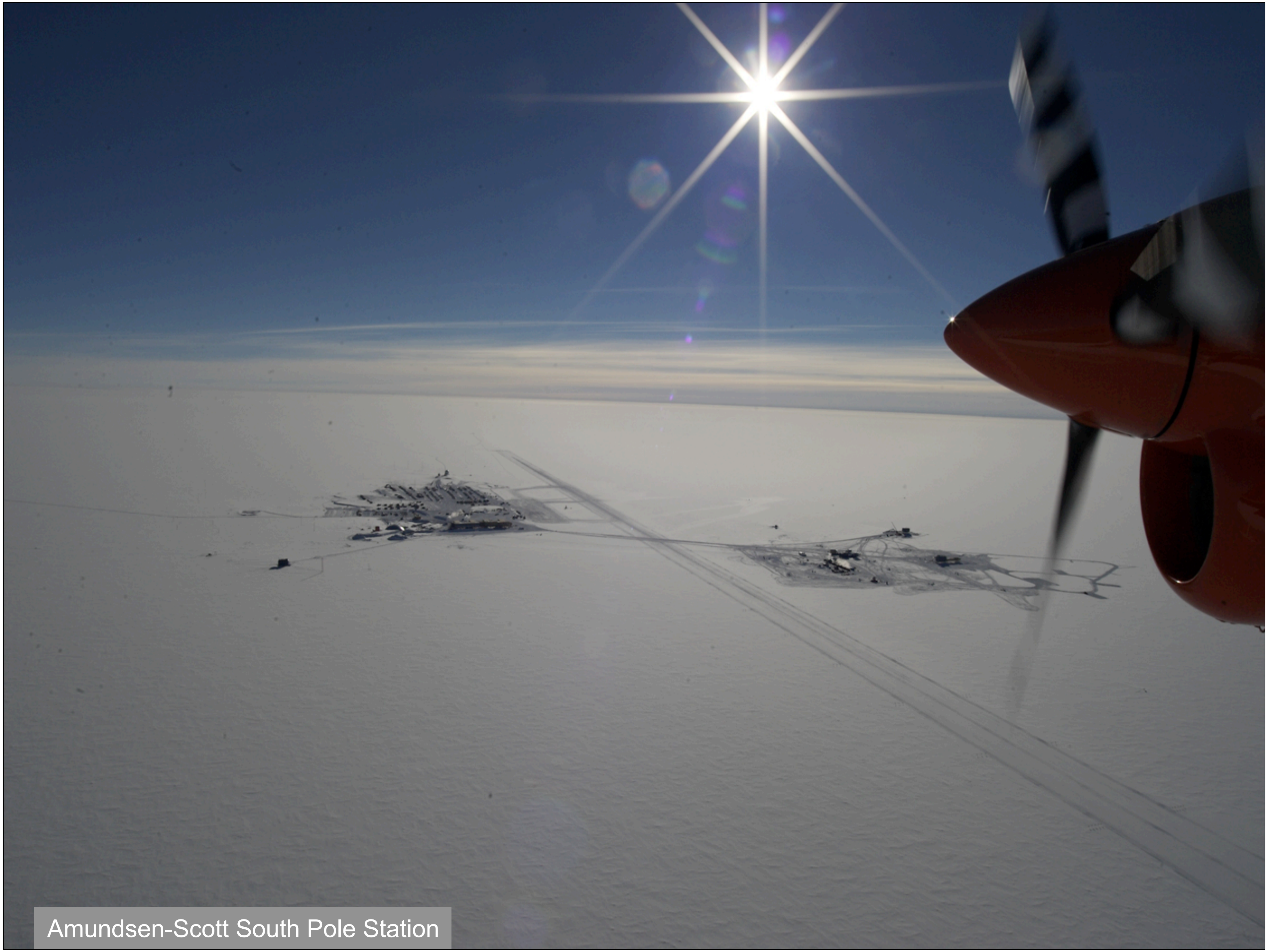
Towards Neutrino Astronomy: the IceCube Experiment at the South Pole

Stefan Westerhoff
University of Wisconsin-Madison

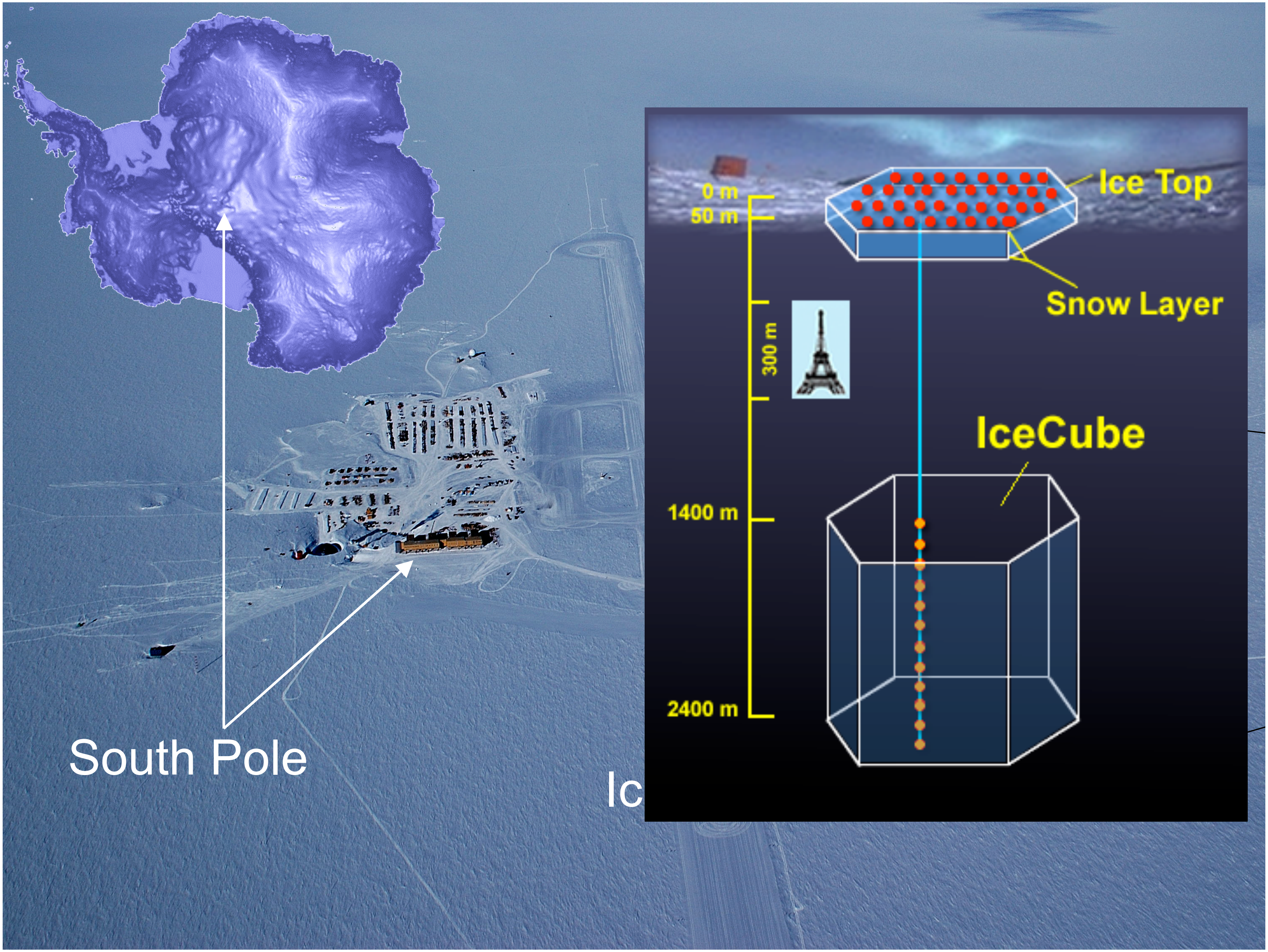
June 21, 2011

IceCube: An Unusual Telescope

- IceCube is a cubic-kilometer-size detector frozen into the ice near the geographic South Pole, at a depth of 1500 - 2500 meters.
- The detector volume is about a billion tons of ice, instrumented with more than 5000 light detectors.
- The primary goal of the IceCube experiment is to detect neutrinos from extragalactic sources.
- By detecting these neutrinos, we learn more about the most energetic and most violent objects in the Universe!



Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station


South Pole
Ic
Ice Top
Snow Layer
0 m
50 m
300 m
1400 m
2400 m
IceCube


Why?

Outline

- **Particle Astrophysics - Searching for the Most Energetic Sources of the Universe**
- **Cosmic Rays and the Pierre Auger Observatory in Argentina**
- **IceCube: Towards Astronomy with Neutrinos**

Particle Astrophysics

- **“Classical” Astronomy – electromagnetic spectrum from radio to X-rays.**

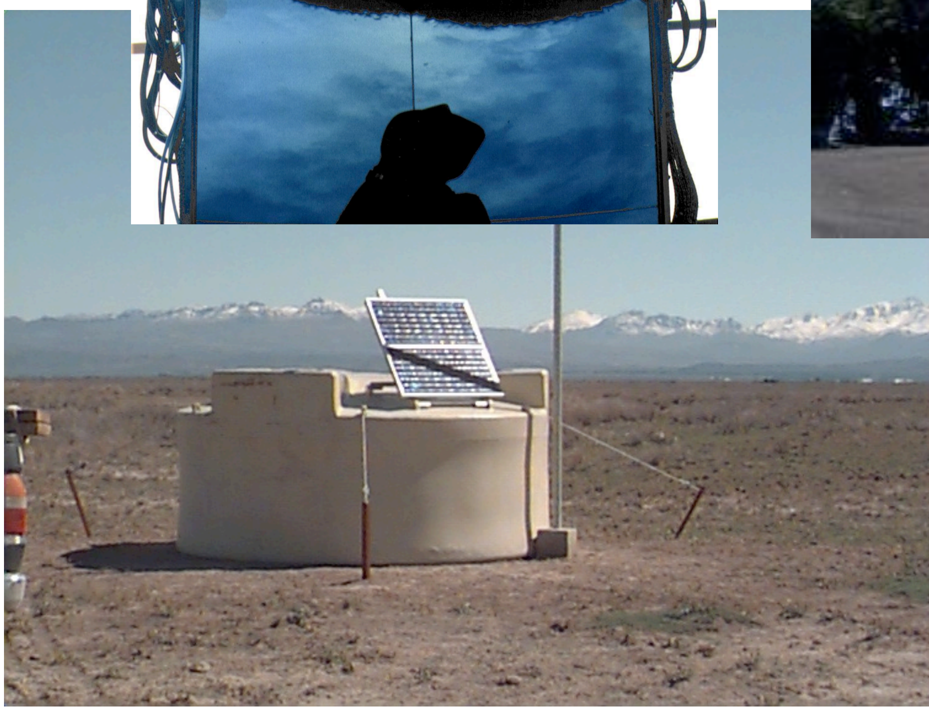
- **Gamma-ray Astronomy – photons (light particles) with energies 10^{10} larger than optical light.**

- **Cosmic Rays – protons and heavier nuclei with energies up to several Joule, the highest particle energies observed in the Universe.**

- **Neutrinos – tightly connected to cosmic rays and their sources, but neutral and not subject to deflection in magnetic fields (= easier for “astronomy”).**

energy

Particle Astrophysics "Telescopes"

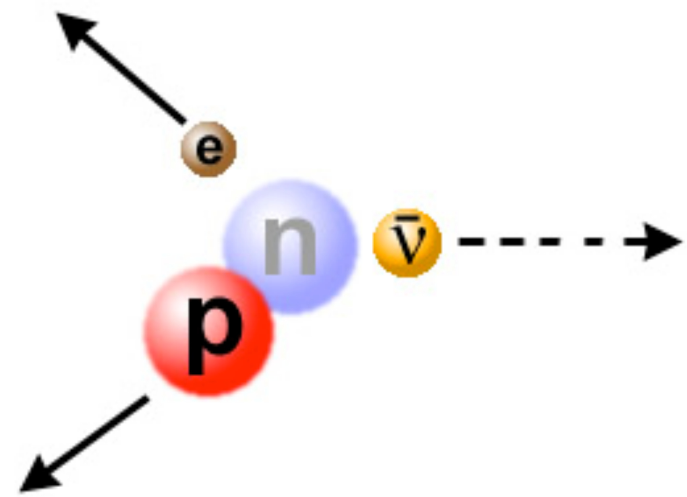


Neutrinos

- The fundamental building blocks of atoms (and therefore of the world we know) are…
  - Neutrons
  - Protons
  - Electrons

- In nuclear reactions, neutrons can turn into protons and vice versa by emitting an electron (β decay).

- Something is missing… or total momentum is not conserved!



Neutrinos

- **To "fix" the picture, Wolfgang Pauli invented a new particle that is very light and has no charge - the neutrino (the "small neutral one").**
- **Neutrinos usually escape unseen - they interact very little with anything, move almost at the speed of light and are difficult to catch.**
- ***"I have done a terrible thing, I have postulated a particle that cannot be detected."***

Wolfgang Pauli (1900-1958)

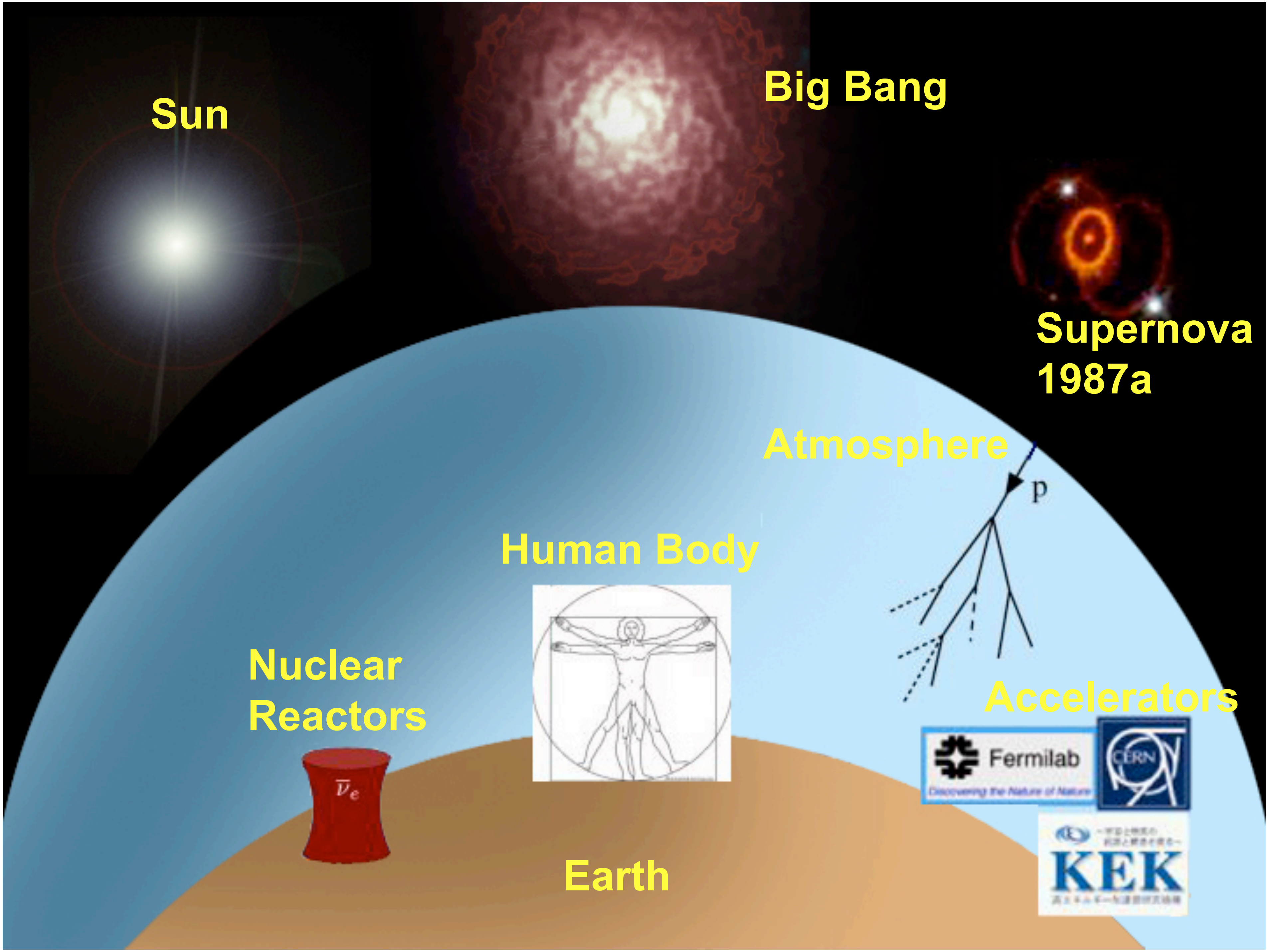
Neutrinos

- The neutrino *was* eventually detected by Reines and Cowan in 1956 in a nuclear reactor, three years before Pauli's death.

- *Pauli's response: "Everything comes to him who knows how to wait."*

- Neutrinos are produced wherever there are nuclear reactions, for example in the Sun. More than 50 trillion (50×10^{12}) solar neutrinos pass through your body every second.

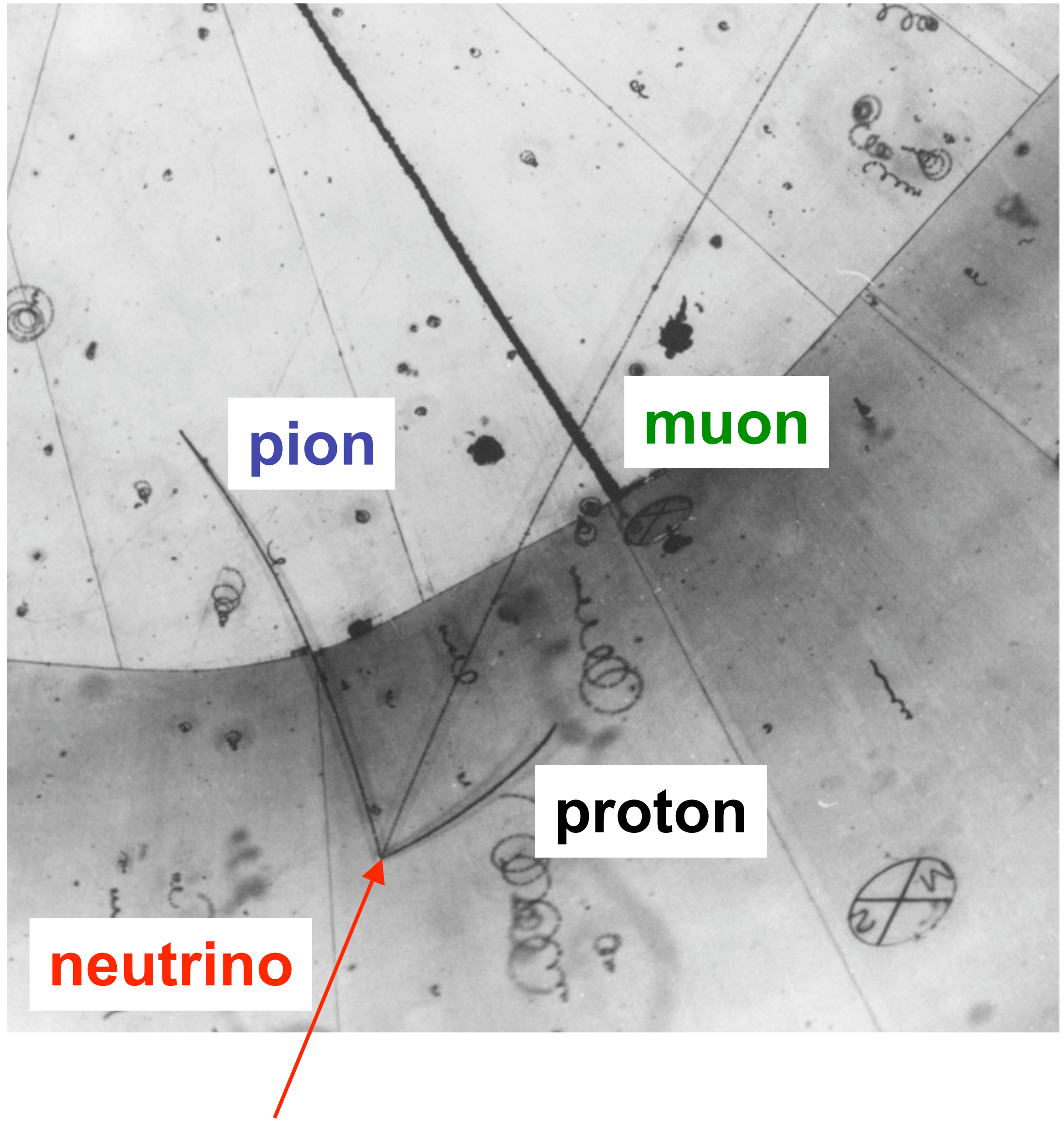
Wolfgang Pauli (1900-1958)



Sun
Big Bang
Supernova 1987a
Atmosphere
p
Human Body
Nuclear Reactors
$\overline{\nu}_e$
Accelerators
Fermilab
Discovering the Nature of Nature
CERN
KEK
Earth

The Thing About Neutrinos

- **Neutrinos rarely interact - they just zip through almost everything - and are therefore hard to detect!**



© Argonne National Lab

Why do we expect to see neutrinos from astrophysical sources?

Cosmic Rays -
a 100-year old mystery

Victor Hess, 1912

- **Electroscopes discharge slowly even if no radioactive material is around - does the Earth radiate?**

Victor Hess (1883-1964)

Balloon Data

- **Going up as high as 17,500 feet, Hess showed that the radiation level *increases* with altitude!**

7. Fahrt (7. August 1912).

Ballon: … …uptmann W. Hoffory.
Meteoro… …eobachter: V. F. Hess.

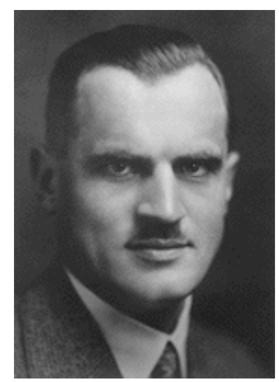
Nr.	Zeit	Höhe absolut m	relativ m	Apparat 1 q_1	Apparat 2 q_2	Apparat 3 q_3	reduz. q_3	Temp.	Relat. Feucht. Proz.
1	15h 15—16h 15	156	0	17,3	12,9	—	—	—	—
2	16h 15—17h 15	156	0	15,9	11,0	18,4	18,4	1½ Tag vor dem Aufstiege (in Wien)	
3	17h 15—18h 15	156	0	15,8	11,2	17,5	17,5		
4	6h 45—7h 45	1700	1400	15,8	[illegible],4	21,1	25,3	+6,4°	60
5	7h 45—8h 45	2750	2500	17,3	12,3	22,5	31,2	+1,4°	41
6	8h 45—9h 45	3850	3600	19,8	16,5	21,8	35,2	−6,8°	64
7	9h 45—10h 45	4800 (4400—5350)	4700	40,7	31,8	—	—	−9,8°	40
8	10h 45—11h 15	4400	4200	28,1	22,7	—	—	—	—
9	11h 15—11h 45	1300	1200	(9,7)	11,5	—	—	—	—
10	11h 45—12h 10	250	150	11,9	10,7	—	—	+16,0°	68
11	12h 25—13h 12	140	0	15,0	11,6	—	—	(nach der Landung in Pieskow, Brandenburg)	

Cosmic "Rays?"

- **Nuclei? Electrons? Photons?**
- **After their discovery, the chemical nature of cosmic "radiation" was unclear for some time.**
- **The name "cosmic rays" reflects Robert Millikan's belief that they were gamma rays from space.**
- **In the 1930s, it became clear that cosmic rays are mainly energetic particles.**
- **Most ultra-high-energy cosmic rays are protons and heavier nuclei.**

Robert A. Millikan (1868-1953)

Arthur H. Compton (1892-1962)



The New York Times

MILLIKAN RETORTS HOTLY TO COMPTON IN COSMIC RAY CLASH

Debate of Rival Theorists Brings Drama to Session of Nation's Scientists.

THEIR DATA AT VARIANCE

New Findings of His Ex-Pupil Lead to Thrust by Millikan at 'Less Cautious' Work.

PROF. RUSSELL ELECTED

Astronomer Heads Association—Secret of Purple Gold in Tomb of Tut-ankh-Amen Rediscovered.

By WILLIAM L. LAURENCE.
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ATLANTIC CITY, Dec. 30.—Professor Robert A. Millikan, who won the Nobel Prize in physics for being

MILLIKAN DENIES 'CLASH' ON THEORY

Scientist Protests That the Word 'Incautious' Was Not Aimed at Compton.

DISCLAIMS ANY COOLNESS

Holds The Times Report Stated *"Exactly the Opposite"* of the Findings He Presented.

By Telegraph to the Editor of THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 31.—It is not customary for me to attempt to correct erroneous newspaper reports, and that for the *simple* reason that with many newspapers it is a well-nigh hopeless undertaking. But THE NEW YORK TIMES is usually so dependable that I assume it will welcome correction and also will know how *to effect* the remedy for its error.

MILLIKAN'S DATA CONFIRM COMPTON

Results of Cosmic Ray Study at Panama Tend to Back Rival's Ideas.

RAY INTENSITY VARIES

Strength Is Greater at the Poles—Equatorial Tests Are Now Projected.

PASADENA, Cal., Feb. 4 (AP).—The stratosphere above equatorial regions of the earth should be the next scene of exploration in the quest of the secrets of the cosmic ray, Dr. Robert A. Millikan said here today.

Announcing that observations of his co-workers at Panama confirmed the earlier reports of Dr. Arthur H. Compton of Chicago that the rays from interstellar space showed latitude effects, Dr. Millikan disclosed that the variance was as high as 8 per cent.

The New York Times

COSMIC RAY TO OPEN PLANETARIUM TONIGHT

Caught by Delicate Apparatus, It Will Switch On Stars in 'Artificial Heaven.'

A cosmic ray, messenger from interstellar space, will switch on the stars tonight, promptly at 9 o'clock, in New York's first "artificial heaven," at the opening of the Hayden Planetarium of the American Museum of Natural History.

So far as is known, this will be the first time that a cosmic ray, most powerful "electrical bullets" found in nature, will be made to perform a useful task at the bidding of man.

The cosmic ray will be trapped by delicate electrical apparatus and made to provide the impulse that will switch on the great planetarium projector with its 9,000 stars. This was announced yesterday by Dr. Clyde Fisher, curator of New York's "Theatre of the Stars."

New York Times, Oct. 2, 1935
Opening of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History

"So far as is known, this will be the first time that a cosmic ray… will be made to perform a useful task at the bidding of man."

- Cosmic rays are charged particles (protons or heavier nuclei) that continuously rain down on Earth from outer space.

- A small fraction ... es in excess of several Joules, ... e highest energy particles in the ...

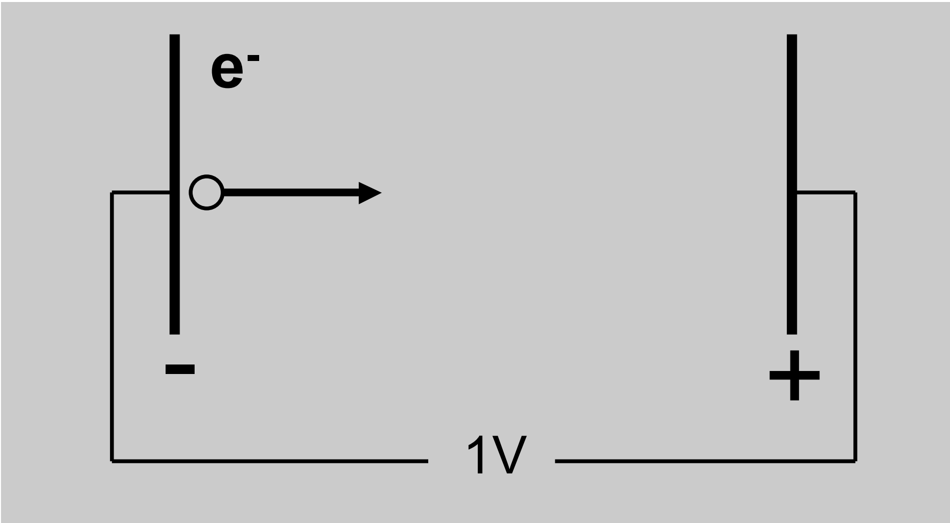
- Where do they c... point back to their sources? Can w... these particles?

Electronvolt eV

- **Our usual unit of energy, the Joule, is inconvenient when dealing with sub-atomic particles. Particle physicists therefore usually use of different unit, the *electronVolt.***

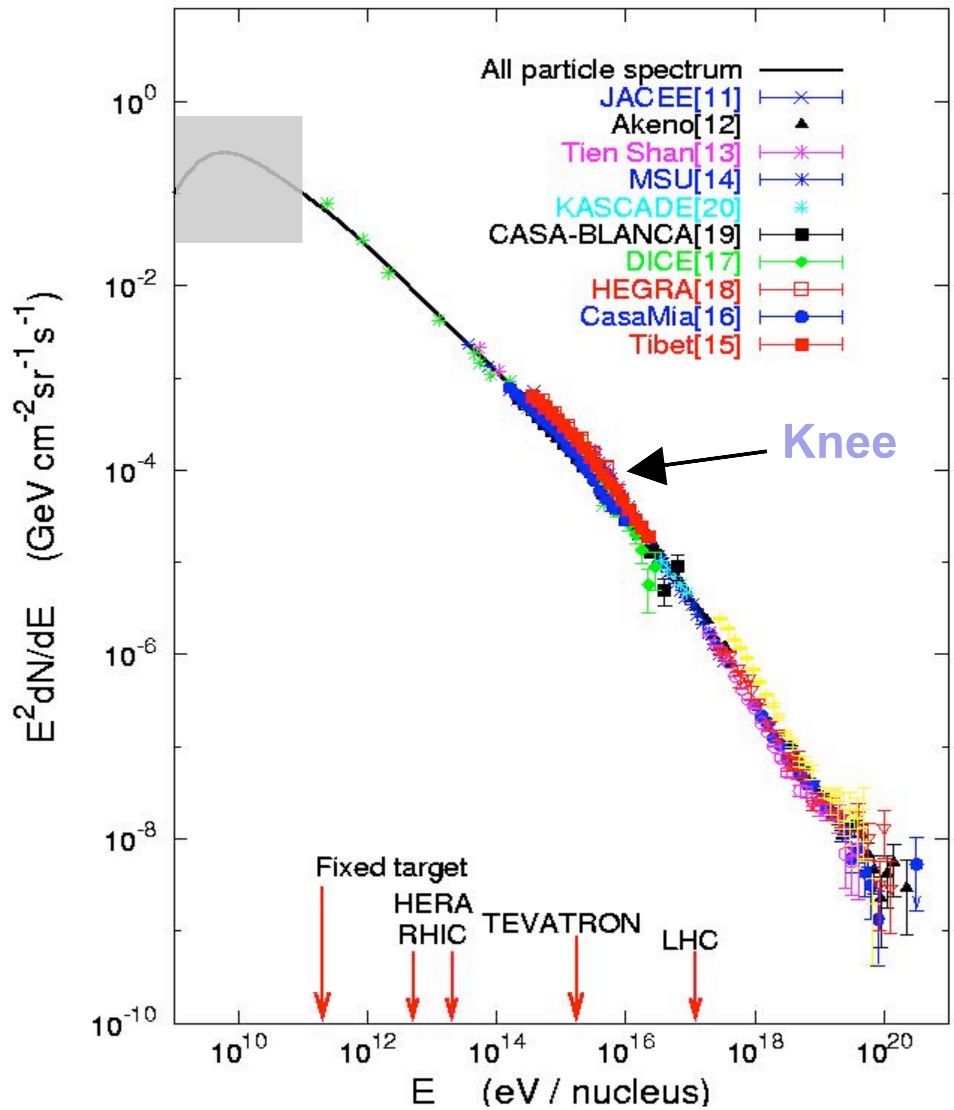
- **1 electronVolt (eV) is the amount of energy gained by an electron (or a particle with the same charge) when it is accelerated through an electrostatic potential difference of 1 Volt.**

1 eV = 1.60 ×10^{-19} Joule



Cosmic Rays Energy Spectrum

- Cosmic ray energy spectrum is *nonthermal:*
  - Energy distribution has *no characteristic temperature*.
  - Source energy is given to a relatively small number of particles.
- Energies of the nonthermal Universe (up to 10^{20} eV) are well beyond the capabilities of thermal emission processes.
- The origin of cosmic rays at energies above GeV is unknown *- no astrophysical object has ever been definitively identified as an accelerator of high energy nucleons.*

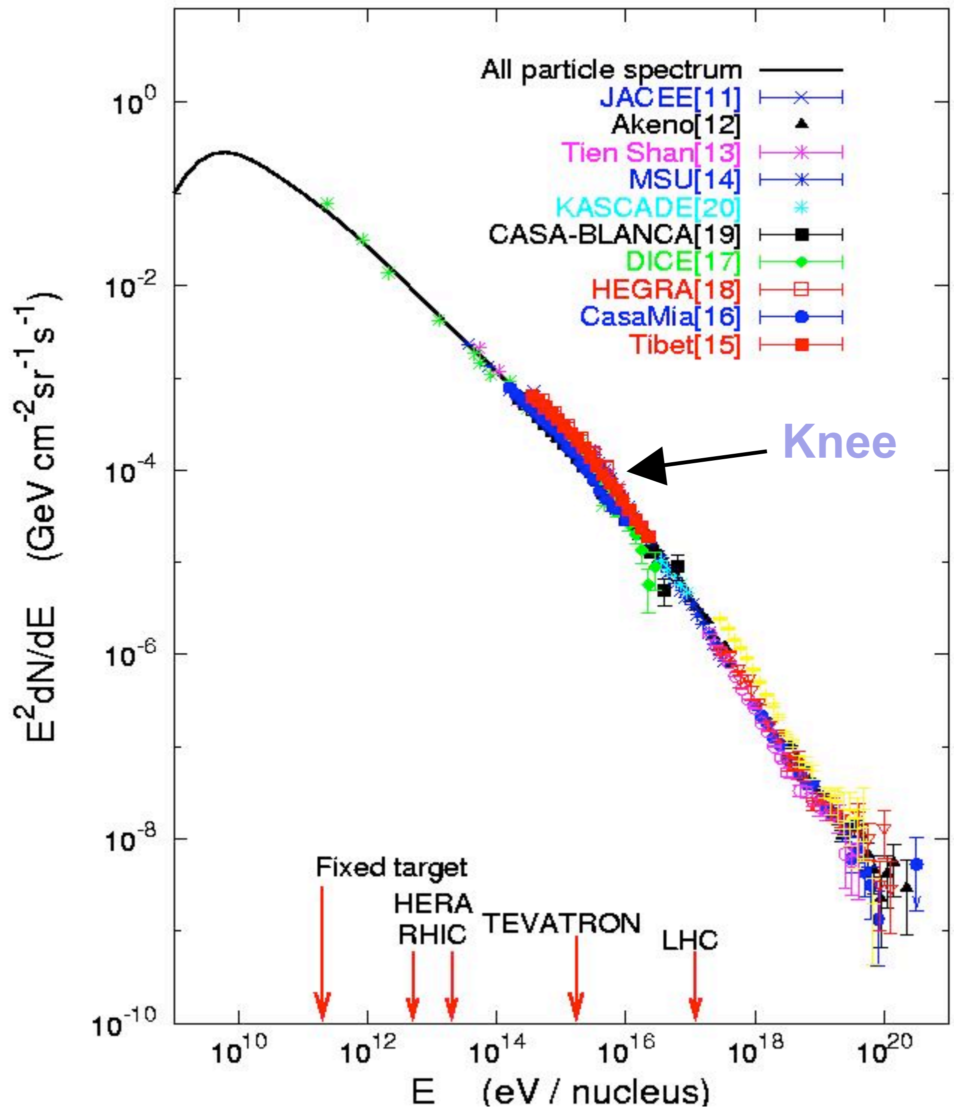


Cosmic Rays Energy Spectrum

- **Accessible to experiment:**
  - **Energy spectrum.**
  - **Chemical composition.**
  - ***Arrival directions.***

- ***Astronomy* with charged particles?**
  - **Protons and nuclei are *charged* and therefore subject to deflection in Galactic and intergalactic magnetic fields (of unknown strength)!**

$$R \cong 1\,\mathrm{kpc}\left[\frac{E_{EeV}}{B_{\mu G}}\right]\frac{1}{Z}$$



Acceleration Mechanism

- **A possible acceleration mechanism was suggested in 1949 by Enrico Fermi.**

- **Particles are accelerated "by collisions against moving magnetic fiel**

PHYSICAL REVIEW VOLUME 75, NUMBER 8 APRIL 15, 1949

On the Origin of the Cosmic Radiation

ENRICO FERMI
Institute for Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
(Received January 3, 1949)

A theory of the origin of cosmic radiation is proposed according to which cosmic rays are originated and accelerated primarily in the interstellar space of the galaxy by collisions against moving magnetic fields. One of the features of the theory is that it yields naturally an inverse power law for the spectral distribution of the cosmic rays. The chief difficulty is that it fails to explain in a straightforward way the heavy nuclei observed in the primary radiation.

I. INTRODUCTION

IN recent discussions on the origin of the cosmic radiation E. Teller[1] has advocated the view that cosmic rays are of solar origin and are kept relatively near the sun by the action of magnetic

where H is the intensity of the magnetic field and ρ is the density of the interstellar matter.

One finds according to the present theory that a particle that is projected into the interstellar medium with energy above a certain injection

Power Law

- **How can we get a power law?** $N(>E) \propto E^{-\gamma}$

- **Assume particles are not accelerated in one single step, but little by little in a process that repeats *n* times, with an energy gain *per step* of**

$$\Delta E = \xi E$$

- **After *n* steps, the energy is** $E_n = E_0 (1+\xi)^n$

- **… so the number of steps needed to reach energy E is**

$$n = \frac{\ln(E/E_0)}{\ln(1+\xi)}$$

Power Law

- **Complication:** **after every step, the particle can escape from the acceleration region with some probability P_{esc}. Once it escapes, its energies does not increase any more.**

- **The probability P_n that the particle reaches energy E_n is equal to the probability that the particle has *not* escaped for *n* encounters:**

$$P_n = (1 - P_{esc})^n$$

- **The number N of particles with energy > E_n is proportional to the number of particles that remain in the acceleration region for more than *n* steps:**

$$N(\geq E) \propto \sum_{m=n}^{\infty} (1 - P_{esc})^m$$

$$= \frac{(1 - P_{esc})^n}{P_{esc}} = \frac{1}{P_{esc}} (1 - P_{esc})^{\frac{\ln(E/E_0)}{\ln(1+\xi)}}$$

Power Law

- **This can be re-written as**

$$N(\geq E) \propto \left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right)^{-\gamma} \qquad \textbf{with} \qquad \gamma = \frac{\ln\left[1/\left(1-P_{esc}\right)\right]}{\ln\left(1+\xi\right)}$$

⇒ **a process with a repeated energy increase $\Delta E = \xi E$ per step naturally gives a power law.**

- **Note:**

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \nu \; (\xi\, E) = \frac{\xi E}{T}$$

ν = frequency of acceleration
T = characteristic time of process

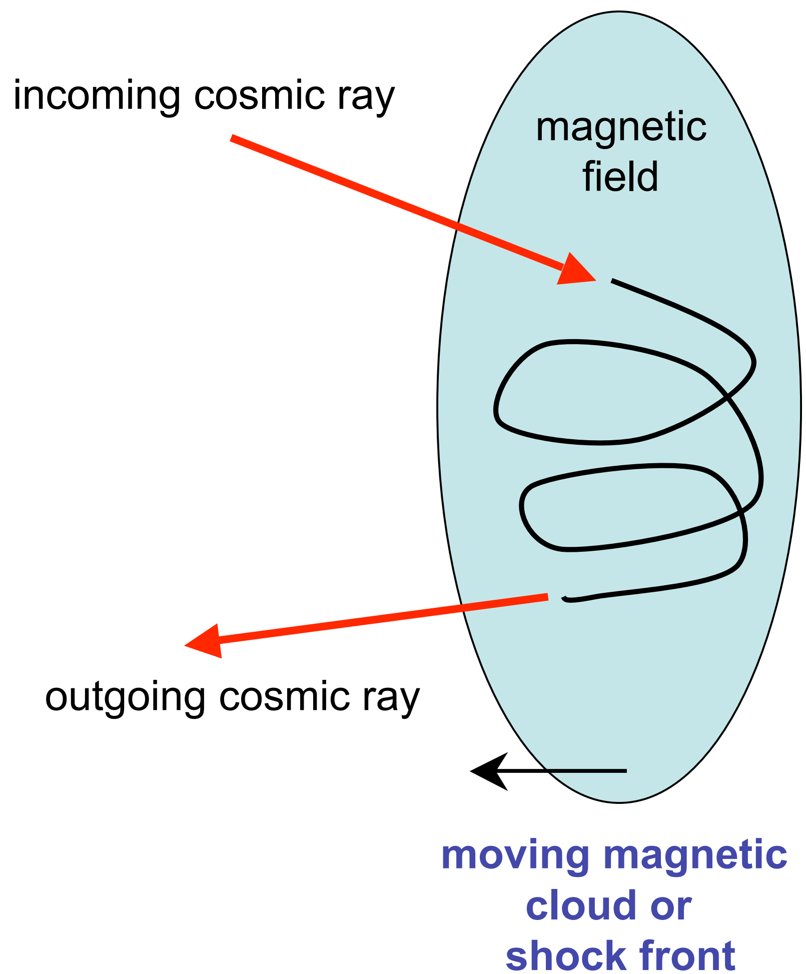
⇒ **reaching higher energies takes longer; if the accelerator has a limited lifetime, only some characteristic maximum energy can be reached.**

Source Candidates?

- **In Fermi's cosmic ray shock accelerator, protons speed up by bouncing off moving magnetic clouds in space - just like a tennis ball is faster after it bounces off a wall moving towards the observer.**

- **Shock acceleration is a tedious process - the particles gain energy over many (10^7 or more) collisions.**

- **This is not the correct model, but the model can be improved: replace magnetic clouds by shock fronts…**



Fermi Acceleration

- **Second order Fermi acceleration (charged particle interactions with clouds containing turbulent magnetic fields):**

$$\left\langle \frac{\Delta E}{E} \right\rangle = \frac{4}{3}\beta^2$$

β = velocity of cloud (typically $\beta < 10^{-4}$)

⇒ **power law guaranteed!**

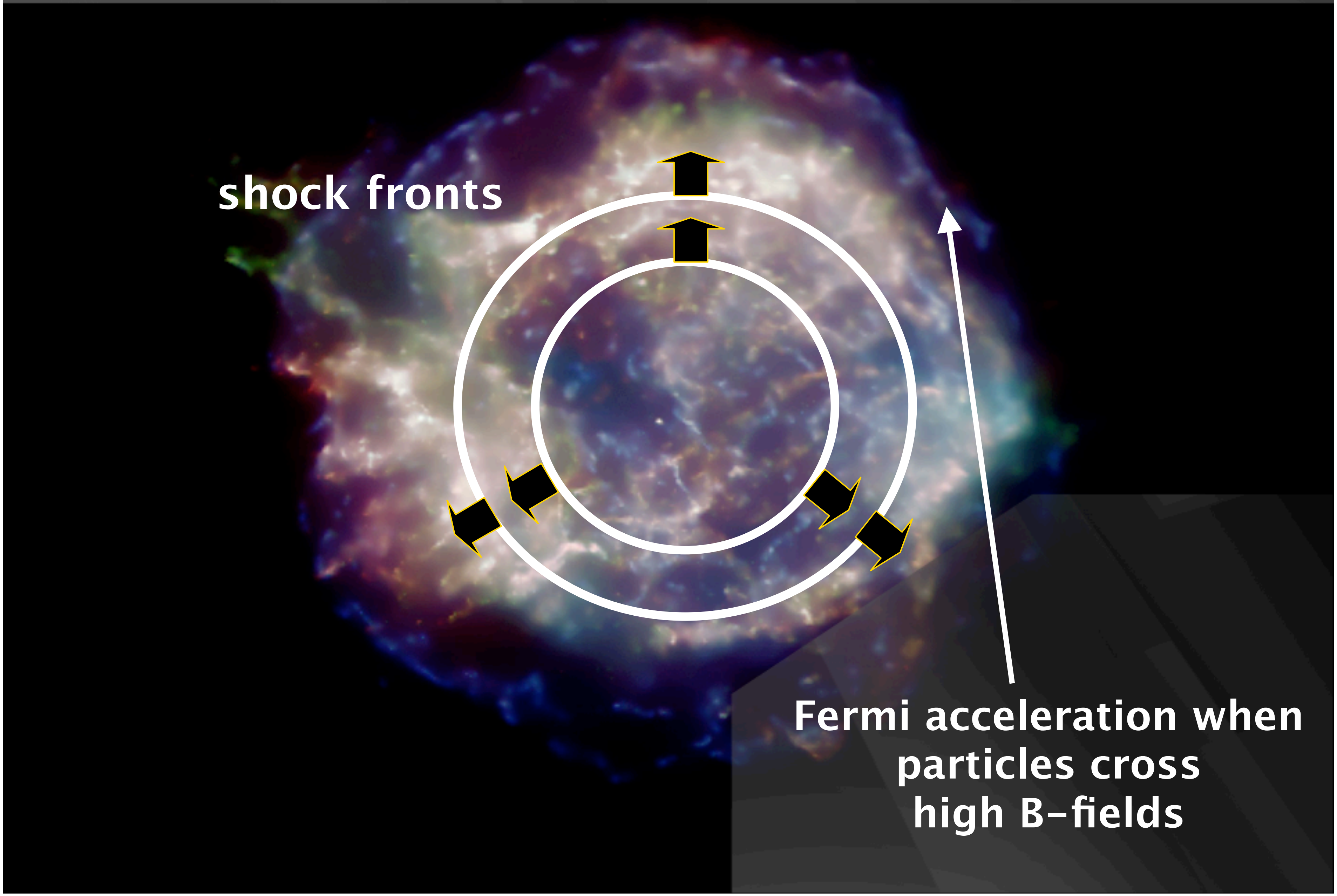
- **First order Fermi acceleration (1977) (replace cloud by shock front)**

$$\left\langle \frac{\Delta E}{E} \right\rangle = \frac{4}{3}\beta$$

β = velocity of shocked gas relative to the unshocked gas (typically $\beta c \cong 10^4$ km/s)

⇒ **power law guaranteed *plus* the spectral index is independent of the properties of the shock wave and depends only on the ratio of upstream to downstream velocities.**
⇒ **predicts a *unique* spectral index for diverse environments.**

Cas A supernova remnant in X-rays



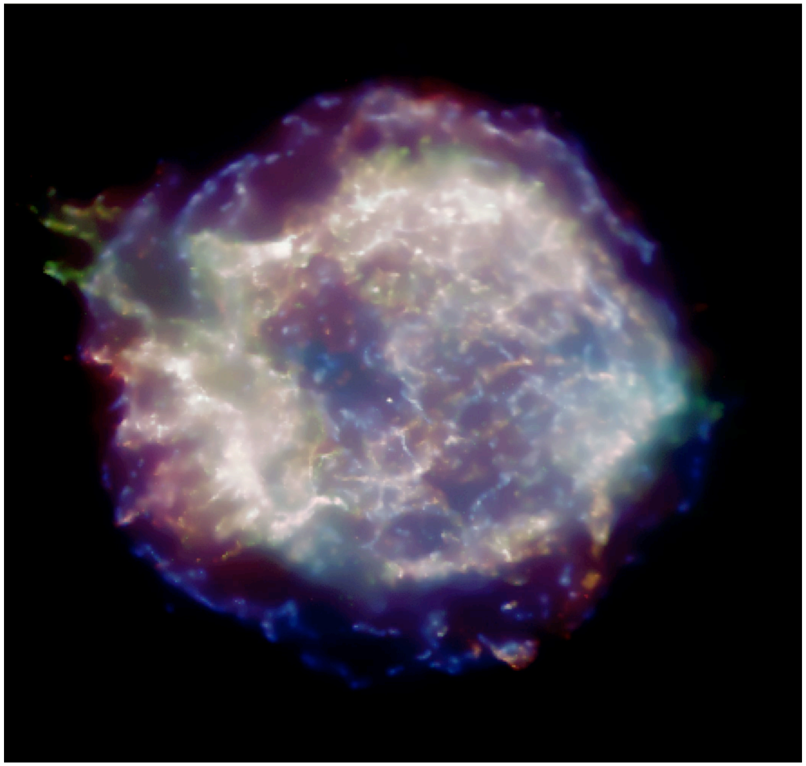
Cosmic Particle Accelerators

- **Baade and Zwicky suggested in 1934 that *supernova remnants* could be the sources of Galactic cosmic rays.**

- **Particles are accelerated in diffuse shocks associated with young (~1000 year old) supernova remnants expanding into the interstellar medium.**

- **The shock sweeps up the ~1 proton/cm^3 density of hydrogen in the Galactic plane.**

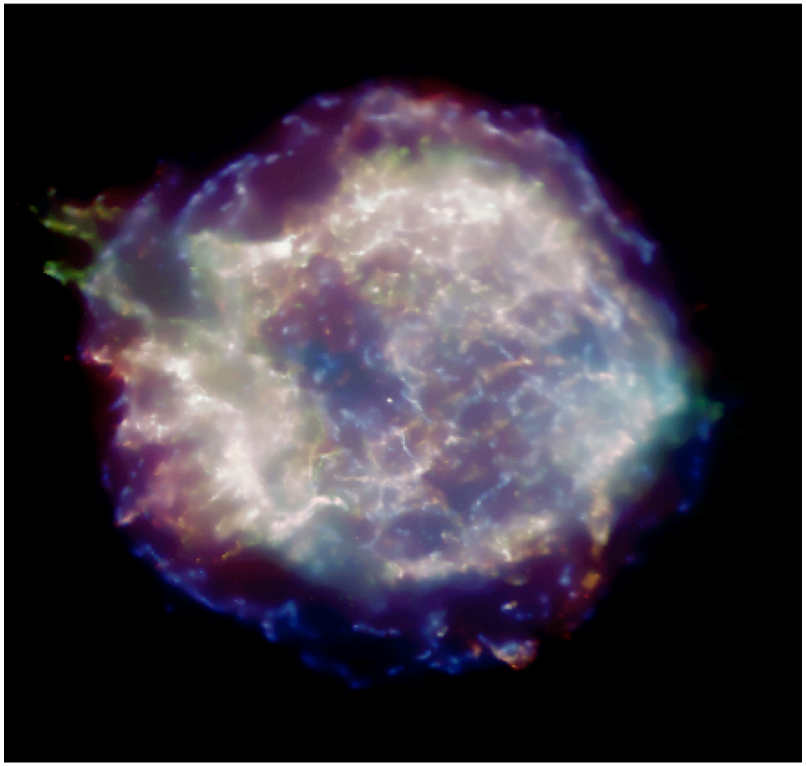
- **Fermi acceleration occurs in the high magnetic fields in the outer reaches of the shock.**



Cas A, courtesy Chandra (NASA)

Cosmic Particle Accelerators

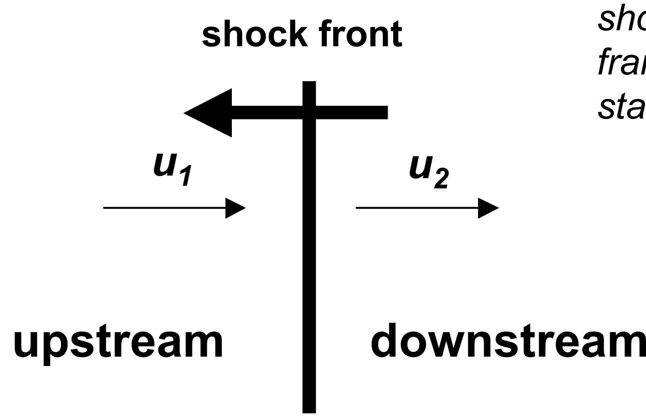
- *Supernovae* can account for cosmic rays with energies up to ~10^{16} eV.
- The strongest argument for this scenario is based on energy considerations:
  - Observed energy density of galactic cosmic rays: ~ 10^{-12} erg/cm^3
  - Supernova remnants: 10^{51} erg every 30 years: ~ 10^{-12} erg/cm^3
- Supernova remnants provide the *environment* and *energy* to explain the galactic cosmic rays.



Cas A, courtesy Chandra (NASA)

Spectral Index

A.R. Bell,
MNRAS 182 (1978) 147



shock viewed in the frame in which it is stationary

$$\gamma = \frac{\ln\left[1/\left(1 - P_{esc}\right)\right]}{\ln\left(1 + \xi\right)}$$

with

$$\xi = \frac{4}{3}\beta = \frac{4}{3}\frac{\left(u_1 - u_2\right)}{c}$$

For a strong shock wave, the ratio of the upstream to downstream velocities depends only on the ratio of specific heats of the gas:

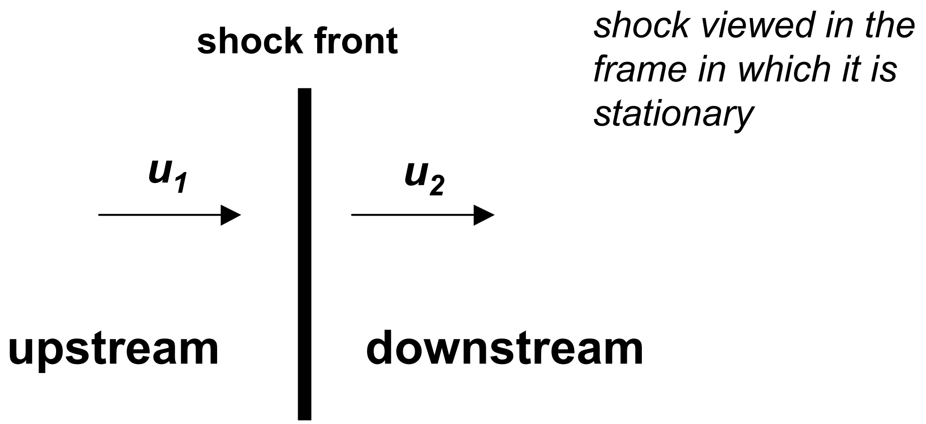
$$u_1\rho_1 = u_2\rho_2 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \frac{u_1}{u_2} = \frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1} = \frac{\bar{\gamma} + 1}{\bar{\gamma} - 1}$$

for a fully ionized gas

$$\bar{\gamma} = \frac{5}{3}$$

Spectral Index

A.R. Bell,
MNRAS 182 (1978) 147



$$\Rightarrow \quad \frac{u_1}{u_2} = \frac{\bar{\gamma}+1}{\bar{\gamma}-1} = 4 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad u_2 = \frac{1}{4} u_1$$

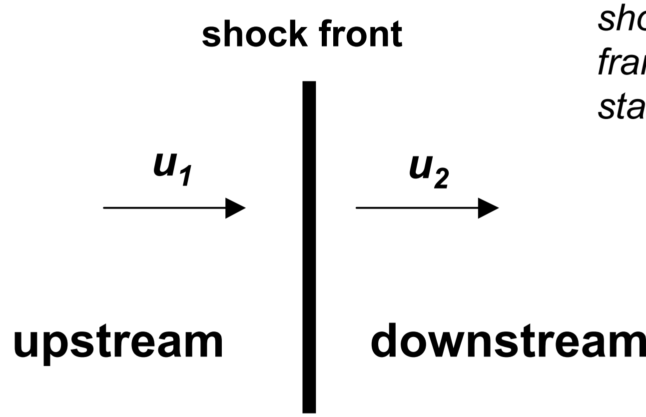
The escape probability is the ratio

$$P_{esc} = \frac{\text{escape rate (through convection downstream)}}{\text{rate of shock encouters}}$$

$$= \frac{u_2 \rho_{CR}}{c \rho_{CR}/4} = \frac{4 u_2}{c}$$

Spectral Index

A.R. Bell,
MNRAS 182 (1978) 147



shock viewed in the frame in which it is stationary

Final result: $\gamma = -2 \quad \rightarrow \quad N(E)dE \propto E^{-2}dE$

- **The spectral index is independent of the absolute magnitude of the velocity of the plasma - it depends only on the ratio of upstream to downstream velocities.**
- **The spectral index is "universal" and its value comes close to what is needed to explain the cosmic ray energy spectrum.**

Fermi Acceleration

- **First order Fermi acceleration is faster than second order, but it is by no means fast.**

- **The time scale of a typical SN blast wave is roughly the time it takes the expanding shell to sweep through its own mass of the interstellar medium - after that, it slows down.**
  - ***Example:***

$$10\ M_{sun}\ \text{ expanding at } 5\cdot 10^{8}\ \text{cm/s into a medium}$$

$$\text{of average density } 1\ \frac{\text{proton}}{\text{cm}^{3}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad T \cong 1000 \text{ years}$$

  - **This means that of order 30 SN actively accelerate cosmic rays at any given time.**

Fermi Acceleration

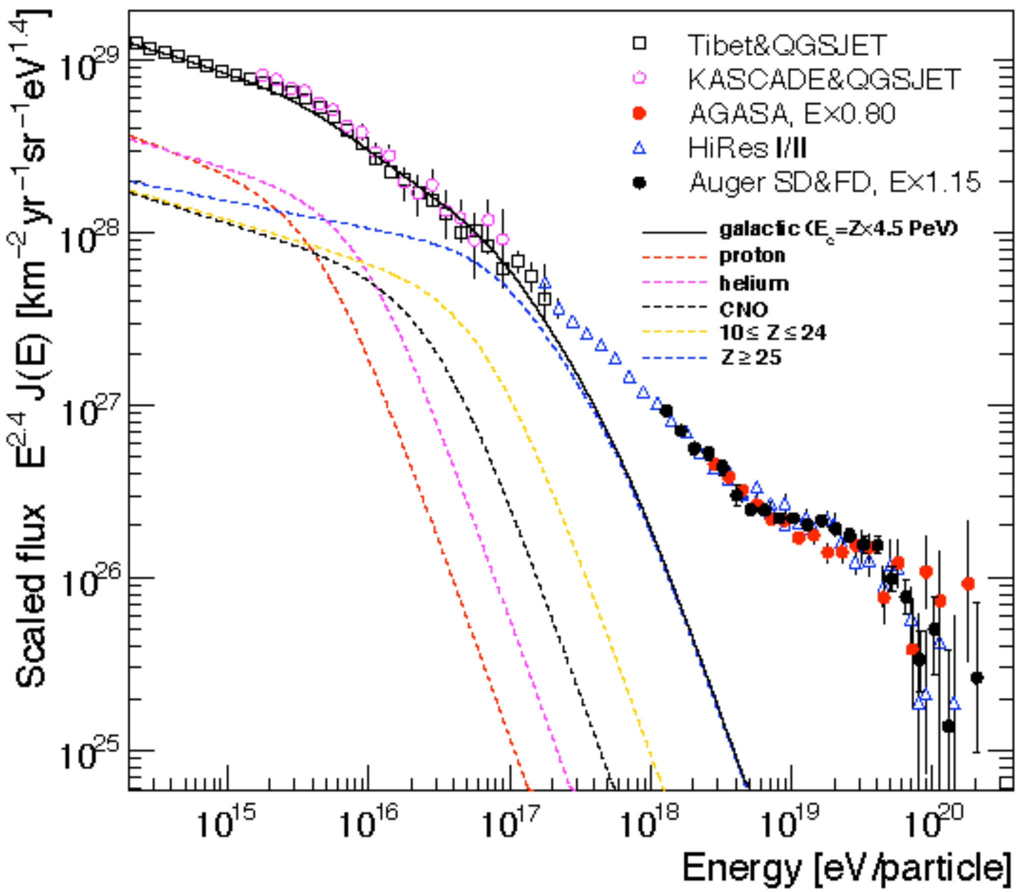
- **The finite lifetime of the SN blast wave as a strong shock limits the maximum energy per particle that can be achieved with Fermi acceleration:**

$$E_{\max} \leq Z \cdot 3 \cdot 10^4 \text{ GeV}$$

- **The cosmic ray energy spectrum extends well beyond E_{max}, so acceleration in SNRs cannot account for the full spectrum!**

- **This limit can be raised if the SN does *not* explode into the average interstellar medium, but into an environment formed by the wind of its progenitor (stellar wind SN). This raises the limit for E_{max} by about two orders of magnitude (Völk & Biermann, 1988).**

Polygonato Model



('polygonato' model, Hörandel, APP (2003))

- **Standard Model of "knee:"**
  - **Maximum energy**

    $$\propto Z \cdot E$$

  - **Leakage from Galaxy**

    $$\propto Z \cdot E$$

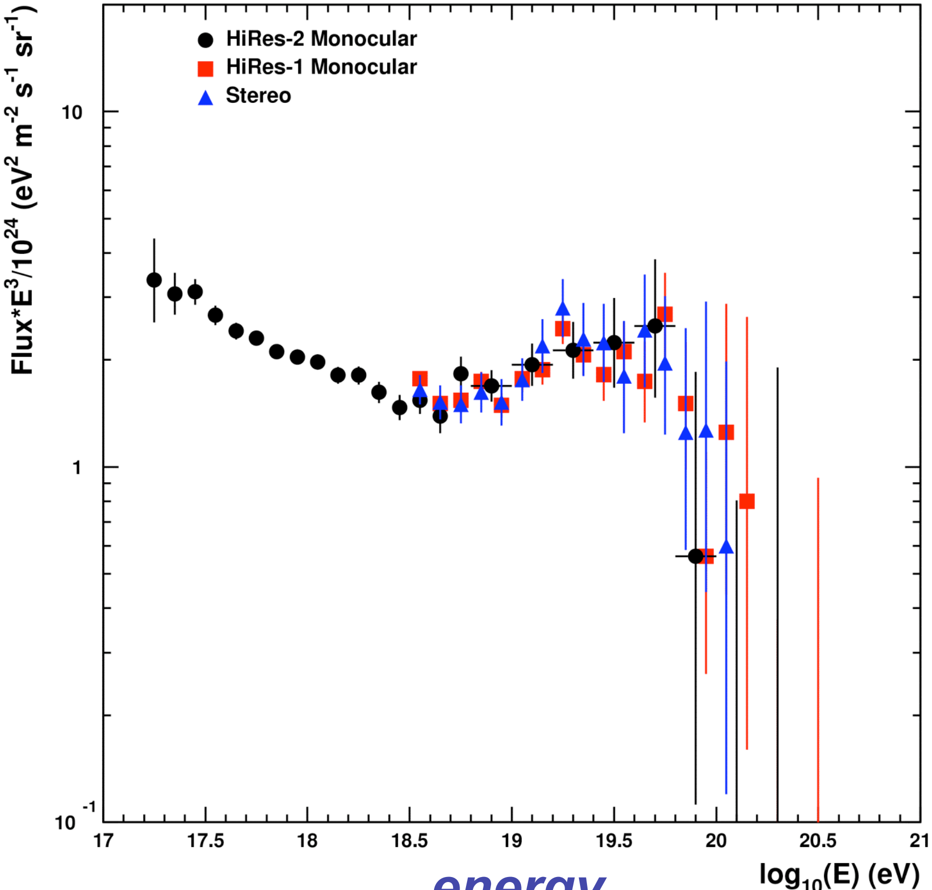
- **Between 10^{17} and 10^{19} eV transition from Galactic to extragalactic sources**

Cosmic Particle Accelerators

- **Above ~10^{18} eV, the gyroradius of a proton in Galactic magnetic fields exceeds the size of the Galaxy, so cosmic rays above this energy must be *extragalactic* all the way to the highest observed energies ~10^{20} eV.**

- **Direct support for this scenario comes from the observation of the *absorption of the particle flux by the microwave background* ("GZK cutoff") by the HiRes and Pierre Auger cosmic ray experiments.**

Flux × E^3



energy

HiRes Collaboration,
PRL 100 (2008) 101101

GZK Suppression

- **Cosmic rays interact with the 2.7 K microwave background.**
- **Protons above ~ 6×10^{19} eV suffer severe energy loss from photopion production.**

$$
\begin{aligned}
p\,\gamma_{3K} &\rightarrow e^{+}e^{-}p \\
&\rightarrow \pi^{+}\,n \\
&\rightarrow \pi^{0}\,p
\end{aligned}
$$

- **Proton (or neutron) emerges with reduced energy, and further interaction occurs until the energy is below the cutoff energy.**
- **Greisen-Zatsepin-Kuz'min Suppression**

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 17 PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 25 APRIL 1966

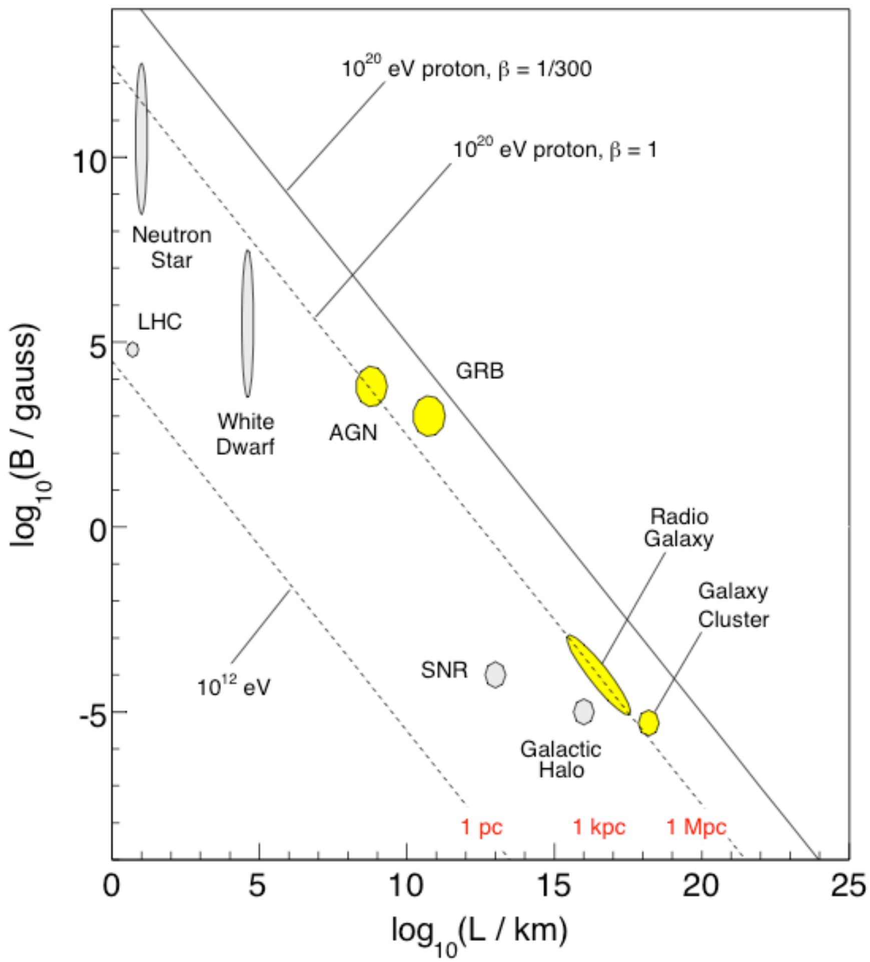
END TO THE COSMIC-RAY SPECTRUM?

Kenneth Greisen
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
(Received 1 April 1966)

The primary cosmic-ray spectrum has been measured up to an energy of 10^{20} eV,[1] and several groups have described projects under de-

Penzias and Wilson[3] at 4080 Mc/sec (7.35 cm) and now confirmed as thermal in character by measurements of Roll and Wilkinson[4] at 3.2

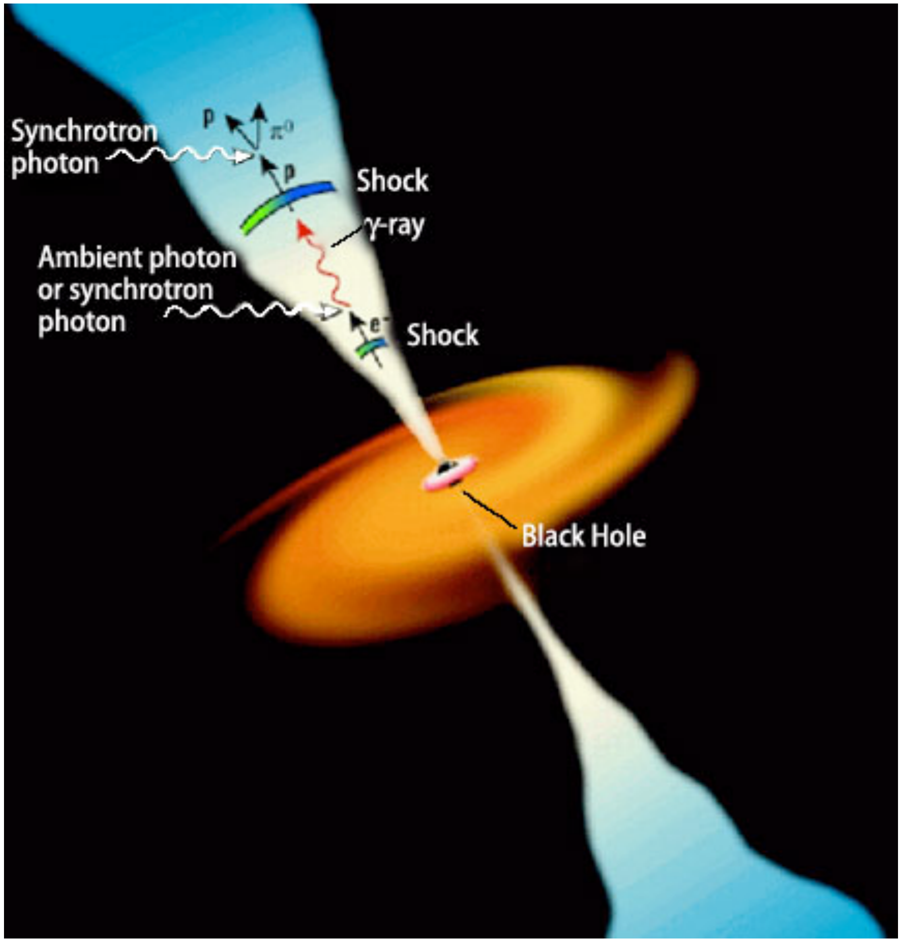
Extragalactic Sources?

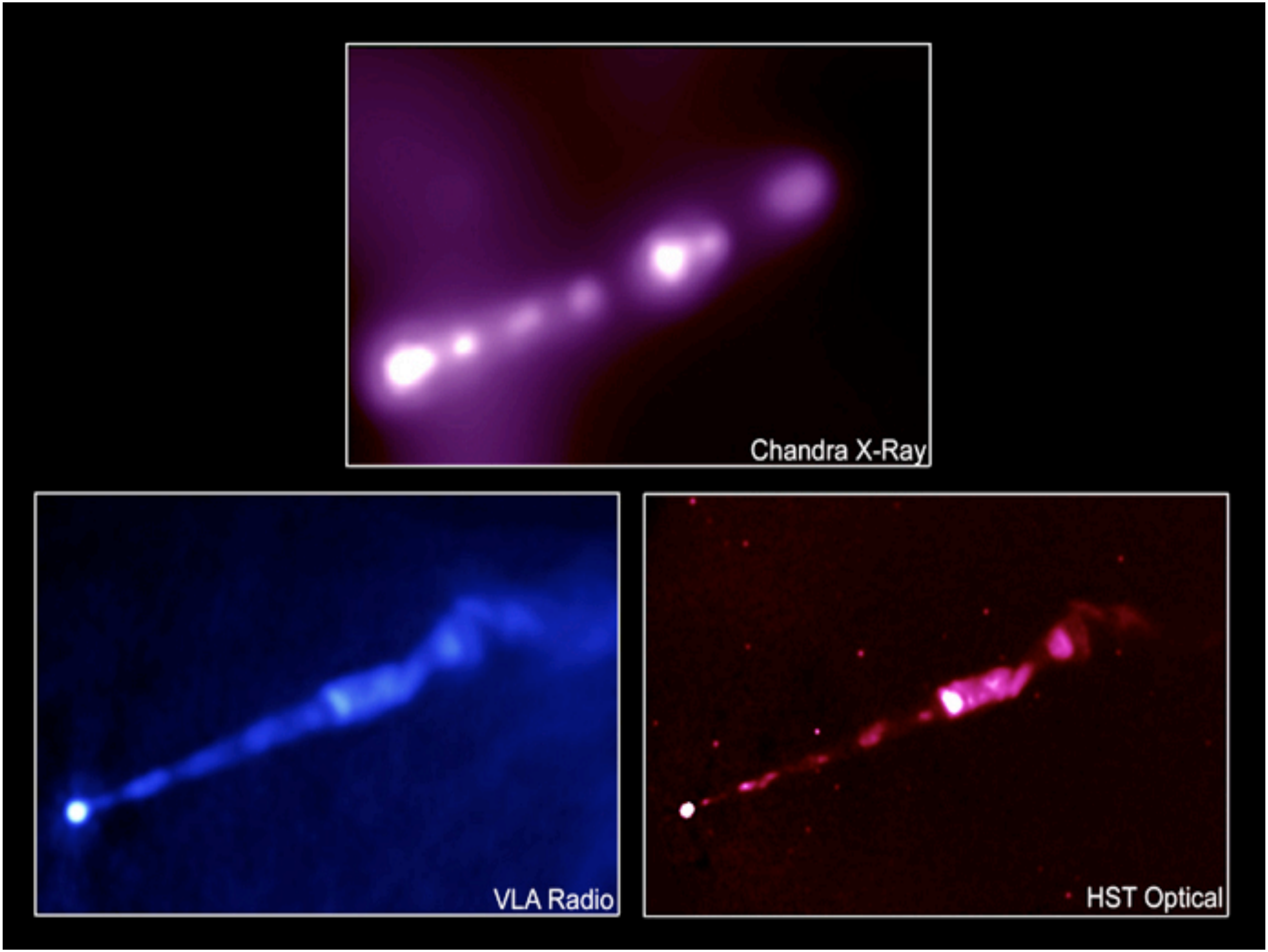


A. M. Hillas, Ann. Rev. Astron. Astrophys. 22, 425 (1984)

Cosmic Particle Accelerators

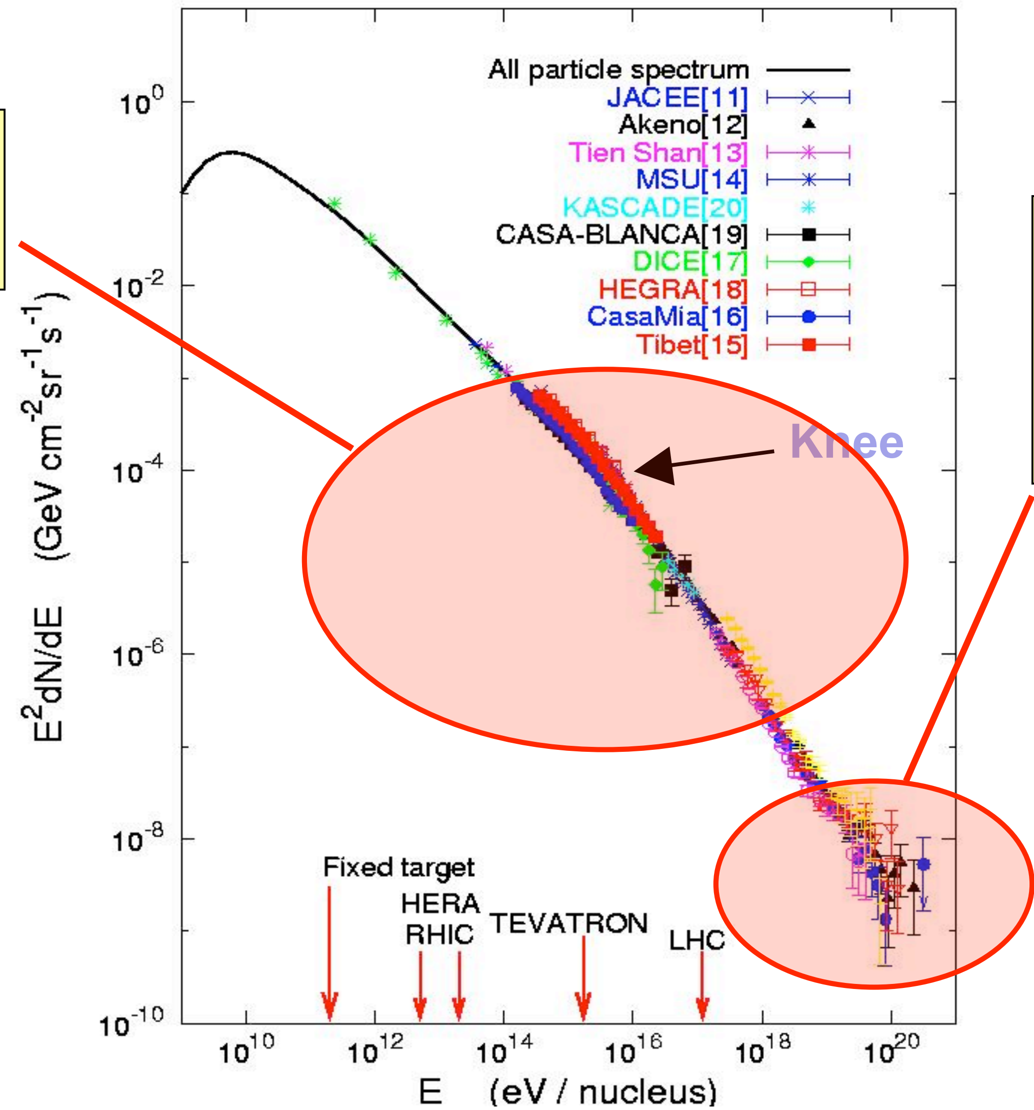
- *Active Galactic Nuclei* (AGN) are possible sources: they consist of a supermassive black hole, an accretion disk, and two jets in which shocks move outward.
- Energy considerations work out for AGN …
- … but also for *Gamma Ray Bursts* (GRBs), so both AGN and GRBs are leading candidates.
- But again, *no extragalactic object has been unambiguously identified as a source of cosmic rays…*




Chandra X-Ray
VLA Radio
HST Optical

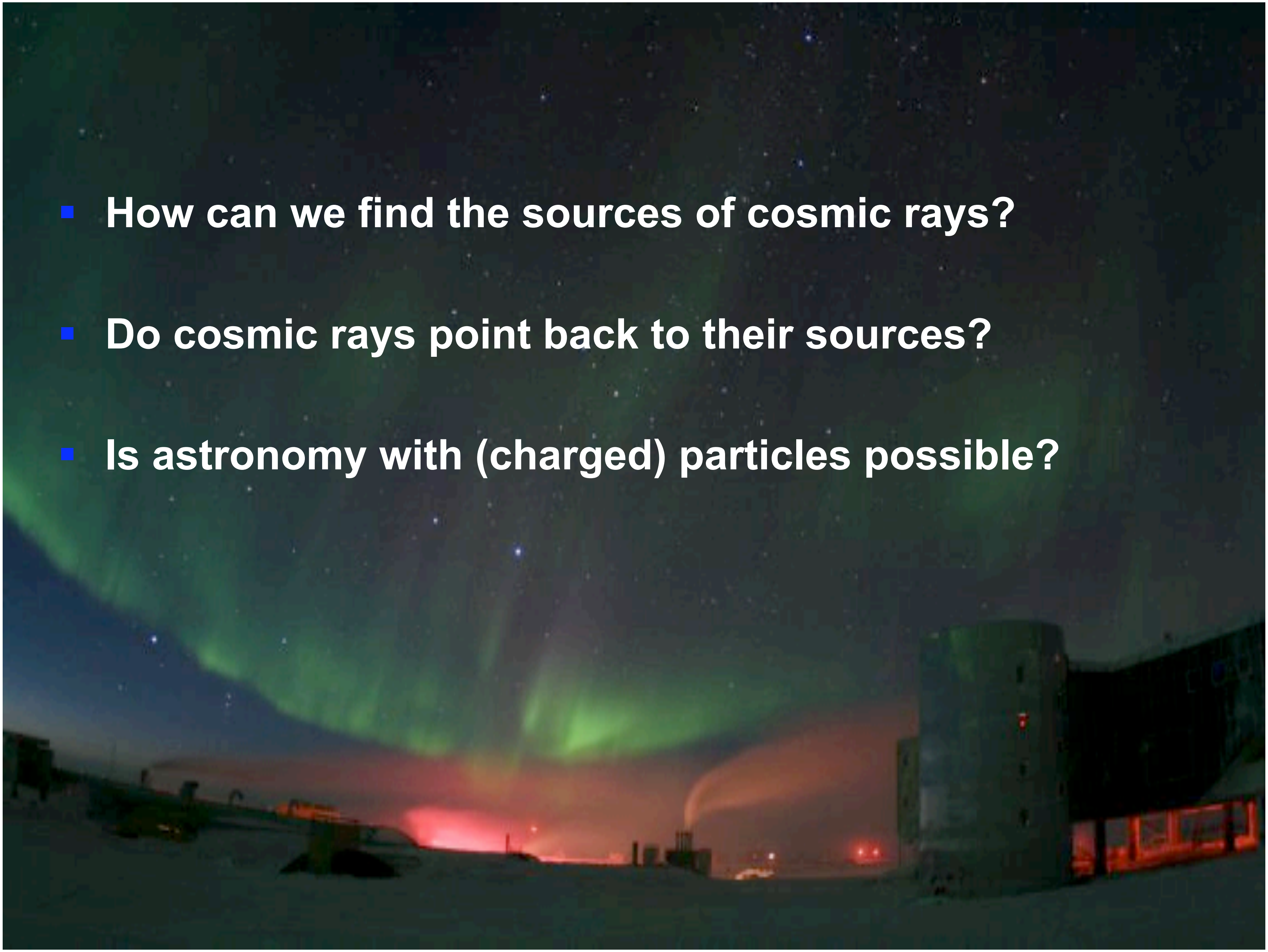
Origin of Cosmic Rays

Galactic origin
- Supernovae
- …

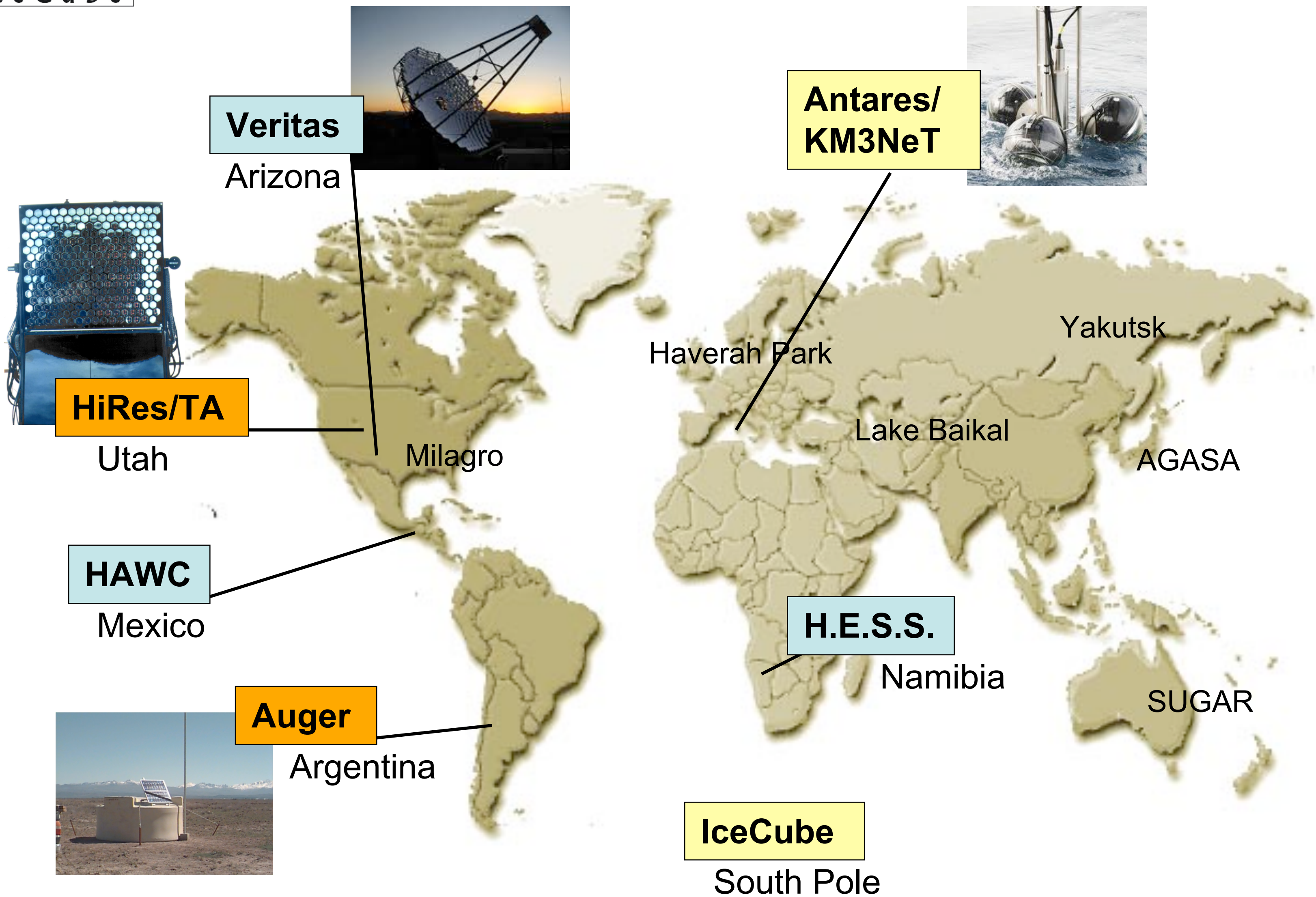


Extragalactic origin
- Active Galactic Nuclei
- …

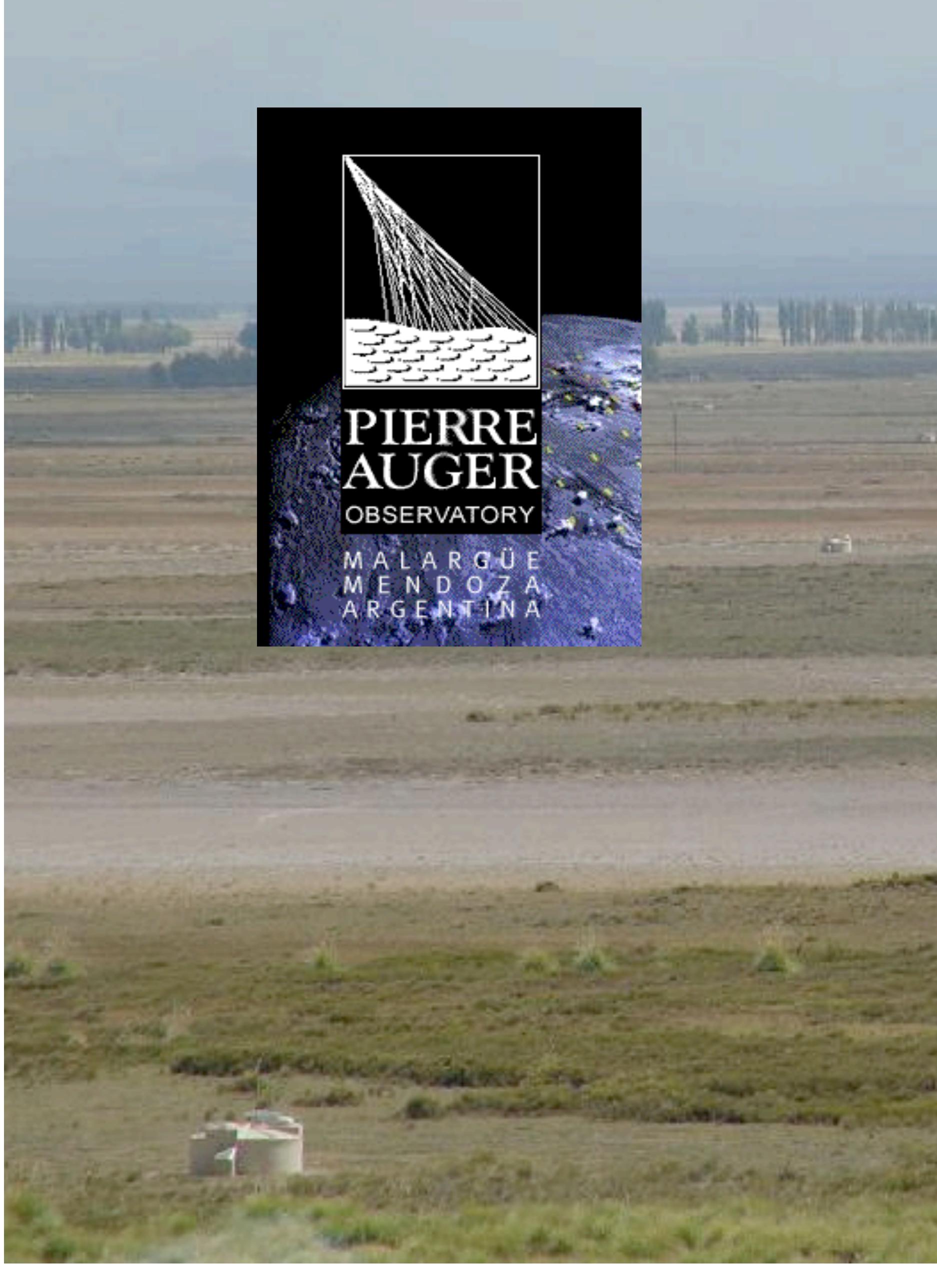
- How can we find the sources of cosmic rays?
- Do cosmic rays point back to their sources?
- Is astronomy with (charged) particles possible?

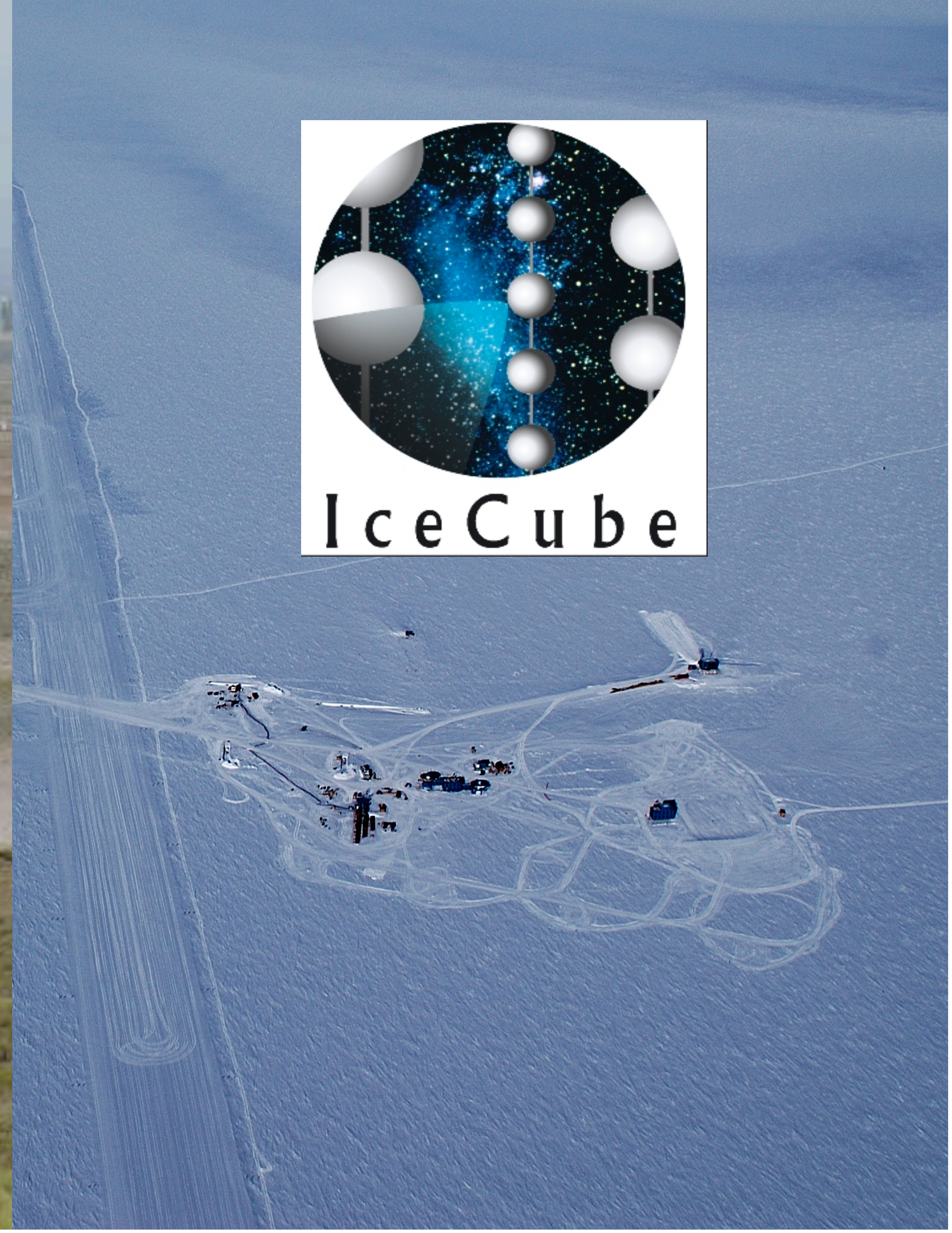


A World-Wide Effort

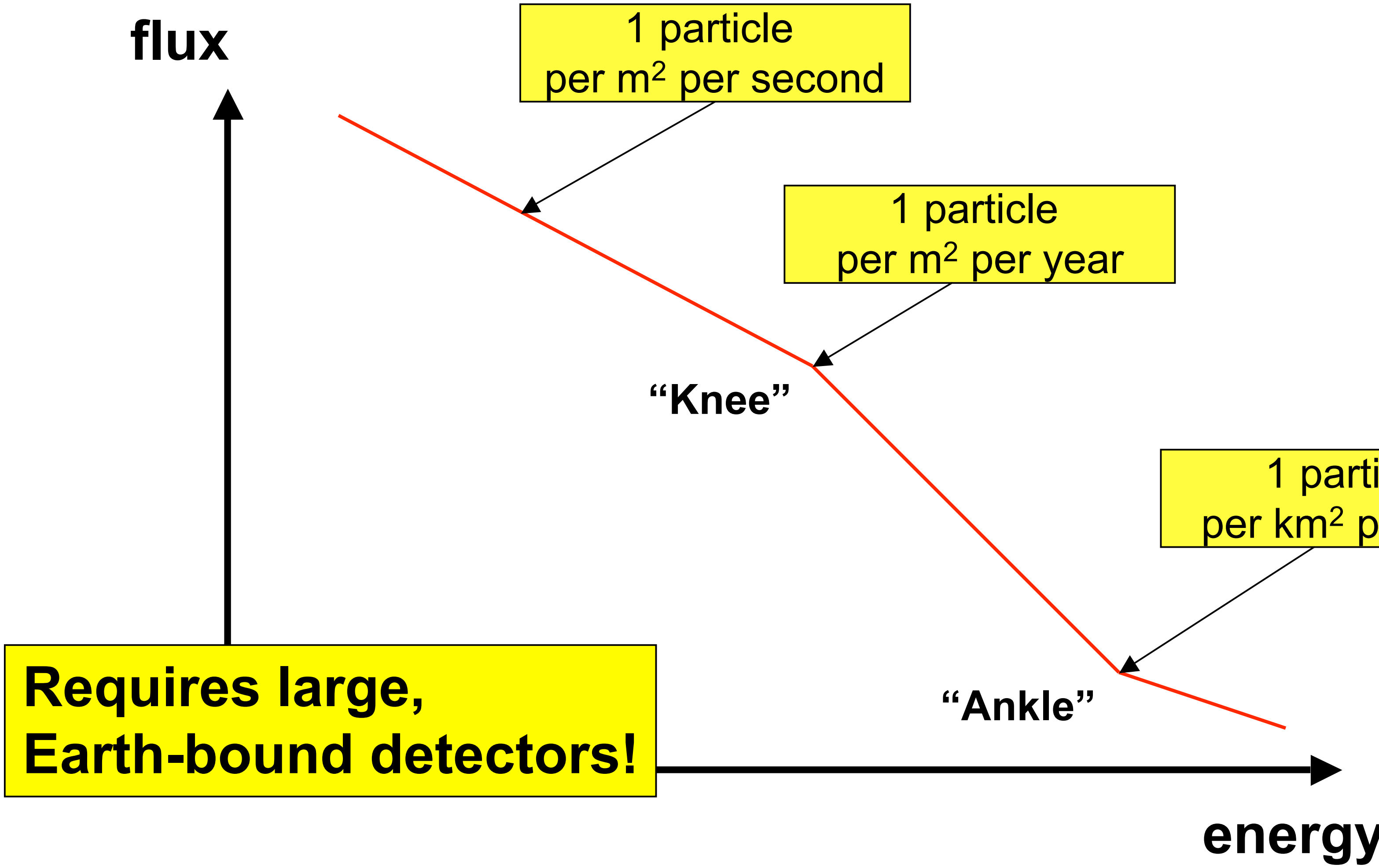


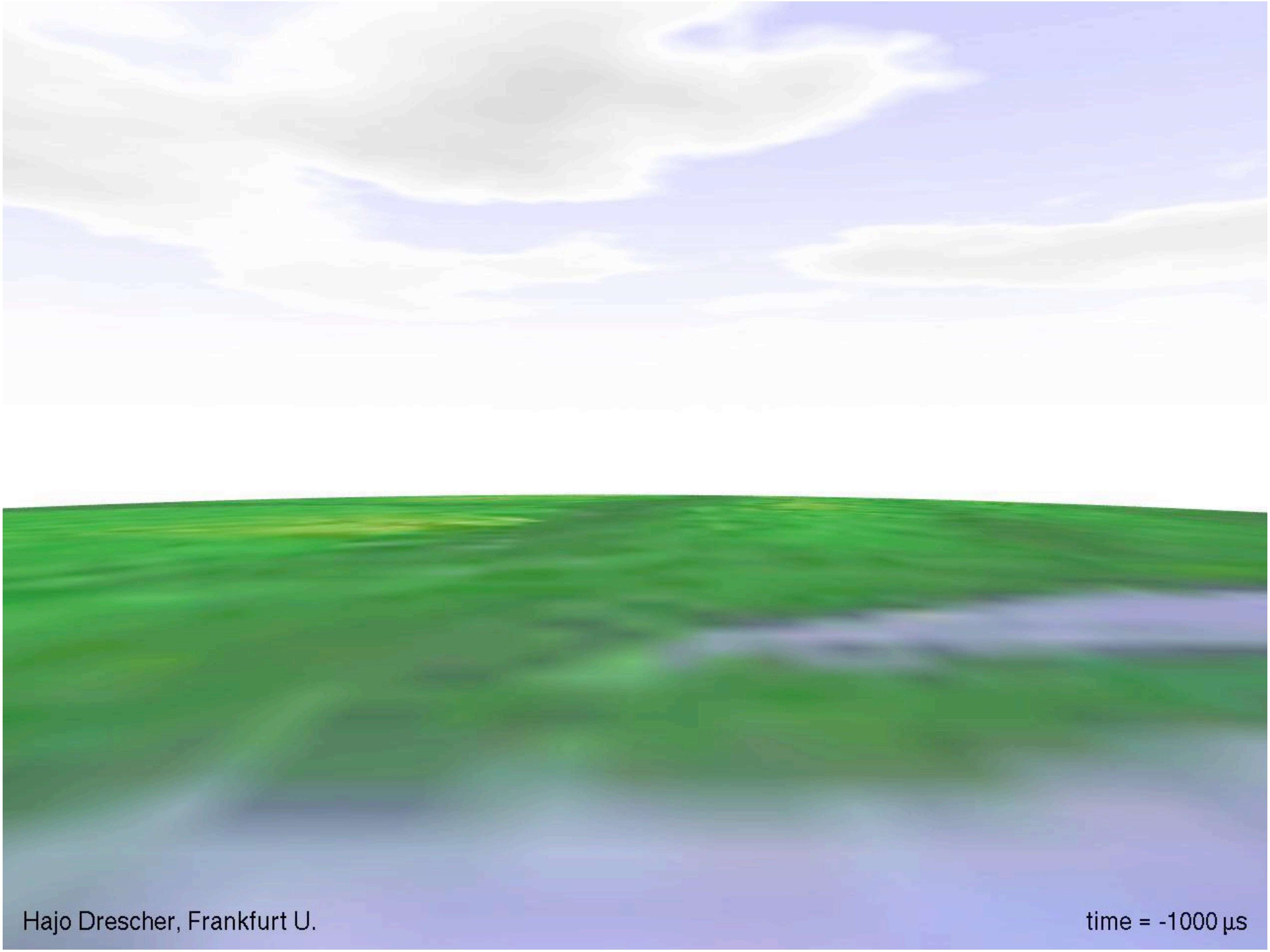
A Tale of Two Experiments

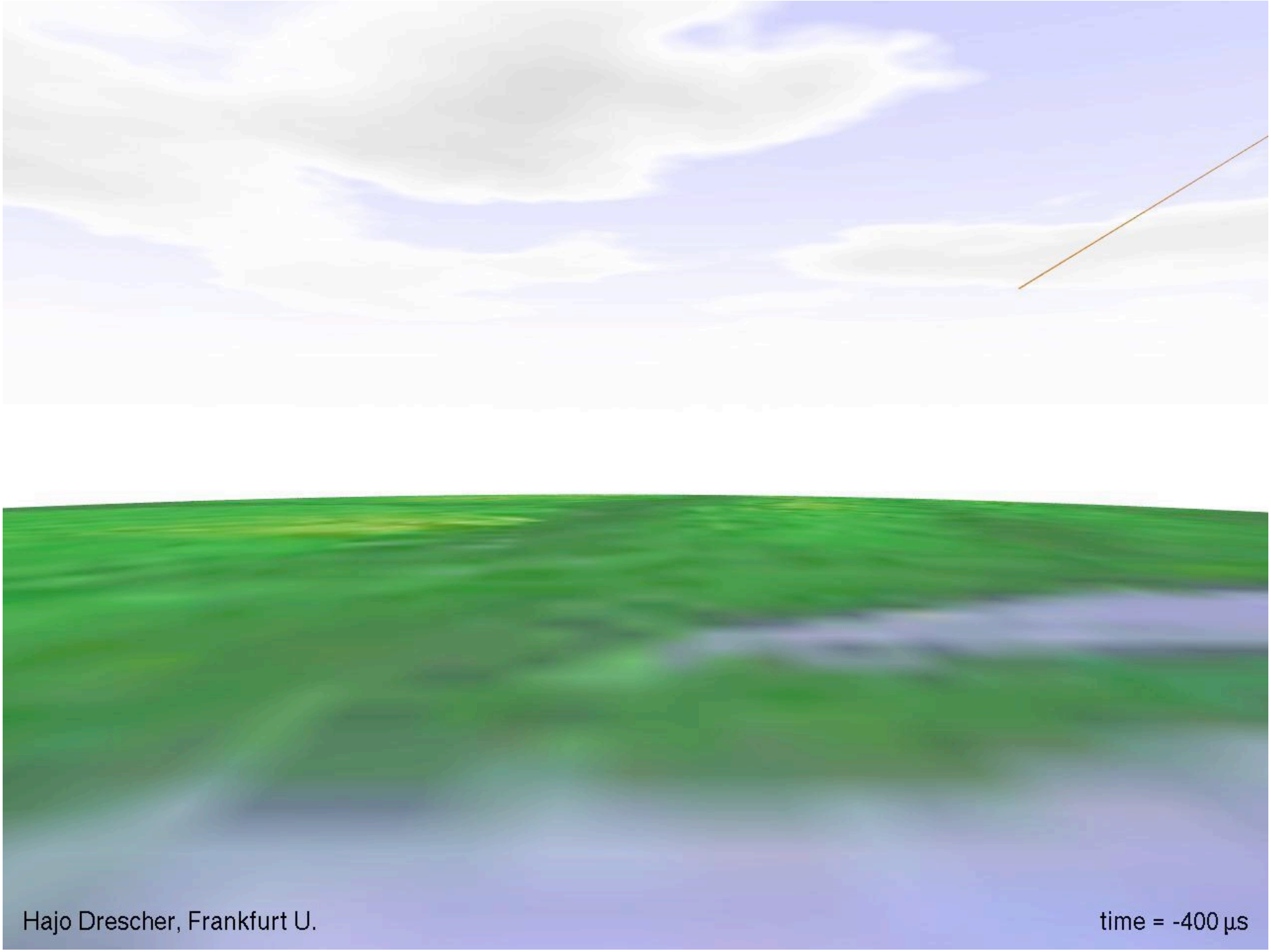




Integral Flux




Hajo Drescher, Frankfurt U.
time = -1000 μs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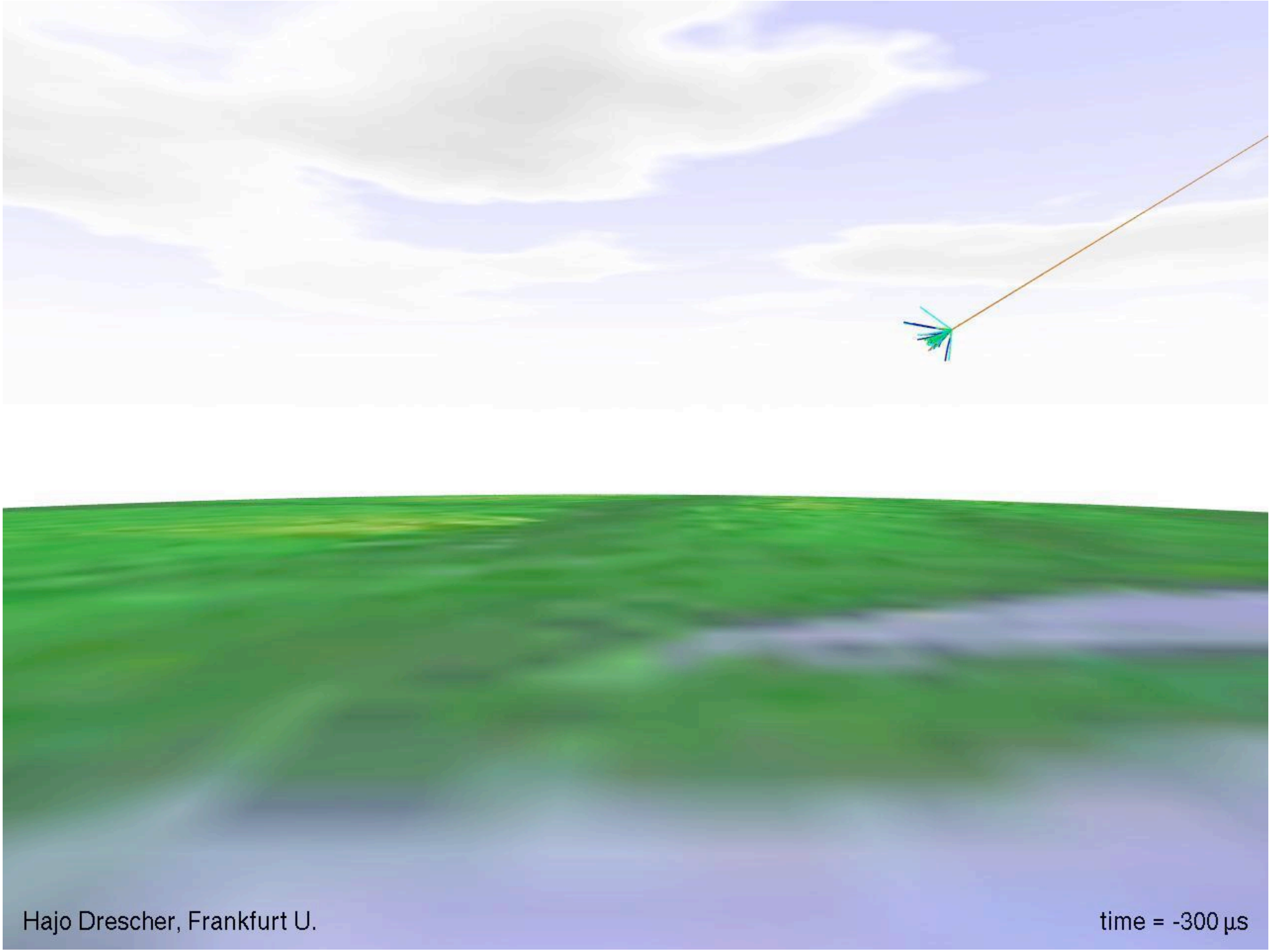
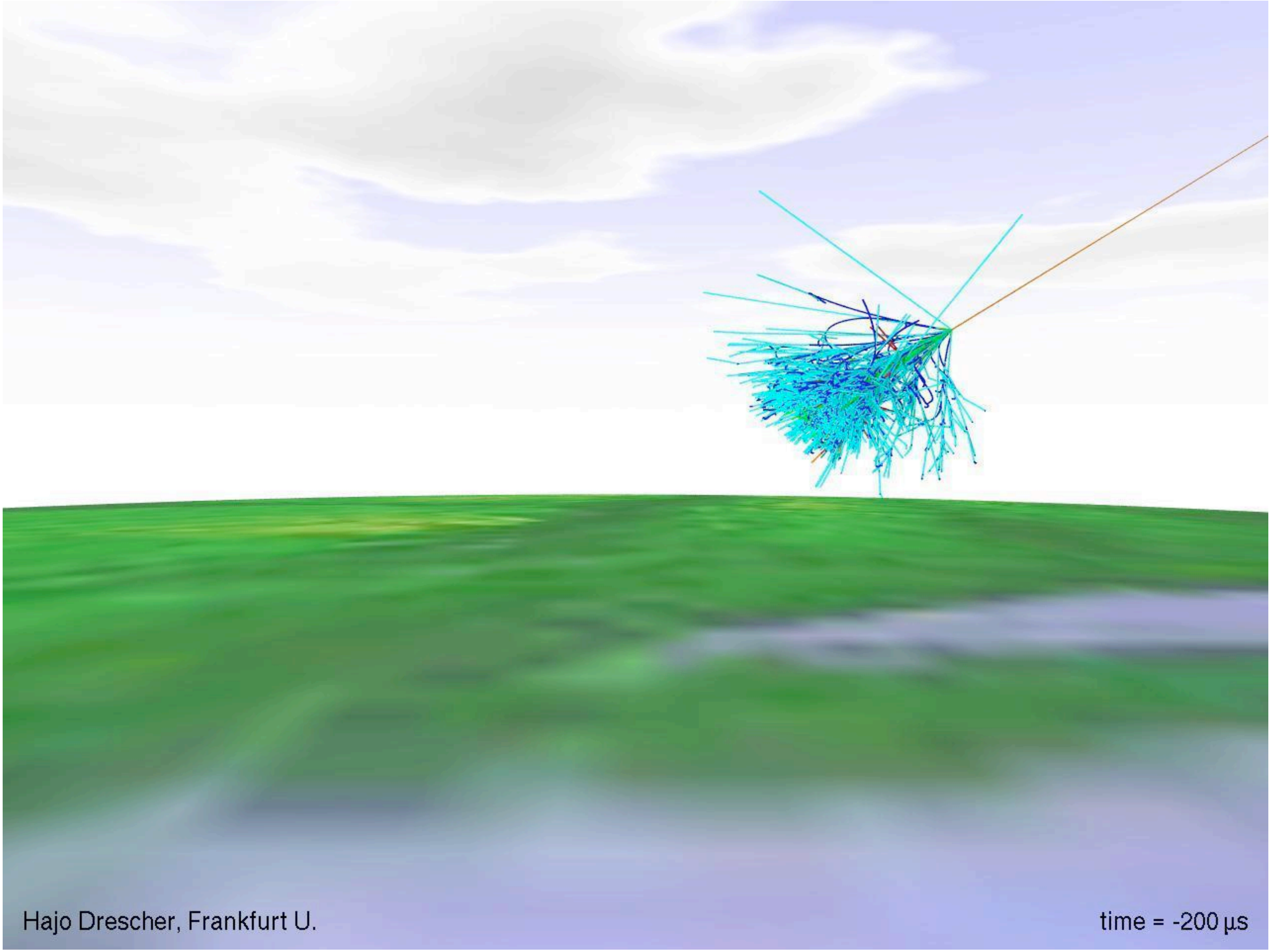

Hajo Drescher, Frankfurt U.
time = -300 µs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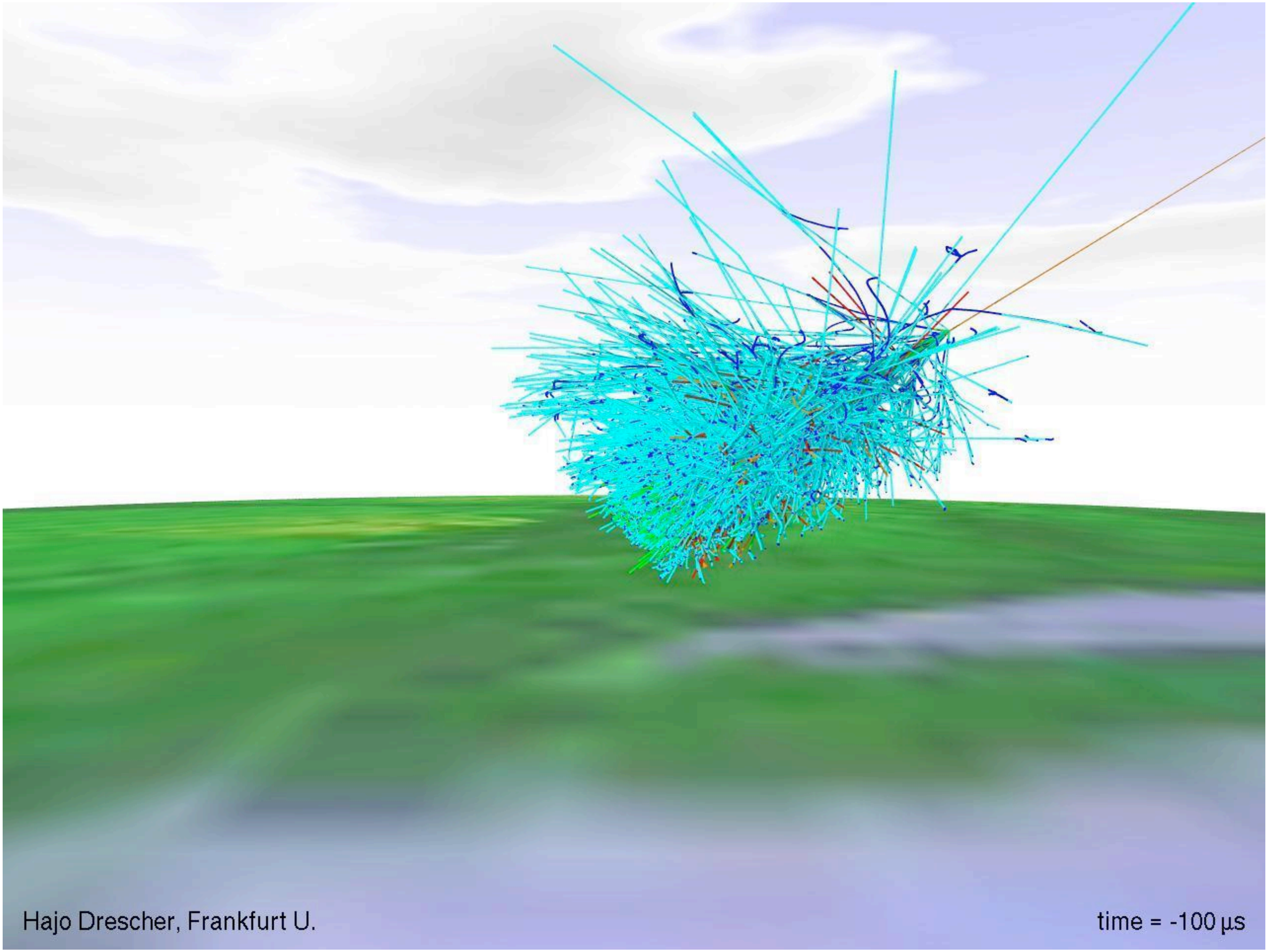
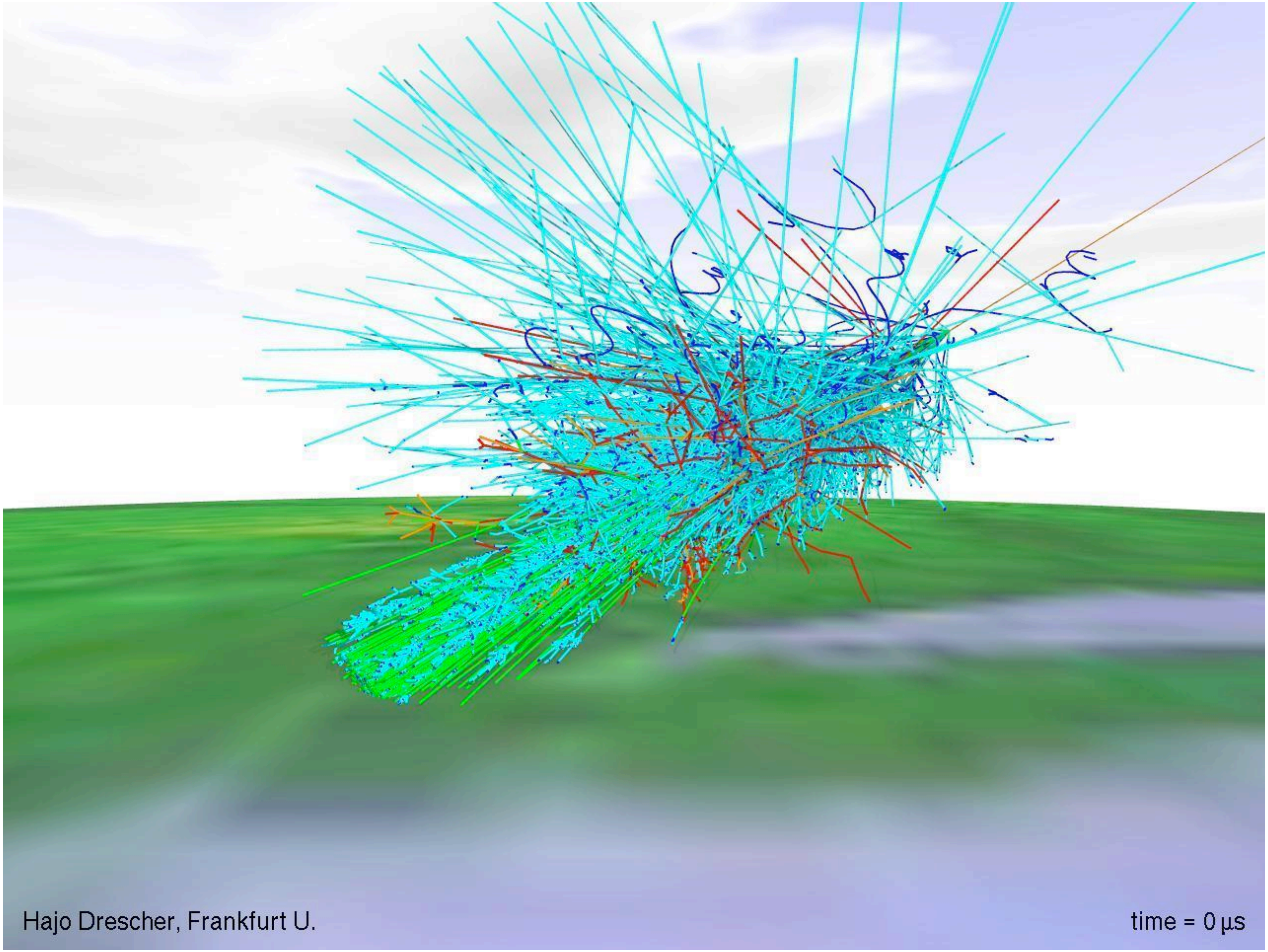
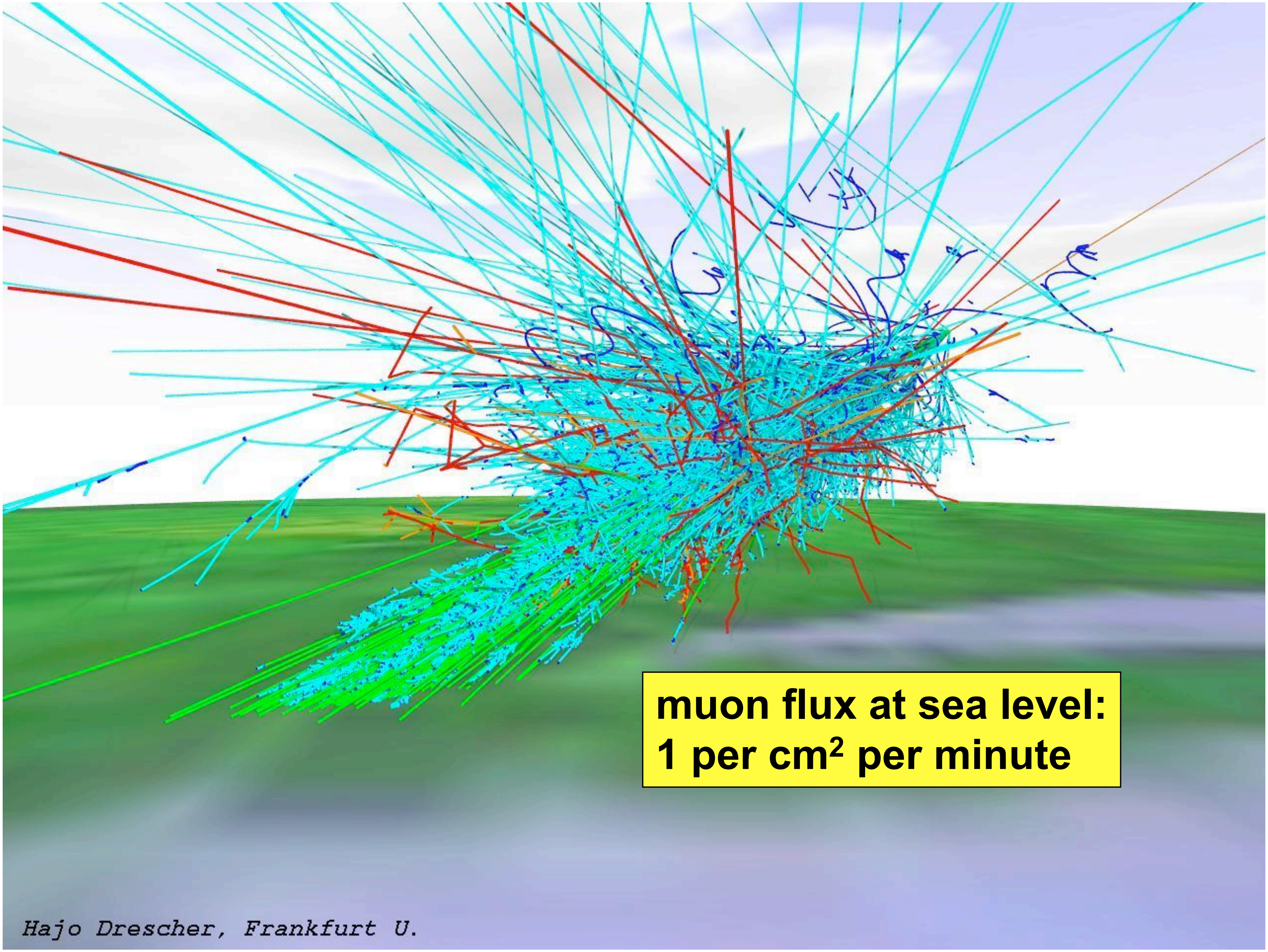
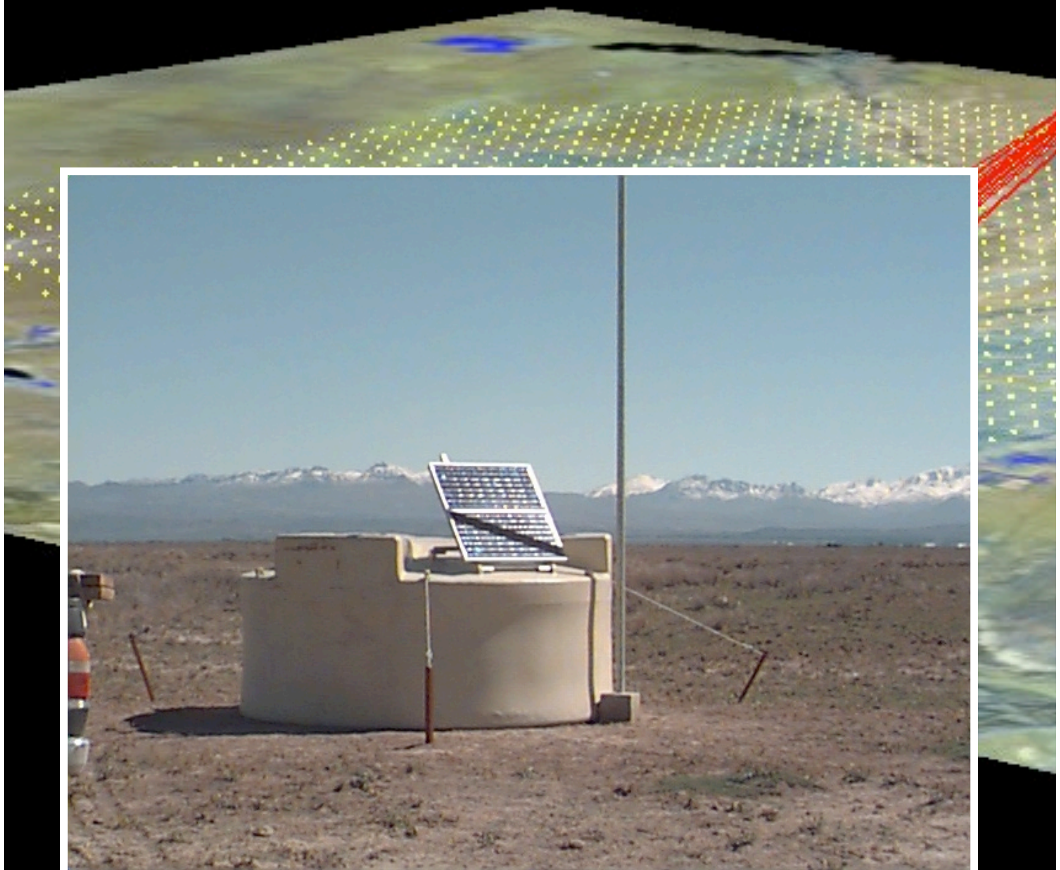
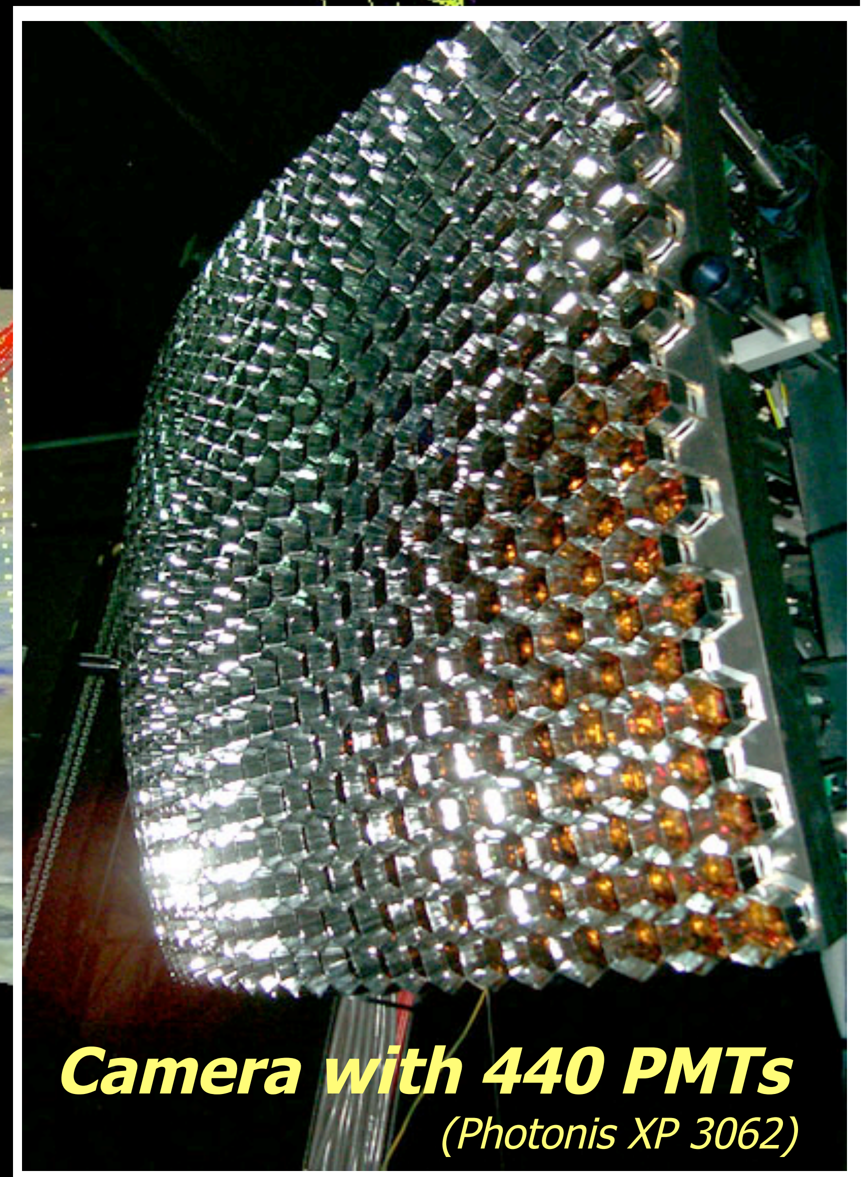

Hajo Drescher, Frankfurt U.
time = -100 μs


Hajo Drescher, Frankfurt U.
time = 0 μs


muon flux at sea level:
1 per cm2 per minute
Hajo Drescher, Frankfurt U.

Detection Techniques





Camera with 440 PMTs

(Photonis XP 3062)

Pierre Auger Collaboration

- *International effort involving more than 350 scientists at 72 institutions in 18 countries:*
  - **Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom, USA, Vietnam**

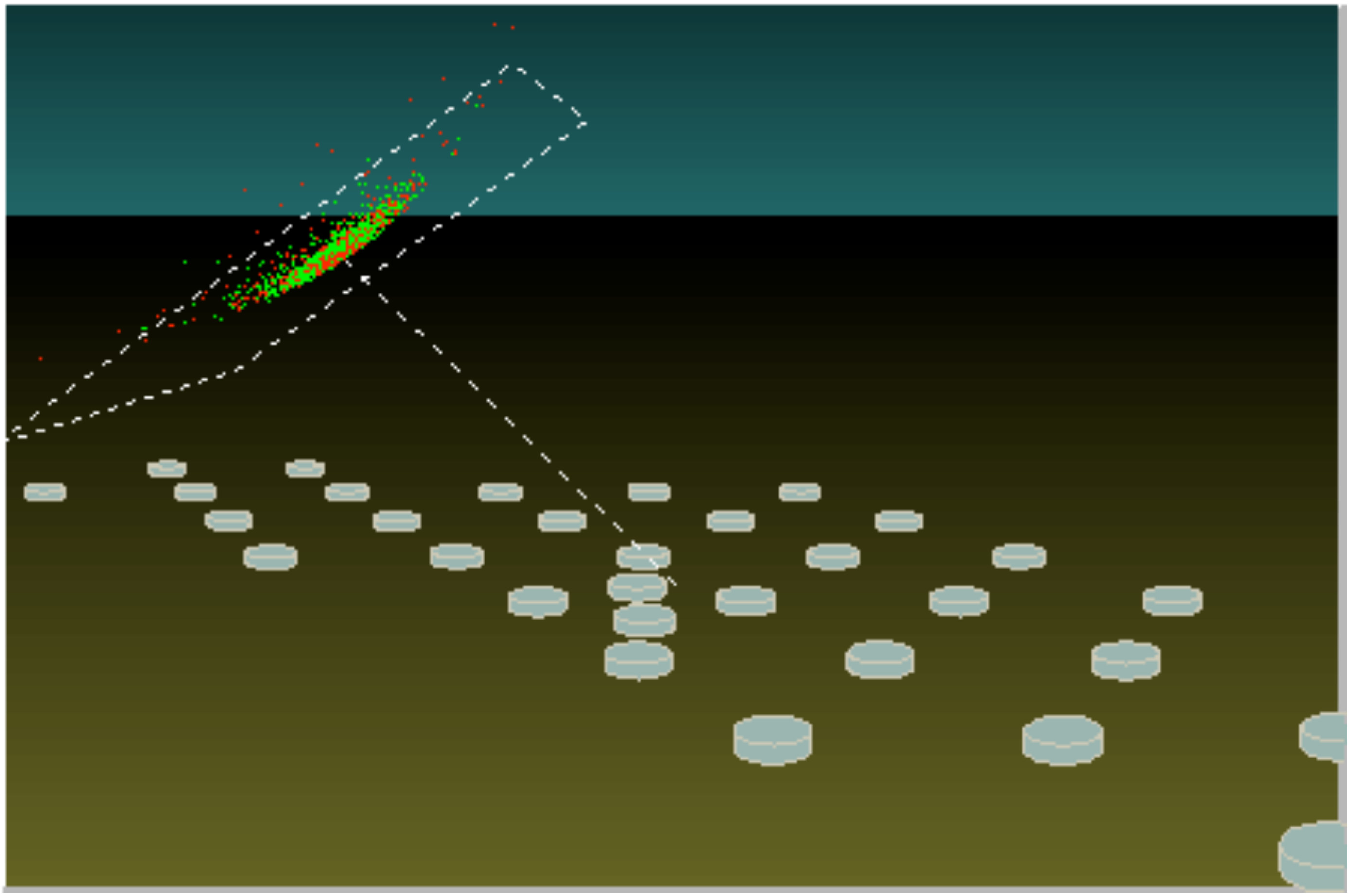
www.auger.org

auger.physics.wisc.edu

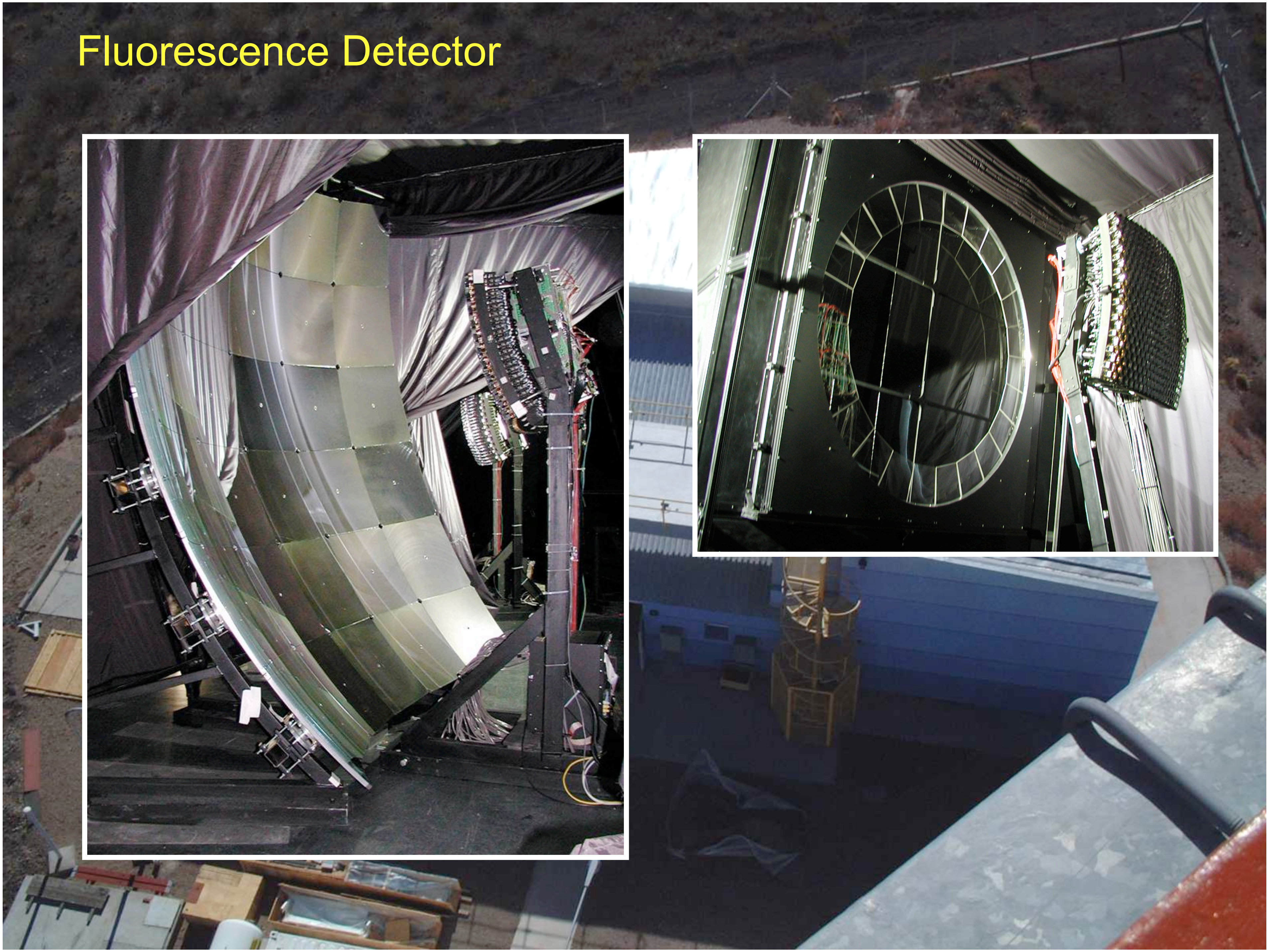
Surface Detector

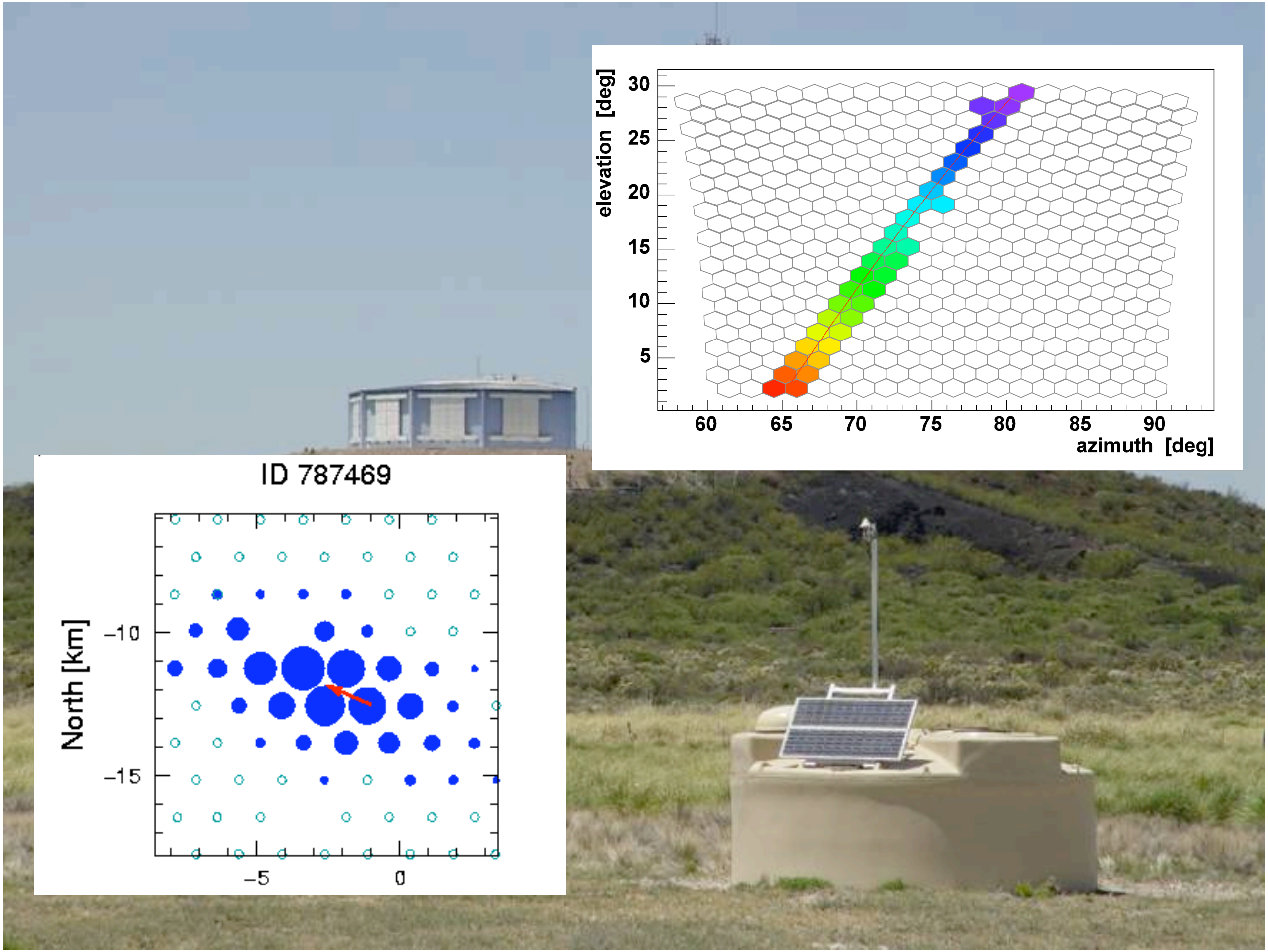
3000 km^2 area

PIERRE AUGER
OBSERVATORY
MALARGUE
MENDOZA
ARGENTINA

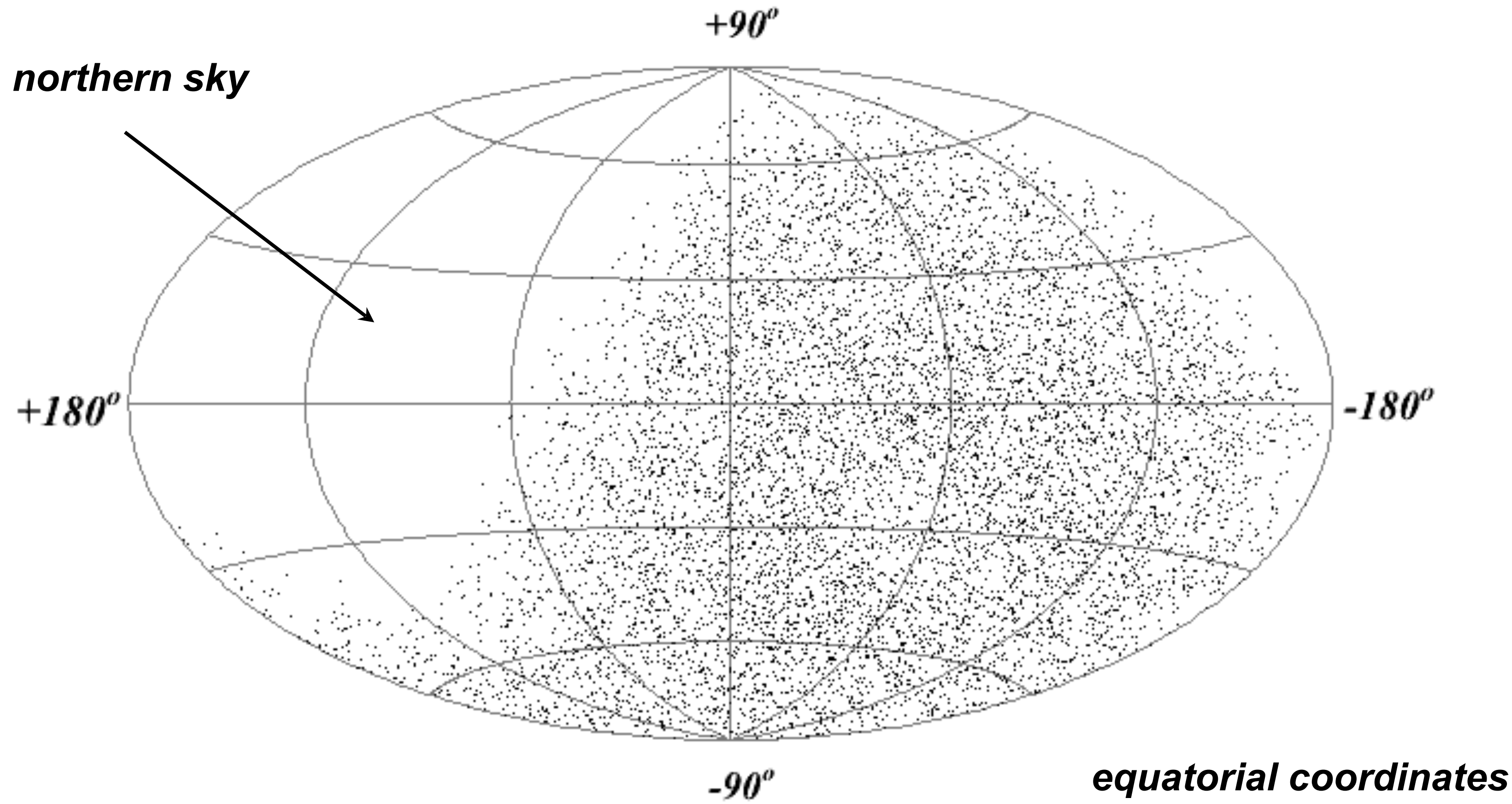


Fluorescence Detector



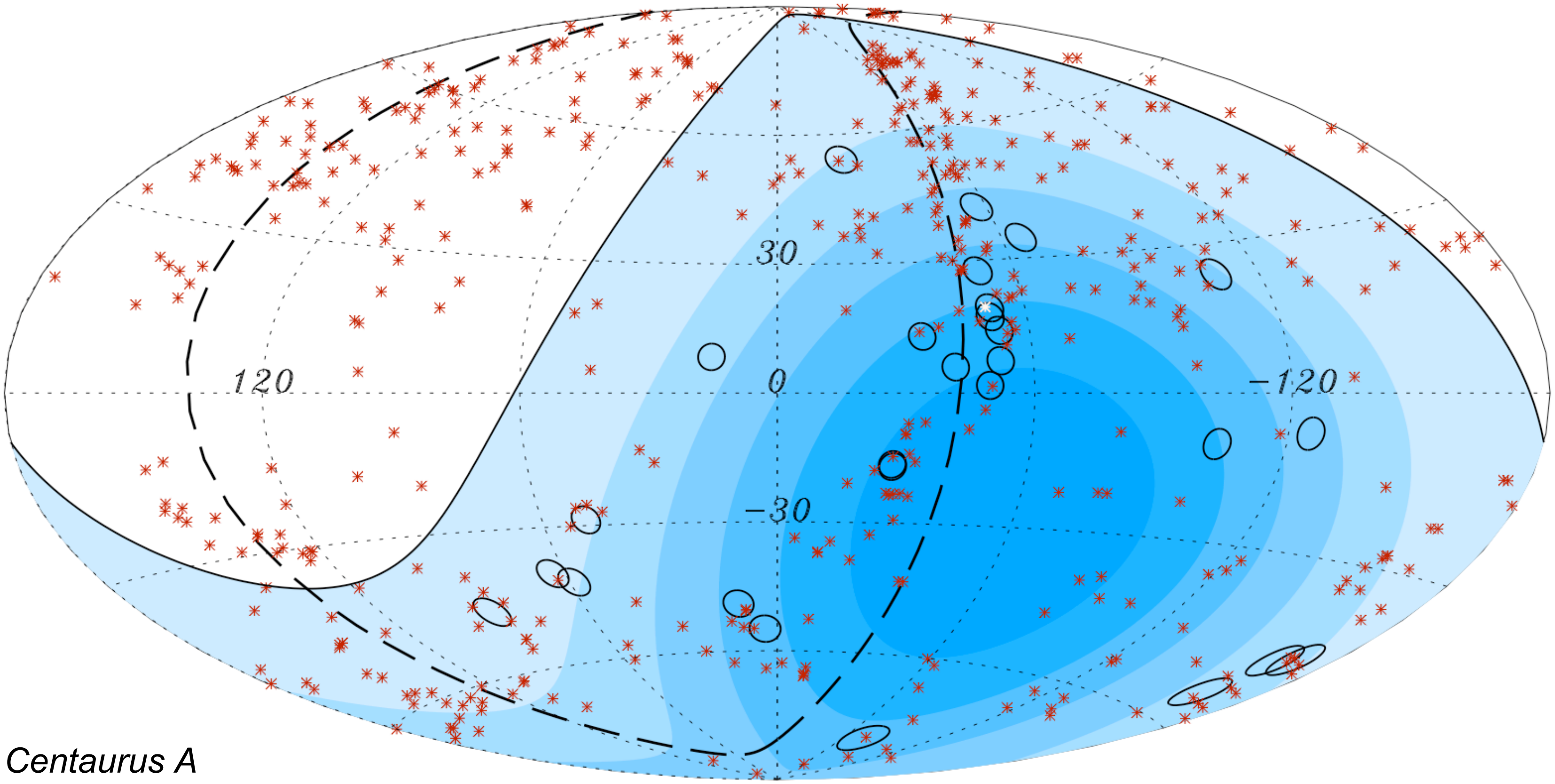

elevation [deg]
30
25
20
15
10
5
60
65
70
75
80
85
90
azimuth [deg]
ID 787469
North [km]
−10
−15
−5
0

Arrival Directions



Skymap at the Highest Energies

- **472 AGN with $z < 0.018$ (red crosses), 27 cosmic ray arrival directions with 3.1º circle, color indicates relative exposure, position of CenA (white cross).**



Centaurus A
4 Mpc, 11 million light years

Auger Collaboration, Science 318 (2007) 938

- There are first indications that the cosmic ray flux might not be isotropic at the highest energies, but no source has been positively identified so far.
- Maybe the particles do not point back to their sources - intergalactic and Galactic magnetic fields might scramble the arrival directions even at the highest energies!
- Cosmic rays are not the only messenger from high energy sources -where there are cosmic rays, there are also neutrinos!

Messenger Particles

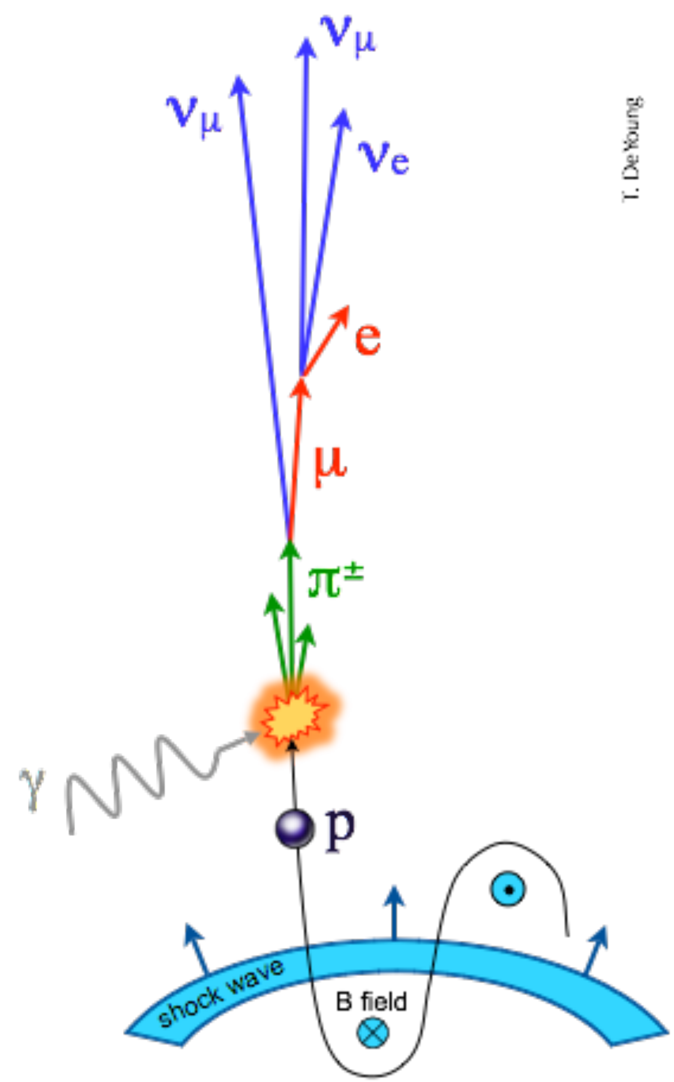
- **Cosmic rays are not the only messenger from high energy sources - a cosmic ray source is also a *beam-dump.***
- **Cosmic rays inevitably interact with radiation and gas surrounding their source, *e.g.***

$$p + \gamma \rightarrow \Delta^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 + p$$

$$p + \gamma \rightarrow \Delta^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ + n$$

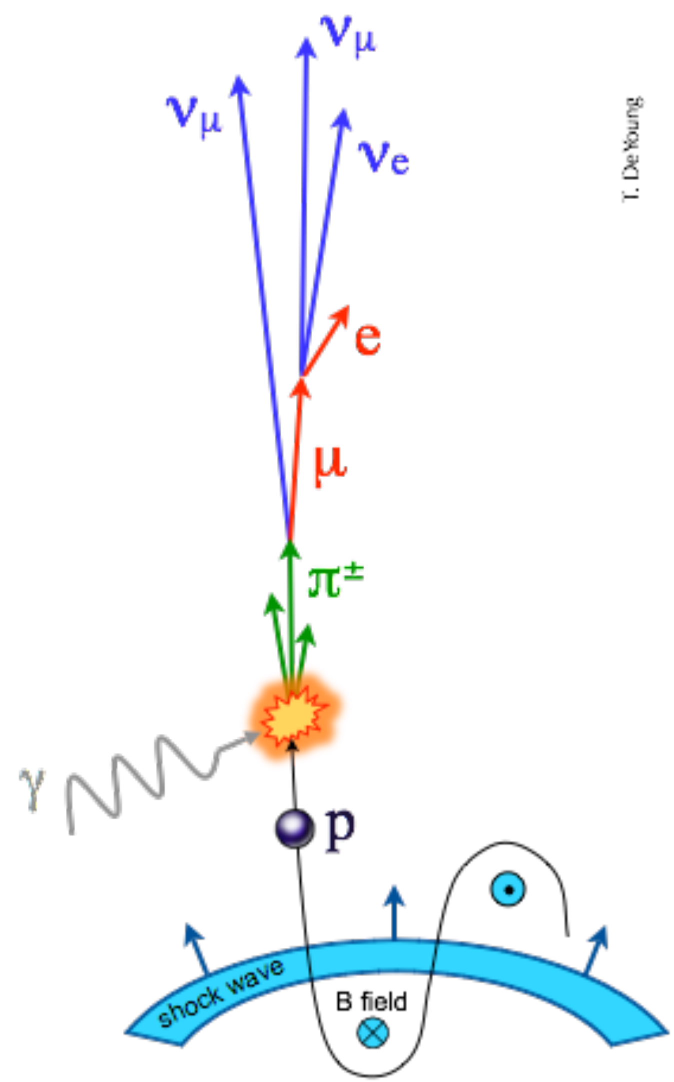
$$p + p \rightarrow N\left[\pi^0 + \pi^+ + \pi^-\right] + X$$

- **Energy escaping the source is distributed among *cosmic rays*, *gamma rays*, and *neutrinos*.**



Neutrino Production

- **Neutrinos are the ideal "messenger particle:"**
  - **Neutrinos propagate in a straight line and are not easily absorbed - they can get away from the source!**
  - **However, they are not easily "absorbed" in detectors, either… we need km^3 size detectors!**

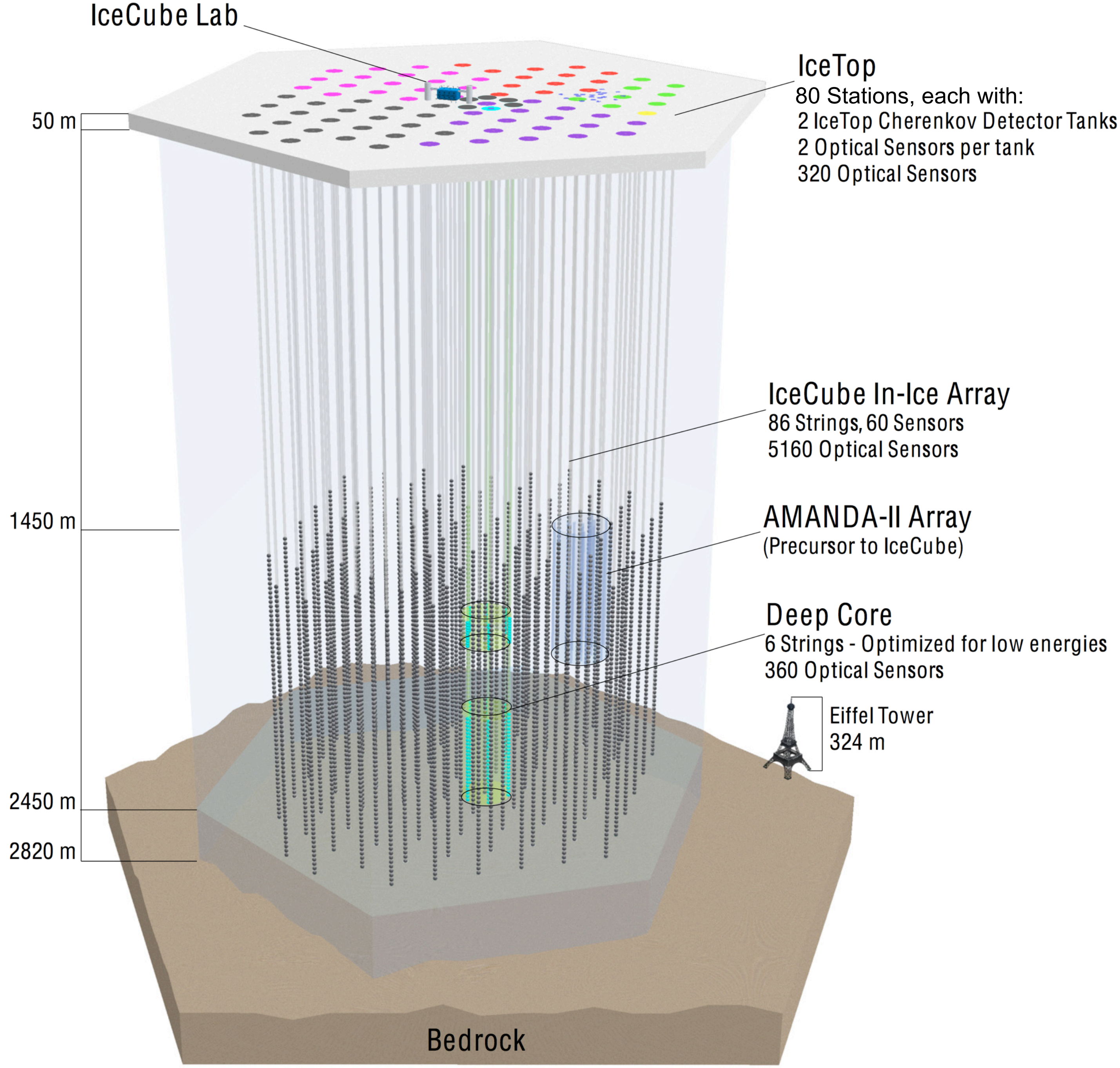


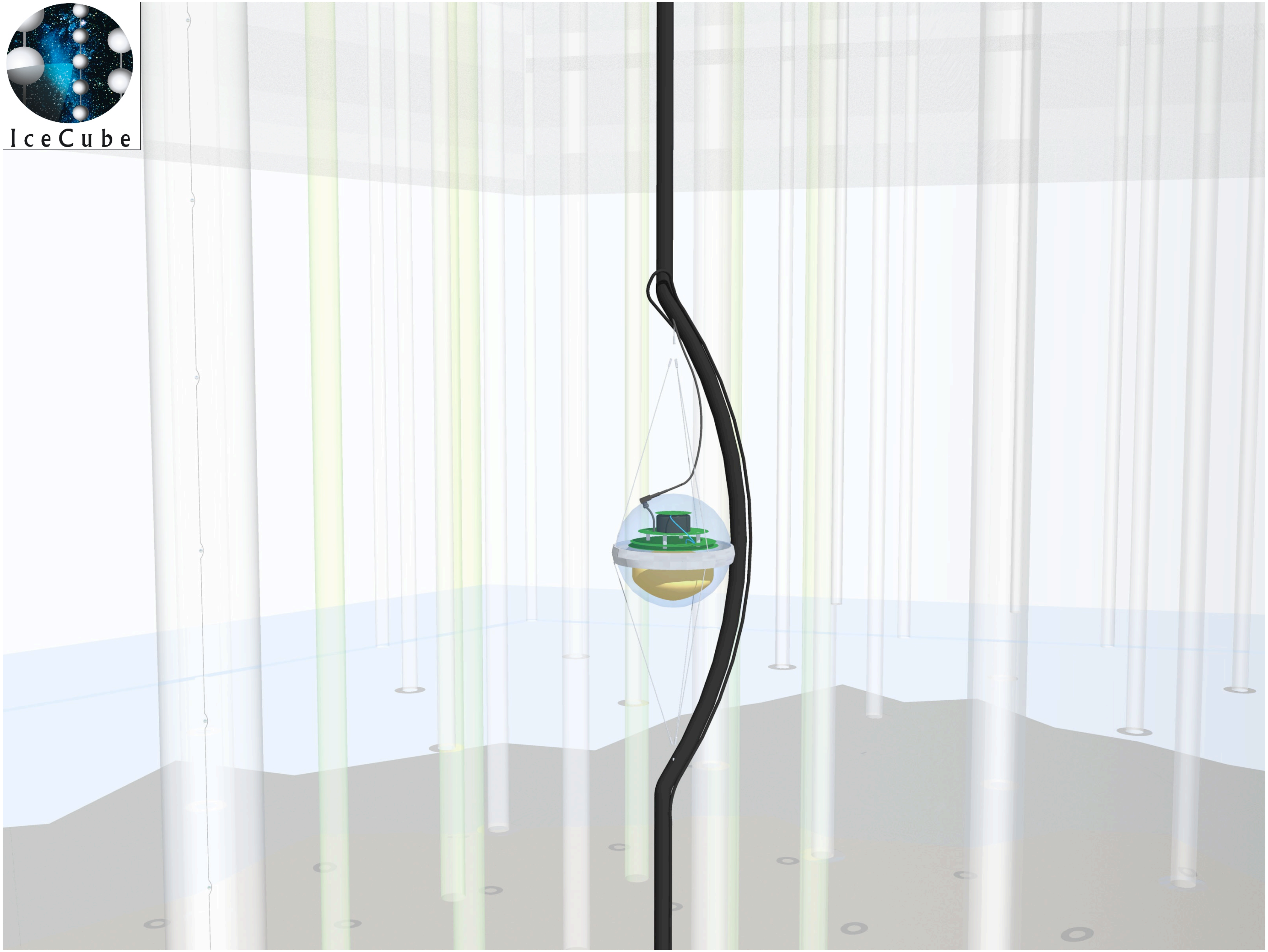
Requirements for a Neutrino Detector

- Large detector volumes - of order ~ km^3 if we want to detect a few neutrinos from astrophysical sources per year…
- Neutrinos must interact near or in the detector and produce a particle that can be detected, for example a muon.
- The detector must be shielded from the enormous background of atmospheric muons, so it needs to be deep below some absorbing material.
- At the same time, the absorbing material must allow for detection of light from particles created by neutrinos.

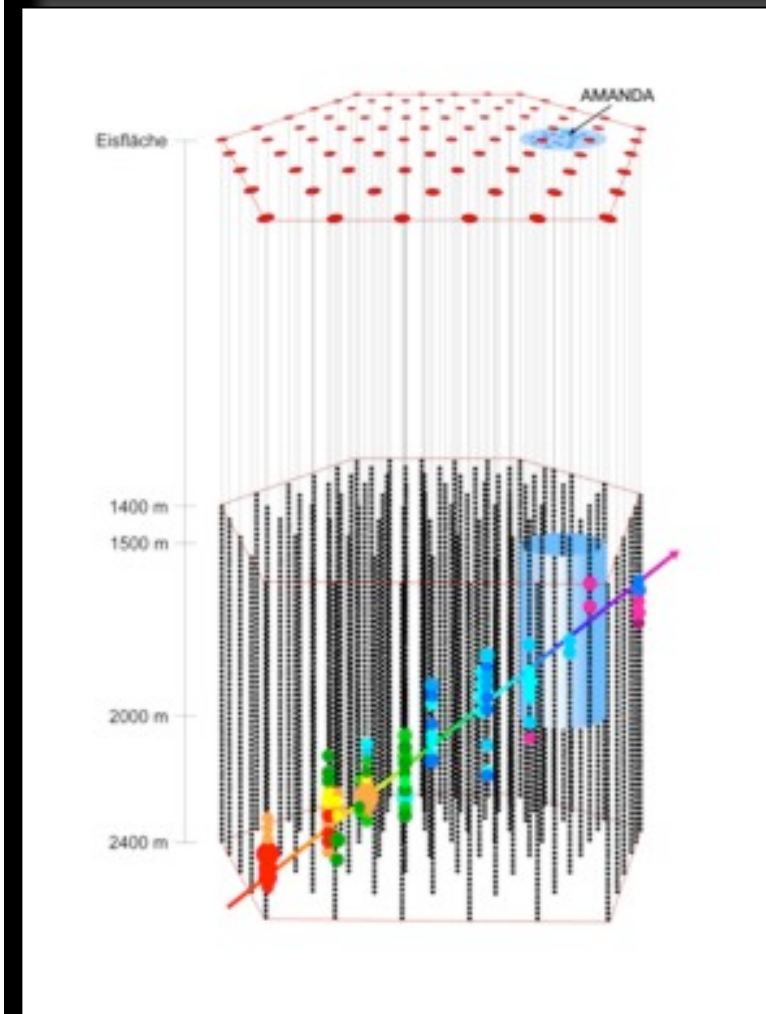

Blue light travels 200+ meters in ice…

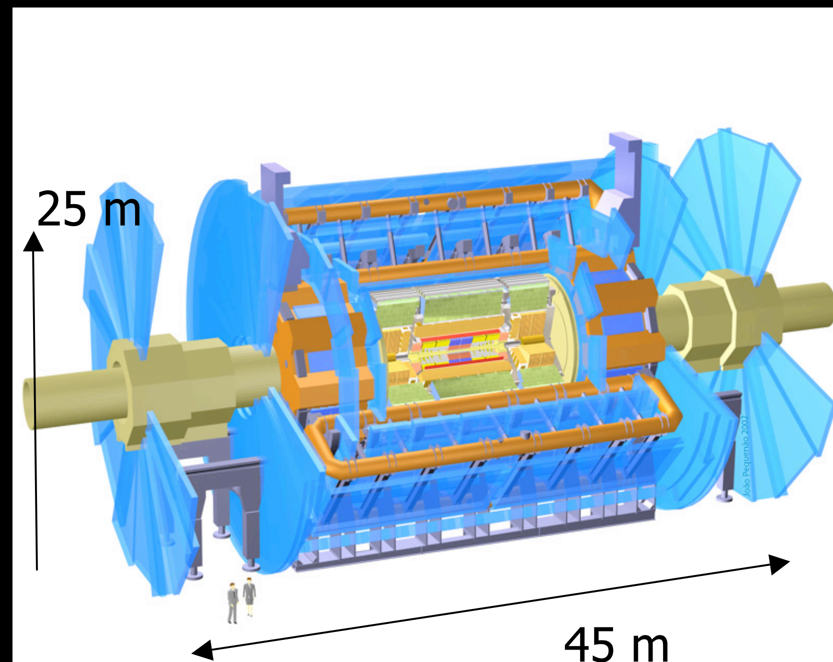
- 86 strings
- 1.5 km - 2.5 km deep
- typically 125 m spacing between strings
- 60 Modules per string
- 1 km^3 -- 1 billion tons of instrumented volume



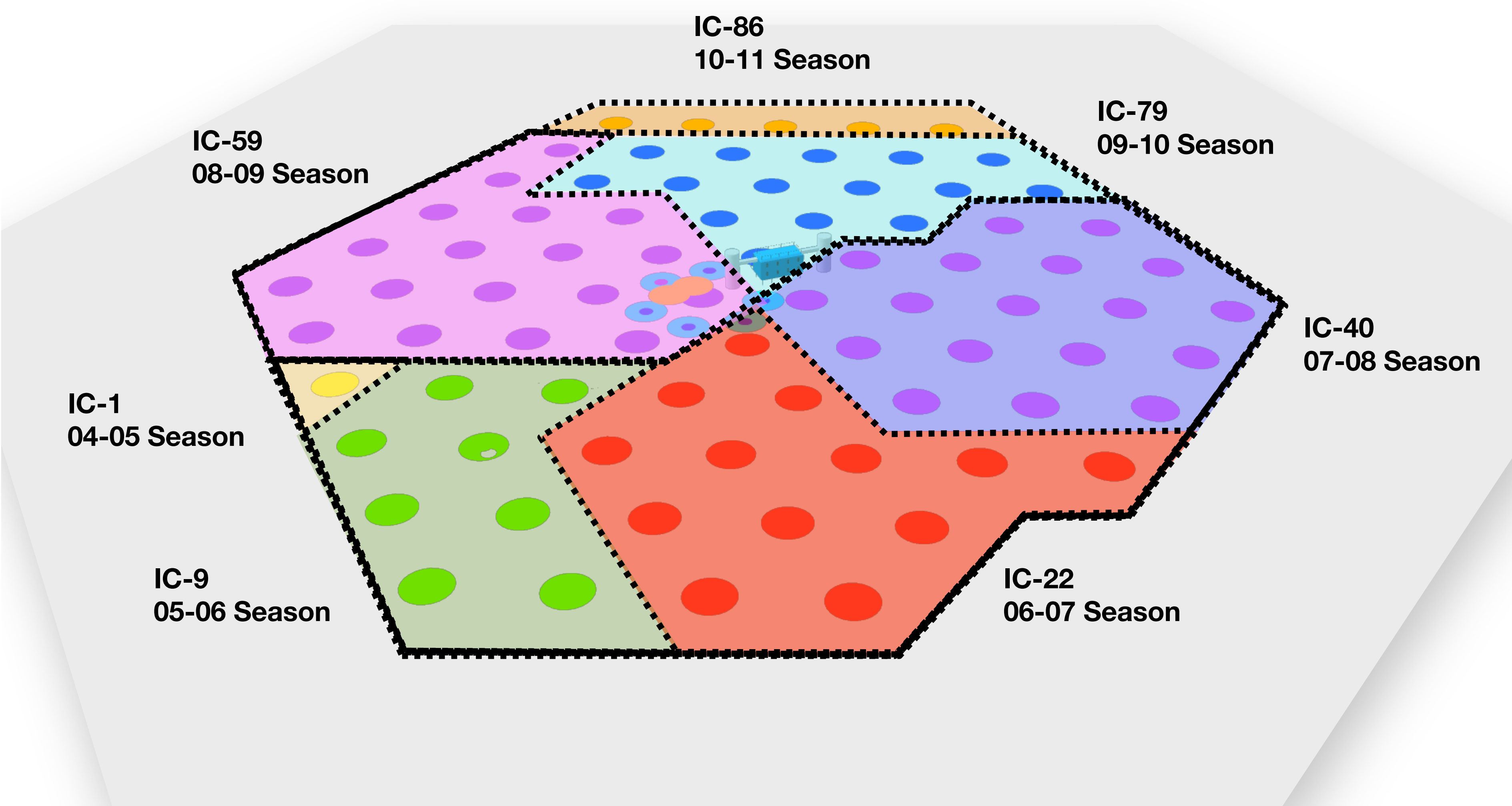

IceCube

IceCube





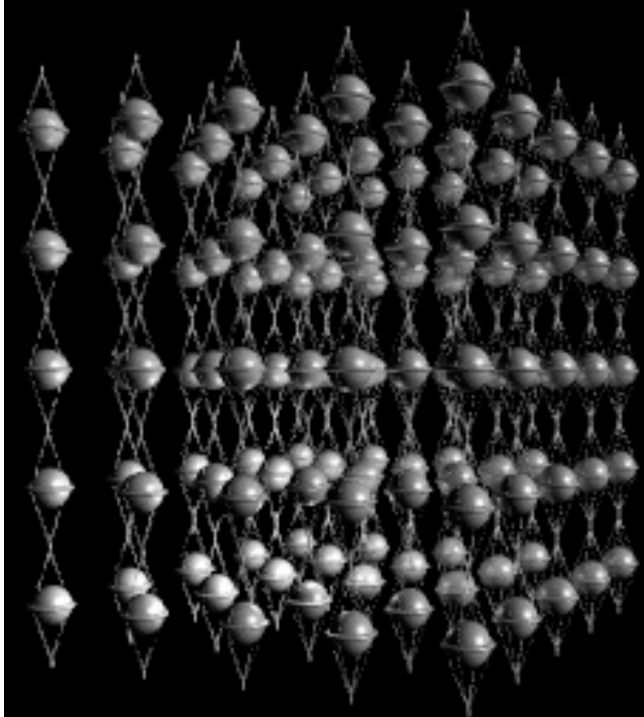
IceCube Configurations



M. Santander

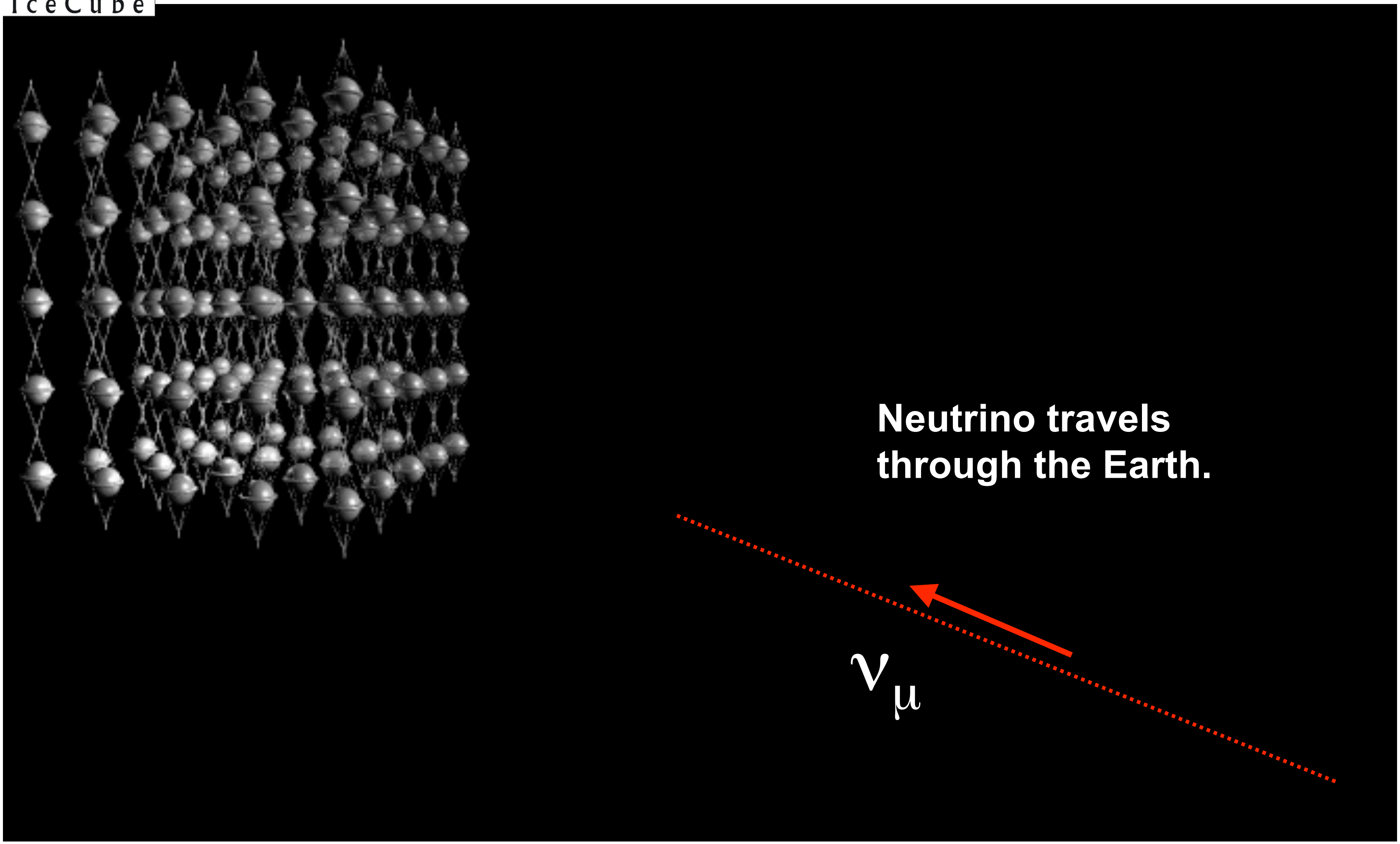
IceCube Concept

Shielded and transparent medium

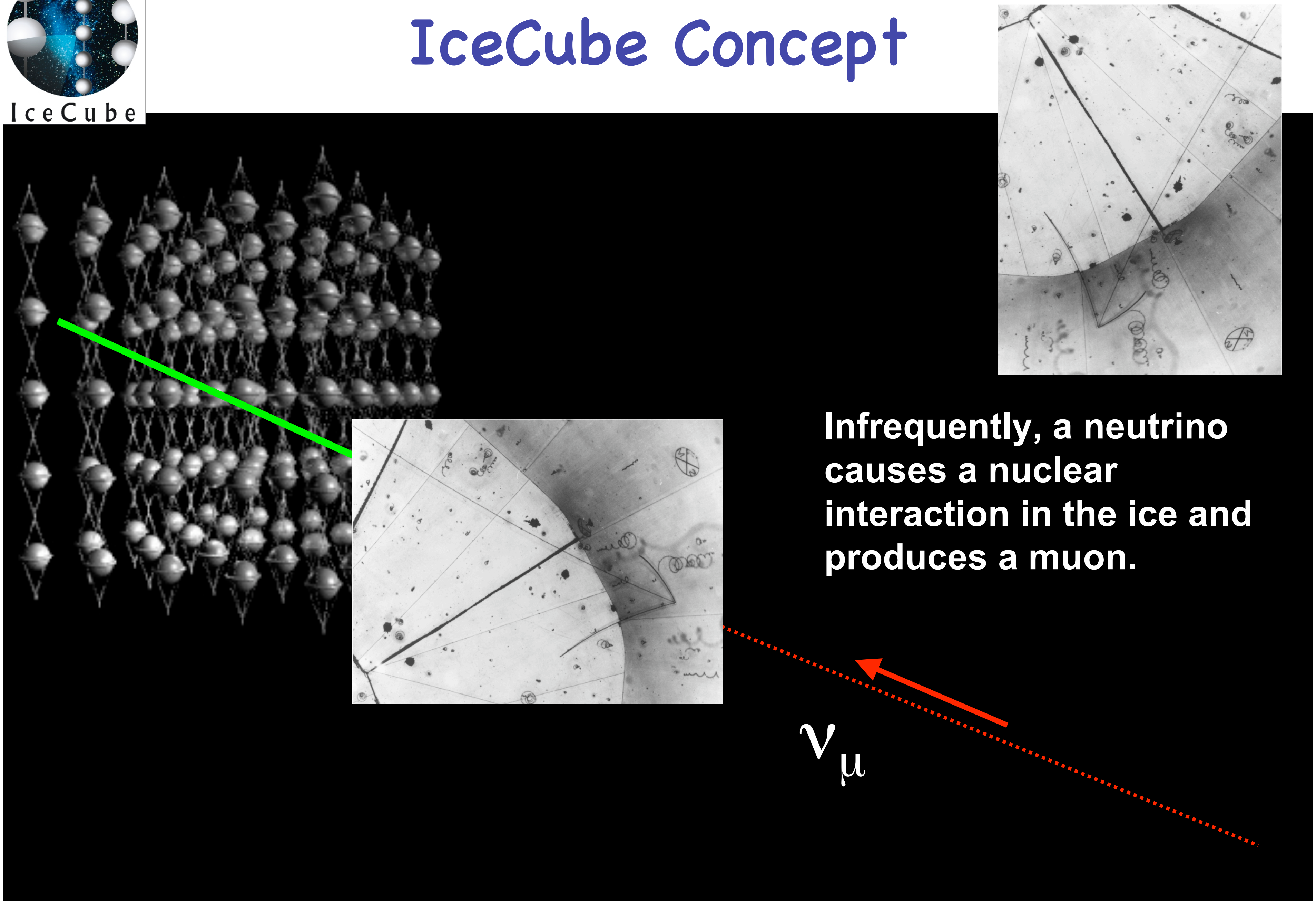


Lattice of photomultipliers

IceCube Concept

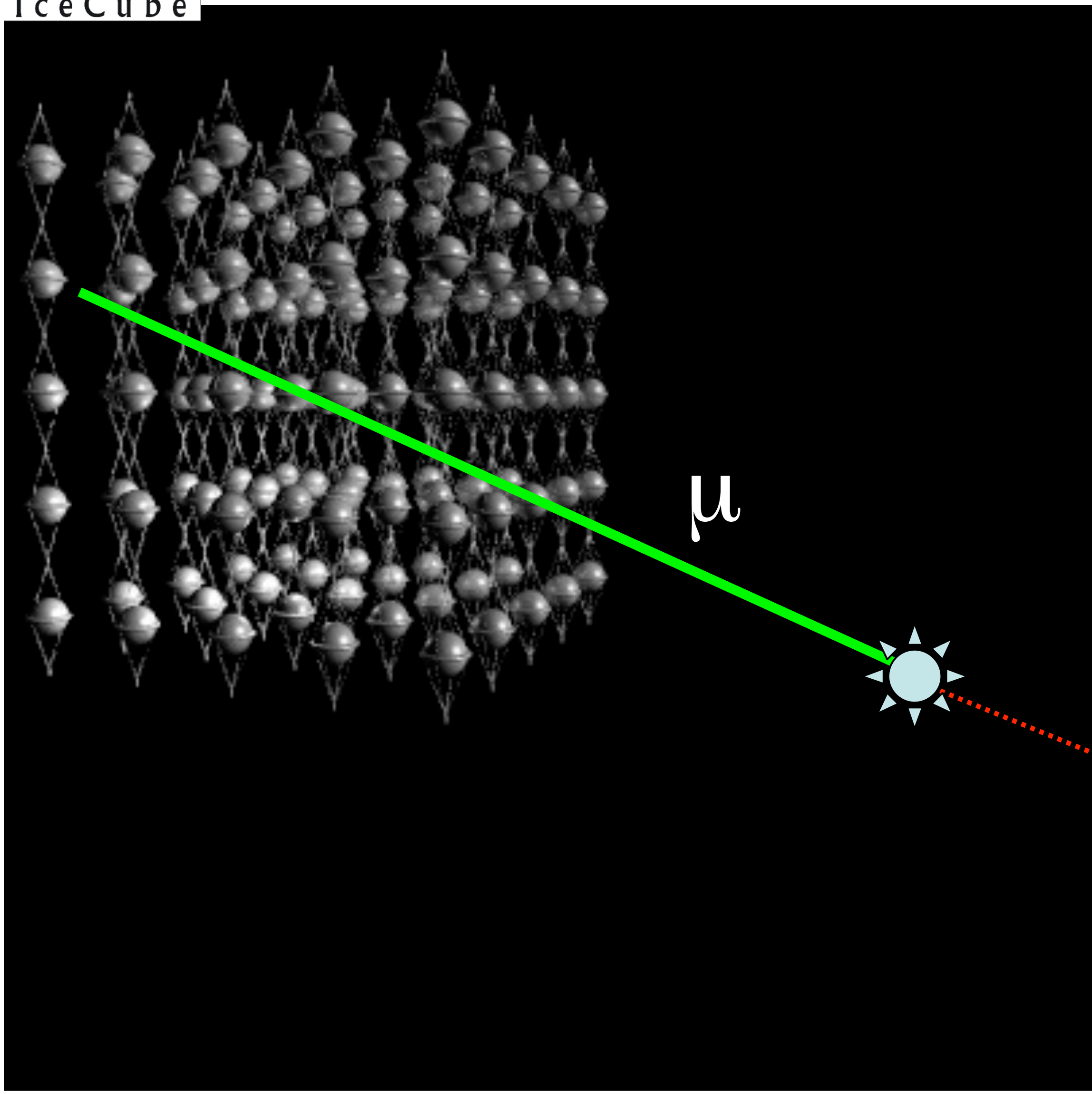


IceCube Concept



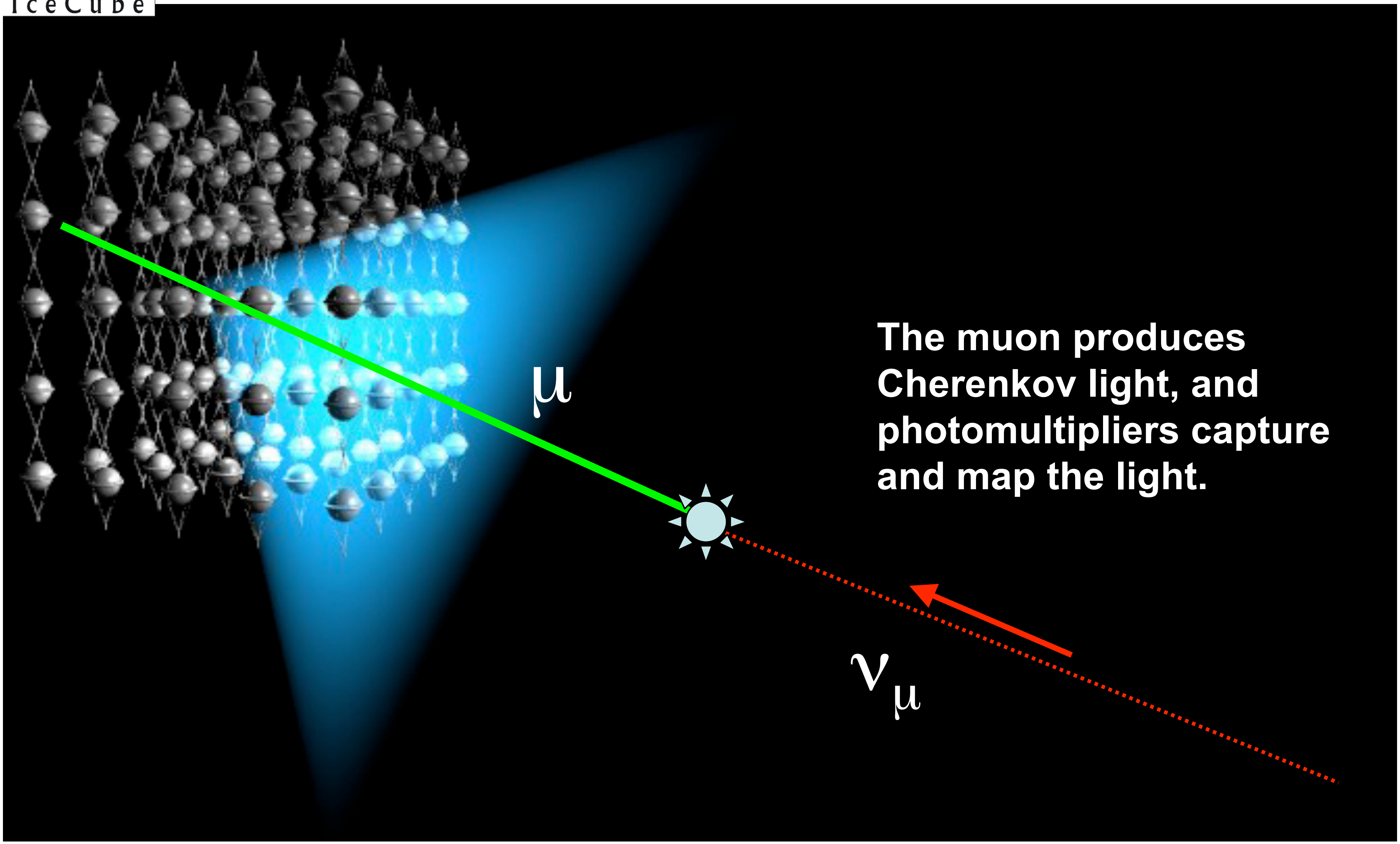
Infrequently, a neutrino causes a nuclear interaction in the ice and produces a muon.

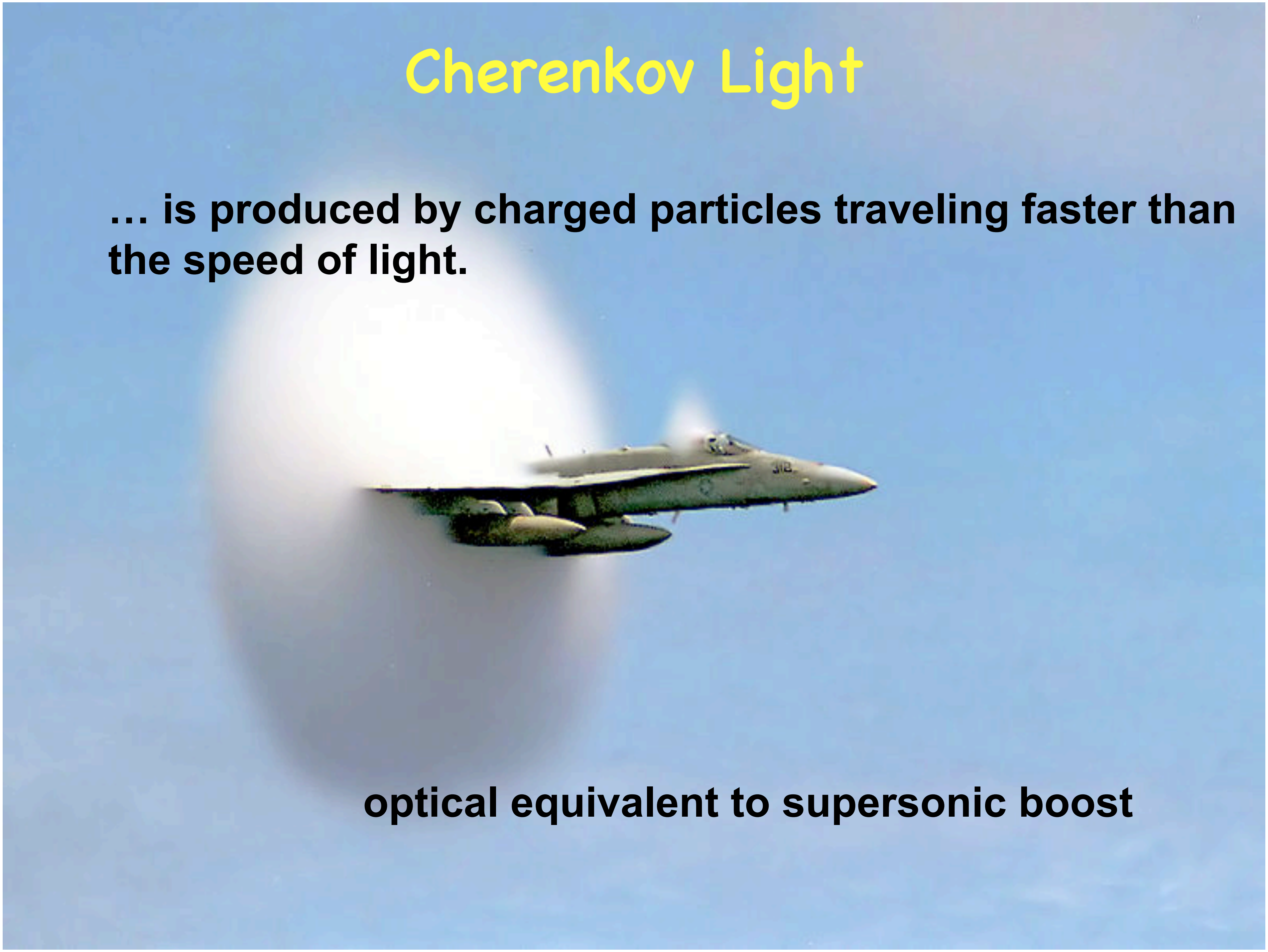
IceCube Concept

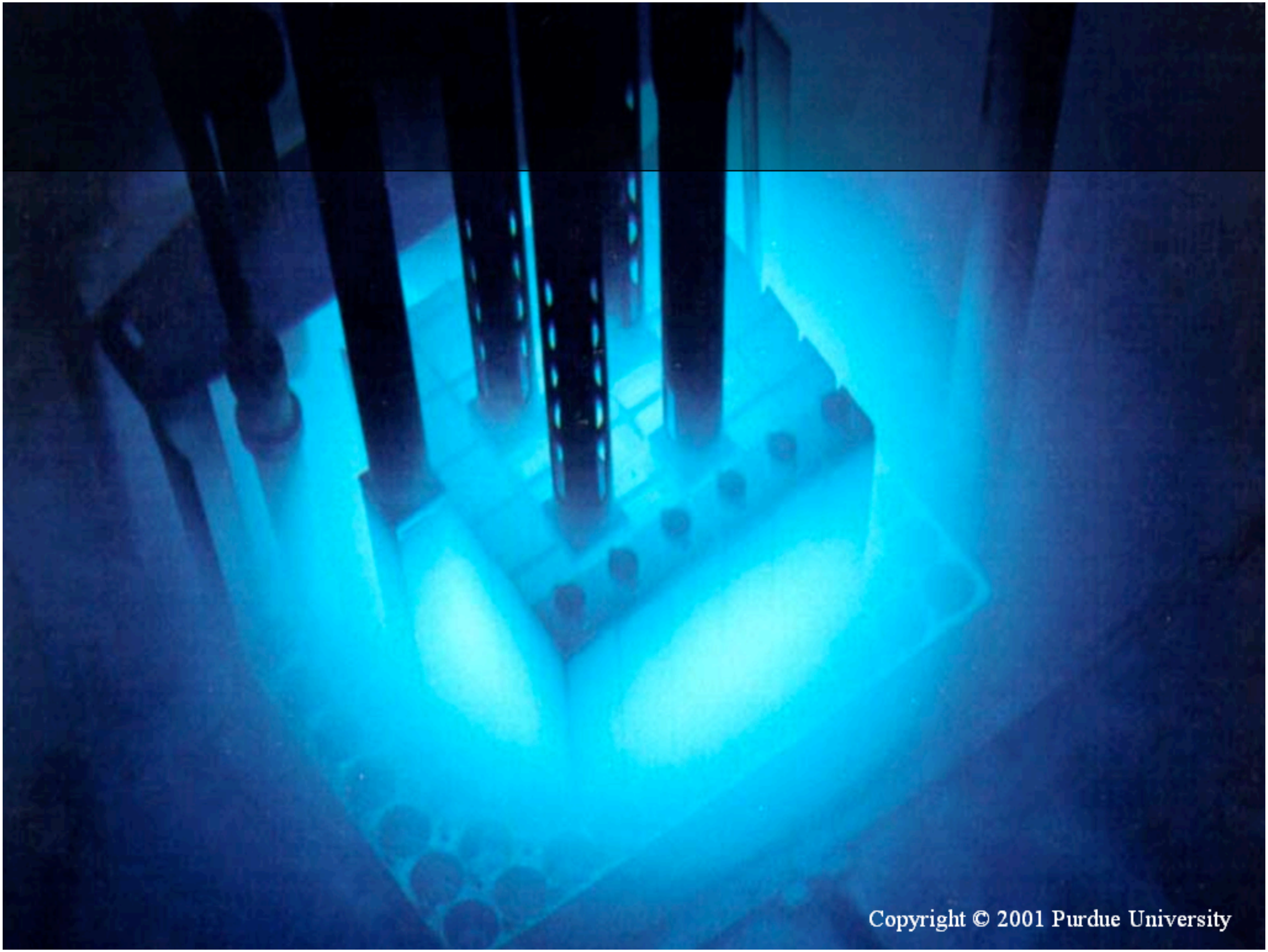


The muon produces Cherenkov light, and photomultipliers capture and map the light.

IceCube Concept



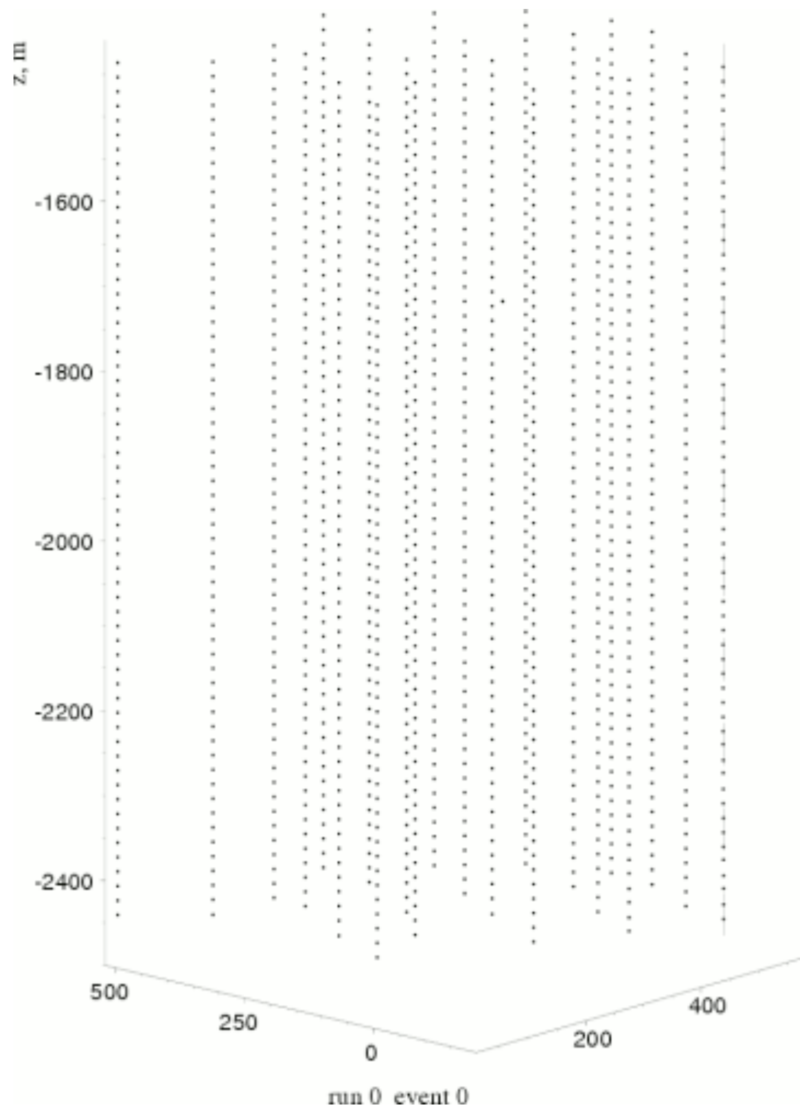

Cherenkov Light
… is produced by charged particles traveling faster than the speed of light.
optical equivalent to supersonic boost


Copyright © 2001 Purdue University

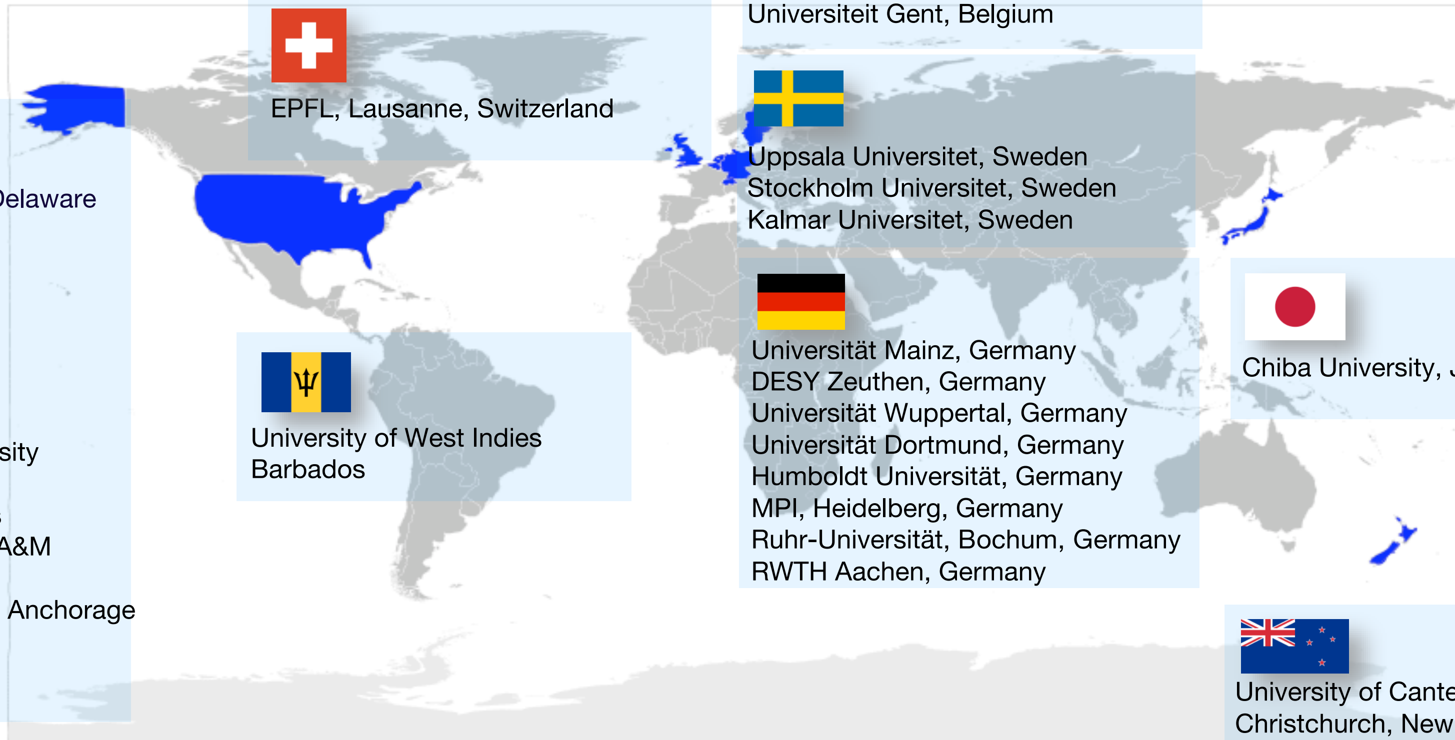
Event Display

Number of hit modules: 148

est. angular error: 0.84°



IceCube



Imperial College, London, UK
University of Oxford, UK

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium
Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
Université de Mons-Hainaut, Belgium
Universiteit Gent, Belgium

EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

Uppsala Universitet, Sweden
Stockholm Universitet, Sweden
Kalmar Universitet, Sweden

Bartol Inst, Univ of Delaware
Penn State
UW-Madison
UW-River Falls
LBNL, Berkeley
UC Berkeley
UC Irvine
Univ. of Alabama
Clark-Atlanta University
Univ. of Maryland
University of Kansas
Southern Univ. and A&M College
University of Alaska, Anchorage
Georgia Tech
Ohio State

University of West Indies
Barbados

Universität Mainz, Germany
DESY Zeuthen, Germany
Universität Wuppertal, Germany
Universität Dortmund, Germany
Humboldt Universität, Germany
MPI, Heidelberg, Germany
Ruhr-Universität, Bochum, Germany
RWTH Aachen, Germany

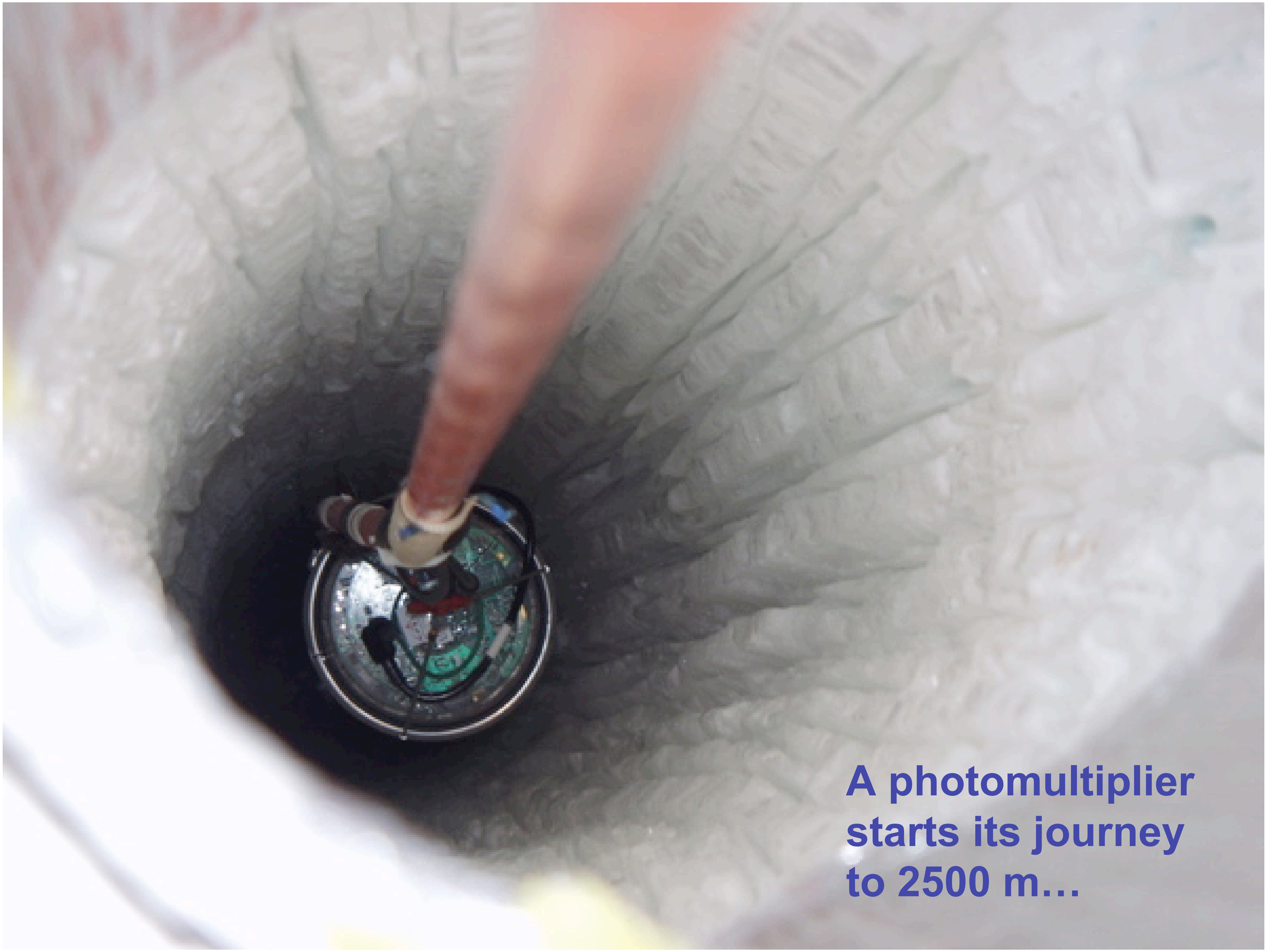
Chiba University, Japan

University of Canterbury,
Christchurch, New Zealand

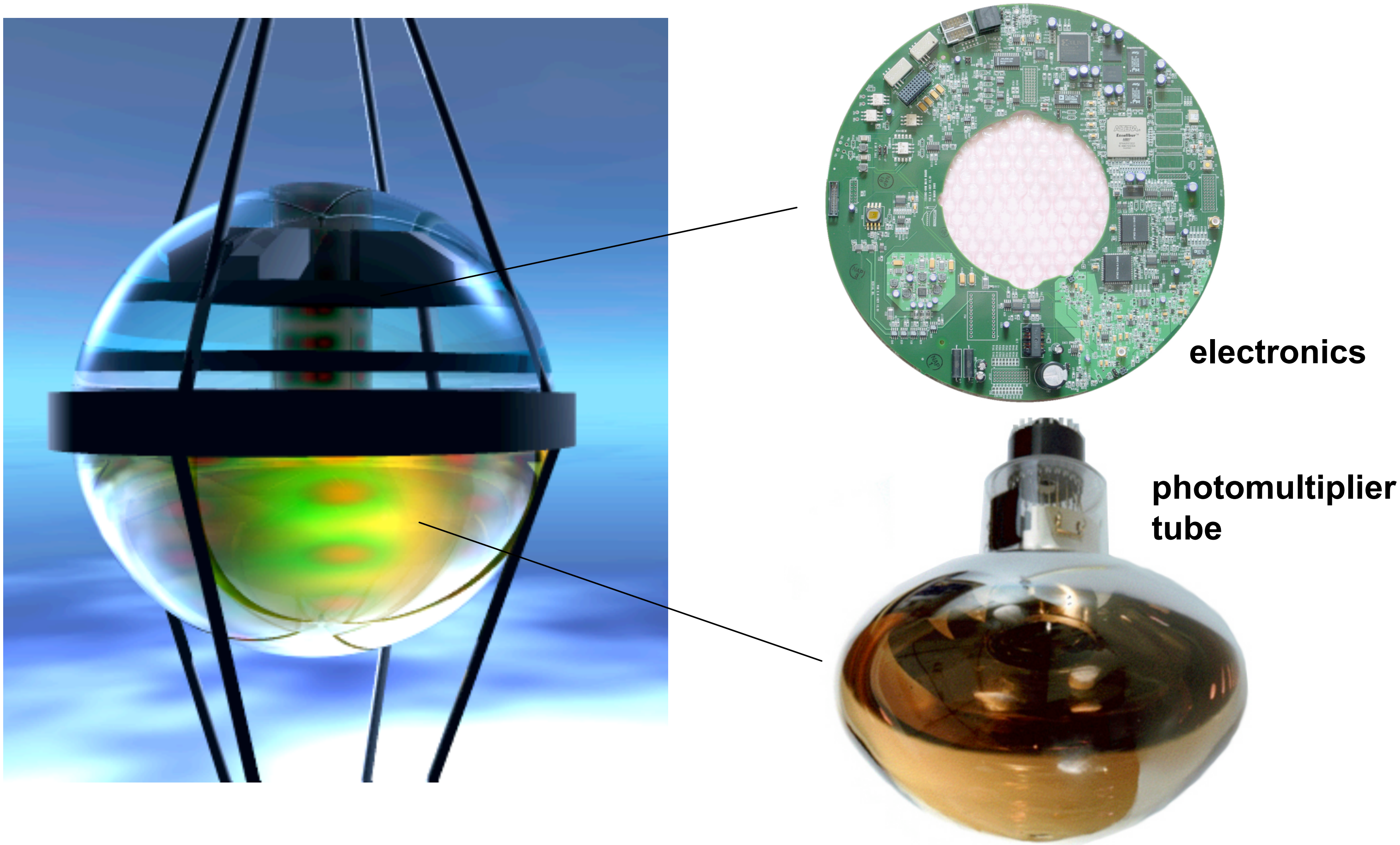
IceCube Collaboration

9 countries
36 institutions
~260 collaborators

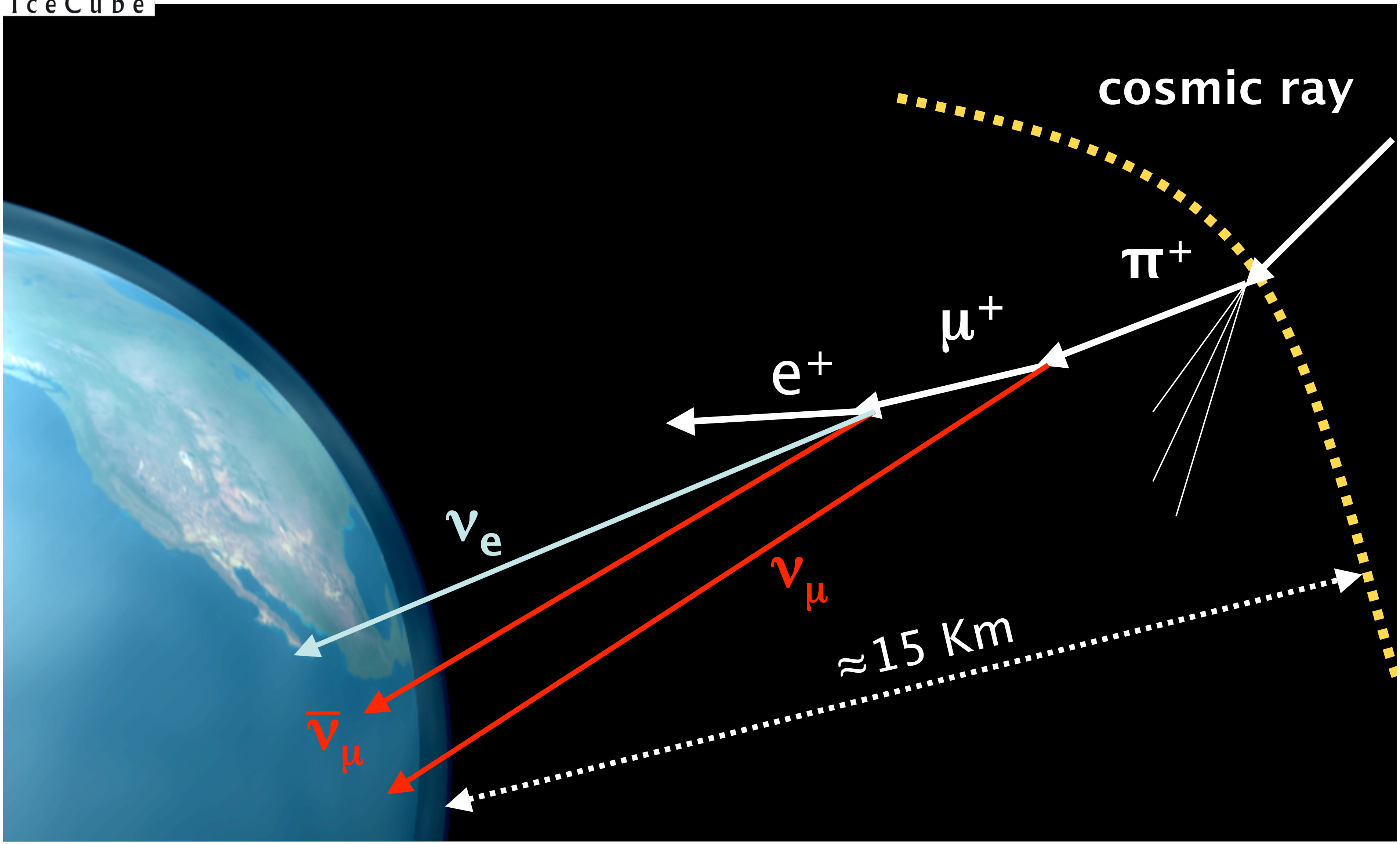
5 megawatt hot water drilling system


A photomultiplier
starts its journey
to 2500 m…

Digital Optical Module

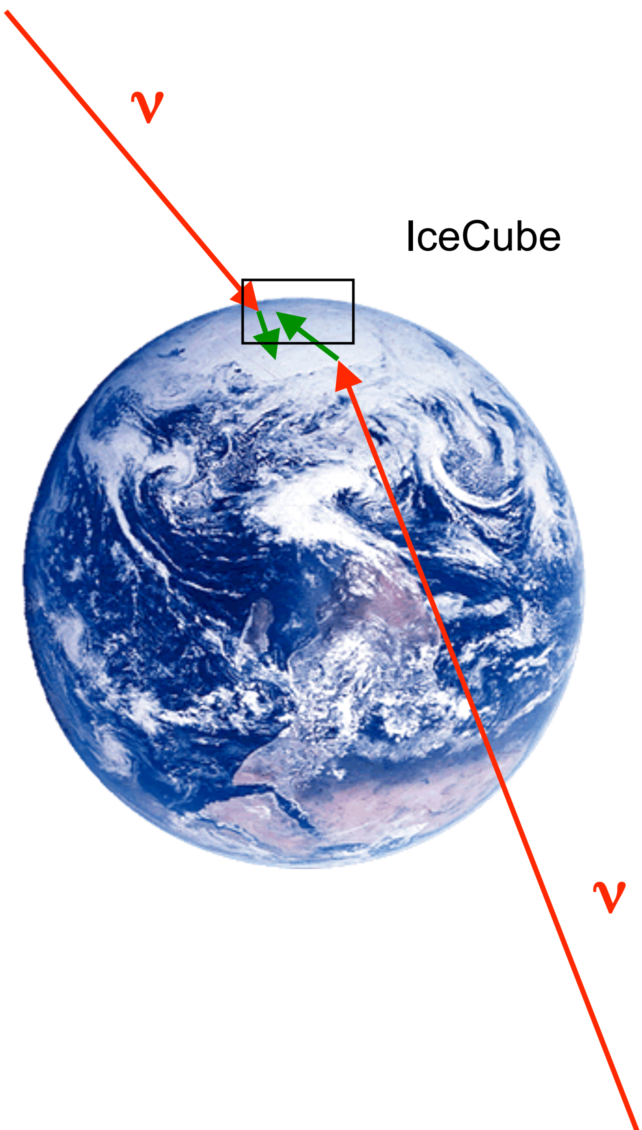


Atmospheric Neutrinos



Signal and Background

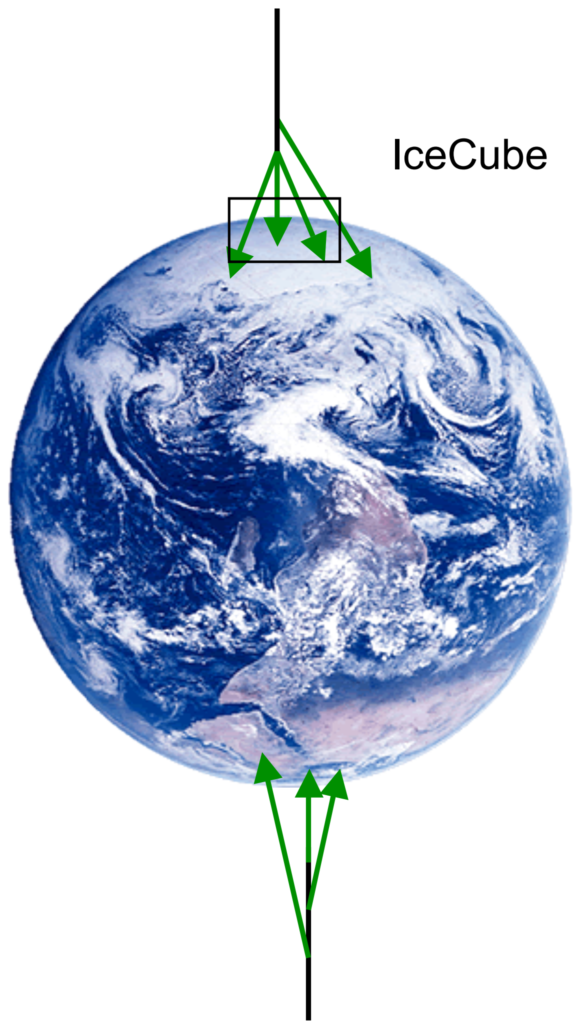
Signal:
muons from neutrinos that interact close to the detector

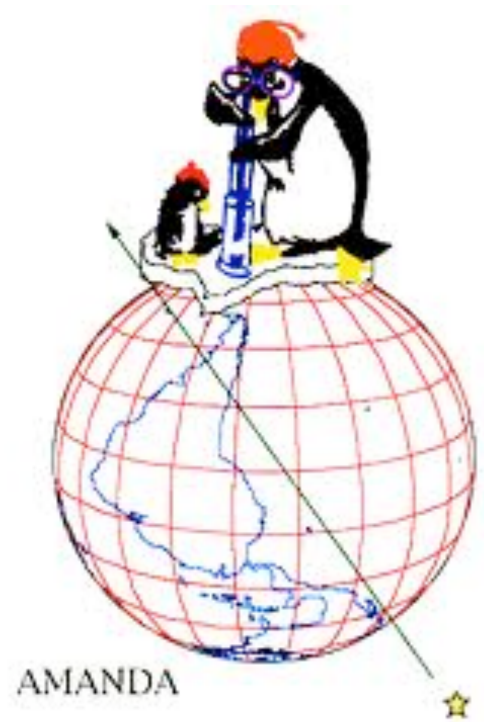


Signal and Background

Background:
muons from cosmic ray air showers

~ 1500 per second



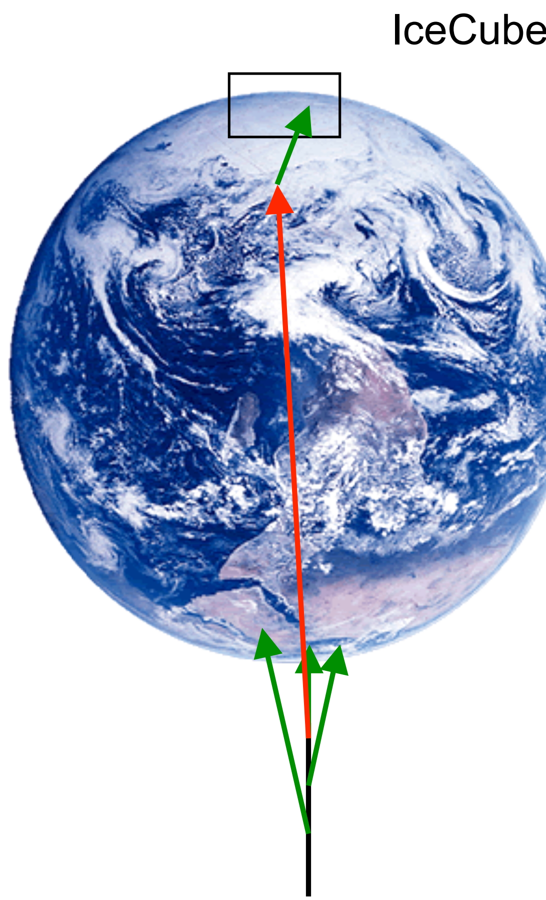


Solution:
only look for *upward-going* events

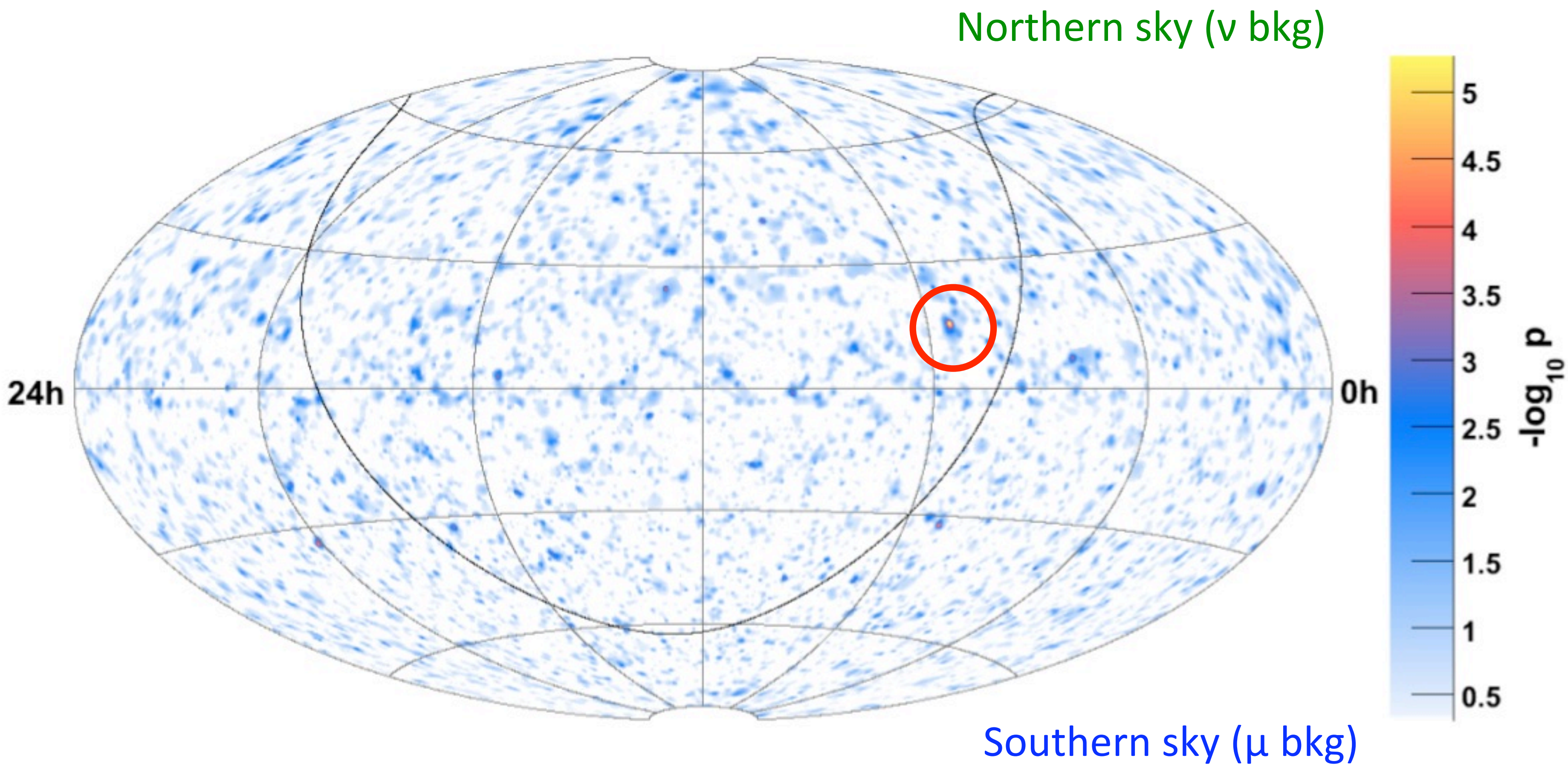
Signal and Background

Unavoidable background: **muons from neutrinos from cosmic ray air showers**

~ 10 per hour



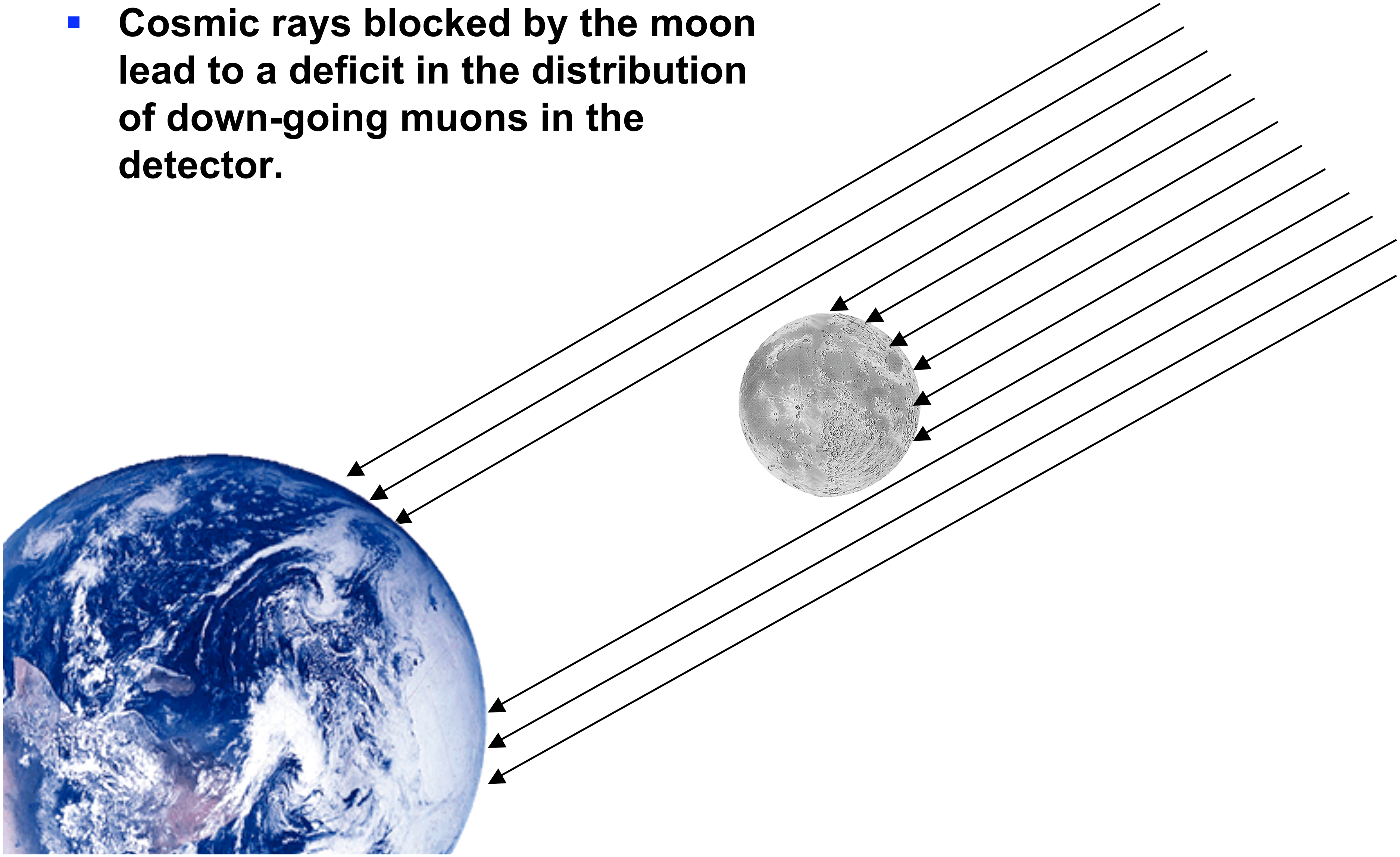
Skymap



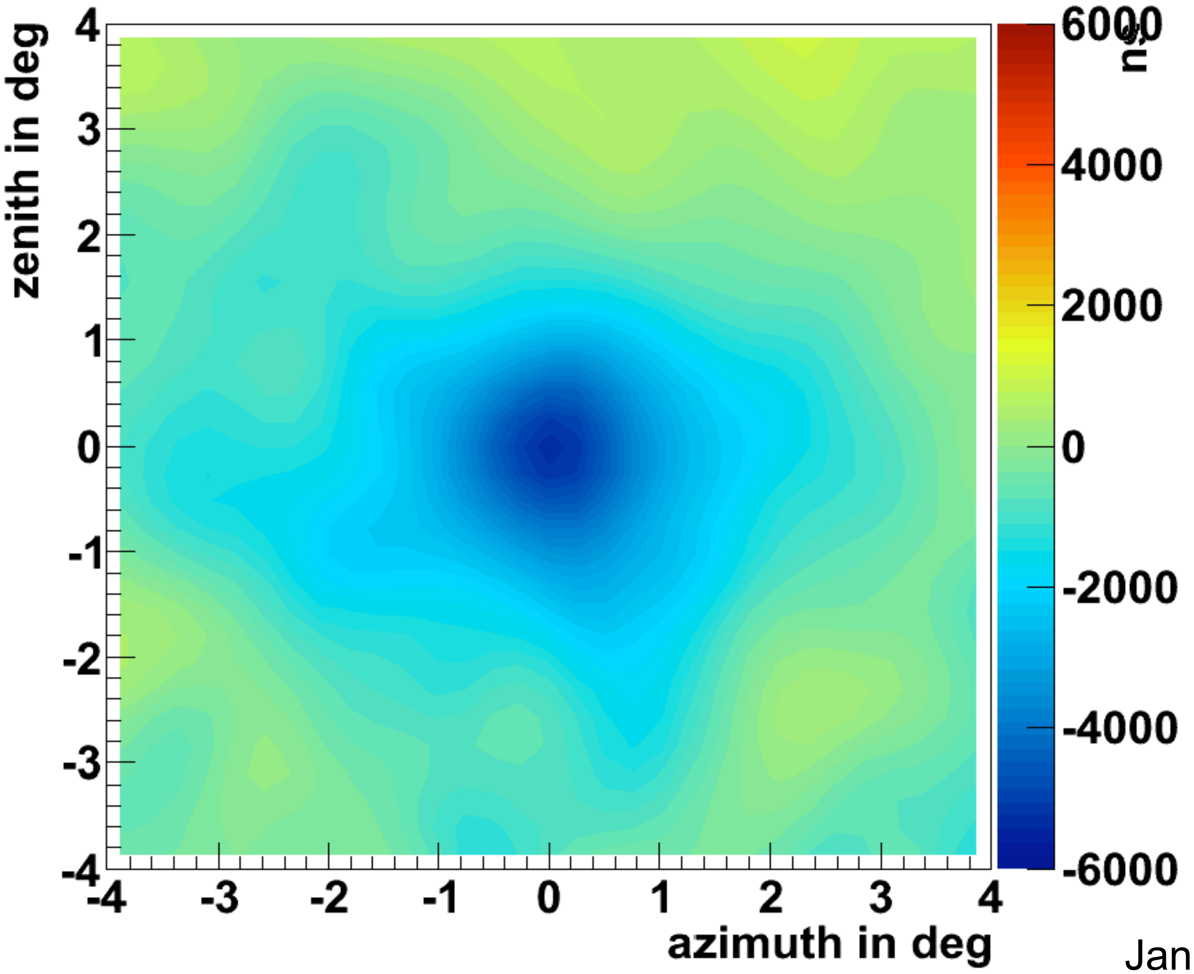
Northern sky (ν bkg)
24h
0h
5
4.5
4
3.5
3
2.5
2
1.5
1
0.5
-log10 p
Southern sky (μ bkg)

Moon "Shadow"

- **Cosmic rays blocked by the moon lead to a deficit in the distribution of down-going muons in the detector.**



Moon "Shadow"

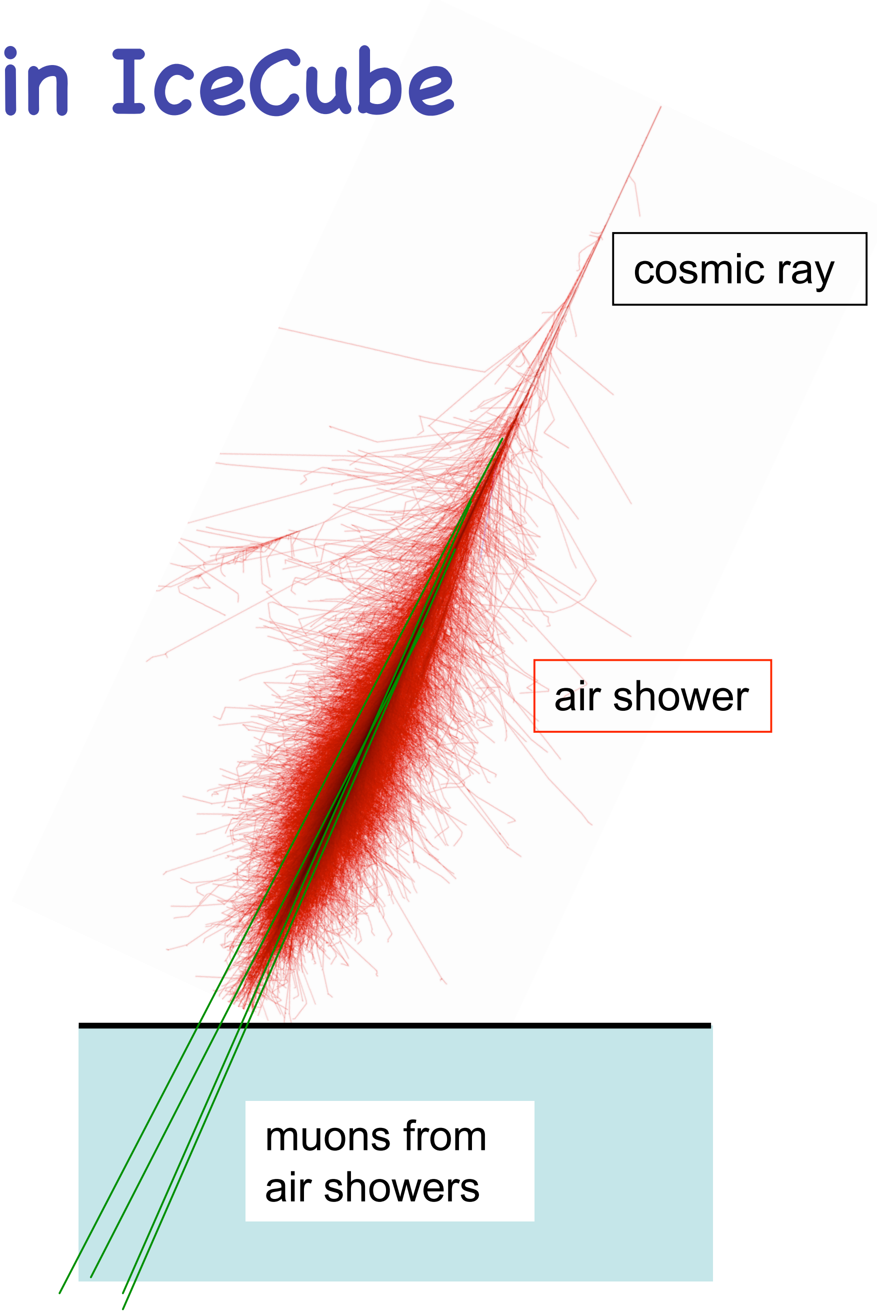


Jan Blumenthal
David Boersma
Laura Gladstone

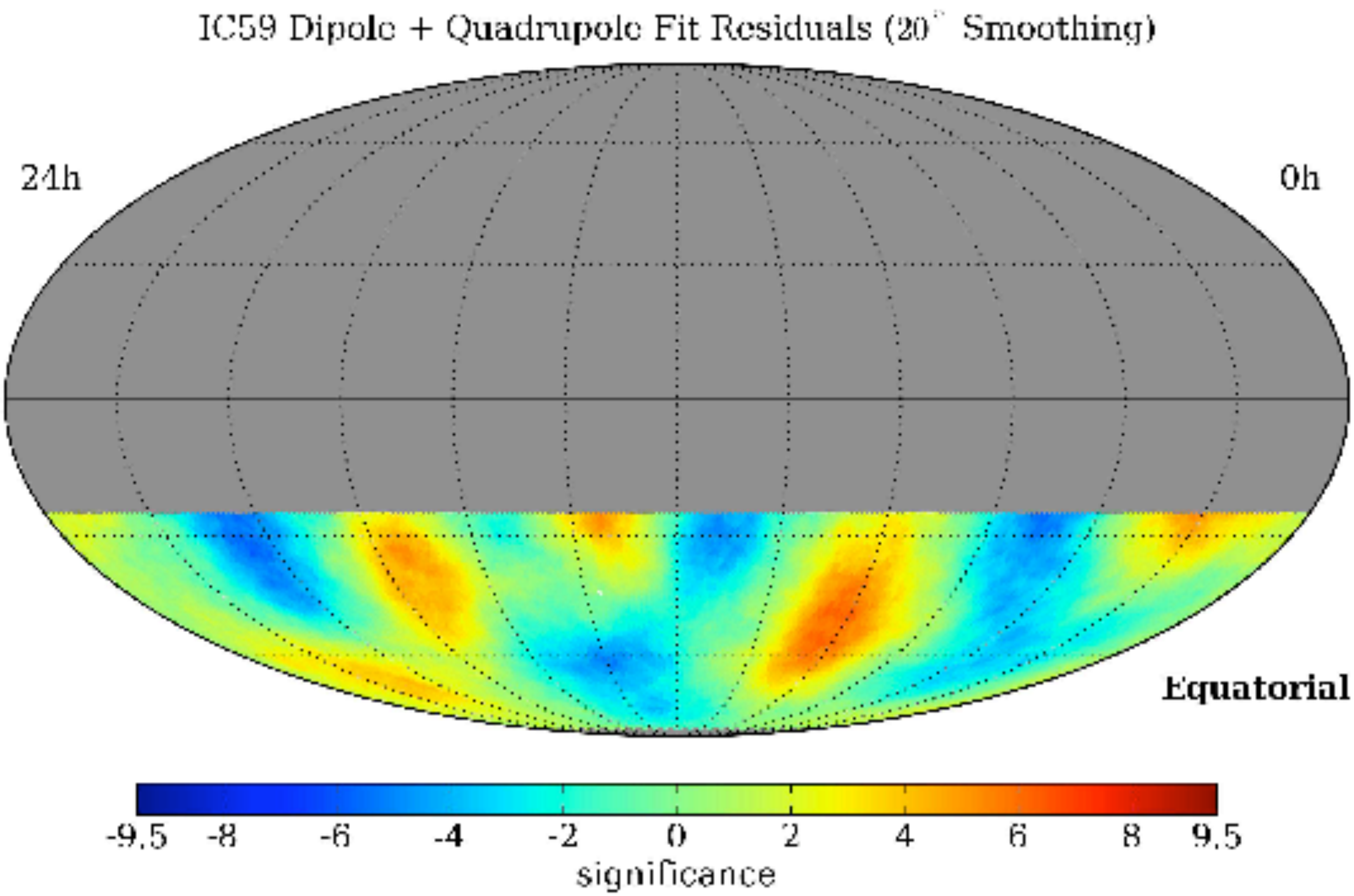
Cosmic Rays in IceCube

- IceCube tries to identify cosmic ray sources by their neutrino signal, but it can also study the *cosmic ray flux* itself, as the detector is sensitive to *downward going muons* produced in cosmic ray air showers in the southern hemisphere.

- By detecting downgoing muons, IceCube can study the *arrival direction distribution of cosmic rays* in the energy range ~10 TeV to several 100 TeV and produce a cosmic ray sky map of the southern sky.

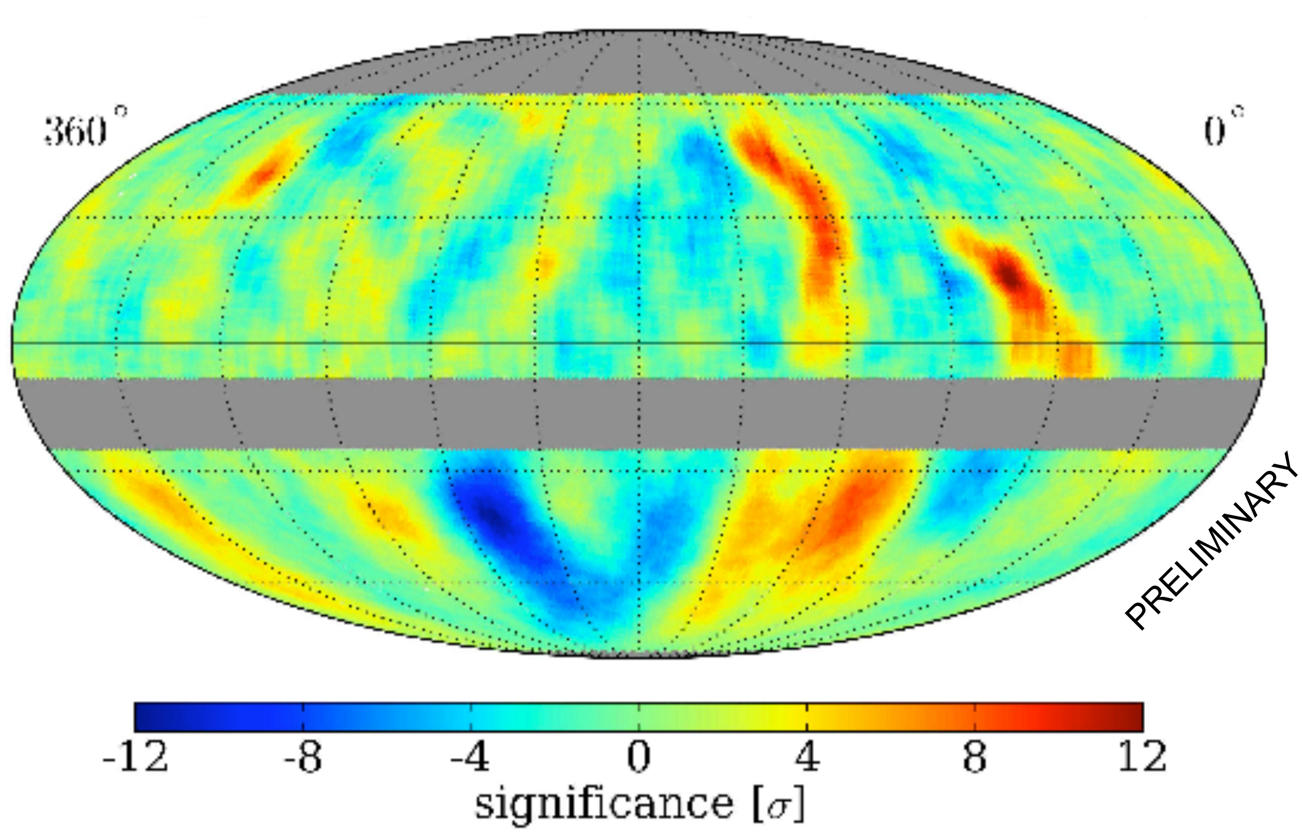


IceCube Skymap



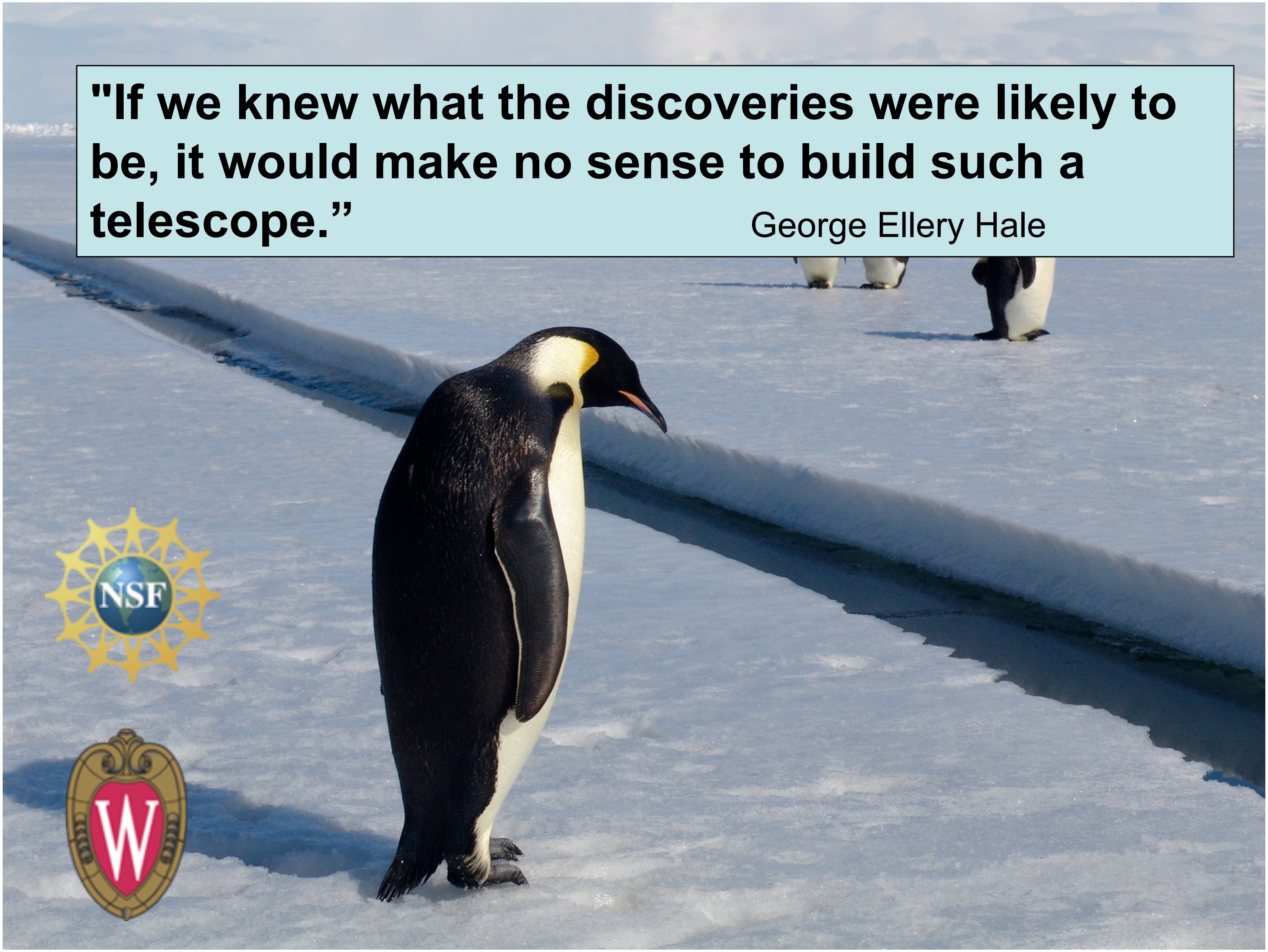
Milagro + IceCube Skymap

- **IceCube skymap (southern hemisphere) and Milagro skymap (northern hemisphere) combined.**



IceCube Physics

- Diffuse flux from extragalactic sources.
- Neutrino point sources. Origin of galactic and extragalactic comic rays.
- Atmospheric neutrino flux.
- Gamma Ray Bursts and time-dependent phenomena.
- Supernova Burst Monitoring.
- Indirect WIMP search.
- Relativistic monopoles and other exotic phenomena.
- Lorentz invariance violation.
- Search for non-standard model neutrino interactions.
- Cosmic rays with IceTop.
- …


"If we knew what the discoveries were likely to be, it would make no sense to build such a telescope.”
George Ellery Hale