New results from the Auger Observatory

BNL Instrumentation Seminar, January 23, 2008

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PIERRE AUGER OBSERVATORY

“Astrophysics in the 21st century will mainly concentrate on two fundamental problems. The first problem is something we would like to see, but we don‘t see. This something is dark matter. And the second problem is something we don‘t want to see, but we unfortunately observe. In this second case I mean ultra-high energy cosmic rays.”

David N. Schramm

Outline

- History
- Previous experiments
  - AGASA vs. HiRes contradiction
- Physics background
  - GZK cutoff
  - Magnetic fields
- Pierre Auger Observatory
- New results
  - Anisotropy
  - Spectrum
  - Composition
  - Photon limit, neutrino limit
  - Hadronic models

} much more details in Maximo Ave's talk tomorrow (3:00 PM, Small Seminar Room, Bldg. 510)

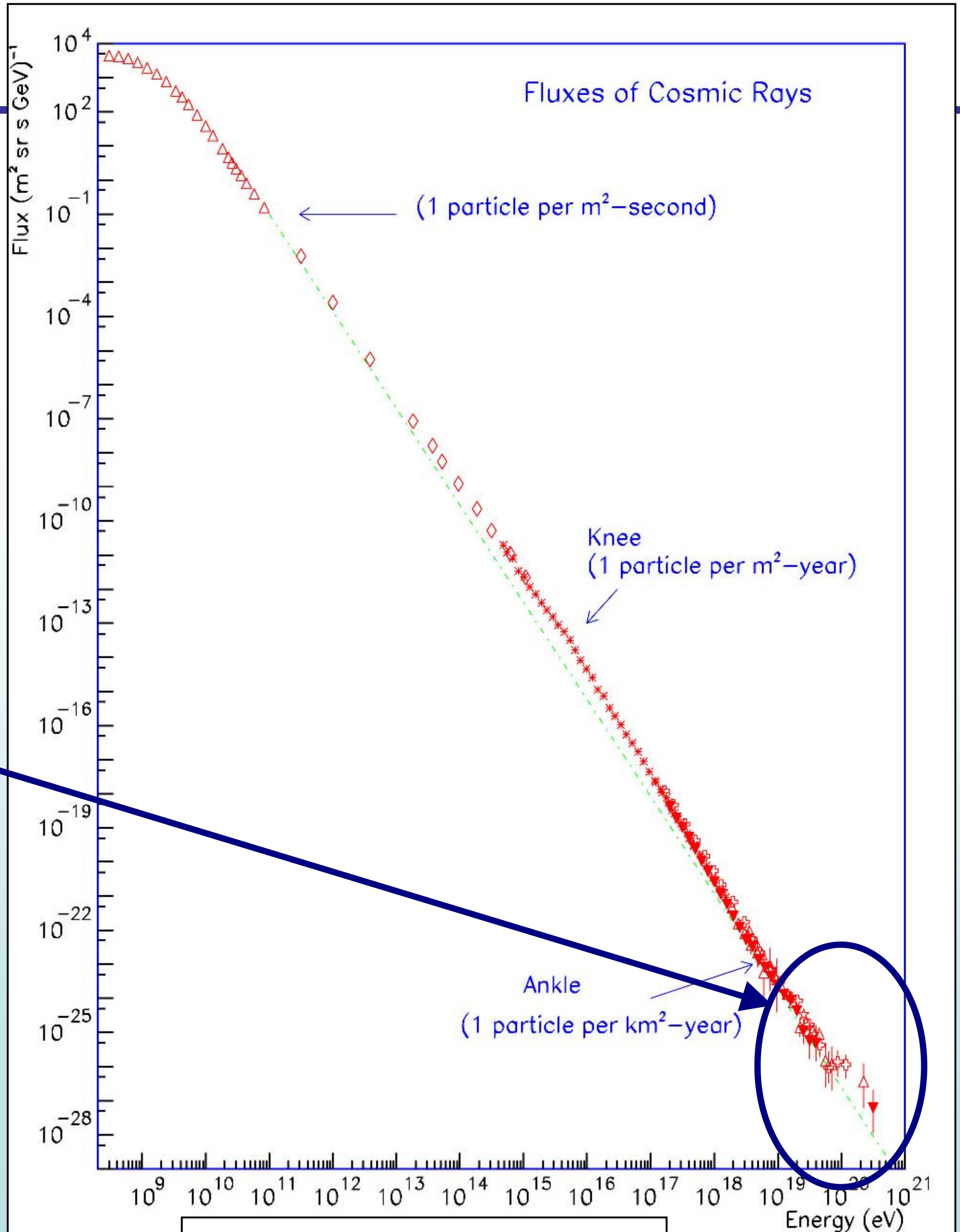
What are ultra-high energy cosmic rays (UHECRs)?

UHECRs are particles with energy above "ankle", say, above 3 x 10^{18} eV.

The most energetic event:

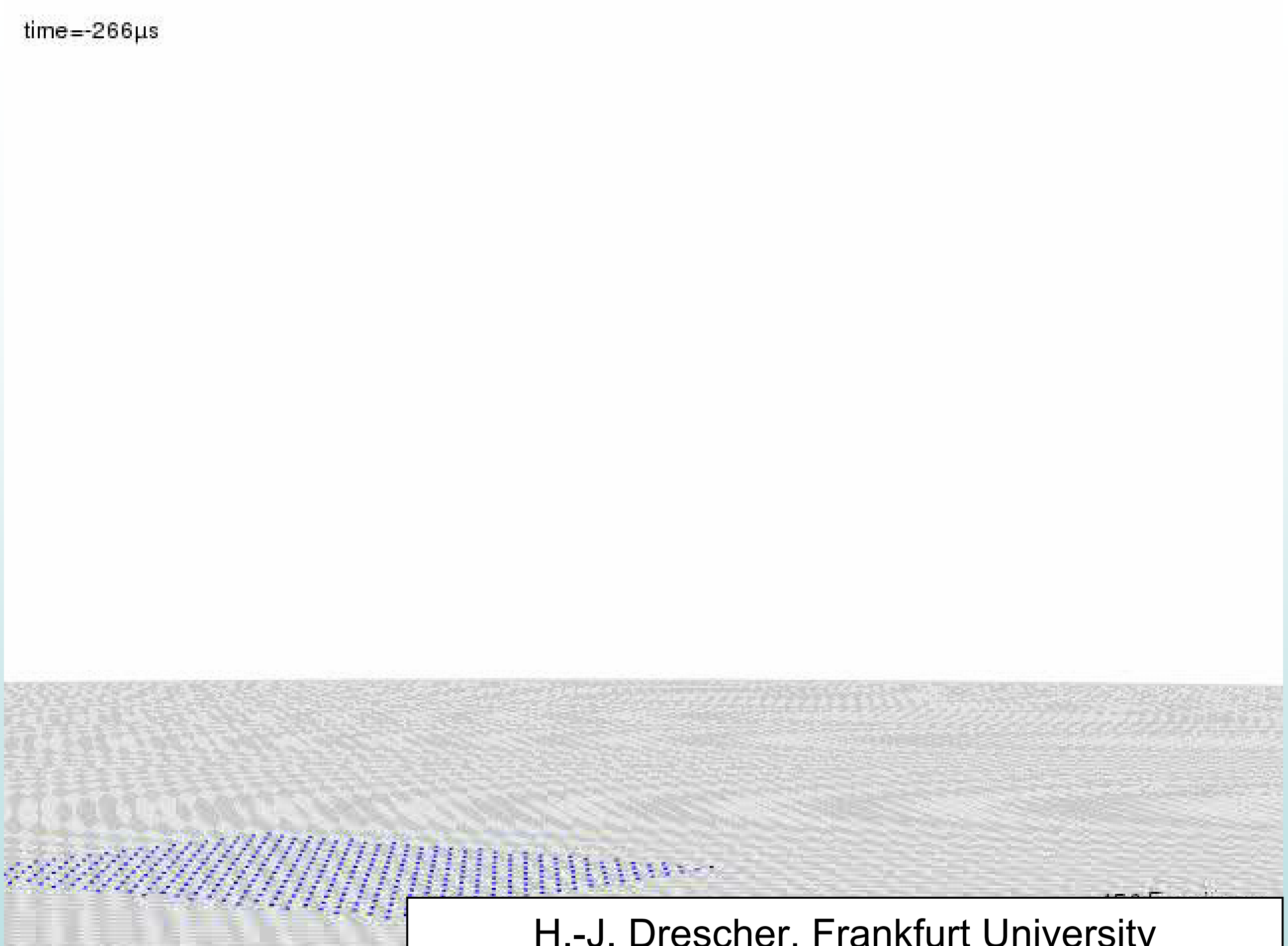
Detector Fly's Eye, Utah, USA, October 15th 1991

3 x 10^{20} eV ≈ 50 J



Simon Swordy, 1996

Extensive air showers



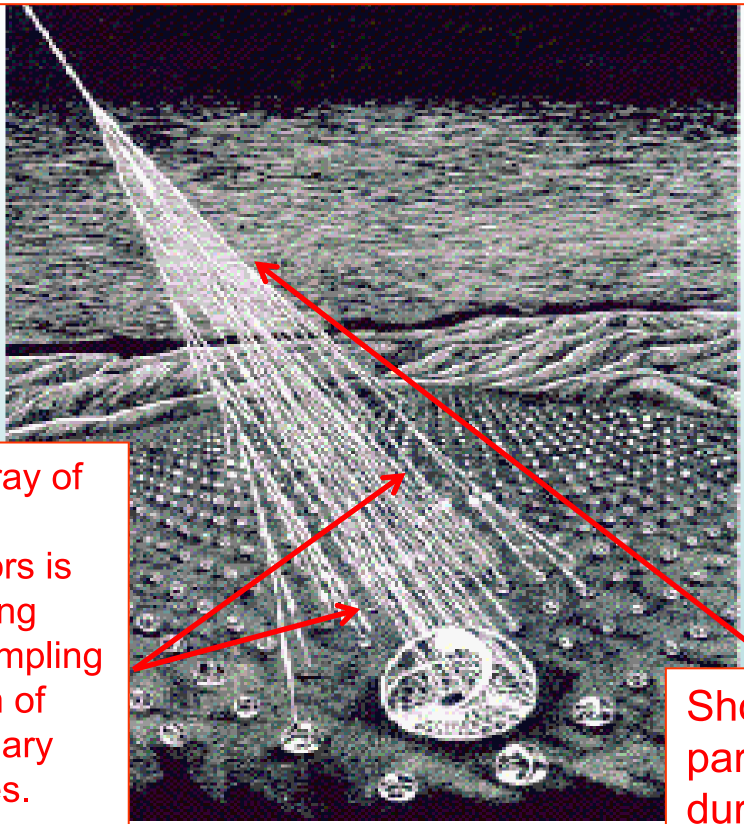
H.-J. Drescher, Frankfurt University

- Primary particle interacts with atmosphere
- Number of secondary particles is created
- Secondaries interact again, and again, ...
- Typical shower 10^{20} eV: 10^{10} particles at ground
- Animation color code:

blue: electrons/positrons
cyan: photons
orange: protons
red: neutrons
gray: mesons
green: muons

(10^{-6} thinning)

How to detect UHECRs?



- The number of secondary particles is proportional to energy of primary particle

- Relative time of detection of individual secondary particles carries information about incident direction of primary particle

- Types of detectors: ground arrays and fluorescence telescopes

Detectors of cosmic rays with ultra-high energies

7 different detectors were in operation during 40 years of measurements and achieved detection of approximately ~ 200 particles with energies over 4.10^{19} eV and only ~ 20 particles with energies over 10^{20} eV.

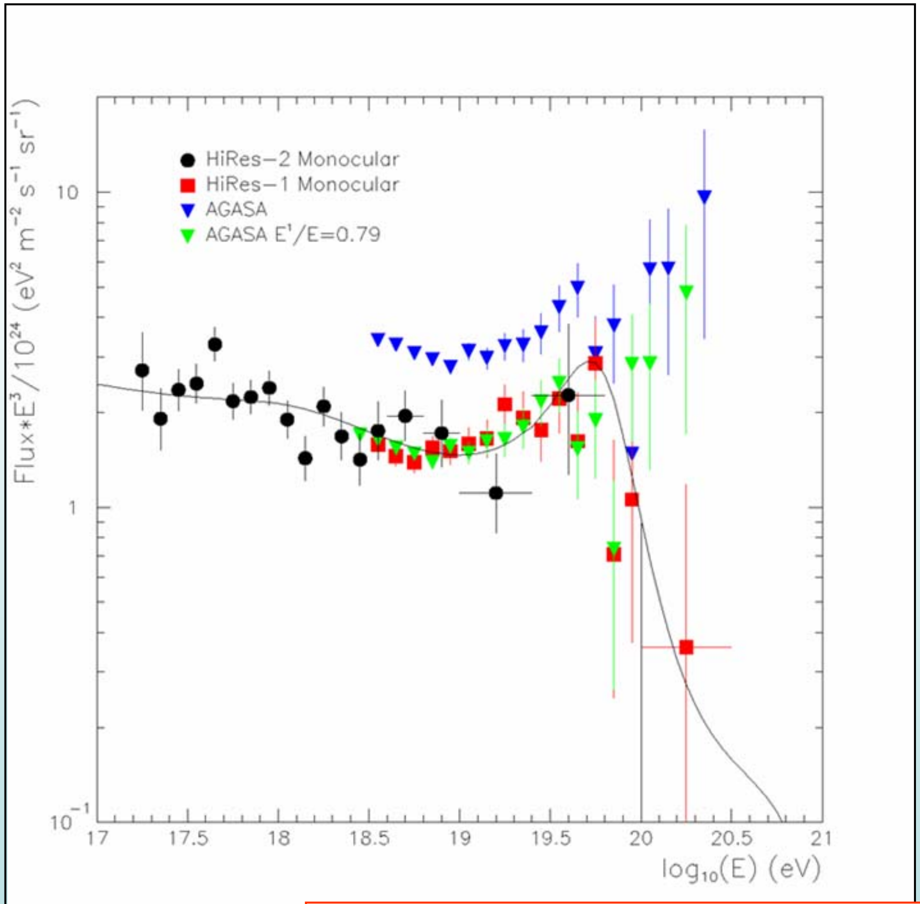
Surface detectors:

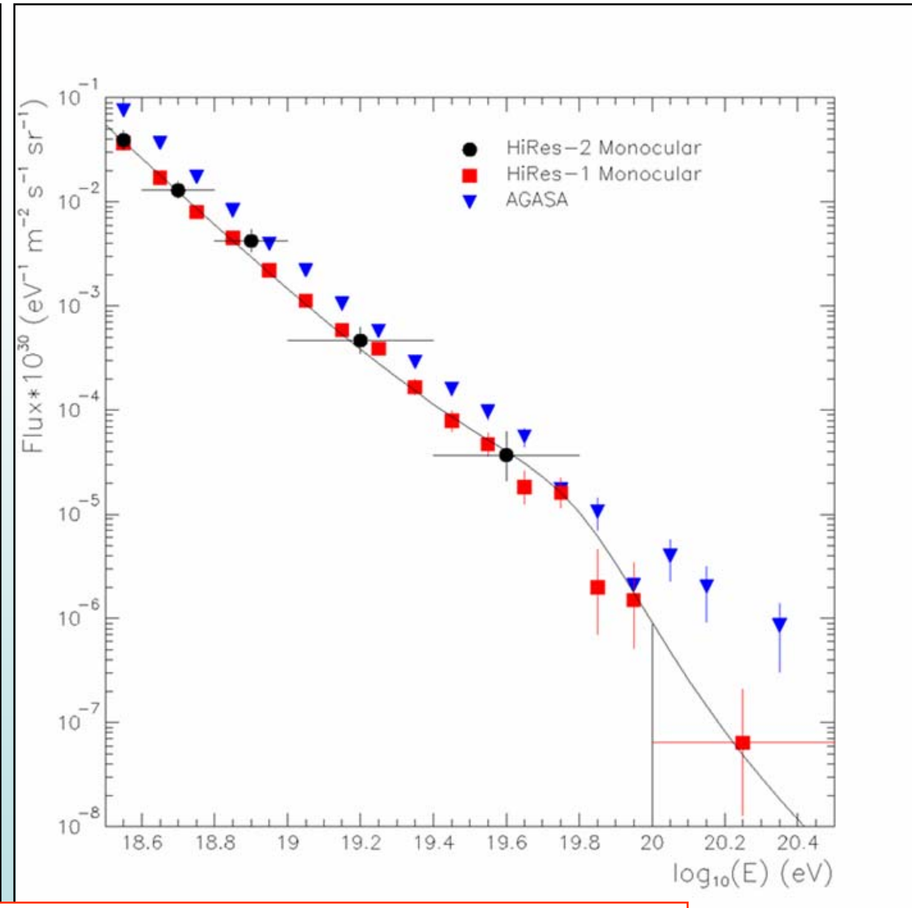
- Volcano Ranch, USA (1959 – 1963)
- SUGAR, Australia (1968 – 1979)
- Haverah Park, UK (1968 – 1987)
- Yakutsk, Russia (1970 – today)
- AGASA, Japan (1990 – 2004)

Fluorescence detectors:

- Fly's Eye, USA (1981 – 1992)
- HiRes, USA (1998 – 2006)

GZK or not to GZK: HiRes vs. AGASA

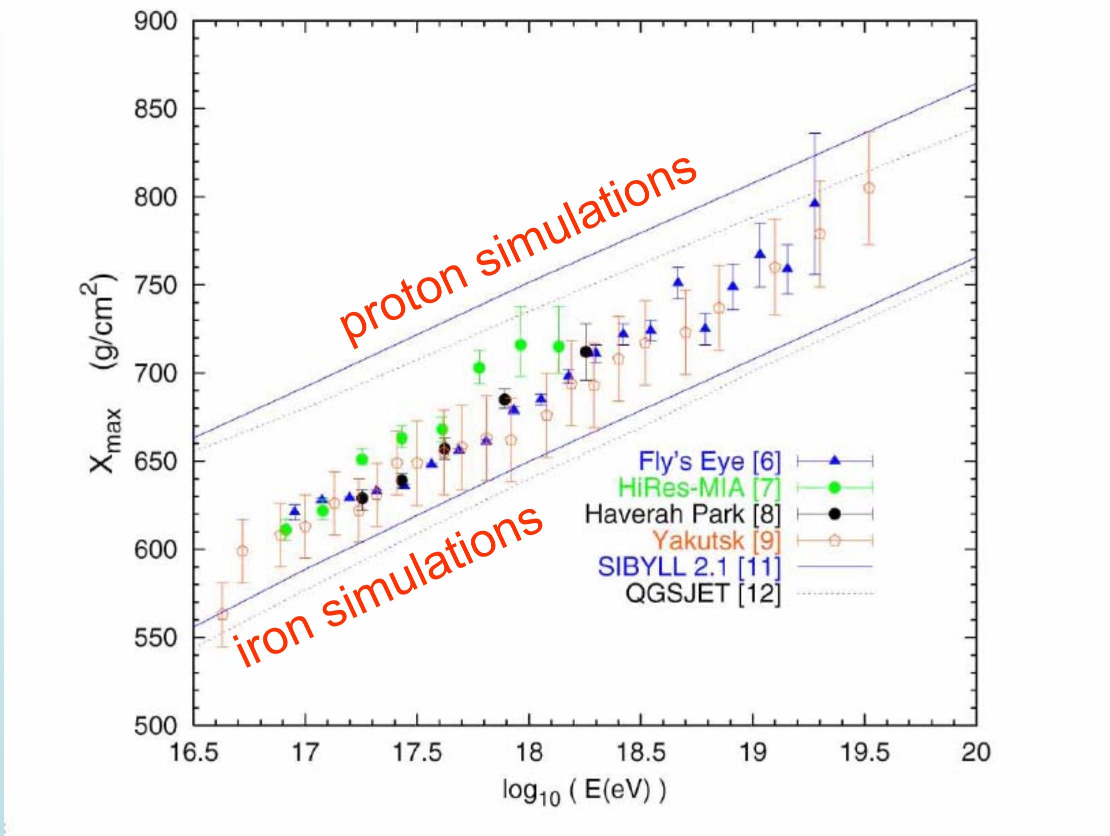




Is there really GZK-cutoff? Where are the sources?

Chemical composition of UHECR

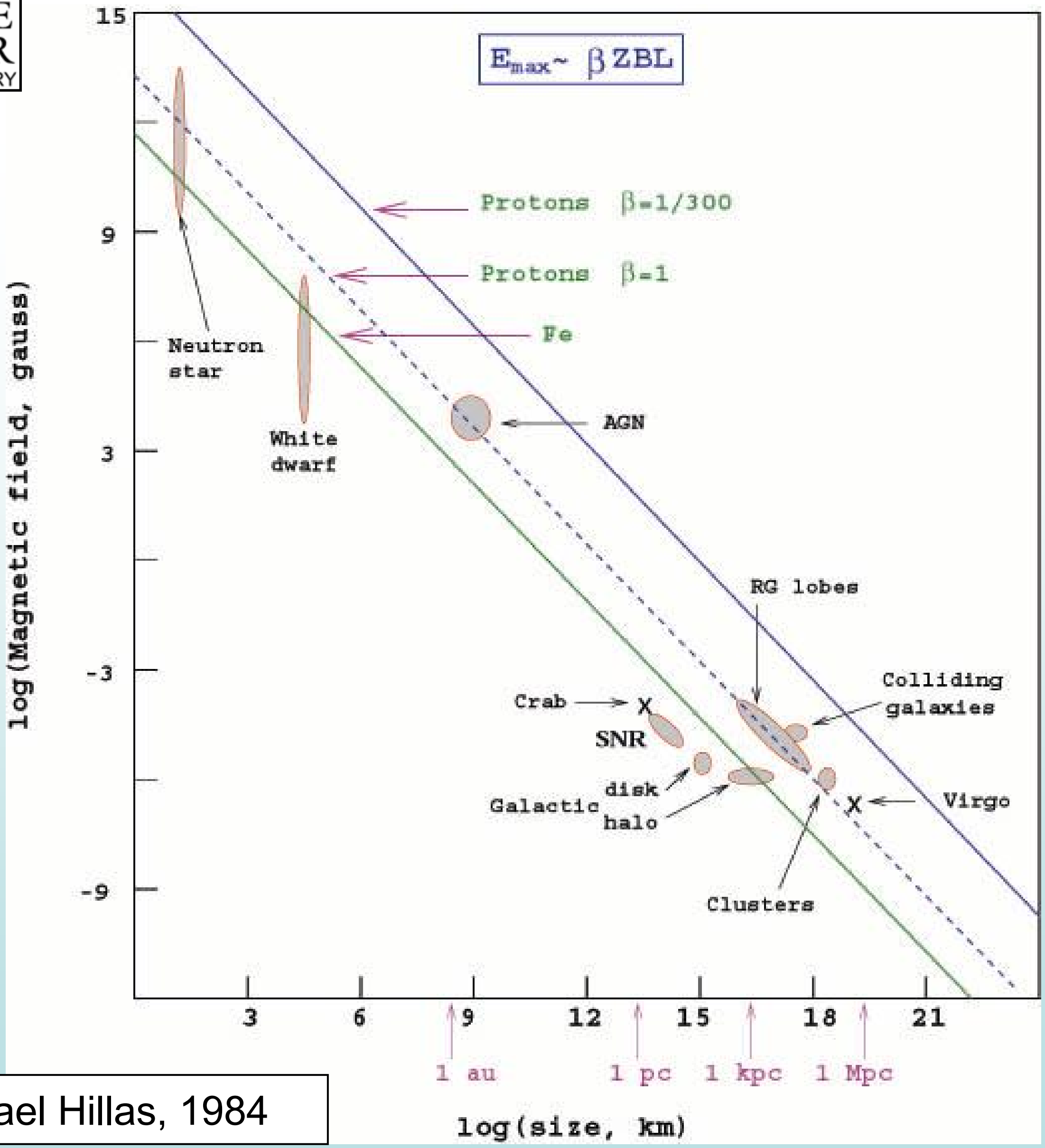
Protons, iron nuclei or mix?
We (once again) don‘t know.



- **Elongation rate (mean shower maximum in the atmosphere vs. energy) indicates the dominant chemical component, but we have to compare to simulations to interpret the data (strong model dependence !)**

T. K. Gaisser, 2000

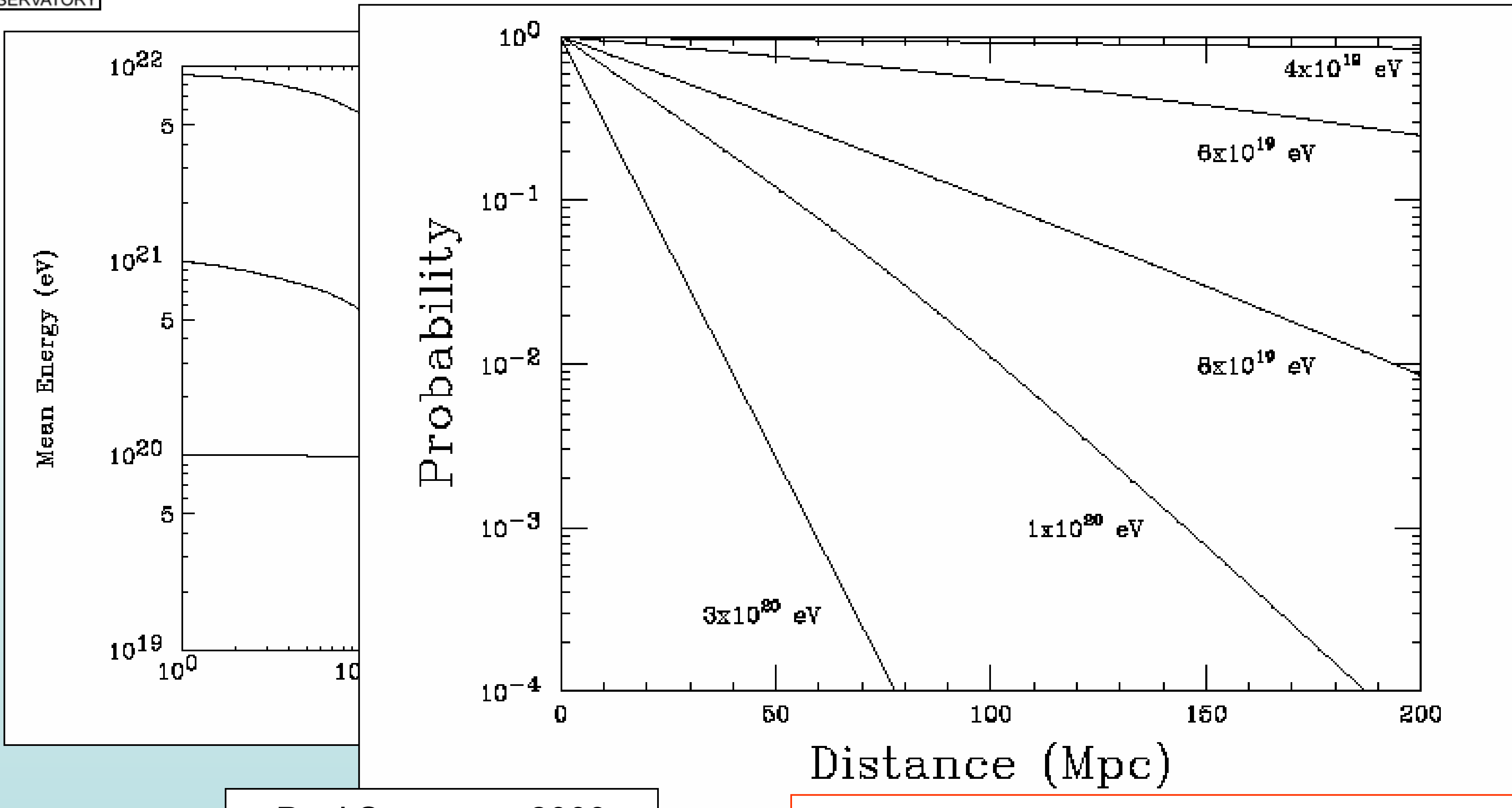
Sites of origin of UHECRs



Michael Hillas, 1984

- Fermi acceleration in magnetic fields.
- We need magnetic fields extremely strong OR filling extremely large regions to accelerate particles above 10^{20} eV.
- And still, all parameters have to be finely tuned.

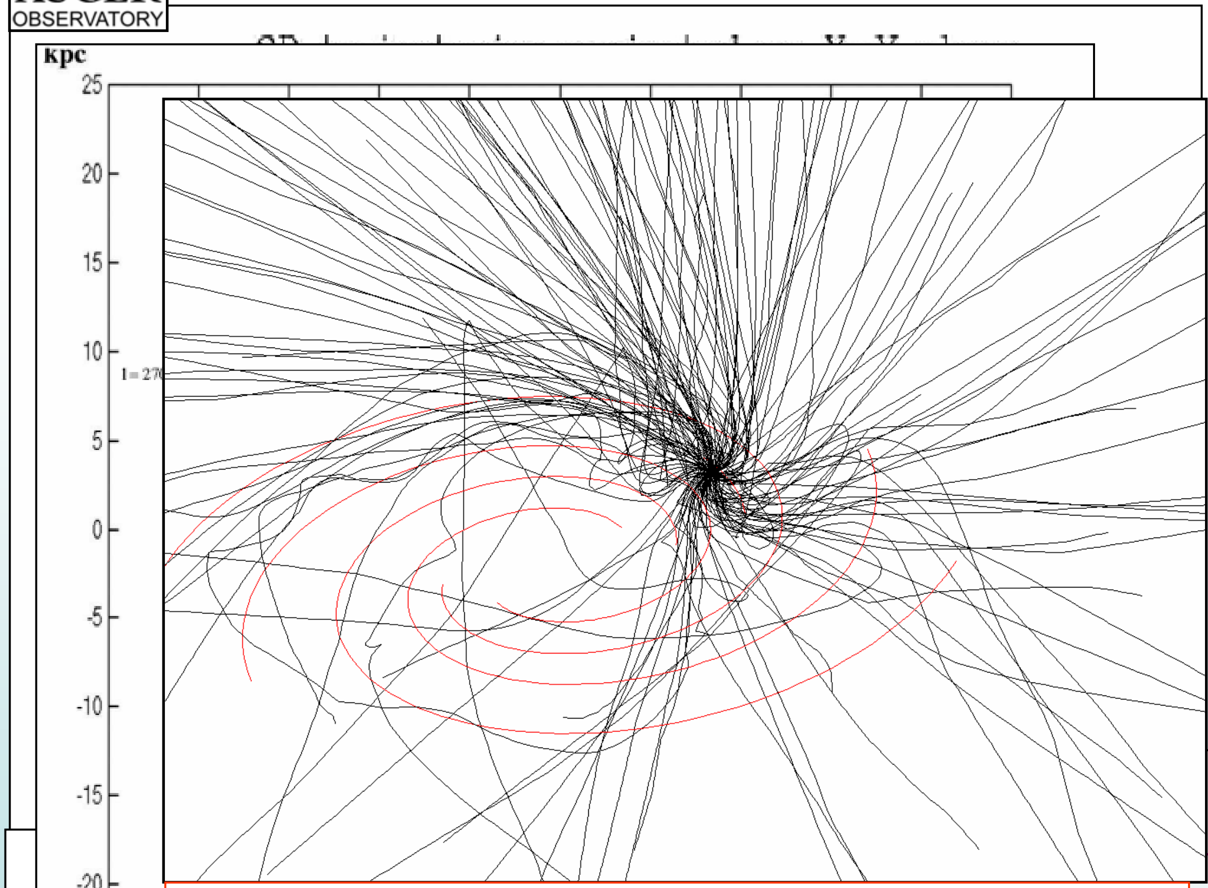
GZK suppression



Paul Sommers, 2003

Sources of particles with E > 10^{20} eV have to be within "GZK-sphere" (100 Mpc)

Influence of magnetic fields

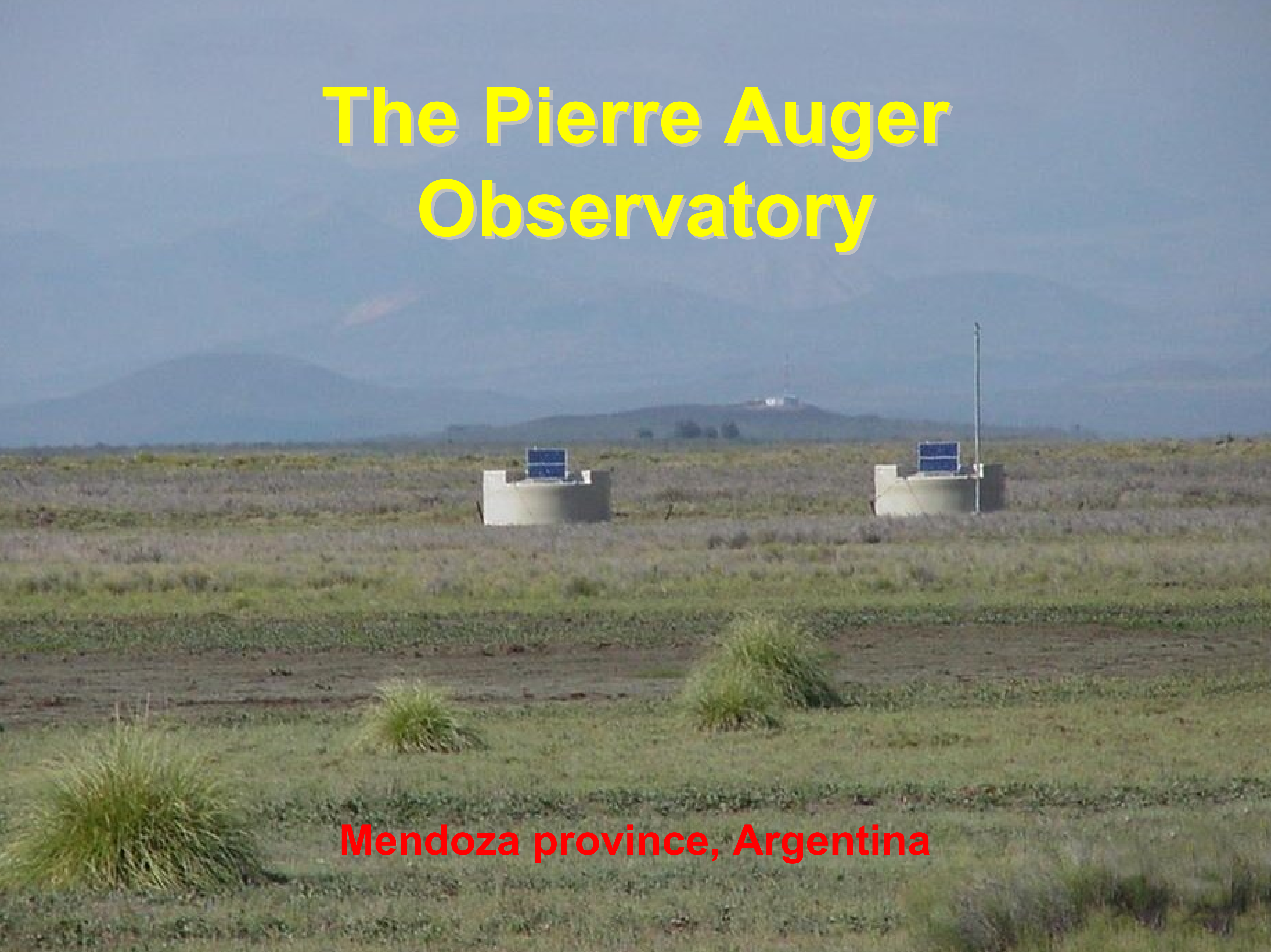


Particle trajectories in the Galaxy:
Iron nuclei, 4 x 10^{19} eV

- Above 10^{19} eV - not curved trajectories ? - “Cosmic ray astronomy” ?
- Not so sure…
- Extragalactic magnetic fields could be very important, especially if UHECRs are mainly iron nuclei.
- And what about Galactic magnetic field?

on, …, Faraday rotation
→ field strength ~ μG
e surely spiral
o 3x higher intensity than
regular), poloidal and toroidal components
exist

The Pierre Auger Observatory



Mendoza province, Argentina

The Pierre Auger Observatory

More than 250 PhD scientists from more than 60 institutions from 15 (+2) countries.

Participating countries:
Argentina, Australia, Bolivia*, Brazil, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom, USA and Vietnam*

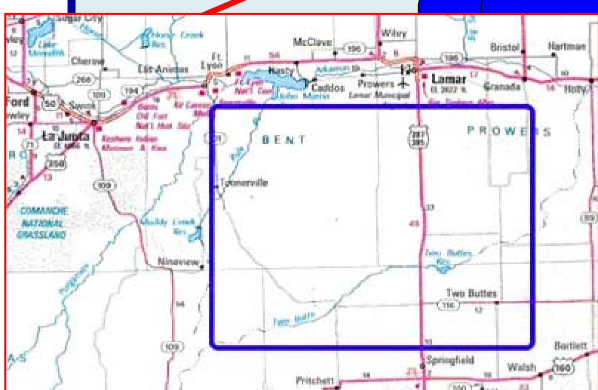
* - associated countries

Participating countries are in cyan.

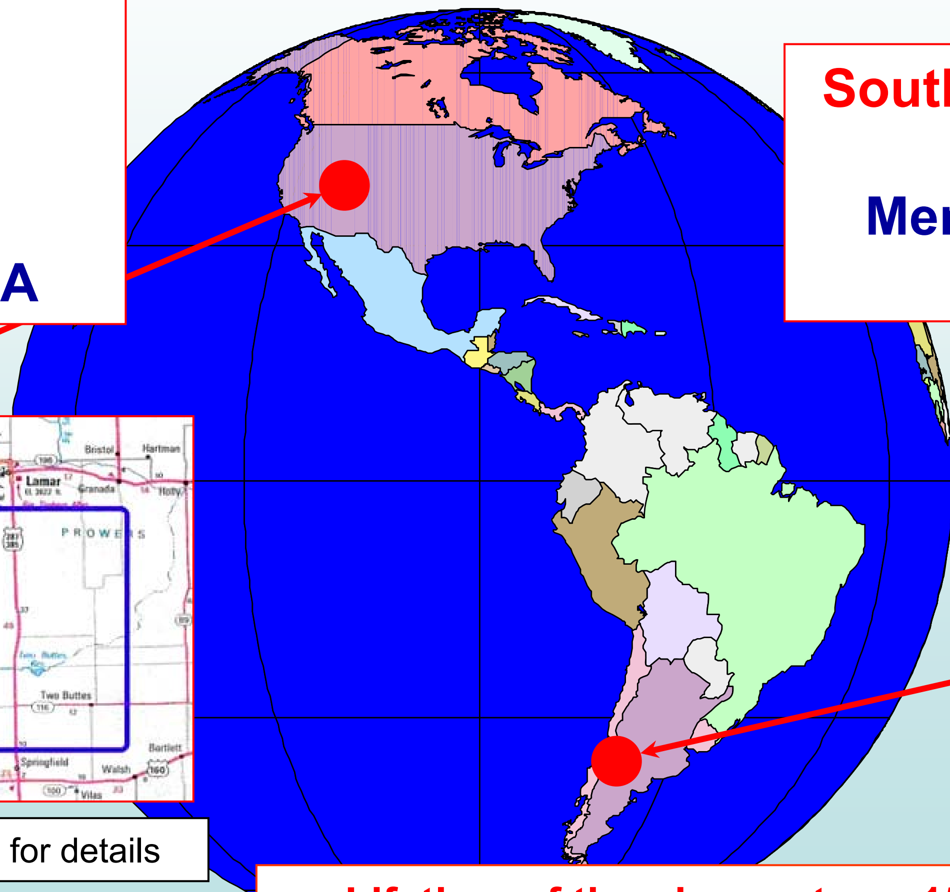
Pierre Auger Observatory

The southern site in Argentina is currently being finished (complete by mid-2008).

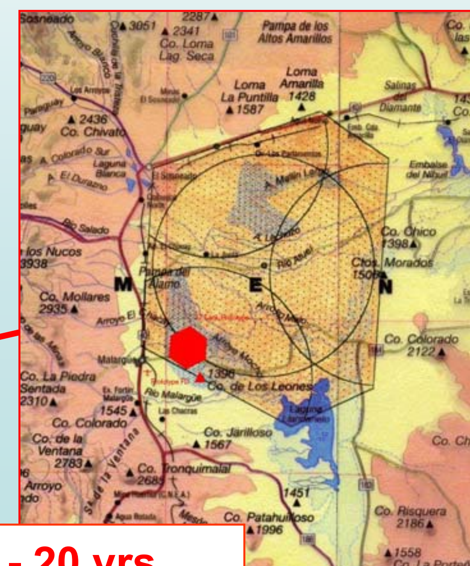
Northern hemisphere (planned):
Lamar, Colorado, USA



See www.augernorth.org for details



Southern hemisphere:
Malargüe, Mendoza province, Argentina

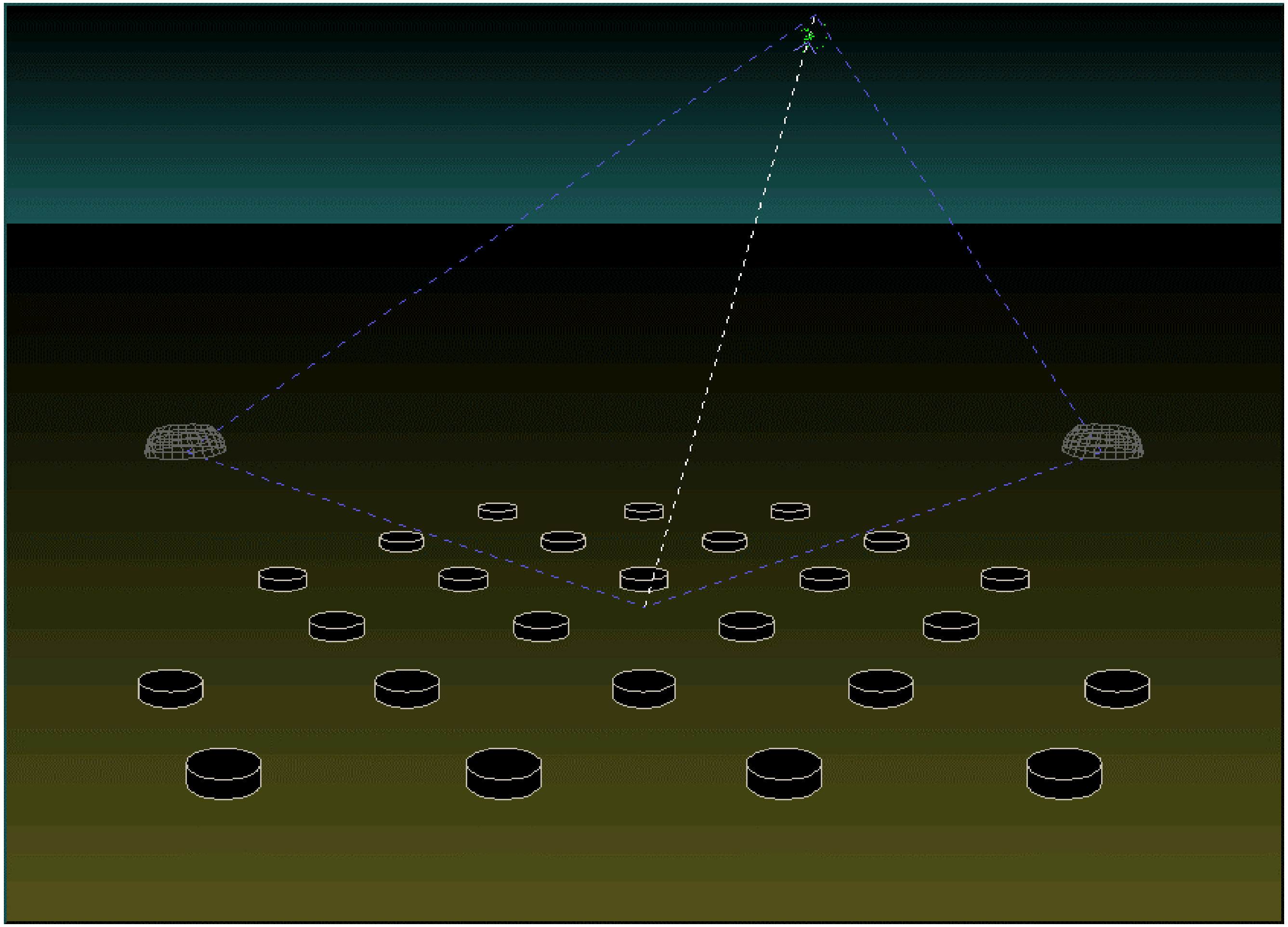


Lifetime of the observatory: 15 - 20 yrs

The Pierre Auger Observatory = hybrid detector of cosmic rays

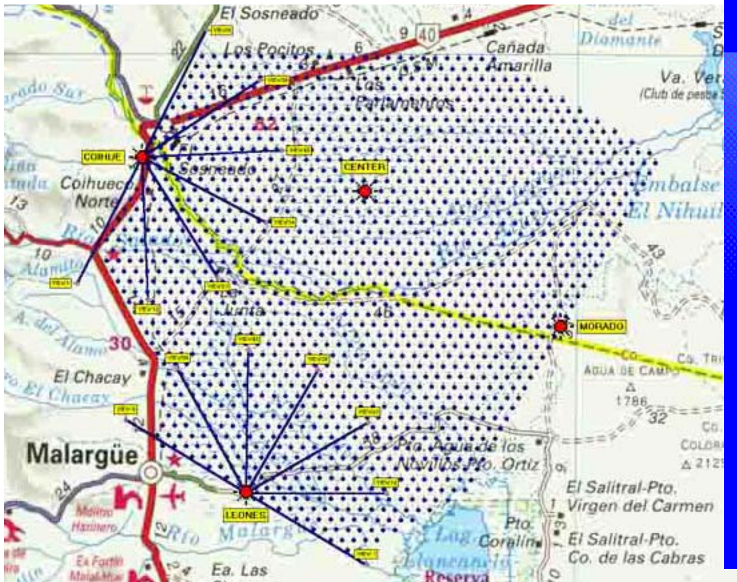
- The array of surface Cherenkovov detectors will be accompanied with system of fluorescence telescopes, which will observe faint UV/visible light during clear nights. This fluorescence light origins as by-product during the interactions of shower particles with the atmosphere.

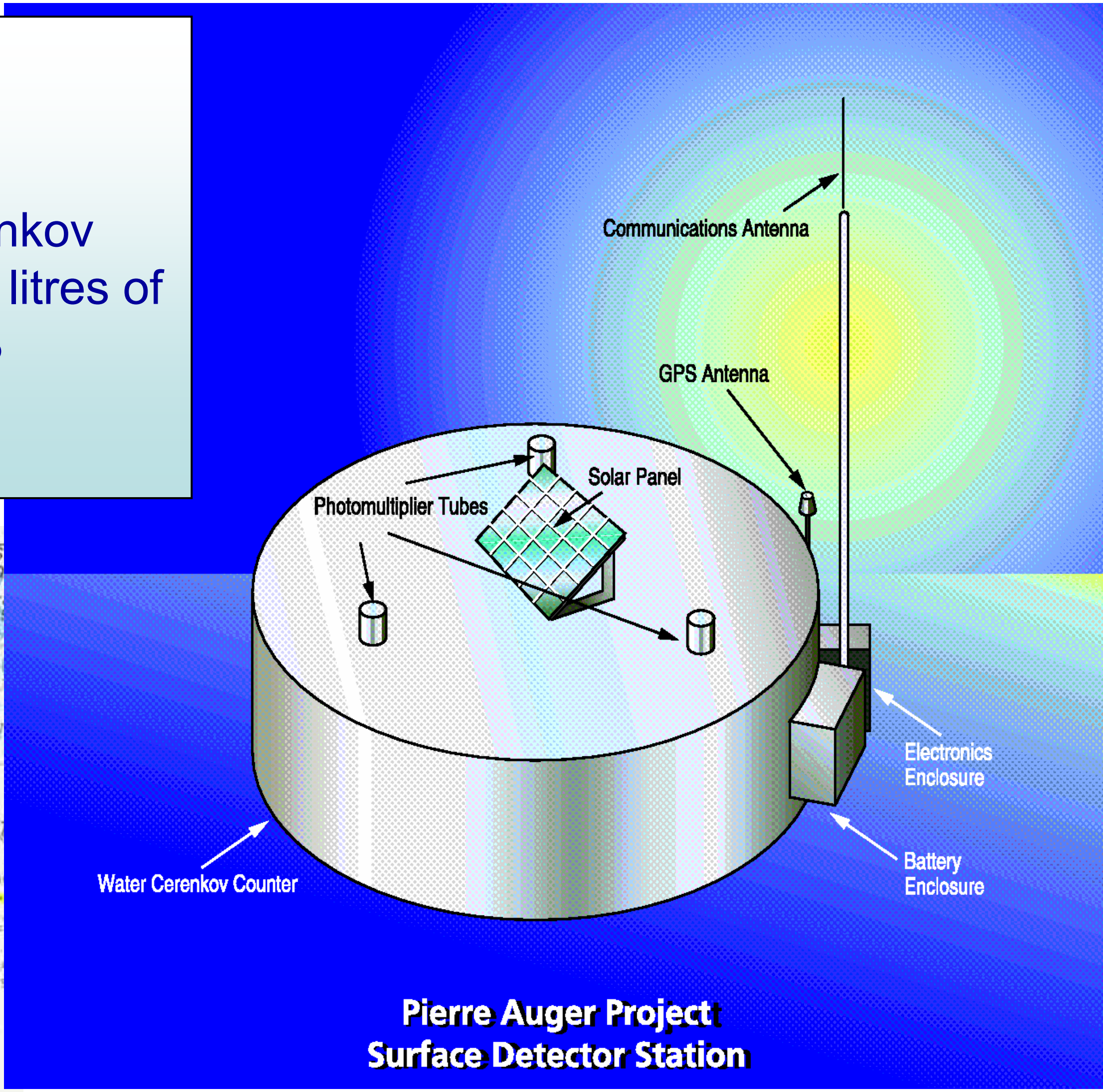
Scheme of hybrid detector function



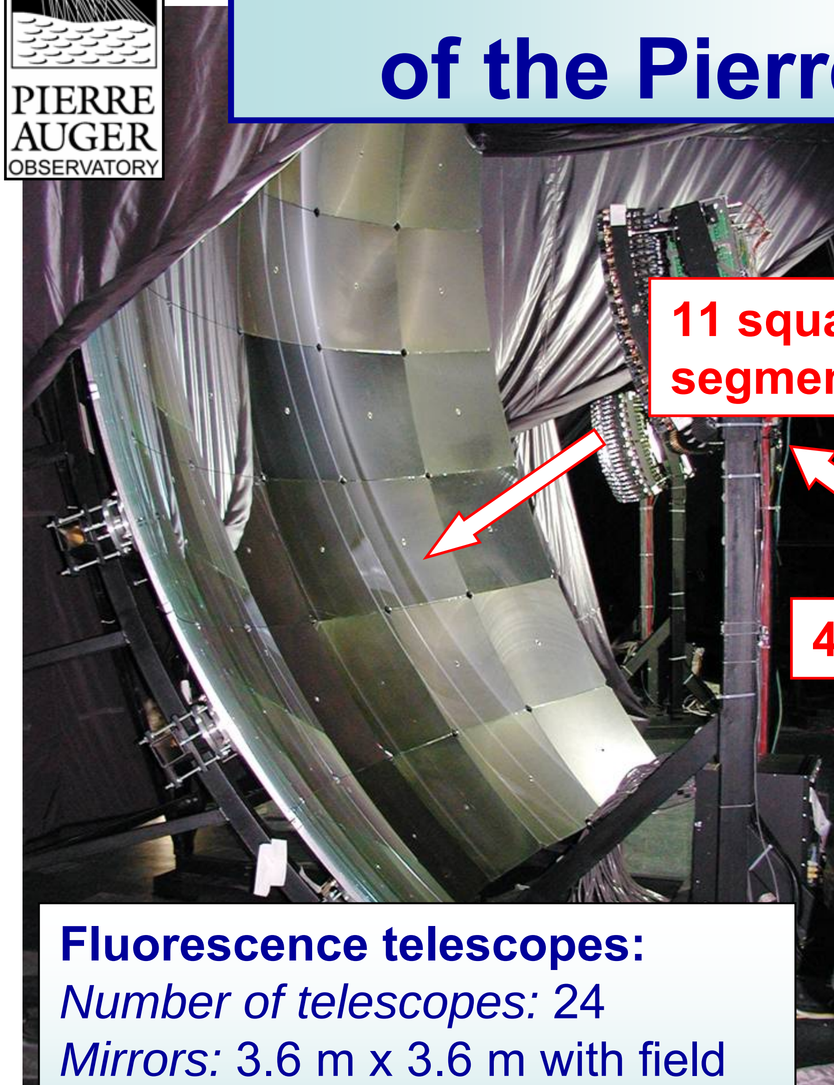
Ground detectors of the Pierre Auger Observatory

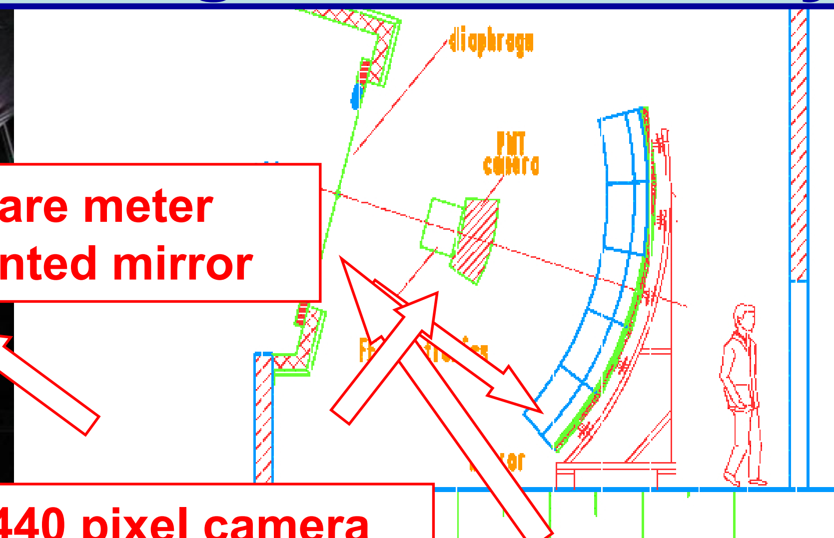
Ground detectors:
Covered surface: 3000 km^2
Number of detectors: 1600
Type of detector: Detector of Cherenkov radiation, each consisting of 12 000 litres of ultrapure water and equipped with 3 photomultipliers.
Spacing between detectors: 1.5 km.

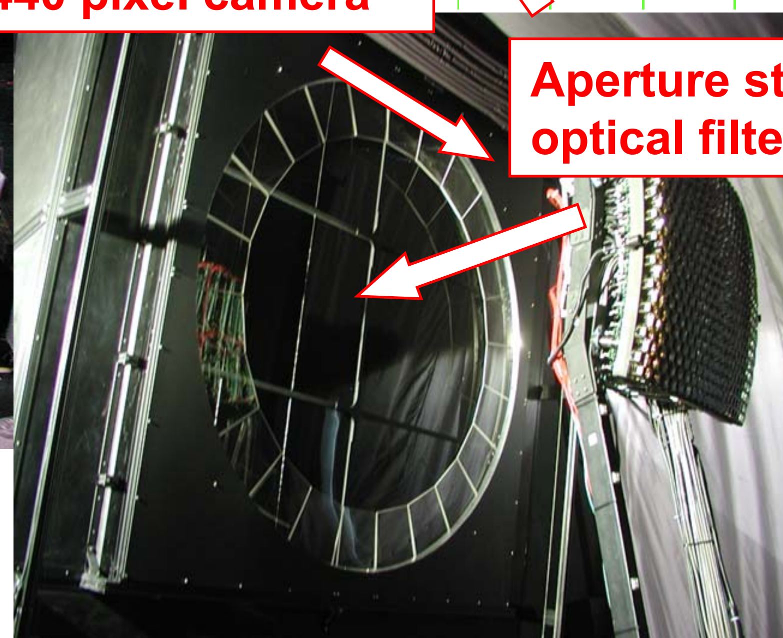




Fluorescence detectors of the Pierre Auger Observatory







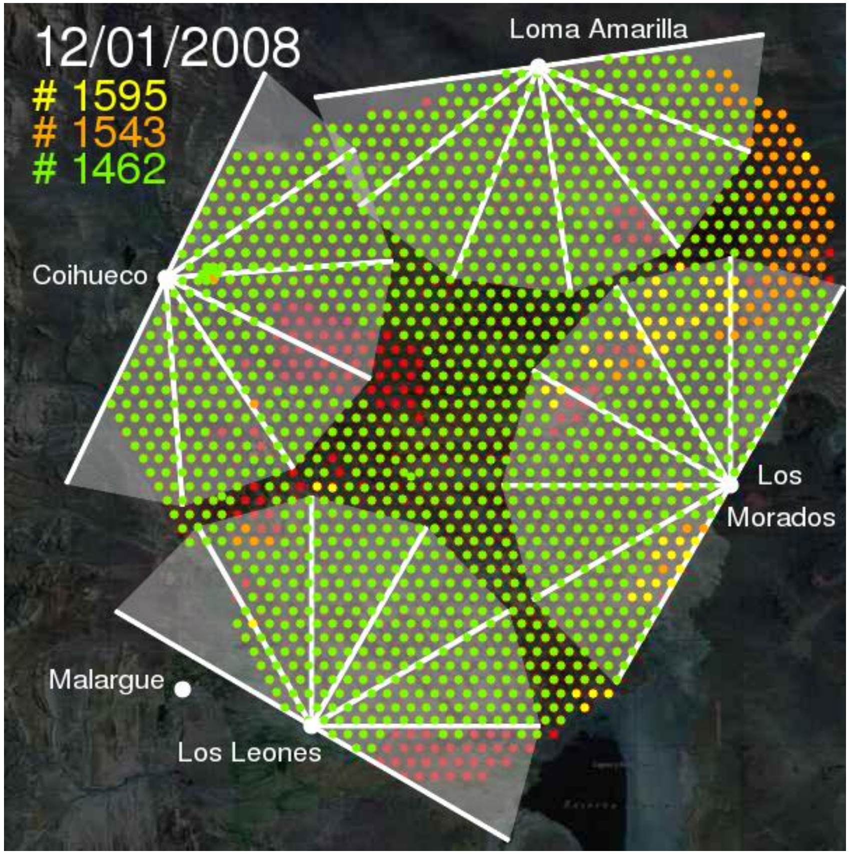
11 square meter segmented mirror

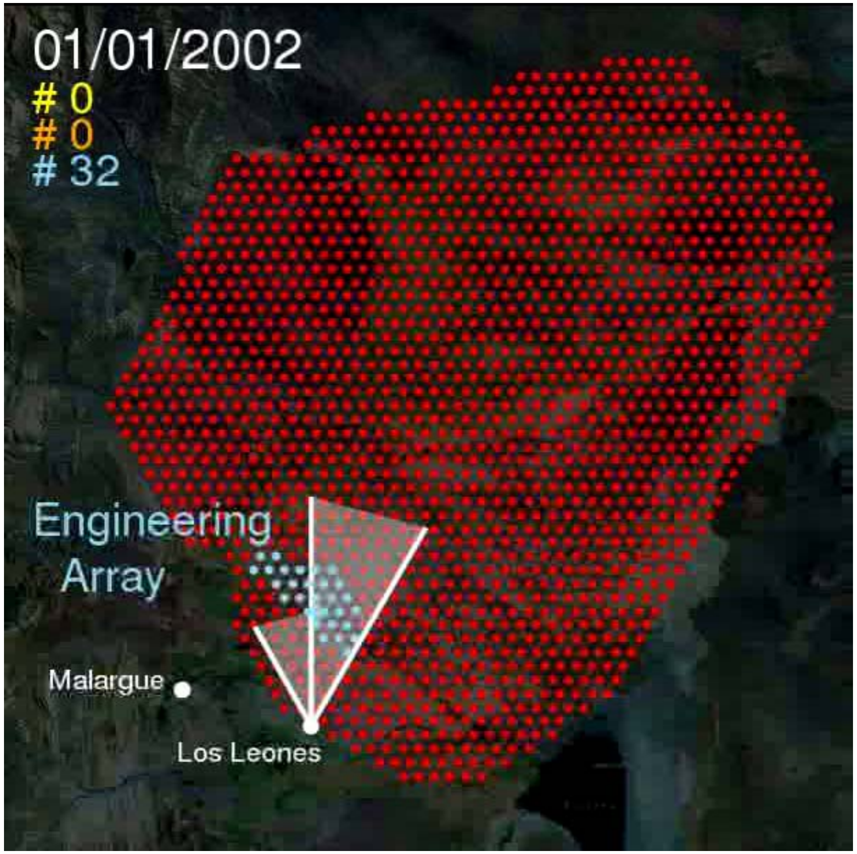
440 pixel camera

Aperture stop and optical filter

Fluorescence telescopes:
Number of telescopes: 24
Mirrors: 3.6 m x 3.6 m with field of view 30º x 30º, each telescope is equipped with 440 photomultipliers.

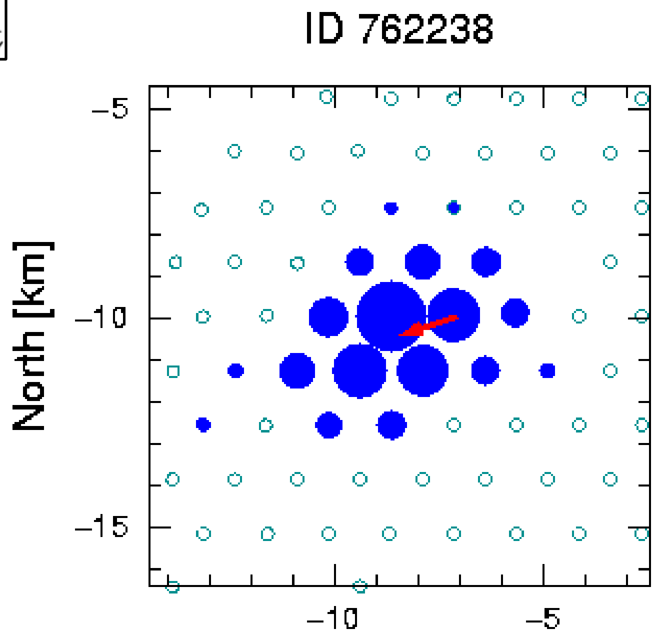
Evolution of the *hybrid detector*

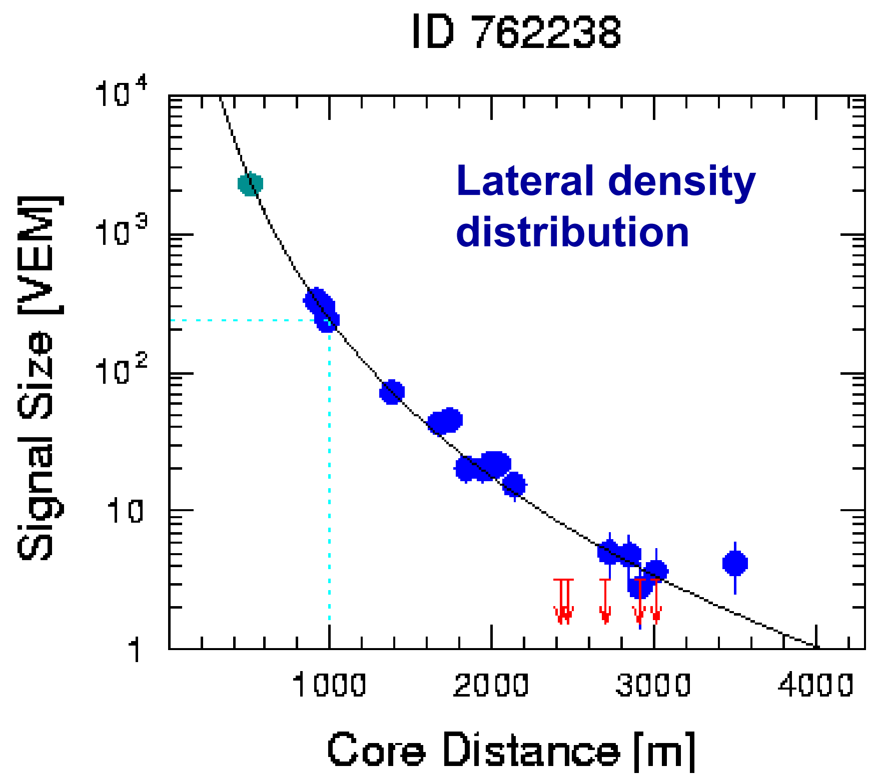


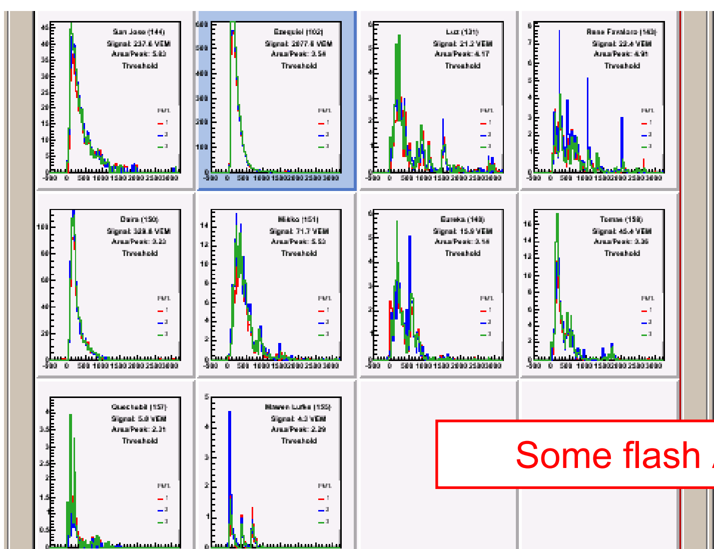


Production of scientific data since late 2003.

Example Surface Array Event
(Θ~ 48º, ~ 70 EeV)

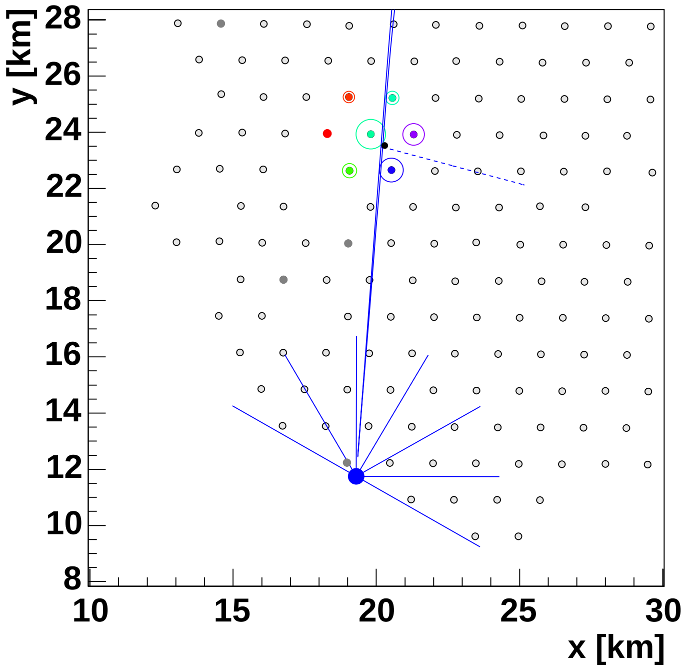


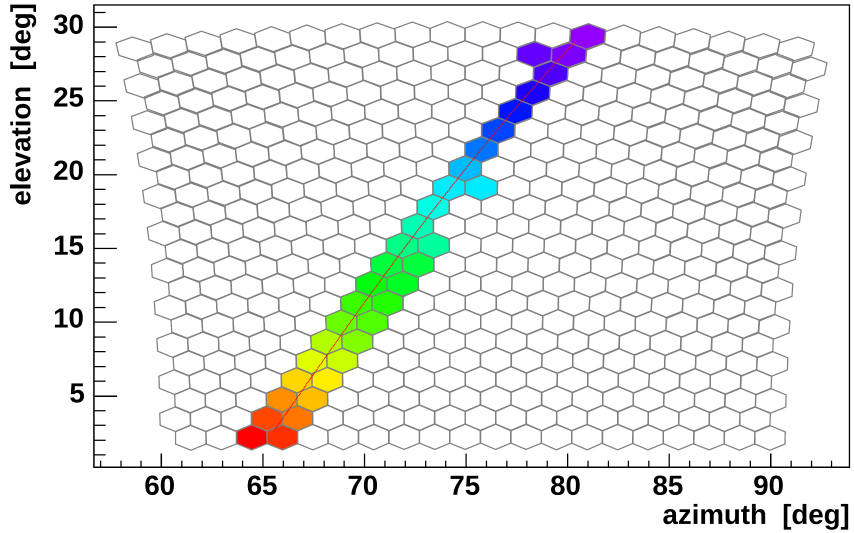


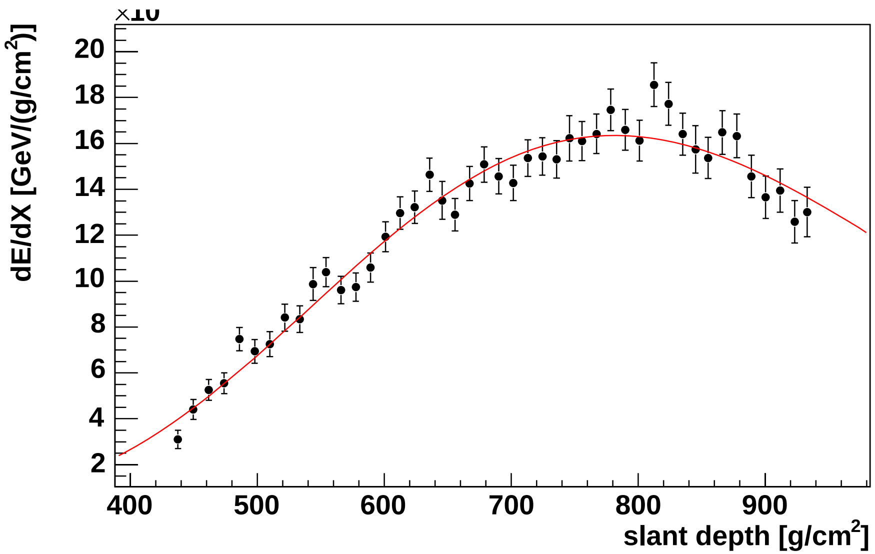


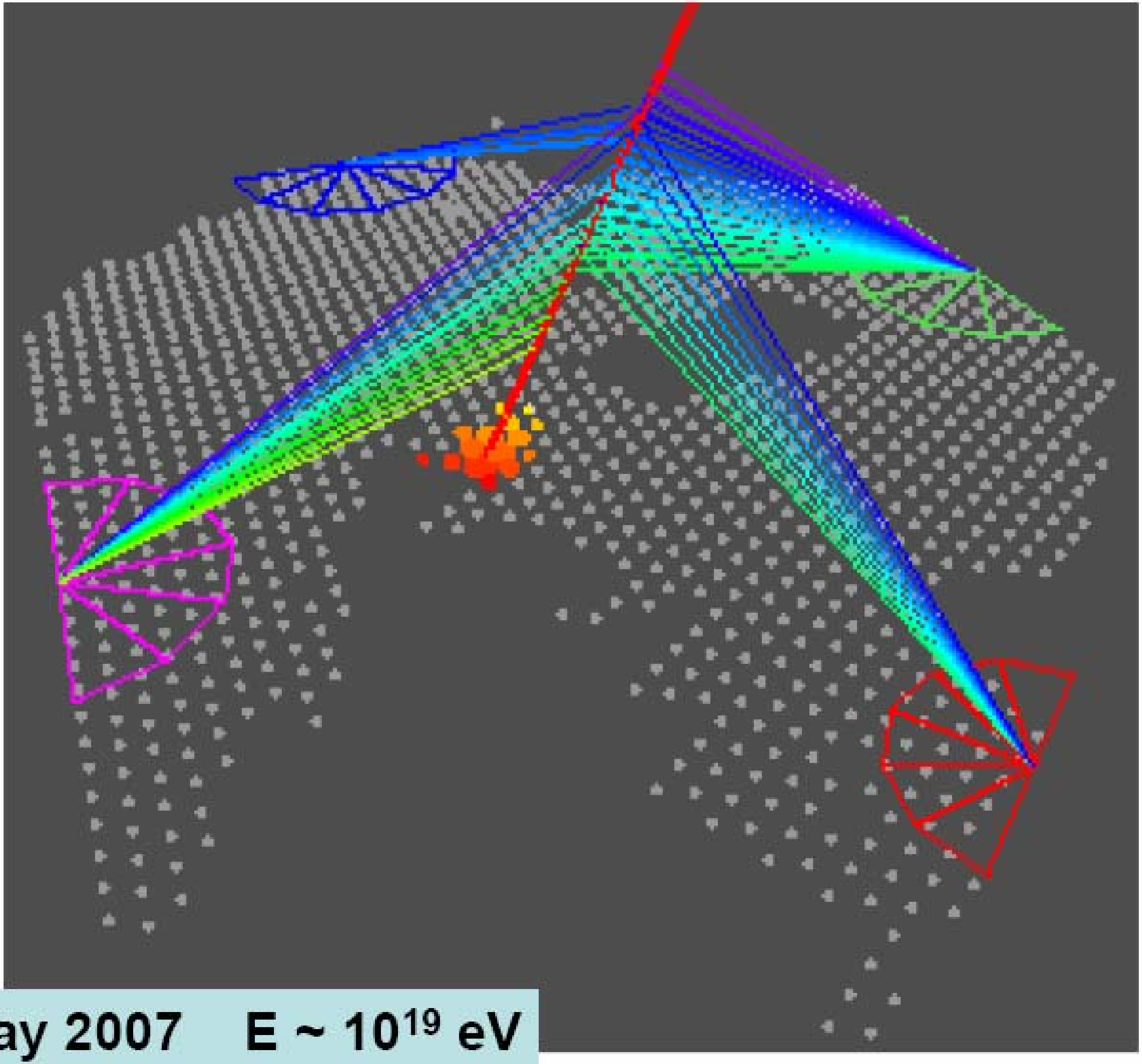
Some flash ADC traces

Example Hybrid Event (Θ~ 30º, ~ 8 EeV)



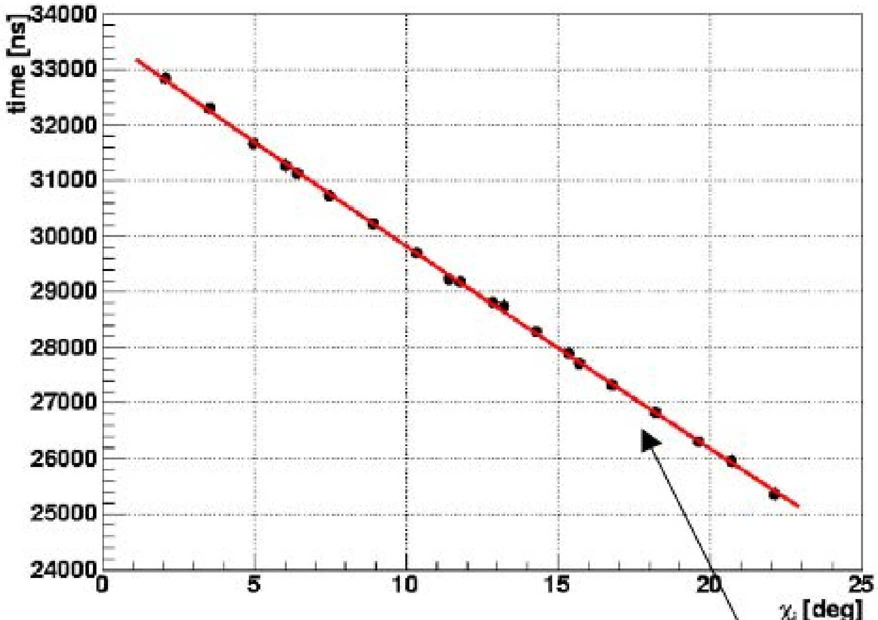


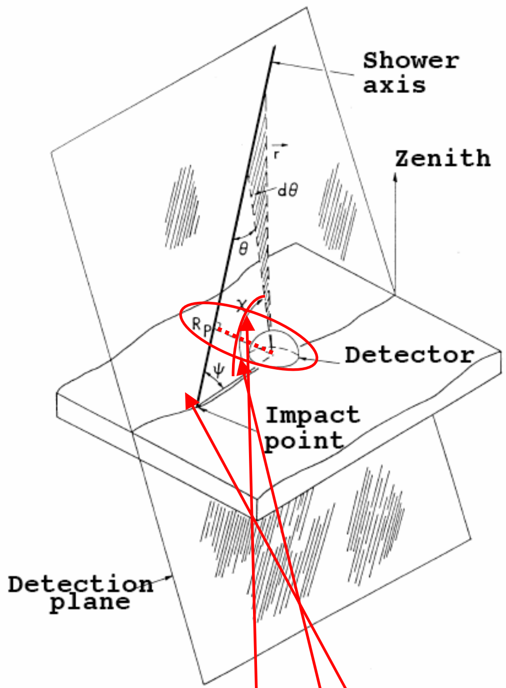




20 May 2007   E ~ 10^{19} eV

(Geometrical) Hybrid advantage...





≈ line but

3 free parameters

$$t(\chi) = T_0 + \frac{R_p}{c}\tan\left[\frac{(\chi_0 - \chi)}{2}\right]$$

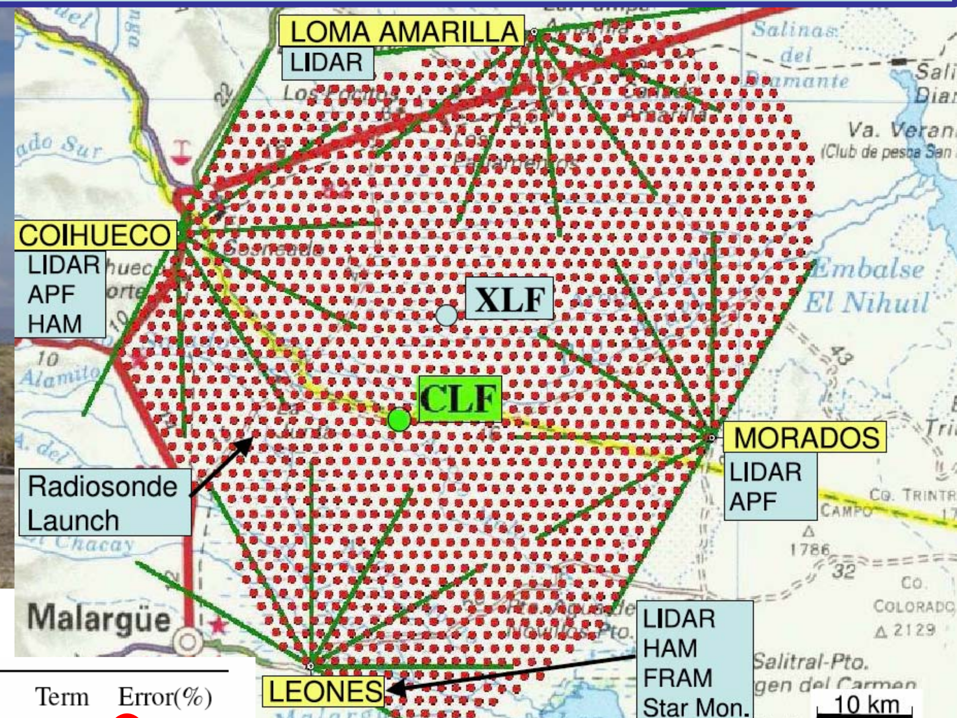
T_0 - time of impact

R_p - perpendicular distance to the detector

χ_0 – actual observation angle

Energy estimation, atmospheric monitoring

Central Laser Facility



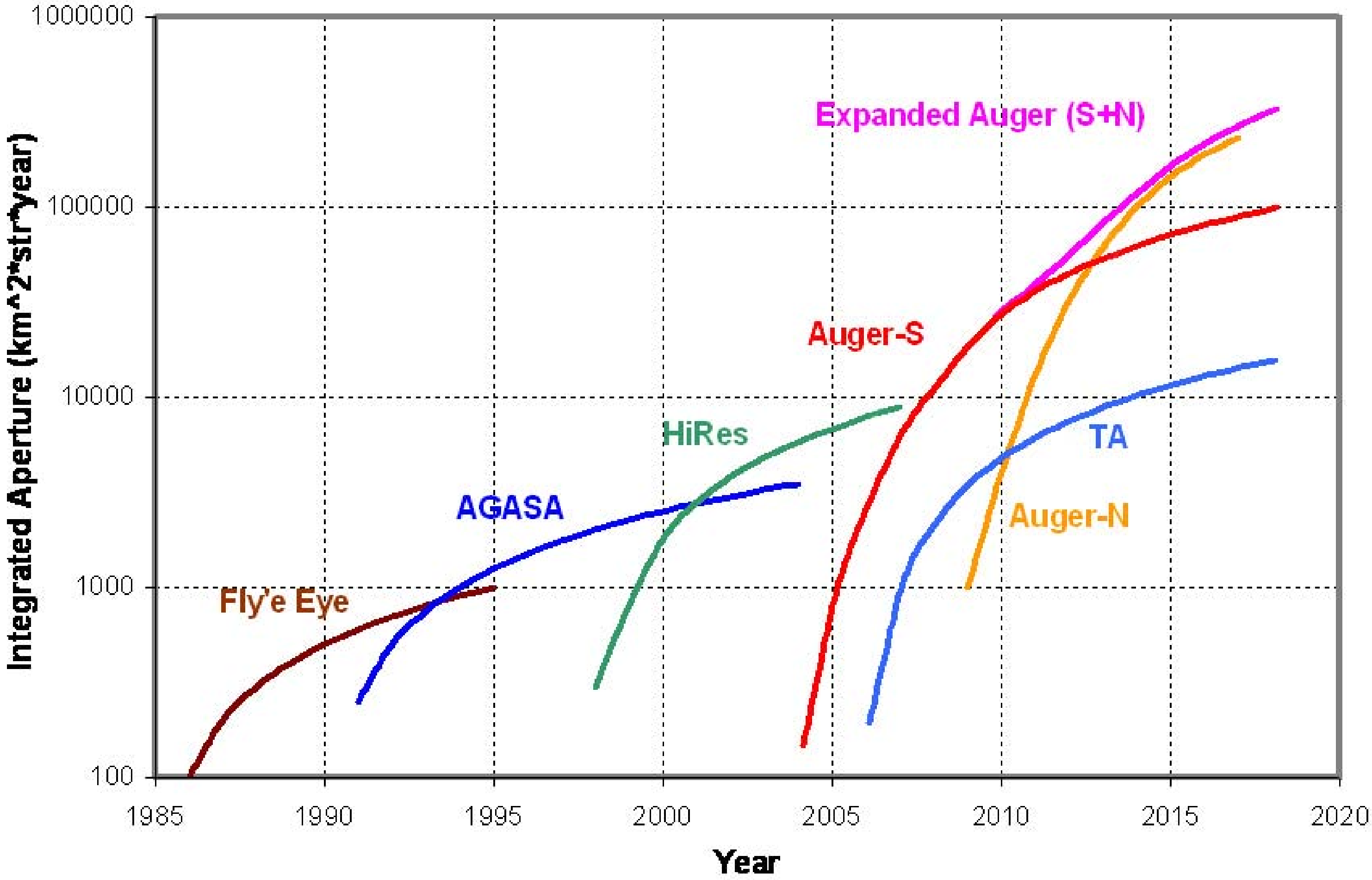
Term	Error(%)	Term	Error(%)
Light collection	5	Atmosphere (aerosols)	10
Detector photometric calibration	12	Atmosphere (clouds)	5
Geometric reconstruction	2	Atmosphere (density profile)	2
Correction for Missing Energy	3	Fluorescence yield	15

Quadrature Sum = 23

Current estimates of systematic errors of the FD energy measurement

LIDAR

Comparison of integrated aperture

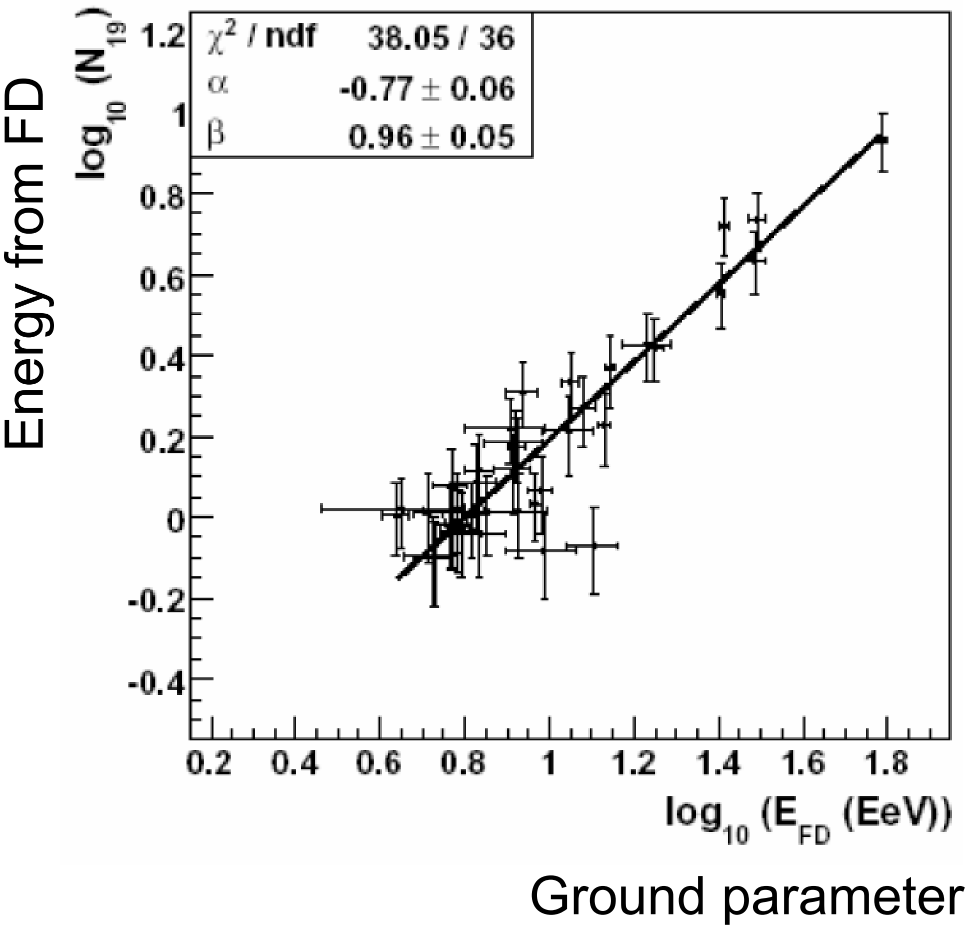


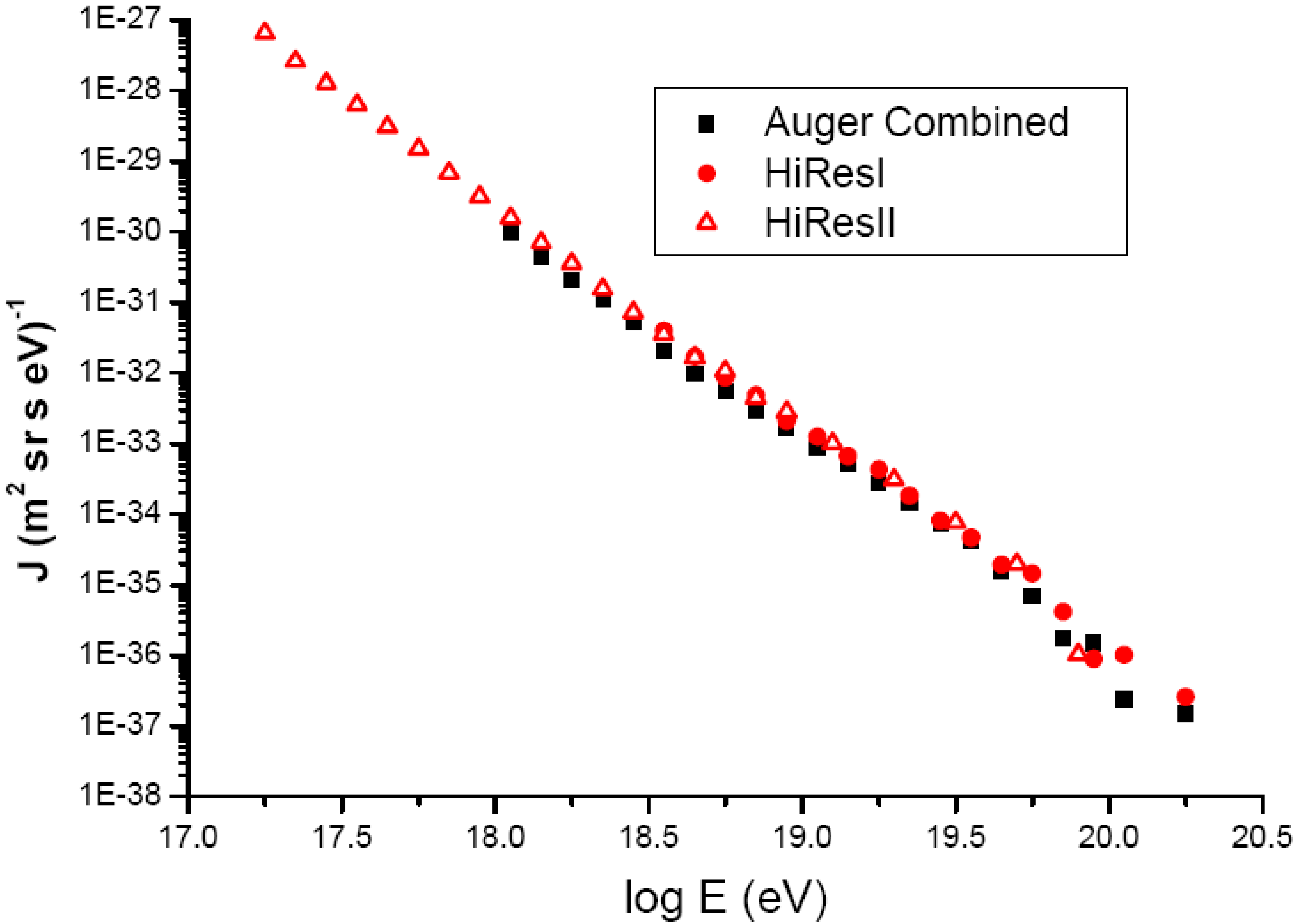
Currently (Nov 2007) ~ 4 x AGASA

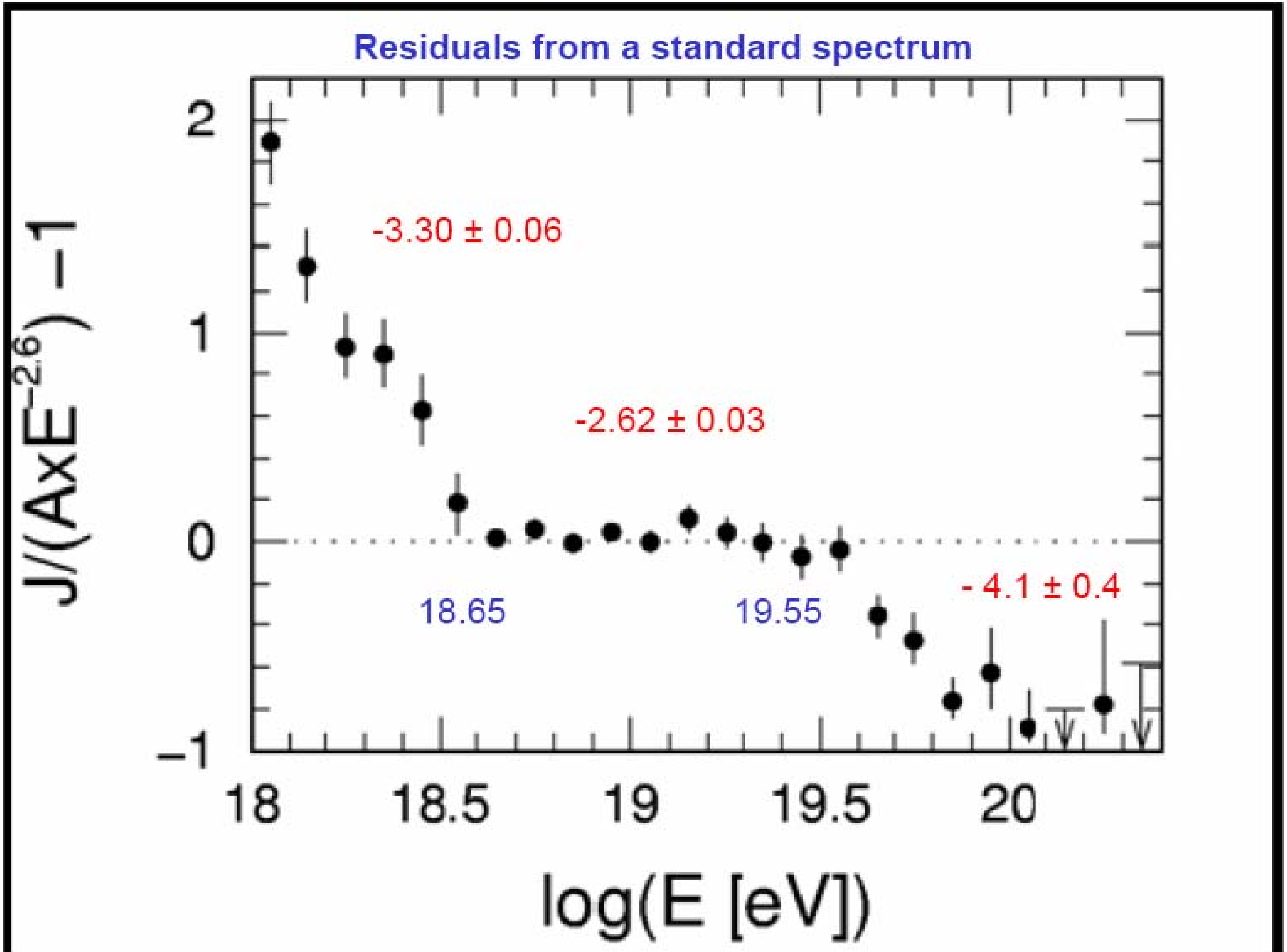
Auger Observatory results

Auger Energy Spectrum

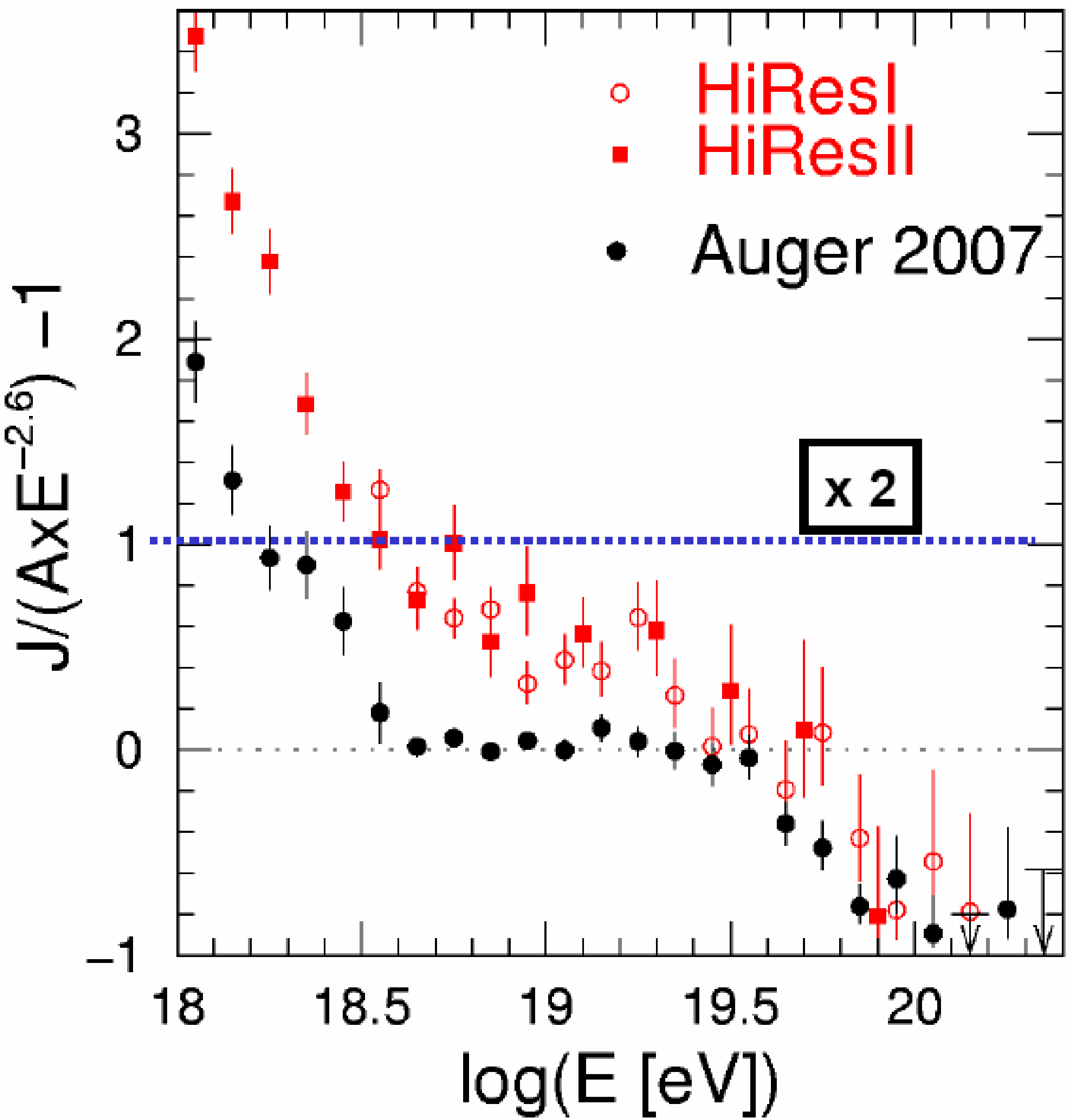
- No spectrum from SD only!
- Relation between particle density parameter S(1000) and FD energy using selected hybrid events
- Aperture from SD
- Combining advantages of FD technique (calorimetric measurement of energy) and of SD technique (well defined aperture; 100 % duty cycle)



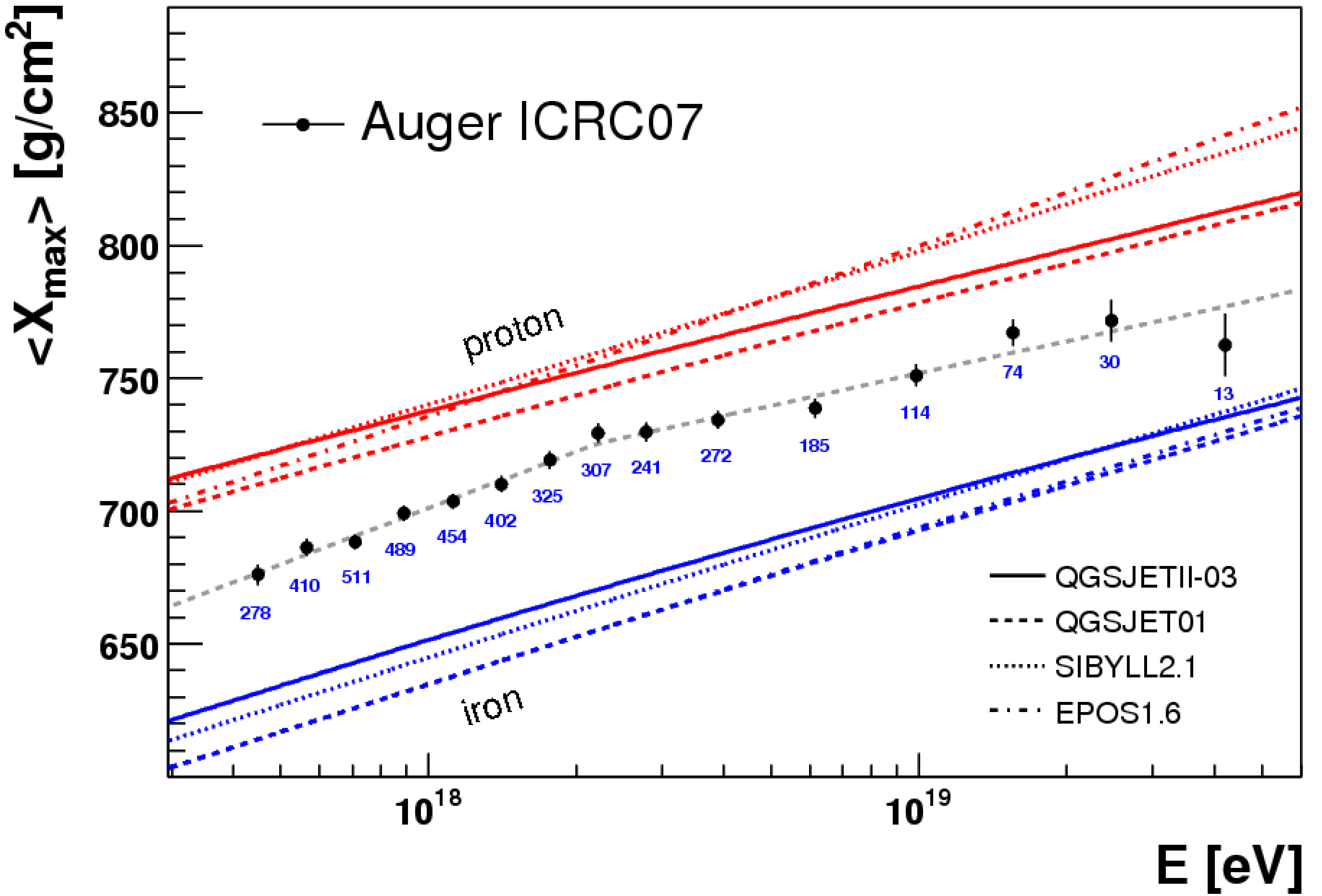

Auger Combined
HiResI
HiResII
J (m^2 sr s eV)^-1
log E (eV)
1E-27
1E-28
1E-29
1E-30
1E-31
1E-32
1E-33
1E-34
1E-35
1E-36
1E-37
1E-38
17.0
17.5
18.0
18.5
19.0
19.5
20.0
20.5



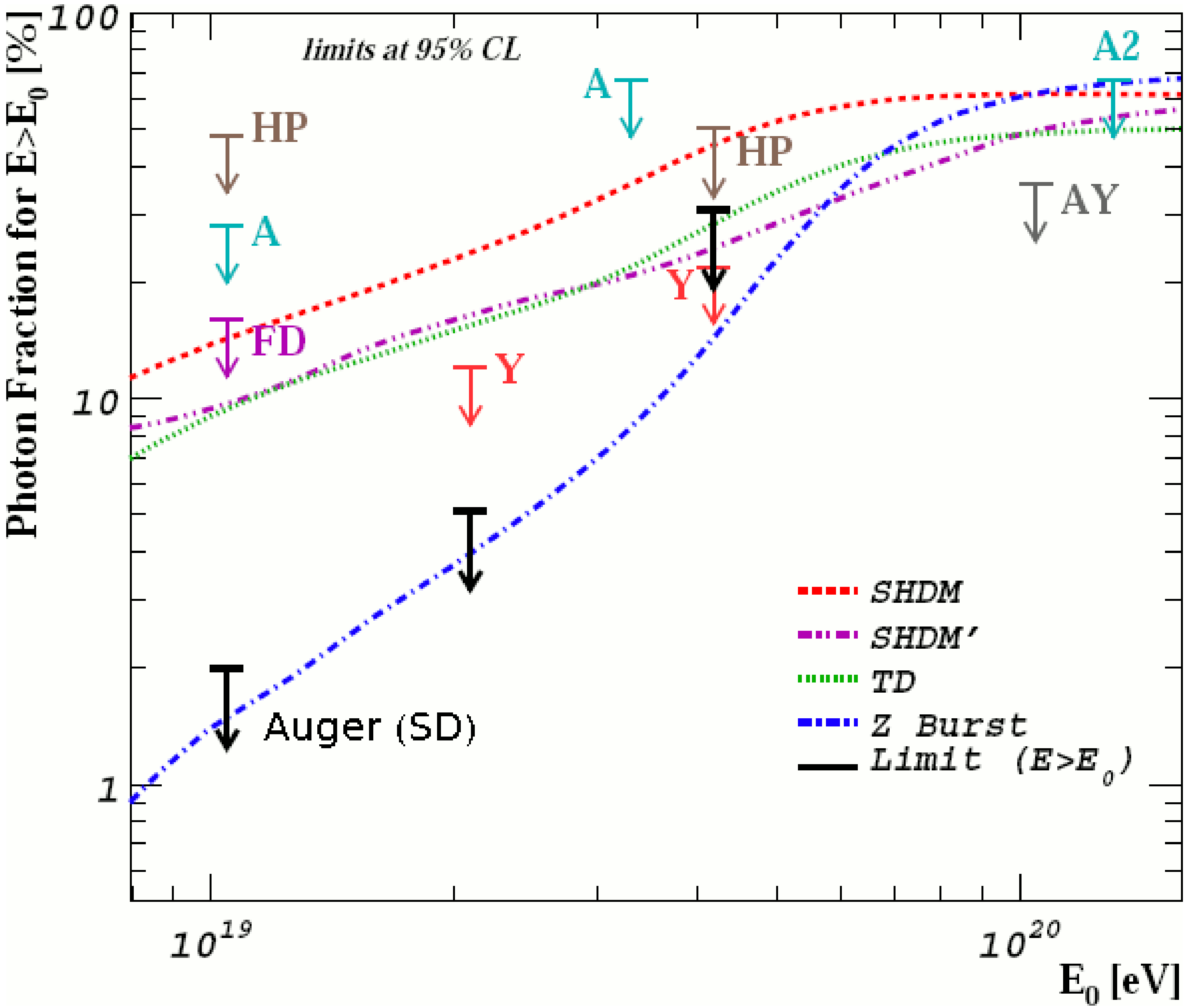
Residuals from a standard spectrum
-3.30 ± 0.06
-2.62 ± 0.03
- 4.1 ± 0.4
18.65
19.55
J/(AxE^-2.6) −1
log(E [eV])
2
1
0
−1
18
18.5
19
19.5
20



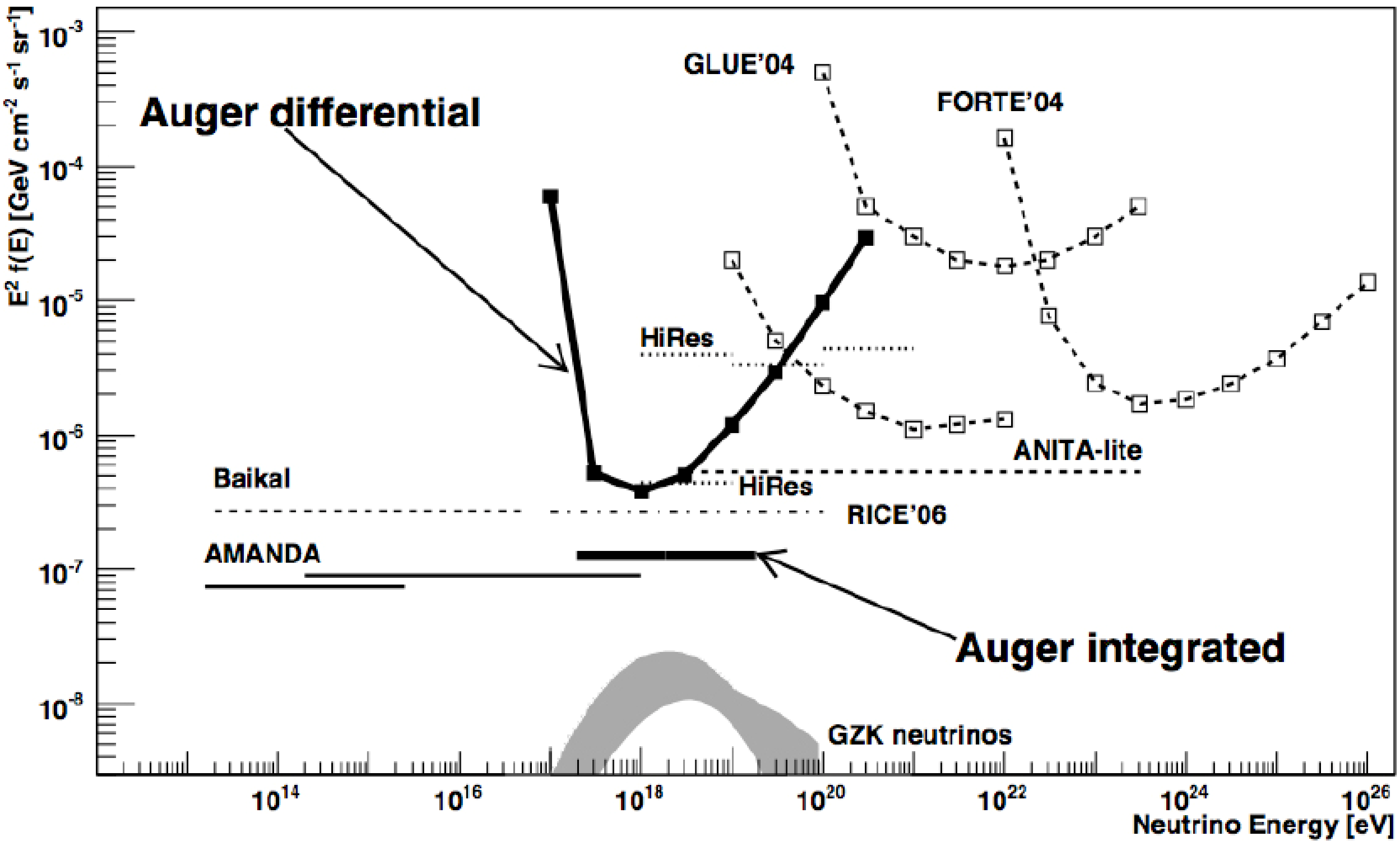
HiResI
HiResII
Auger 2007
x 2
J/(AxE^-2.6) −1
log(E [eV])
18
18.5
19
19.5
20
−1
0
1
2
3



Auger ICRC07
<Xmax> [g/cm2]
850
800
750
700
650
proton
iron
278
410
511
489
454
402
325
307
241
272
185
114
74
30
13
QGSJETII-03
QGSJET01
SIBYLL2.1
EPOS1.6
10^18
10^19
E [eV]

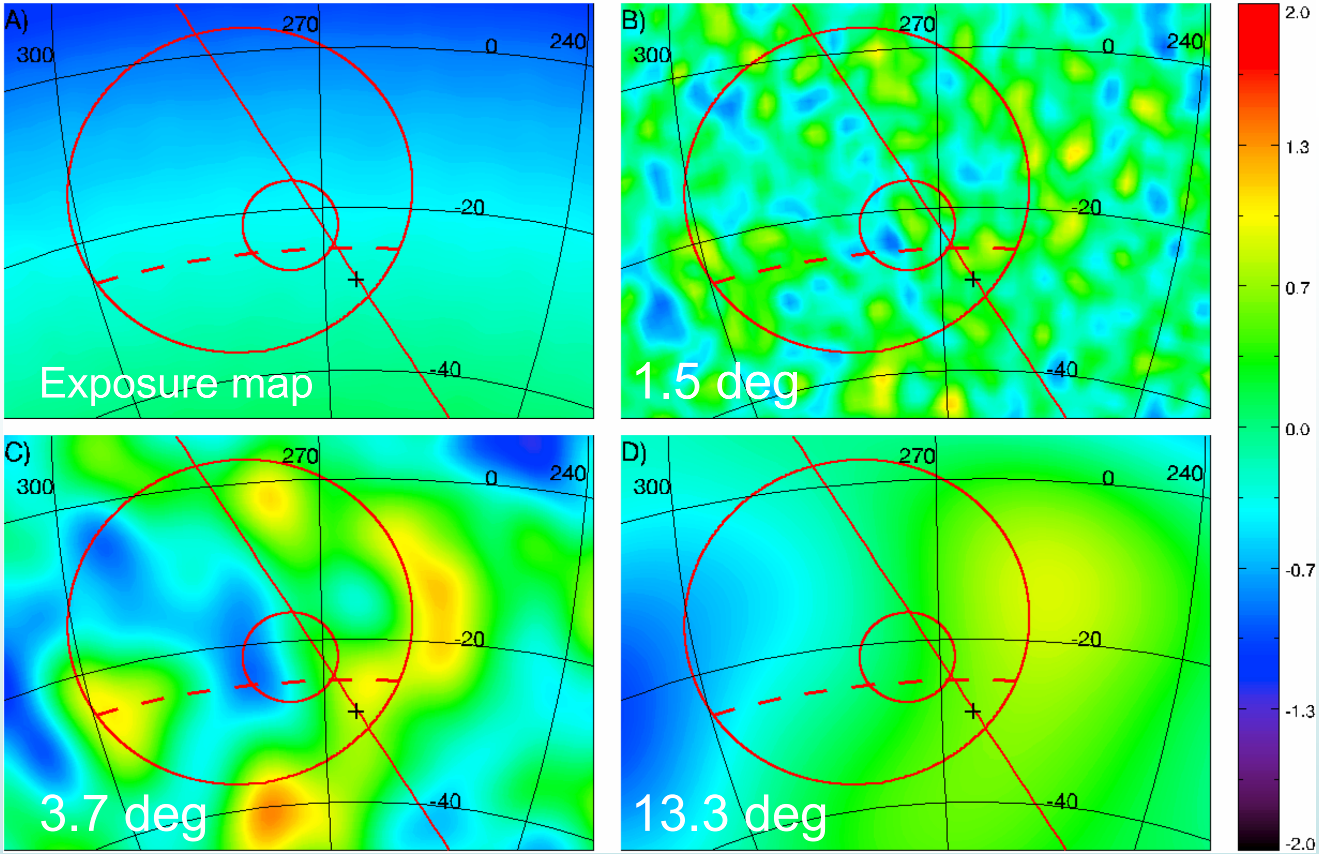


limits at 95% CL
Photon Fraction for E>E0 [%]
100
10
1
10^19
10^20
E0 [eV]
HP
A
FD
Y
A
HP
Y
A2
AY
Auger (SD)
SHDM
SHDM'
TD
Z Burst
Limit (E>E0)



E² f(E) [GeV cm⁻² s⁻¹ sr⁻¹]
10⁻³
10⁻⁴
10⁻⁵
10⁻⁶
10⁻⁷
10⁻⁸
GLUE'04
FORTE'04
Auger differential
HiRes
ANITA-lite
Baikal
HiRes
RICE'06
AMANDA
Auger integrated
GZK neutrinos
10¹⁴
10¹⁶
10¹⁸
10²⁰
10²²
10²⁴
10²⁶
Neutrino Energy [eV]

Galactic center



Anisotropy searches (around Galactic center)

AGASA excess is not confirmed

Searches considering a systematic energy shift between AGASA and Auger show no excess

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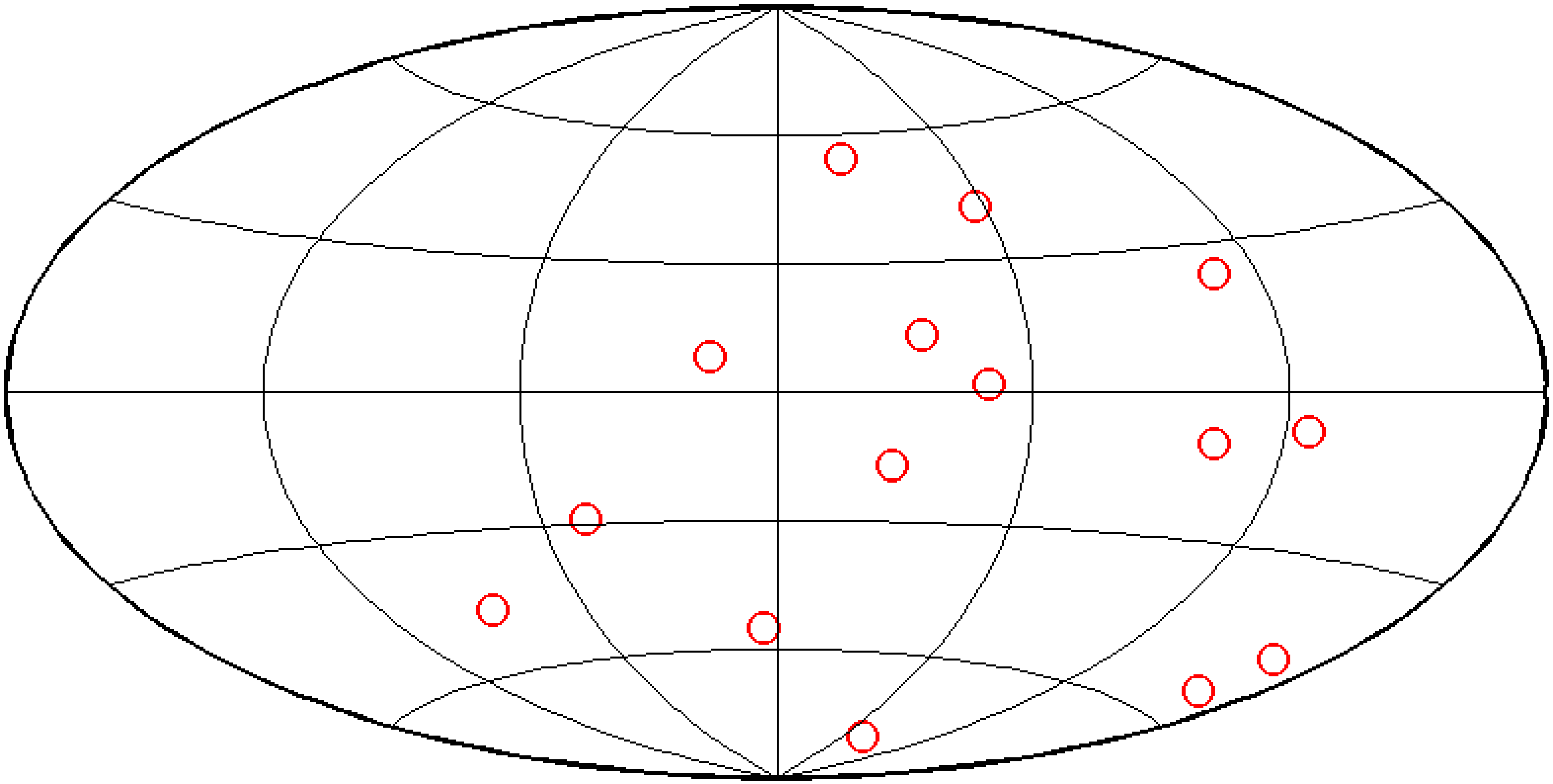
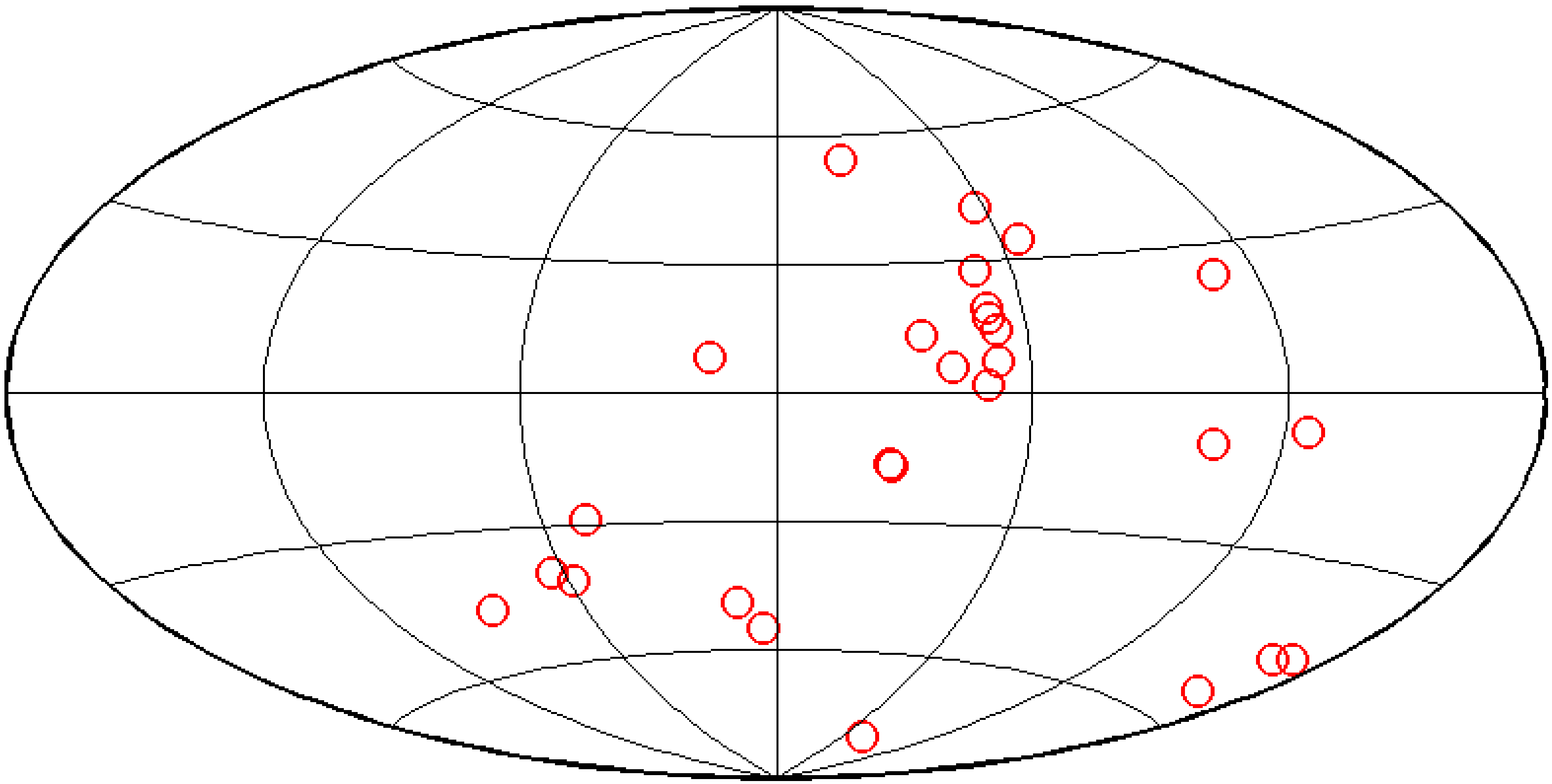
“Discovery of the year?”



AGASA-like situation before the start of operation of Auger

"Discovery of the year !"

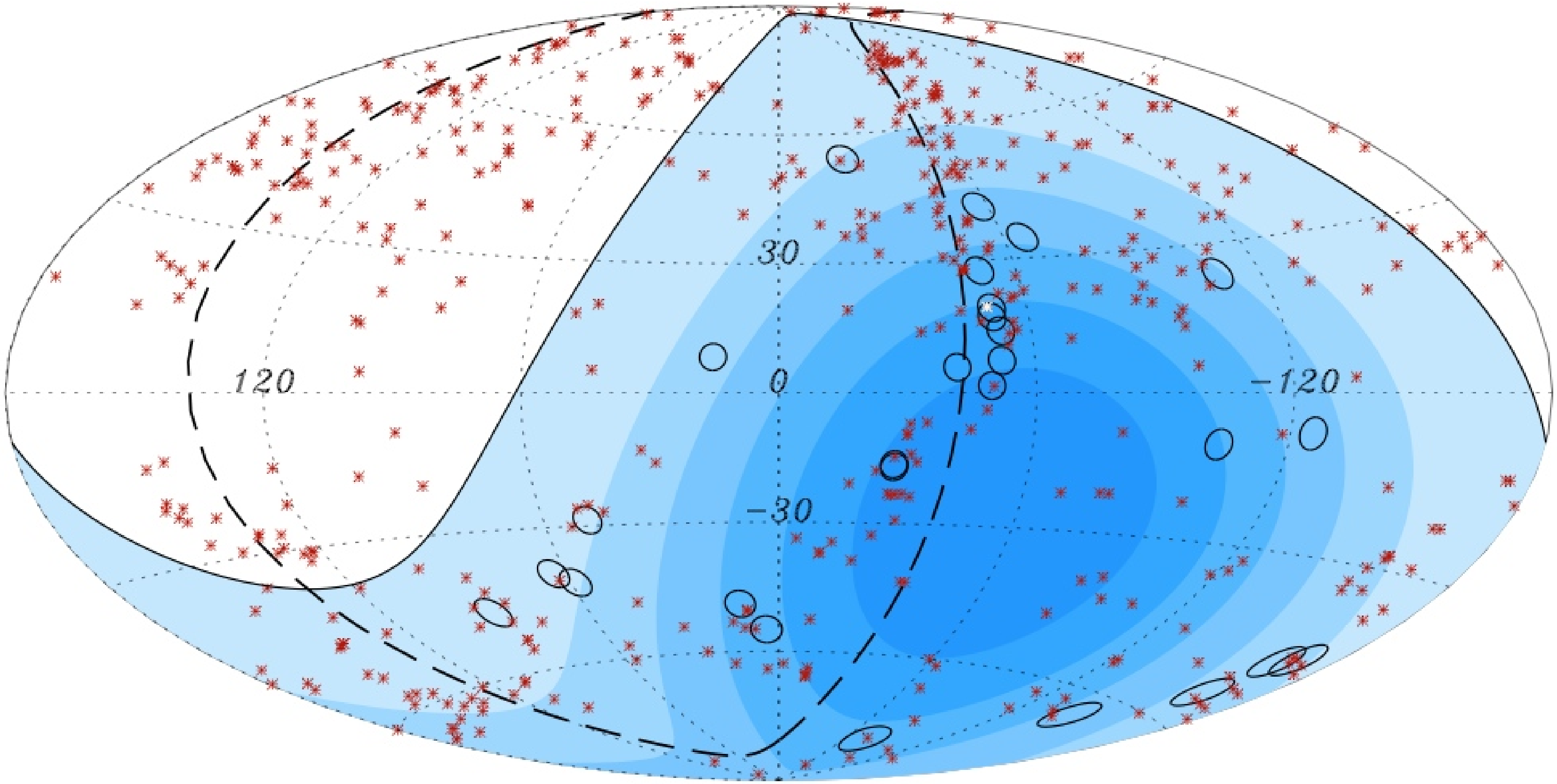


Particles with highest energies do not arrive isotropically.

Is observed distribution in agreement with distribution of any type of known astrophysical objects?

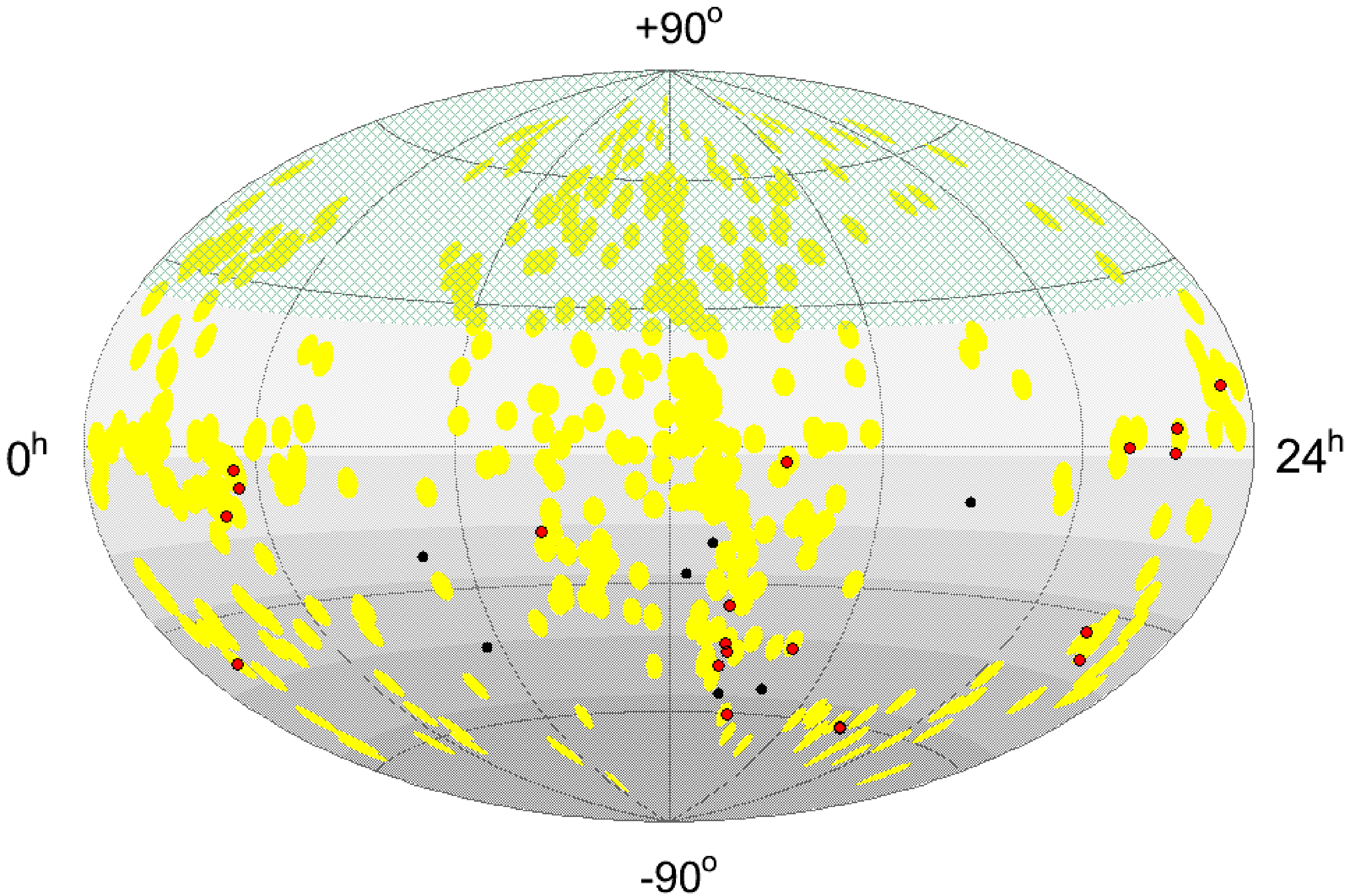

Science
9 November 2007 | $10
AAAS

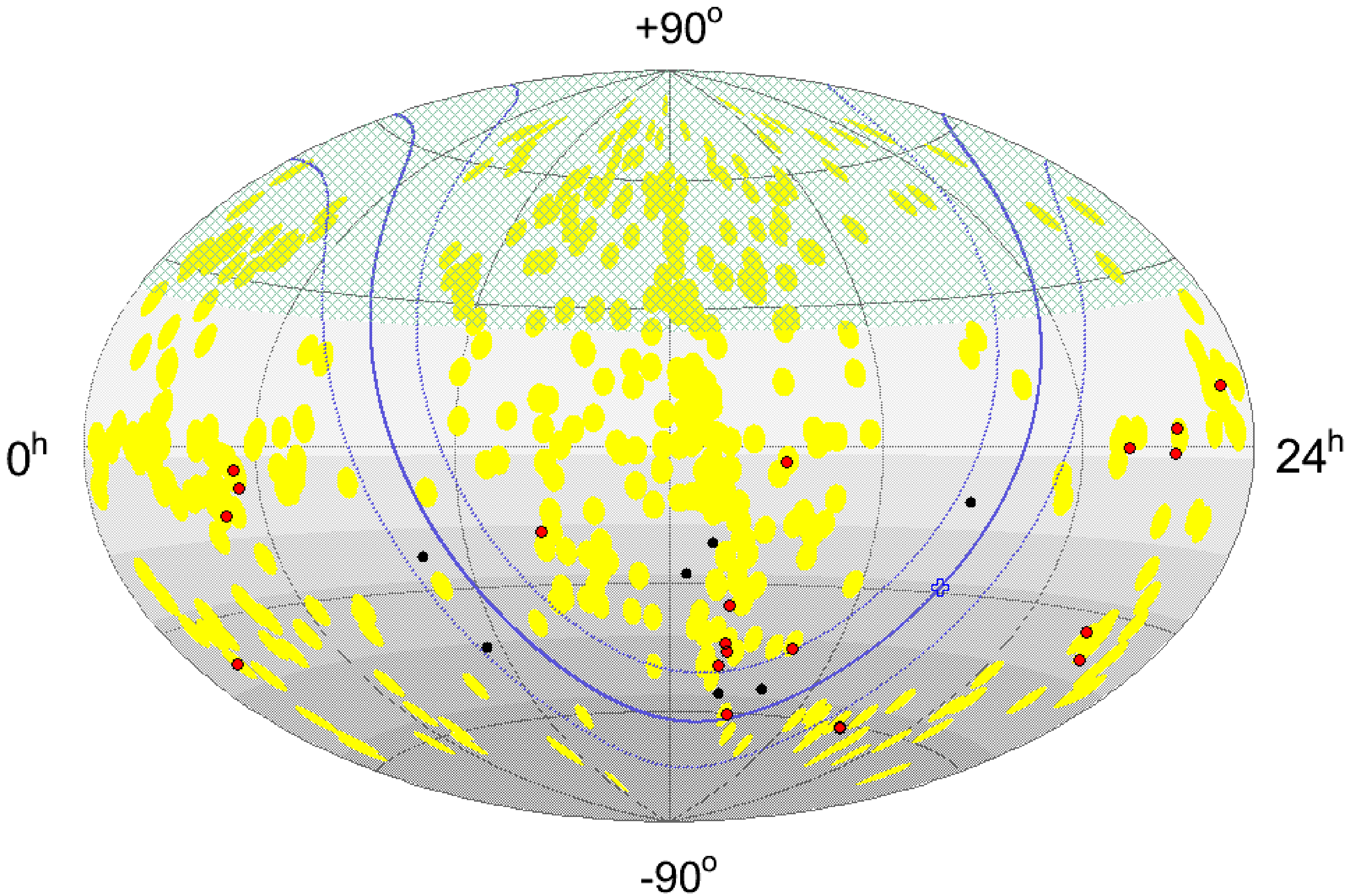
Yes! The best agreement is with the distribution of nearby active galaxies.



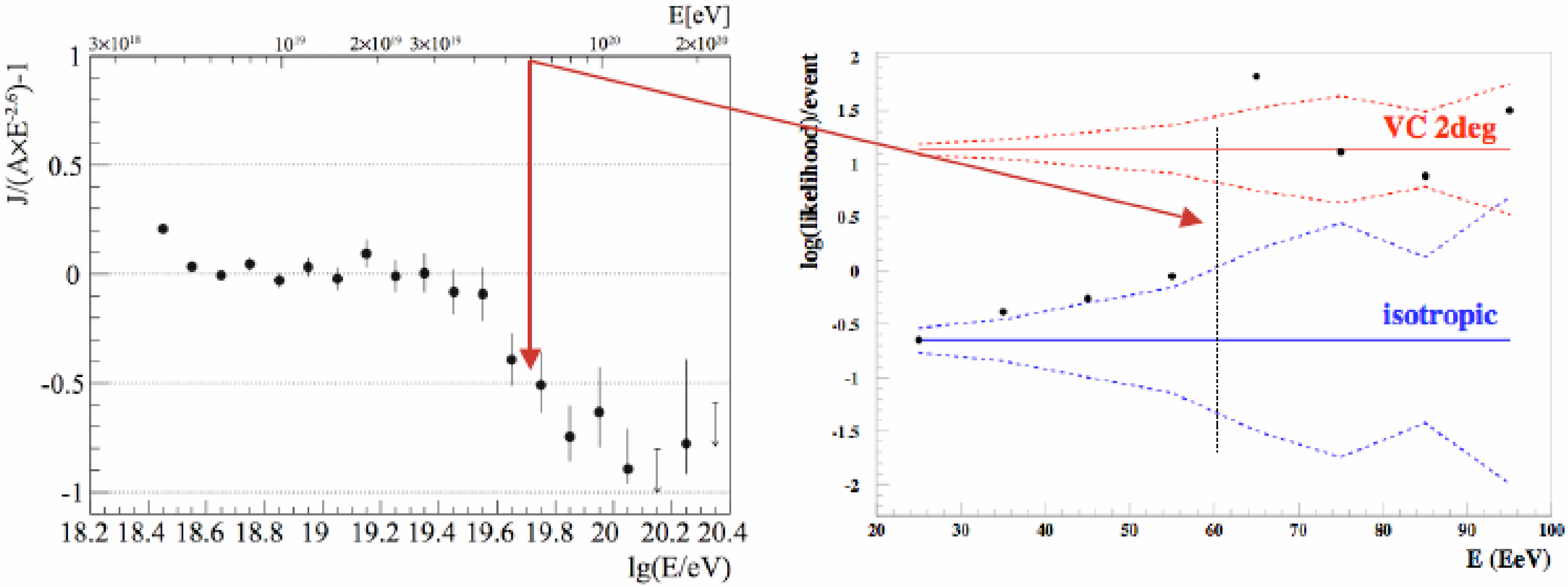
Blue – visible part of the sky
Red stars – active galactic nuclei (AGNs) with distance < 75 Mpc
– in agreement with our expectations (GZK cutoff)

Less than 1% probability to observe such correlation by chance.



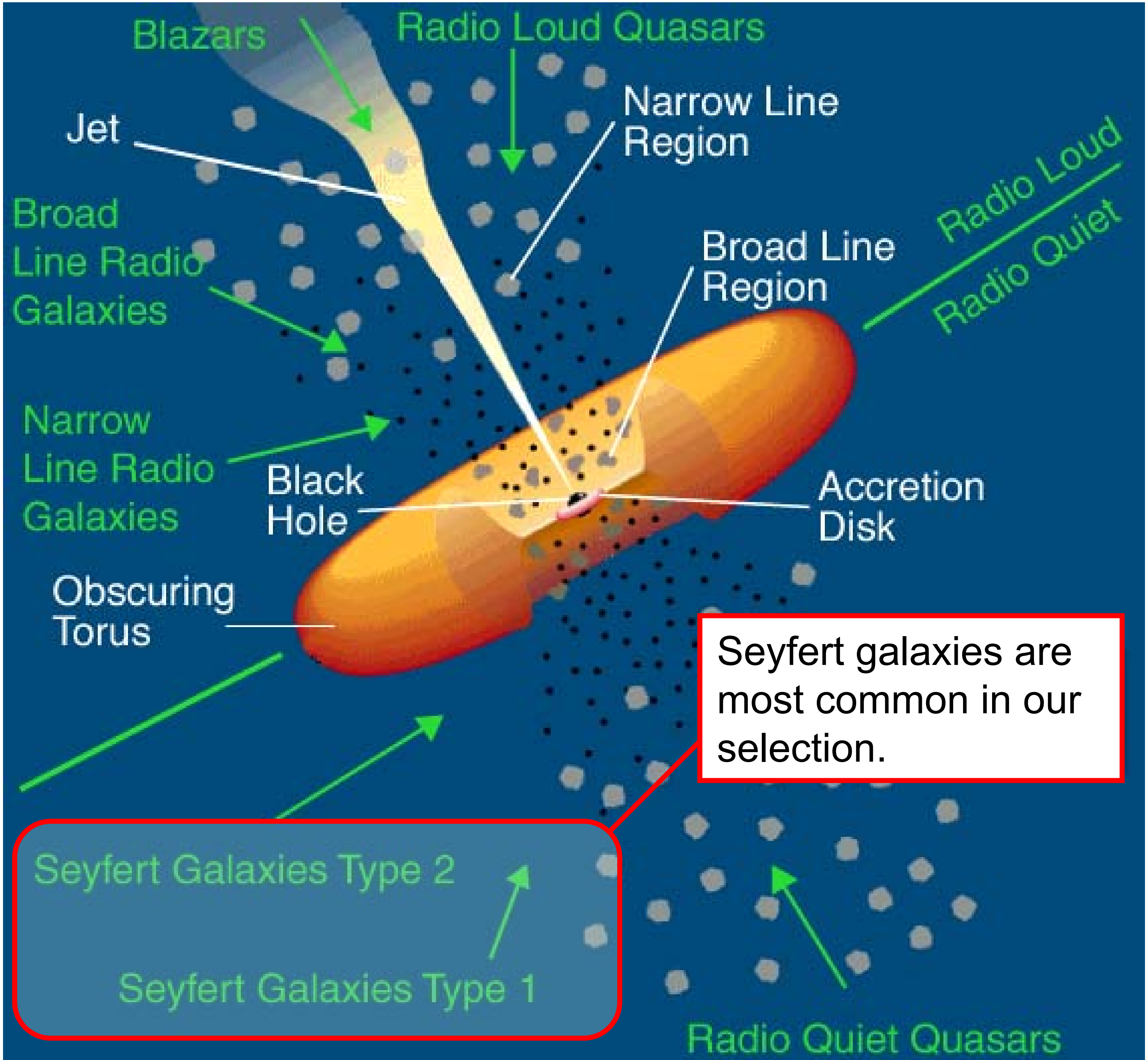


+90°
0h
24h
-90°

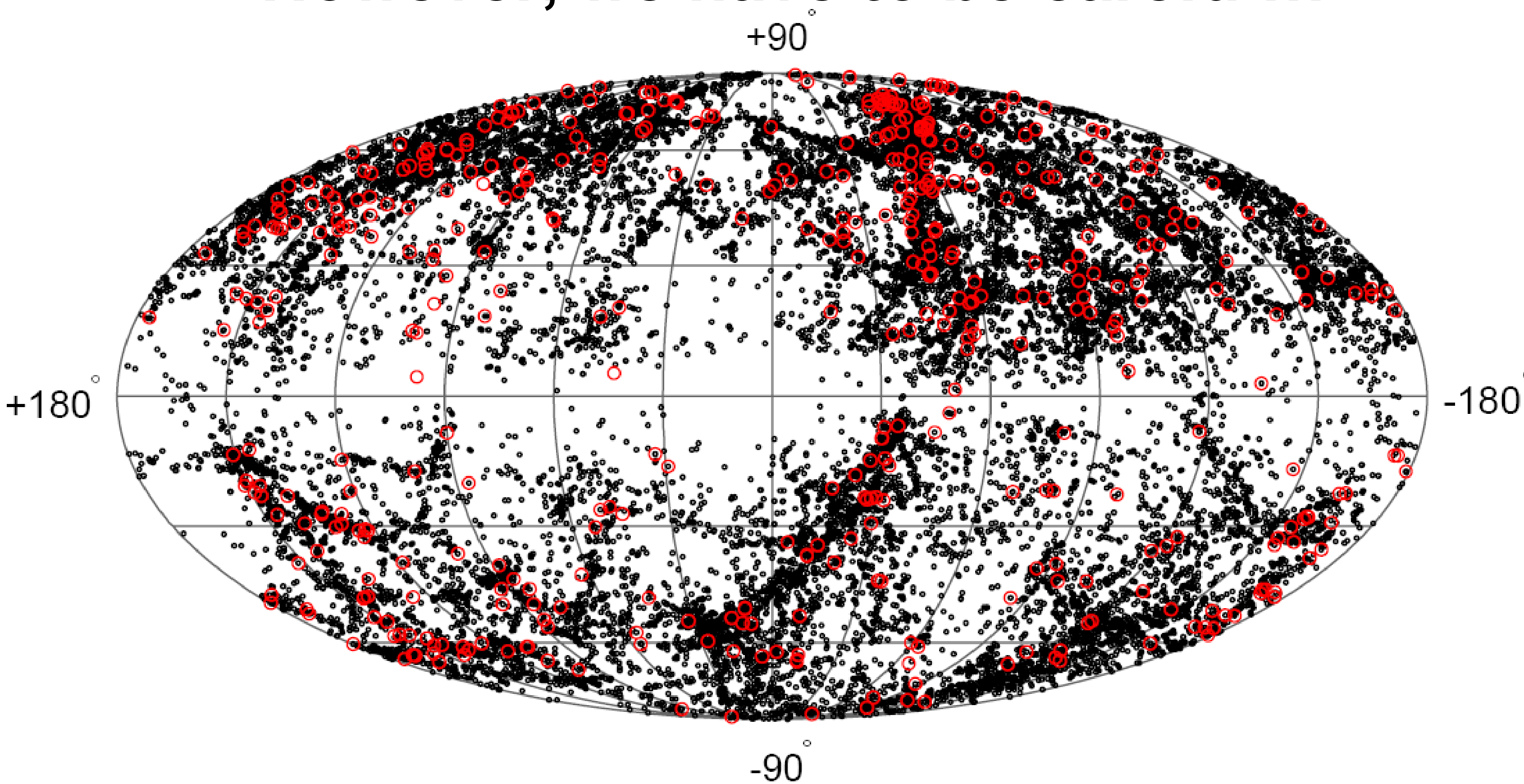

E[eV]
3×10^18
10^19
2×10^19
3×10^19
10^20
2×10^20
J/(A×E^-2.6)-1
lg(E/eV)
log(likelihood)/event
VC 2deg
isotropic
E (EeV)

So, what are active galactic nuclei?

- galaxies with supermassive black holes in their centers; black hole mass in order of 10^7 - 10^8 solar masses; enough matter nearby to be swallowed


Blazars
Radio Loud Quasars
Jet
Narrow Line Region
Broad Line Radio Galaxies
Radio Loud
Radio Quiet
Broad Line Region
Narrow Line Radio Galaxies
Black Hole
Accretion Disk
Obscuring Torus
Seyfert galaxies are most common in our selection.
Seyfert Galaxies Type 2
Seyfert Galaxies Type 1
Radio Quiet Quasars

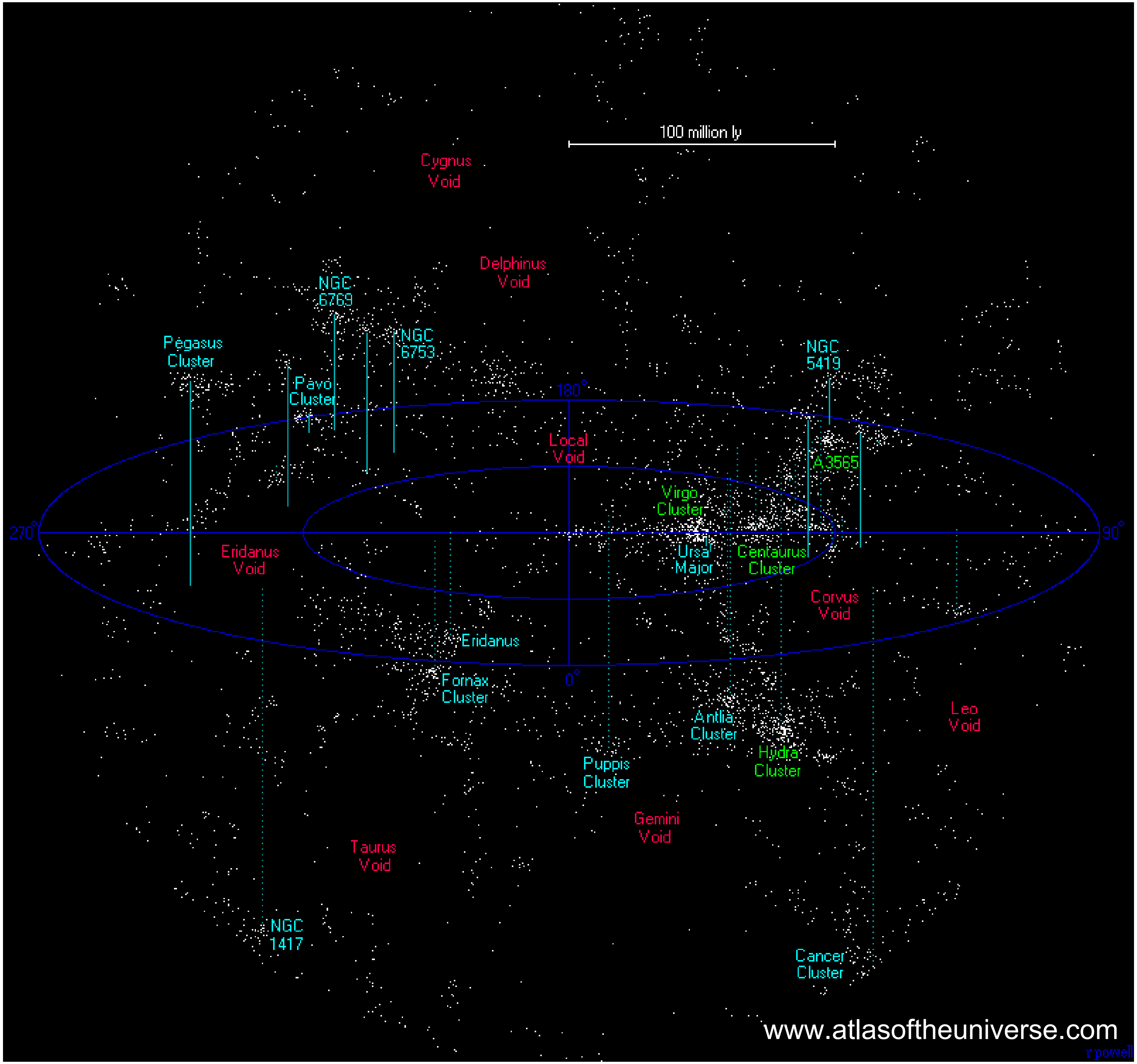
However, we have to be careful…



Red circles – (again) AGNs closer than 75 Mpc
Black dots – all galaxies closer than 75 Mpc (HyperLEDA catalogue)

Distribution of ordinary galaxies (and matter in general) and of AGNs is very similar!

So, our first guess that the particles with the highest energies come from AGNs is not correct → we need more data from both South and North ...


100 million ly
Cygnus Void
Delphinus Void
NGC 6769
NGC 6753
Pegasus Cluster
Pavo Cluster
NGC 5419
180°
Local Void
A3565
Virgo Cluster
270°
90°
Eridanus Void
Ursa Major
Centaurus Cluster
Corvus Void
Eridanus
Fornax Cluster
0°
Leo Void
Antlia Cluster
Hydra Cluster
Puppis Cluster
Gemini Void
Taurus Void
NGC 1417
Cancer Cluster
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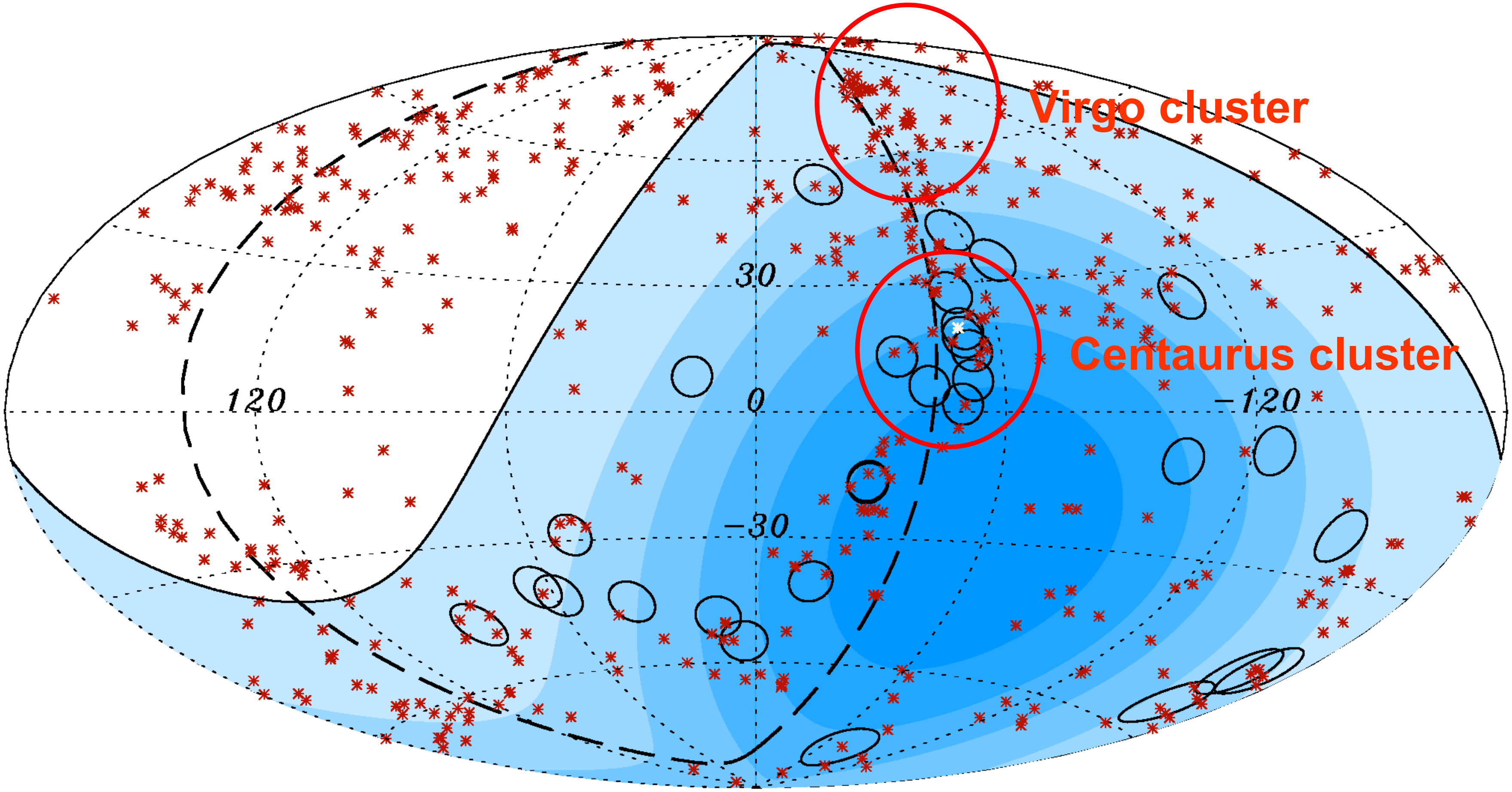

Virgo cluster
Centaurus cluster
30
120
0
−120
−30