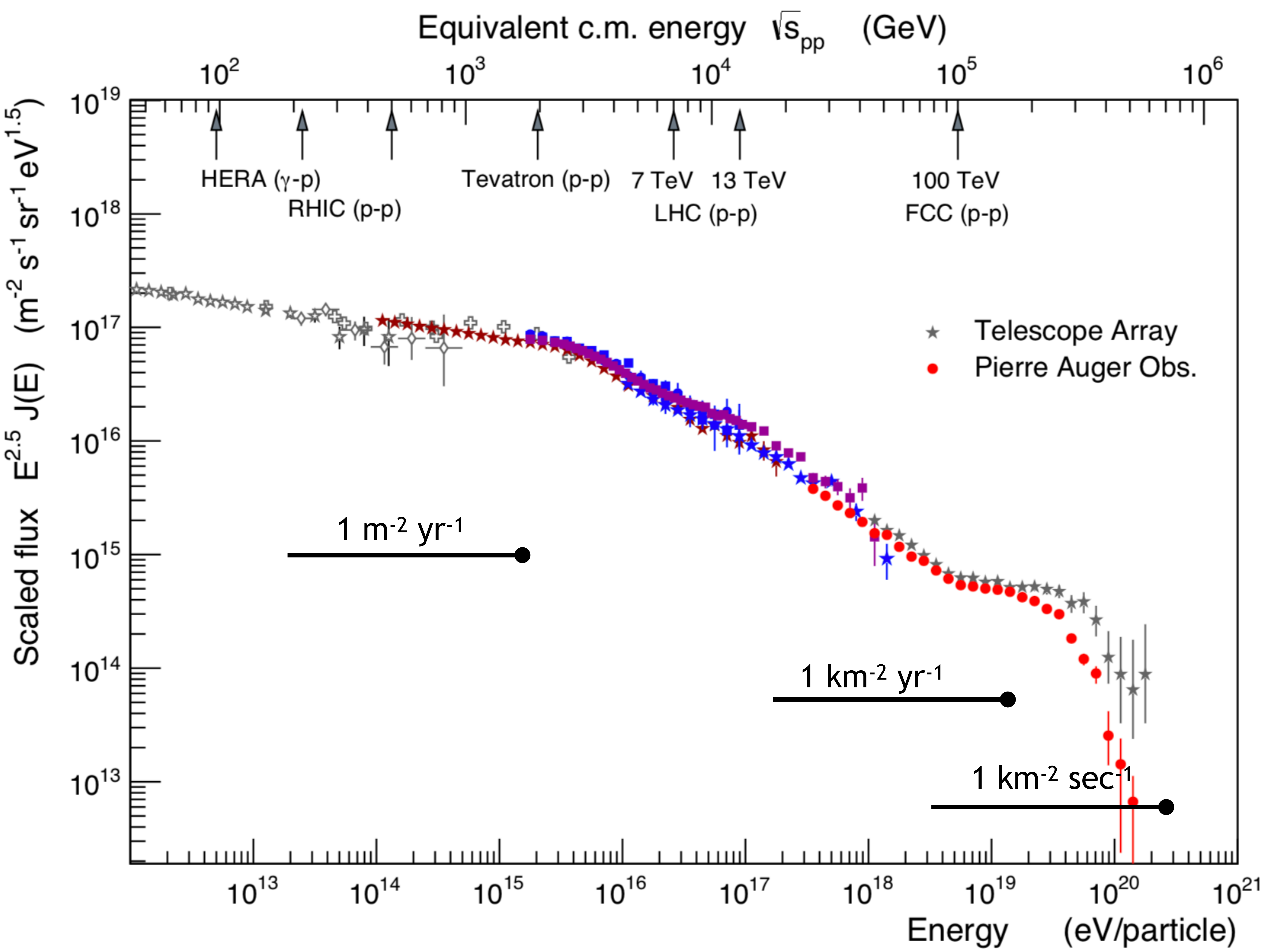
Highlights from the Pierre Auger Observatory

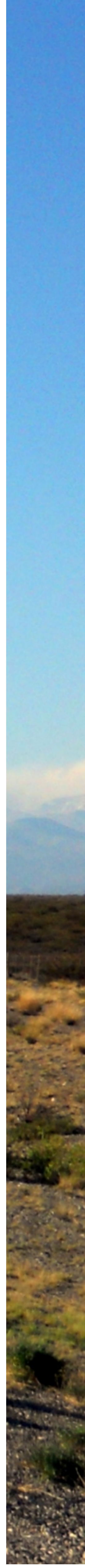
Ruben Conceição

on behalf of the Pierre Auger Observatory

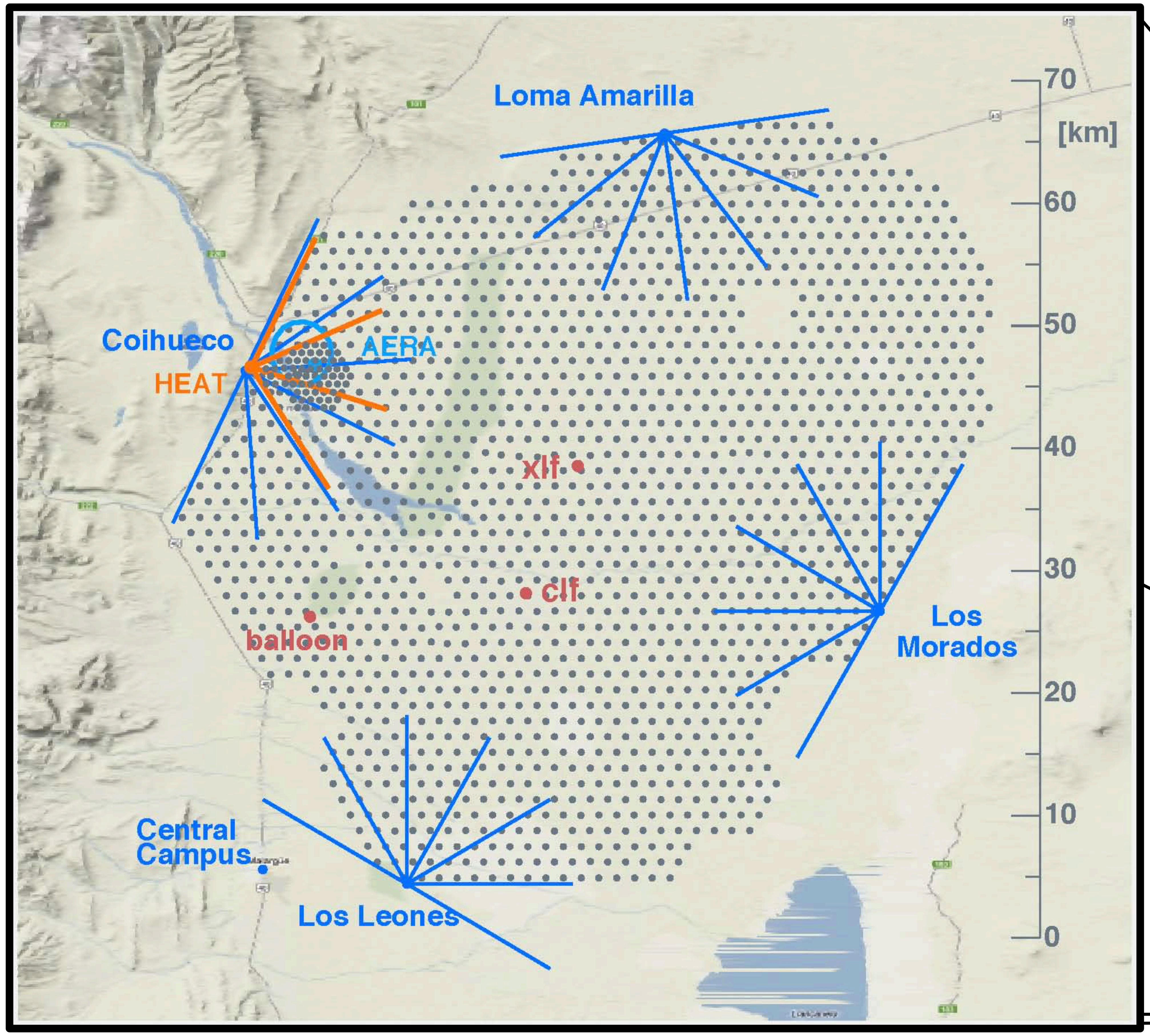
Cosmology 2023 in Miramare, Italy, September 1st 2023

Ultra High Energy Cosmic Rays





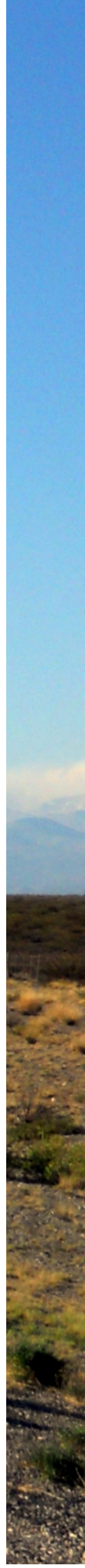
Pierre Auger Observatory



Area: 3000 km^2

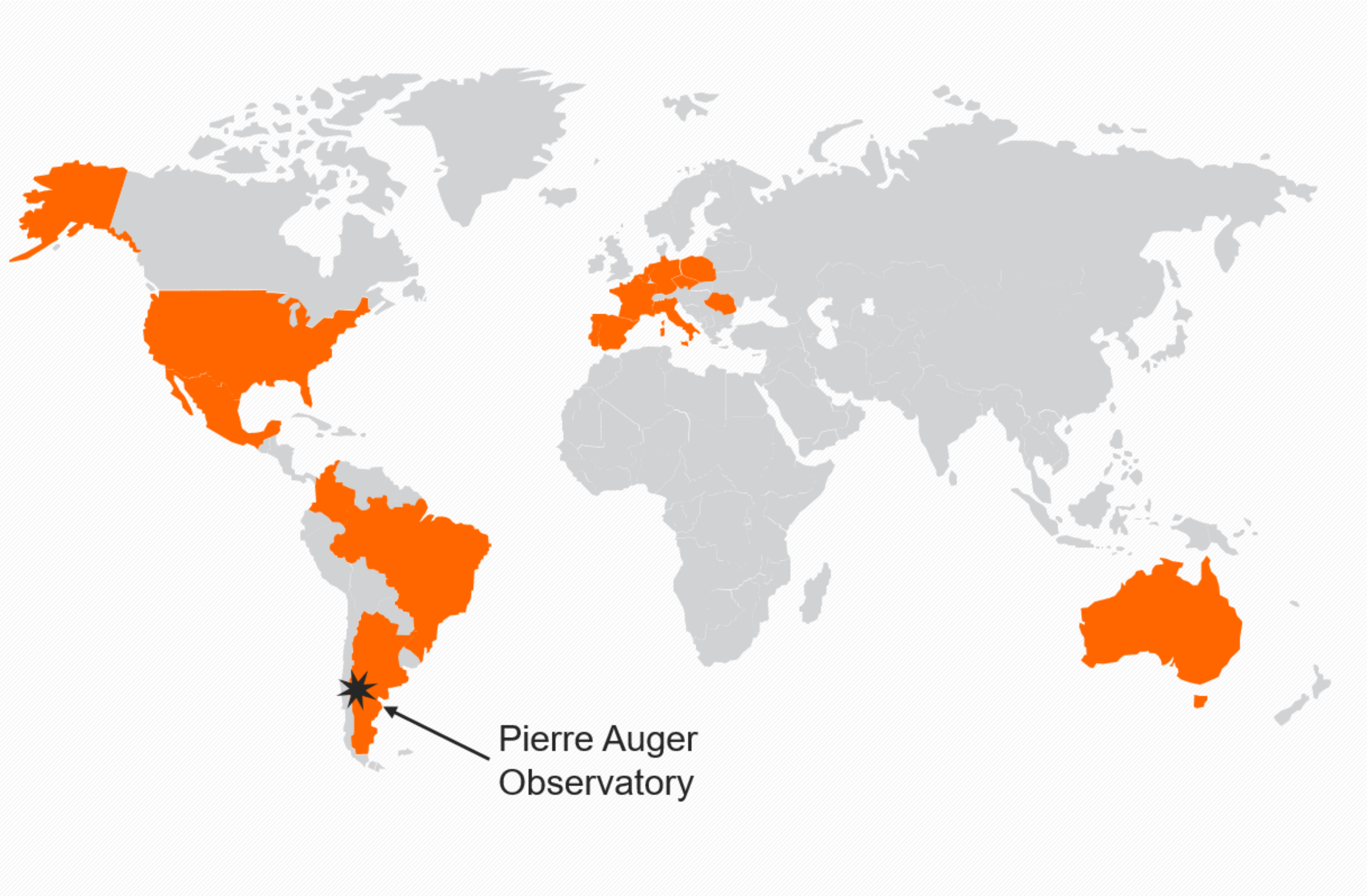
Located in the Pampa Amarilla, Mendoza, Argentina

Altitude: 1400 m a.s.l.



Pierre Auger Collaboration

Argentina
Australia
Belgium
Brazil
Colombia
Czech Republic
France
Germany
Italy
Mexico
Netherlands
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovenia
Spain
USA



International collaboration of 17 Countries and ~ 400 scientists

PIERRE AUGER OBSERVATORY

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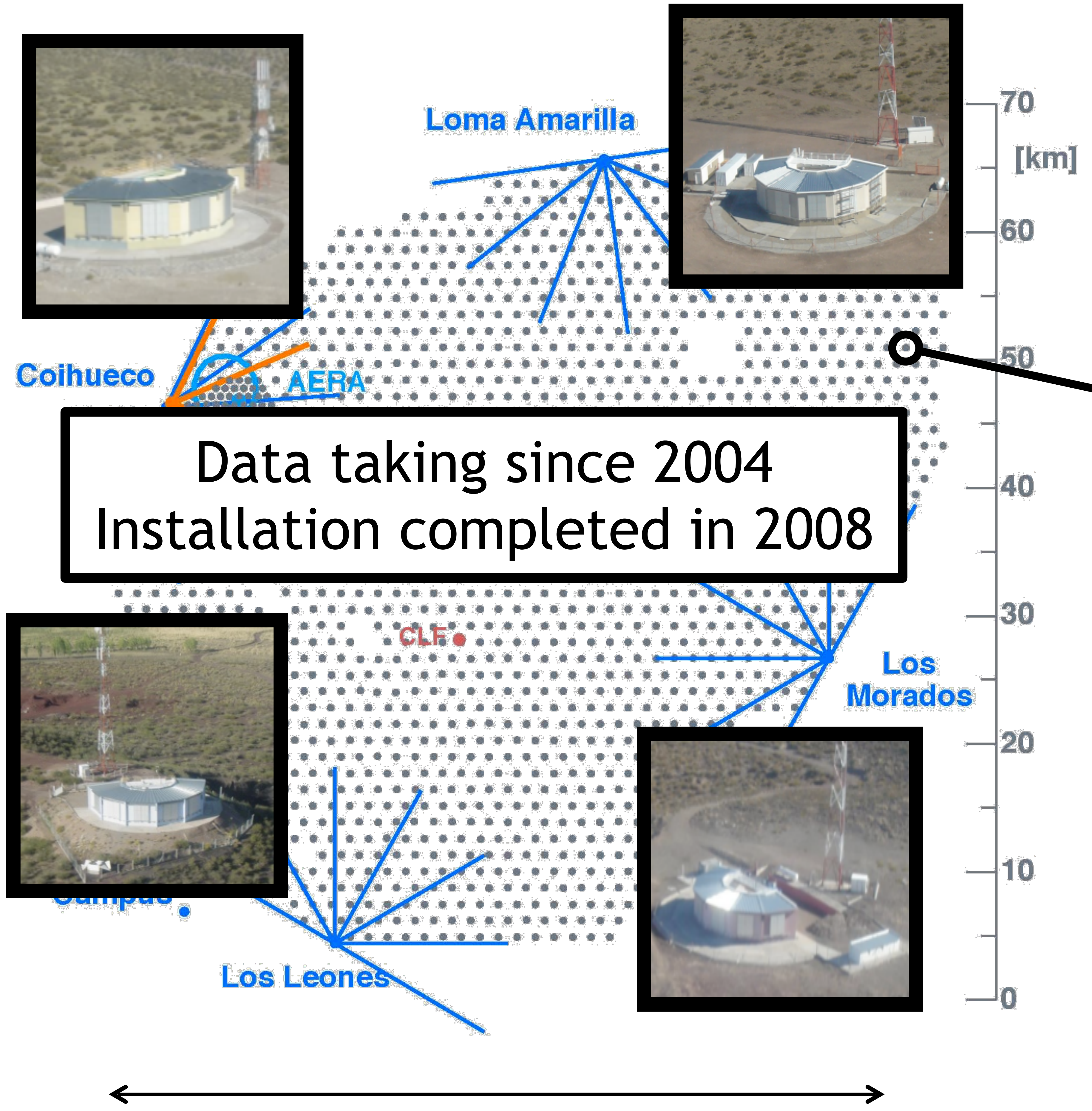
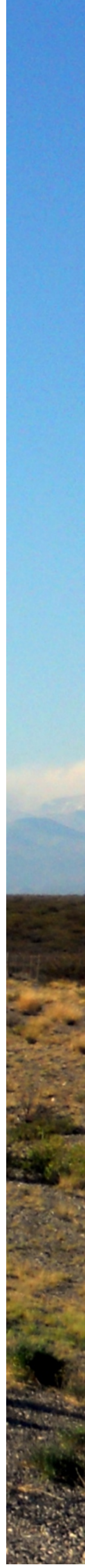
Pierre Auger Observatory



Data taking since 2004
Installation completed in 2008

- 4 Fluorescence Detectors (FD)
- 6 x 4 Fluorescence Telescopes

- 1600 Surface Detectors (SD) Stations
- SD stations spaced by 1.5 km
- Covering an area of 3000 km^2

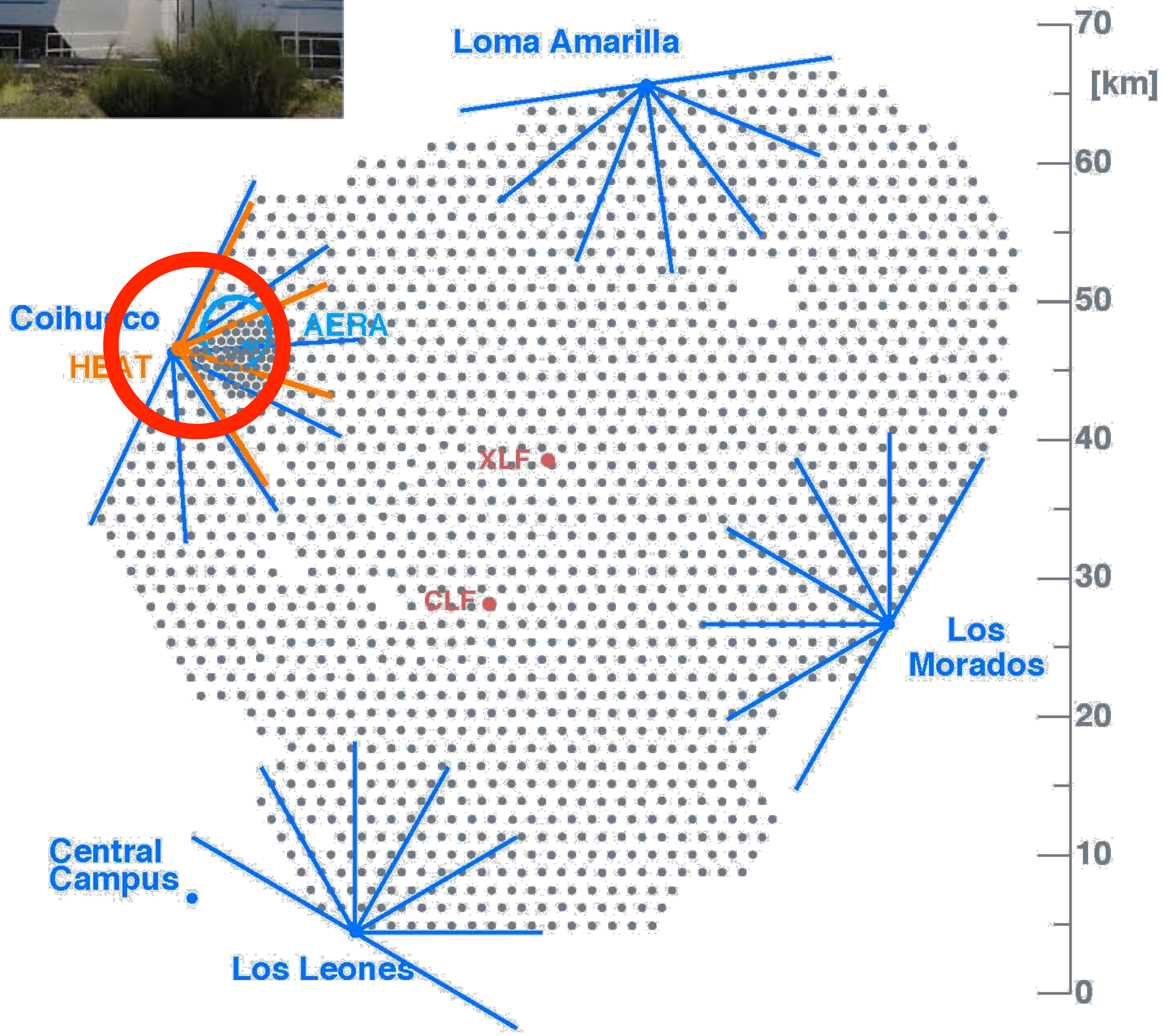


Surface detector

WCD + Fluorescence Detector

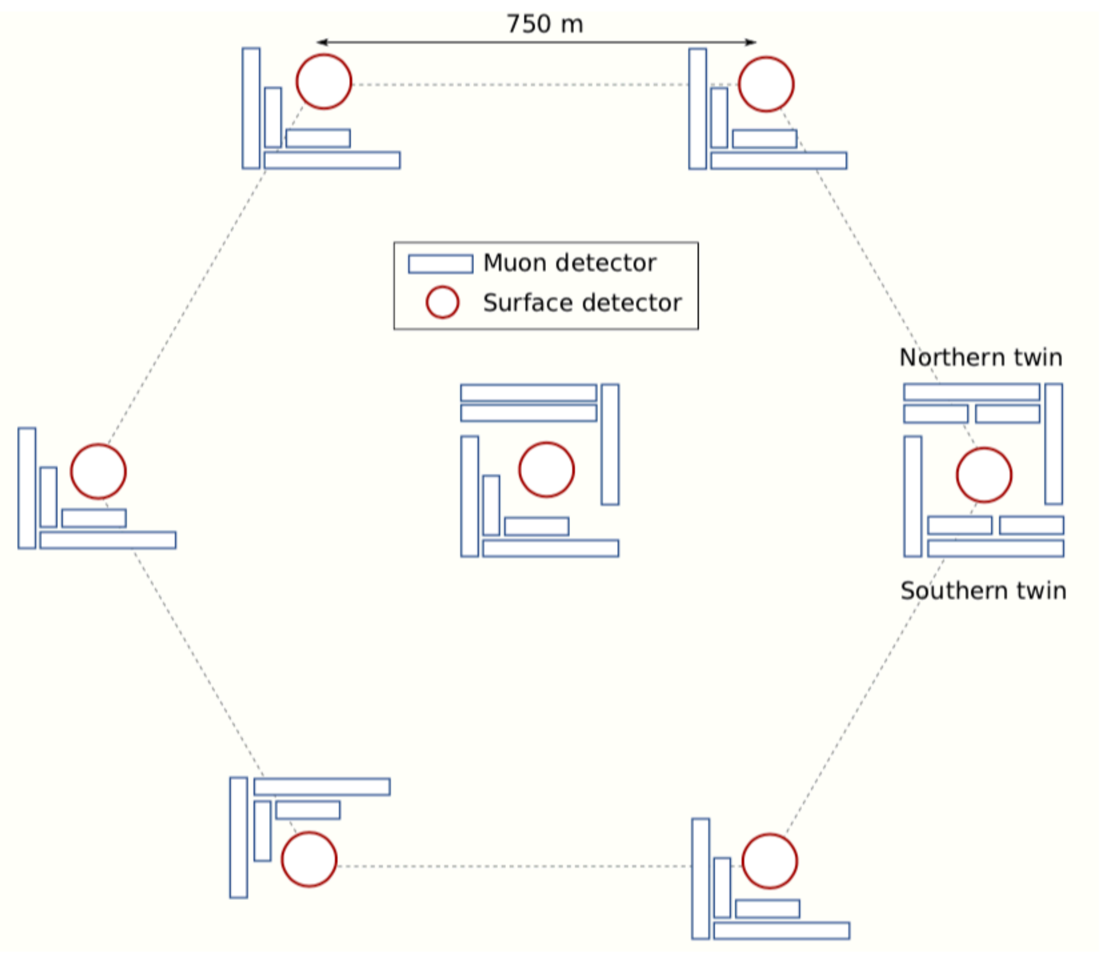
Pierre Auger Observatory

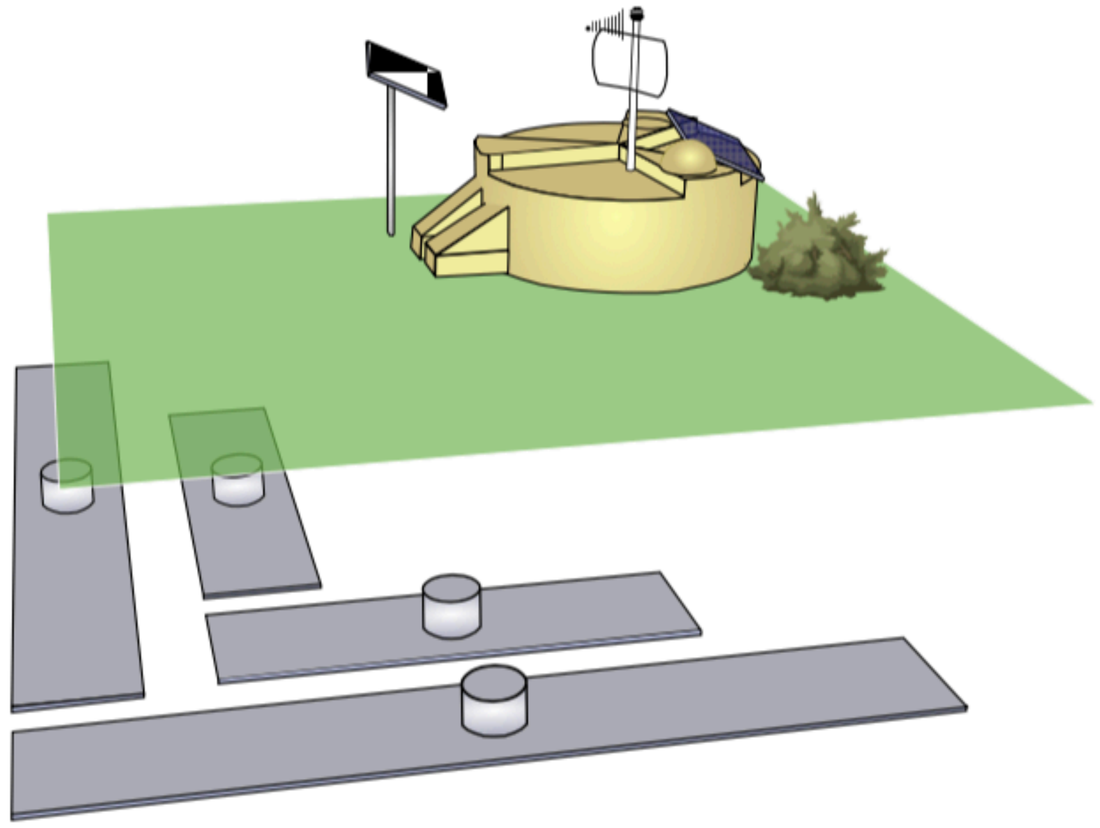
(Low energy extensions)

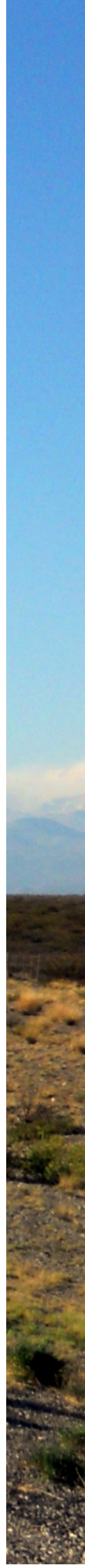


- **HEAT**
  - 3 additional FD telescopes with a high elevation FoV 30° - 60°, $E > 10^{17}$ eV

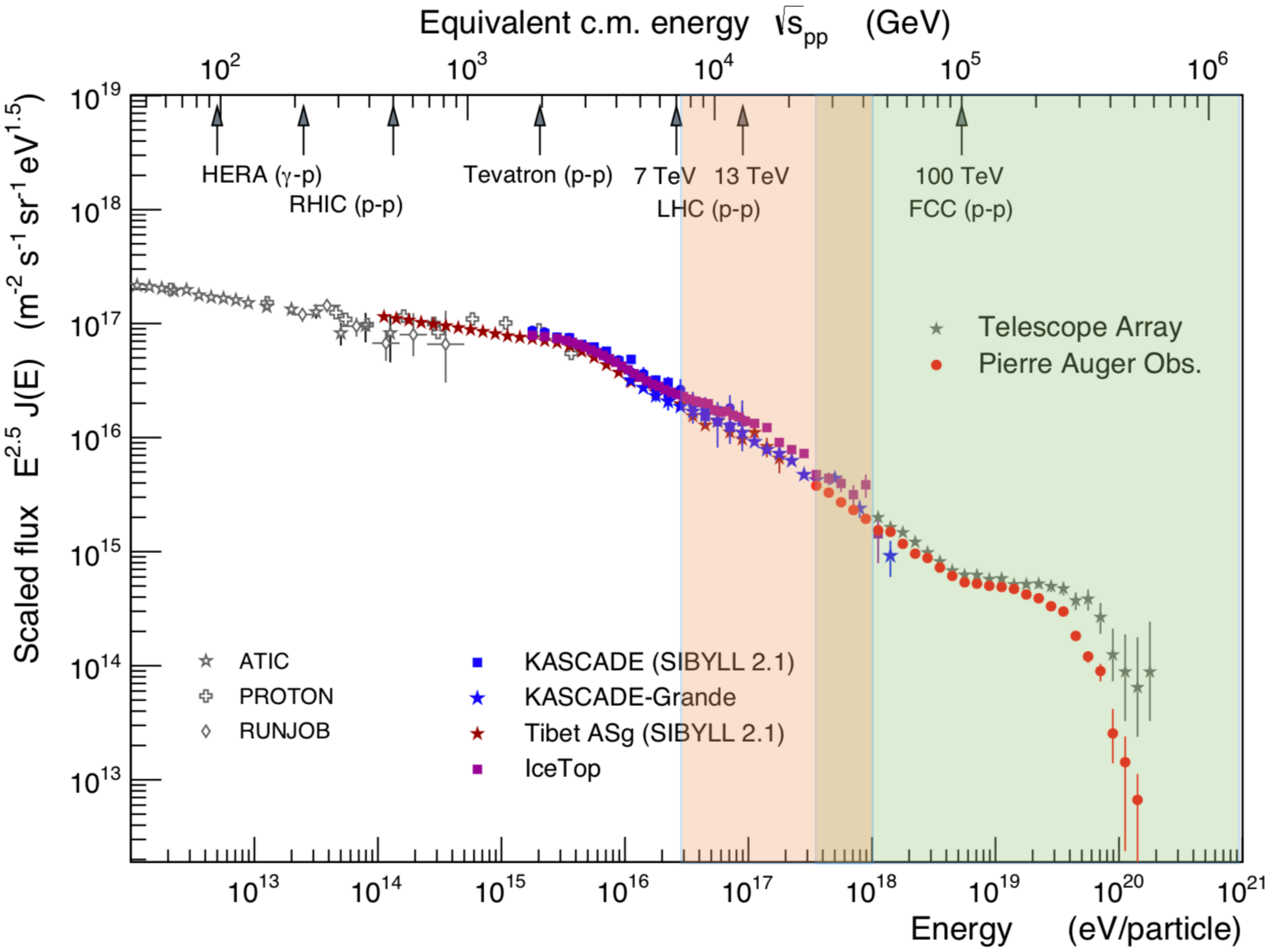
- **Infill** - Denser array
  - 433 m grid with 19 stations
  - 750 m grid with 61 stations
- **AMIGA** - Buried scintillators (muon detectors)
  - 19 (61) stations in 433 (750) m array, $10^{16.5} < E/\mathrm{eV} < 10^{19}$
  - 30 (60) m^2 scintillator modules
  - 2.3 m below ground
- **Auger Engineering Radio Array (AREA)**
  - 153 antennas in 17 km^2, $E > 4 \times 10^{18}$ eV

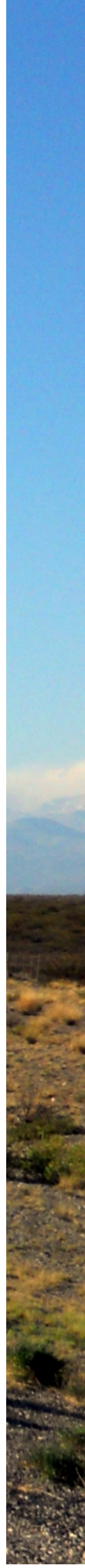






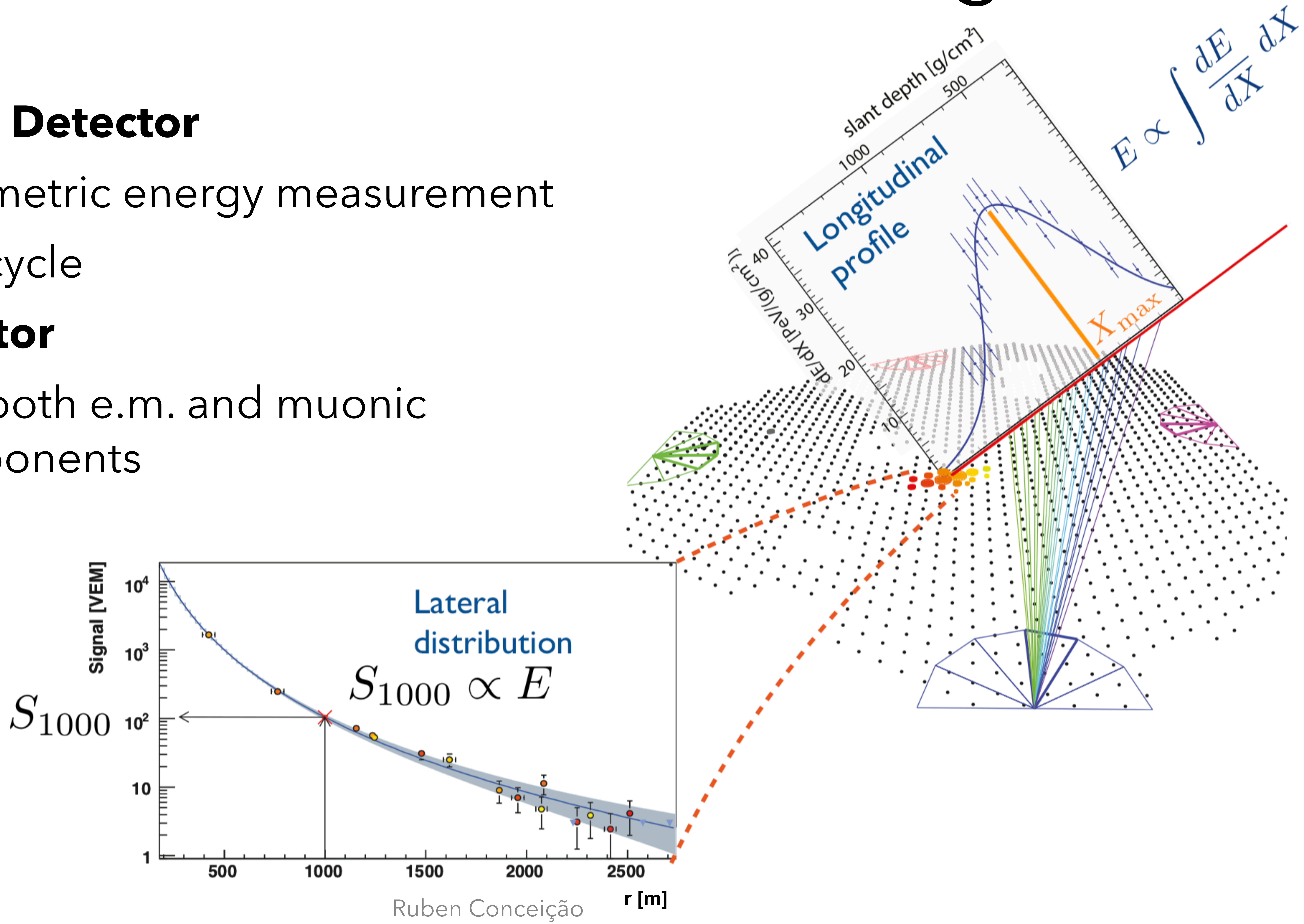
Ultra High Energy Cosmic Rays





Measurement of EAS at Auger

- **Fluorescence Detector**
  - Quasi-calorimetric energy measurement
  - ~ 15% duty cycle
- **Surface Detector**
  - Sensitive to both e.m. and muonic shower components



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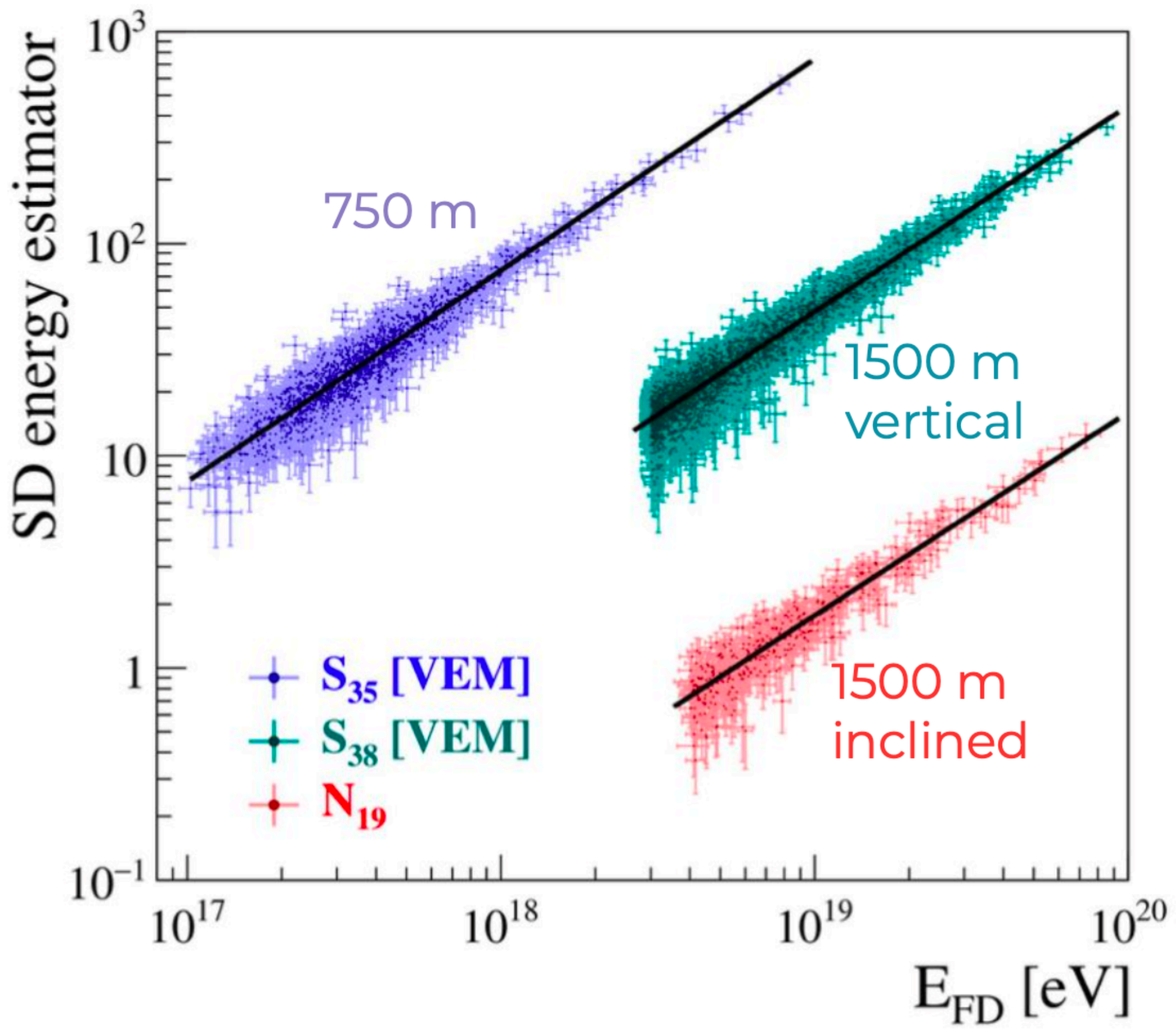
Hybrid technique

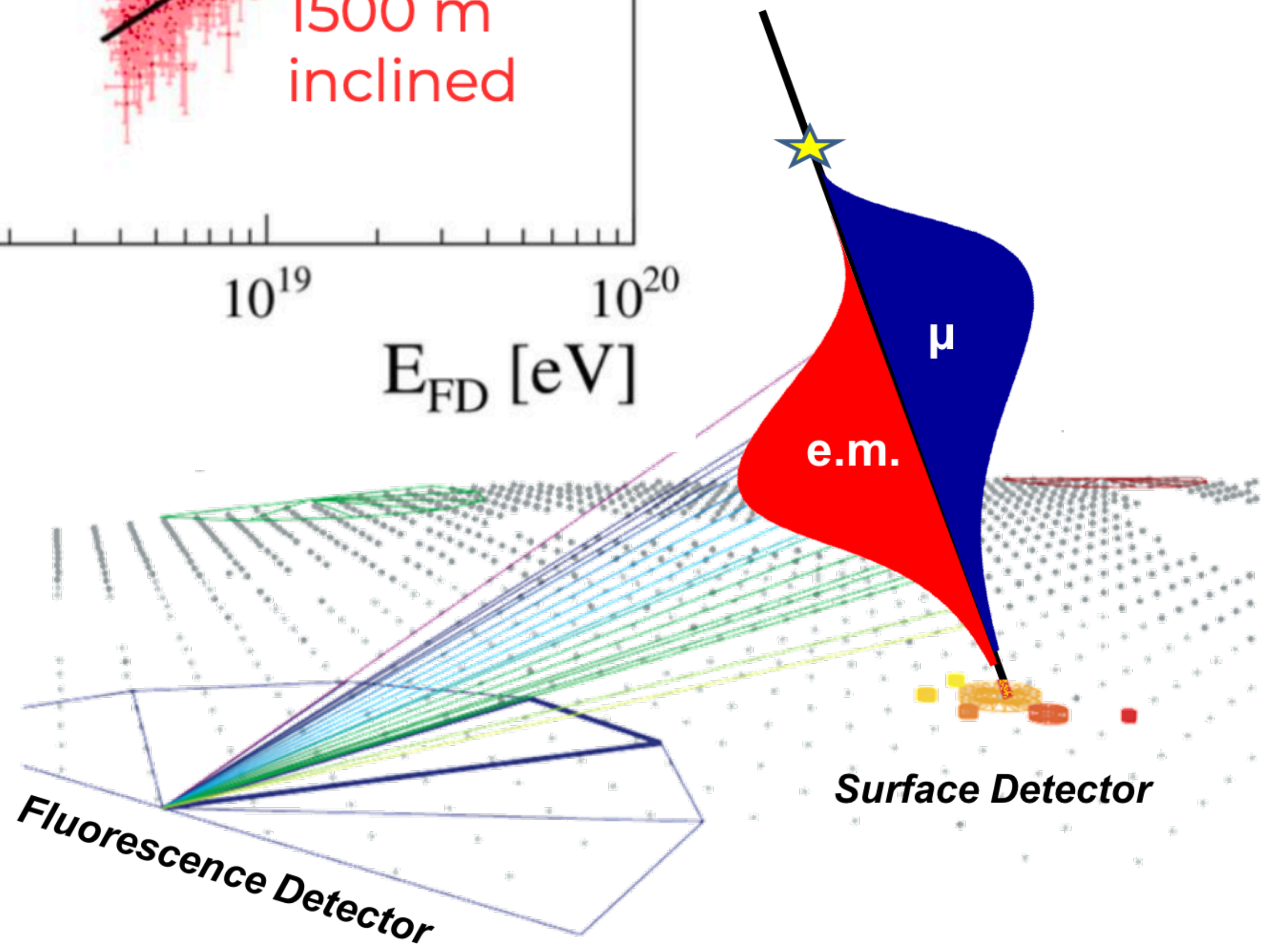
- Calibration of SD with FD
  - FD provides a quasi-calorimetric energy measurement

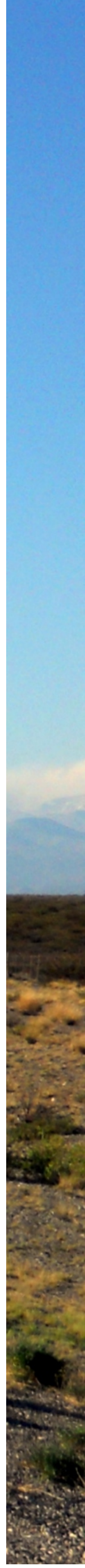
- Improve geometry reconstruction
  - For hybrid events

- Better assess/control systematic uncertainties

- Different insights of the shower
  - Access different shower components
  - Test shower consistency



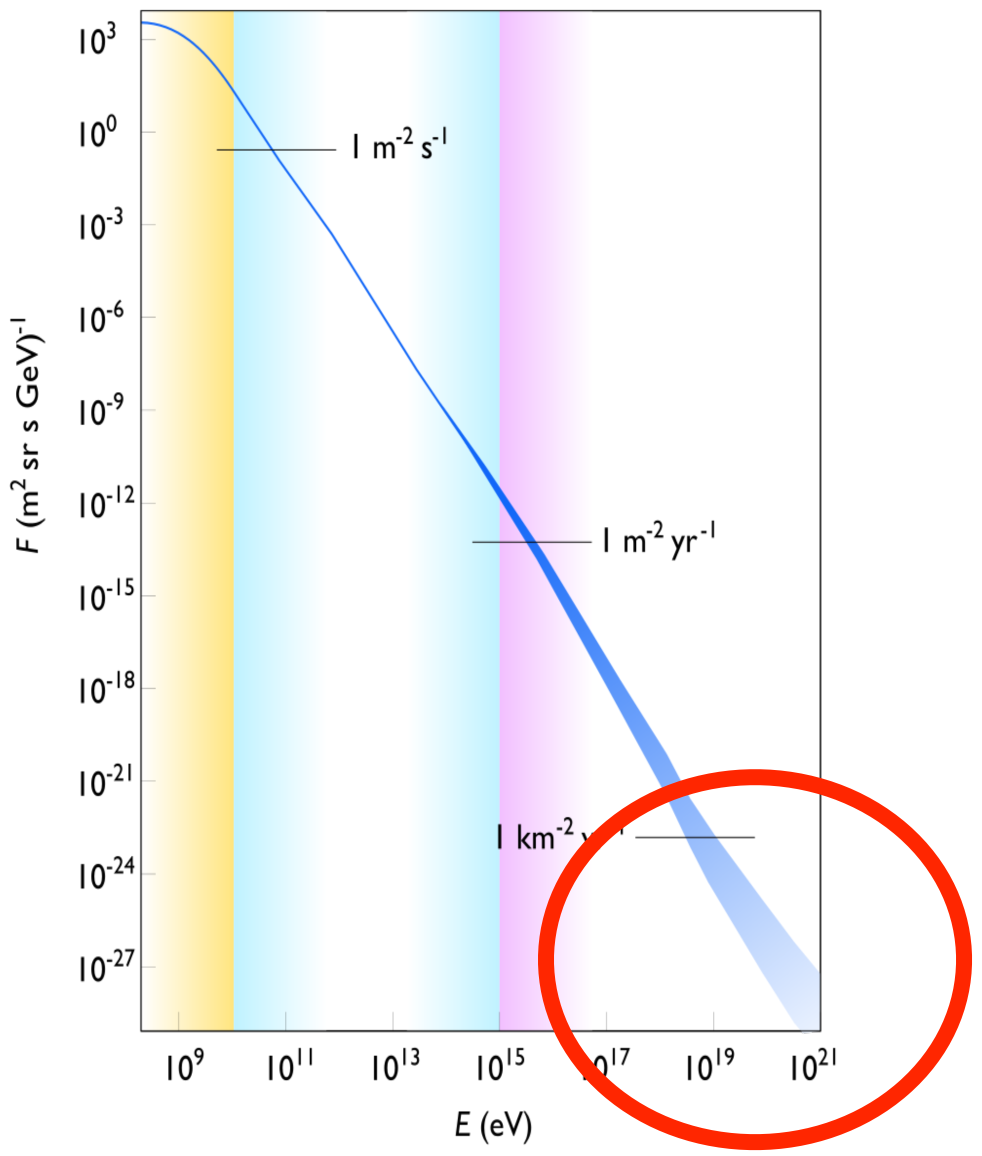




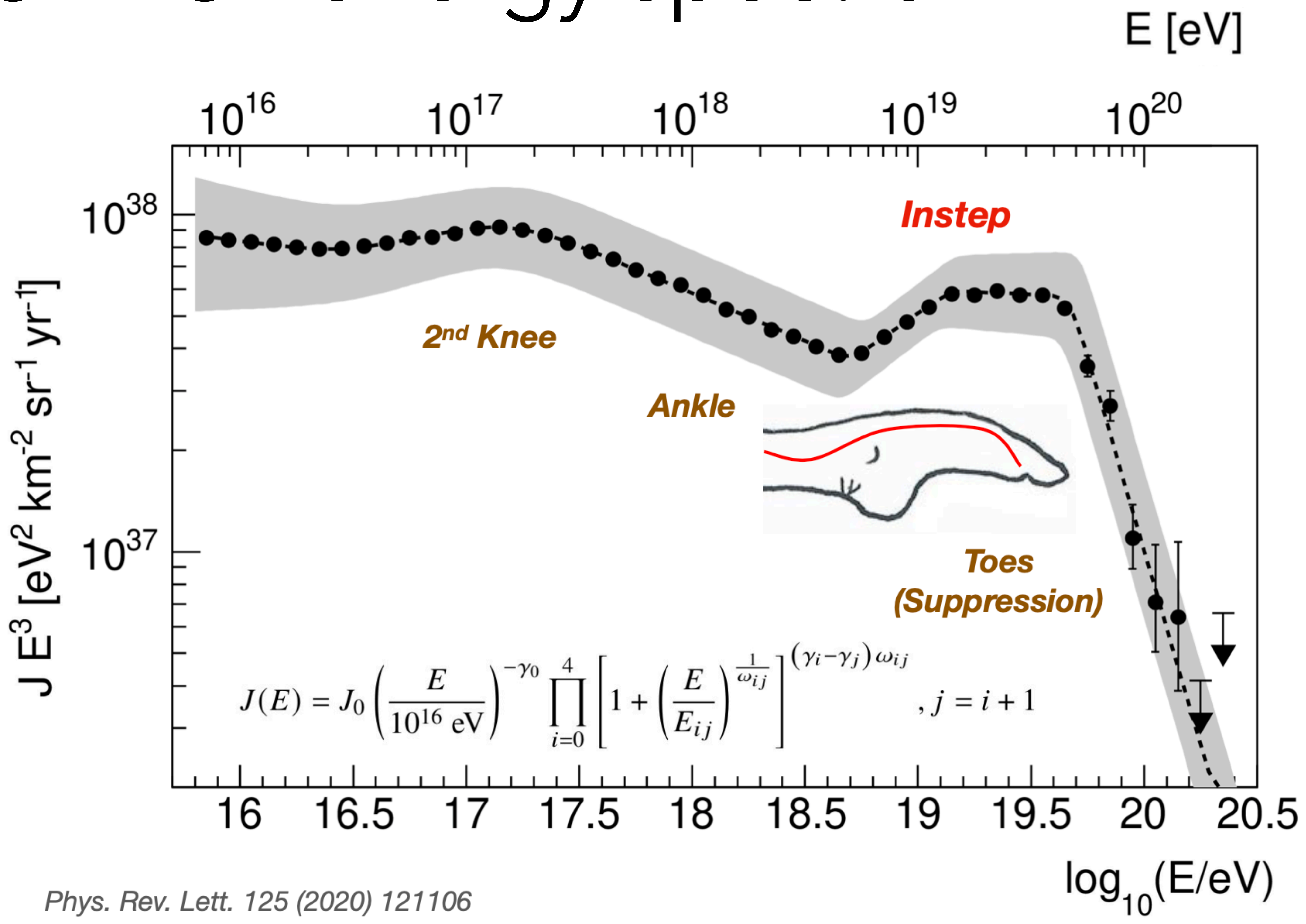
Ultra High Energy Cosmic Rays

What have we learned so far?

UHECR energy spectrum



The suppression effect can either be explained by a ***propagation effect (e.g. GZK)*** or by the ***source exhaustion***



Phys. Rev. Lett. 125 (2020) 121106

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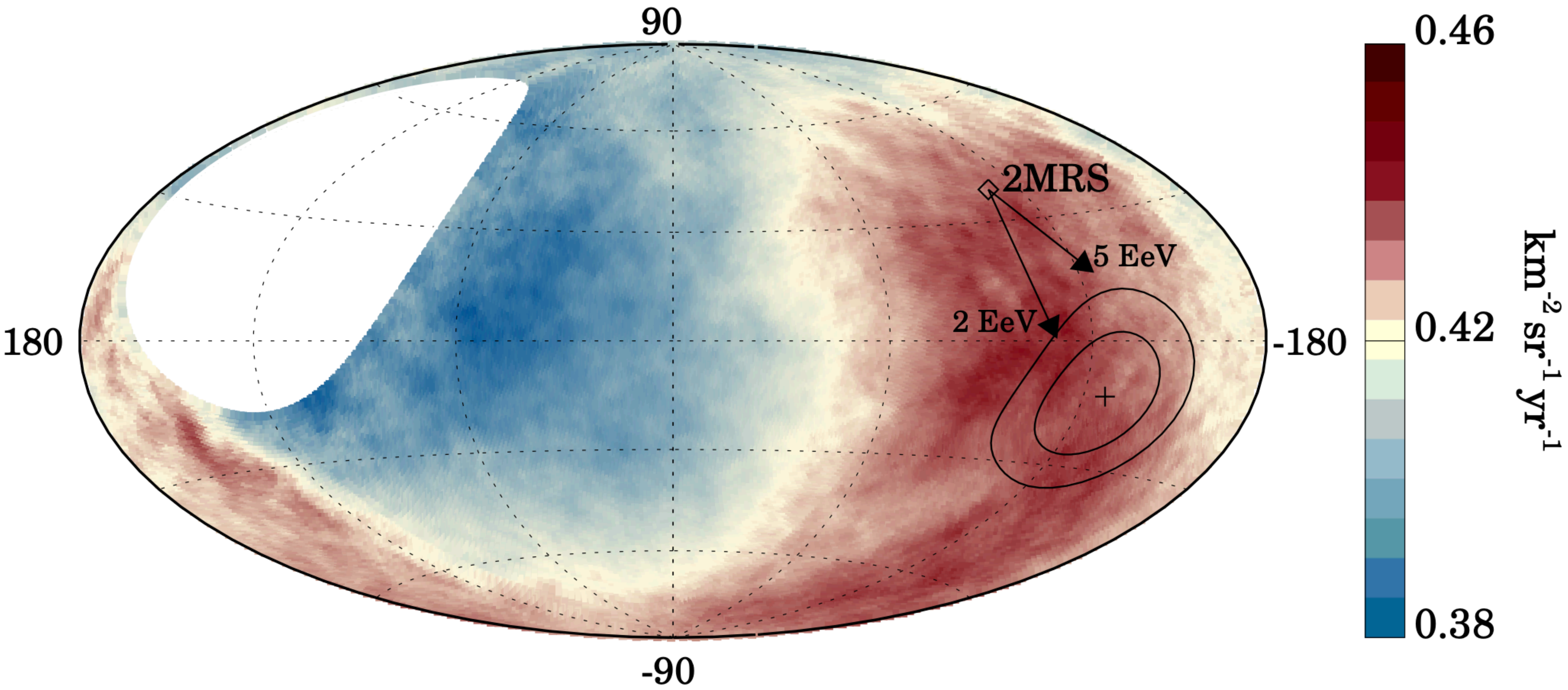
Arrival directions: large scale

Science 357 (2017) no.6537, 1266-1270



Dipole pointing $\sim 113^{\circ}$ away from the GC established at 6.9σ for energies $> 10^{18}$ eV

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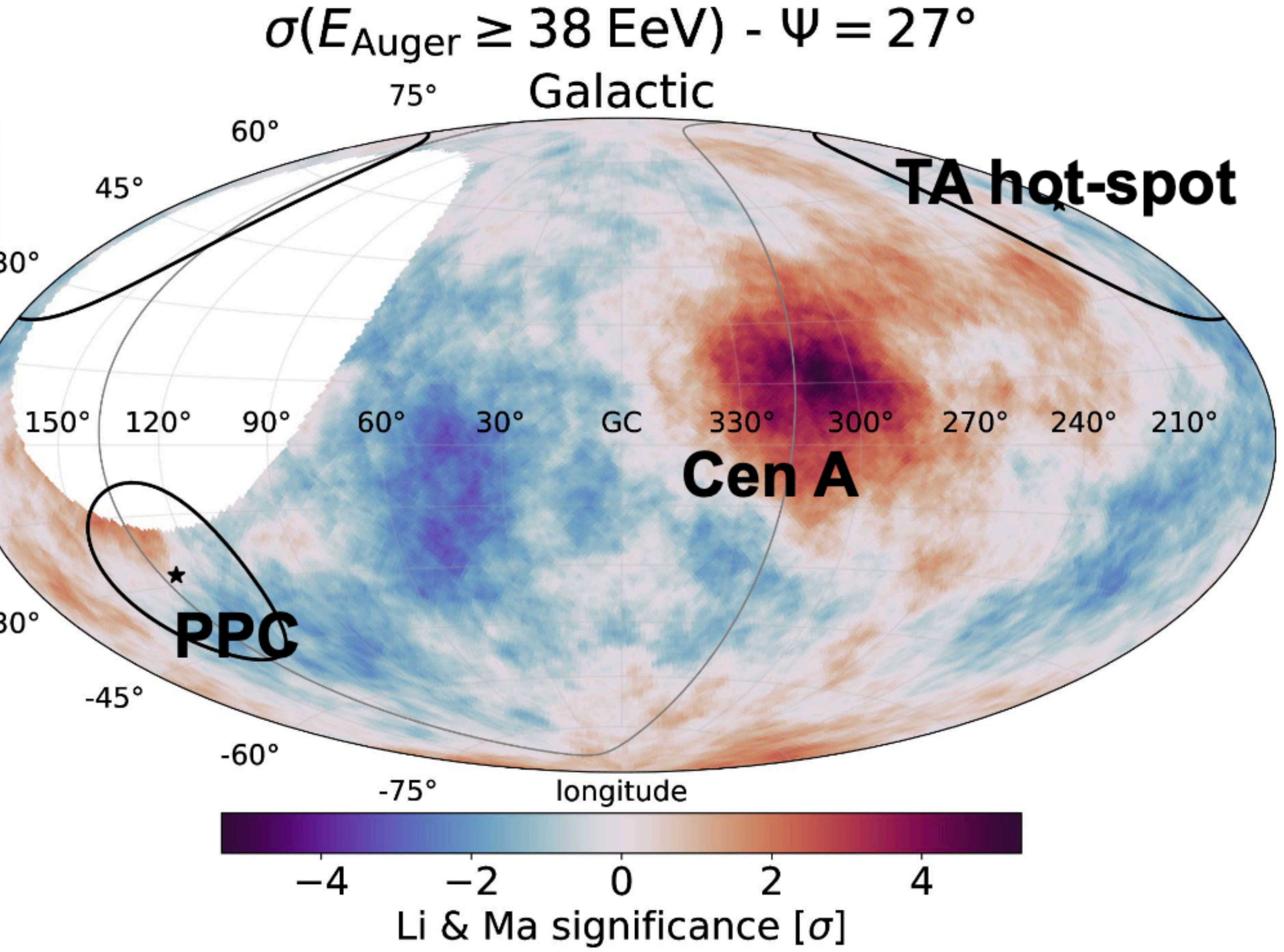
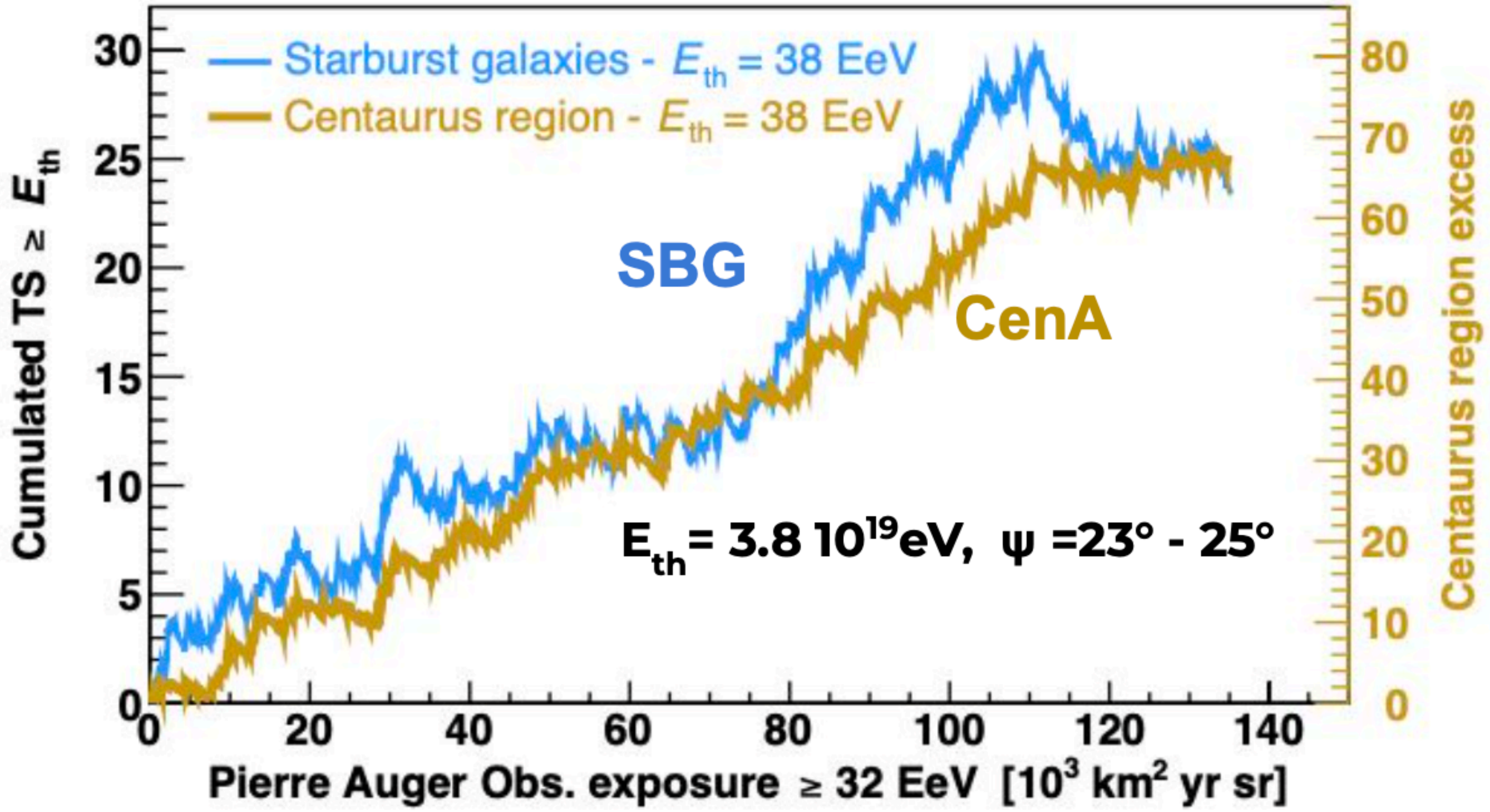
Arrival directions: intermediate scale

overdensity map in Galactic coordinates

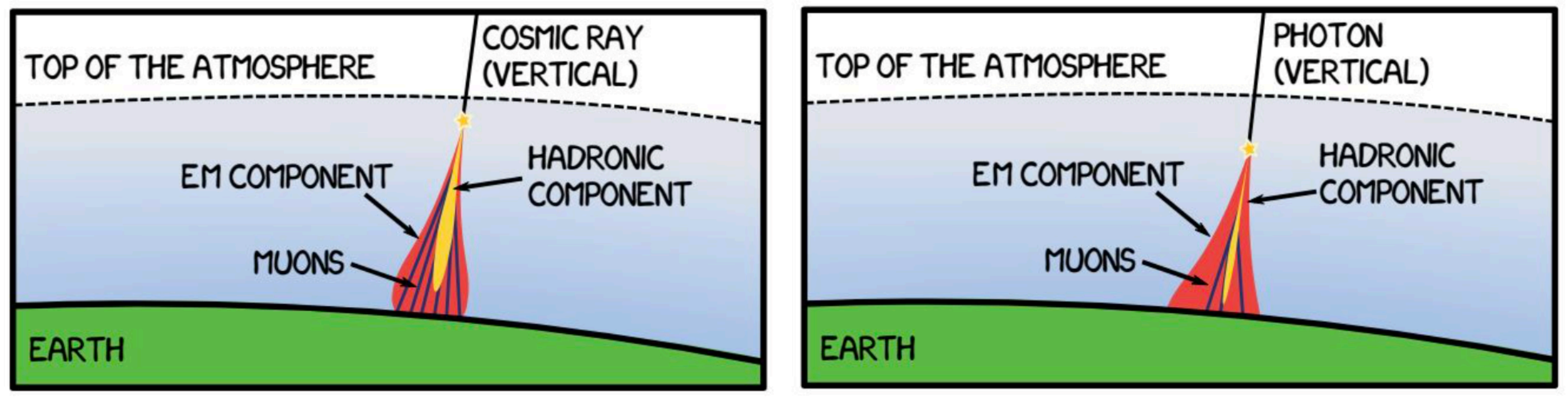




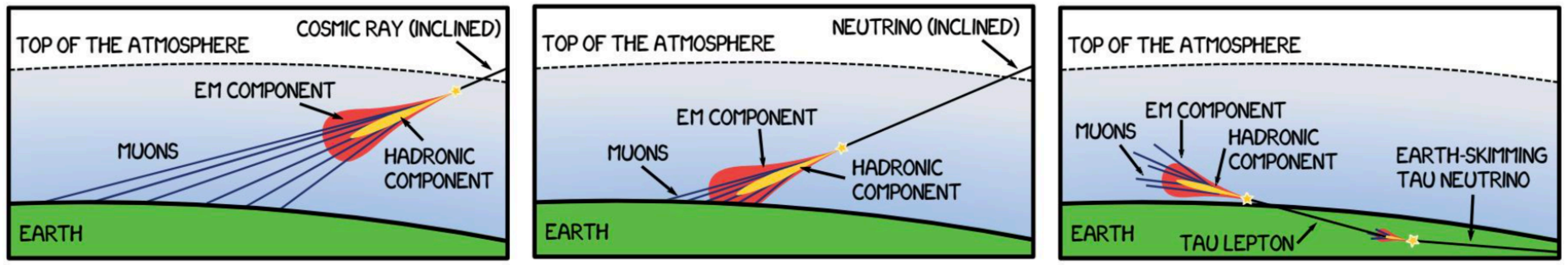
- The most significant excess at Cen A 4σ
- Several likelihood tests for correction of arrival direction with astrophysical catalogs
- Most significant signal at 3.8σ for Star Burst Galaxies catalog

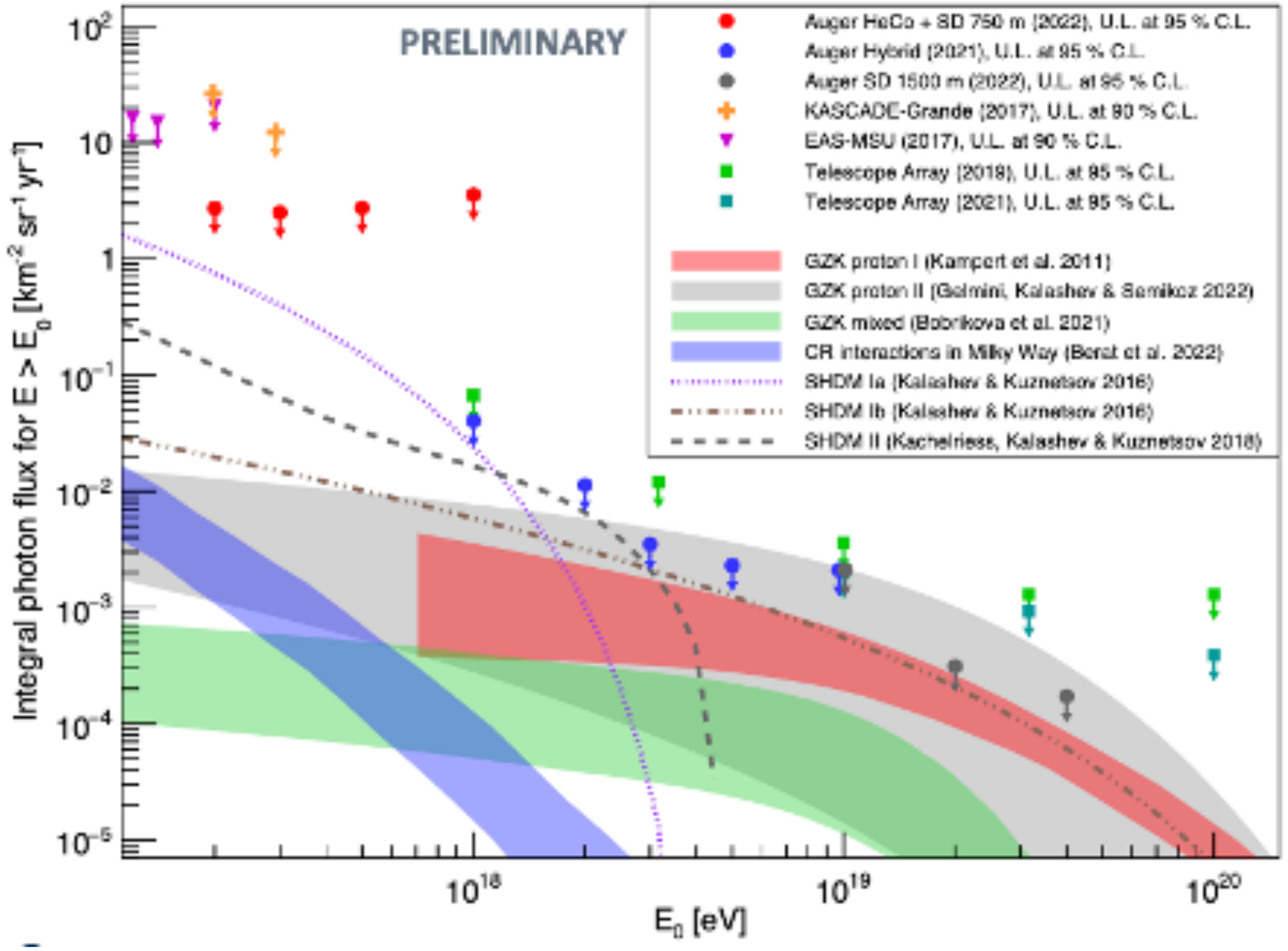
Neutral particles searches

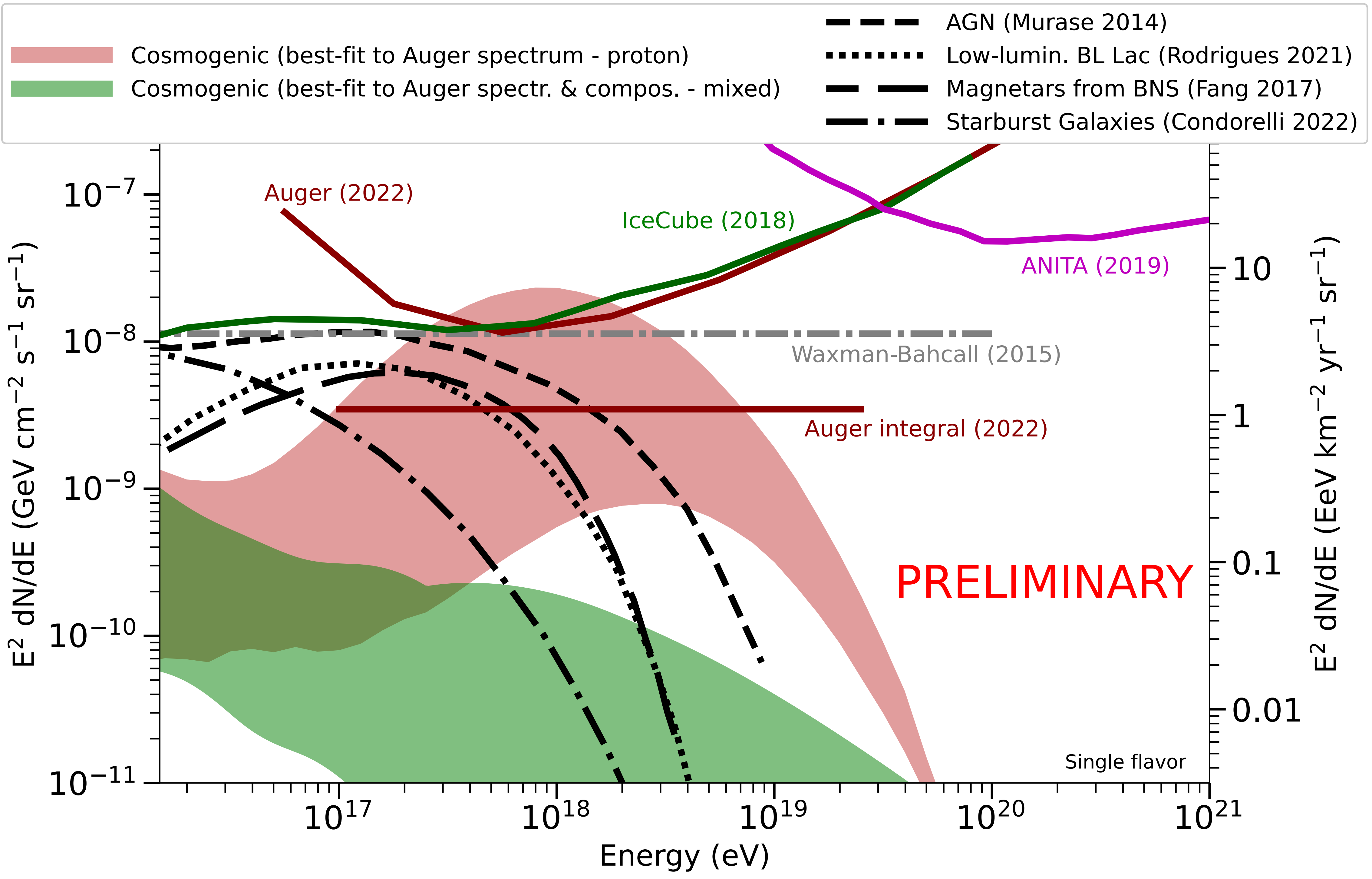
Photons



Neutrinos







No UHE photons or neutrino have been observed yet

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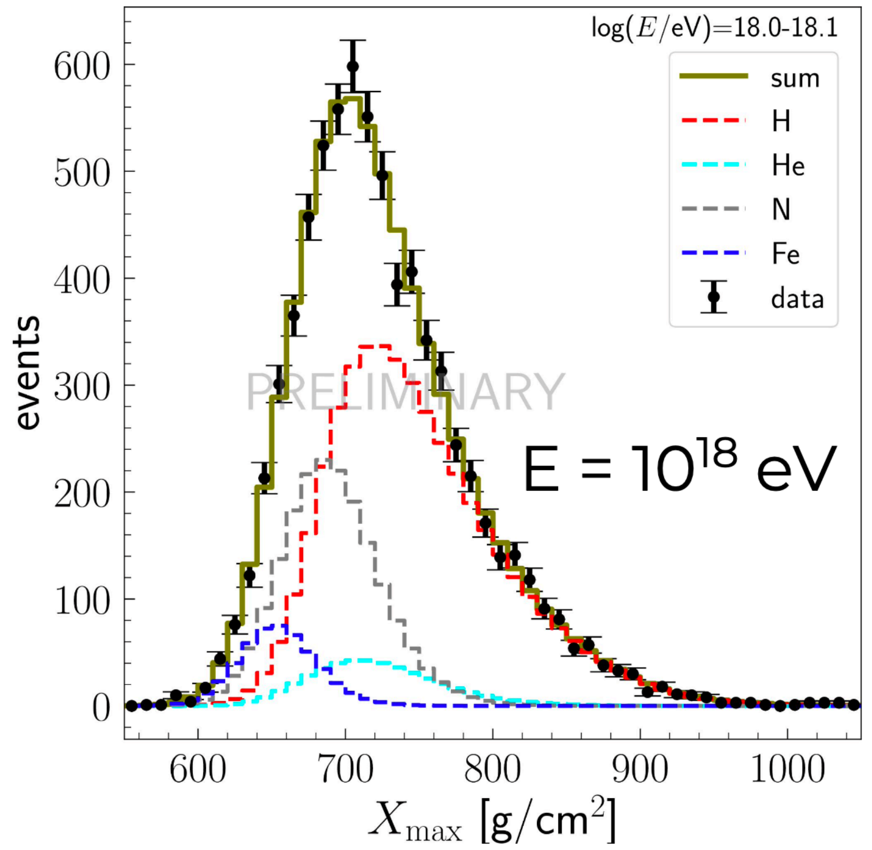
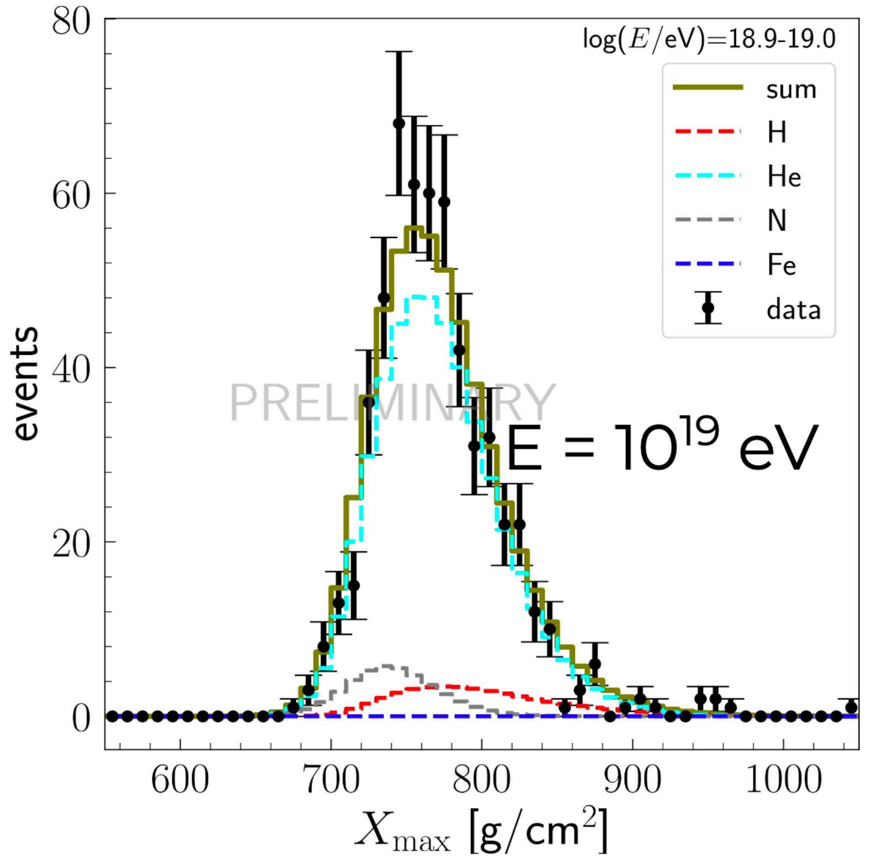
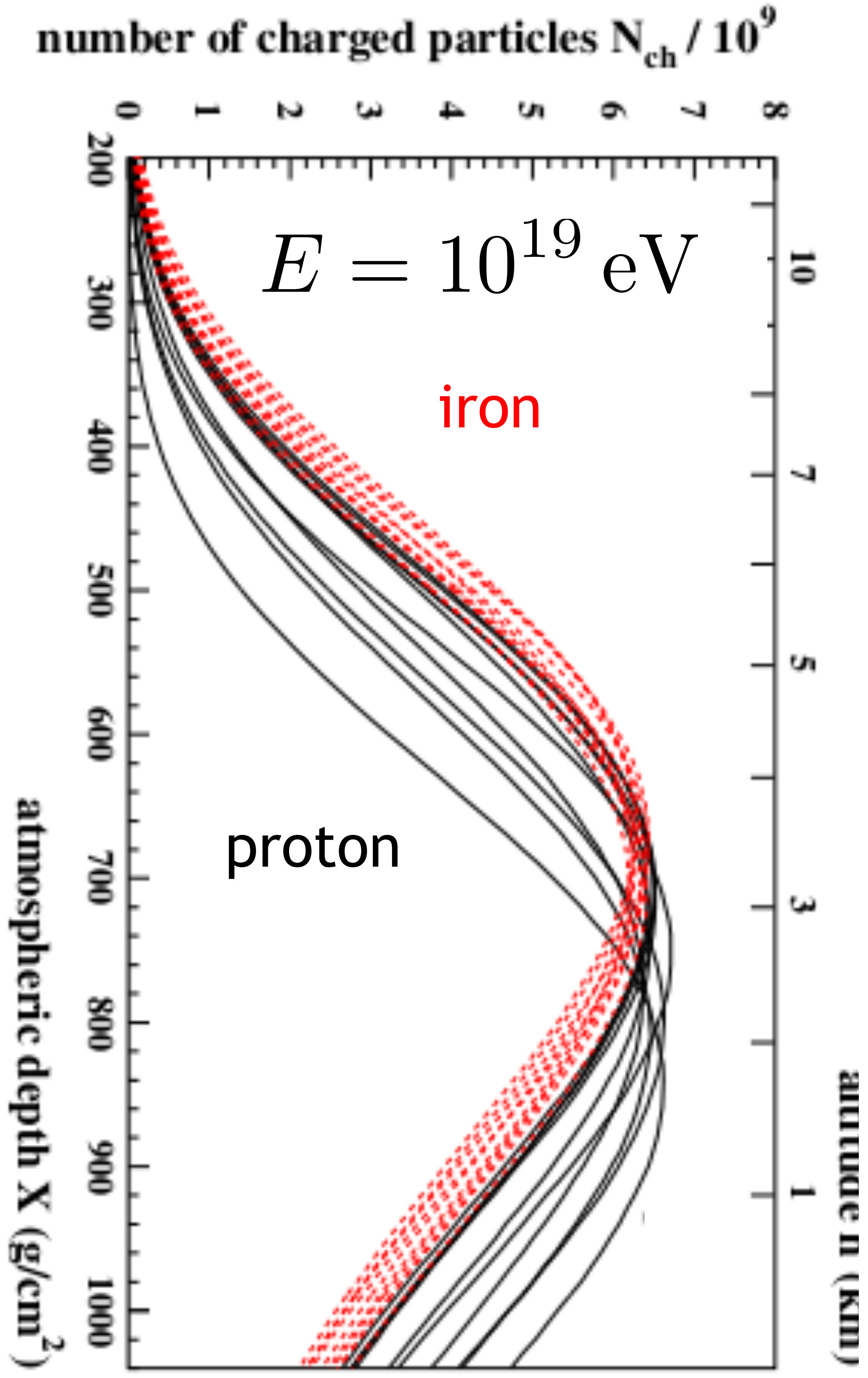
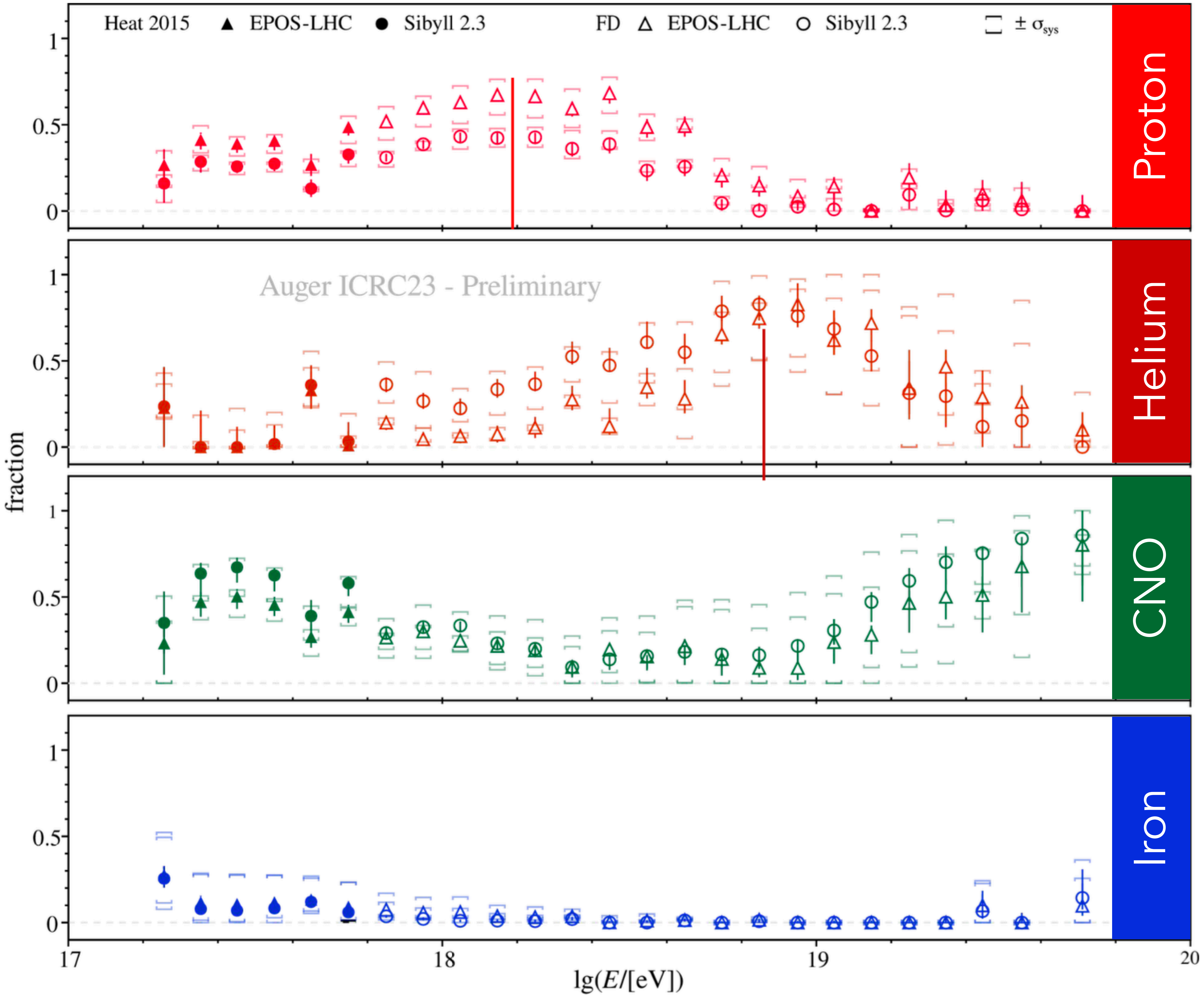
Composition fits to X_{max}









*The primary **composition** goes from **light to heavier** as its energy increases*

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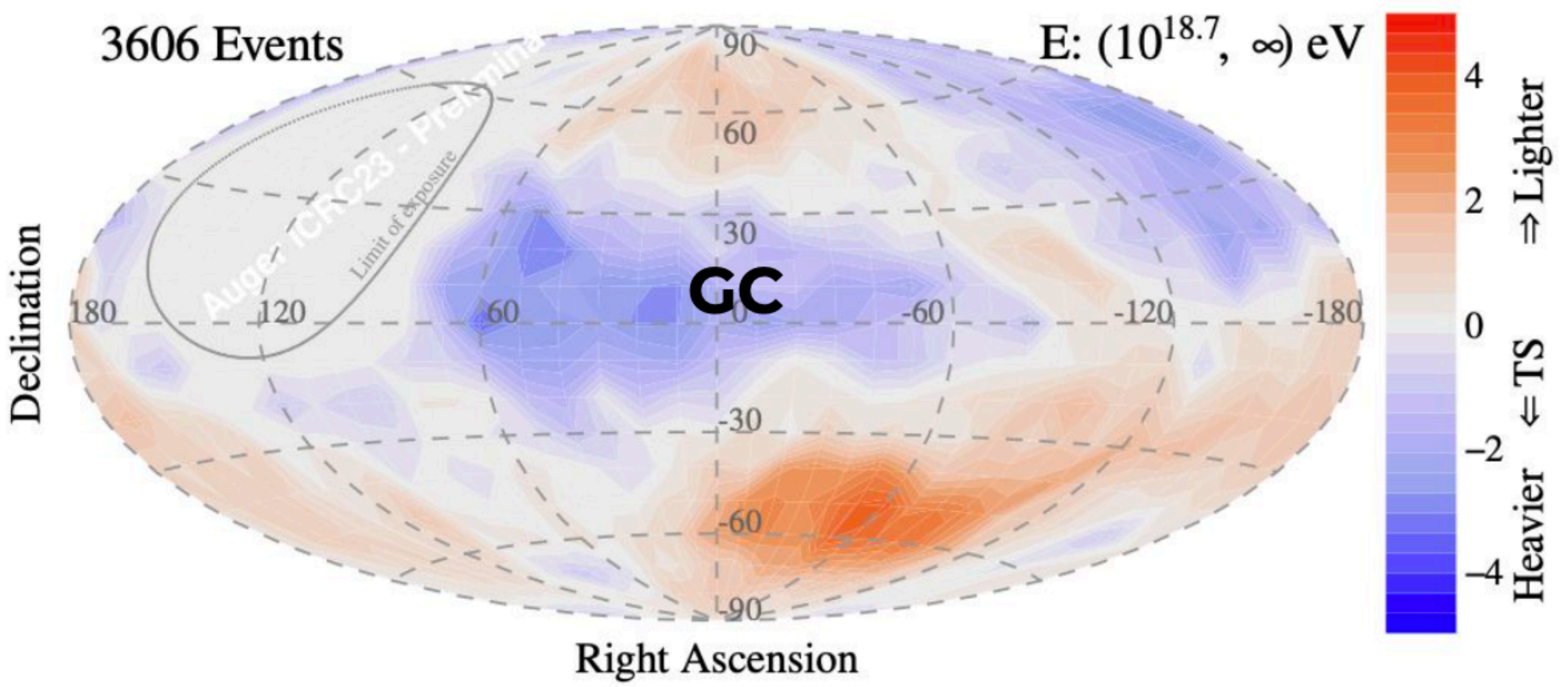
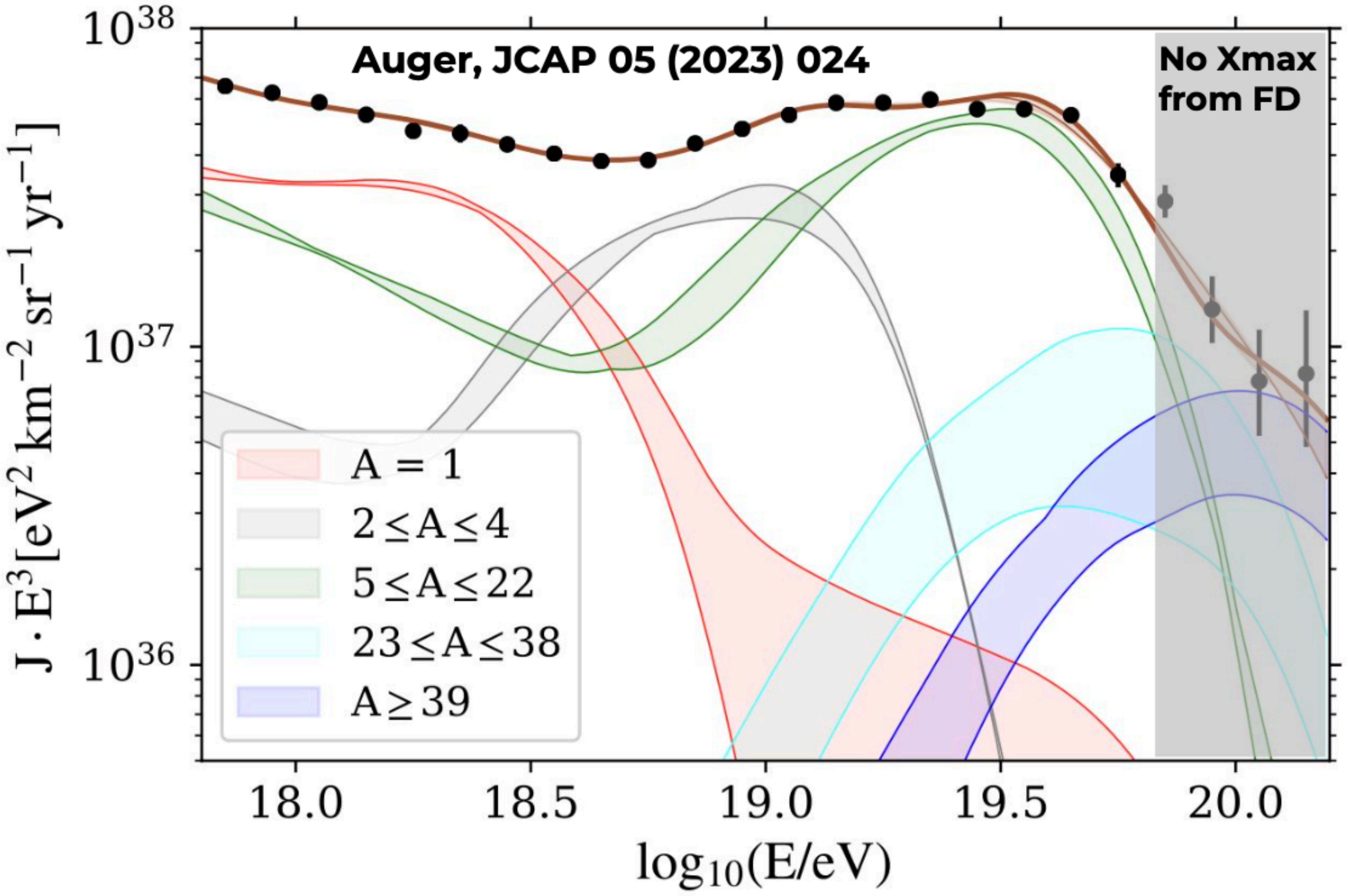
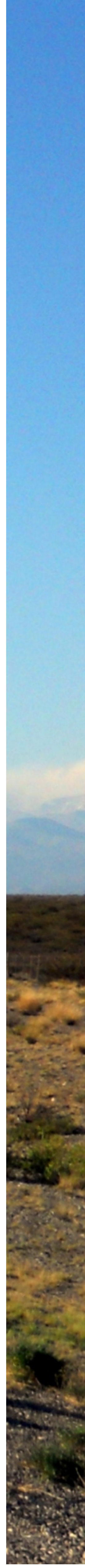
Mass composition enhanced anisotropy



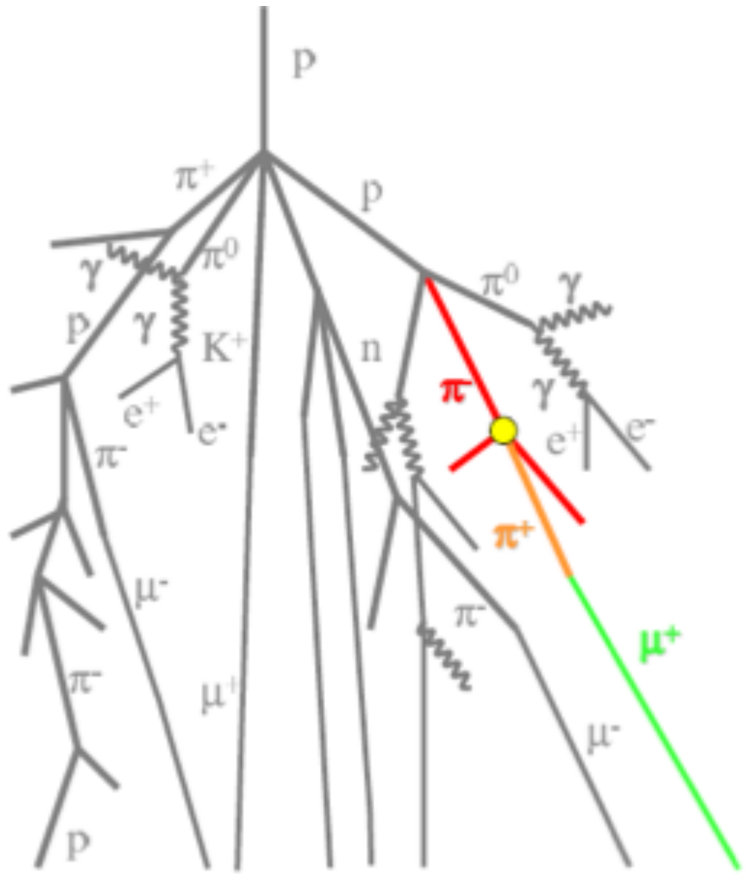




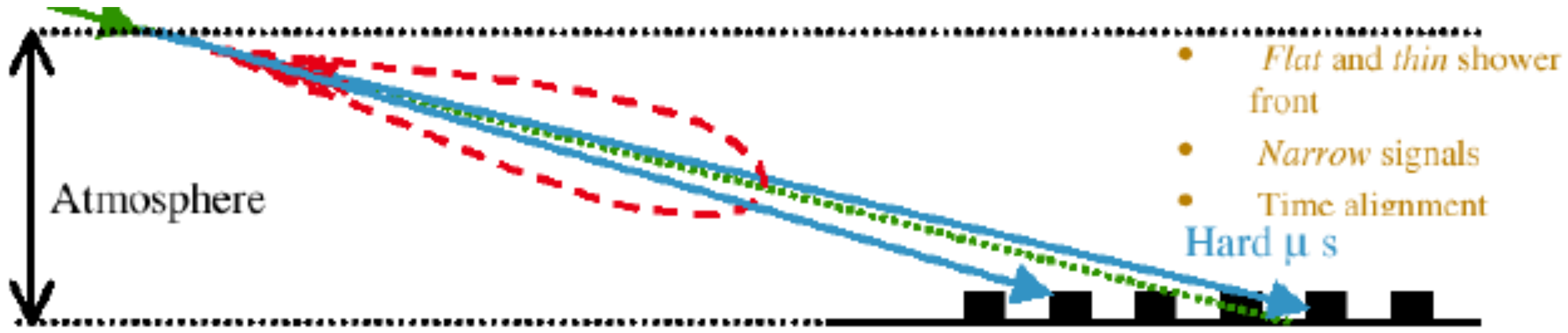
- ✧ Heavier composition from the galactic plane ($< 4\,\sigma$)
- ✧ Combined spectrum + composition fit suggest an acceleration mechanism $\propto A$

Exploration of inclined showers

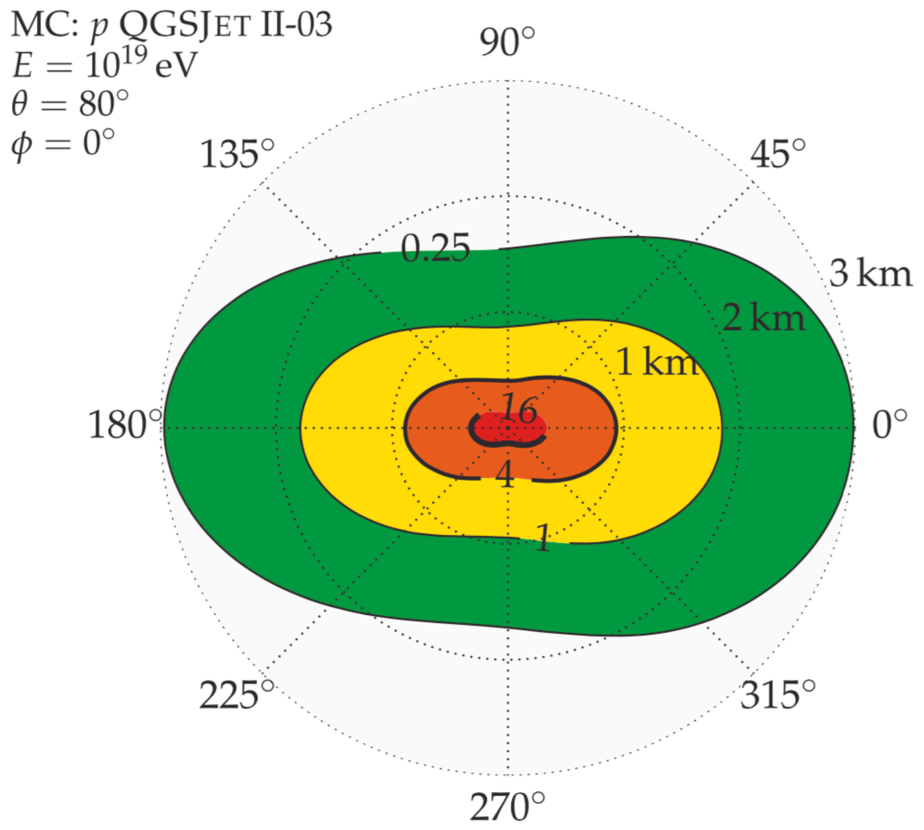
- Muons → Assess Hadronic interaction models
- Data selection
  - Zenith angles [62° ; 80°]
  - E > 4 x 10^{18} eV

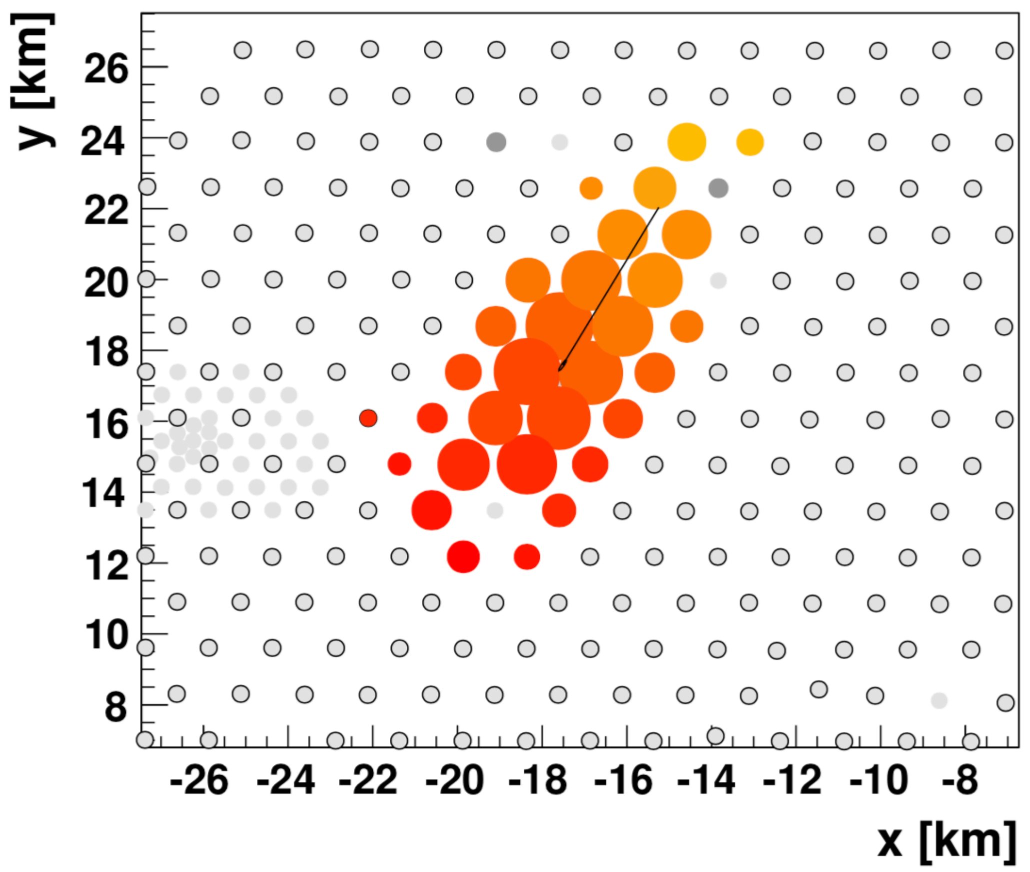


- Inclined shower → Muons



- Energy given by the Fluorescence Detector
- 281 hybrid events





$$\rho_\mu(\text{data}) = N_{19} \cdot \rho_\mu(\text{QGSJETII03},\ p, E = 10^{19}\ eV,\ \theta)$$

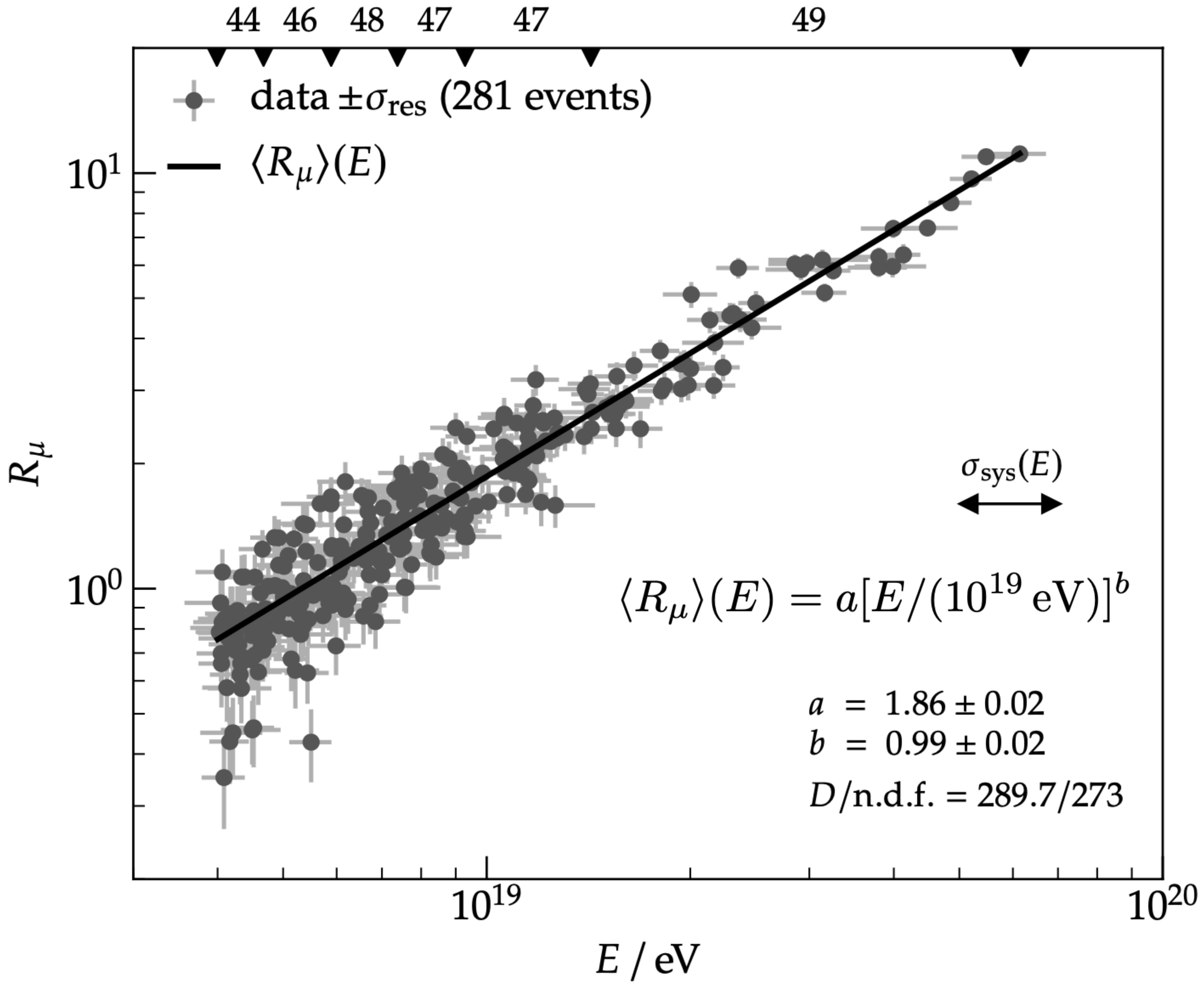
$$R_\mu = \frac{N_\mu^{data}}{N_{\mu,19}^{MC}}$$

Measurement of the EAS muon content

- Done using hybrid inclined showers
- Perform a **likelihood fit** including all reconstruction uncertainties (detector, energy…)
- Extraction of the **two** first **momenta of the muon distribution** as a function of the primary energy

Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021) 15, 152002

Sensitive to the EAS muon number - R_μ



Sensitive to the EAS calorimetric energy - E

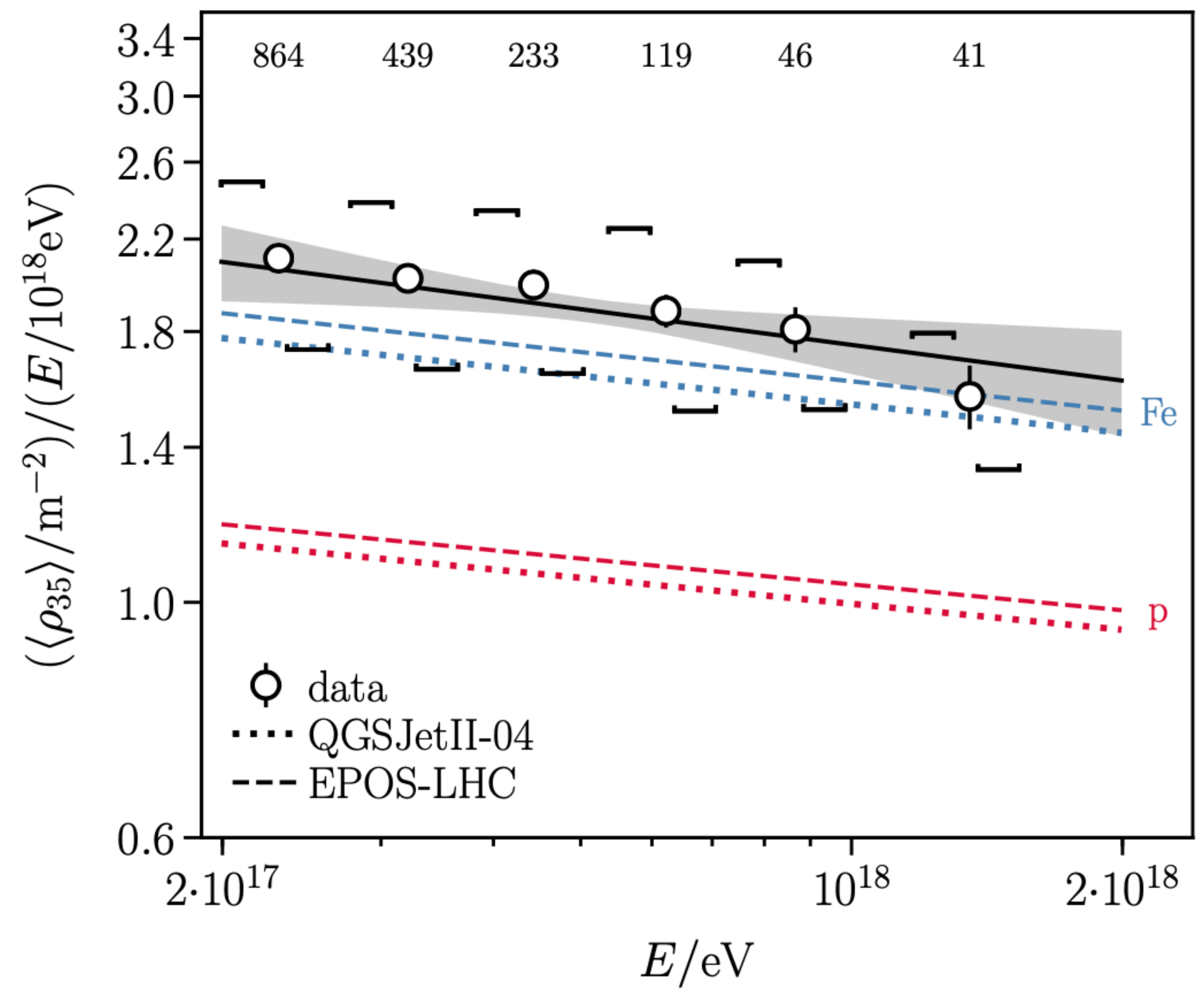
EAS muon content over an extended energy range

Eur.Phys.J.C 80 (2020) 8, 751

Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021) 15, 152002

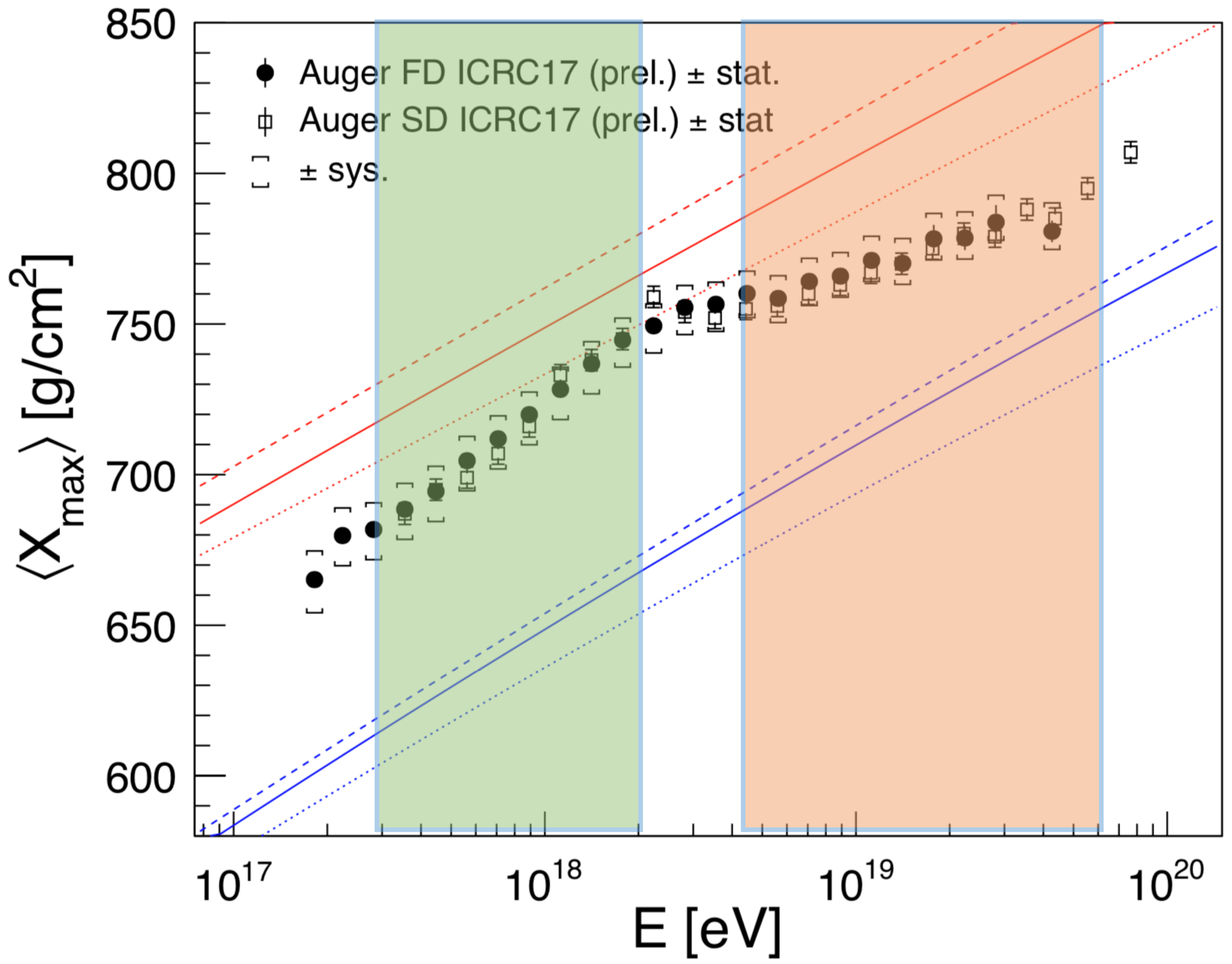
Data slightly above iron model predictions

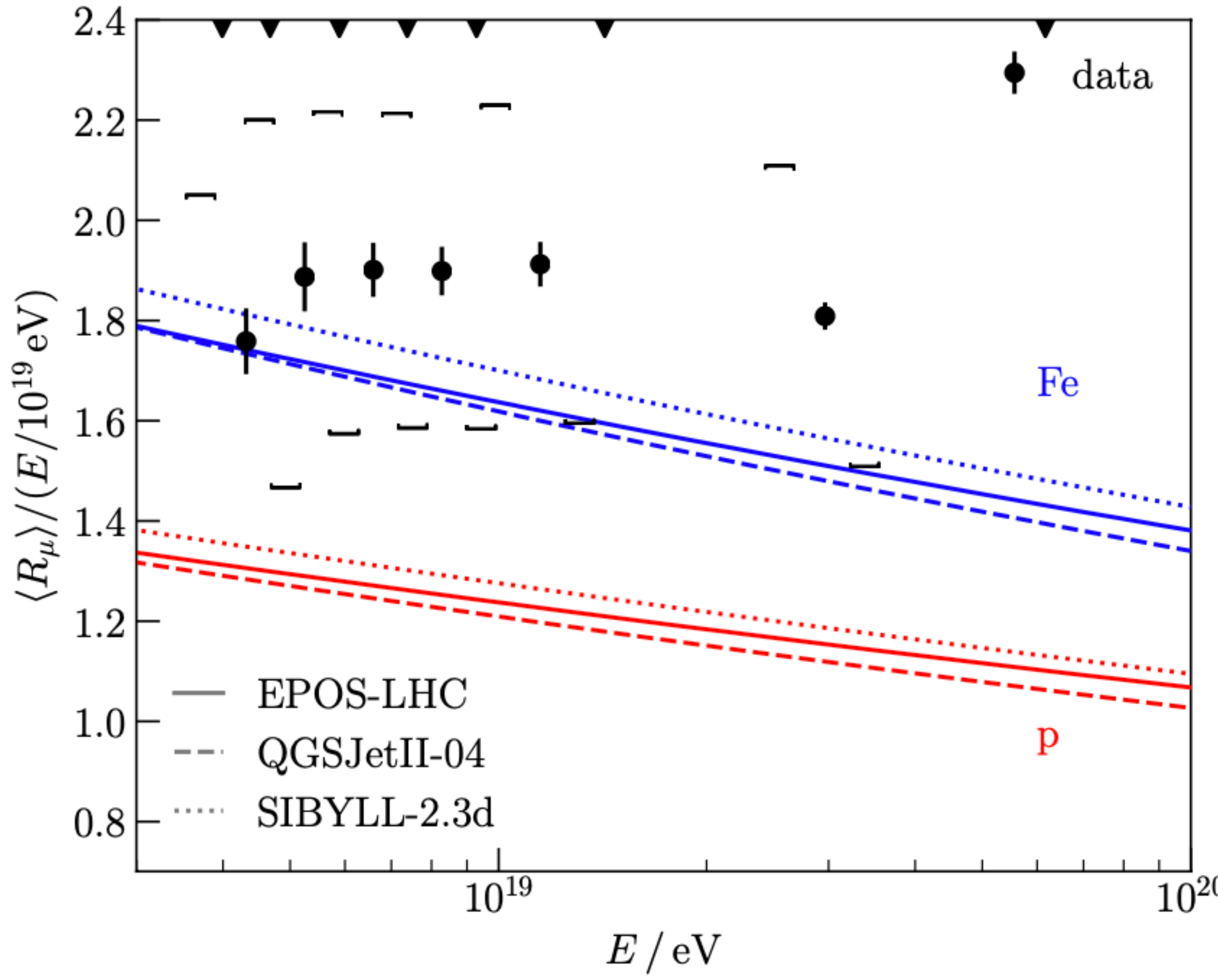
Large errors due to energy scale uncertainty



AMIGA

FD data



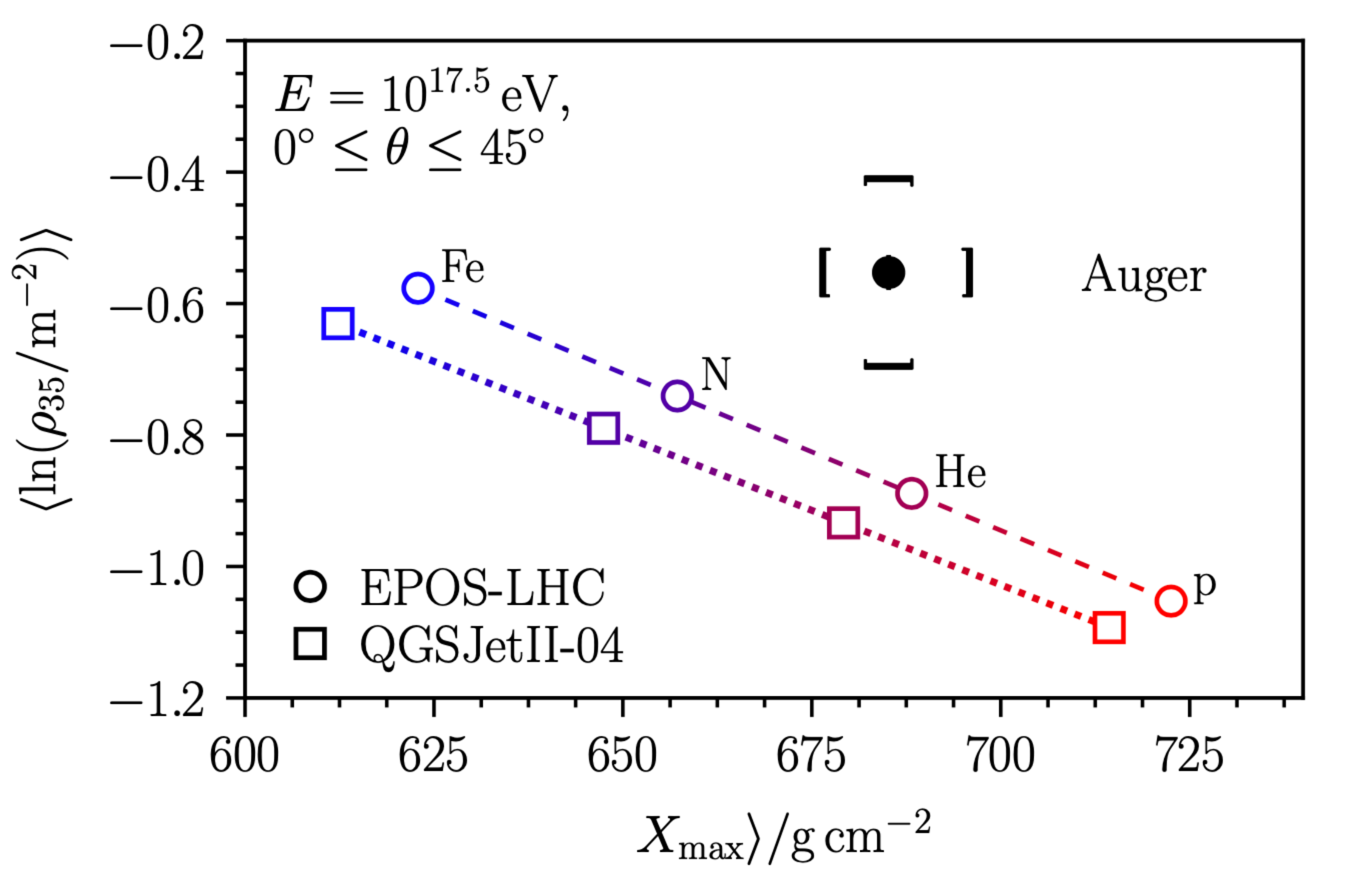


SD inclined

The EAS muon puzzle @ Auger

Eur.Phys.J.C 80 (2020) 8, 751

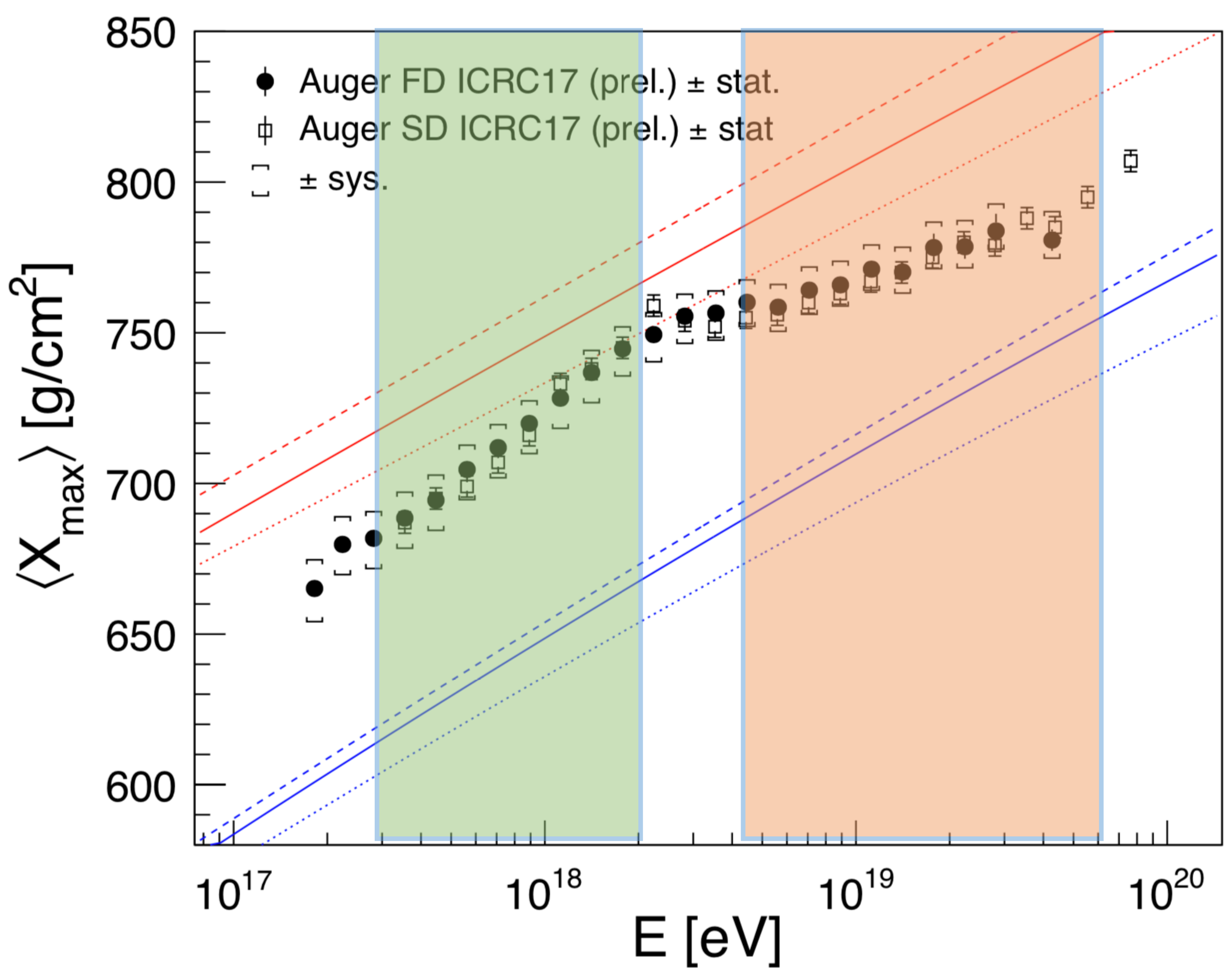
Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021) 15, 152002

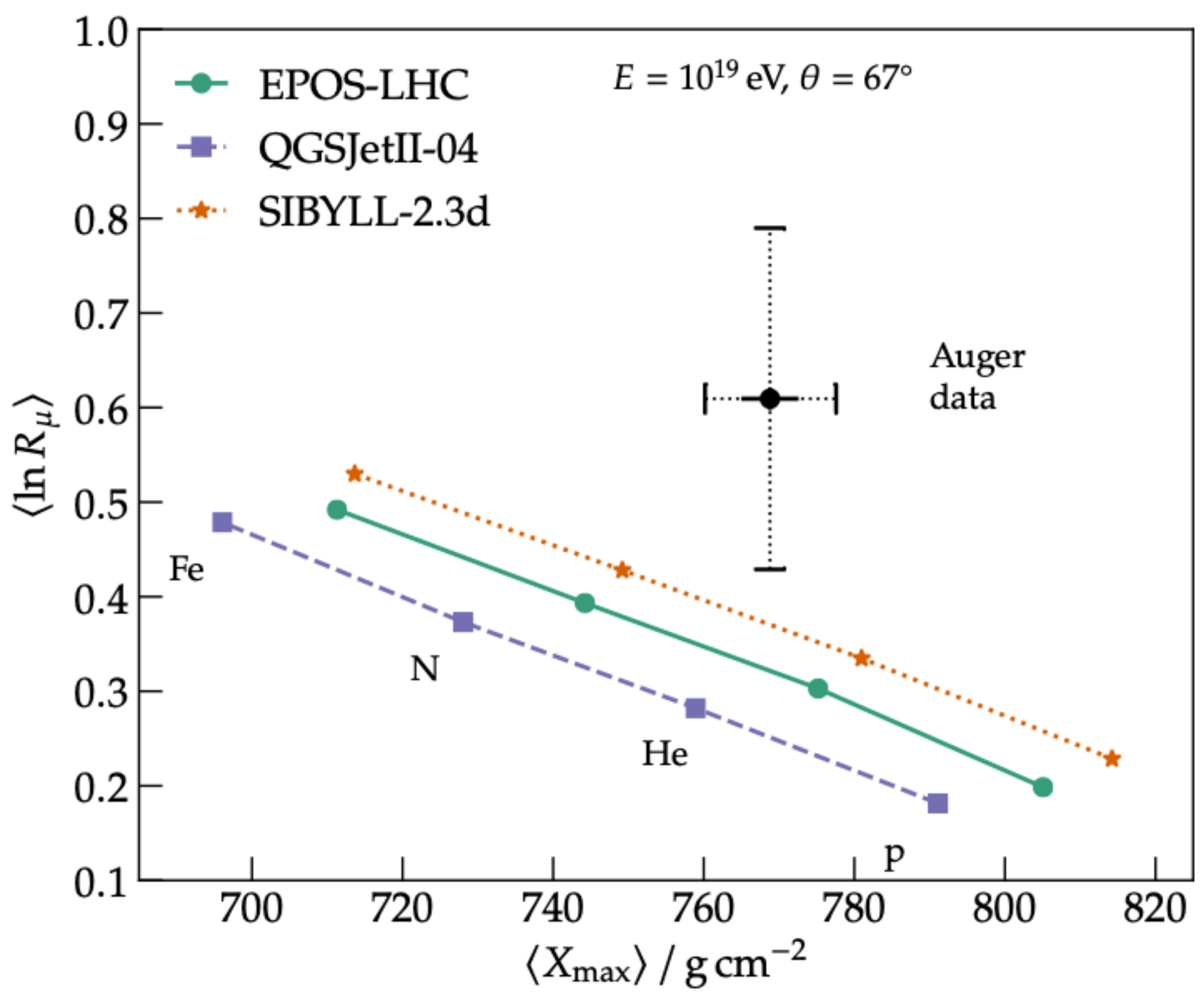


AMIGA

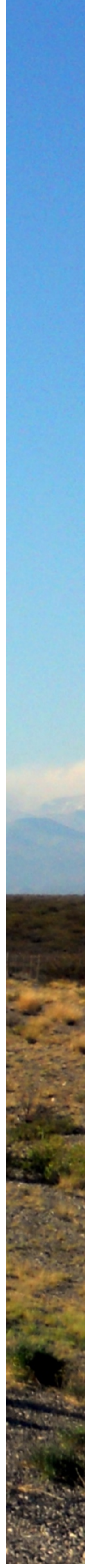
Muon excess present both at lower and higher energies if one takes into account preferred X_{max} composition

FD data



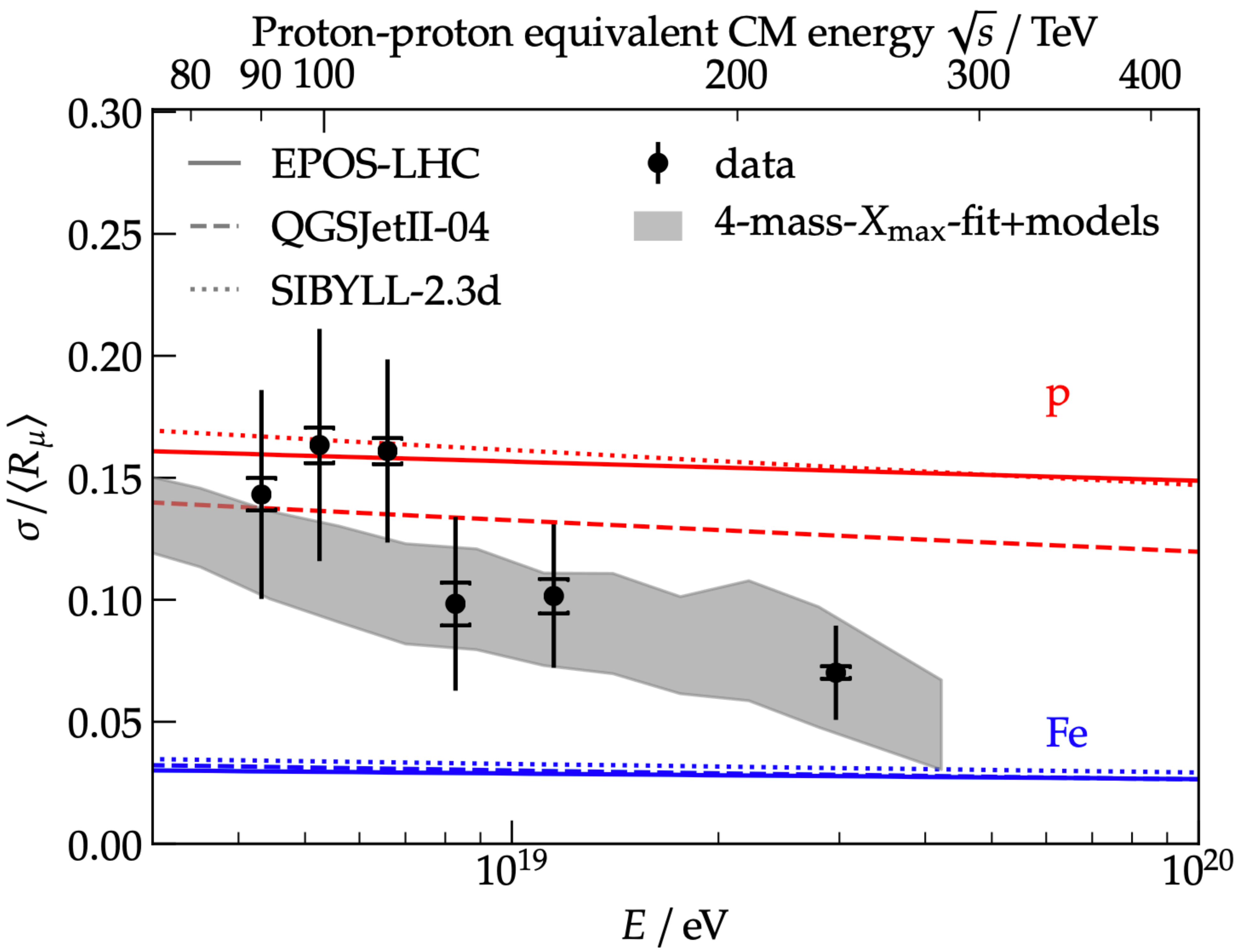


SD inclined

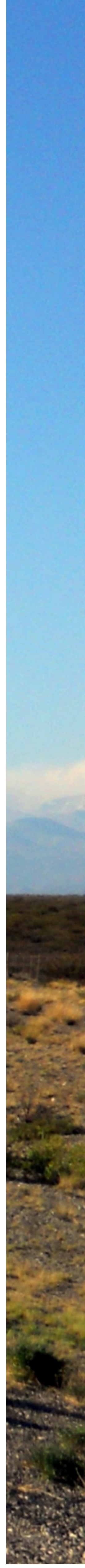


EAS muon fluctuations

Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021) 15, 152002



The muon relative fluctuations are in agreement with the mass composition expectations derived from the analysis of X_{max} data



EAS muon fluctuations

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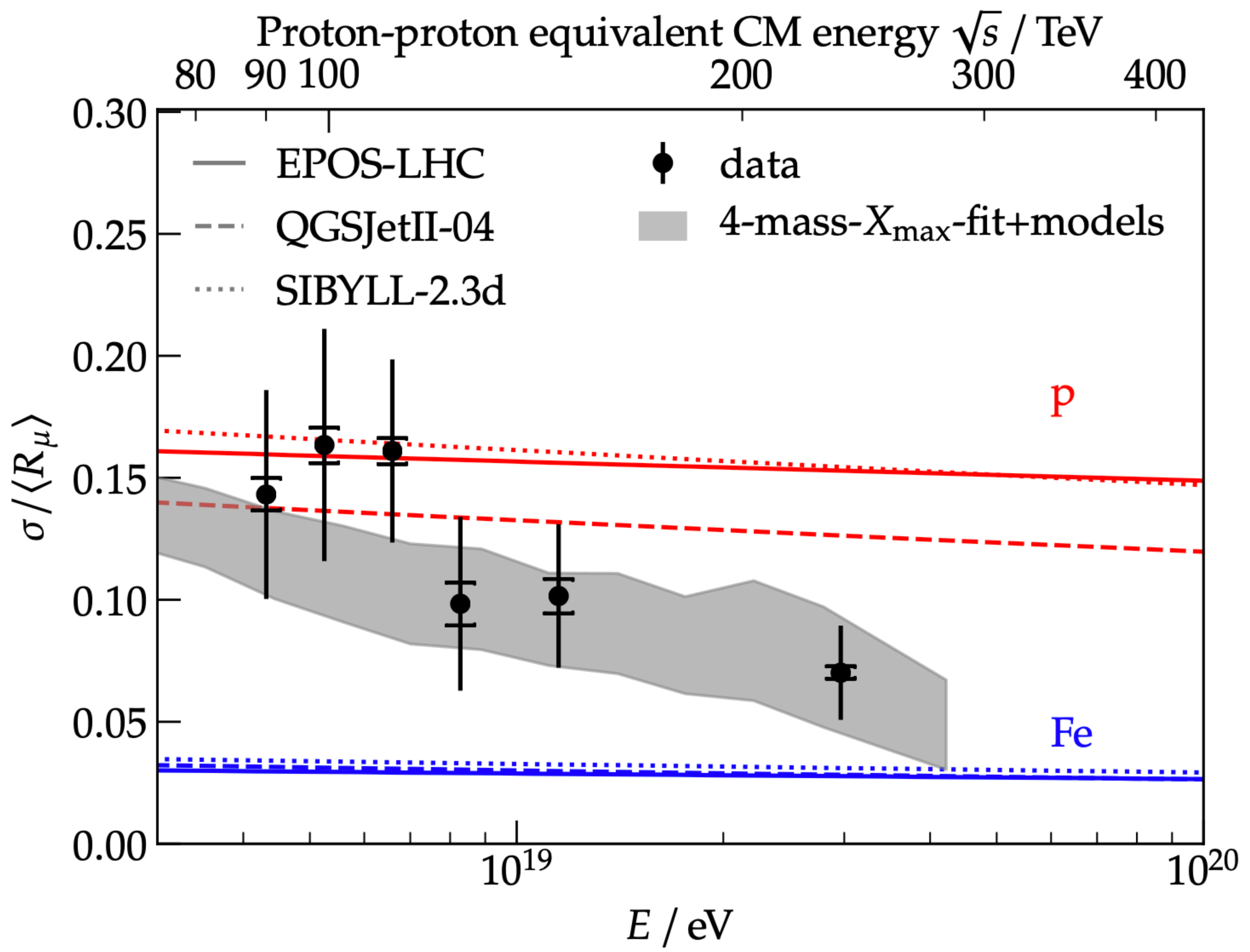
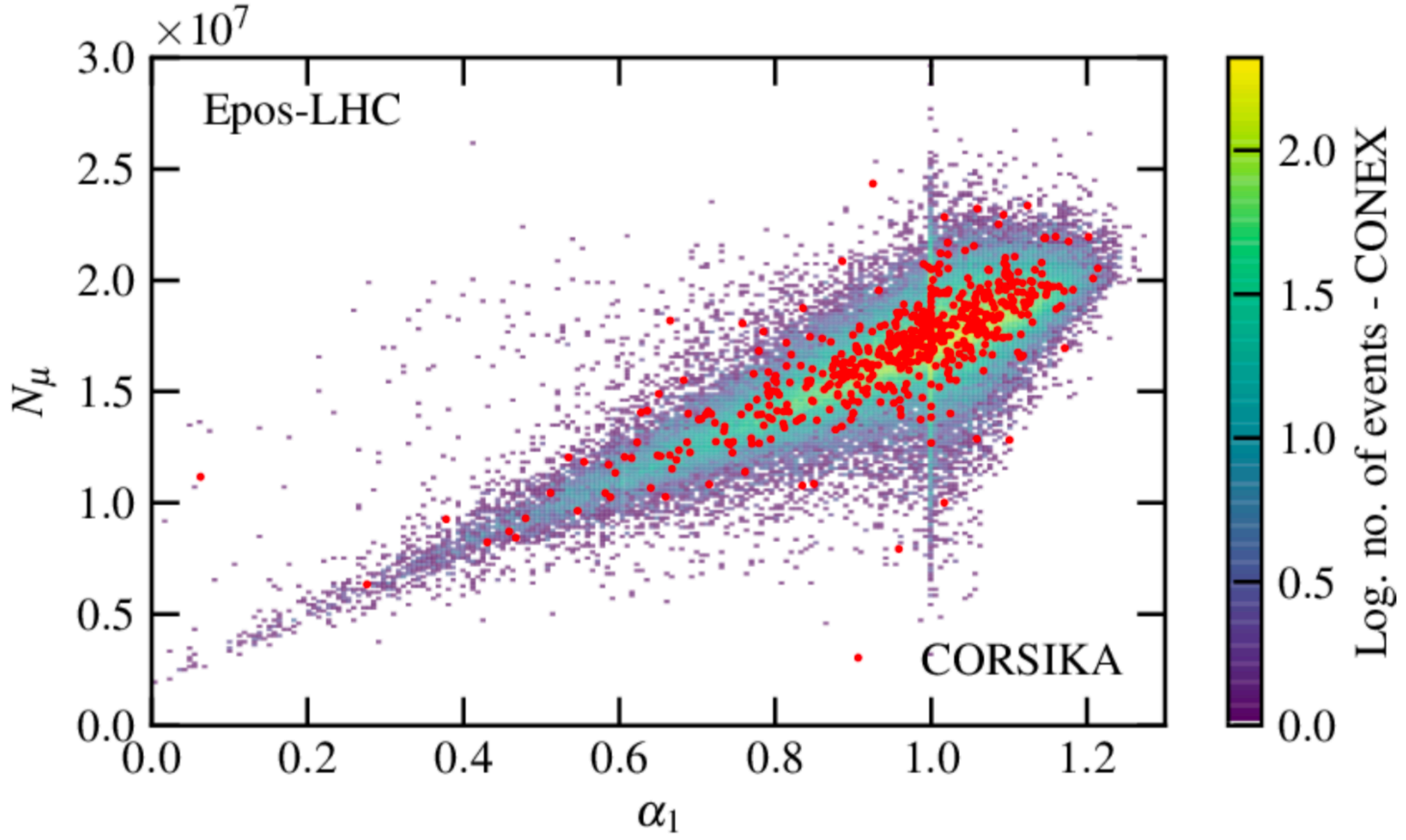


The muon relative fluctuations are in agreement with the mass composition expectations derived from the analysis of X_{max} data

L. Cazon, RC, F. Riehn, PLB 784 (2018) 68-76

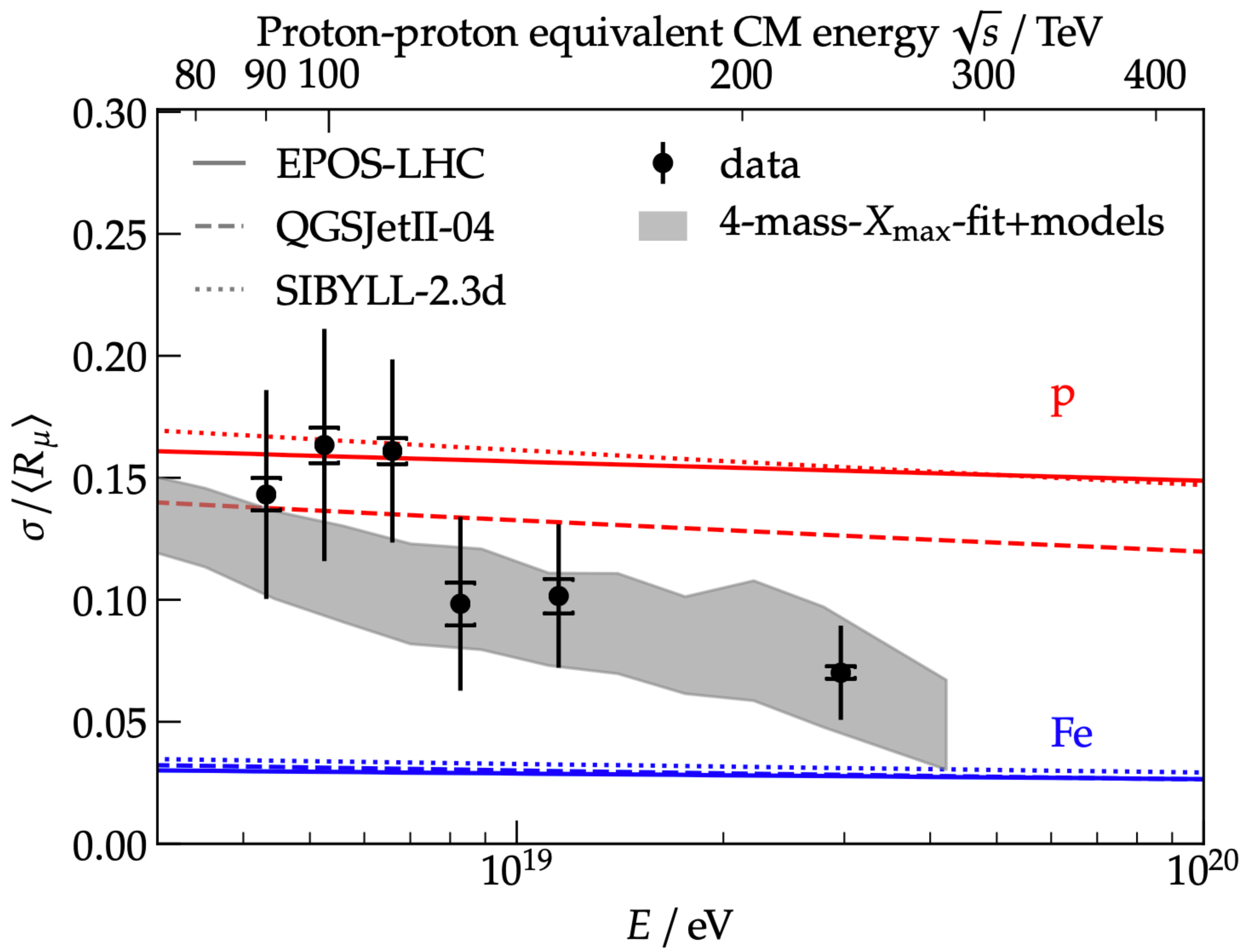


α_1 is the fraction of energy going into the hadronic sector in the first interaction

$$\sigma(\alpha_1) \rightarrow 70\,\%\,\sigma(N_\mu)$$

EAS muon fluctuations

Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021) 15, 152002



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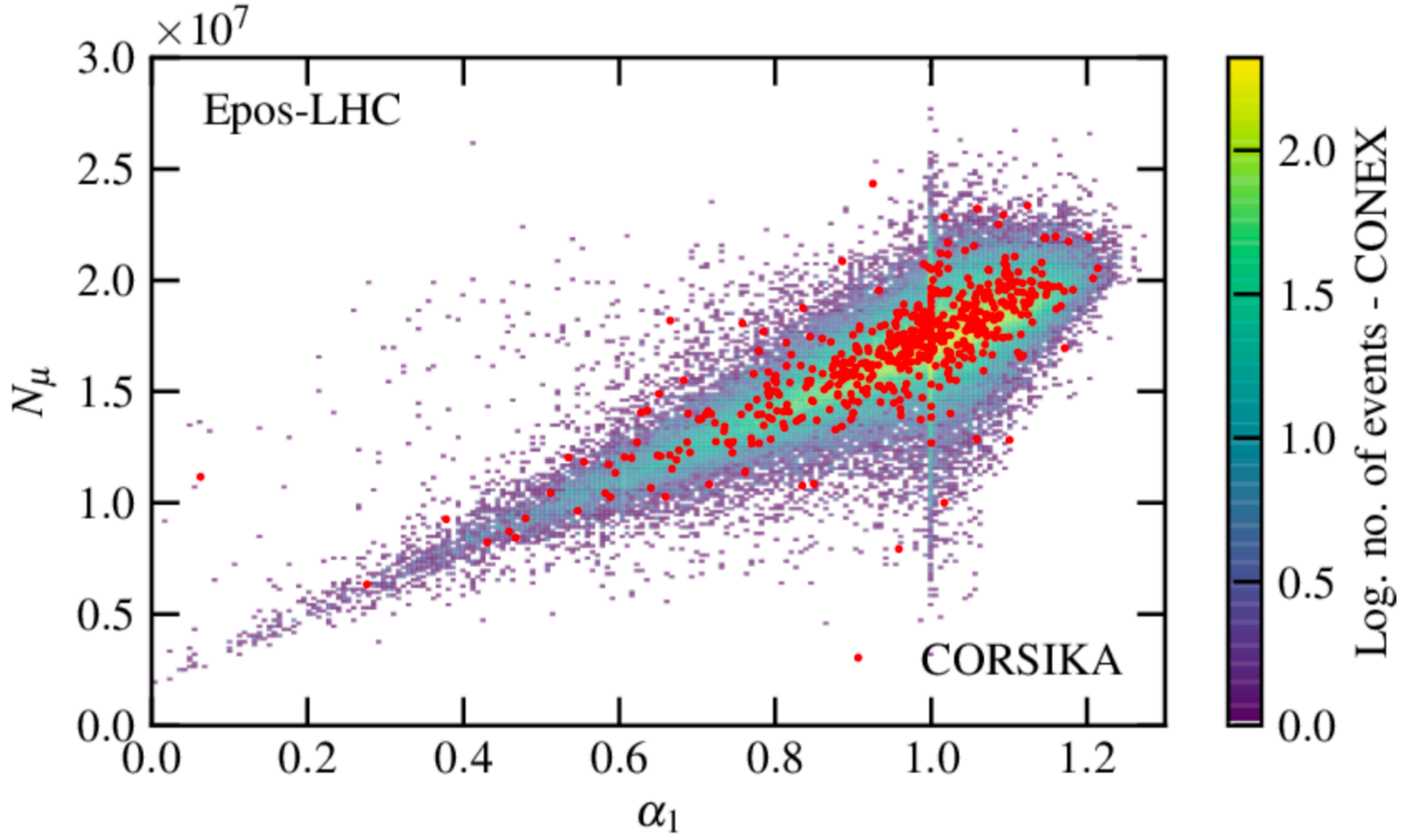
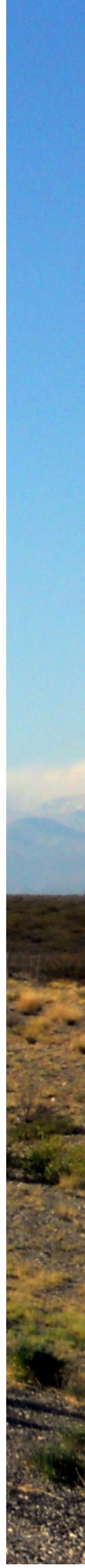


α_1 is the fraction of energy going into the hadronic sector in the first interaction

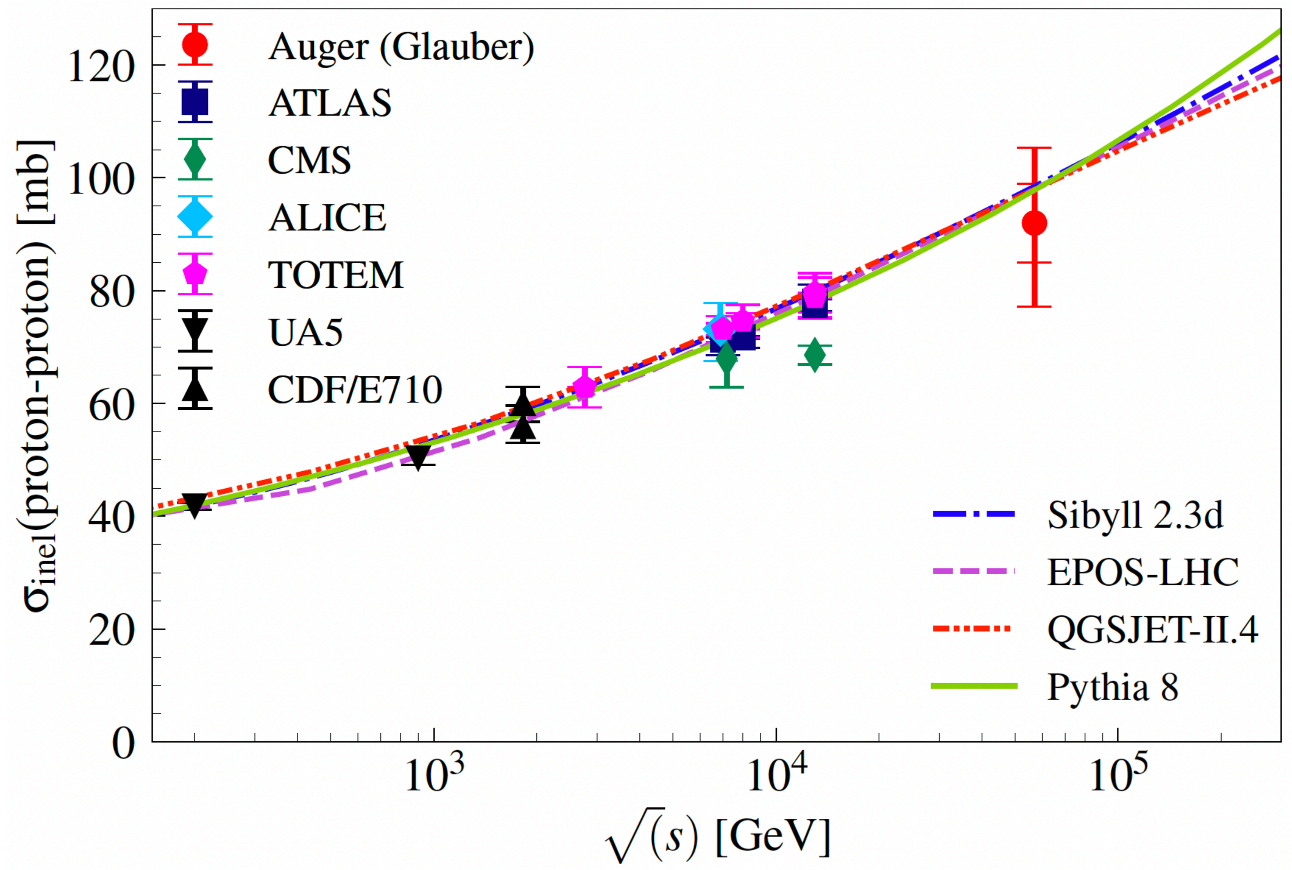
$$\sigma(\alpha_1) \rightarrow 70\,\%\ \sigma(N_\mu)$$

Suggestion that muon deficit might be related with description of low energy interactions



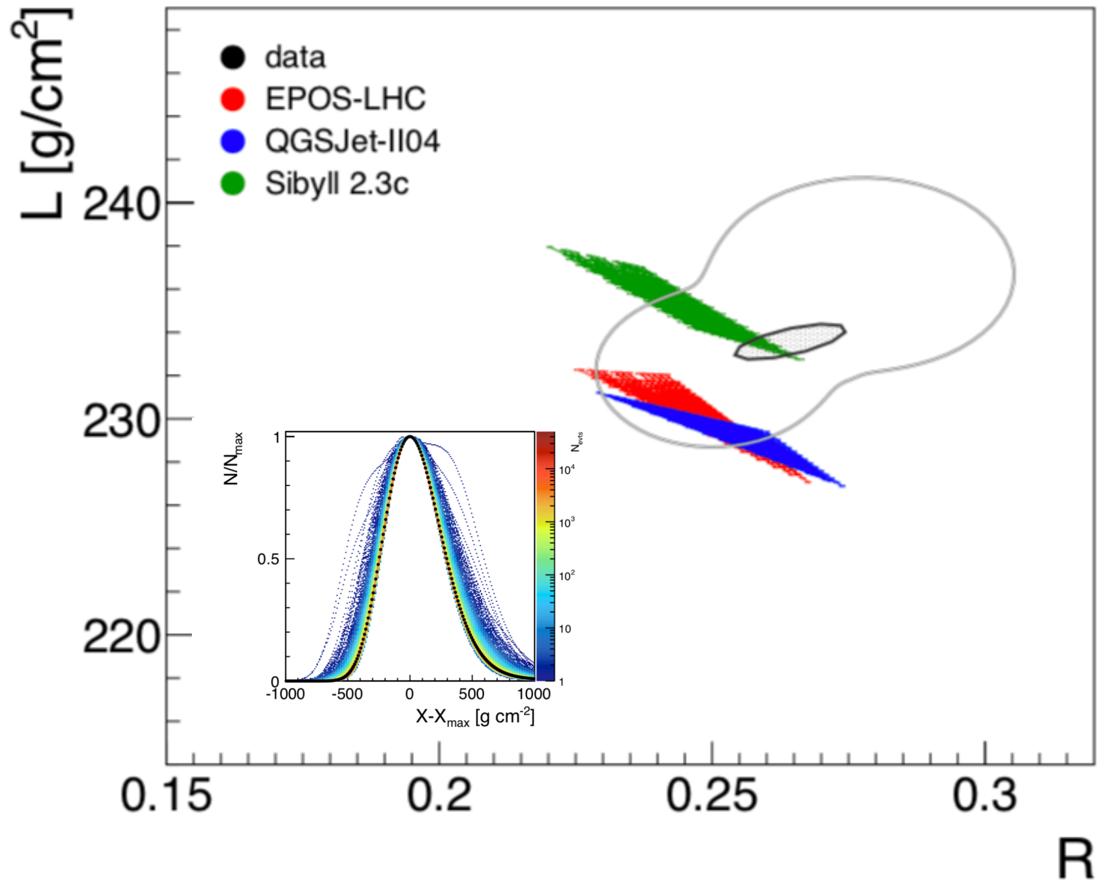
Many other EAS measurements…

Phys.Rev.Lett. 109 (2012) 062002



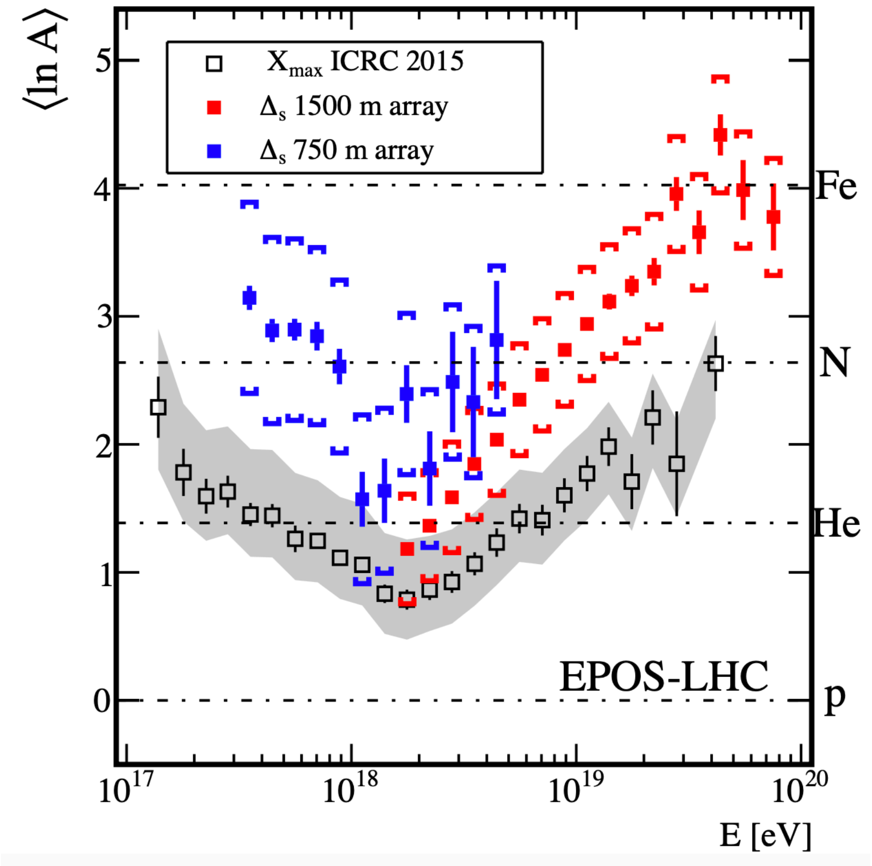
Measurement of the proton-air cross-section at E~10^{18} eV

JCAP 1903 (2019) no.03, 018



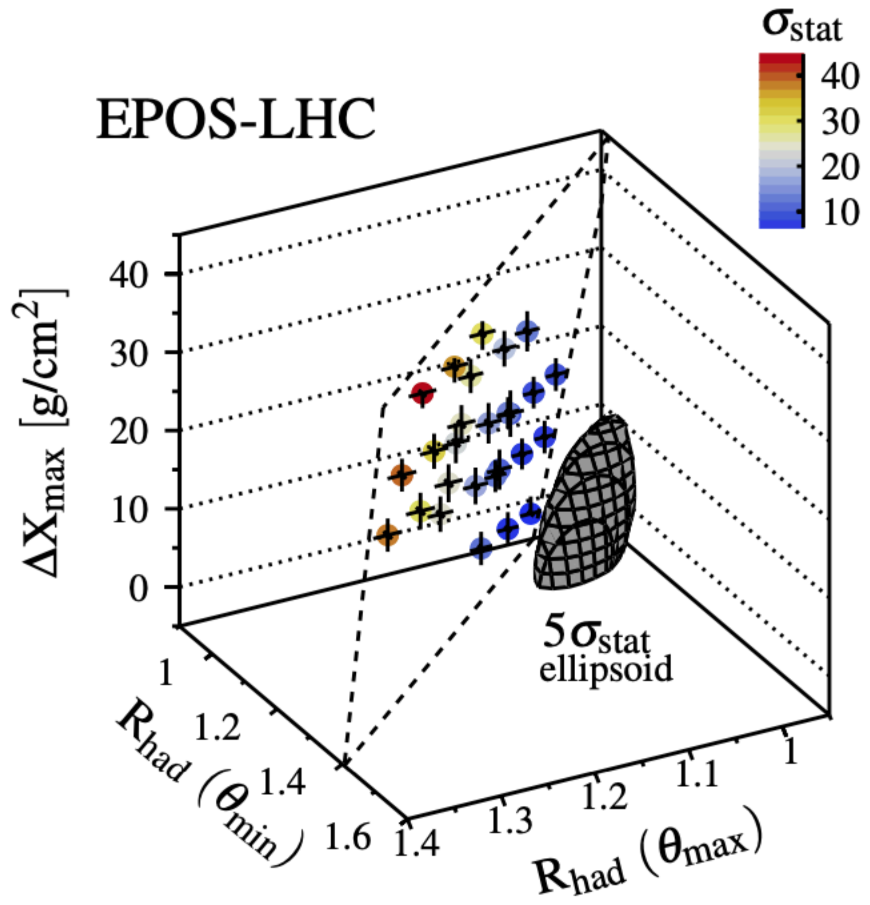
Measurement of average e.m. longitudinal profile shape

Phys.Rev.D 96 (2017) 12, 122003

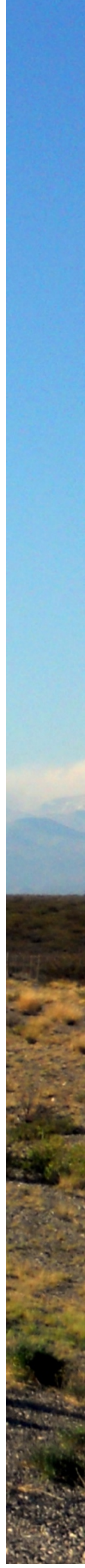


Measurement of time profiles of the signals recorded with the water-Cherenkov detectors

PoS ICRC (2021) 310



Simultaneous fits to the X_{max} (FD) and the ground signal (SD)

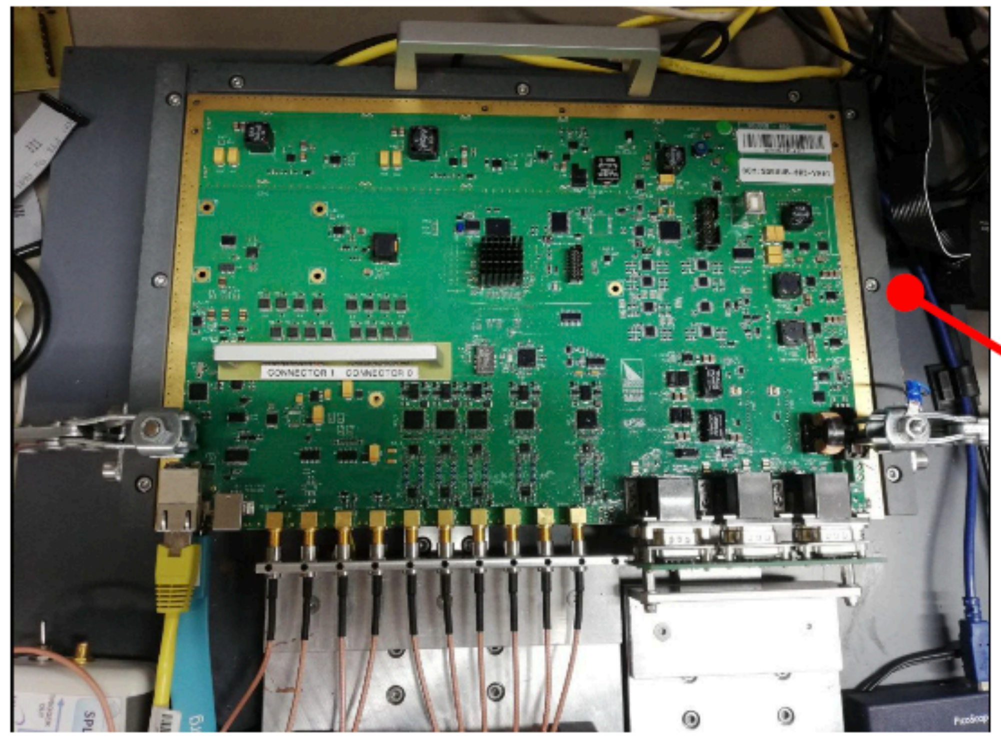


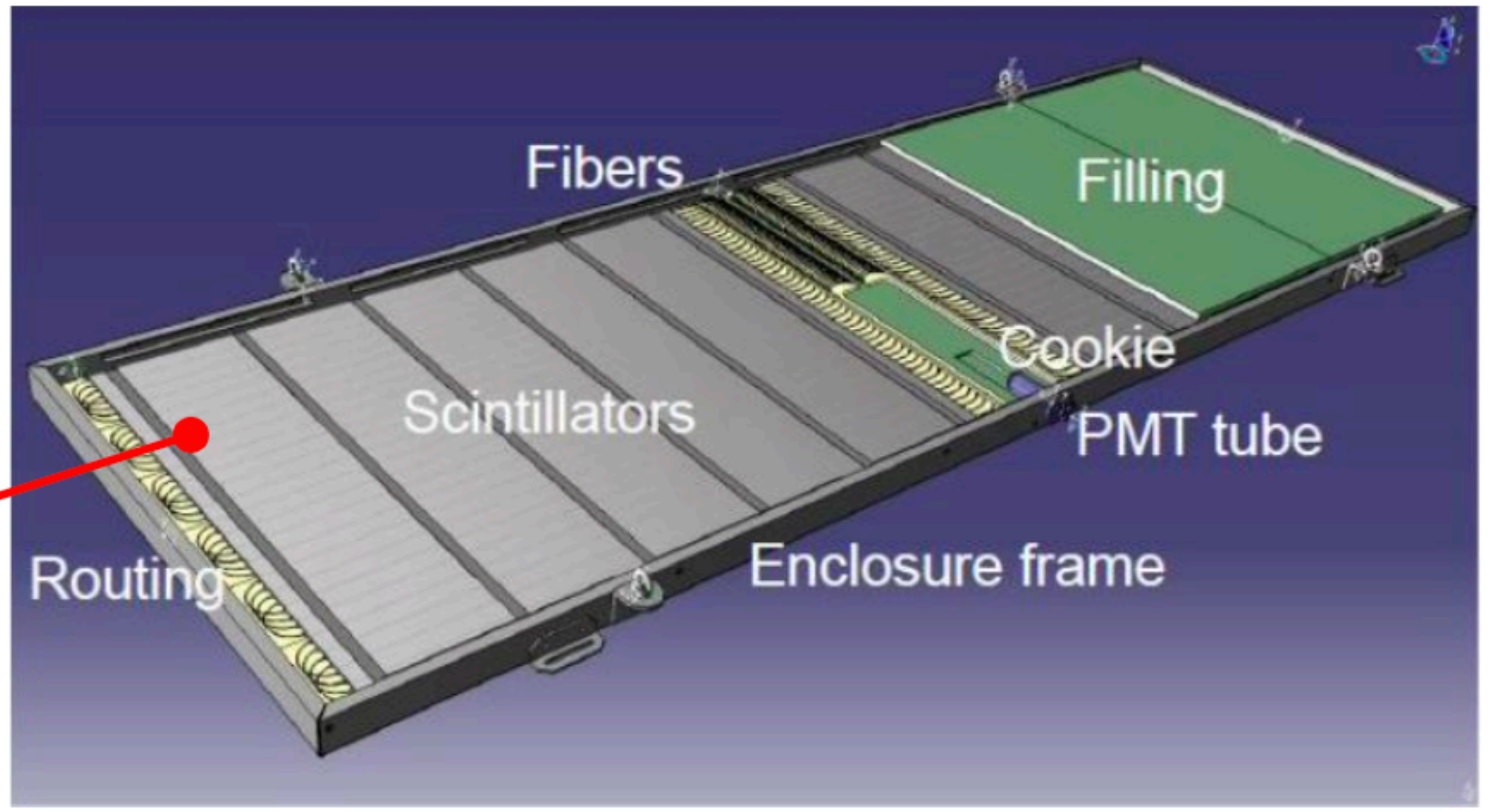
Pierre Auger Observatory

The future of the observatory

Auger Prime detectors

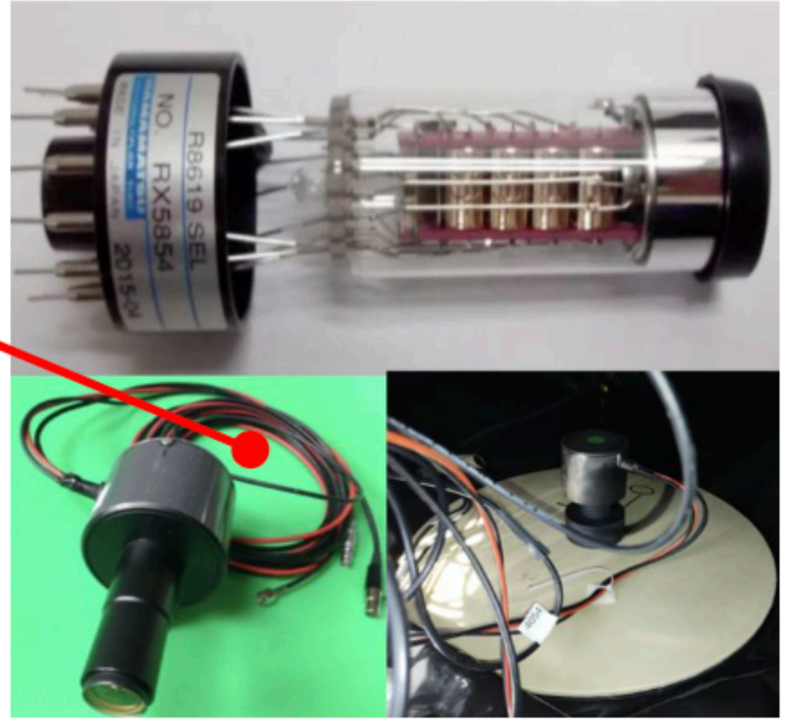
New electronics (UUB) and Scintillators(SSD)





Radio Upgrade

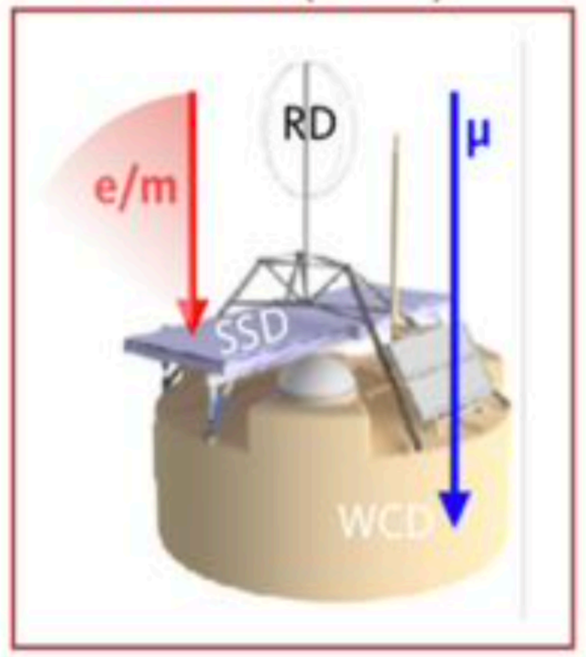
High dynamic range PMTs



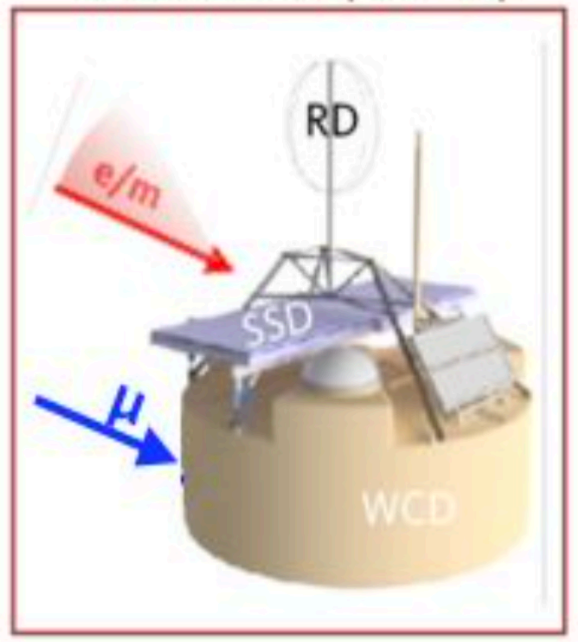
Underground Muon Detector (UMD)

The strategy

VERTICAL (0-60°)



HORIZONTAL (60-90°)

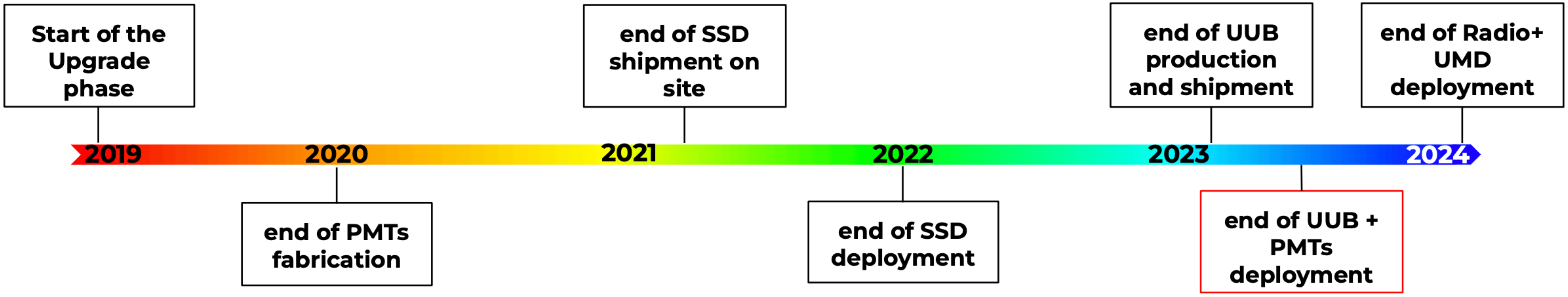


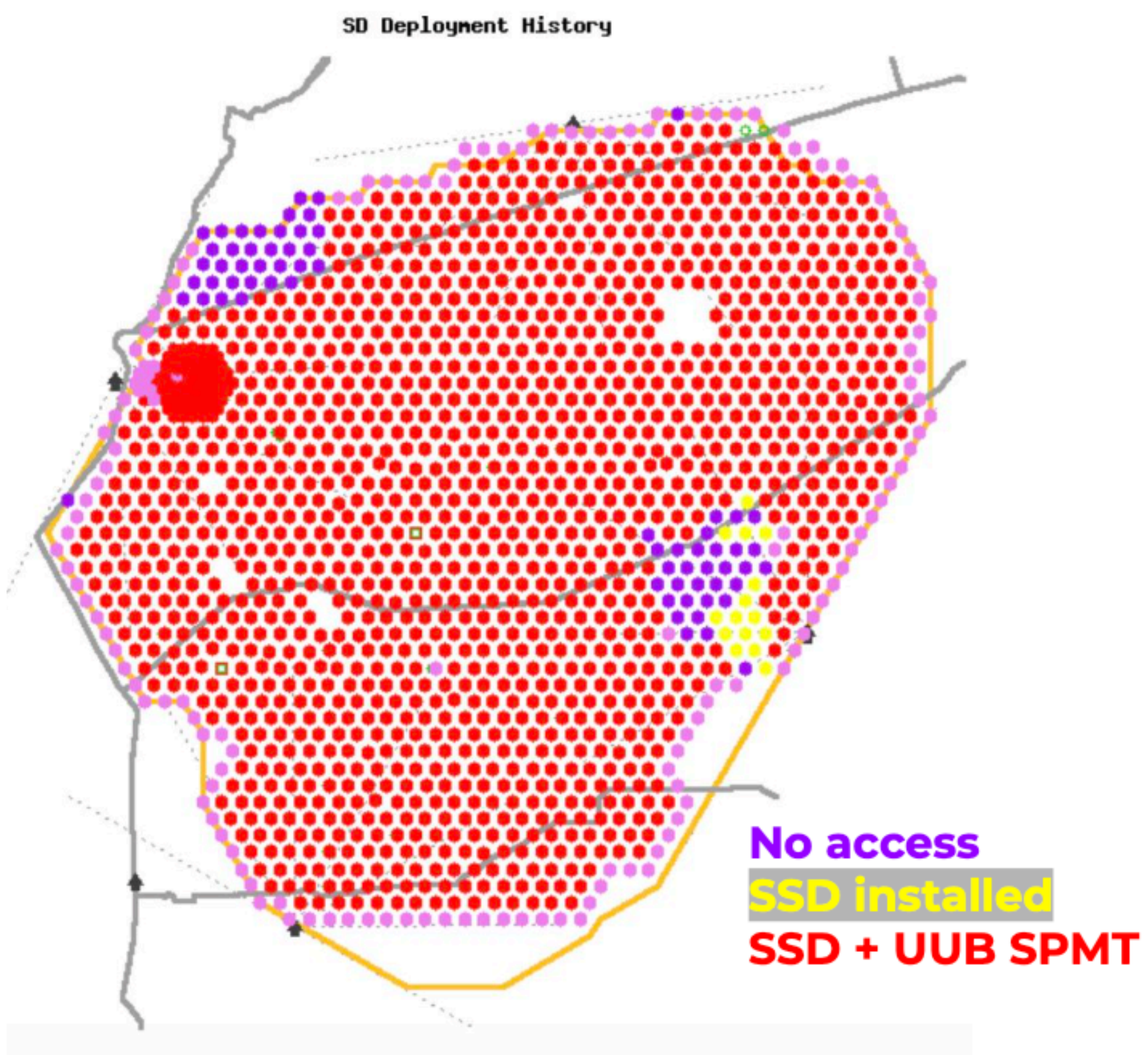
Auger Phase I data taking from 2004 on (from 2008 with the full array) to 2021

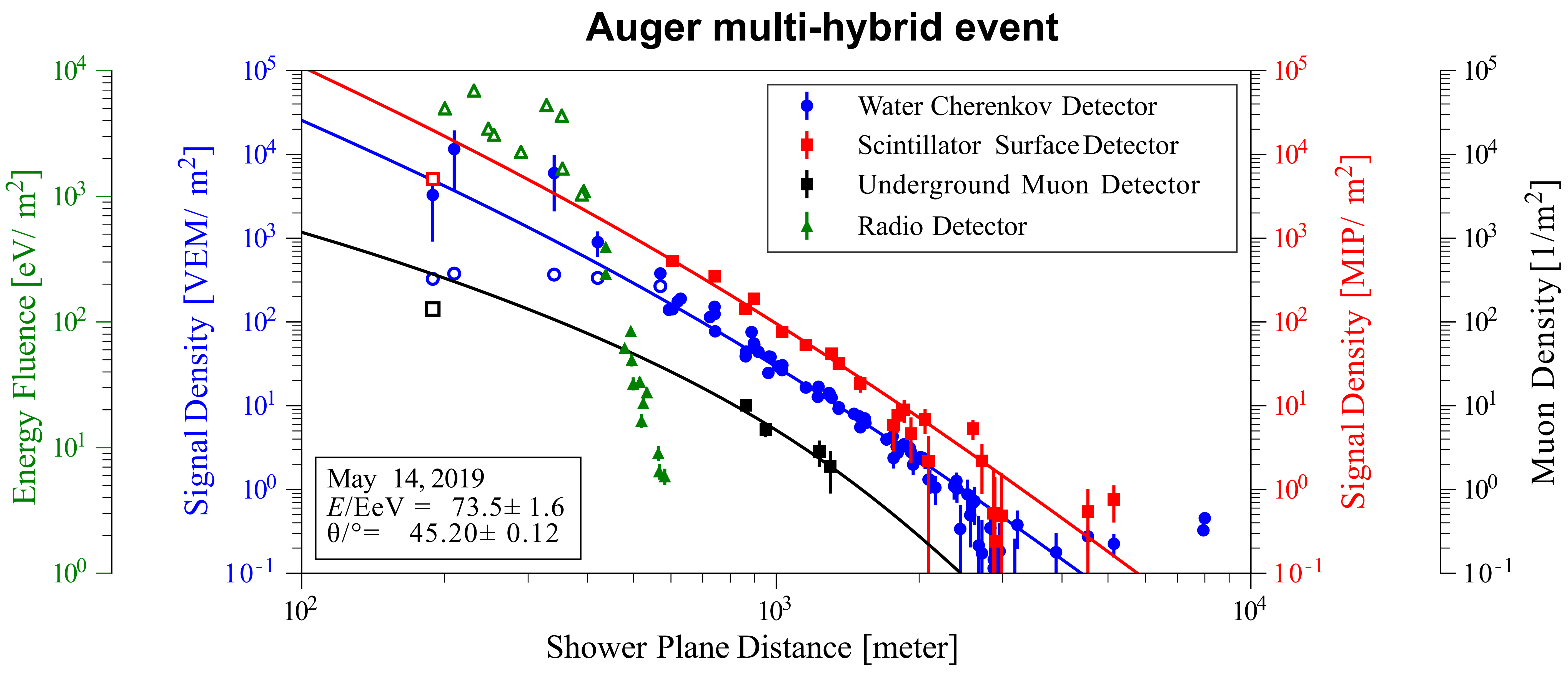
Auger Phase II data taking from 2022 to 2035

Ruben Conceição

AugerPrime timeline

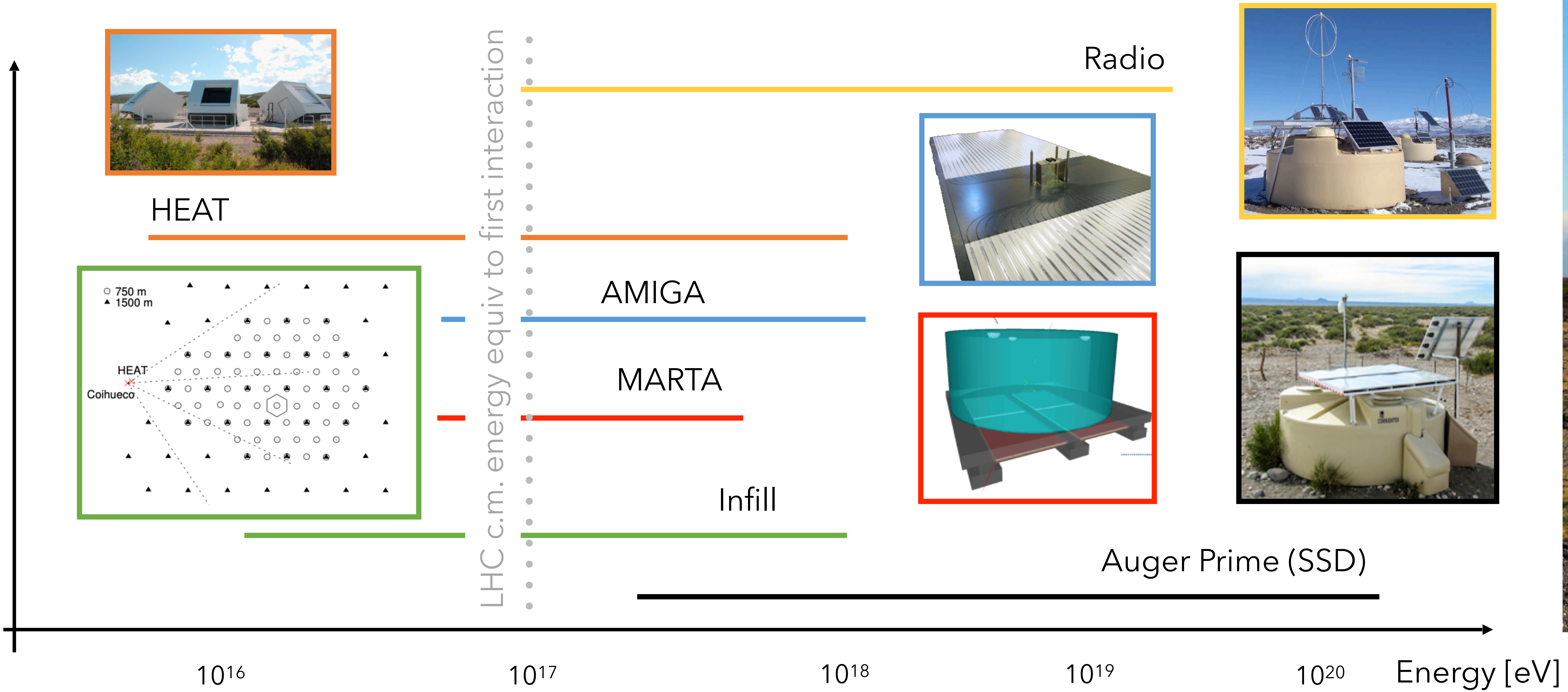






Multi-hybrid shower events

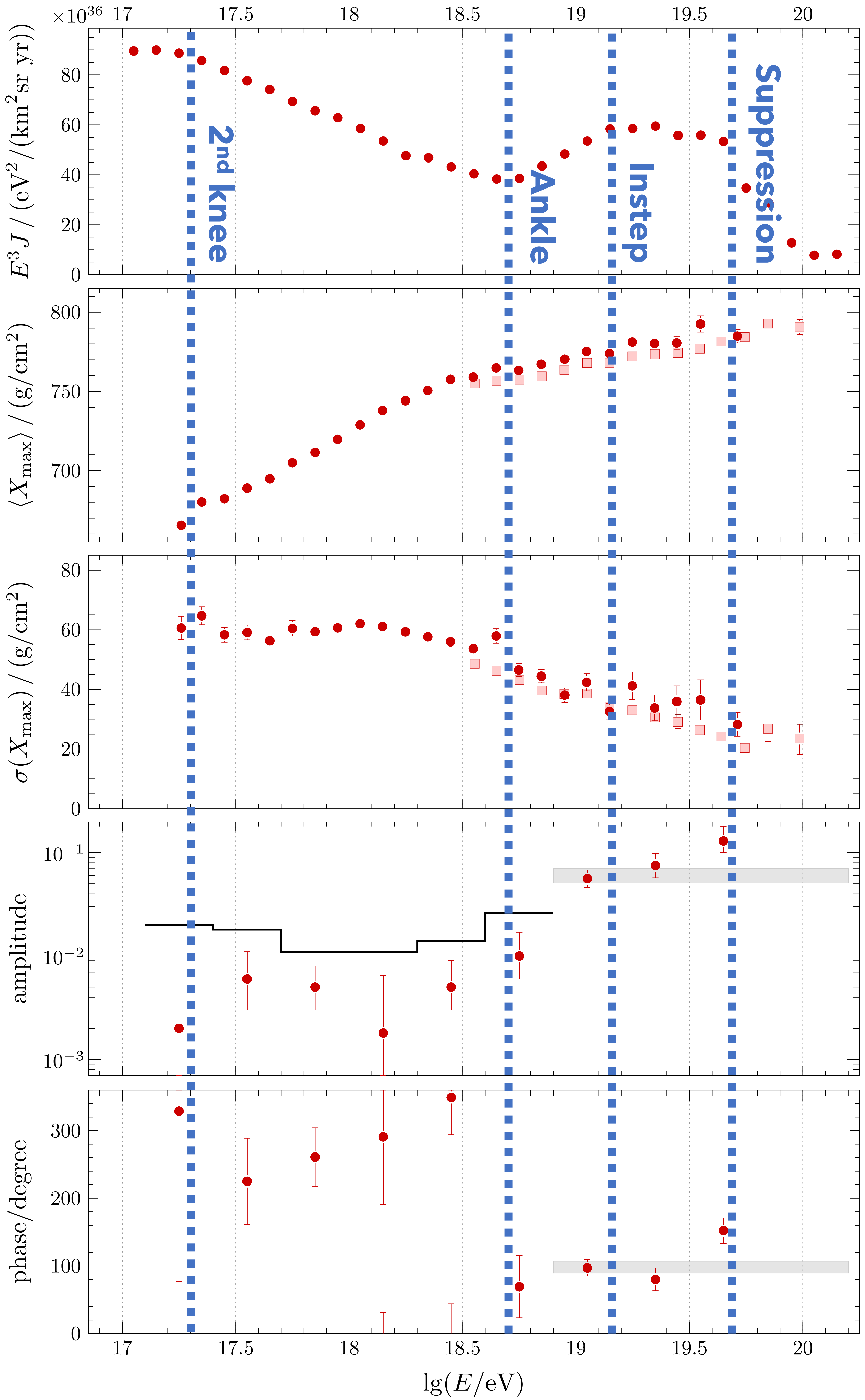
(A plethora of measurements to fully understand the shower)

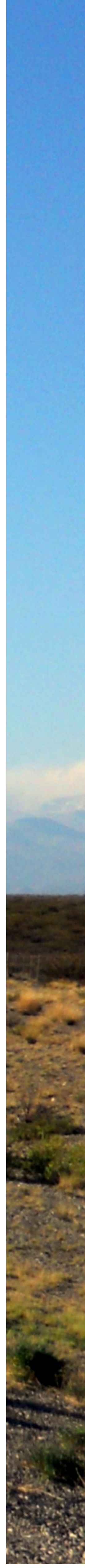


Summary

- ✧ Increasingly coherent picture emerging from Auger Phase I data (note that only a few results were shown: e.g. BSM searches, geo-cosmo physics…)
- ✧ The mass composition determination is essential to rule out scenarios
- ✧ The post-LHC hadronic interaction models are unable to provide a consistent description of the measured showers
- ✧ In the next years, a new set of multi-hybrid shower measurements (Auger Phase II) will be available to further constrain hadronic interactions properties in EAS

Shower Physics ⇨ **Mass Composition** ⇨ **UHECR Physics**





Acknowledgements

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