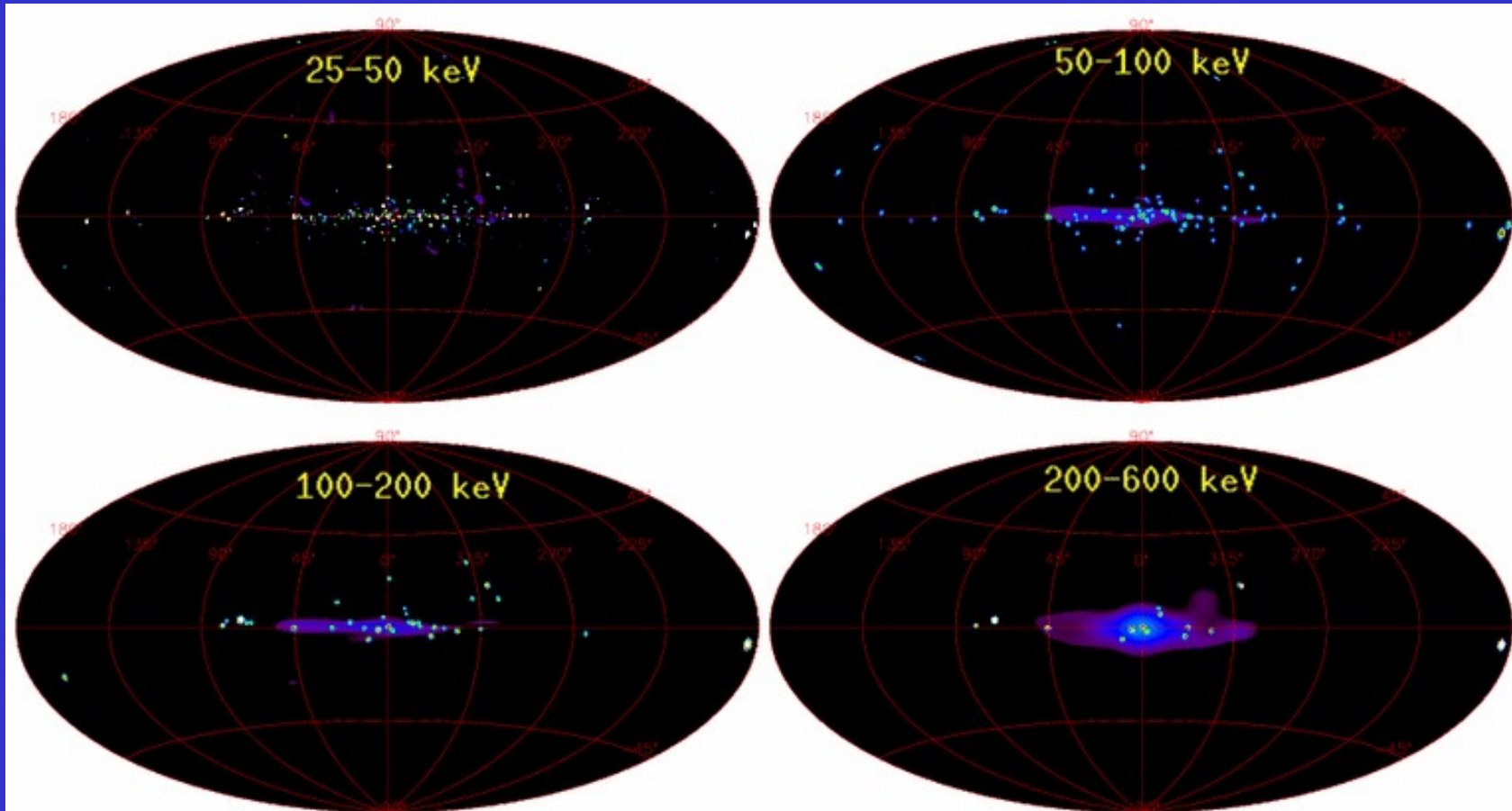
The sensitivity to a gamma-ray transient depends on sky position and its evaluation must take into account the payload and satellite masses distribution



Outside the IBIS FOV ( $\sim 30 \times 30$  deg<sup>2</sup>) the ISGRI and PICsIT detectors also view  $\sim 4\pi$  up to 2.6 MeV.  
PICsIT:  $T_{res} = 15.6$  ms  
Effective area up to  $\sim 900\text{cm}^2$



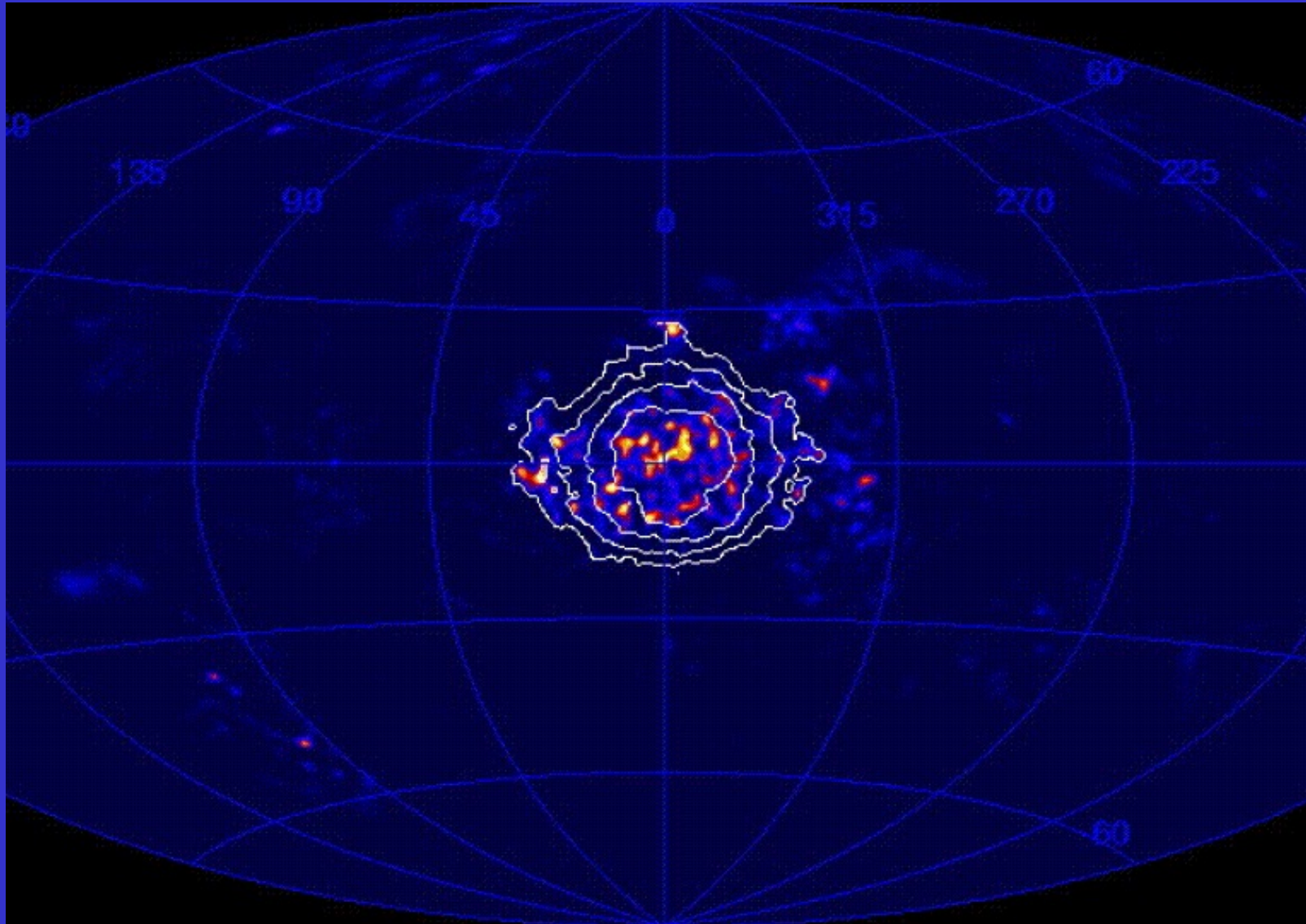
# INTEGRAL: some results



THE GALAXY IN HARD-X/SOFT GAMMA-RAYS

Min  Max

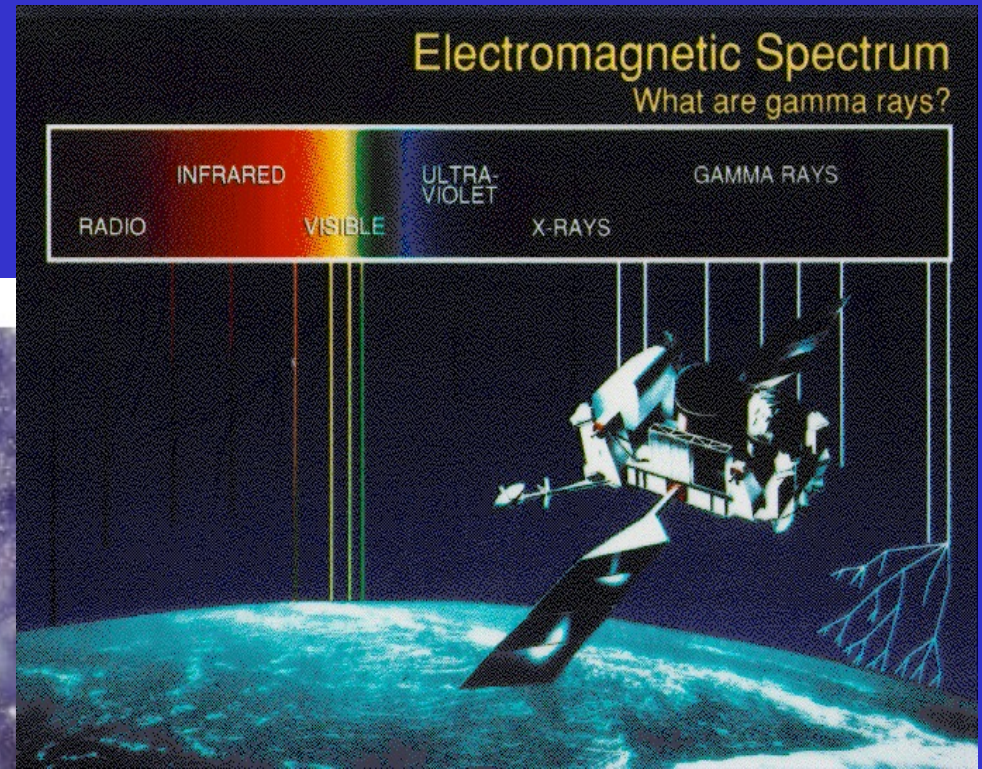
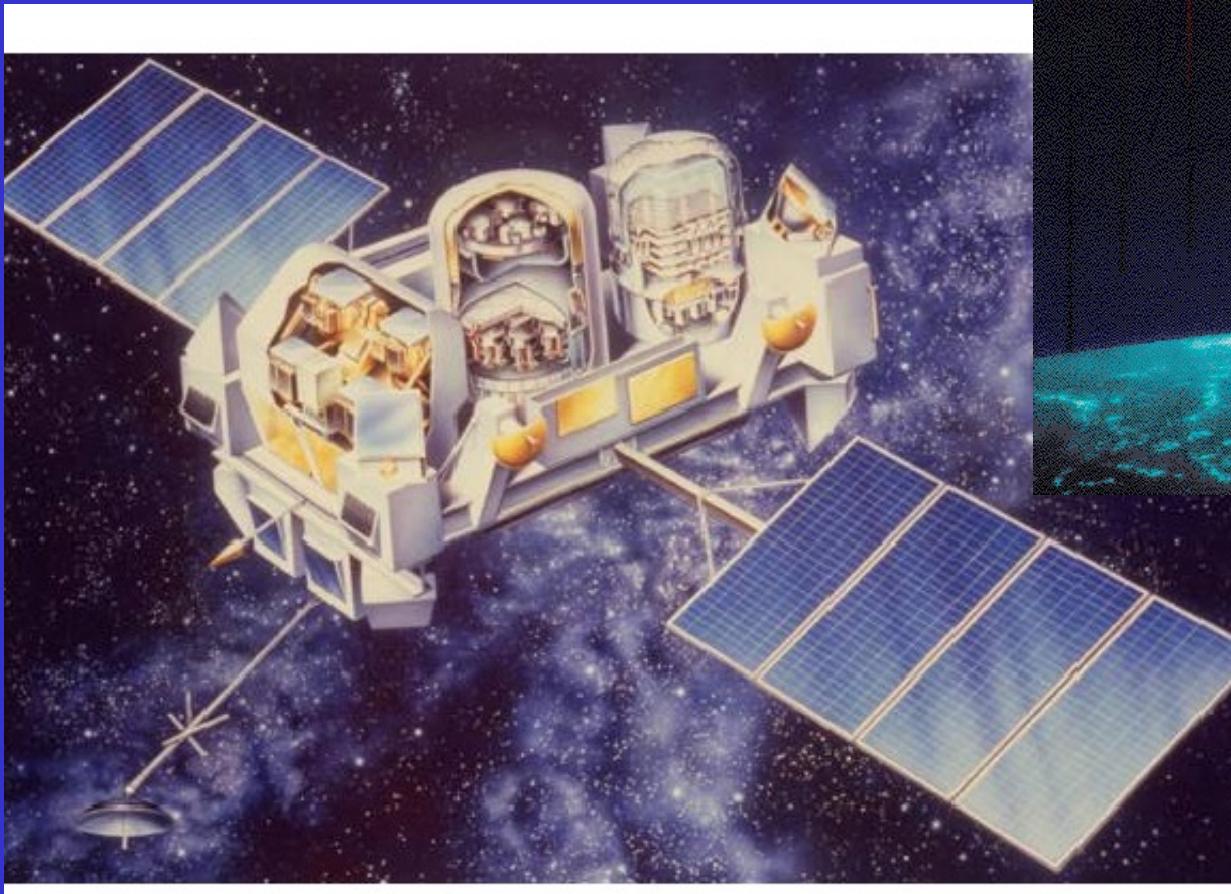
# INTEGRAL: ANNIHILATION IN THE GALAXY



The SPI instrument onboard INTEGRAL has performed a search for 511 keV emission (resulting from positron-electron annihilation) all over the sky.

# Compton Gamma Ray Observatory

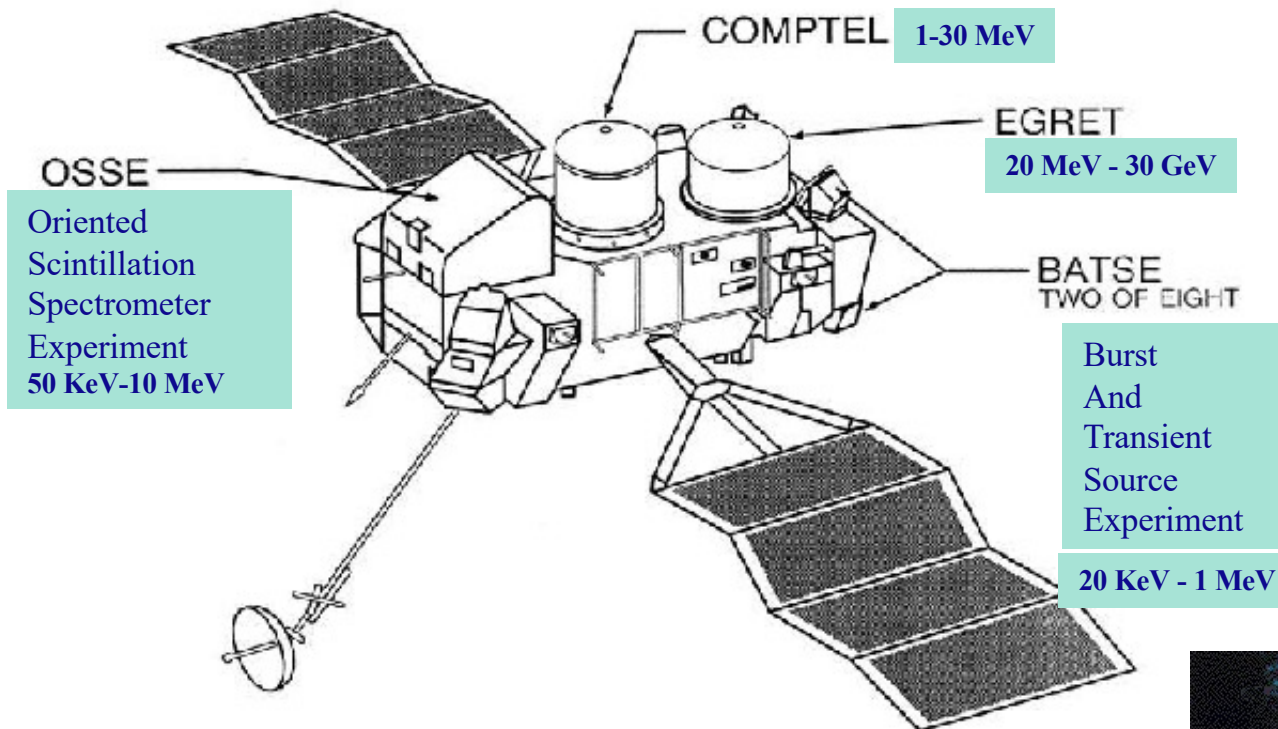
## CGRO (1991- 2000)





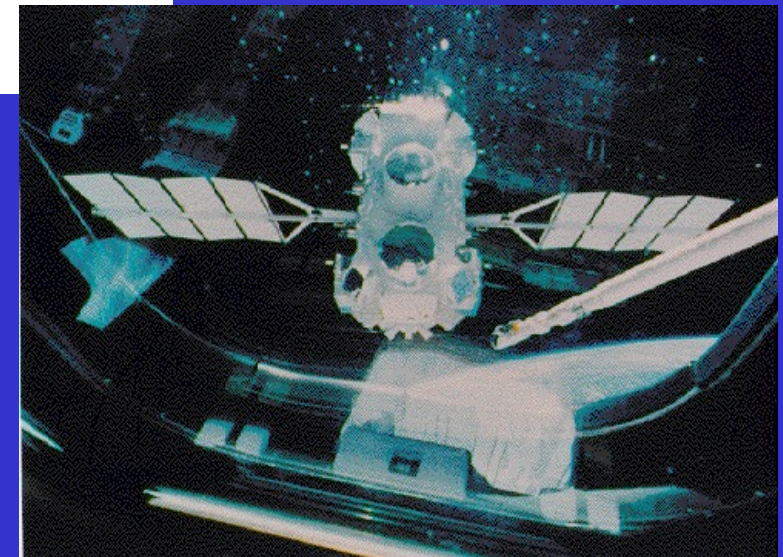
# Compton Gamma Ray Observatory

## COMPTON OBSERVATORY INSTRUMENTS



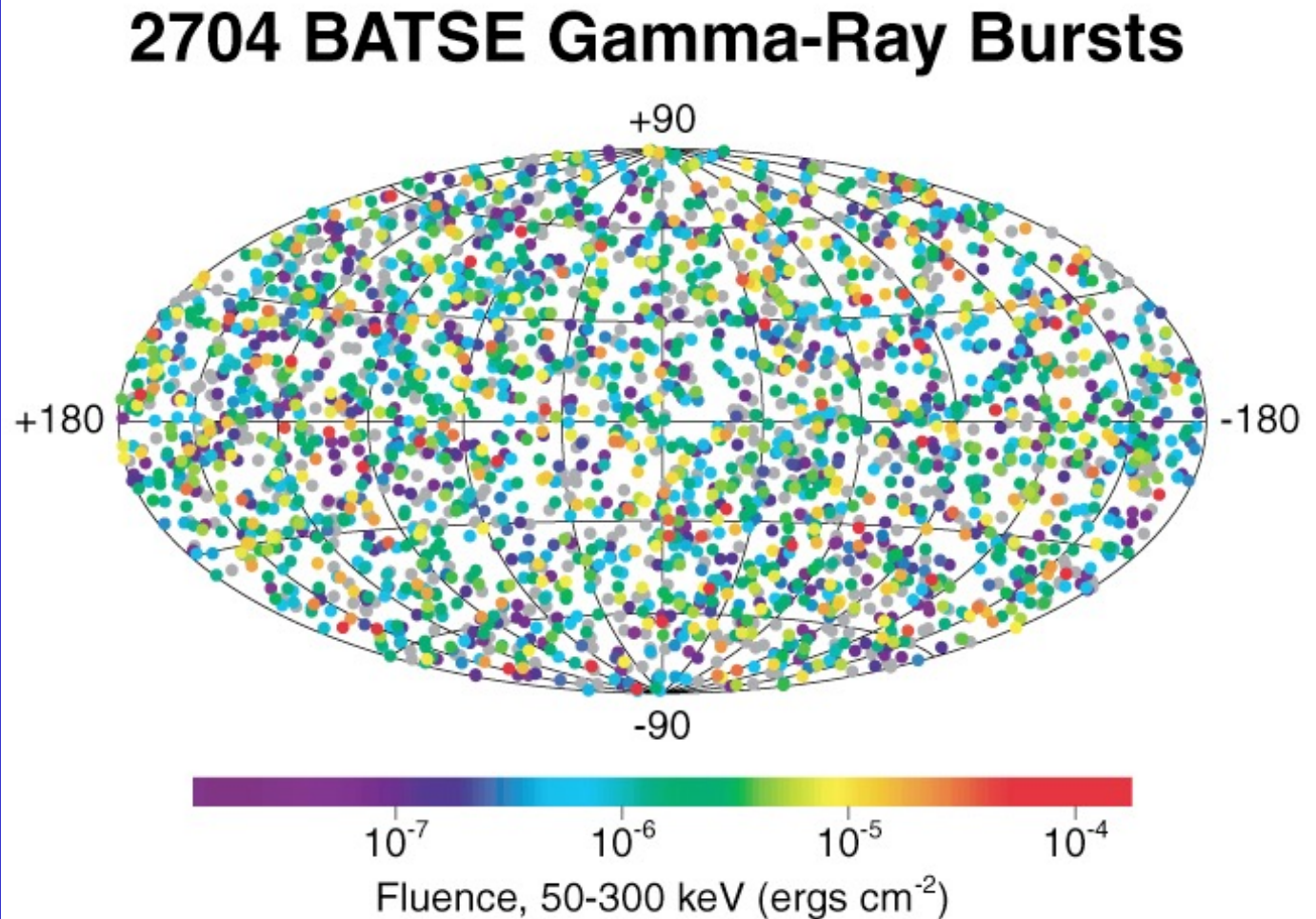
These four instruments are much larger and more sensitive than any gamma-ray telescopes previously flown in space. The large size is necessary because the number of gamma-ray interactions that can be recorded is directly related to the mass of the detector.

Since the number of gamma-ray photons from celestial sources is very small compared to the number of optical photons, large instruments are needed to detect a significant number of gamma rays in a reasonable amount of time. The combination of these instruments can detect photon energies from 20 thousand electron volts (20 keV) to more than 30 billion electron volts (30 GeV).



# BATSE main results

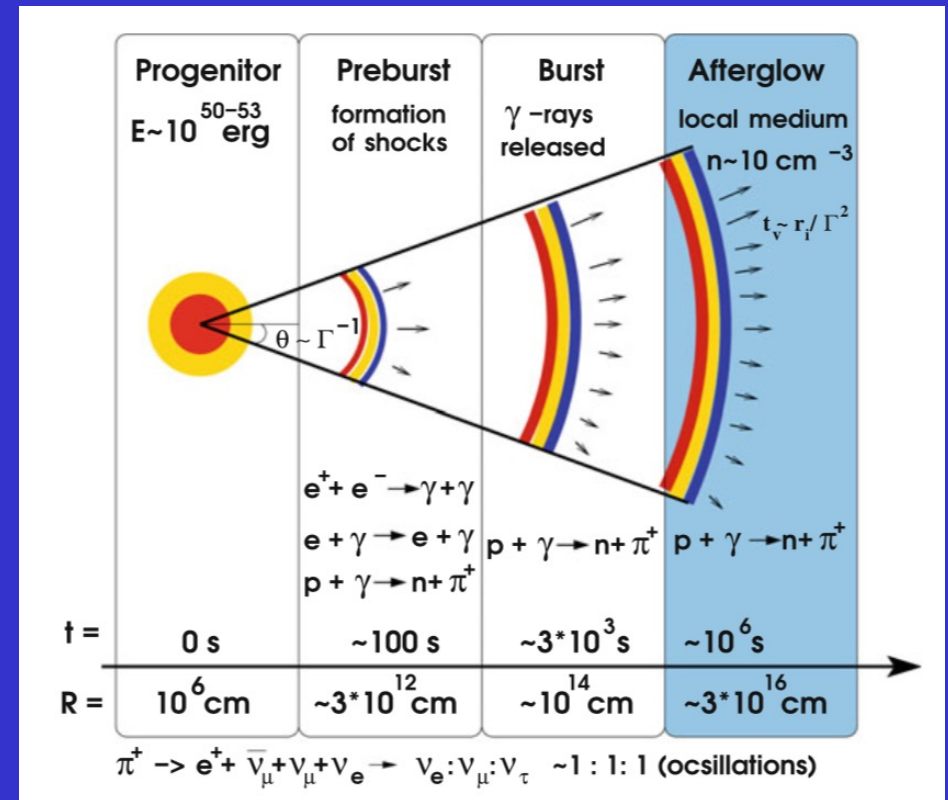
The bursts are isotropically distributed on the sky: no significant quadrupole moment or dipole moment is found. The nature of the sources remains unknown. At the same time, a deficiency has been detected in the number of faint bursts, interpreted as an indication that the spatial extent of the burst distribution is limited and that BATSE has seen the limit or edge of the distribution.



**The Gamma Ray Bursts isotropic distribution on the sky along with the deficiency of faint bursts can be naturally explained if the bursts are located at cosmological distances (far beyond the Milky Way).**

# A source of Gamma Ray Burst (in brief)

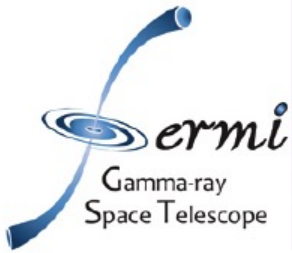
Sketch of the typical geometry of a GRB in the fireball model. Apart from the distance from the centre also plotted are the emission timescales of the various stages of the explosion are plotted along the horizontal axis. Also listed are the most relevant electromagnetic and photo-hadronic processes. If photons are emitted roughly isotropically in the comoving plasma rest frame, in the observer frame the emission appears to be beamed into a cone with opening angle  $\theta \sim 1/\Gamma$  with  $\Gamma$  the Lorentz factor of the plasma in the observer frame. GRBs were first discovered in the late 1960s by the Vela satellites and were originally thought to be linked to nuclear testing. However, it soon became clear that these objects have an extra-terrestrial origin.



In the following 20 years it was thought that GRBs are originated as explosions at the surfaces of neutron stars within our own Galaxy.

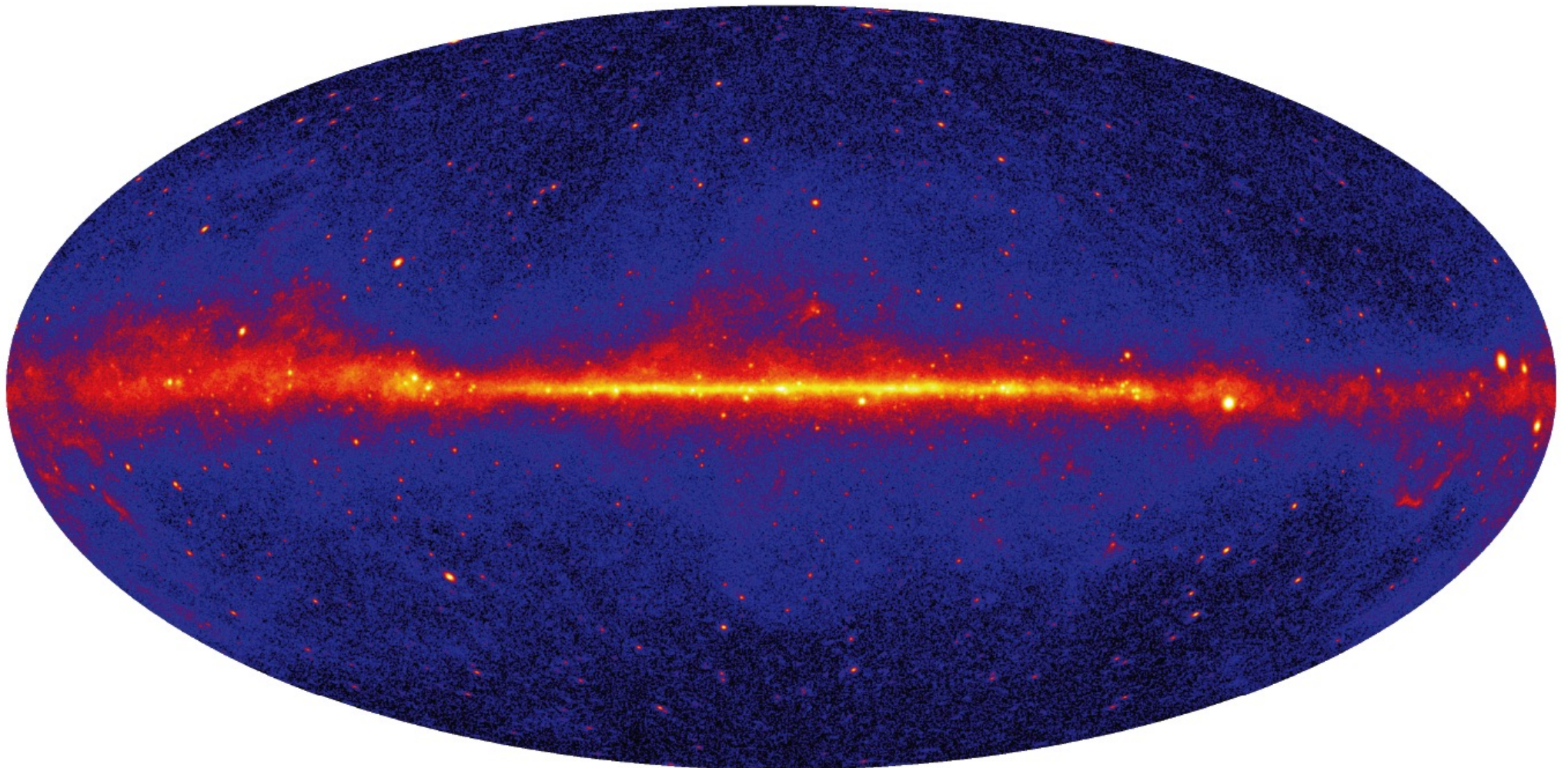
There are two types of GRBs, the *short GRBs* with a duration  $< \sim 2 \text{ s}$  and a higher than average peak energy, and the *long GRBs* with a duration  $> \sim 2 \text{ s}$  that are observed up to higher redshifts. The catastrophic event linked to the former is believed to be the merger of two neutron stars or of a neutron star and a black hole, whereas the latter are thought to be triggered by the collapse of a very massive star.

# The "today" $\gamma$ telescope in the space: FERMI



## Fermi LAT Gamma-ray Sky

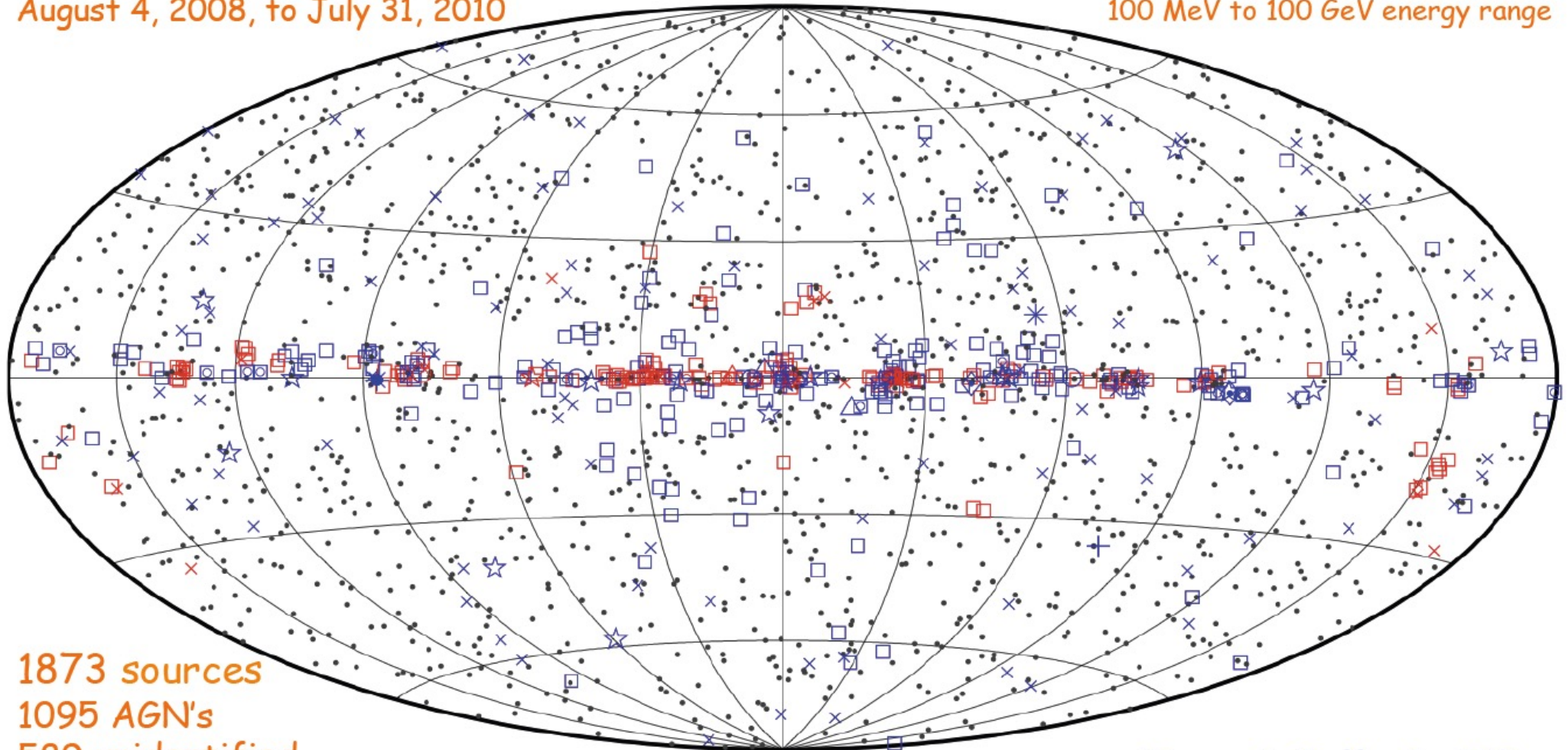
4 year all sky map ( $E > 1$  GeV)



# The "today" $\gamma$ telescope in the space: Fermi

August 4, 2008, to July 31, 2010

100 MeV to 100 GeV energy range

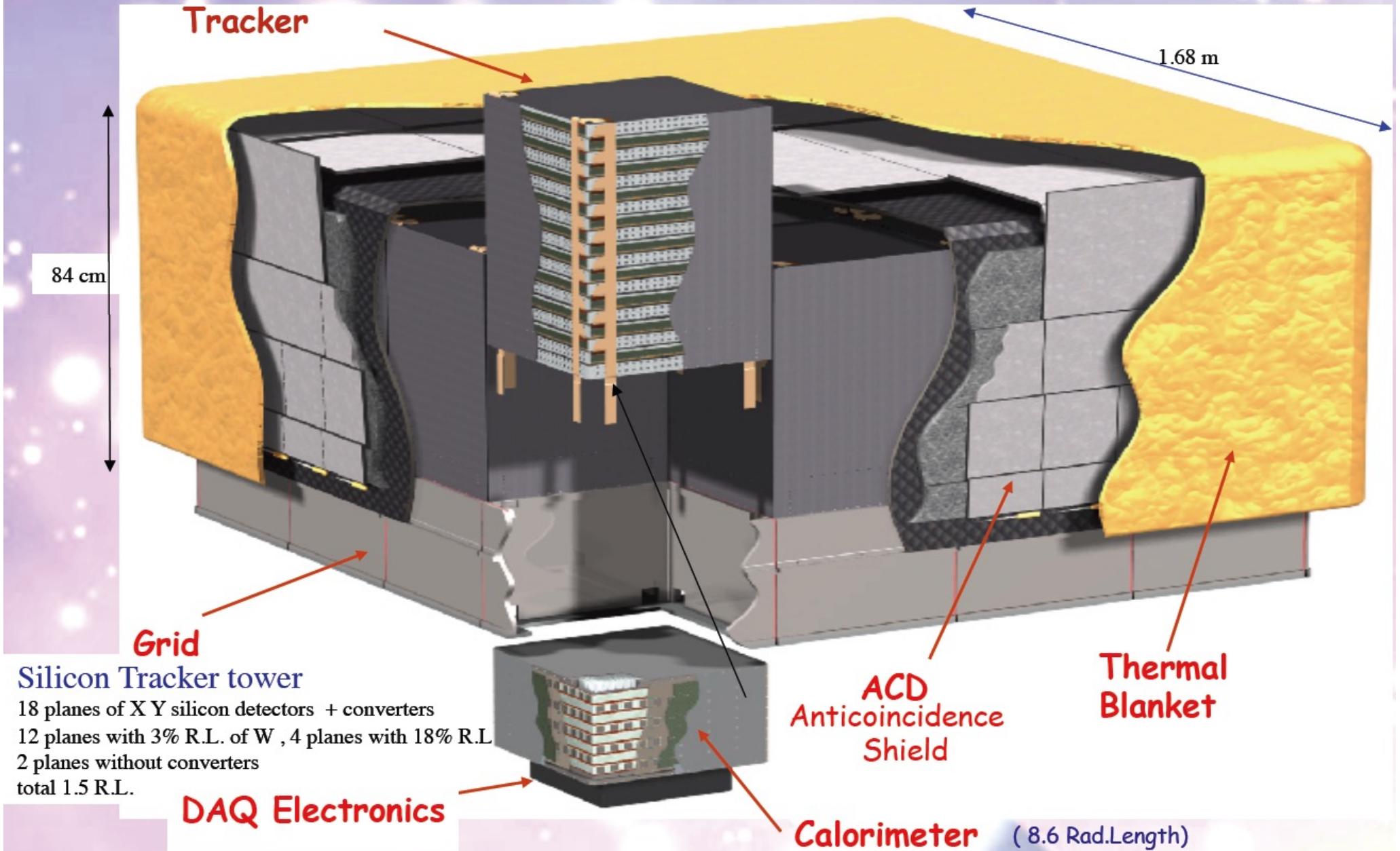


1873 sources  
1095 AGN's  
589 unidentified

□ No association	◻ Possible association with SNR or PWN	
× AGN	☆ Pulsar	△ Globular cluster
* Starburst Gal	◇ PWN	⊠ HMB
+ Galaxy	○ SNR	* Nova

Fermi Coll. ApJS  
(2012) 199, 31  
arXiv:1108.1435

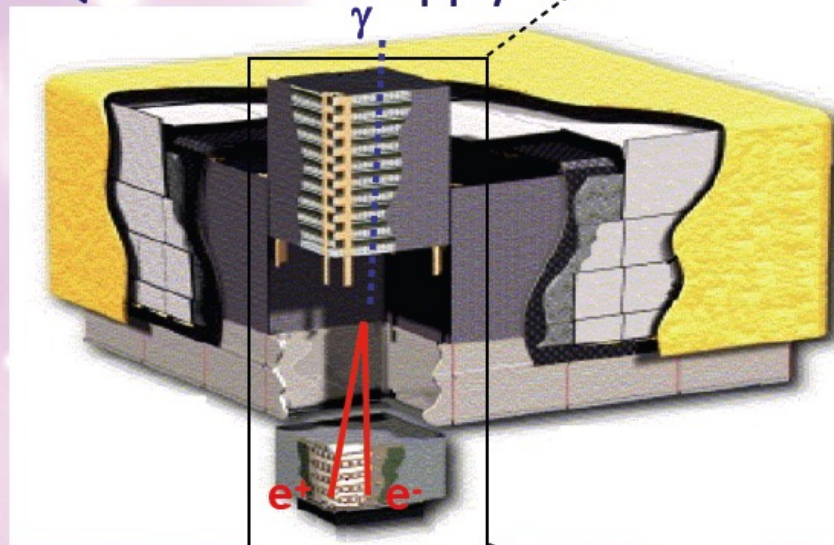
# Fermi Gamma-Ray Large Area Space Telescope



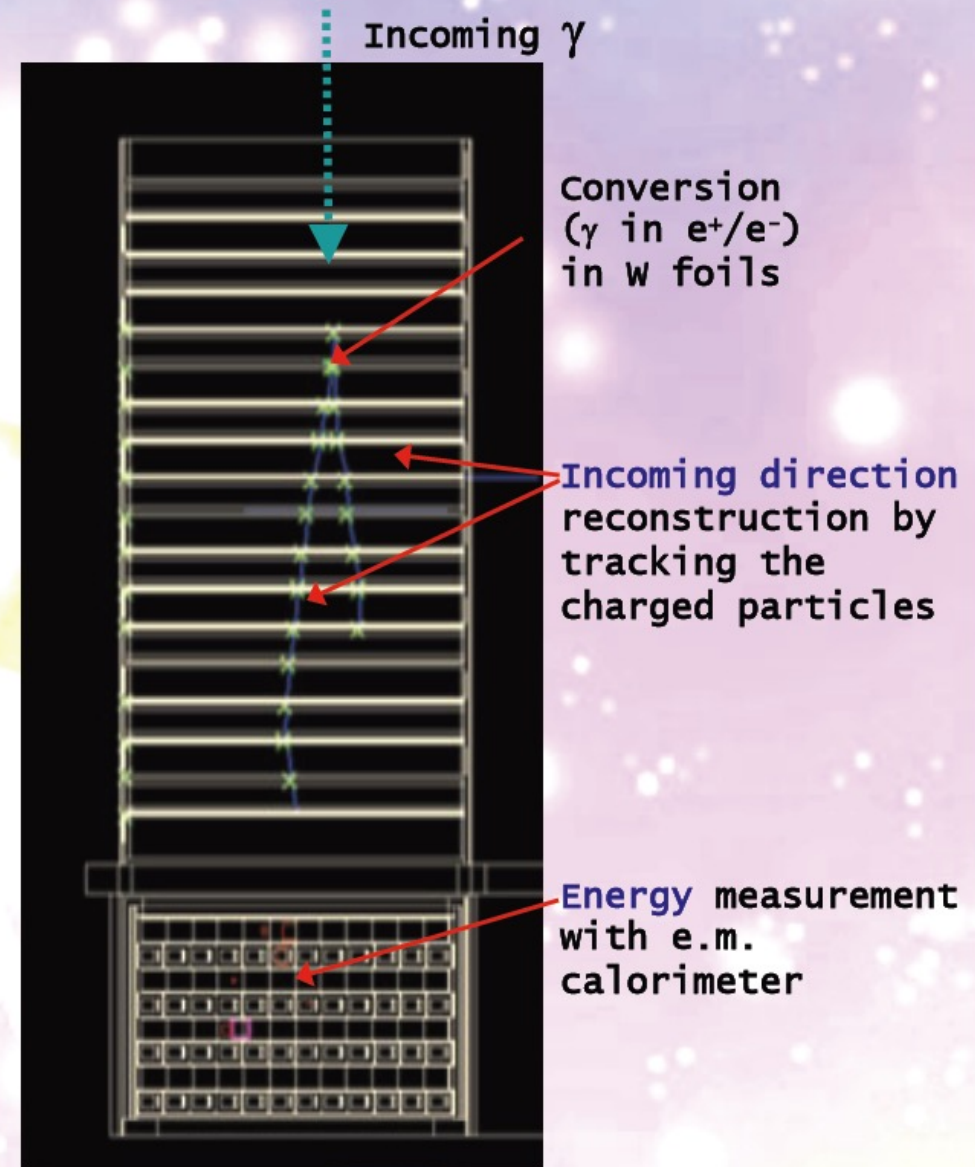
# How Fermi LAT detects gamma rays

4 x 4 array of identical towers with:

- Precision Si-strip tracker (TKR)
  - With W converter foils
- Hodoscopic CsI calorimeter (CAL)
- DAQ and Power supply box



An anticoincidence detector around the telescope distinguishes gamma-rays from charged particles



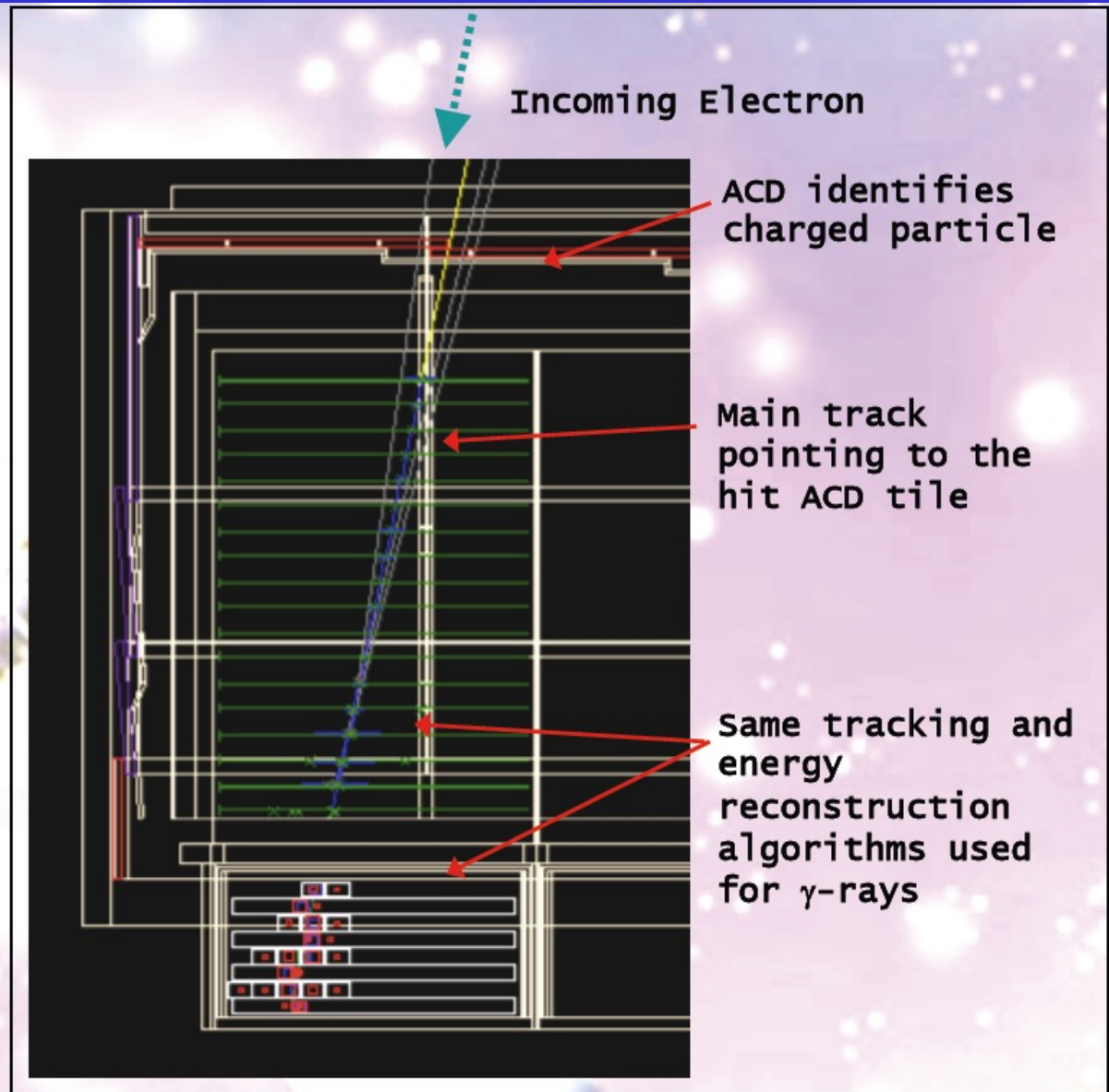
# How Fermi LAT detects electrons

## Trigger and downlink

- LAT triggers on (almost) every particle that crosses the LAT
  - $\sim 2.2$  kHz trigger rate
- On board processing removes many charged particles events
  - But keeps events with more than 20 GeV of deposited energy in the CAL
  - $\sim 400$  Hz downlink rate
- Only  $\sim 1$  Hz are good  $\gamma$ -rays

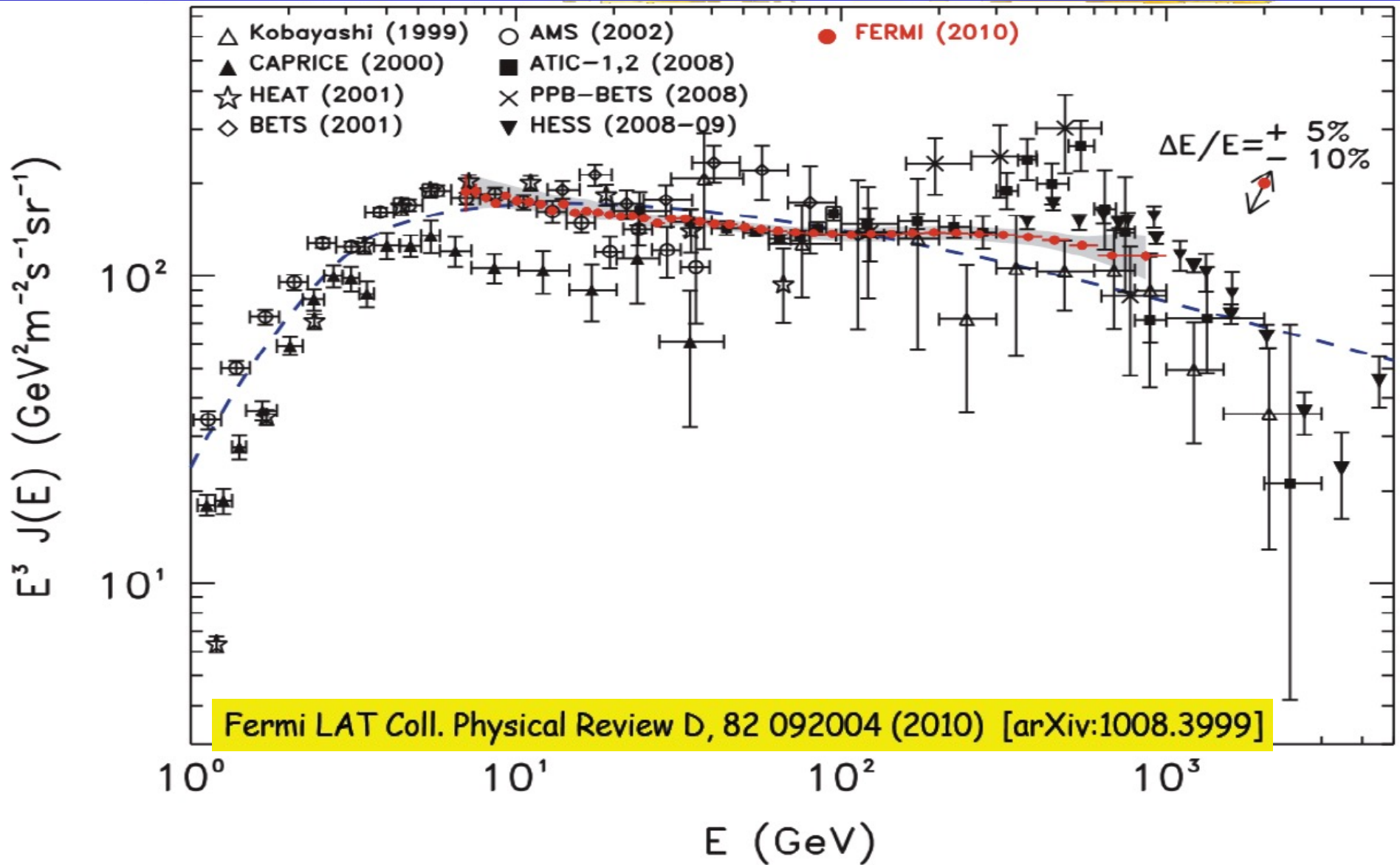
## Electron identification

- The challenge is identifying the good electrons among the proton background
  - Rejection power of  $10^3$  -  $10^4$  required
  - Can not separate electrons from positrons





# Fermi Electron + Positron Spectrum

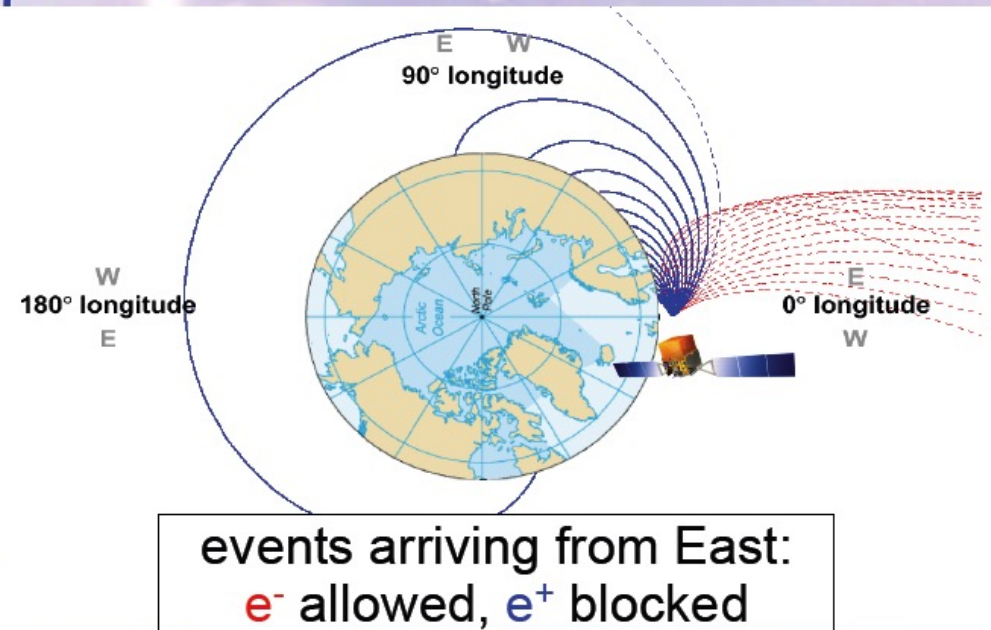
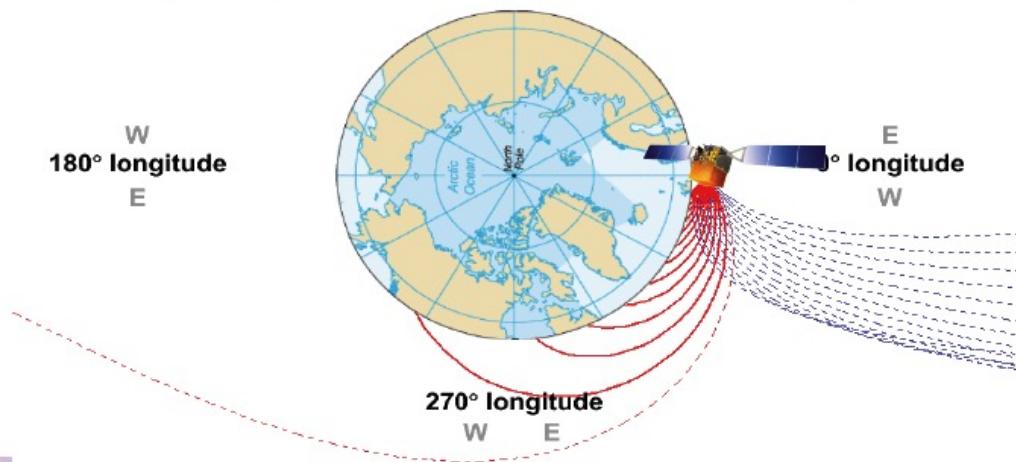


**Extended Energy Range (7 GeV – 1 TeV) One year statistics (8M evts)**

# FERMI has no magnetic field: can FERMI distinguish $e^+$ from $e^-$ ??

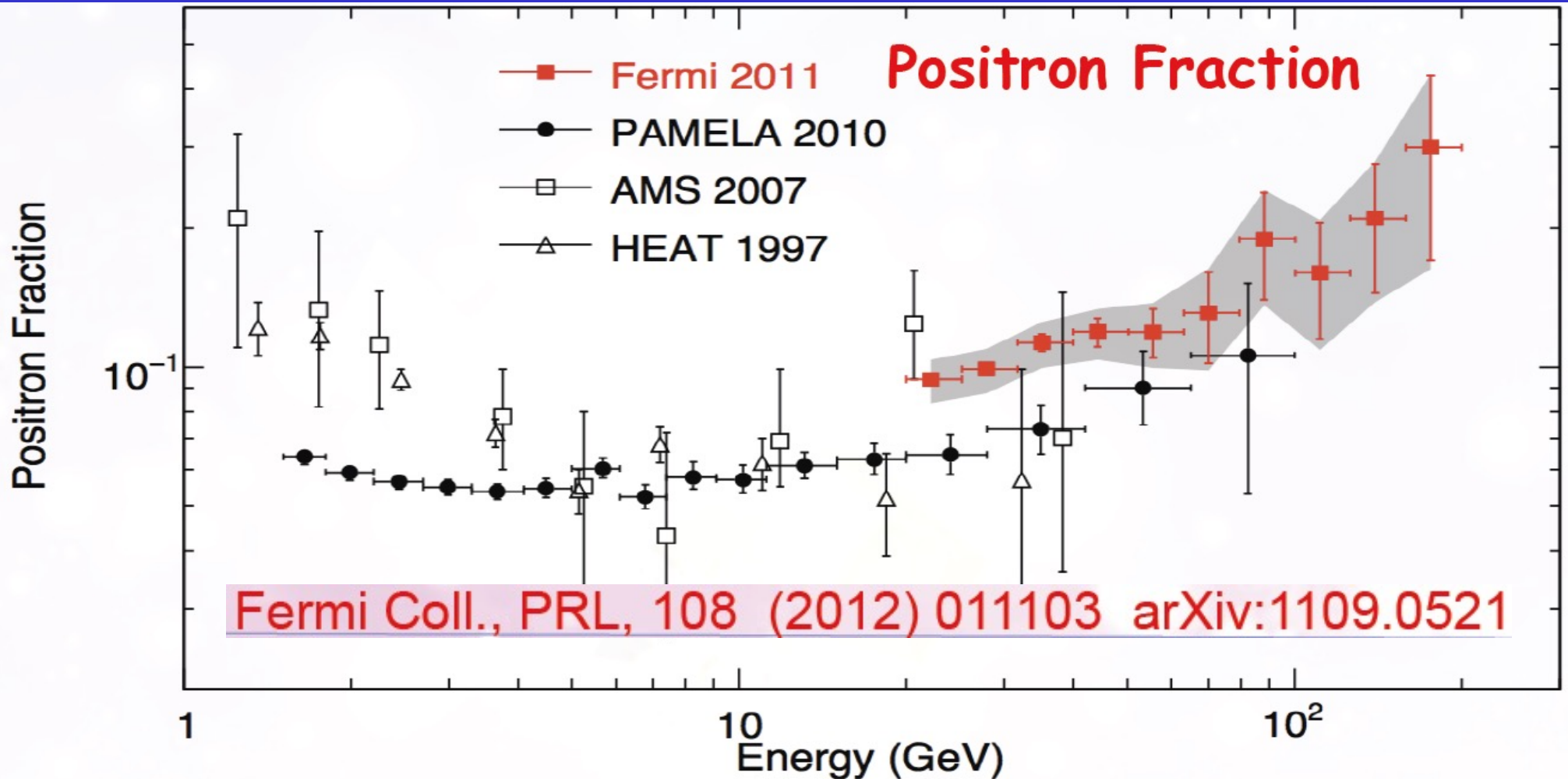
Geomagnetic field + Earth shadow = directions from which only **electrons** or only positrons are allowed

events arriving from West:  
 $e^+$  allowed,  $e^-$  blocked



- For some directions,  $e^-$  or  $e^+$  forbidden
- Pure  $e^+$  region looking West and pure  $e^-$  region looking East
- Regions vary with particle energy and spacecraft position

# Fermi, an estimate of positrons flux



The Fermi-LAT has measured the cosmic-ray positron and electron spectra separately, between 20 and 130 GeV, using the Earth's magnetic field as a charge discriminator

- Two independent methods of background subtraction produce consistent results
- The observed positron fraction is consistent with the one measured by PAMELA

Differences between different experiments below few GeV's probably due to charge-sign-dependent modulation but still under study

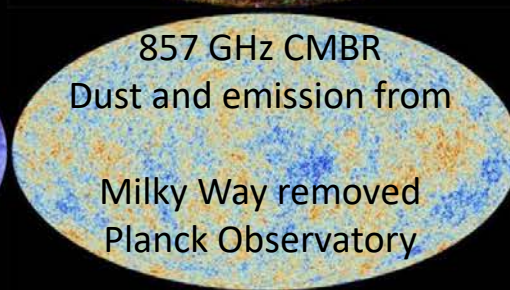
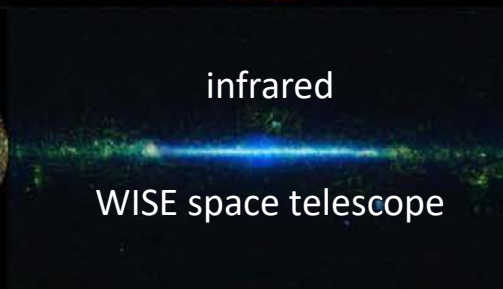
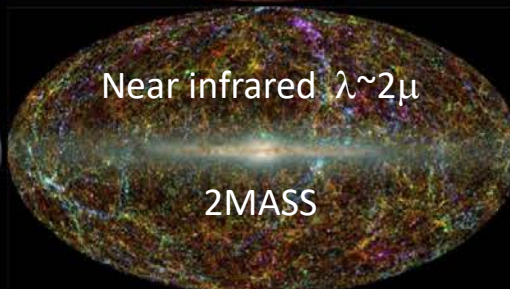
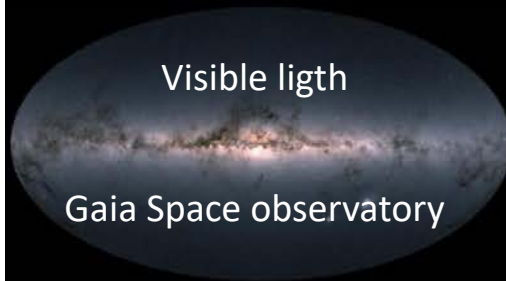
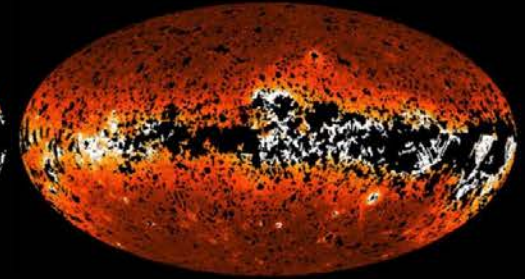
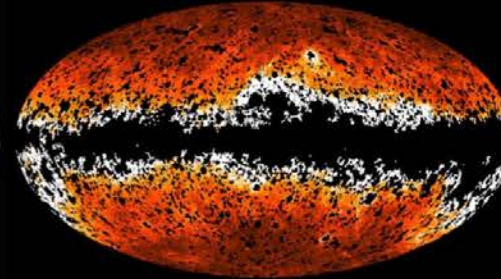
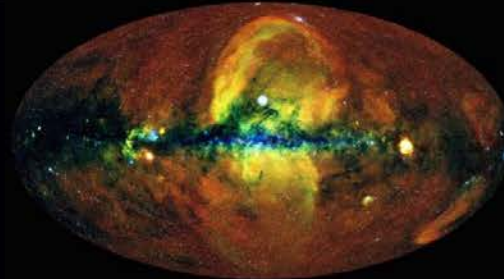
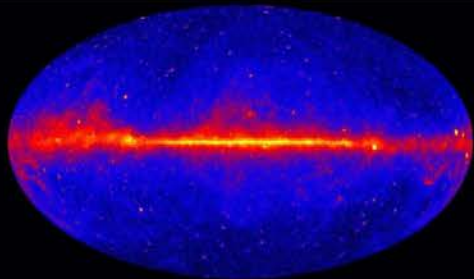
# Multiwavelength sky-map representation

Fermi  
 $E_\gamma > 1\text{GeV}$

eRosita  
X-Rays

GALEX  
Far Ultraviolet

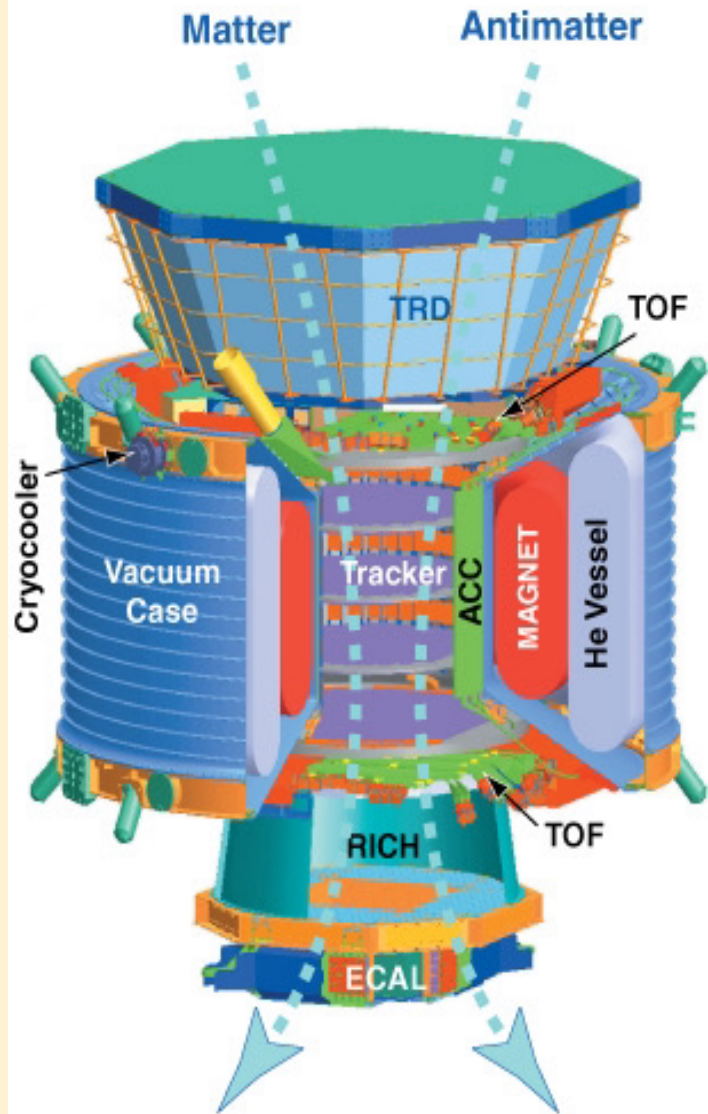
GALEX  
Near Ultraviolet



# The Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS) Experiment *on the International Space Station.*



# The AMS Cosmic ray detector



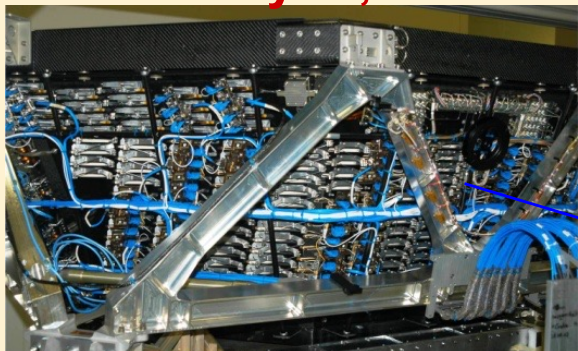
300,000 channels of electronics  $\Delta t = 100 \text{ ps}$ ,  $\Delta x = 10 \mu$

0.3 TeV	$e^-$	$e^+$	P	$\bar{\text{He}}$	$\gamma$
TRD					
TOF					
Tracker					
RICH					
Calorimeter					

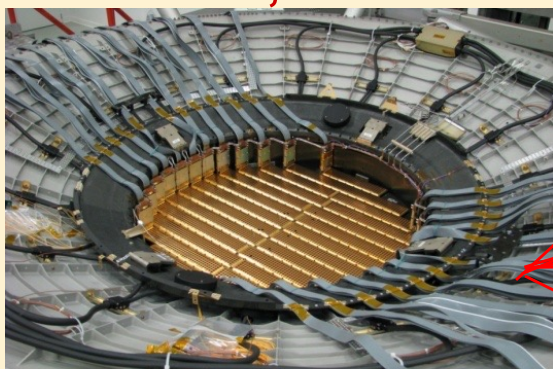
# AMS: A TeV precision, multipurpose spectrometer

TRD

Identify  $e^+$ ,  $e^-$



Silicon Tracker  
 $Z, P$

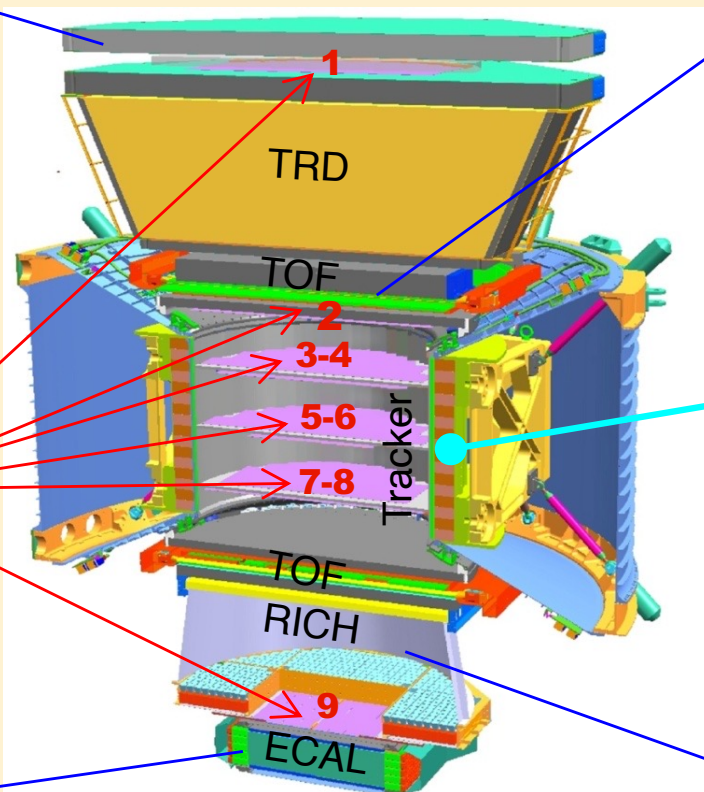


ECAL  
 $E$  of  $e^+$ ,  $e^-$ ,  $\gamma$



A.A. 2020-2021

Particles and nuclei are defined by their charge ( $Z$ ) and energy ( $E \sim P$ )

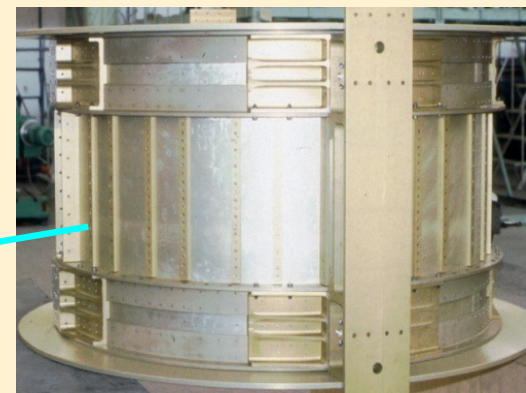


TOF

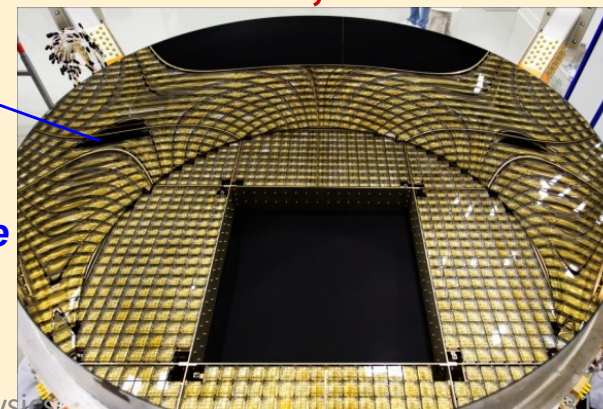
$Z, E$



Magnet  
 $\pm Z$



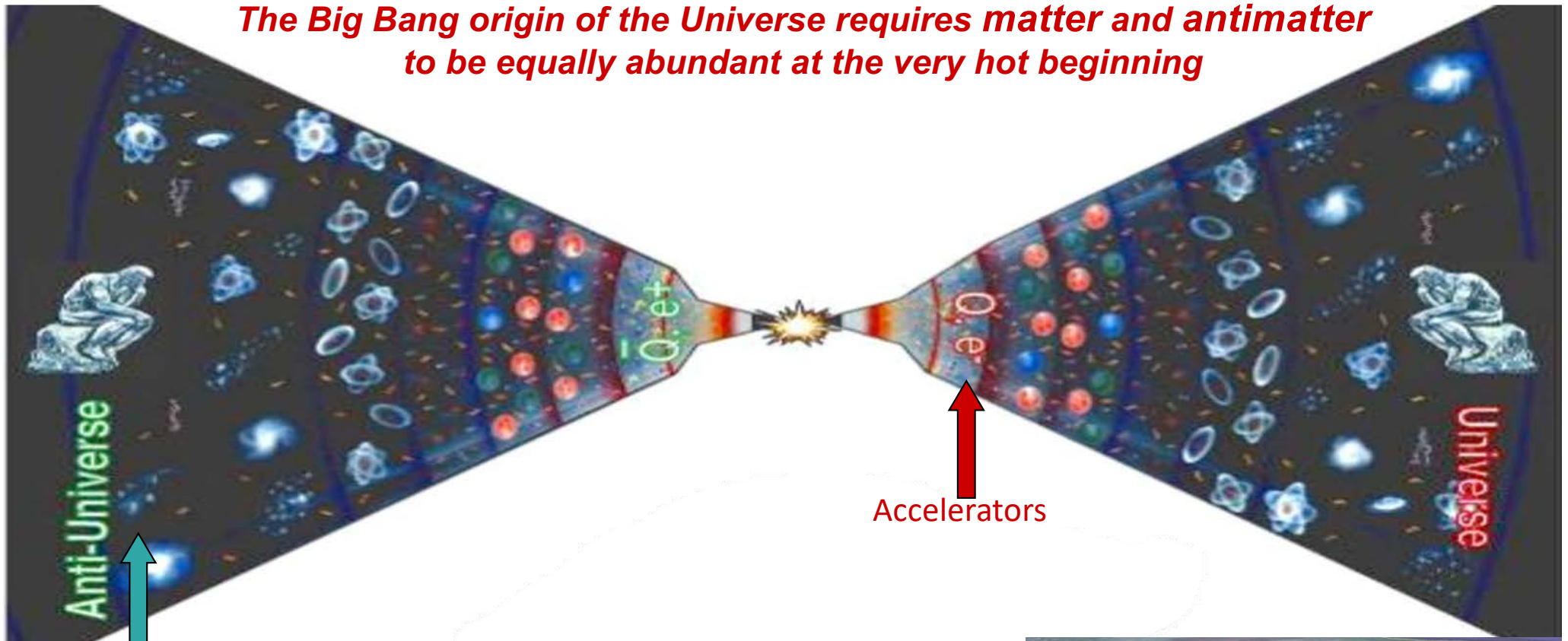
RICH  
 $Z, E$



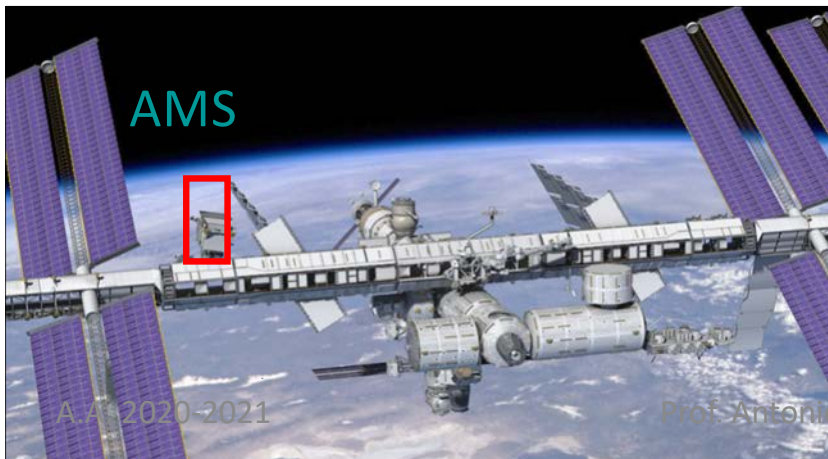
$Z, P$  are measured independently by the Tracker, RICH, TOF and ECAL

# Search for antimatter: One of the AMS Physics objectives

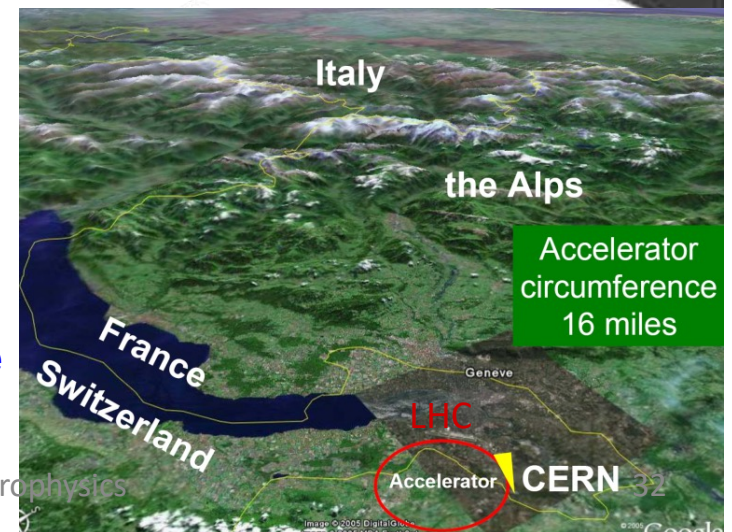
*The Big Bang origin of the Universe requires matter and antimatter to be equally abundant at the very hot beginning*



AMS in Space

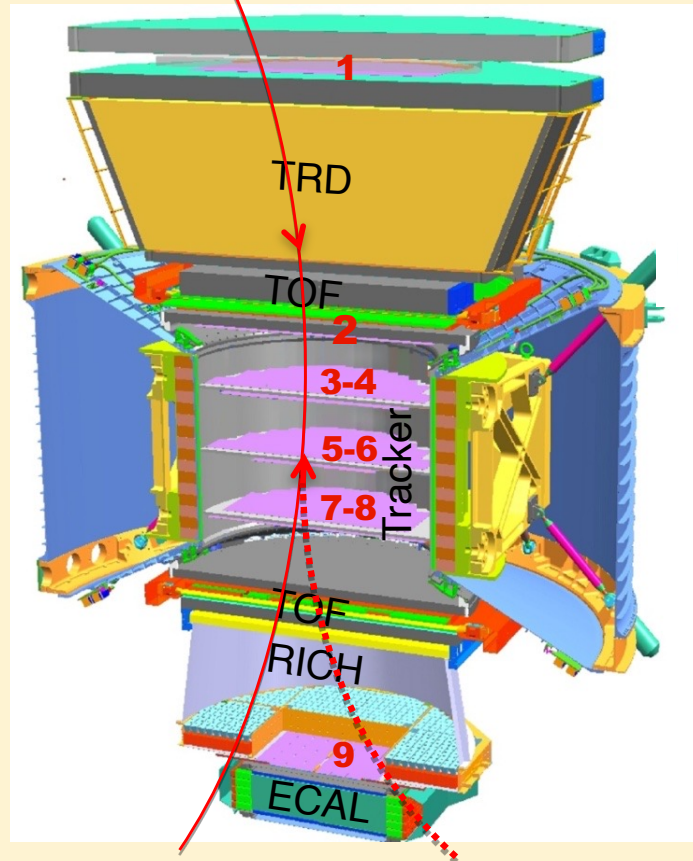


AMS on the Space Station for 10-20 years will search for the existence of antimatter to the edge of the universe





# Sensitive Search for Antimatter with $He/\overline{He} > 10^{10}$



## a) Minimal material in the detector

So that the detector does not become a source of large angle scattering

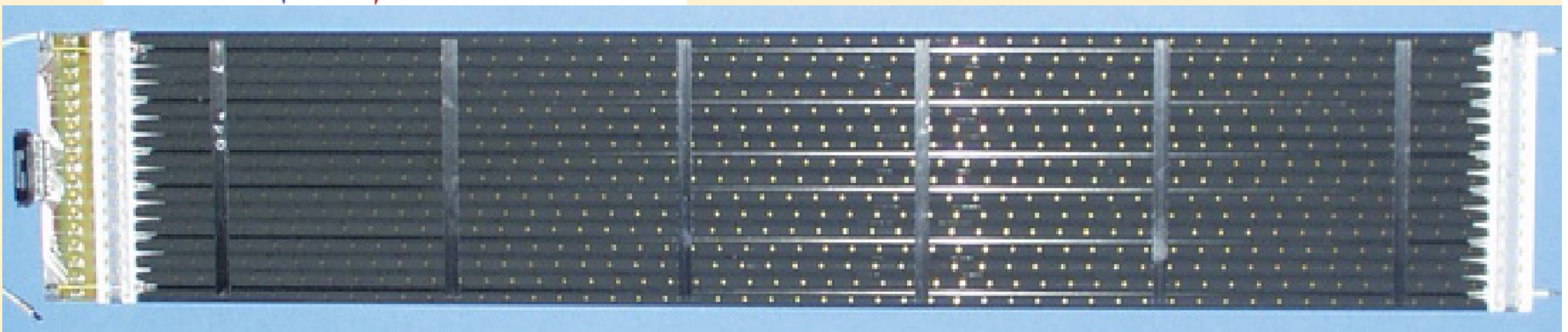
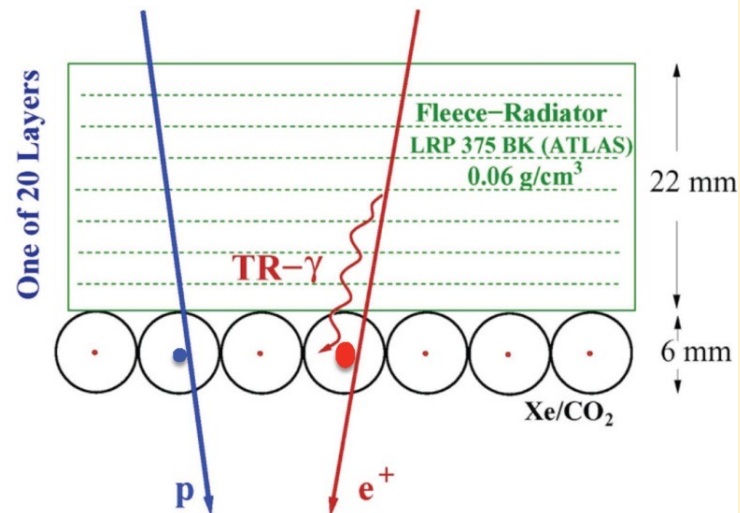
## b) Repetitive measurements of momentum

To ensure that particles which had large angle scattering are not confused with the signal.

# The Transition Radiation Detector (TRD)

20 Layers each consisting of:

- 22 mm fibre fleece
- Ø 6 mm straw tubes filled with Xe/CO<sub>2</sub> 80%/20%

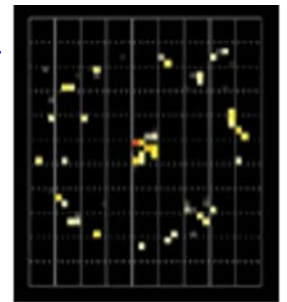


5,248 tubes selected from 9,000, 2 m length centered to 100 $\mu$ m, verified by CAT scanner

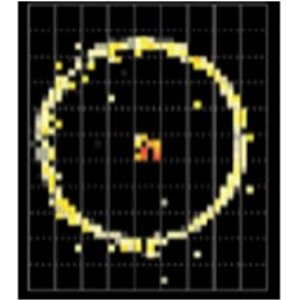
# Ring Imaging CHerenkov (RICH)

160 Gv

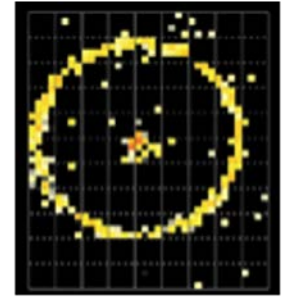
He



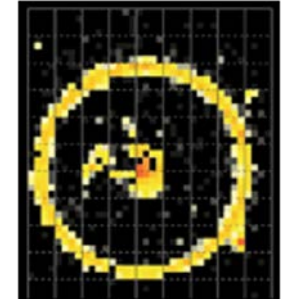
Li



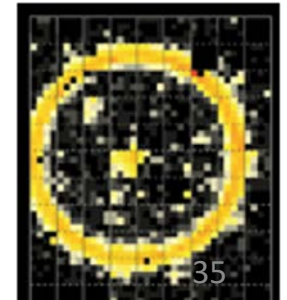
C



O

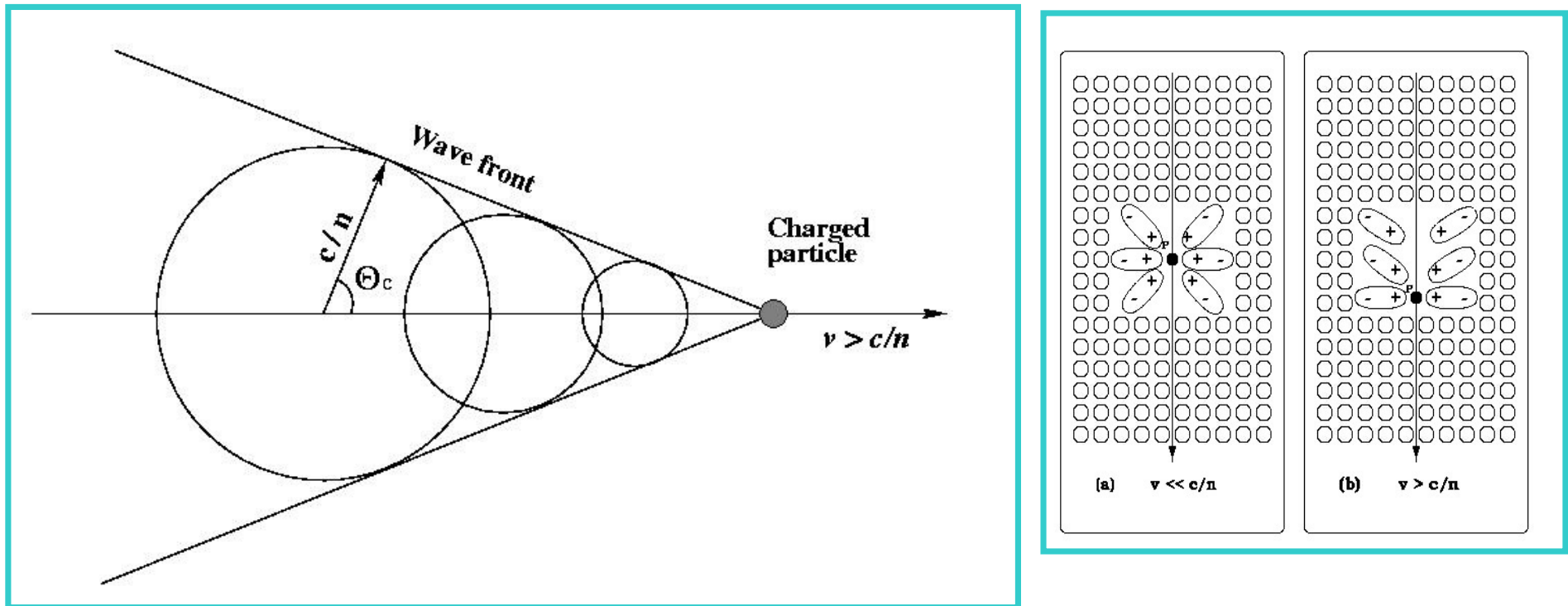


Ca



10,880 photosensors  
to identify nuclei and  
their energy

# Cherenkov light detector

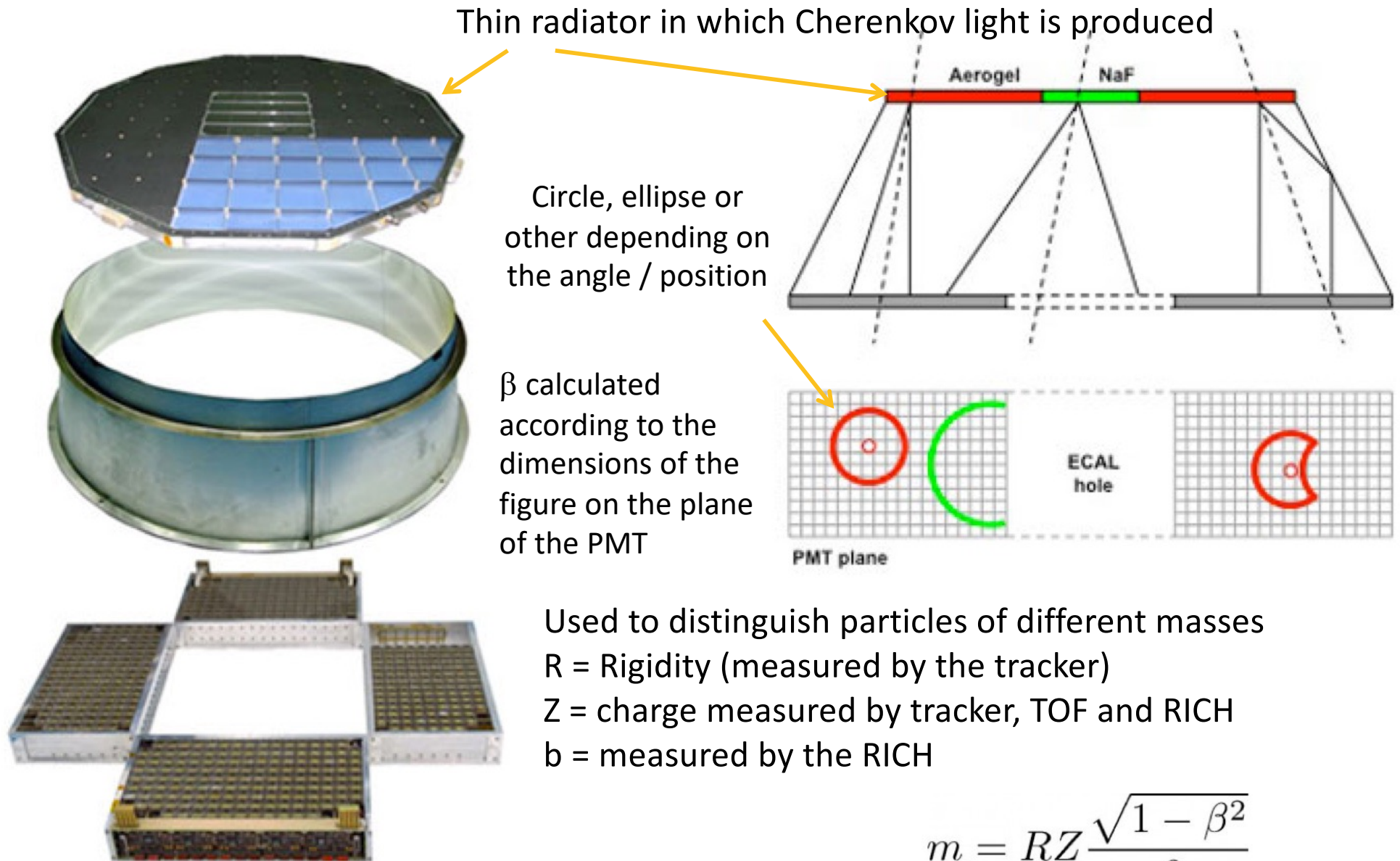


- Cherenkov radiation emitted when a charged particle travels with  $v > c/n$  in the medium

$$\beta > \frac{1}{n} \quad ; \quad \cos\Theta_c = \frac{1}{\beta n} \quad ; \quad \frac{d^2N}{dx d\lambda} \propto \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$$

- Mostly “blue” photons.

# The Ring Imaging Cherenkov Detector (RICH)



Thin radiator in which Cherenkov light is produced

Circle, ellipse or other depending on the angle / position

$\beta$  calculated according to the dimensions of the figure on the plane of the PMT

Used to distinguish particles of different masses

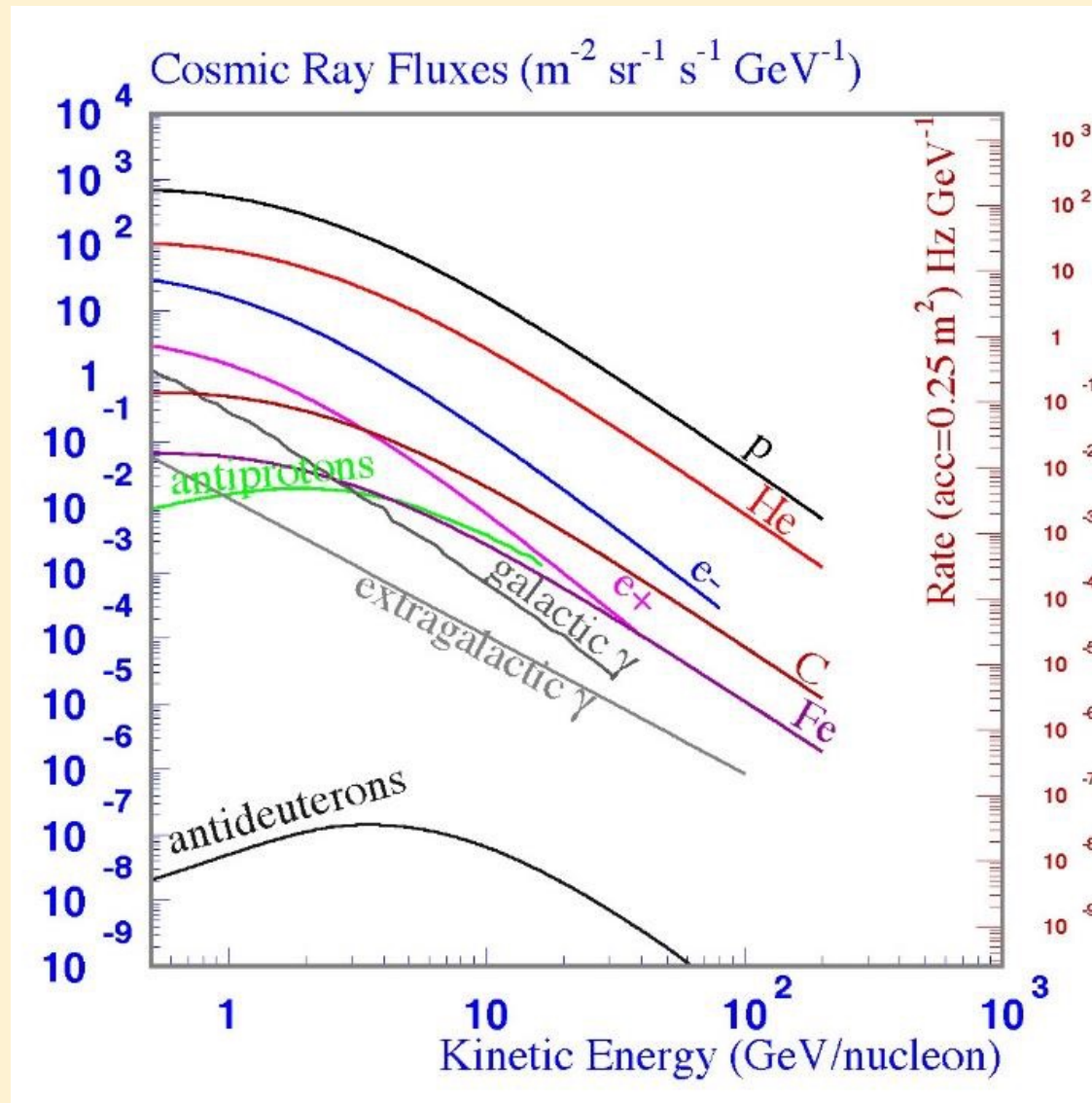
$R$  = Rigidity (measured by the tracker)

$Z$  = charge measured by tracker, TOF and RICH

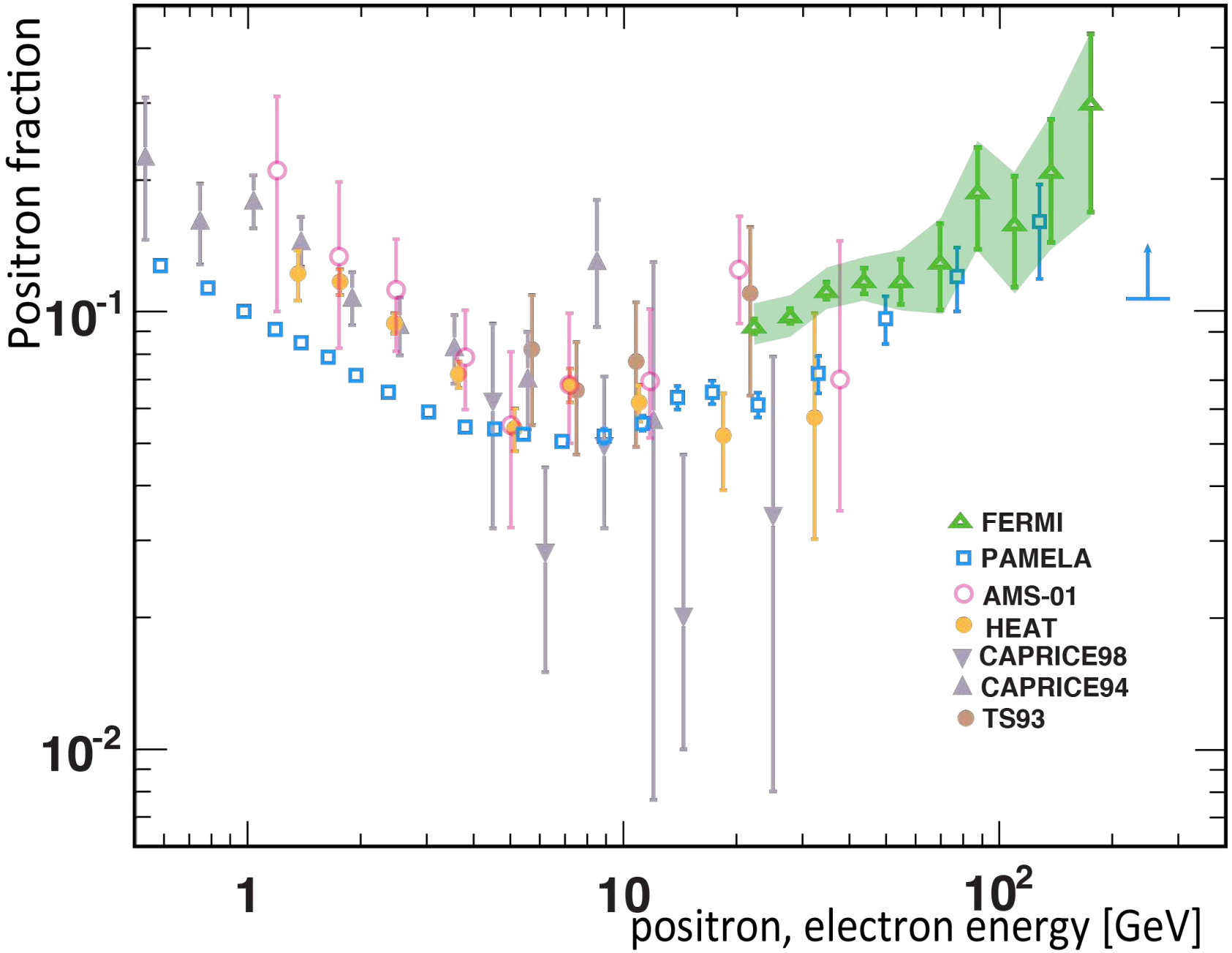
$b$  = measured by the RICH

$$m = RZ \frac{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}}{\beta}$$

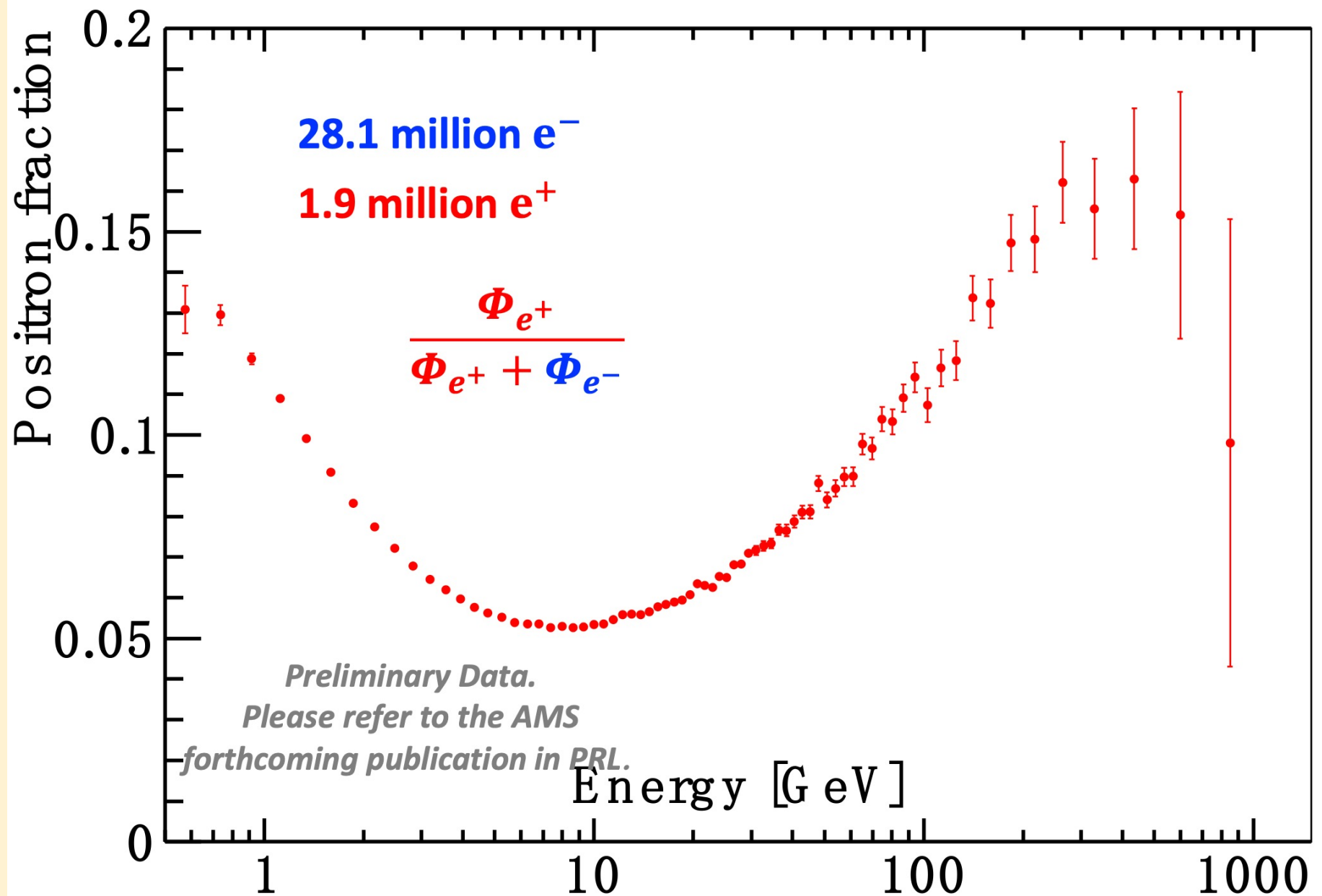
# AMS results: fluxes of nuclei



# The $e^+/(e^++e^-)$ ratio before the AMS result

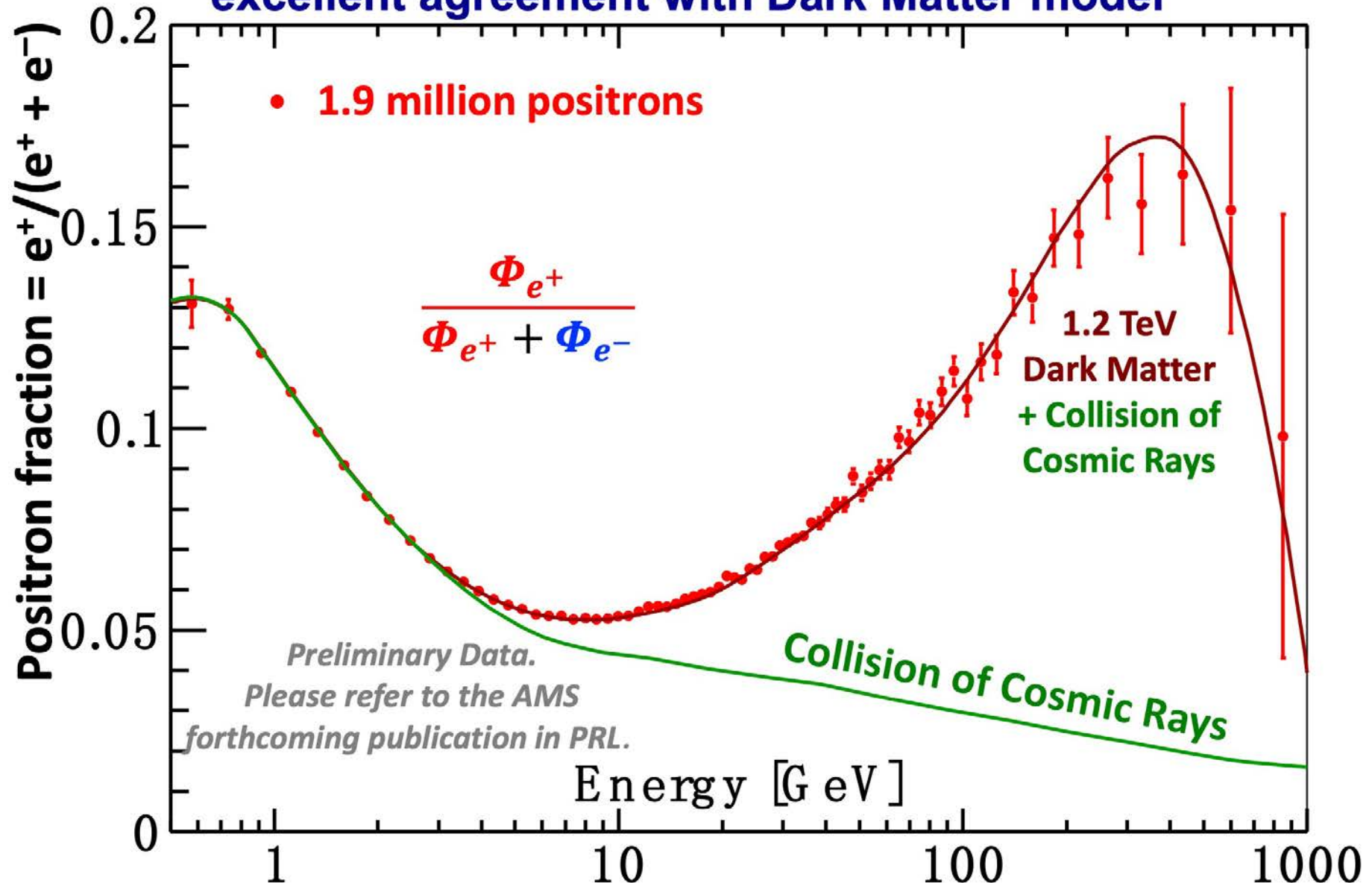


# AMS positron fraction





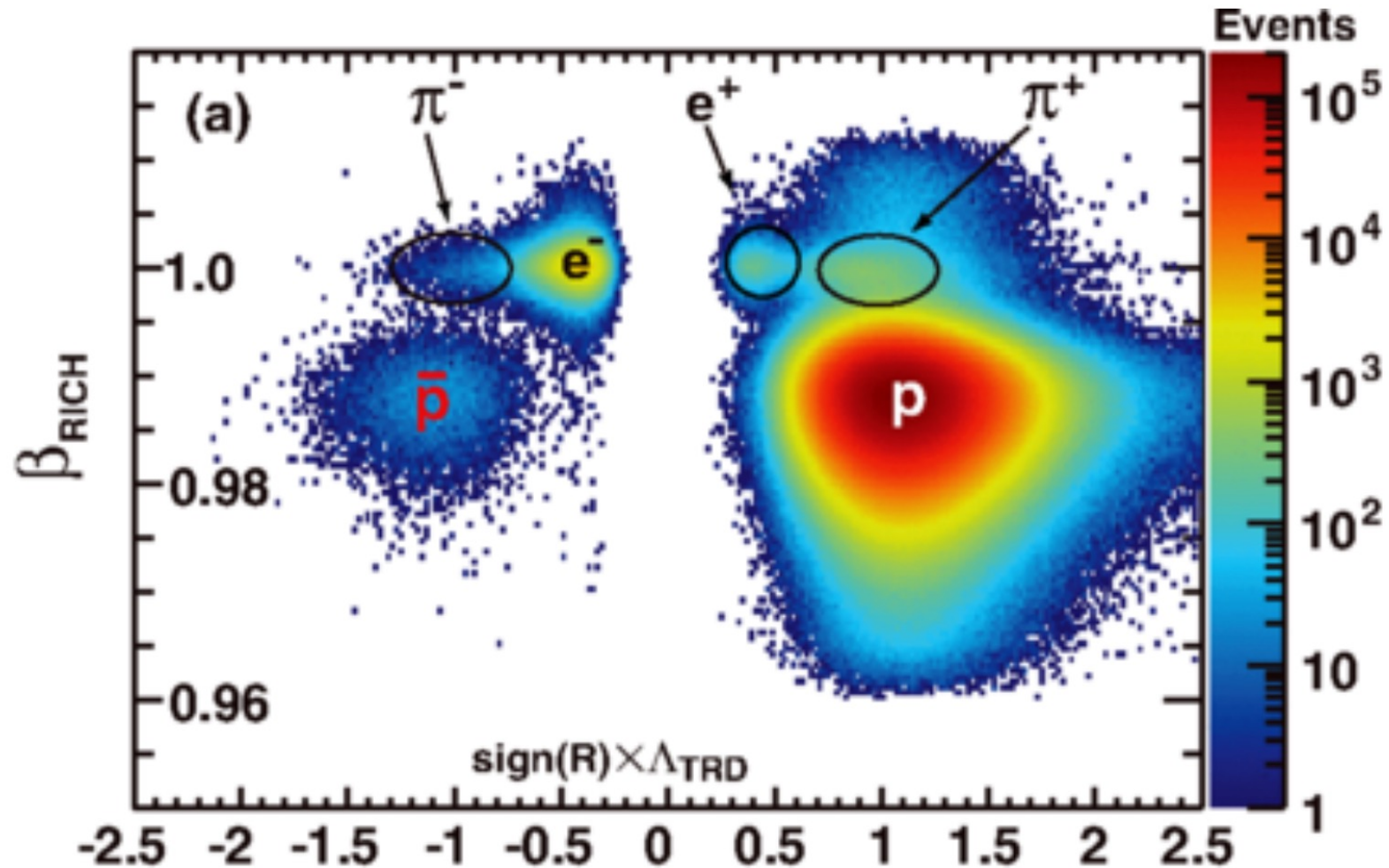
## Latest AMS Positron fraction results appears to be in excellent agreement with Dark Matter model



Dark Matter model is based on J. Kopp, Phys. Rev. D 88, 076013 (2013).

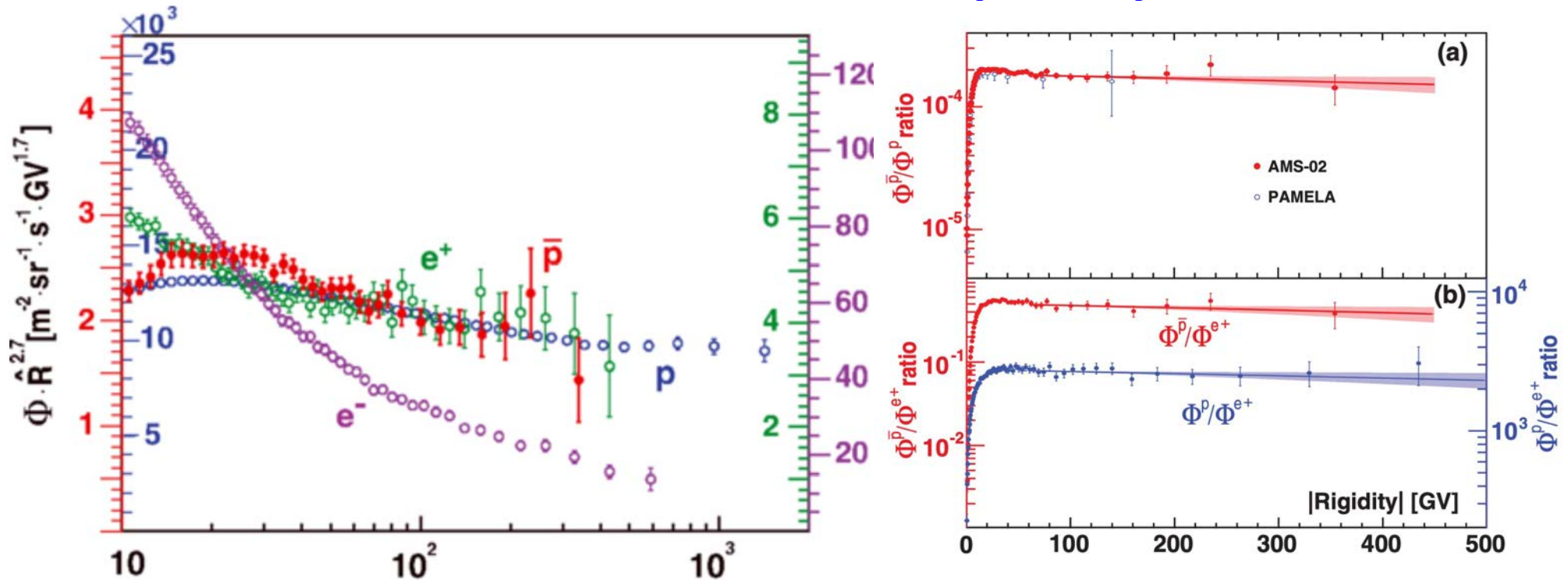
18

# AMS – primary antiprotons/protons measurement PRL 117, 091103 (2016)



**Particle Identification with the AMS detector !**

# AMS – primary antiprotons/protons measurement PRL 117, 091103 (2016)



AMS paper conclusions:

“In the absolute rigidity range  $\sim 60$  to  $\sim 500$  GV, the antiproton, proton and positron fluxes are found to have nearly identical rigidity dependence. The electron flux exhibits a different rigidity dependence. ...

These are new observations of the properties of elementary particles in the cosmos“



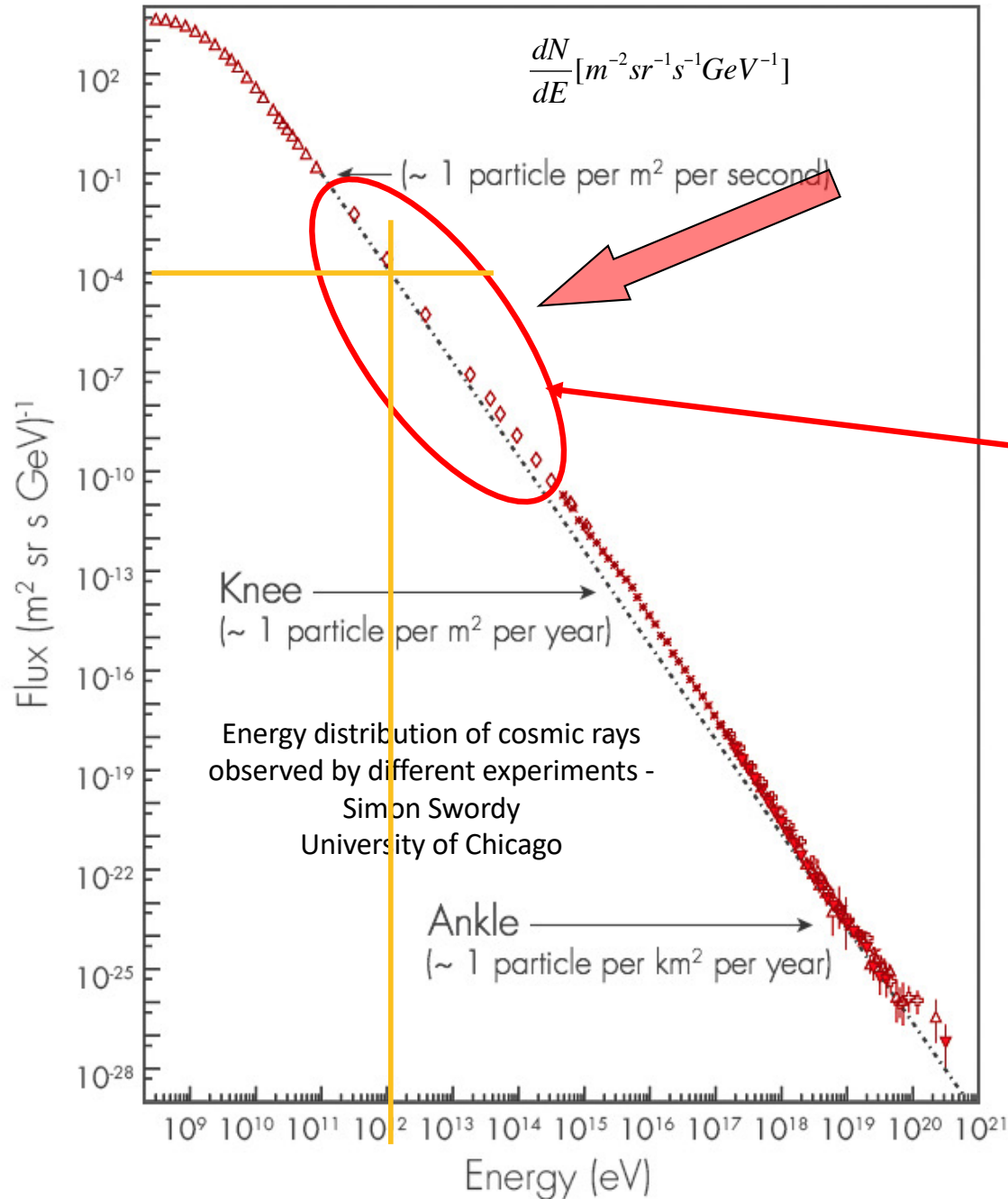
Detection of cosmic rays with  $50 \text{ GeV} < E < 100 \text{ TeV}$

- "Indirect" cosmic ray detection"
- "air Cherenkov" apparatuses

Apparatuses for the measurement of atmospheric showers on the Earth's surface

Prof. Antonio Capone - High Energy Neutrino  
Astrophysics

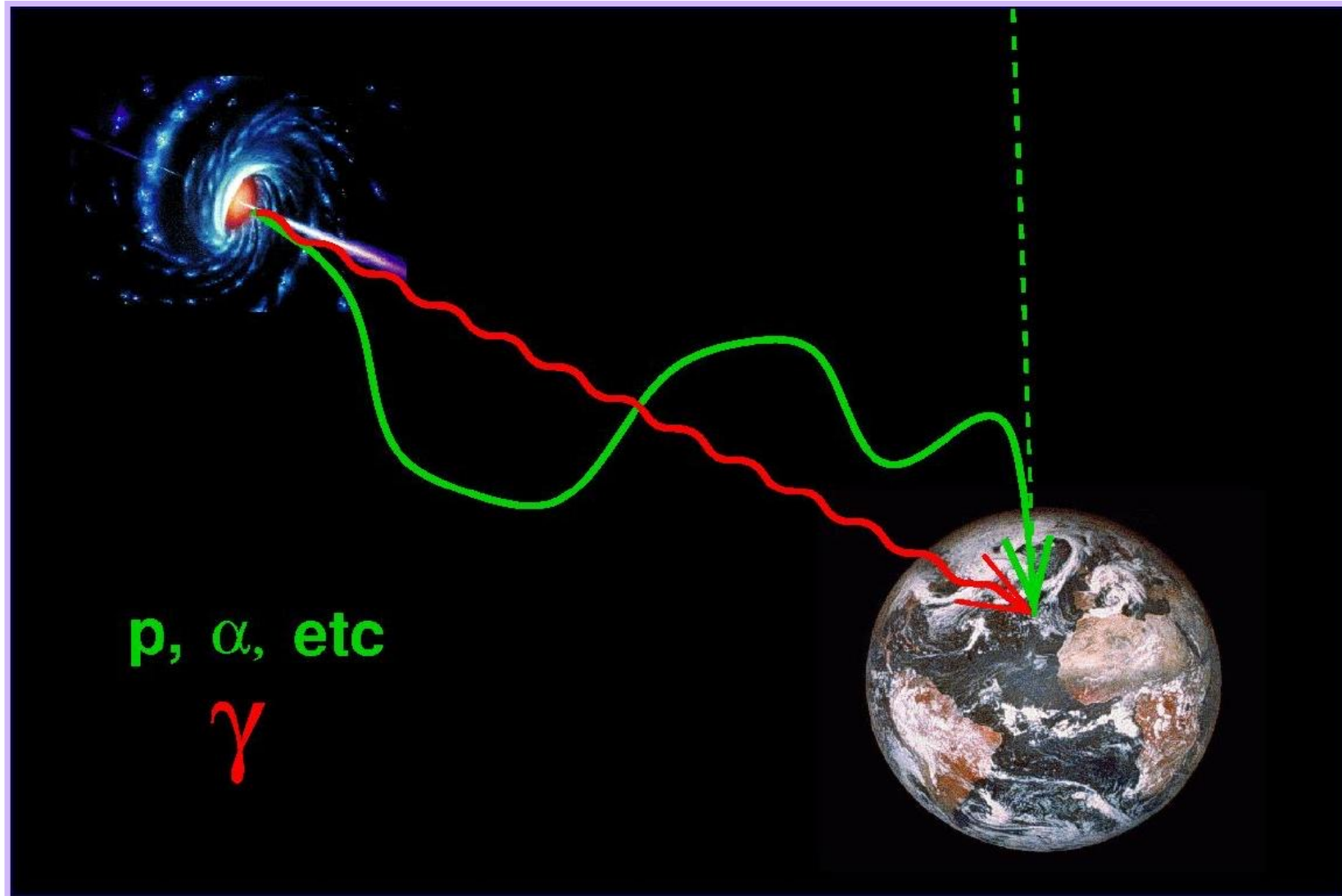
# Cosmic Rays with energy > 50-100 GeV



## Indirect measurements

- extensive showers
- Cherenkov signals with Earth based detectors
- Underground detectors

- $\gamma$ 's reach Earth undeflected from B-fields.
- Info on the accelerator (at least up to a certain distance.)



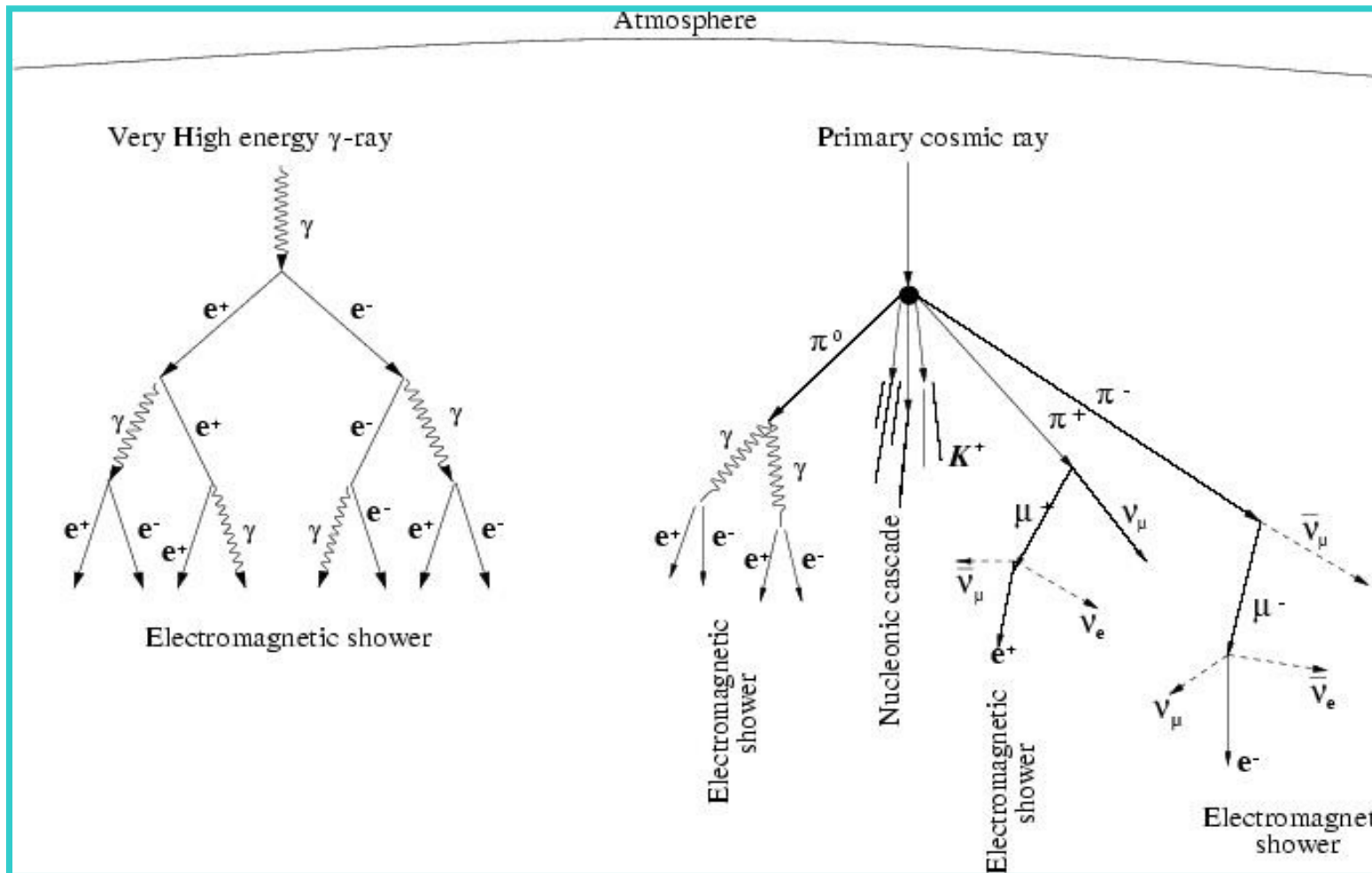
## How to reveal the VHE (\*) photons?

- Detectors large enough to measure the direction and estimate the initial energy of the photon
- It is not possible the use of anti-coincidences!
- Primary gammas from sources are rare ( $<10^{-4}$  of the CR flux)
- Large Detectors ( $10^3\text{m}^2$ ) are required
- Showers detectors (EAS) - In competition with primary charged C.R. measurements

(\*) 30 Gev - 30 TeV

- VHE  $\gamma$ -rays induce elect. showers in the atmosphere.
- Charged CR also induce air showers.

# Extensive air showers



**Hadronic showers.** The same principle as those e.m.

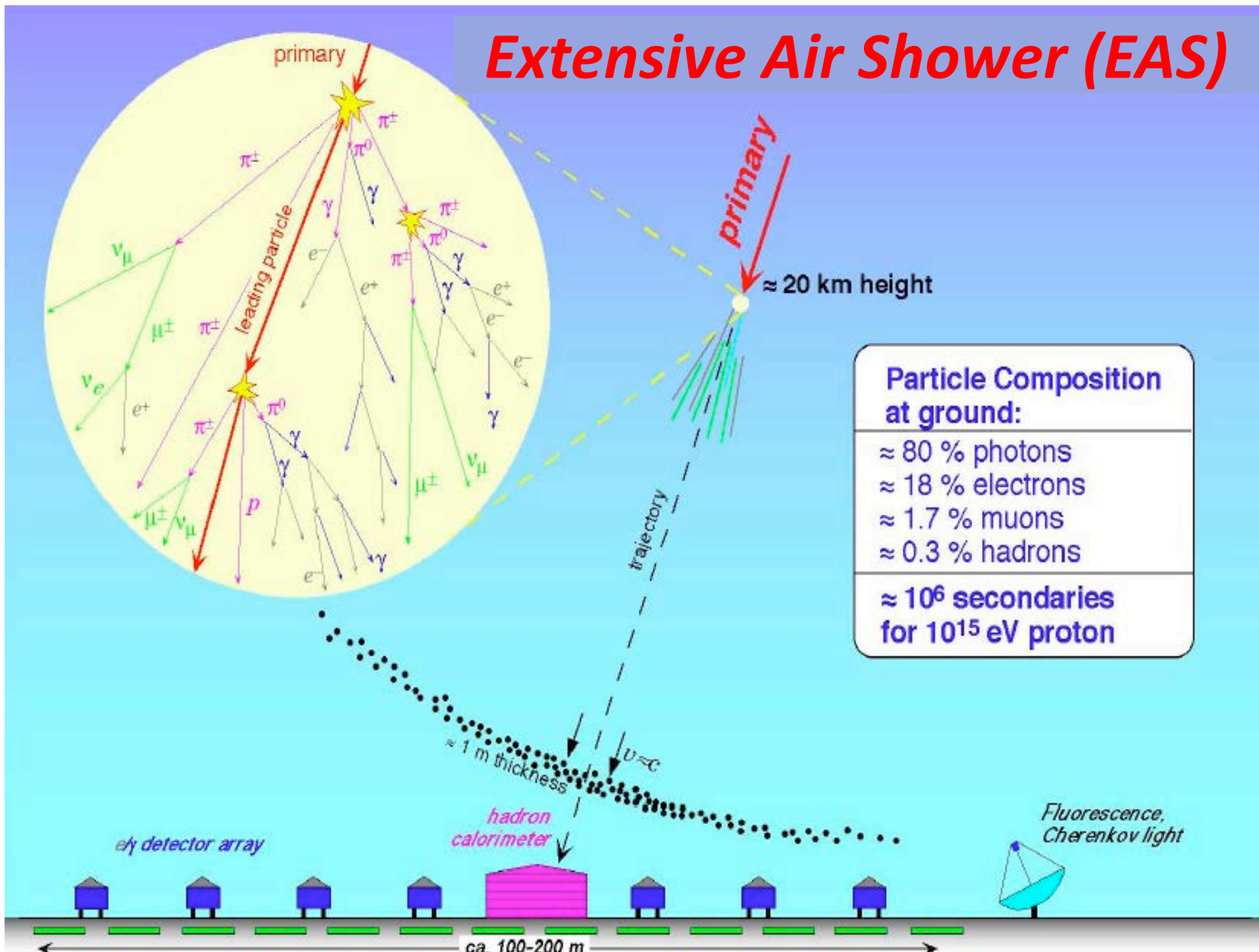
Production of charged pions ( $\pi^\pm$  from which  $\mu$  and  $\nu$ ) and neutral ( $\pi^0$  hence the  $\gamma$ )

On the ground arrive  $e^+ e^-$ , photons (as in the e.m. electromagnetic) but also  $\mu^+$ ,  $\mu^-$  and neutrinos

Apart from the content of  $\mu^+\mu^-$  the hadronic and the electromagnetic showers are very similar



# Extensive Air Shower (EAS)

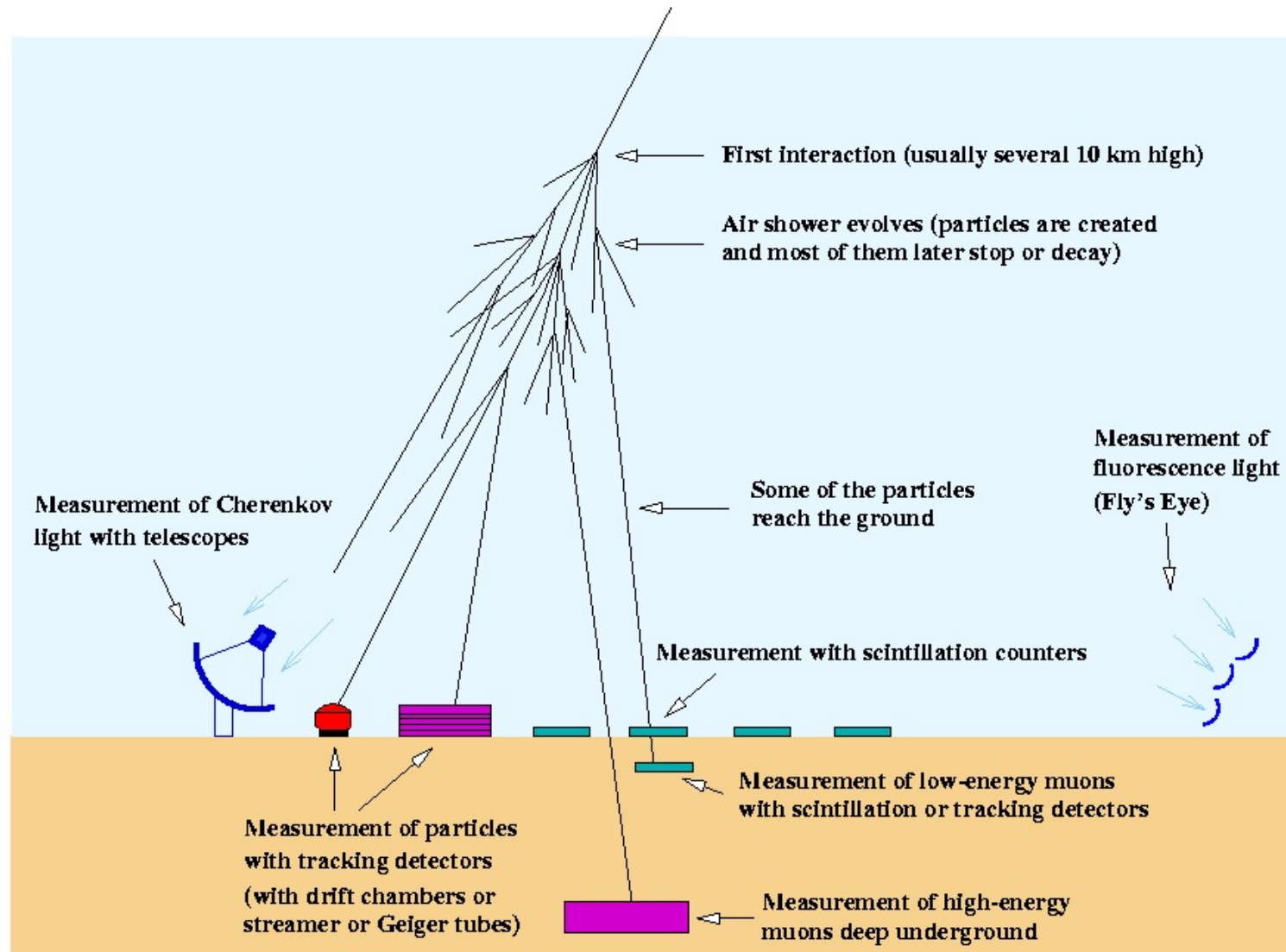


**Particle Composition at ground:**

- $\approx 80\%$  photons
- $\approx 18\%$  electrons
- $\approx 1.7\%$  muons
- $\approx 0.3\%$  hadrons

$\approx 10^6$  secondaries for  $10^{15}$  eV proton

# Measuring cosmic-ray and gamma-ray air showers



(C) 1999 K. Bernlöhr

# Simplified scheme for an EM shower development

## “Toy Model” to describe an e.m. shower development

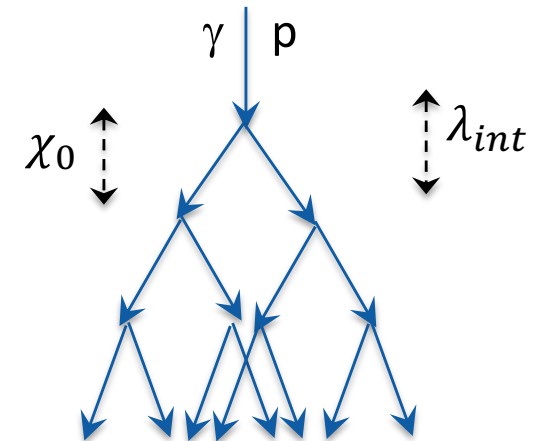
In each interaction:

- $e \rightarrow e'\gamma$
- $\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$

the number of particles doubles and the energy of each particles is  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the energy of the parent.

In each “step”  $t$  the  $N(t)$  increases and  $E(t)$  decreases:

$$\begin{aligned}
 N(0) &= 1, & E(0) &= E_0 \\
 N(1) &= 2, & E(1) &= \frac{E_0}{2} \\
 N(2) &= 4, & E(2) &= \frac{E_0}{4} \\
 N(3) &= 8, & E(3) &= \frac{E_0}{8} \\
 N(t) &= 2^t, & E(t) &= \frac{E_0}{2^t}
 \end{aligned}$$



the multiplication of particles continue until the energy of electrons and gammas are sufficient to give the interactions **(1)**, i.e. until when the energy  $E(t) = E_{critical}$ . After that point the number of particles in the shower does not increase any more: the shower has reached the maximum development: we have:  $N_{max} = N(t_{max})$

particles with energy  $E(t_{max}) = \frac{E_0}{2^{t_{max}}} = E_{critical}$  at a distance  $X_{max} = \chi_0 \cdot t_{max}$

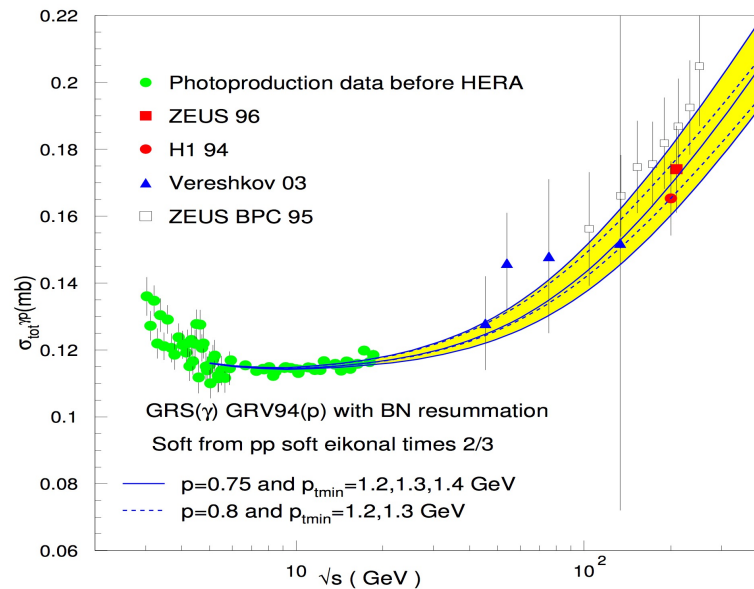
We can then write the relation  $t_{max} = \frac{1}{\ln(2)} \ln\left(\frac{E_0}{E_{critical}}\right)$

# Extensive Air Shower (EAS)

The VHE photons interact with atoms in the atmosphere. The products of these interactions are revealed at ground. The cross-section  $\gamma$ -p was measured up to energies  $E_\gamma = 20$  TeV. The extrapolations necessary are considered reliable.

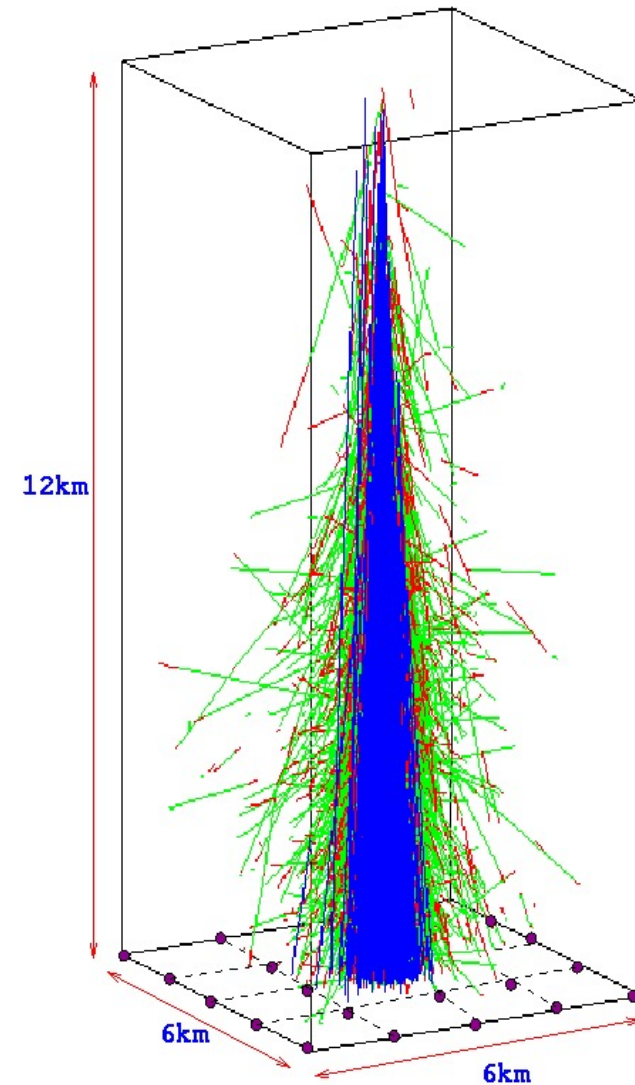
The "centre of mass" for  $\gamma$ +p is

$$\sqrt{s} \approx \sqrt{2E_\gamma m_p} = \sqrt{2 \cdot 20000 \cdot 1} = 200 \text{ GeV}$$

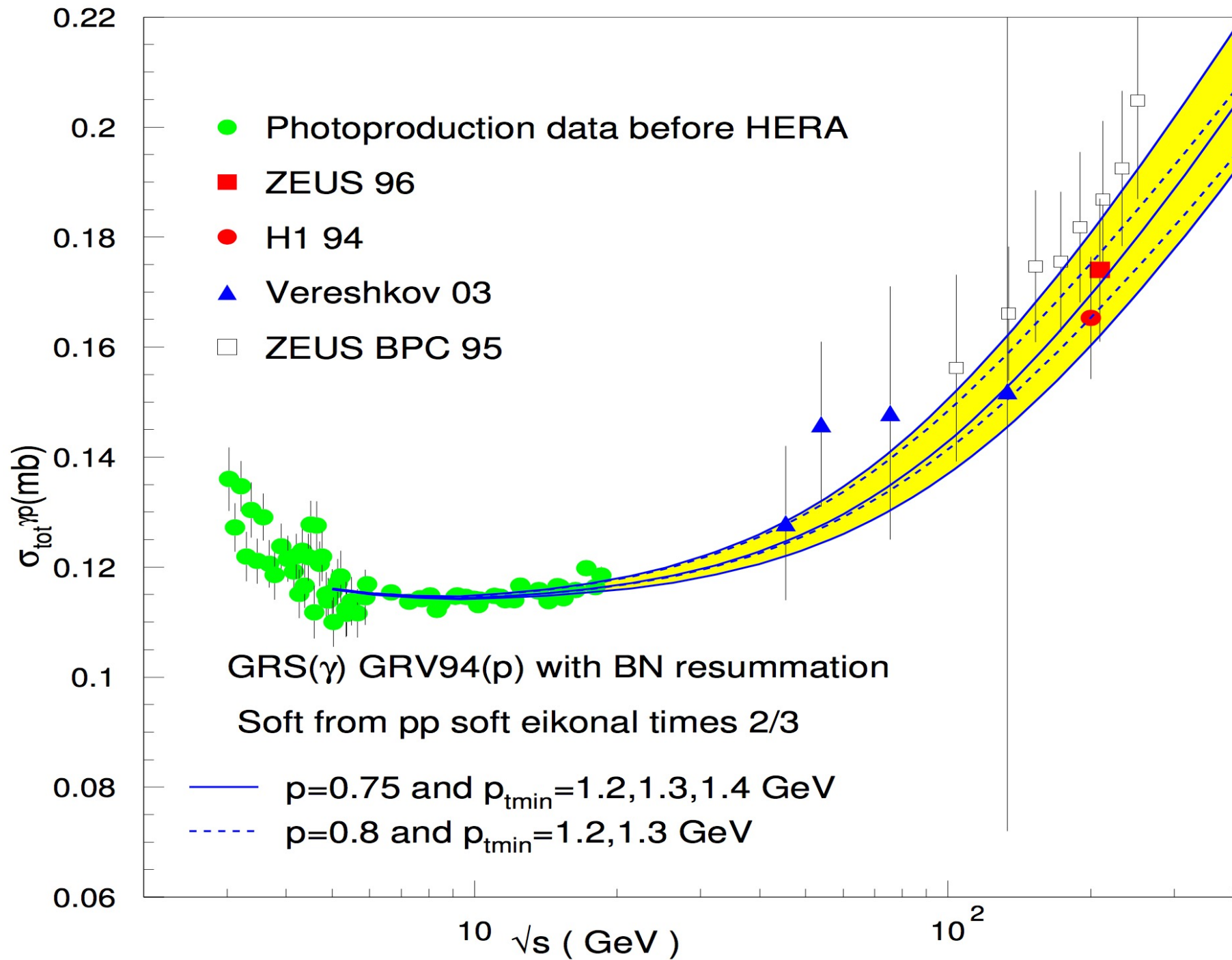


Shower development characterized by the "critical energy":  $E_c=80\text{MeV}$

## A 10 EeV Extensive Air Shower (EAS)



100 billion particles at sea level  
 photons, electrons (99%), muons (1%)  
 ● Ground Array stations



## EM showers characteristics

- *longitudinal distribution*

$$\frac{dE}{dt} \propto t^\alpha e^{-\beta t}$$

- *Position of shower maximum*

$$t_{\max} = 1.4 \ln \frac{E_0}{E_c}$$

- *Longitudinal containment*

$$t_{95\%} = t_{\max} + 0.08Z + 9.6$$

- *Lateral containment dominated by multiple scattering (+ photon propagation)*

$$\langle \theta_M \rangle = \frac{21}{p\beta} \sqrt{t}$$

$$r_{95\%} = 2R_M$$

$$R_M = \frac{21 \text{MeV}}{E_c} X_0 \quad \text{g / cm}^2 \quad \text{Molière radius}$$

$$R_M \propto \frac{X_0}{E_c} \propto \frac{A}{Z} \quad \text{per } Z \gg 1$$

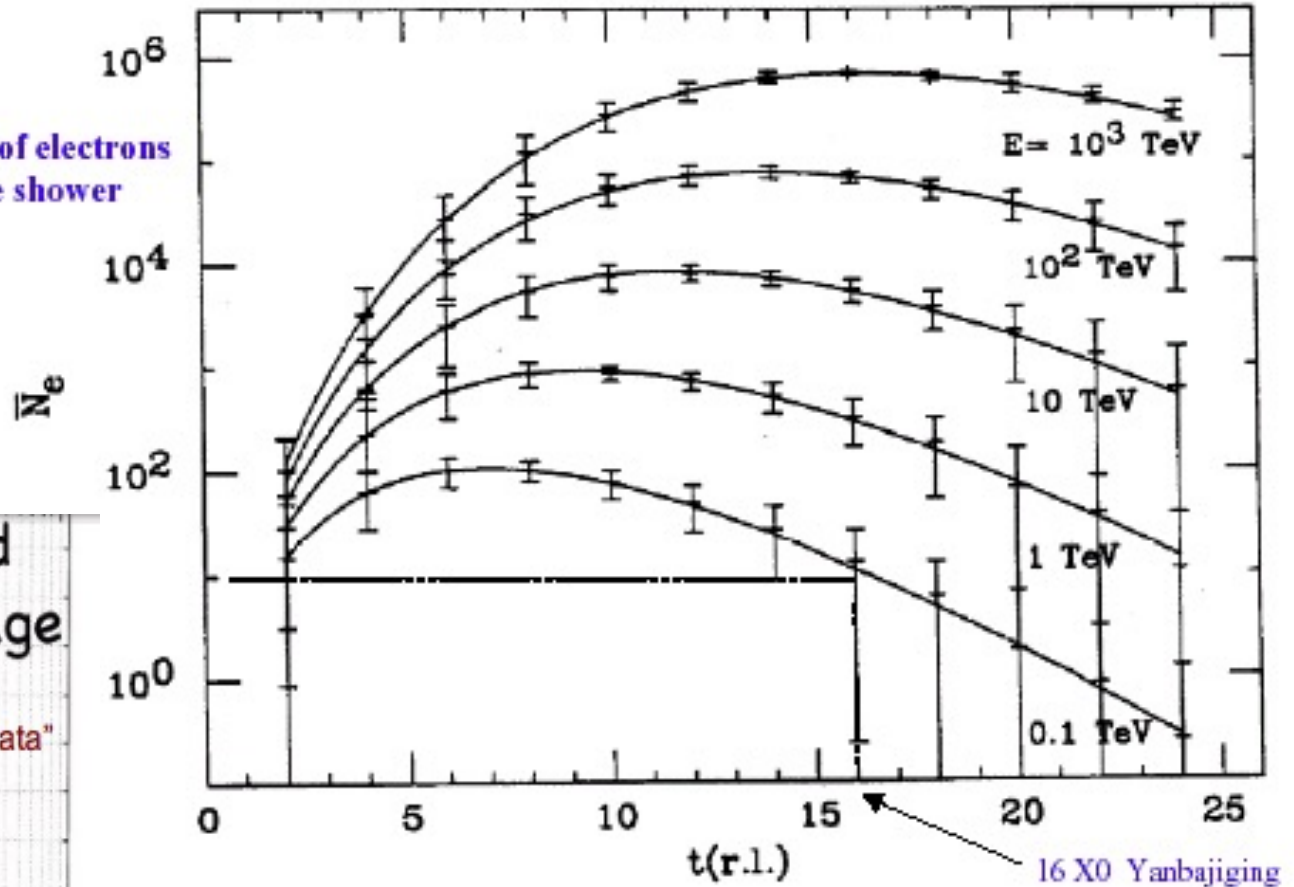
# The electromagnetic component in a $\gamma$ induced shower

Longitudinal development of the electron component of photon initiated shower  
(with electron threshold energy of 5 MeV and fluctuations superimposed)

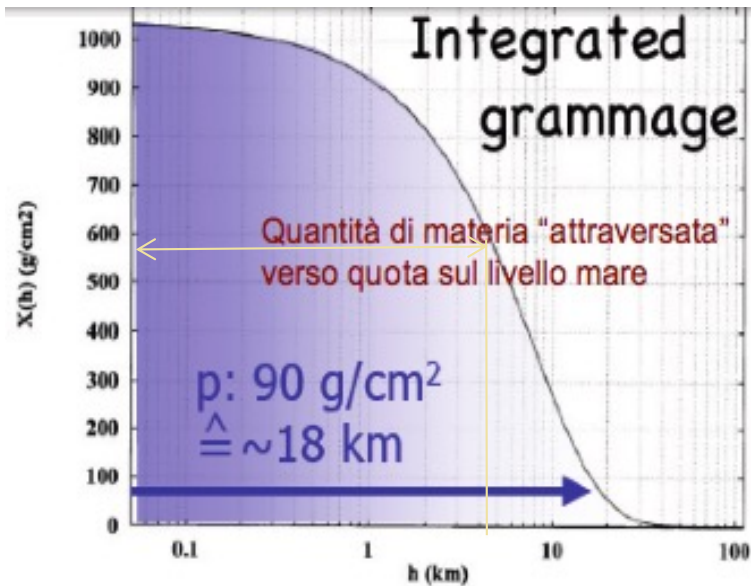
Extended shower by  $\gamma$  measurements with high-altitude equipment: why ???

In air  $X_0 \sim 36.6 \text{ g/cm}^2$ .  
At 4300m s.l.m. a photon has crossed about  $16 X_0$

Number of electrons in the shower



Shower depth as a function of radiation length



# Some useful values

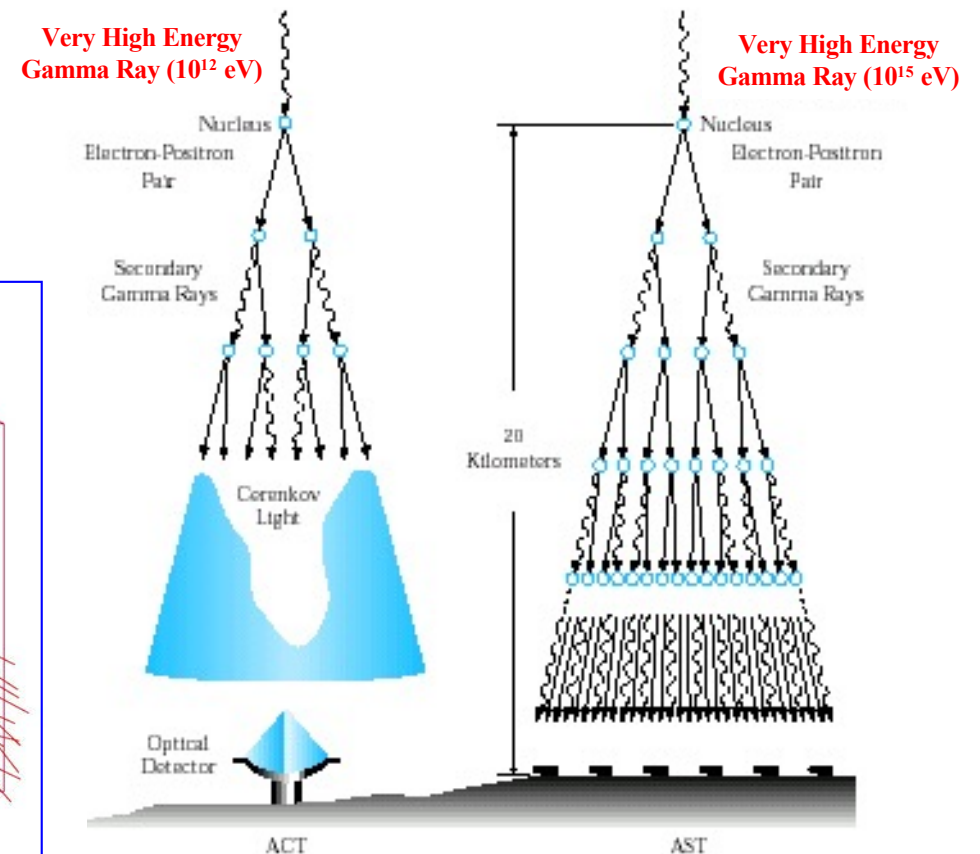
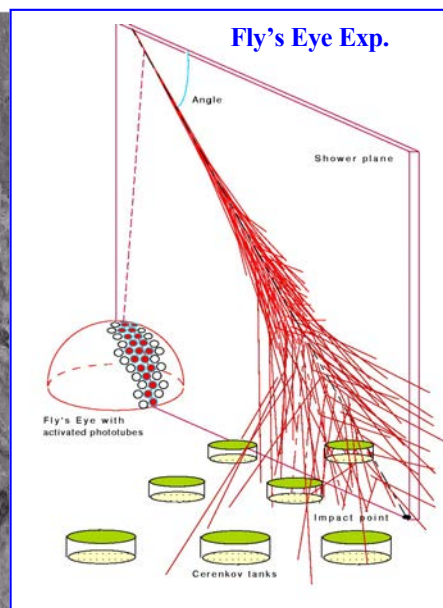
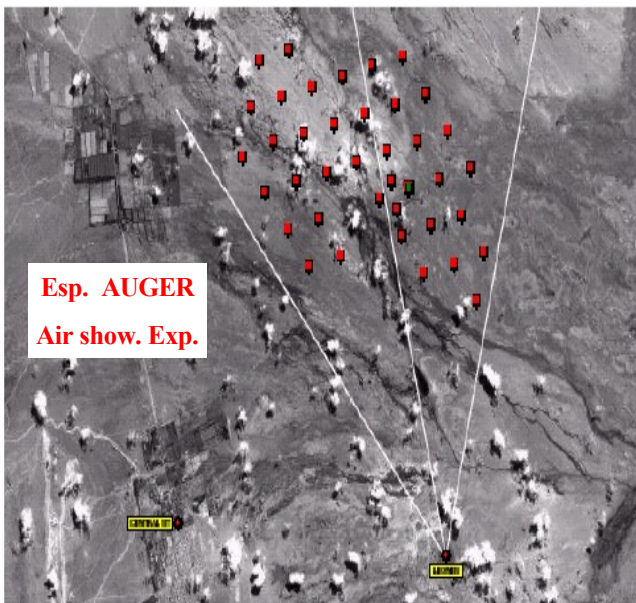
Material	Density	Thickness
	(g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	1 Atm. Equivalent
Interstellar Space	10 <sup>-23</sup>	100 million LY
Air at 15,000 m (muon production zone)	0.00019	53,000 m
Air at 12,500 m (max. KAO experiment)	0.00029	34,000 m
Air at 4,000 m (Top of Mauna Kea)	0.00082	12,000 m
Sea Level Air	0.00125	8,000 m
Water	1	10 m
Rock	5	2 m
Iron	8	1.3 m
Lead	11	0.9 m

Altitude		Note	Density	Pressure	Depth
ft	m		g/cm <sup>3</sup>	Pa	g/cm <sup>2</sup>
233,000	71,000	Top of Std Atmosphere	6x10 <sup>-8</sup>	67	0.7
105,000	32,000	Halfway	1x10 <sup>-6</sup>	868	9
49,000	15,000	Zone of Muon production	2x10 <sup>-4</sup>	12,000	130
41,000	12,500	Max. alt. KAO experiment	3x10 <sup>-4</sup>	18,000	180
36,000	11,000		4x10 <sup>-4</sup>	23,000	230
13,000	4,000	Top of Mauna Kea	8x10 <sup>-4</sup>	62,000	630
0	0	Sea Level	1x10 <sup>-3</sup>	101,000	1,000

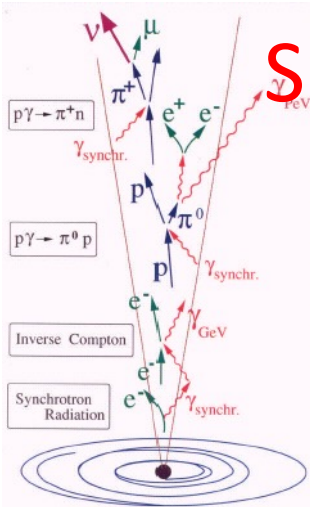


# Experiments for the detection of showers in the air

- $E_0 \sim 30\text{GeV} - 1\text{TeV}$  (**Very High Energy**) the detection of showers in the air can be carried out with "optical" telescopes capable of detecting the Cherenkov light produced by relativistic charged particles in the upper atmosphere (the maximum amount of light located where the shower development is maximum) - **Air Cherenkov experiments**
- $E_0 \sim 100\text{ GeV} - 1000\text{ TeV}$  (**Ultra High Energy**) a detector placed in the mountains and made with large surface apparatuses is crossed by a sufficient number of particles to be "triggered" - **Classic Air shower experiments**
- $E_0 > 1000\text{ TeV}$  (**Extreme UHE**) even a detector at sea level can be sensitive to extensive showers. - Detection of "fluorescence" radiation with apparatuses **Fly's Eye experiments**



# Show development in the atmosphere



**γ, nucleons VHE or UHE interactions in high atm. → Extensive Showers in Air (EAS)**

**In the shower: -3 components: electromagnetic, hadronic, muons**



- at the beginning  $N_{e,p,\gamma,\mu}$  increases and  $E_{e,p,\gamma,\mu}$  decreases
- when  $E_{e,p,\gamma,\mu} > E_{critical}$  the number of particles grows
- when  $E_{e,p,\gamma,\mu} \sim E_{critical}$  the number of particles reached the max value
- when  $E_{e,p,\gamma,\mu} < E_{critical}$  no new particles generated, the shower goes to end

**Hadrons → production  $\pi^0, \pi^+, \pi^-$**

**For each hadronic interaction → ~1/3 of the energy goes into the electromagnetic component**

**$\pi^0, \eta \rightarrow \gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^- \rightarrow$  electromagnetic shower**

**$e^+e^-$  after the shower maximum decrease in number since  $E_{e^+e^-} < E_{critical} (\sim 80\text{MeV})$  and ionization processes predominate on production of pairs and irradiation**

**$\pi^+, \pi^-, \kappa^+, \kappa^- \rightarrow \mu^+, \mu^-$  “penetrants”**

**muons in air shower initiated by  $\pi, \kappa$  have bigger probability for “low energy mesons”-**

**$e^+e^-$  they are the most numerous particles in the shower in the air, most of the  $E_0$  energy of the R.C. primary is dissipated in ionization energy by  $e^+e^-$ , a part  $F(E_0)$  is transported by neutrinos.**

**The energy dissipated in ionization can be measured by integrating on the development of the shower  $(1-F) \cdot E_0 \sim \alpha \cdot \int_0^X N(X) dX$  where  $N(X)$  is the number of charged particles at depth  $X$  and  $\alpha$  is the energy lost per unit of path in the atmosphere**

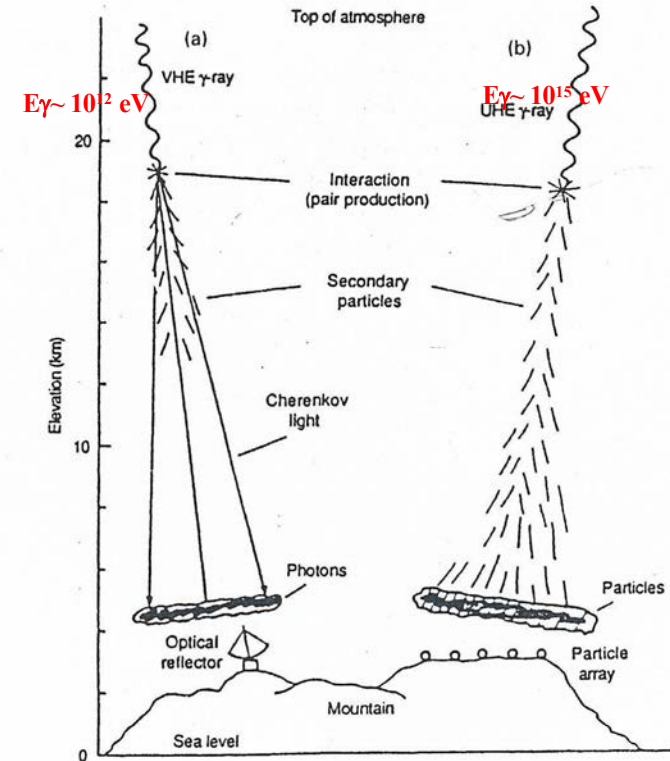
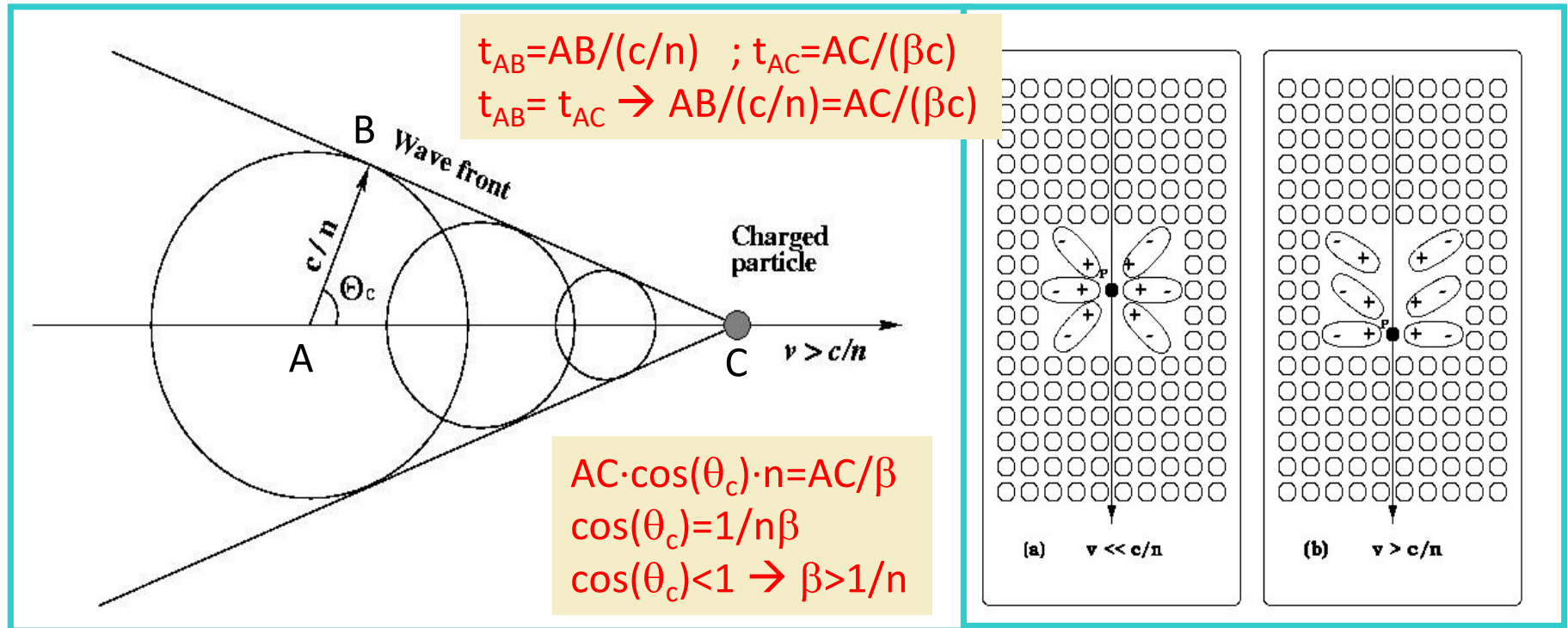


Figure 14.1: Schematic representation of air showers in two energy regions and the corresponding detectors: (a),  $E \sim 1 \text{ TeV}$ , air Cherenkov telescope; (b)  $E \sim 1 \text{ PeV}$ , air shower array. (From Lamb & Weekes 1987. © 1987 by AAAS.)

# Cerenkov effect (I)



- Cerenkov radiation emitted when a charged particle travels with  $v > c/n$  in the medium

$$\beta > \frac{1}{n} \quad ; \quad \cos\Theta_c = \frac{1}{\beta n} \quad ; \quad \frac{d^2N}{dx d\lambda} \propto \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$$

- Mostly “blue” photons.

# Cherenkov light production in the air

At sea level, the **air refractive index** is  $n=1.00029$ .

For a relativistic particle with  $\beta=0,9999$  we have Cherenkov light production; the angle of light propagation is given by:

$$\cos(\theta_{\text{Cherenkov}}) = 1/(\beta n) \implies \theta_{\text{Cherenkov}} \sim 23 \text{ mrad} \sim 1.3^\circ$$

The threshold condition for the Cherenkov effect ( $\cos(\theta_{\text{Cherenkov}}) \leq 1$ ) implies the following conditions for electrons and muons:

$$\text{electrons } E_e \geq 21 \text{ MeV}$$

$E_{\text{thr}}$  for production of light Cherenkov in the air <

$$\text{muons } E_\mu \geq 4.4 \text{ GeV}$$

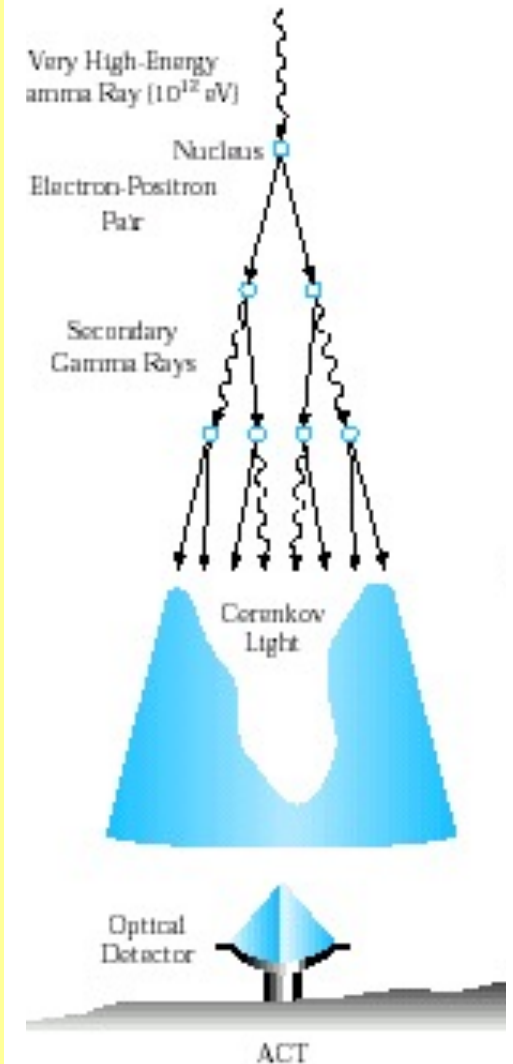
The **maximum development of the shower** (therefore the maximum production of light Cherenkov) is at  $\sim 10 \text{ km}$  in height.

This implies that the **area illuminated on the ground** has a circular/elliptical shape (depending on the inclination of the primary RC) and has a:

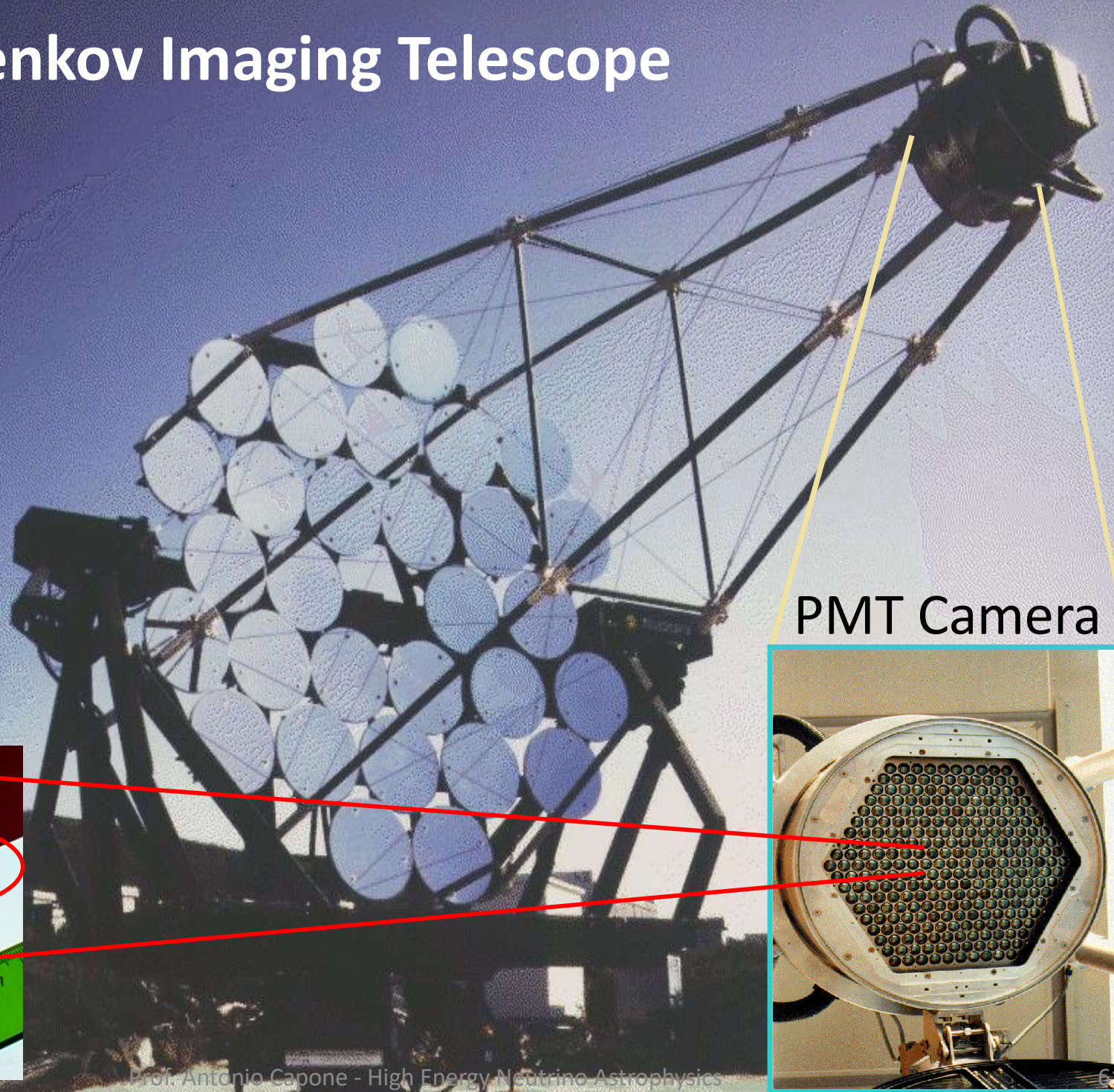
$$\text{radius} \sim 10000 * 0.023 = 230 \text{ m.}$$

The illuminated surface therefore has a size of  $1.6 * 10^5 \text{ m}^2$ . Likewise we can say that an observer (an instrument) on the ground can receive light from any point of a surface of  $1.6 * 10^5 \text{ m}^2$  placed at 10 km of height.

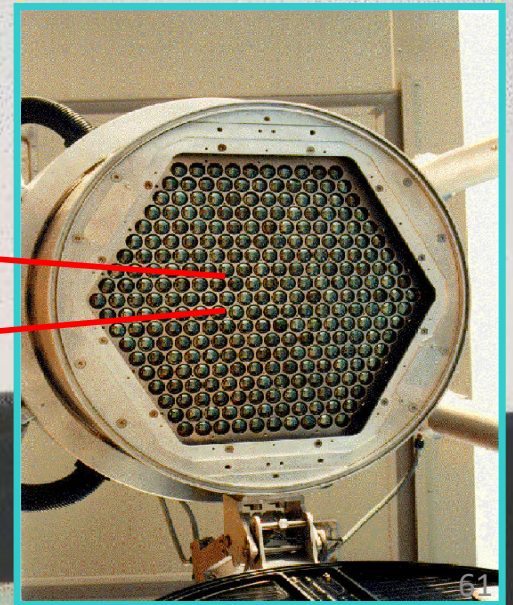
We can easily calculate the n. of Cherenkov photons emitted as a function of the wavelength. For the "visible" radiation ( $350 < \lambda < 500 \text{ nm}$ ) we expect, in an "electromagnetic" shower started by 1 photon of 1 TeV, about  $N_\gamma \sim 8.2 \cdot 10^3 \text{ photons}/\lambda$ , this leads to the ground a photons flux  $\sim 30\text{-}50 \text{ photons}/\text{m}^2$  in an area within 100m of the shower axis.



# A Cherenkov Imaging Telescope



PMT Camera



1-in PMTs



# Air Cherenkov experiments

The shower direction is determined by the directionality of the emitted Cherenkov light (at an angle  $\sim 0$  with respect to the direction of the primary particle).

The maximum of the shower is typically at  $\sim 10\text{km}$ , the observed angular range is  $\sim 1$  degree  $\rightarrow$  the observed area is  $\sim 10^5 \text{ m}^2$ .

- They can collect data only during moonless nights and with good visibility (10% of the time).
- point sources can be studied only if above the horizon (duty cycle 10-20%)

What is the expected background ??? We want to reveal "photons" with  $E_\gamma > \text{TeV}$ , the background consists of showers initiated by charged C.R. much more frequent than  $\gamma$ ,

**Flux of C.R. with  $E > \text{TeV}$   $\sim 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ sr}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1} \rightarrow 10^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ sr}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$**

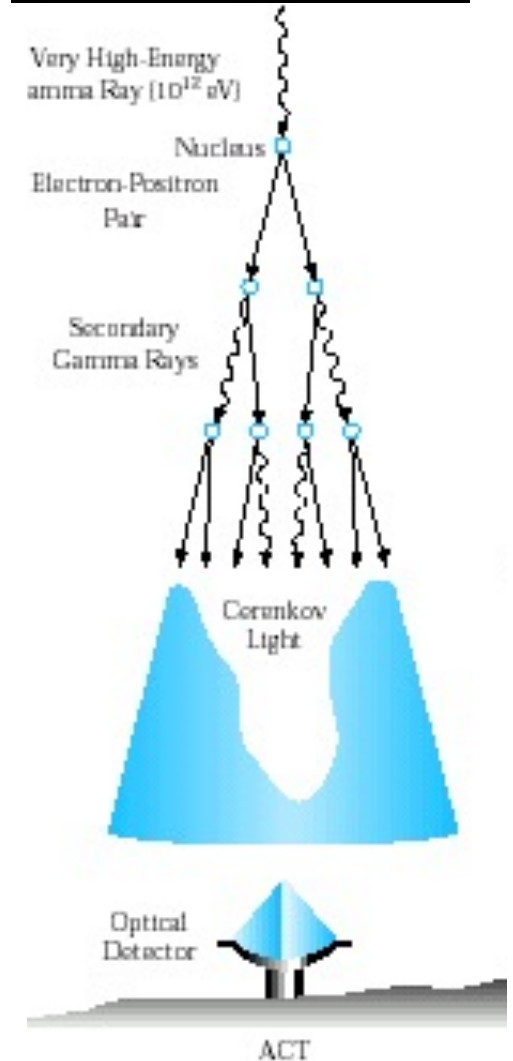
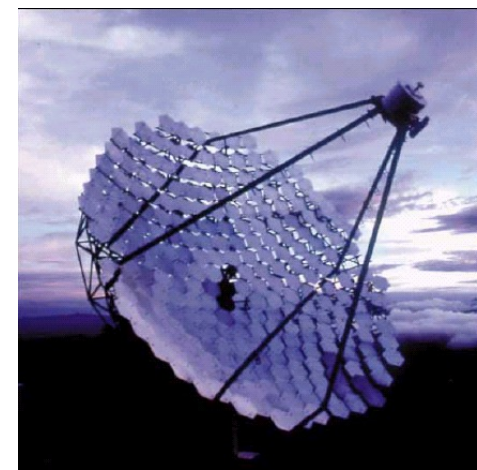
- If the effective collection area  $\sim 10^5 \text{ m}^2$  in an angular interval of  $1^\circ \rightarrow \sim A_{\text{eff}} F_{>1\text{TeV}} \Delta\Omega = 10^5 \cdot 10^{-1} \cdot 1.2 \cdot 10^{-3} \sim 10$  showers/s (due to C.R.)
- **Then collecting data, for any astronomical coordinates, for a time equal to 30 h ( $10^5 \text{ s}$ )  $\rightarrow 10^6$  background events (do to C.R.).**

**A possible point source could be visible only if it will give rise to a number of events statistically superior to the "fluctuation of the background":**

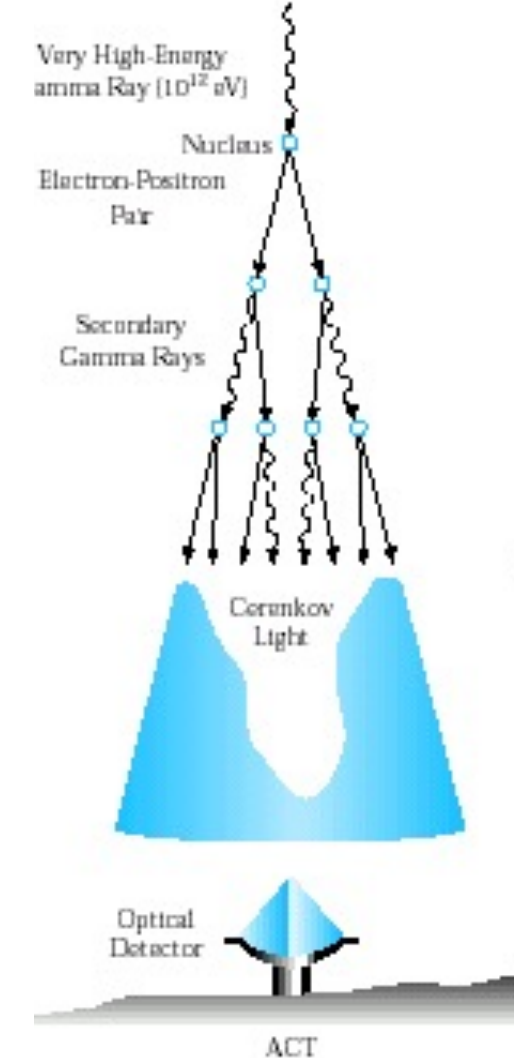
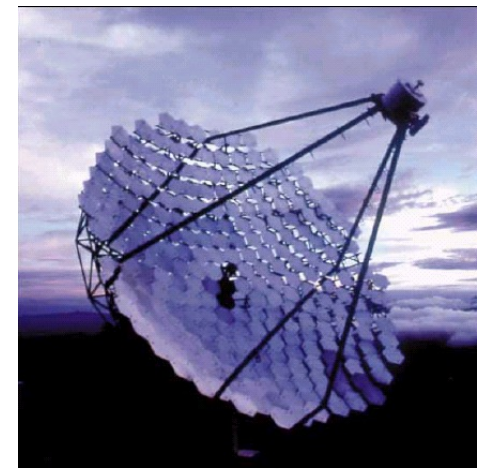
$$N_{\text{minimum signal}} > 3 \cdot (10^6)^{0.5} = 3000$$

**this corresponds to a flux of photons from the source equal to**

$$3000 / (10^5 \text{ s} \cdot 10^9 \text{ cm}^2) = 3 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ photons/ s} \cdot \text{cm}^2$$



# Air Cherenkov experiments



We can reconstruct the **energy of the "primary photon"** from the total amplitude of the signals on the PMT that collect the light from the reflector (experimental determination that requires a calibration)

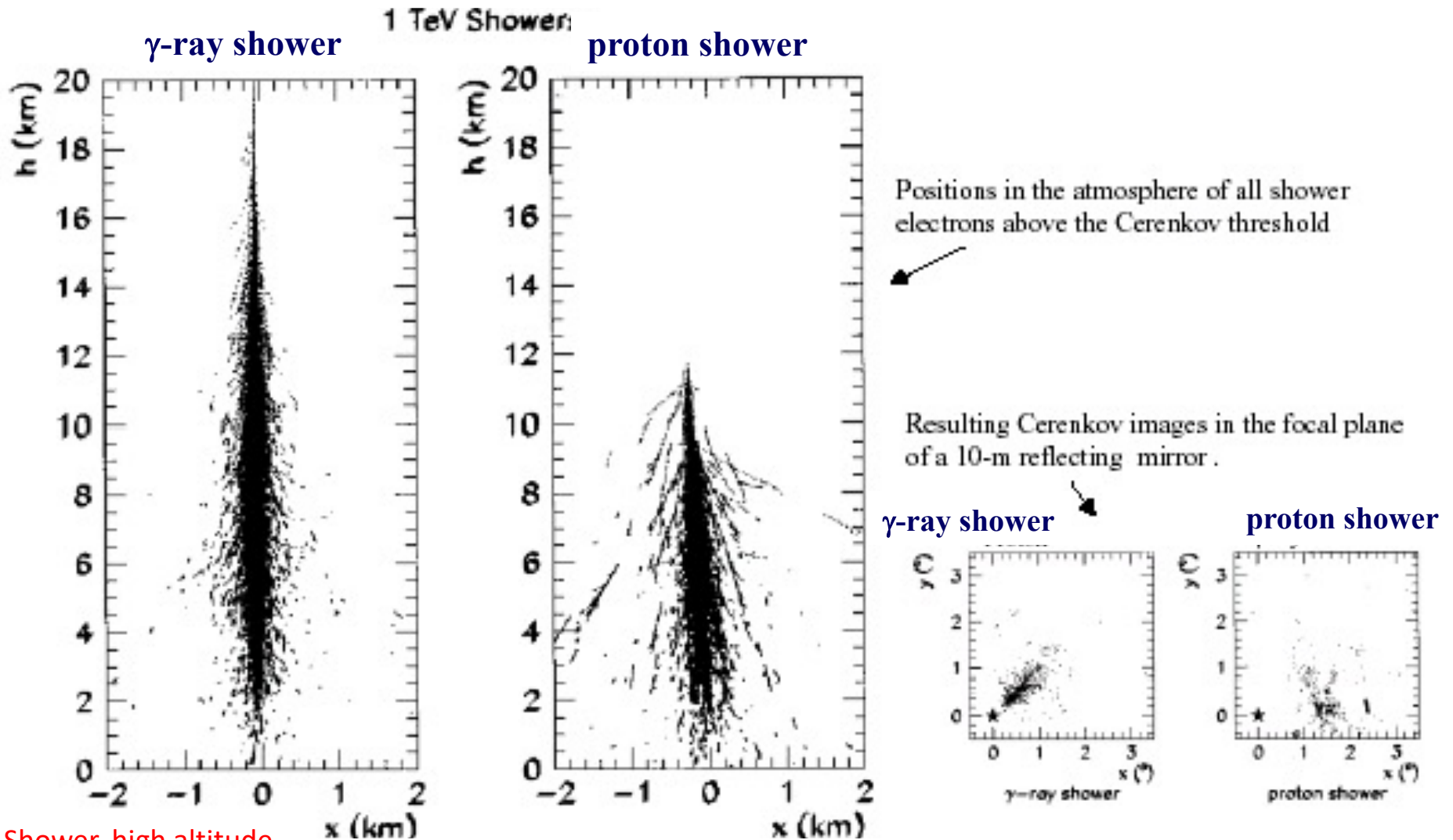
calibration:

- first one estimate the acceptance of the telescope (area \* solid angle) then one compare the integral of the C.R. spectrum with the frequency of events observed as a function of the threshold in energy (ie of the signal on the PMTs)
- The above information are than compared with other detectors

We can **distinguish the nature** of primary C.R. (photon or charged C.R.) from the "shape" of the shower ...

# Development of vertical air showers originated from 1 TeV $\gamma$ or p

In a "Cherenkov telescope" it is possible to distinguish the "leptonic" or "hadronic" nature of the "primary" thanks to the different properties of the showers produced by them.

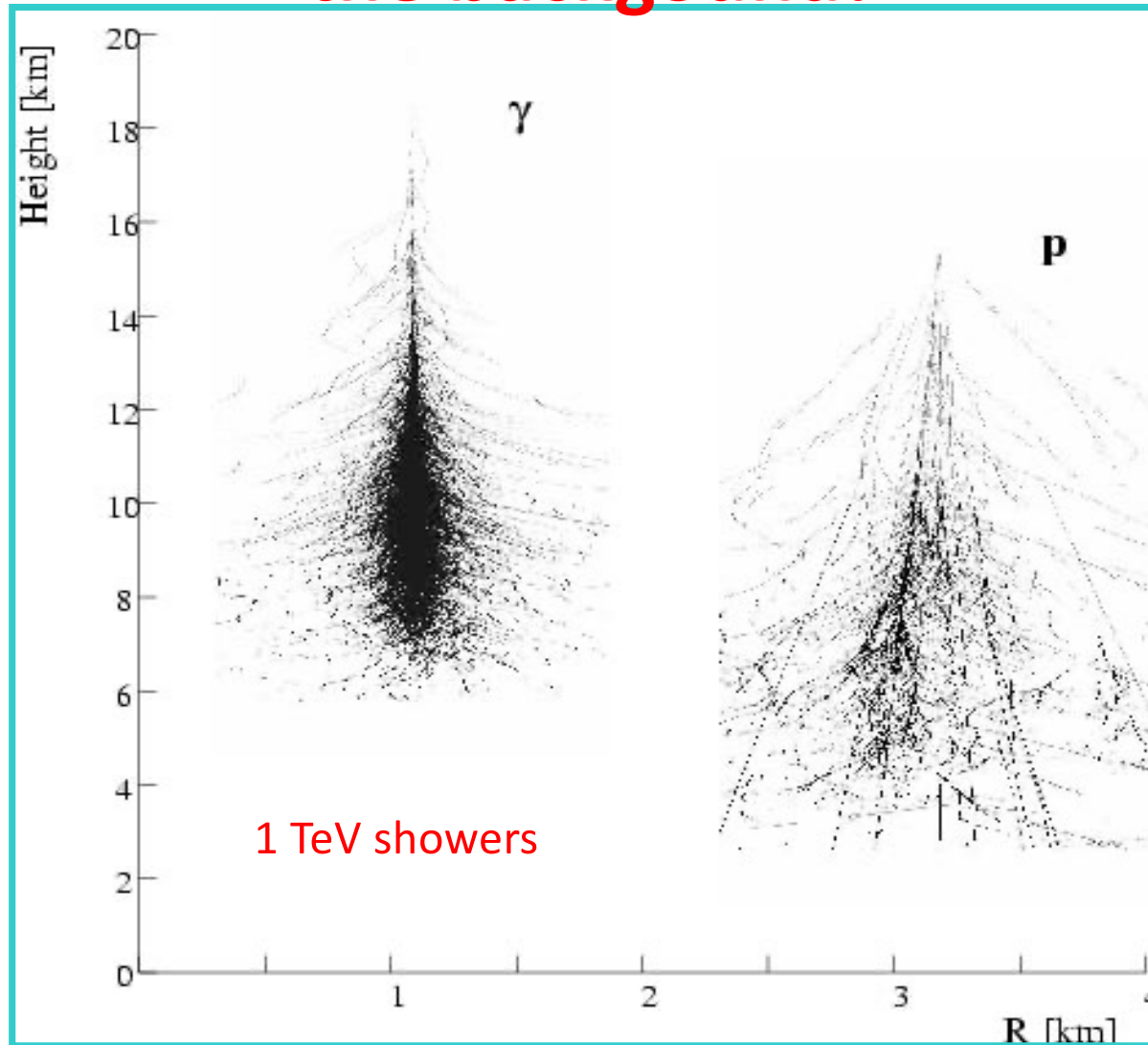


E.M. Shower, high altitude interaction, "regular" longitudinal and lateral development

Hadronic shower, interaction after a longer path, more "irregular" longitudinal and lateral development



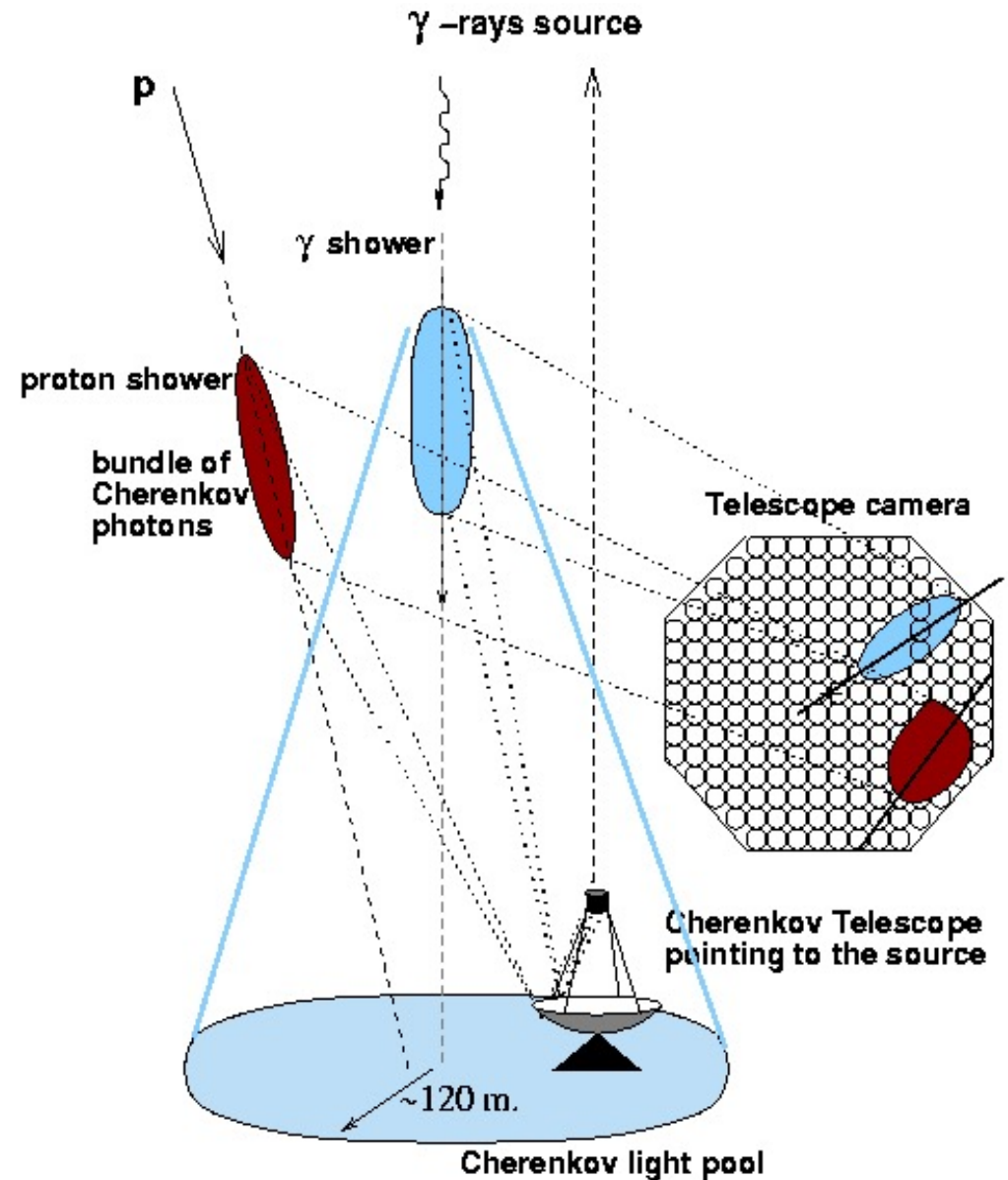
# Recognizing the hadronic showers allows to reduce the background!



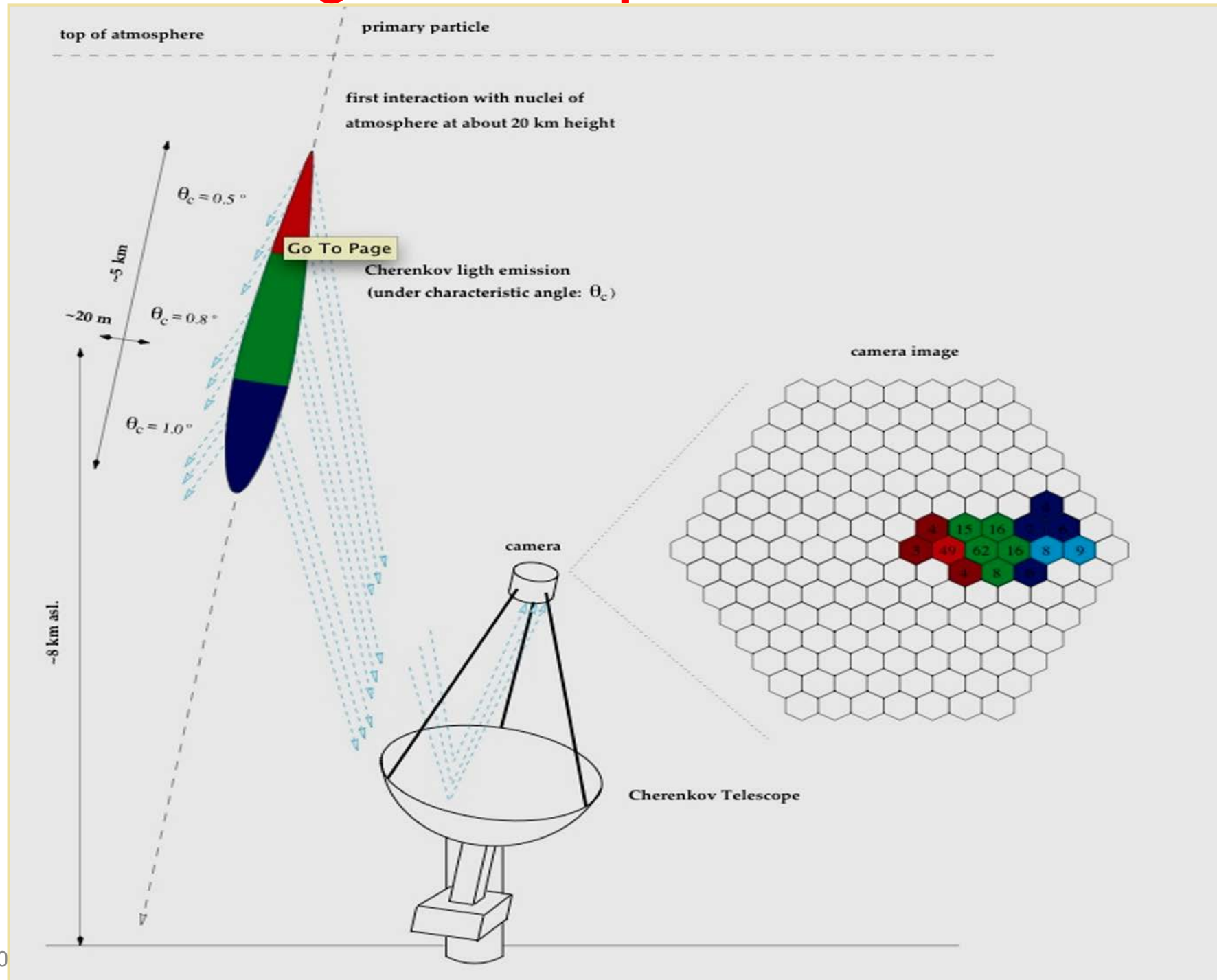
$\gamma$ -rays/protons= $1/10^4$   $\Rightarrow$  enormous source of background!

# The Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov technique

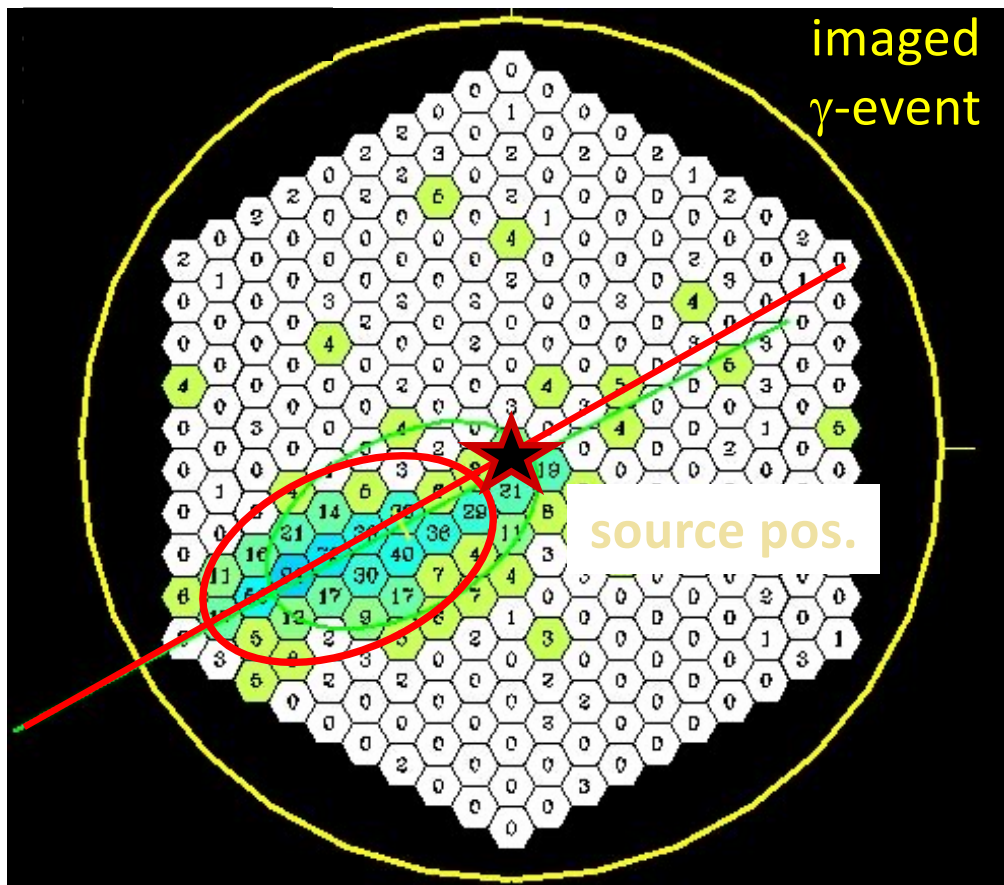
- Cherenkov radiation due to secondary particles with speed  $v > c/n$ .
- Short flashes (5-20 ns).
- Cherenkov photons collected by large ground reflectors and focused onto a camera with fast PMTs.
- The shower is “imaged” by the Cherenkov telescope.



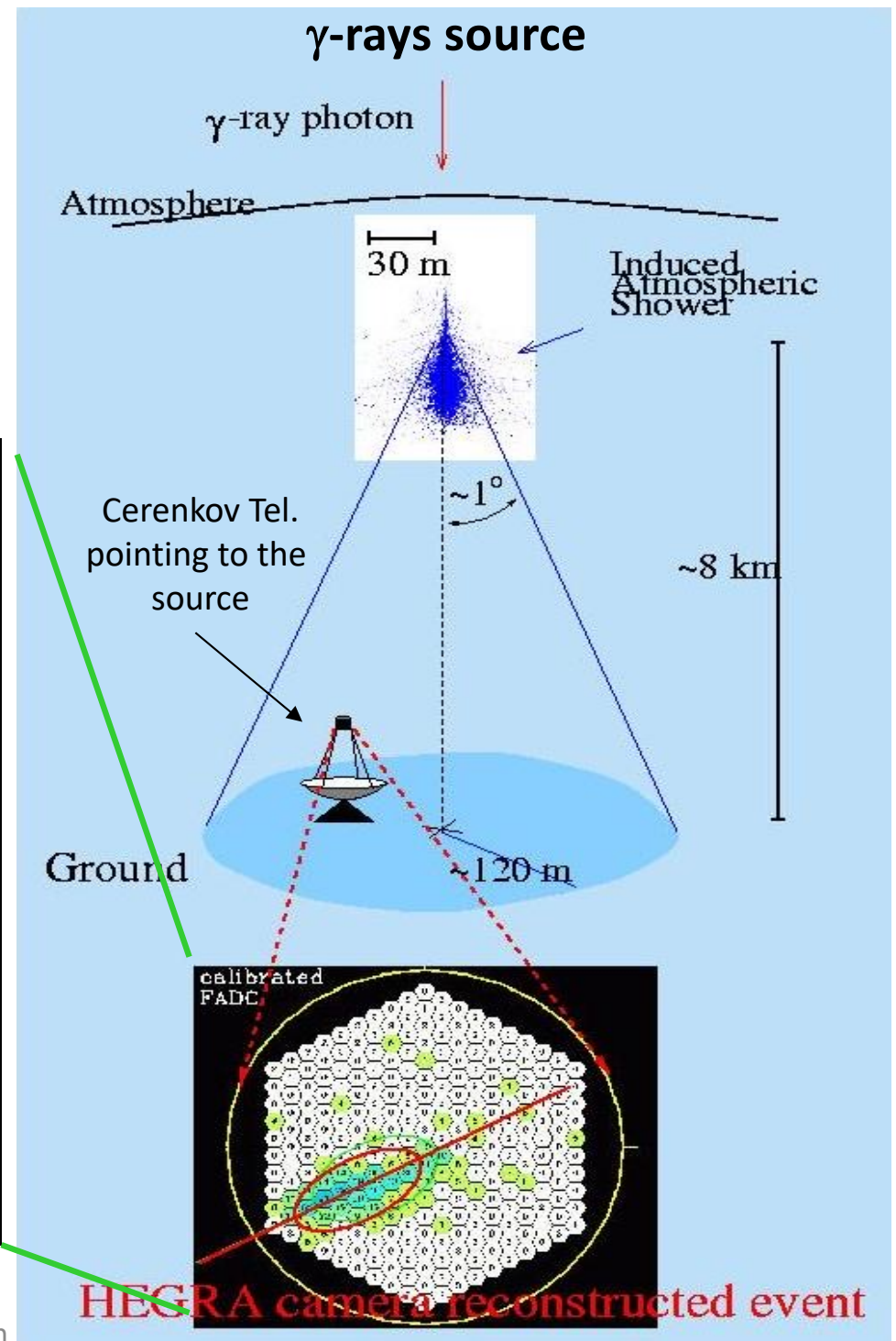
# How the image is built-up on the central camera



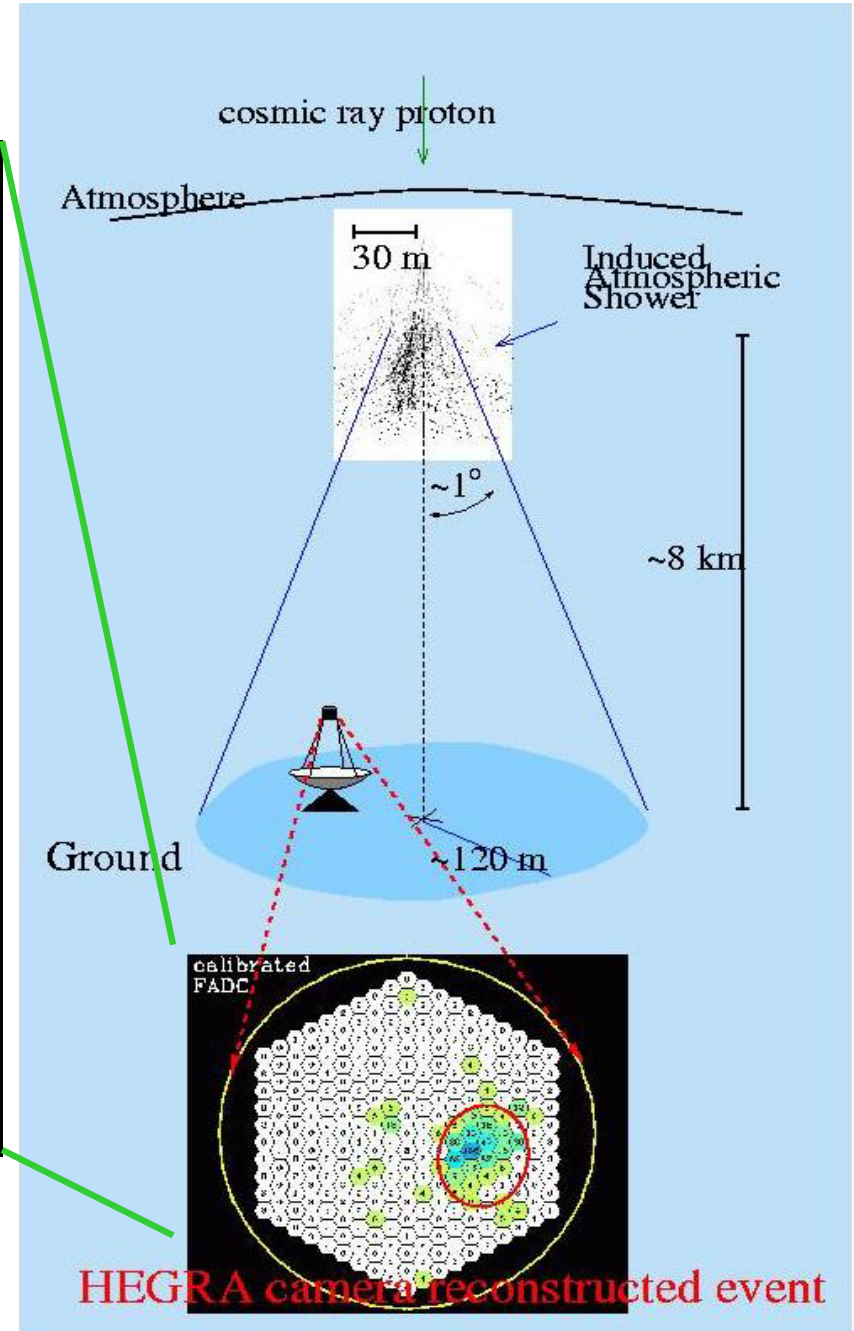
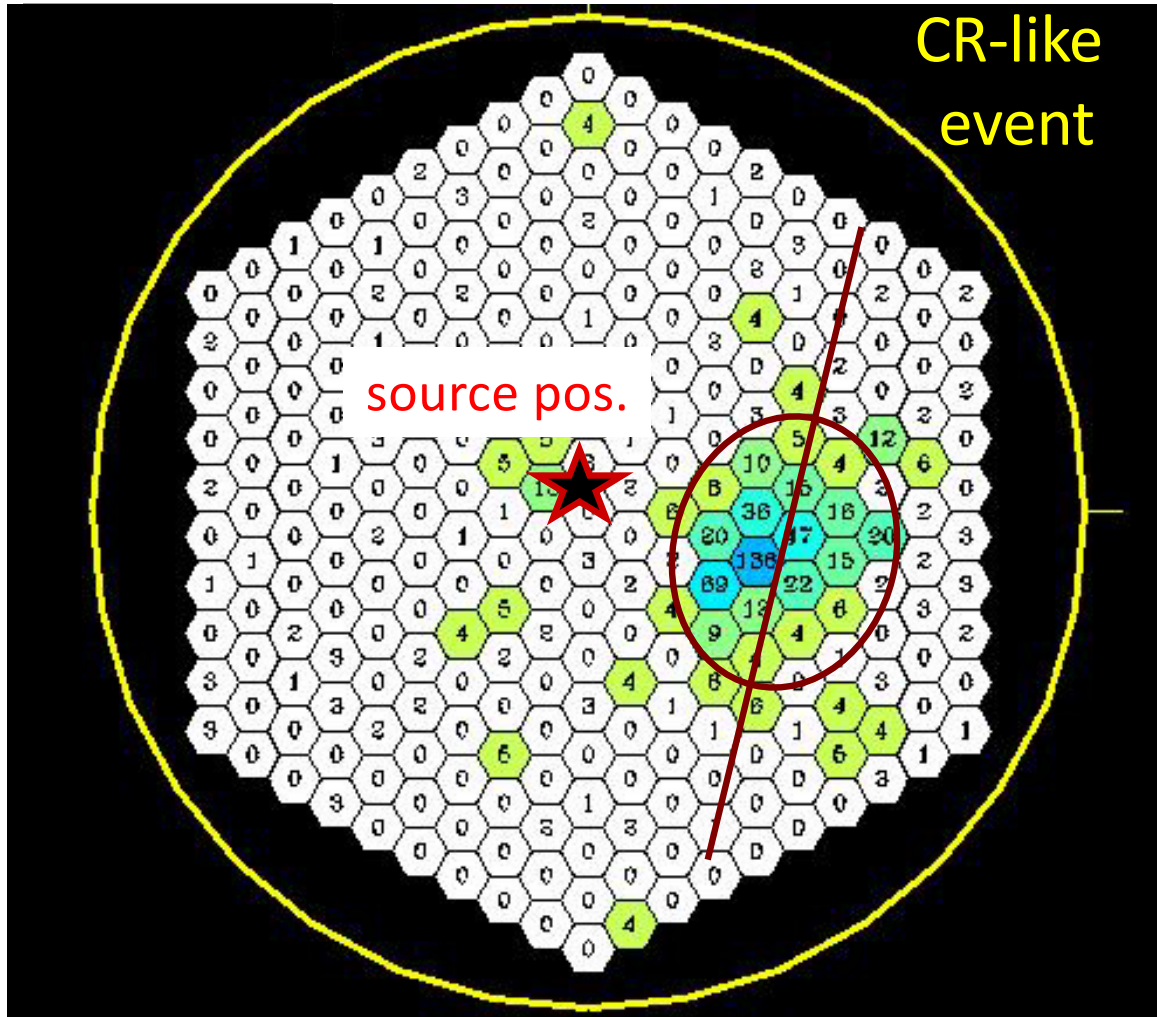
# A $\gamma$ -ray “image” obtained when the telescope points to the source



the source is placed at the camera center

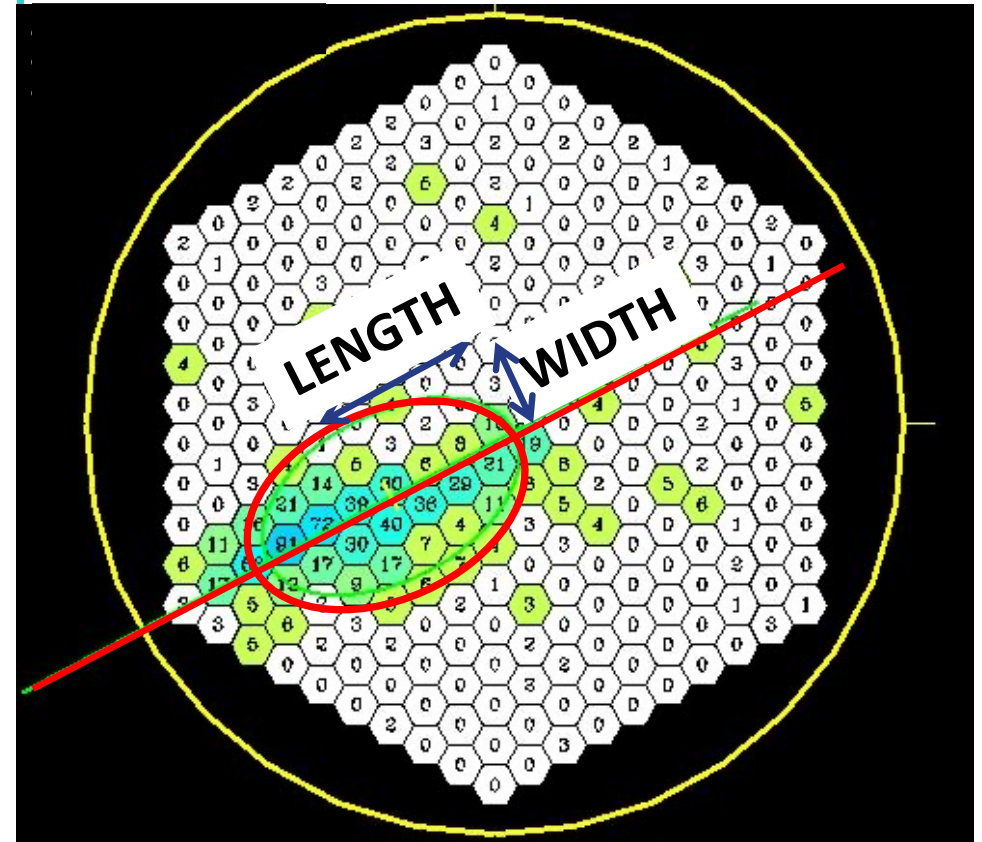
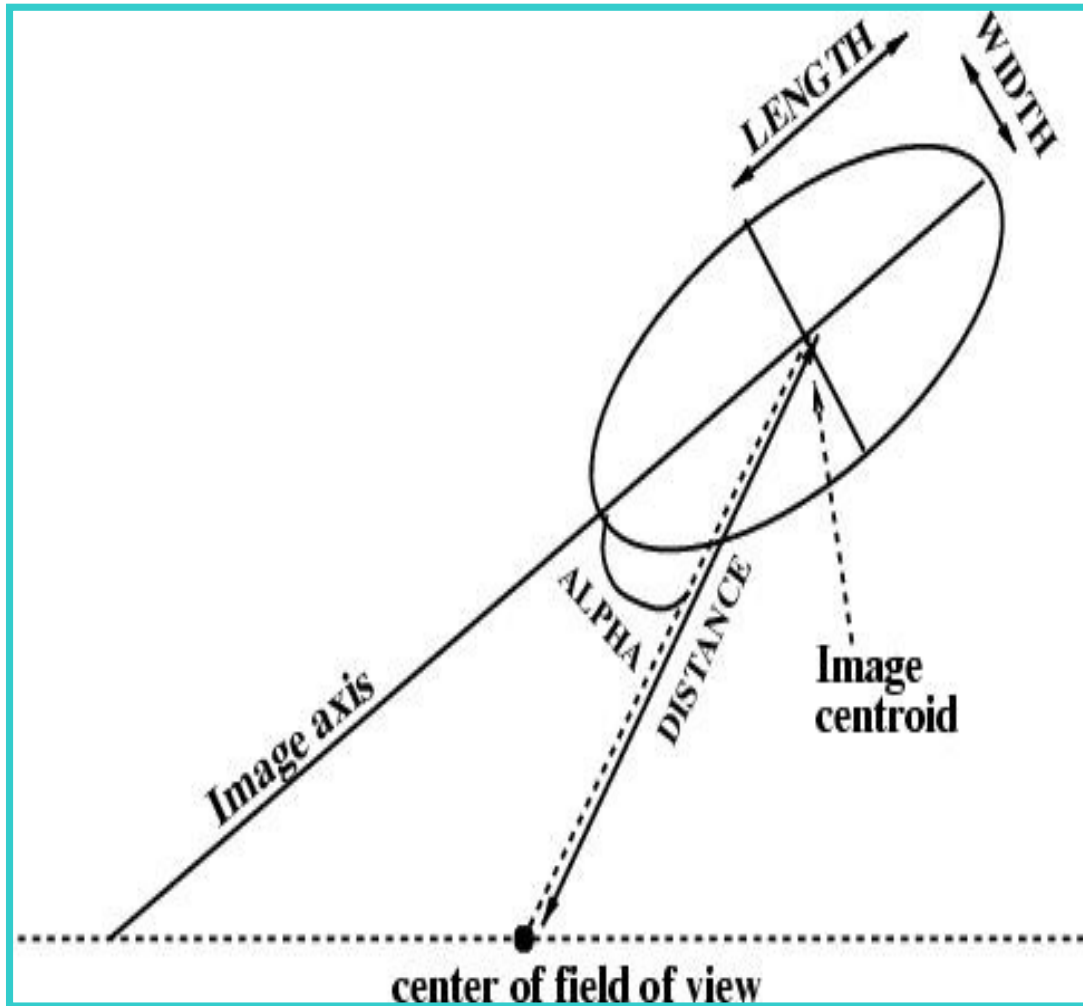


# Charged Cosmic Ray "image"



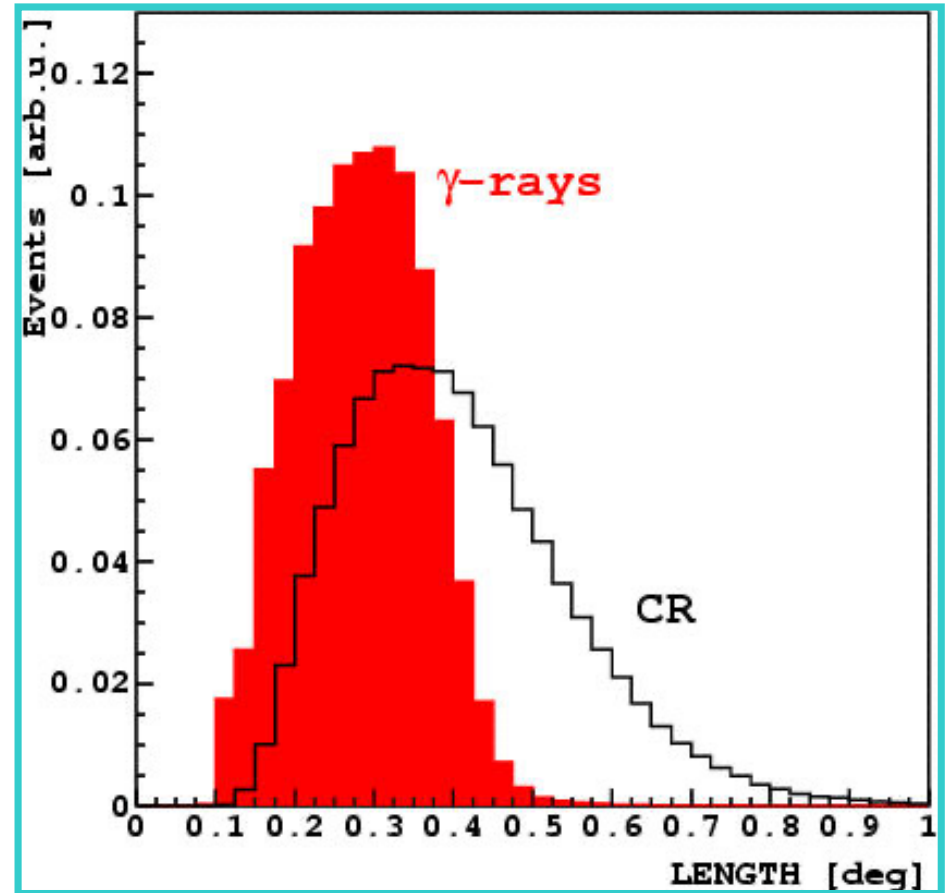
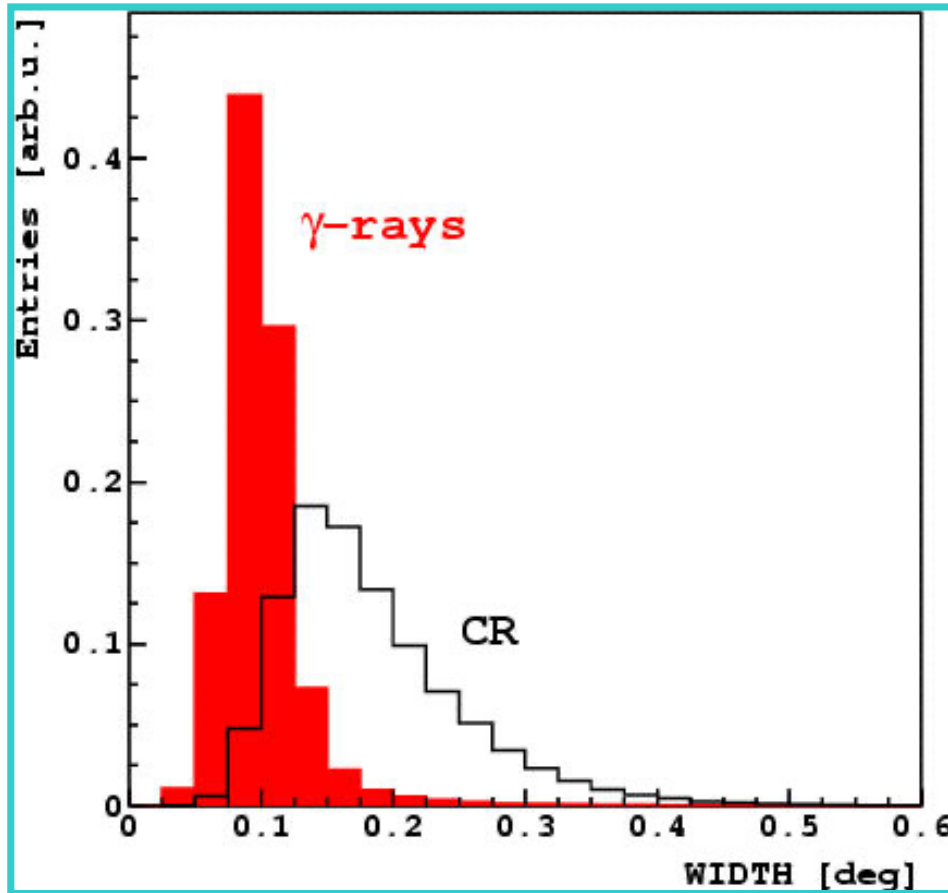
CR-images are randomly distributed so they don't point to the source !!

# Cerenkov image parameterization



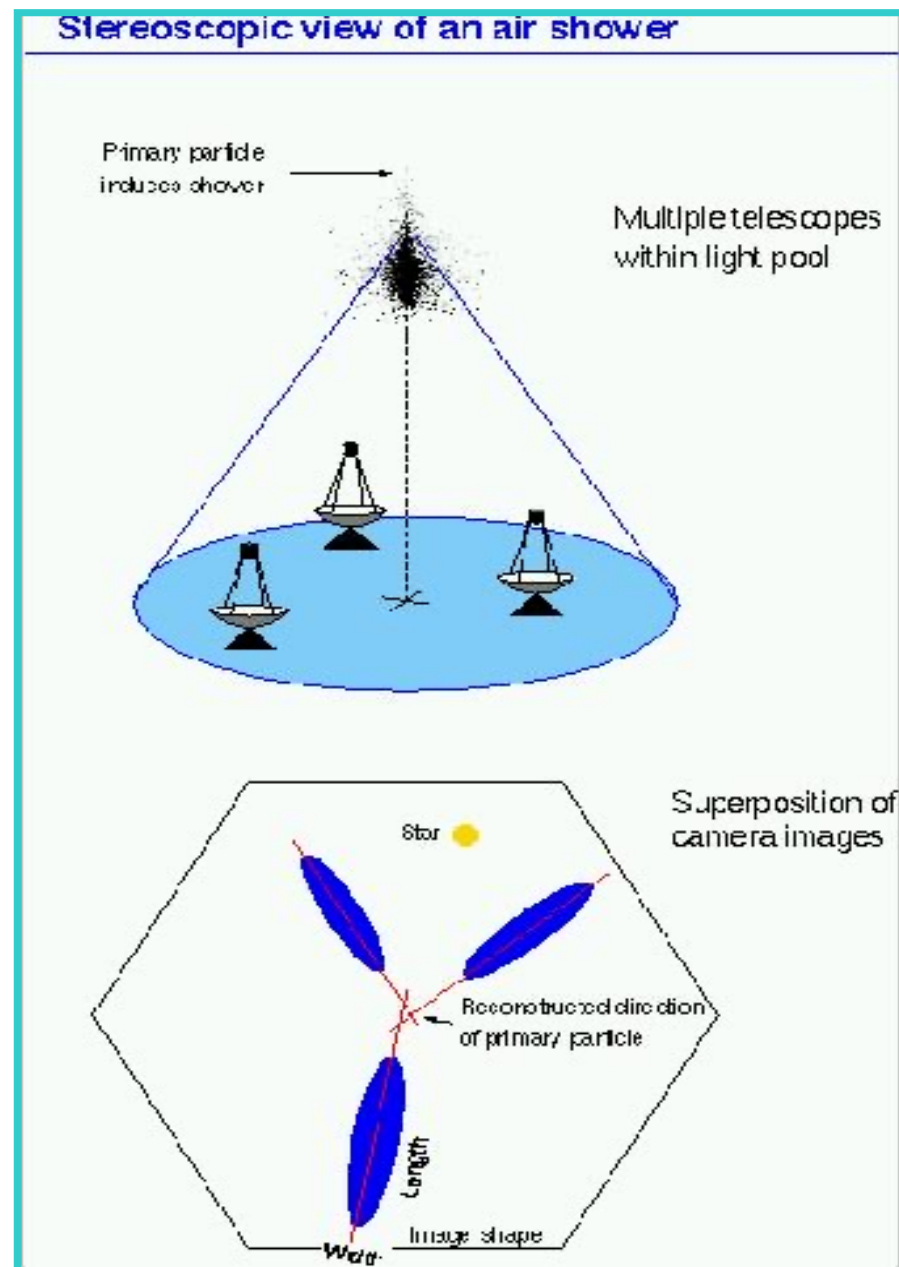
# $\gamma$ /hadron separation

- Based on the different Cerenkov image shapes.



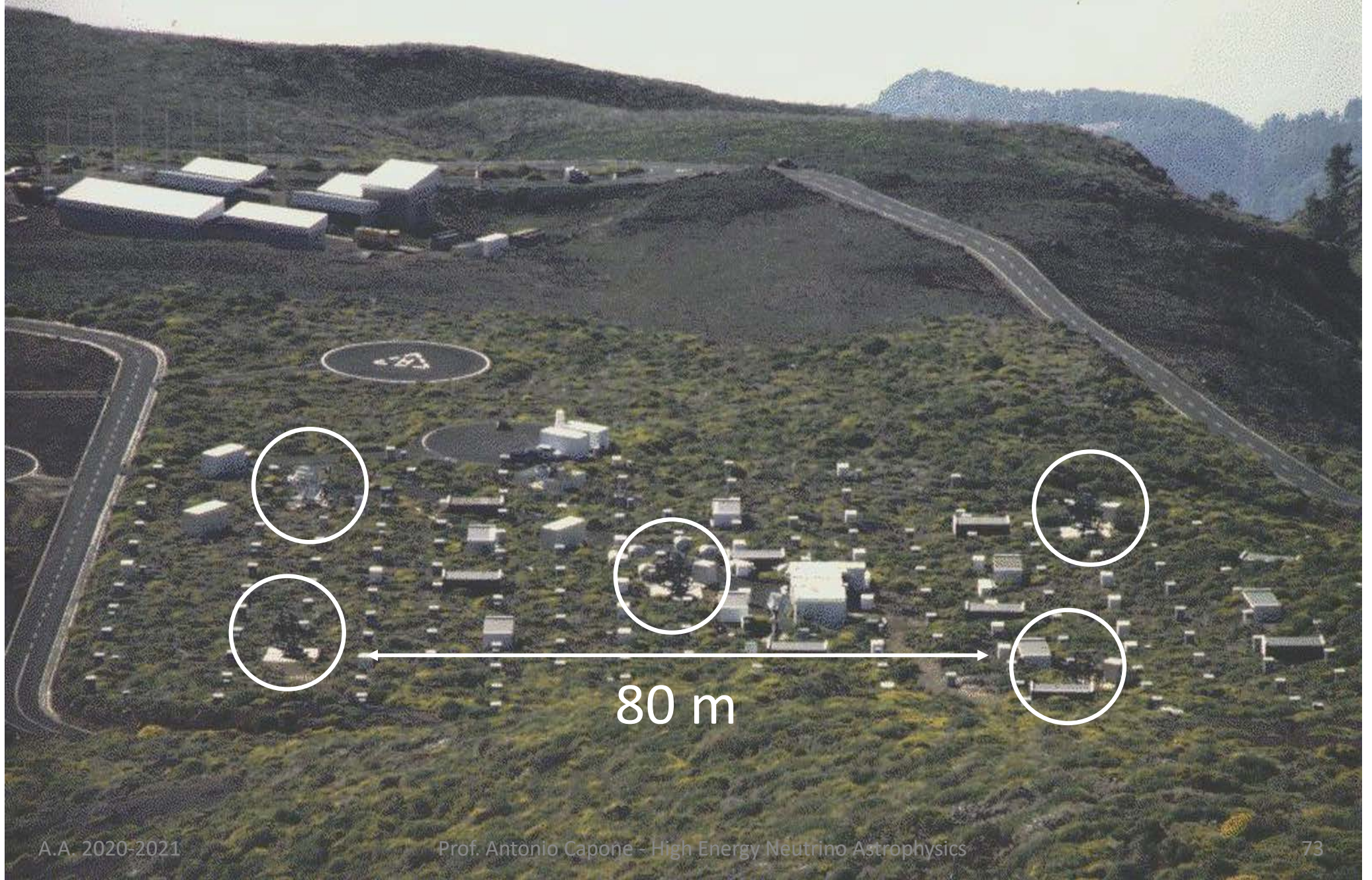
# The Image Air Cherenkov, IAC, Stereoscopic technique

- View of the atmospheric shower from different angles (*stereoscopic*).
- 3D-reconstruction of the shower geometry (event-by-event).
- High background rejection.
- High energy resolution.
- Angular res.:  $<0.1^\circ$



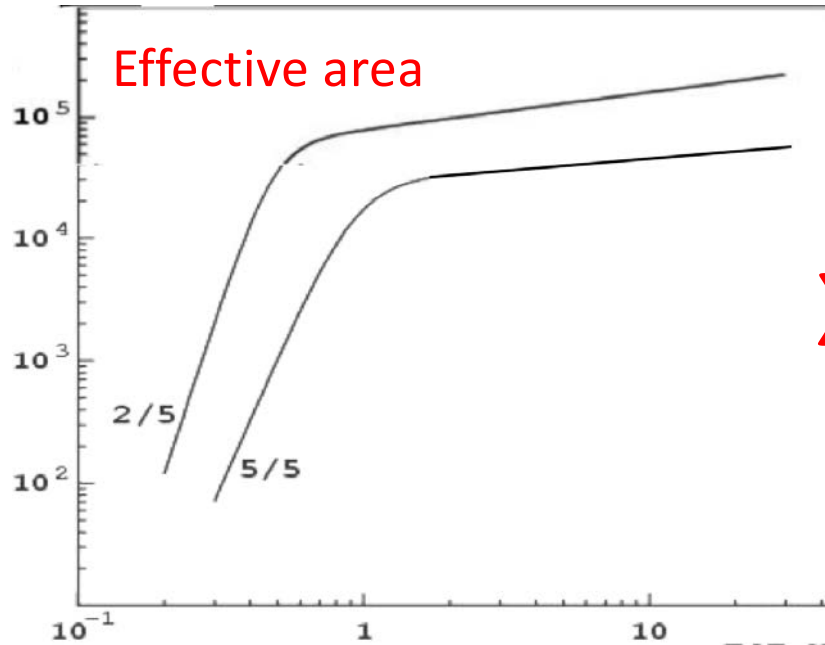


# The HEGRA IACT System

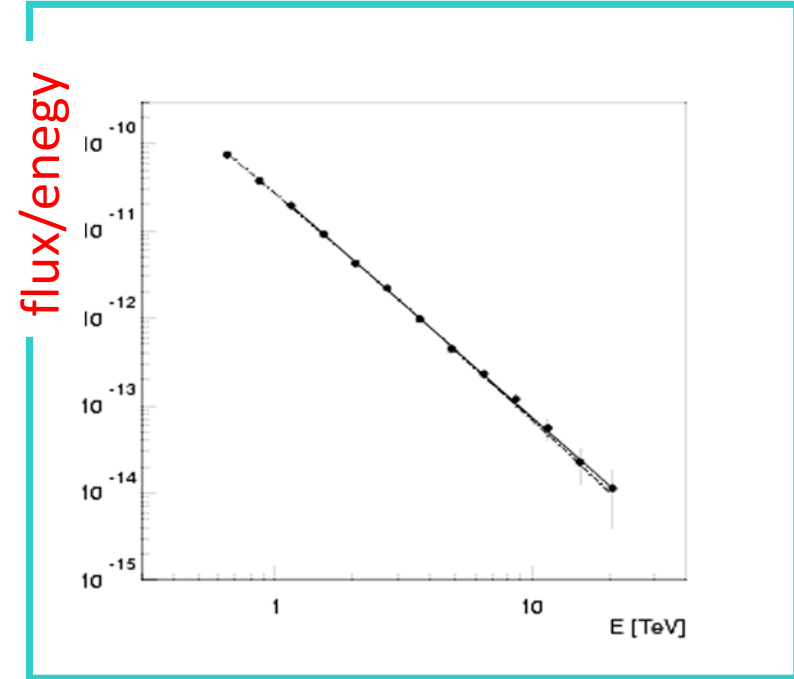


# Event Rate = Effective area x flux

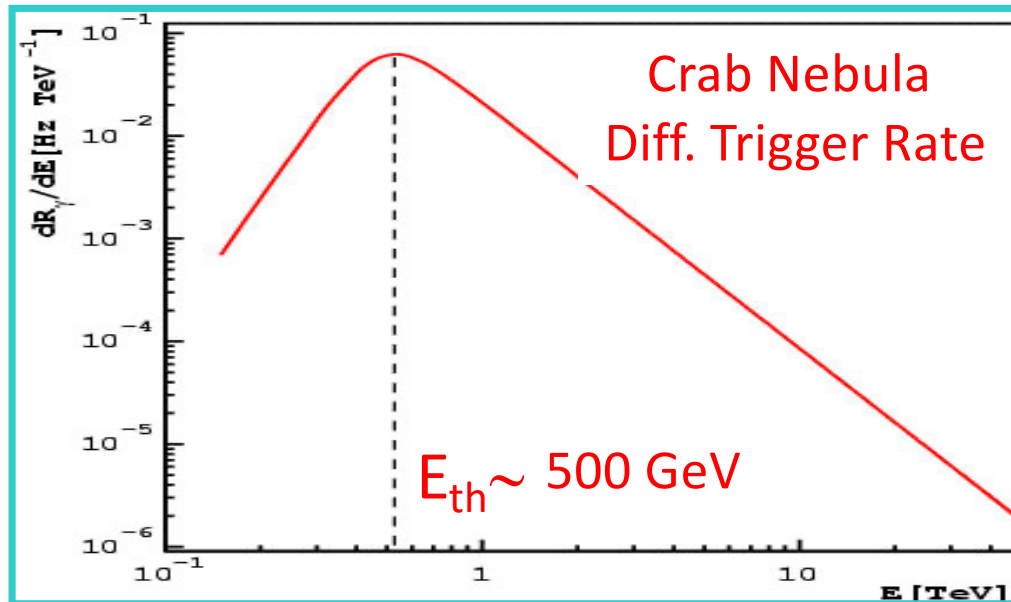
Crab differential energy spectrum



X



=



=

# The Whipple Telescope



A review of Cherenkov imaging telescopes is available at the web site:

<http://icrhp9.icrr.u-tokyo.ac.jp/c-experiments.html>

HESS : Very high energy Gamma-ray astrophysics above 100 GeV



## Whipple: diameter=10m, $E > 350$ GeV

The Whipple collaboration, which pioneered the Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Technique for the detection of very high energy (VHE) gamma rays, was based at the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory in Southern Arizona, in the United States. **The primary emphasis of the collaboration's research effort was the search for and study of celestial sources of gamma-rays in the energy range of 100 GeV - 10 TeV.**

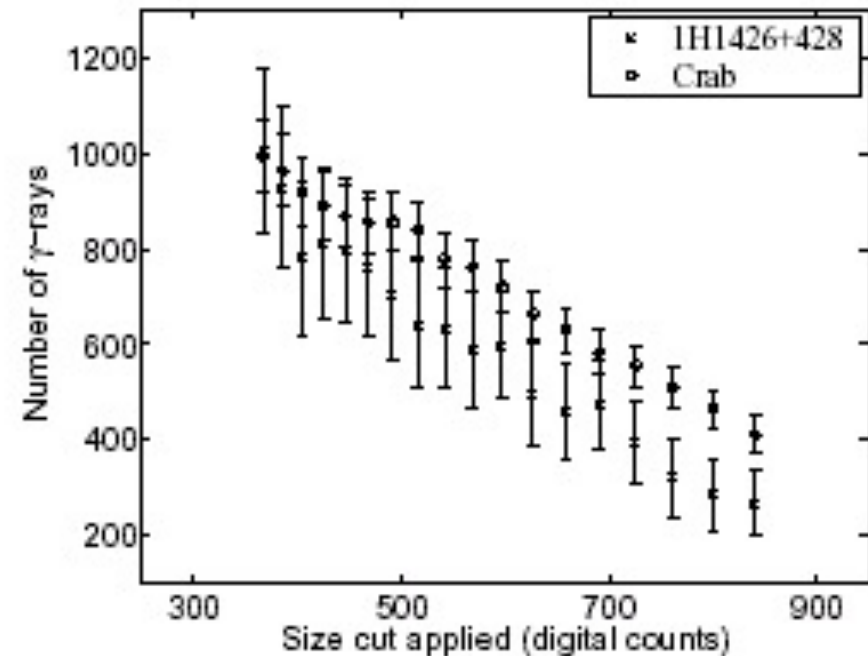
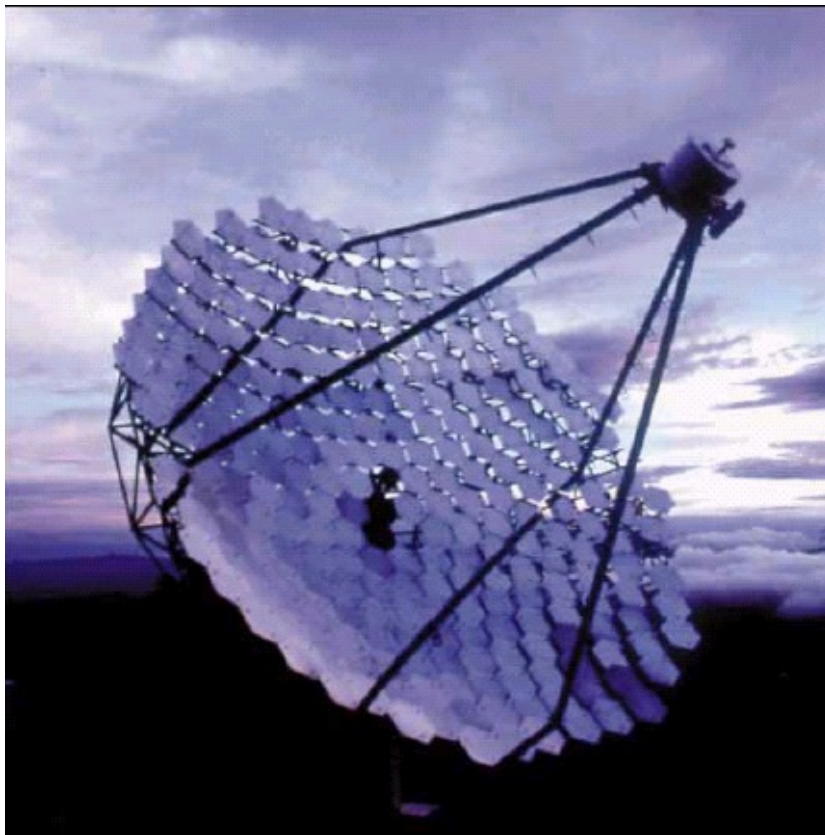
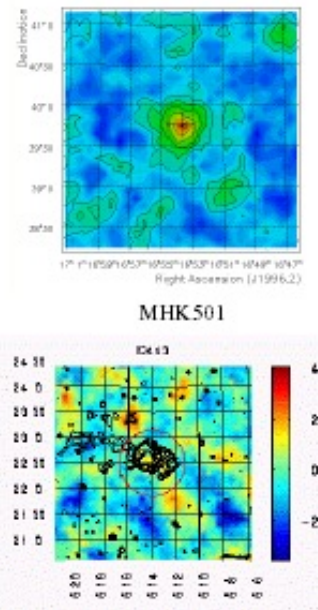


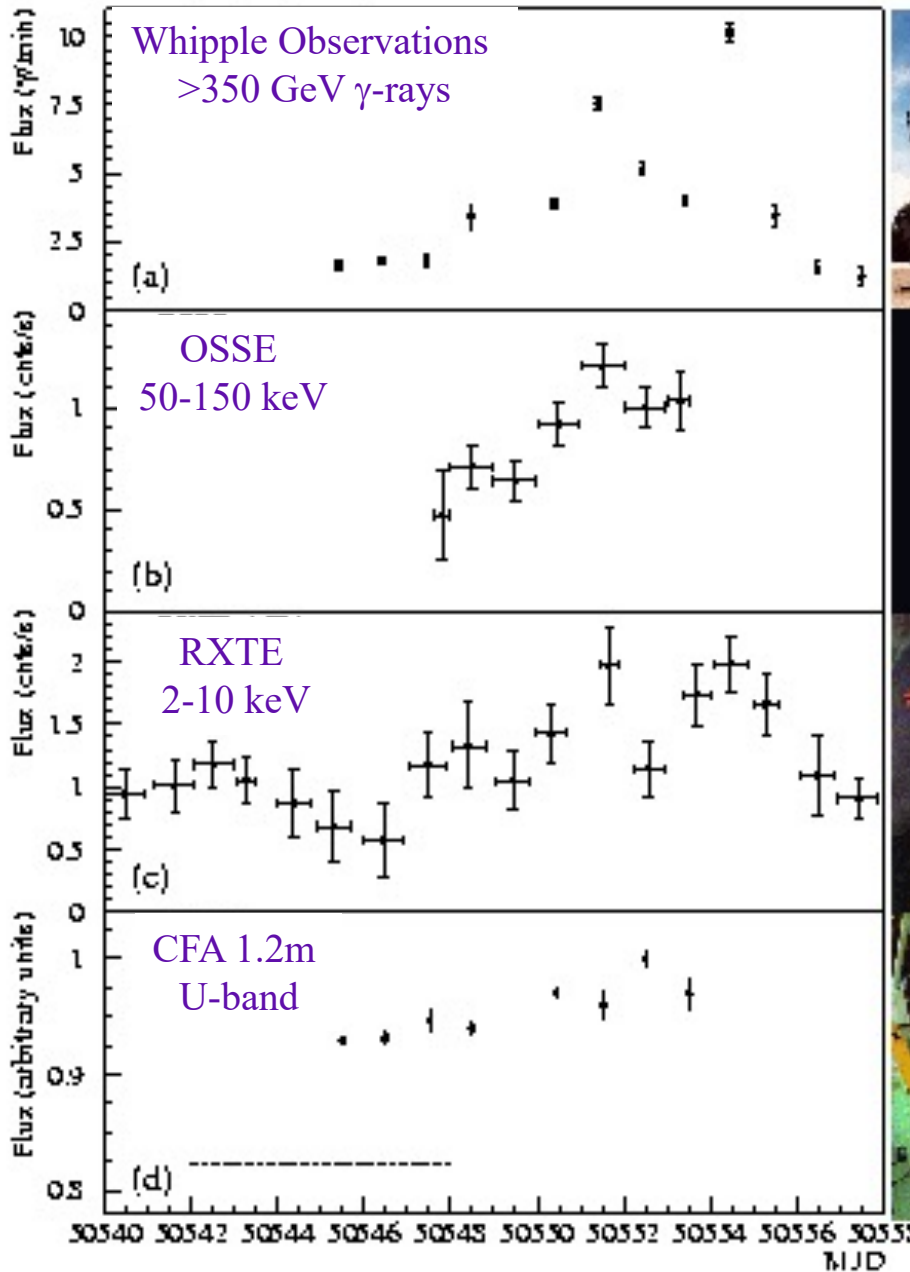
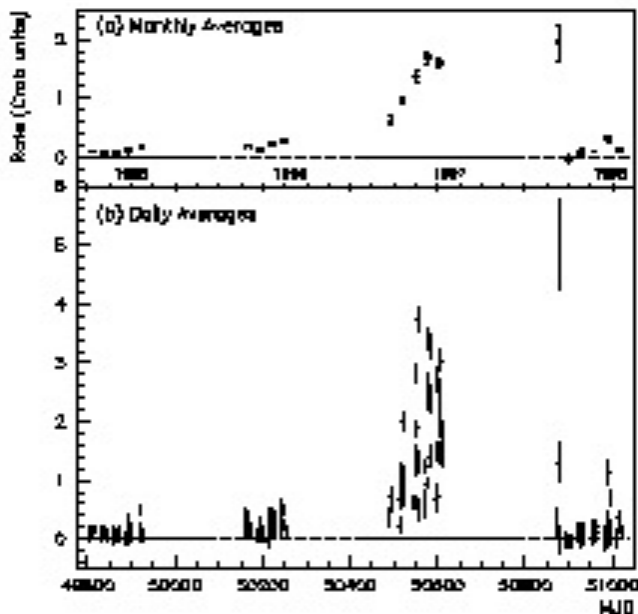
Fig. 4.— Integral excess events observed by the Whipple telescope from the directions of 1H1426+428 (crosses) and the Crab Nebula (open circles) during 2001 as a function of integrated Cherenkov light in the shower image. Exposure on the Crab Nebula was adjusted to match the total excess of 1H1426+428 at the lowest size cut applied, 366 digital counts. One photoelectron corresponds to  $\sim 3.6$  digital counts.



# Markarian 501

An example of “multiwavelength observation”

Whipple:  
observation of Mrk501 in the years 1995-1998. In 1997 the flux of high energy  $\gamma$  from Mrk501 (up to 20 TeV energies) increased to  $\sim 10^{11}$  VHE  $\gamma$ /s (brighter than Crab Nebula).



# VERITAS

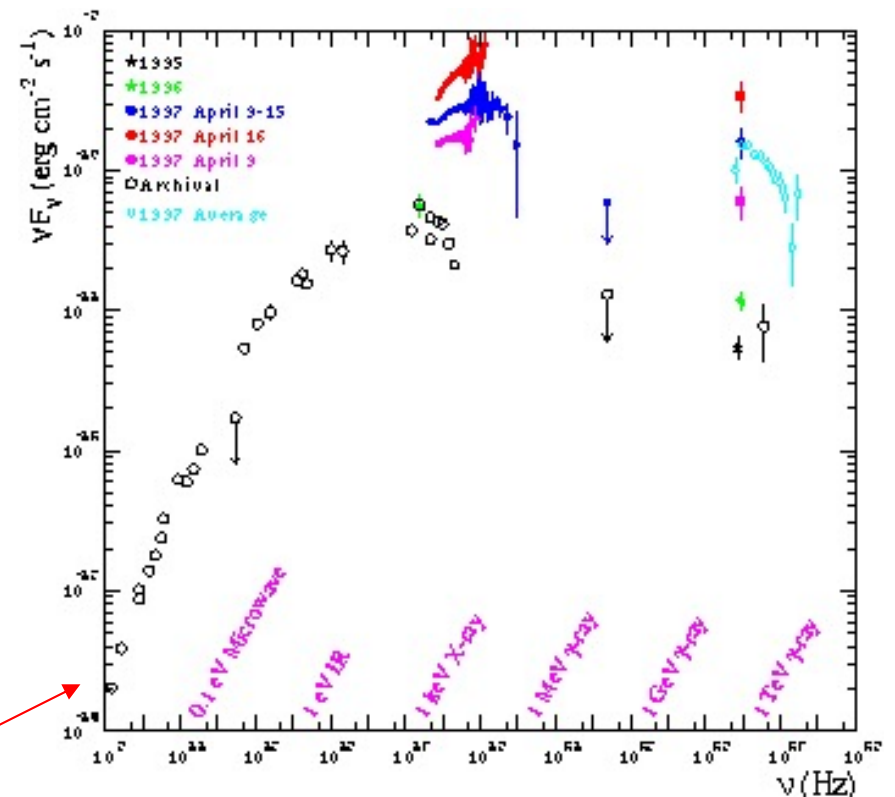


**Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System** a ground-based gamma-ray observatory with an array of **seven 10m optical reflectors** (like Whipple) for gamma-ray astronomy in the energy range of **50 GeV - 50 TeV** (with maximum sensitivity from 100 GeV to 10 TeV). In this band critical measurements of SNRs and AGNs have been made.

Scientific objectives:

- **Supernova remnants**
- **Gamma-ray pulsars**
- **Active galactic nuclei**
- **Gamma-ray bursts**
- **EGRET unidentified sources**
- **Diffuse emission**

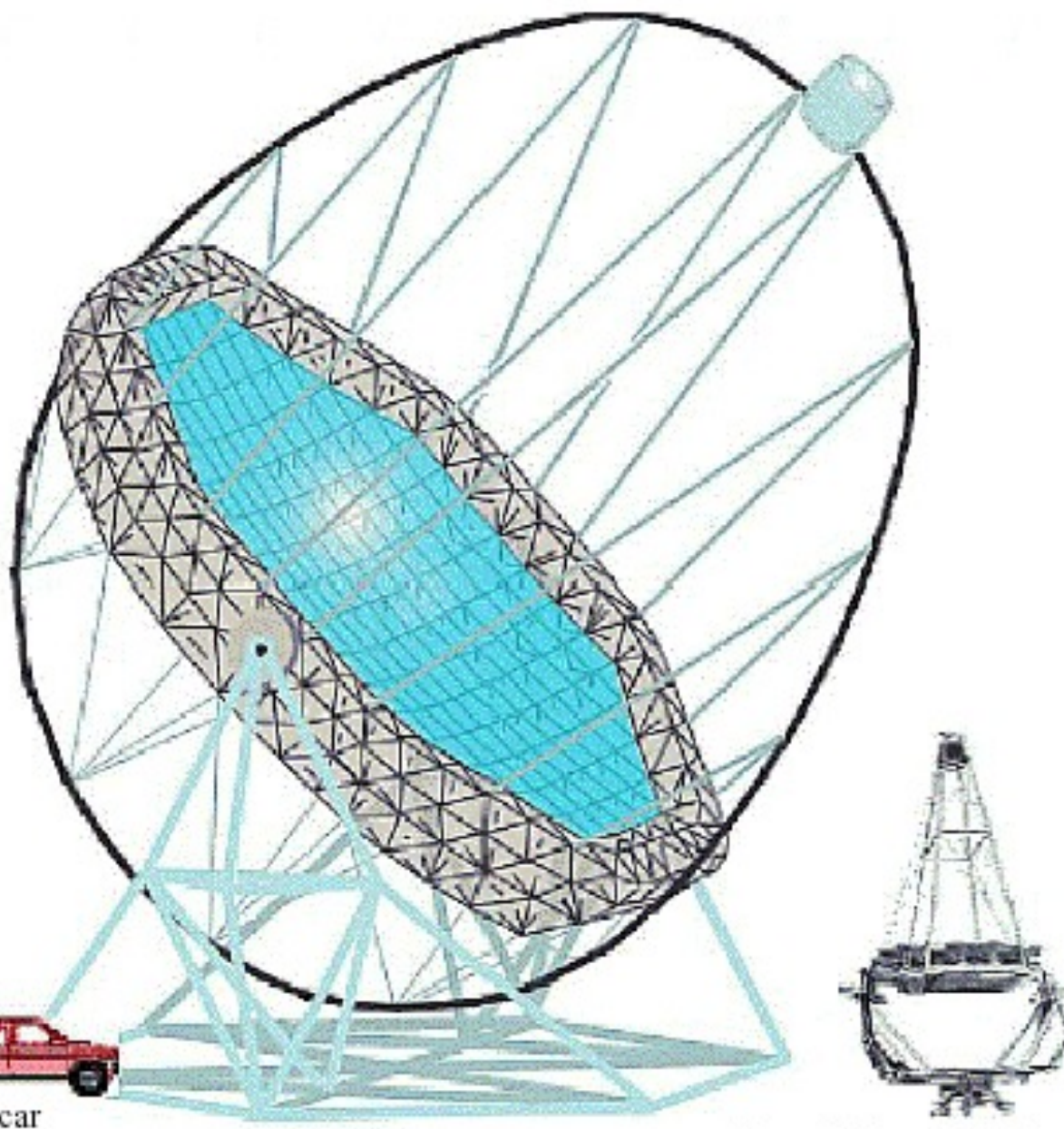
**The correlation between the observation at the TeV and at lower energies allows to investigate the nature of some sources of R.C. of very high energy: e.g. AGN**



# MAGIC



220 m<sup>2</sup> mirror area  
 $E_{\gamma} = 10 \text{ GeV} - 300 \text{ TeV}$  ✓  
Location: La Palma  
(Canary Islands)  
Started June 2001



car

Hegra Telescope CT2



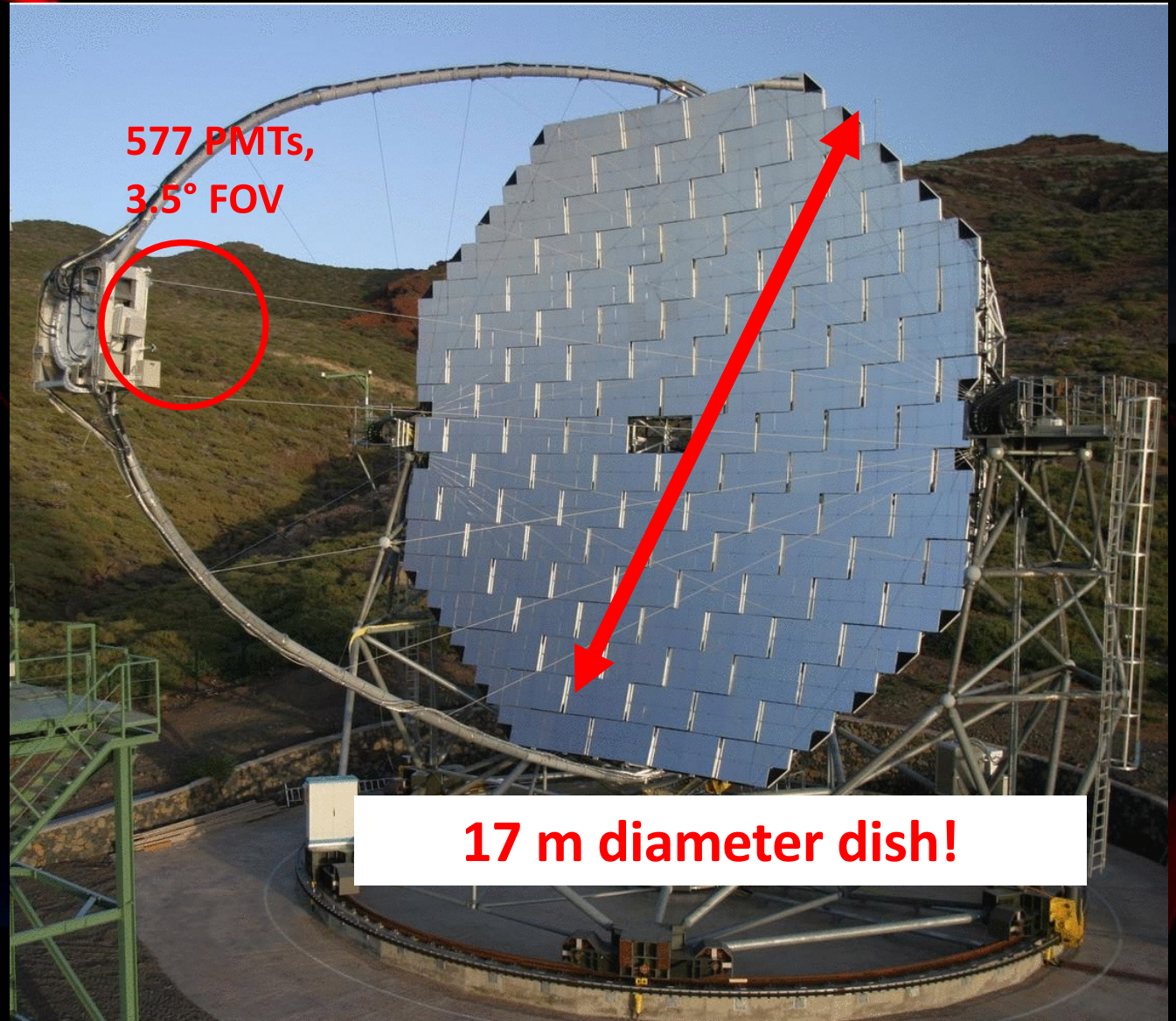


# The MAGIC Telescope

- Located at 2220m at La Palma (Canary islands)

- Characteristics:

- Energy resolution:  
25-30%
- Energy threshold:  
50 GeV



# HESS

H.E.S.S. was the second-generation system of Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes for the investigation of cosmic gamma rays in the 100 GeV energy range. The name H.E.S.S. stands for **High Energy Stereoscopic System**, and should also remind of **Victor Hess**, who received in 1936 the Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery of cosmic radiation. The acronym also emphasizes two main features of the proposed installation, namely the **simultaneous observation of air showers with several (3 to 4) telescopes, under different viewing angles**, and the **combination of multiple (up to 16) telescopes to a large system to increase the effective detection area for gamma rays**.

With telescopes of over 100 m<sup>2</sup> mirror area, the system provides a:

- **detection threshold of about 40 GeV,**
- **full spectroscopic capability above 100 GeV, an**
- **angular resolution for individual showers of 0.1 degrees**
- **energy resolution of about 20%.**

It allows to explore gamma-ray sources with intensities at a level of a few thousandth parts of the flux of the Crab nebula. H.E.S.S. is located in Namibia, near the Gamsberg, an area well known for its excellent optical quality.



# HESS phase 2

## HESS Phase 2

four 110m<sup>2</sup> telescopes

Field of view 5 deg

Detection capability

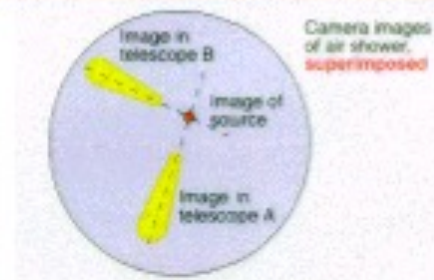
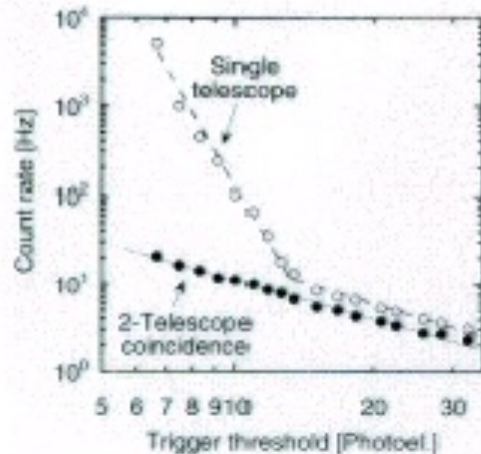
at  $E > 40$  GeV

Spectroscopy at  $E > 100$  GeV

Location: Namibia



Night-sky background light



(artistic composition)  
(not yet real !)

# HESS stereoscopic system

13m diameter dish

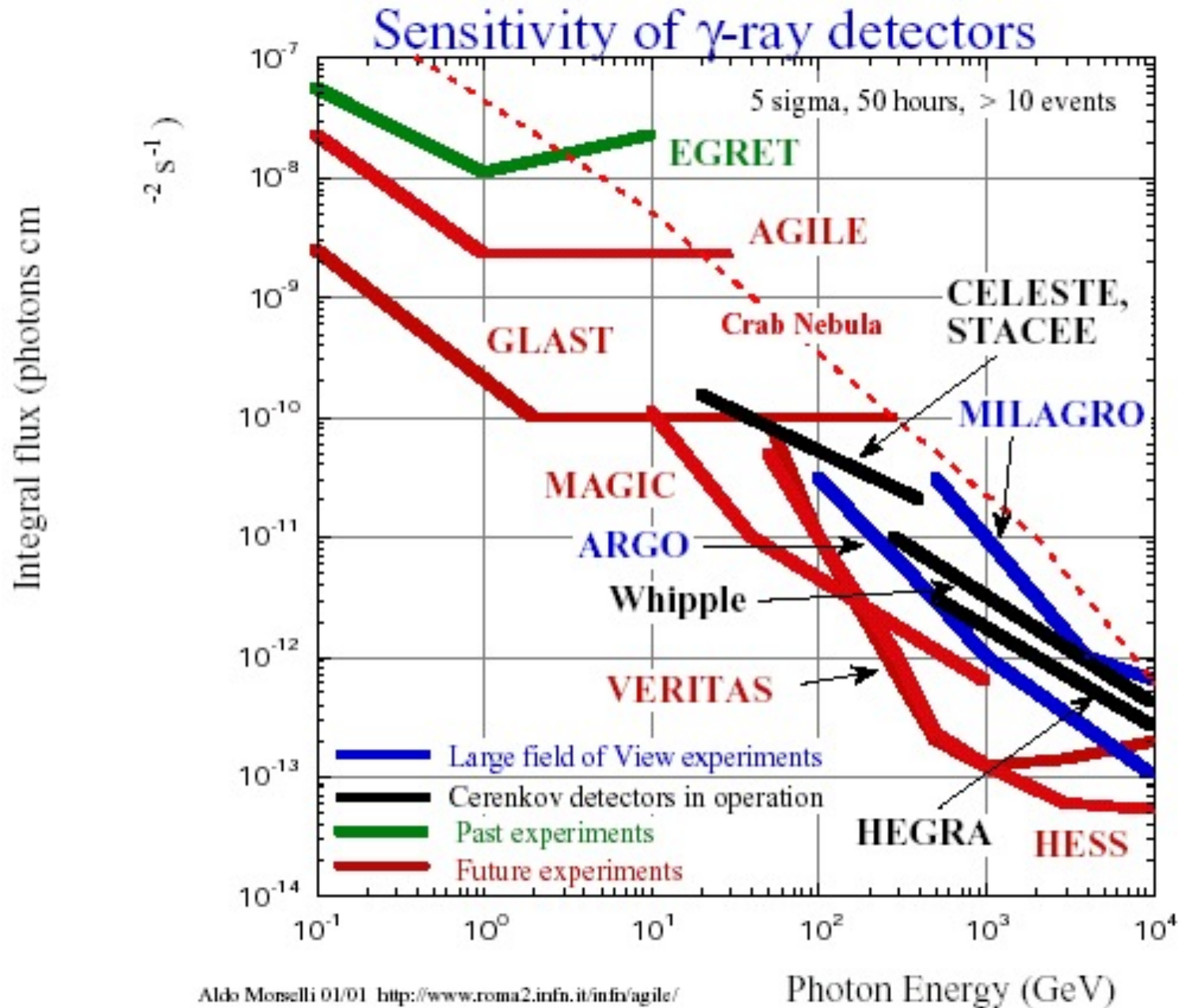
960 PMTs camera



- Energy range: 100 GeV -100TeV
- Energy resolution: 15-20%
- Angular resolution: 3-6 arcmin
- Sensitivity: **1% Crab in 25 h**
- 5° FoV



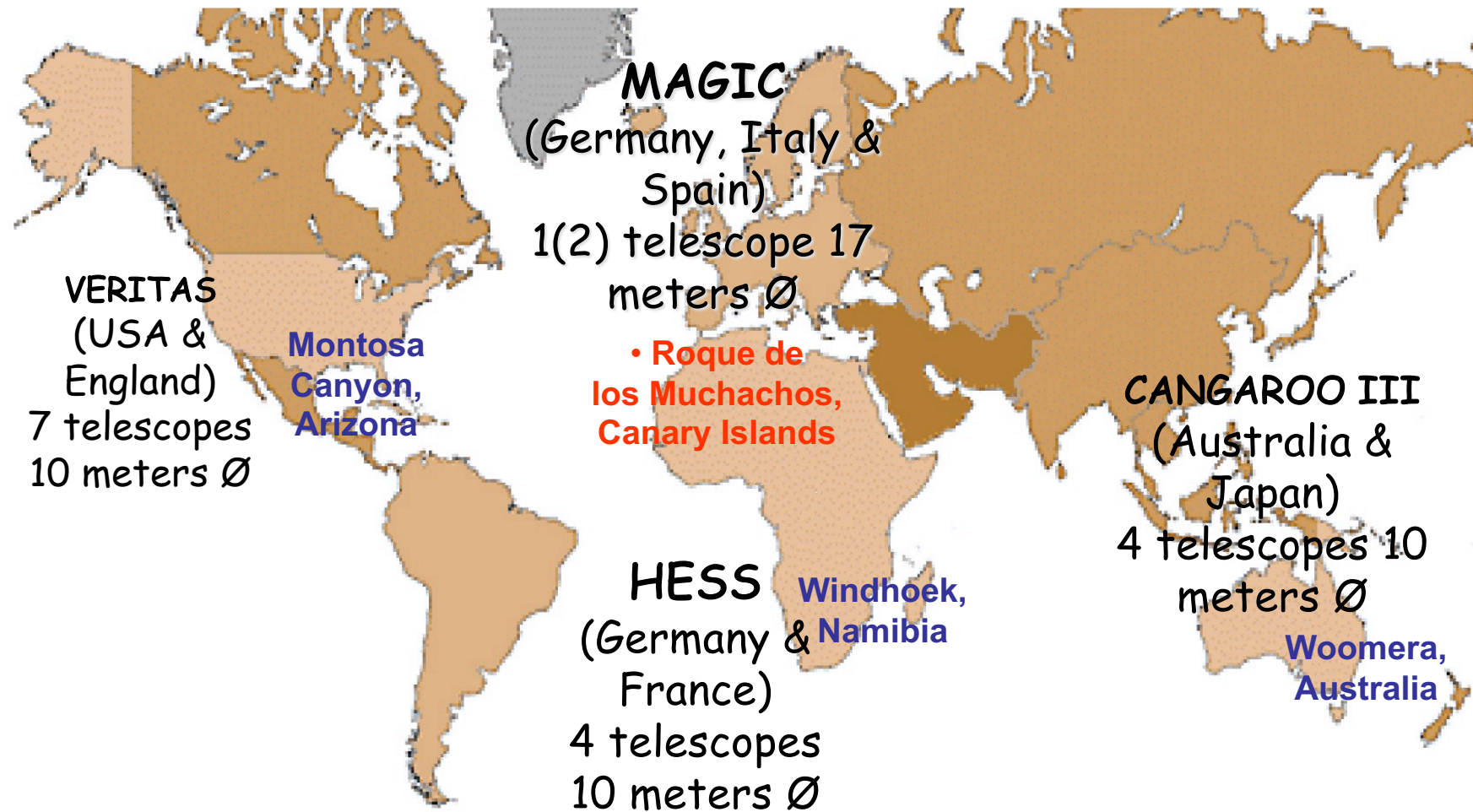
# Experiments for $\gamma$ astronomy



All sensitivities are at  $5\sigma$ . Cerenkov telescopes sensitivities (Veritas, MAGIC, Whipple, Hess, Celeste, Stacee, Hegra) are for 50 hours of observations. Large field of view detectors sensitivities (AGILE, GLAST, Milagro, ARGO) are for 1 year of observation.

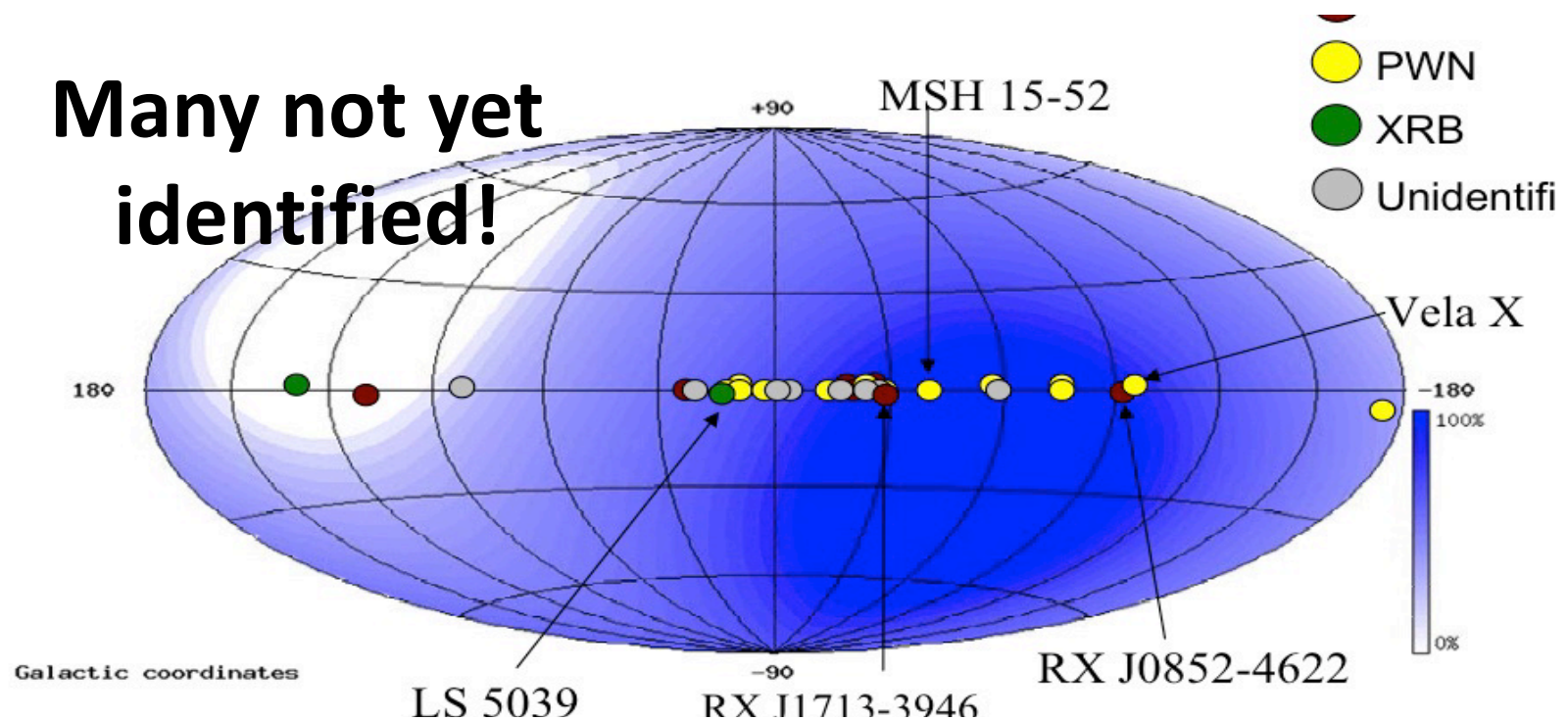
MAGIC sensitivity based on the availability of high efficiency PMT's

# Operating Cherenkov telescopes



# Galactic TeV gamma-ray Sources

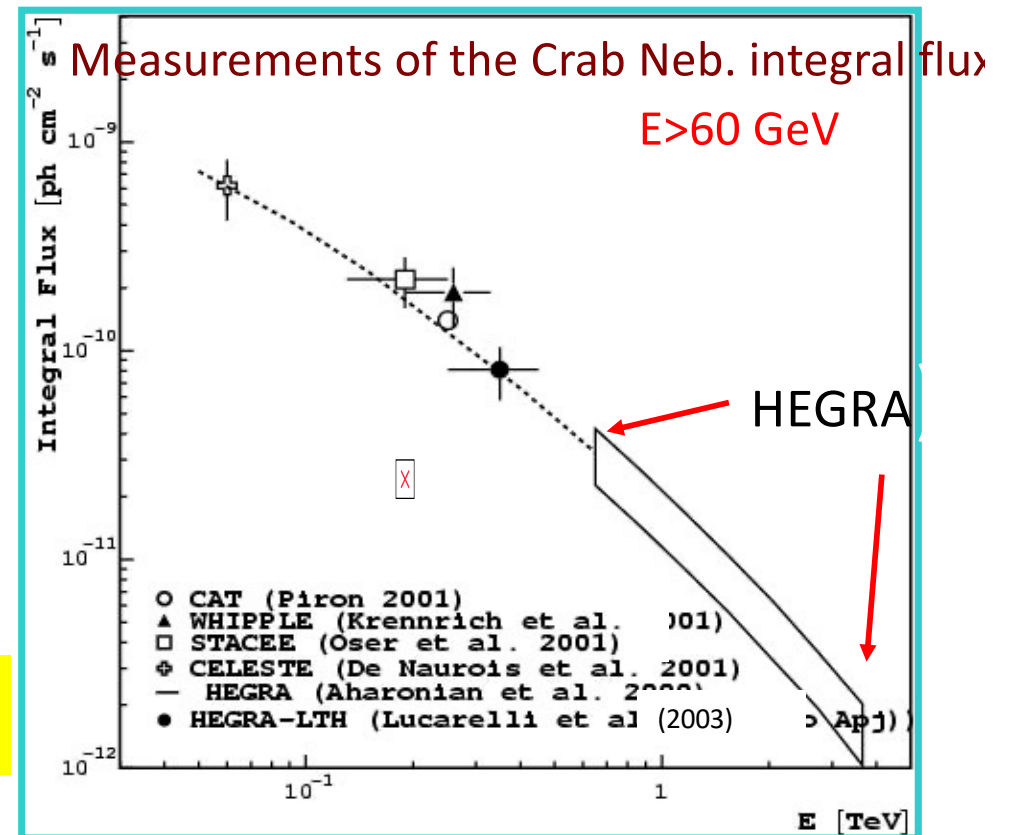
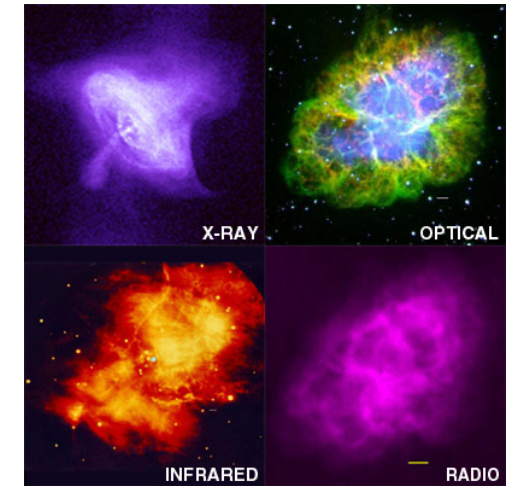
- at least 4 source classes:
  - Shell-type SNR
  - Pulsar Wind Nebulae (PWN)
  - X-ray binaries (binary pulsar and microquasars)
  - Molecular Clouds plus SMBH in GC (Sgr A\*)?



# Crab Nebula: the standard candle (I)

- Remnant of a supernova explosion, occurred in 1054.
- Pulsar injecting relativistic electrons into the nebula.
- Emission predominantly by non-thermal processes, covering a huge energy range (radio to TeV).
- First TeV source (Whipple Telescope, 1989).
- Steady HE  $\gamma$ -ray emission  
→ *standard candle*

$$\Phi (E > 1 \text{ TeV}) = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ ph cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$



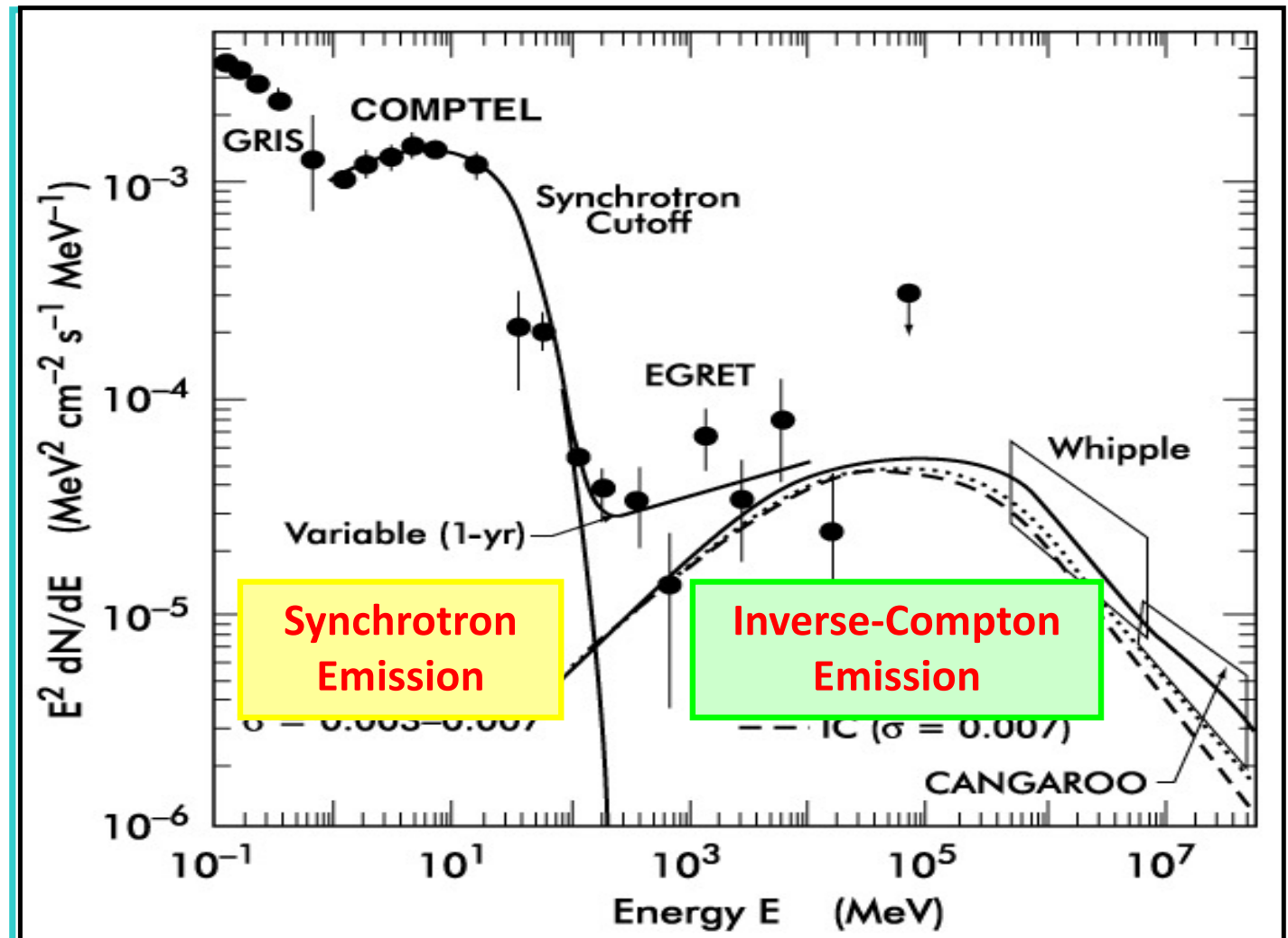


# Crab Nebula: the standard candle (II)

☞ TeV emission from up-scattering of low energy photons (synchrotron, MWB, IR) by electrons in the pulsar wind.

- **Synchrotron Self-Compton (SSC)** model fits the observed spectrum.
- Inverse Compton peak expected below 100 GeV.

No pulsed emission detected so far for  $E > 0.01$  TeV



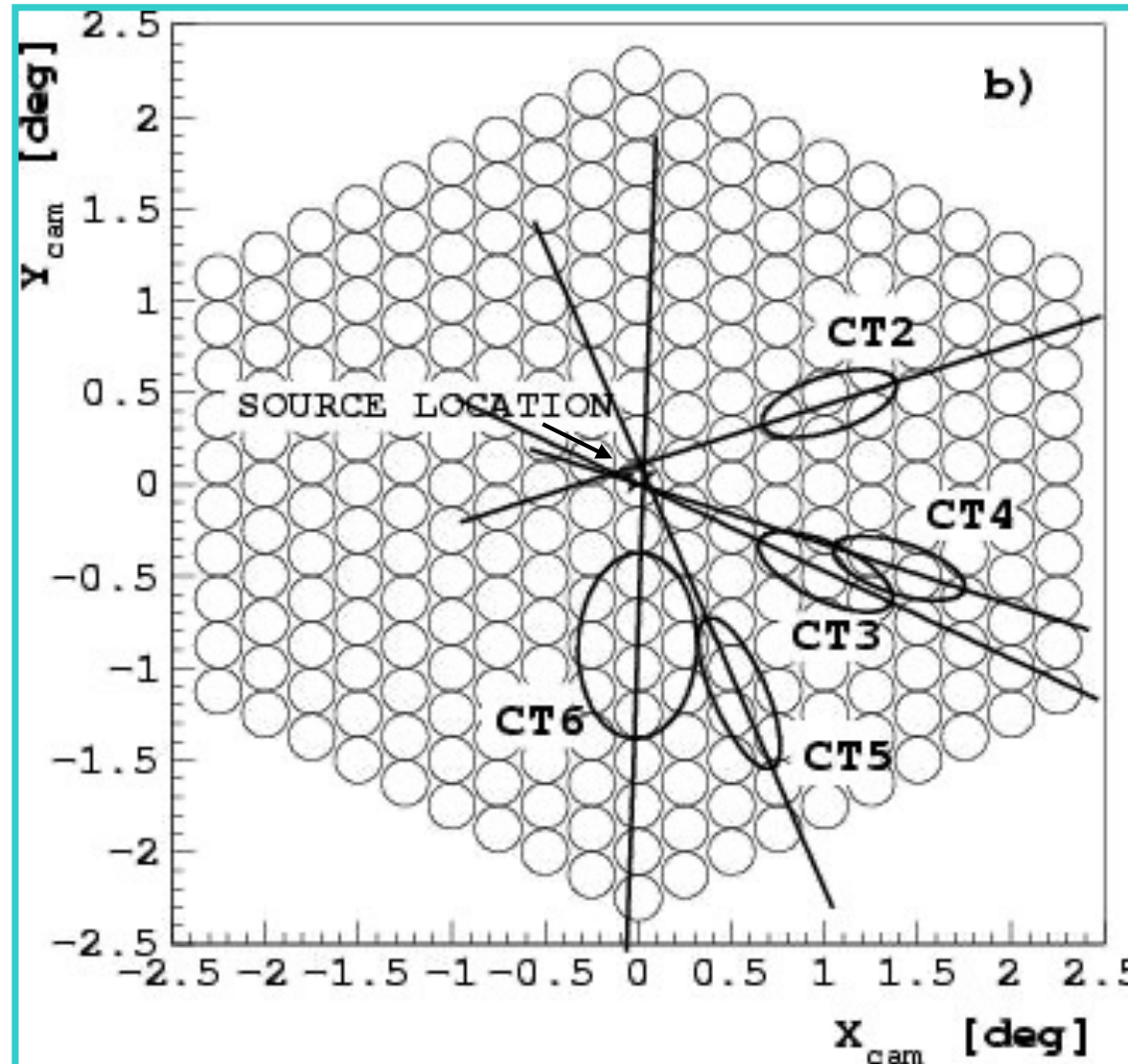
# END

...for the moment...



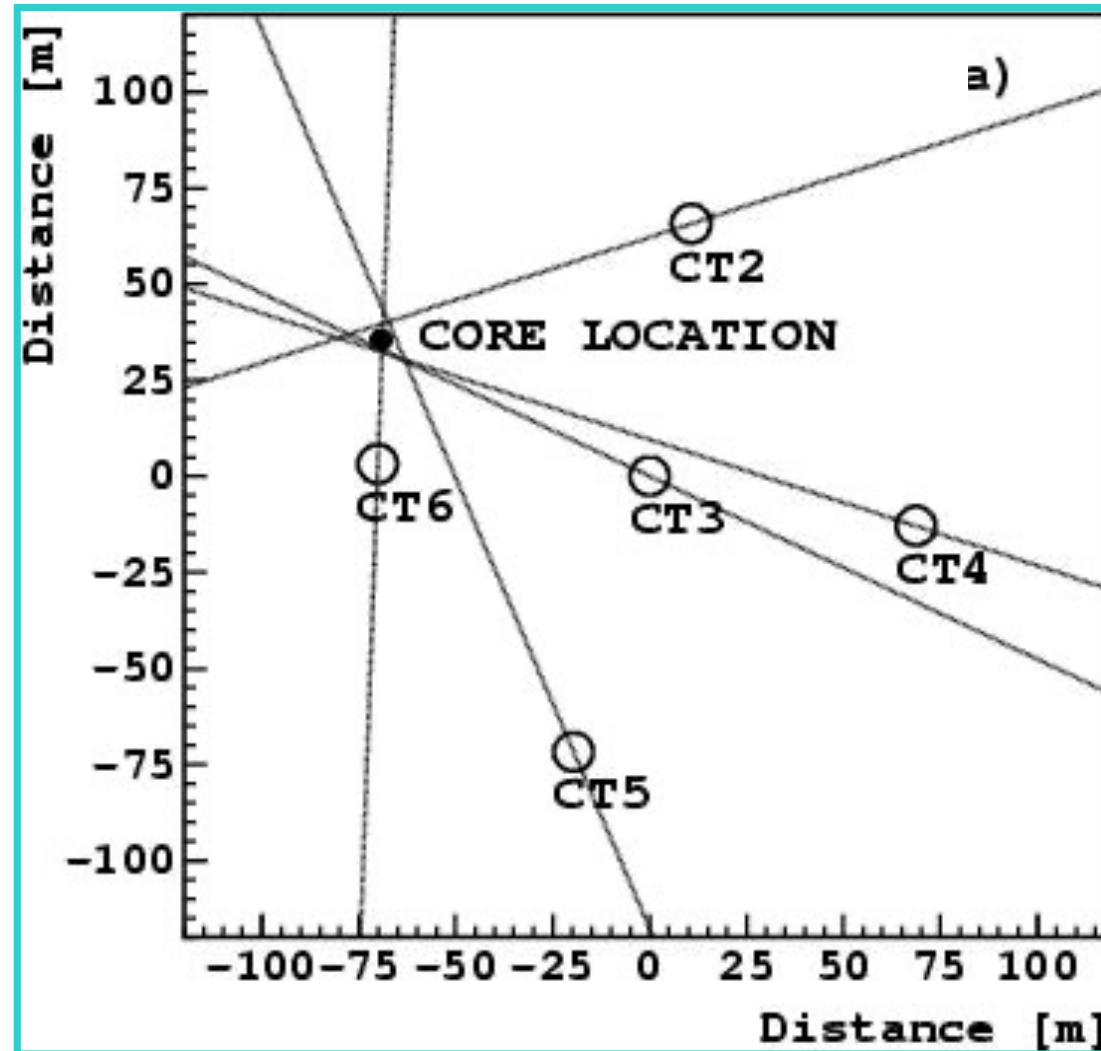
# Shower geometry reconstruction (I)

Reconstruction of the shower arrival direction.



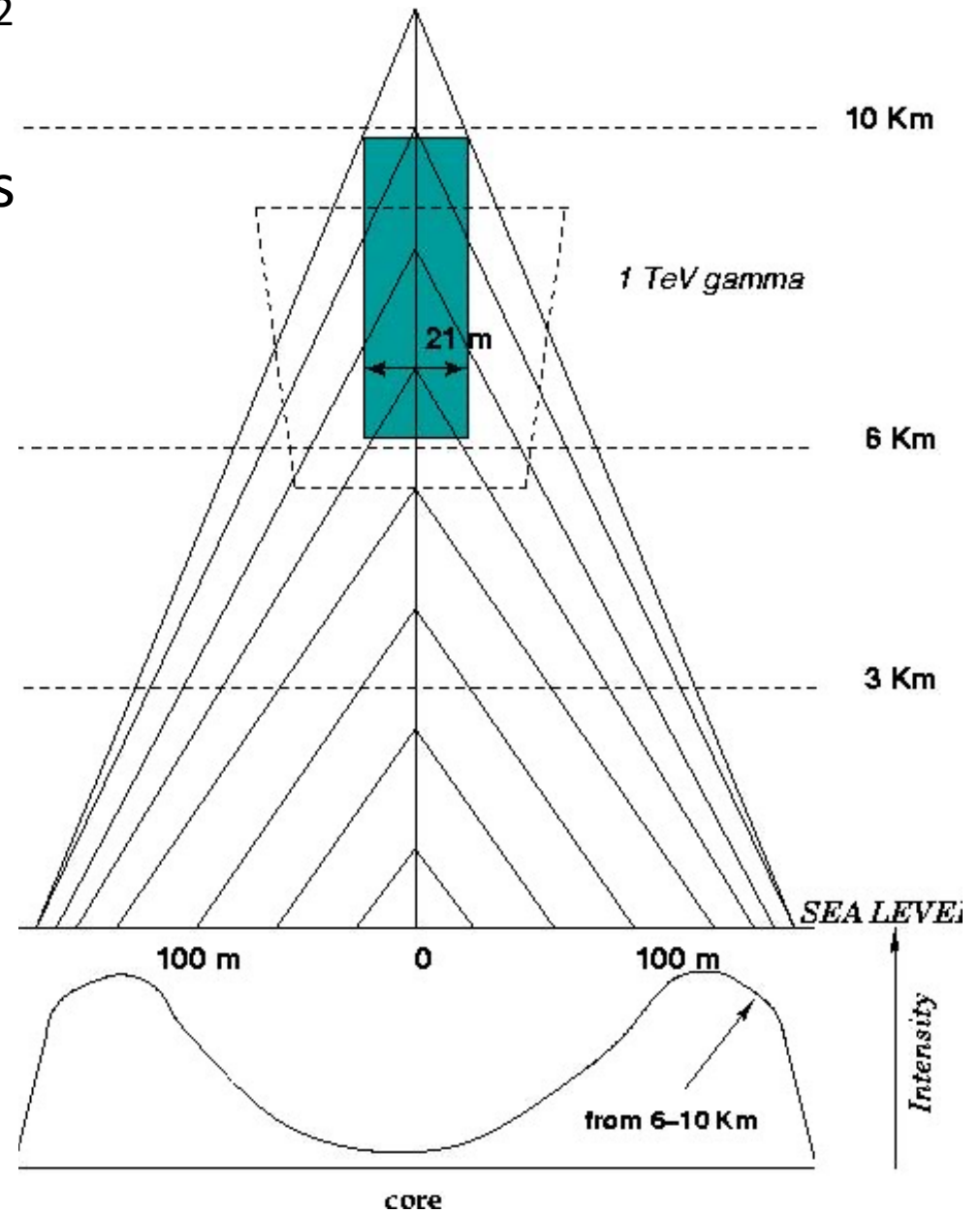
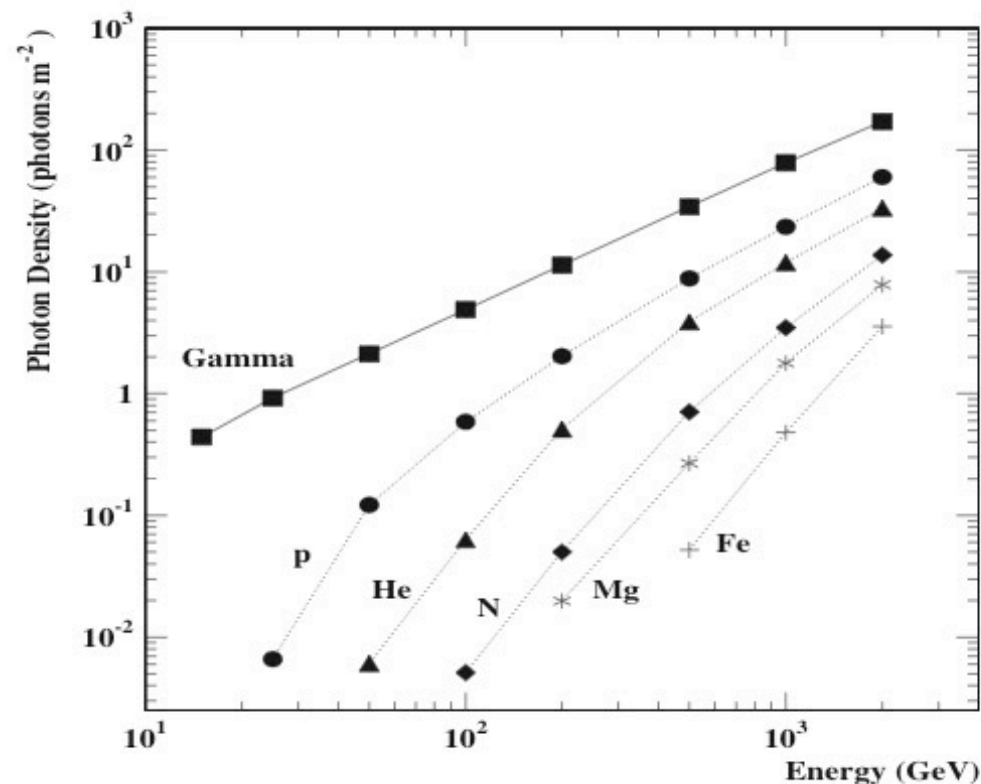
# Shower geometry reconstruction (II)

Reconstruction of the impact point (*core*) on the ground with  $\Delta R \approx 10\text{-}20$  m.



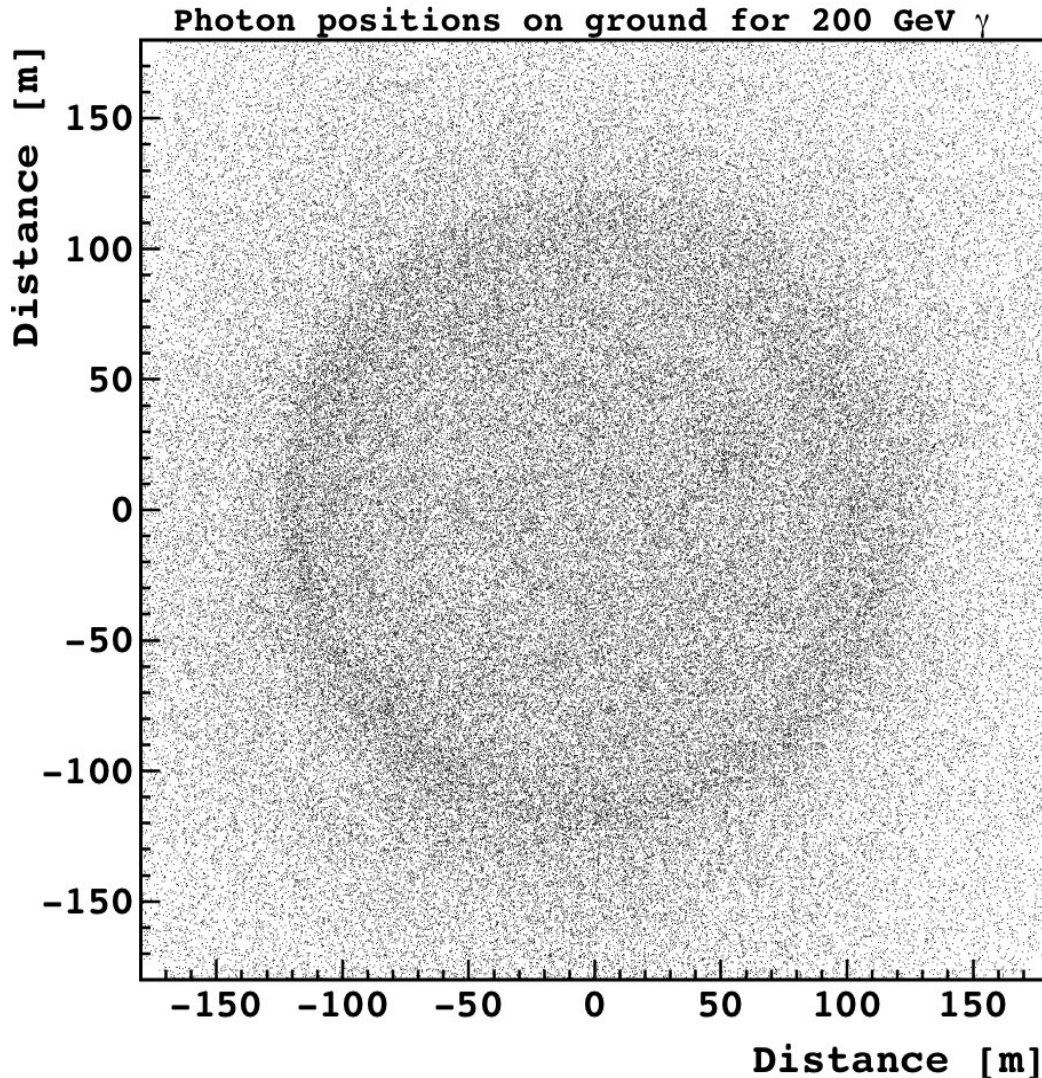
# The Cherenkov light pool

- For a primary of  $E=1$  TeV:  $200 \gamma/m^2$  on the ground.
- For a gamma the photon density is almost constant up to 100 m from the shower axis

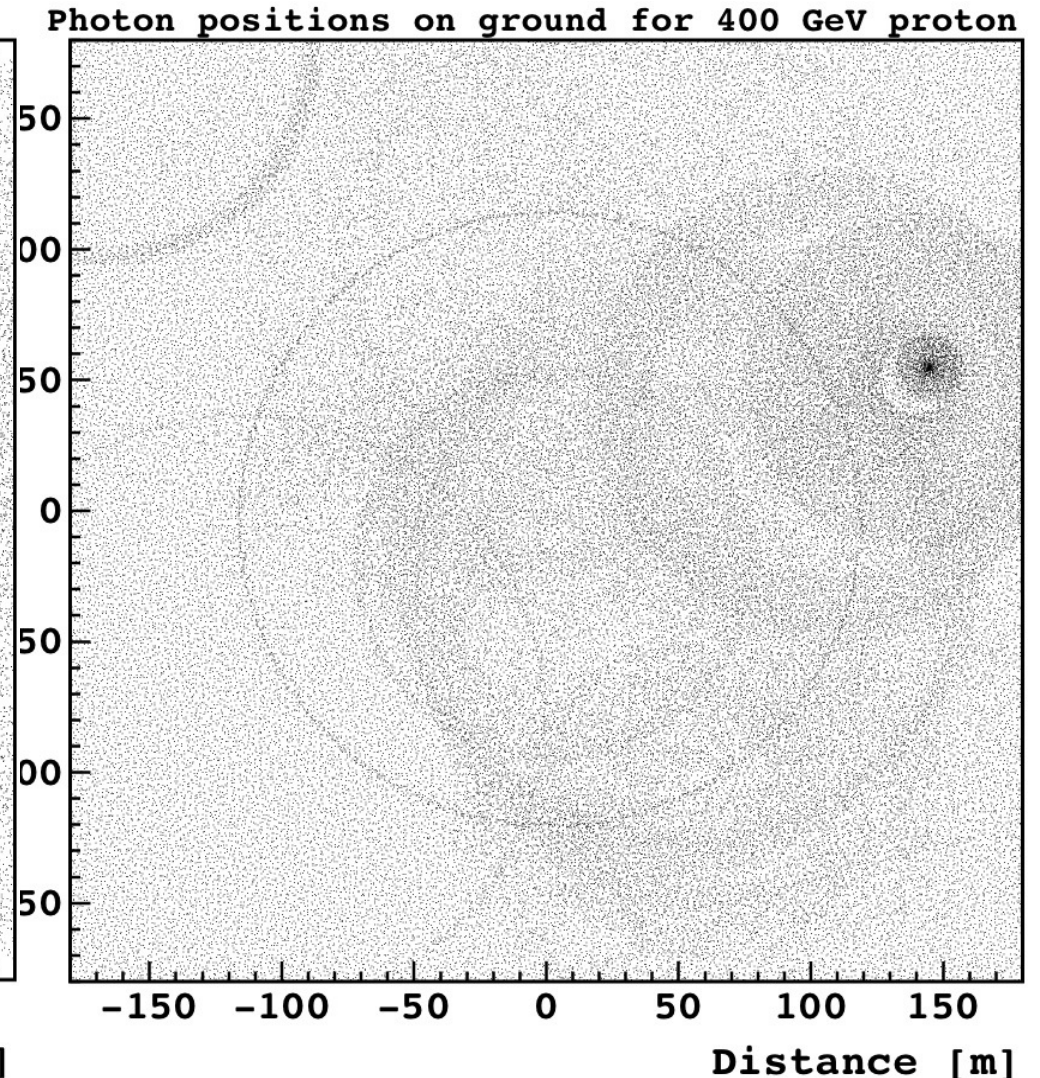


# Distribution of Cherenkov photons to the ground

Shower induced by a  
photon  $E_\gamma \sim 200$  GeV



Shower induced by a  
proton  $E_p \sim 400$  GeV

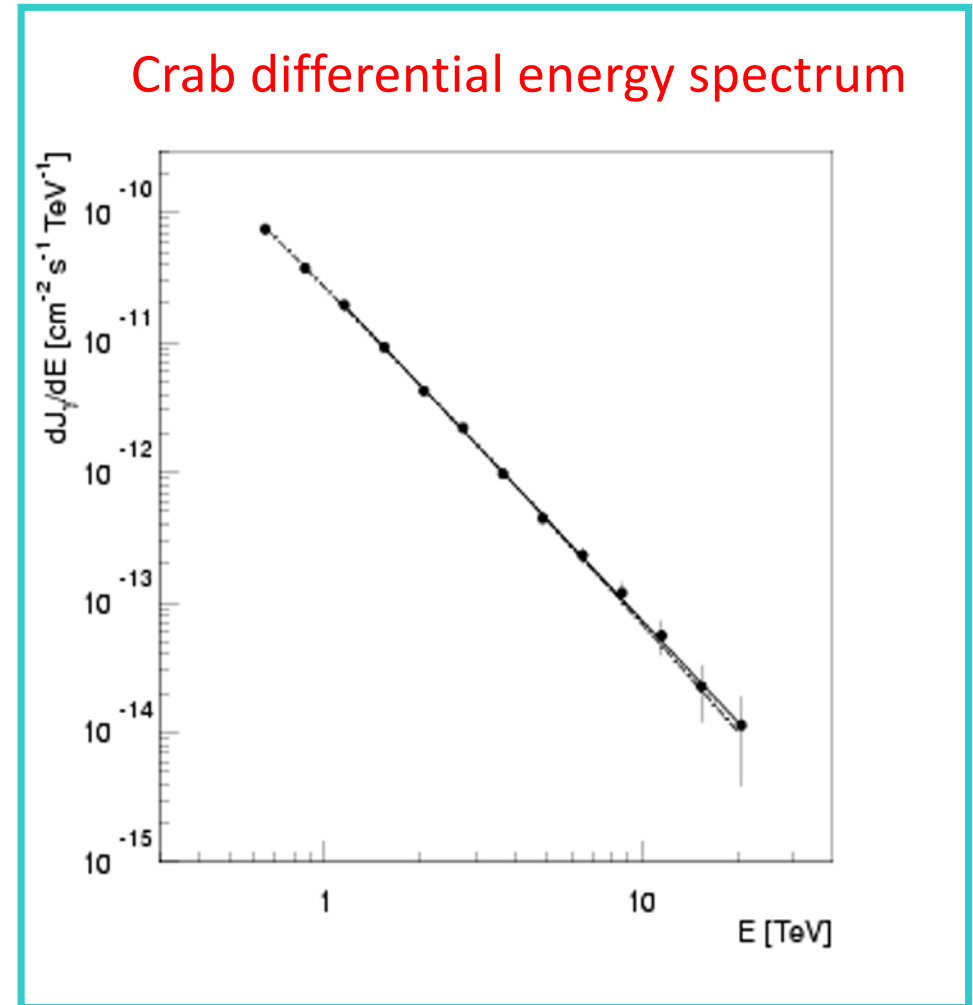


# Shower energy determination

- Density of Cerenkov photons versus Energy of the primary particle
- $E = F(\text{SIZE}, \text{core\_pos})$

**The stereoscopic system of IAC telescopes allow to reach energy resolution**

**$\Delta E/E \sim 10\text{-}20\% @ 1 \text{ TeV}$**





# $\theta_{\text{zenith}}$ dependence of collection area and energy threshold

Both increase with  $\theta$  due to increasing distance to shower (less light on larger area)

