

# Optimizing a Cosmic-ray Energy Estimator with Machine learning for the HAWC observatory



**Workshop on Machine Learning for Analysis of High-Energy  
Cosmic Particles**  
University of Delaware  
*January 30, 2025*

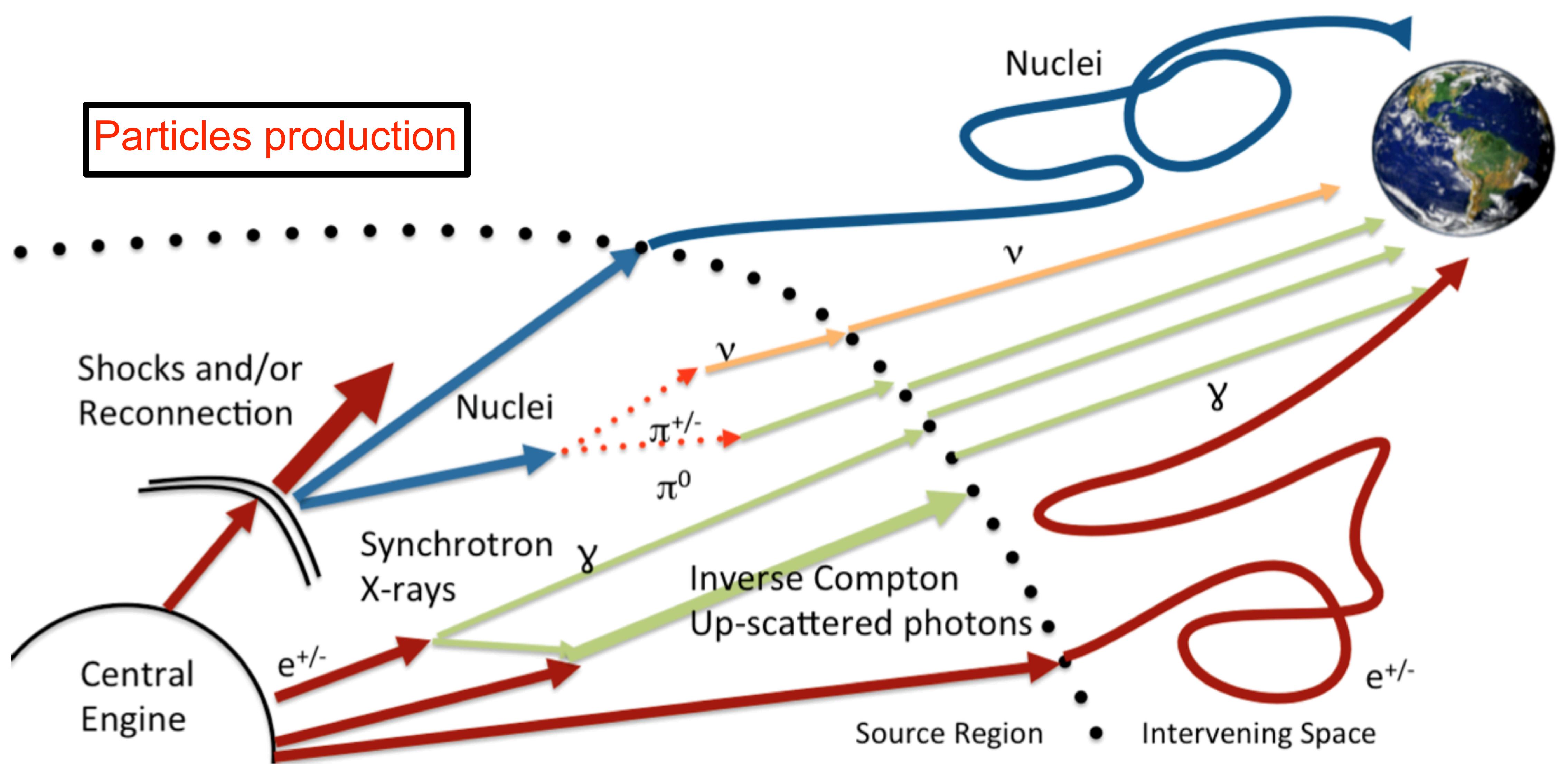
J. Jaime (UIS),  
T. Capistrán\* (UNITO),  
I. Torres (INAOE),  
for the HAWC Collaboration

\*speaker



UNIVERSITÀ  
DI TORINO

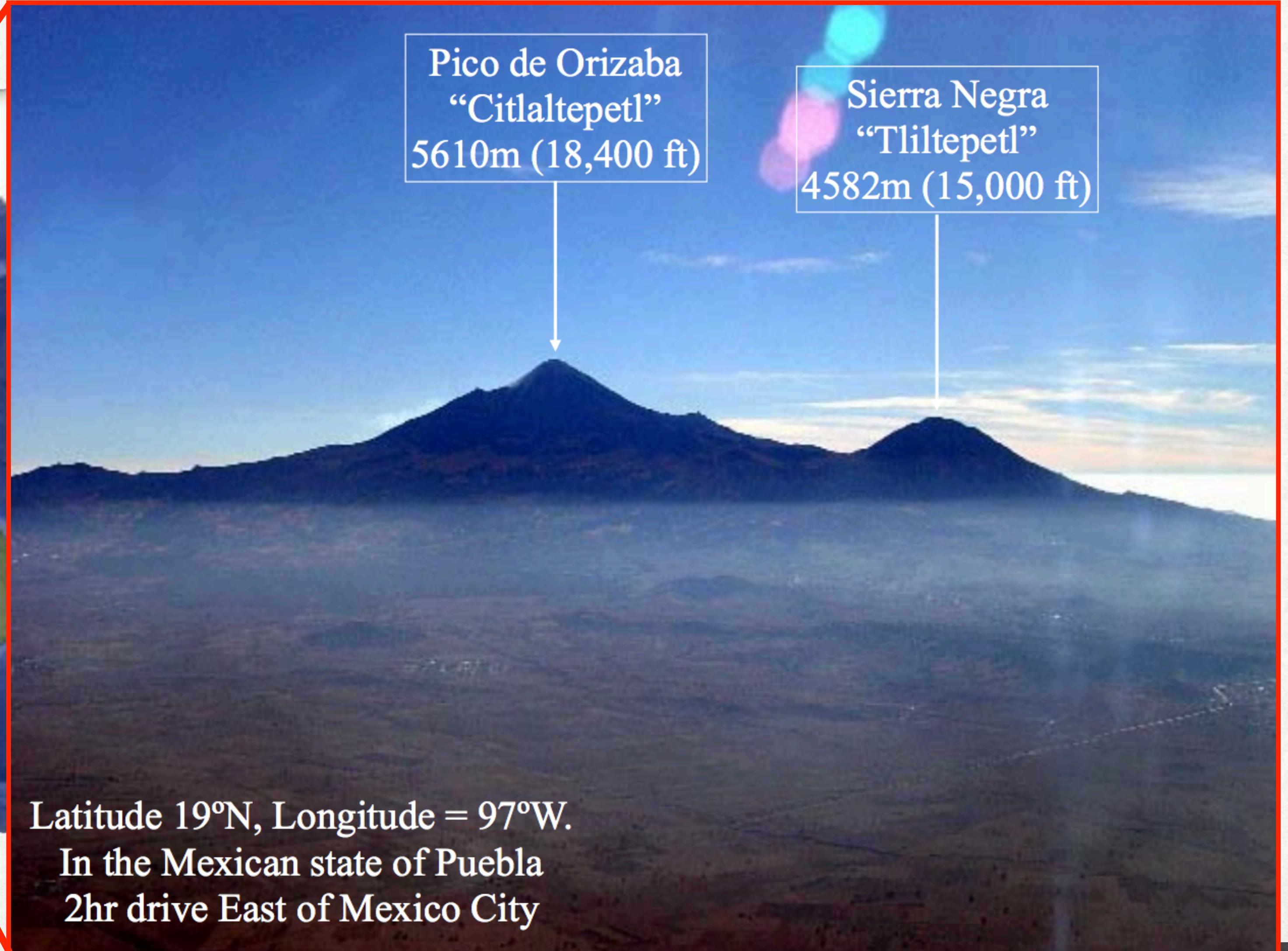




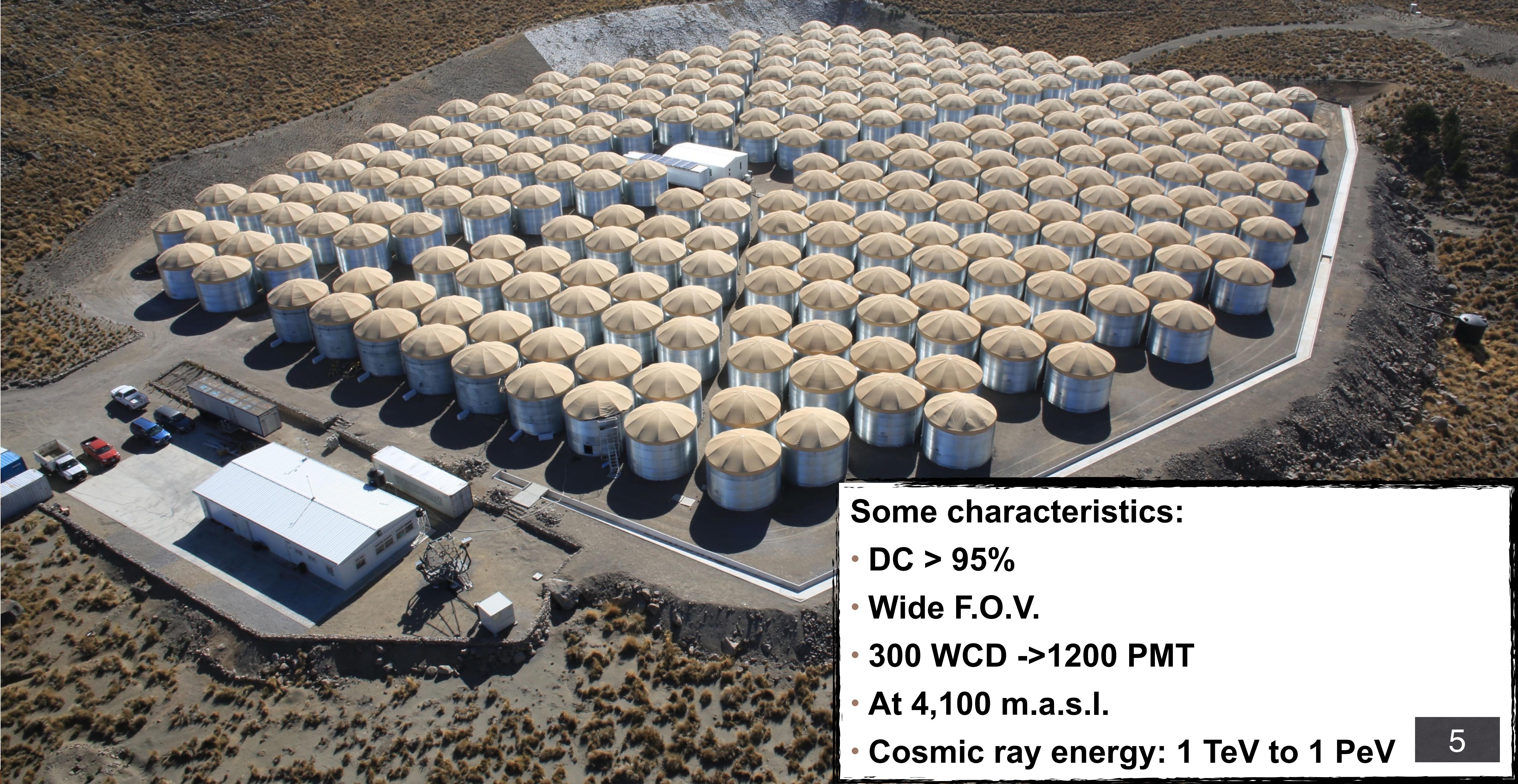
# Gamma-ray observatories



# High-Altitude Water Cherenkov (HAWC)



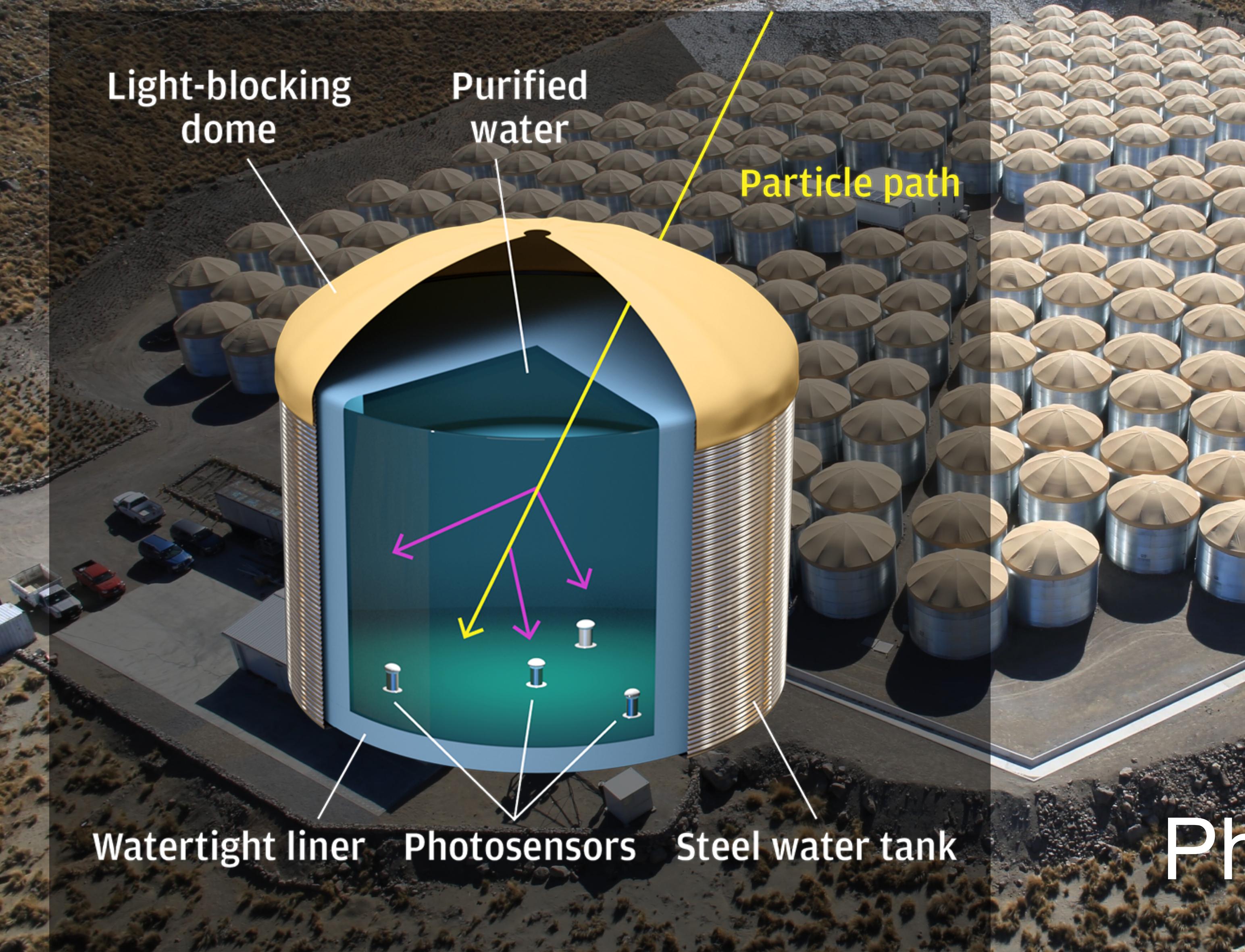
# HAWC: High-Altitude Water Cherenkov



## Some characteristics:

- DC > 95%
- Wide F.O.V.
- 300 WCD ->1200 PMT
- At 4,100 m.a.s.l.
- Cosmic ray energy: 1 TeV to 1 PeV

# Water Cherenkov Detector (WCD)

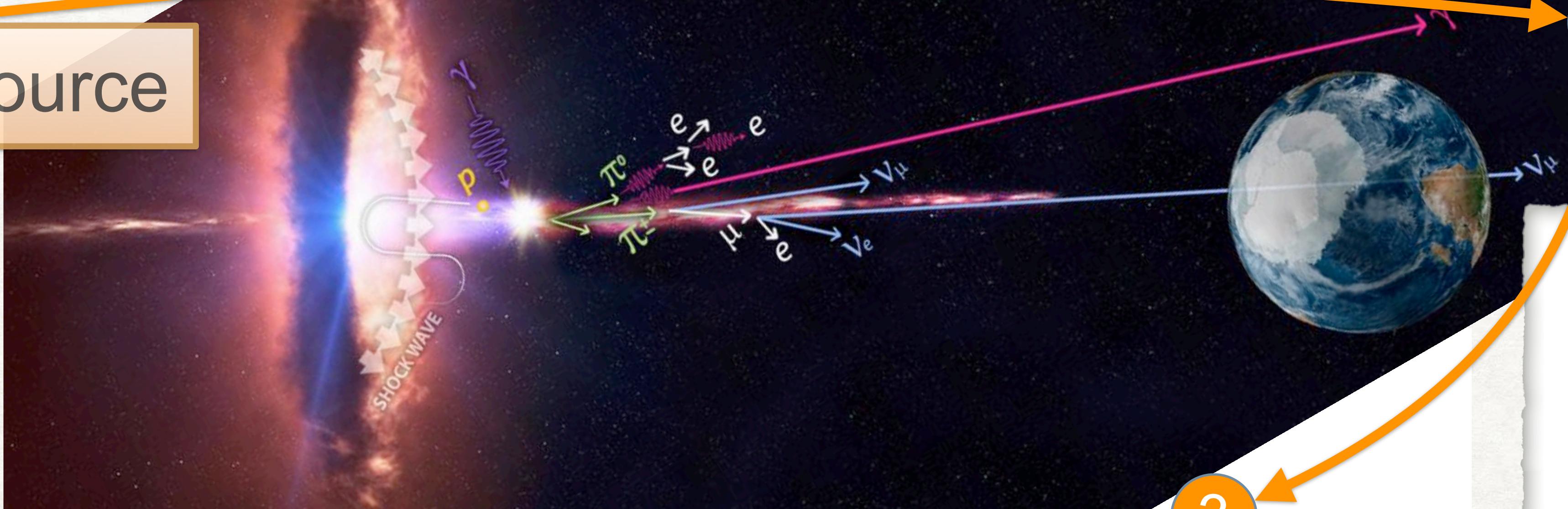


Photomultiplier tube  
(PMT)

# Detection

1

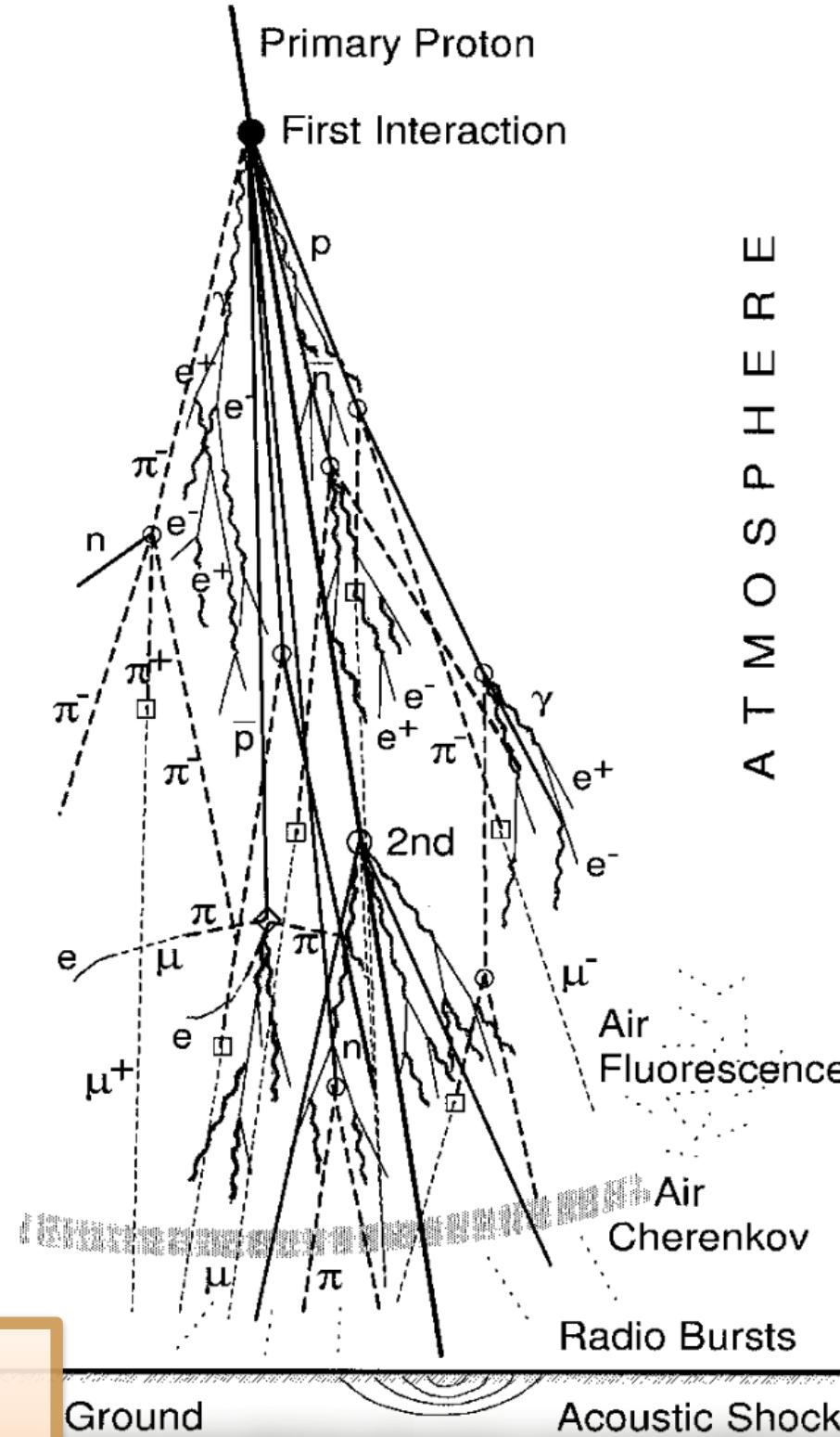
Source



2

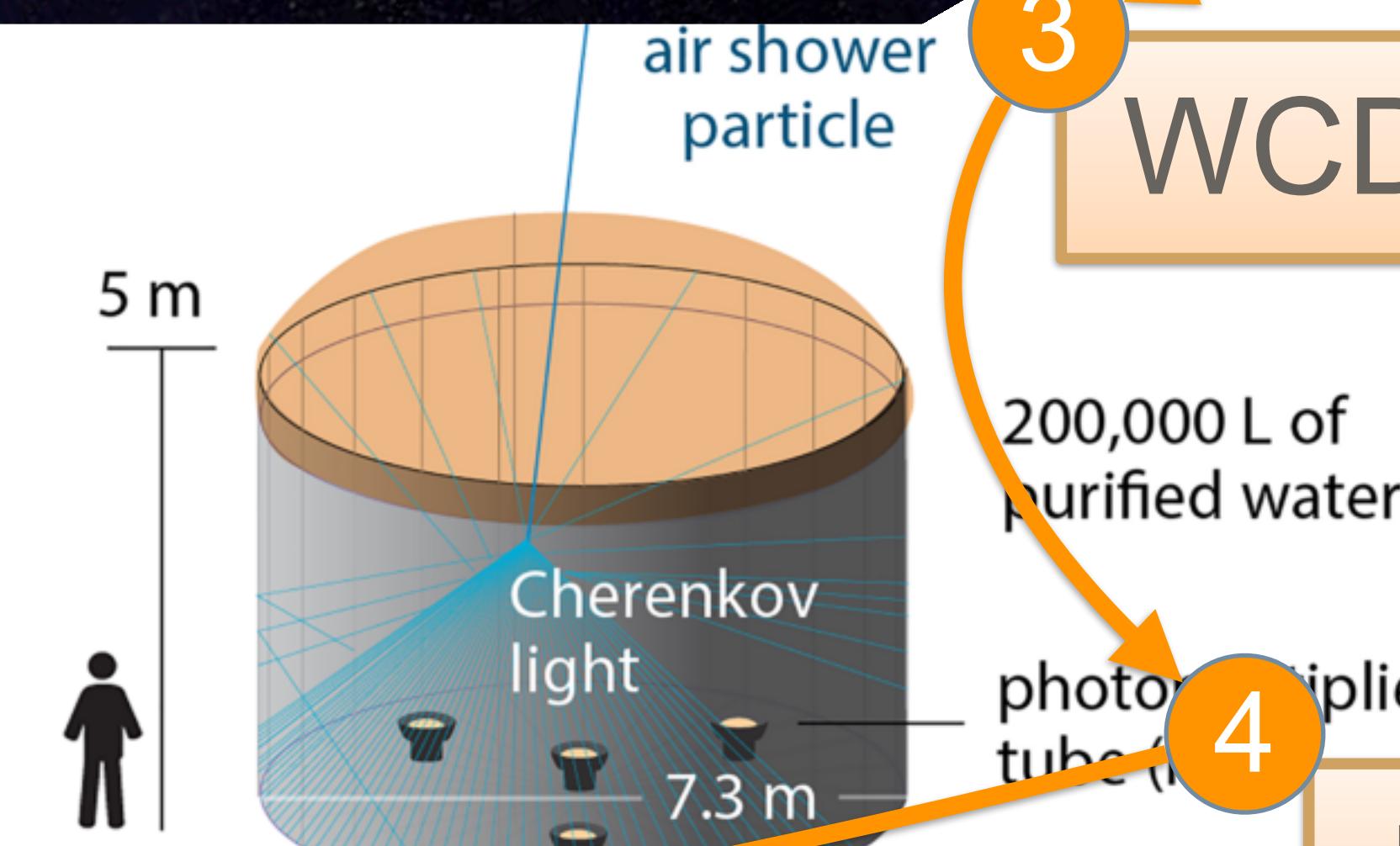
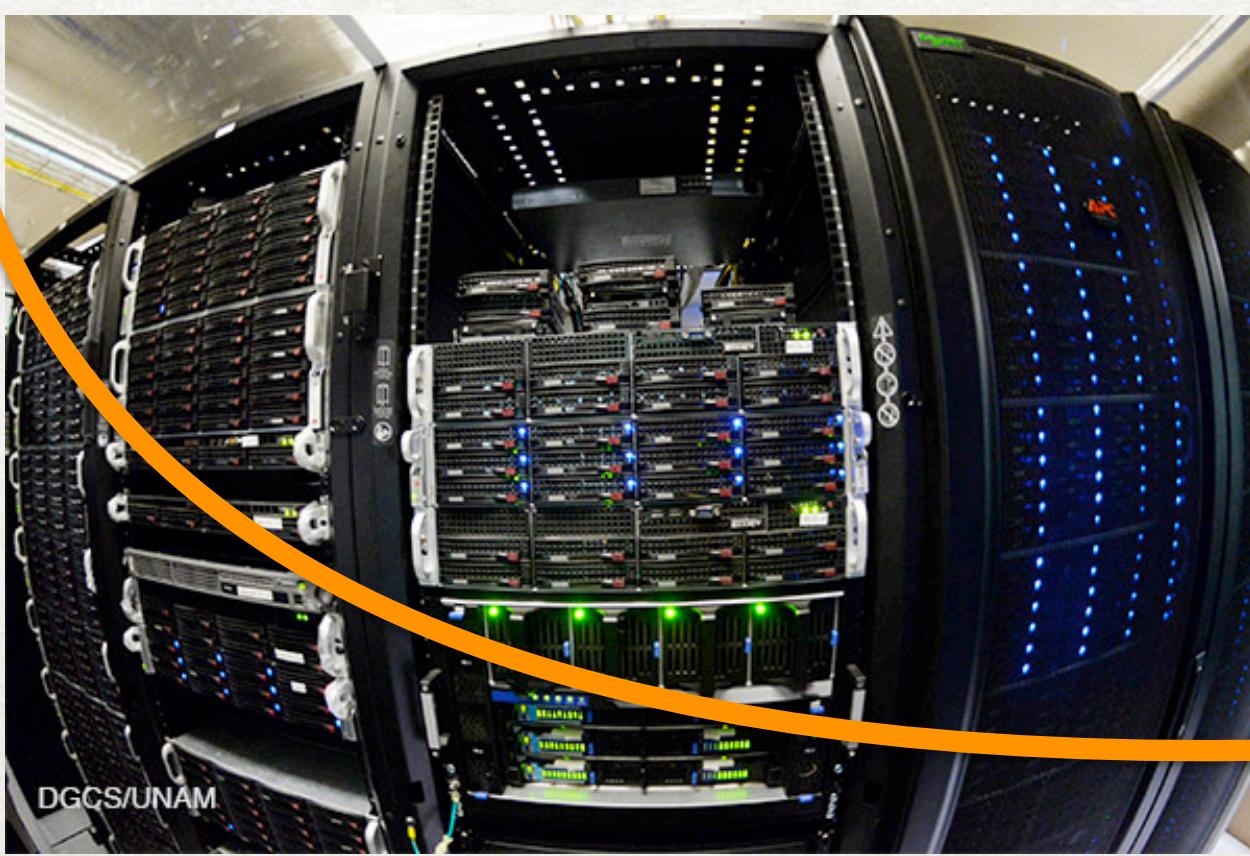
Atmosphere

Extensive Air Shower



5

ICN/UMD cluster



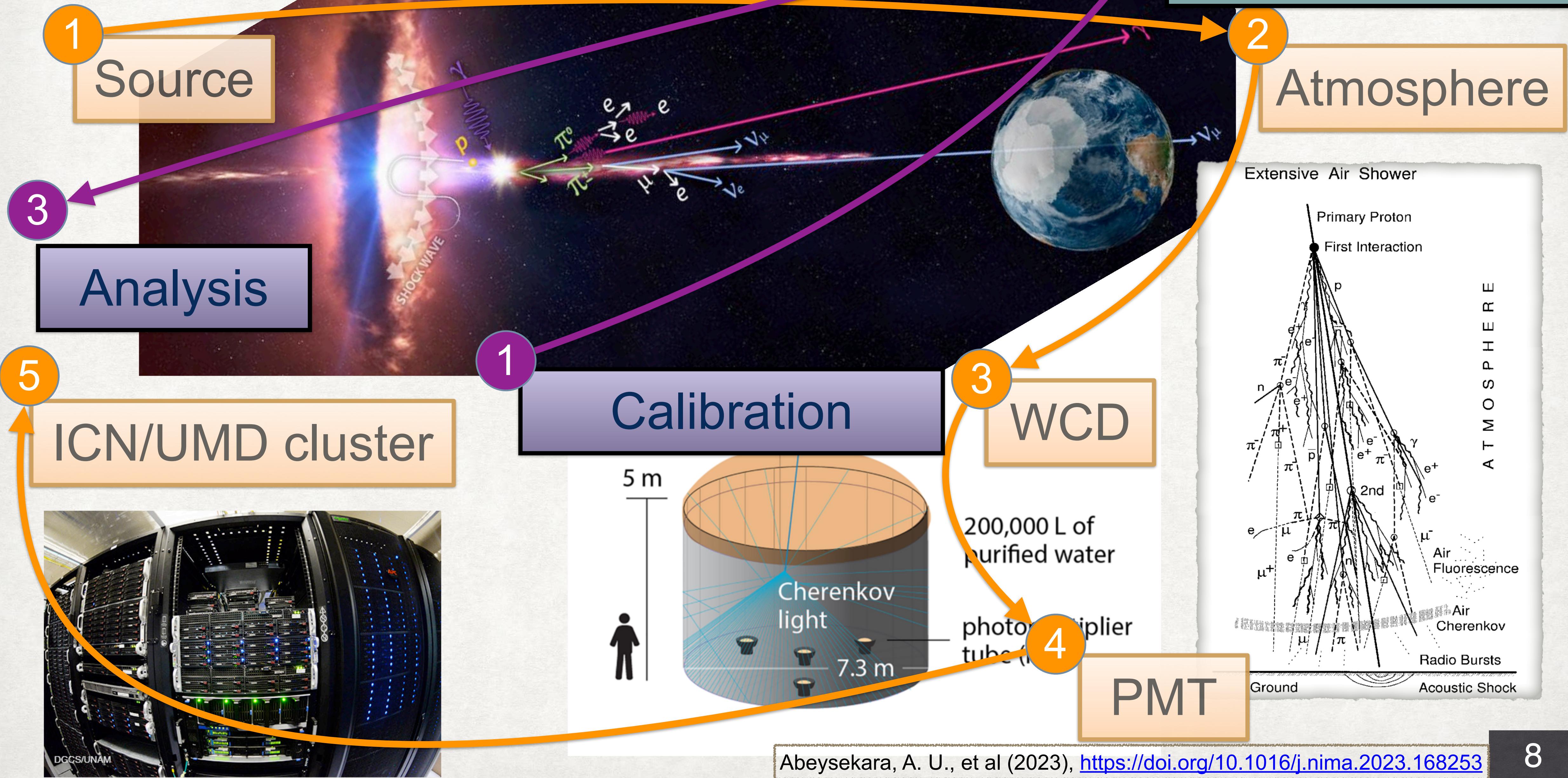
3

WCD

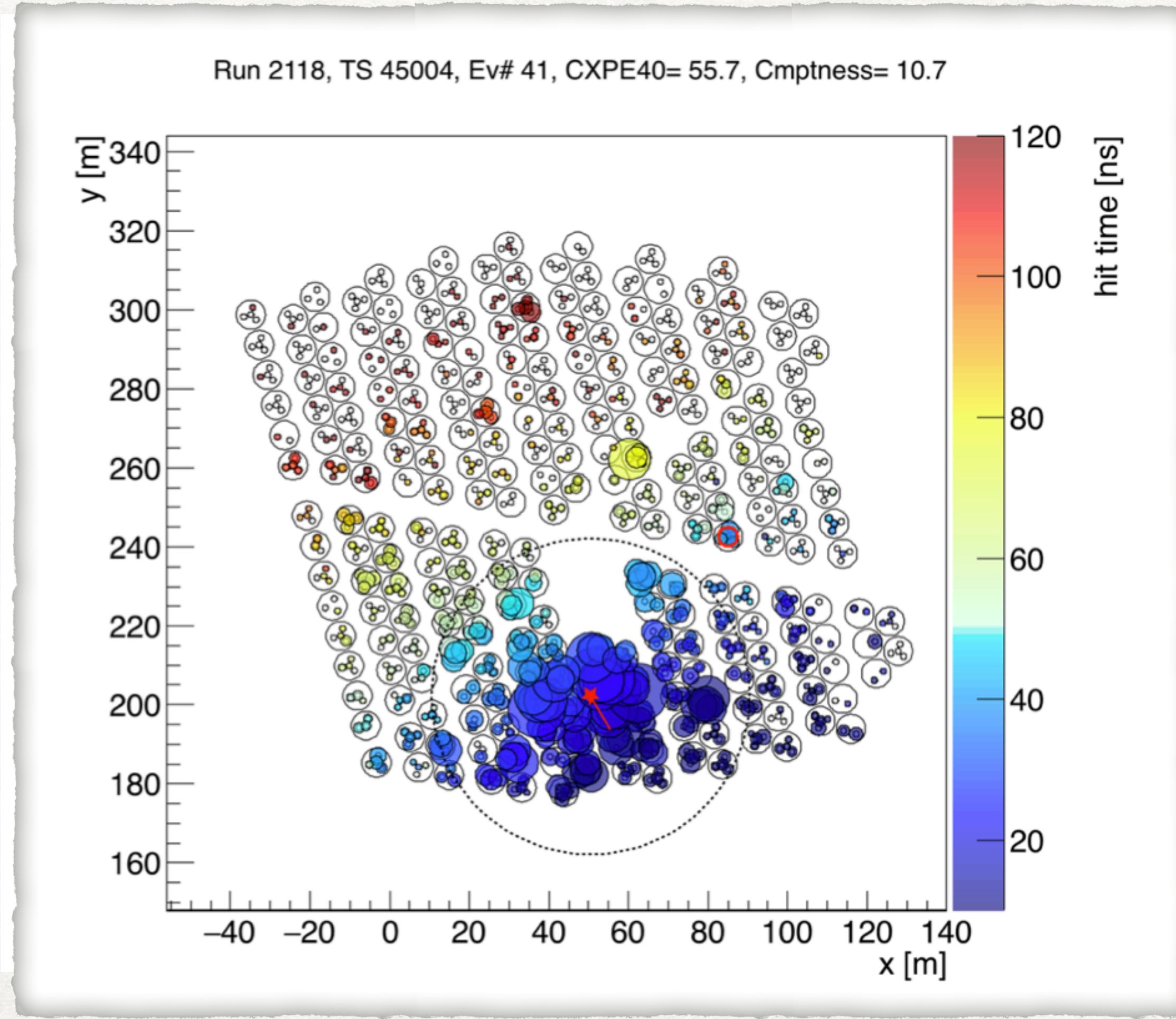
4

PMT

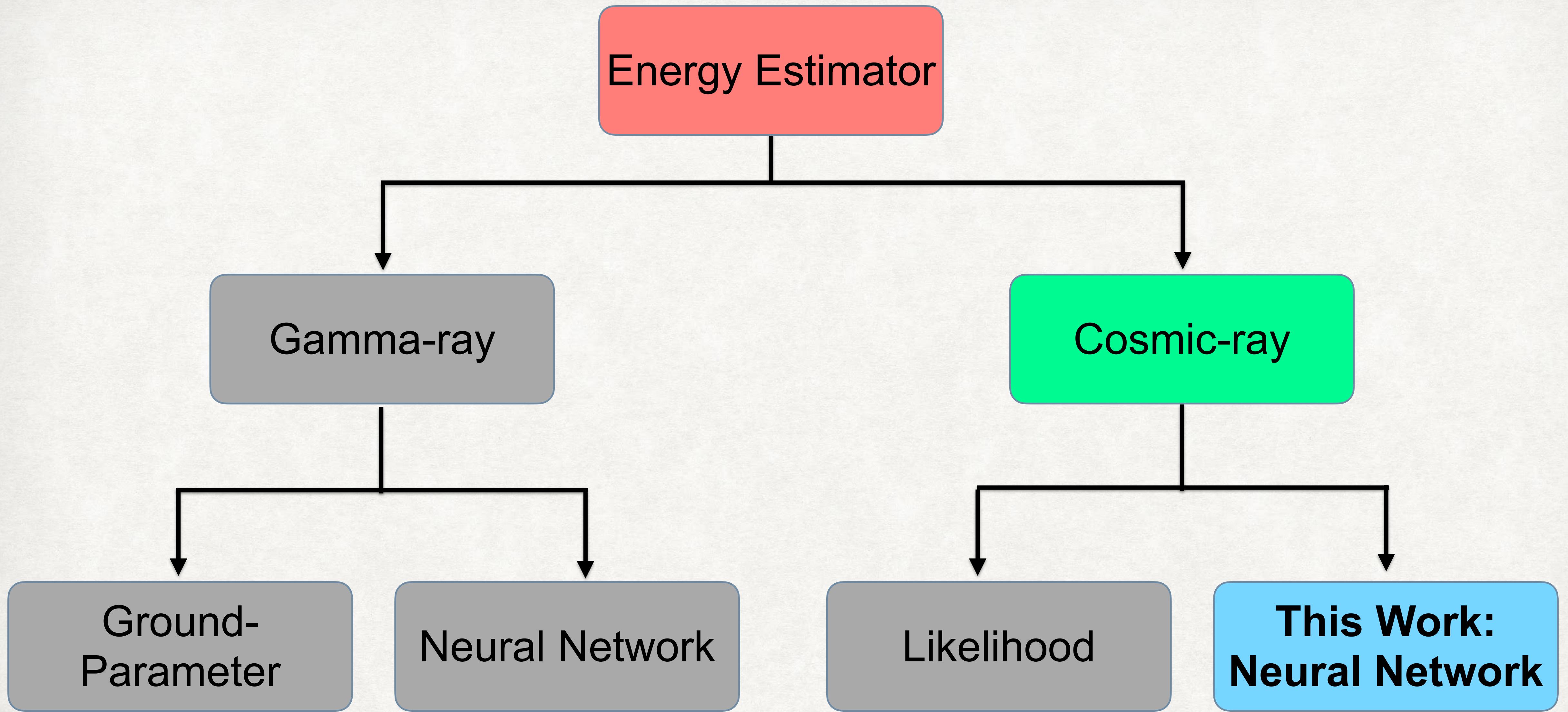
# Detection



# Event simulation detected by HAWC



- A. Timing information allows us determine where the particle comes.**
- B. Energy deposition in each PMT:**
  - The shower core.
  - Gamma or Hadron?
  - Primary particle energy.



Abeysekara, A. U., et al (2019), <https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ab2f7d>

Alfaro, R., et al (2017), <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.96.122001>

# Data used

**Eight species** simulated: Carbon, Helium, Iron, Magnesium, Neon, Oxygen, Proton, and Silicon

Hadronic models employed in **CORSIKA**: **FLUKA & QGJET-II-04**

Spectrum: **Power law** with a spectral index of **-2**, covering an energy range from **5 GeV** to **2 PeV**.

Albert, A., et al (2024), <https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ad5f2d>

Events were **selected** based with the following criteria:

- **Successful reconstruction.**
- Zenith angle between **0° and 35°**.
- At least **20%** of the HAWC array was involved.

# Building the model

The model was built using:

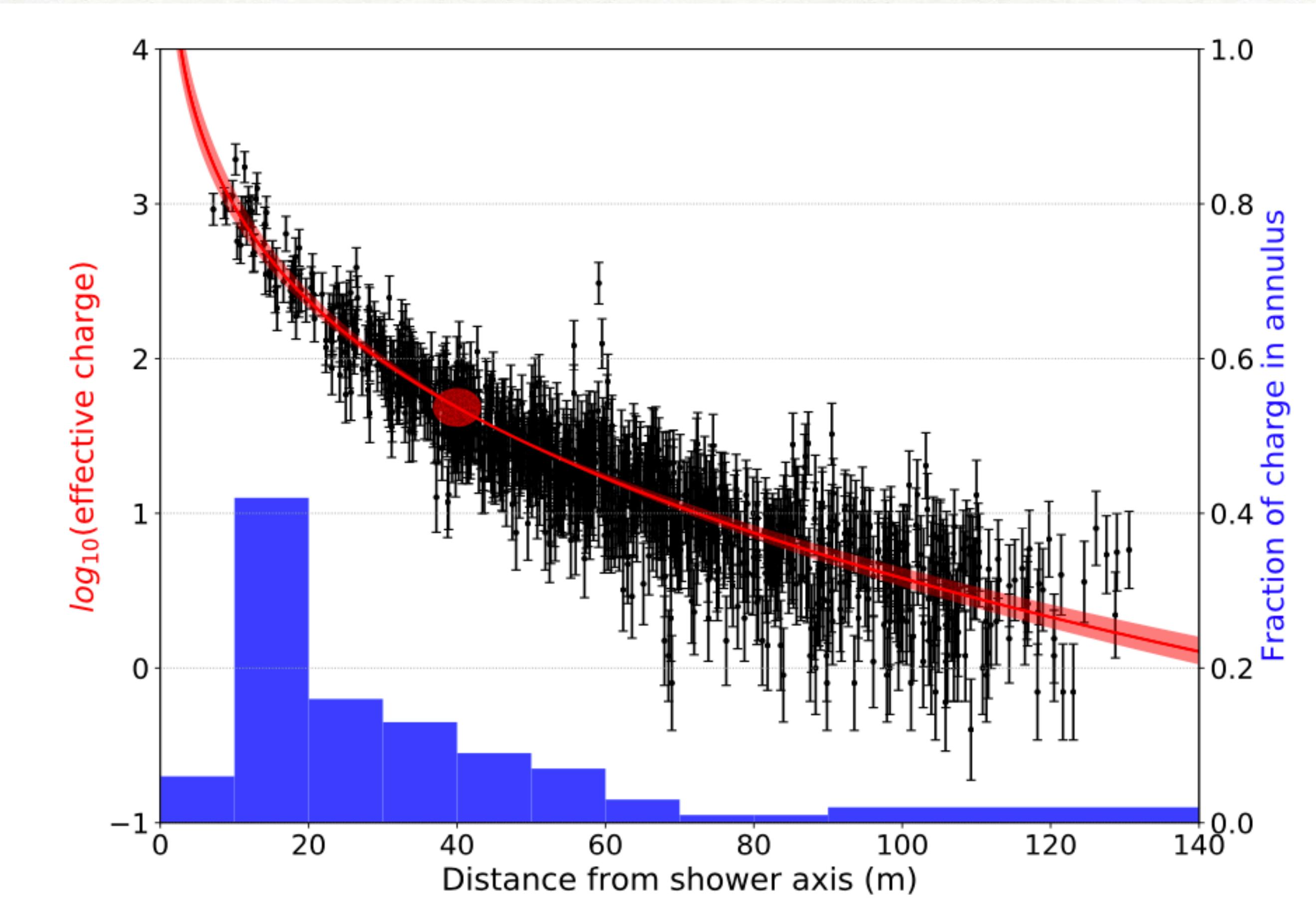
- Learning model: **Supervised**
- Training data: **proton**,
- Test data: **eight** particles
- Package: **TMVA of ROOT**
- Architecture: **14:10:10:1**
- Three models operated: low, medium and high energy

Alvarado, D. A., et al (2023), <https://doi.org/10.22323/1.444.0402>

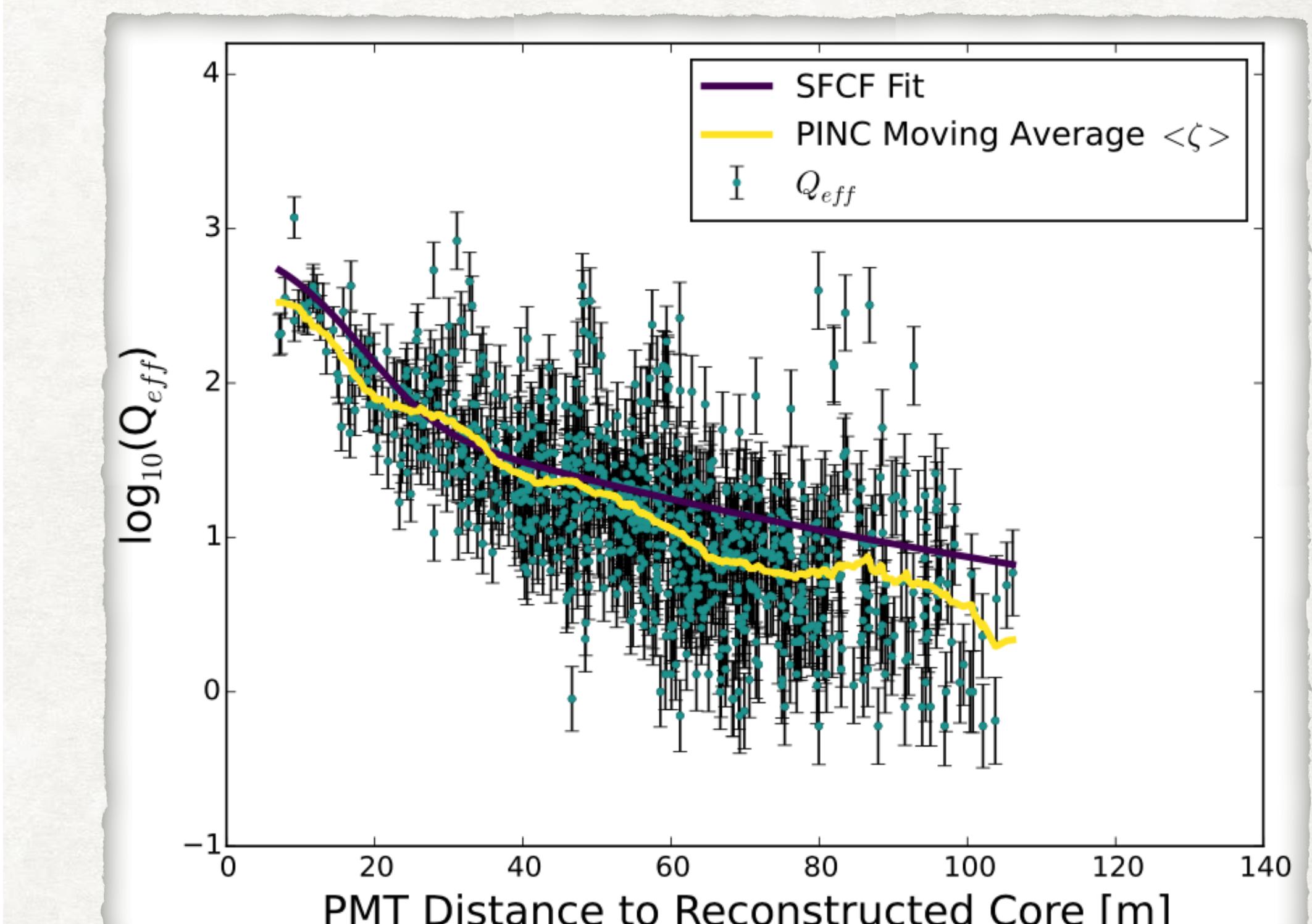
The model was built using:

- Learning model: **Supervised**
- Training data: **eight** particles,
- Test data: **eight** particles
- Test data: **eight** particles Package: **TensorFlow**
- Architecture: **36:256:128:64:32:1**
- One model was trained

# Information on the input

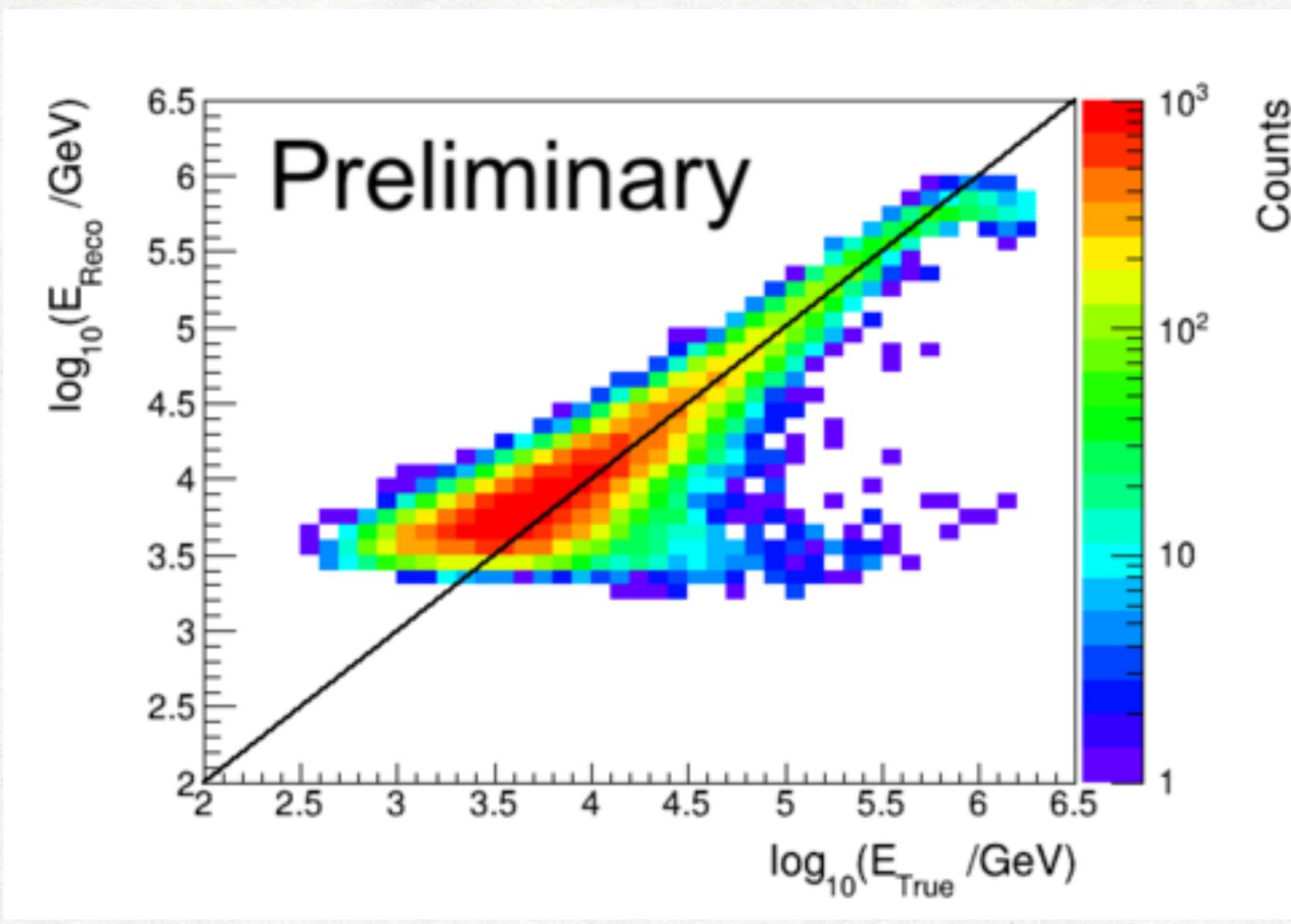


Abeysekara, A. U., et al (2019), <https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ab2f7d>

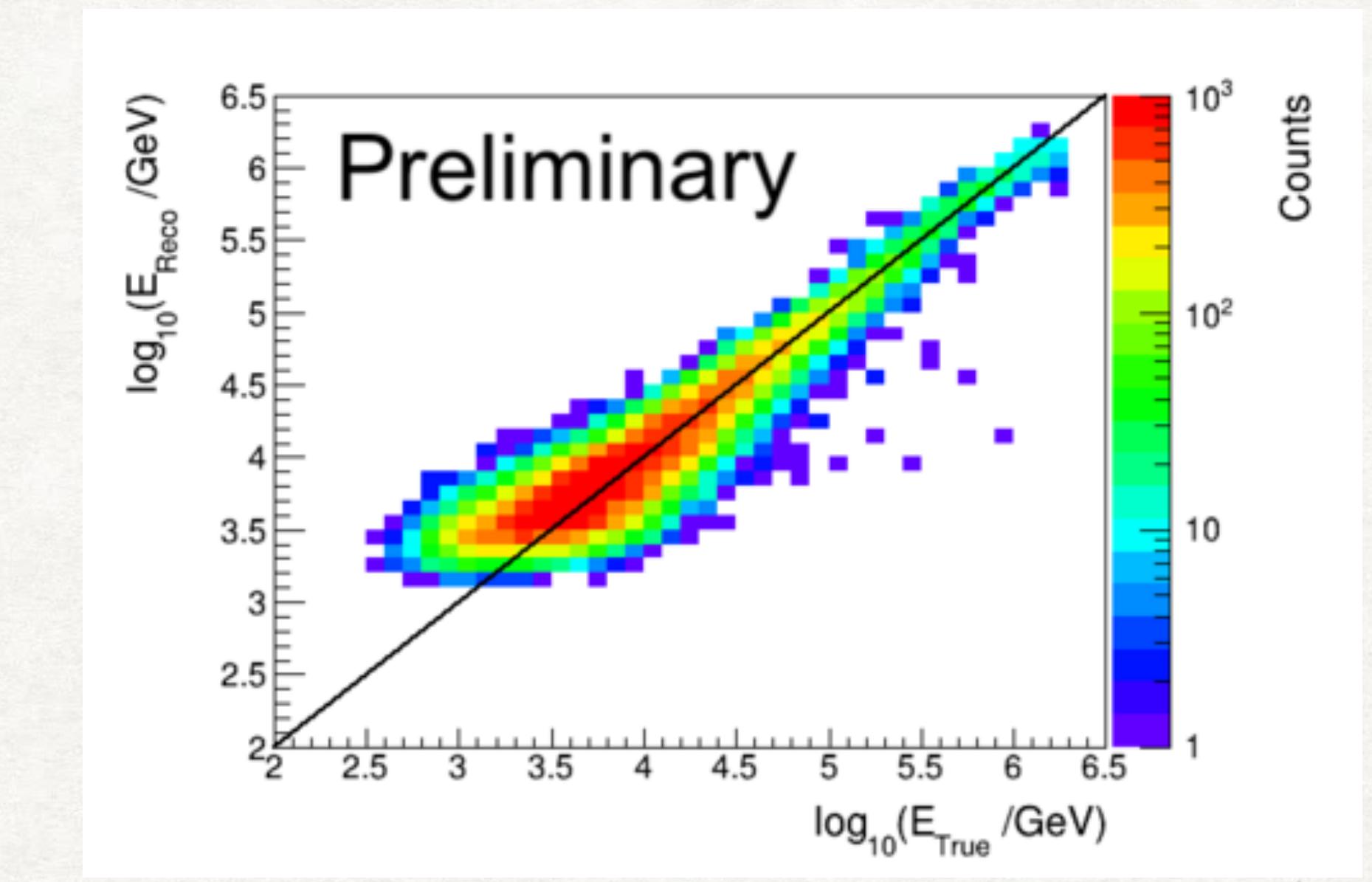


Abeysekara, A. U., et al (2017), <https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/aa7555>

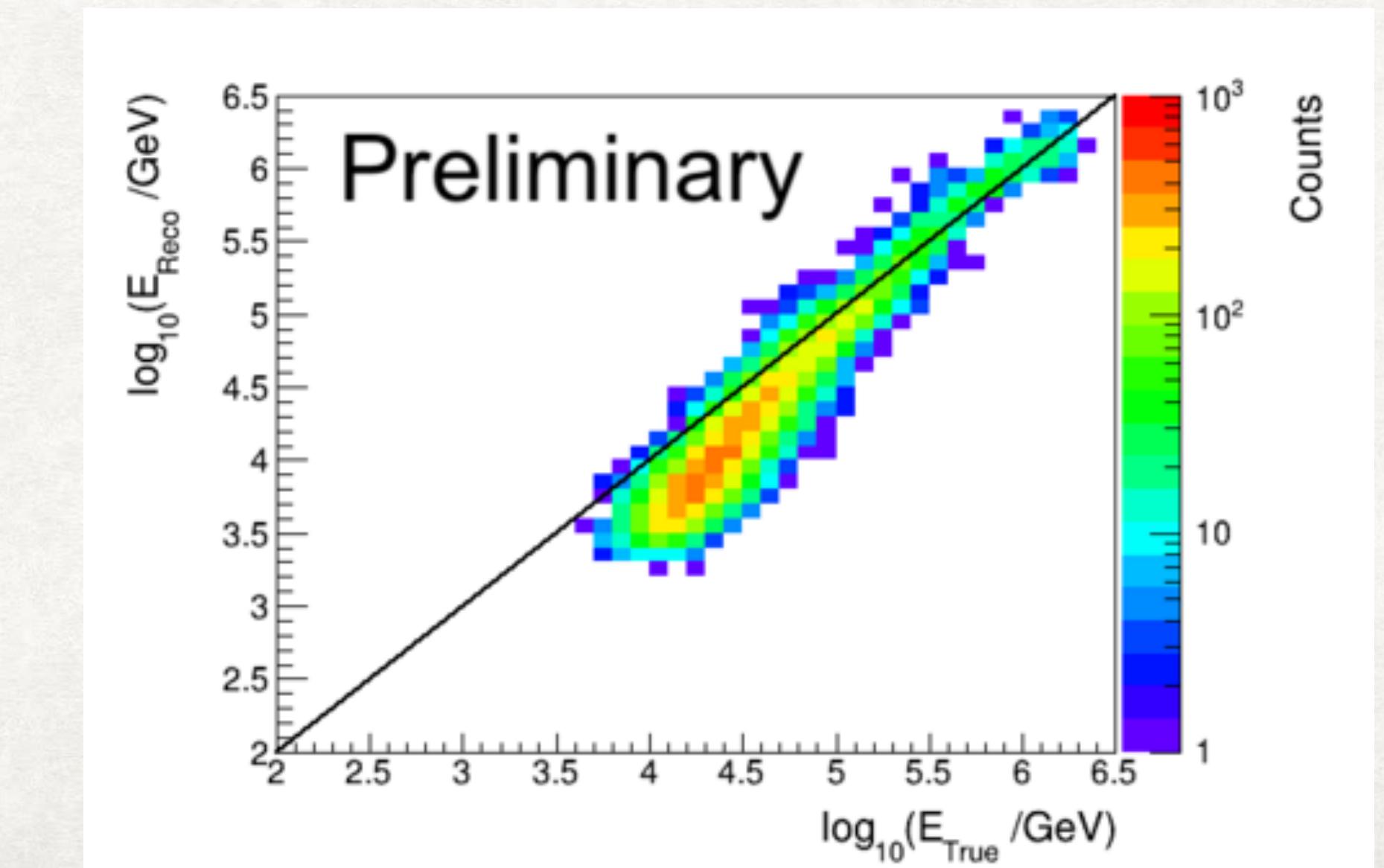
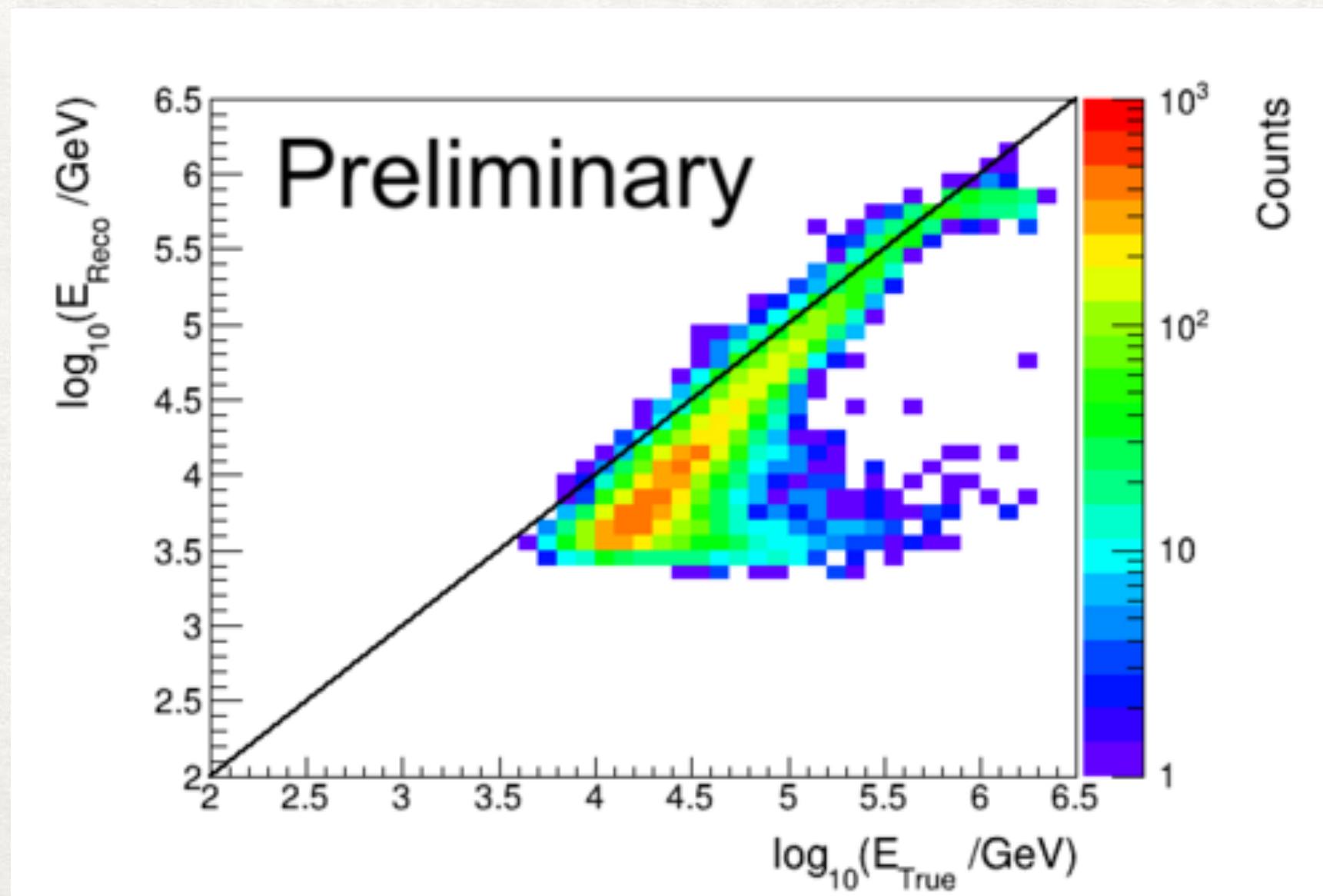
# Likelihood



# Neural Network trained in TMVA



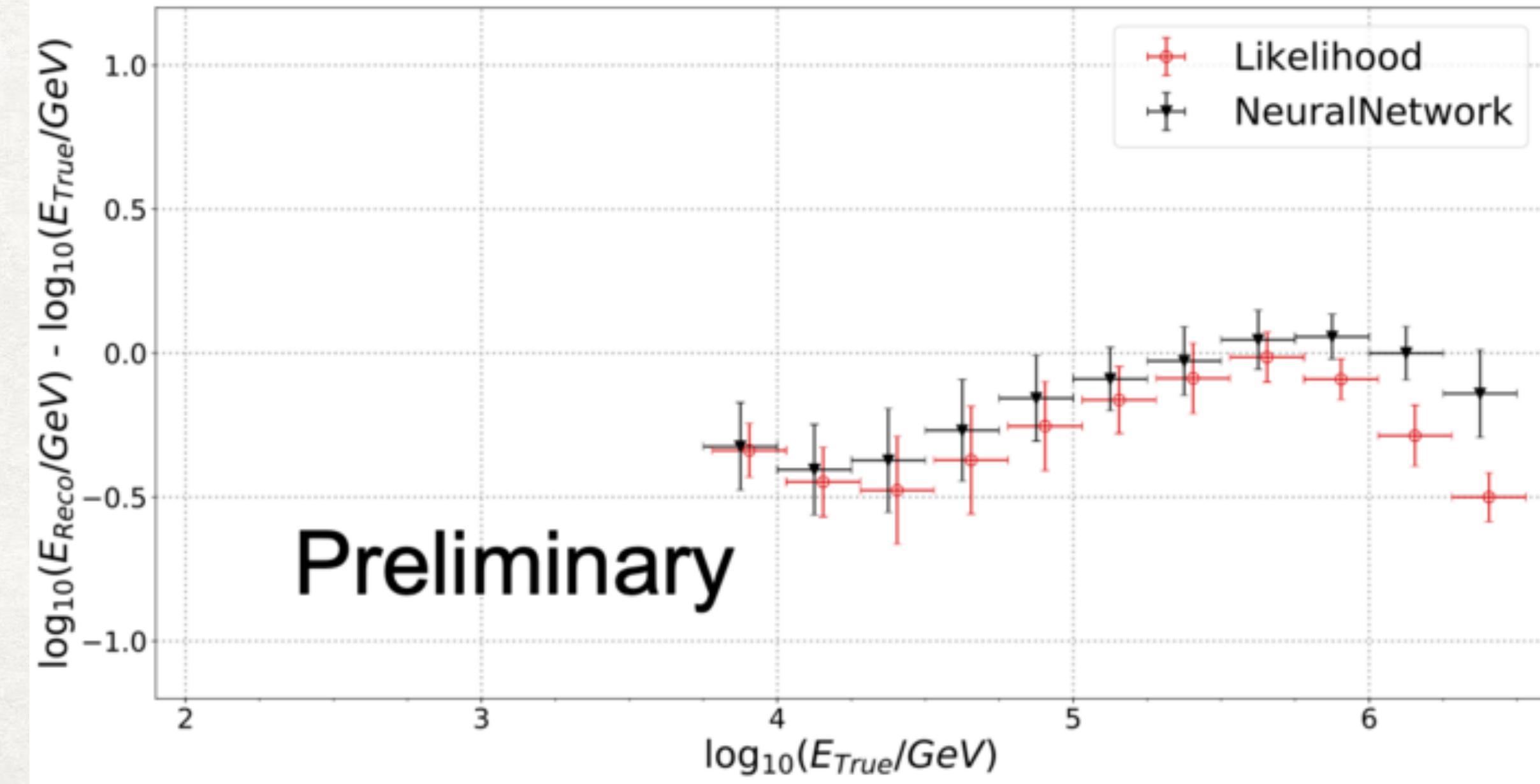
Proton



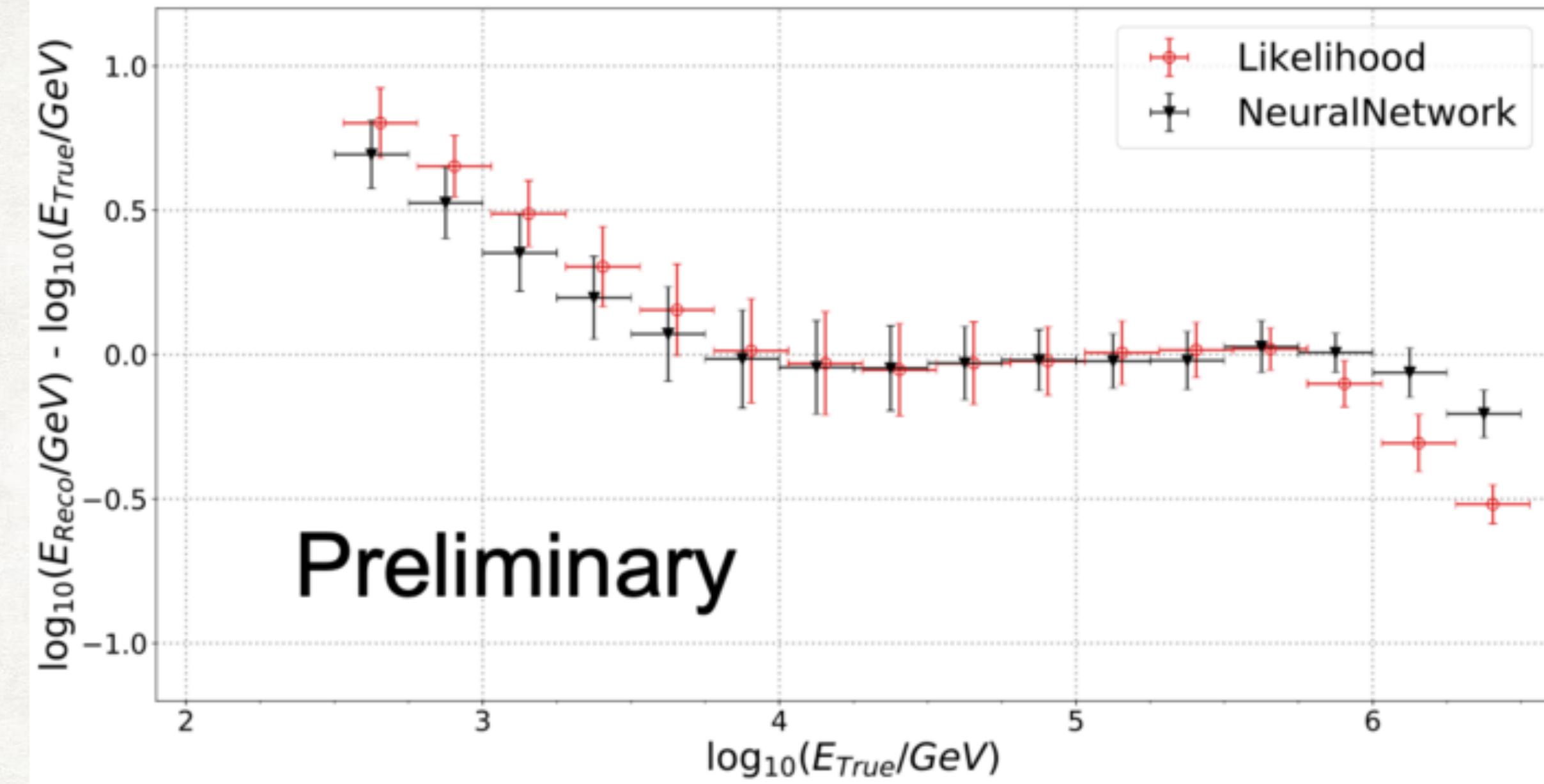
Iron

Alvarado, D. A., et al (2023), <https://doi.org/10.22323/1.444.0402>

Iron

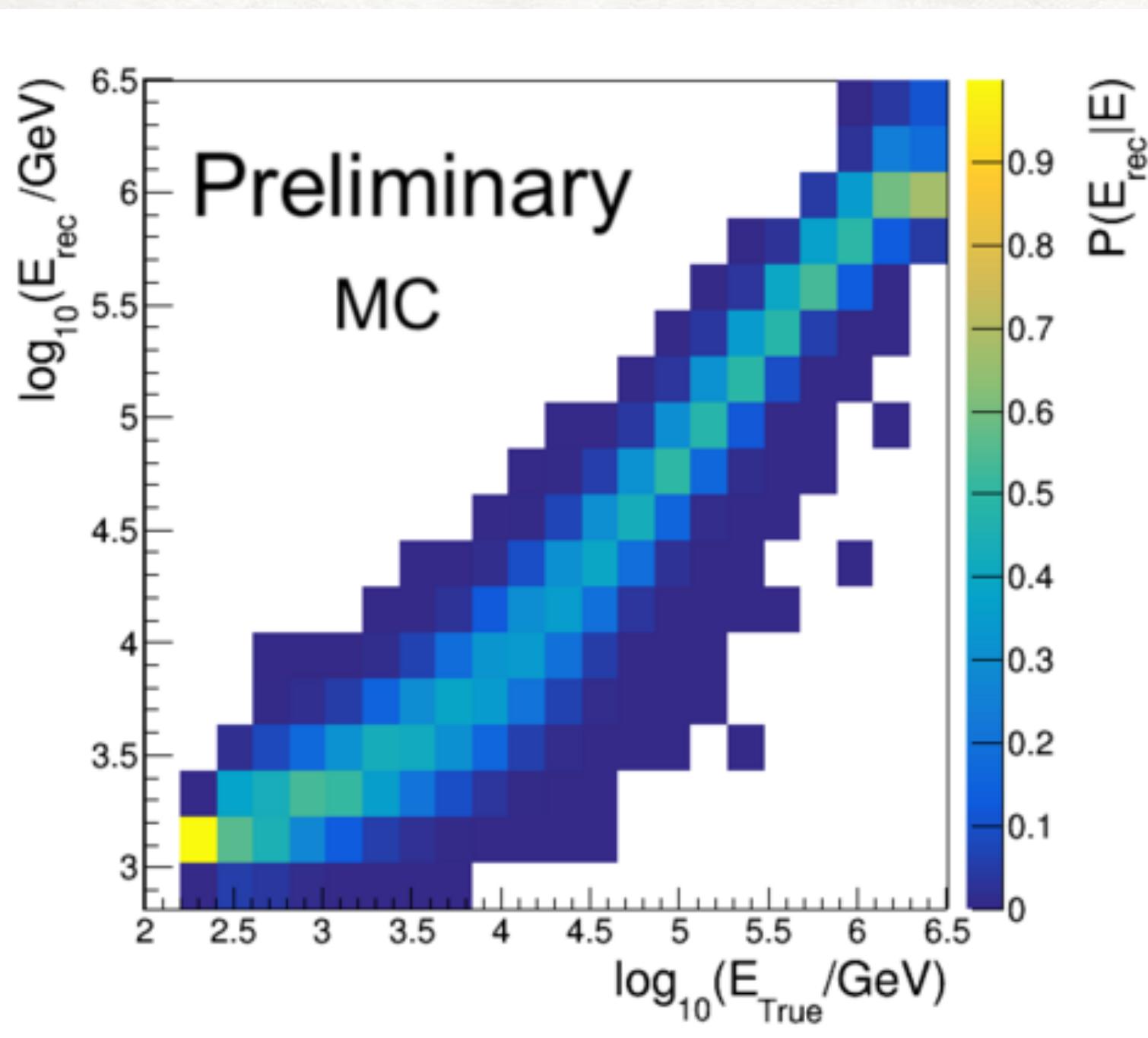


Proton

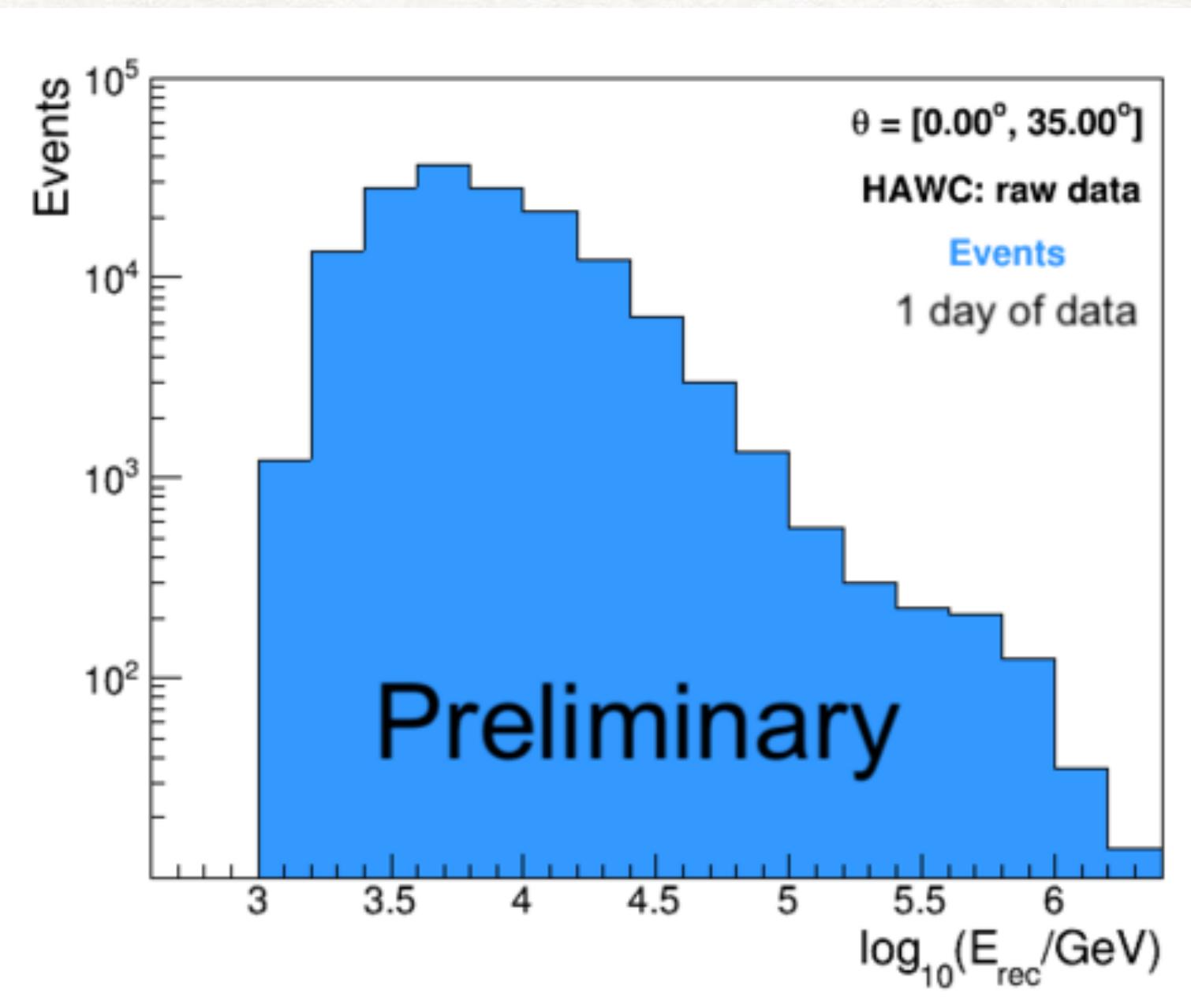


Alvarado, D. A., et al (2023), <https://doi.org/10.22323/1.444.0402>

# Neural Network trained in TensorFlow

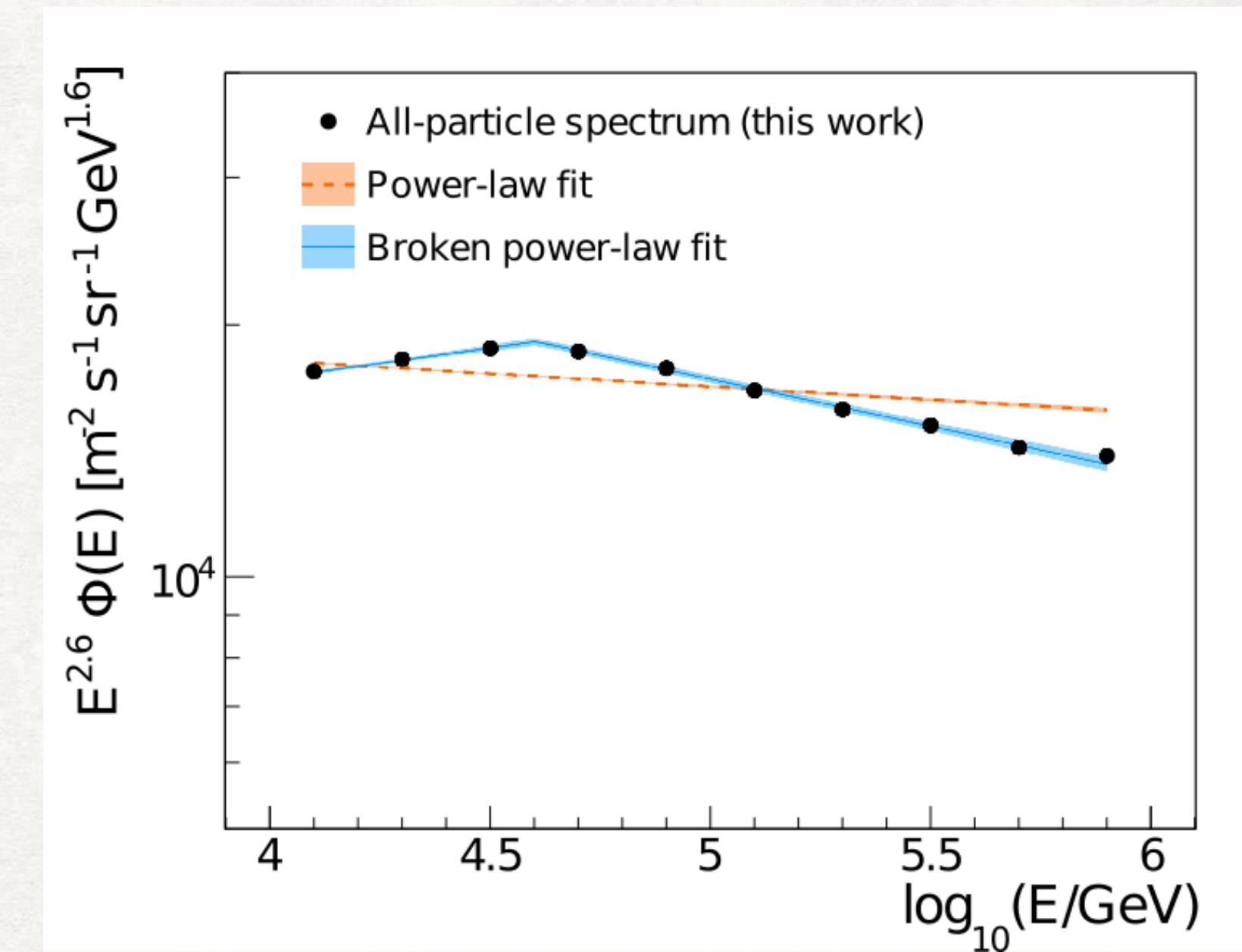


Response Matrix



Output Distribution  
using one day of  
HAWC data

The next step is to obtain the spectrum and compare it with the latest publication.



# Summary

- The HAWC experiment is a state-of-the-art cosmic ray detector operating in the energy range of 1 TeV to 1 PeV.
- A machine learning model was developed to predict the energy of cosmic rays, improving the reconstruction according with MC simulation.
- This model was applied to one day of HAWC data to evaluate its performance with real data. We will be obtain the spectrum to validate it against the recently published spectrum.

Gracias!

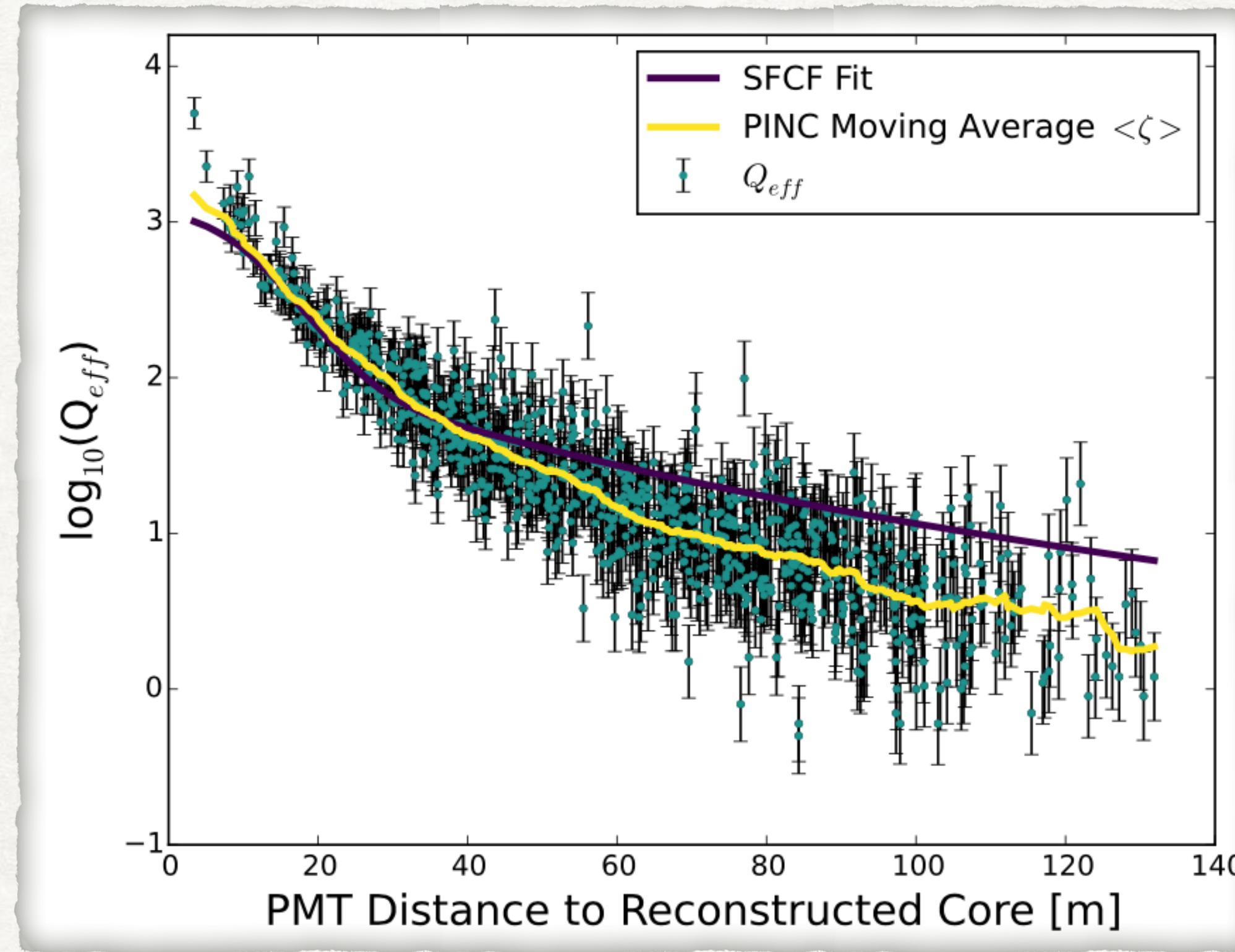
Thank you!

Grazie!

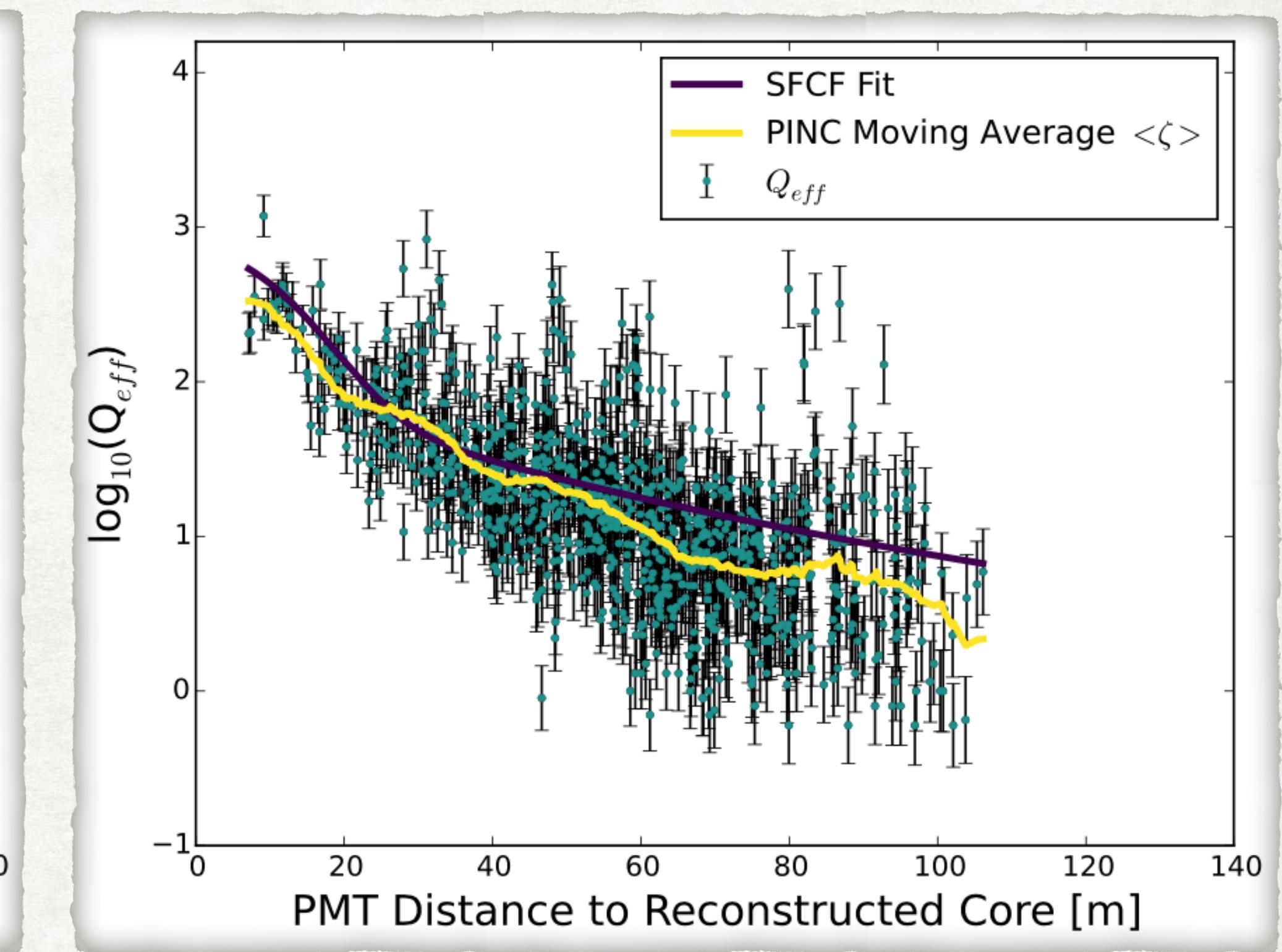
# Backslides

# Input parameters

- LIC
- disMax
- LDFChi2
- LDFAmp
- PINC



Photon from Crab Nebula



Cosmic Ray

Abeysekara, A. U., et al (2017), <https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/aa7555>

$$LIC = \log_{10} \frac{1}{compactness} = \log_{10} \frac{CxPE_{40}}{nHit}$$

$$NKG = A \rho^{s-3} (1 + \rho)^{s-4.5}$$

$$PINC = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^N \frac{[\log_{10}(q_i) - \langle \log_{10}(q_i) \rangle]^2}{\sigma^2}$$

# The main reconstruction parameters

Energy

360 °

0 °

Position

-3

-0

3

6

9

12

15

18

21

24

$\sqrt{TS}$

**Figure 1.** All-sky significance map in celestial coordinates, assuming a point-source hypothesis. The bright band on the left is part of the Galactic plane (see Figures 4–7), and the bright region on the right is the Galactic anticenter region containing the Crab Nebula and the Geminga halo (see Figure 3). The two off-plane hotspots are the two TeV-bright blazars Mrk 421 (right) and Mrk 501 (left).

A. A. U. Abeysekara (2020) DOI:10.3847/1538-4357/abc2d8

Type of specie

# Machine Learning Techniques (MLT)

