

# Recent observations in Galactic Cosmic Rays

Andrii Tykhonov



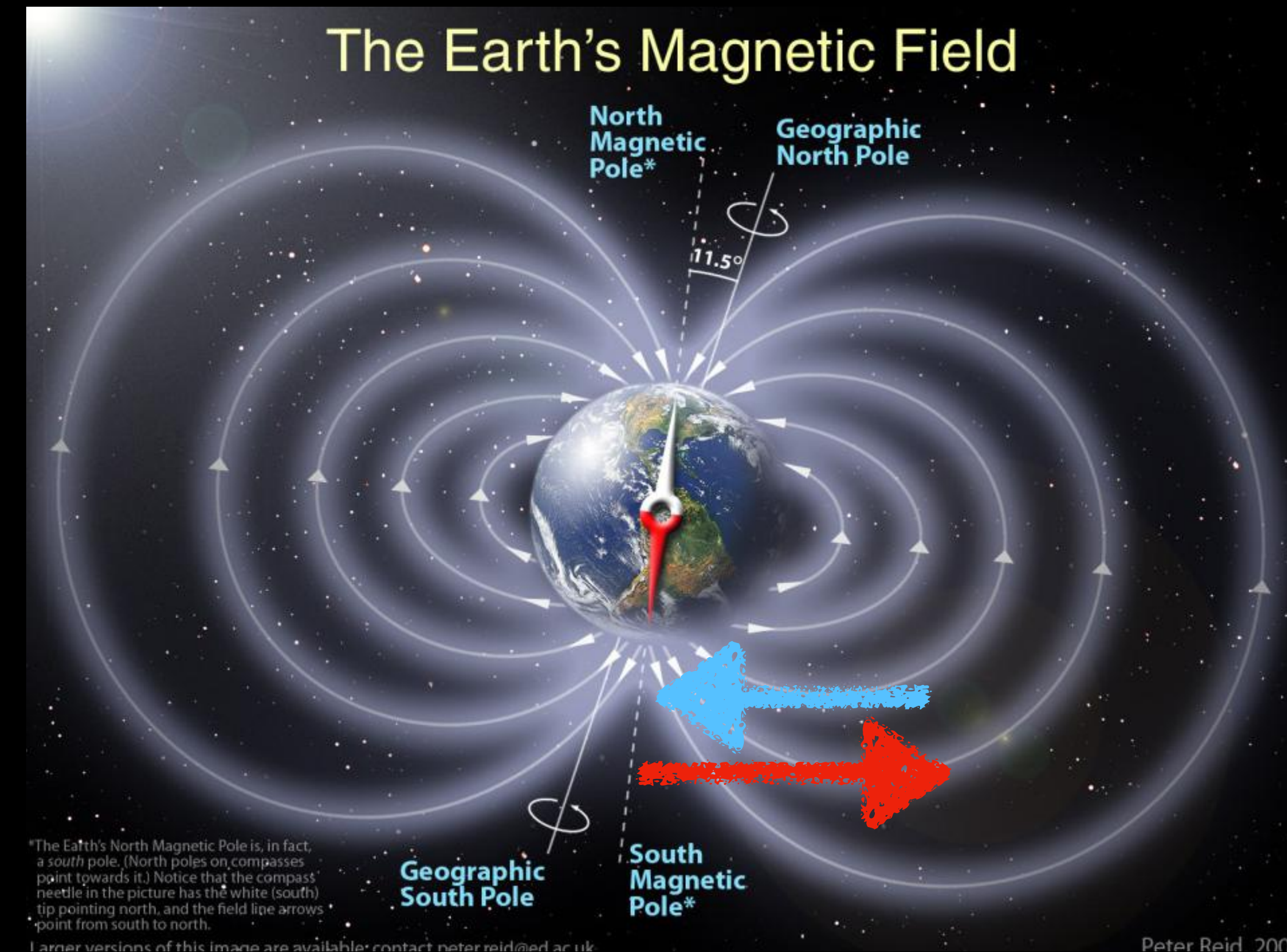
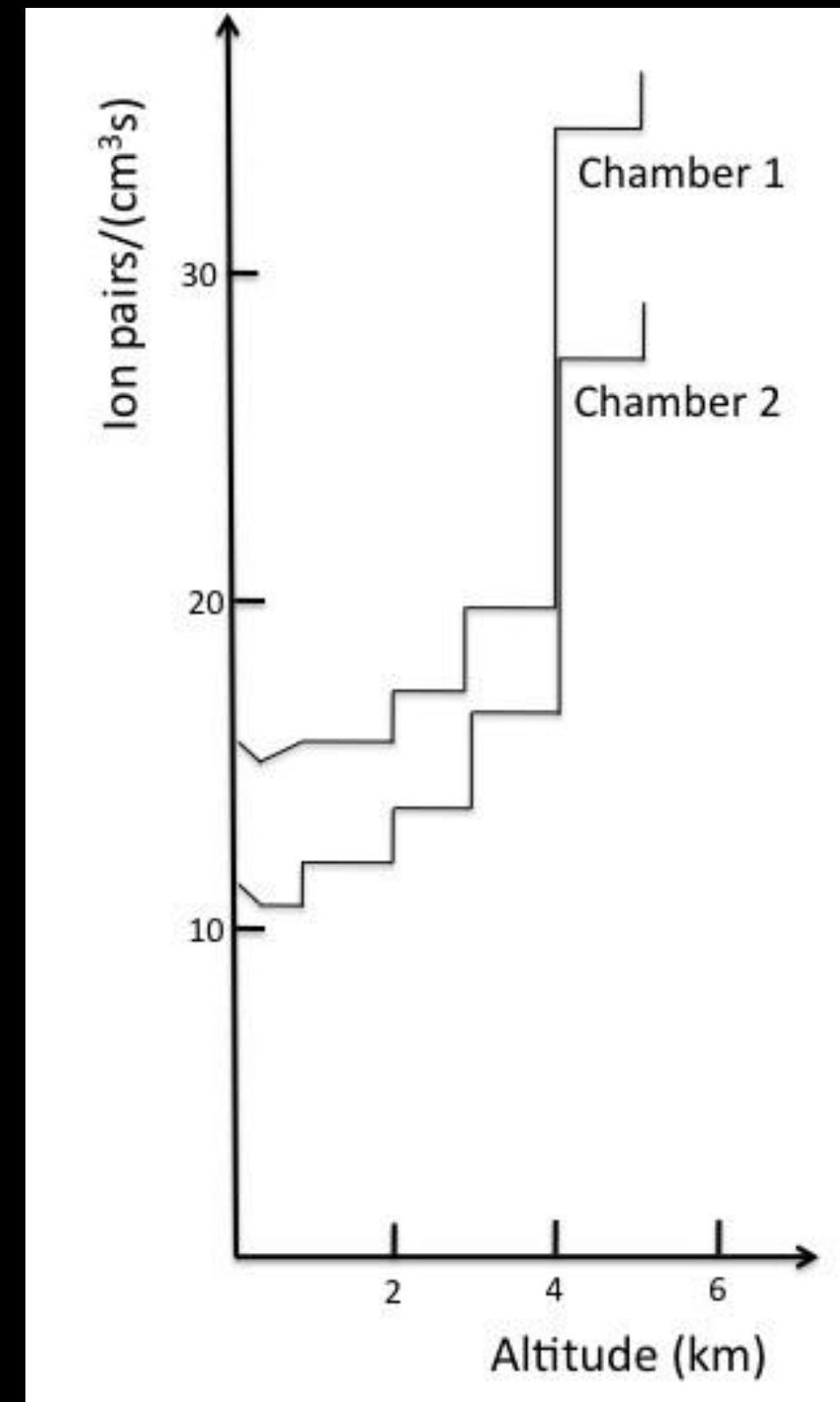
Geneva, March 20, 2024

# Outline

- Cosmic ray history and current landscape
- Space experiments & results
  - Protons, ions
  - Electrons, positrons
- Ground-based experiments & results
  - Spectrum & composition
  - Anisotropy



First hints of already in 18<sup>th</sup> century (Coulomb)  
 1912 — Discovery of Cosmic Rays in ballon flight (Victor Hess)



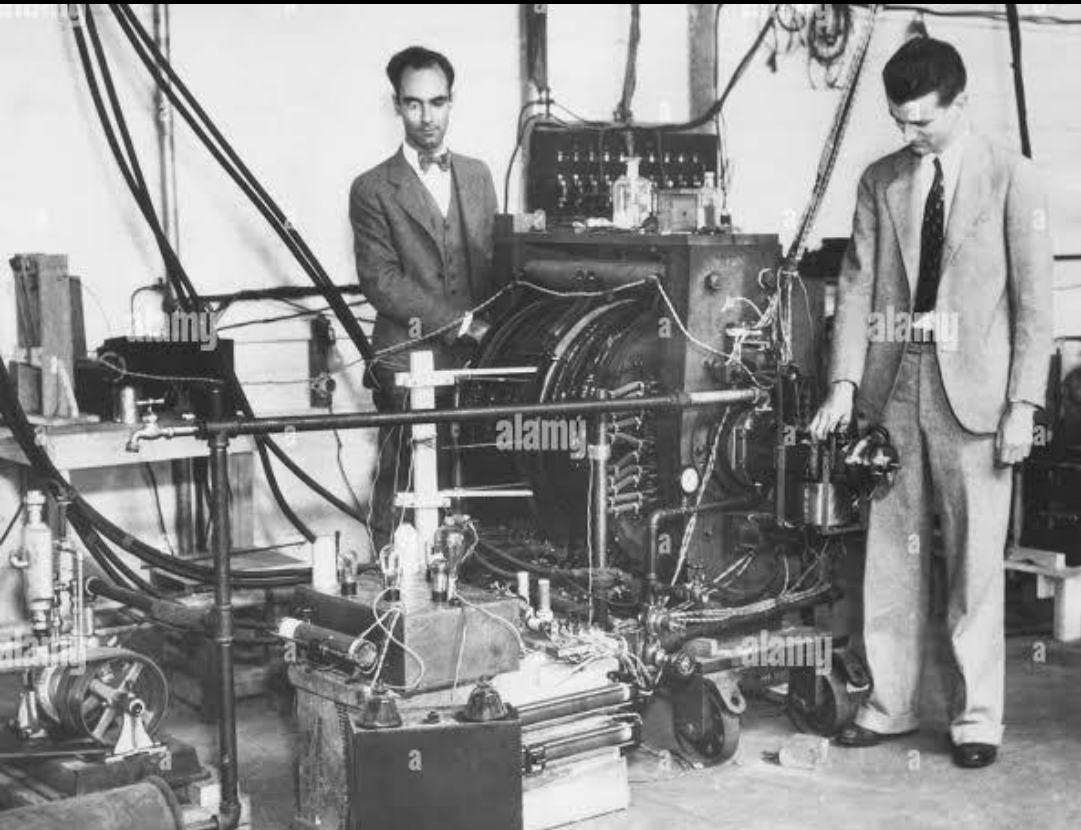
B. Rossi: due to earth magnetic field, flux of cosmic rays is different between east and west directions — cosmic rays are charged!

# First particle physics discoveries in cosmic rays (before accelerators era)



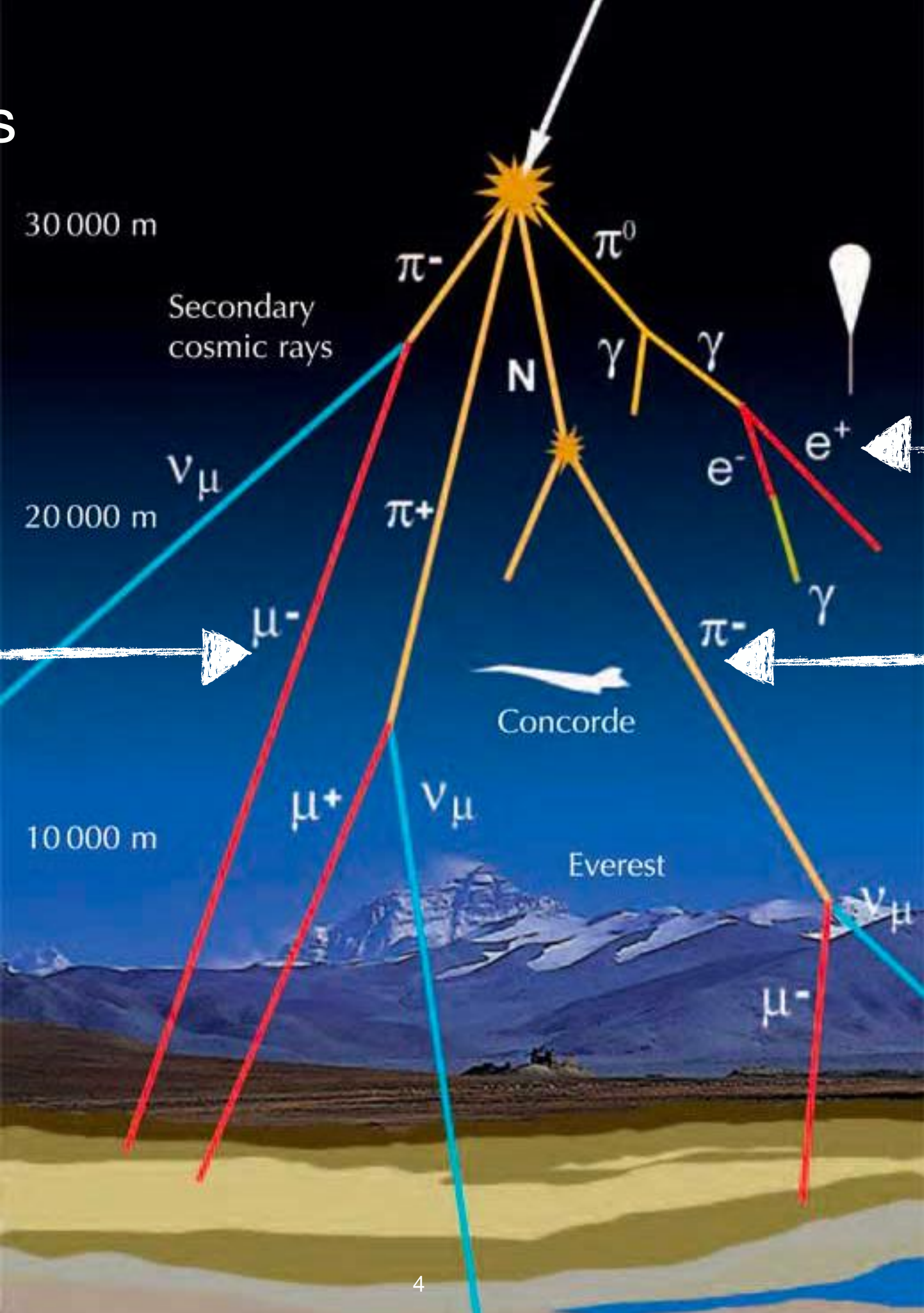
Carl David Anderson

1932



Seth Neddermeyer and Carl Anderson

1936



1947



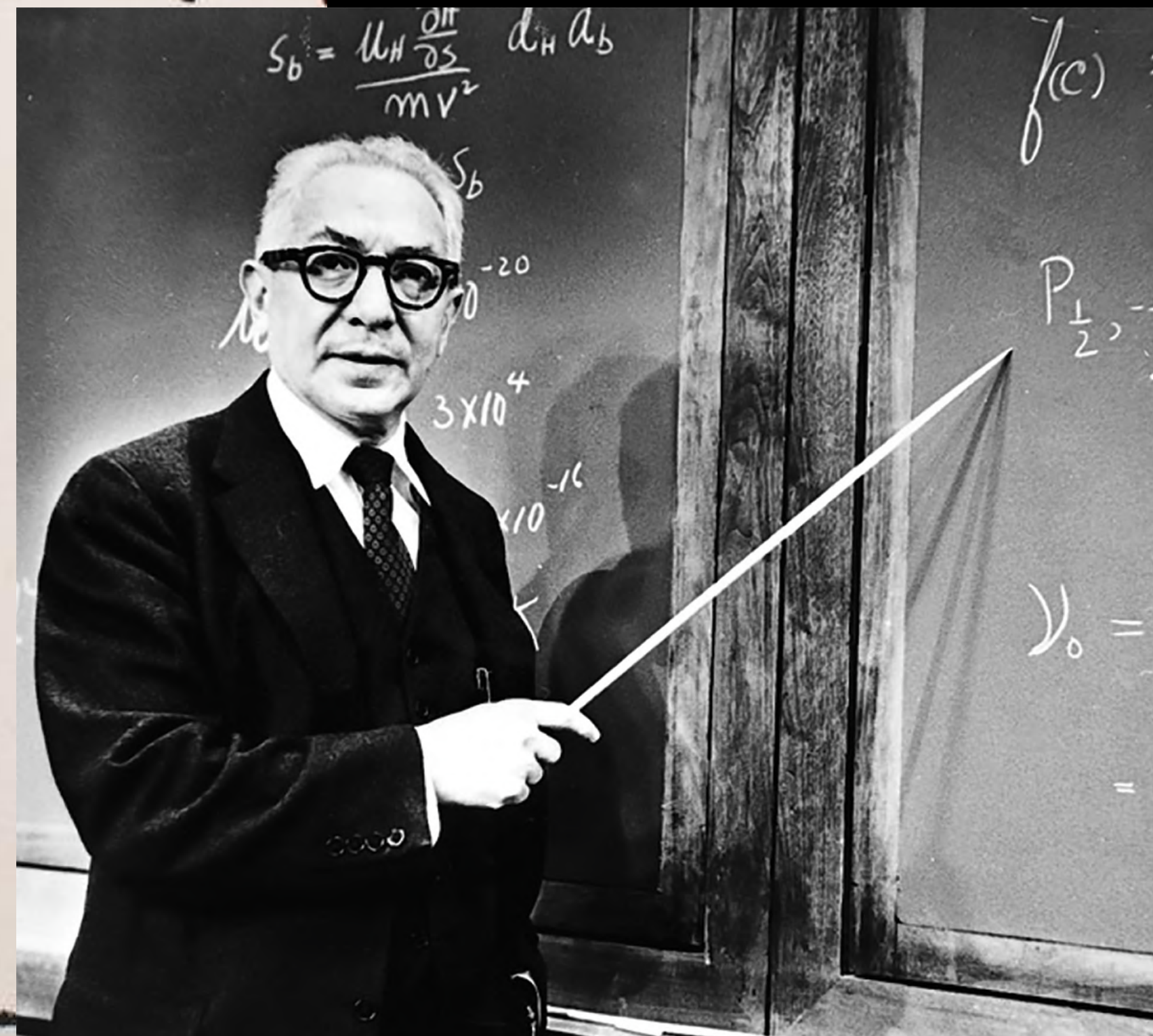
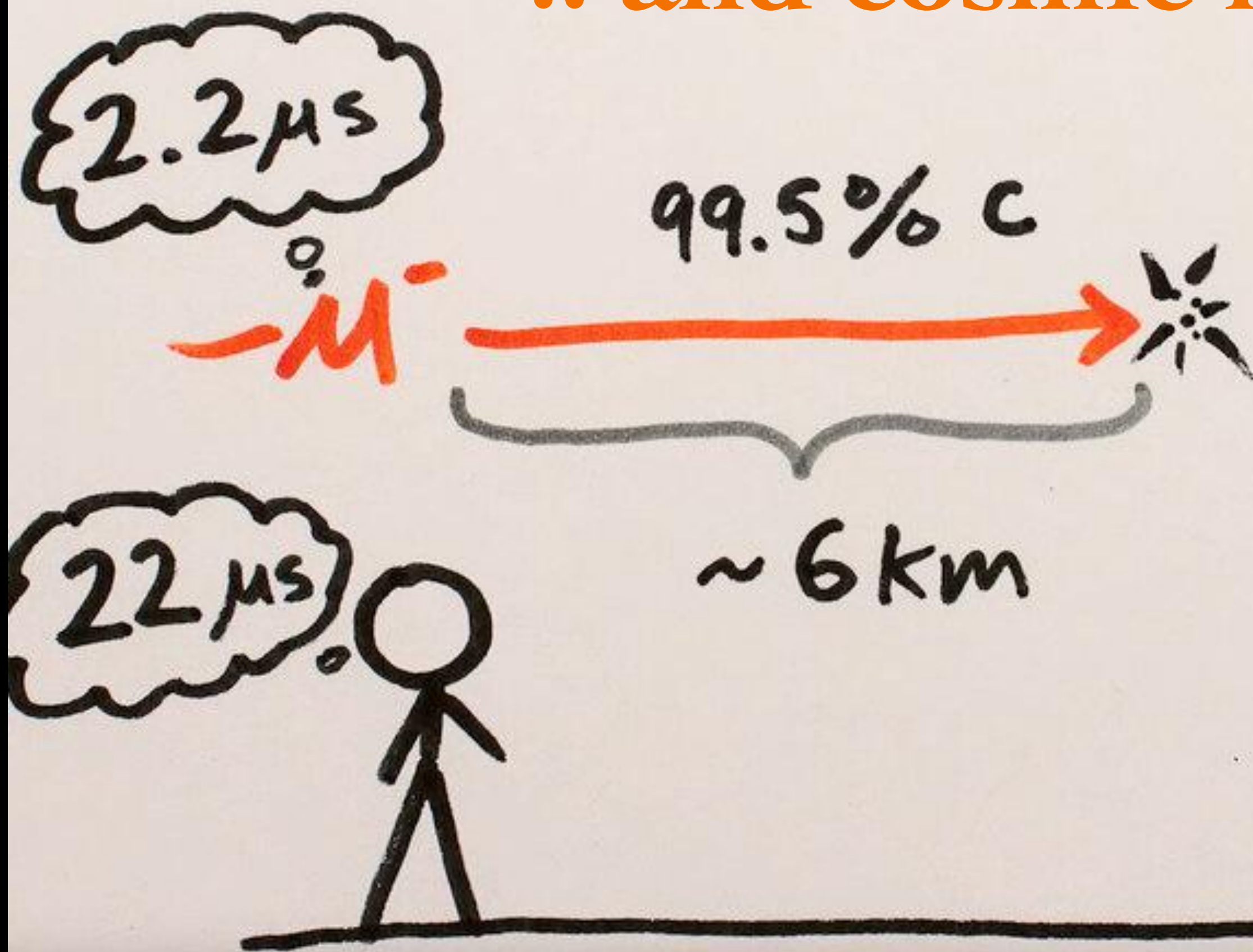
Cecil Powell

Many more discoveries, K, Λ ..

# Time Dilation

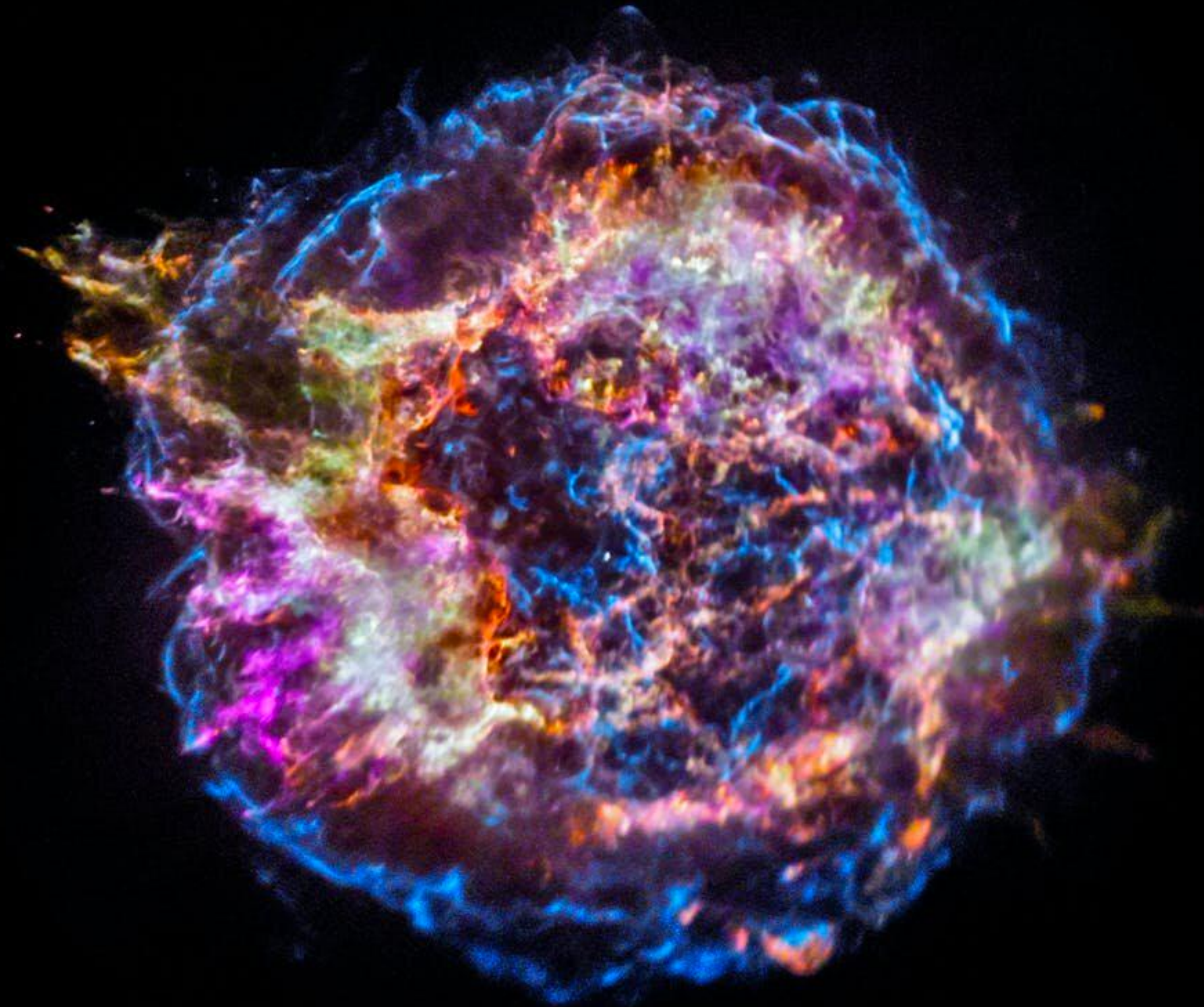
.. and cosmic muons

$$\Delta t = \Delta t_{\mu} \cdot \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}$$

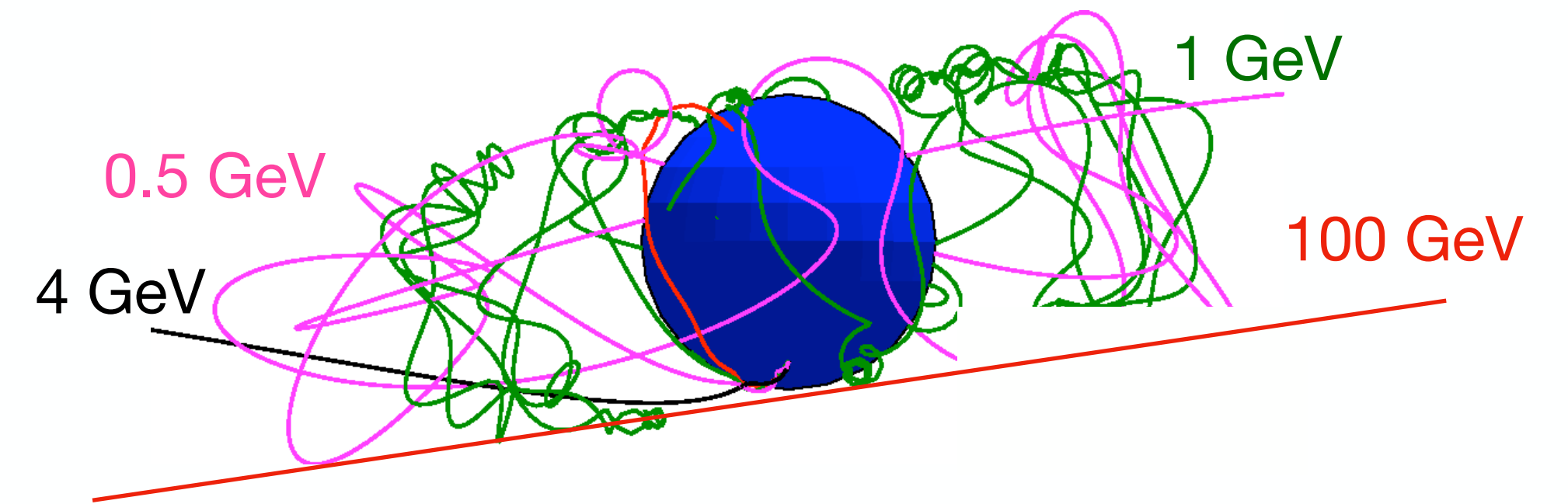
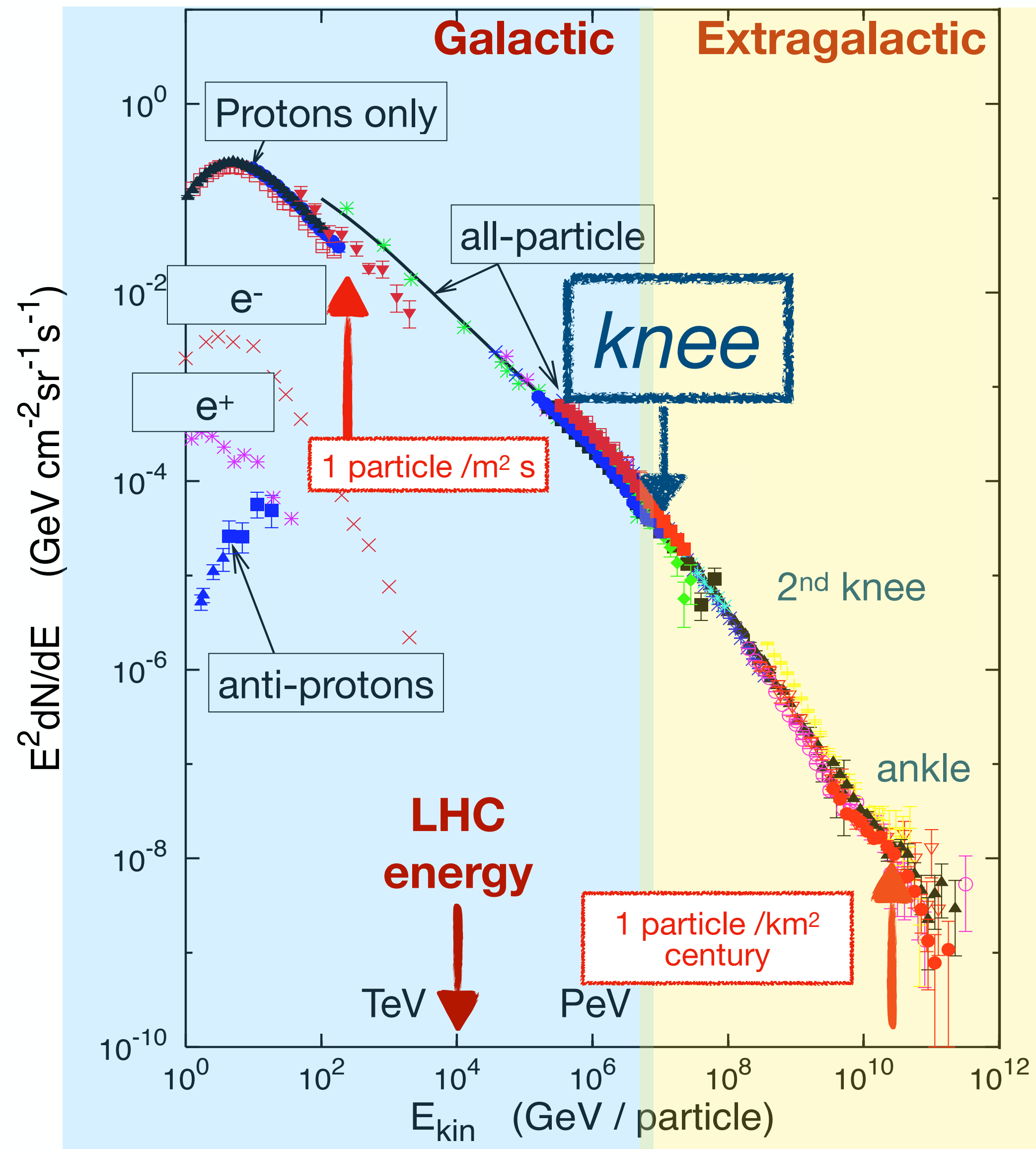


Isidor Isaac Rabi:  
"who ordered that?"

# Cosmic Ray landscape

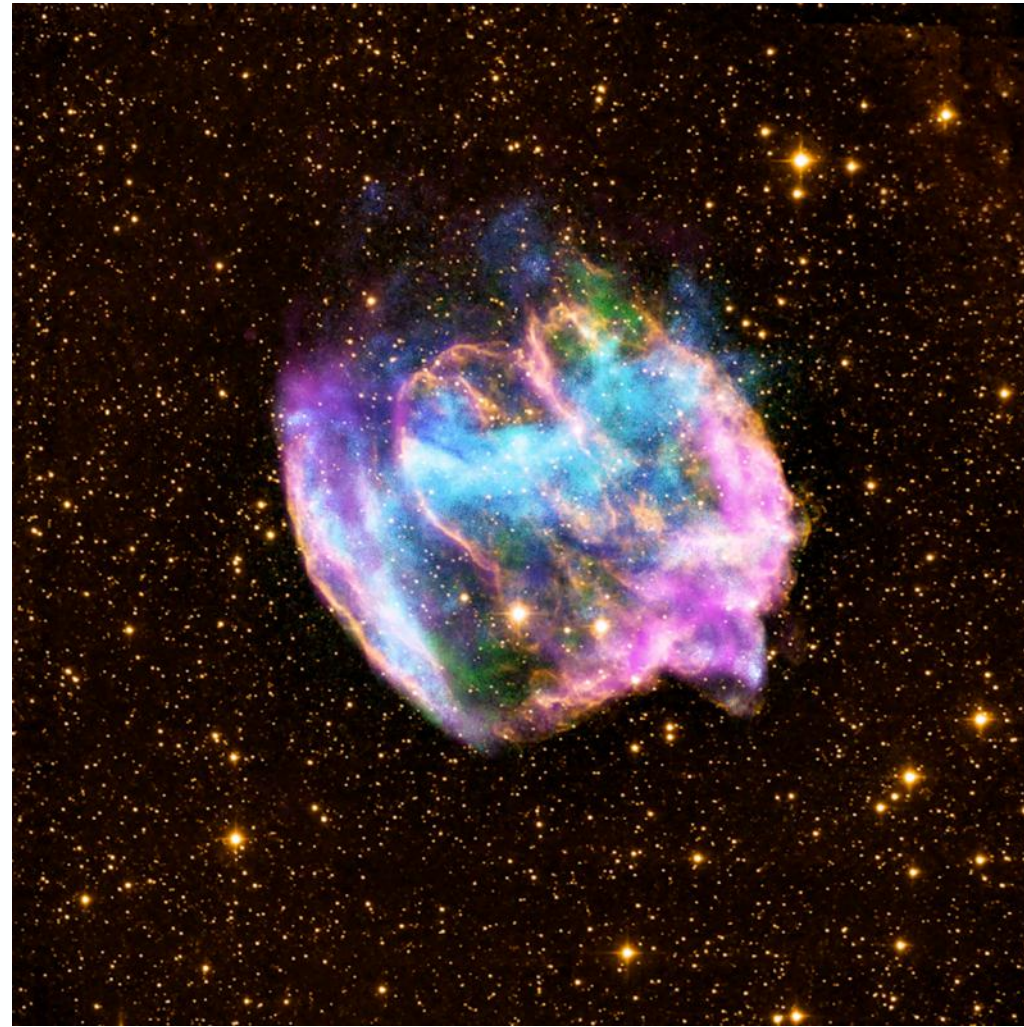


# Cosmic Ray composition and spectrum

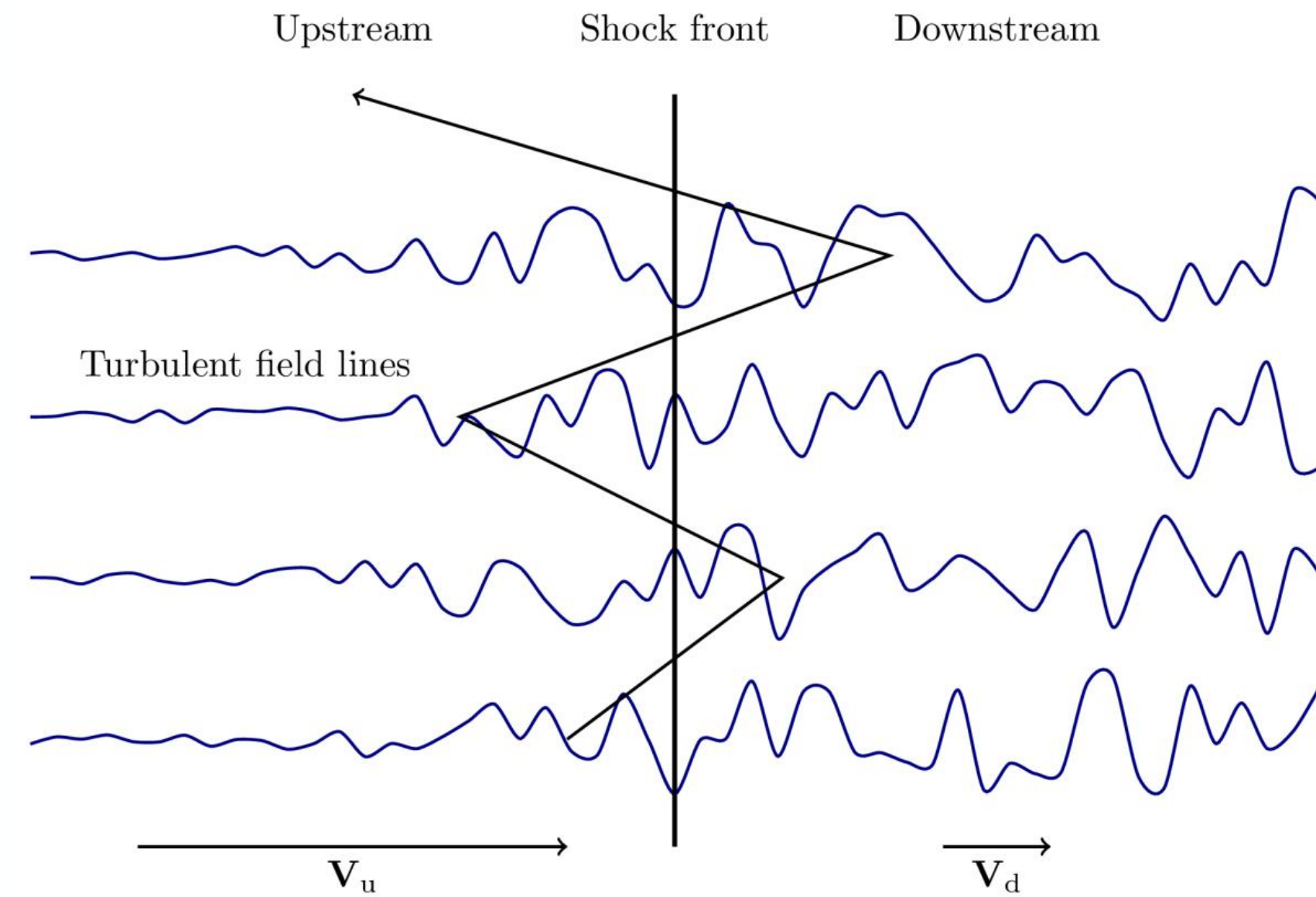


- Composition:
  - 85–90%  $p$ , 10%  $He$ , few %  $ions$ , <1%  $e$
- Maximum energy  $\sim 10^{20}$  eV (GZK cutoff)
  - Limited by interaction with cosmic microwave background
- Spectrum consists of different power-laws
  - $dN/dE \propto \sim E^{-2.7}$  up to the “knee”
- **The “knee” (region around few PeV)**
  - Galactic sources “work” up to  $\sim$ PeV scale

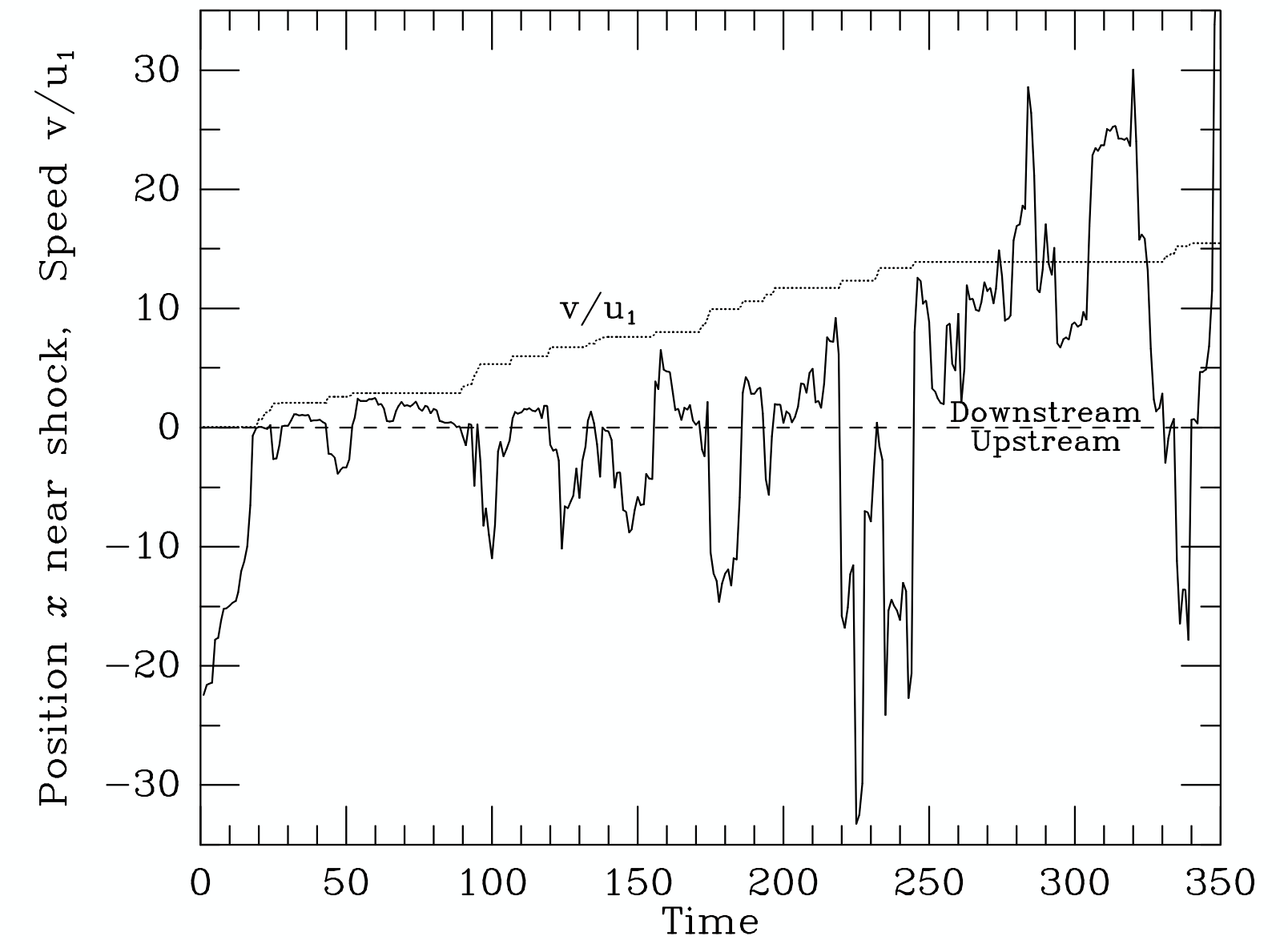
# Cosmic Ray acceleration



Supernova explosion  
(a few per century)



Propagating shock wave front

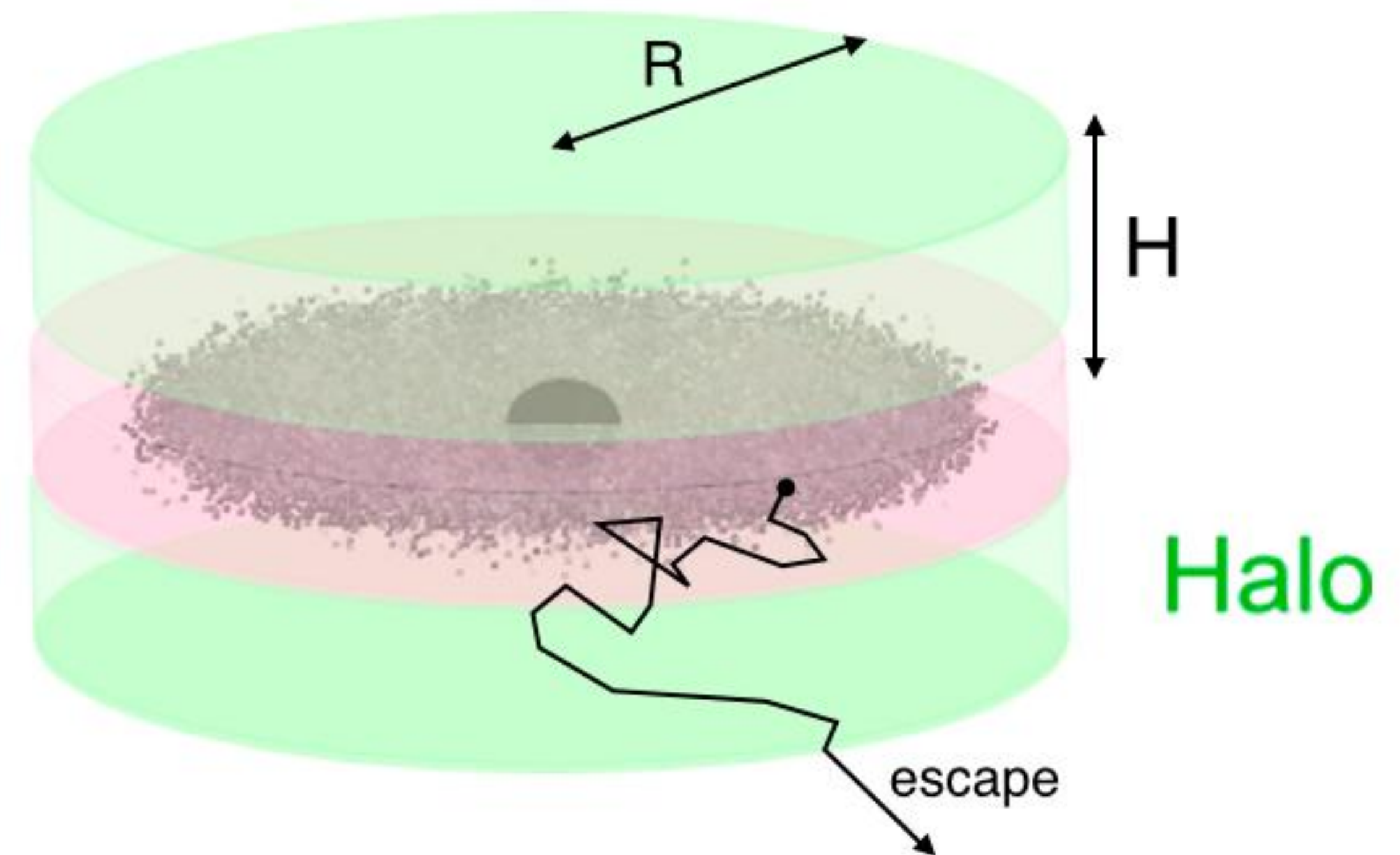
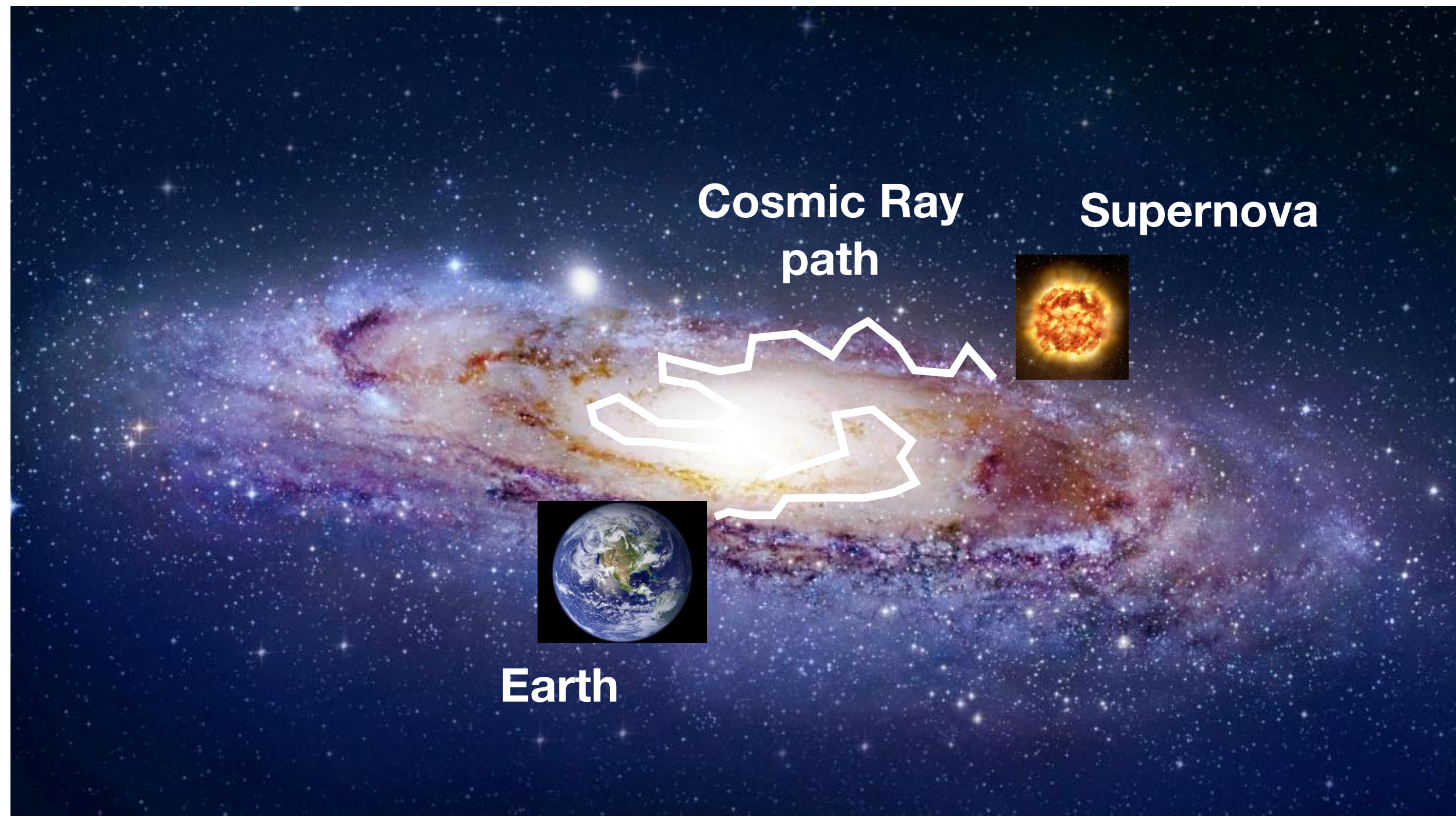


Particle gaining energy each  
time crossing the shock front

Diffusive Shock Acceleration mechanism suggested by Fermi: **Flux  $\sim E^{-2}$**



# Cosmic Ray propagation



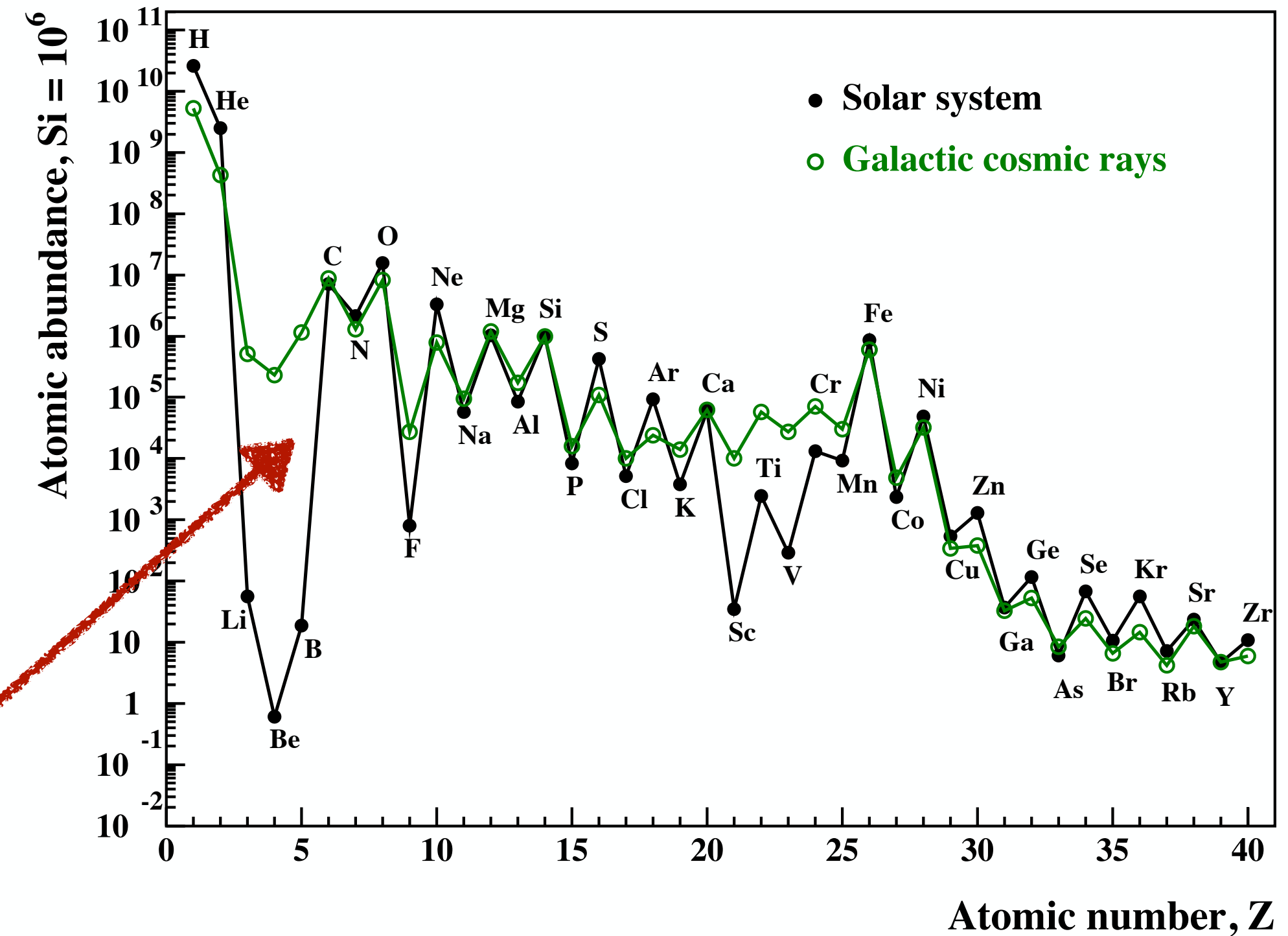
- Cosmic rays “scatter” diffusively in turbulent magnetic fields (in analogy to heat transfer)
  - Travel (confined) in Galaxy for **millions of years**, before reaching us
  - Part of them escape from the surface of the galaxy disk (“leaky box” model)
  - Direction becomes isotropic

# Cosmic Rays: Primaries & Secondaries

## Primary Cosmic Rays: $p$ , $e^-$ , $He$ , $C$ , $O$ , $Fe$

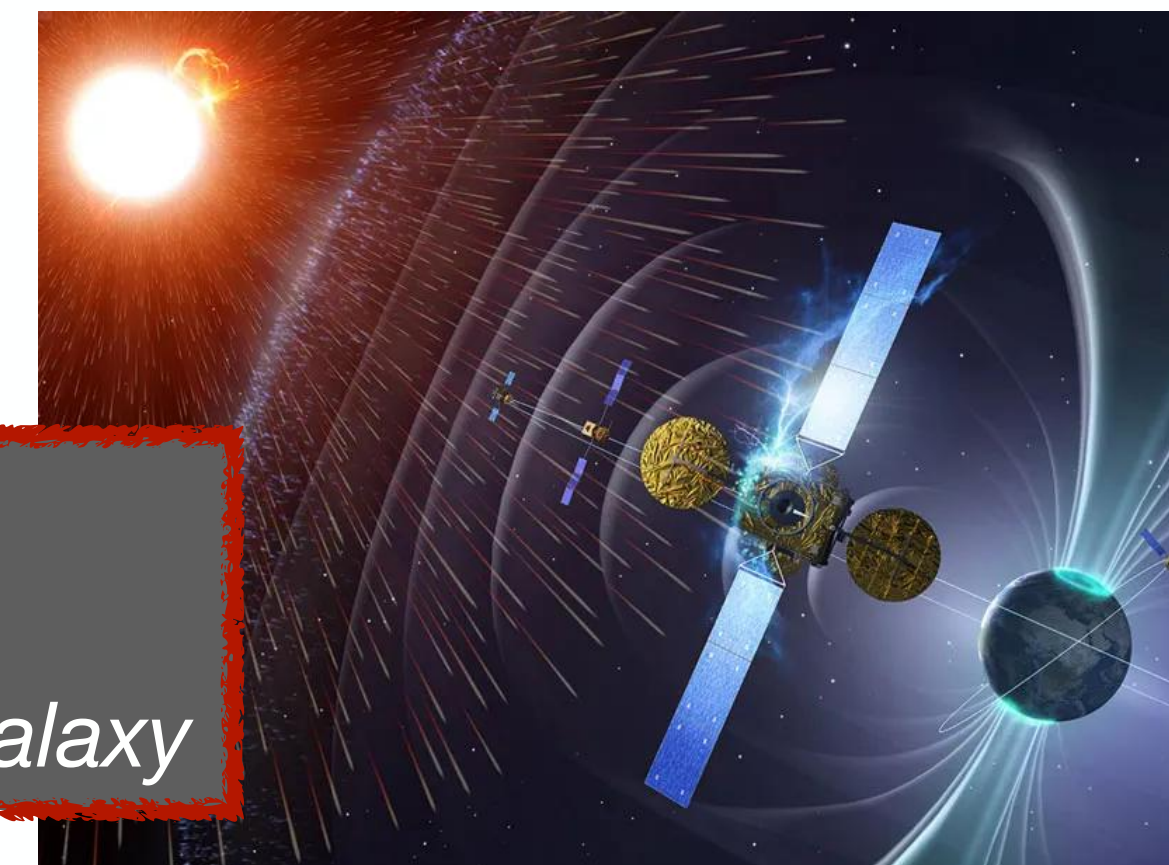
- Create secondaries during propagation and interaction with interstellar medium
- Traverse on average  $\sim 10 \text{ g/cm}^2$
- Propagation modifies spectral index:

$$P(E) \propto E^{-2-\Delta}$$

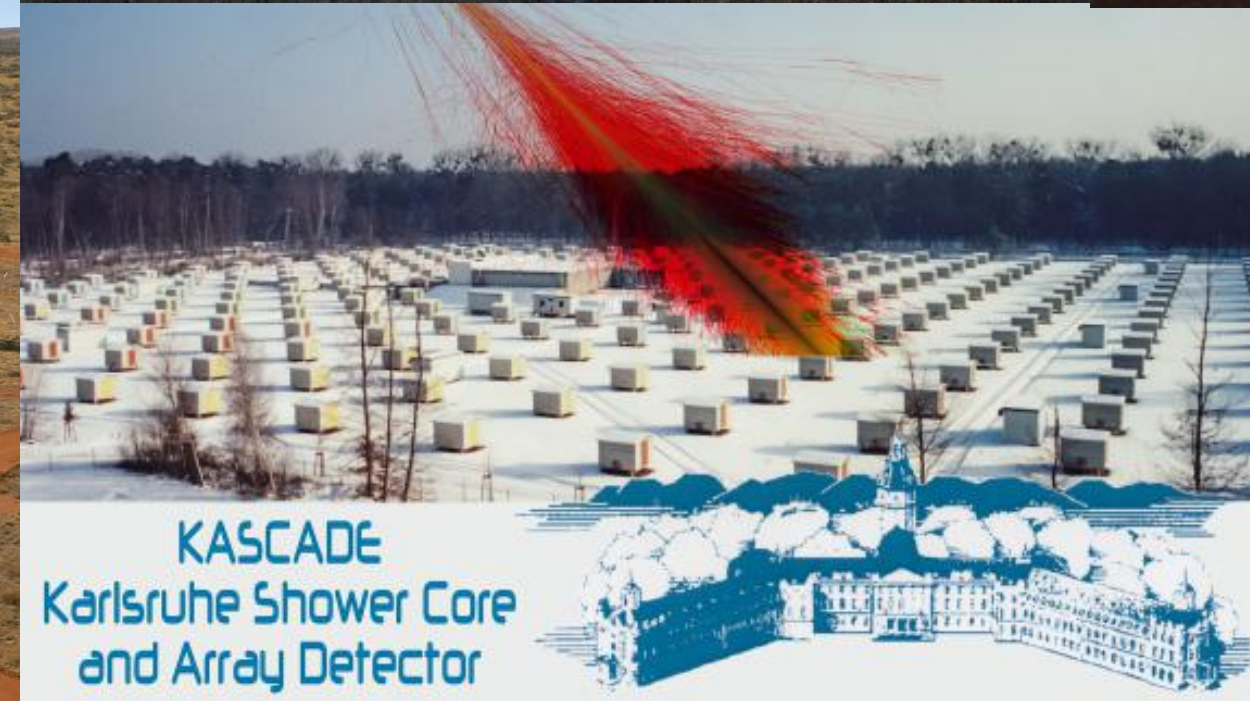
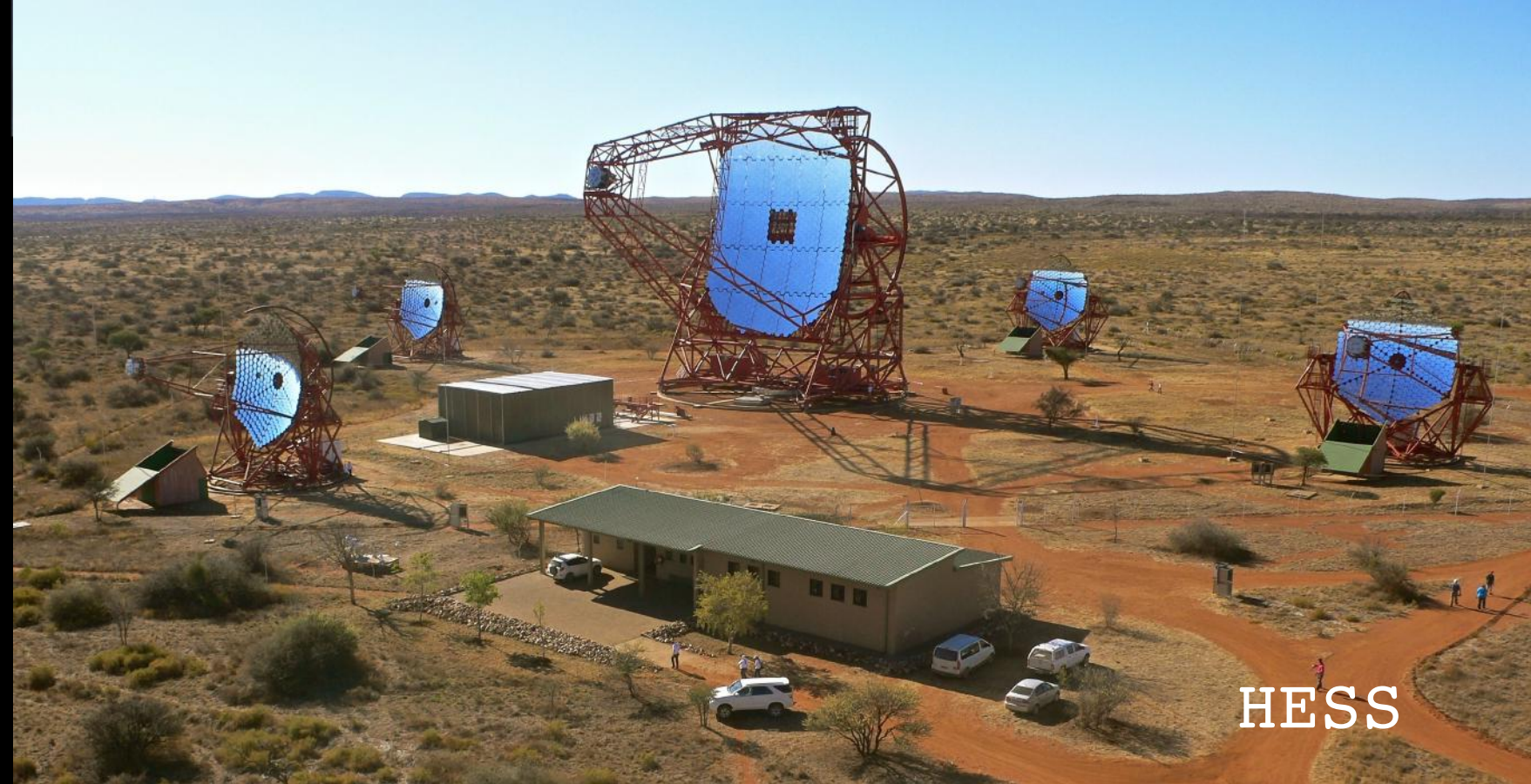
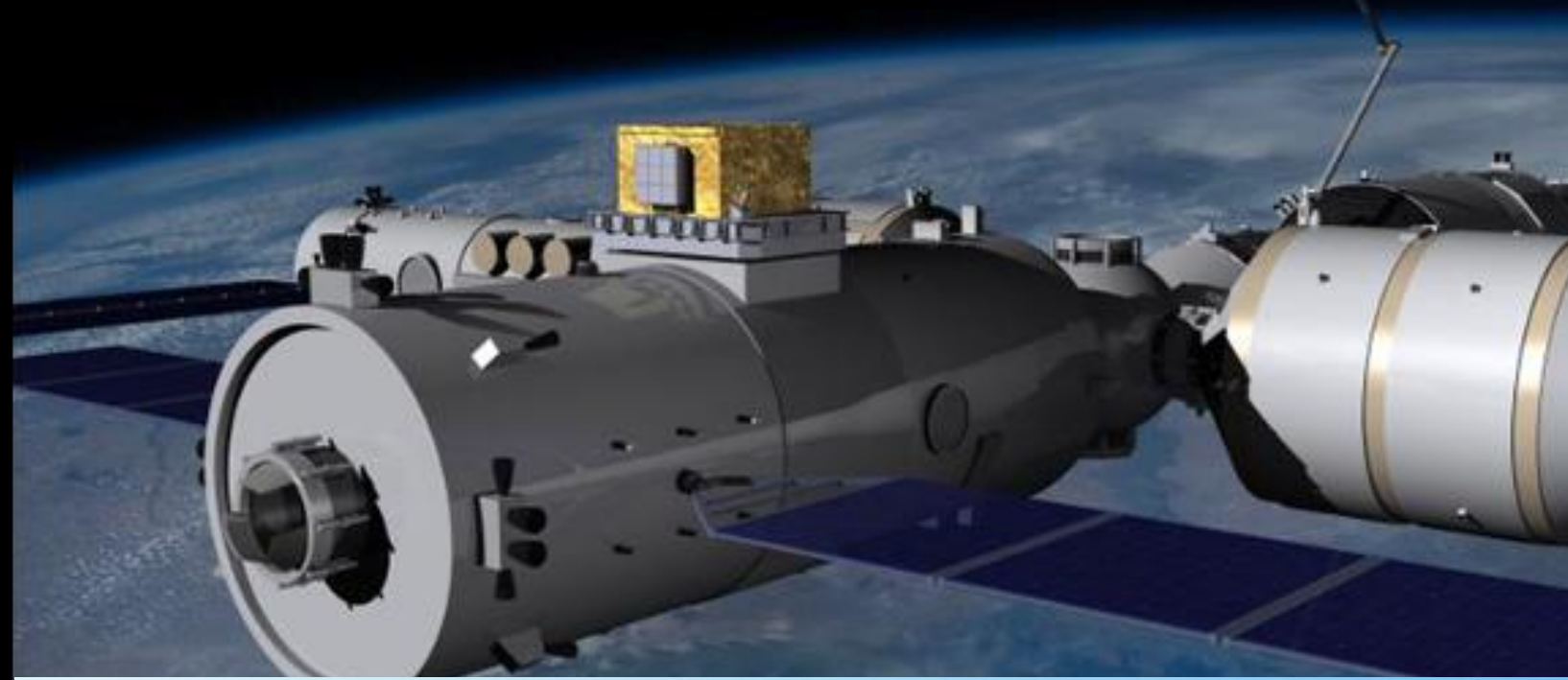
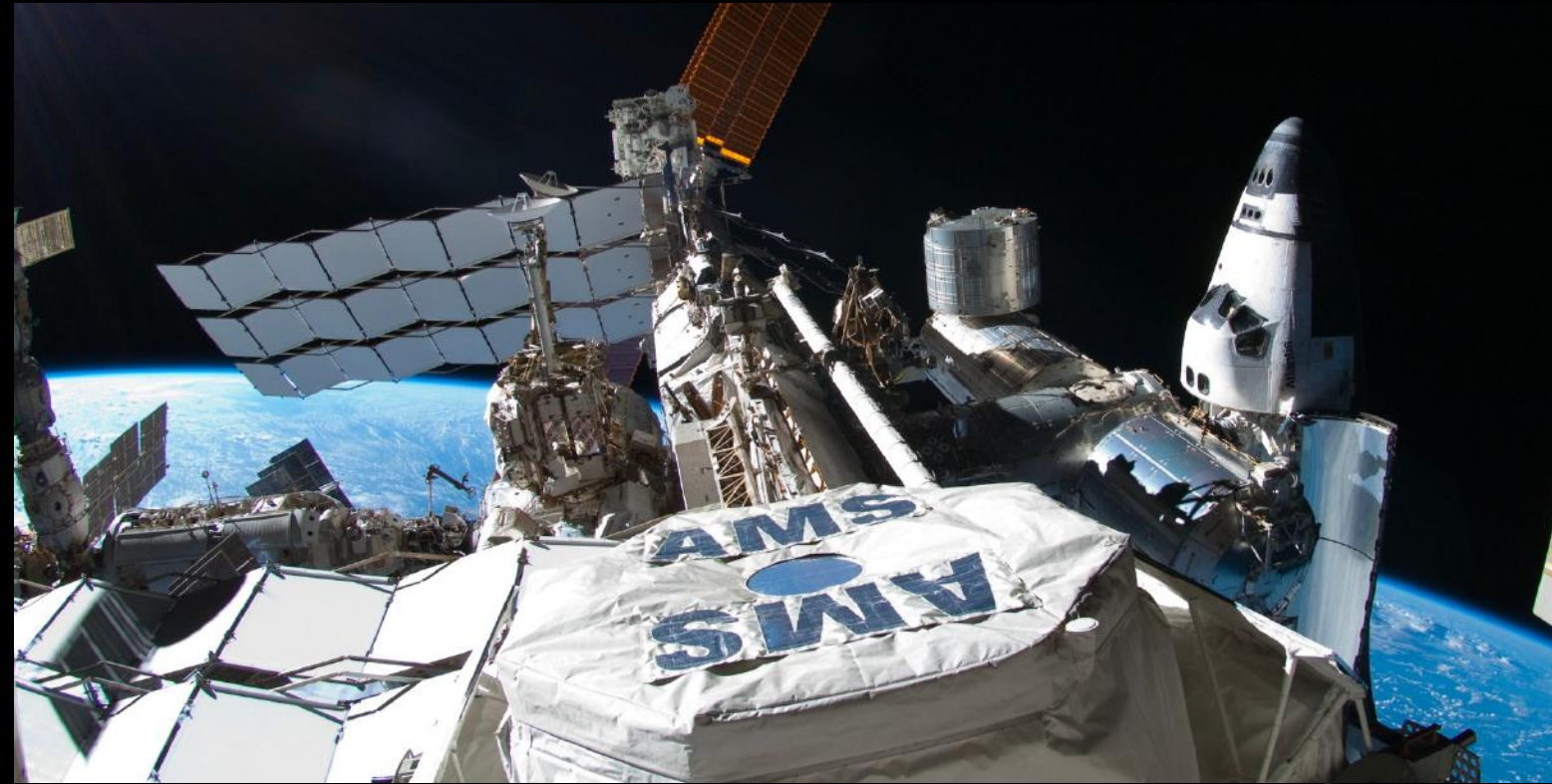


## Secondary cosmic rays: $e^+$ , $\bar{p}$ , $Li$ , $Be$ , $B$ ,...

Cosmic rays constitute significant fraction of energy in typical astrophysics environments  
 → comparable to energy of magnetic fields, radiation fields or the turbulent gas  
 Cosmic rays ionise neutral interstellar gas and also contribute to gravitational balance of the Galaxy



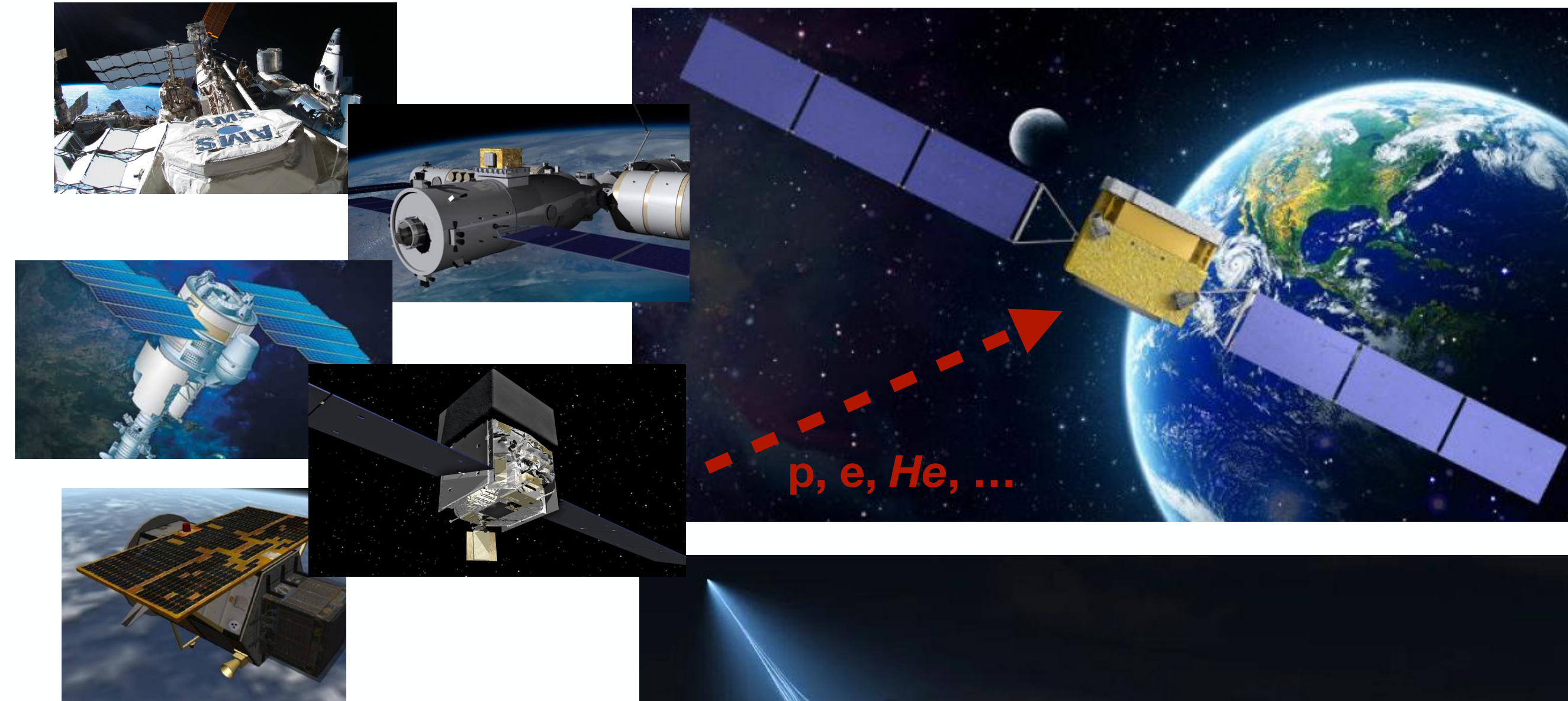
# Experiments



# Space vs Ground

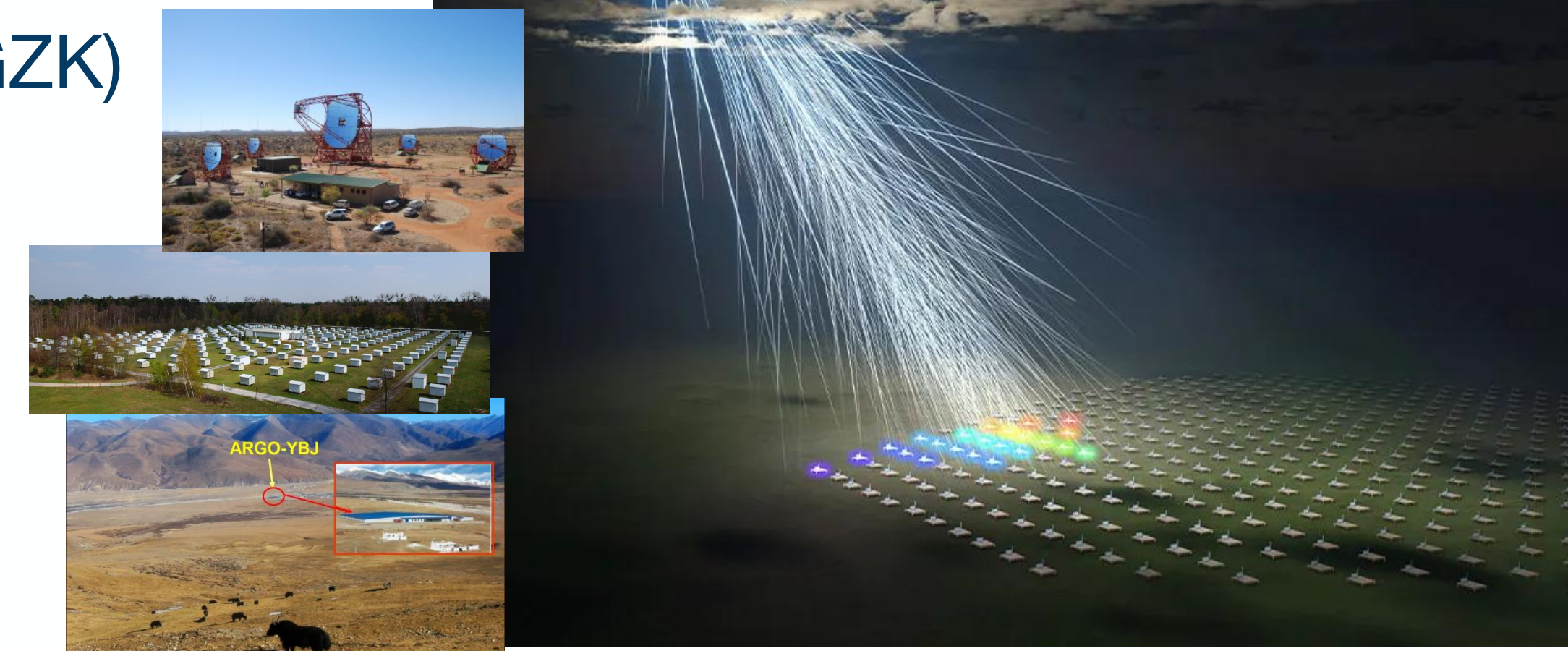
## Space

- + Direct detection — very precise  
Energy spectrum and composition
- Relatively small size ( $\sim\text{m}^2$ )  
Limited in energy  $\sim$  hundreds TeV

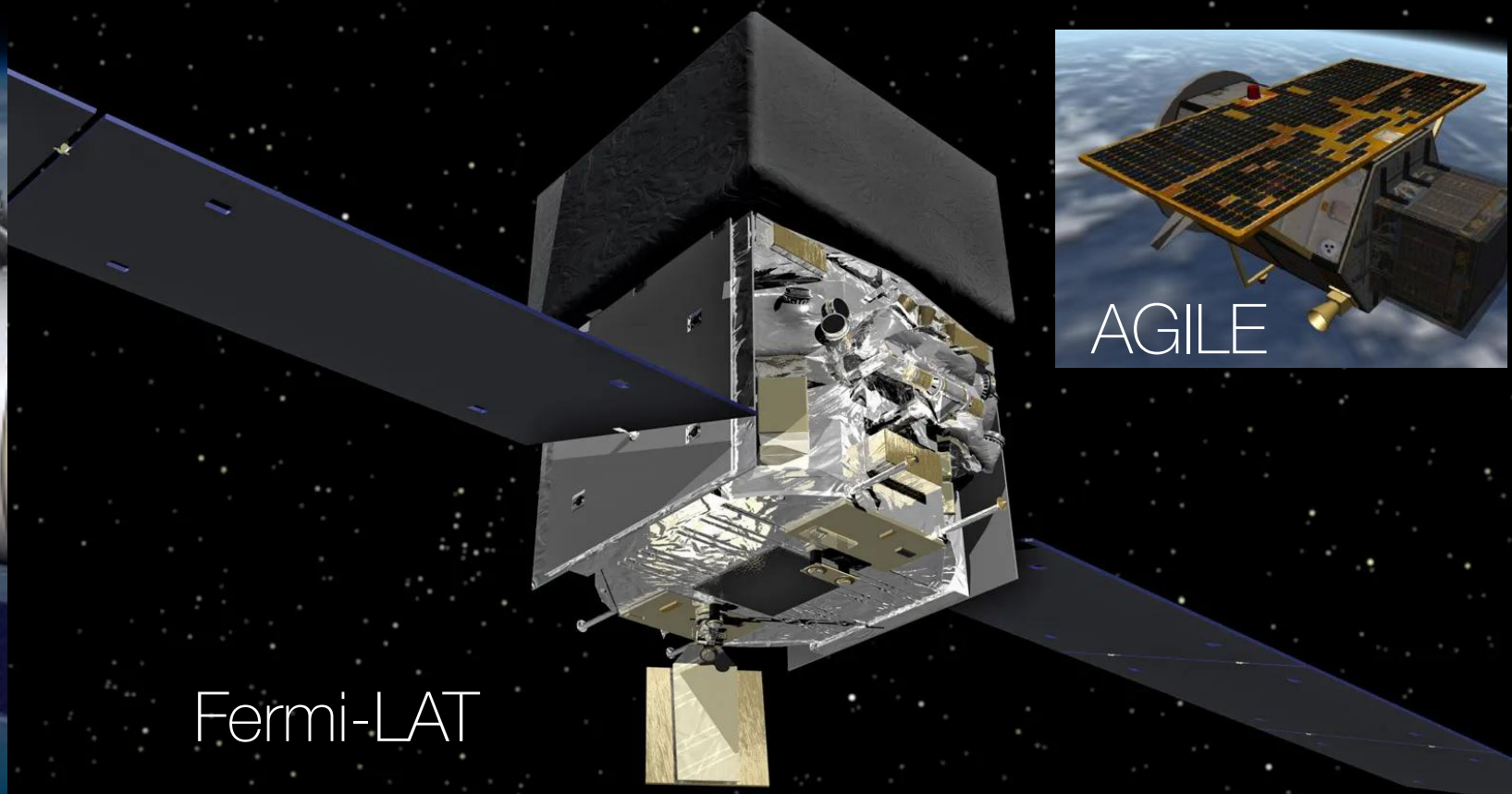


## Ground-based

- + Large ( $\sim\text{km}^2$ ) — reaching highest energies (up to GZK)  
Wide field of view (important for  $\gamma$ -ray physics)
- Indirect detection:  
Low sensitivity to composition  
Large uncertainty of energy scale



# Experiments in space



# Space: from spectrometers to calorimeters

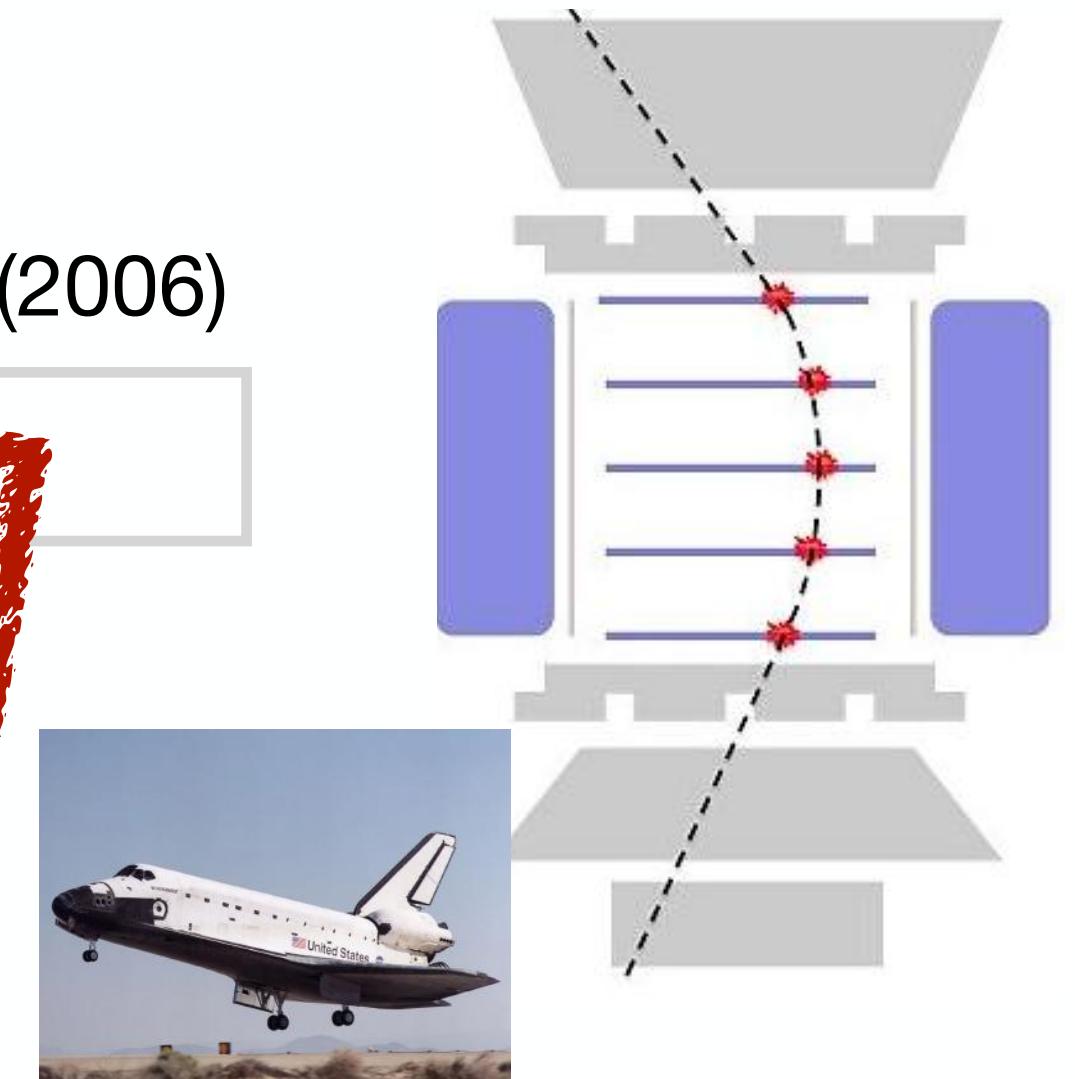
## Magnetic spectrometers

- **PAMELA**: Payload for Antimatter Matter Exploration and Light-nuclei Astrophysics (2006)
- **AMS-02**: Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (launch to ISS **2011**)

Measuring rigidity (momentum divided by particle charge)

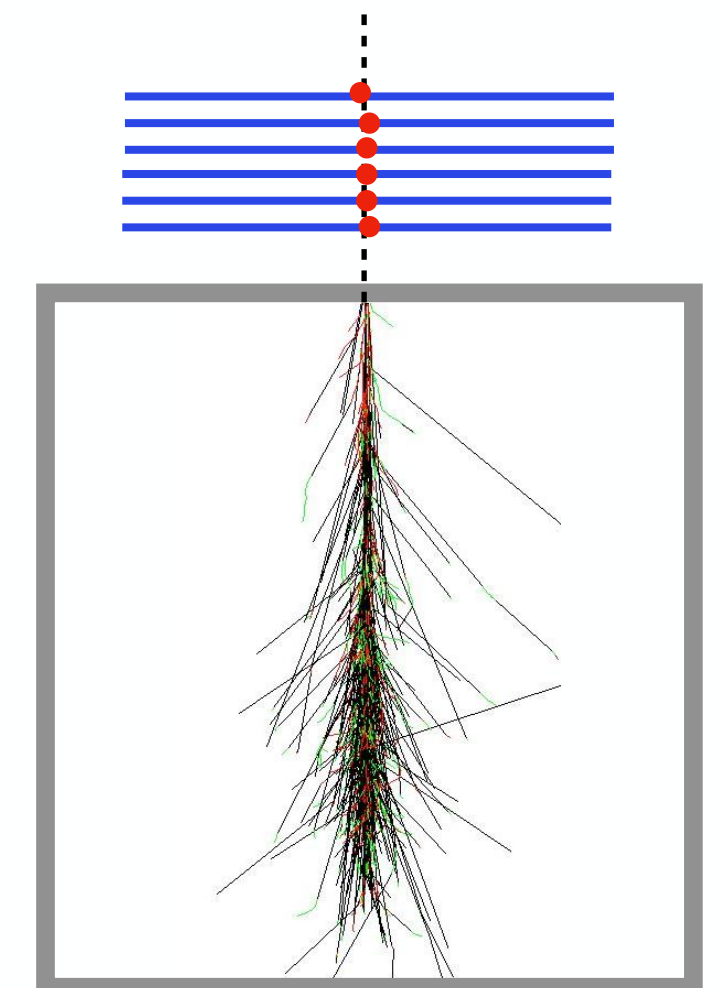
Provide most precise cosmic ray measurements up to  $\sim$ TeV scale

*... difficult to go beyond few TeV with spectrometers*



## Calorimetric experiments

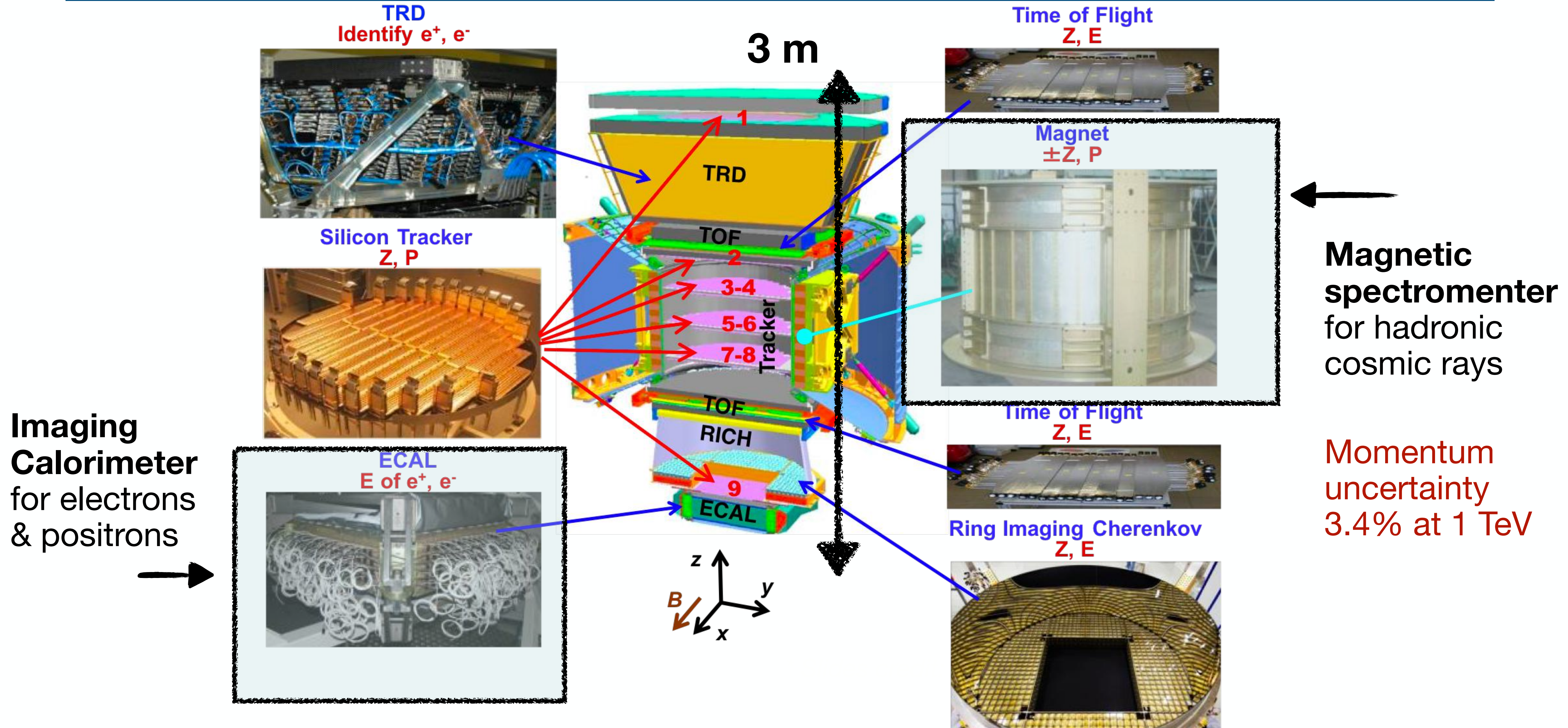
- **AGILE, Fermi-LAT** (2007, 2008) — relatively small calorimeters
- **CALET**: Calorimetric Electron Telescope (launch **2015**)
- **DAMPE**: DArk Matter Particle Explorer (launch **2015**)
- **HERD**: High Energy cosmic Radiation Detection experiment ( $\sim$ 2028)



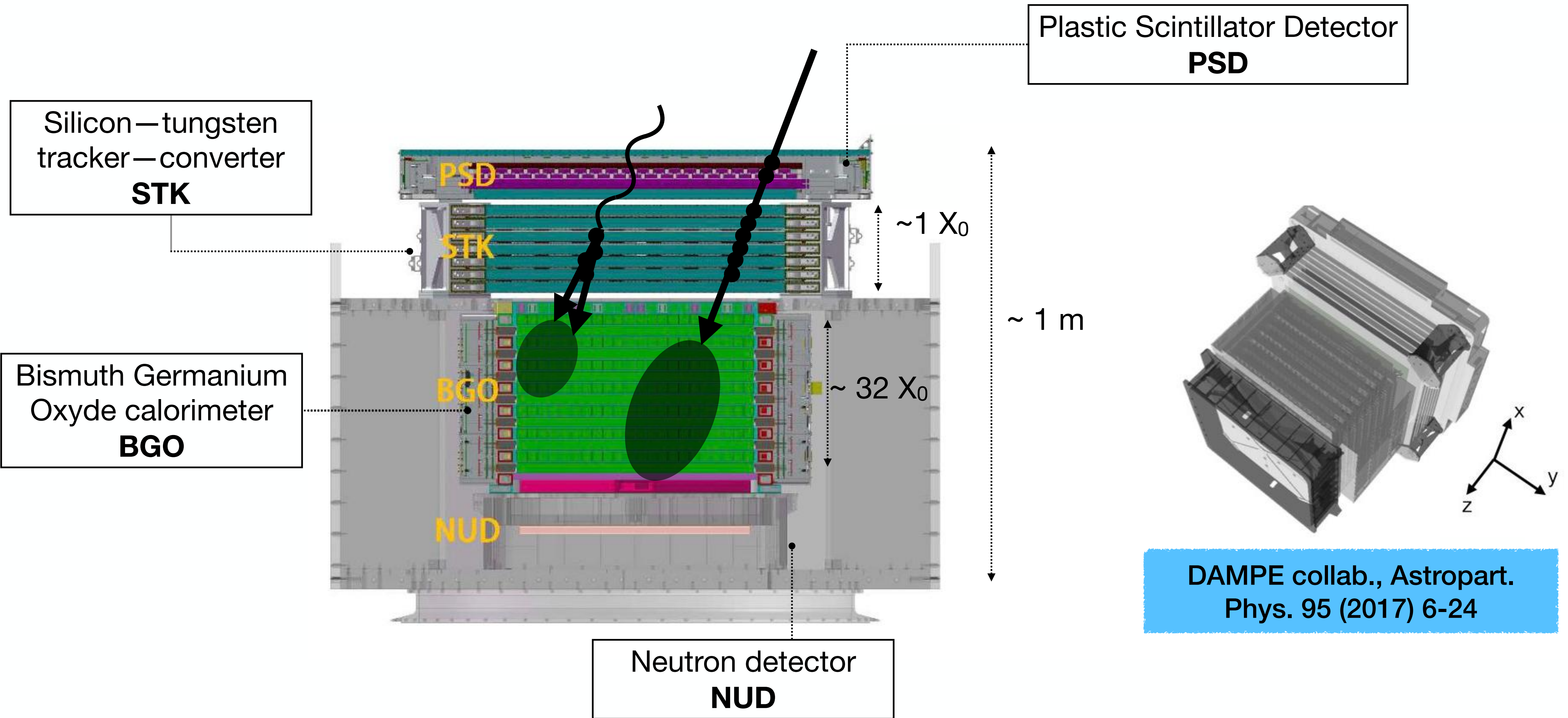
Covered in this talk

\* Active contribution of UNIGE to experiment R&D, including the tracker sub-detector construction

# Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS-02)

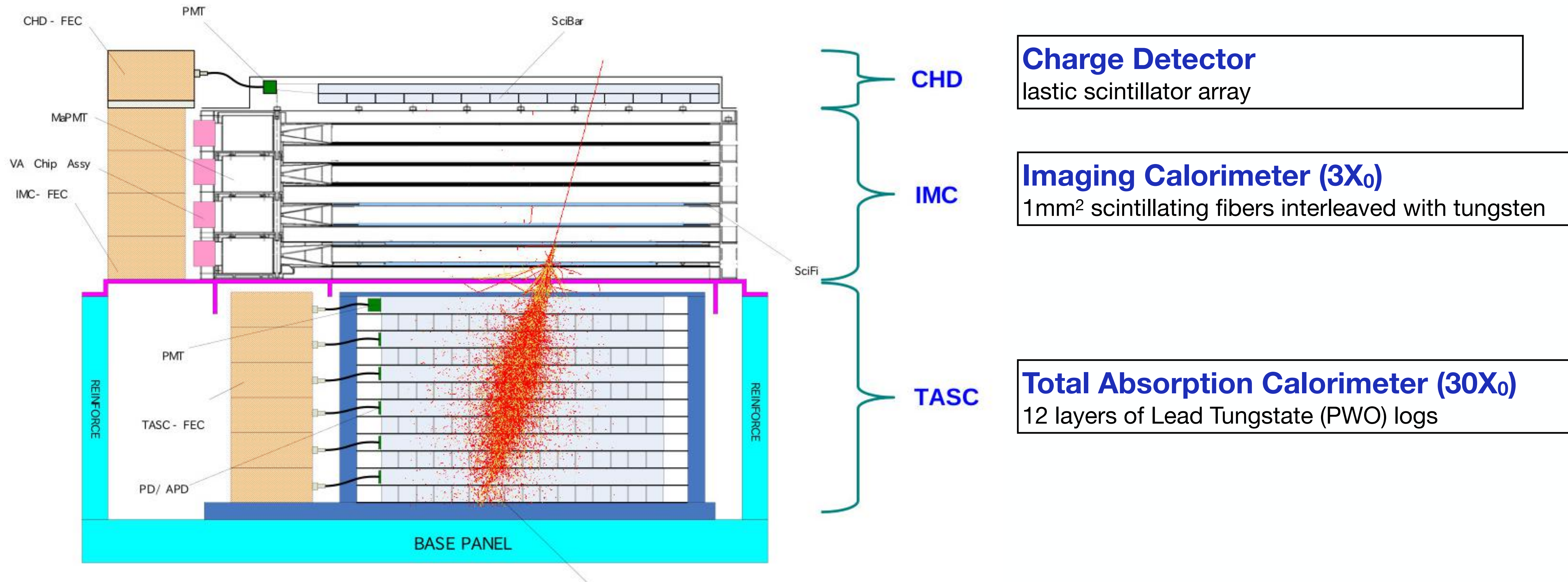


# DARK Matter Particle Explorer (DAMPE)





# CALorimetric Electron Telescope (CALET)

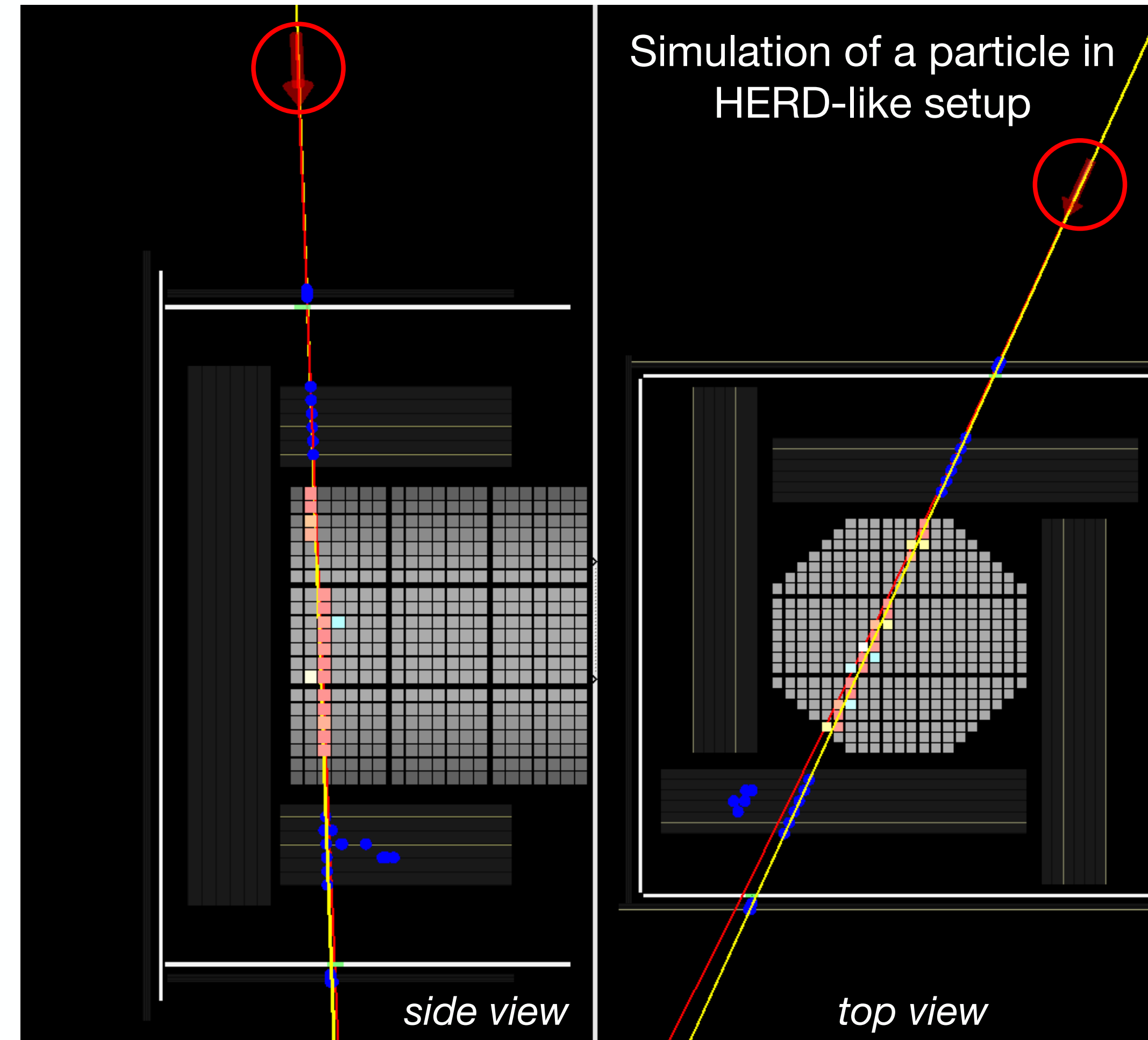
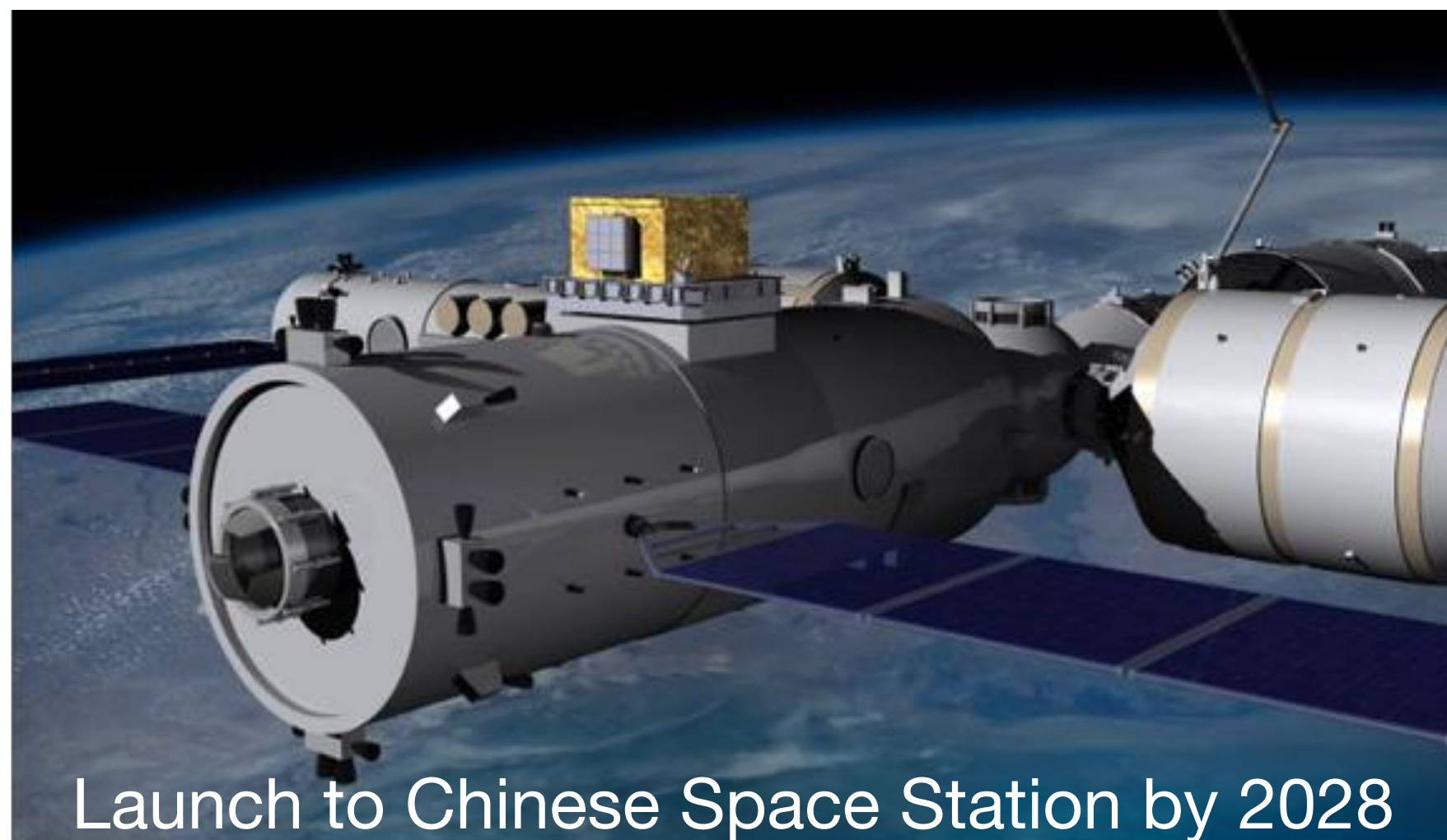


- DAMPE and CALET can be considered “ATLAS/CMS” of astroparticle physics world
- same physics goals & detection principle, different instrumentation philosophy

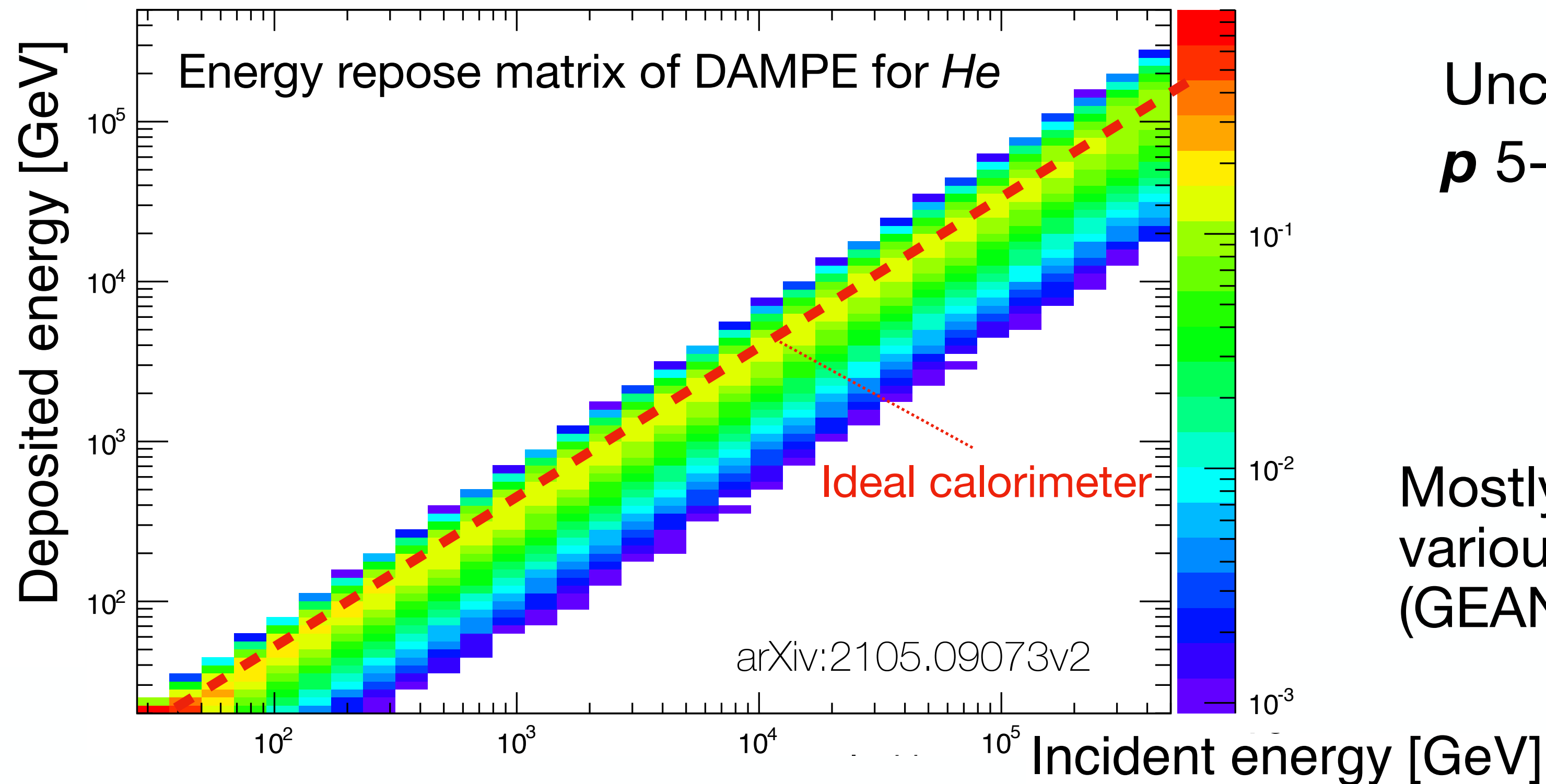
# High Energy cosmic Radiation Detection facility (HERD)

## 3D calorimeter of $55X_0$ ( $3\Lambda$ ) + 5-side tracker

- CR electrons up to 100 TeV
- CR p/ions up to PeVs
- x 10 acceptance compared to DAMPE  
→ hundreds of PeV cosmic rays / year



# Calorimeters (DAMPE, CALET)



Uncertainties (DAMPE):  
*p* 5-10%, *ions* (10-20%)



Mostly evaluated by comparing various models & cross-section sets (GEANT4, FLUKA, EPICS, CORSIKA)

- Excellent for *e* and  $\gamma$ : **1-2% resolution**, almost total energy absorption
- Excellent for *e/p* discrimination:  **$10^4$ – $10^5$  *p* rejection**
- *p* and ions:  $\sim 1.6 \Lambda$ , shower absorption  $\sim 30$ -40%  
→ **rely significantly on hadronic simulations for the energy reconstruction**

# Experiments in space



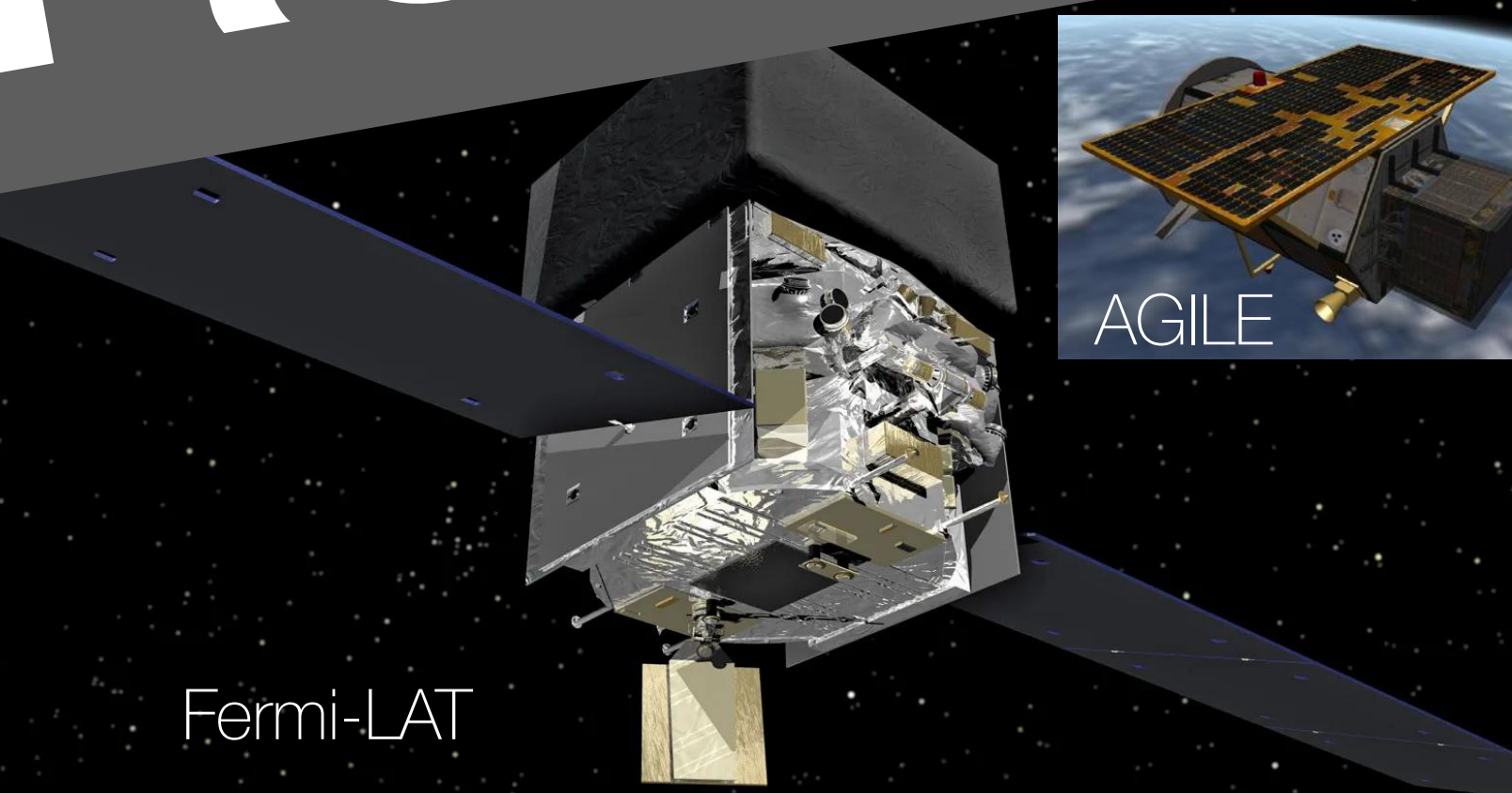
AMS-02



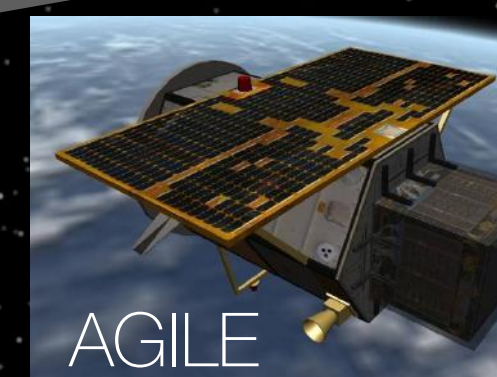
DAMPE



HERD



Fermi-LAT



AGILE



PAMELA

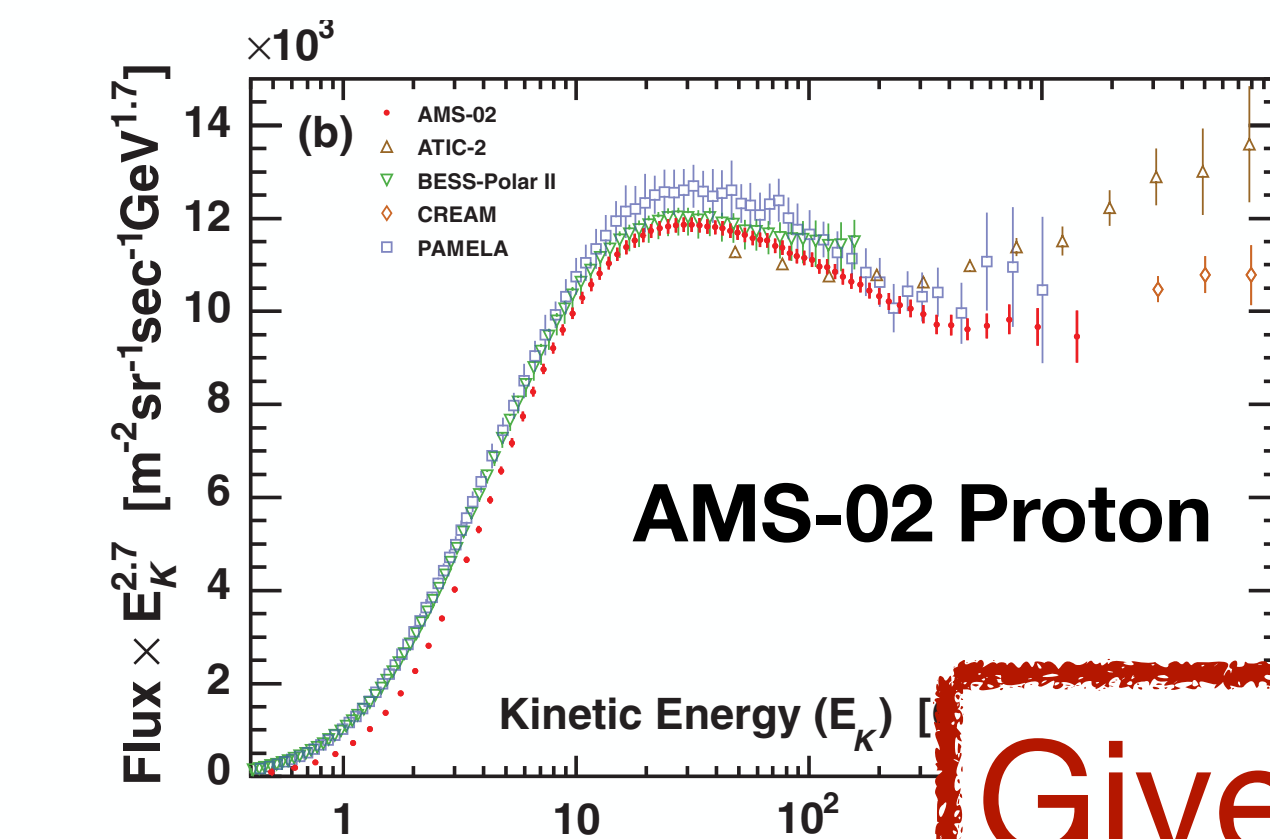
# Results

# Primaries: $p, He$ (AMS-02)

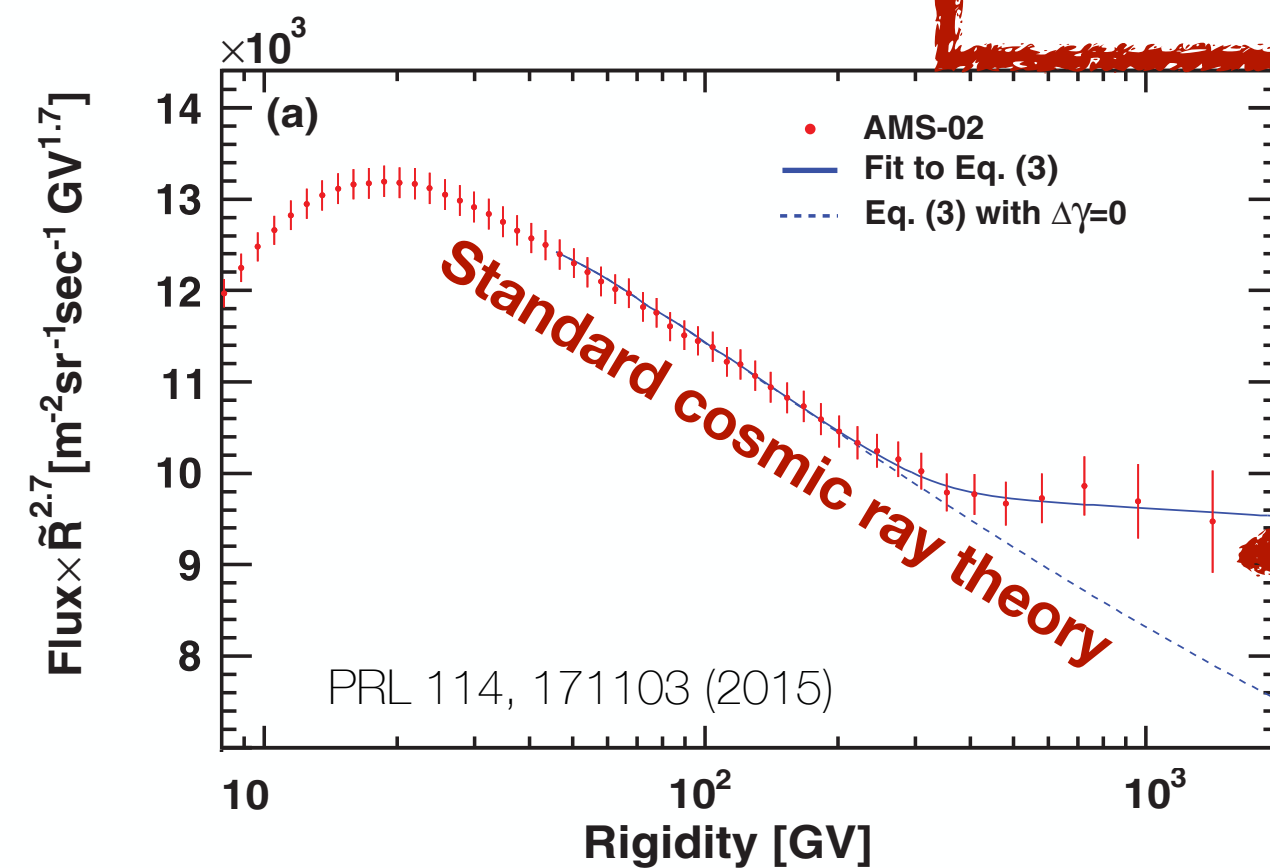
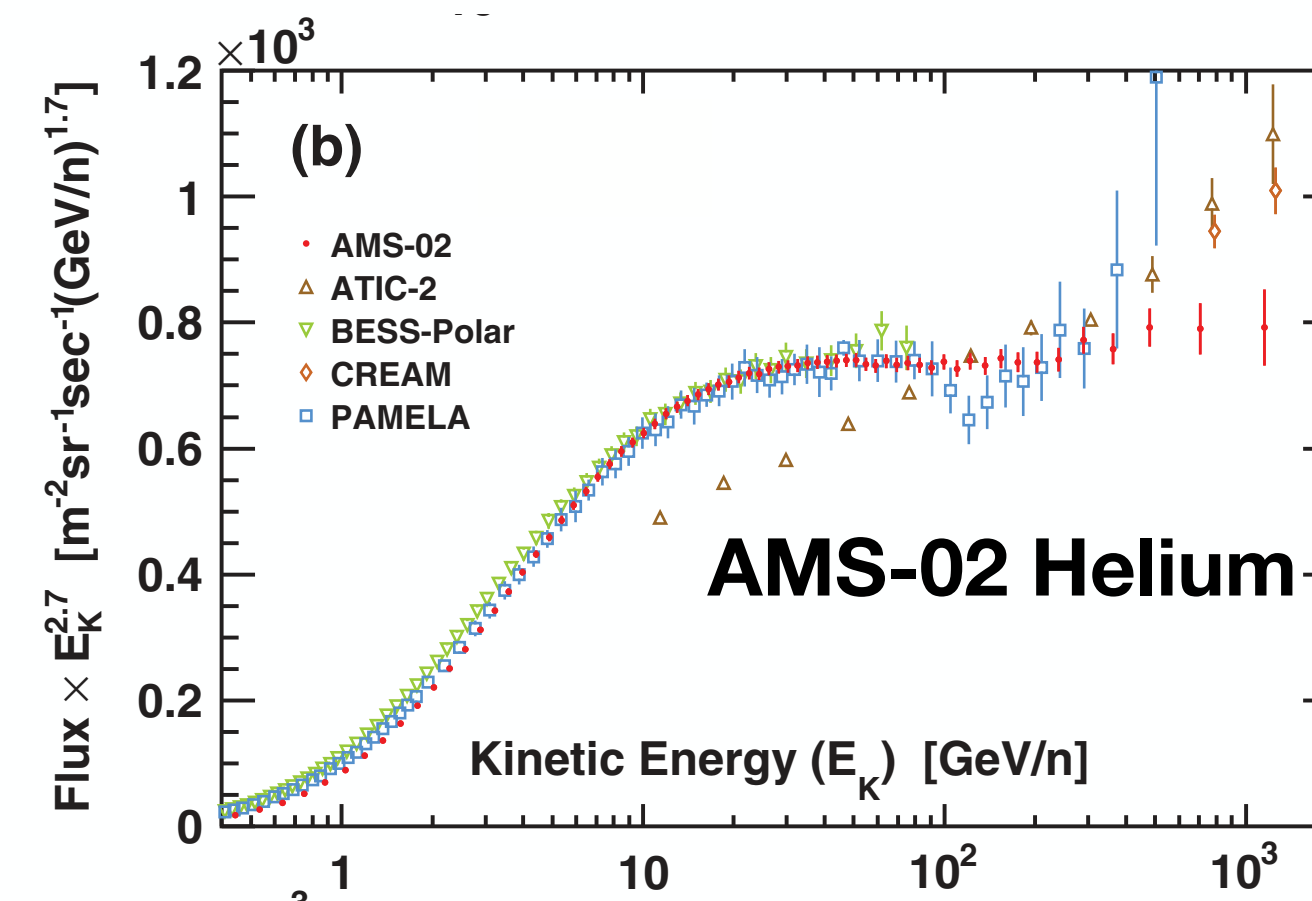
- Spectrum measurement of cosmic ray protons and helium reported by AMS-02 in 2015

**New feature discovered** — break (hardening) at few hundred GV

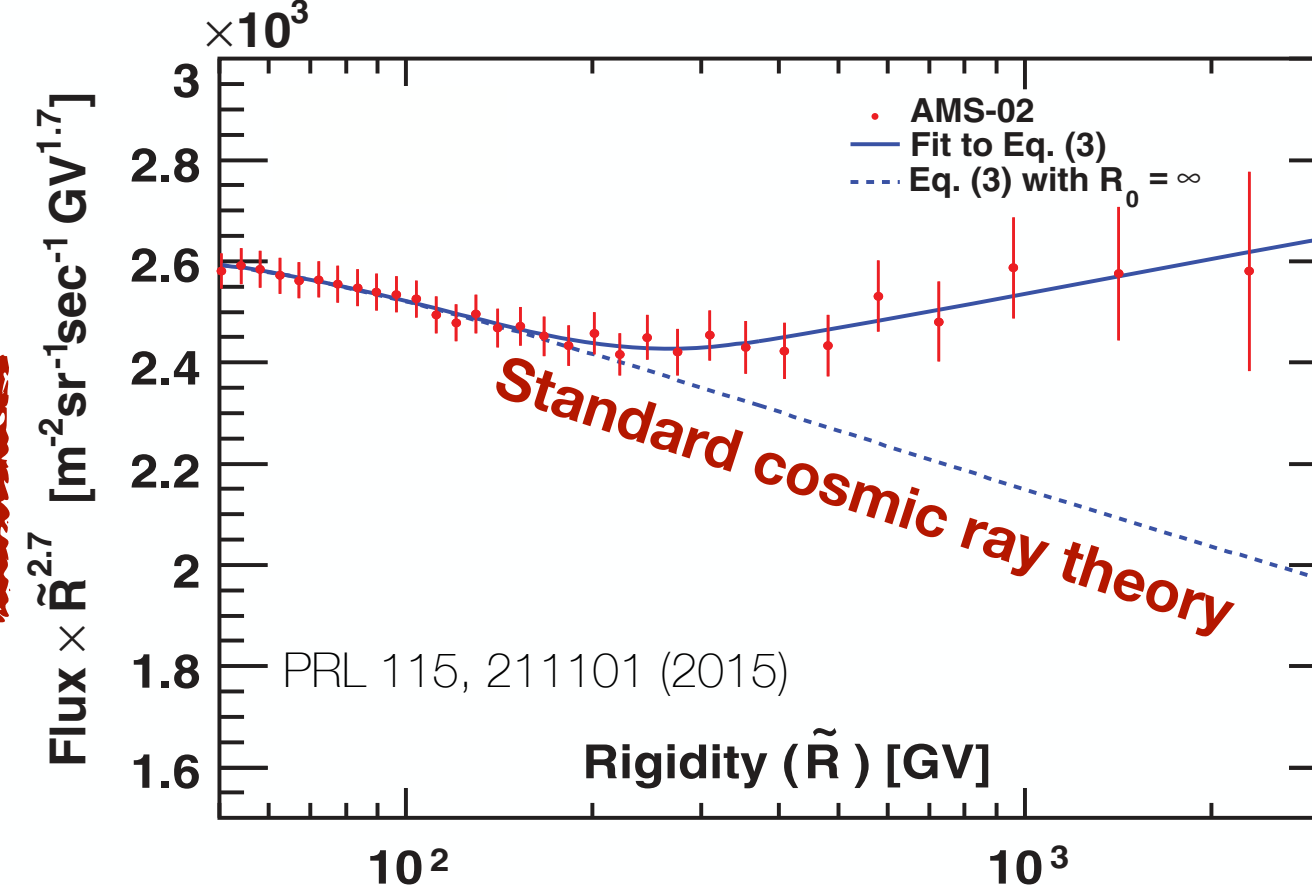
Not expected within the standard shock acceleration + diffusive propagation theory



**Give me a break!**



**Hardening**

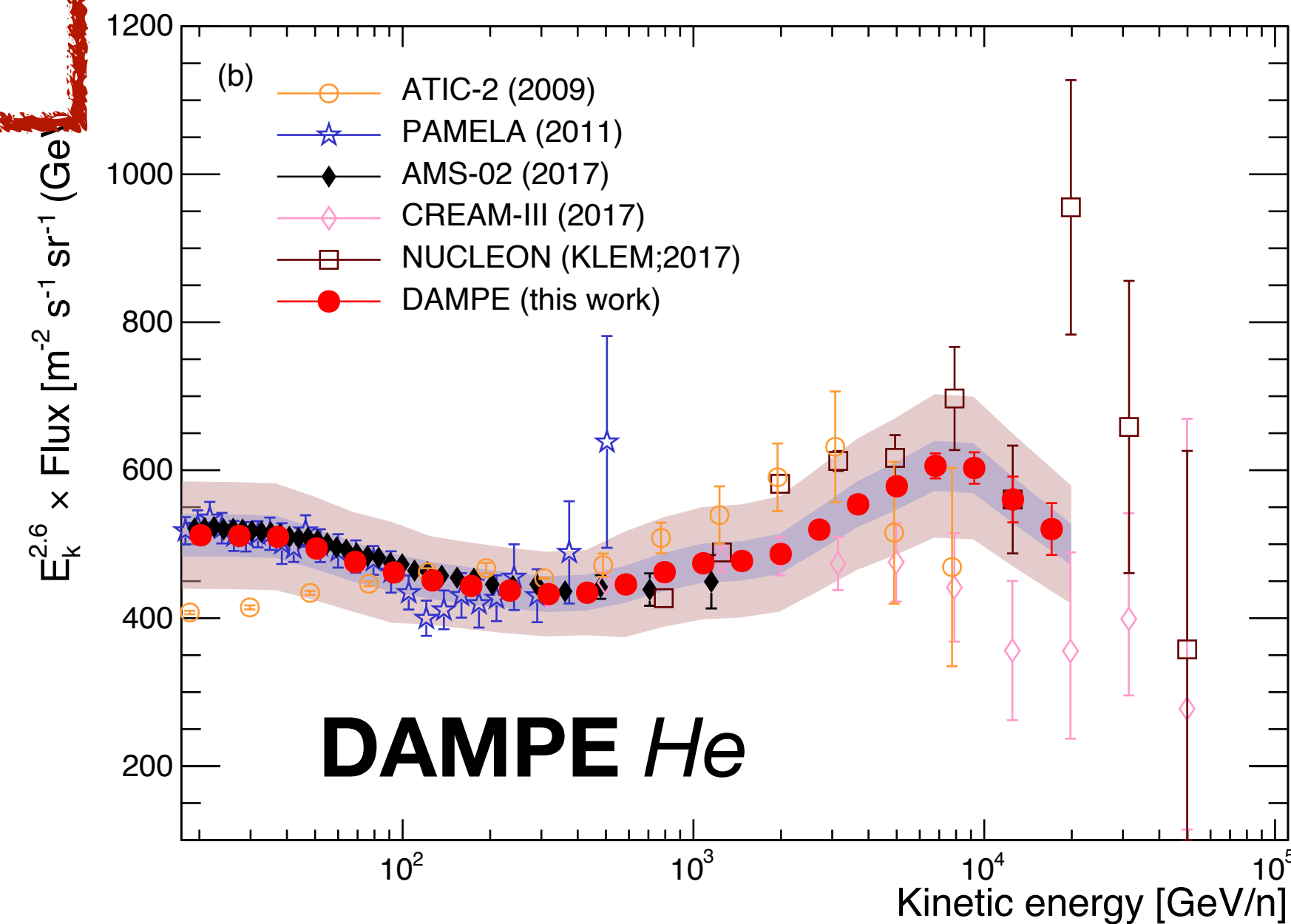
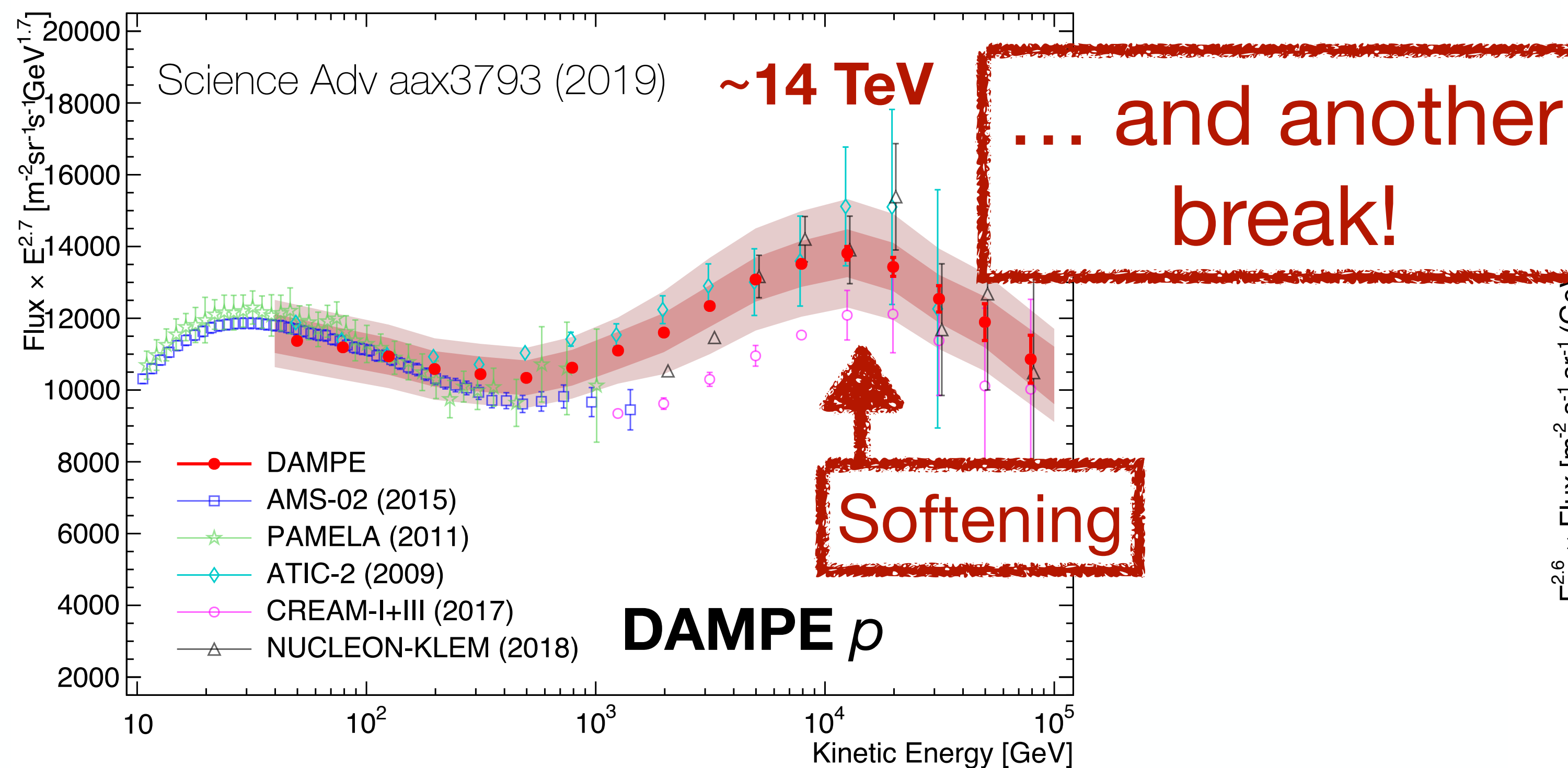
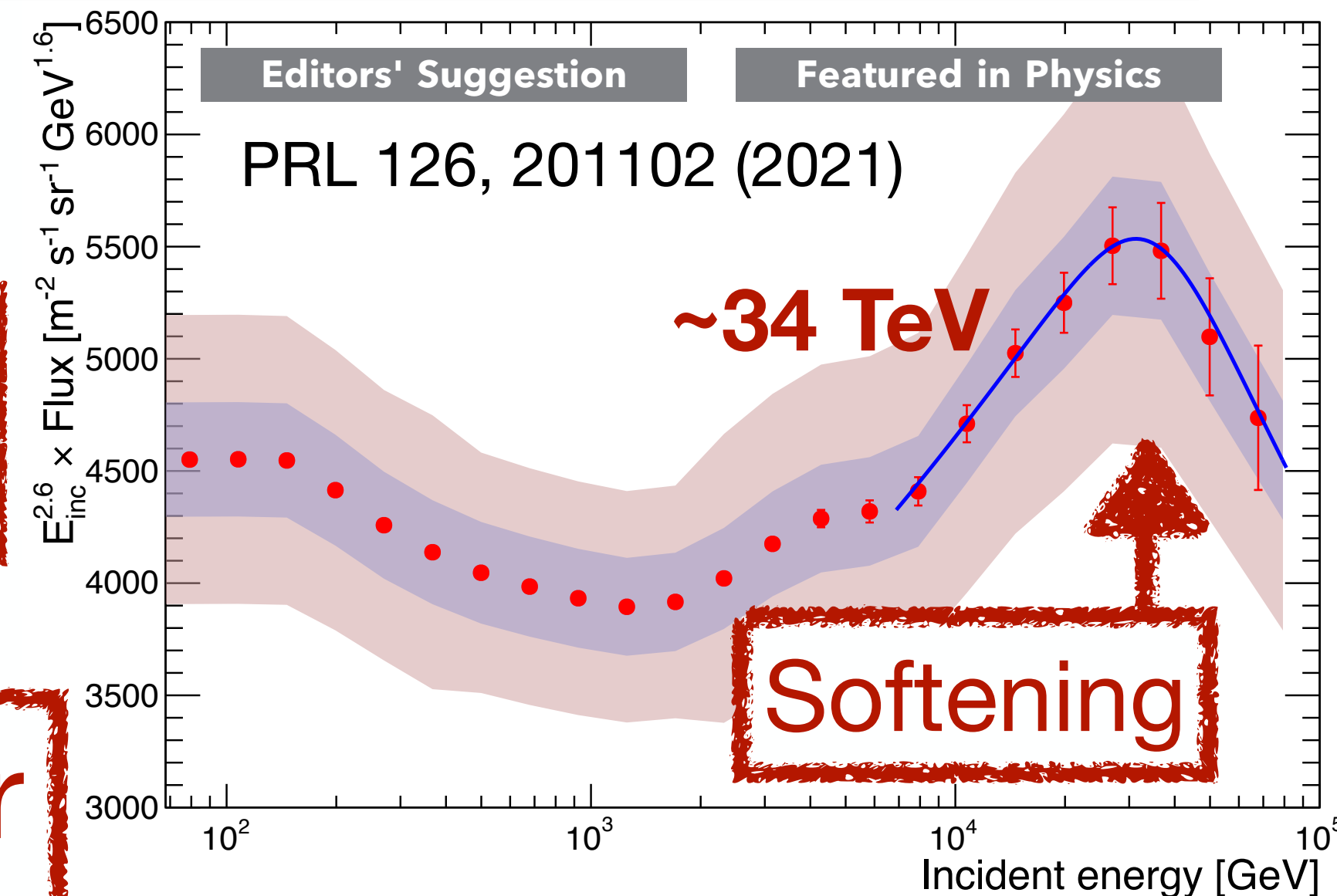


**Hardening**

# Primaries: $p, He$ (DAMPE)

DAMPE:

- Confirms the hardening observed previously by AMS
- Observation of another break:  **$\sim 10$  TeV softening**  
(significance: **proton  $\sim 4.7\sigma$ , helium  $\sim 4.3\sigma$** )

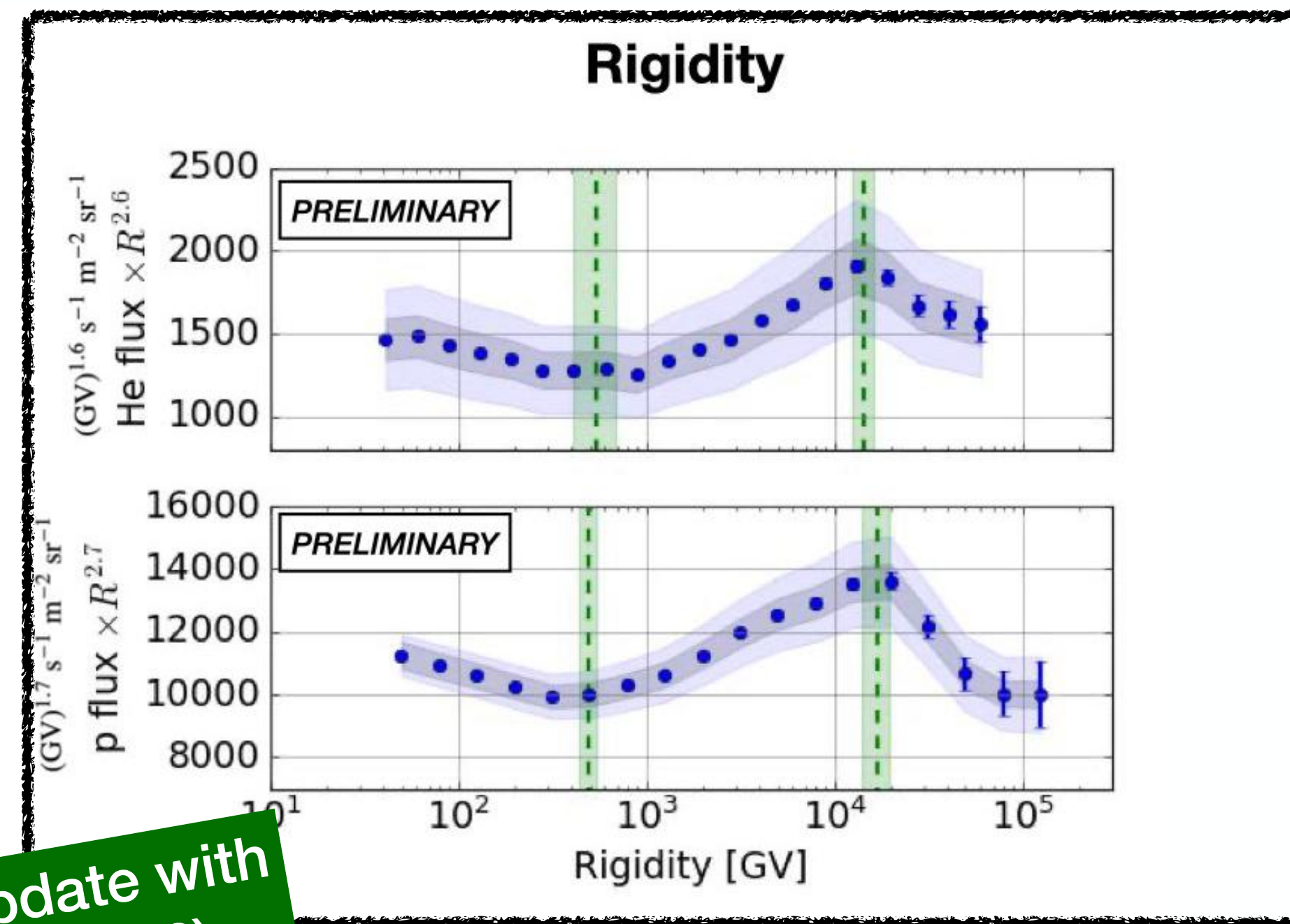
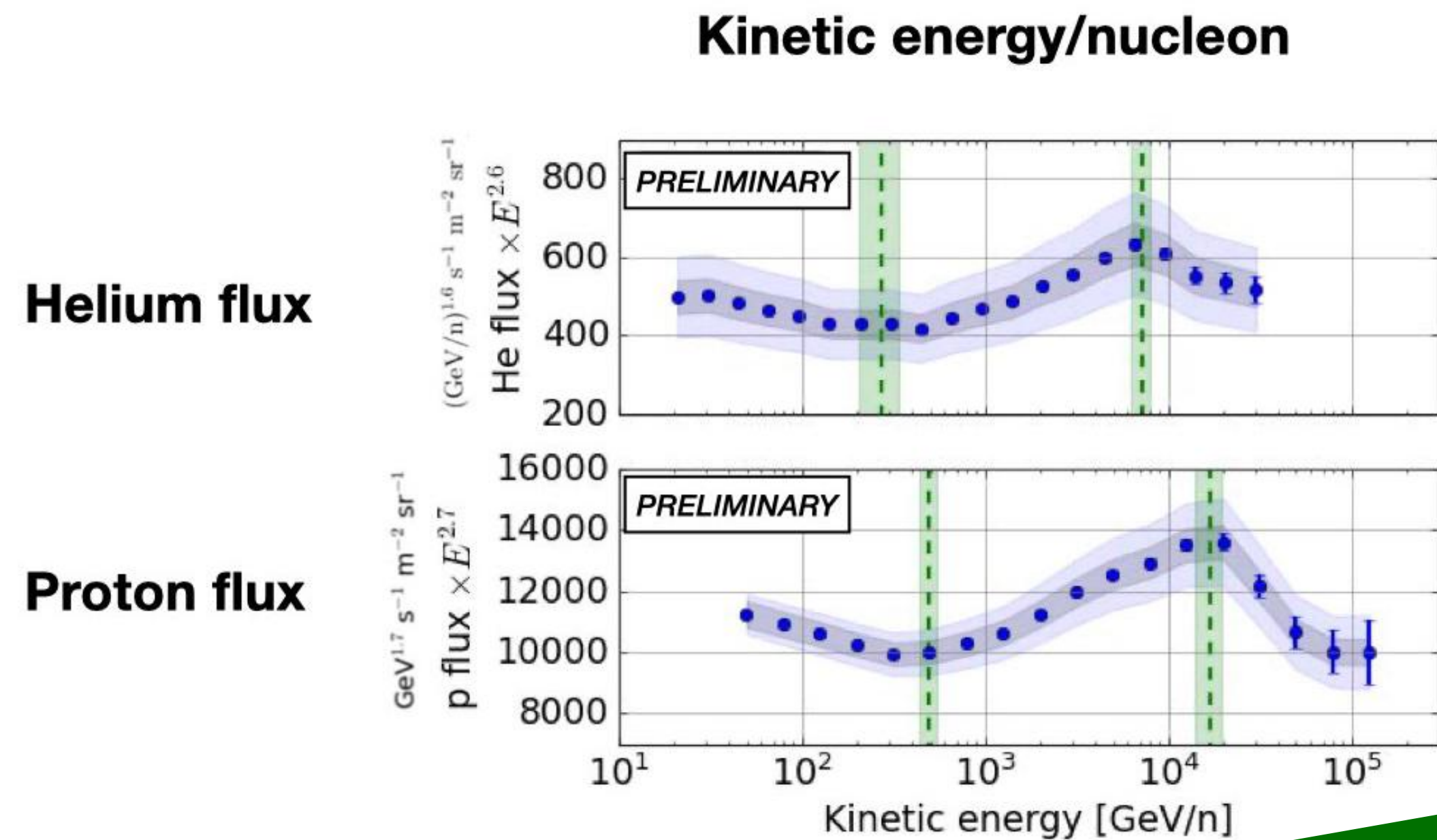


# Primaries: $p, He$ (DAMPE)

NEW! 2023

## Precise identification of the break positions

→ answers if underlying CR mechanisms are mass (velocity) or charge (rigidity) dependant



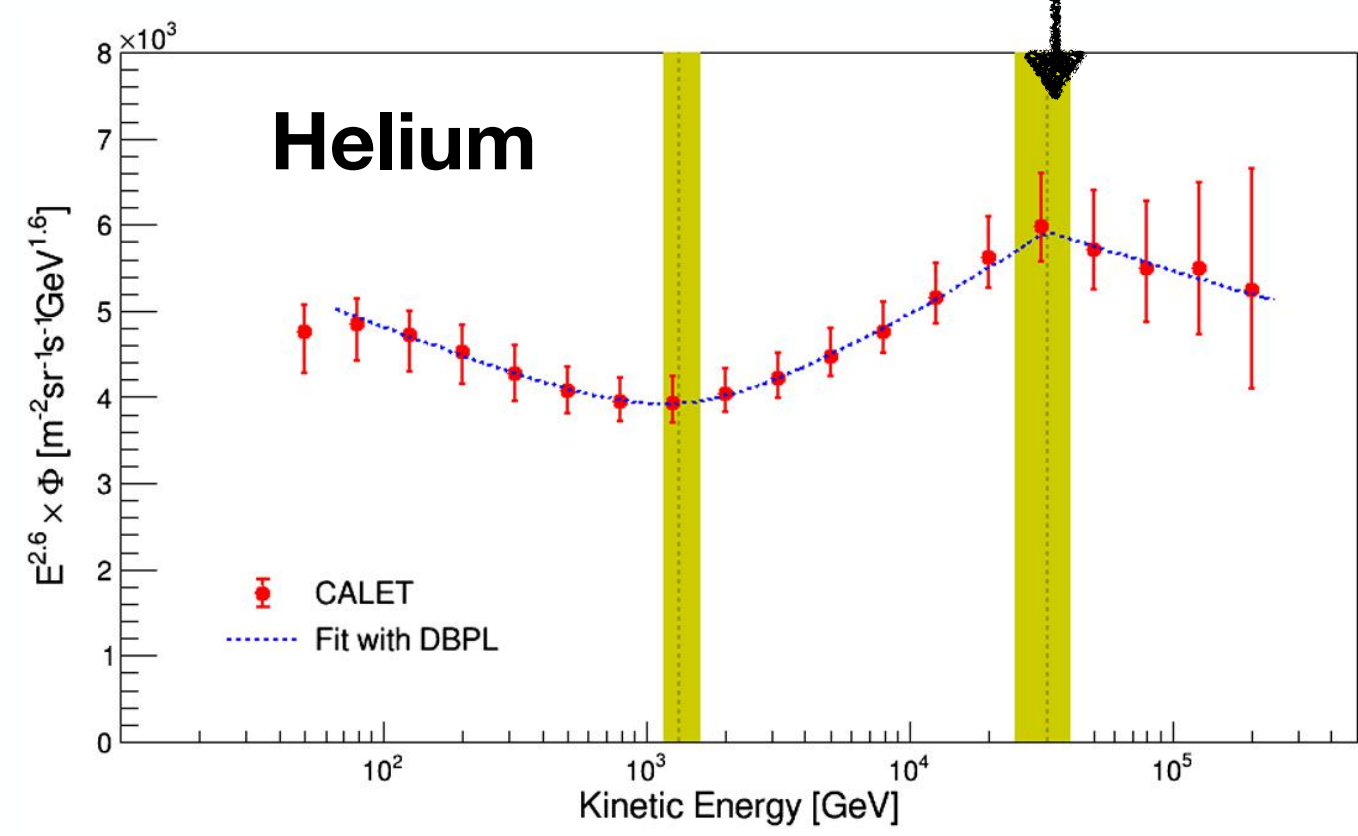
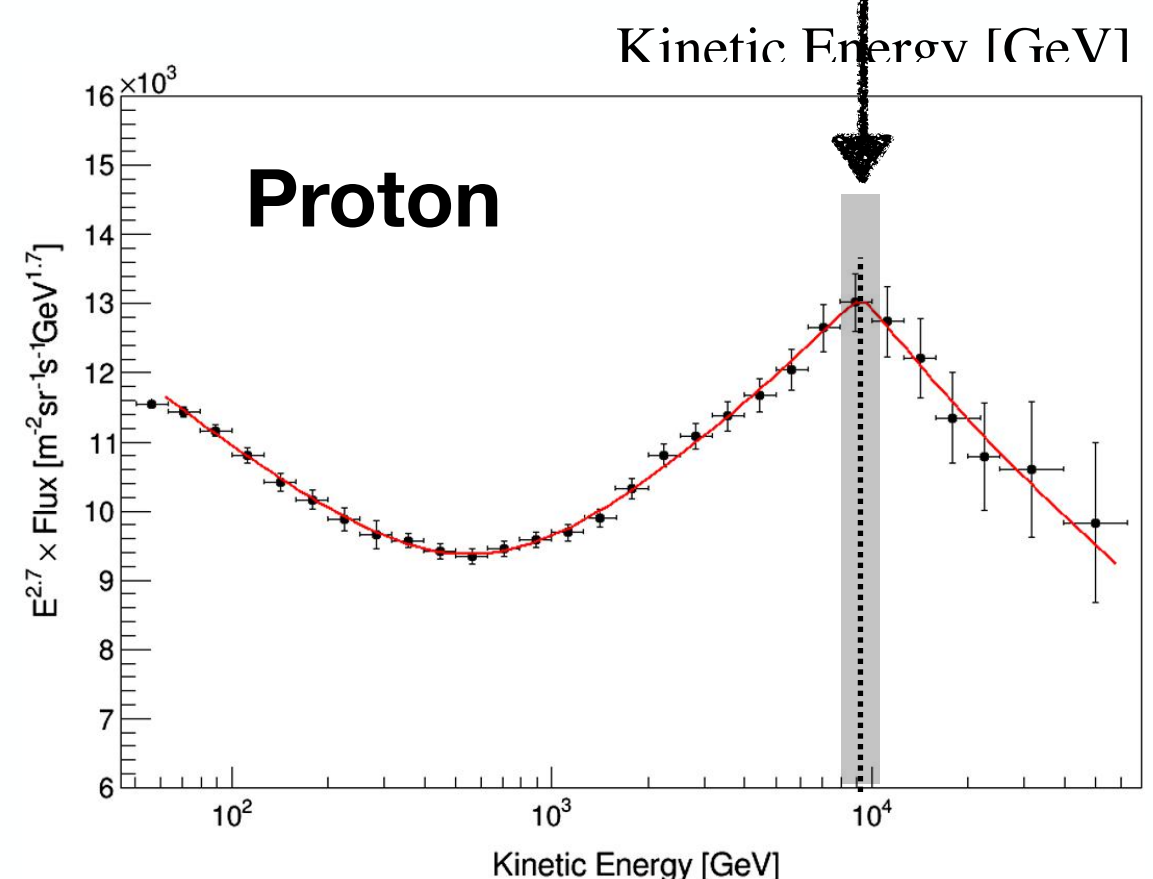
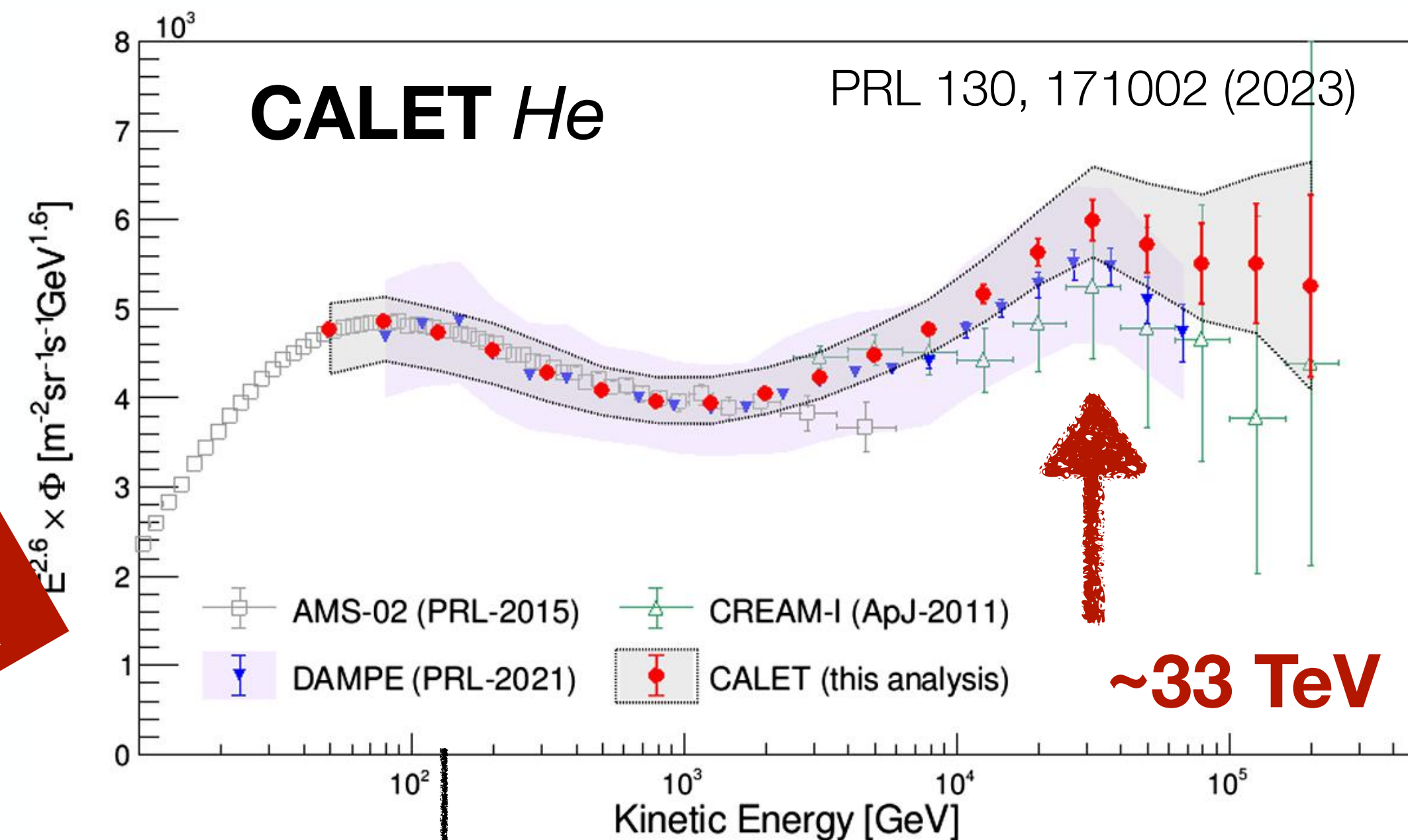
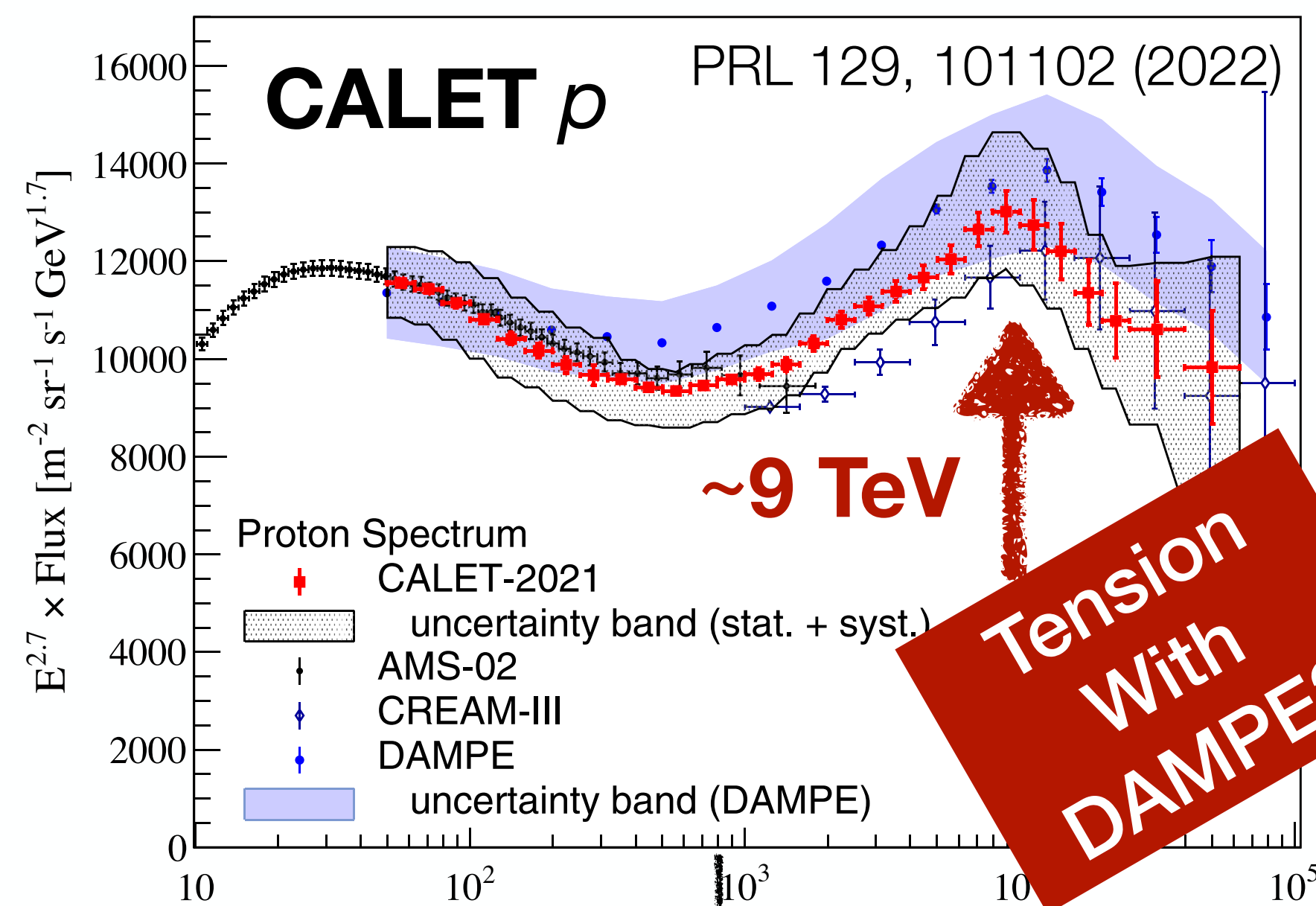
Proton & helium fluxes update with 7 years of DAMPE data (2023)

P & He hardening/softening: charge dependence favoured

A. Ruina, A Kotenko ICRC2023

# Primaries: $p, He$ (CALET)

- **CALET:**  $He$  softening consistent with DAMPE,  $p$  softening is lower (favours  $A$  dependence)



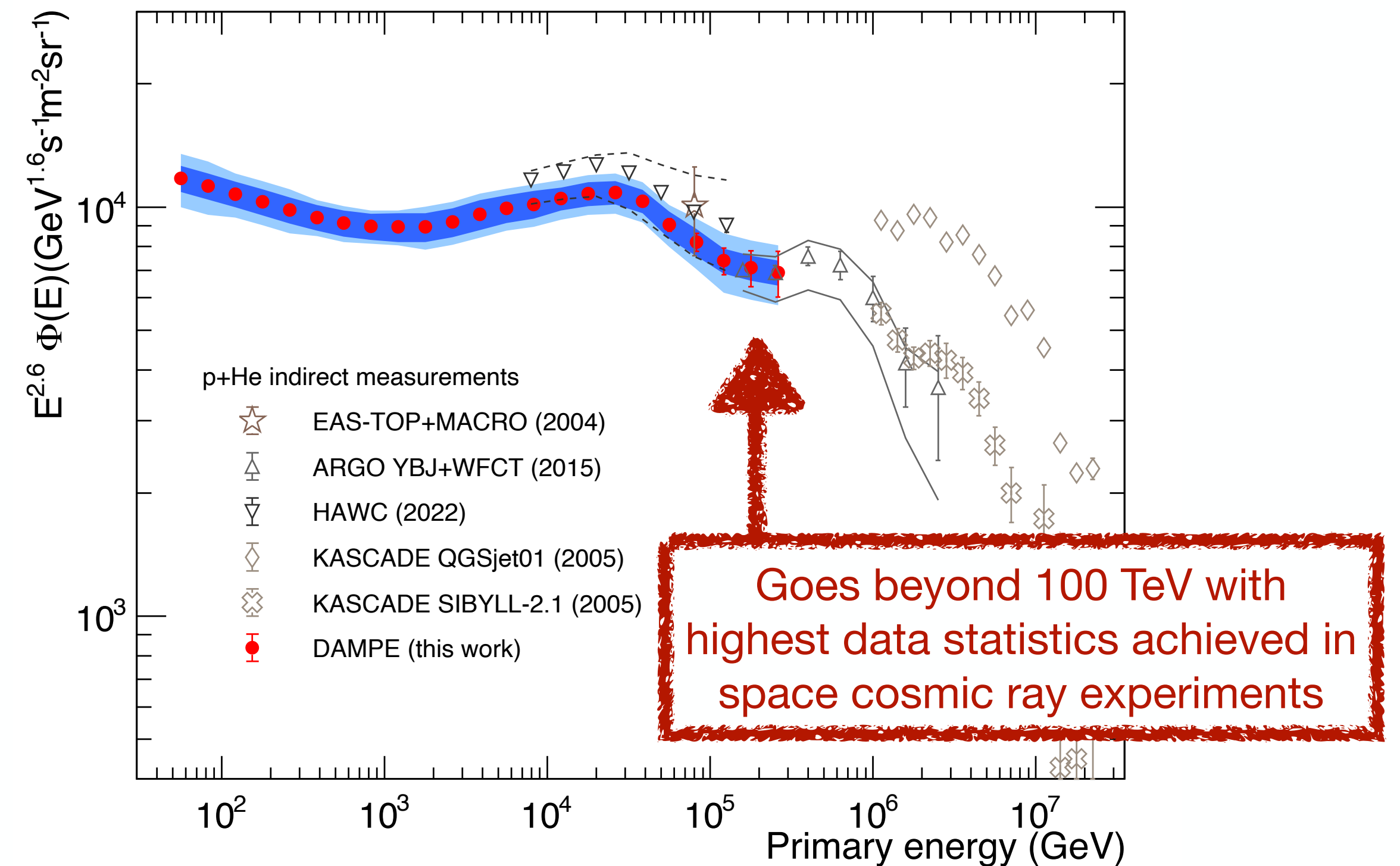
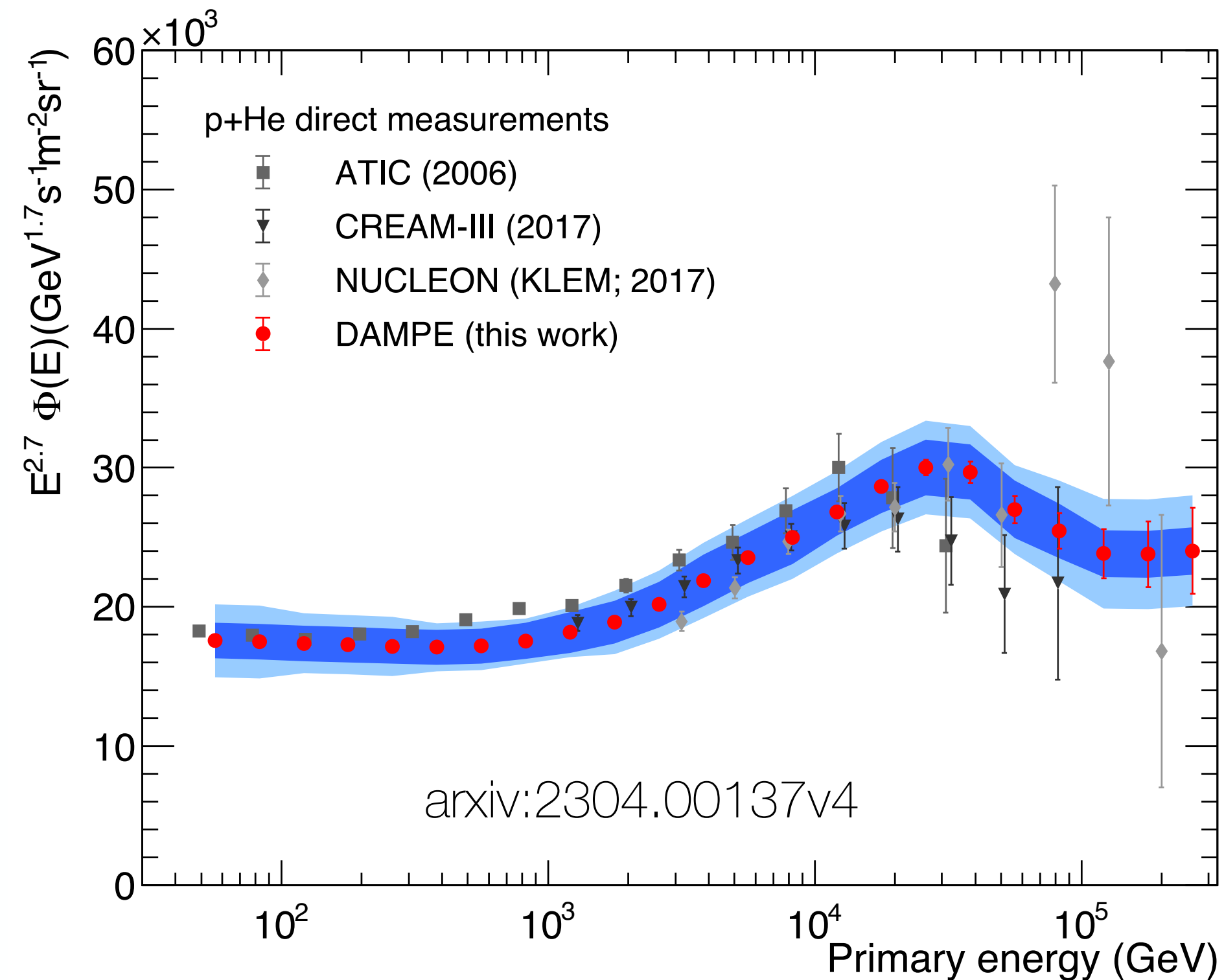
**CREAM data:**  
softening  
consistent  
with DAMPE





# Primaries: $p + He$

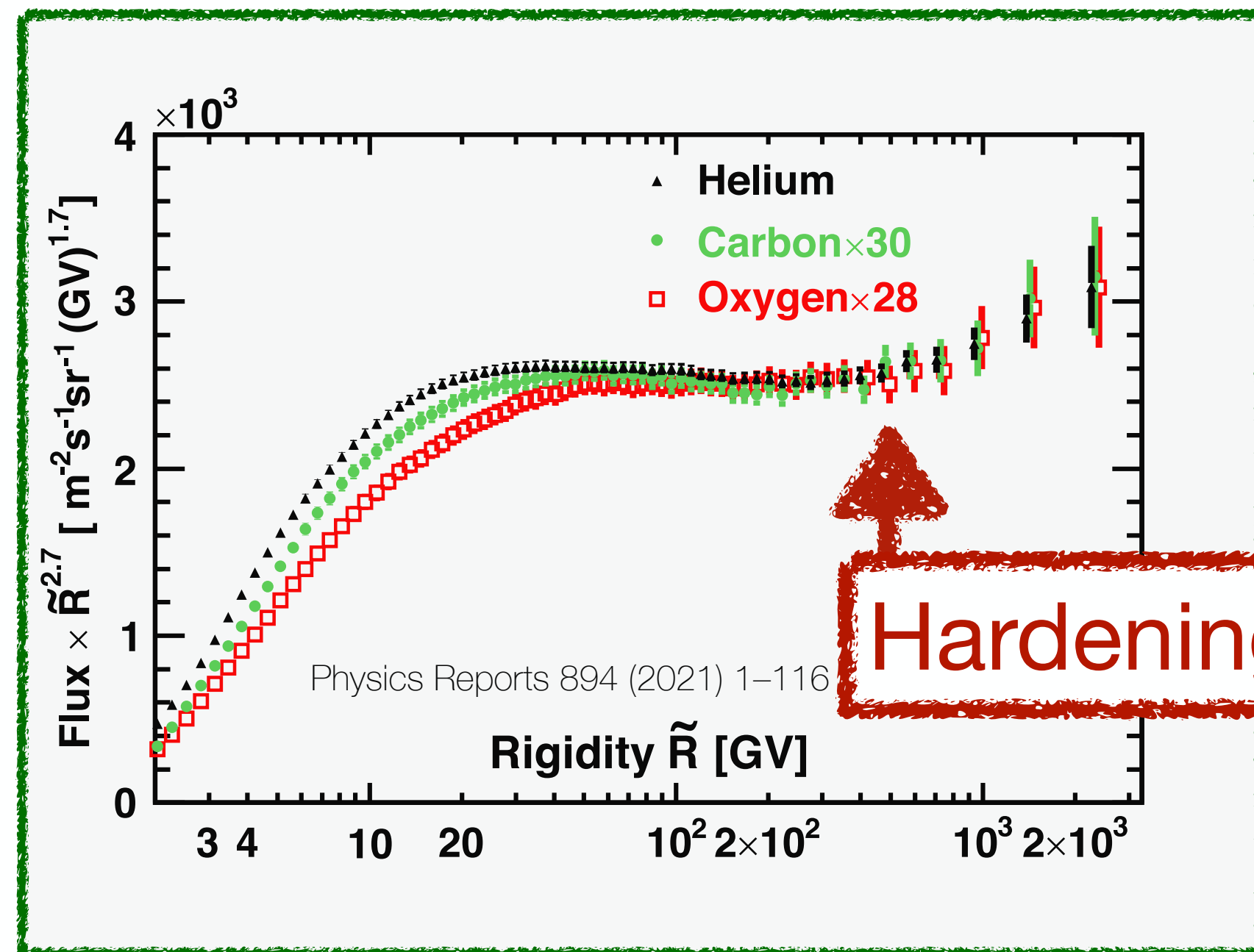
- DAMPE measurement of proton+helium spectrum:
  - profit of larger statistics (compared to individual proton or helium spectrum)
  - lower uncertainties of particle identification
  - **connection with ground based experiments**



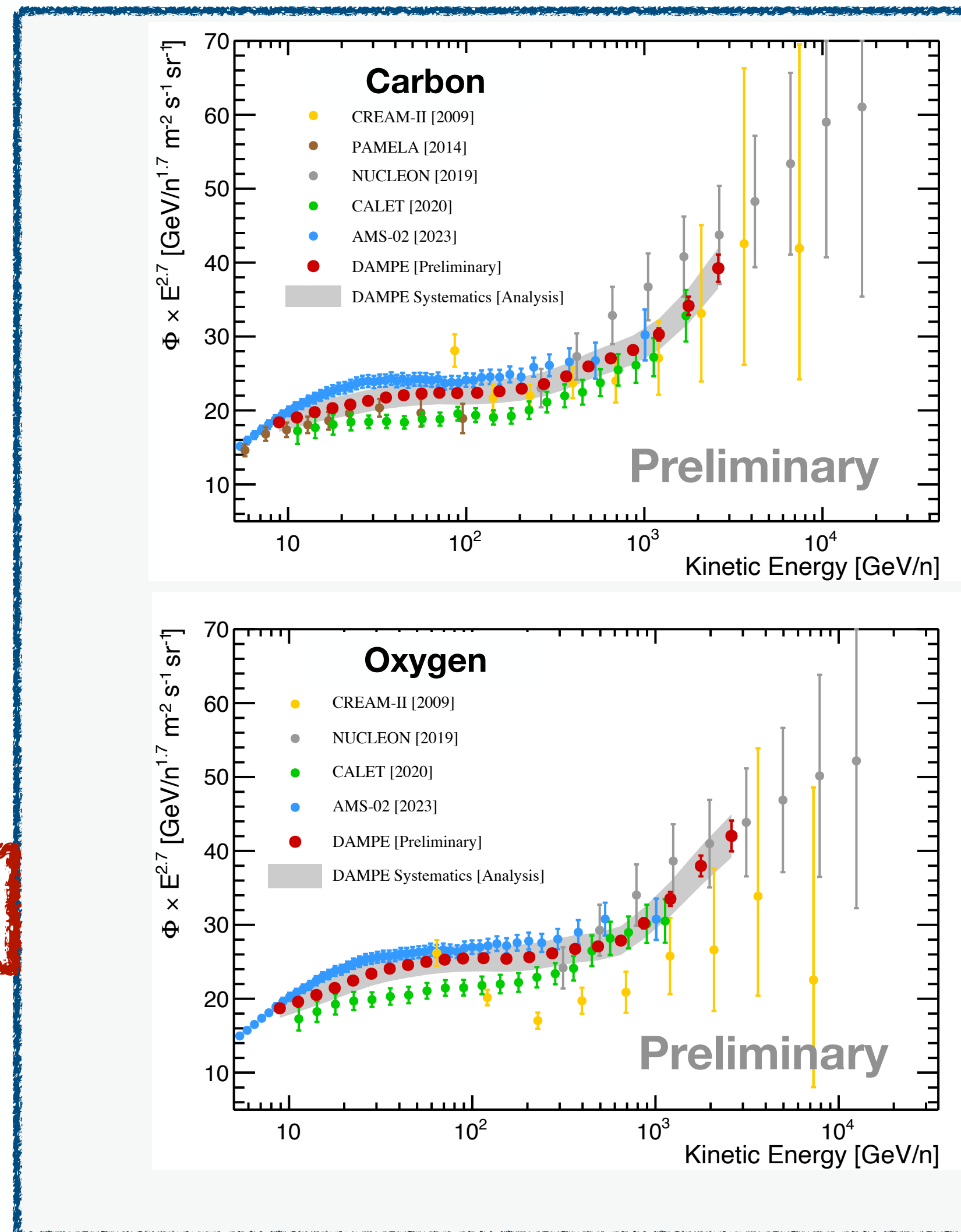
# Primaries: C, O

- Intermediate-mass primaries like **carbon** and **oxygen** also confirm spectral **hardening**

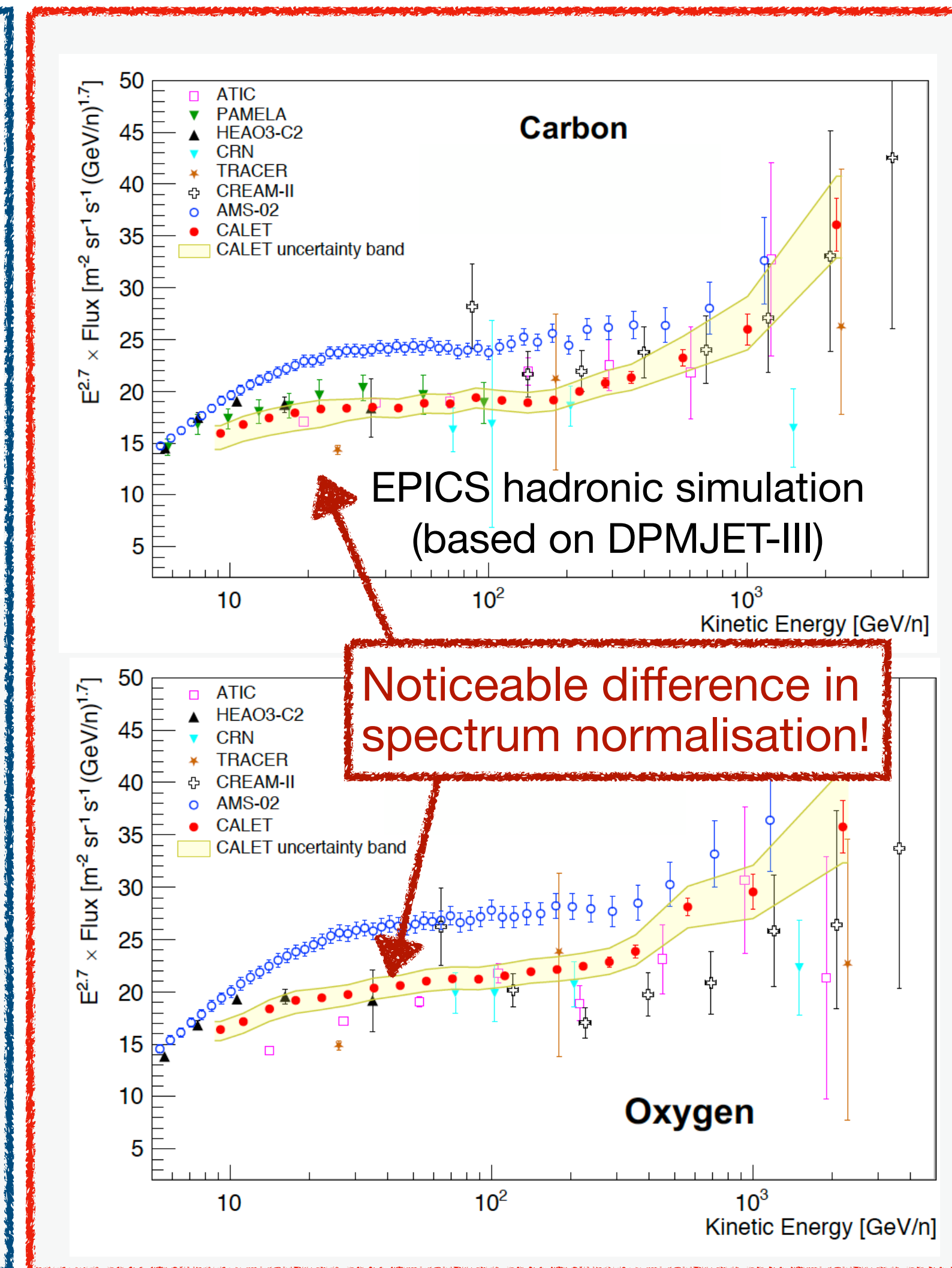
## AMS-02



## DAMPE



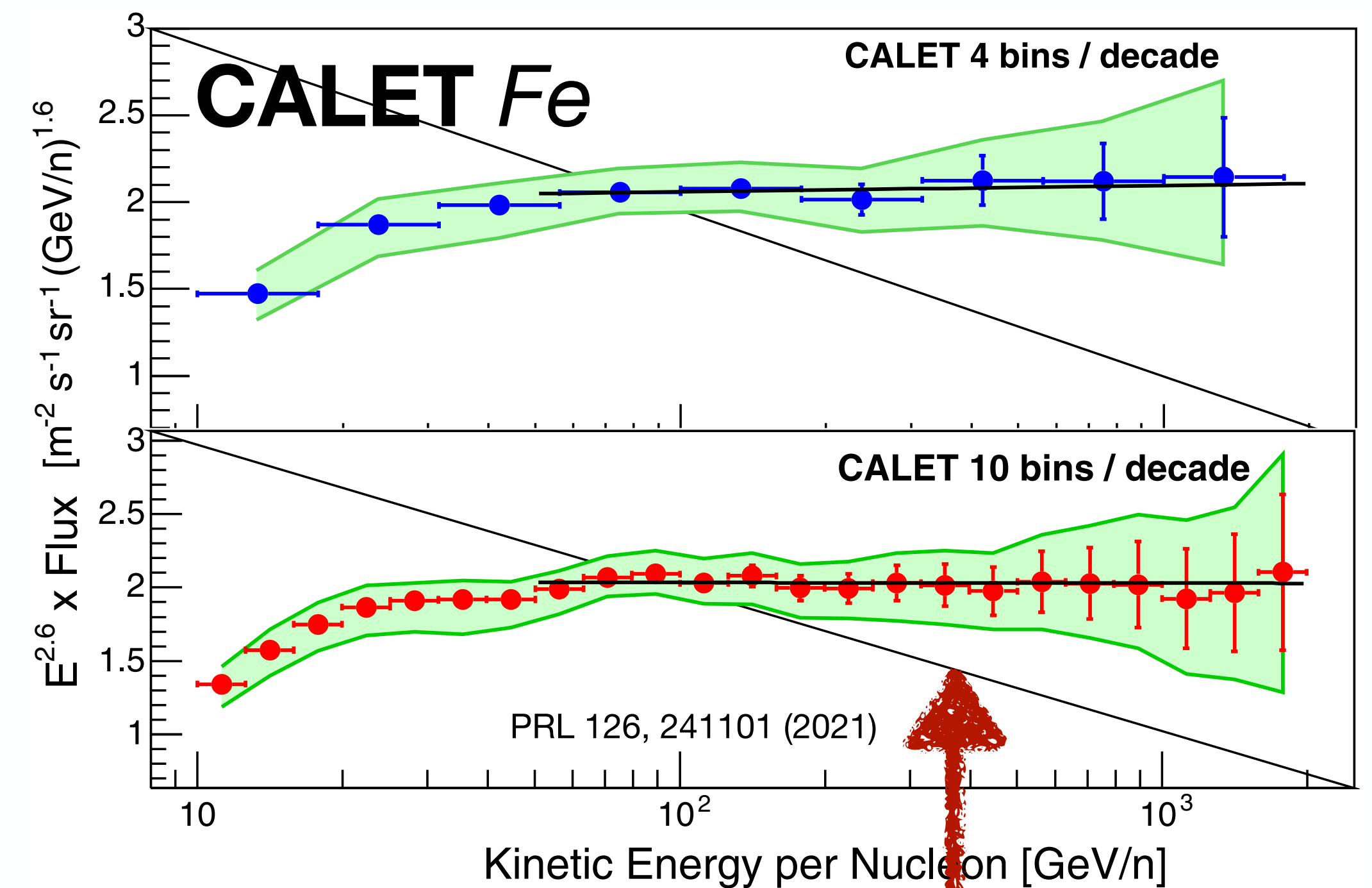
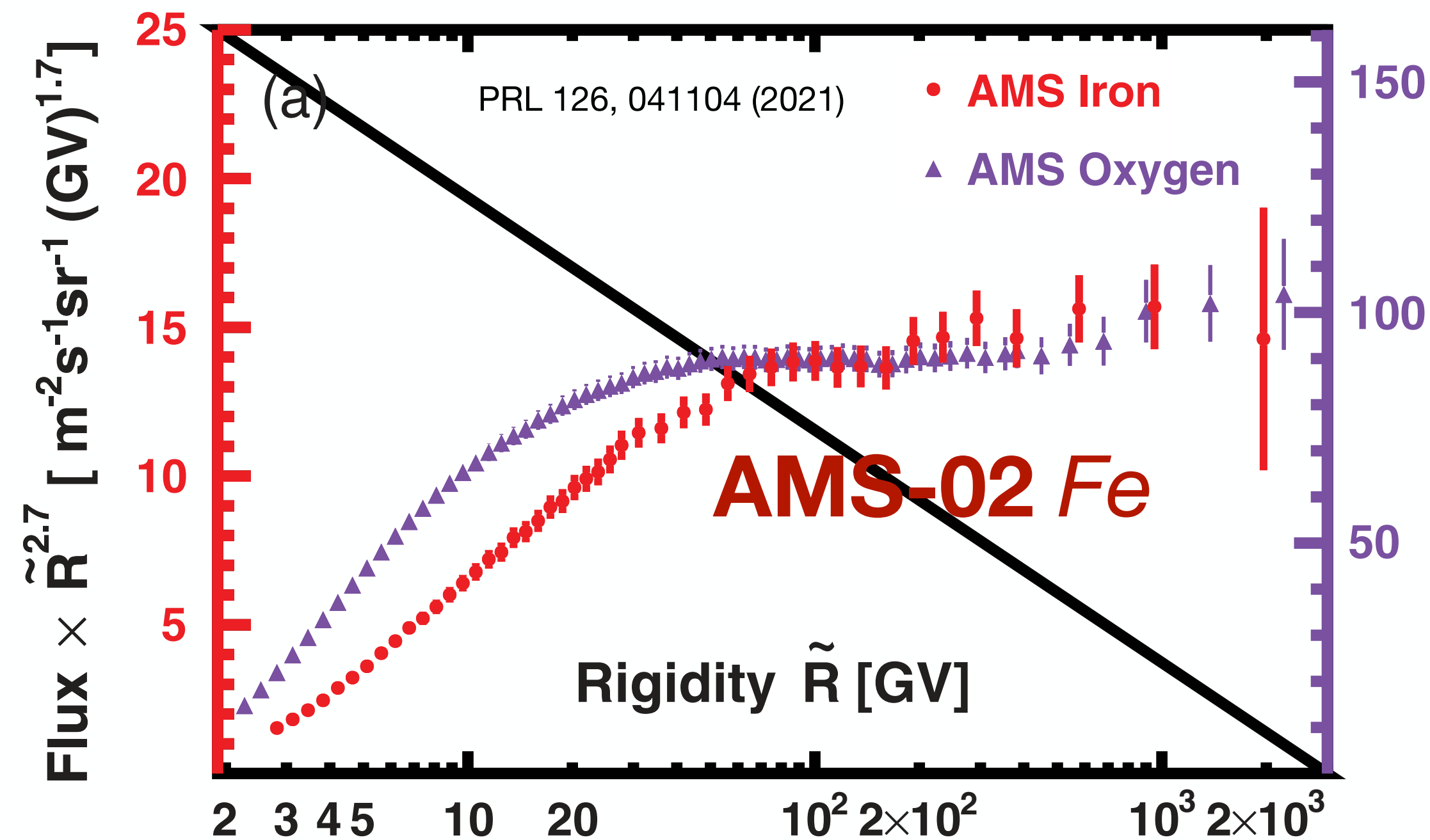
## CALET



# Primaries: Fe

**Iron** is the third most abundant CR after proton and helium at  $\sim$ TeV (total kinetic energy)

- No hardening in Iron spectrum observed in AMS-02 data
- CALET data reaching same energise with comparable (to AMS) statistics – still no hardening

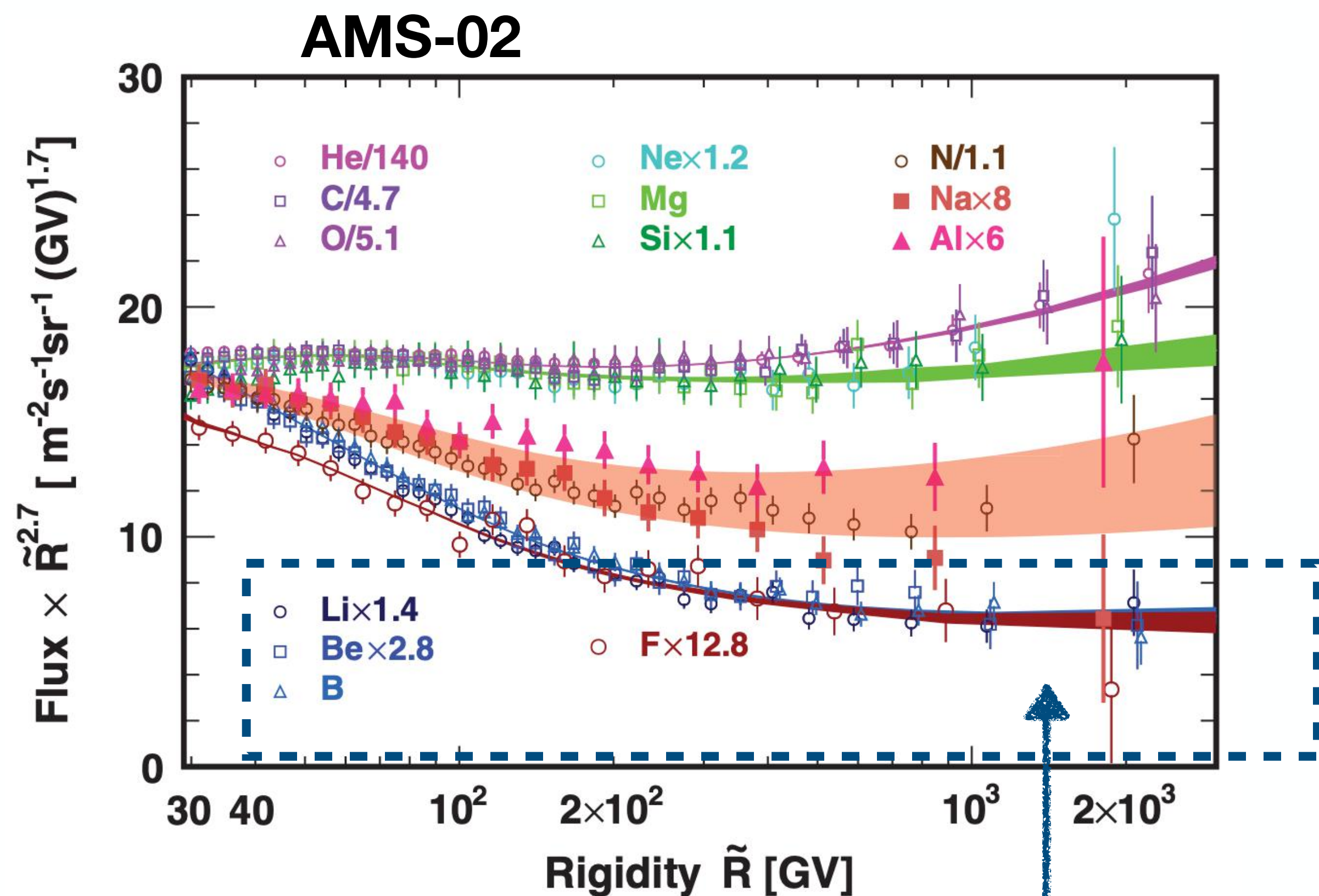


What about DAMPE ? (stay tuned ... )

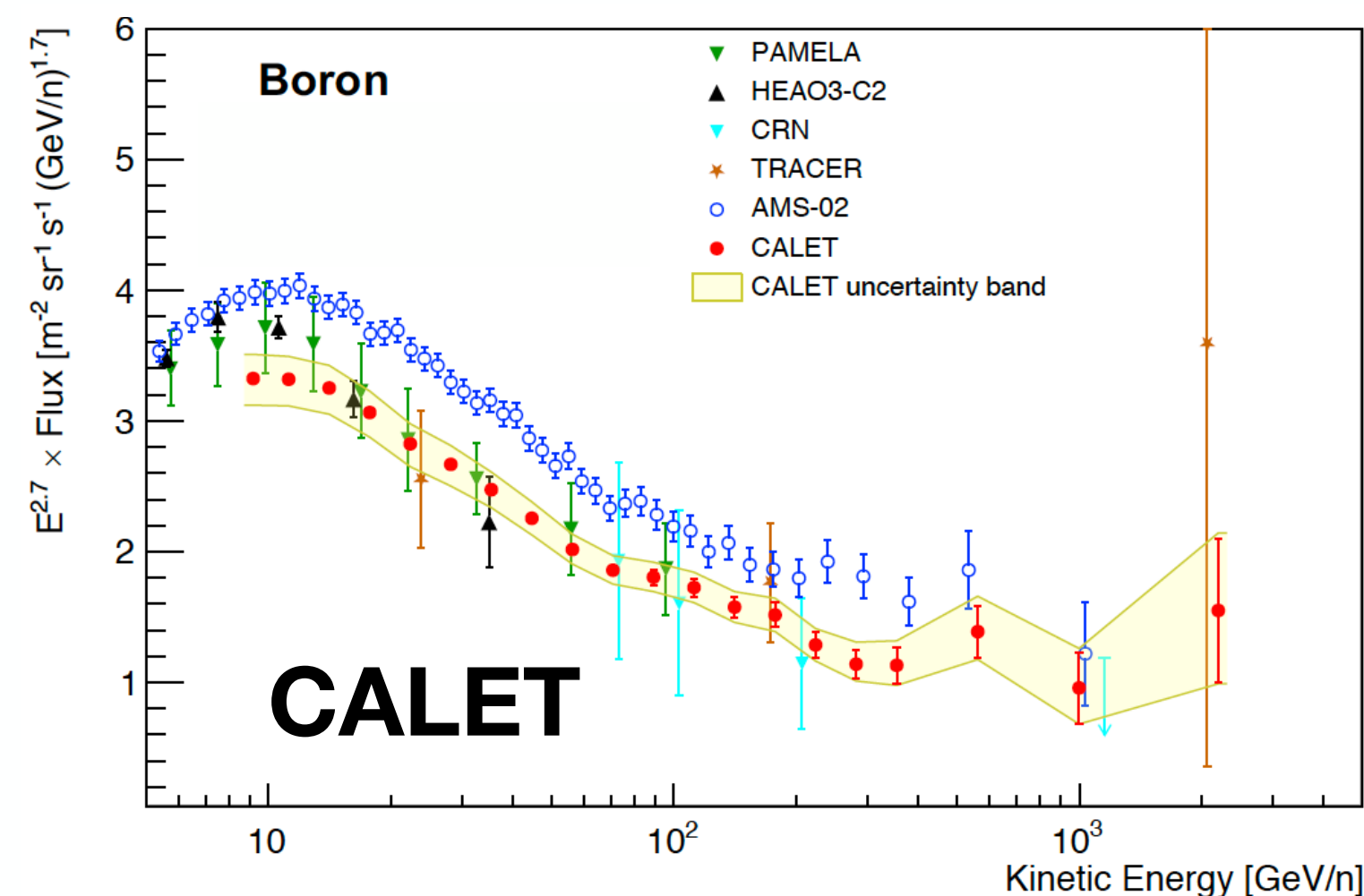
**No hardening in Fe spectrum!**

# Secondaries: *Li, Be, B*

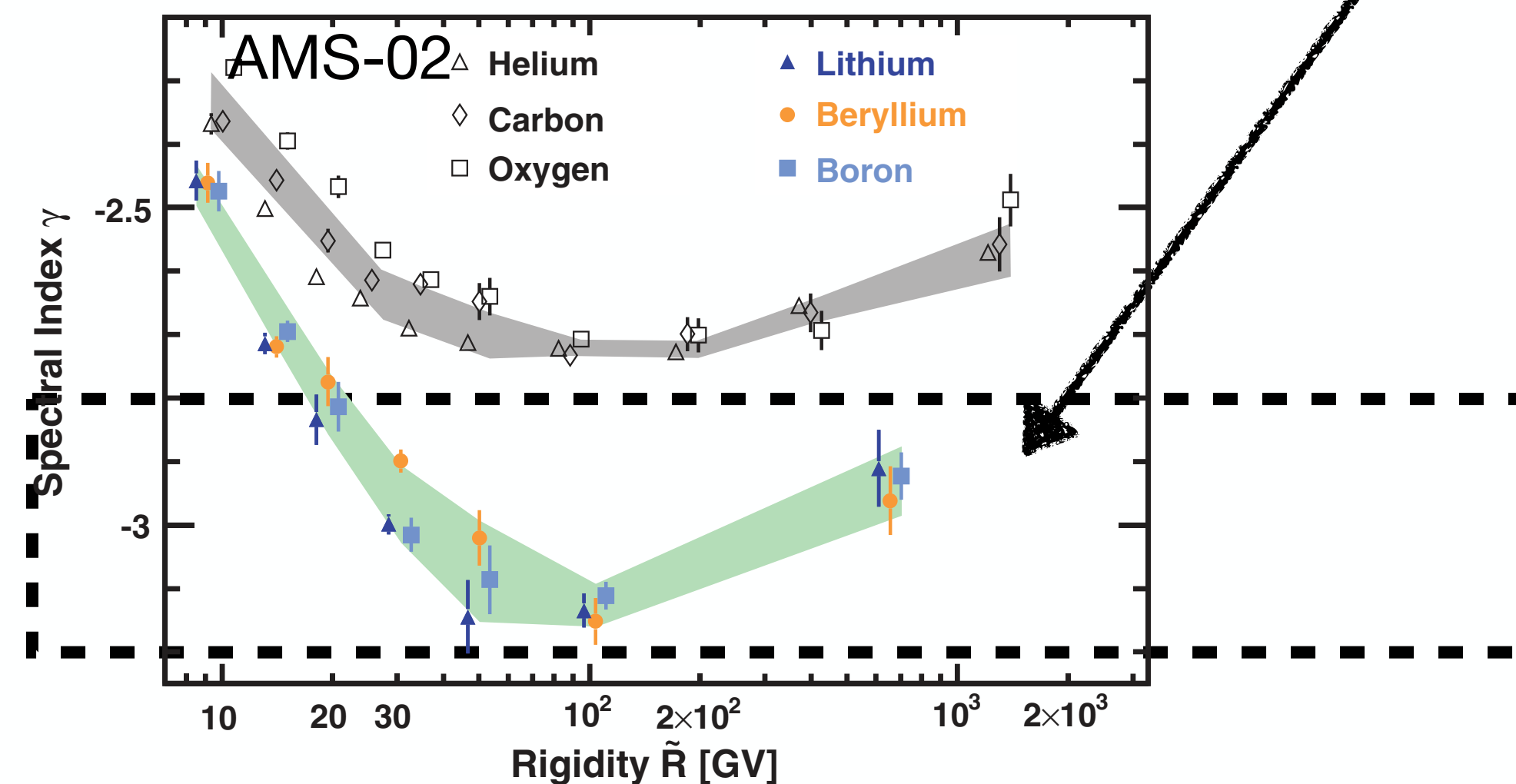
- What about spectral features in secondary cosmic rays



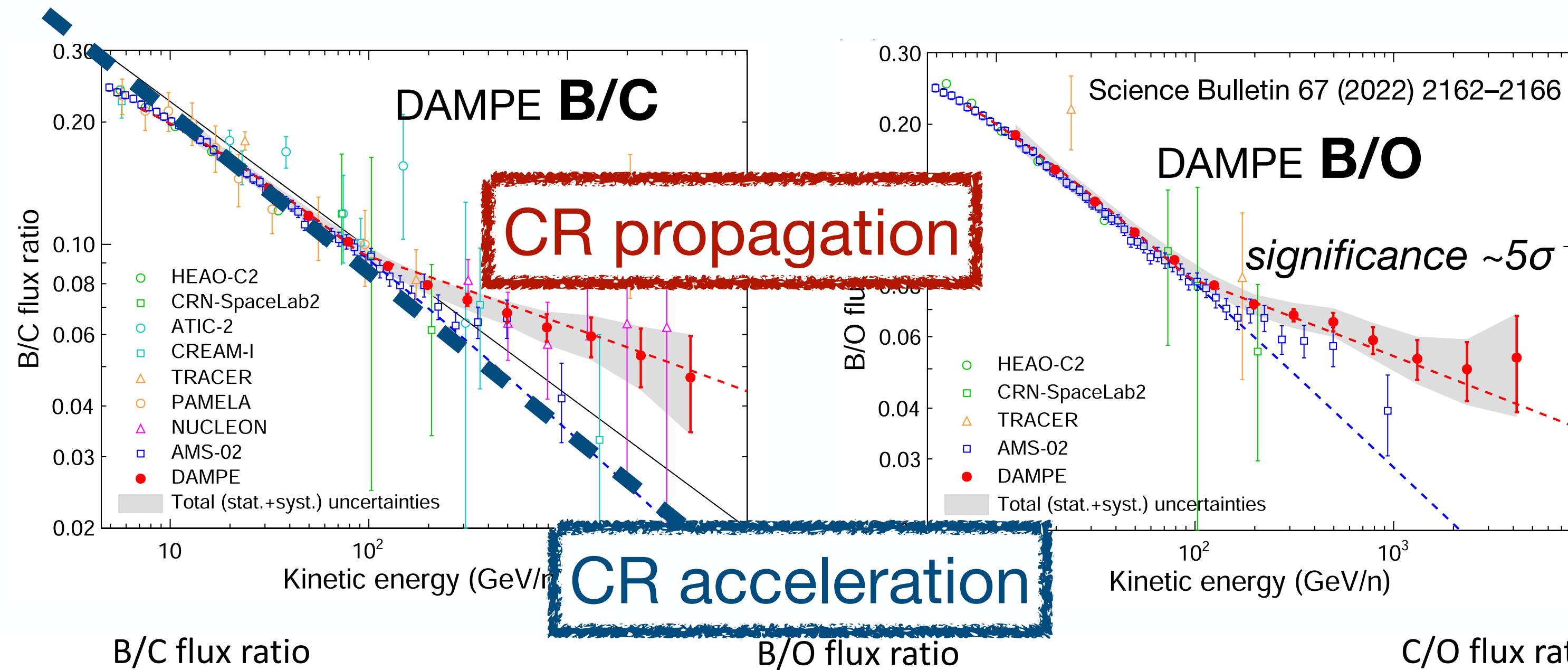
Hardening also observed secondaries



Secondaries are hardening more than primaries?

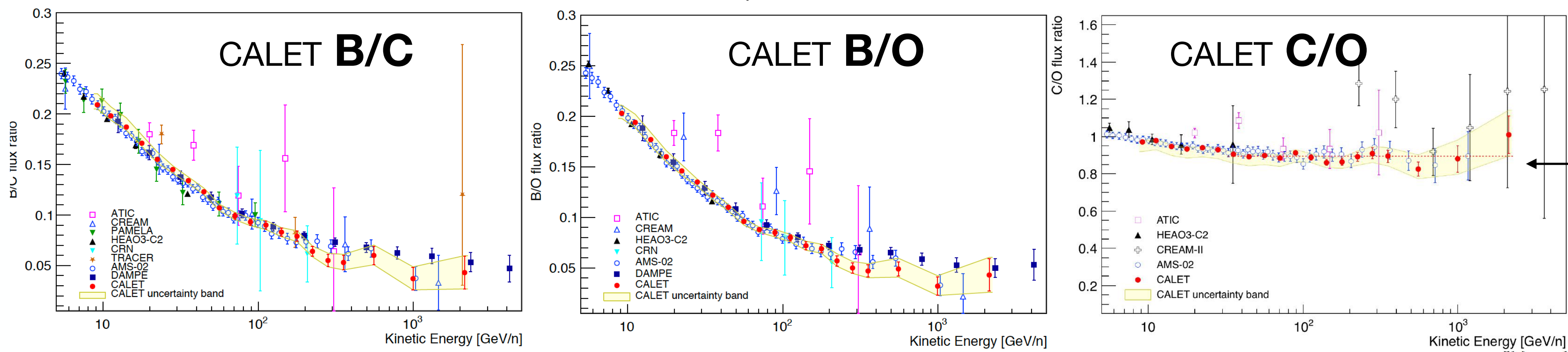


# Secondary-to-primary ratios: $B/C$ , $B/O$



Secondaries harden  $\sim$  twice more than primaries

**→ Hardening is NOT related to the cosmic ray source!**

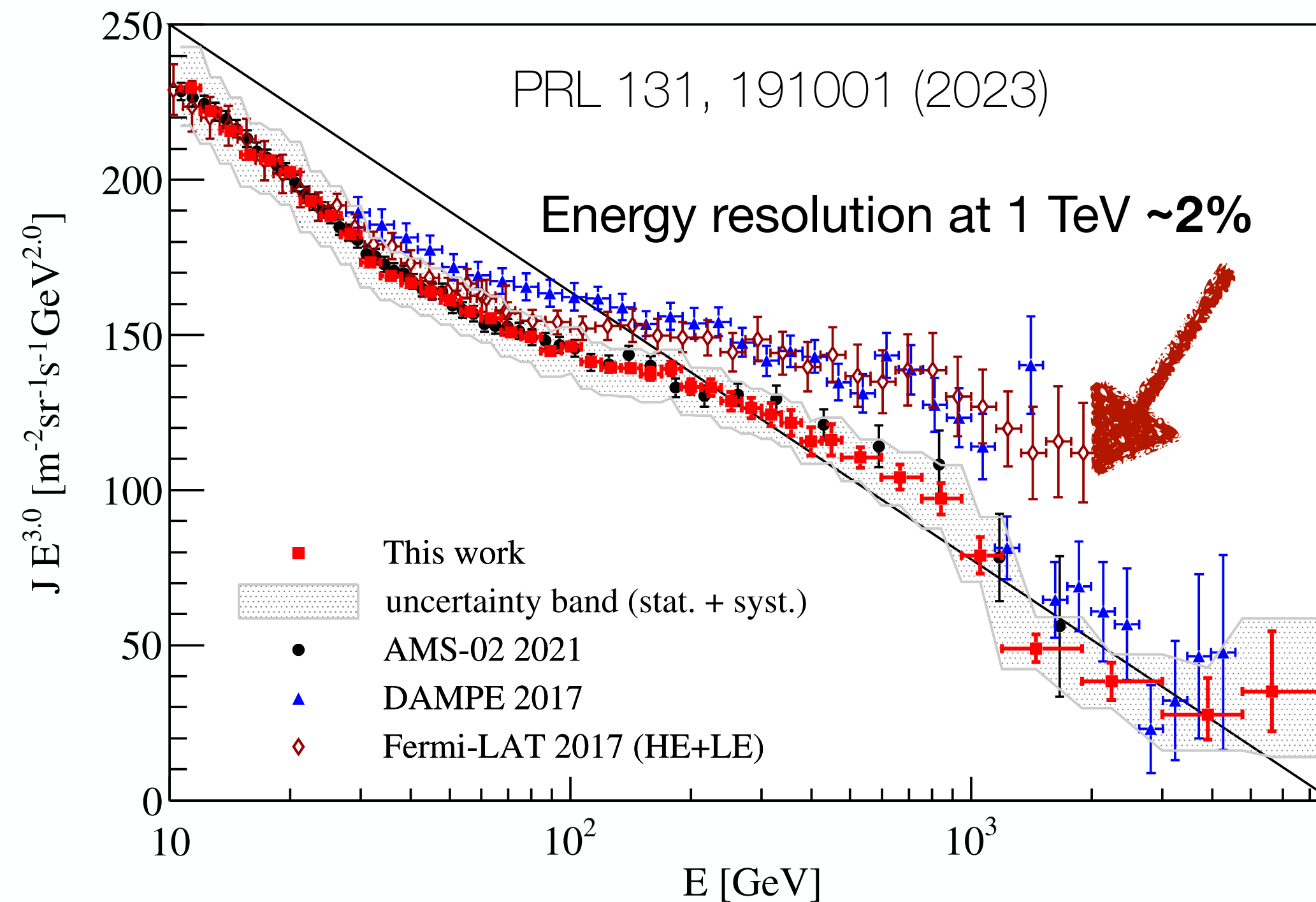
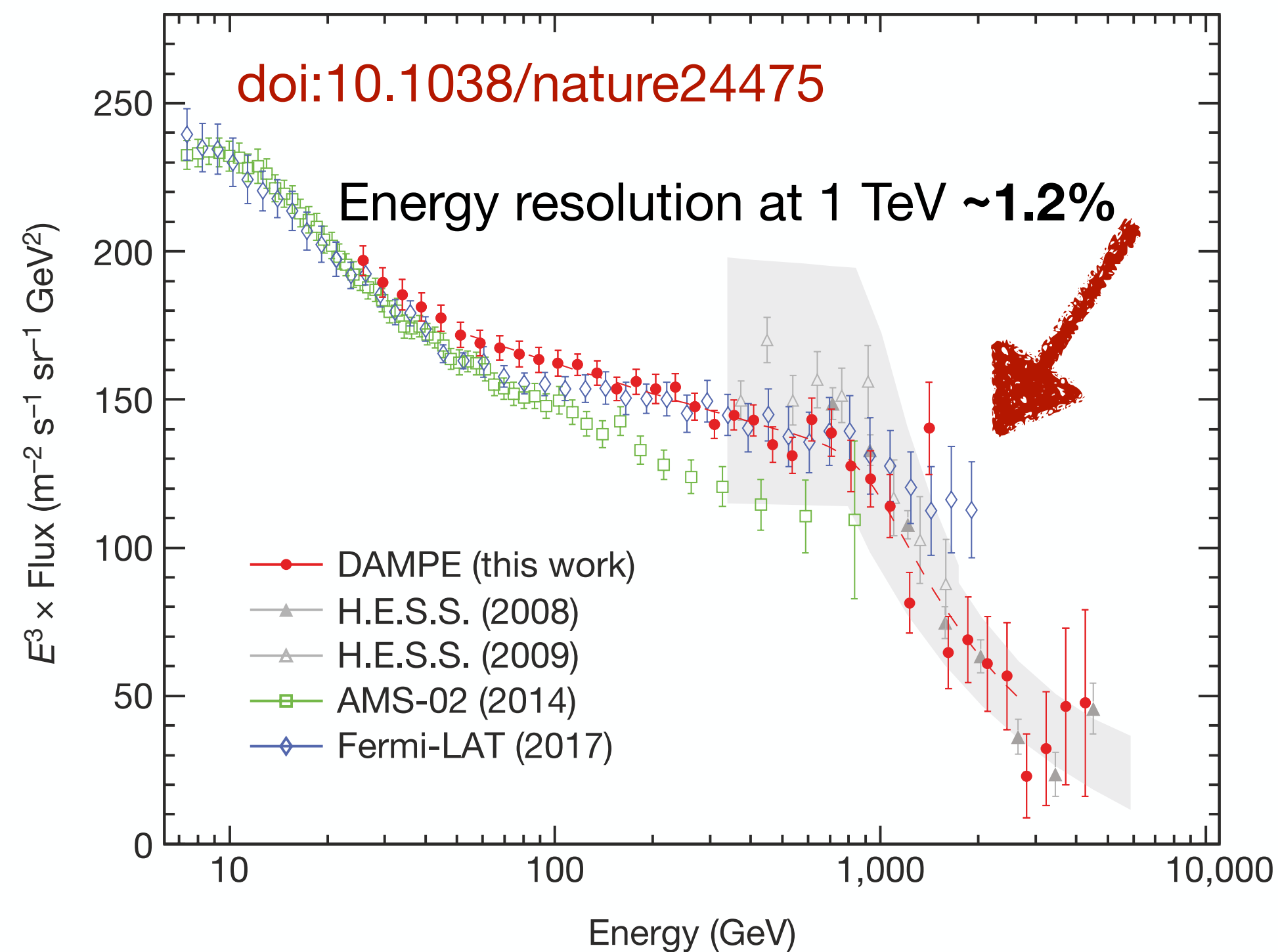


No break in primary-primary (C/O) ratio, as expected

Ratios are powerful observable since majority of systematic uncertainties cancel out!

# $e^- + e^+$

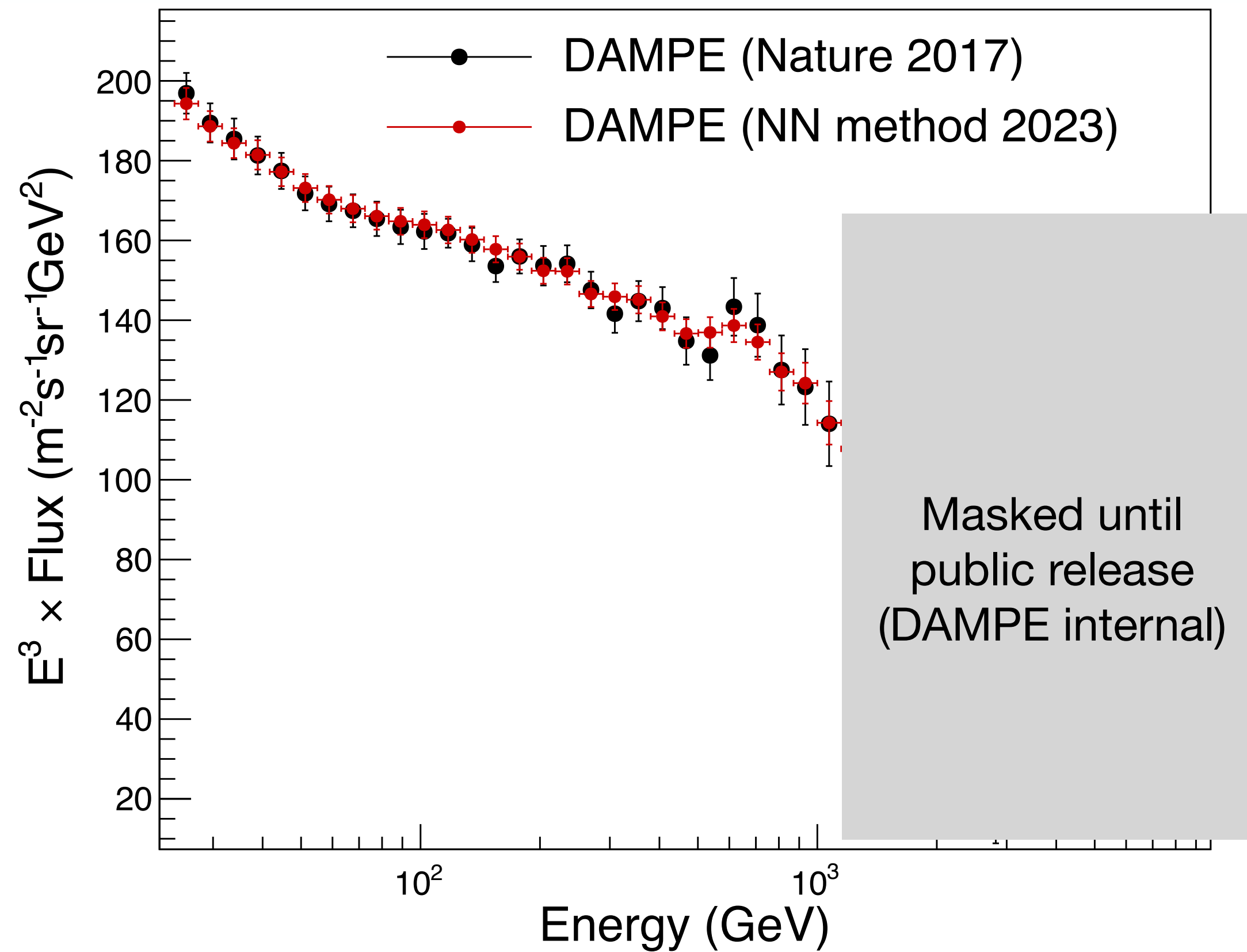
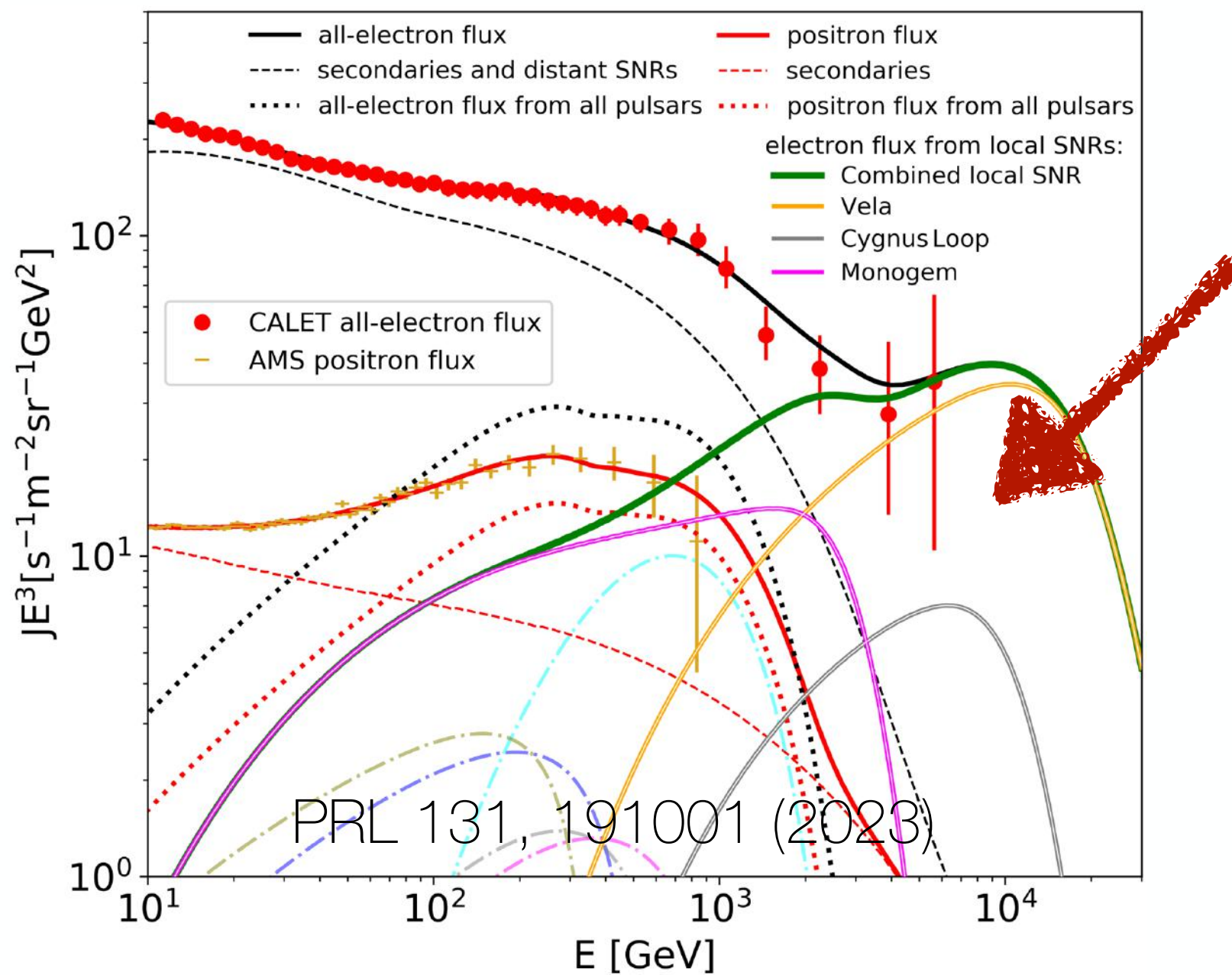
- Hints of spectral by break previously seen H.E.S.S.
  - Large systematics due hadronic interaction modelling in the atmosphere
- **Spectral break at 1 TeV first directly observed by DAMPE and CALET**
  - Excellent energy resolution  $\sim 1 - 2\%^*$ , major systematic - **p background rejection**



\* for comparison, AMS resolution at 1 TeV  $O(10)\%$

# $e^- + e^+$

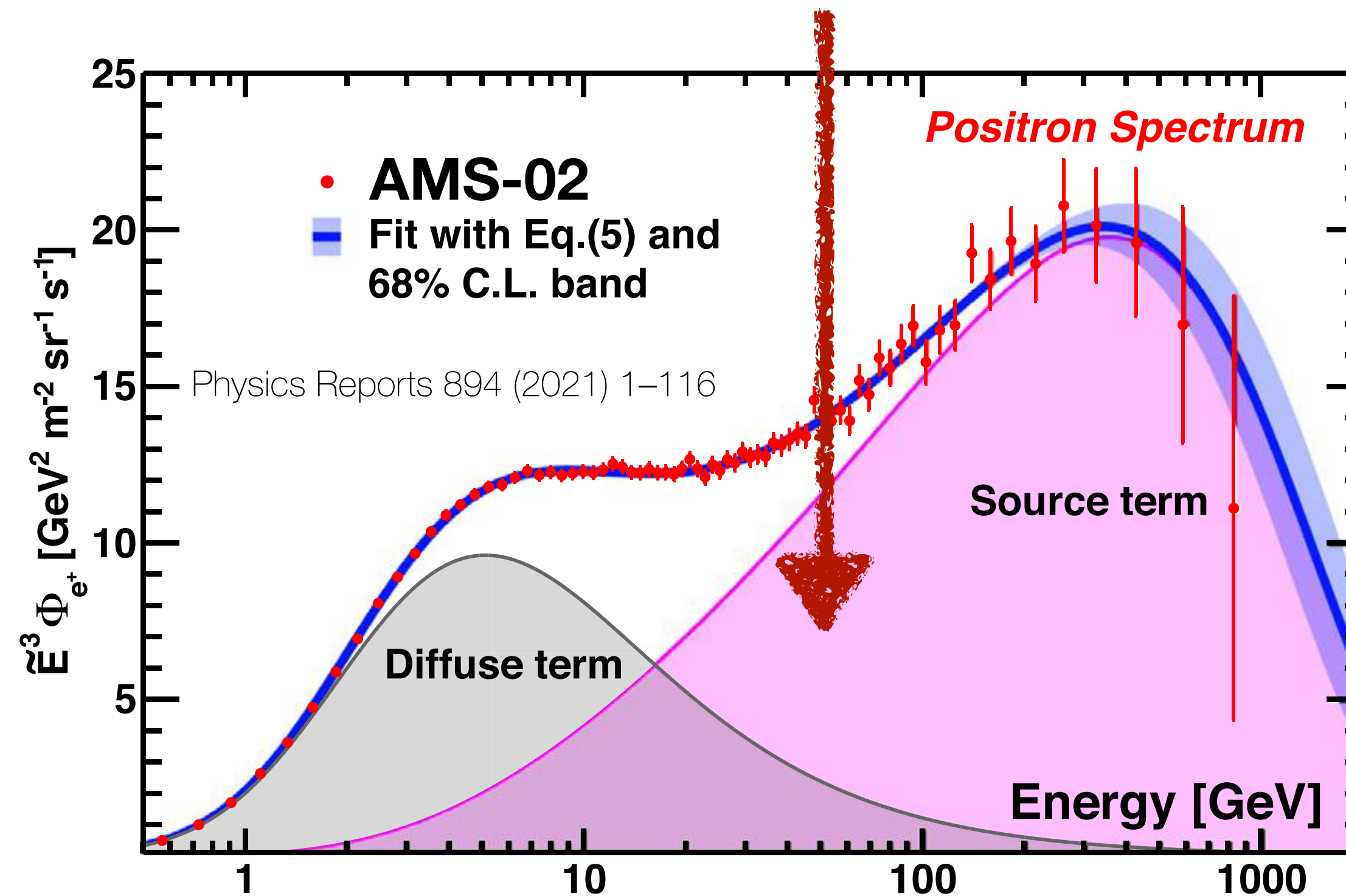
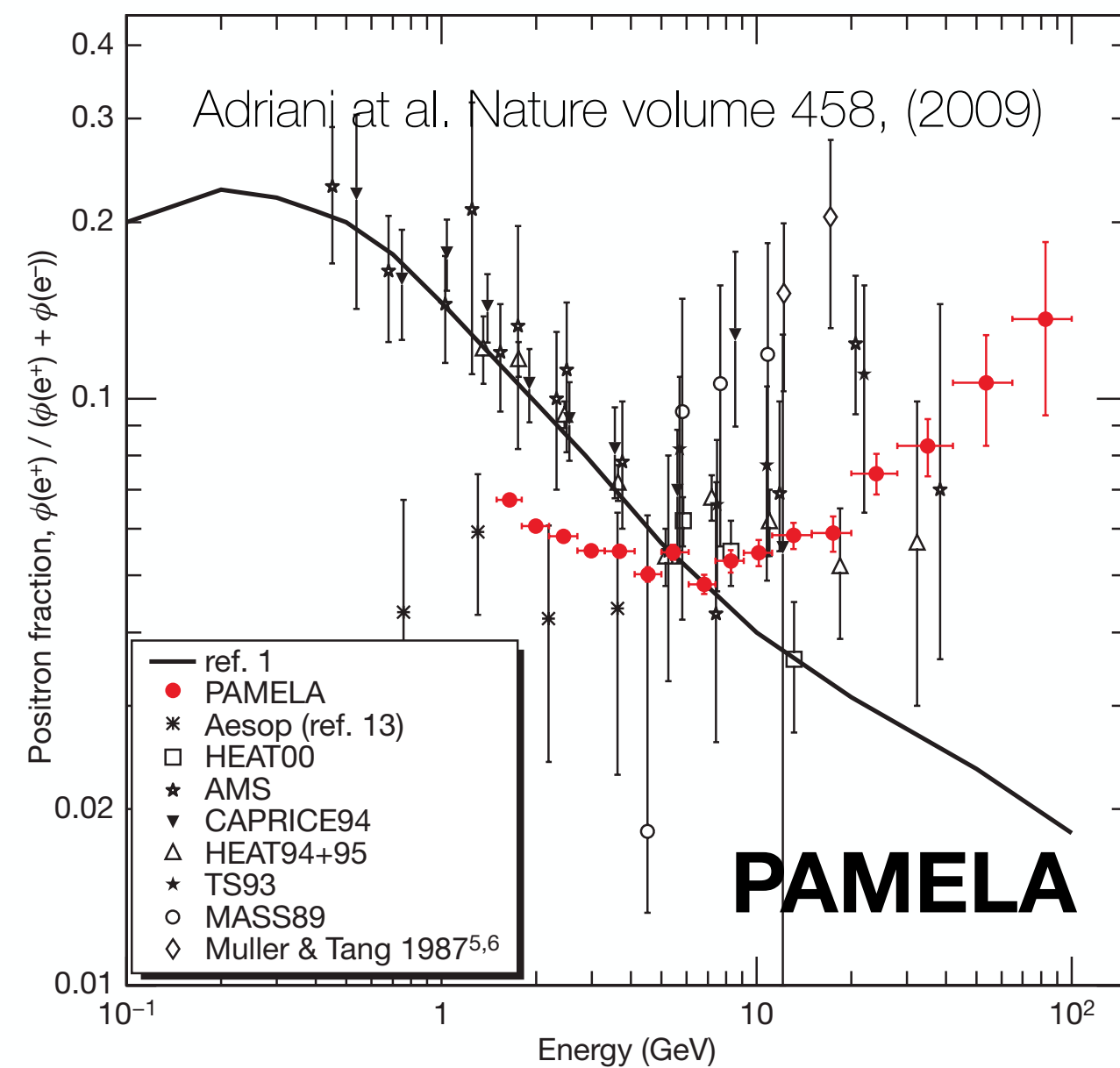
- $\sim$ TeV spectrum becomes sensitive to age/distance of young nearby sources
  - Manifest in bumps in spectrum — **use spectrum to search for sources!**



NN method:

[D. Droz et al 2021 JINST 16 P07036](#)

- Hardening in  $e^+$  spectrum first observed by PAMELA, origin unclear until now

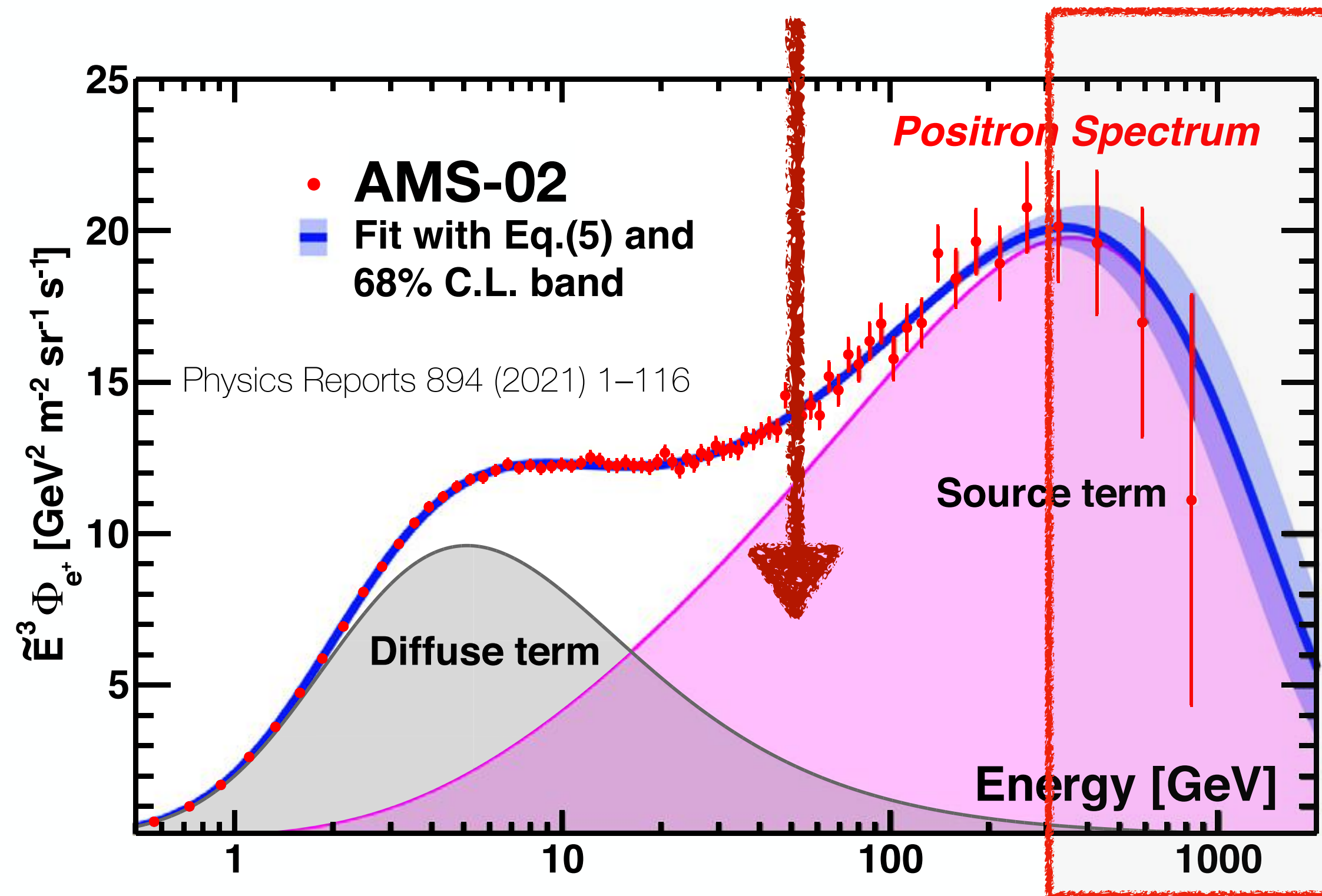
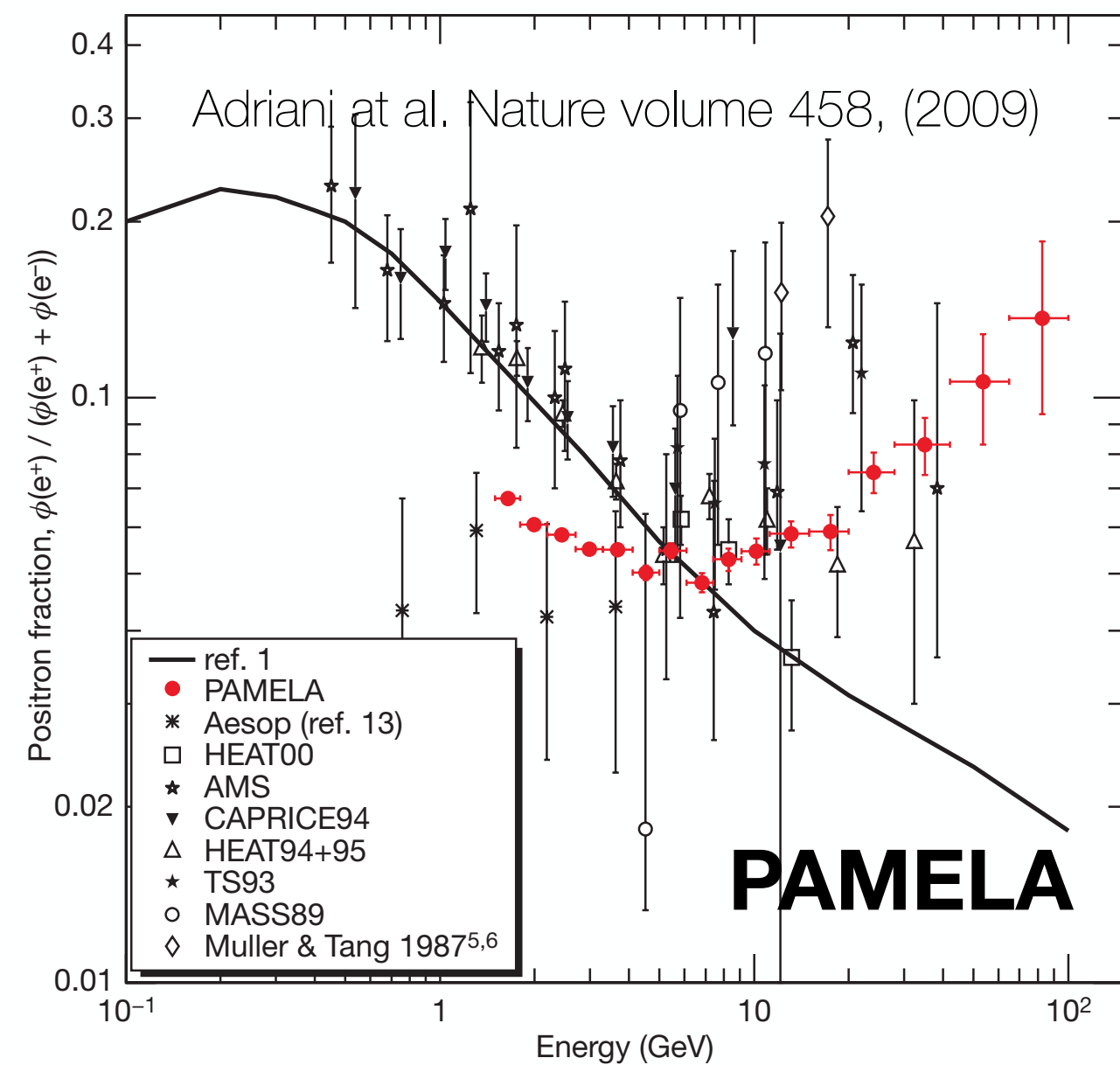


- HAWC:  $\gamma$ -ray halos around pulsar wind nebulae (PWNe)\*  
 → indication towards astrophysical origin of positron excess

\* [10.1126/science.aan4880]



- Hardening in  $e^+$  spectrum first observed by PAMELA, origin unclear until now



pulsar

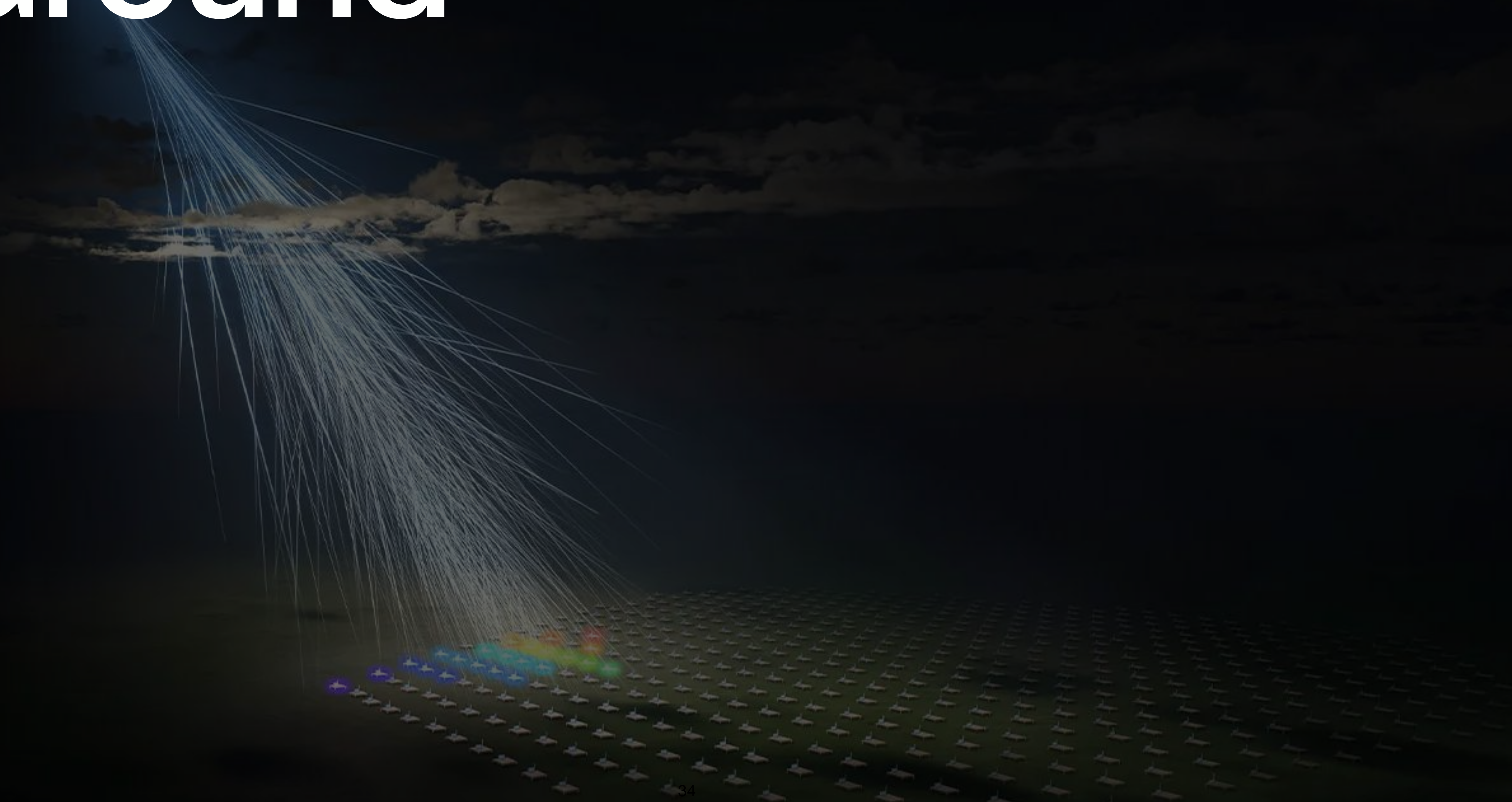
Is it *break* or *cutoff*?

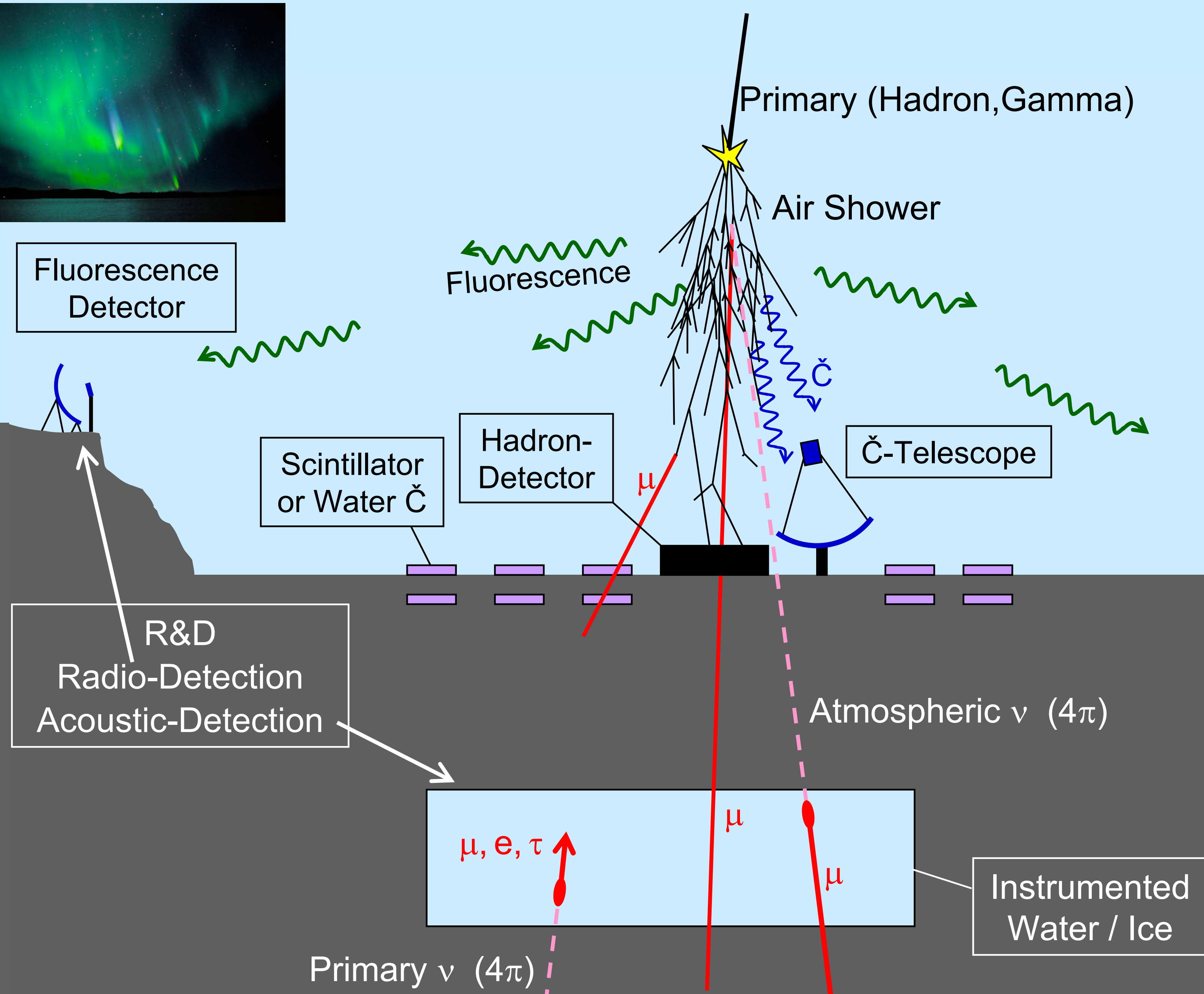
dark matter

- HAWC:  $\gamma$ -ray halos around pulsar wind nebulae (PWNe)\*  
 → indication towards astrophysical origin of positron excess

\* [10.1126/science.aan4880]

# Ground





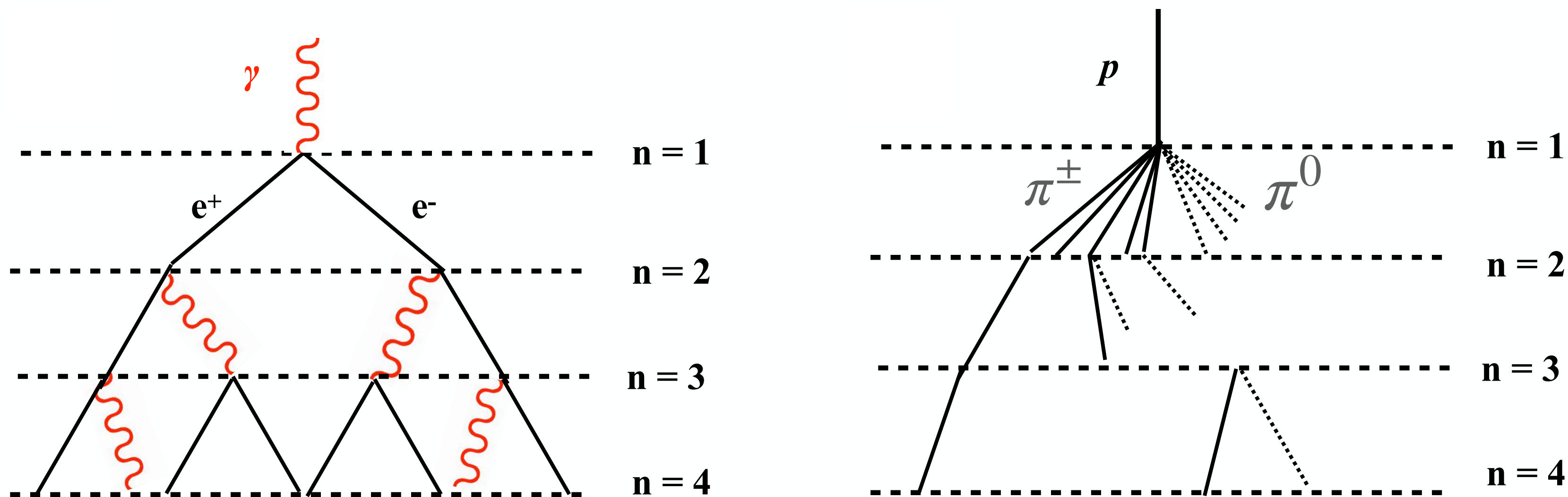
# Extensive Air Shower (EAS) detectors

At  $\sim$  PeV and higher energies, flux of CR is not sufficient to observe them directly. Instead, interactions in the atmosphere are observed.

- **Hadronic showers** — most of energy carried away by  $\pi^0$  and  $\pi^\pm$

$\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  (electromagnetic component)

$\pi^\pm \rightarrow \mu^\pm\nu$  (muons, neutrino carry away 10–20% — *invisible* energy)



arXiv:2202.11618v1

# Extensive Air Shower (EAS) detectors

Secondary observables used to determine shower energy ( $E$ ) and cosmic ray particle mass ( $A$ )

- $N_{max}$  — **shower size (total number of particles)** — **most direct probe of energy**
- $X_{max}$  — shower depth in the atmosphere

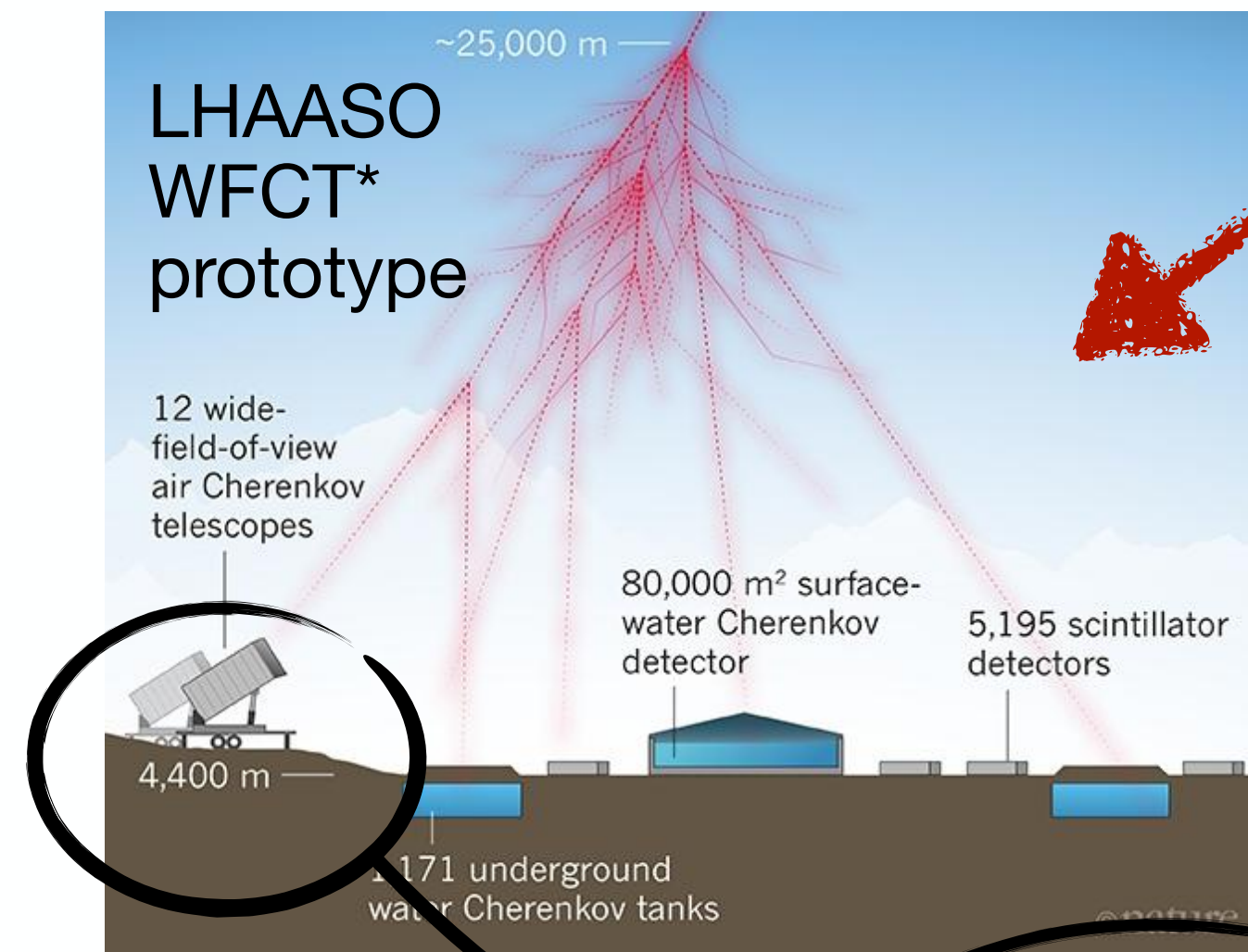
$$N_{max} \propto E$$

$$X_{max} \propto \log E$$

$$X_{max} \propto \log A^{-1}$$

$$N_{\mu} \propto A^{(1-\beta)} E^{\beta}$$

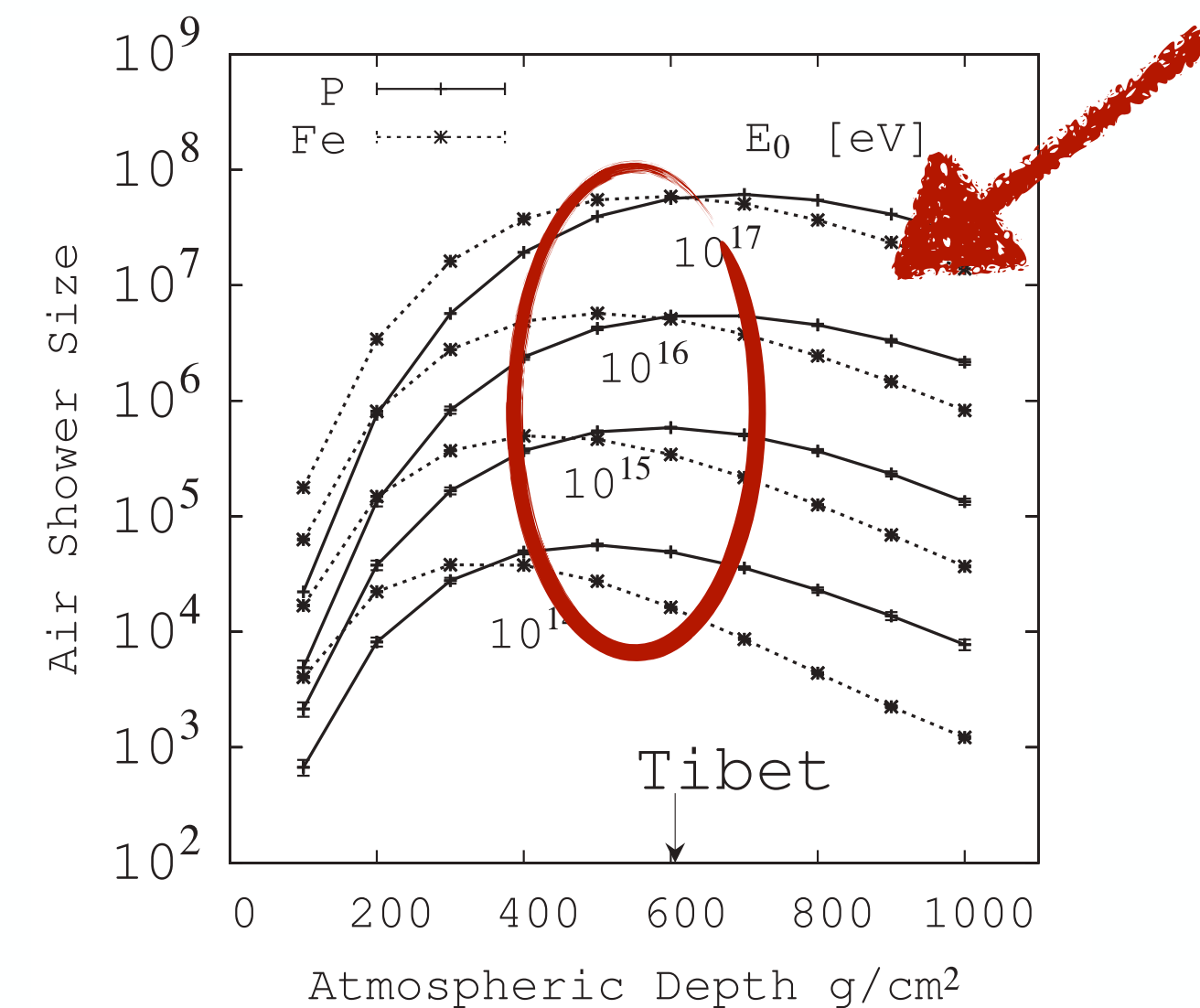
$$\beta \simeq 0.85 \dots 0.95$$



ARGO-YBG  
RPCs array

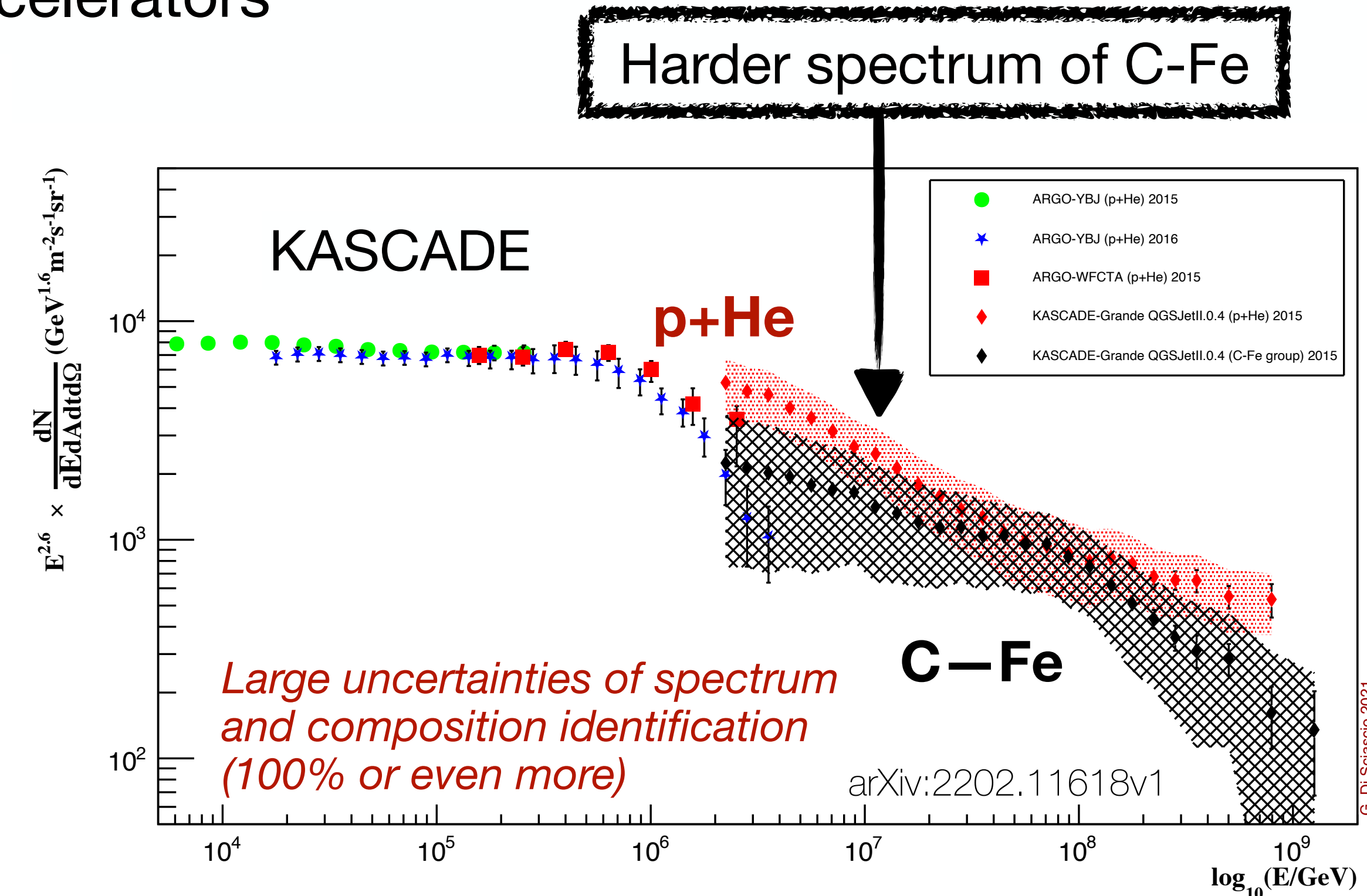
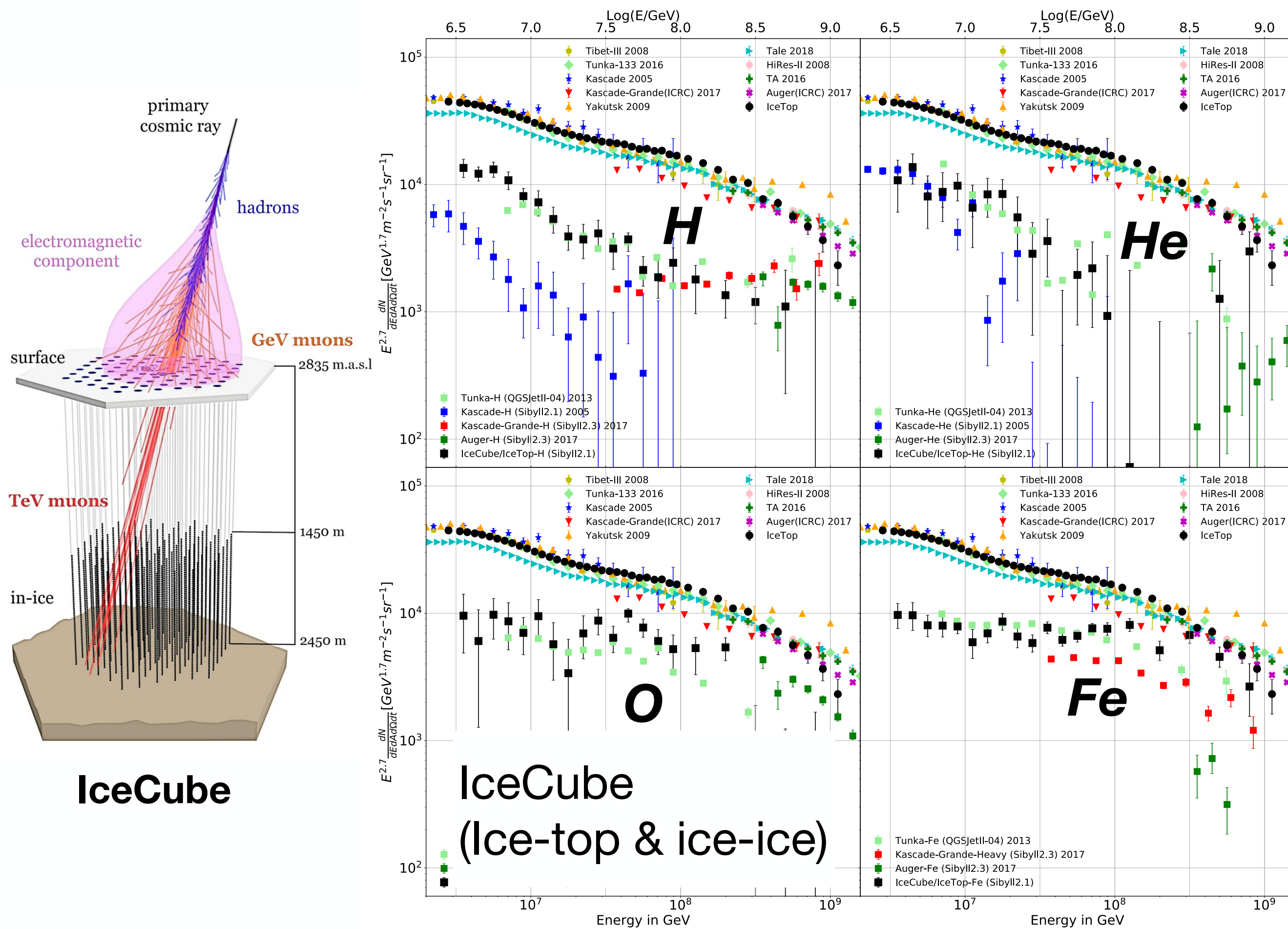


- Combine ground-level observations (hadronic) with Cherenkov (electromagnetic) part
- Higher altitudes — probing showers close to the core — resolving  $E$  &  $A$  degeneracy



# EAS results: $\sim$ PeV knee

- Increasing contribution of heavy cosmic rays (C-Fe) after few PeV (IceCube, KASCADE)
- Indicates exhaustion of galactic cosmic-ray accelerators



# EAS results: 100 PeV — 2<sup>nd</sup> knee

- After 100 PeV, the composition becomes lighter indicating of Extragalactic origin

Model	$X_0^H$	$D_0^H$	$D_1^H$	$X_0^{Fe}$	$D_0^{Fe}$	$D_1^{Fe}$
Sibyll 2.3	$72.6 \pm 0.6$	$58.1 \pm 0.3$	$-0.5 \pm 0.2$	$659.3 \pm 0.7$	$63.2 \pm 0.4$	$-2.8 \pm 0.2$
EPOS-LHC	$78.5 \pm 0.6$	$57.4 \pm 0.3$	$-0.9 \pm 0.2$	$649.9 \pm 0.5$	$63.3 \pm 0.3$	$-2.6 \pm 0.1$
QGSJet II-04	$733.7 \pm 0.5$	$54.9 \pm 0.2$	$-0.2 \pm 0.1$	$637.9 \pm 0.7$	$59.8 \pm 0.4$	$-2.9 \pm 0.2$

$$X_{\max}^A = X_0^A + D^A(E) \log(E/\text{EeV}),$$

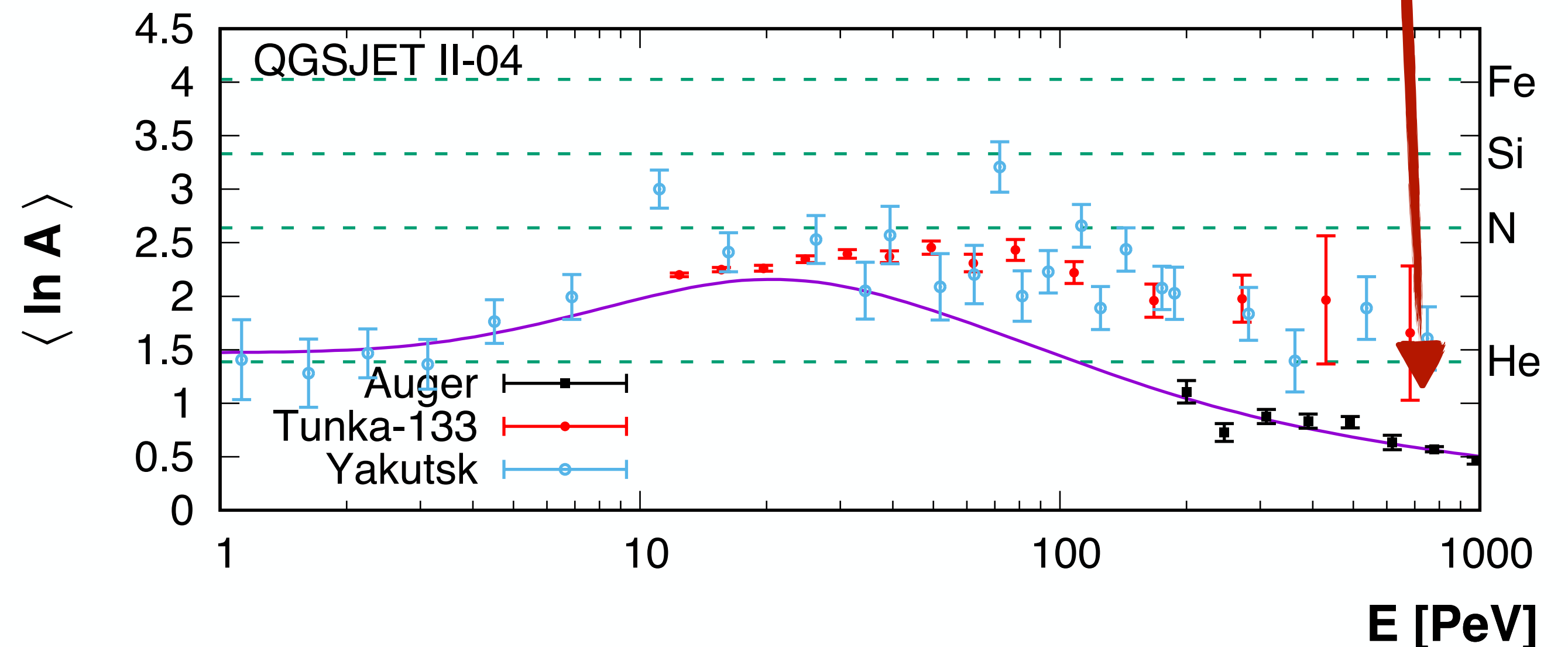
$$D^A(E) = D_0^A + D_1^A \log(E/\text{EeV}).$$

$$\langle \ln A \rangle \simeq \ln 56 \frac{X_{\max}^H(E) - \langle X_{\max} \rangle}{X_{\max}^H(E) - X_{\max}^{Fe}(E)}$$



Detectors in the Pierre Auger observatory on the Argentina pampas

Average CR mass  $\langle \ln A \rangle$  decreases towards p-He group

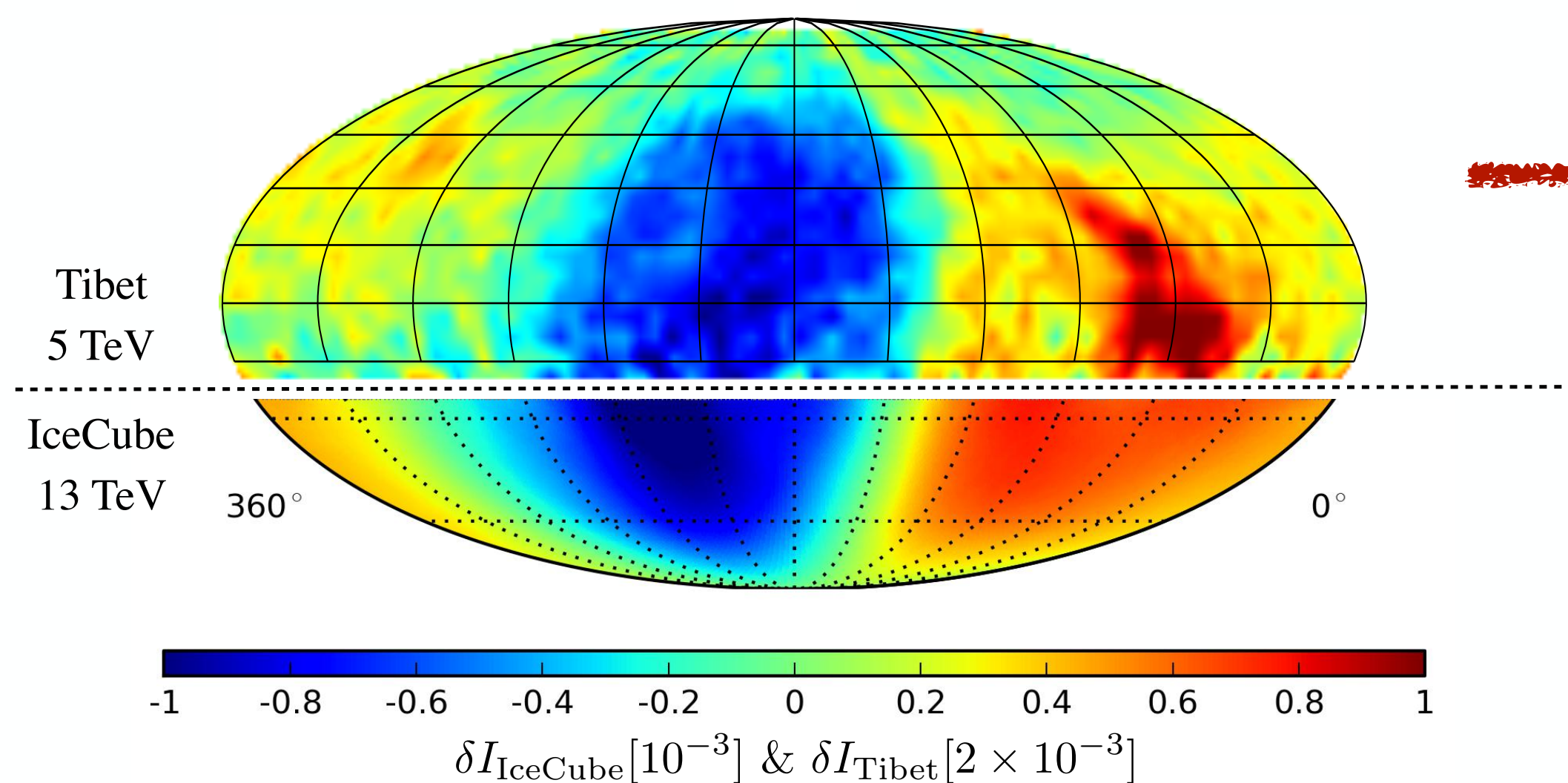
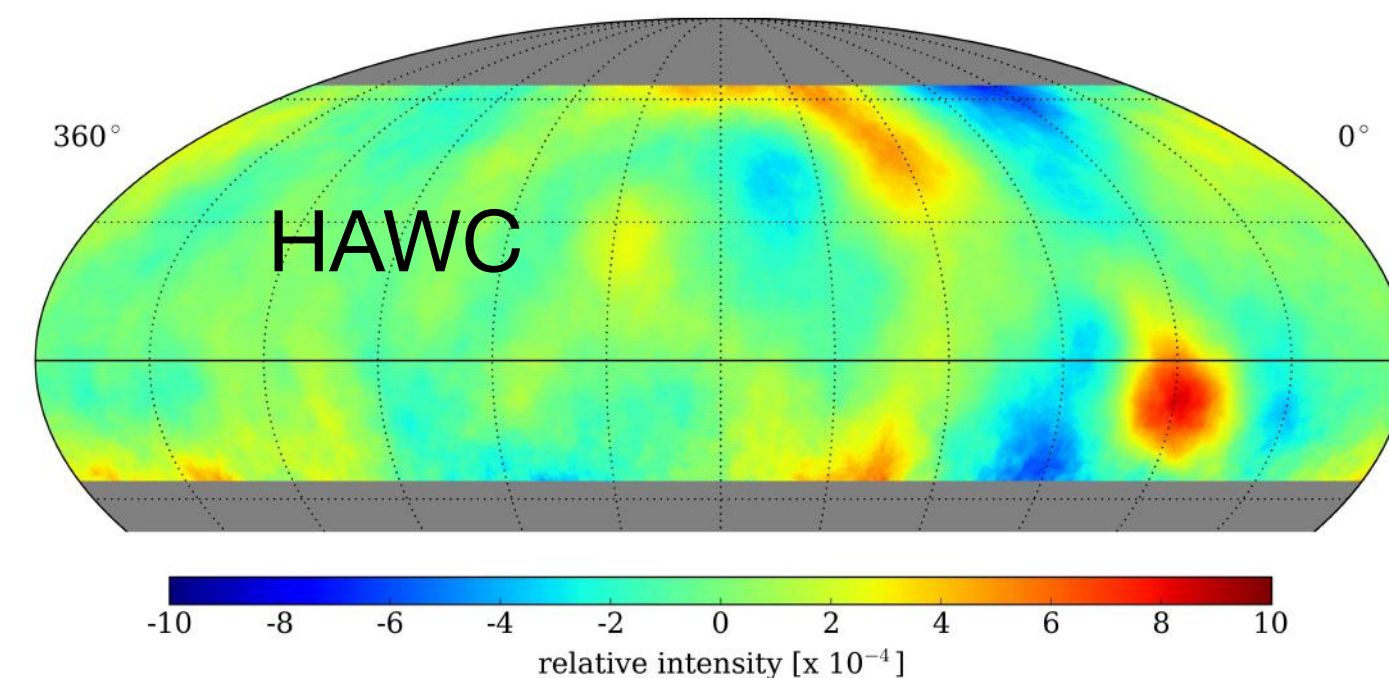


# Cosmic Ray anisotropy

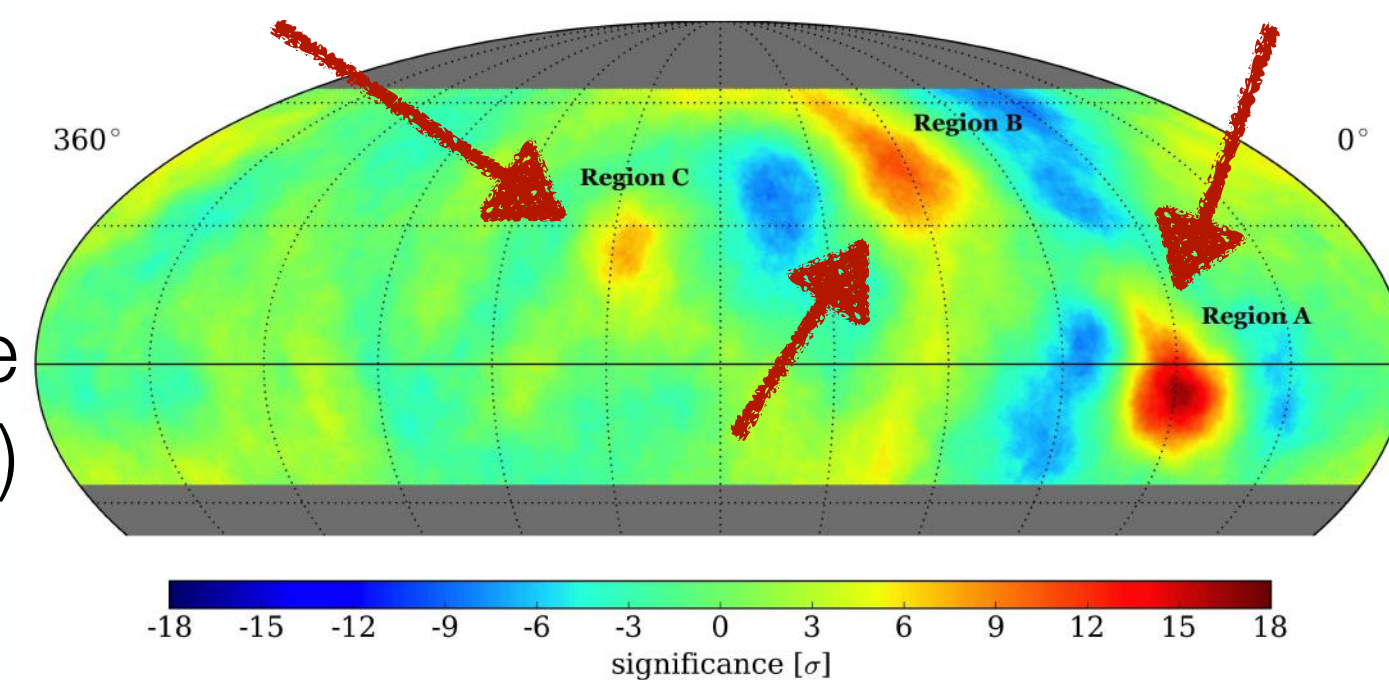
- CR are mostly isotropic, anisotropies are  $10^{-3}$  to  $10^{-4}$
- Large-scale (dipole) expected from diffusive propagation: **gradient due to CR source variation**
- Small-scale anisotropies ( $\sim 10^\circ$ ) NOT predicted by standard diffusive theory
  - Likely attributed to specific realisation of the turbulent magnetic field in our Galactic neighbourhood.

$$I(\mathbf{n}) \equiv \frac{\phi(\mathbf{n})}{\phi_{\text{iso}}} \equiv 1 + \delta I(\mathbf{n})$$

Harmonic/Fourier decomposition:  
dominated by leading harmonics  
(dipole, quadrupole,..)



Small-scale  
(after subtracting dipole)





# Conclusions



Primary element

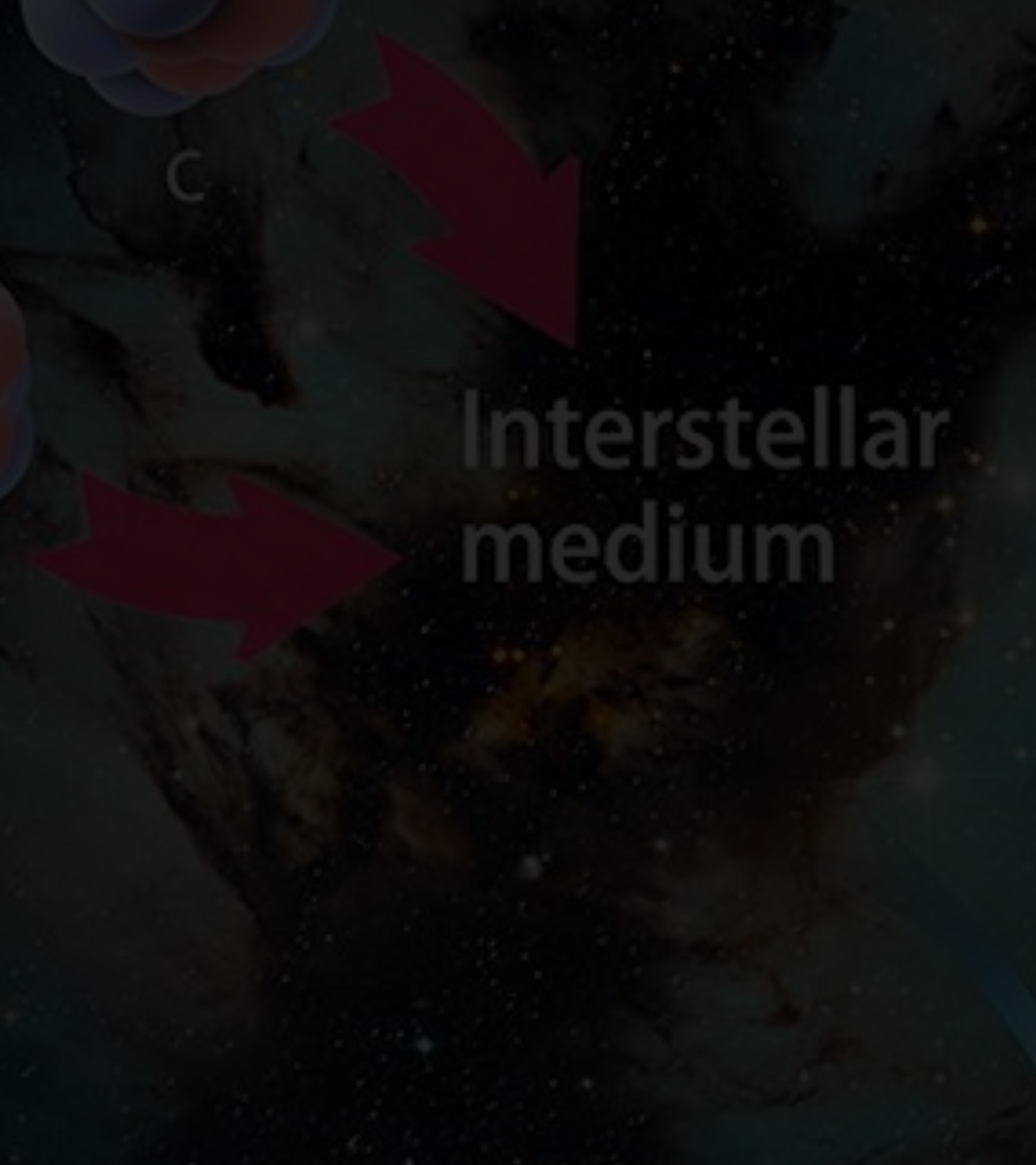


Secondary element



Supernova remnant

Others



Interstellar medium



# Cosmic Rays - very broad and active field!

Impossible to summarise here, some (biased) thoughts:

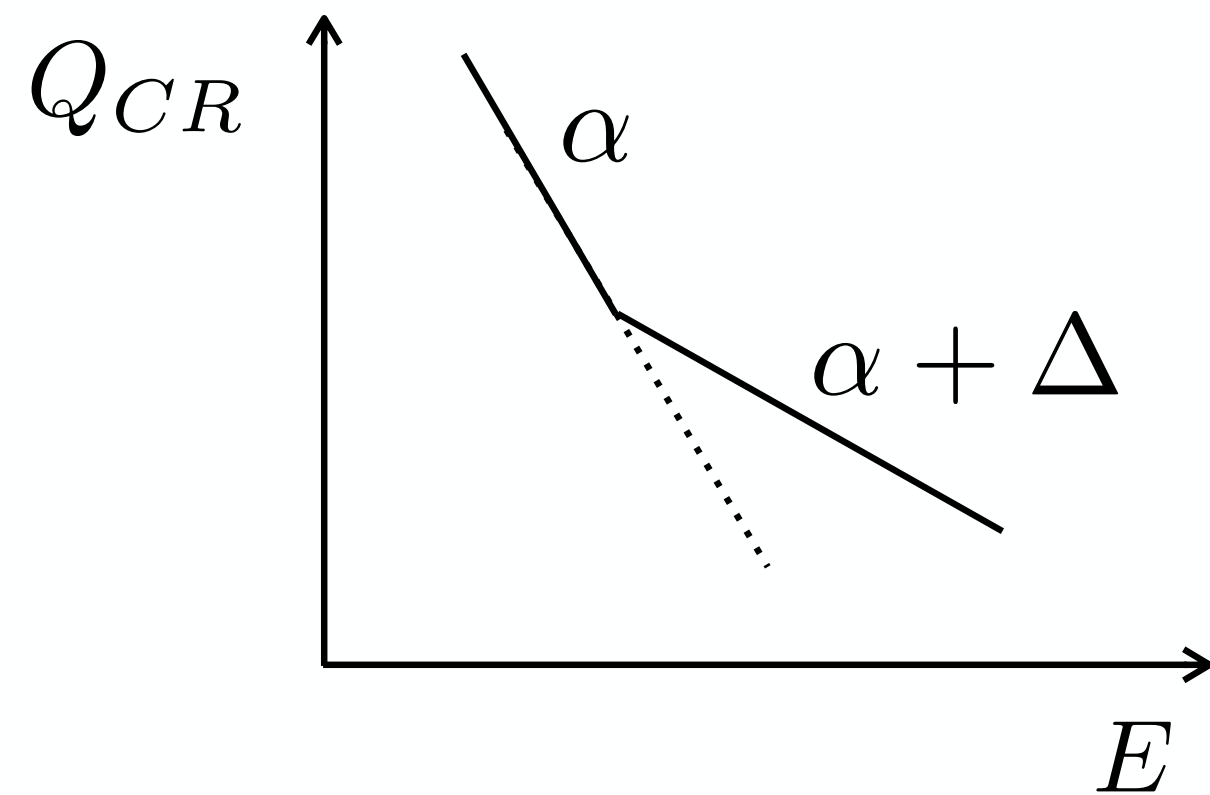
- Space:
  - Things because complicated with the raise of direct measurements
  - Breaks as an indication of “new” physics in cosmic rays
    - non-linear plasma effects
    - era of first probes of individual accelerators!
    - tantalising features in anti-matter
  - Direct measurements approach PeV frontier — highest CR energies in the Galaxy
- Ground:
  - Large uncertainties (energy, tentative composition)
  - Knee — shift of CR composition towards heavy elements
  - Light elements taking over after 100 PeV — second knee
  - Small-scale anisotropies — new beast!



# Backu-ups



# What does theory say about the hardening?

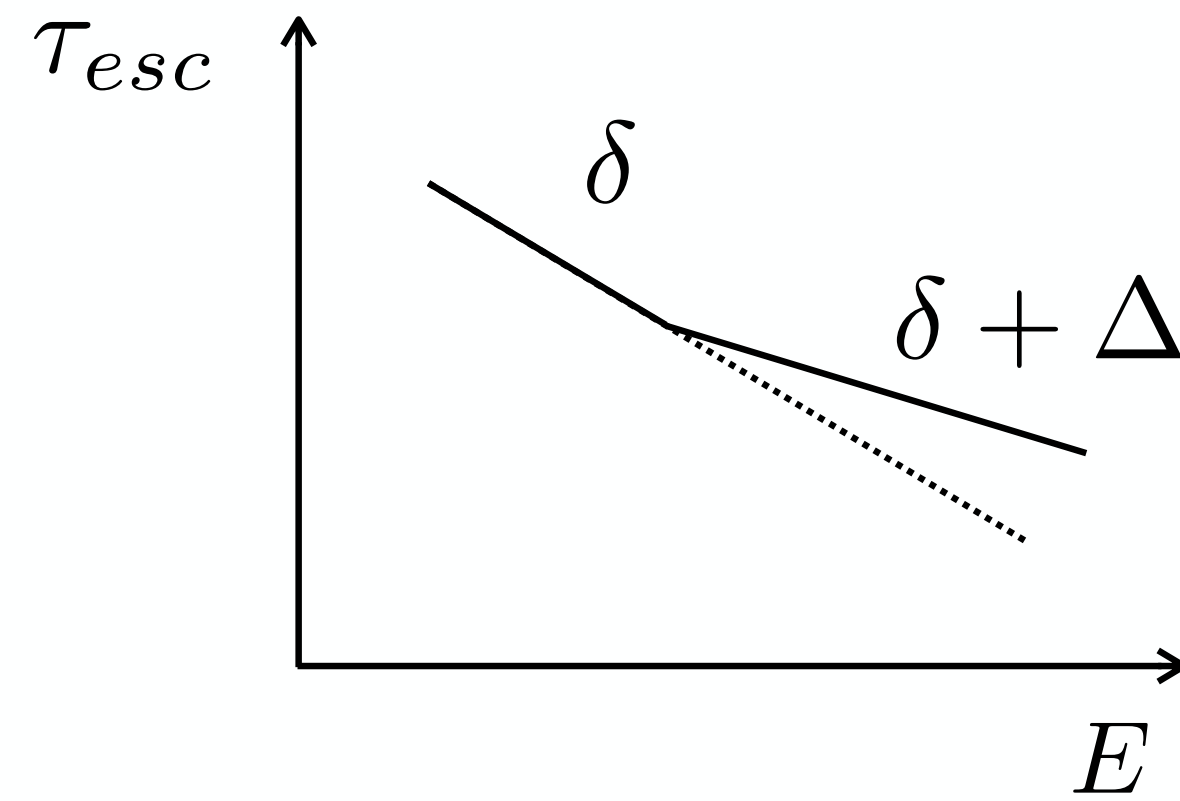


SOURCES

$$N_{CR} = Q_{CR} \tau_{esc}$$

$$Q_{sec} \sim N_{CR}$$

$$N_{sec} = Q_{sec} \tau_{esc}$$



PROPAGATION

$$N_{CR} = Q_{CR} \tau_{esc}$$

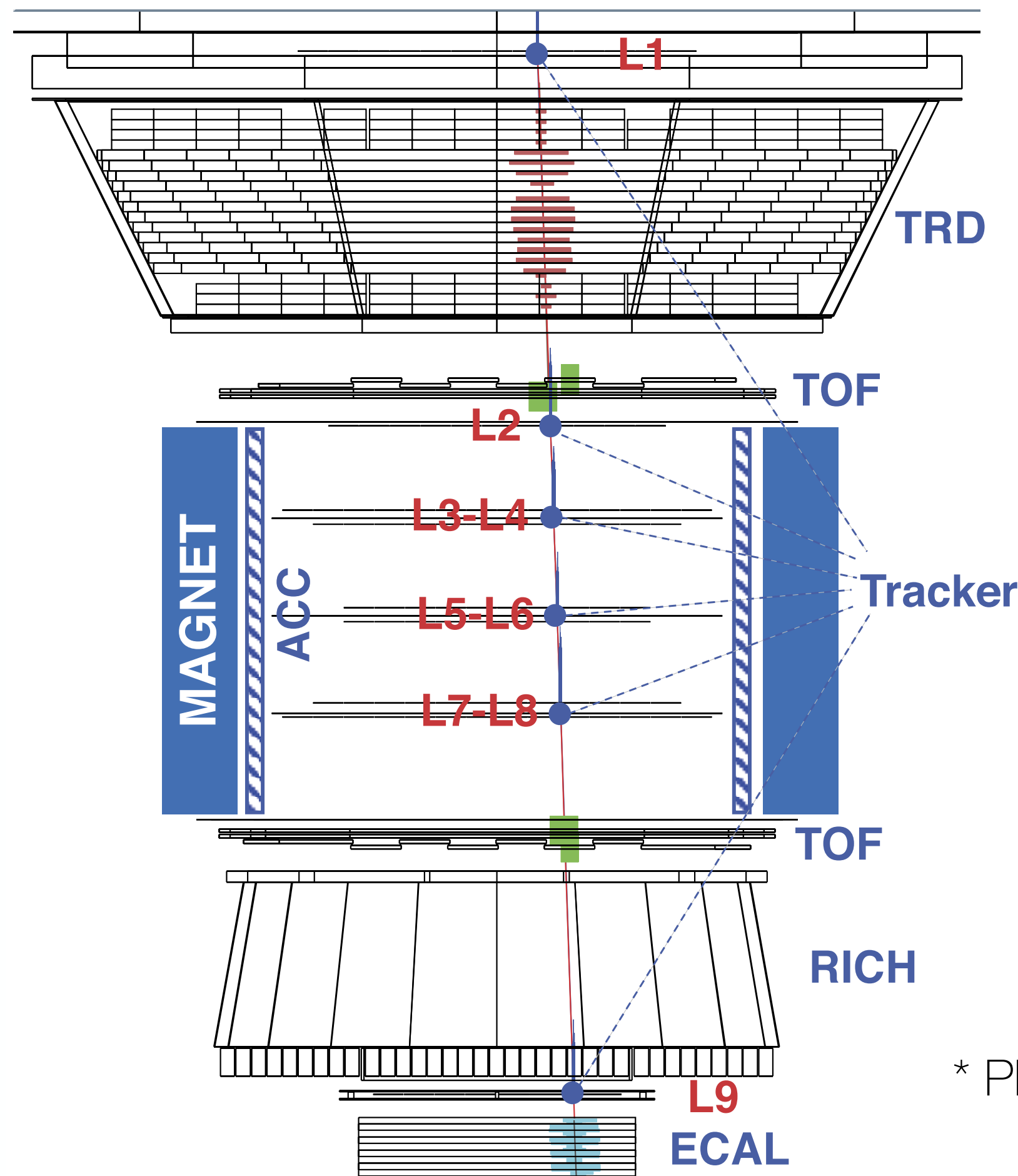
$$Q_{sec} \sim N_{CR}$$

$$N_{sec} = Q_{sec} \tau_{esc}$$

*In fact, if the spectral break is due to **propagation**, the change of power-law index for secondaries will be **twice** that of primaries!*

# Hadronic Cross Sections & Cosmic Rays

- For AMS-02, Cosmic Ray charge selection is affected by survival probability

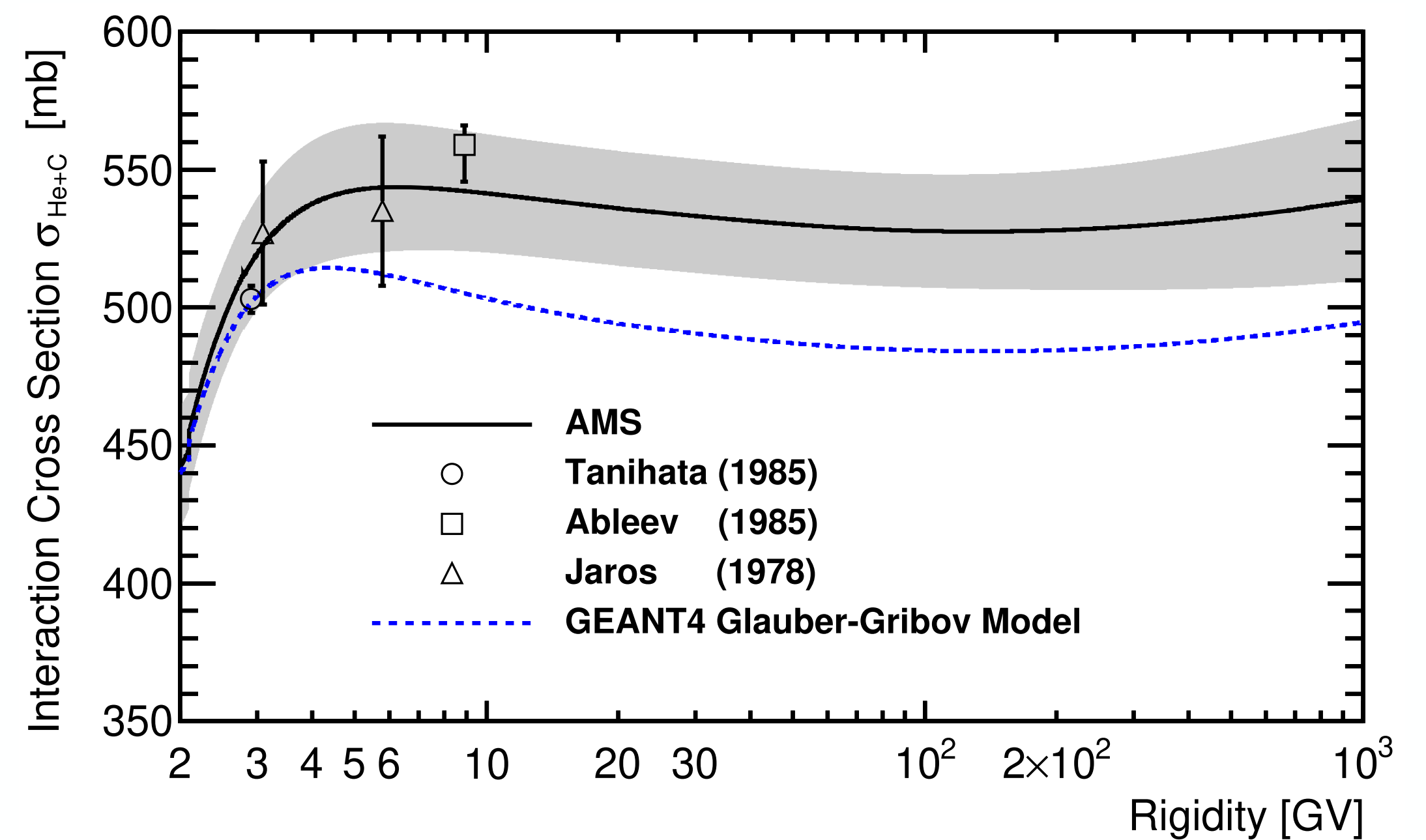


**He flux:**  
 $1.7 < Z < 2.5$   
 up to layer L8\*



\* PRL 115, 211101 (2015)

## He-C interaction cross section measurement by AMS

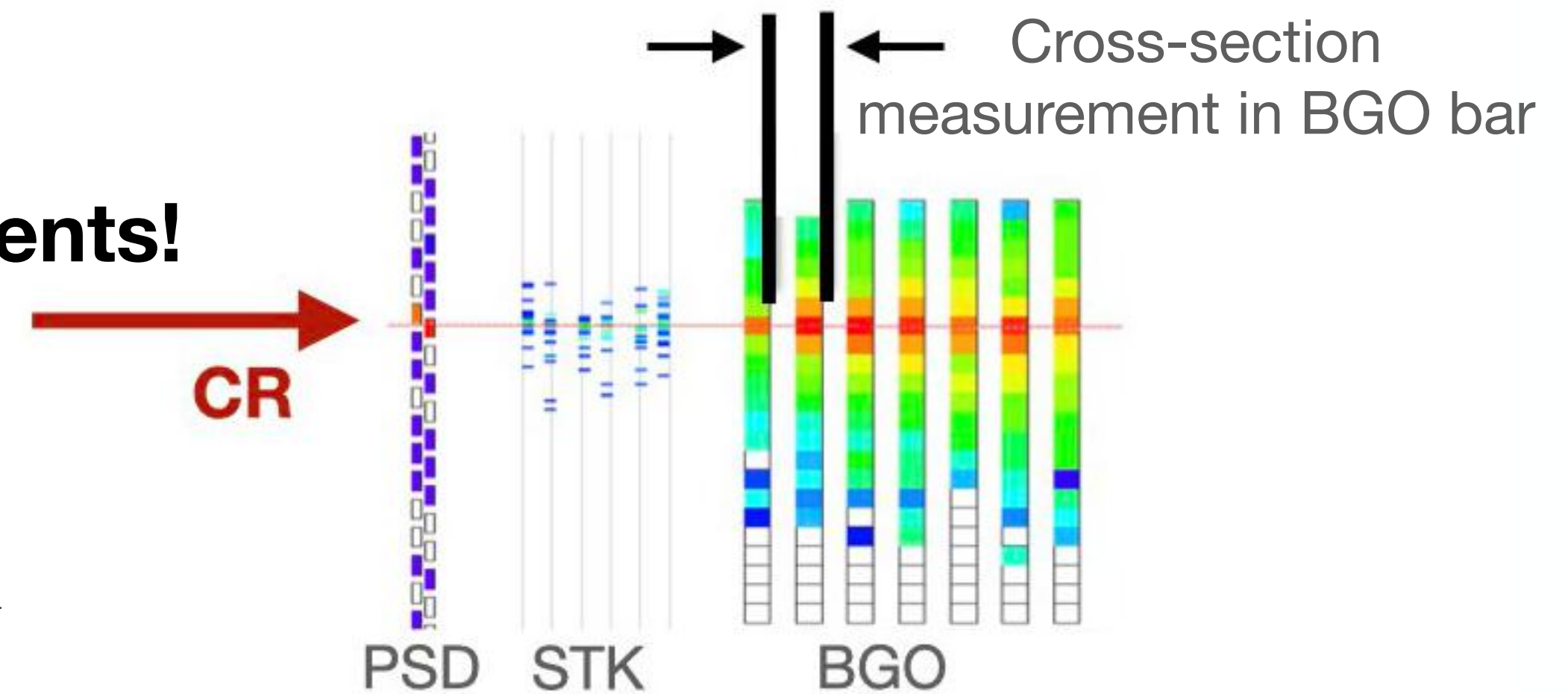


Q. Yan Nuclear Physics A 996 (2020) 121712

# Hadronic Cross Sections & Cosmic Rays

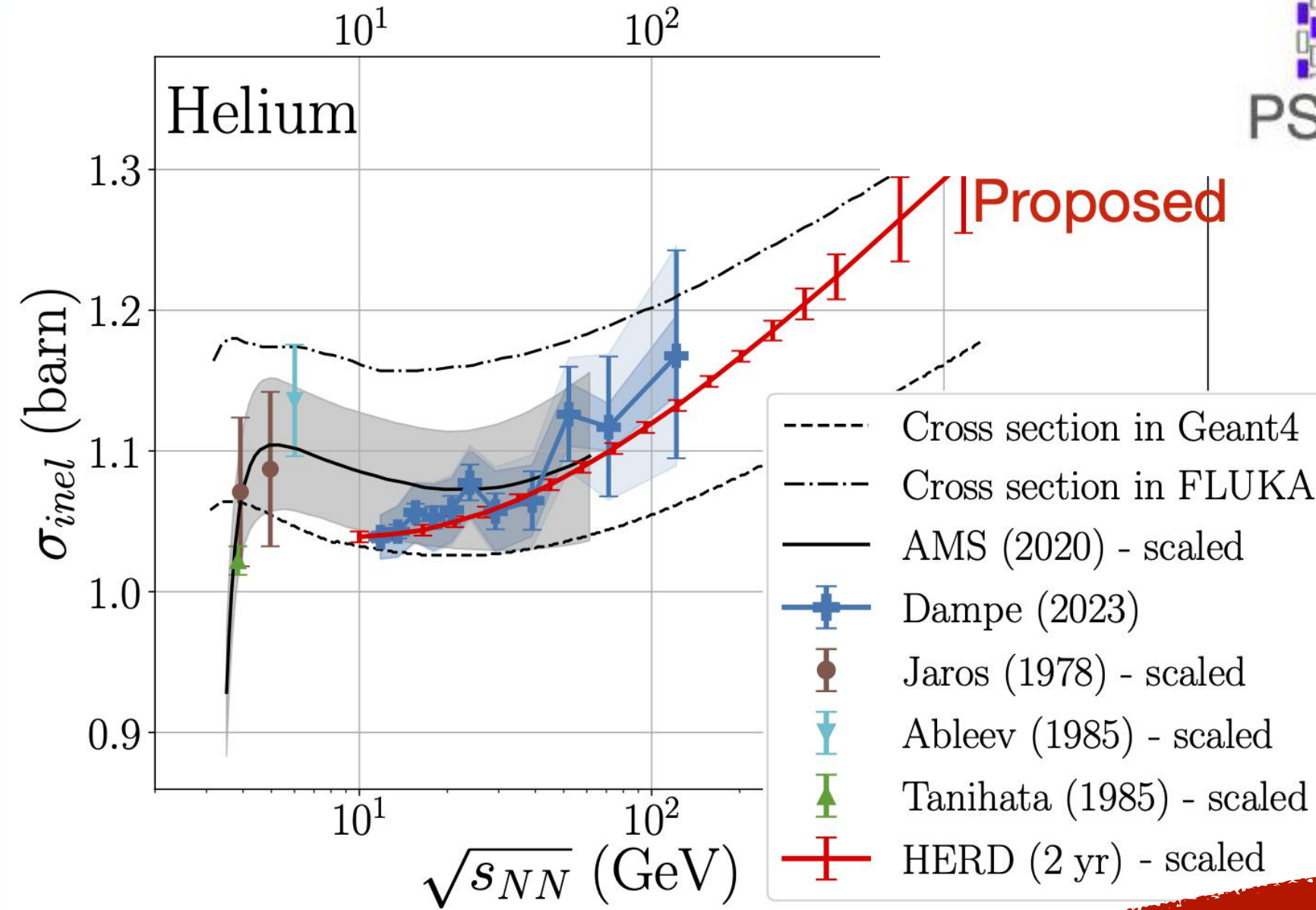
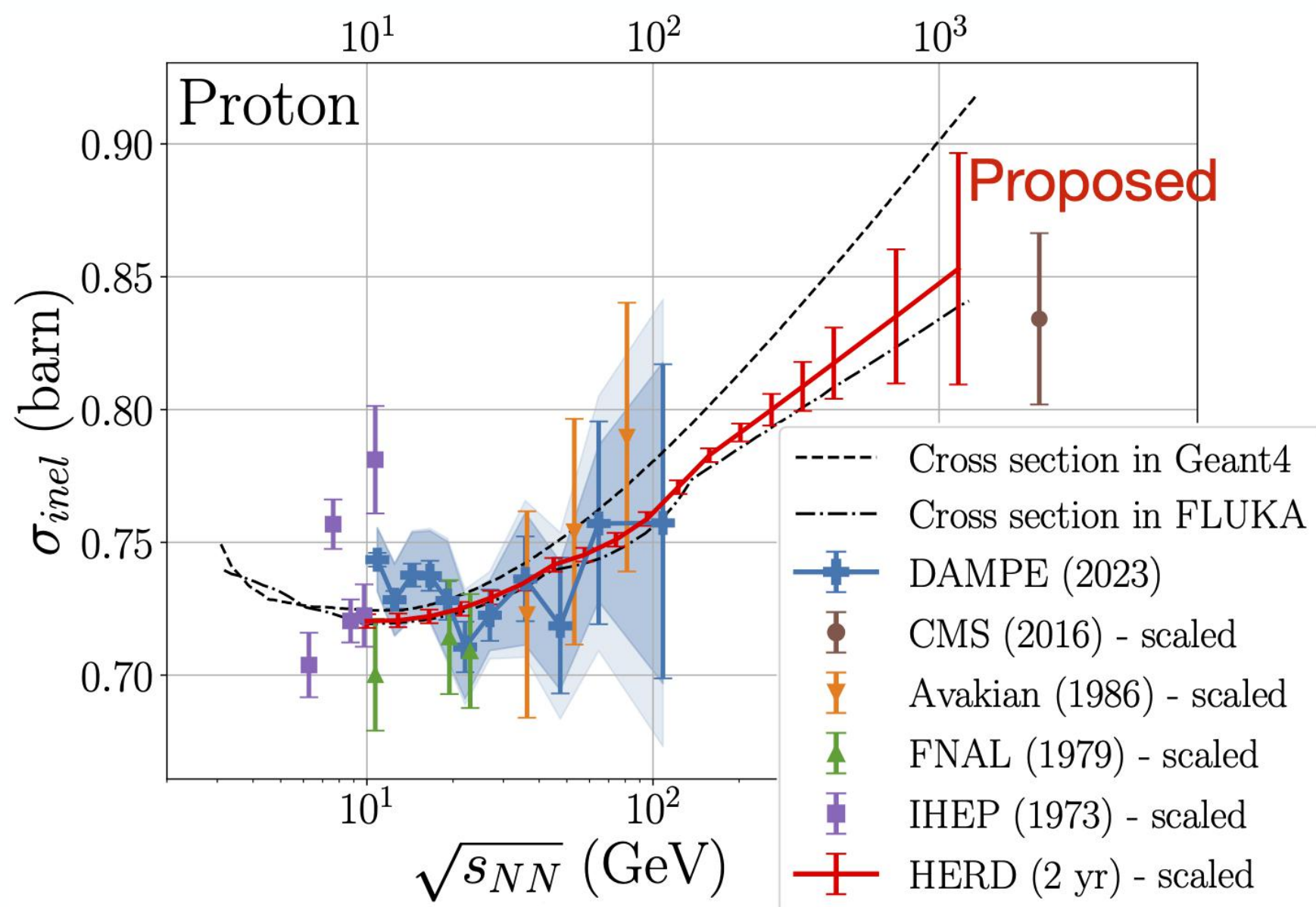
- Good segmentation of DAMPE BGO calorimeter

→ **Use DAMPE/HERD for cross-section measurements!**



p-BGO

He-BGO

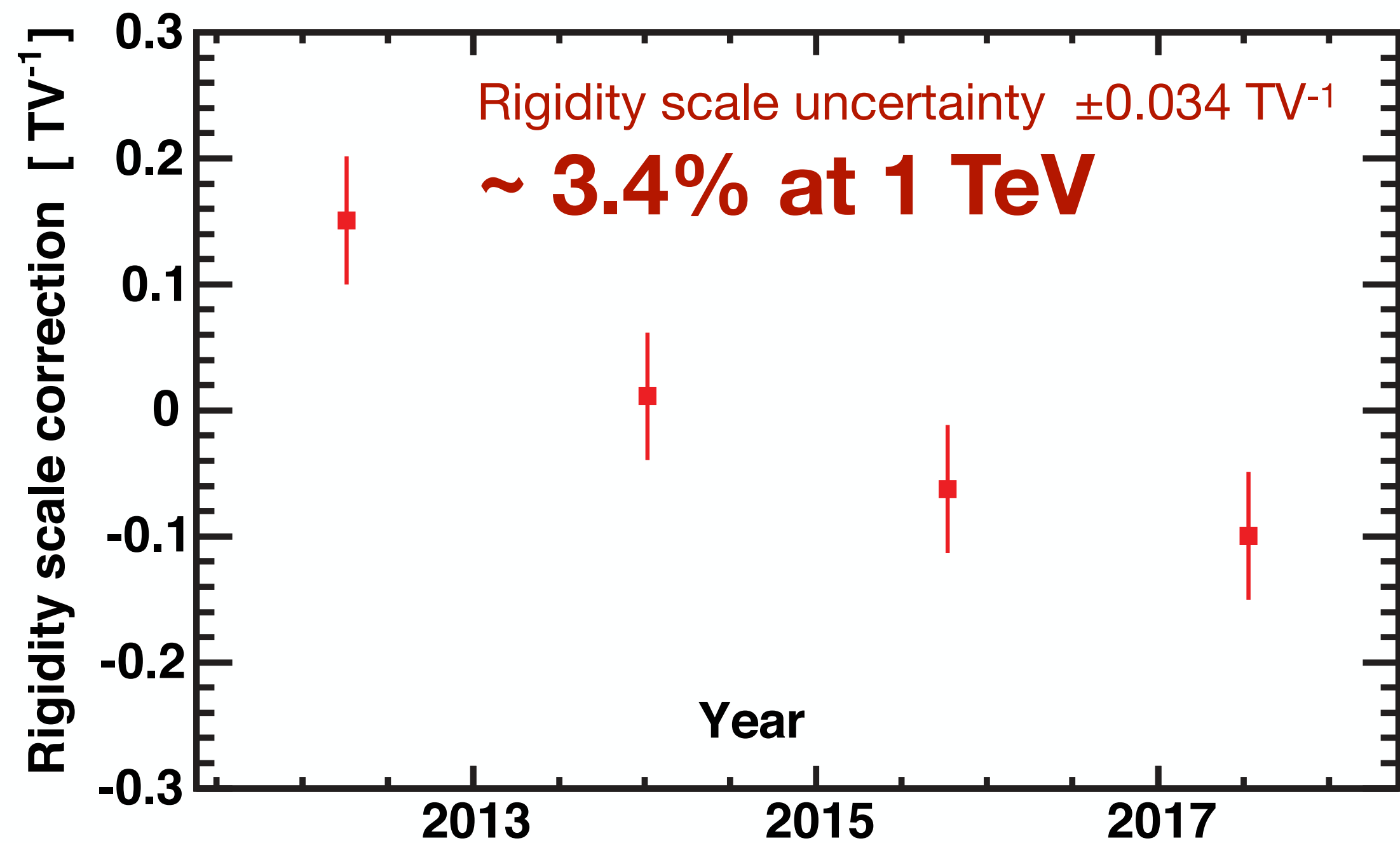
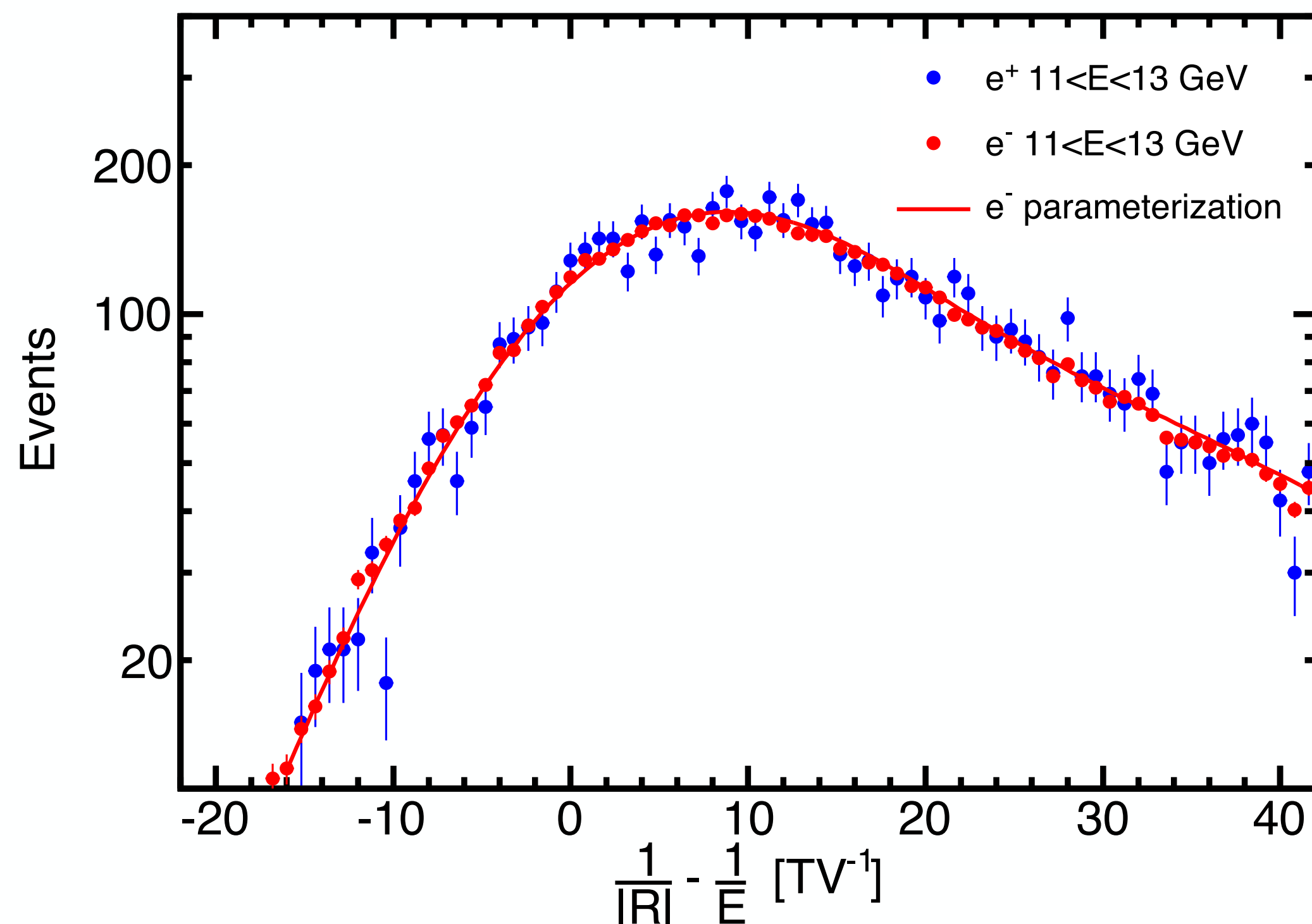


Adapted from  
P. Coppin et al. ICRC 2023  
<https://pos.sissa.it/444/142>

**Important for reducing the uncertainty of hadronic cosmic ray measurements with calorimetric experiments**

# Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS-02)

- **Largest systematic uncertainty is due to absolute rigidity scale**
  - Calibrated on-ground with tests beams (up to 400 GV)
  - Rigidity scale shift determined by  $e^+/e^-$  cross-calibration with calorimeter



# Cosmic Ray electrons & positrons

Rare: 1/10000 cosmic rays at 1 TeV is an  $e^-$  or  $e^+$

- Sensitive to new physics

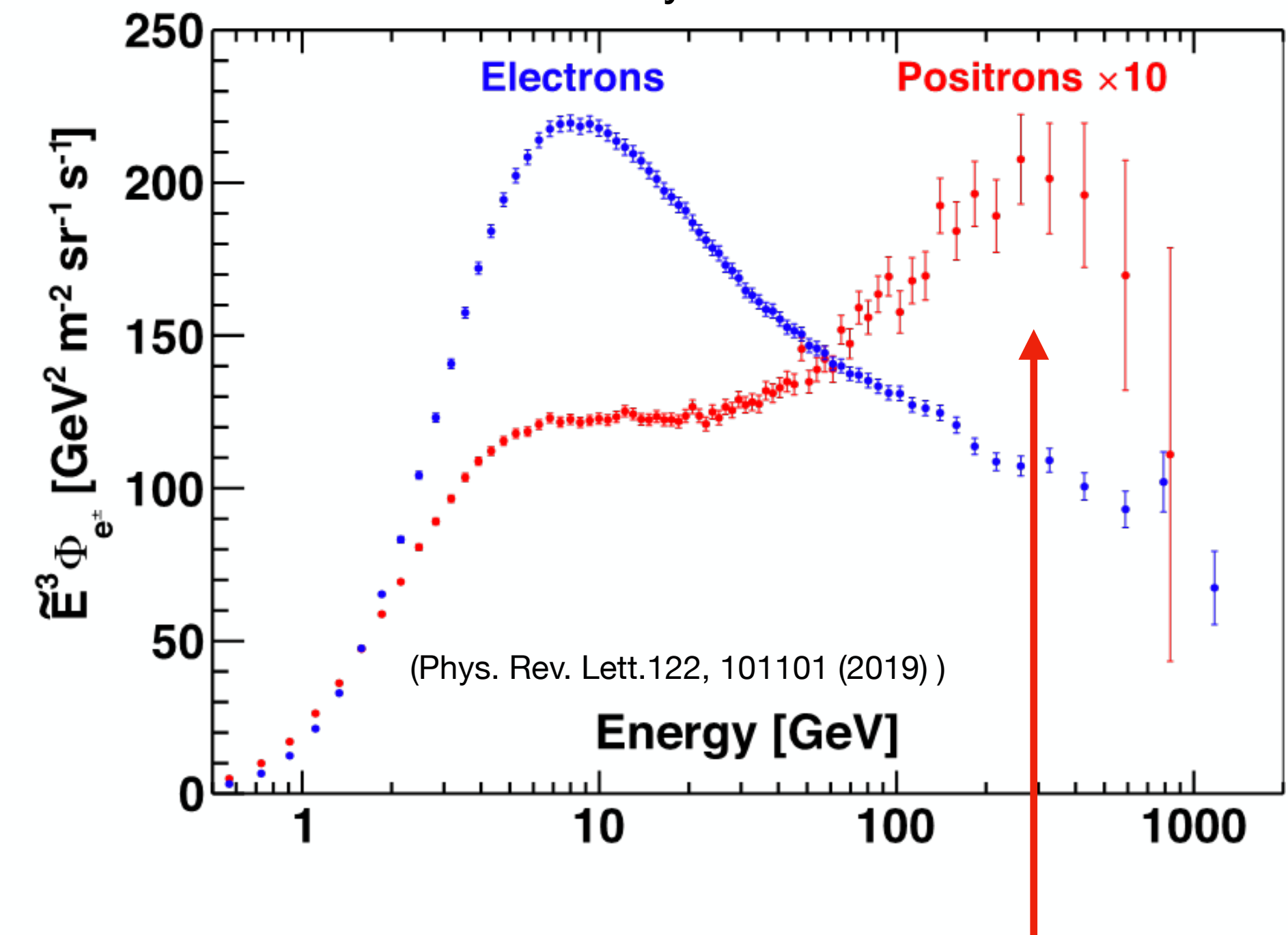
Rapidly lose their energy during propagation

- (synchrotron radiation & inverse Compton)
- Only nearby sources (1 kpc) at TeVs

Can be of primary or secondary nature

- **(Primary)** Pulsars & Supernovae
  - Same acceleration mechanism as CR  $p$ /ions
  - Photons above  $e^+e^-$  production threshold (pulsars) ?
- **(Secondary)** interaction of CR with interstellar medium
  - Mostly originate from  $\pi$  decays,

CR electron and positron spectrum up to 1 TeV measured by AMS-02 mission

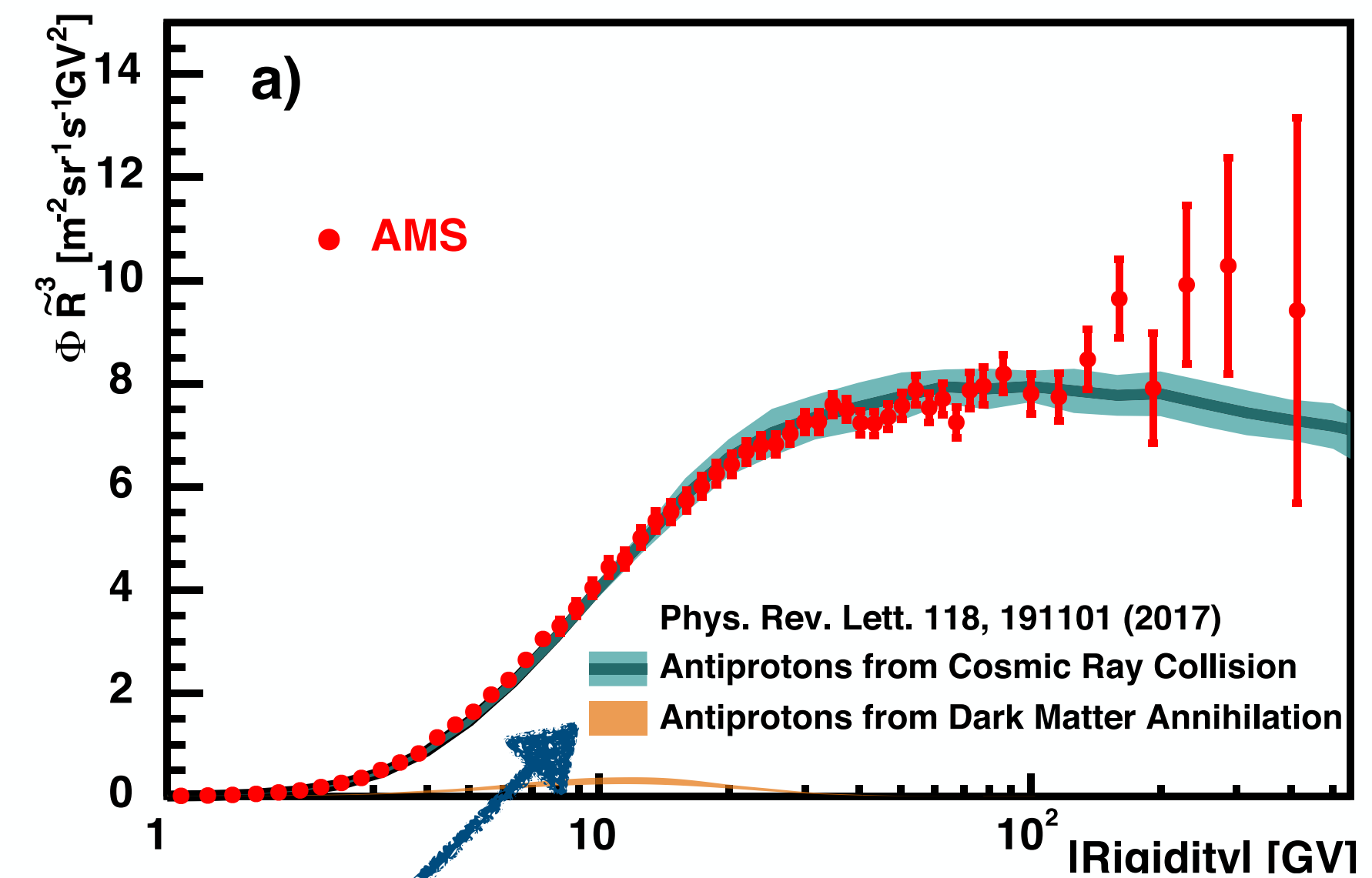
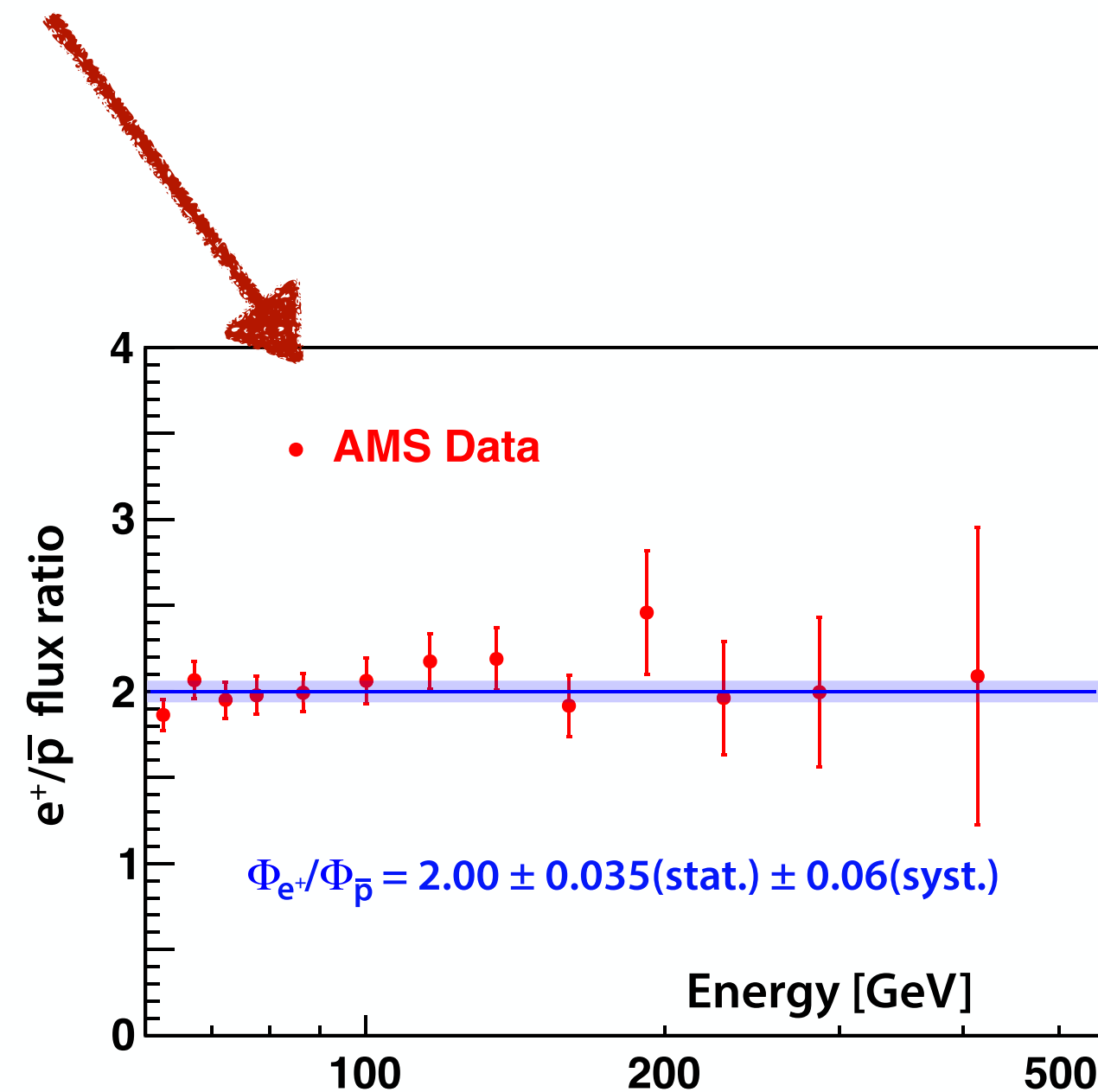
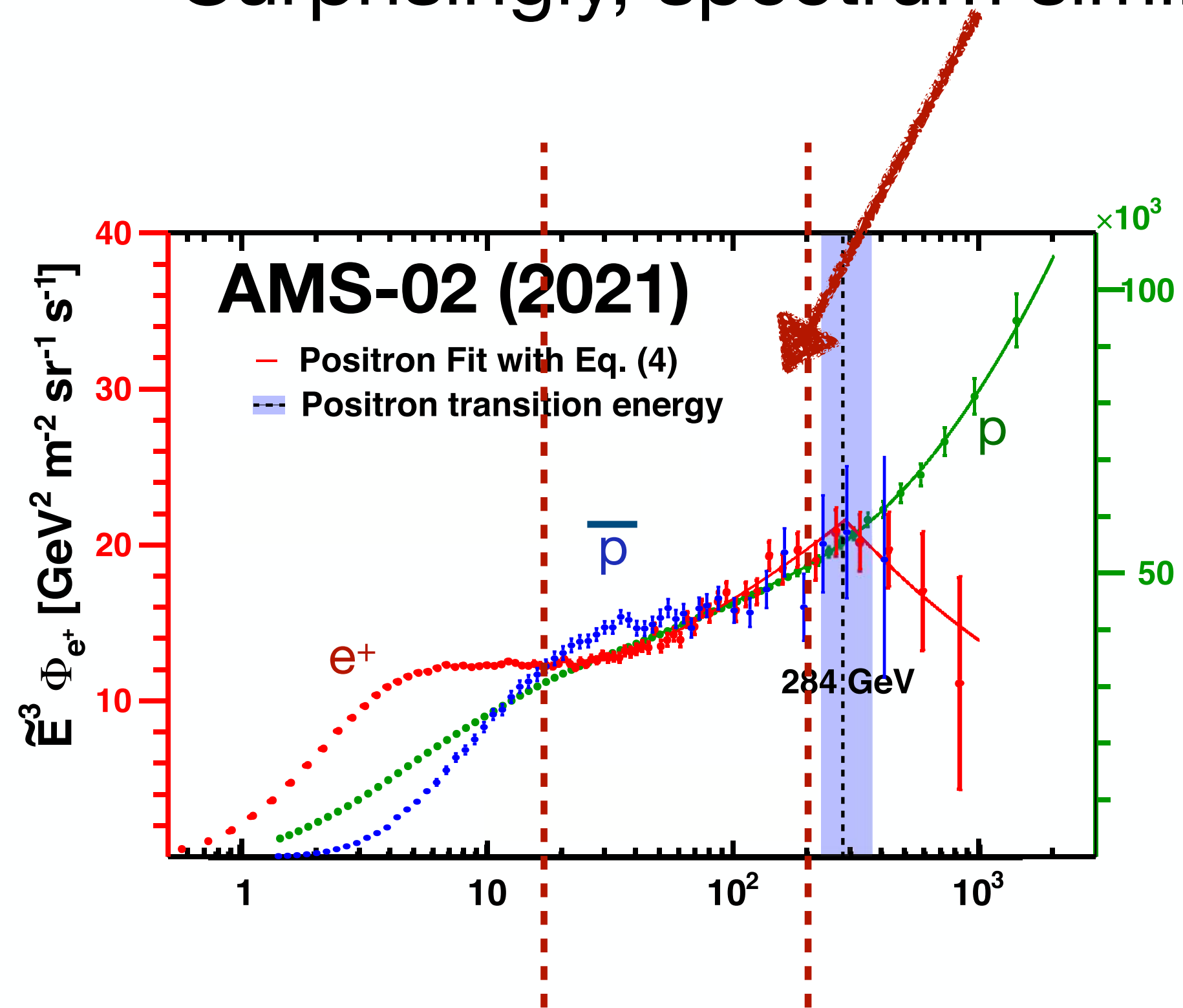


Positron spectrum incompatible with purely secondary origin: DM, pulsar ?



# $\bar{p}$ (antiprotons)

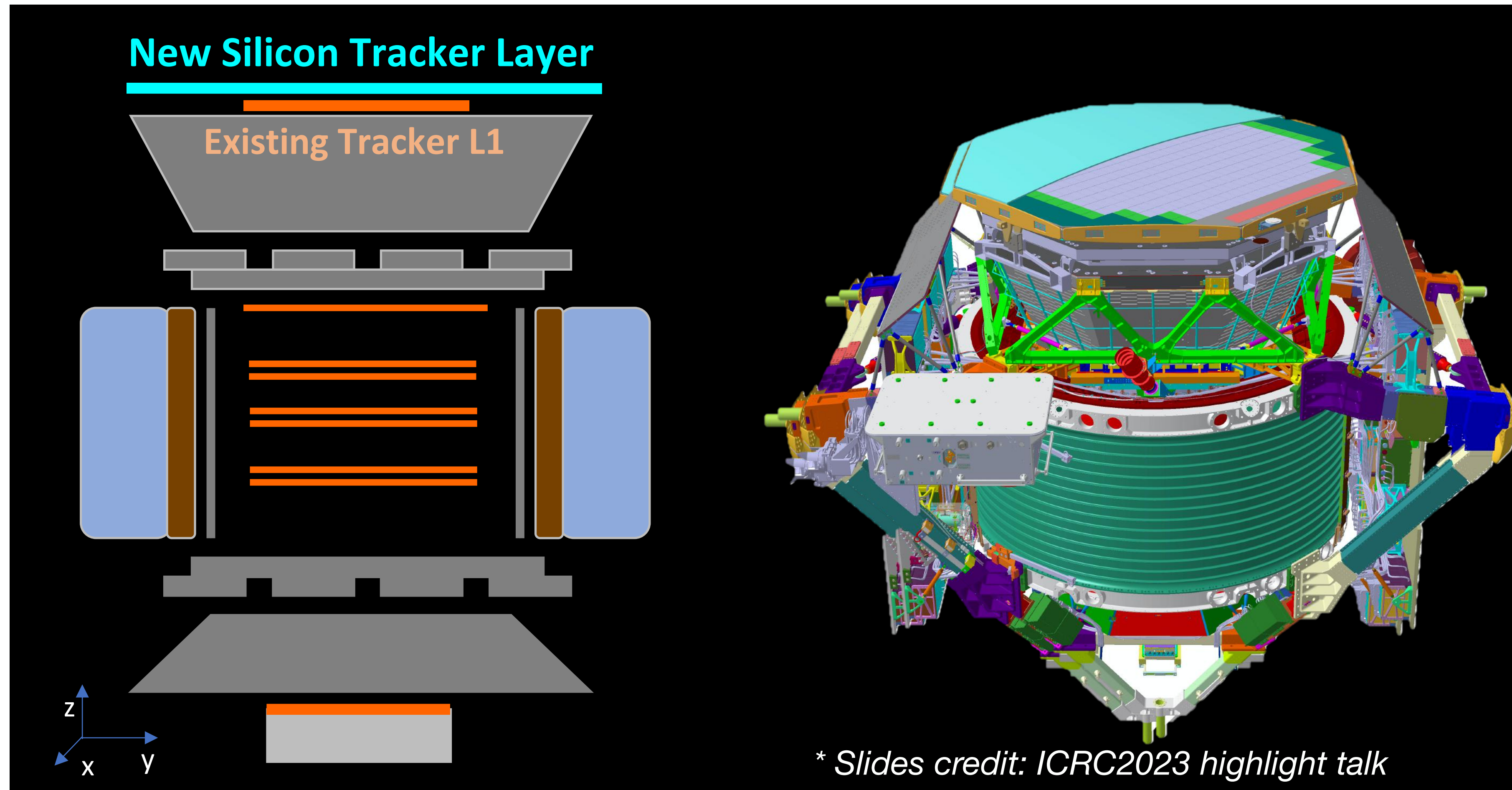
- Mostly of secondary origin, unlike positrons: not produced in pulsars
- Surprisingly, spectrum similar to (primary) protons and positrons at 10–300 GeV



Still compatible with CR collisions with interstellar medium

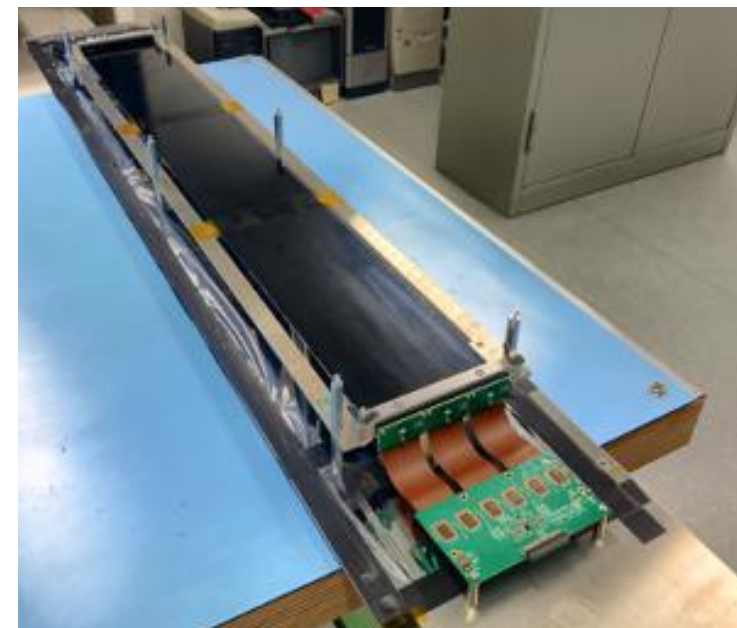
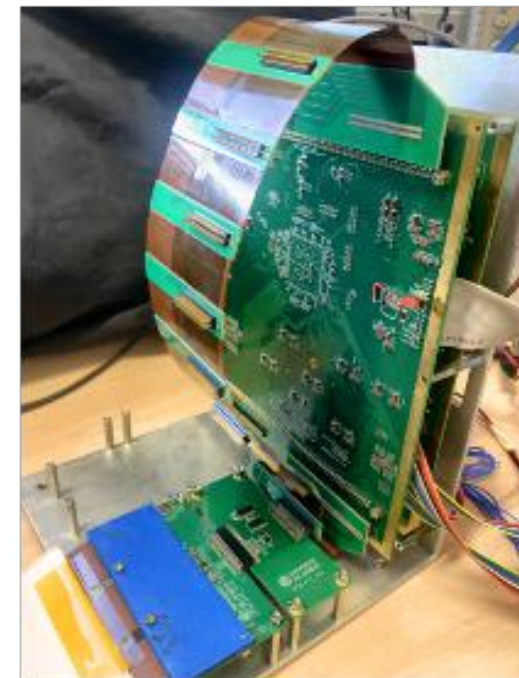
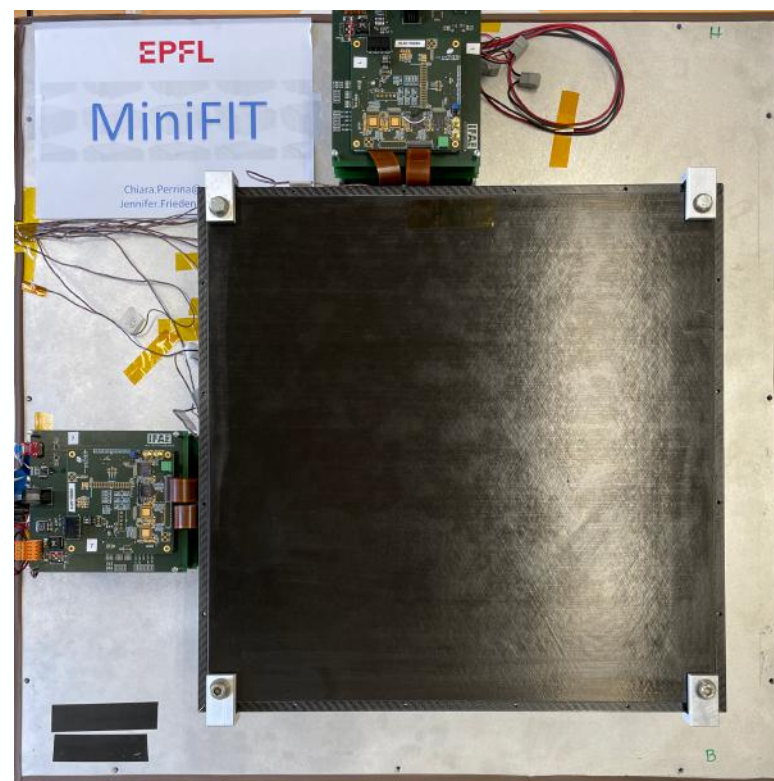
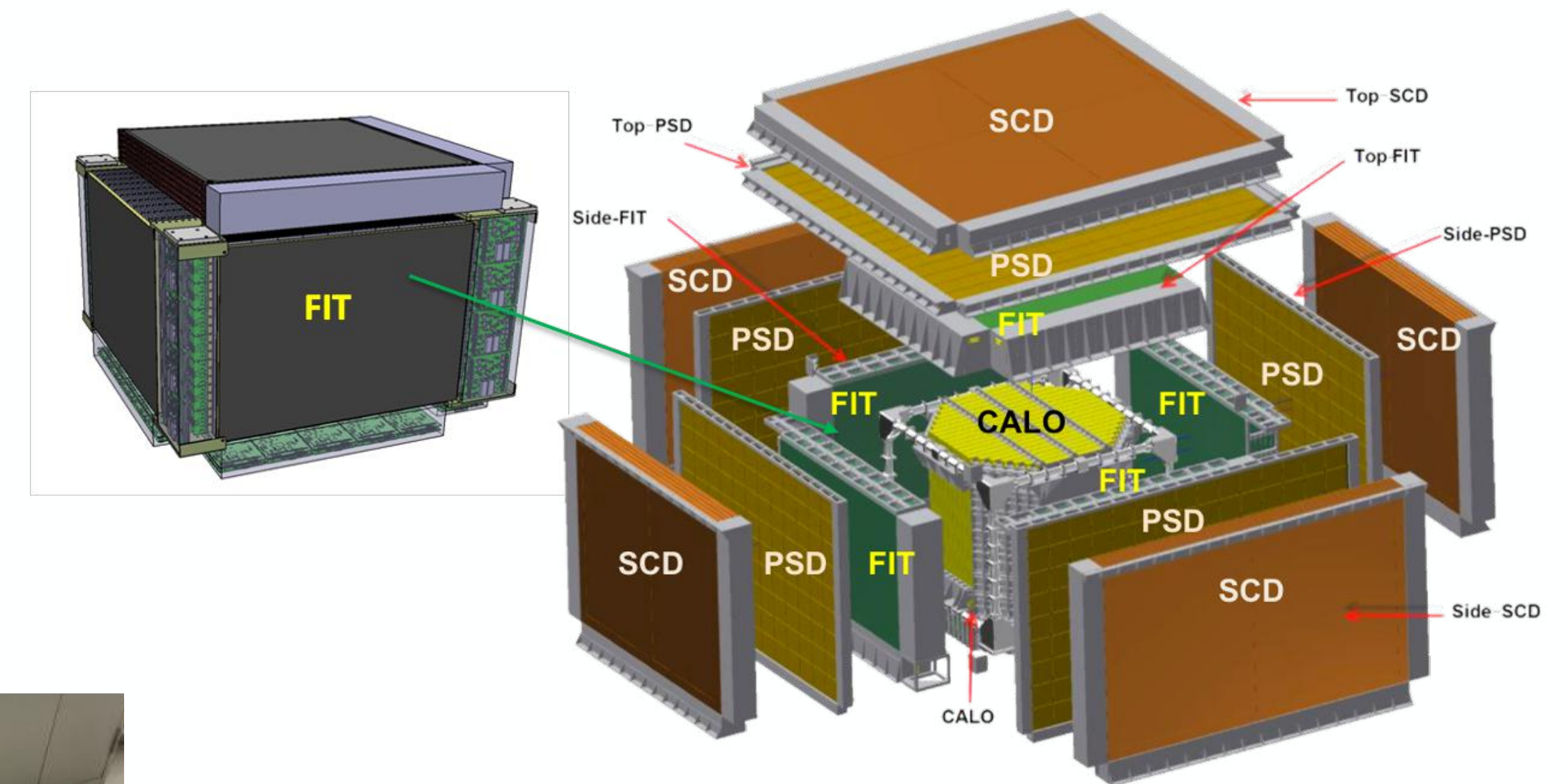
# AMS-02 L0 Upgrade

- Upgrade of AMS-02 silicon tracker in 2025 — 3 times more acceptance



# High Energy Radiation Detection facility (HERD)

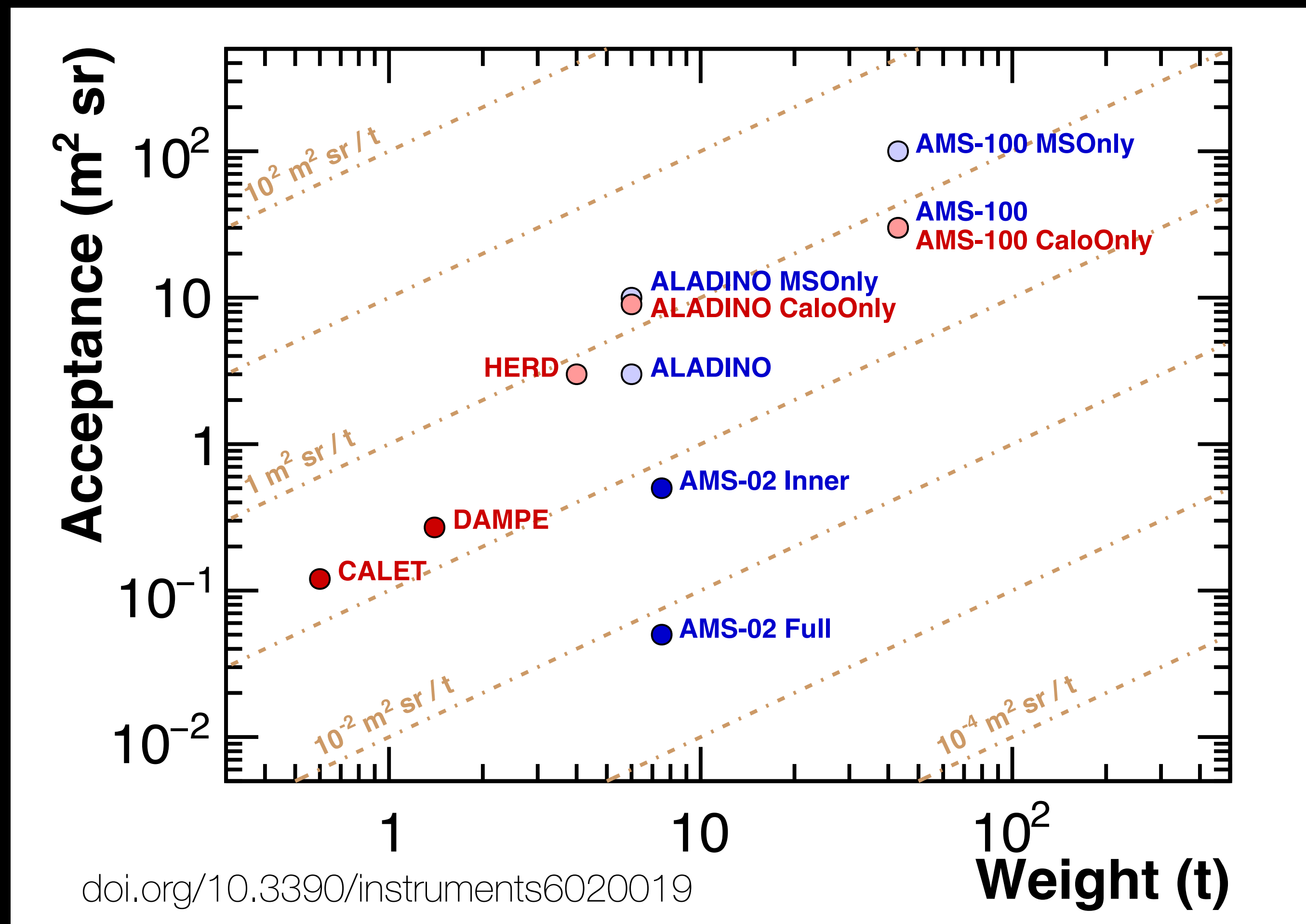
- **UNIGE and EPFL in charge of the Fiber Tracker (FIT)**
  - Phase B R&D completed
  - Test beam activities on-going
  - Update of FEB with new ASIC
  - Simulation studies ongoing



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE

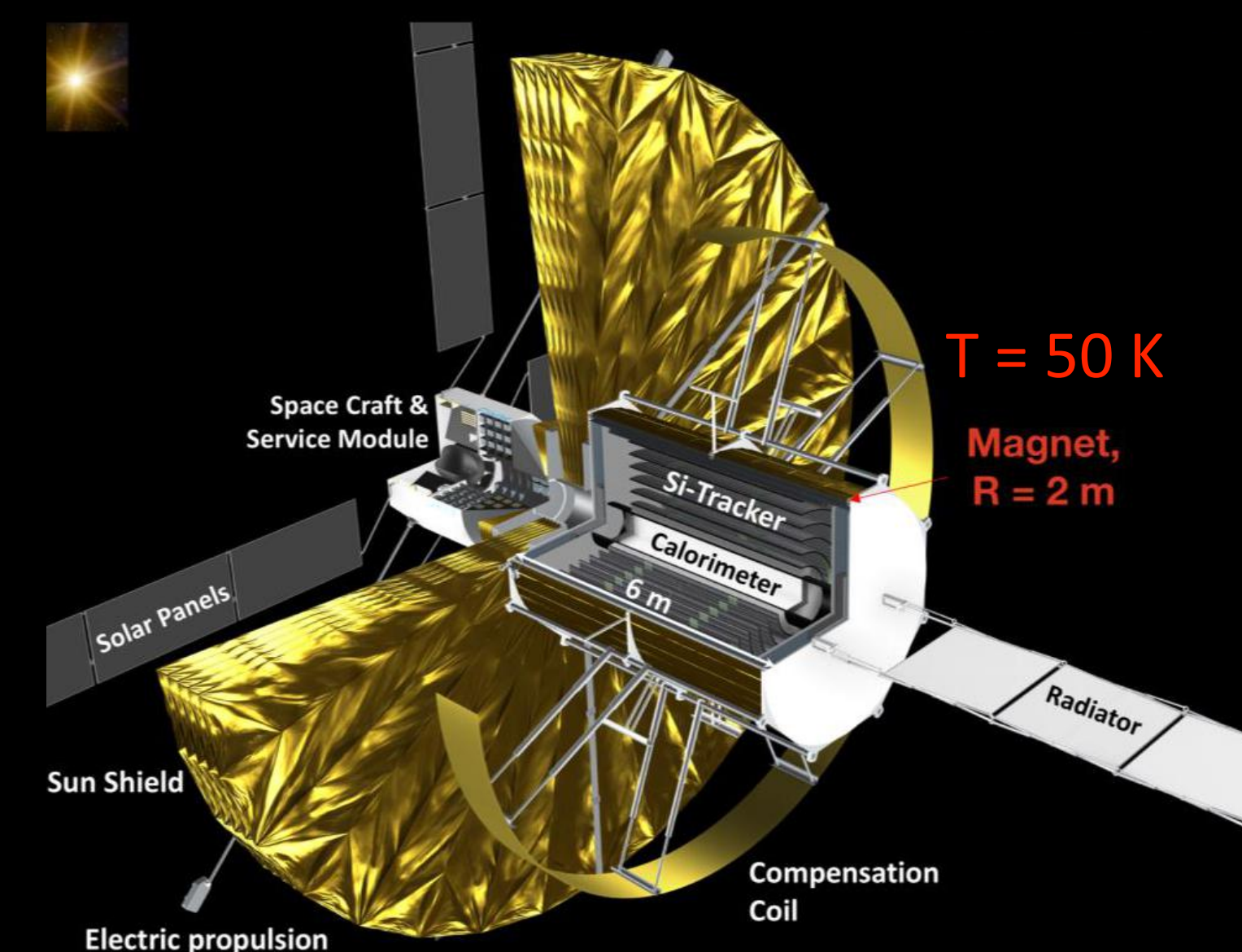
EPFL

# Future spectrometers in space



## AMS-100 / ALLADINO\*

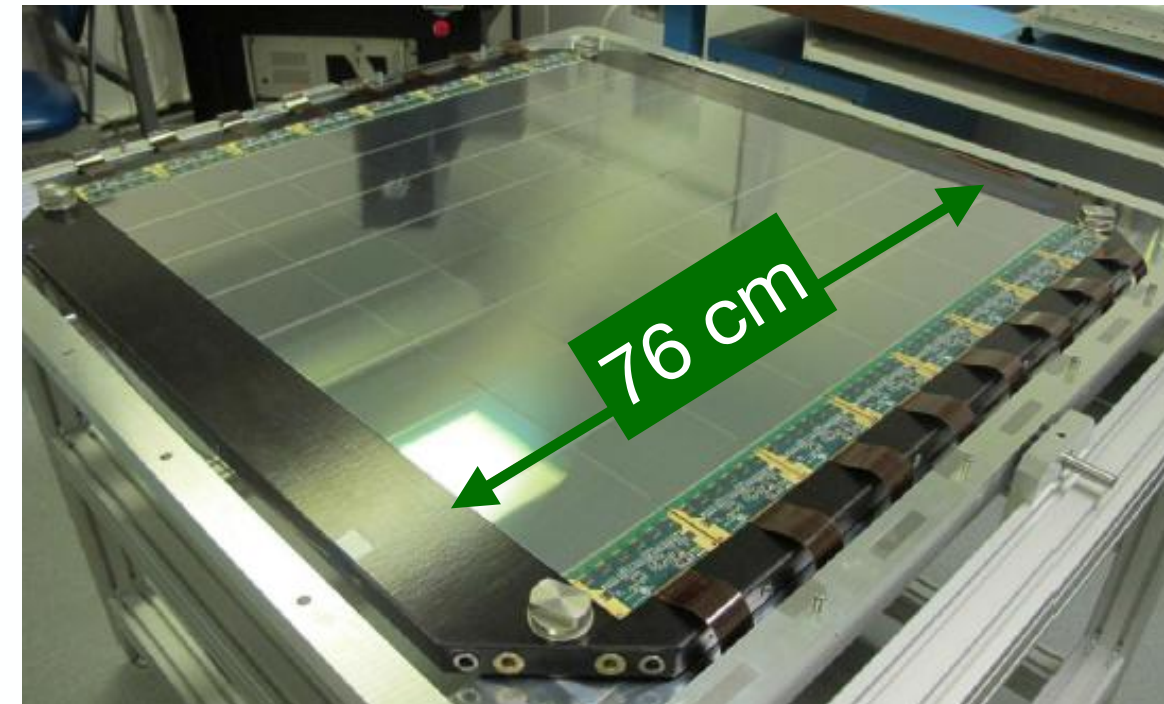
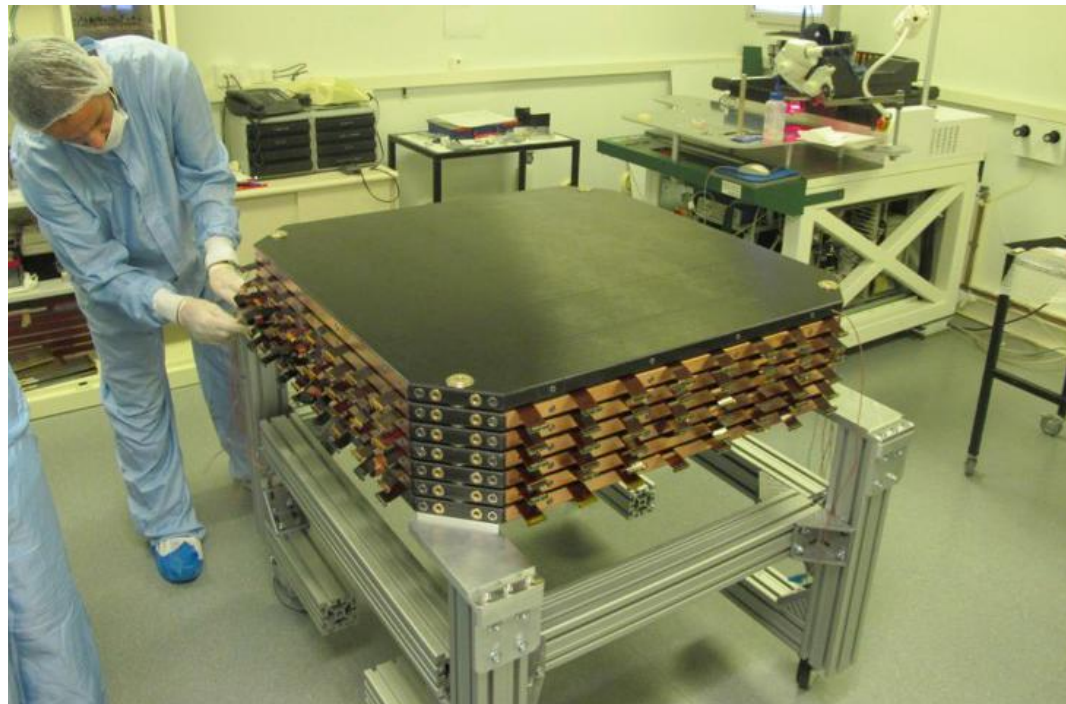
- High-temperature superconducting magnet
- solenoid (toroid)
- 100 / 10 m² sr acceptance
- Placed in Lagrange point 2



\* Antimatter Large Acceptance Detector In Orbit (ALADInO)

# DAMPE Tracker detector (STK) & DPNC

## R&D Construction (2013–2015)



*University of Geneva (DPNC) &  
INFN Perugia groups  
DAMPE Silicon Tracker tests with  
cosmic muons (April 2015)*

## Space qualification (2014–2015)



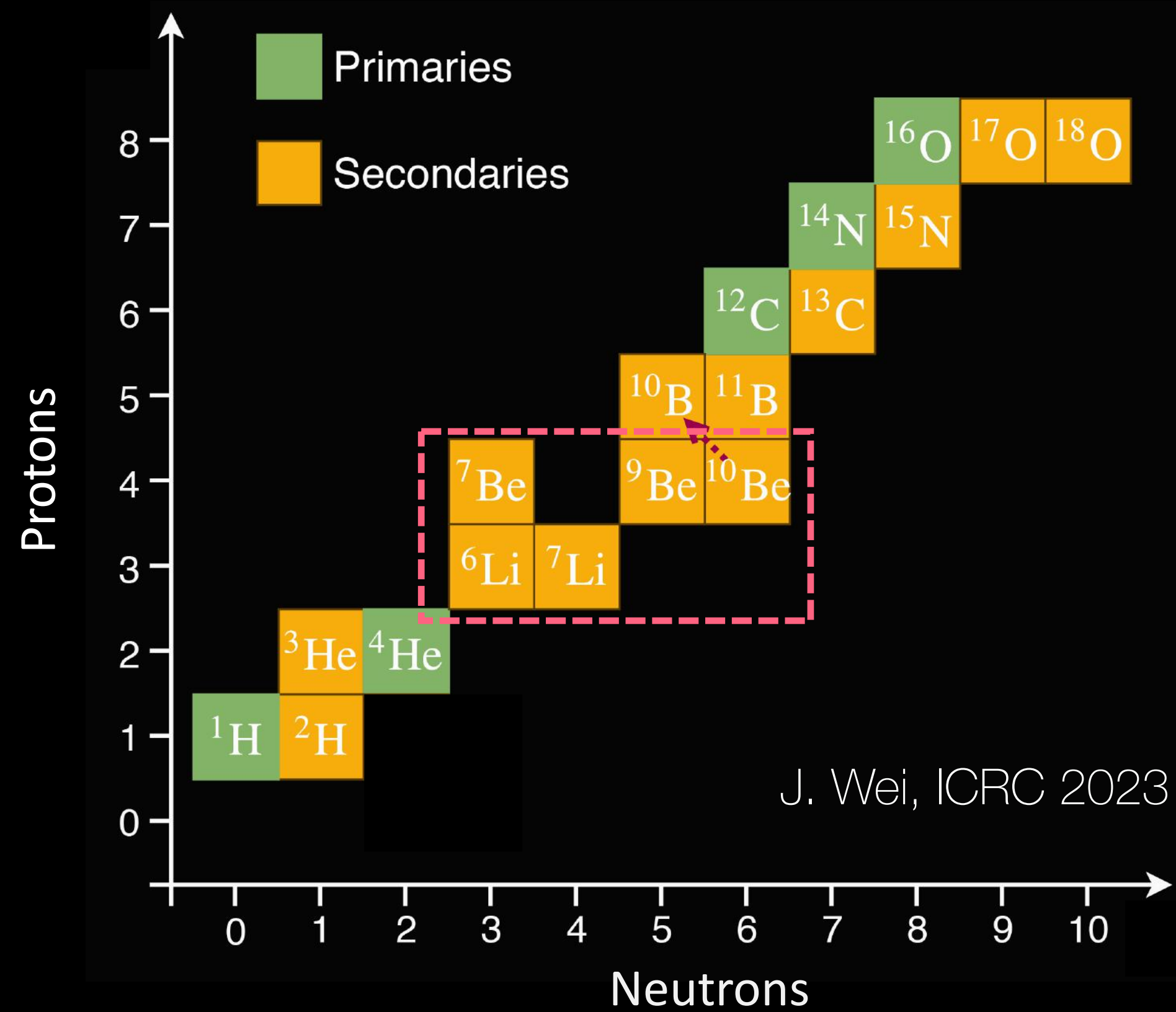
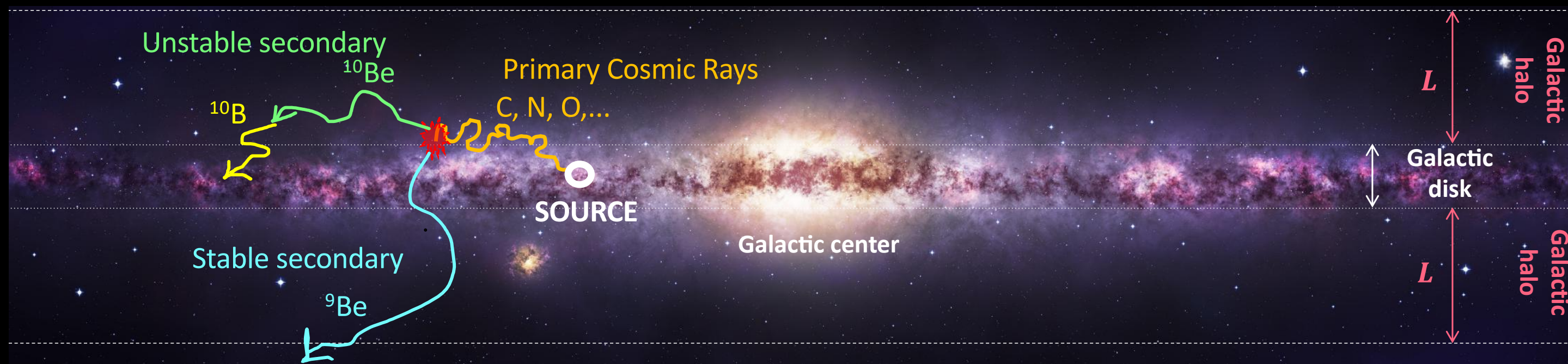
*Vibration, shock, thermal cycling,..*

## Beam tests @ CERN (2014–2015)

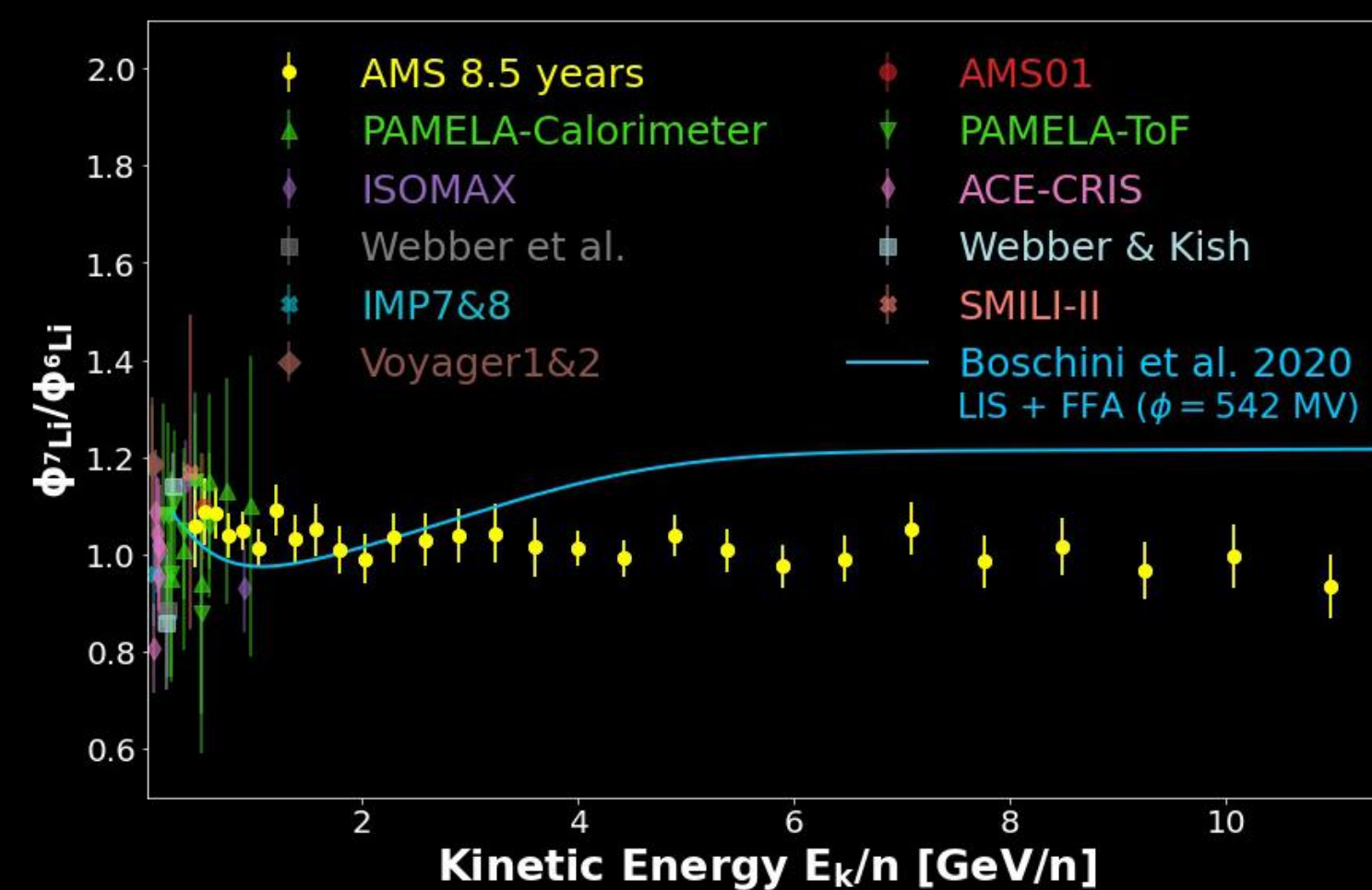
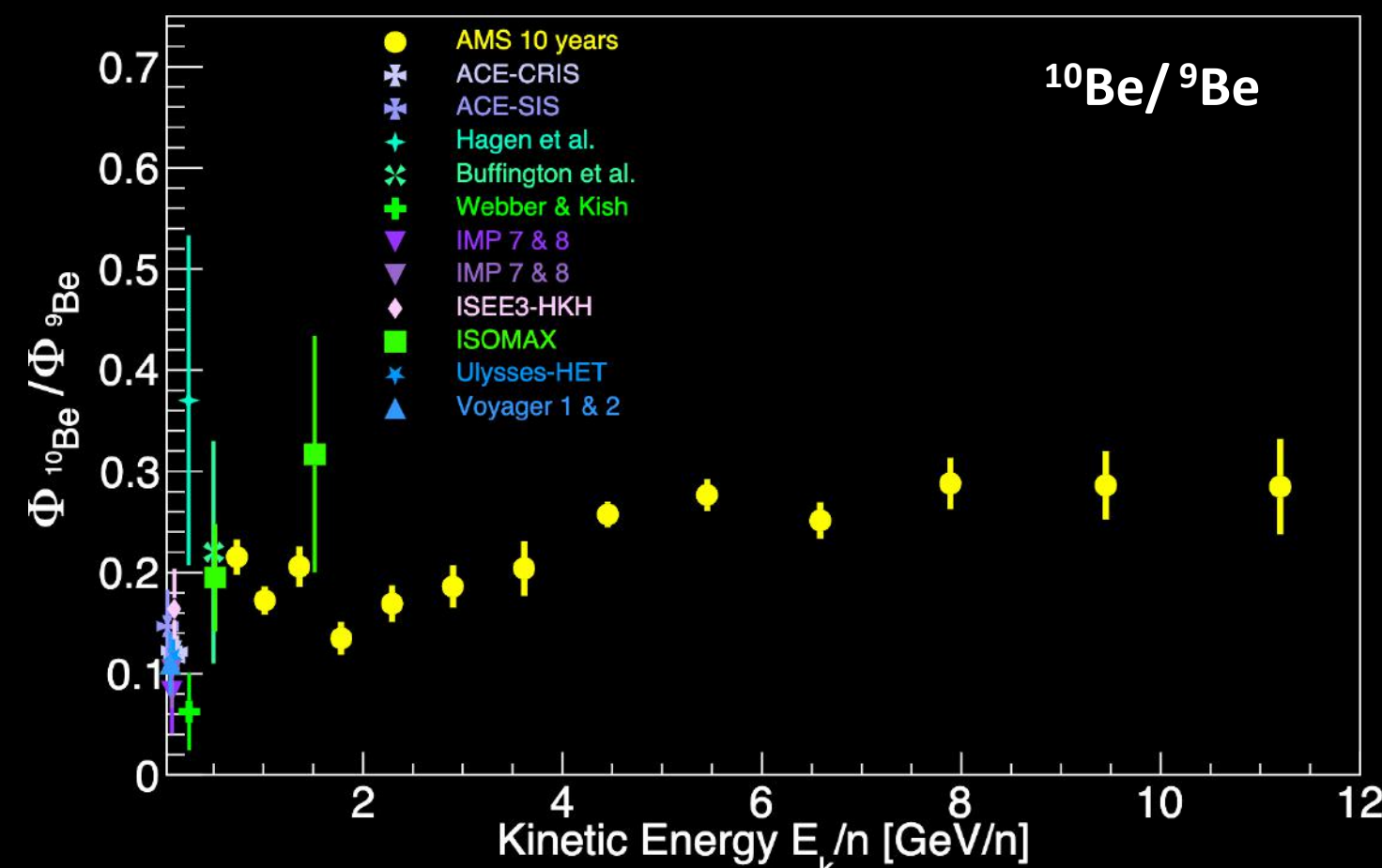


# AMS-02: isotopes

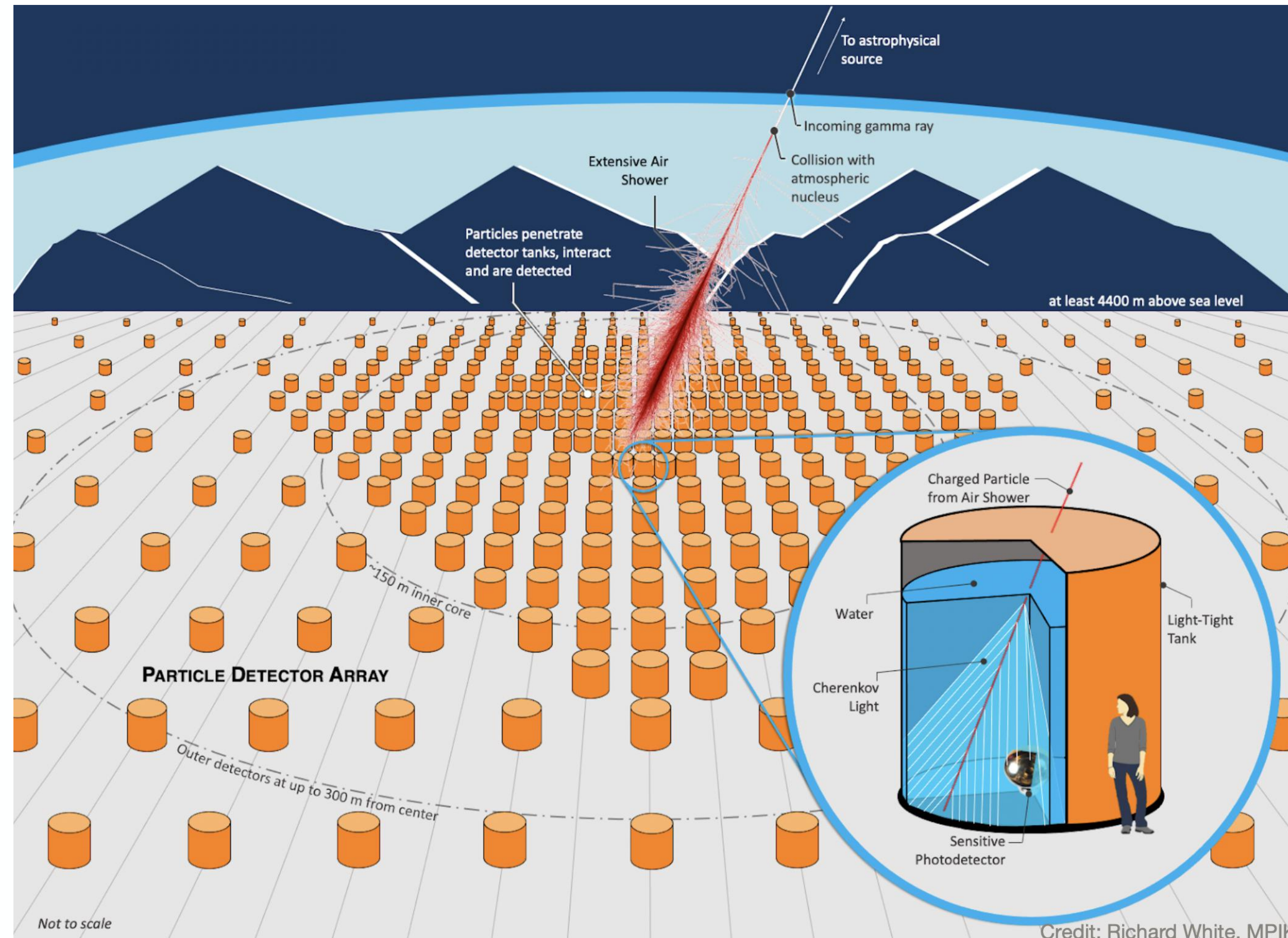
- AMS-02: simultaneous charge & velocity measurement: allows detecting isotopes!
  - Information on propagation medium/mechanism, galactic halo size (cosmic ray “clock”)



J. Wei, ICRC 2023



# Water cherenkov



[https://ecap.nat.fau.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Bachelorarbeit\\_Scharrer.pdf](https://ecap.nat.fau.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Bachelorarbeit_Scharrer.pdf)

<https://www.swgo.org/SWGOWiki/doku.php>

# Power law in Cosmic Rays

- Gain/loss at each acceleration proportional to energy:

$$\Delta E = k * E$$

- Given  $p$  — escape probability at each acceleration, probability to stay within acceleration region after  $N$  interactions:

$$P = (1-p)^N$$

- Energy after  $N$  interactions:

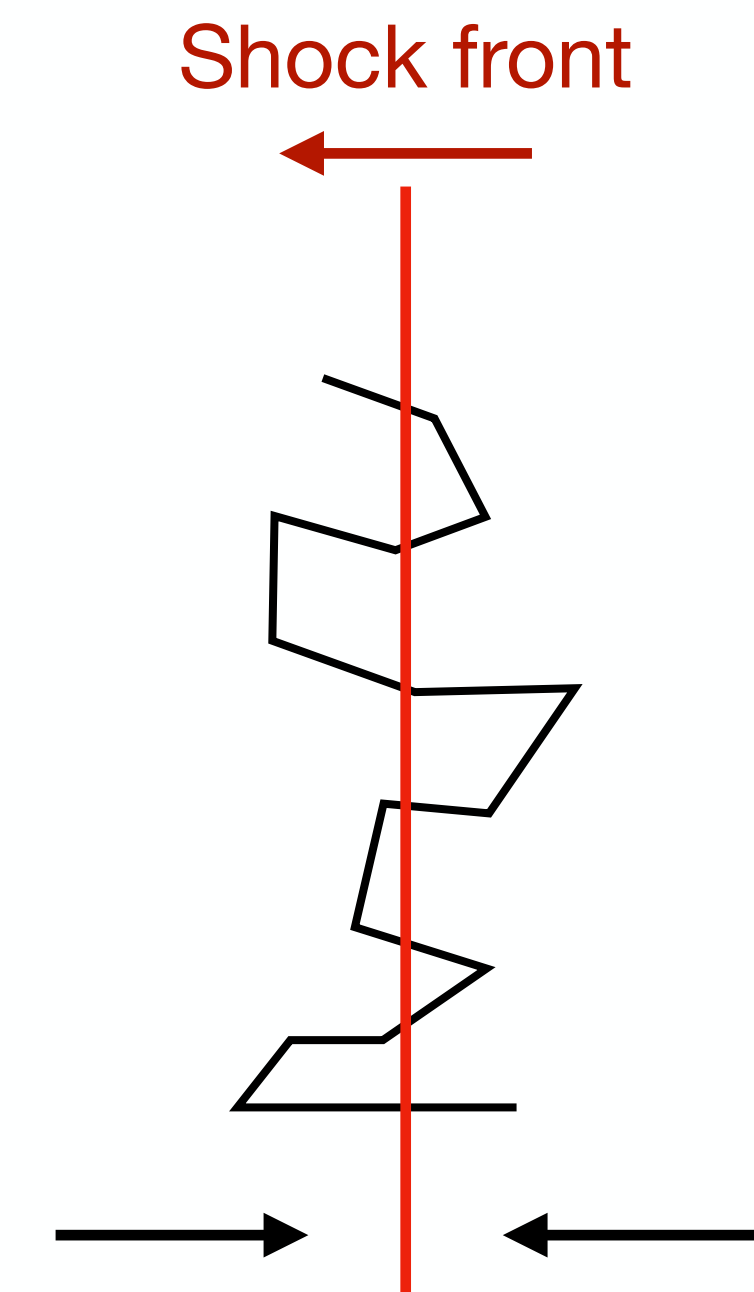
$$E = (1+k)^N * E_0$$

$$\implies \log(E/E_0) / \log(1+k) = \log(P) / \log(1-p) \implies P(E) \propto E^{-\gamma}$$

... where  $\gamma = -\log(1-p) / \log(1+k)$ . In differential form:

$$dP/dE \propto E^{-\gamma-1}$$

— probability distribution function of gained CR energy



Accelerated particle going back and forth until it escapes the front



# Cosmic Ray anisotropy

- Phase flip of  $180^\circ$  at  $\sim 100\text{TeV}$  towards galactic plane
  - Anisotropy for CR of different rigidities formed over different distances — non-trivial energy dependance
  - Can be described by Vela SNR — one of the strongest contributors to the CR anisotropy

