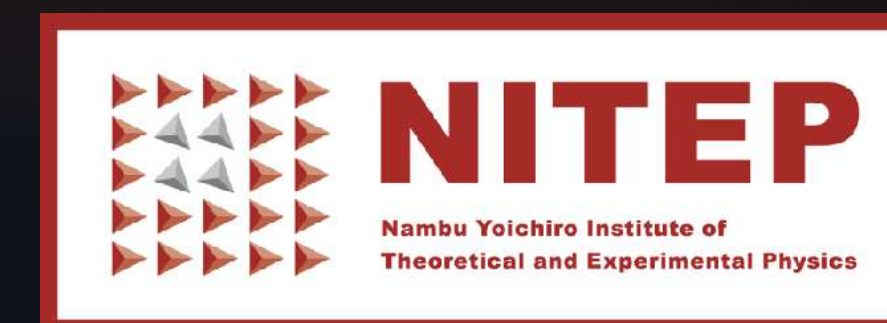


# The 100-year endeavor for detecting the highest energy cosmic rays

**Toshihiro Fujii** [toshi@omu.ac.jp](mailto:toshi@omu.ac.jp)  
Osaka Metropolitan University (OMU)  
Nambu Yoichiro Institute of Theoretical  
and Experimental Physics (NITEP)  
TeVPA 2024, August 26 2024

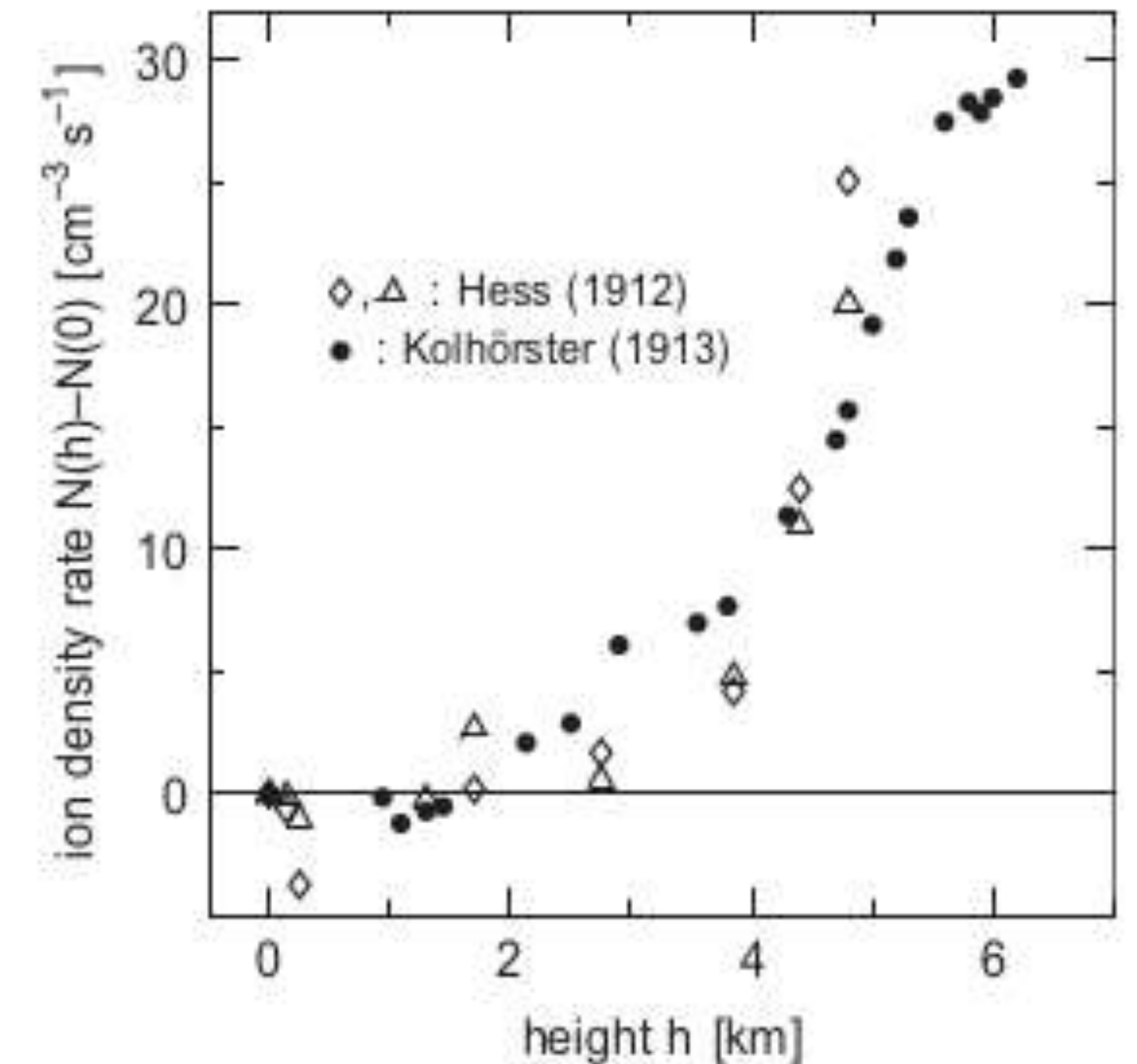


# What are cosmic rays?

- 📌 Energetic particles in the universe
- 📌 Discovered by V.F. Hess (1912), Nobel Prize in Physics (1936)
- 📌 Proton(90%), Helium(8%), electron and heavier nuclei

V. F. Hess, Phys. Z. 13, 1804 (1912)

**5350 m**

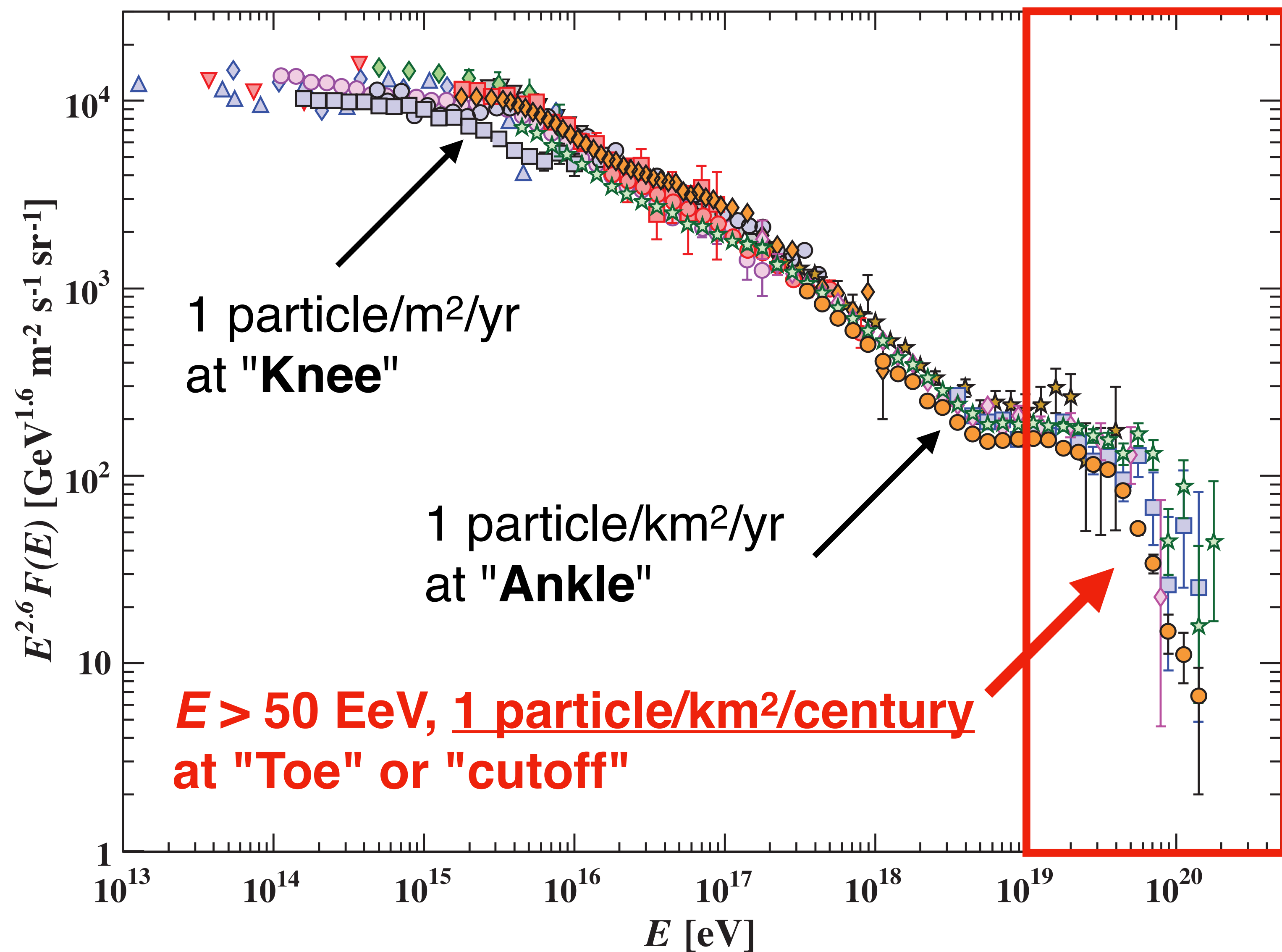


W. Kolhörster, Phys. Z. 14, 1153 (1913)

**9300 m**



# Energy spectrum of cosmic rays



Measurements of cosmic rays from  $10^9 \text{ eV}$  to  $10^{20} \text{ eV}$

Origins are still largely unknown

The most energetic particles in the universe

Only  $\sim 10^{13} \text{ eV}$  by the Earth's largest particle accelerator

Extremely infrequent

A huge effective area,  $\sim 1000 \text{ km}^2$

Long term observation in decades

1 exa-electron volts (EeV) =  $10^{18} \text{ eV}$

Particle Data Group, Phys.Rev.D, 98, 030001 (2018)

# How to detect extremely infrequent UHECRs?

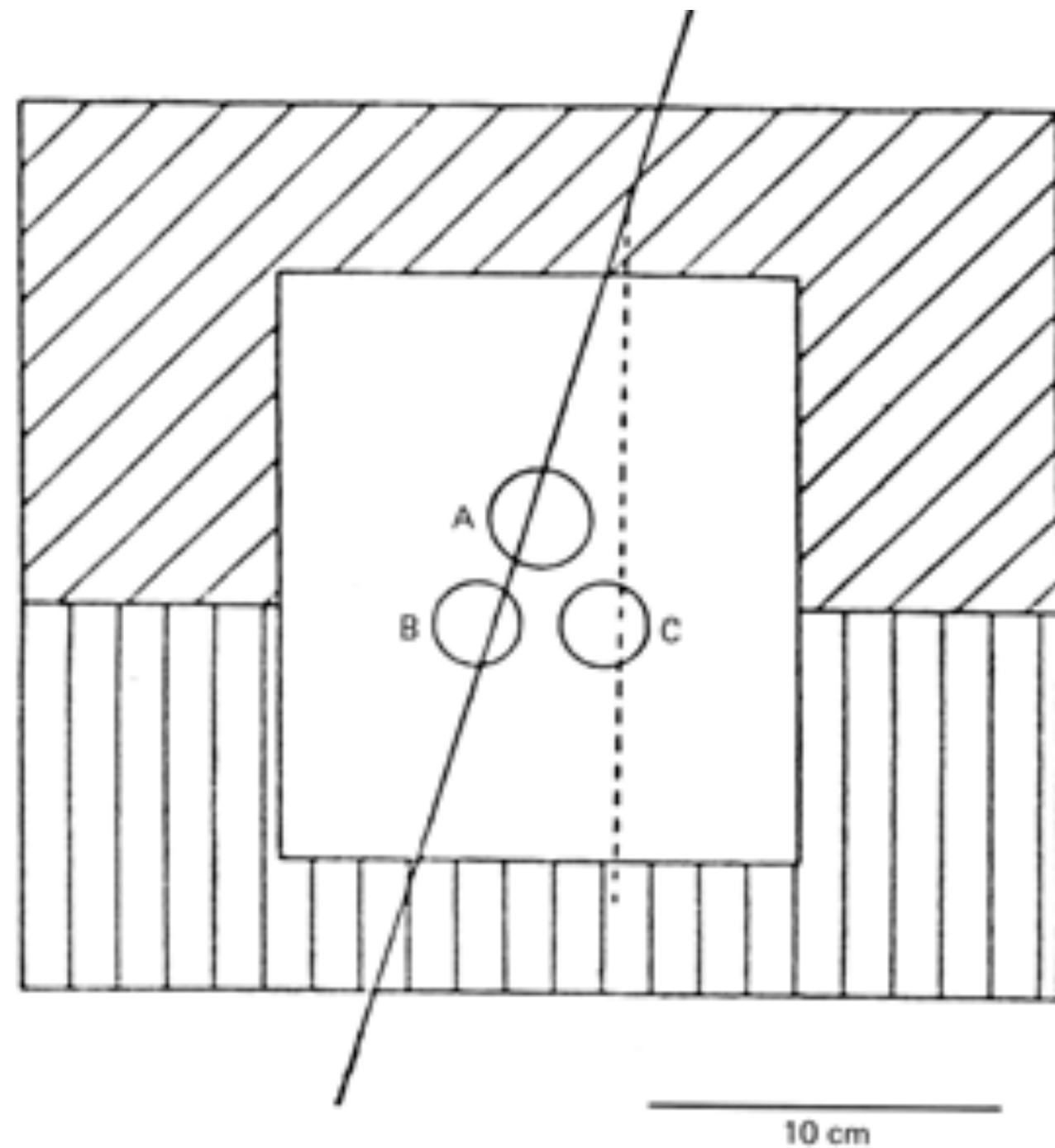
Extensive air showers

Surface detector array

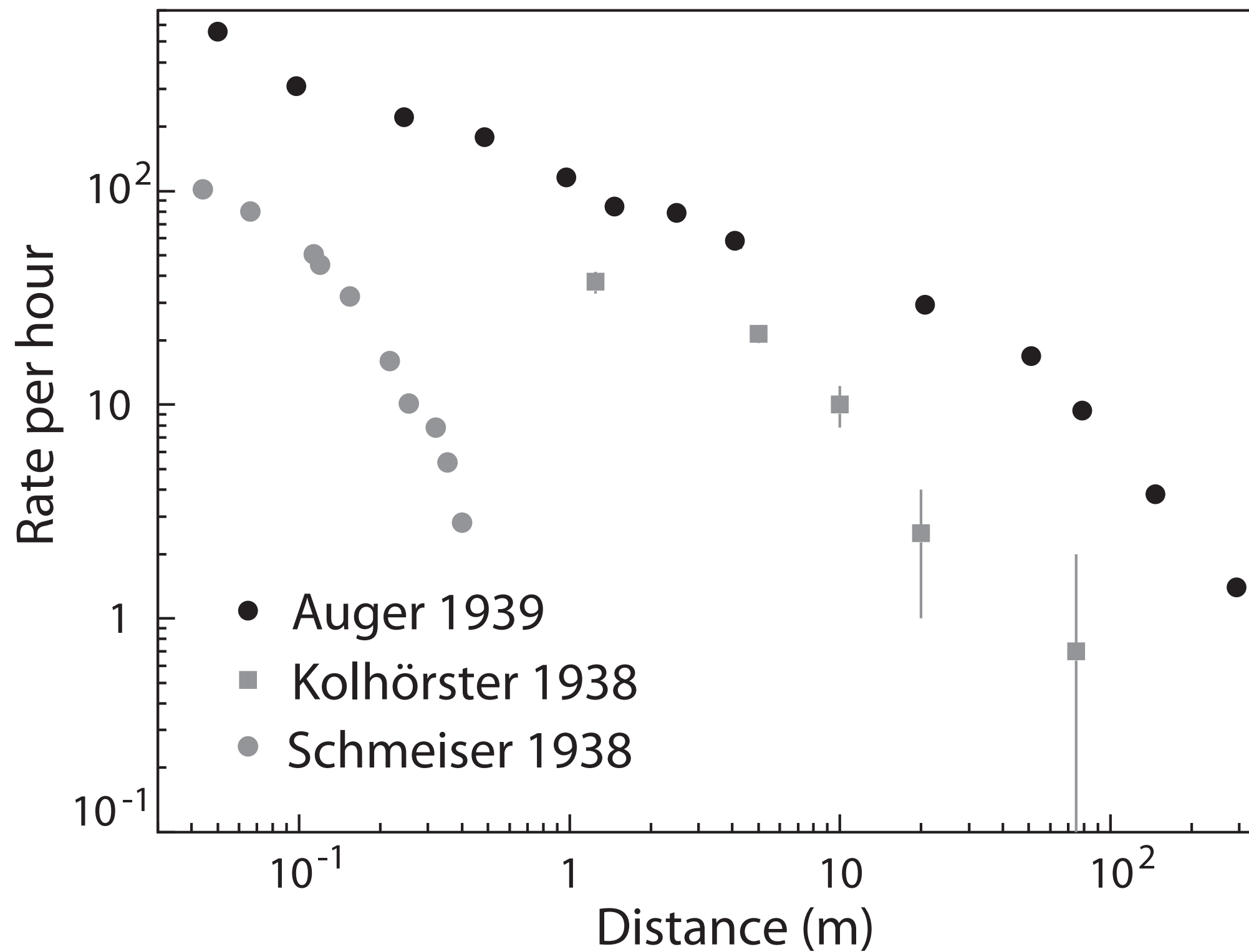
Fluorescence detector

# Discovery of extensive air shower

Development of coincidence method within 0.4 millisecond (B. Rossi, 1931)



Discovered coincidence signals of distant detectors with 150 m spacing at 3450 m (P. Auger, 1939)

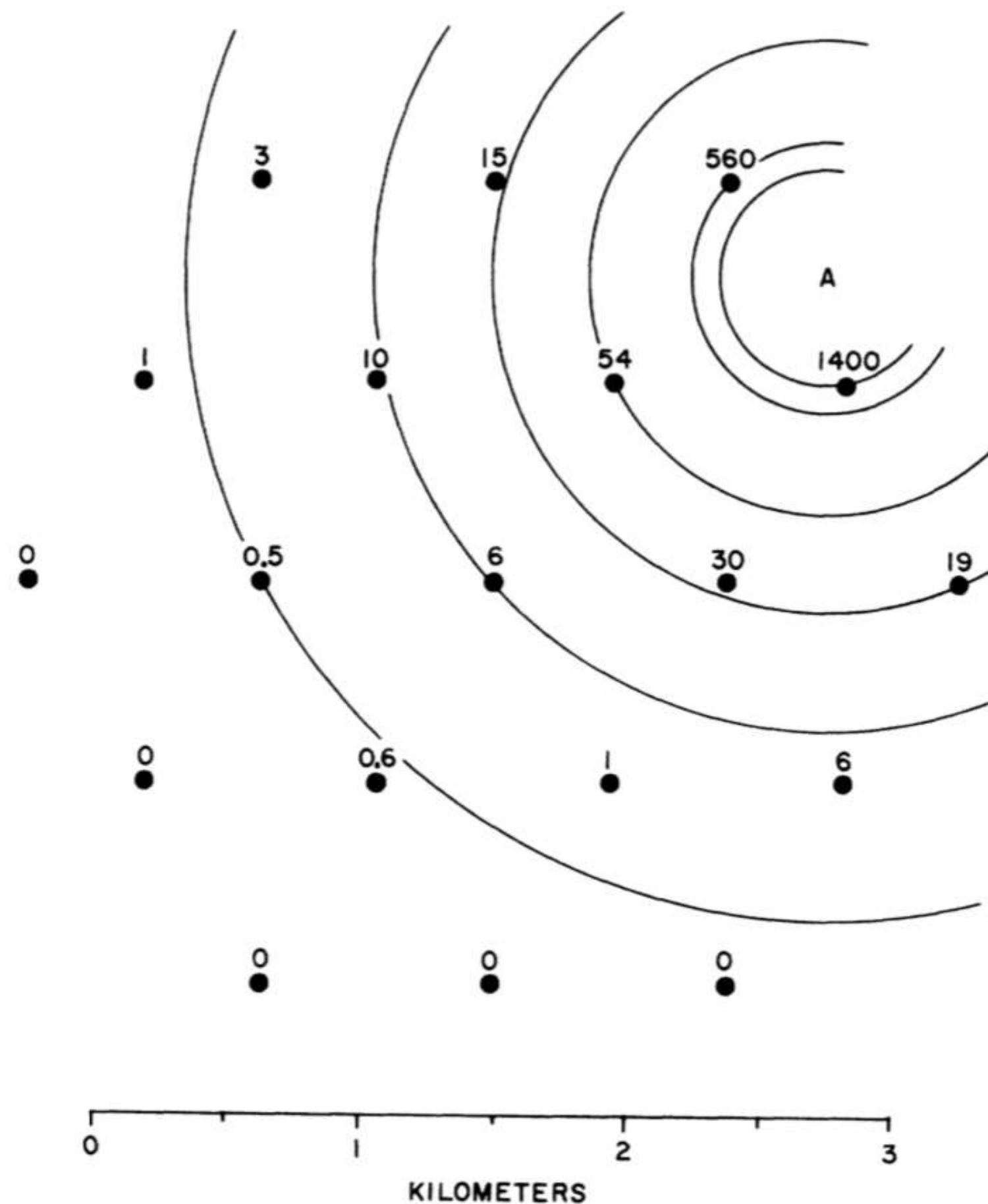


Particle shower at 3027 m (W.B. Fretter, 1949)



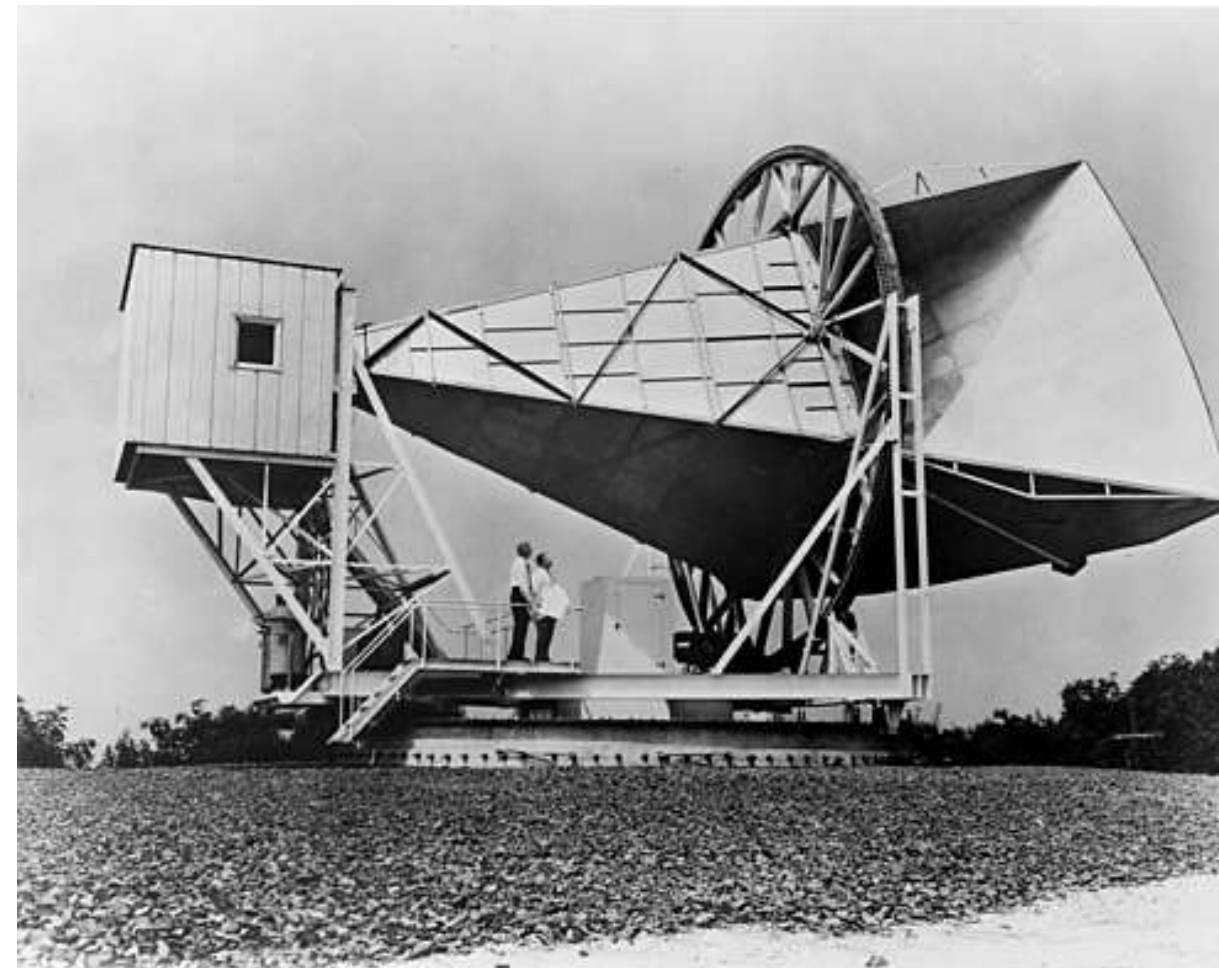
# The beginning of 100 EeV ( $10^{20}$ eV) detection

**First detection of  $\sim 100$  EeV  
at Volcano Ranch Array (1963)**



J. Linsley, "Evidence for a Primary Cosmic-Ray Particle with Energy  $10^{20}$  eV". *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 10 (4 Feb. 1963), 146–148

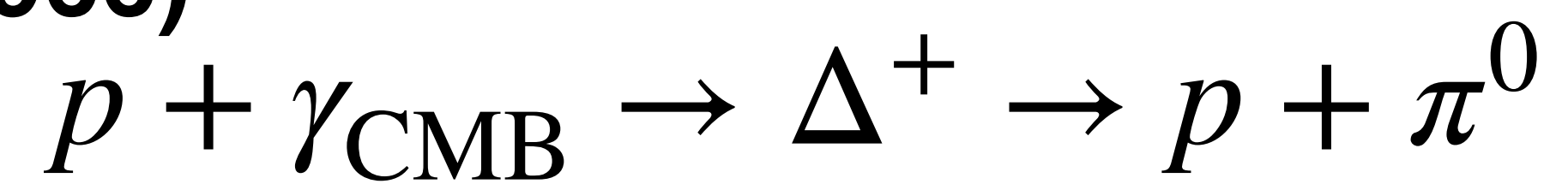
**2.7K cosmic microwave backgrounds  
(CMB) by Penzias and Wilson (1965)**



From wikipedia

A.A. Penzias and R.W. Wilson, "A Measurement of Excess Antenna Temperature at 4080 Mc/s", *Astrophys. J. Lett.* 142: 419–421 (1965)

**Prediction of Greisen, Zatsepin and Kuzmin (GZK)  
Cutoff (1966)**



K. Greisen, "End to the cosmic ray spectrum?" *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 16 (1966), 748–750

G.T. Zatsepin and V.A. Kuzmin, "Upper limit of the spectrum of cosmic rays". *JETP Lett.* 4 (1966), 78–80

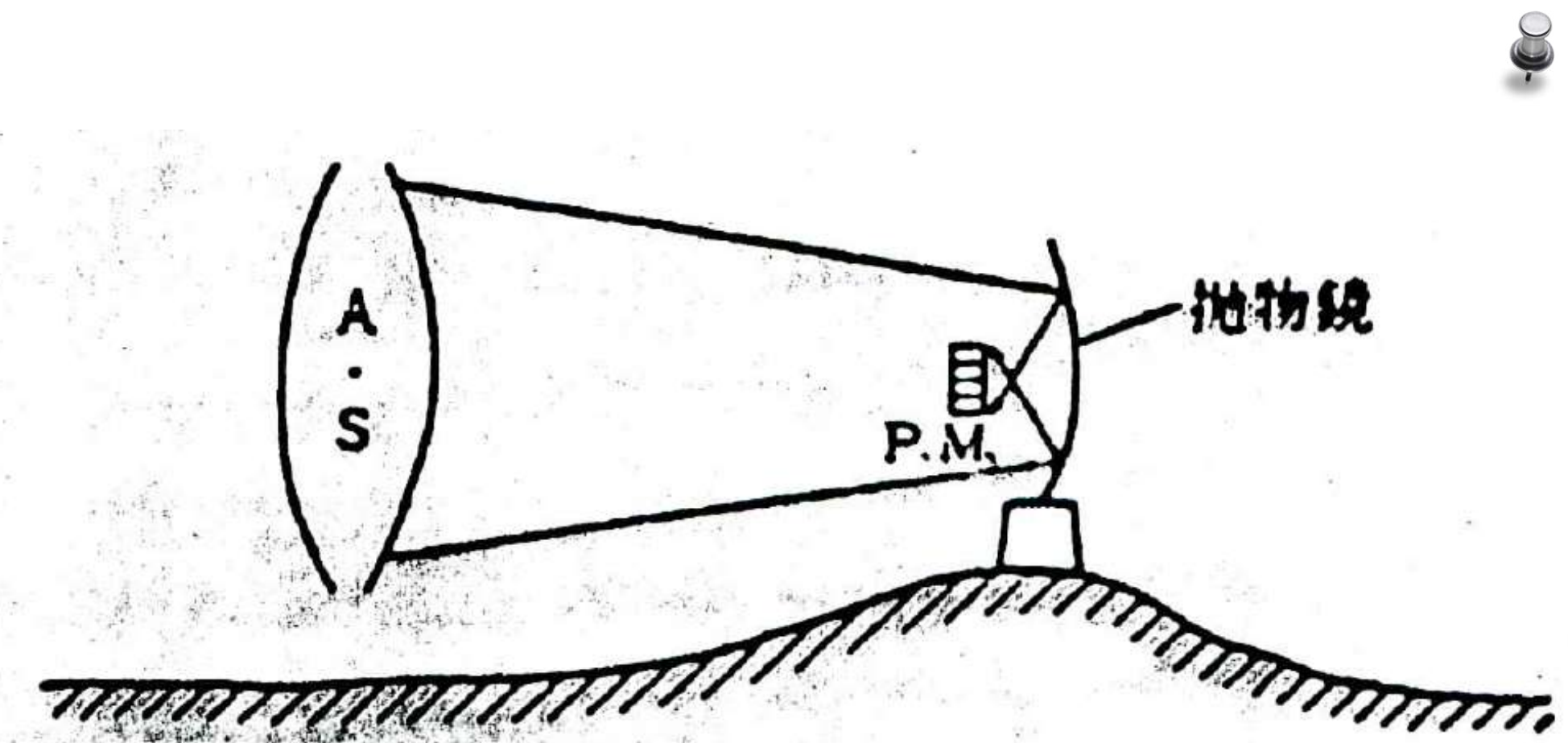
# How to detect extremely infrequent UHECRs?

Extensive air showers

Surface detector array

Fluorescence detector

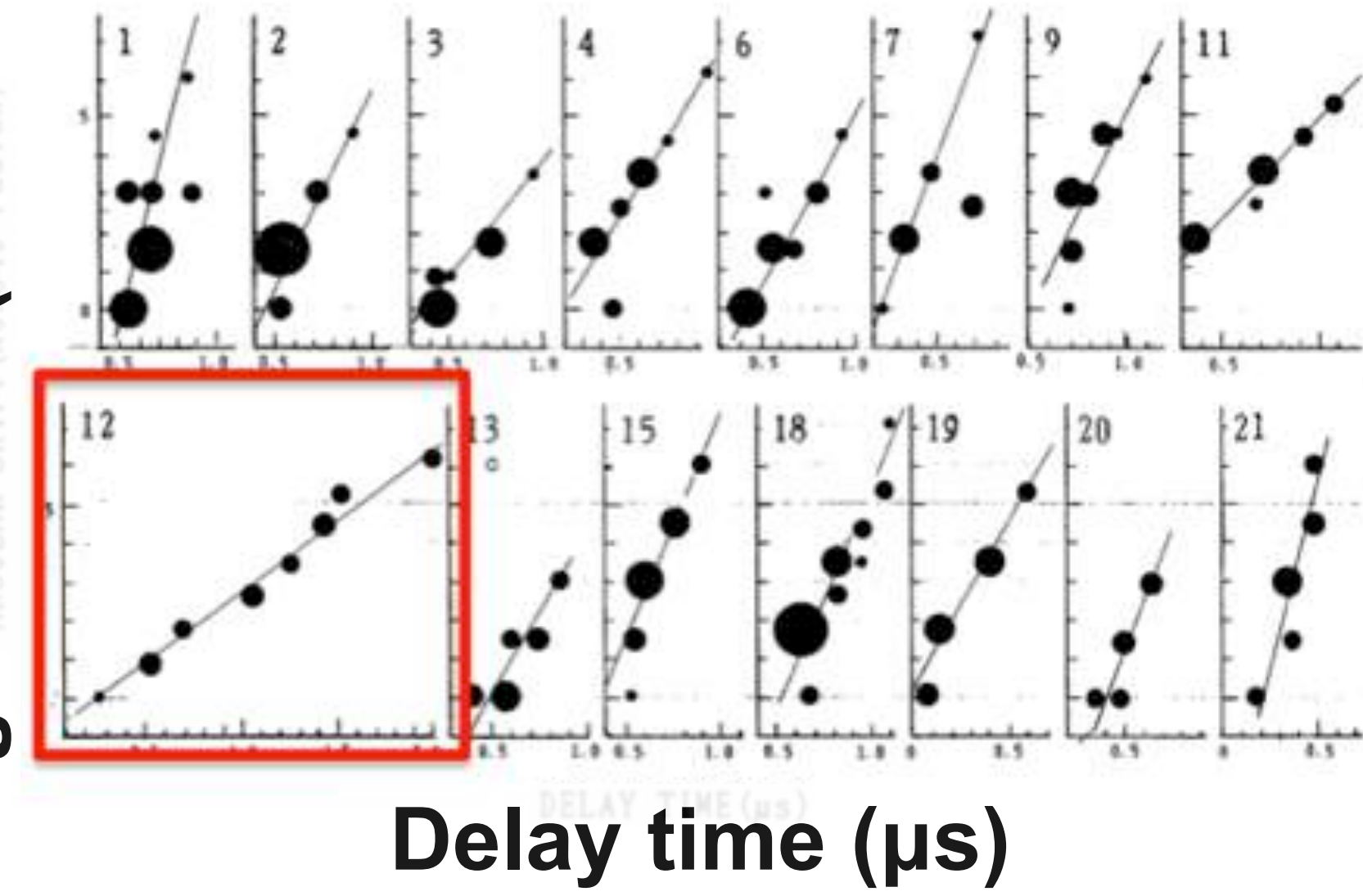
# History of fluorescence detector



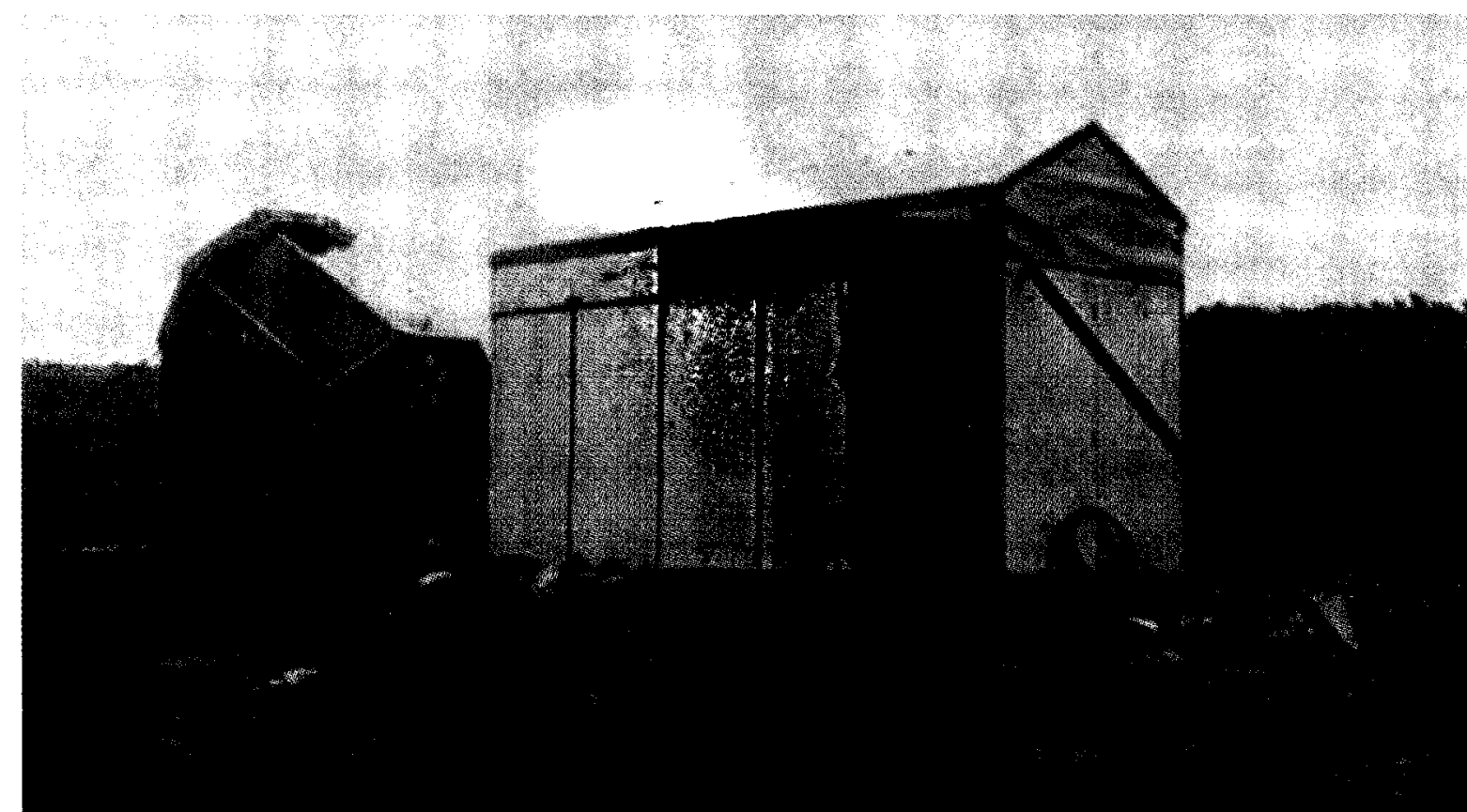
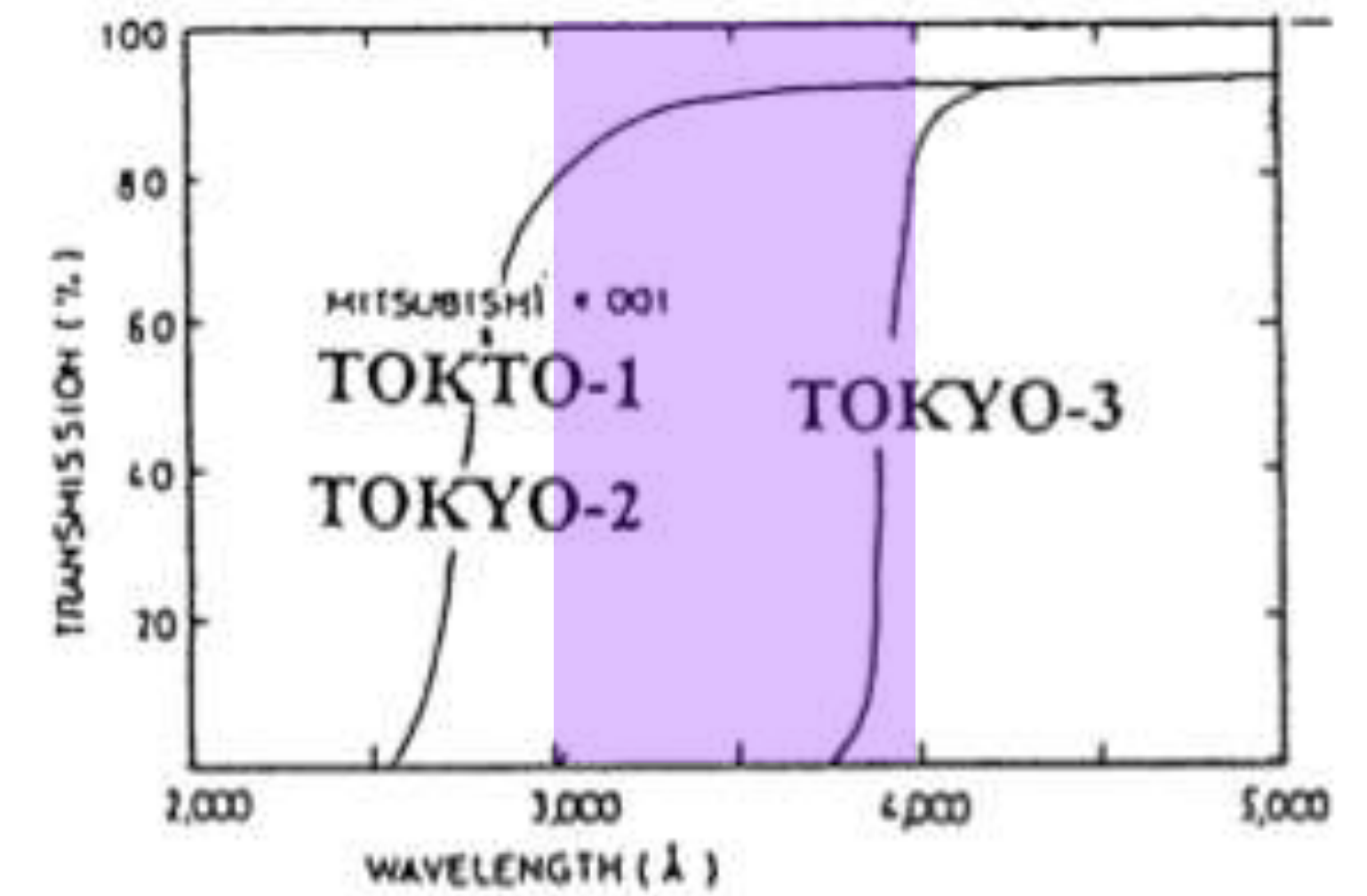
第3図 1958年乗鞍シンポジウムで話されたシャワー・カーブ測定の提案

- Proposed by K. Suga and M. Oda (1958), also by Greisen and Chudakov at the same time
- First detection by Fresnel lens and 55 PMTs, TOKYO-1 (1969)

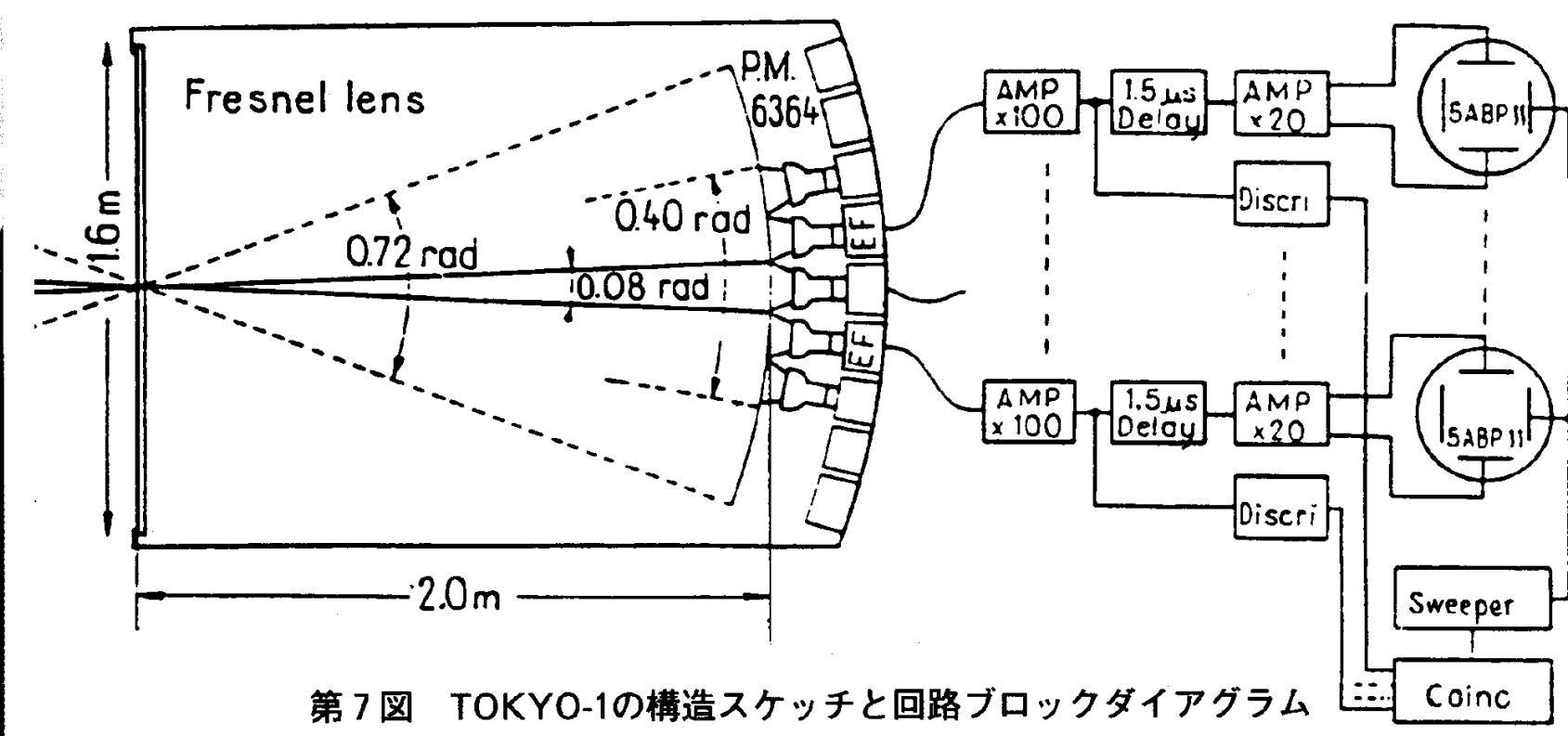
Angular shift (x2.6 deg)



$5 \times 10^{18}$  eV,  $680 \text{ g/cm}^2$  analyzed by B. Dawson, arXiv:1112.5686 (2011)



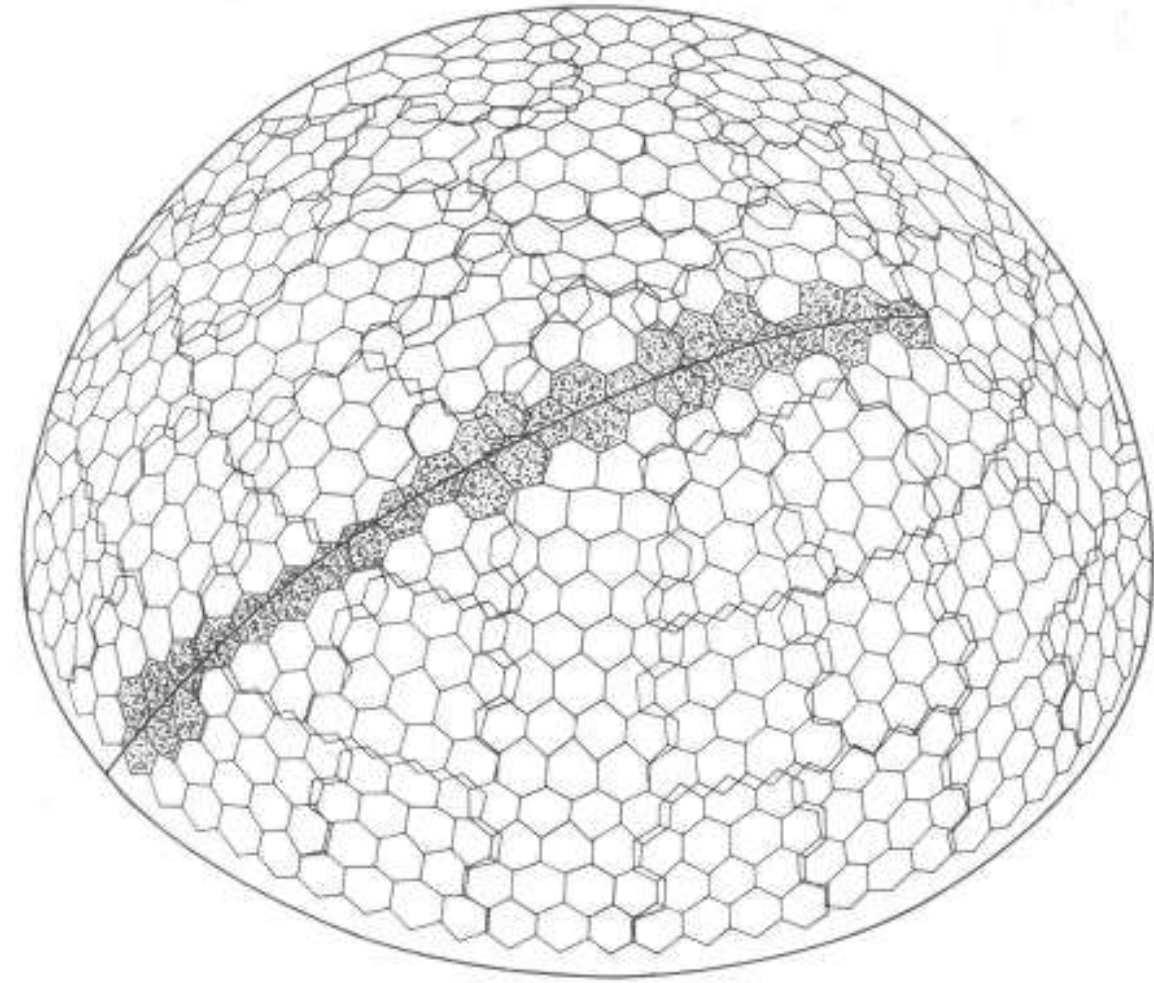
第8図 TOKYO-1の設置写真



第7図 TOKYO-1の構造スケッチと回路ブロックダイアグラム



# The Universe's most energetic particle



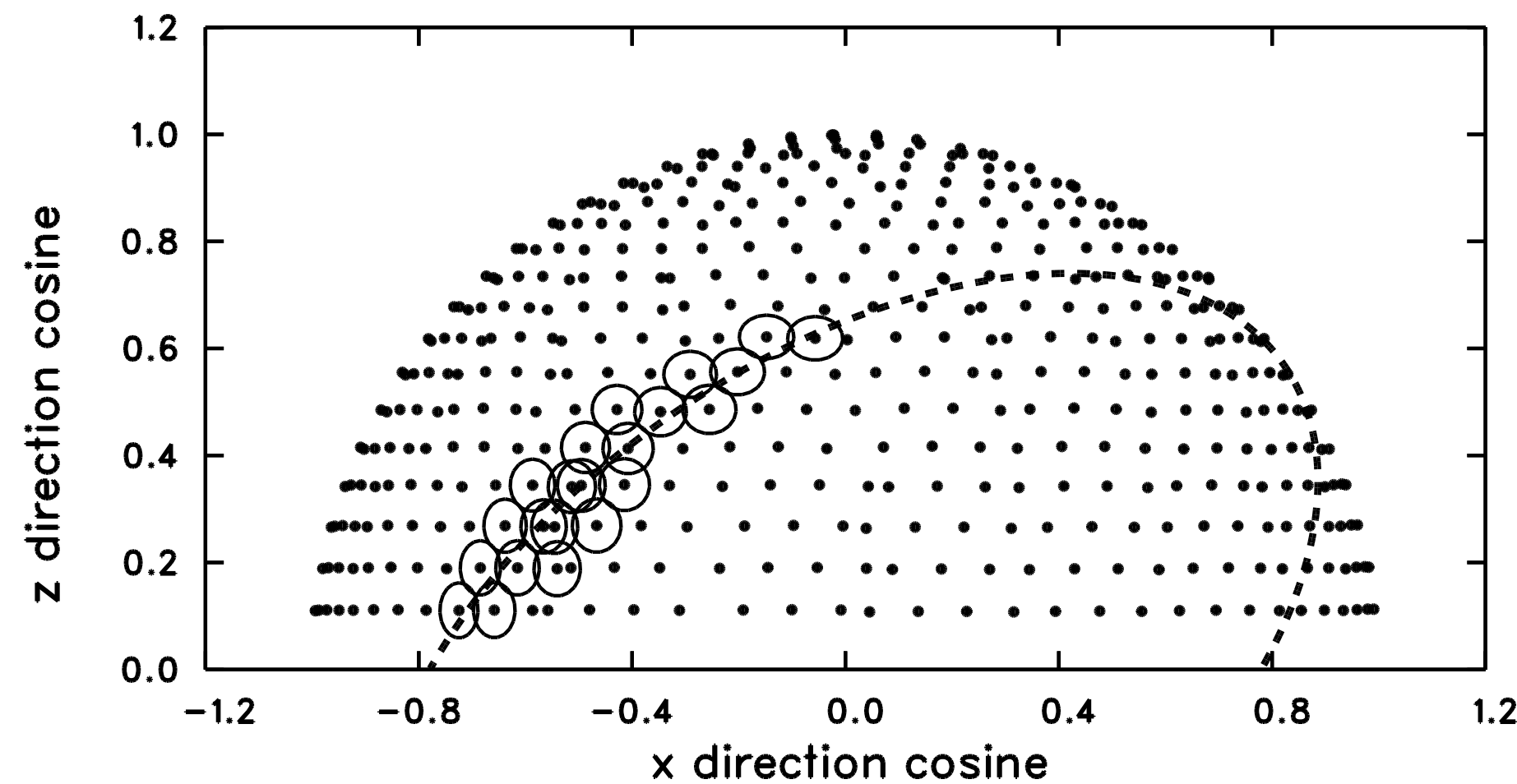
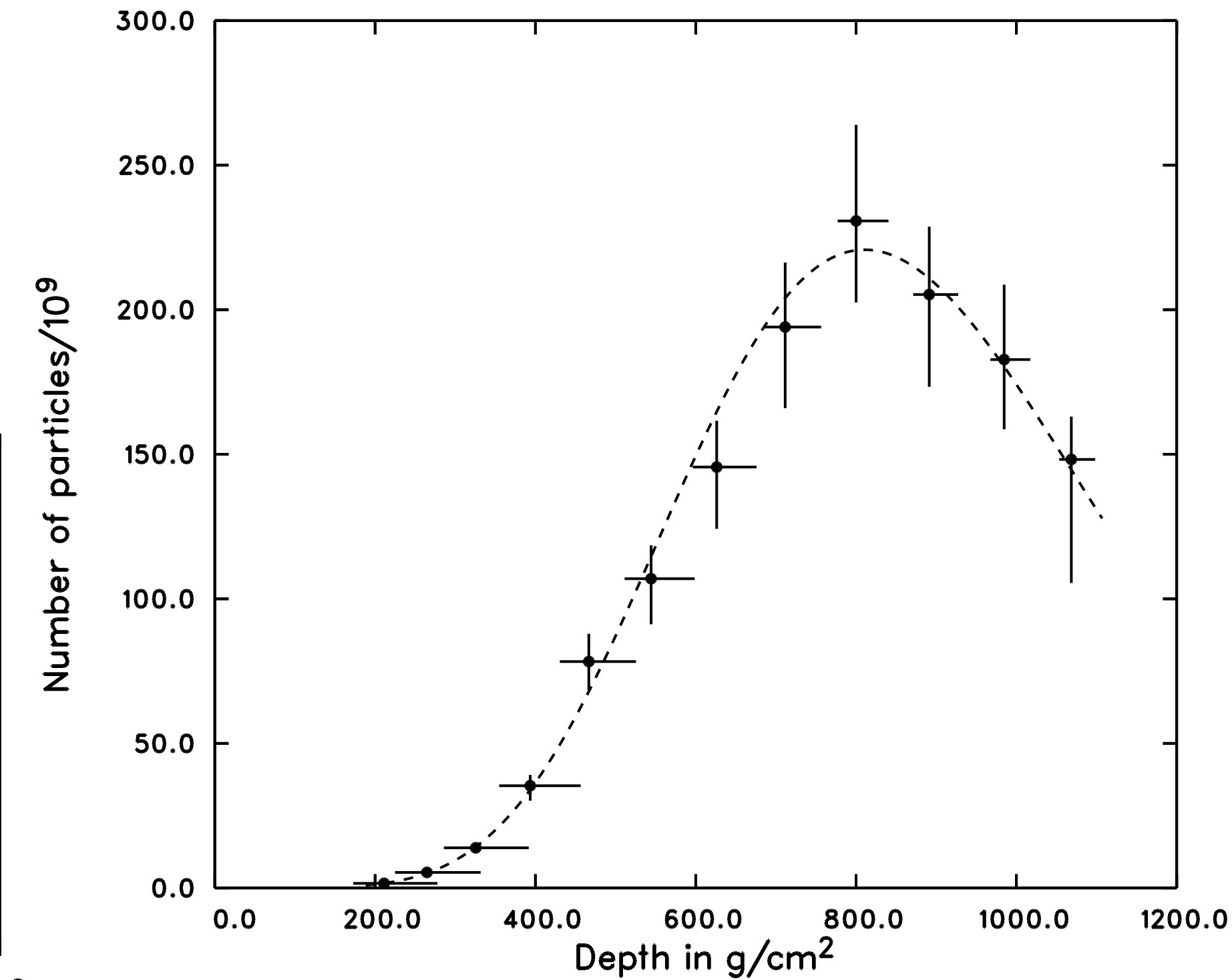
## Fly's Eye (Utah, USA)

Construction started from **1976**, after a confirmation of fluorescence signal at Volcano Ranch Array

Observed  $X_{\max}$  is consistent with hadron primary, unlikely with gamma-ray

$$X_{\max} = 815 \pm 60 \text{ g/cm}^2$$

The highest energy cosmic ray so far, 15th October, 1991  **$320 \pm 38$  (stat.)  $\pm 85$  (syst.) EeV**, "*Oh-My-God*" particle



(R.A., Dec.) = (85.2°, 48.0°)

D.J. Bird et al., ApJ 441 (1995) 144



Start the High Resolution Fly's Eye (HiRes-1) from 1994.

# Latest UHECR observatories



Google Earth



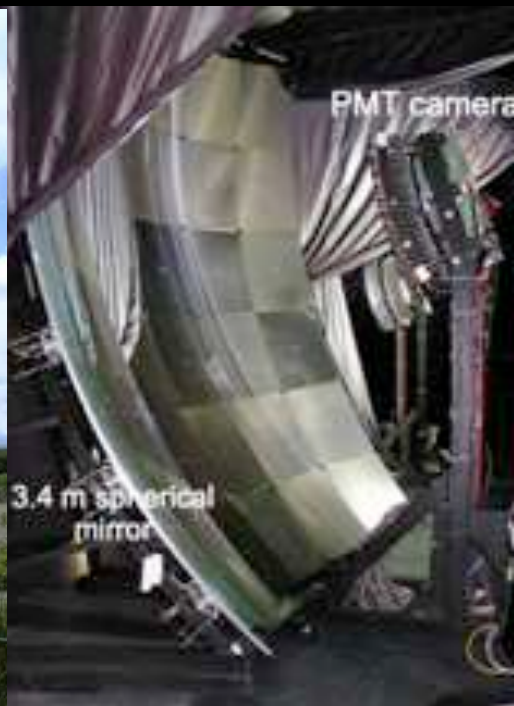
## Telescope Array Experiment (TA)

- Utah, USA
- 2008~, 700 km<sup>2</sup>
- TA×4 → 3000 km<sup>2</sup>



## Pierre Auger Observatory (Auger)

- Malargüe, Argentina
- 2004~, 3000 km<sup>2</sup>
- AugerPrime upgrade  
scintillator + small PMT +  
radio + buried muon detector  
+ high speed electronics

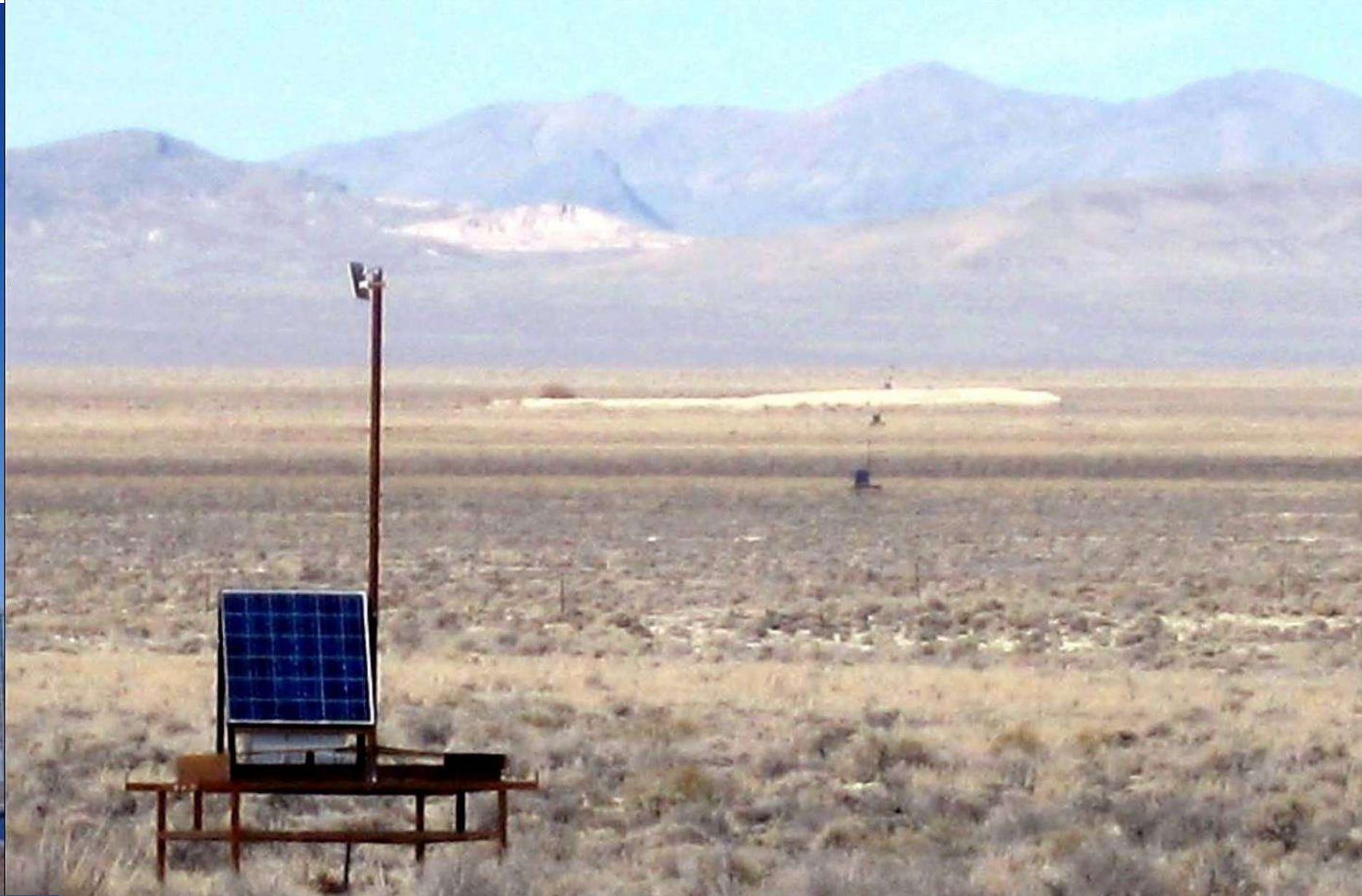


# Pierre Auger Observatory @Malargüe, Argentina





# Telescope Array experiment @Utah, USA



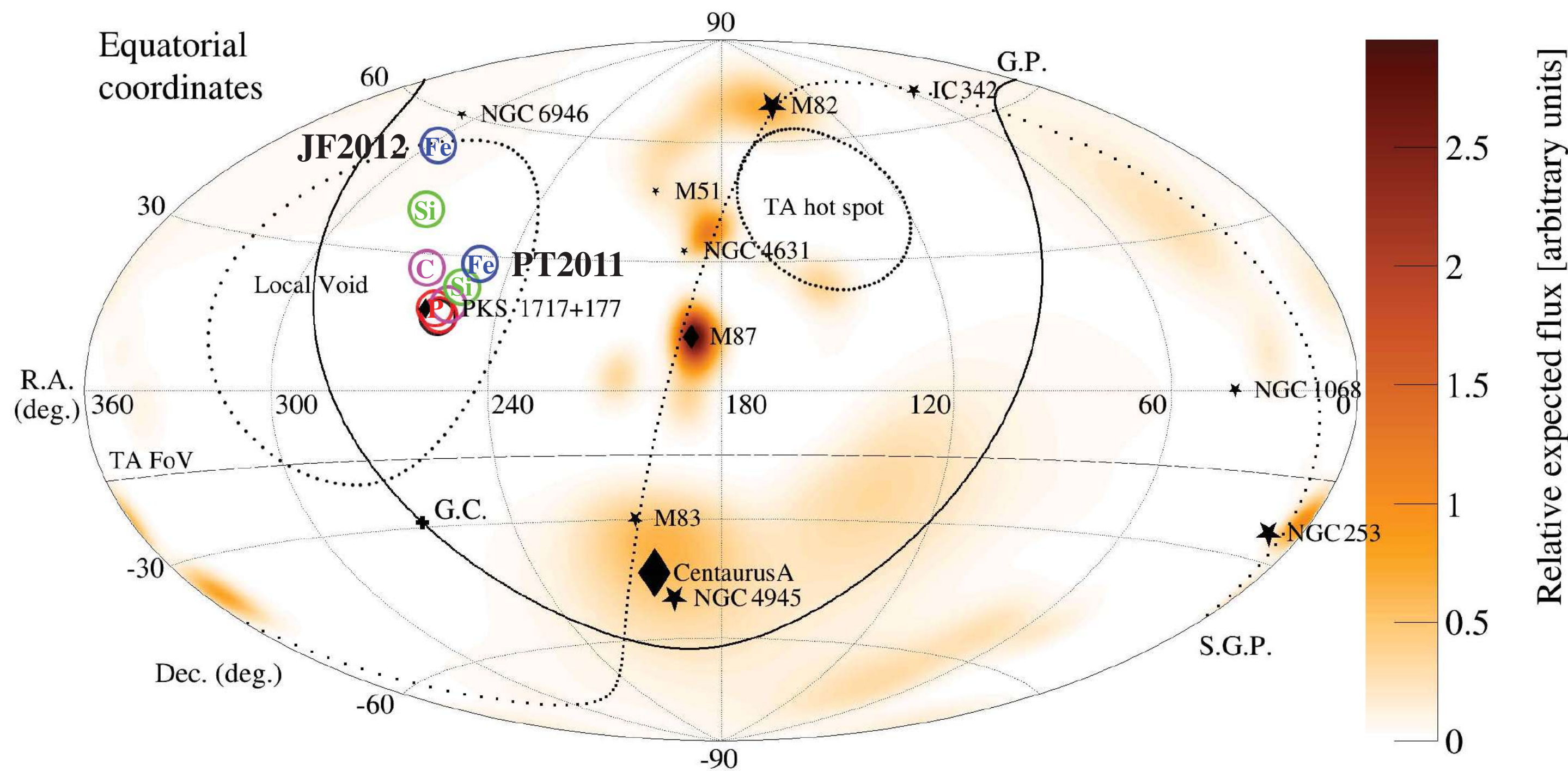


2021 May 27, 04:35:56 AM  
Detection of "Amaterasu" particle

20210527	001716.635727	5.737	-8.895	9.98	22.48	168.53	0.587	0.00	2.06
20210527	005753.524148	7.988	1.748	10.51	38.09	155.29	0.277	0.00	3.14
20210527	012459.385602	-5.703	-9.588	6.59	17.86	204.01	0.165	0.00	1.46
20210527	020622.327294	-4.091	-12.485	11.16	33.44	297.15	0.228	0.00	2.84
20210527	022215.026443	-5.554	-4.402	4.53	40.69	257.32	0.324	0.00	1.35
20210527	022953.053133	4.534	0.286	4.36	25.51	93.45	0.676	0.00	1.04
20210527	032730.128559	6.769	8.087	3.70	42.25	213.29	0.608	0.00	1.20
20210527	034324.408578	4.286	11.504	2.36	54.83	277.55	0.373	0.00	1.31
20210527	044710.753089	-2.208	6.068	6.57	23.24	213.93	0.200	0.00	1.38
20210527	045739.611334	3.358	-5.096	6.19	27.52	51.49	0.386	0.00	1.34
20210527	052456.616001	-8.802	-0.043	3.74	47.33	265.97	0.400	0.00	1.60
20210527	053039.195422	7.042	-0.775	5.07	51.50	253.88	0.338	0.00	3.25
20210527	060309.528577	7.681	-2.878	5.22	41.97	354.02	0.307	0.00	1.60
20210527	063750.948203	-9.893	-10.150	10.05	10.90	198.69	0.386	0.00	1.97
20210527	064513.310301	-0.567	-9.565	2.95	46.76	237.80	0.199	0.00	1.13
20210527	065111.717578	-2.120	2.494	5.77	40.51	246.21	0.142	0.00	1.70
20210527	072300.050046	5.441	12.539	2.87	48.35	327.27	0.538	0.00	1.22
20210527	073937.403223	8.820	-15.204	7.60	40.87	96.83	0.436	0.00	2.32
20210527	075907.626302	-0.188	-13.335	3.59	43.43	123.62	0.390	0.00	1.19
20210527	081936.883244	7.531	12.513	7.21	28.55	63.75	0.371	0.00	1.53
20210527	085544.355178	-3.884	3.239	9.03	41.35	233.83	0.416	0.00	3.03
20210527	103556.474337	-9.471	1.904	529.53	38.62	206.80	0.044	0.00	243.61
20210527	103819.341498	4.773	-16.531	3.90	52.08	21.79	0.250	0.00	2.39
20210527	122815.858965	-2.615	8.767	4.69	35.65	357.84	0.289	0.00	1.22
20210527	124726.186961	-4.969	-16.217	9.31	22.84	86.24	0.550	0.00	1.93
20210527	130030.400026	-6.704	-16.486	11.12	19.46	57.86	0.292	0.00	2.24
20210527	131652.649468	-2.707	2.834	8.41	30.48	159.44	0.317	0.00	1.85
20210527	131931.788147	3.315	-18.699	7.52	38.62	277.76	0.506	0.00	2.05
20210527	135753.703832	-11.351	-6.900	6.24	25.40	113.13	0.446	0.00	1.42
20210527	143154.113642	-6.137	-17.021	10.56	34.18	200.72	0.205	0.00	2.77
20210527	150126.752503	8.285	2.807	2.52	40.84	76.01	0.411	0.00	1.07

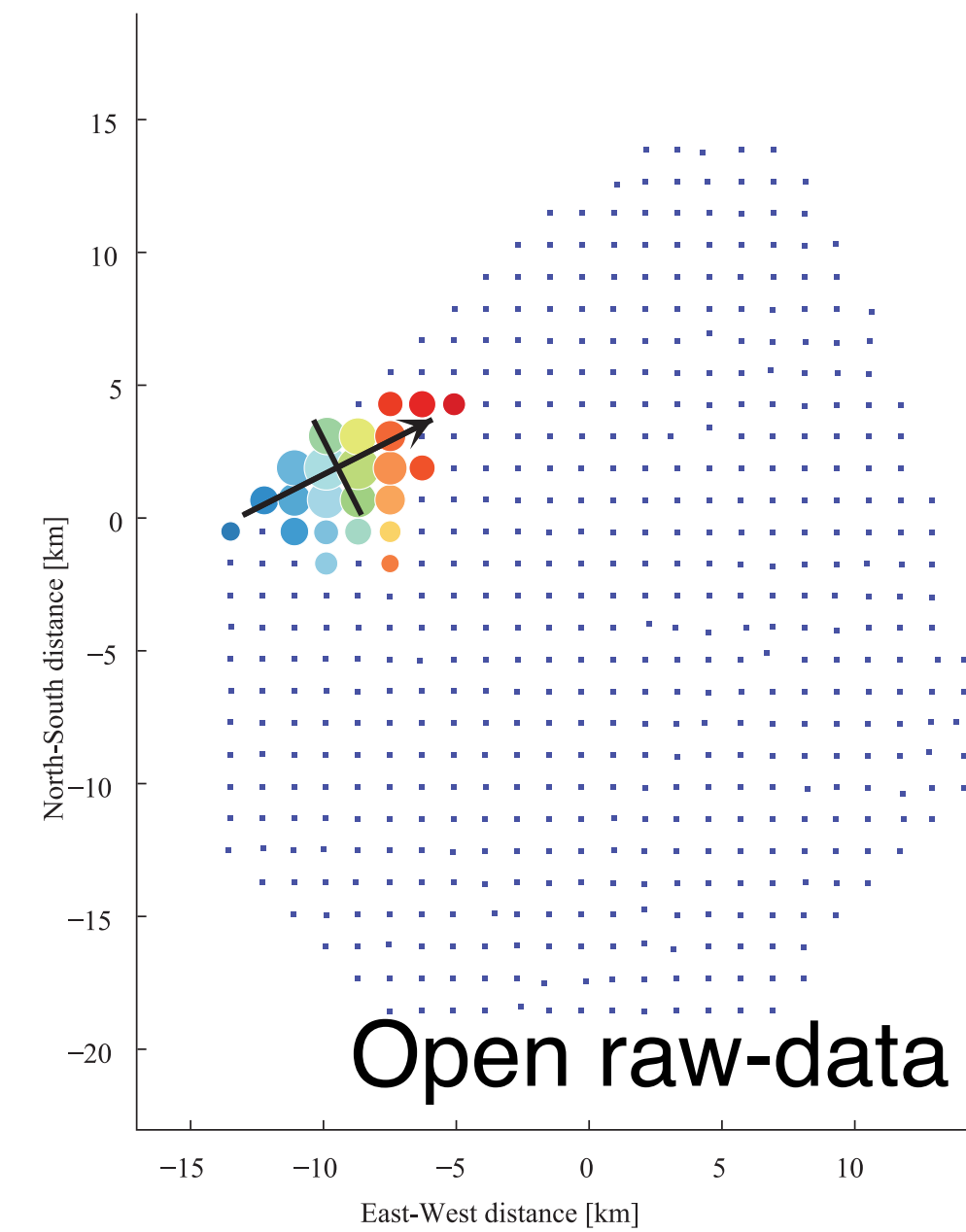
# Arrival direction of Amaterasu particle

- $E = 244 \pm 29$  (stat.)  $+51, -76$  (syst.) EeV**
- Unexpectedly, come from the Local Void**
- No promising astronomical source candidates**



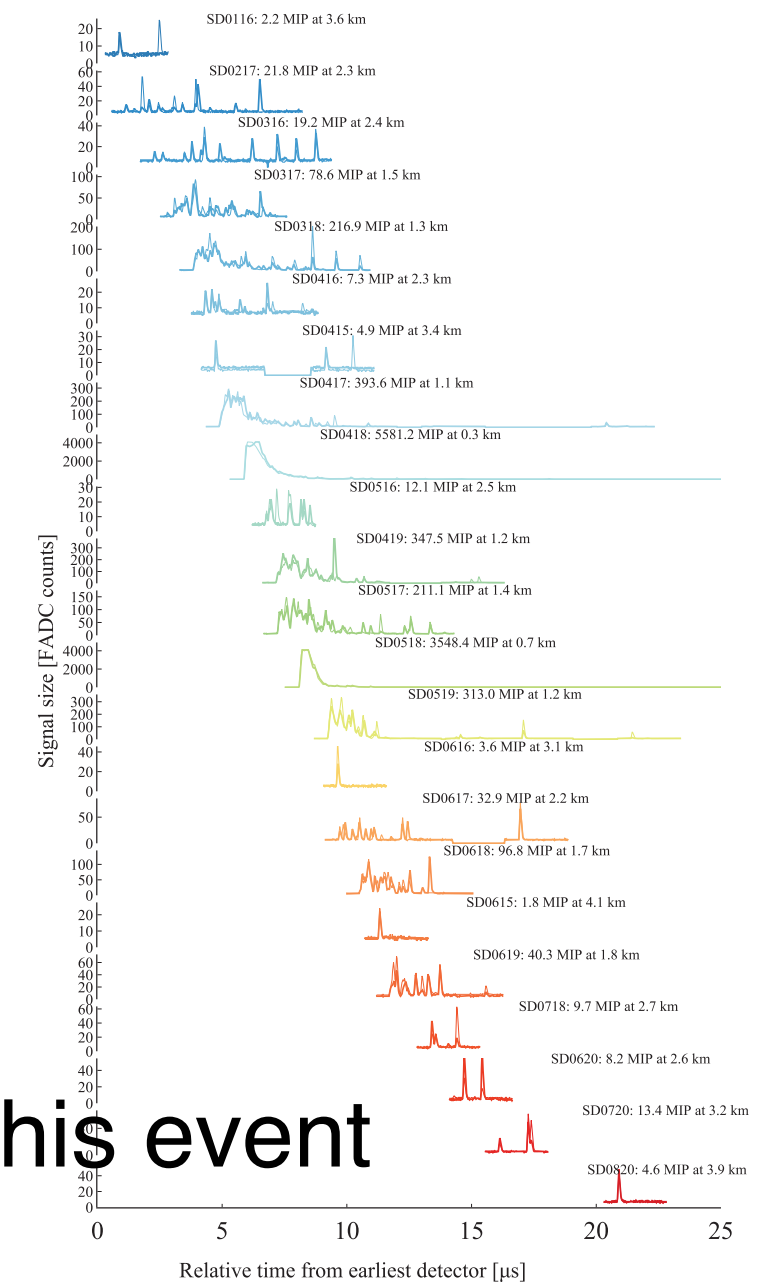
Telescope Array Collaboration, Science 382, 903 (2023)

A Surface detector array of TA

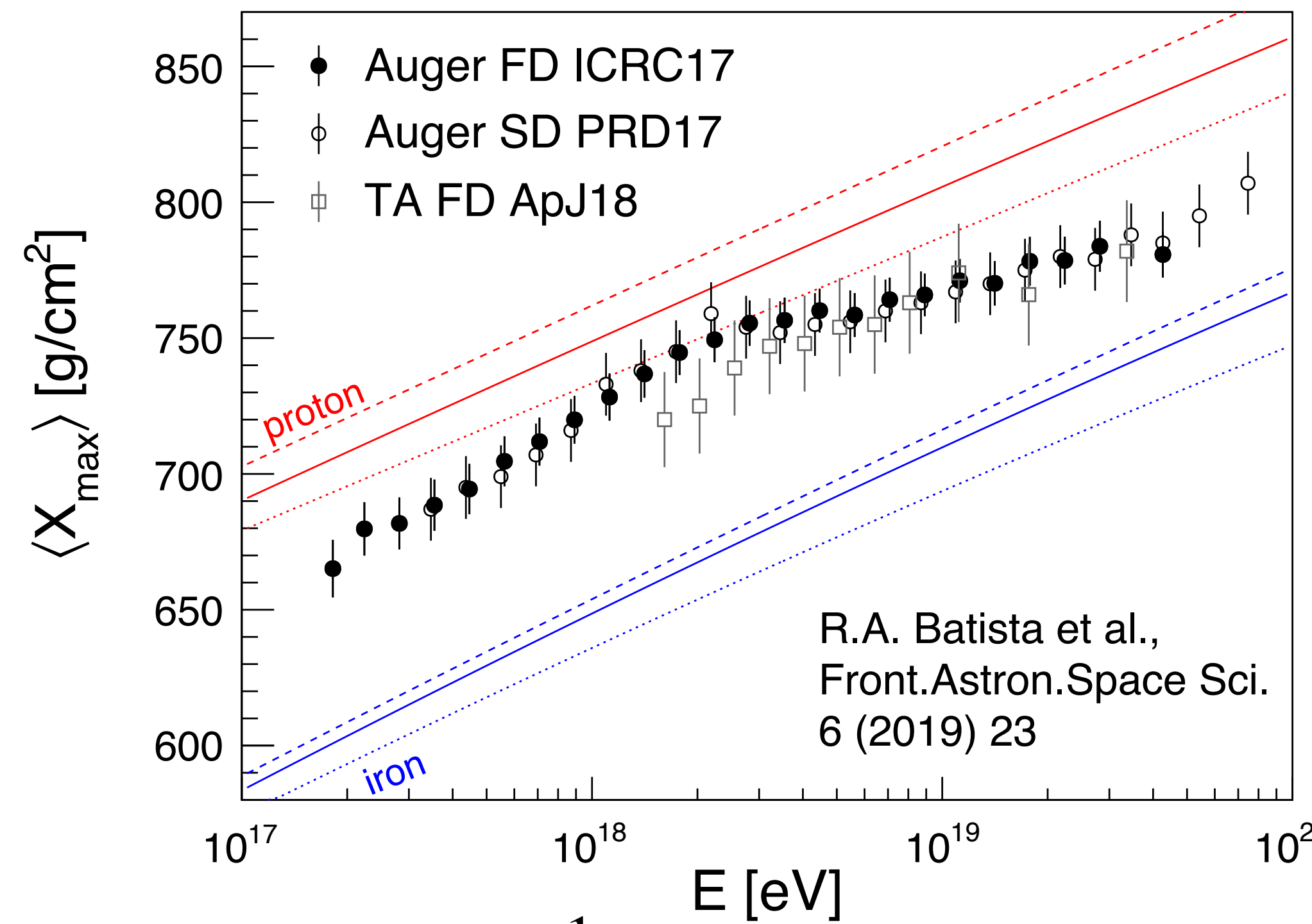
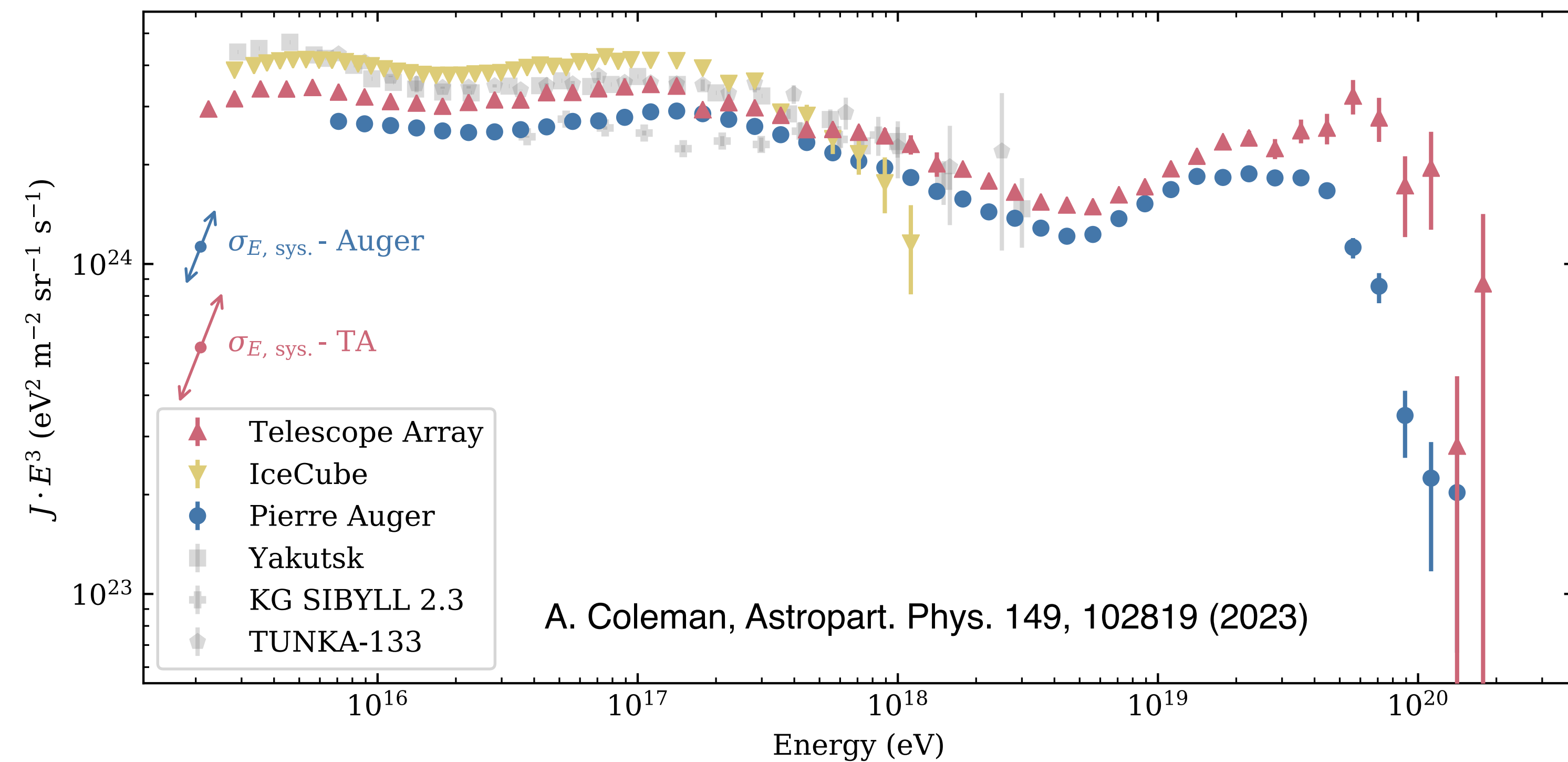


Open raw-data of this event

B Date: 27 May 2021 Time: 10:35:56.474337 UTC

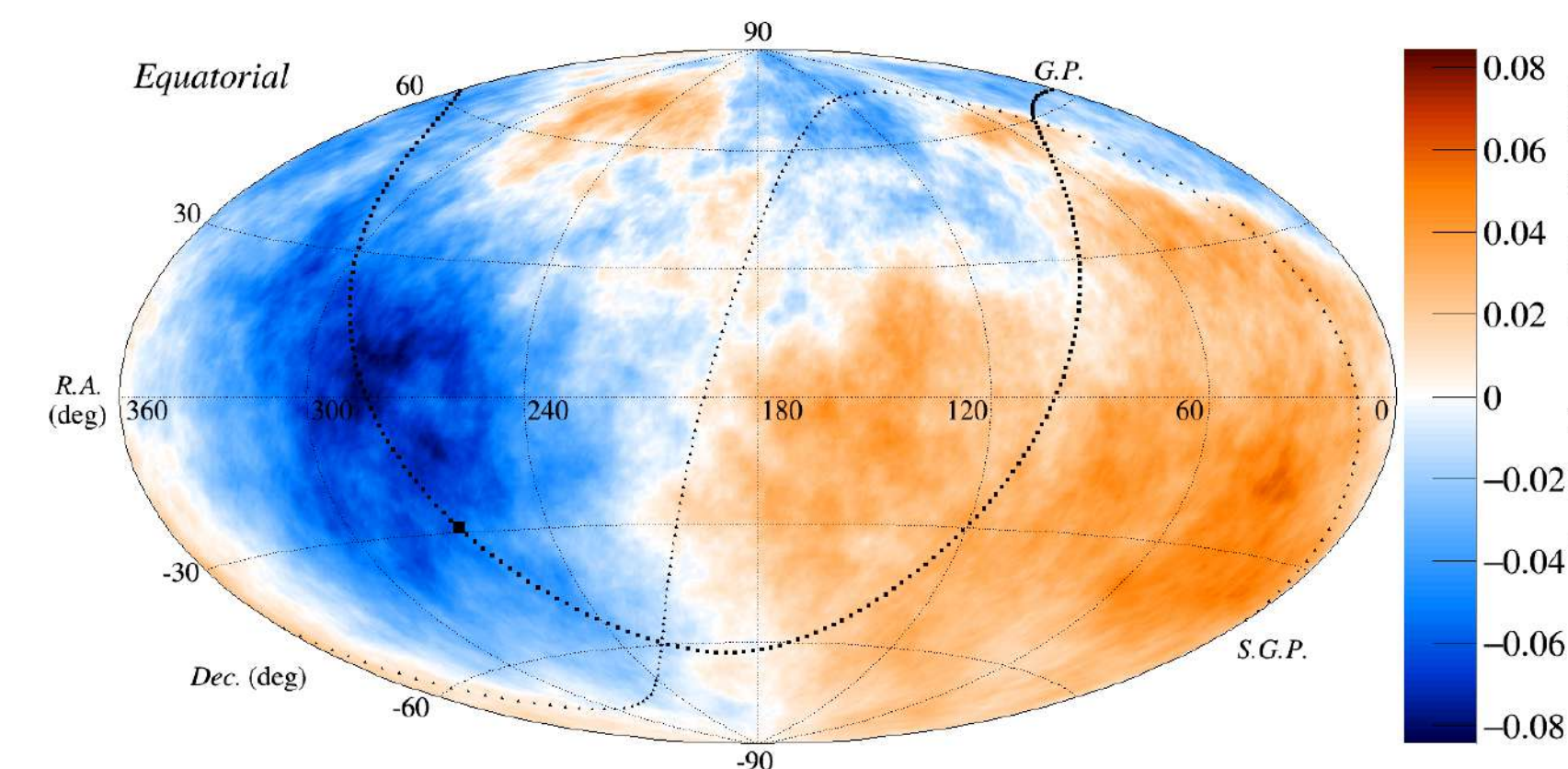


- Possible source region (Unger and Farrar, arXiv:2312.13273)**
- Monopole (Frampton, arXiv:2403.12322)**
- Binary neutron star merger (Farrar, arXiv:2405.12004)**
- Ultra-heavy composition like Te or Pt (Zhang+, arXiv:2405.17409)**

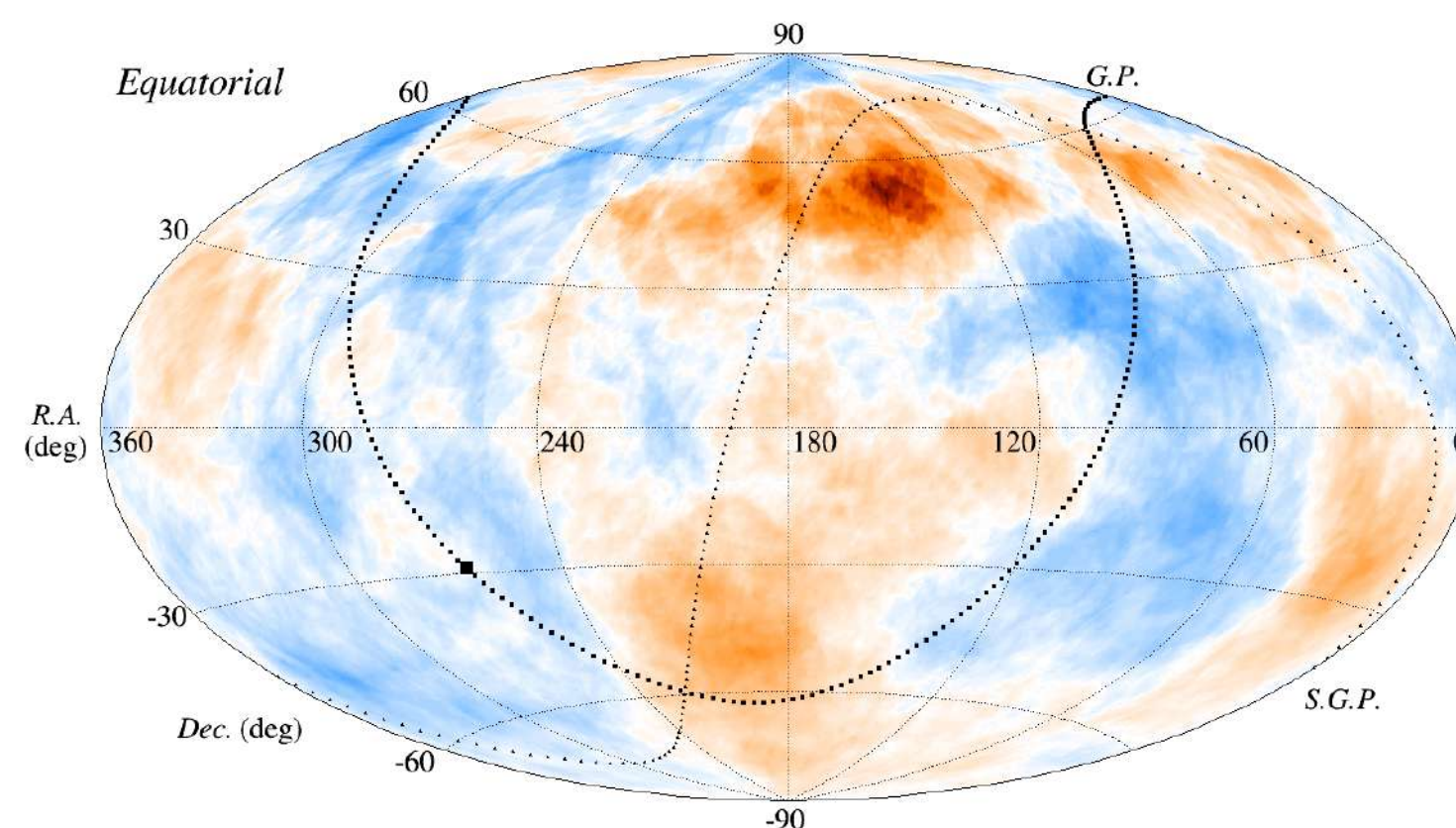


**Latest results**

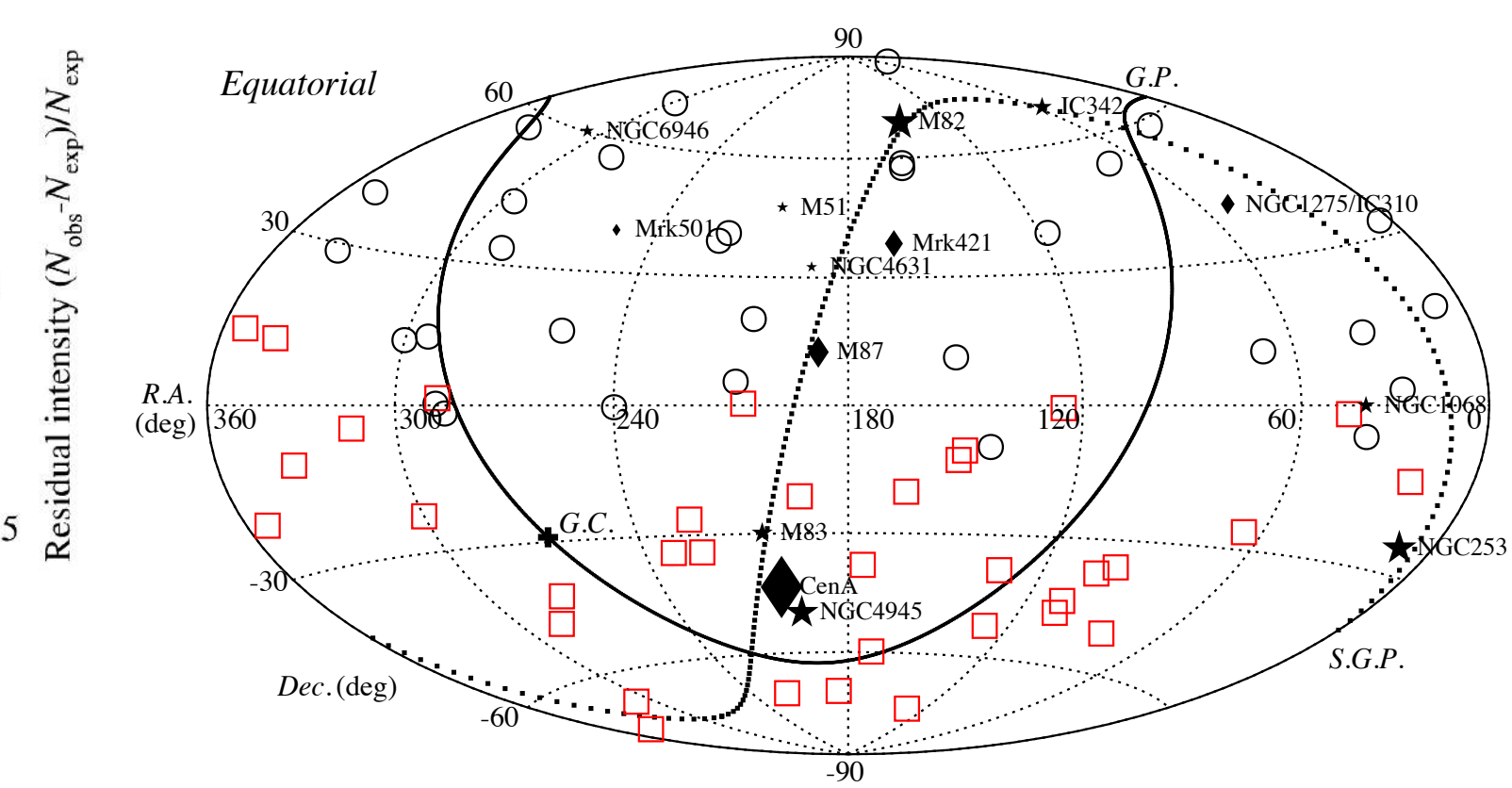
$$\theta \sim 10^\circ Z \left( \frac{E}{10 \text{ EeV}} \right)^{-1}$$



Ankle ( $E > 10 \text{ EeV}$ )



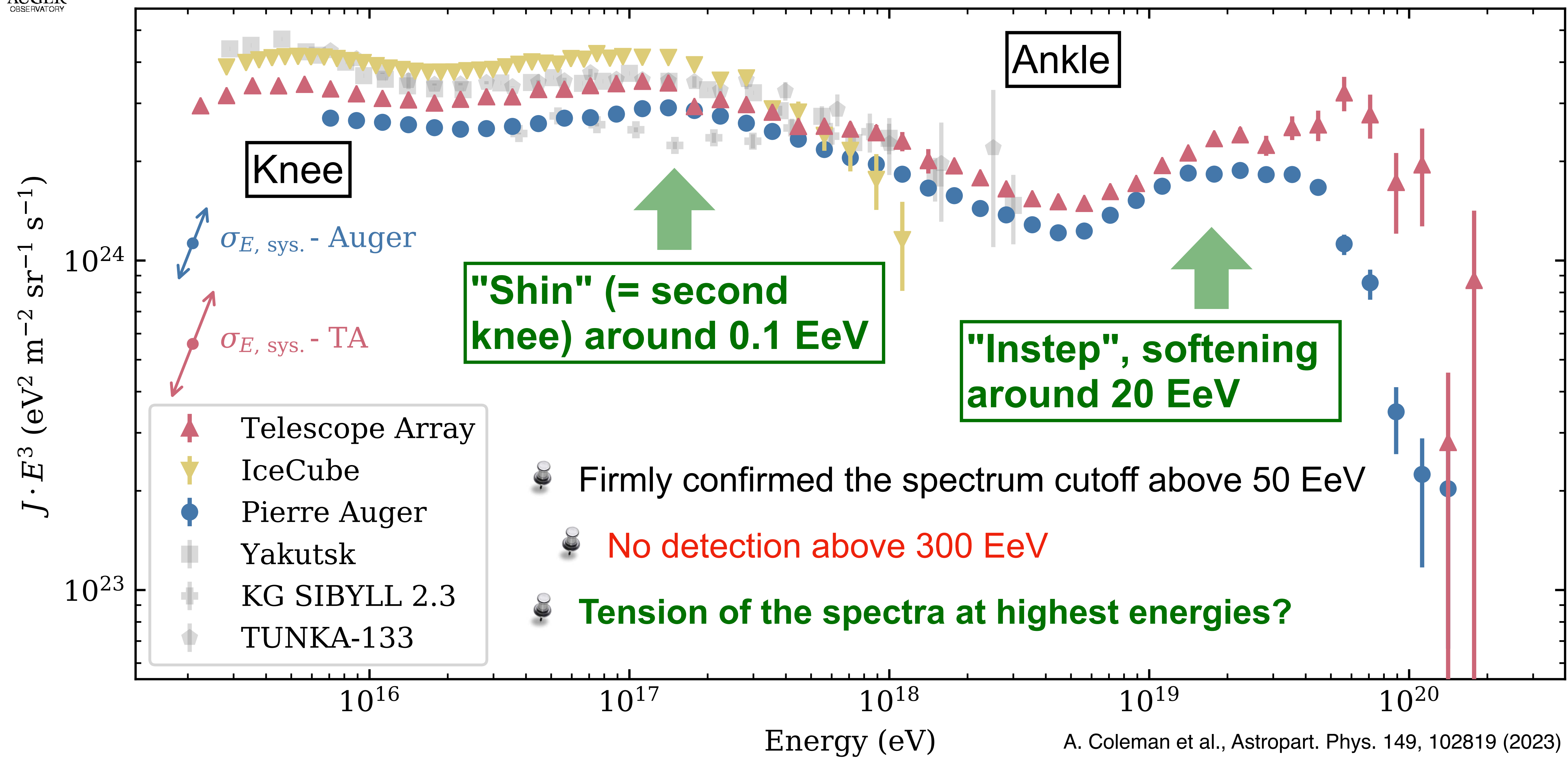
Cutoff ( $E > 50 \text{ EeV}$ )



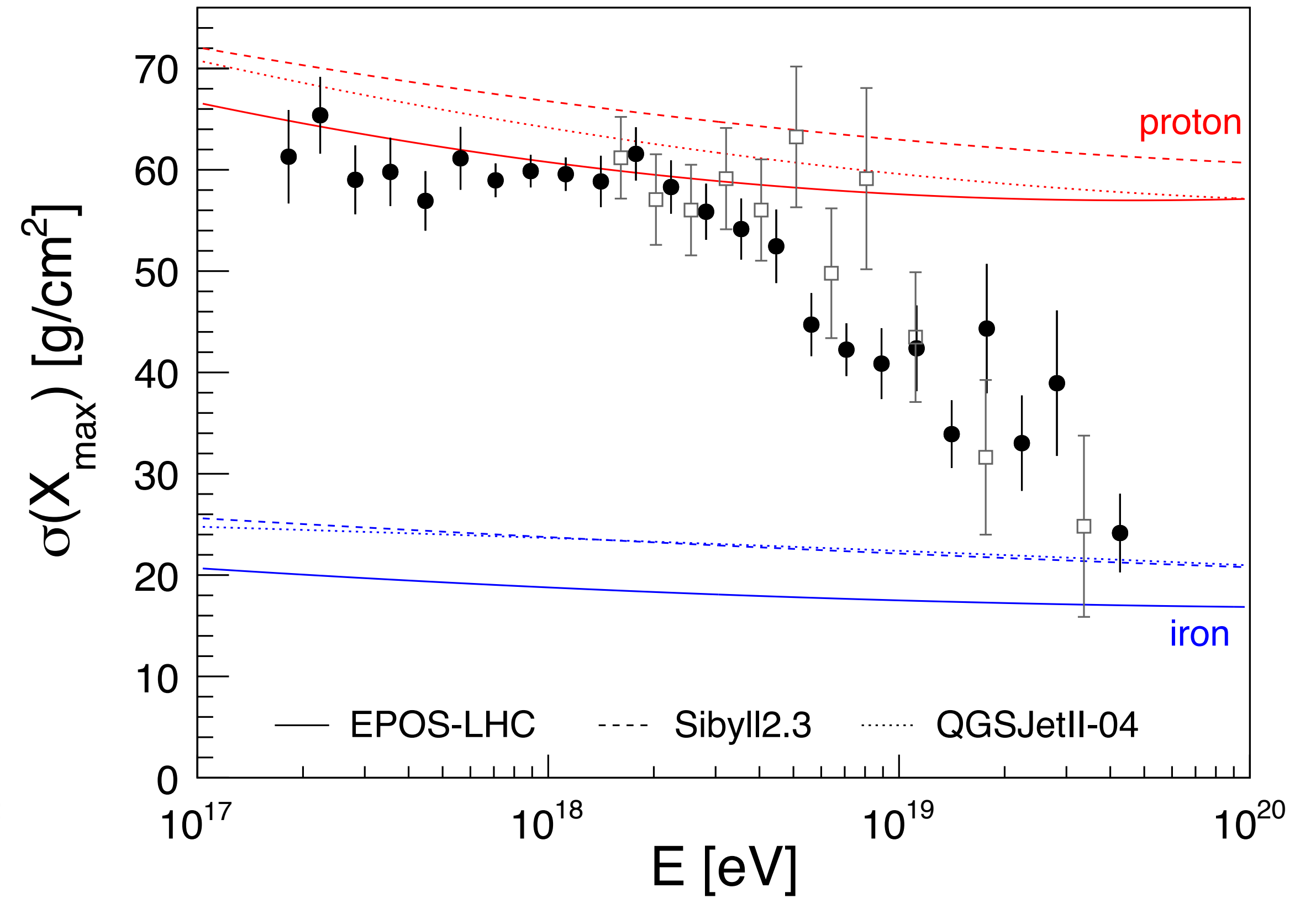
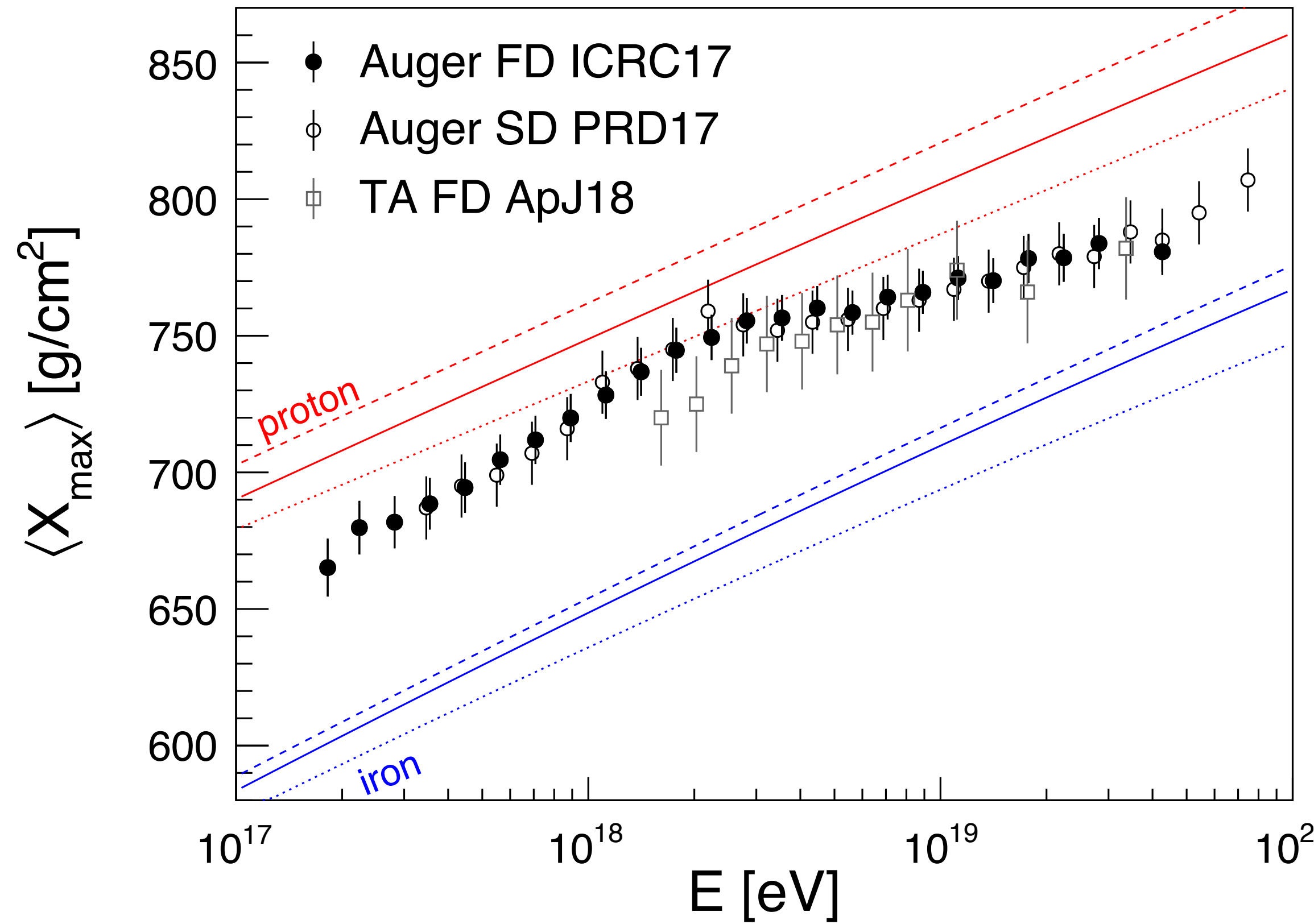
Beyond-cutoff ( $E > 100 \text{ EeV}$ )



# Energy spectrum



# Mass composition



**Gradually increase to the heavier composition above 3 EeV**

R.A. Batista et al., Front.Astron.Space Sci. 6 (2019) 23

$$\theta \sim 10^\circ Z \left( \frac{E}{10 \text{ EeV}} \right)^{-1} \quad Z : \text{atomic number (mass composition)}$$

**TA reported a heavy composition above 100 EeV from isotropy**

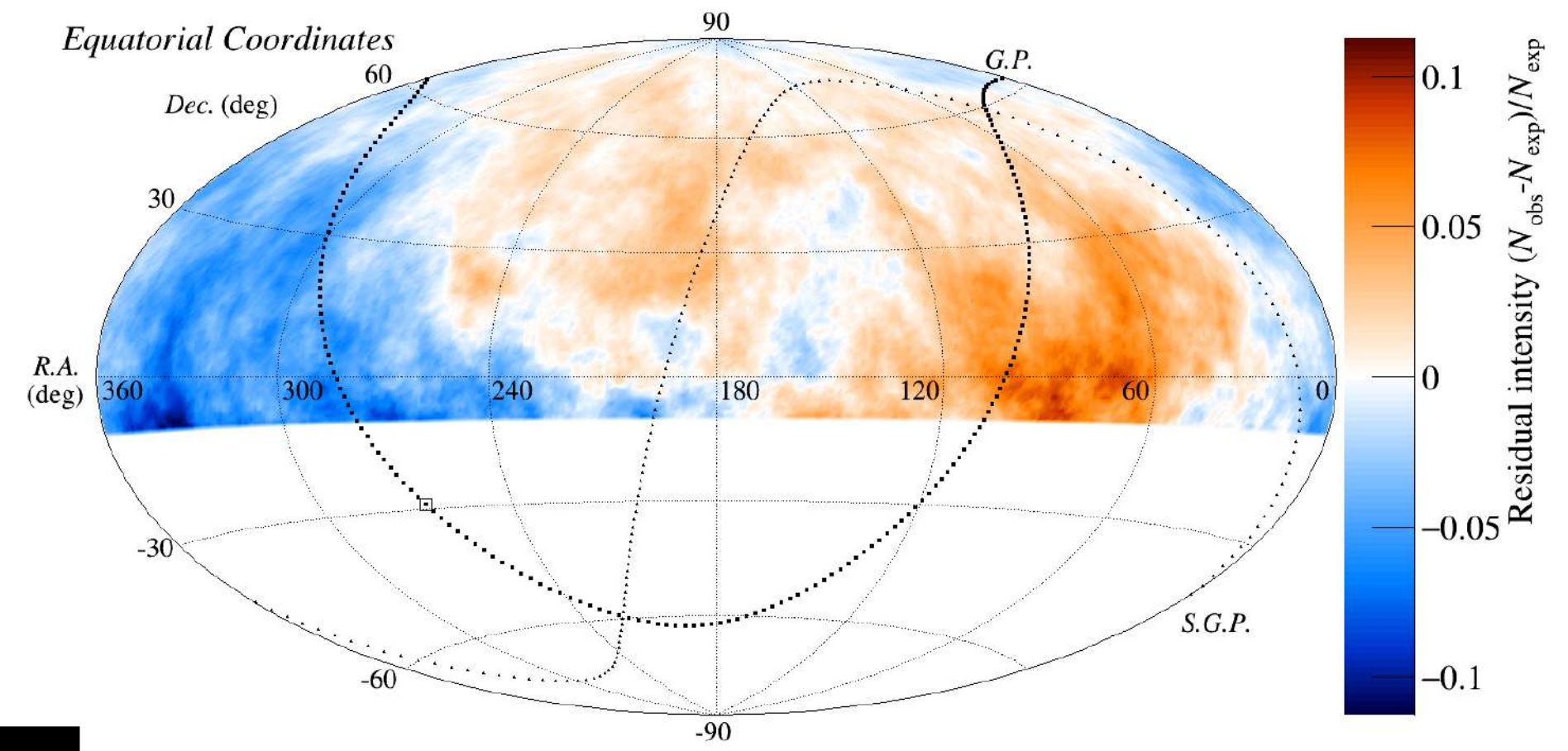
Telescope Array Collaboration, PRL 133, 041001 (2024)

# Anisotropy of UHECRs (>10 EeV)



**Northern TA** ApJL, 898:L28 (2020)

$E_{TA} > 8.8 \text{ EeV}$

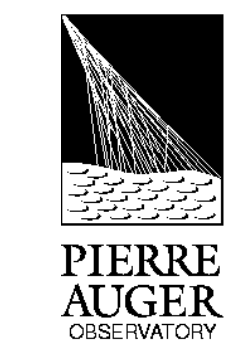


**Significant ( $> 5\sigma$ ) large-scale anisotropy** observed by Pierre Auger Observatory

125 degrees away from Galactic Center

**Supporting the extragalactic origins**

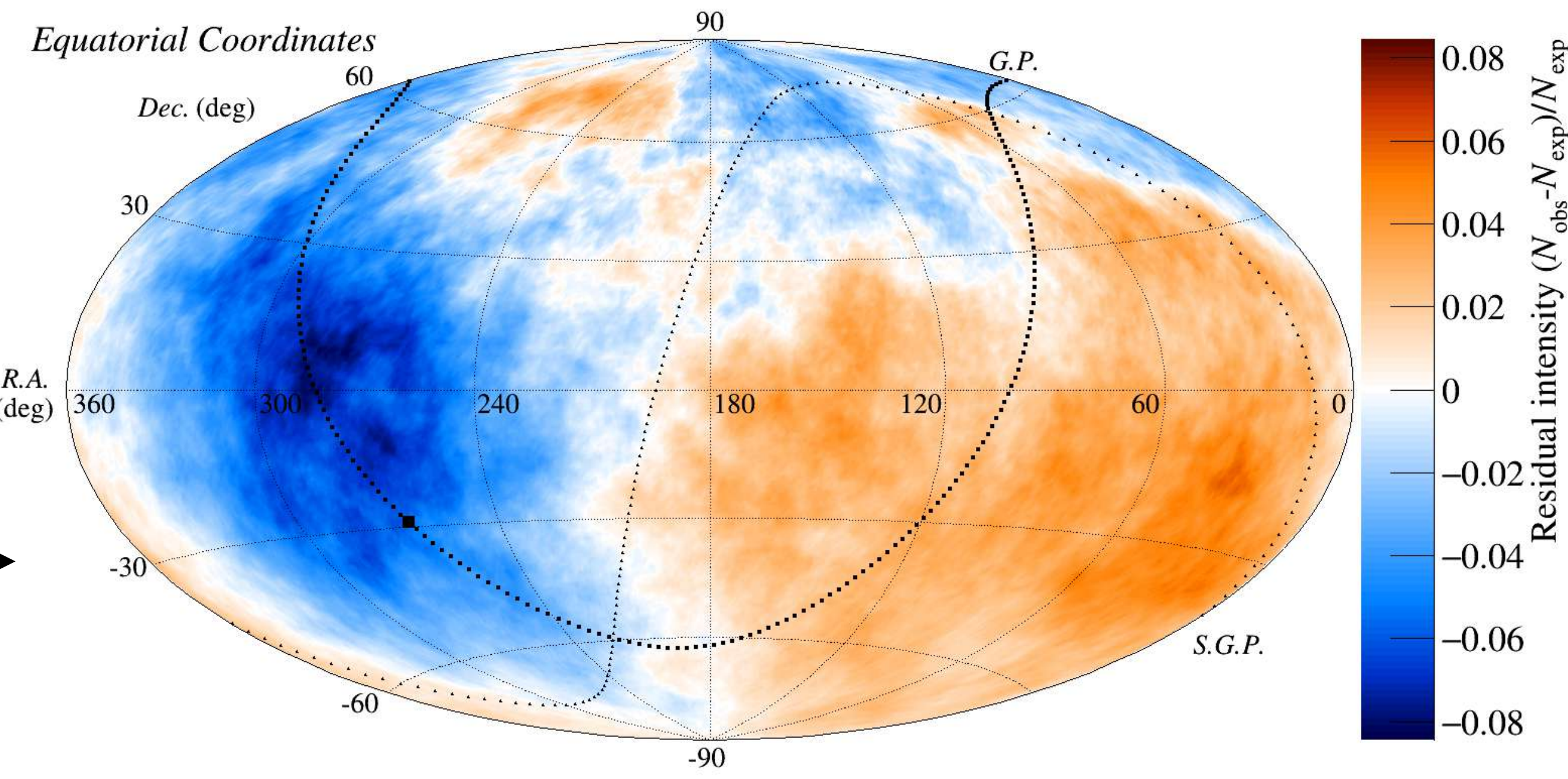
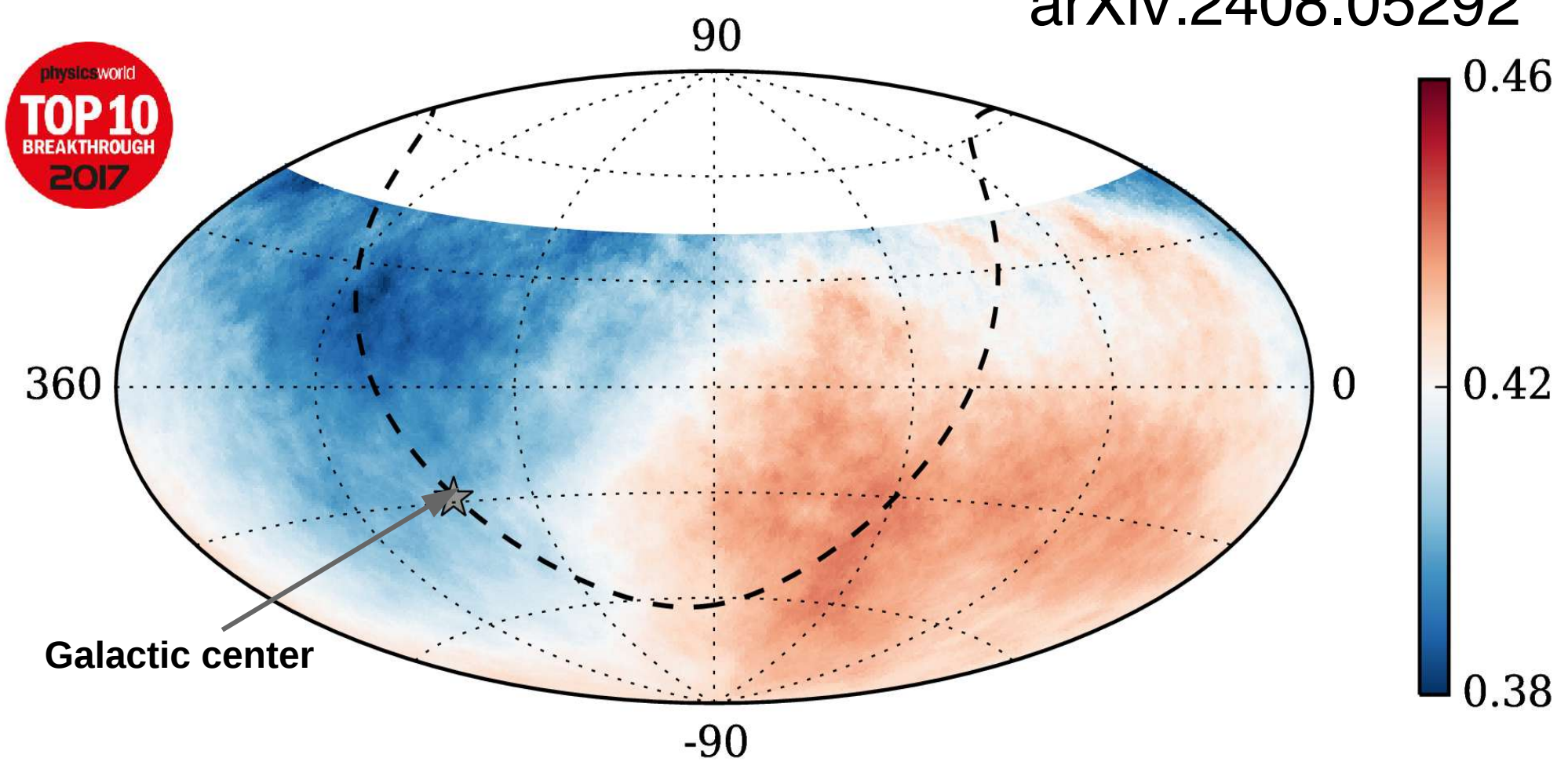
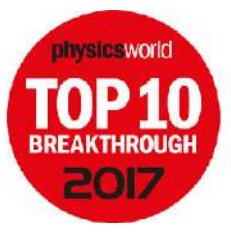
**Joint analysis**



**Southern Auger** Science 357, 1266 (2017)

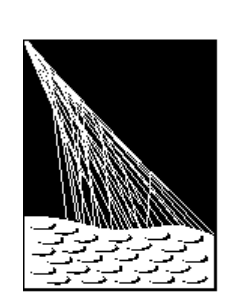
$E_{Auger} > 8 \text{ EeV}$

**6.9 $\sigma$**  using 19-years data  
arXiv:2408.05292



**Ankle ( $E_{TA} > 10 \text{ EeV}, E_{Auger} > 8.86 \text{ EeV}$ )**

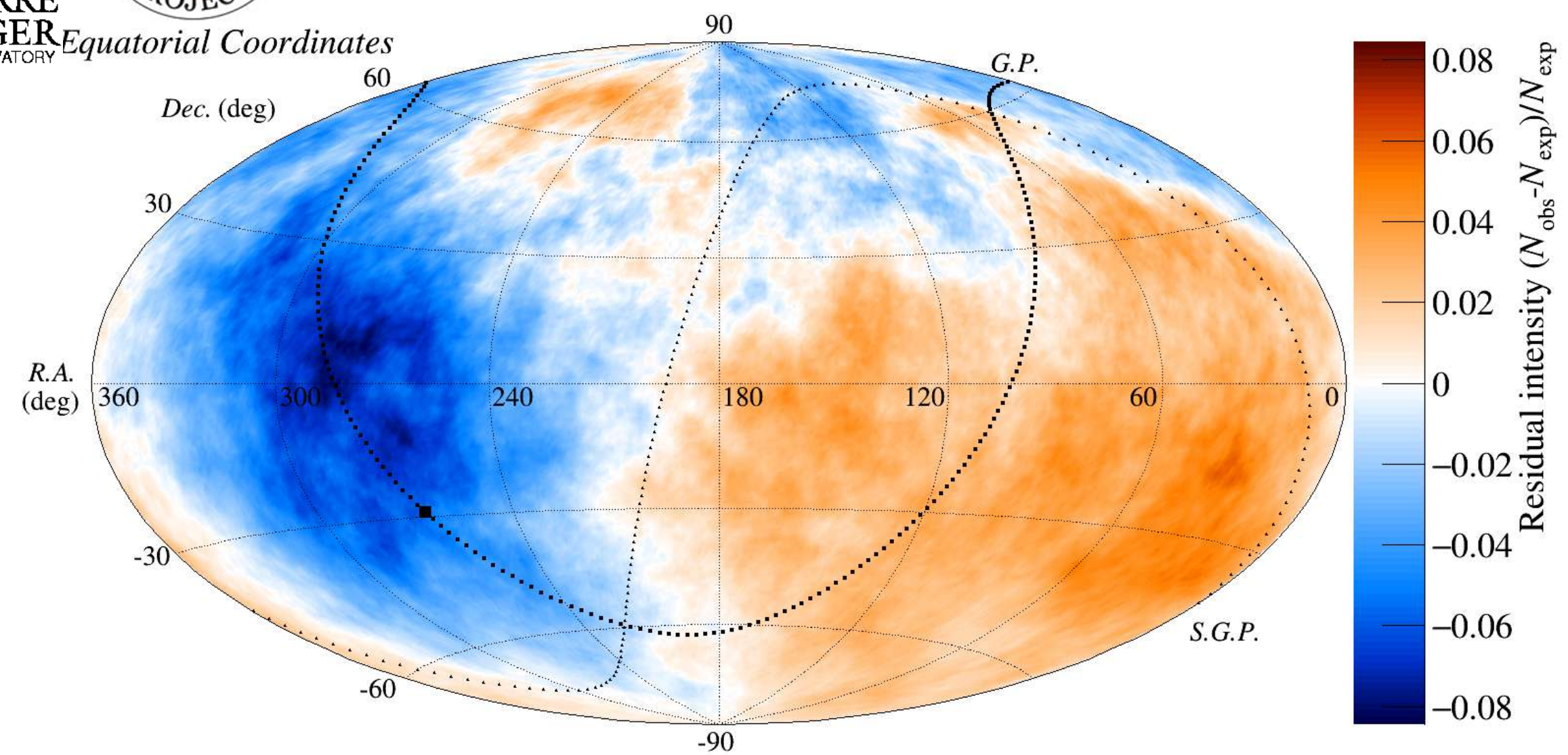
$\text{km}^{-2} \text{sr}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}$



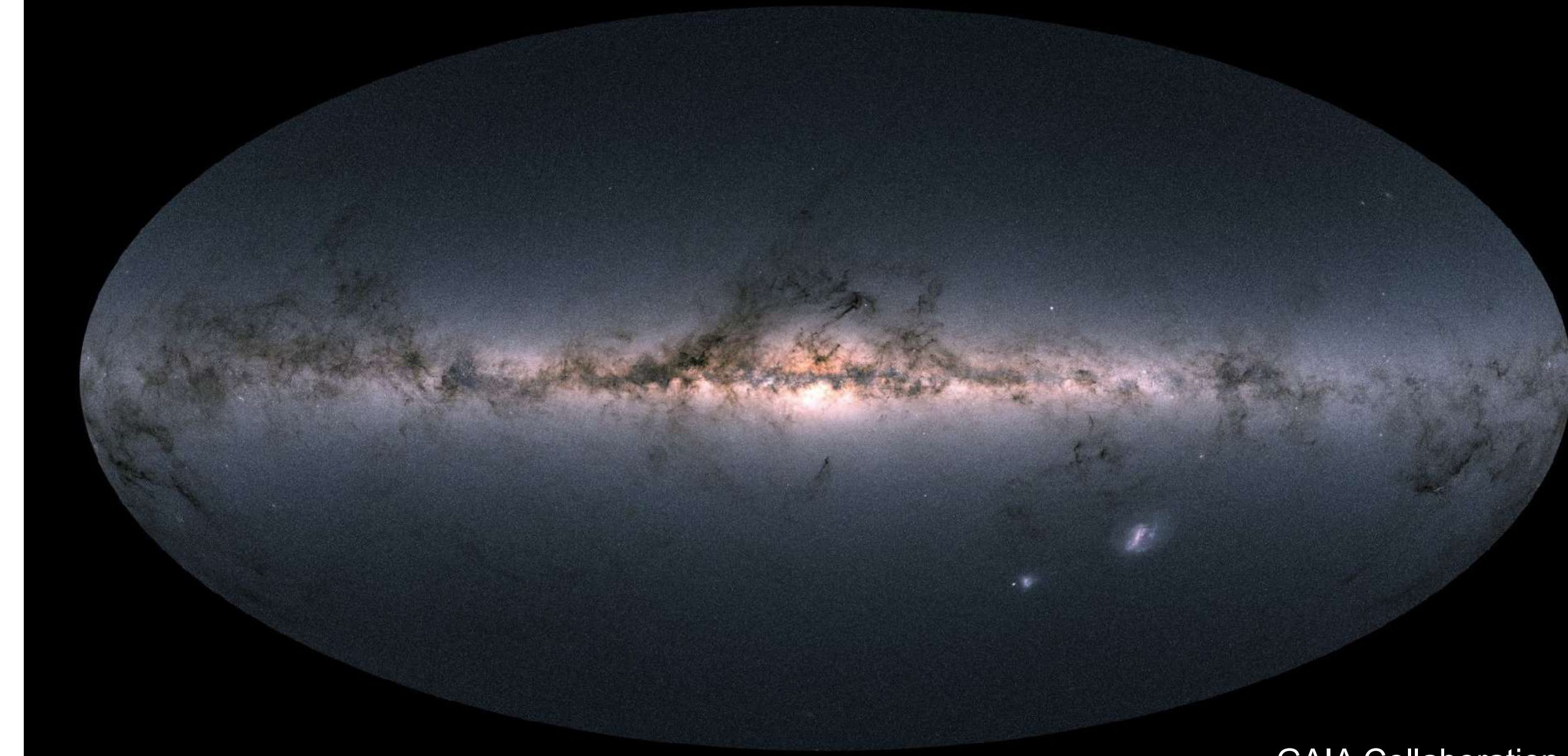
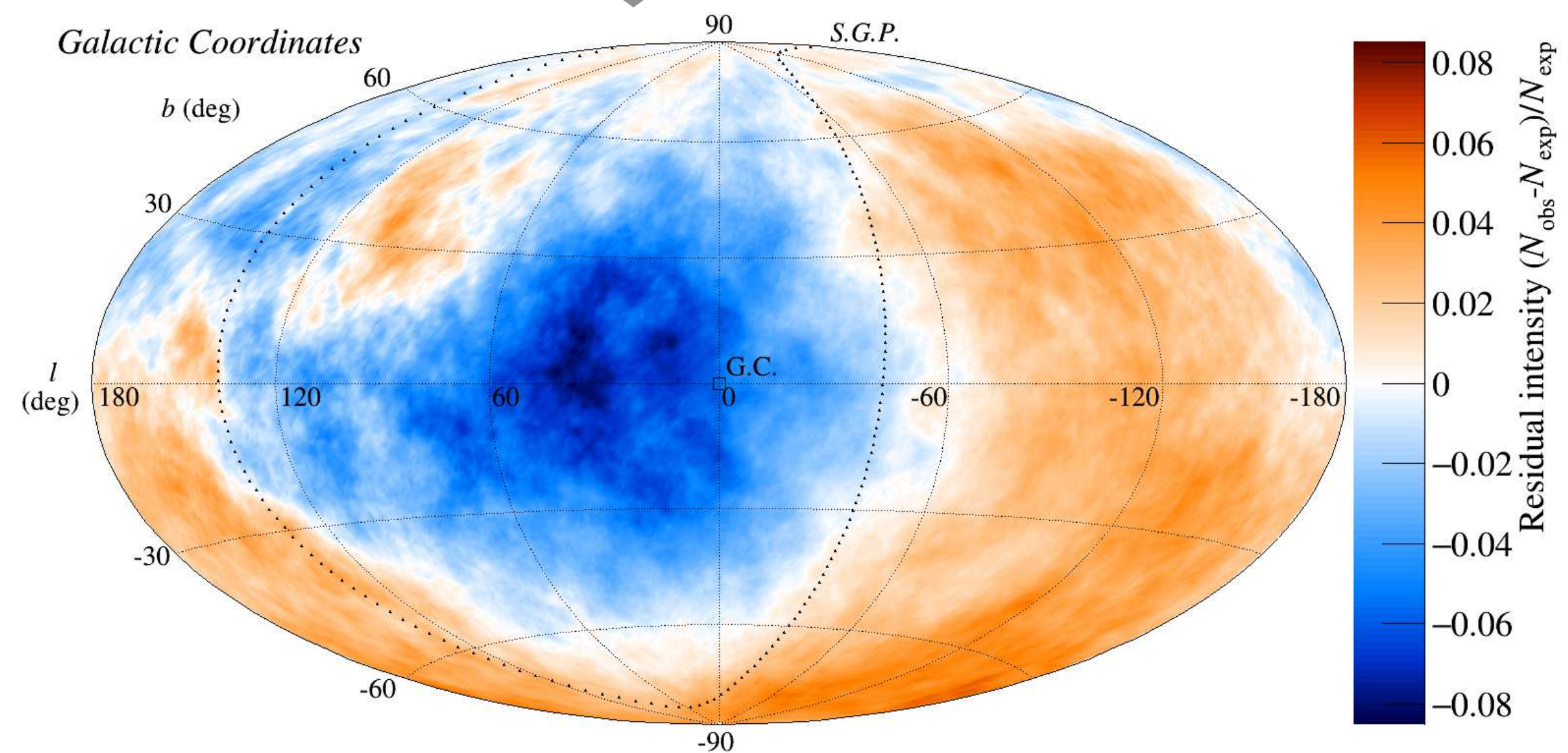
PIERRE  
AUGER  
OBSERVATORY



# >10 EeV skymap



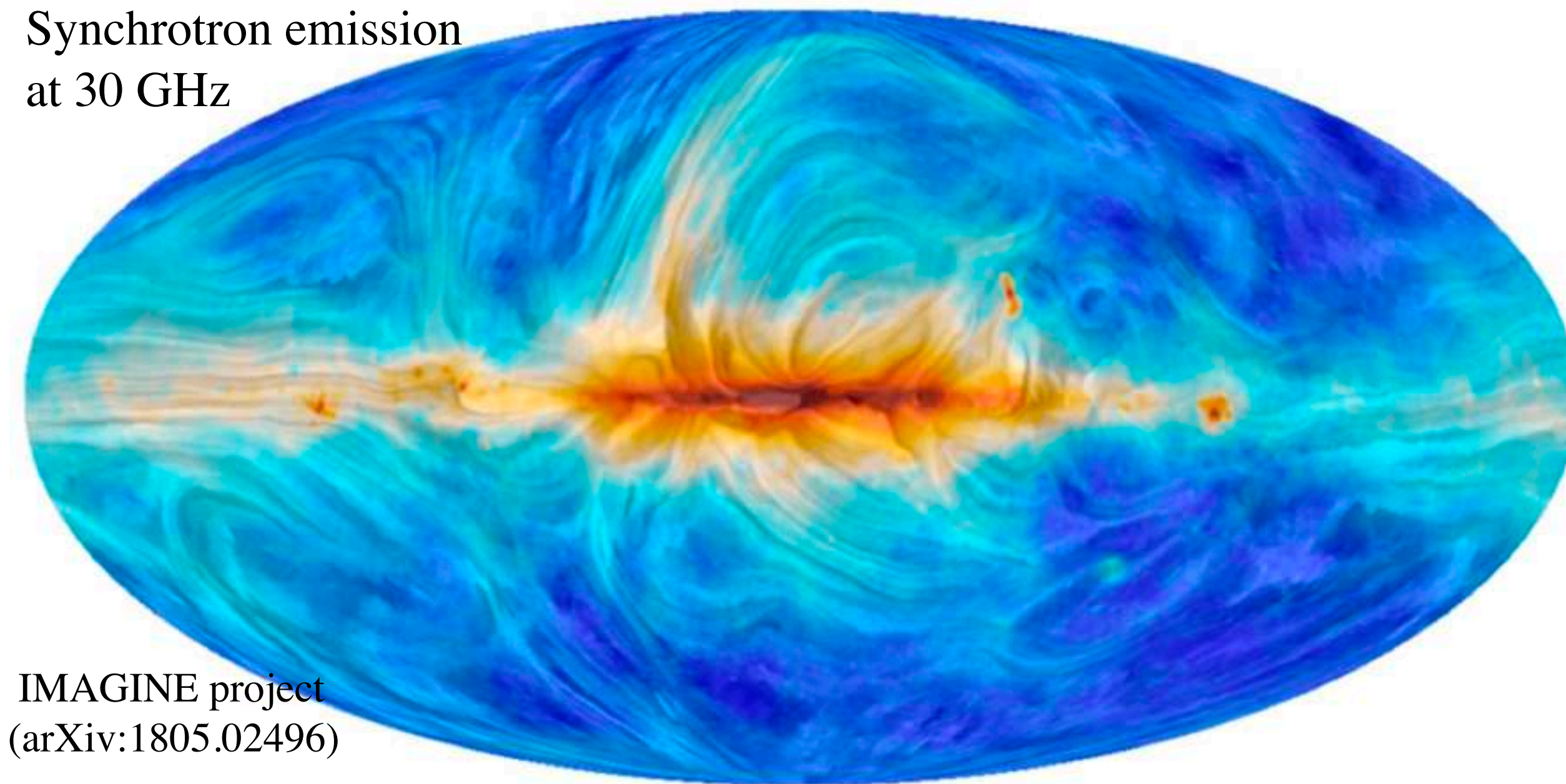
Converted to  Galactic coordinates



GAIA Collaboration

## "Deciphering" magnetic fields

Synchrotron emission  
at 30 GHz

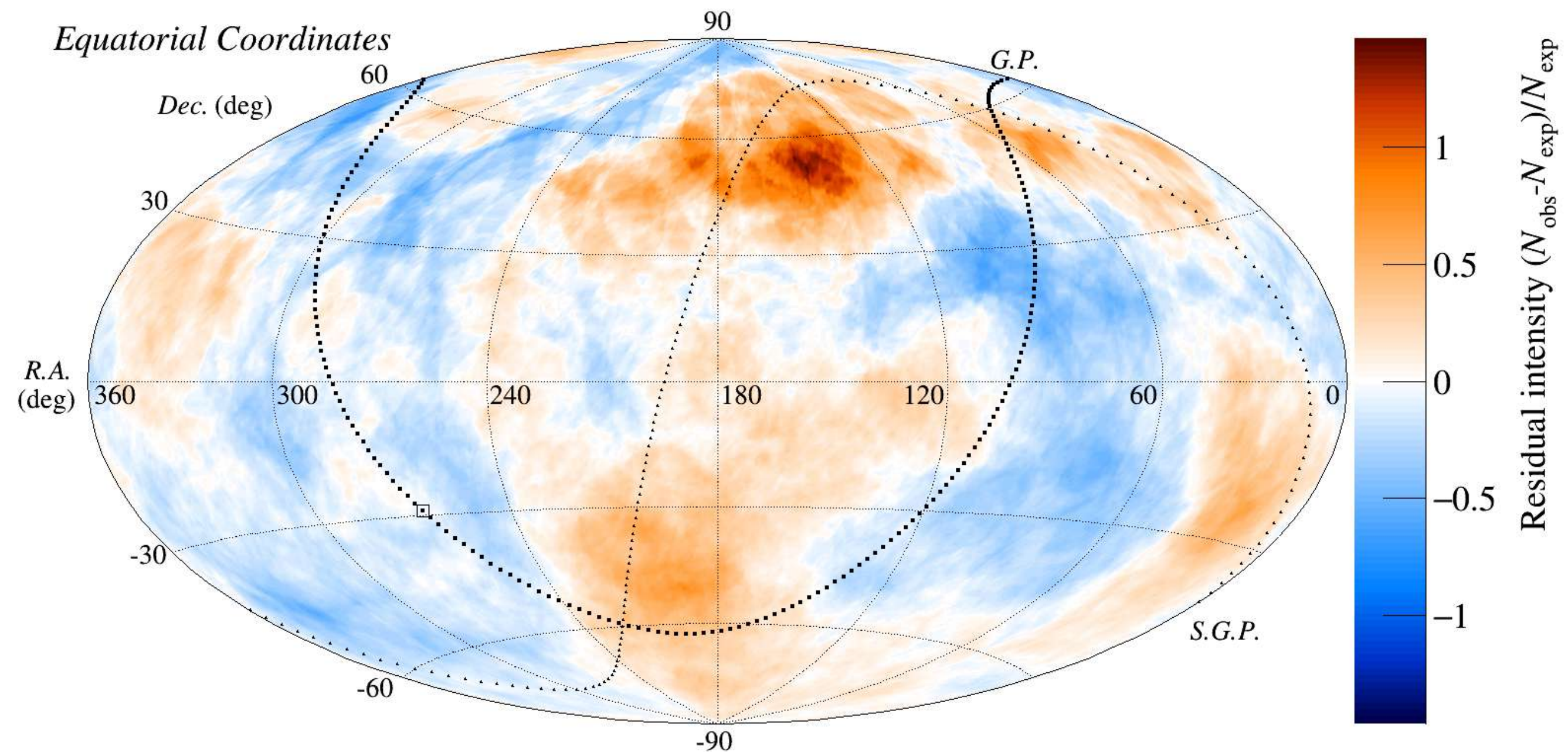
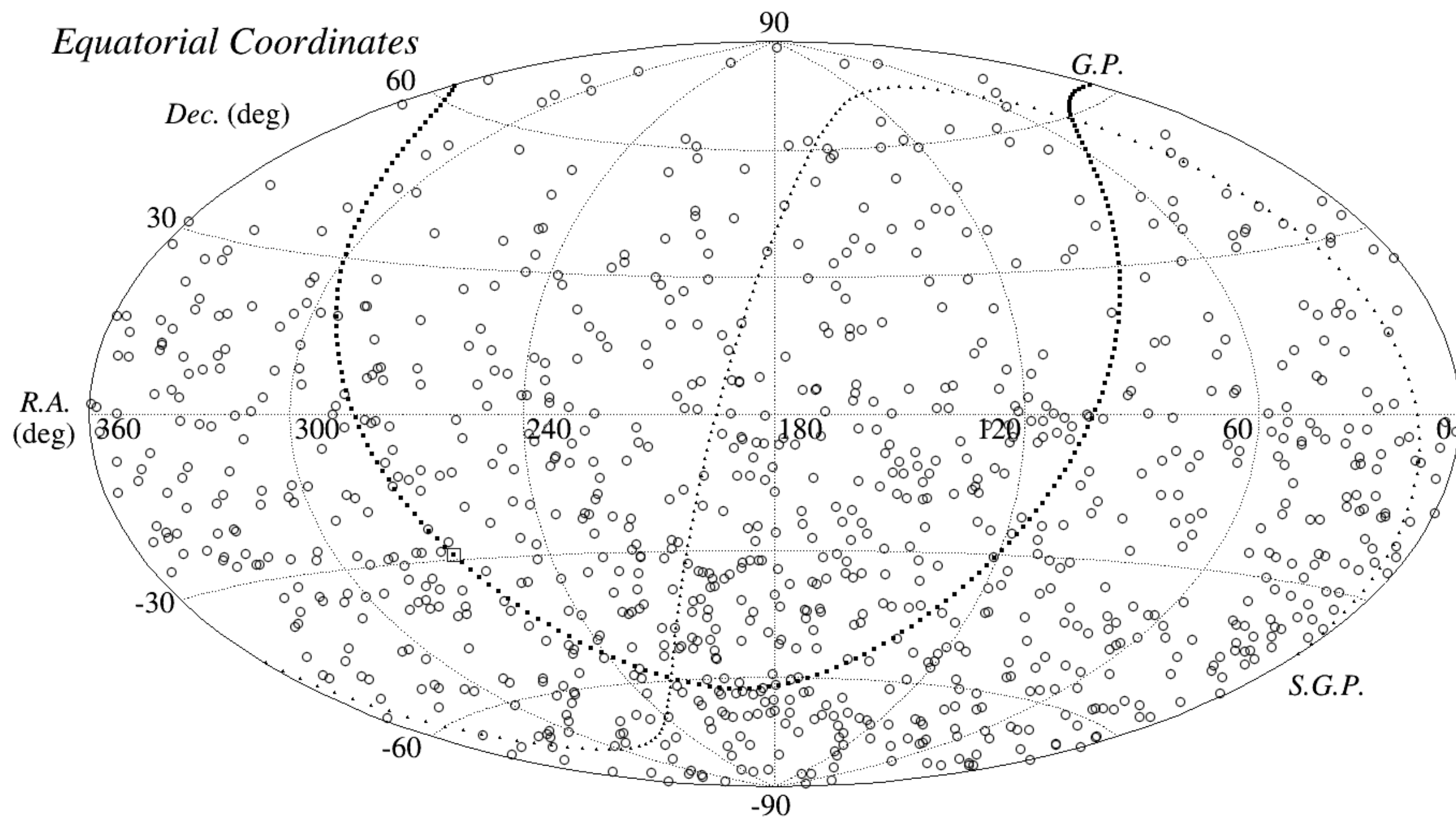


IMAGINE project  
(arXiv:1805.02496)

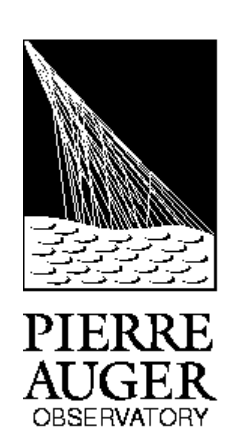
# >50 EeV skymap

Cutoff ( $E_{TA} > 52.3$  EeV  $E_{Auger} > 40$  EeV), ~1000 events

T. Fujii et al., PoS (ICRC2021) 291 (2020)



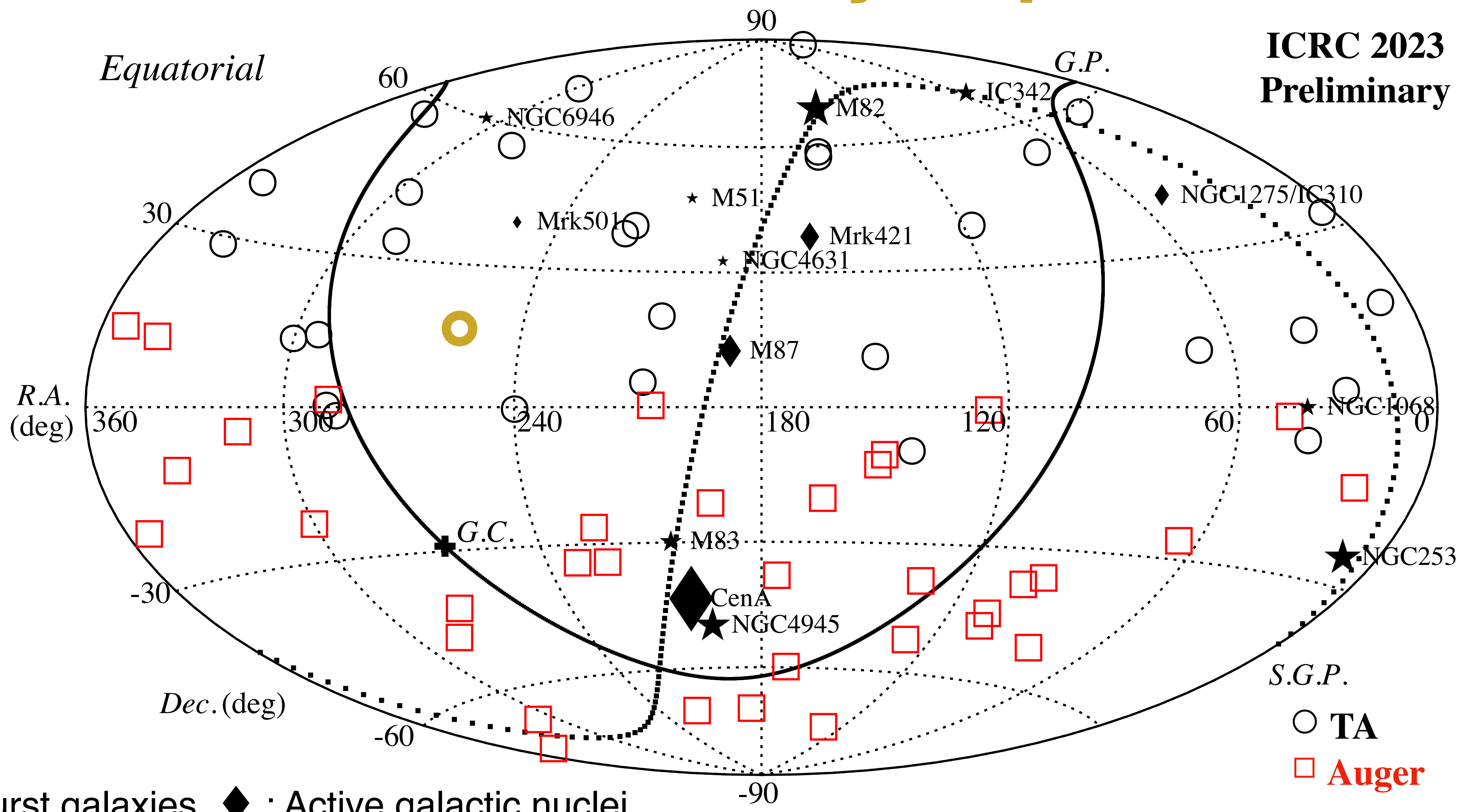
- 📍 Intriguing **intermediate-scale anisotropies** (~20 degrees) such as **hot/warm spots**
- 📍 No excess from M87 of Virgo cluster, dubbed "**Virgo scandal**"
- 📍 **Isotropic distributions of UHECRs than our (optimistic) expectation**



# >100 EeV skymap

T. Fujii, PoS (ICRC2023) 031 (2023)

**ICRC 2023  
Preliminary**

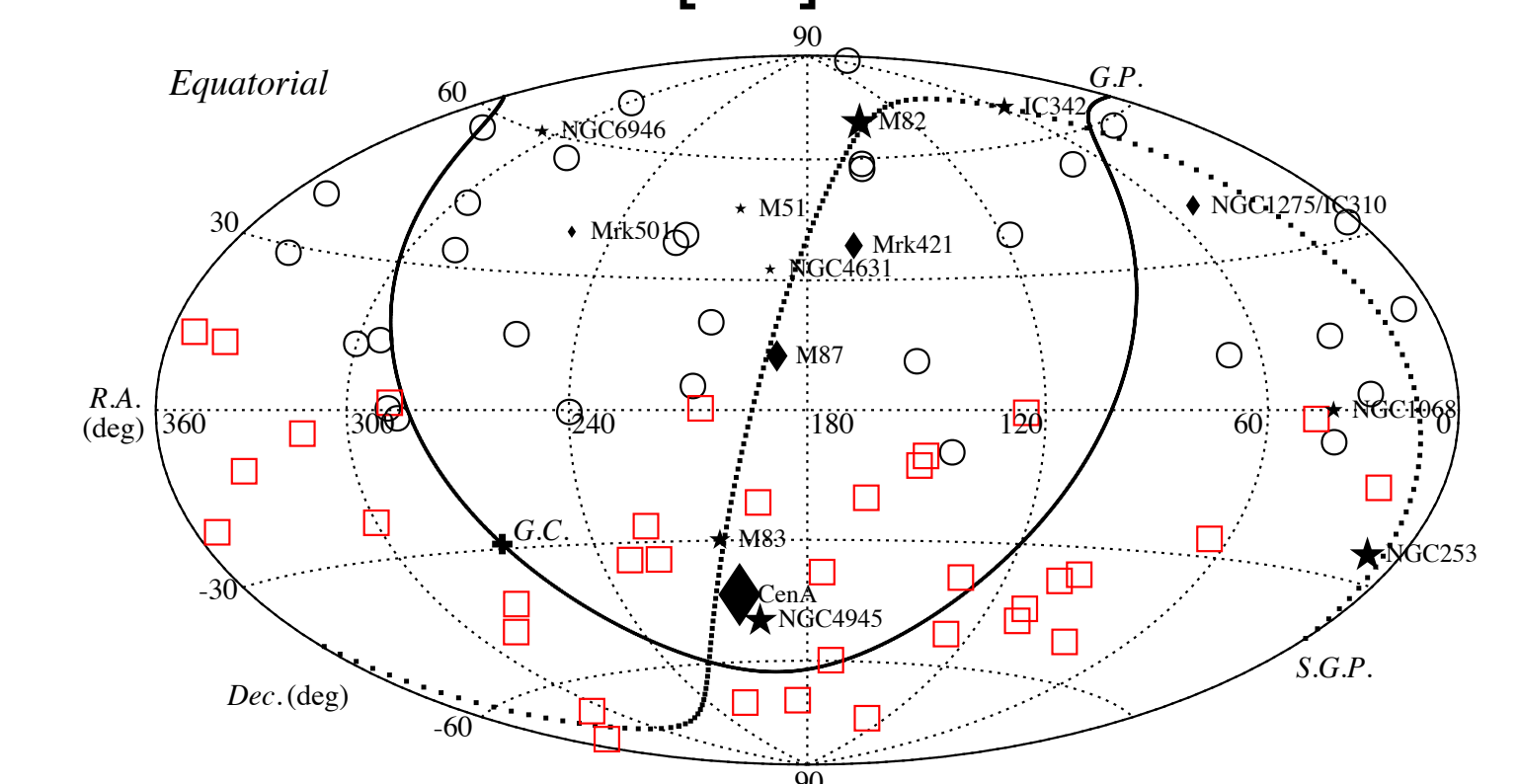
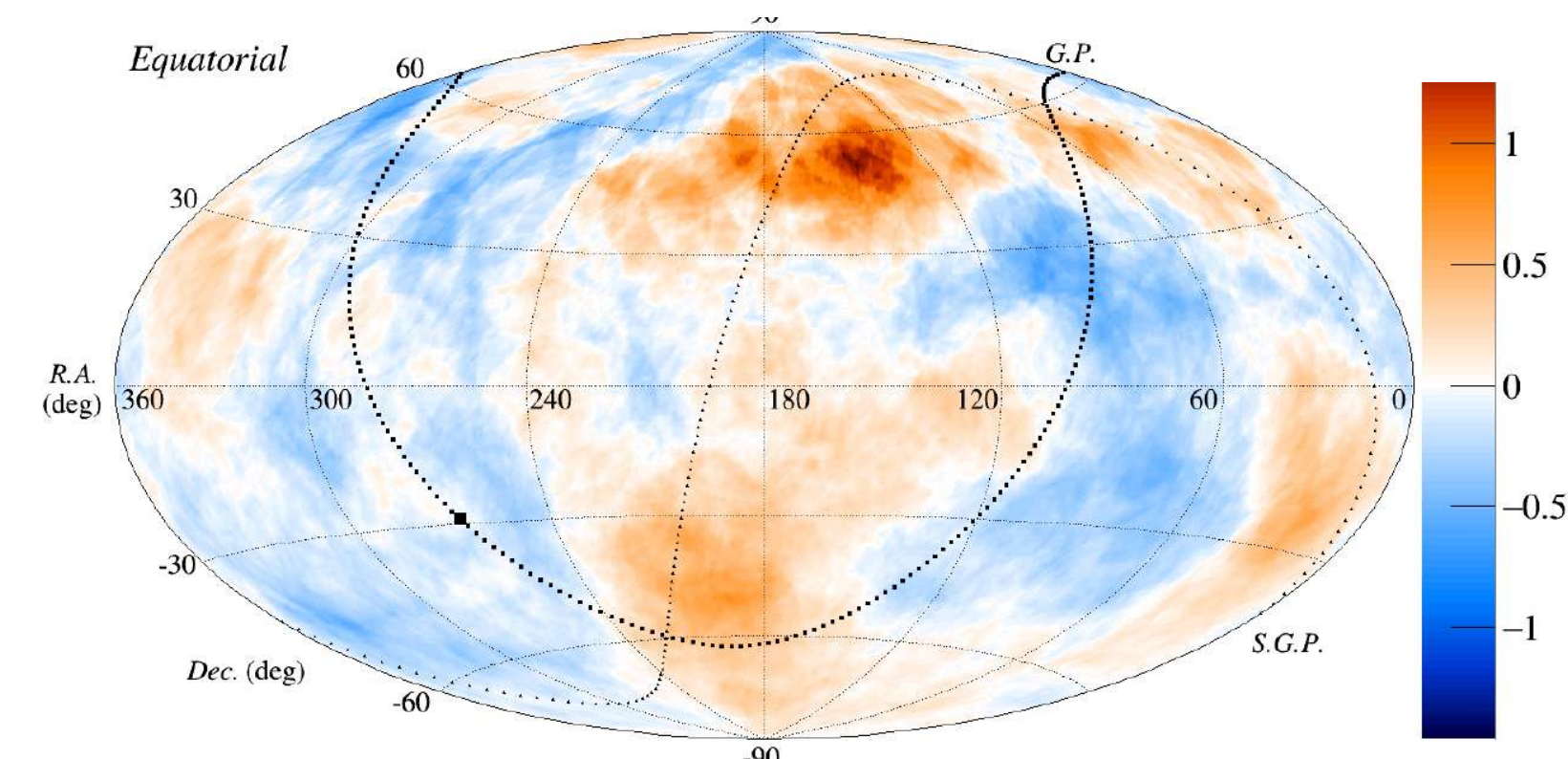
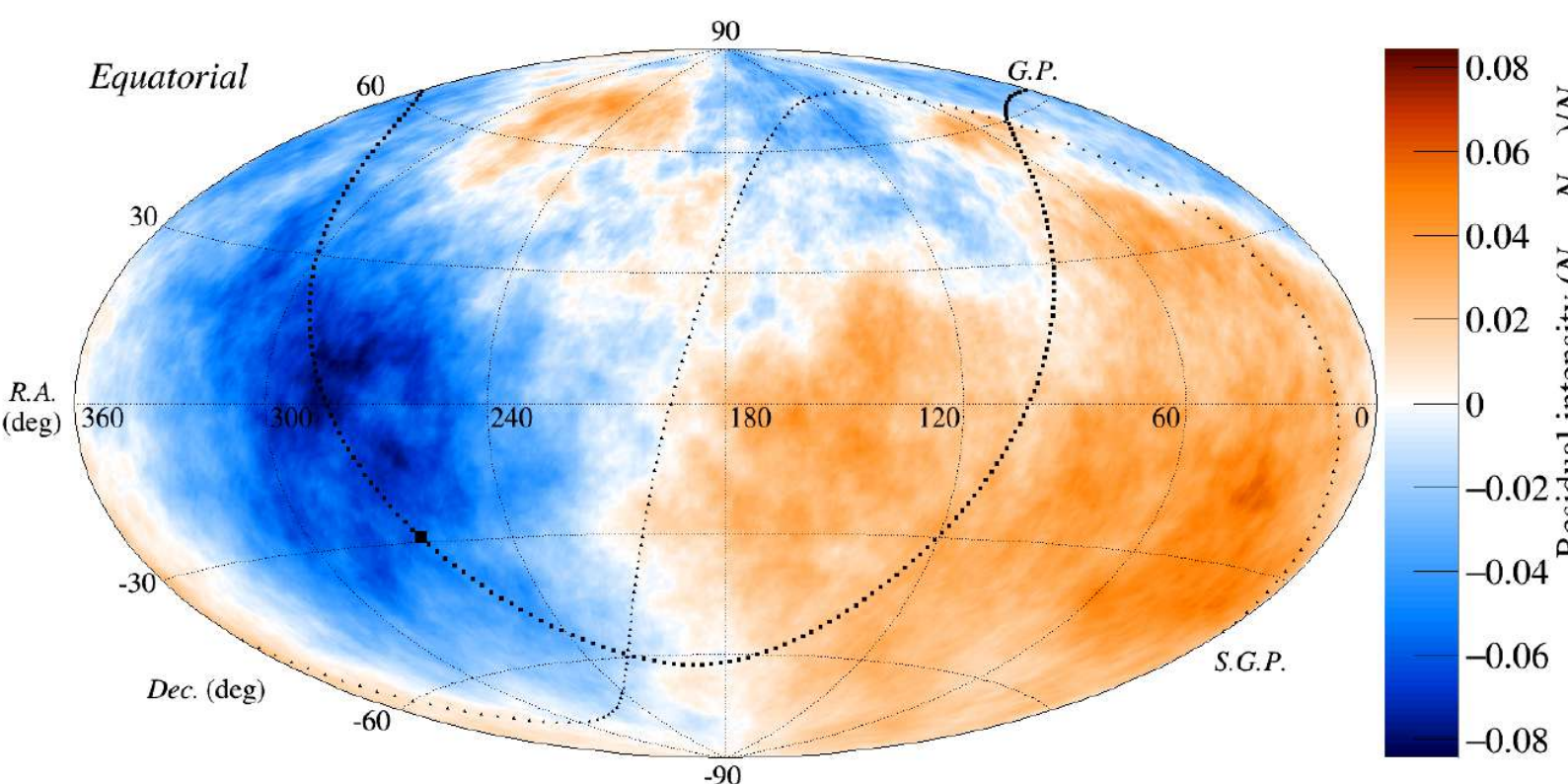
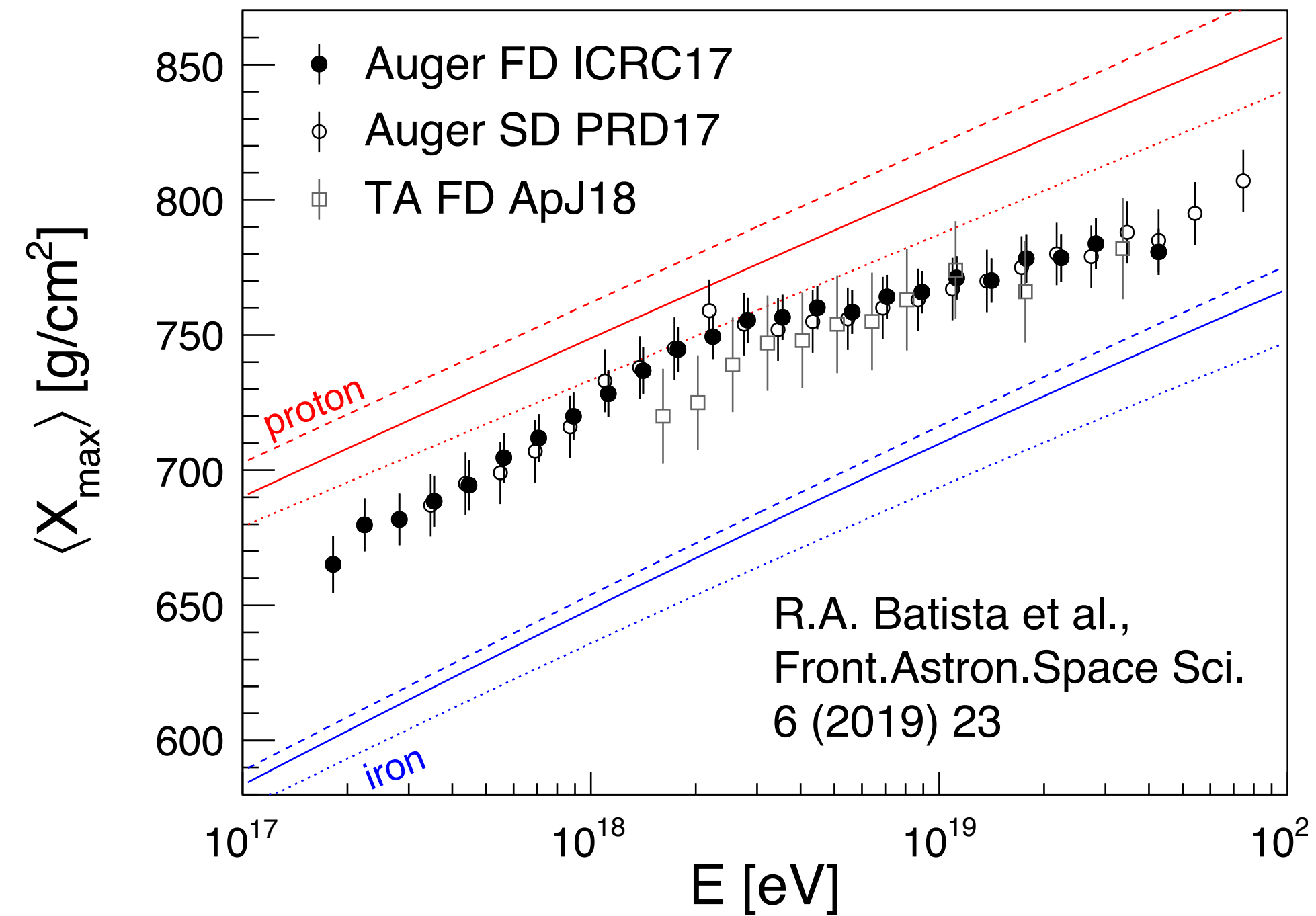
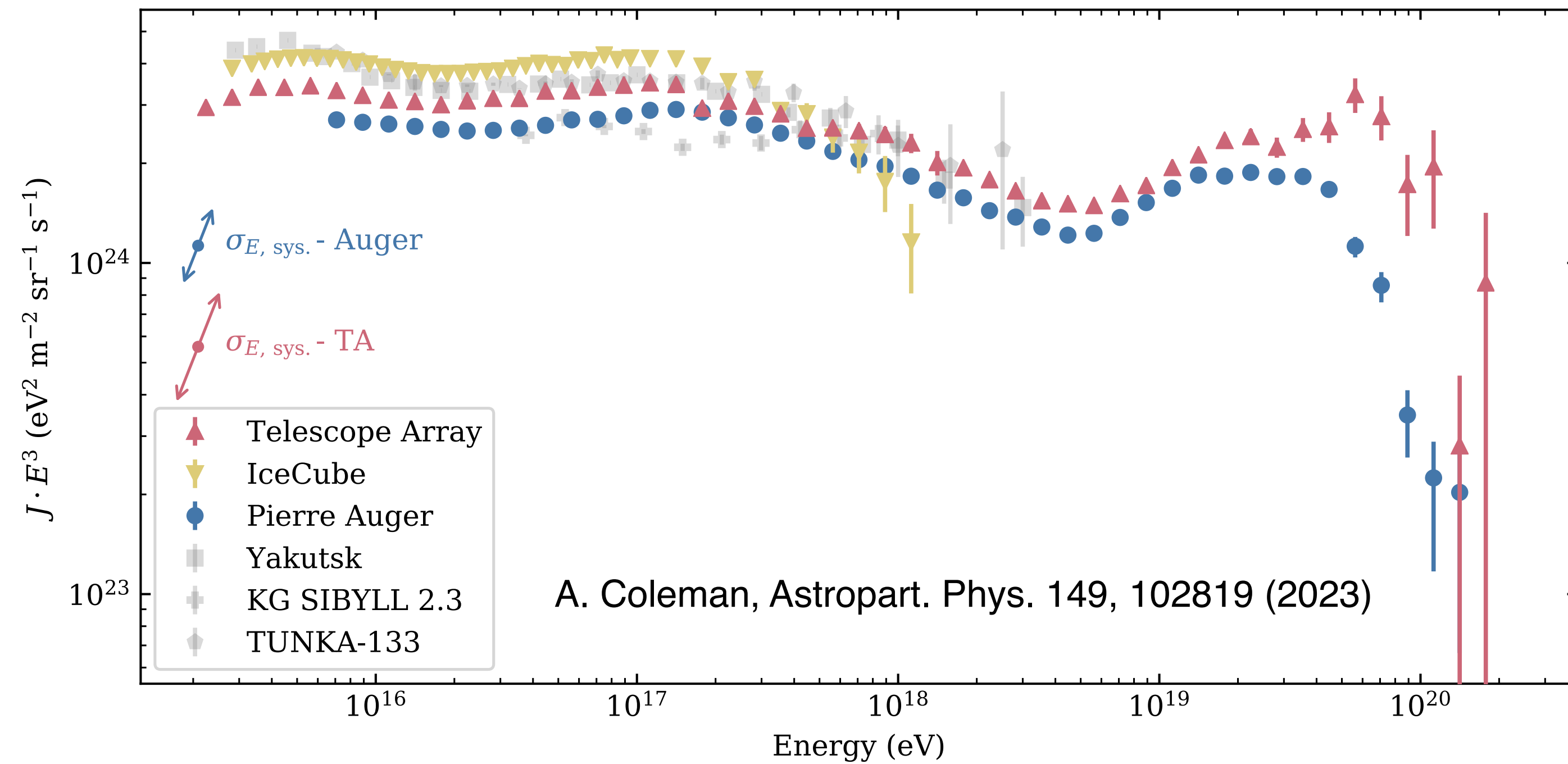


★ : Starburst galaxies    ◆ : Active galactic nuclei

>100 EeV of TA 15-years and Auger 17-years

**No obvious clustering appeared**

# Summary and future perspective



After over-100-year endeavor for detecting cosmic rays,  
**origins of UHECRs are still inconclusive... 😓 *We need future observatories!* 😊**

# Art of cosmic ray (Hiroshi Nakajima, Japan)

← Amaterasu particle

↓ Muon tomography





# Backup



# UHECRs as a high energy pioneer

## 📌 Pros

- 📌 The most energetic particle in the Universe,  $\sim 3.2 \times 10^{20}$  eV (=320 EeV)
- 📌  $\sqrt{s} \sim 800$  TeV (ref.  $\sqrt{s} \sim 14$  TeV at the Earth's largest accelerator)
  - 📌 to make a light bulb flash during **only 1 second**
- 📌 **Possible directional correlations** toward nearby powerful astronomical objects as next generation astronomy
- 📌 Pioneering search for new physics at an unprecedented energies for accelerators



## 📌 Cons

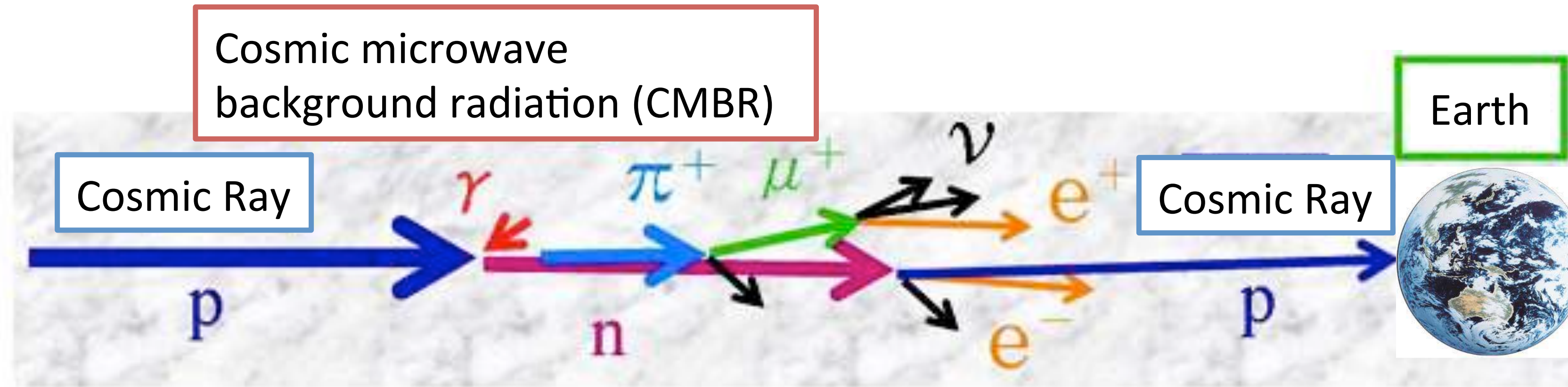
- 📌 **Extremely infrequent: 1 particle/km<sup>2</sup>/century (>50 EeV)**

📌 Challenging to detect UHECRs

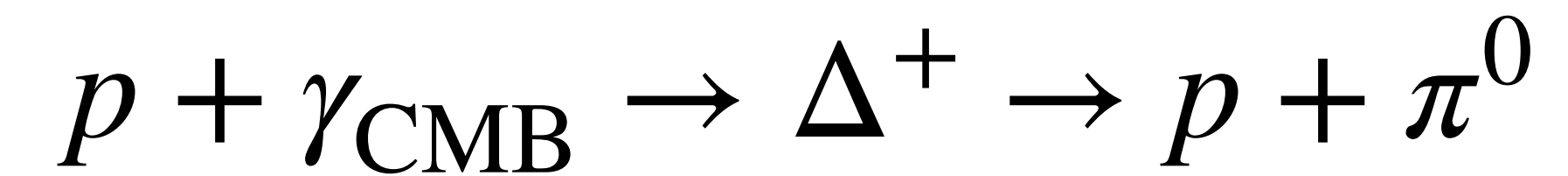
📌 Manage a lot of systematic uncertainties

$$\theta \sim 10^\circ Z \left( \frac{E}{10 \text{ EeV}} \right)^{-1}$$

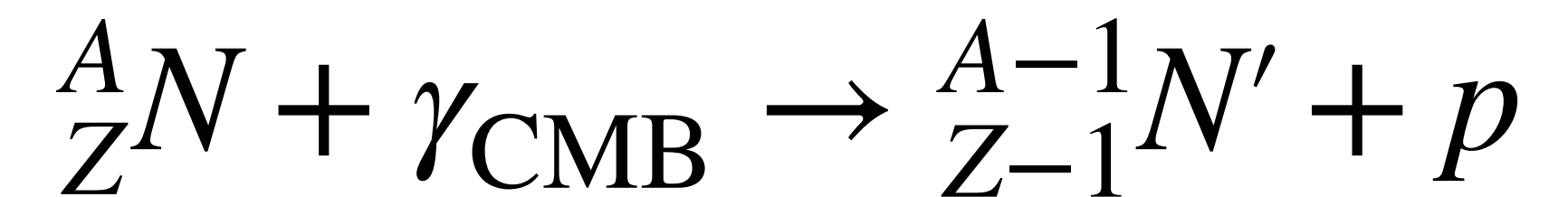
# Greisen–Zatsepin–Kuzmin (GZK) Cutoff



- Interaction between  $>50$  EeV proton and CMB via pion production



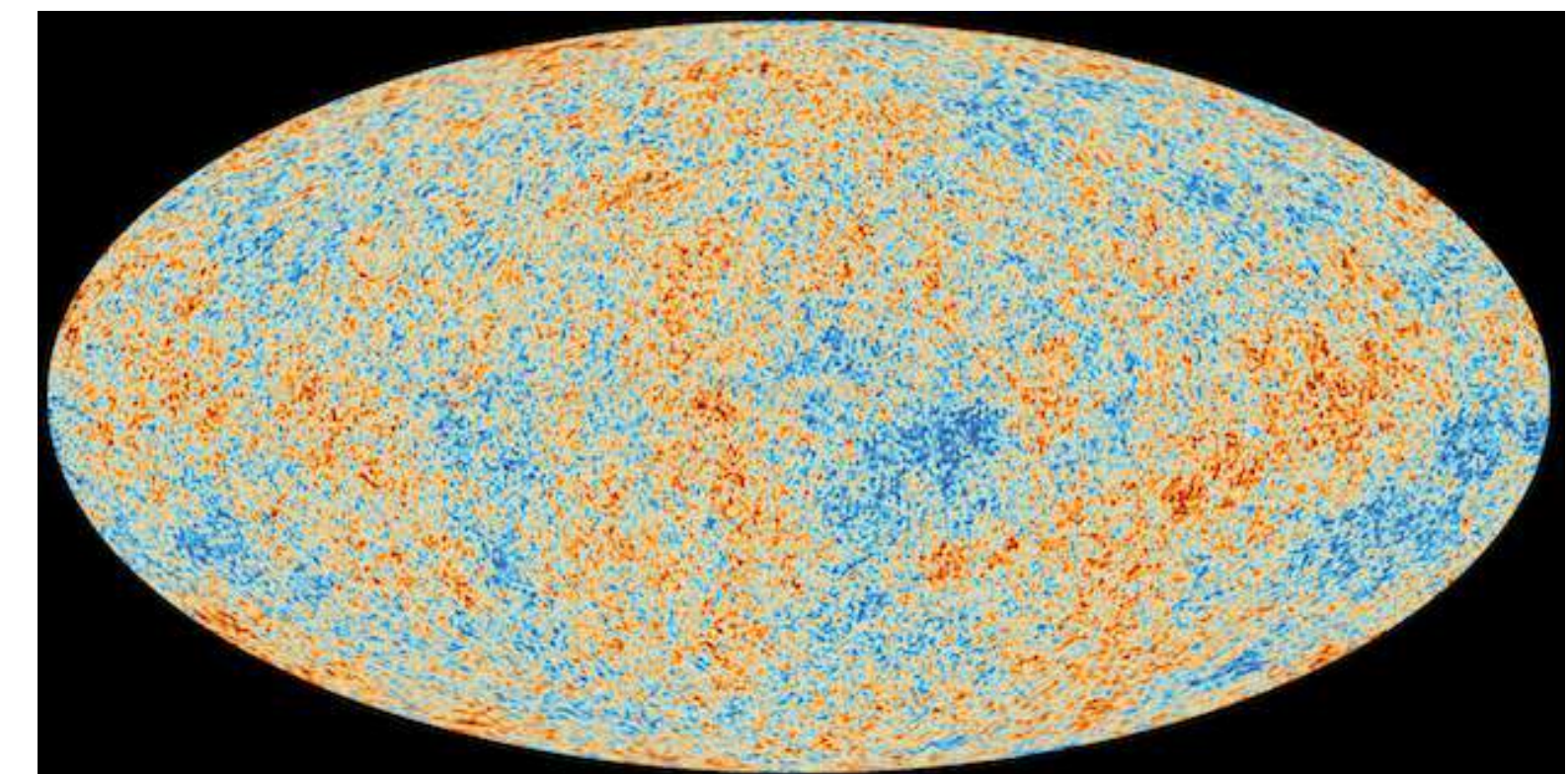
- Heavier nuclei also interact via photo-disintegration



- Mean free path: **50-100 Mpc (cosmological neighborhood)**

- Cutoff feature of energy spectrum above 50 EeV**

- The universe's largest-scale interaction between the most energetic particles and the oldest photons**

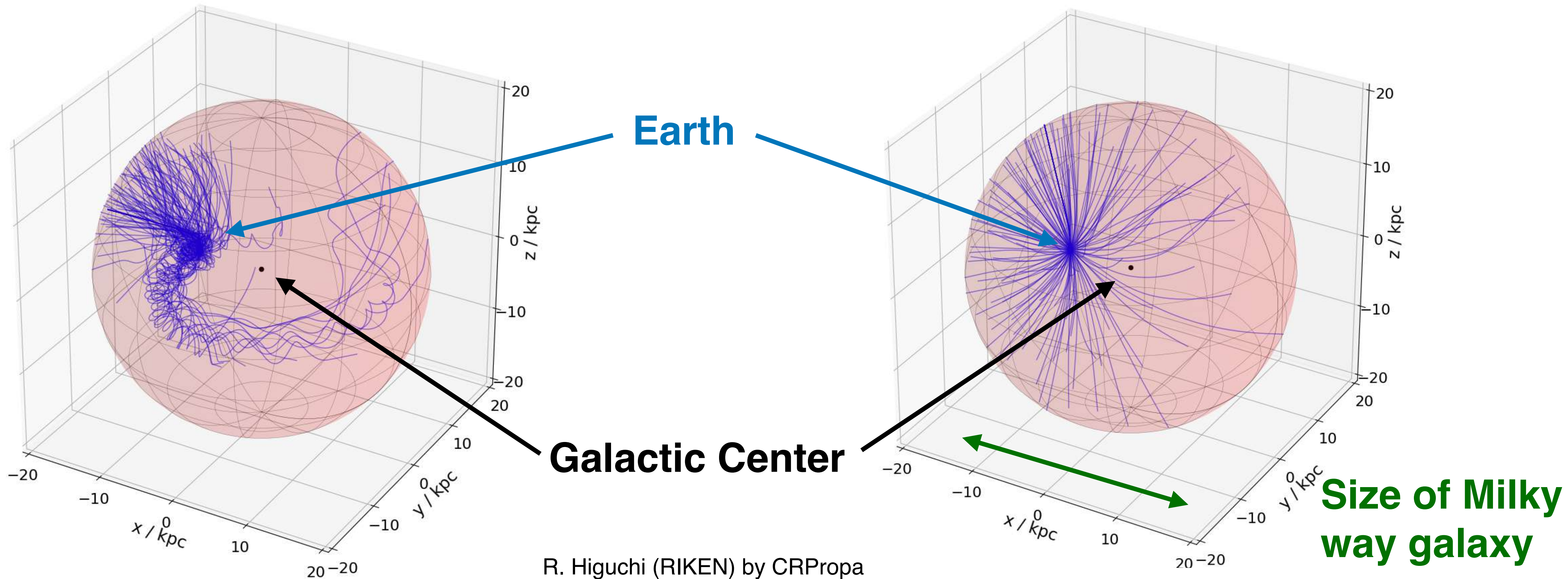


# Less deflection by Galactic magnetic fields

Deflection angle in Milky Way  $\theta \sim 10^\circ Z \left( \frac{E}{10 \text{ EeV}} \right)^{-1}$  Important observable  
**Z** : atomic number (mass composition)

**1 EeV proton**  
 = O(8 EeV), Fe(26 EeV)

**10 EeV proton**  
 = O(80 EeV), Fe(260 EeV)



# Source candidates and next-generation astronomy

Supernova remnant



Neutron star



Active galactic nuclei



Gamma-ray burst



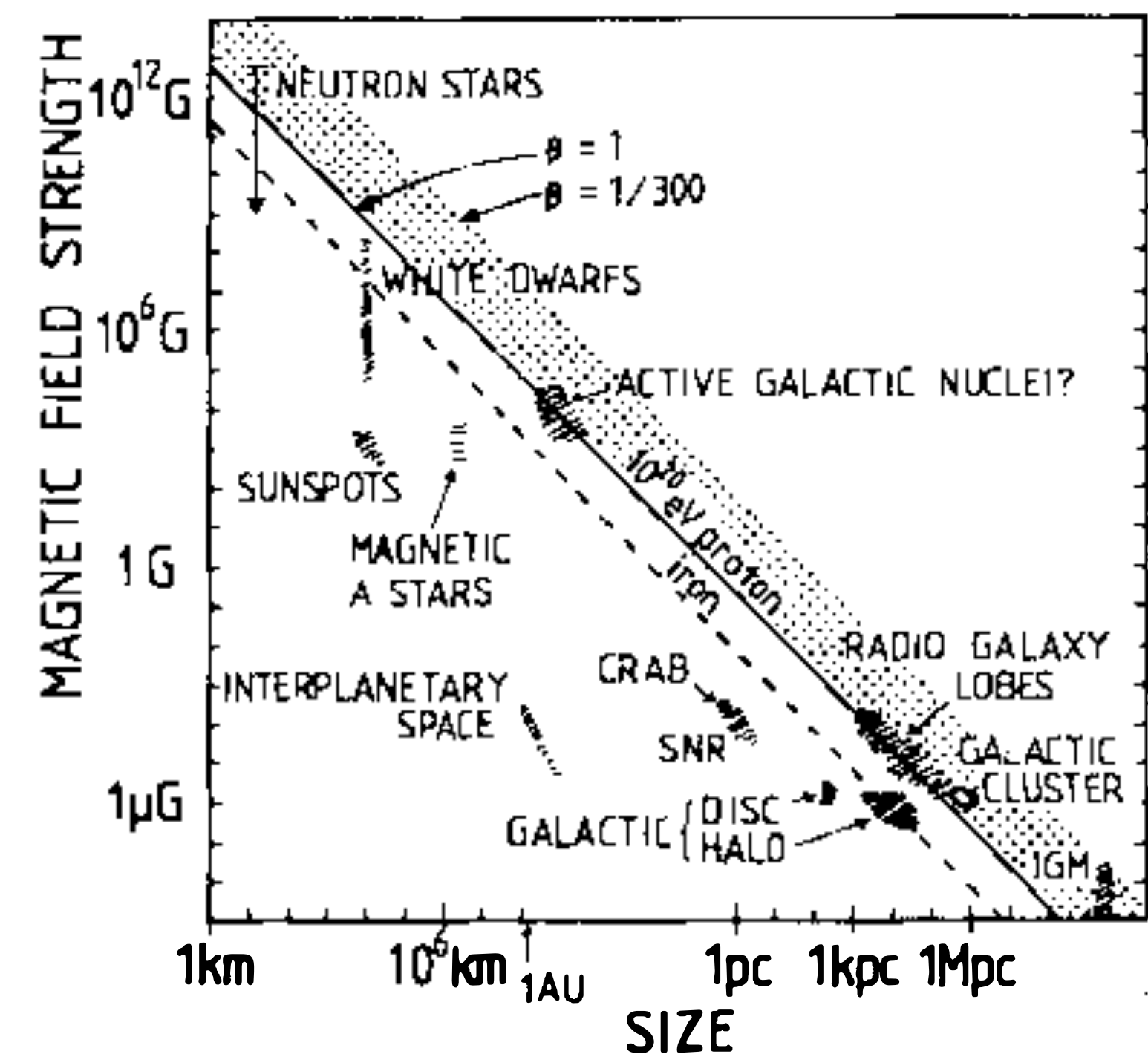
Image credits: Max Plank Inst./RIKEN/DESY/Science Comm

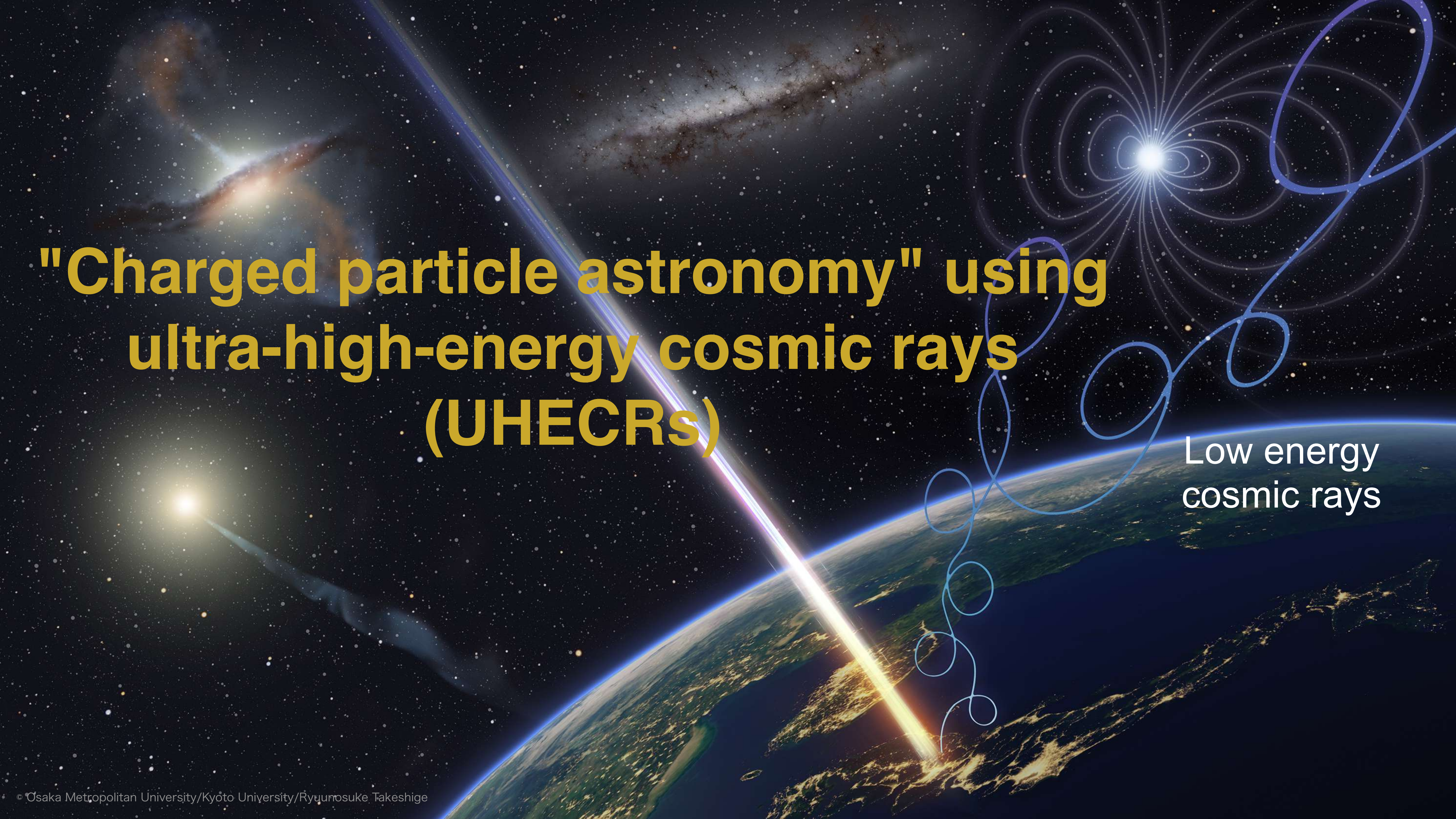
... or "New physics"

**Hillas condition**  $\left( \frac{E_{\max}}{100 \text{ EeV}} \right) \leq Z \left( \frac{B}{10 \mu\text{G}} \right) \left( \frac{R}{10 \text{ kpc}} \right)$

- 📌 **Limitation of nearby sources** due to GZK cutoff
- 📌 **Less deflections** of Galactic/extragalactic magnetic fields
- 📌 Directionally correlations between **UHECRs** and nearby **inhomogeneous sources** to identify their origins

📌 **A next-generation "astronomy" using charged particles**





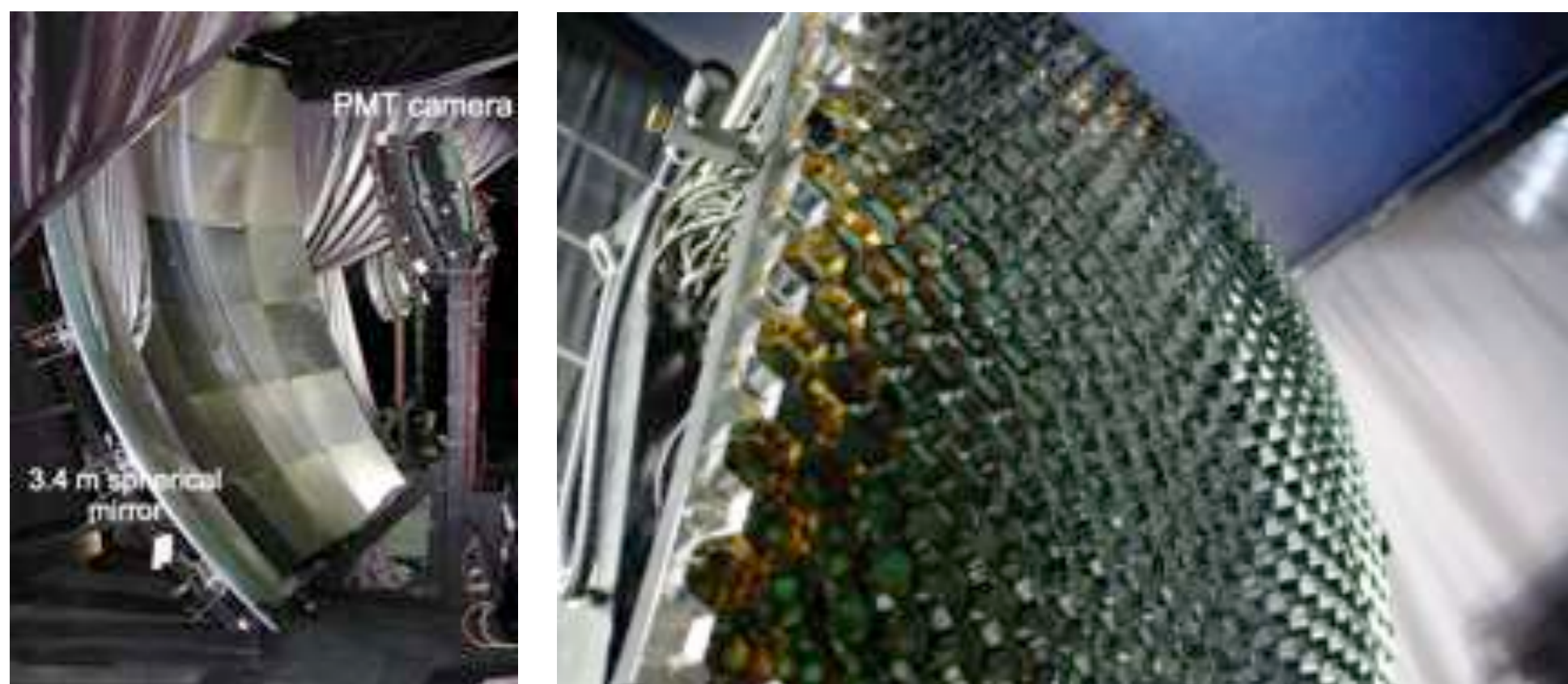
**"Charged particle astronomy" using  
ultra-high-energy cosmic rays  
(UHECRs)**

Low energy  
cosmic rays

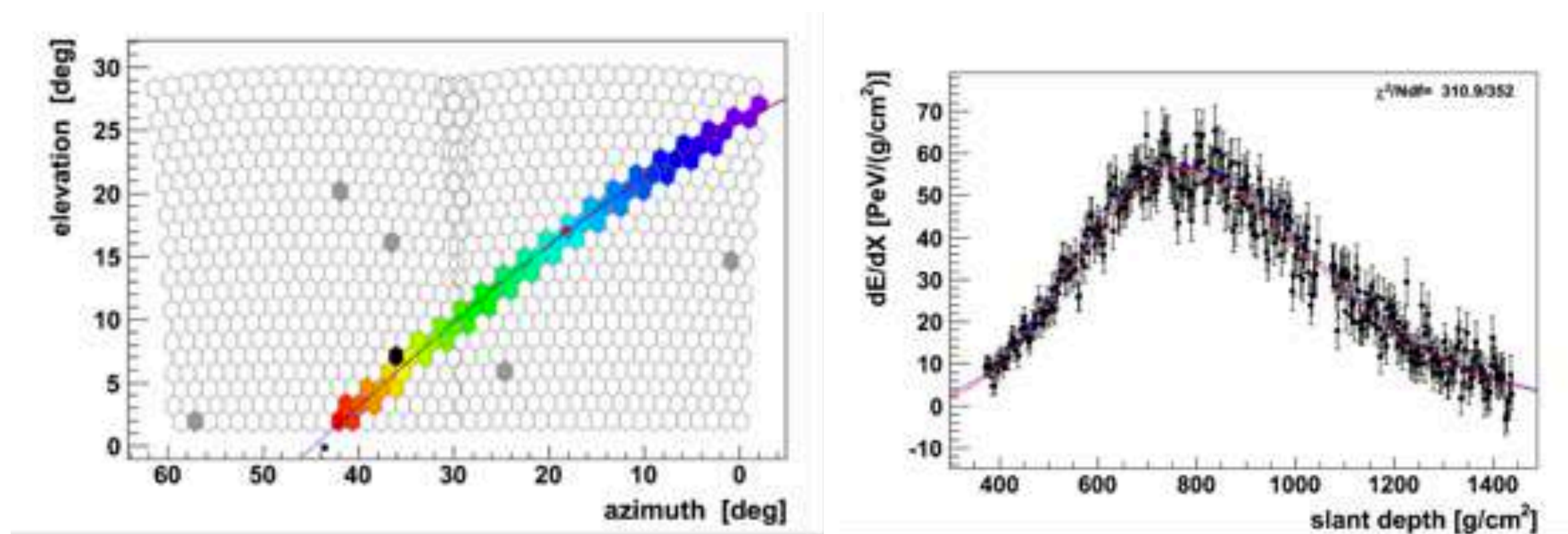
# Fluorescence detector Array of Single-pixel Telescopes

- ◆ Target :  $> 10^{19.5}$  eV, ultrahigh-energy cosmic rays, neutrino and gamma rays
- ◆ Huge target volume (10x Auger or TAx4)  $\Rightarrow$  Fluorescence detector array

Fine pixelated camera

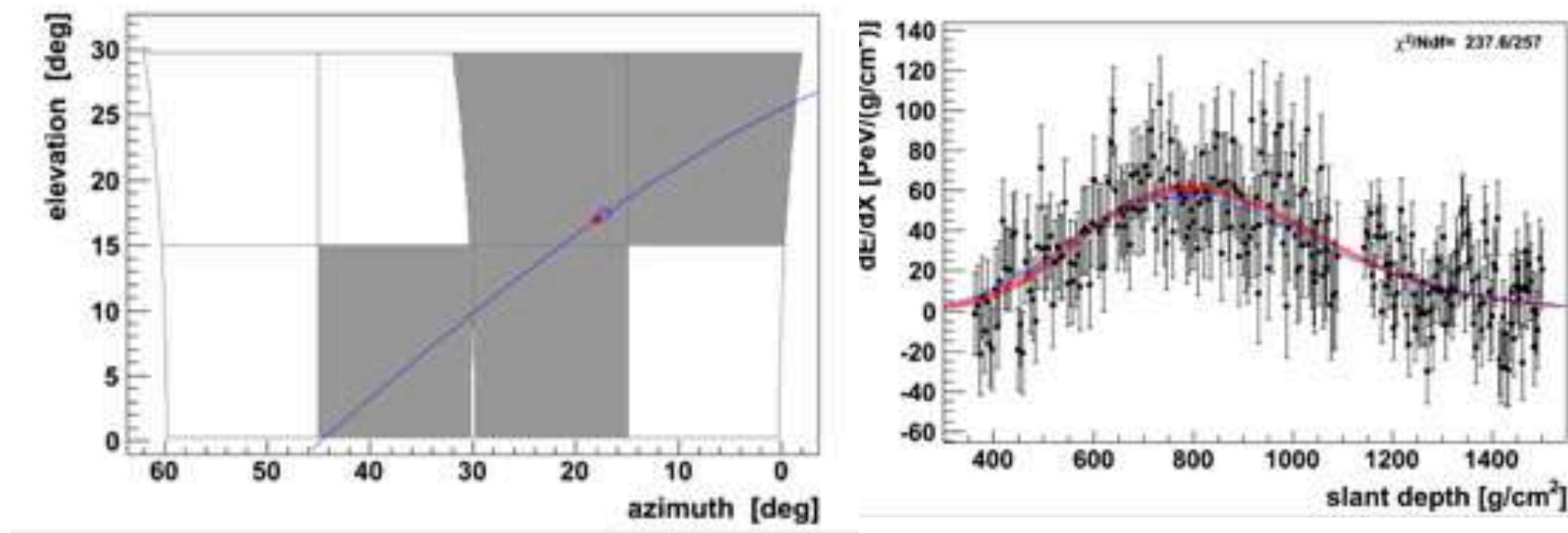
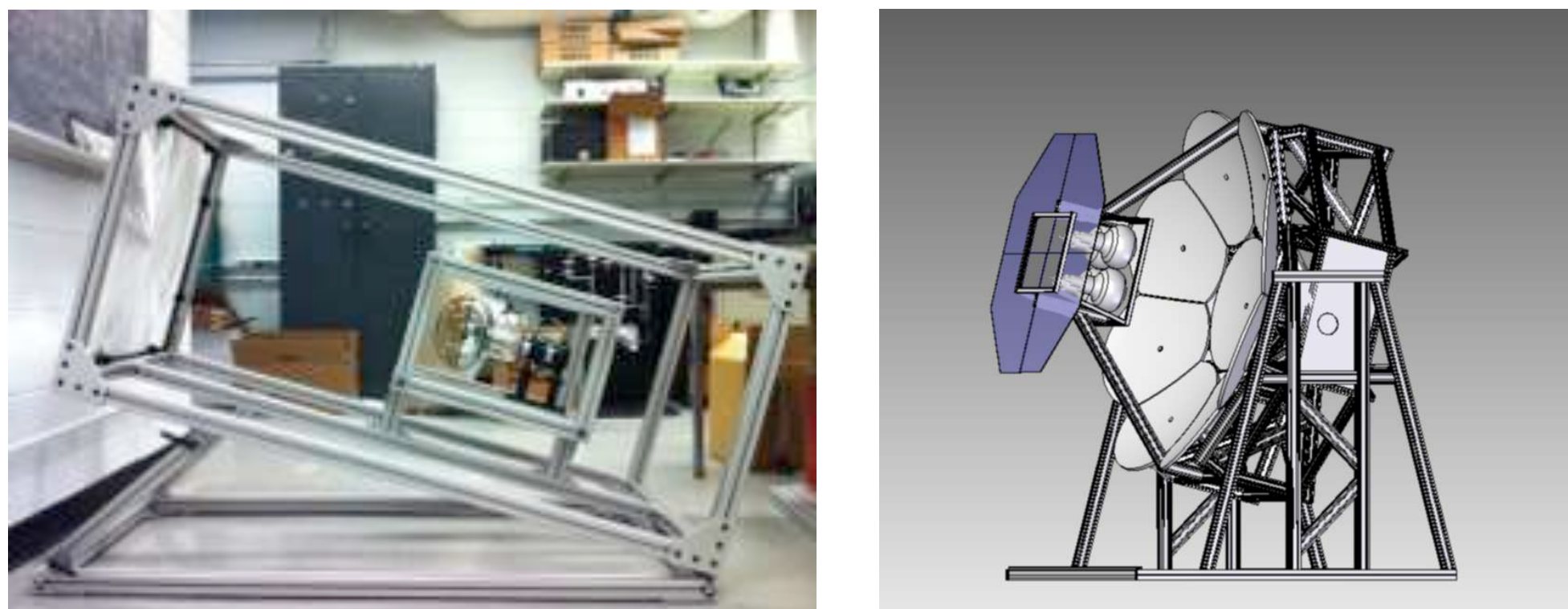


Too expensive to cover a huge area



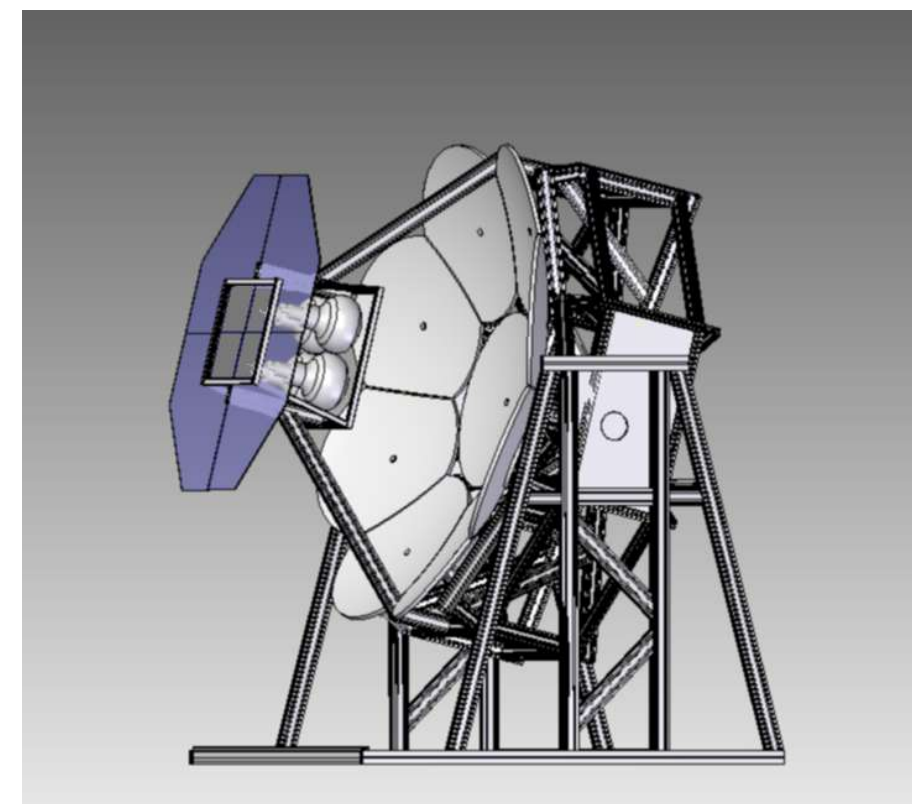
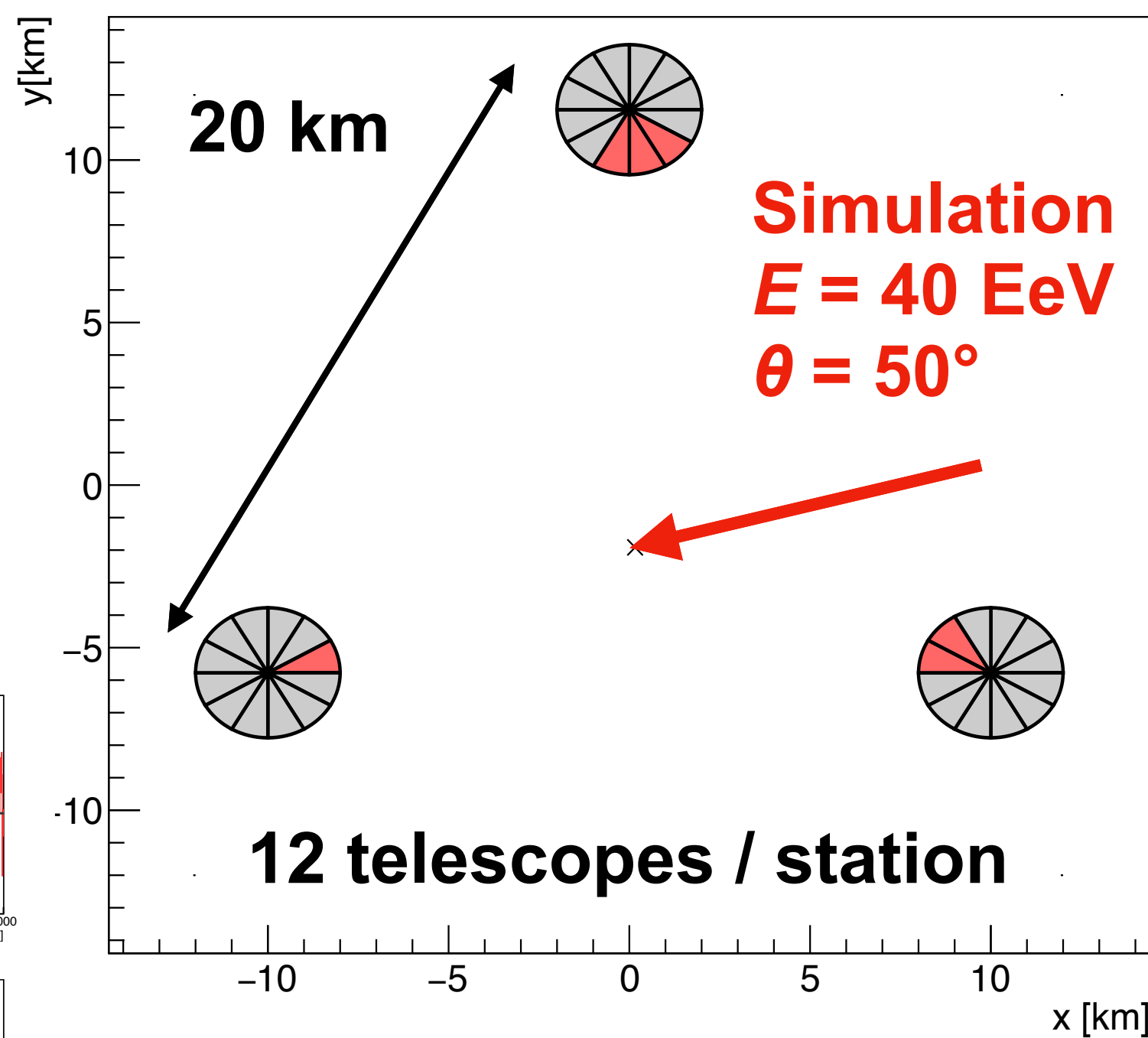
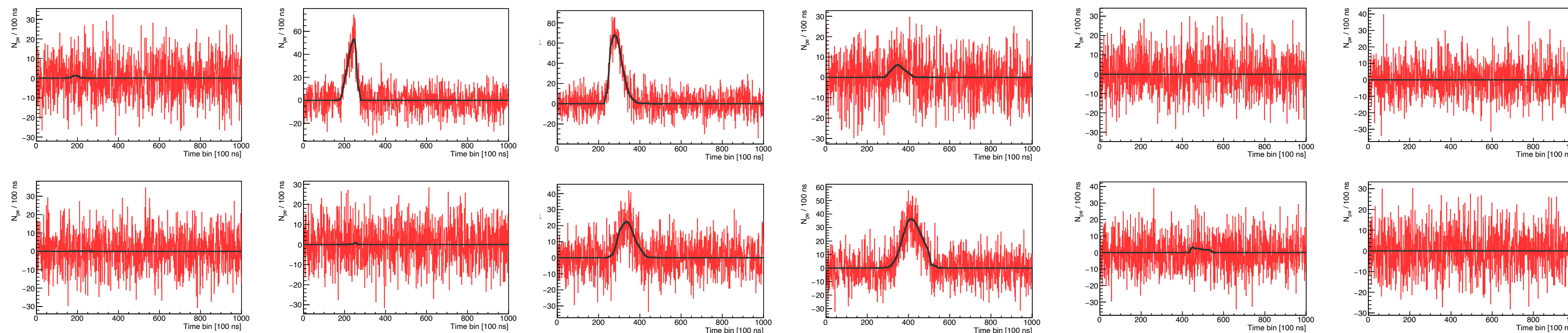
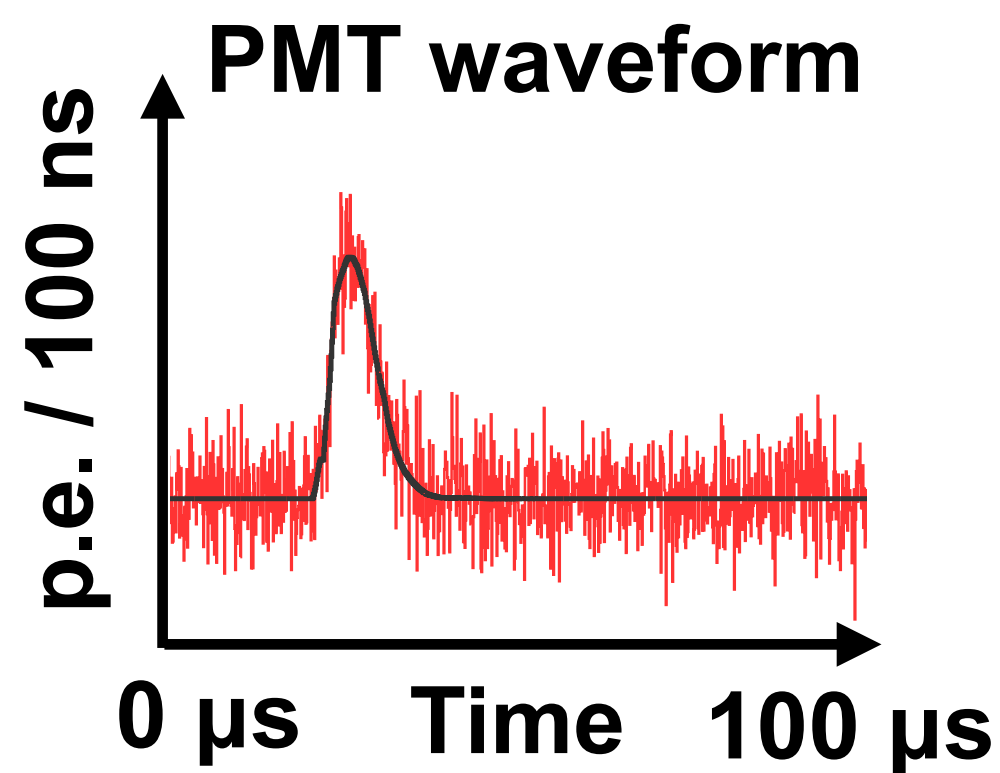
Smaller optics and single or few pixels

Low-cost and simplified telescope

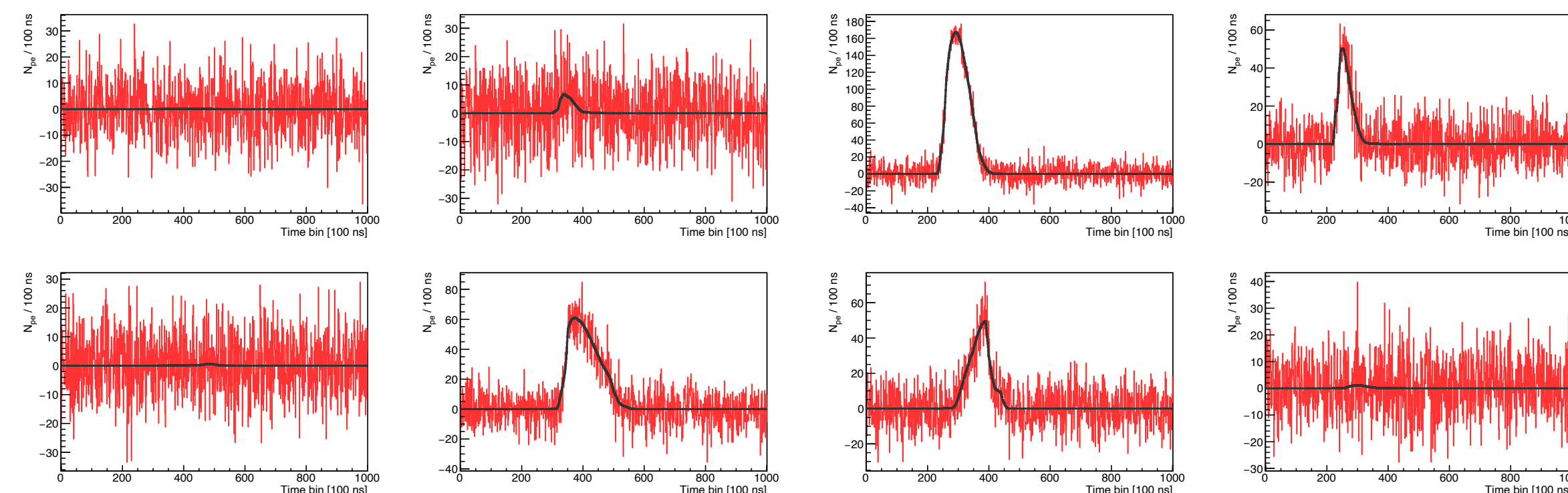
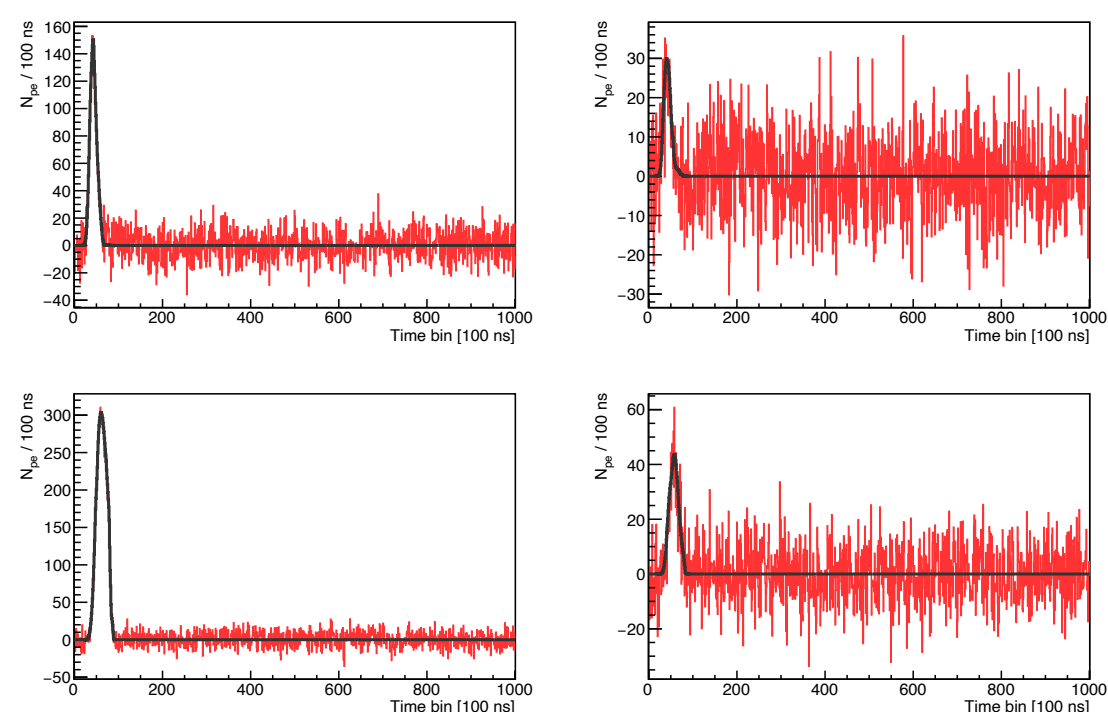


# FAST Fluorescence detector Array of Single-pixel Telescopes

Fluorescence detector Array of Single-pixel Telescopes



**FAST telescope**  
4 PMTs (20 cm diameter)  
1 m<sup>2</sup> aperture (UV filter)  
Segmented mirror  
in 1.6 m diameter





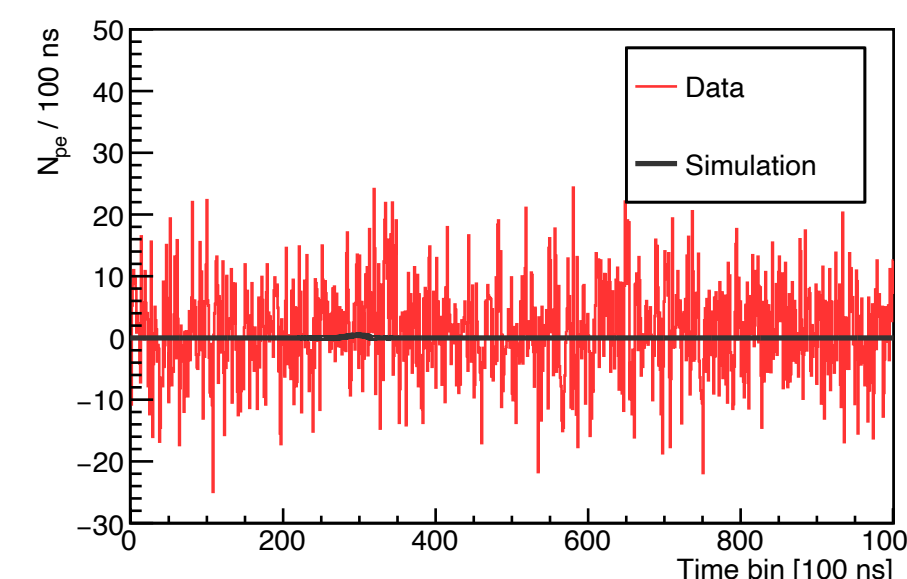
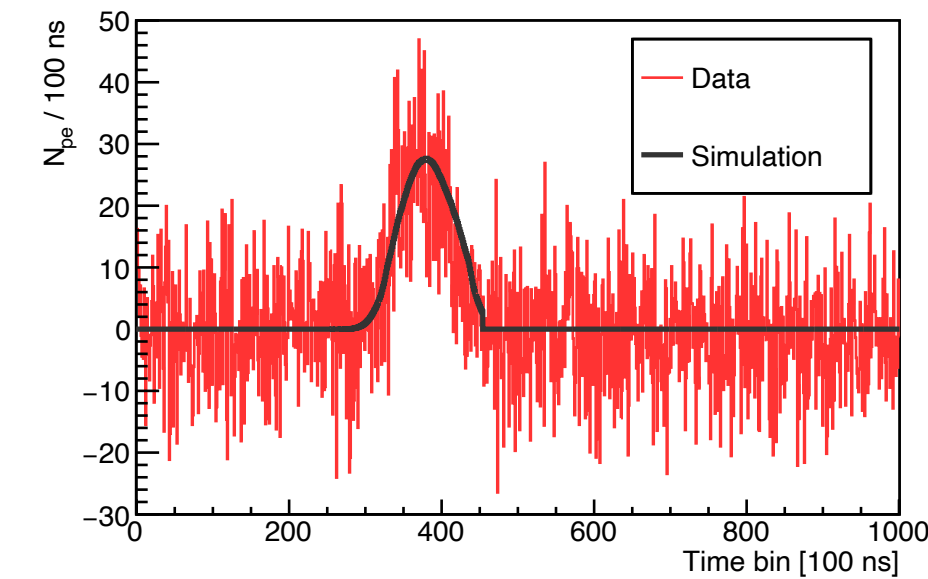
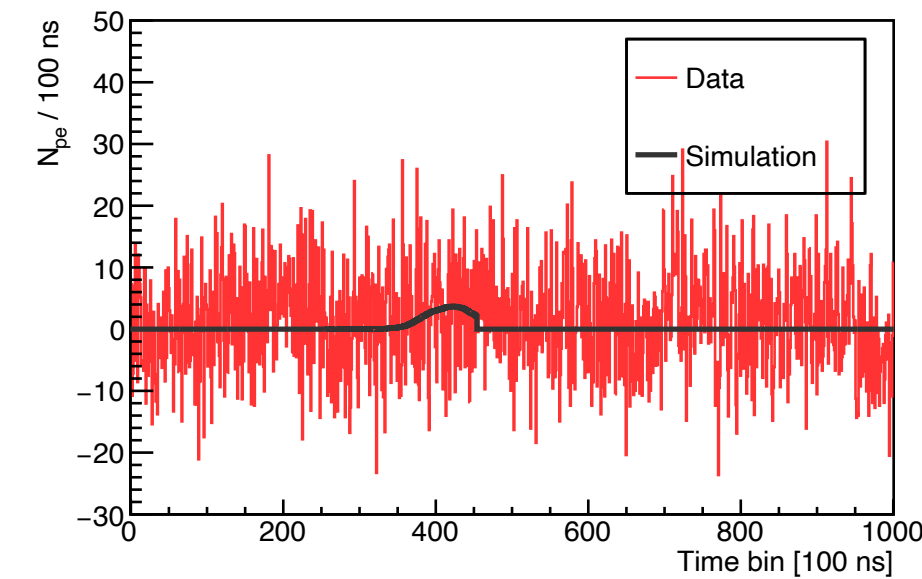
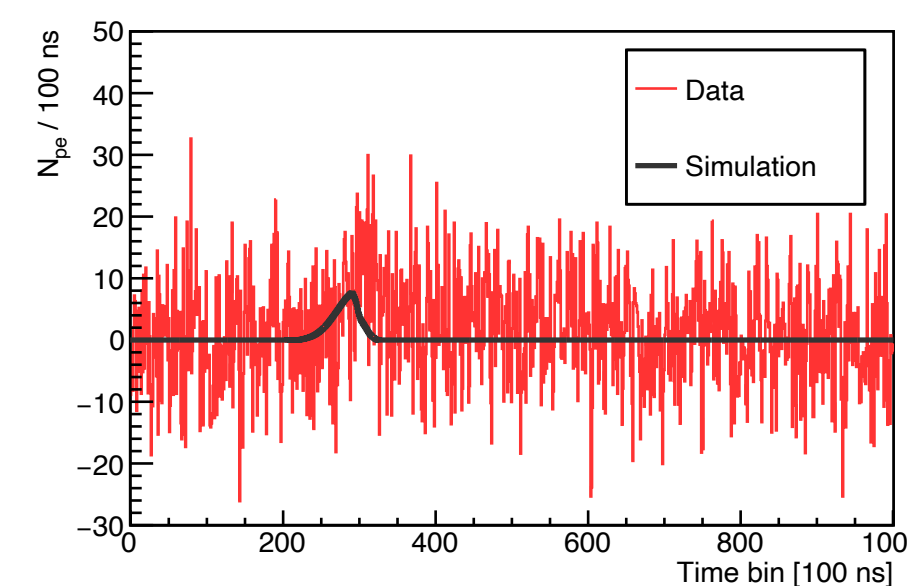
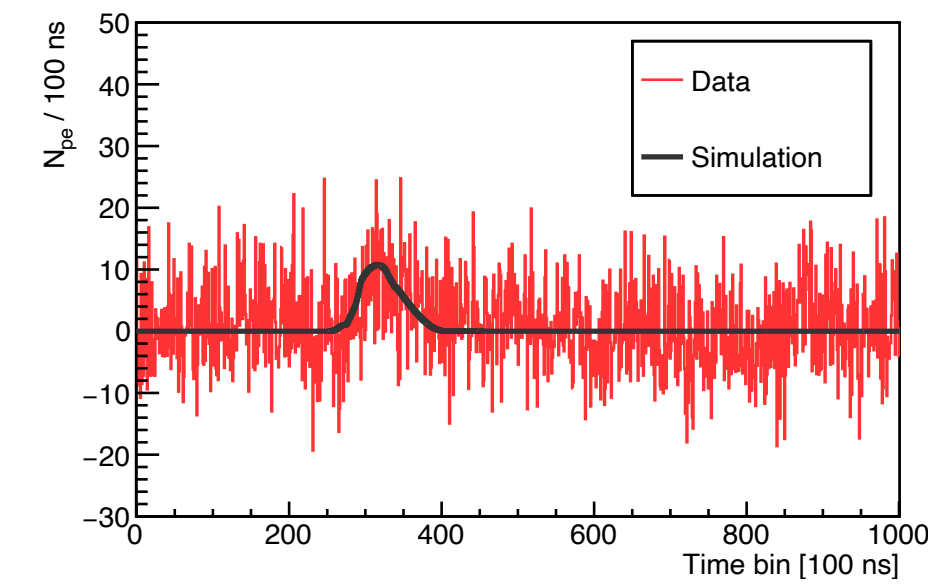
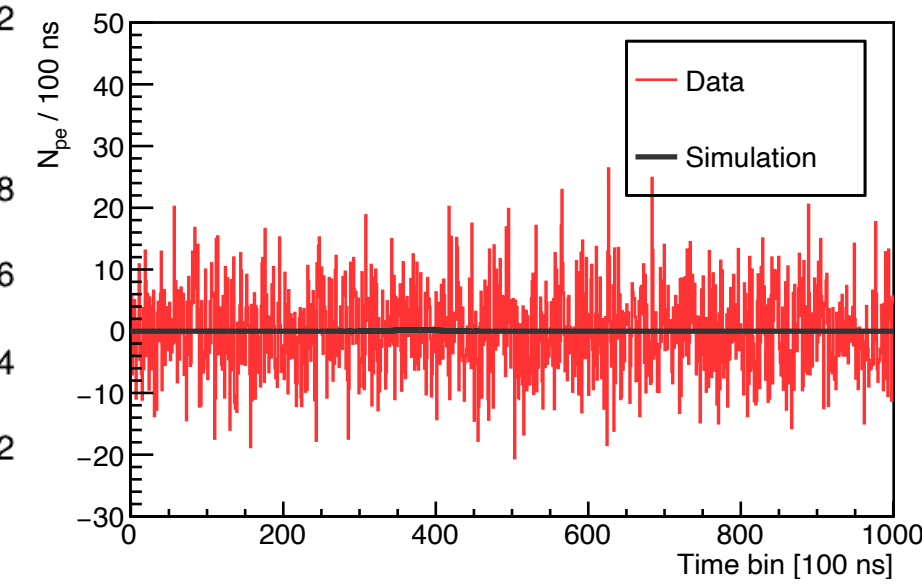
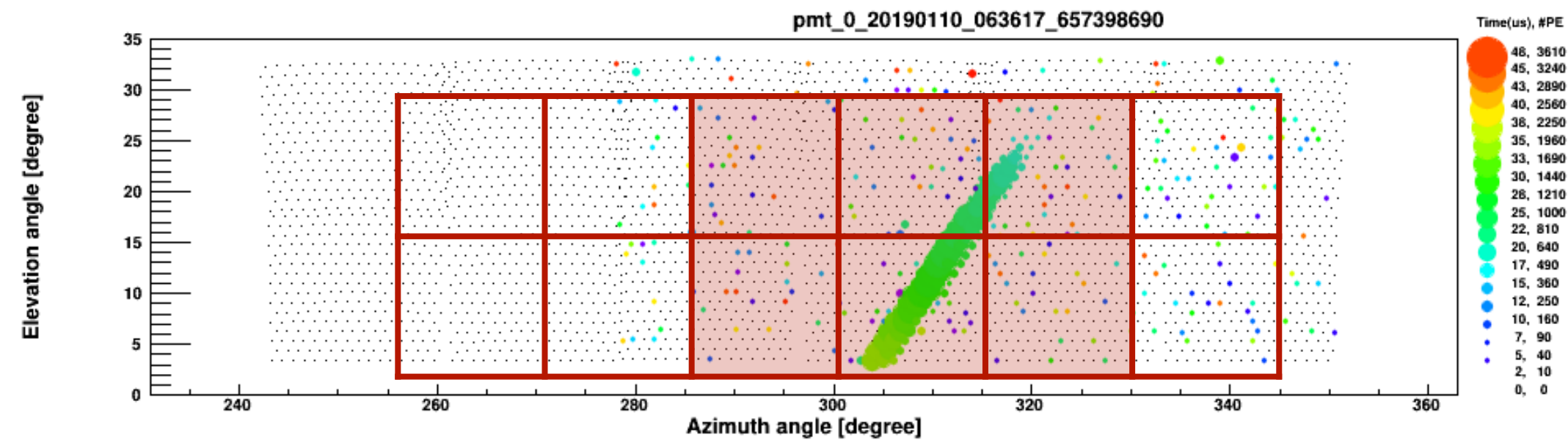
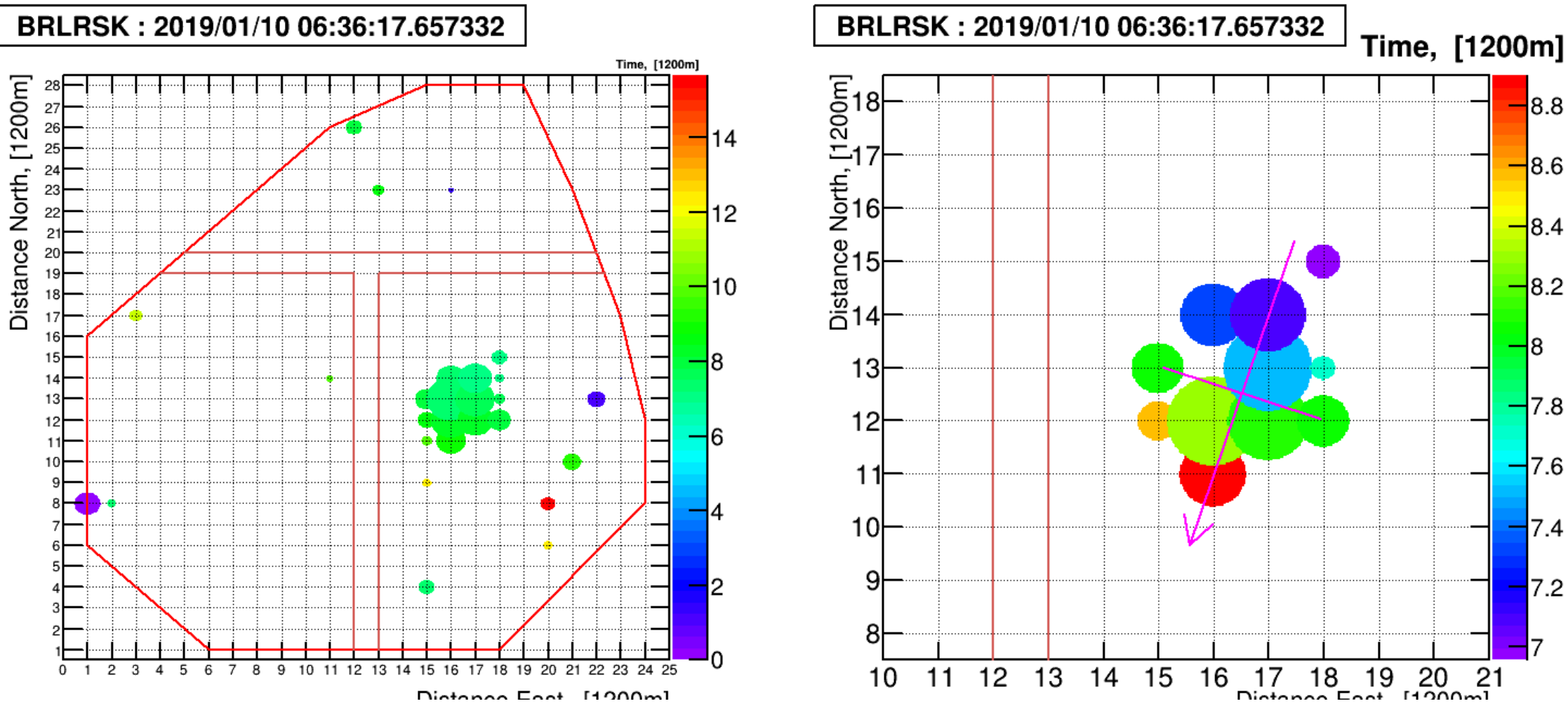


## TA result



FAST@TA

## FAST result



### TA SD (Preliminary)

Zenith	Azimuth	Core(X)	Core(Y)	Energy
36.2 deg	18.0 deg	5.0 km	-4.5 km	15.8 EeV

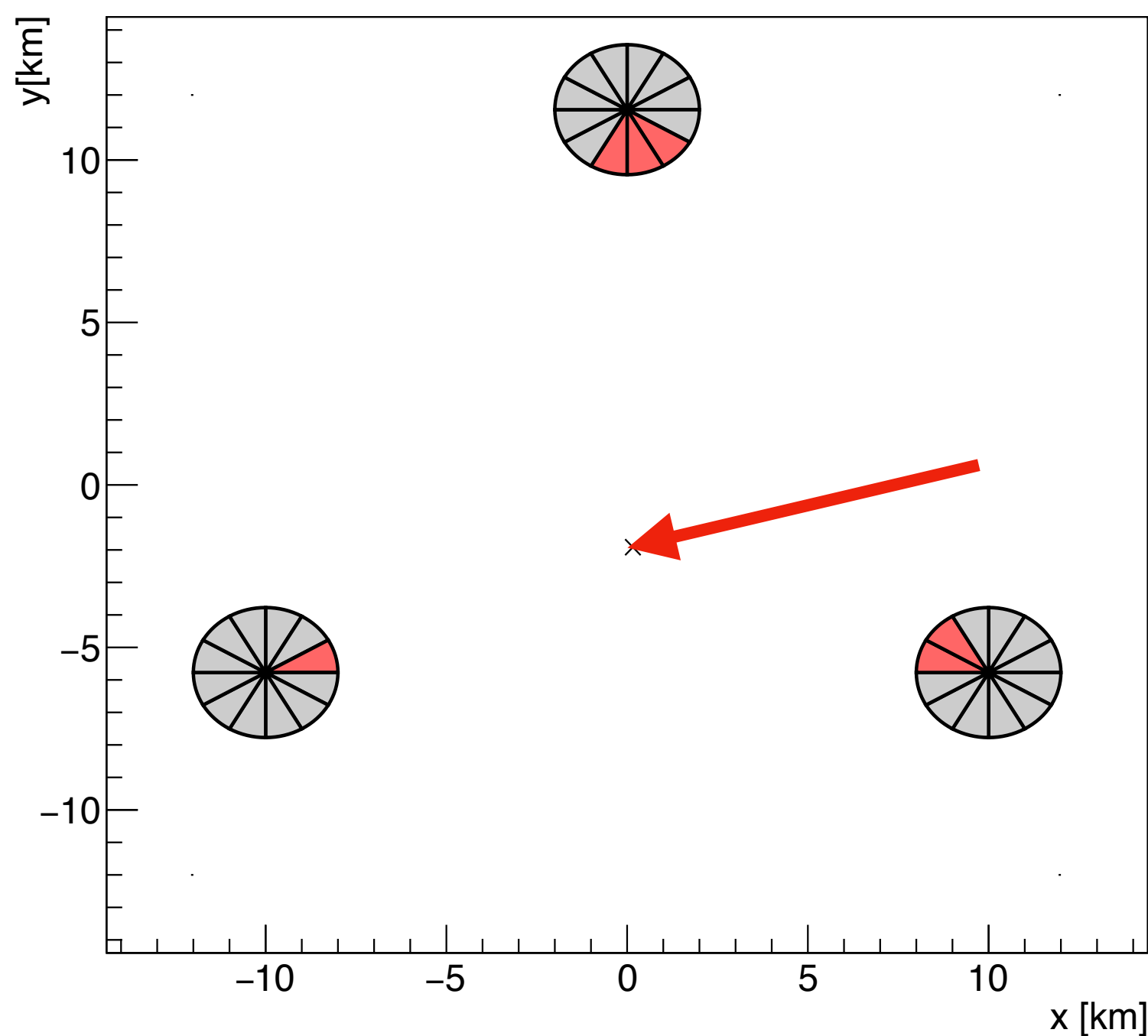
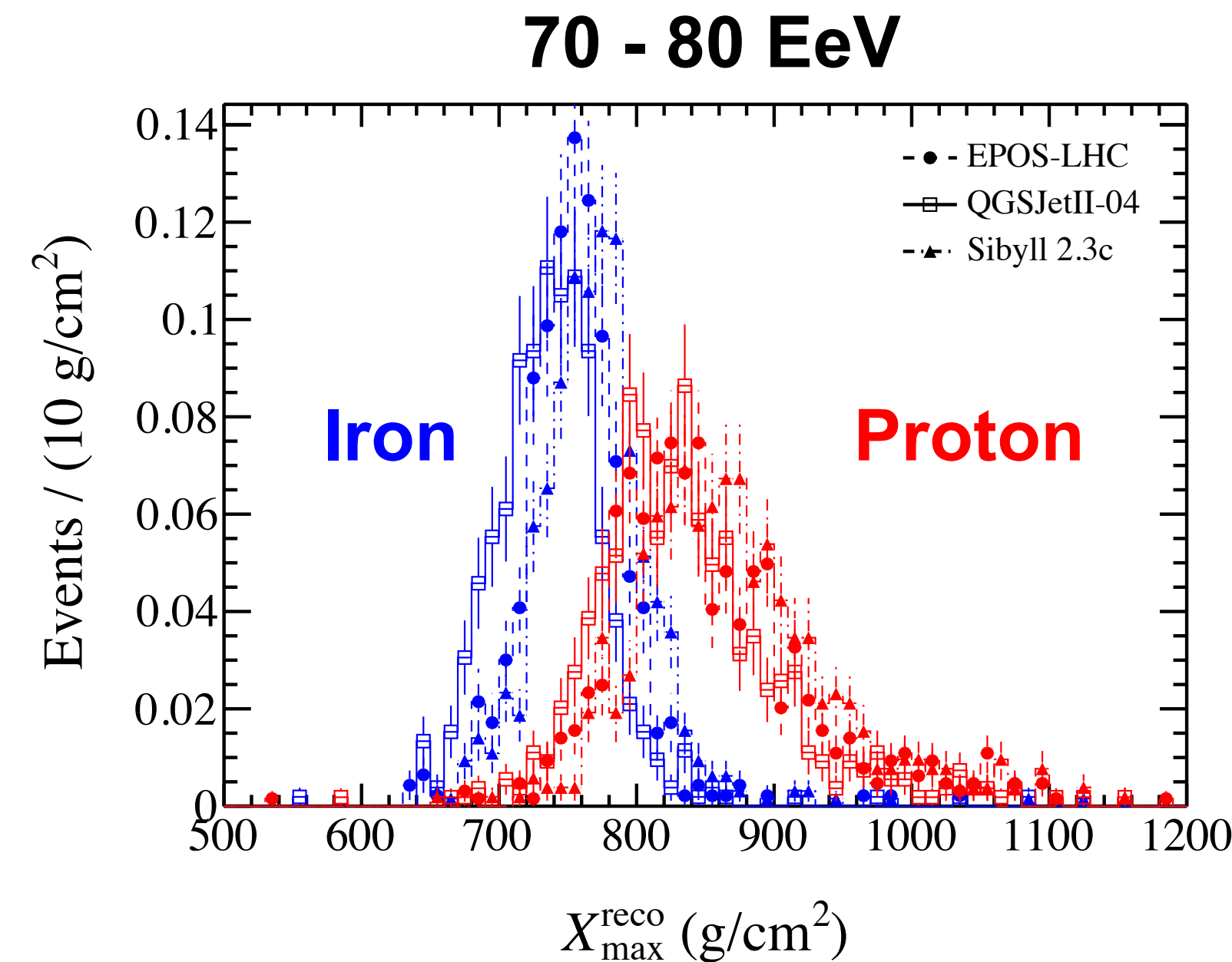
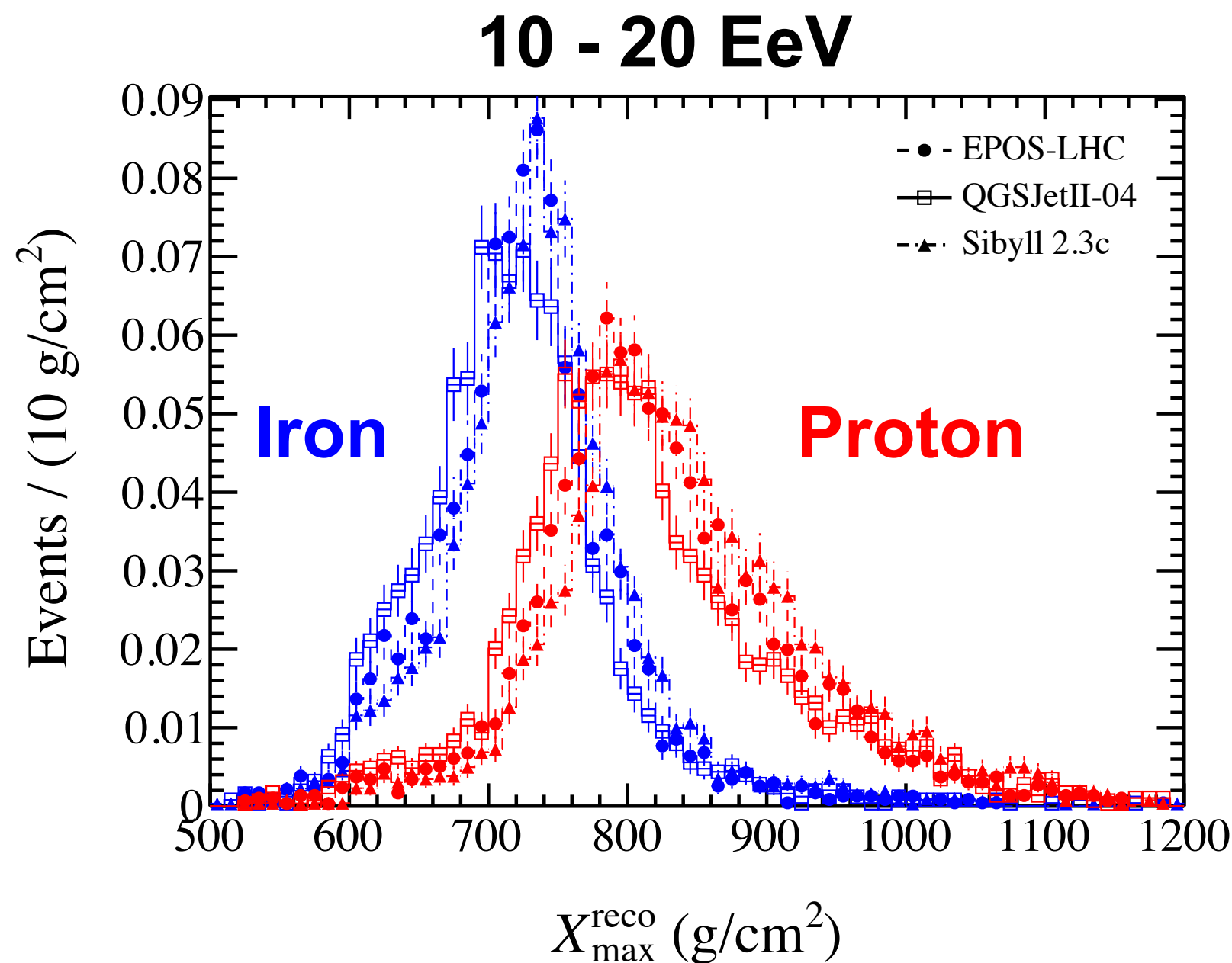
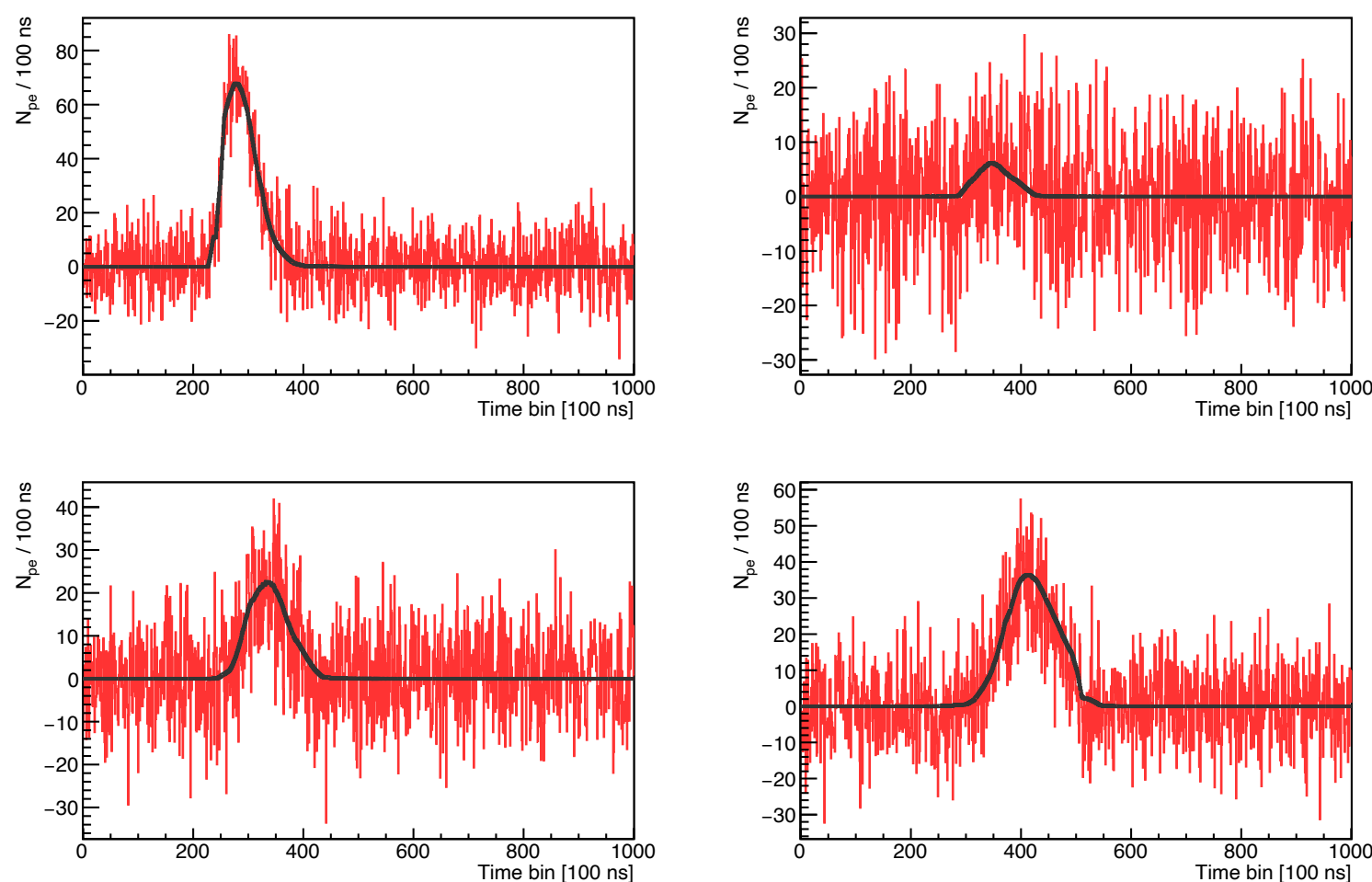
### TA FD (Preliminary)

33.2 deg	35.8 deg	6.1 km	-5.3 km	20.0 EeV
----------	----------	--------	---------	----------

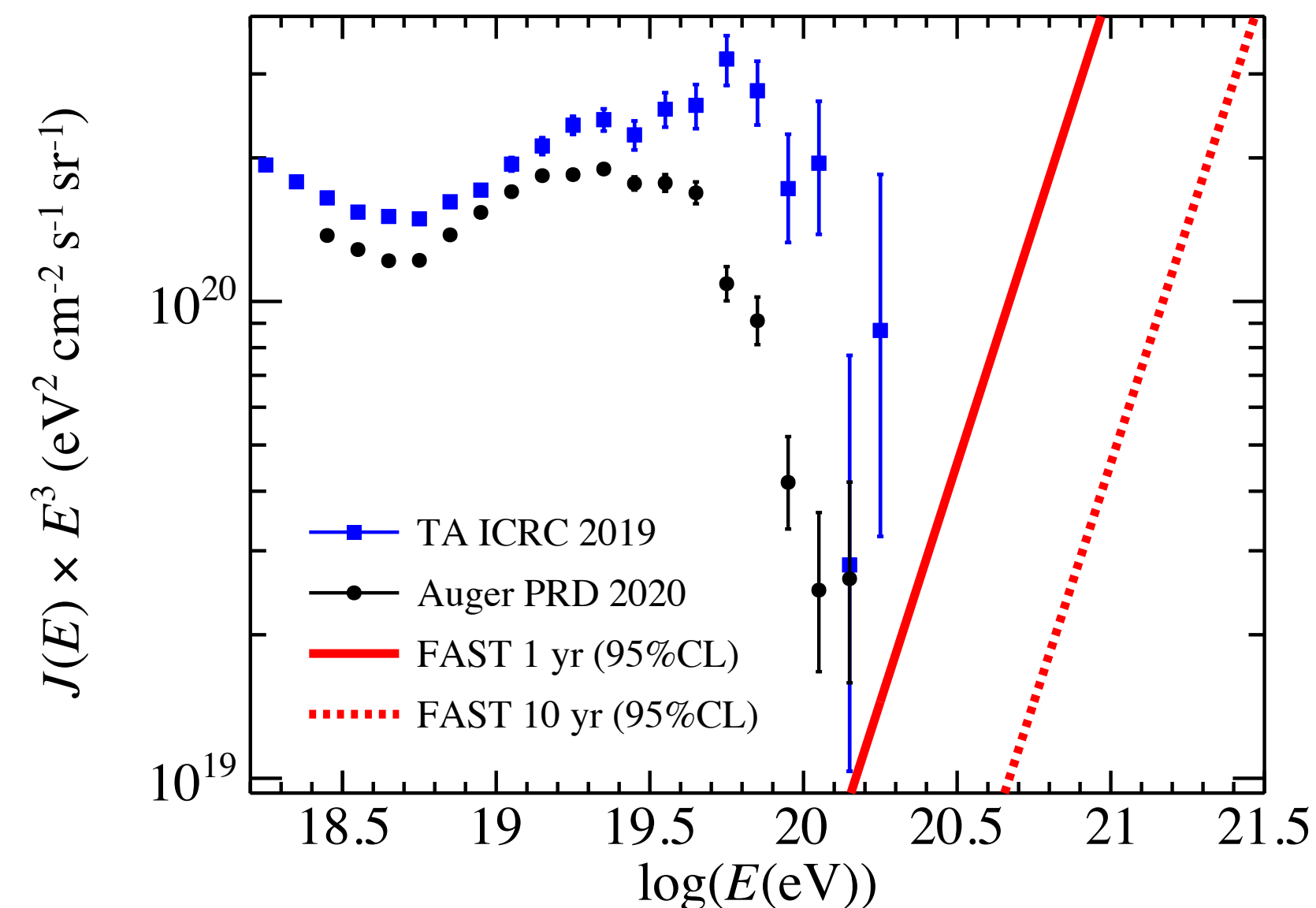
### FAST top-down reconstruction (Preliminary)

Zenith	Azimuth	Core(X)	Core(Y)	Xmax	Energy
33.9 deg	19.3 deg	4.6 km	-4.7 km	808 g/cm <sup>2</sup>	18.8 EeV

# Performance studies with FAST

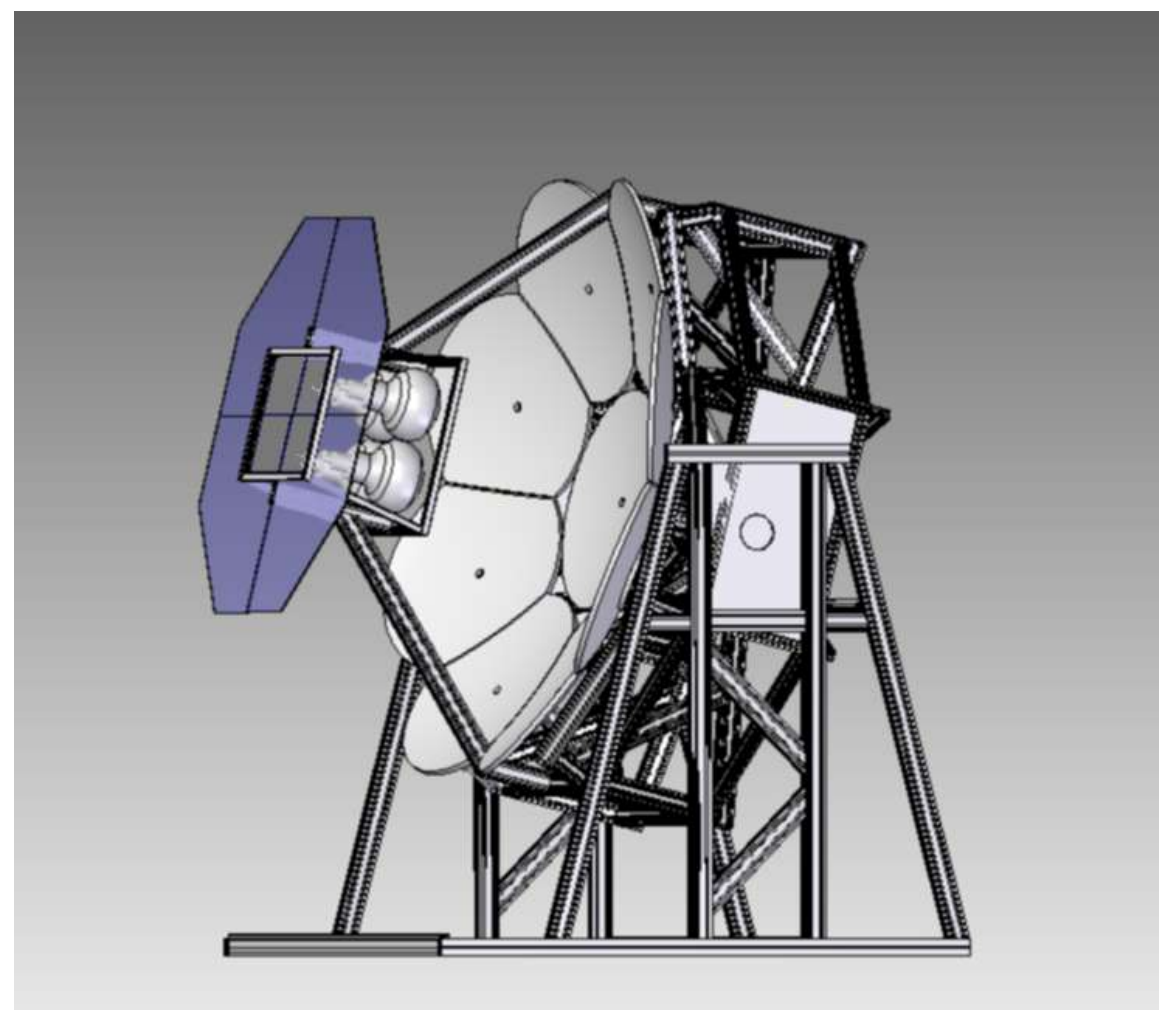


- ◆ Preliminary resolution at 40 EeV
  - ◆ Arrival direction: 4.2 degrees
  - ◆ Energy: 8%,  $X_{max}$ : 30 g/cm<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ Expected sensitivity with a "full-size" FAST array (500 stations to cover 150,000 km<sup>2</sup>)
- ◆ **Hunting the Universe's most energetic particles**



# Detector developments for next-generation observatories

Low-cost, easily deployable

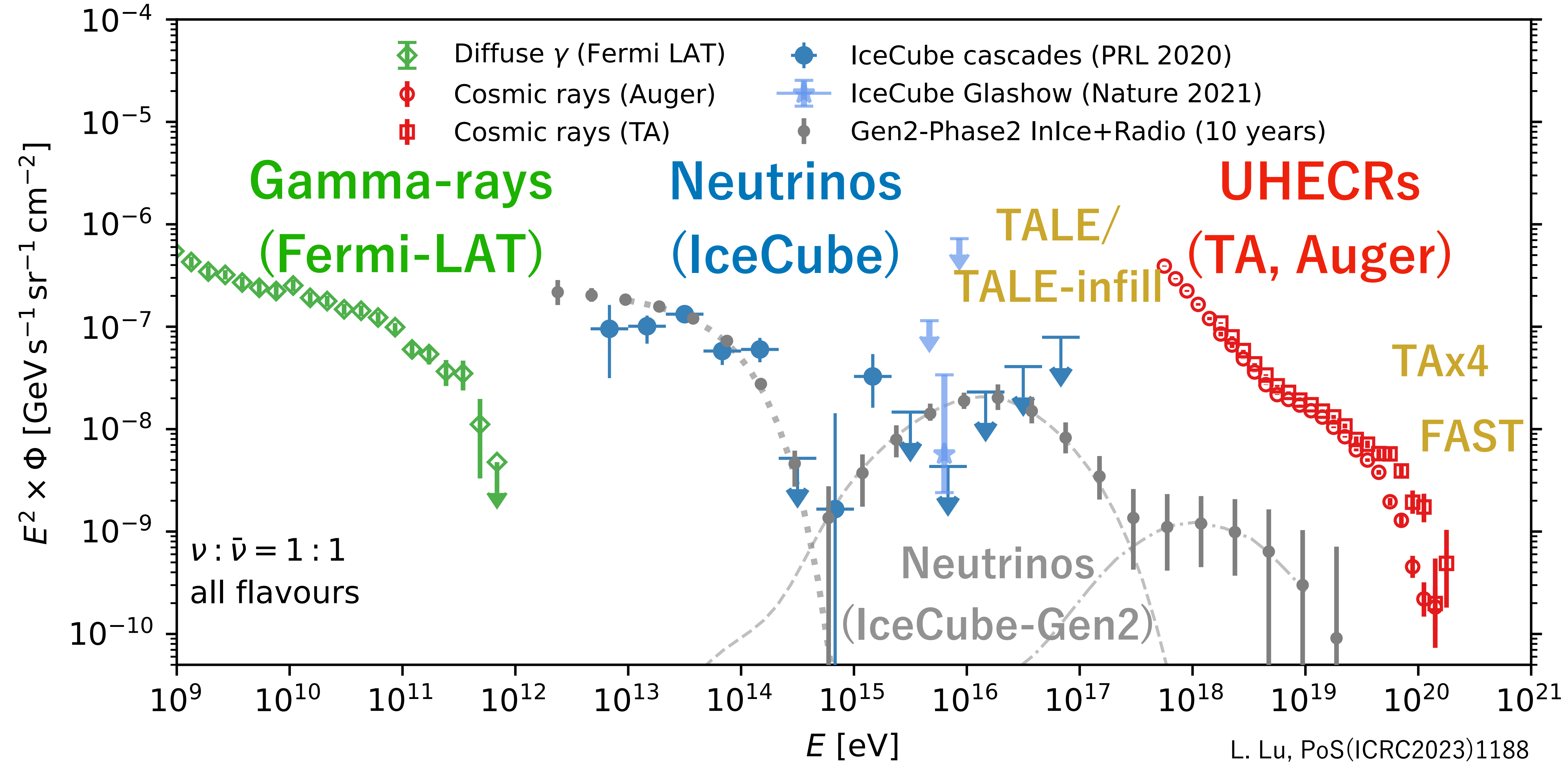


Fluorescence detector Array of Single-pixel Telescopes (FAST) <https://www.fast-project.org>

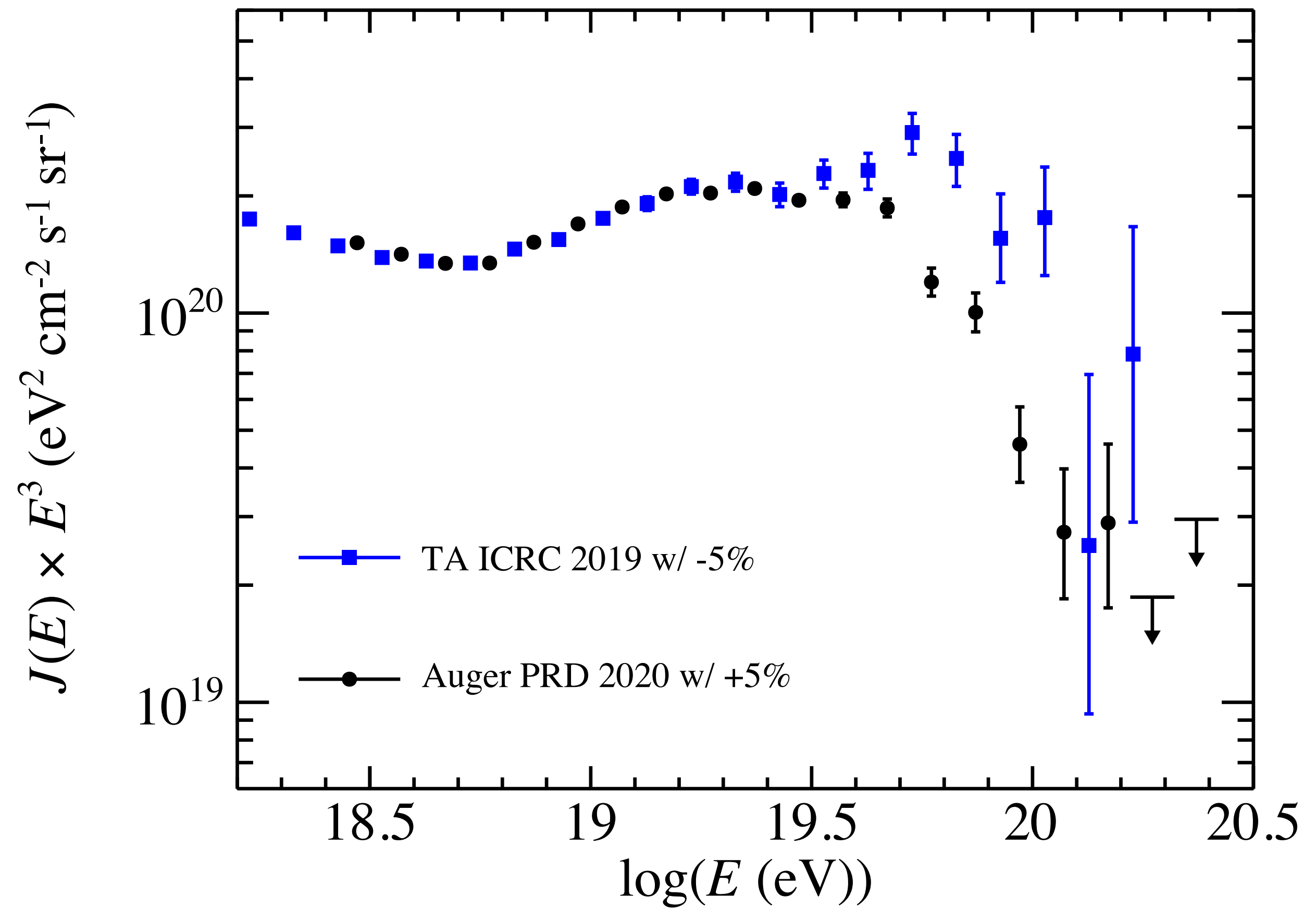
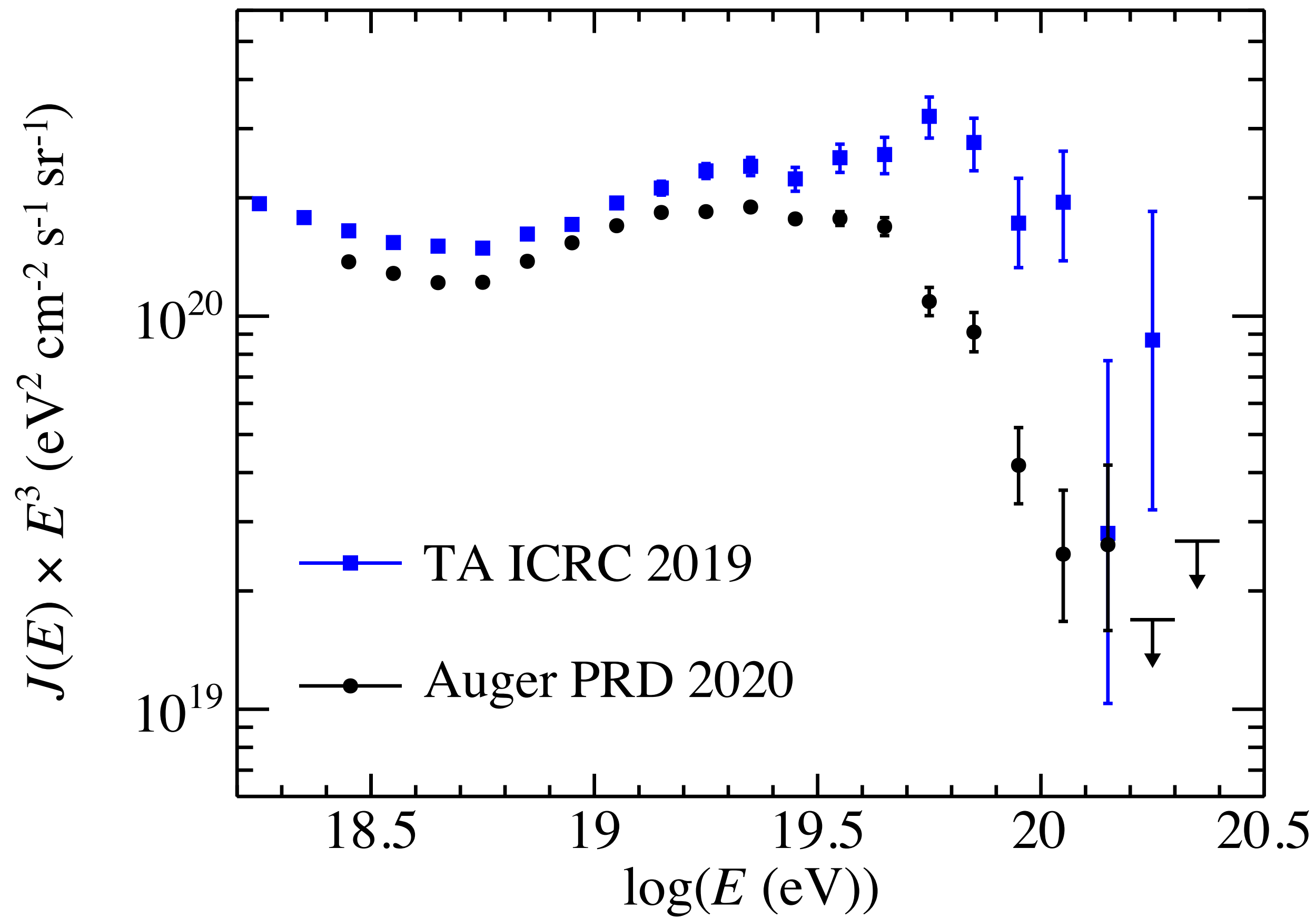
Global Cosmic ray Observatory (GCOS)



# Multi-messenger synergies



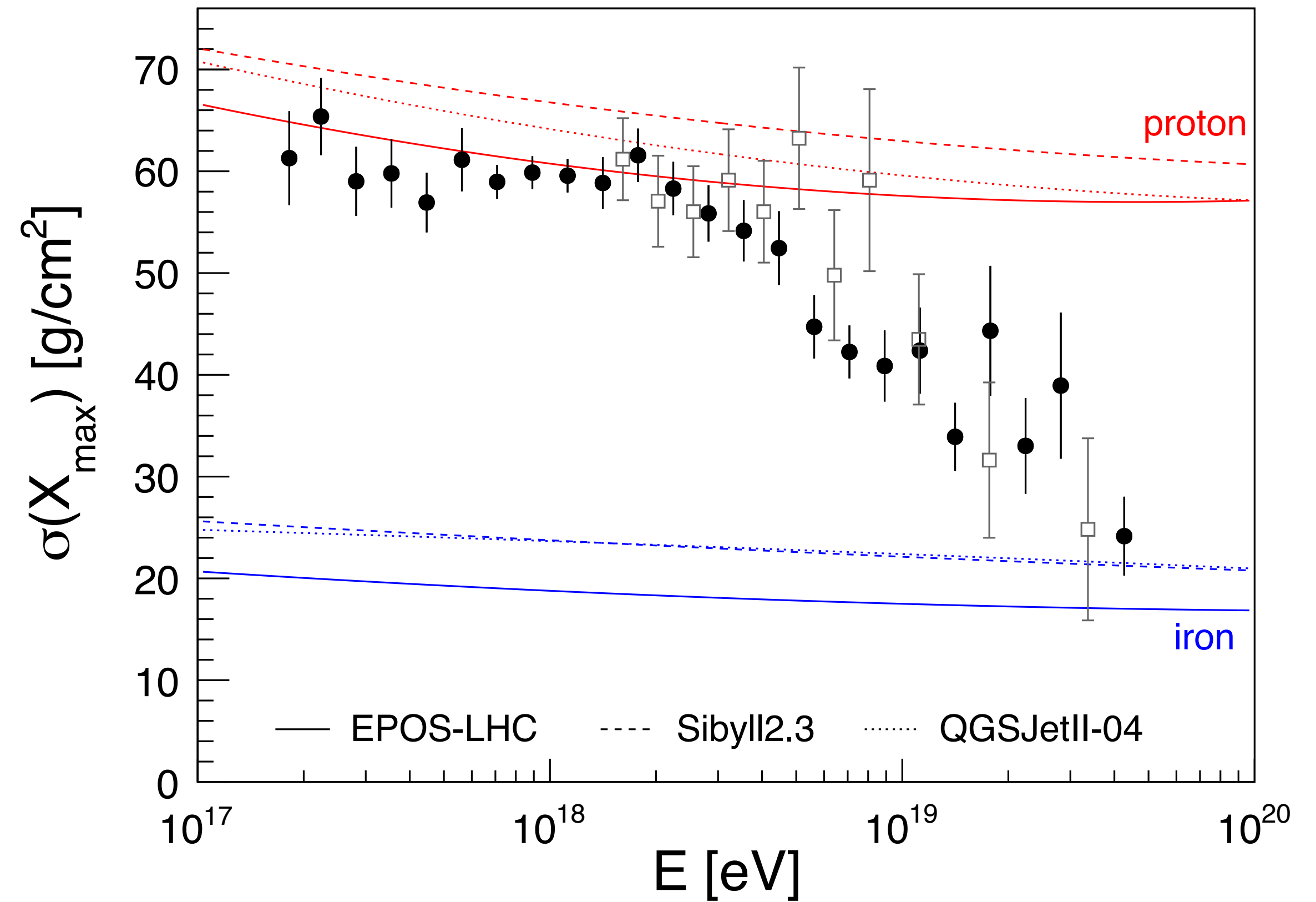
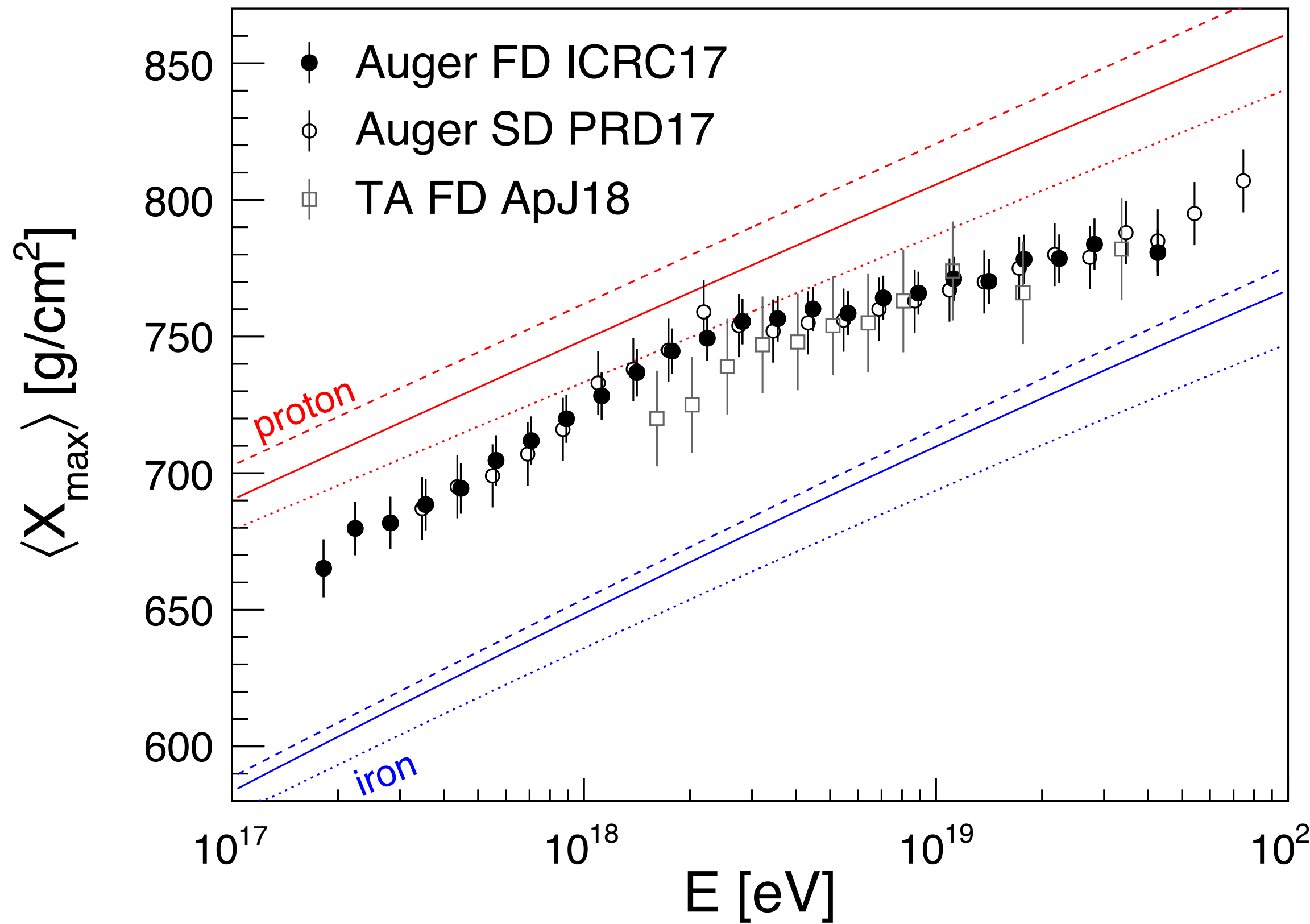
# Energy spectra of TA and Auger



# Mass composition

$$\theta \sim 10^\circ Z \left( \frac{E}{10 \text{ EeV}} \right)^{-1}$$

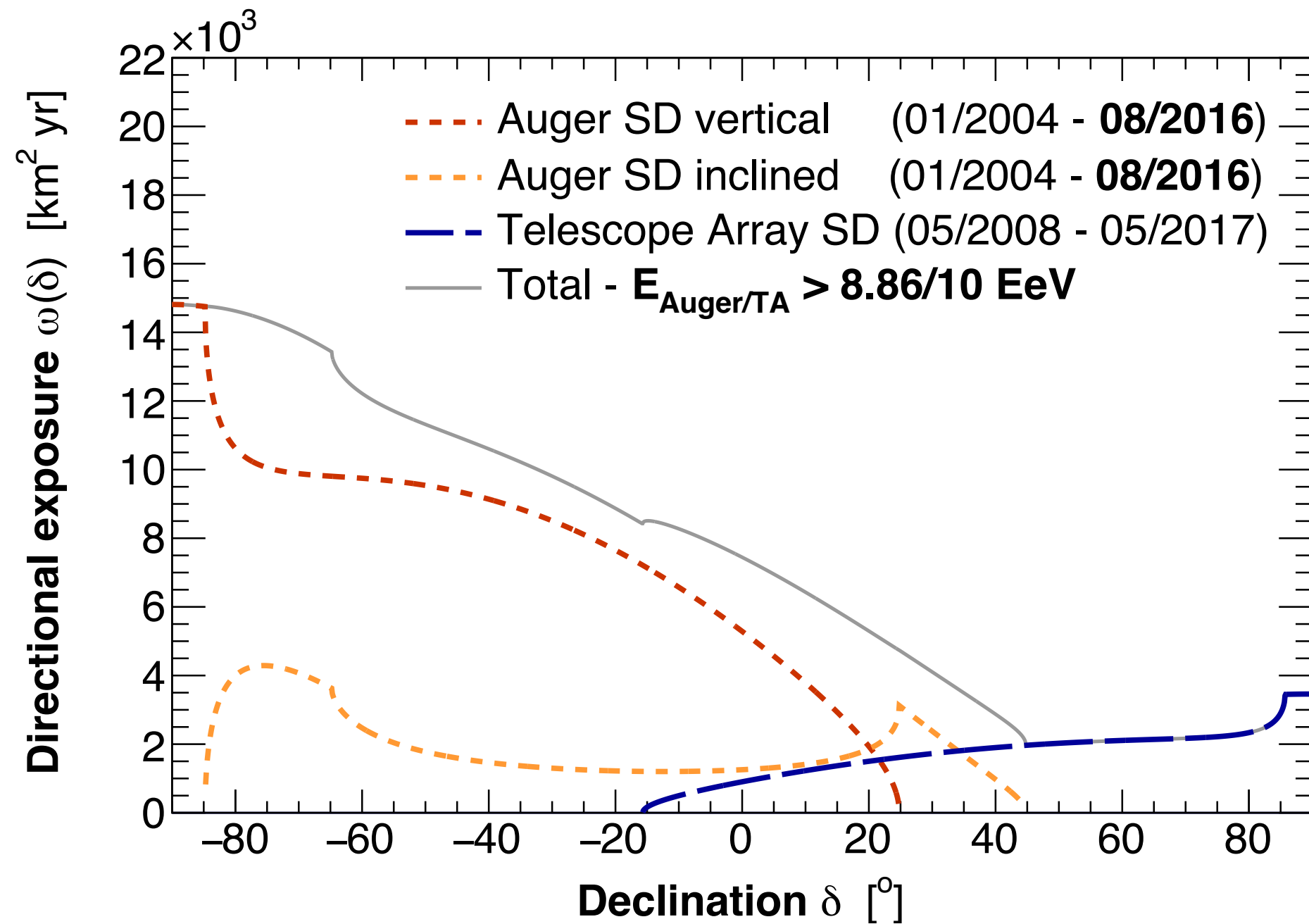
**Z : atomic number  
(mass composition)**



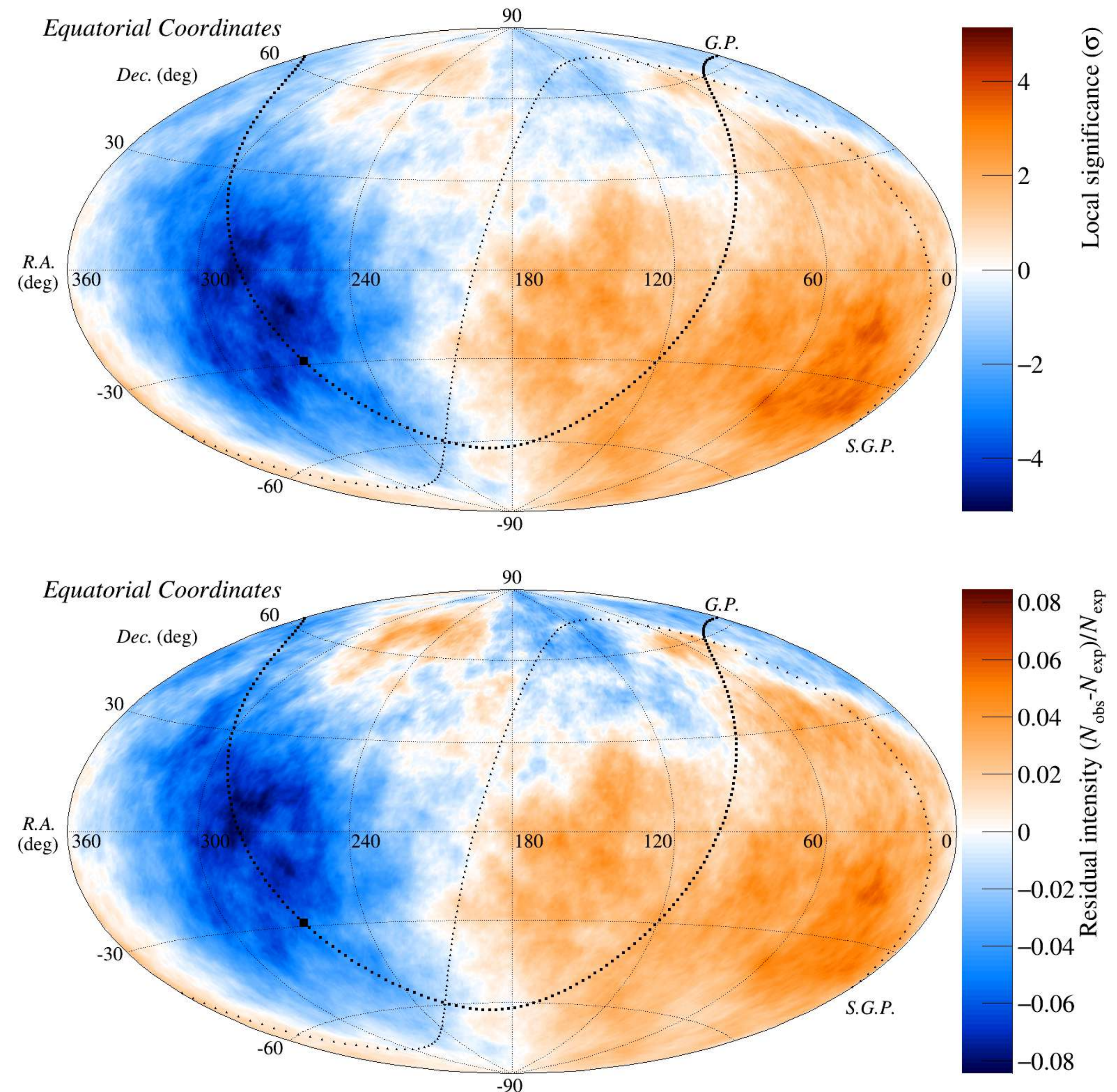
**Gradually increase to the heavier composition above 3 EeV**

# Auger and TA joint analysis for all-sky survey

## Energy calibration at common declination band



**Auger/TA = 8.86/10 EeV**

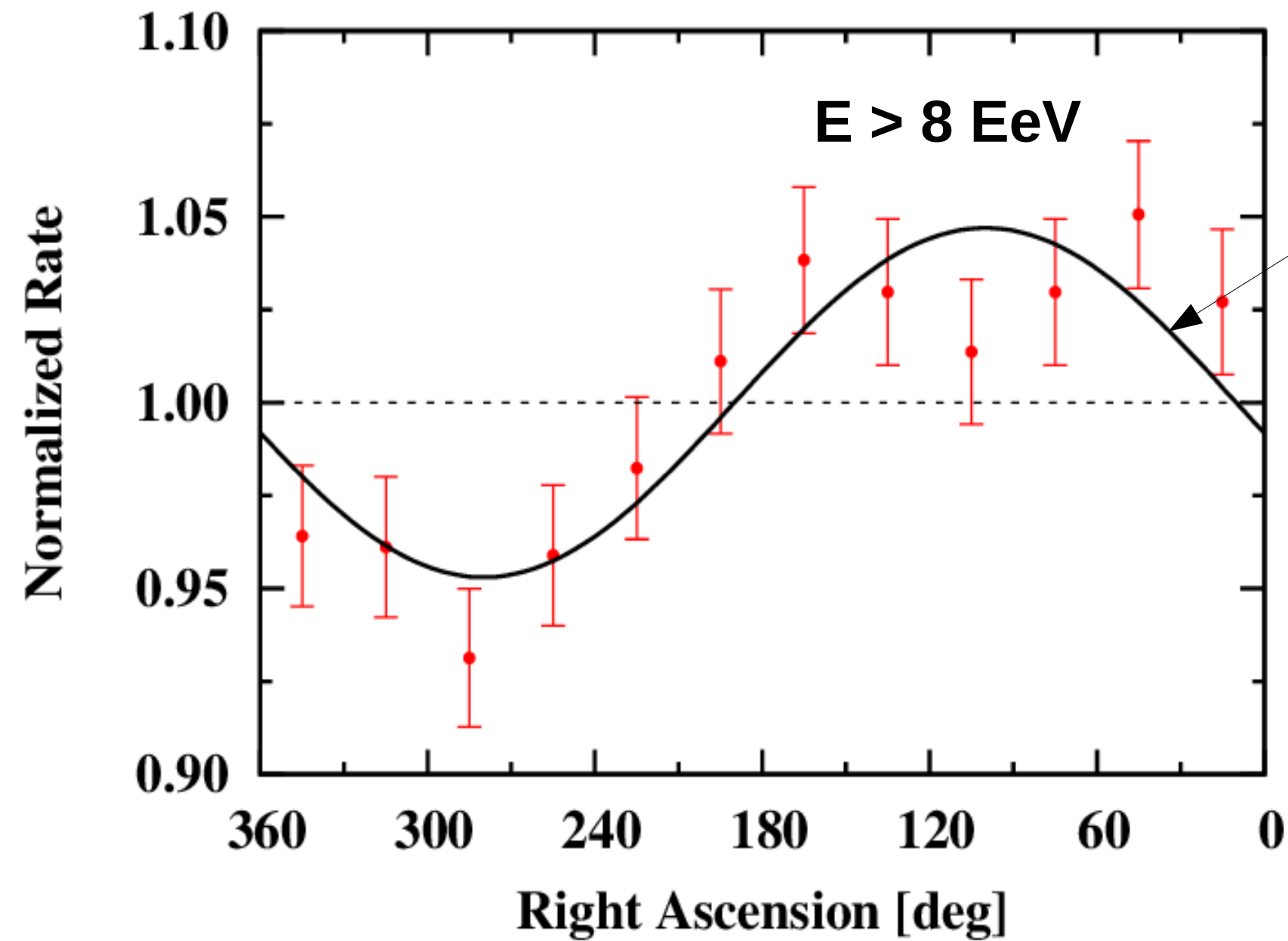


# Observation of dipole structure above 8 EeV

1 January 2004 - 31 August 2016, ~12 years

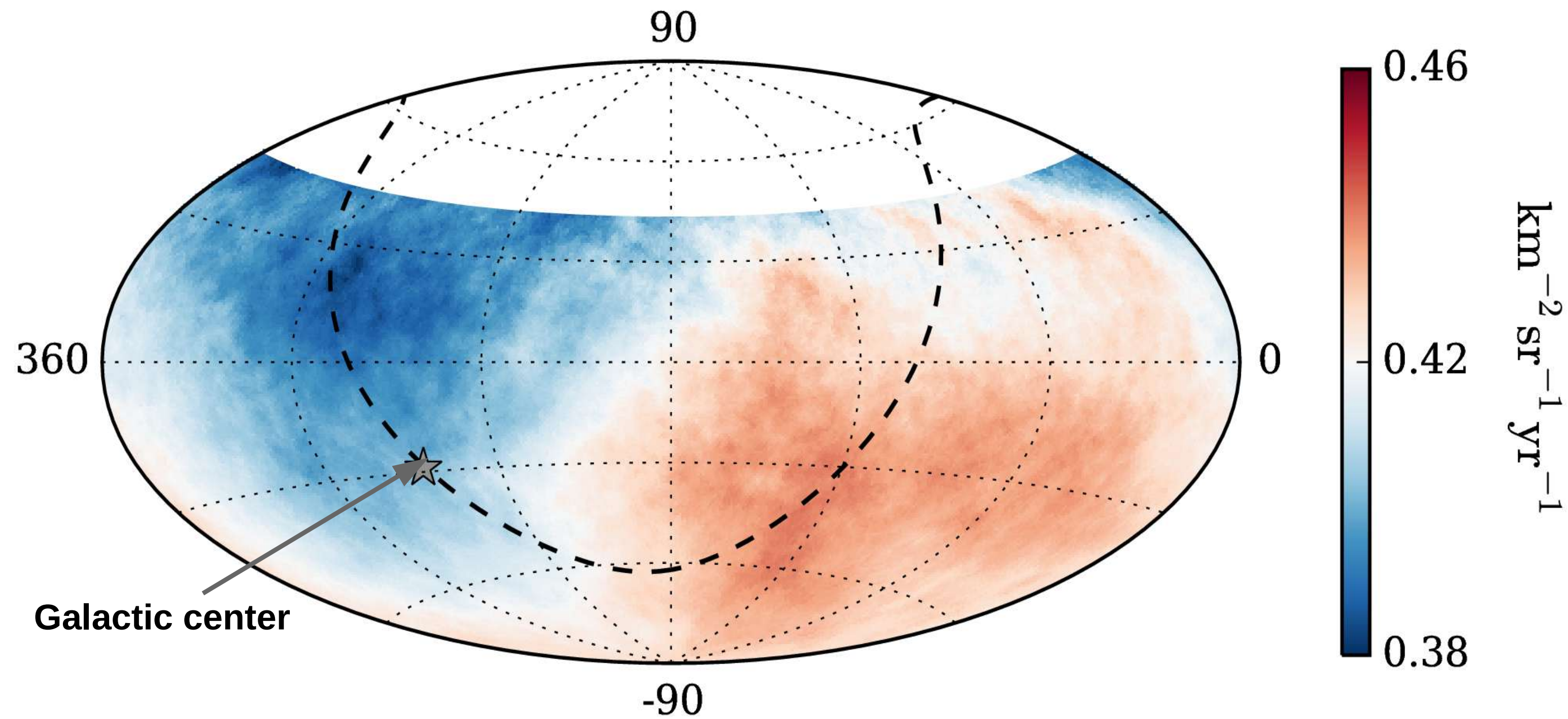
Harmonic analysis in right ascension  $\alpha$

$E$ [EeV]	events	amplitude $r$	phase [deg.]	$P(\geq r)$
4-8	81701	$0.005^{+0.006}_{-0.002}$	$80 \pm 60$	0.60
$> 8$	32187	$0.047^{+0.008}_{-0.007}$	$100 \pm 10$	$2.6 \times 10^{-8}$



First Harmonic  
( $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 10.5/10$ )

significant modulation at  $5.2\sigma$  ( $5.6\sigma$  before penalization for energy bins explored)

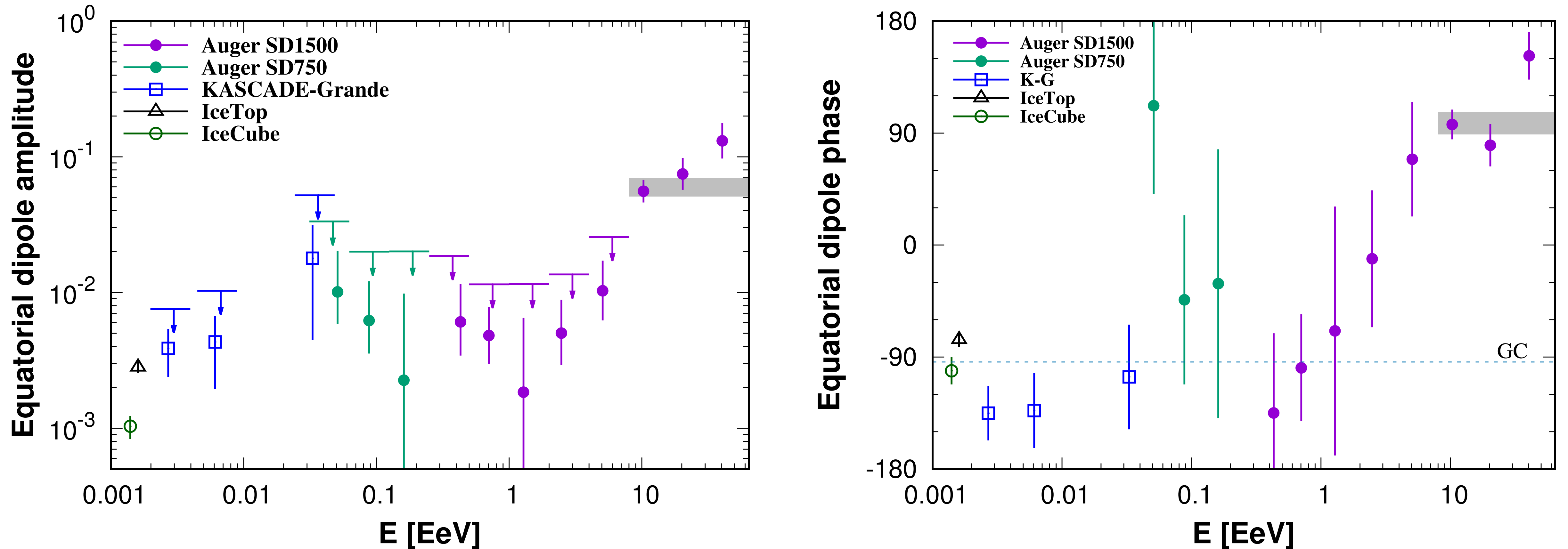




# Energy dependence on the dipole amplitude

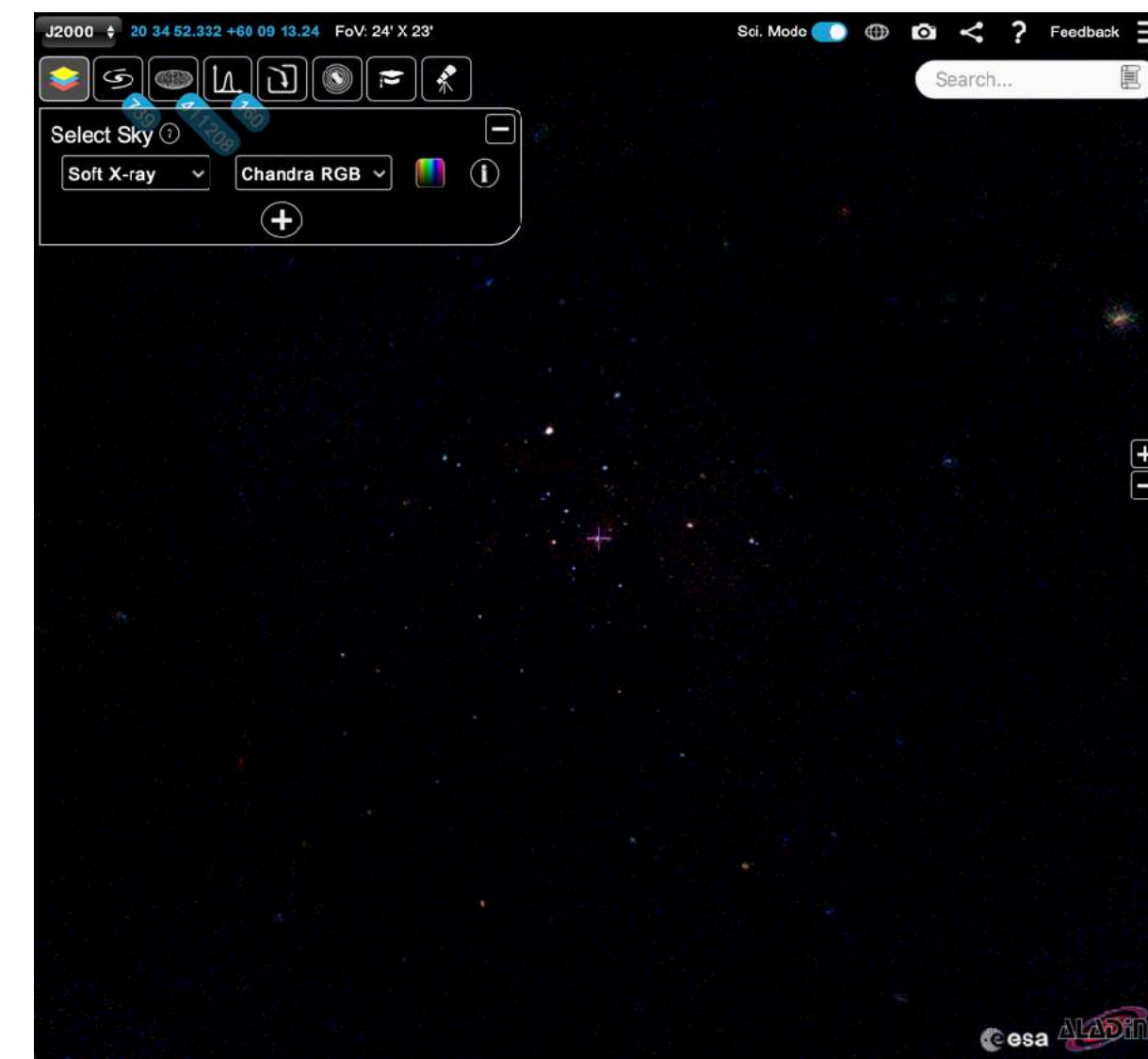
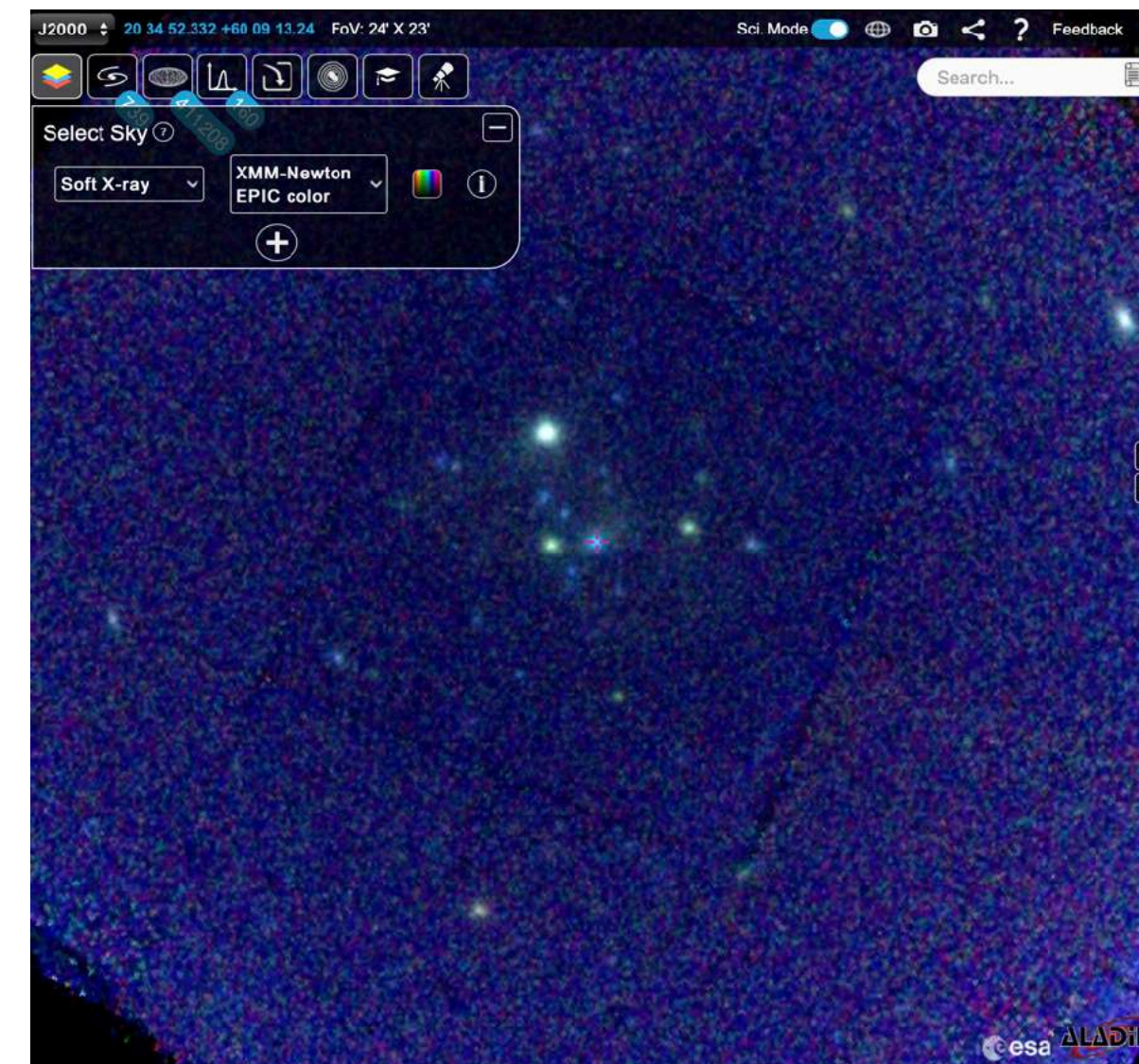
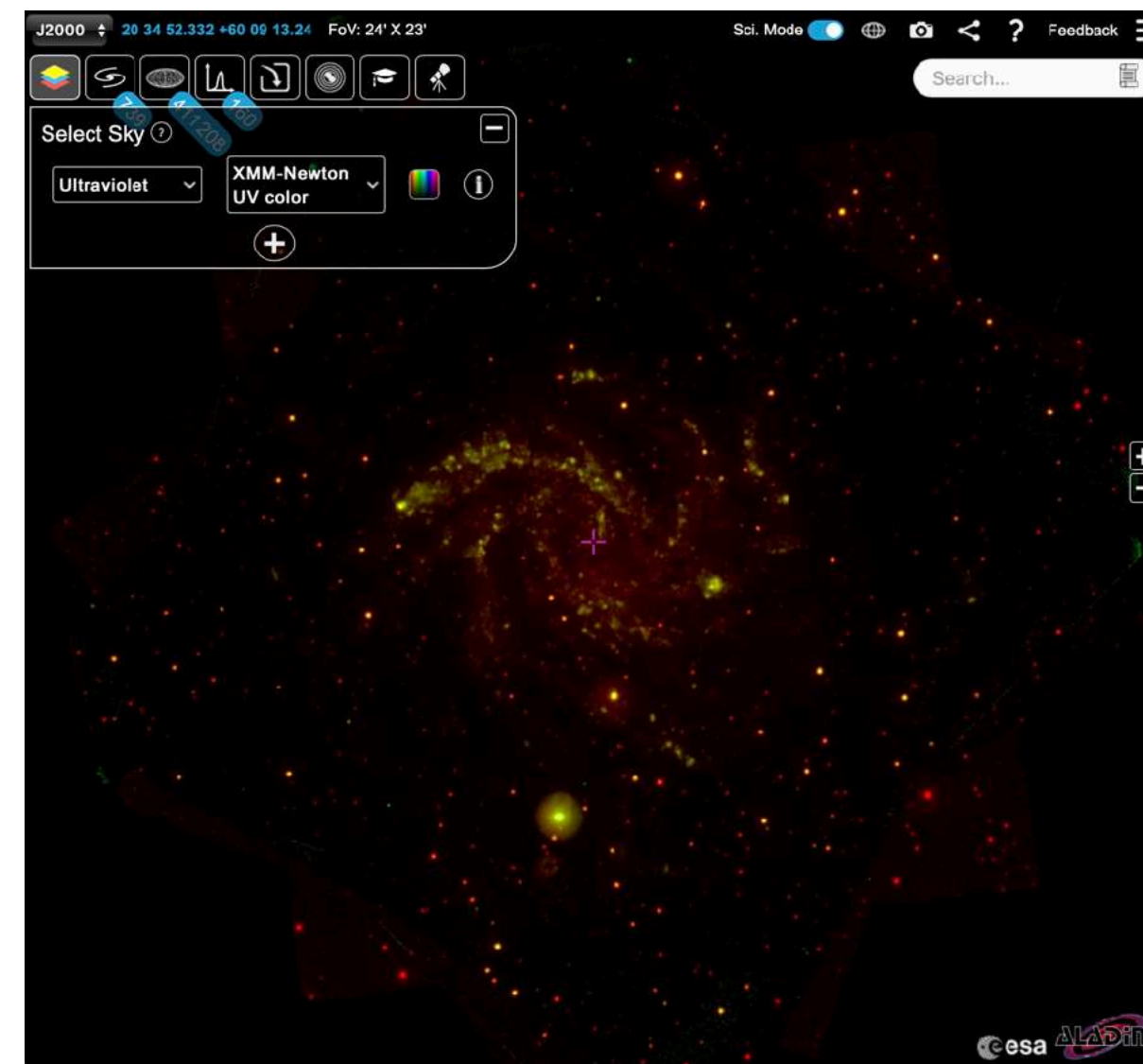
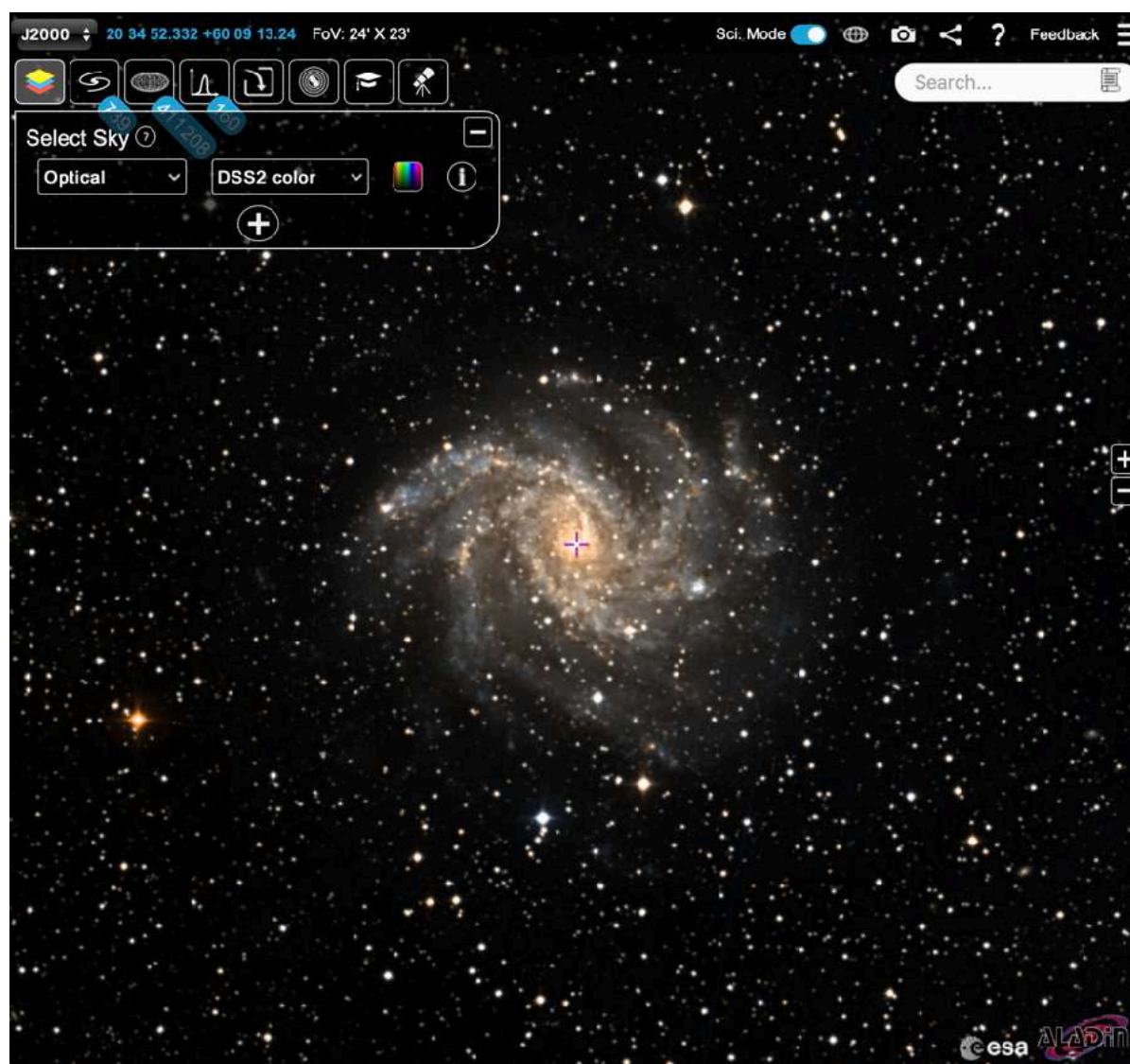
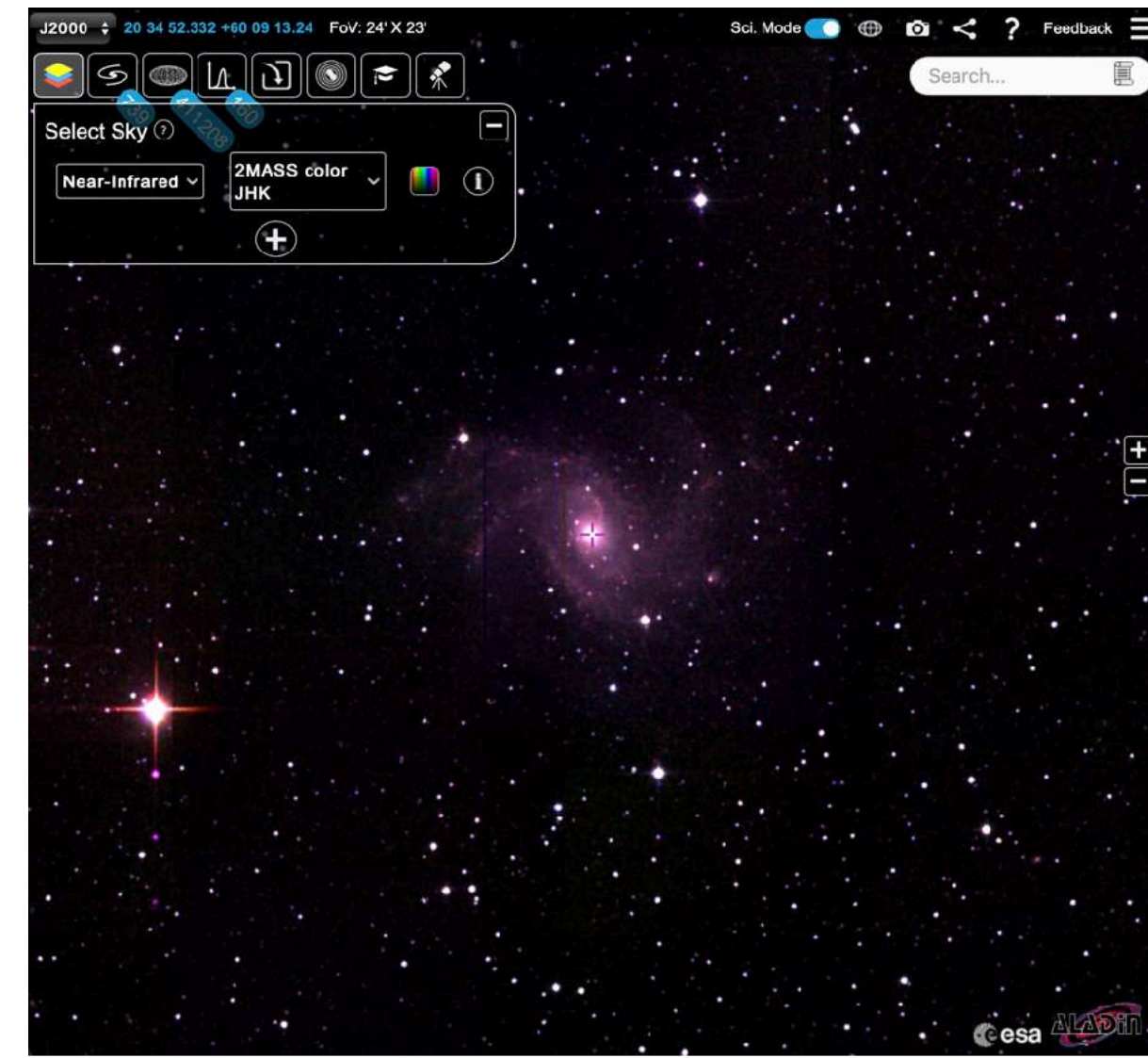
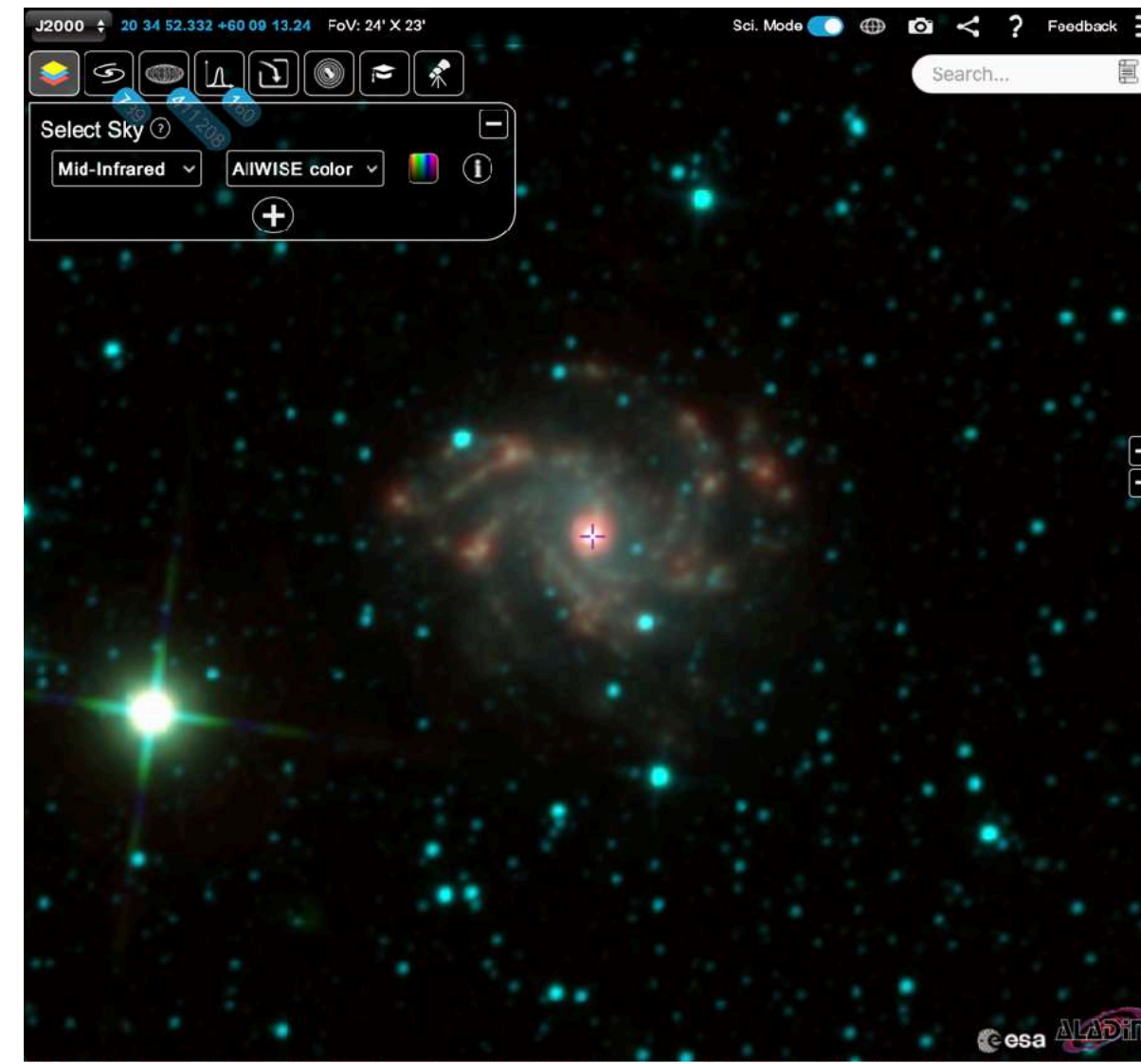
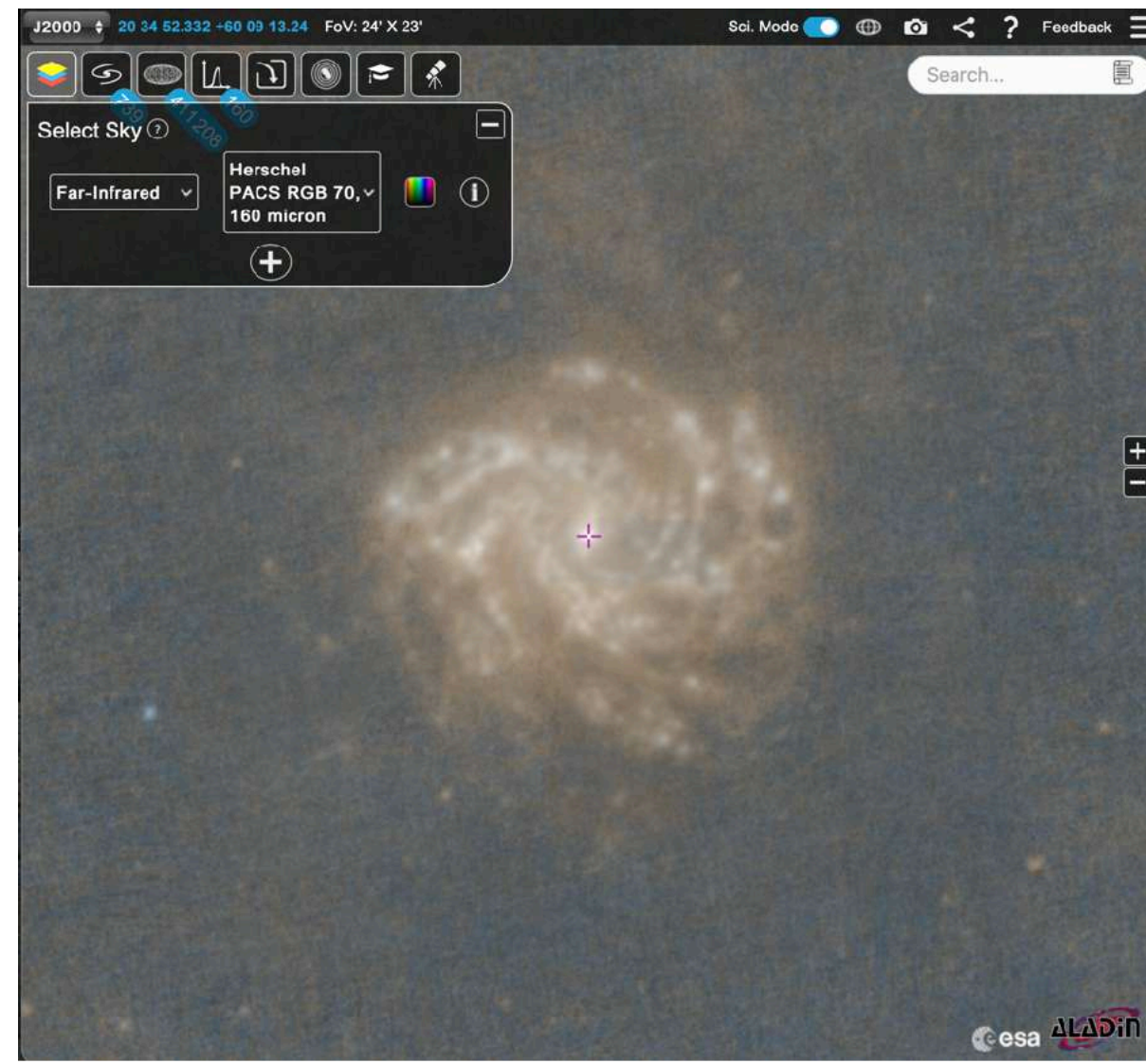
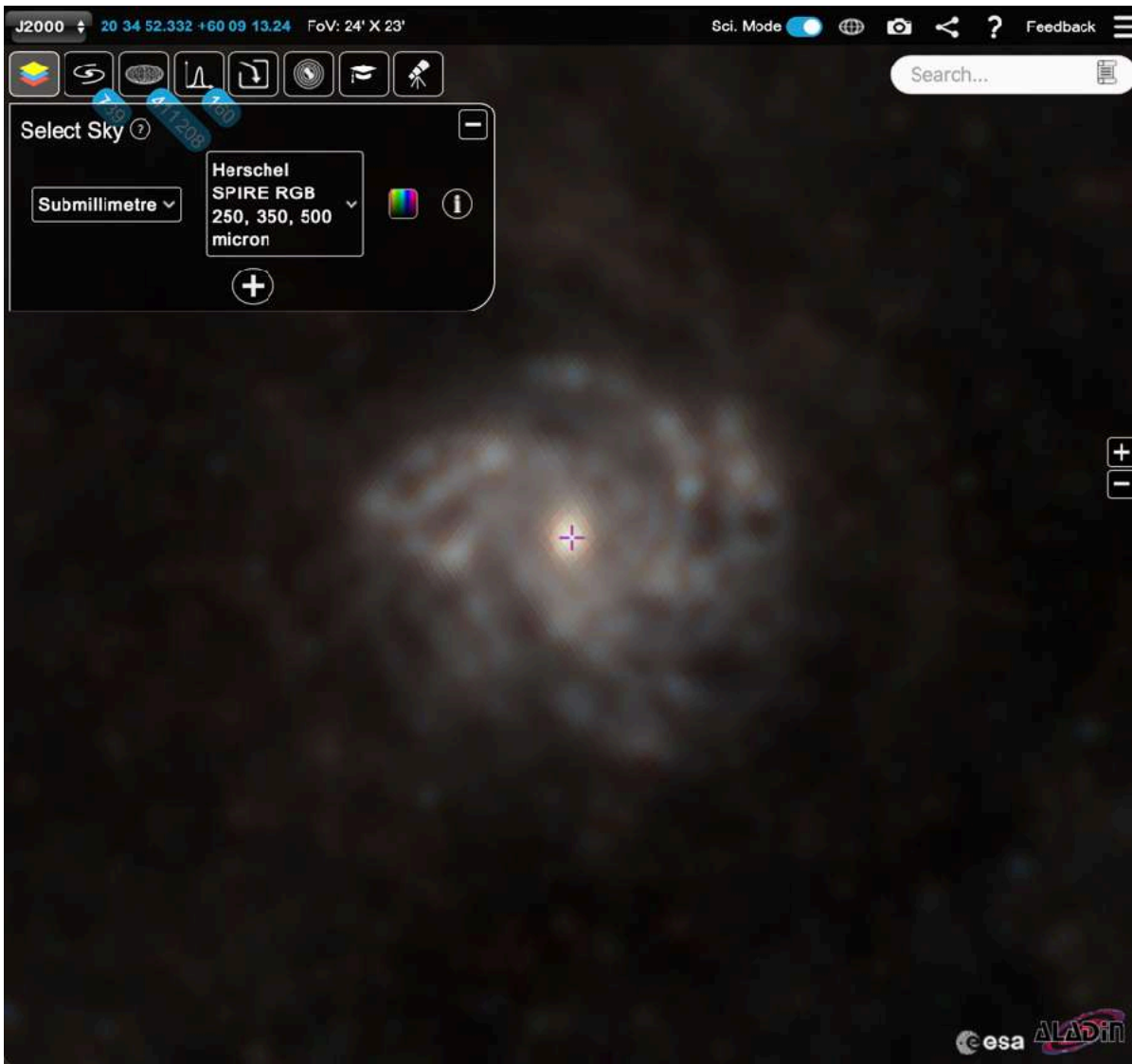
THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 891:142 (10pp), 2020 March 10

Aab et al.



**Figure 1.** Reconstructed equatorial dipole amplitude (left) and phase (right). The upper limits at 99% CL are shown for all the energy bins in which the measured amplitude has a chance probability greater than 1%. The gray bands indicate the amplitude and phase for the energy bin  $E \geq 8$  EeV. Results from other experiments are shown for comparison (IceCube Collaboration 2012, 2016; KASCADE-Grande Collaboration 2019).

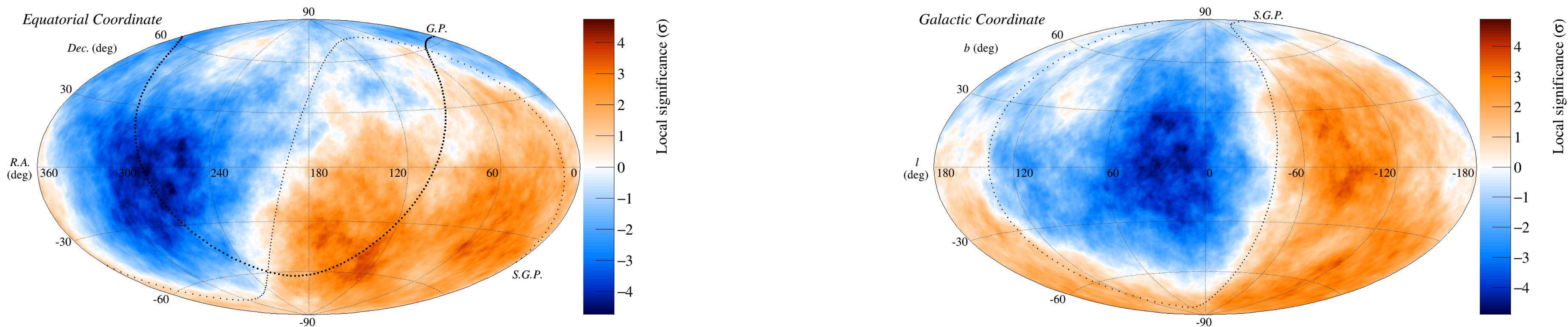
# Multi-wavelength observation at NGC6946



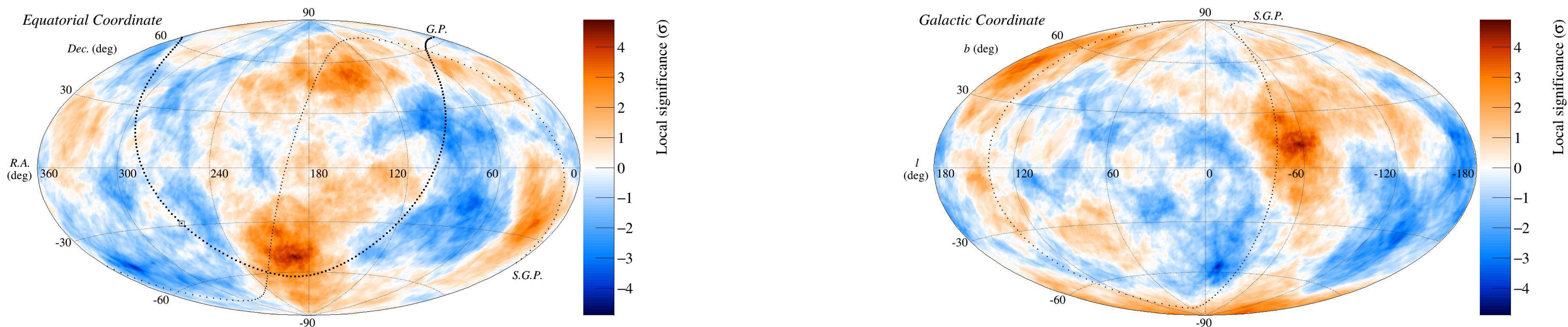
No significant emissions at hard X-ray and gamma-ray

# UHECR full-sky by TA and Auger

Ankle ( $E_{TA} > 10$  EeV,  $E_{Auger} > 8.86$  EeV)  $45^\circ$  circle

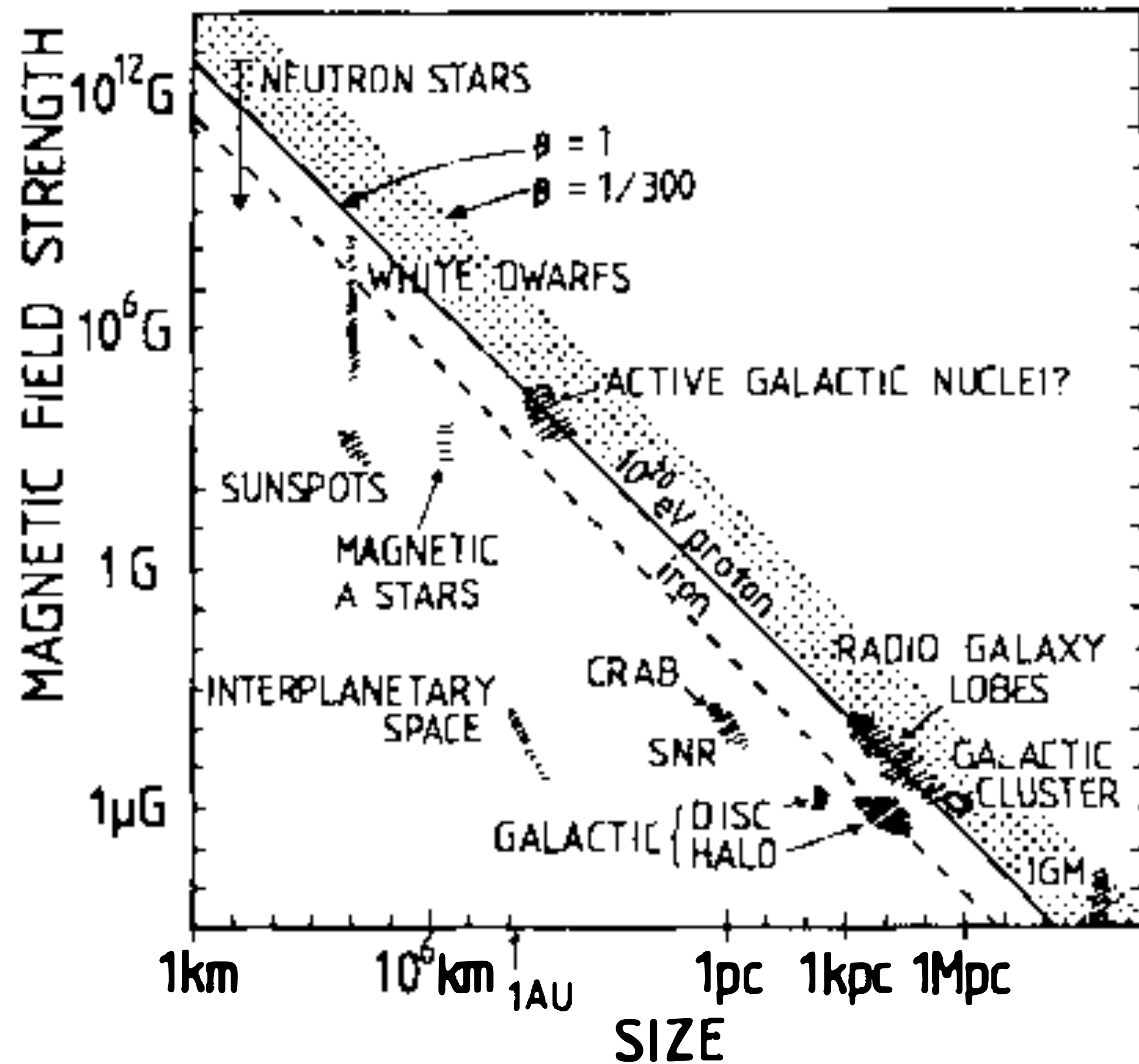


Suppression ( $E_{TA} > 52.3$  EeV  $E_{Auger} > 40$  EeV)  $20^\circ$  circle



# Overview

## Hillas diagram



A. M. Hillas, Astron. Astrophys., 22, 425 (1984)

$$\left( \frac{E_{\text{max}}}{10 \text{ EeV}} \right) \leq Z \left( \frac{B}{1 \mu\text{G}} \right) \left( \frac{R}{10 \text{ kpc}} \right)$$

$$= Z \left( \frac{B}{10 \text{ mG}} \right) \left( \frac{R}{1 \text{ pc}} \right)$$

## Deflection angle in Milky way

$$\theta \sim 10^\circ Z \left( \frac{E}{10 \text{ EeV}} \right)^{-1}$$

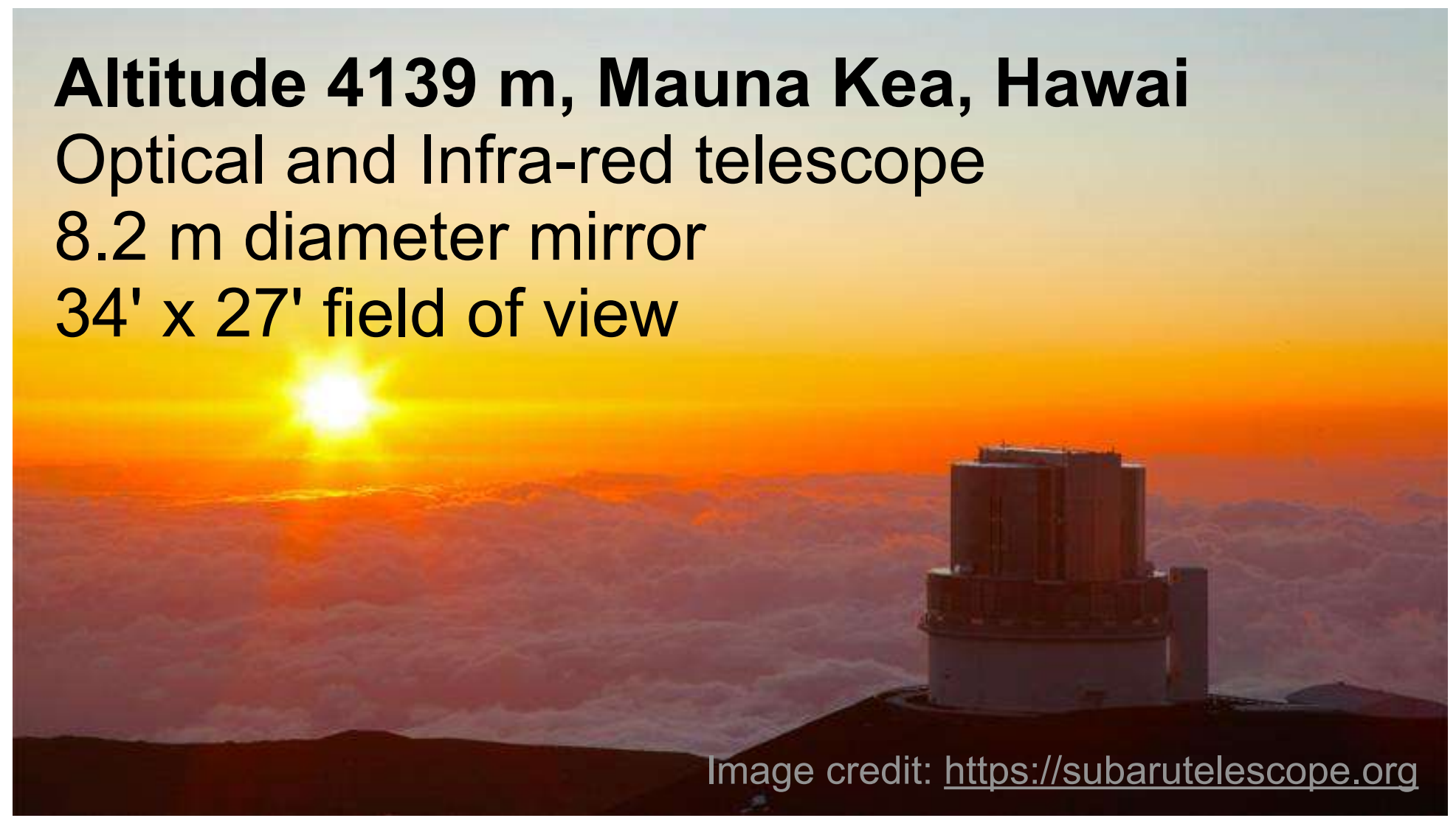
## Time delay in Milky way

$$t \sim 100 \text{ yr} \left( \frac{R}{10 \text{ kpc}} \right) Z^2 \left( \frac{E}{10 \text{ EeV}} \right)^{-2}$$

# A new "lens" for visualizing extensive air showers

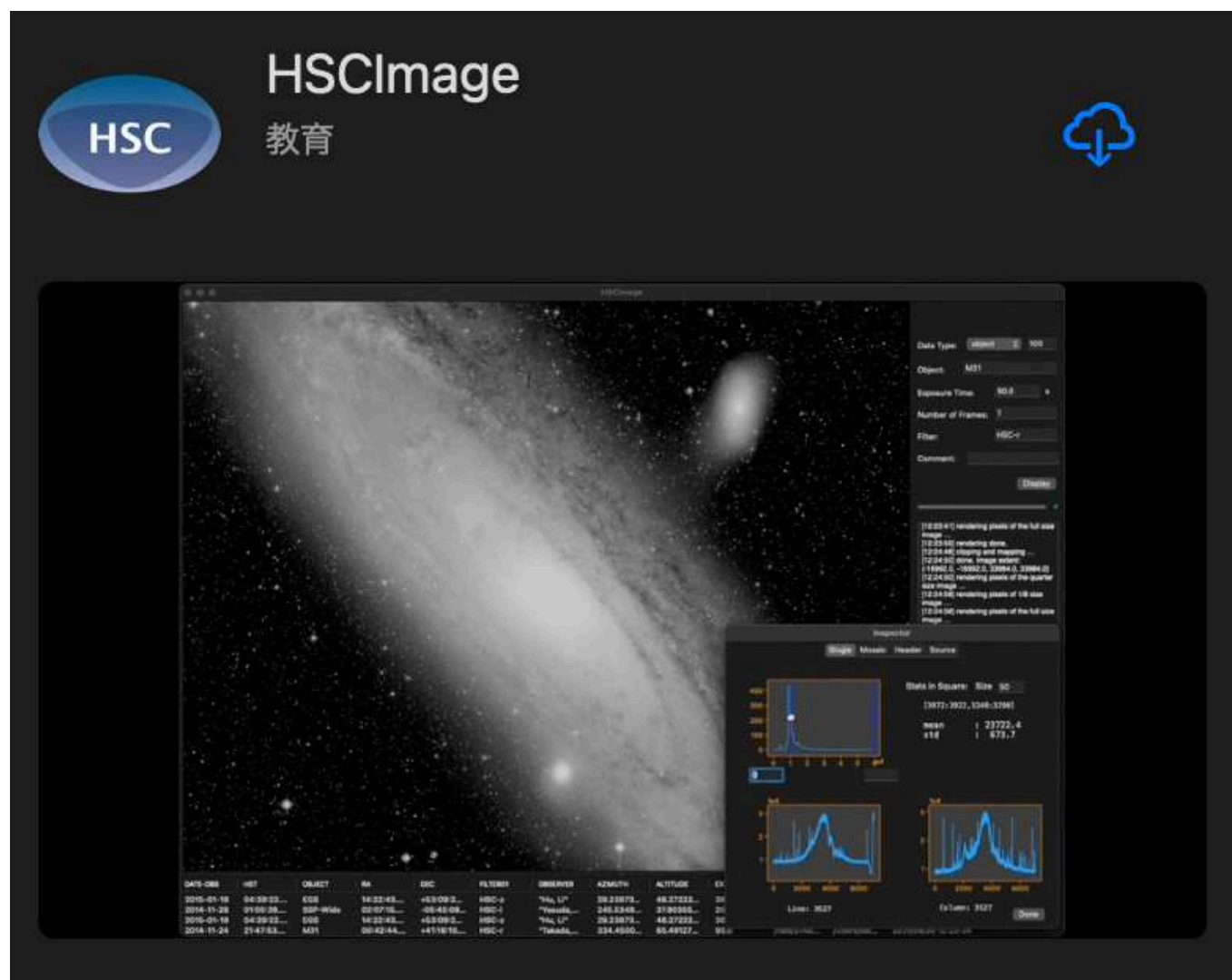
S. Kawanomoto, M. Koike, TF et al., Scientific Reports 13:16091 (2023)

## Directly penetrating Subaru HSC CCDs

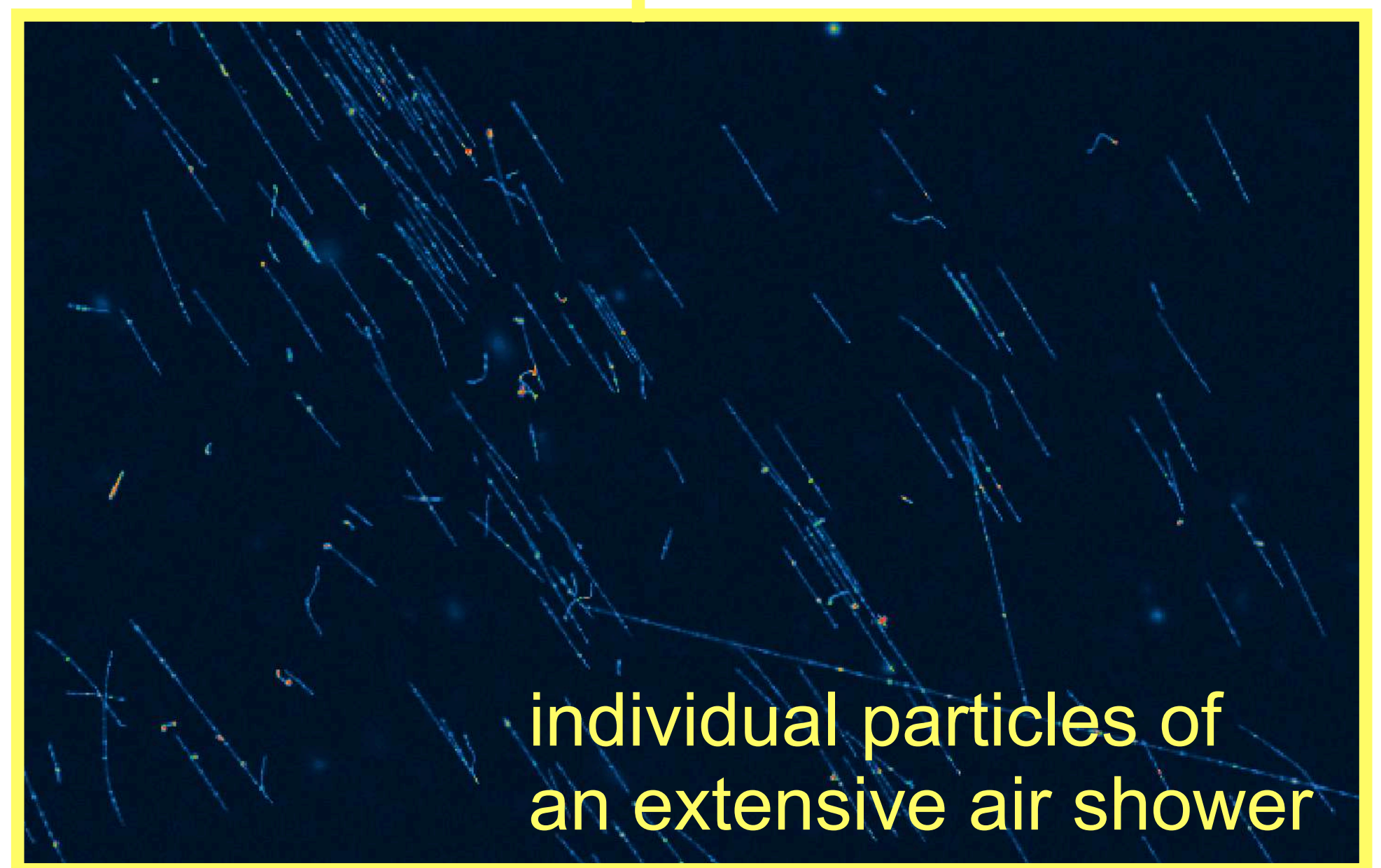
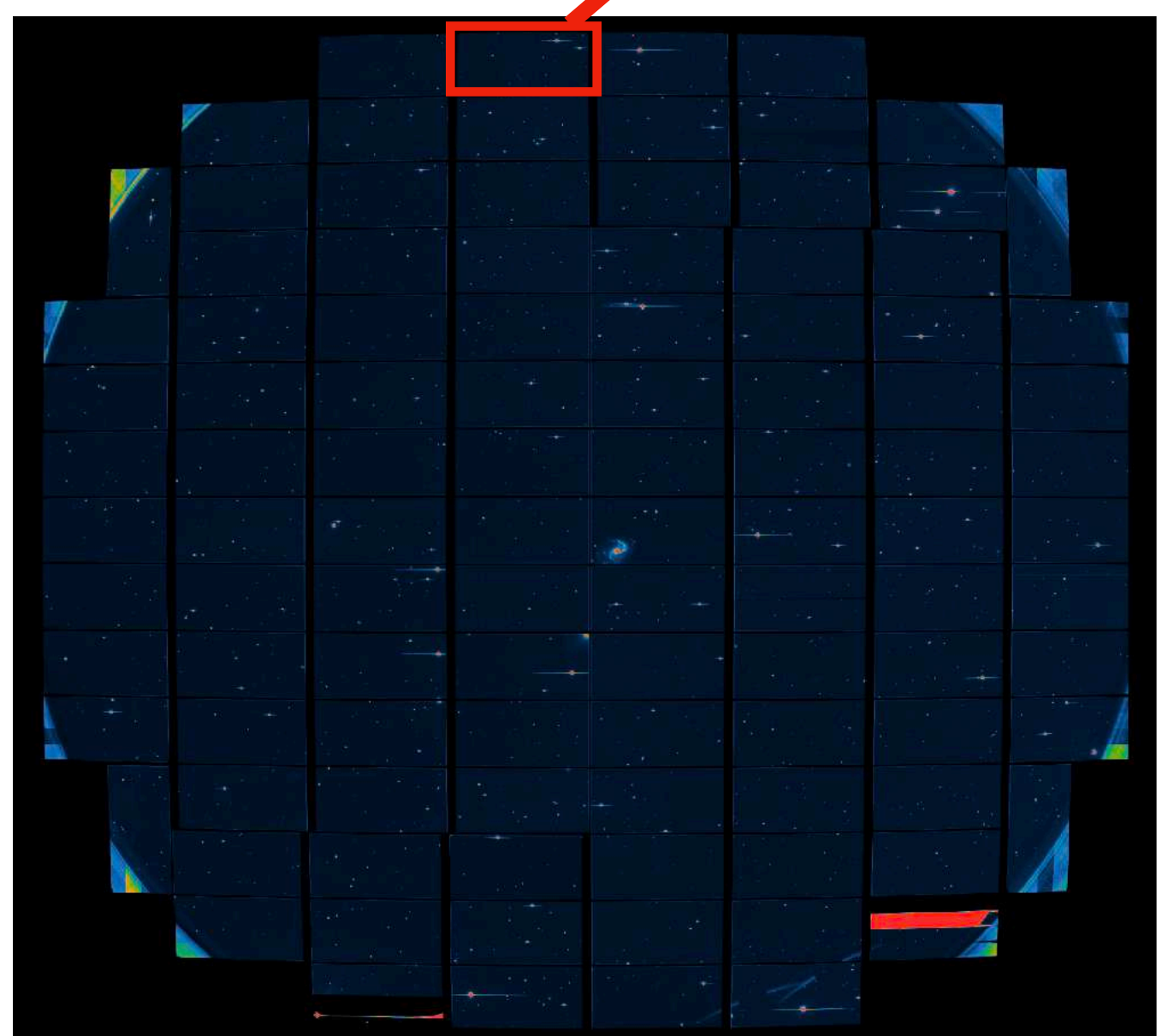


CCD size  
 30 mm x 60 mm  
 0.2 mm thickness  
 150 sec. exposure

116 CCDs



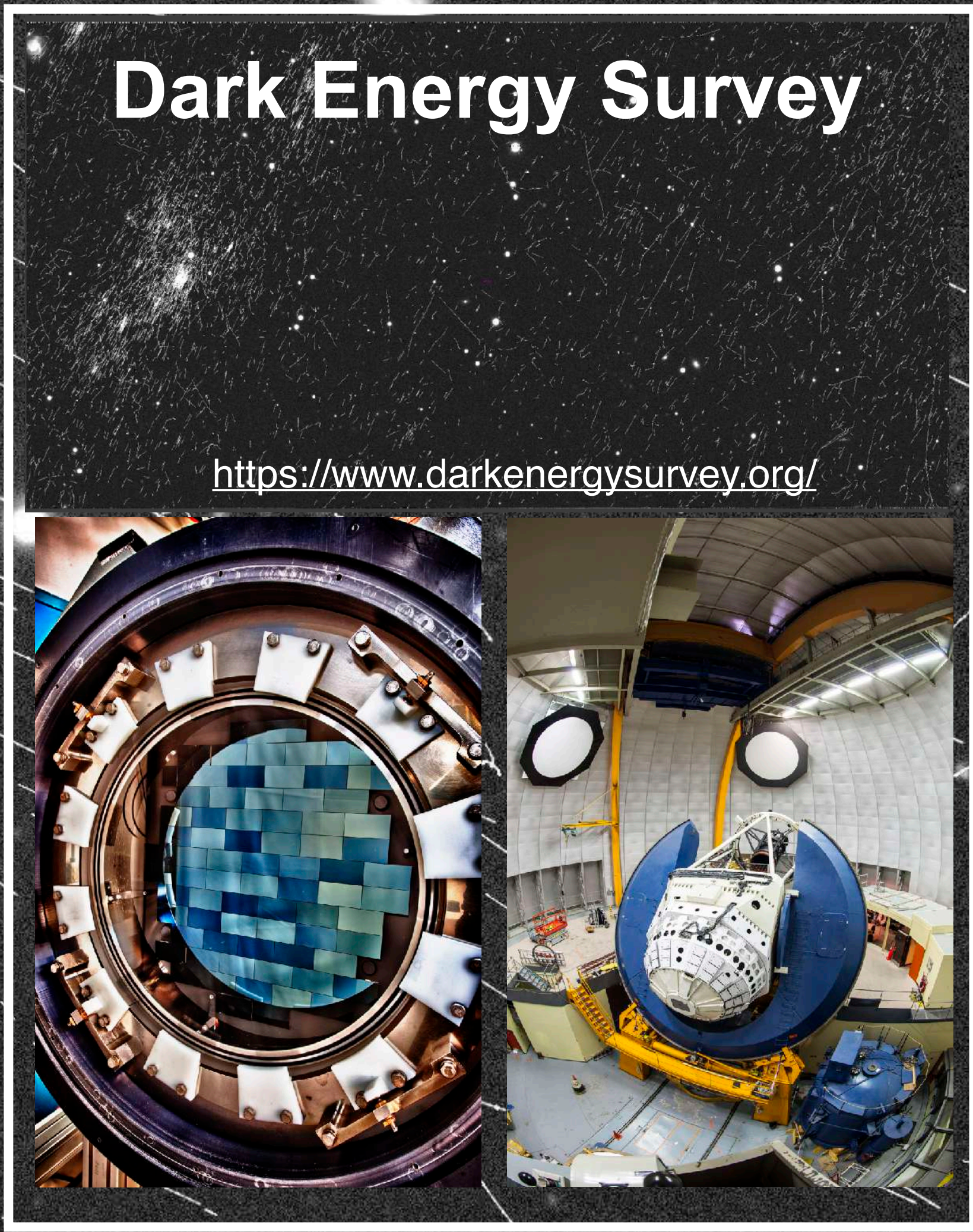
App Store (Mac)



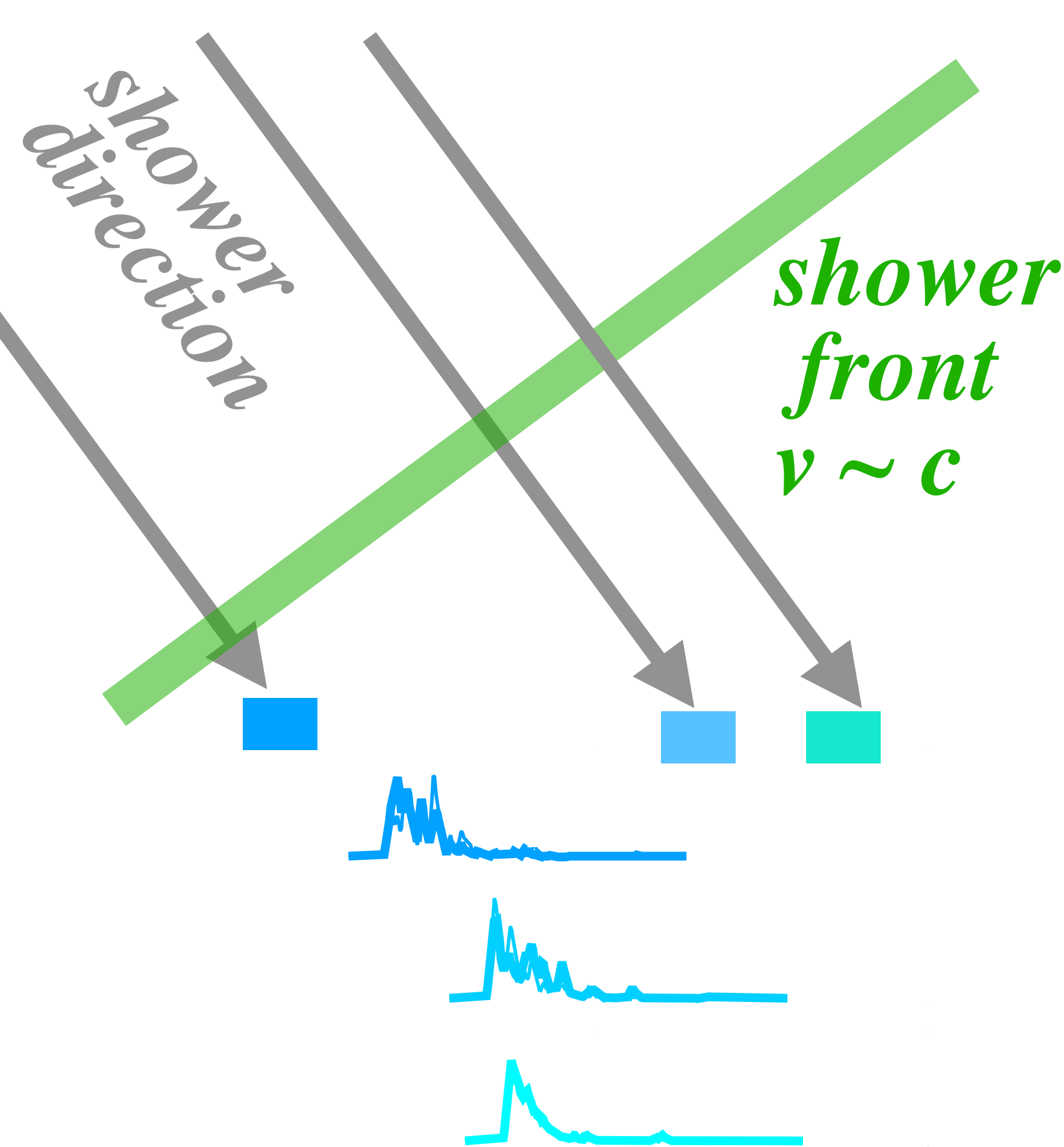
# A new "lens" for deciphering extensive air showers

10 mm  
←————→

S. Kawanomoto, M. Koike et al., Scientific Reports 13:16091 (2023)



# Air-shower Lensing Observatory at High Altitude (ALOHA)



prototype scintillator @OMU

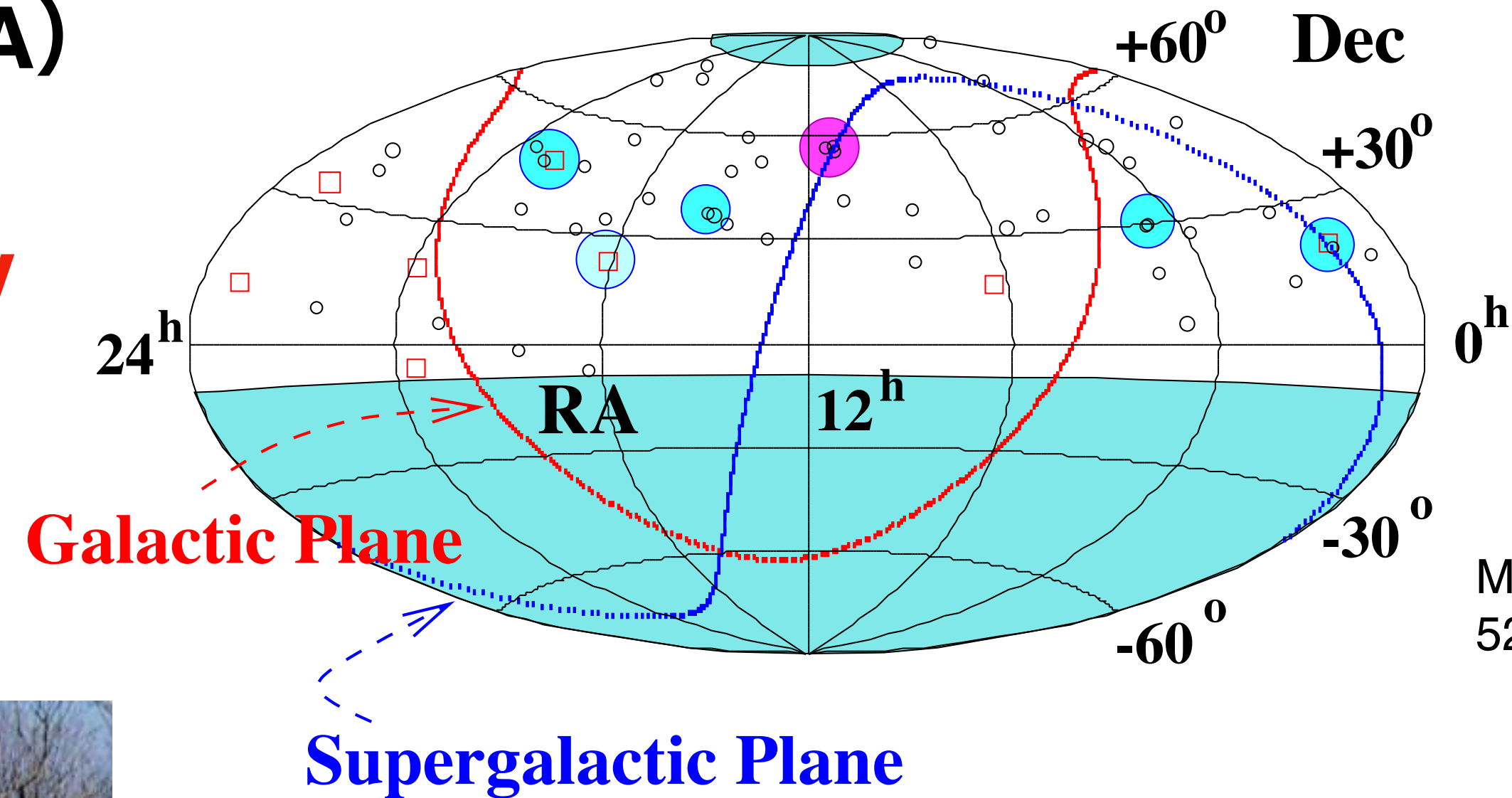


- Possible installation of surface detector array at **ventilation room** of Subaru Telescope
- **4 plastic scintillators with 20 m spacing**, providing a unique detection combining with Subaru telescope and cosmic ray detectors, like a "**lens**" of extensive air shower

# Extremely energetic particles detected by AGASA

AGASA + A20

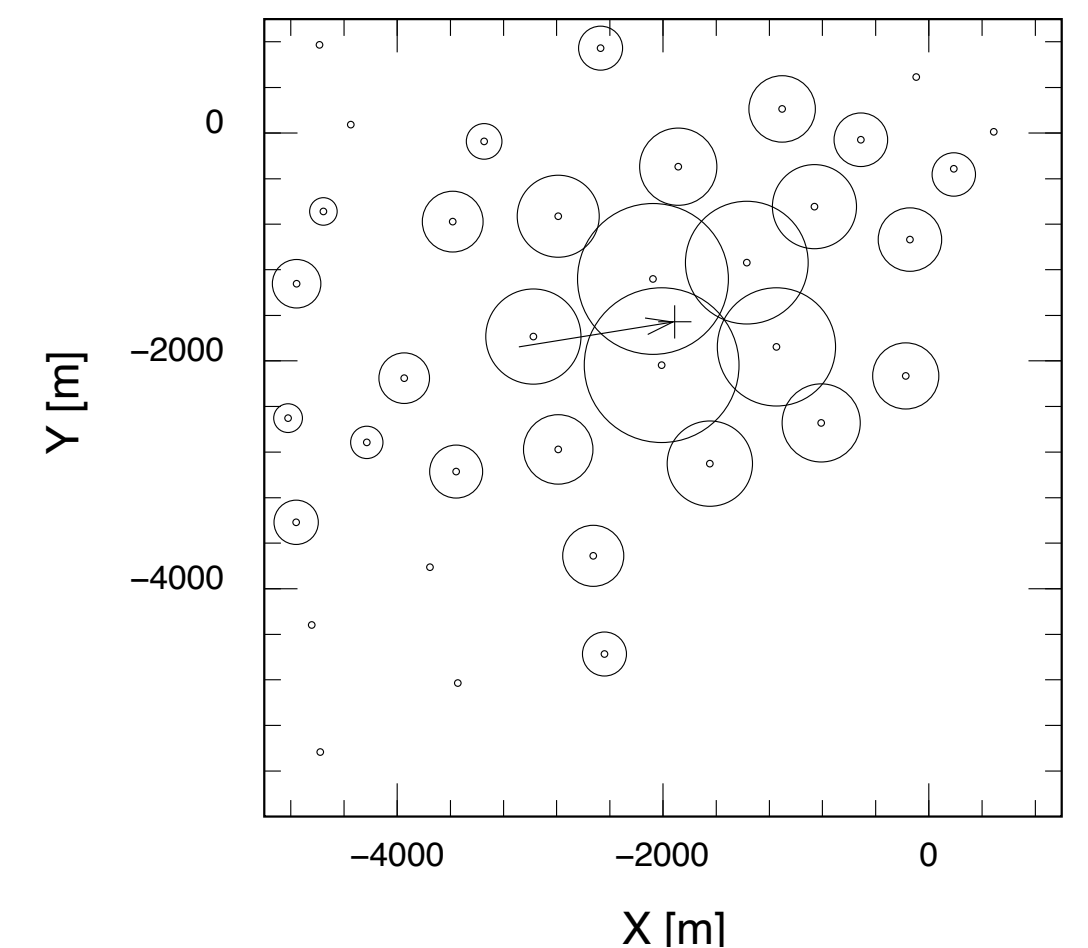
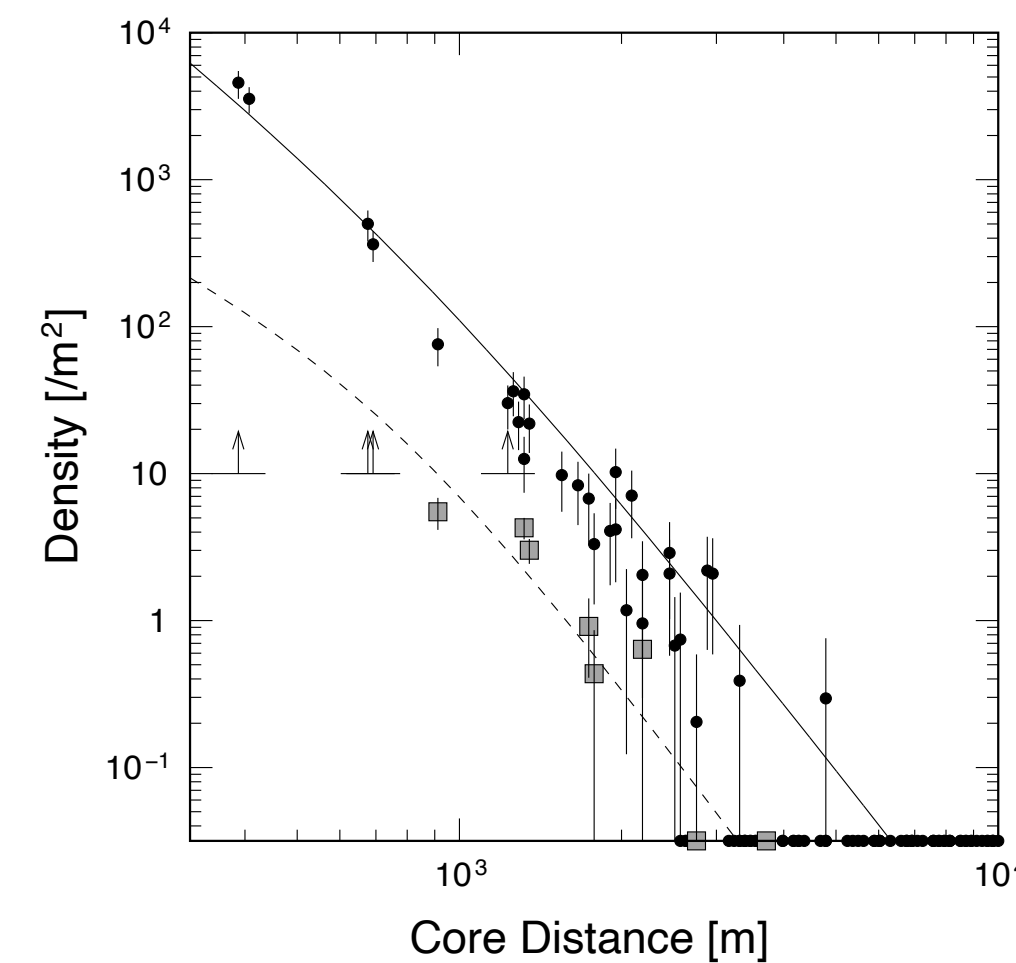
N. Hayashida, et al.,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 73,  
3491 (1994)



M. Takeda et al., ApJ  
522, 225 (1999)

**$E \sim 280 \text{ EeV}$  on May 10, 2001**

N. Sakaki et al., Proceedings of  
ICRC 2001: 337



## Akeno Giant Air Shower Array (AGASA)

1993~2004, Effective area of **100 km<sup>2</sup>**

December 3rd 1993, **213 (170 – 260) EeV**

May 10th 2001, **~280 EeV**

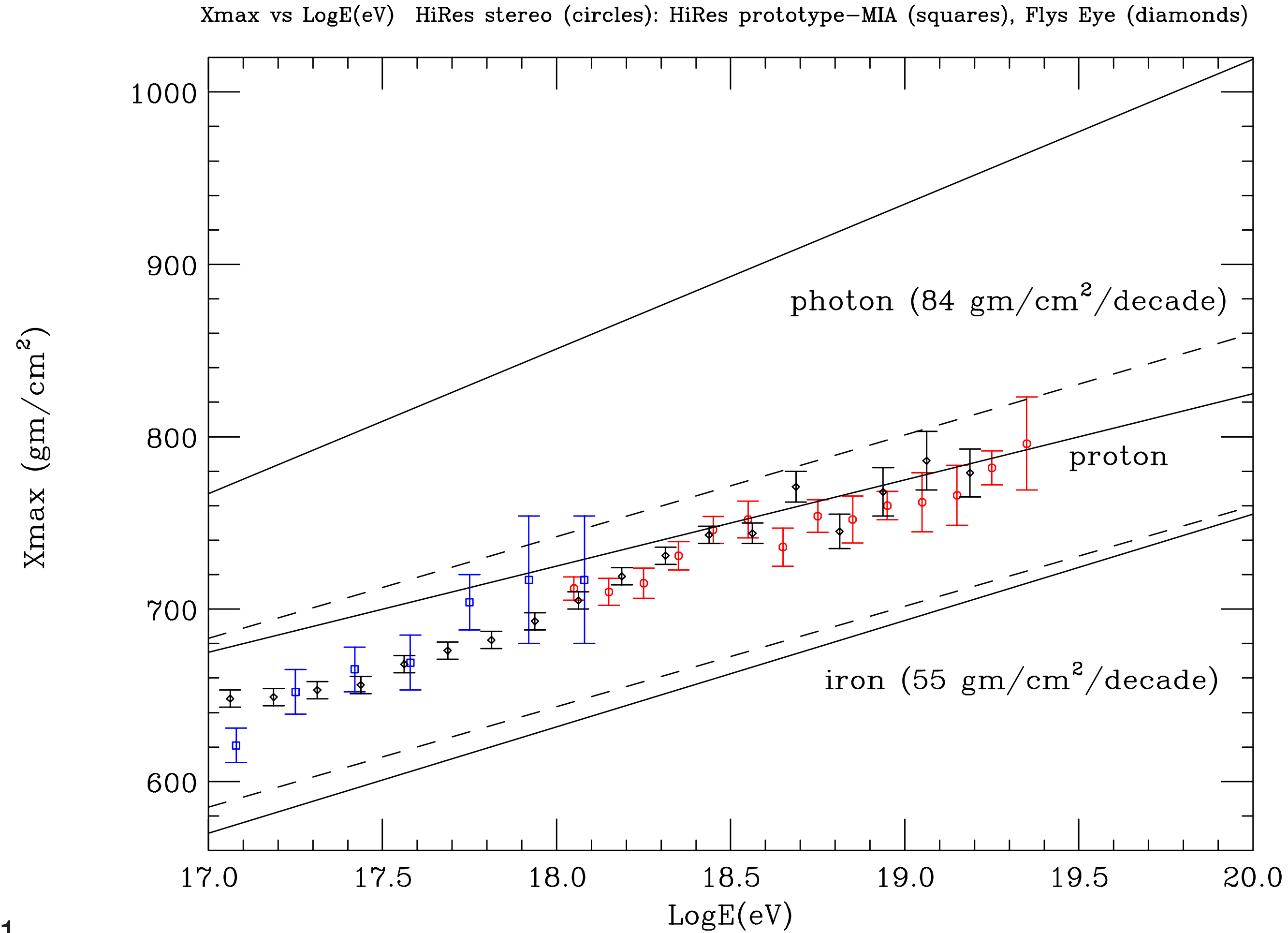
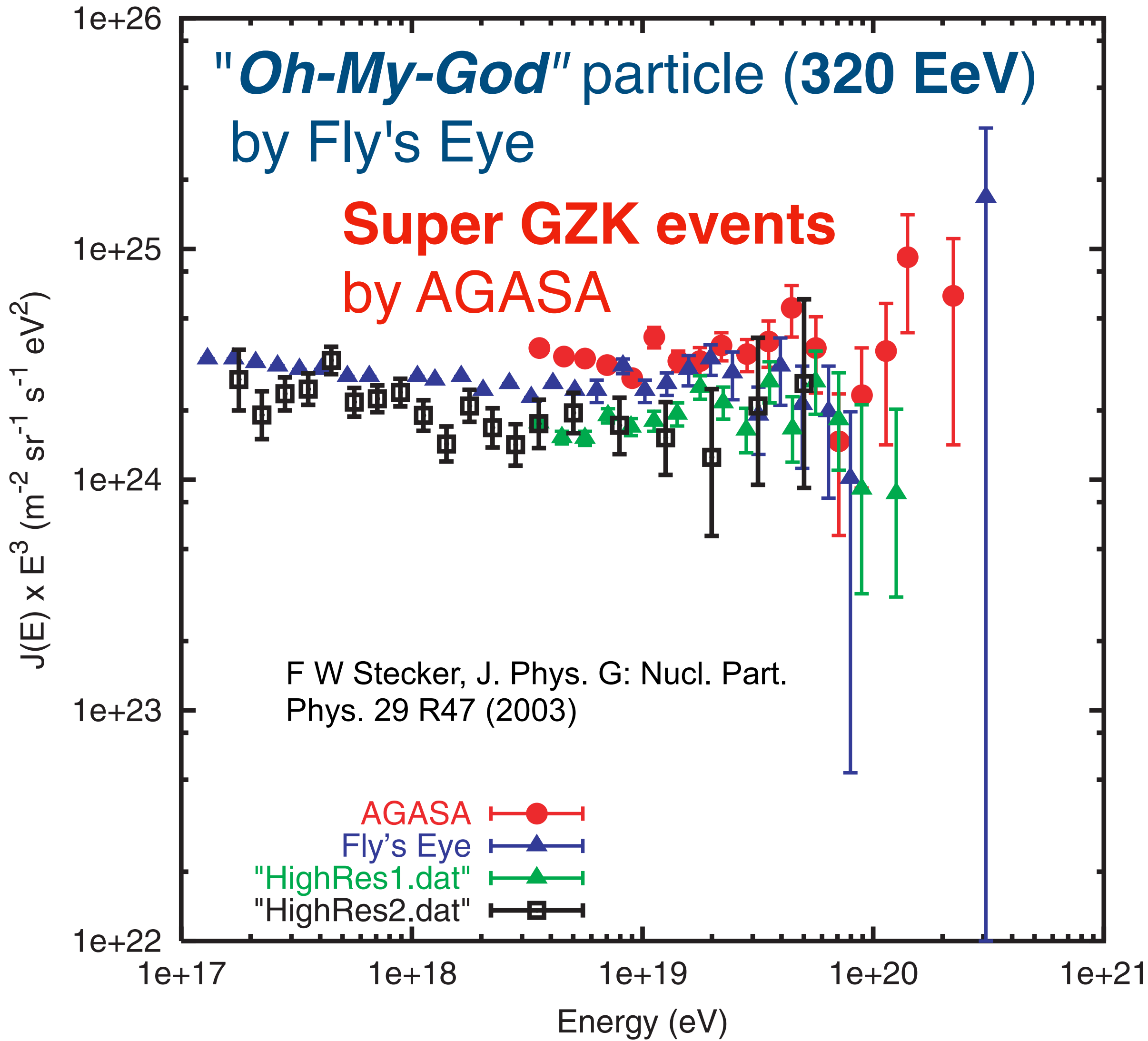




# UHECR results in 2000s

**No GZK cutoff in spectrum?**

**Proton dominated composition at highest energies?**



# Work as "physicist" in desert

