

# Astroparticle experiment

- 1) Charged cosmic rays (CRs) and AMS-02 experiment
- 2) High-energy gamma rays: H.E.S.S. and Fermi-LAT

## Goal of the lectures

- Selected topics and instruments in astroparticle physics
- Scientific debates (historical illustration with CRs)
- Complexity of data analysis (illustration with AMS-02)
- Variety of detection principles, ‘research activities’, etc.



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GRASPA  
Annecy-le-Vieux  
27 August 2021

# Astroparticle experiment 1

## Charged cosmic rays (CRs) and AMS-02 experiment

- I. Cosmic ray discovery
- II. Cosmic ray puzzle: sources, transport...
- III. CR experiments: overview
- IV. AMS experiment: data analysis
- V. Recent results



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22 July 2019

# Ionic conductivity of gas

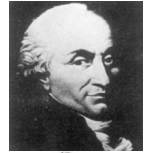
Study of  
atmospheric  
electricity

**1785** – Charles Coulomb

*Charge loss (“electricity dispersion”) occurs mainly through air*

**1879** – William Crookes

*Speed of discharge decreases with  $P$ : ionization of air is the direct cause*



**1895** – Wilhelm Röntgen (Nobel 1901)

*Discovery of X-rays (or Röntgen rays)*

**1896** – Henri Becquerel, Marie & Pierre Curie (Nobel 1903)

*Discovery of spontaneous radioactivity*

**1897** – Joseph John Thomson (Nobel 1906)

*Discovery of electron*

**1900** – Henri Becquerel

*$\beta$  radioactivity = electrons*

**1903, 1914** – Ernest Rutherford (Nobel 1908)

*$\alpha$  radioactivity = helium*

*$\gamma$  radioactivity = similar to X-rays but shorter wavelength*



Natural  
radioactivity

**End of 19<sup>th</sup> century** – J.J. Thomson

*Electric conductivity of gasses increases with X-rays and radioactivity*

**Theory of ionic conductivity of gasses**

# Ionic conductivity of gas

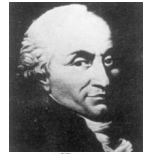
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Natural  
radioactivity

## Start of 20<sup>th</sup> century

→ *Radiation constantly ionizing the air*

→ *Discharge of electroscope explained by very few ions in air*

**What is the nature of the unknown source of ions?**

# Proof of an extraterrestrial radiation

- **A decade of unrewarded efforts...**

1902-1909 – Improvements of apparatus, data at ground, sea, mountain level... w/o shielding

Review of Kurtz (1909)

- ~~$\gamma$ -radiation from the earth's crust;~~
- ~~radiation coming from the atmosphere;~~
- radiation from space.

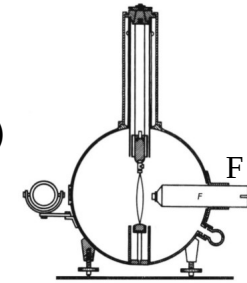
Resolutely rejected  
as improbable!

- **Ionisation constant with altitude (whereas decrease expected)**

1909-11 – A. Gockel: 3 balloon flights @ 4500 m (unpressurised detector)

1909-10 – T. Wulf: electroscope + measurements at Eiffel tower

1909-12 – D. Pacini: underwater (require non-terrestrial radiation)



Electroscope: speed of discharge related to distance change between the wires (microscope F)

- **Proof of existence: V. Hess (1911-1912) → “ultra-gamma radiation”**

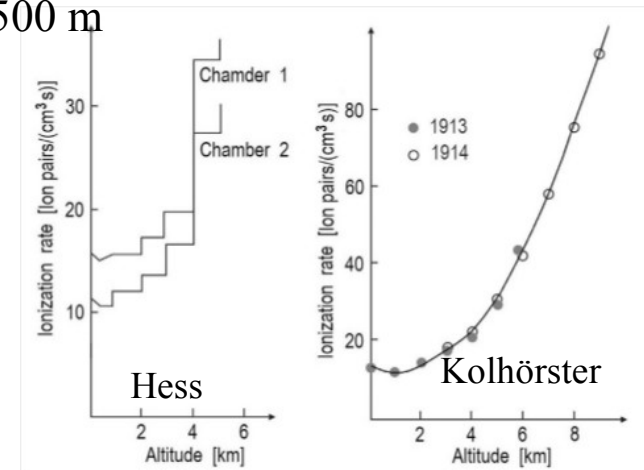
1911: First measure of  $\gamma$ -ray attenuation in air, predict absorption for  $d \geq 500$  m

→ “there should be other source of a penetrating radiation in addition to  $\gamma$ -radiation from radioactive substances in earth crust”

1912: flights at  $\neq$  times,  $\neq$  atmospheric conditions (wind, pressure, T)

[3 Wulf electroscopes: (non-)hermetic, w/o shield (sensitive to  $\gamma$ -rays)]

→ “can be explained by the assumption that radiation of the big penetrating ability is coming into our atmosphere from above and even its bottom layers”



... and confirmation by Kolhörster (1913-1914)

# Characterization of the radiation

- **First World War... delayed interest until 1921 (USA), 1923 (Germany)**

- **Another period of doubt... [Millikan = Nobel 1923]**

1922 – Millikan & Bowen: unmanned balloons (15 500 m reached)  
→ High altitude radiation (10 km), but 4x smaller than expected

1923 – Millikan: absorption factor of high-altitude radiation in lead  
→ “*The radiation for the most part nevertheless has a local origin*”

Pushed for alternative explanation

- High altitude radioactive pollution
- Particle acceleration up to high energies during thunderstorms

1926 – Millikan & Cameron

→ “*These rays do not occur from our atmosphere and consequently can be rightfully named by ‘cosmic rays’*”

- **Another heated debate: neutral (Millikan) or charged (Compton) particles?**

1930s

- Latitude surveys (Clay, Compton, Rossi...) + Störmer’s theory (1910-1911)  
→ cosmic rays are charged particles
- West–East CR asymmetry (Johnson, Seidl, Burbury, Fenton)  
→ the largest part of primary CR are positively charged particles

# Human nature and ethics

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- **Another heated debate: neutral (Millikan) or charged (Compton) particles?**

Clay (discoverer of latitude effect in 1927): *“Mr Millikan [...] is violating the truth, as he does, for his own profit, without any scruples”*

Alvarez (Nobel 1968, PhD student of Compton) on Millikan: *“First of all, I do not believe latitude effect, but if you really have this effect, then I first discovered it”*

*CR Romancing: The Discovery of the Latitude Effect and the Compton-Millikan Controversy*  
Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences 19, No. 2 (1989) 211-266  
M. De Maria and A. Russo

*The Discovery of CRs: Rivalries and Controversies between Europe and the US*  
Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences 22 (1991) 165-192  
M. De Maria, M. G. Ianniello and A. Russo





# Opening the space age

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 3

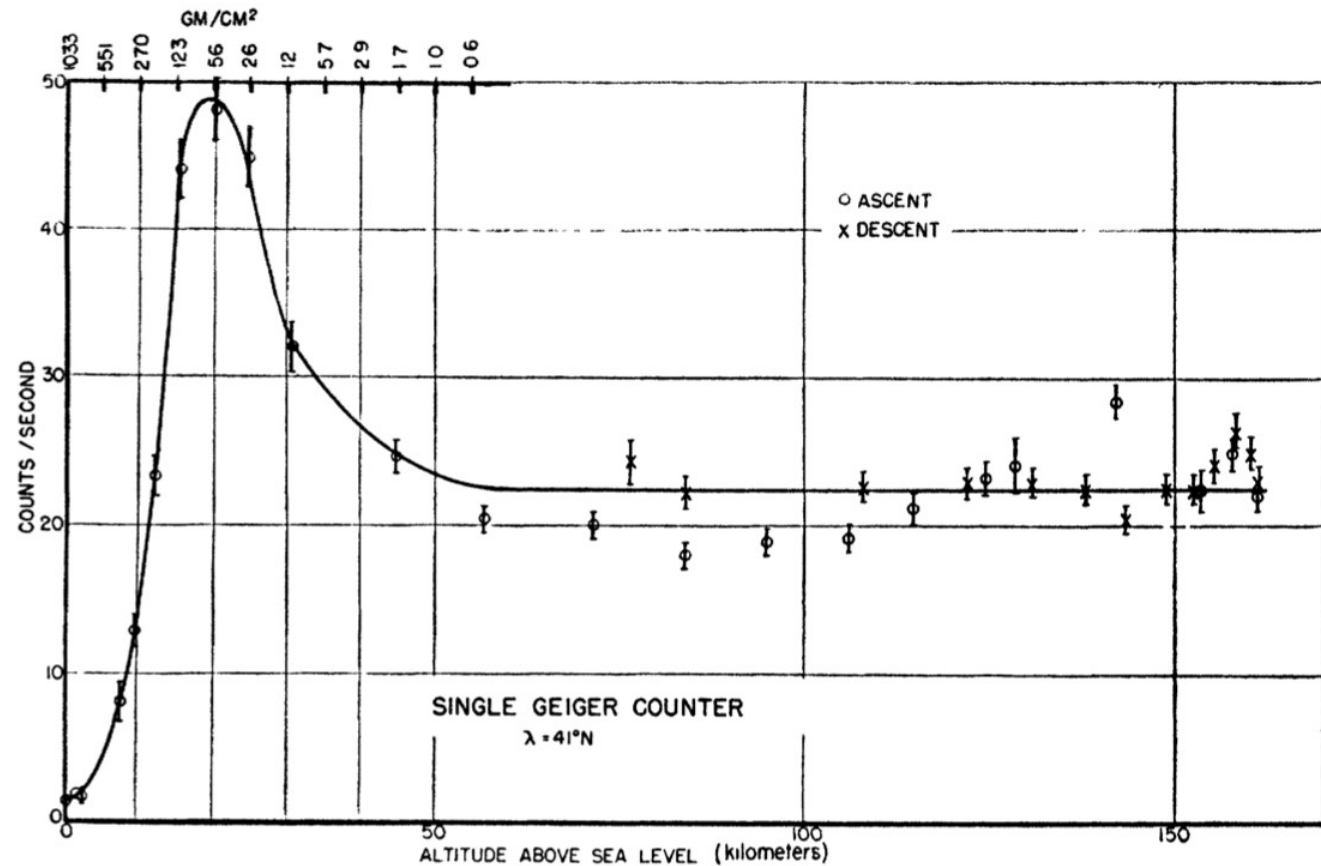
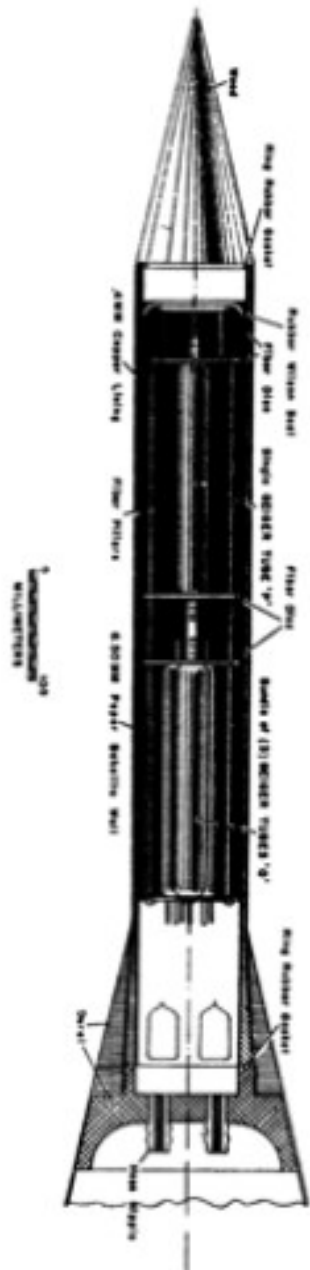
FEBRUARY 1, 1948

## The Cosmic-Ray Counting Rate of a Single Geiger Counter from Ground Level to 161 Kilometers Altitude

J. A. VAN ALLEN AND H. E. TATEL\*

*Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University, Silver Spring, Maryland*

(Received October 16, 1947)





I. Cosmic ray discovery

II. Cosmic ray puzzle: sources, transport...

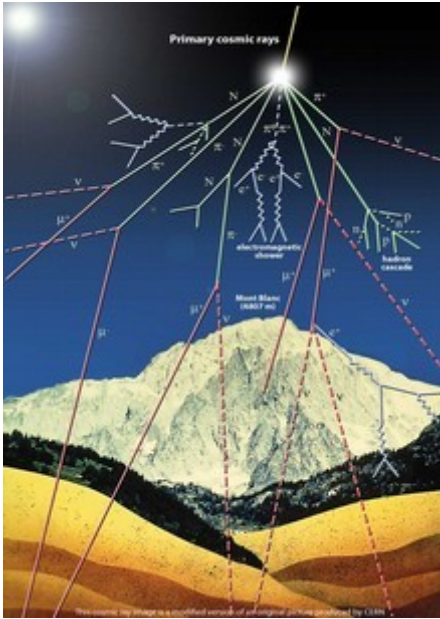
III. CR experiments: overview

IV. AMS experiment: data analysis

V. Recent results

# Experimental milestones

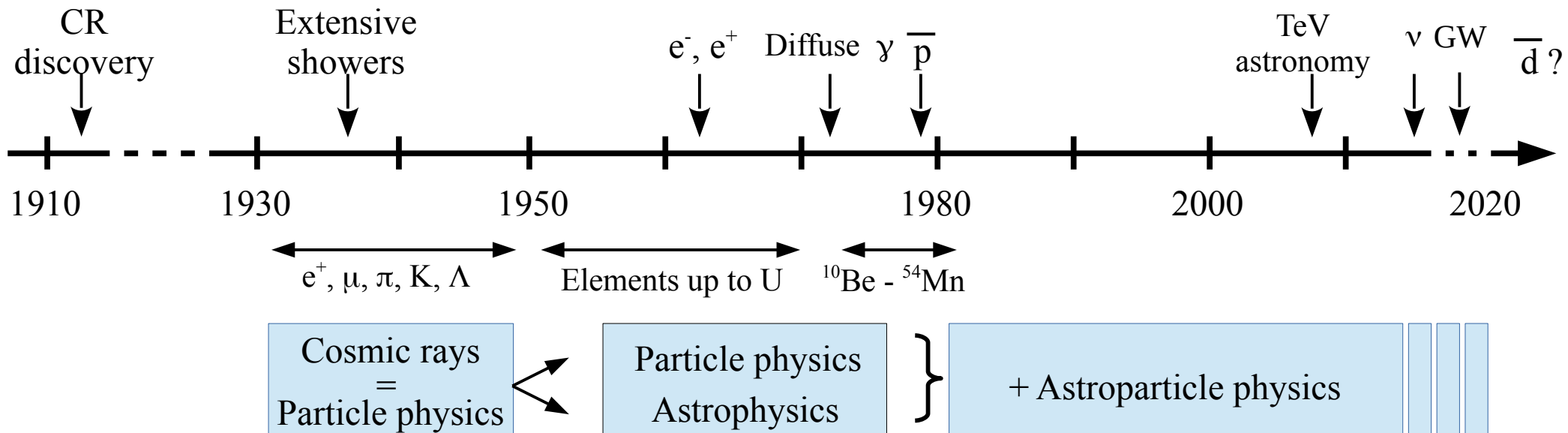
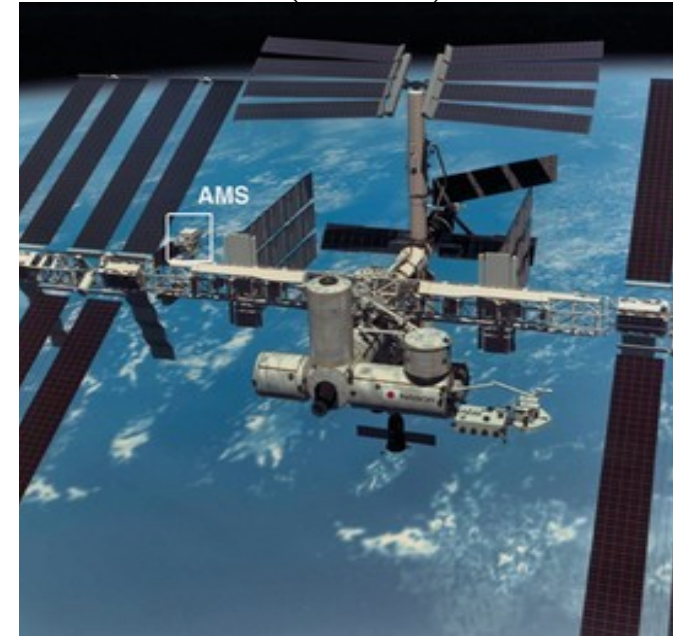
Mountain altitude < 5 km



CREAM balloon ~ 40 km



AMS-02 (on ISS) ~ 300 km



# Charged vs neutral cosmic rays

## Two categories

- *Neutral species*
  - ✓ Gamma-rays
  - ✓ Neutrinos

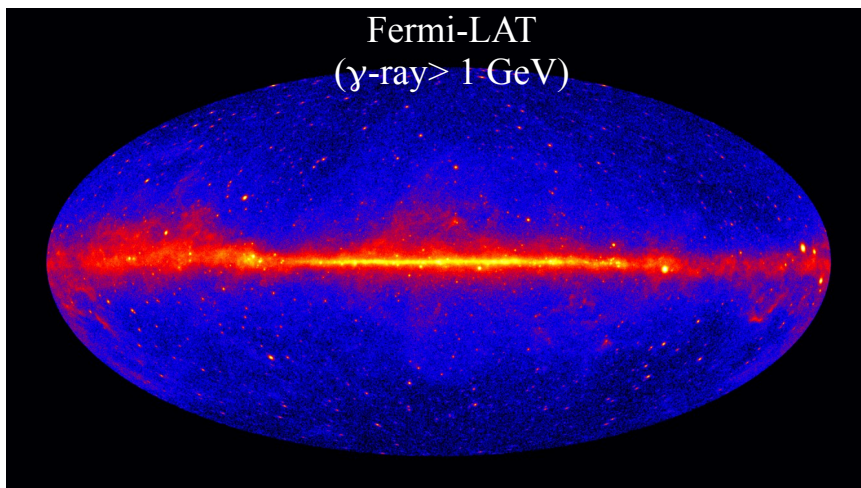
Multi-messenger  
approaches  
Multi-wavelength  
observations

- *Charged species*
  - ✓ Leptons
  - ✓ Nuclei

## Observation types

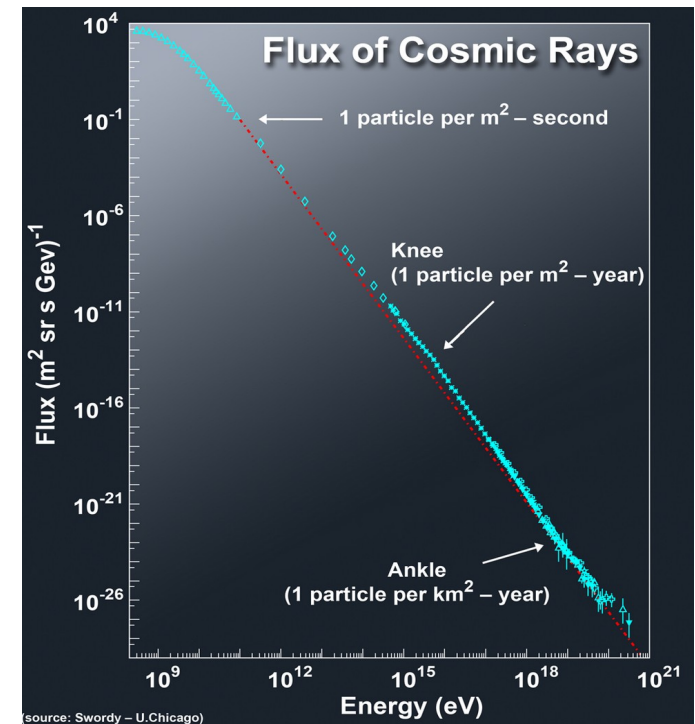
→ *Astronomy*

point-like, extended, diffuse emissions



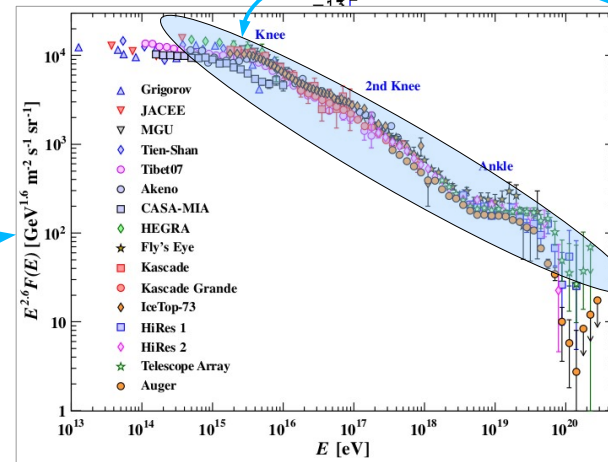
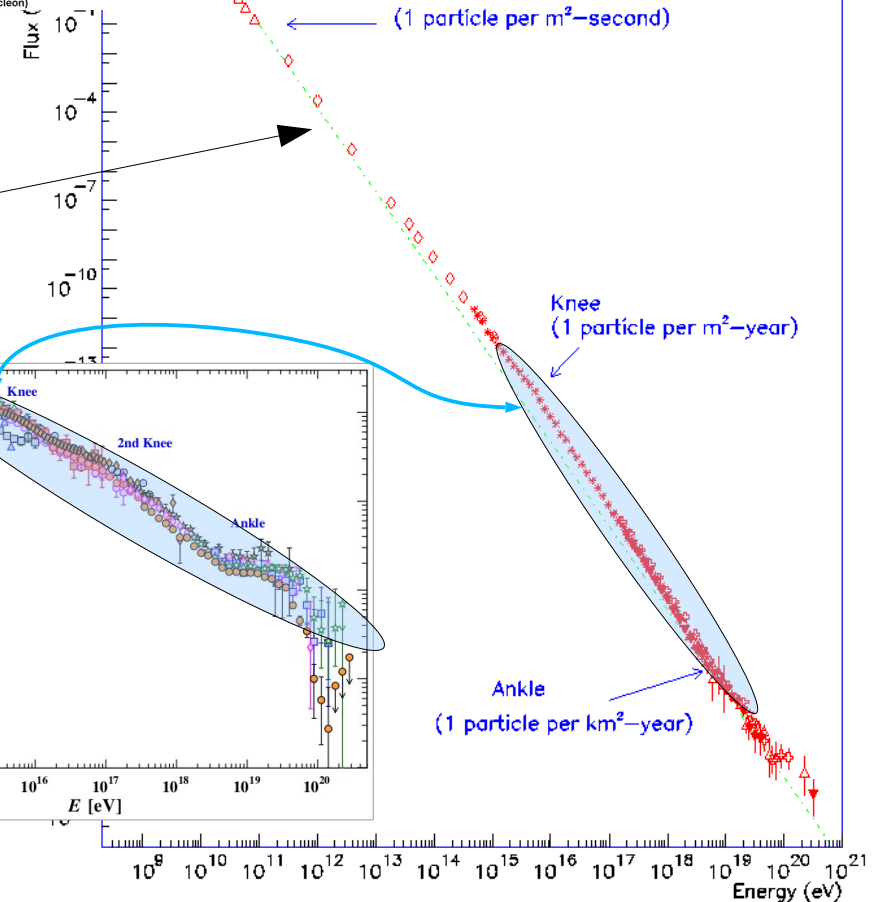
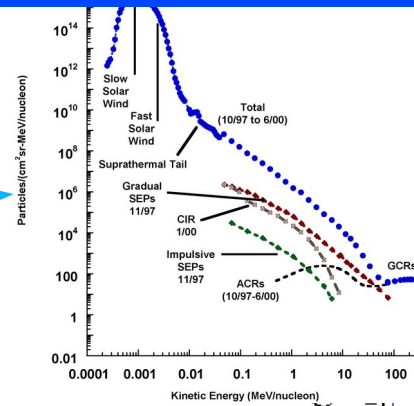
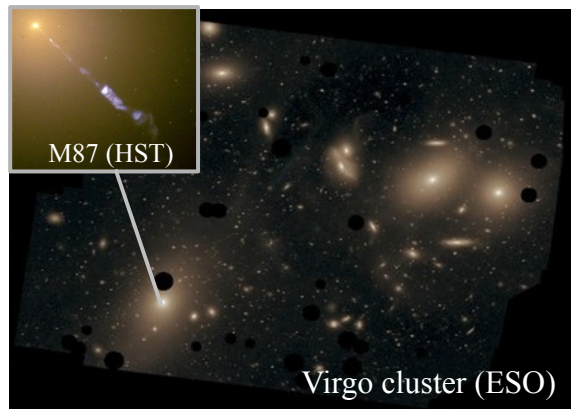
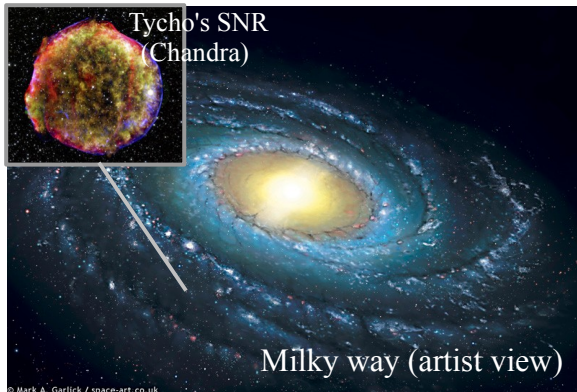
→ *Spectra & anisotropy maps*  
(diffusion/deflection in B)

30 orders of magnitude



12 orders of magnitude II. CR puzzle

# Cosmic ray sources?



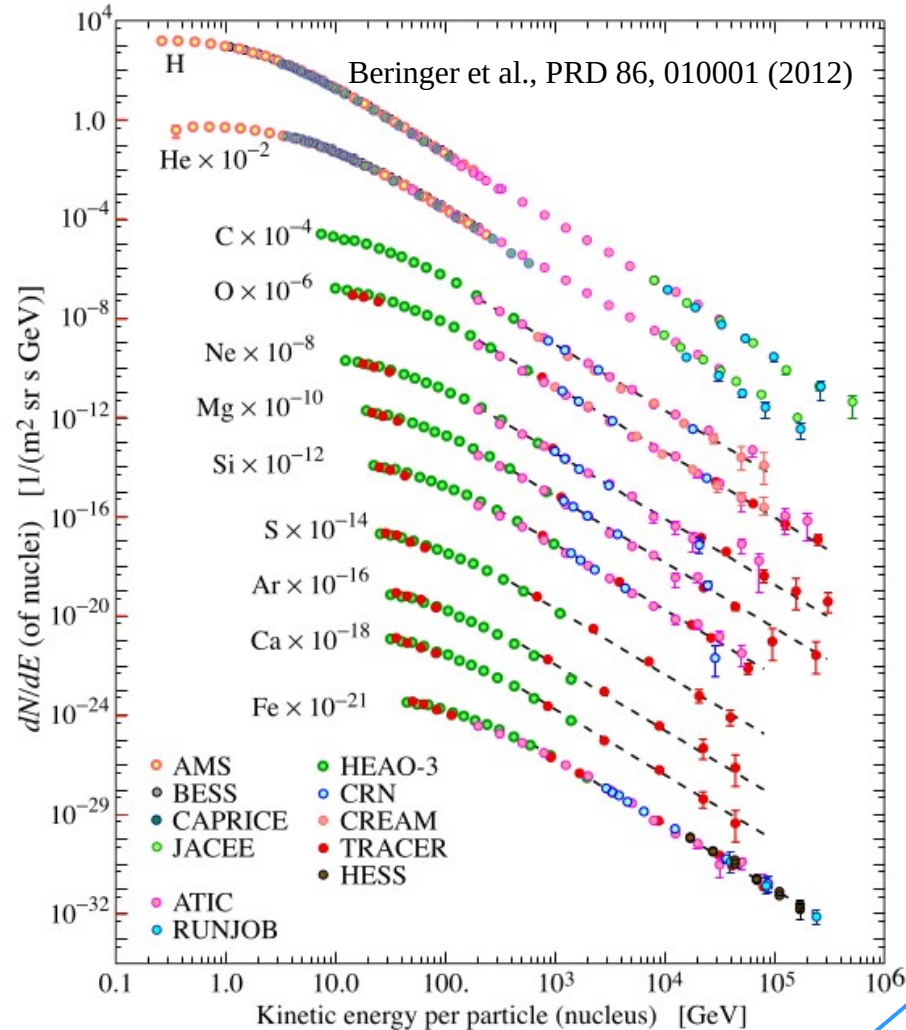
## Transition galactic vs extragalactic

- CR sources and transport?
- Origin of spectral features, composition, anisotropy?



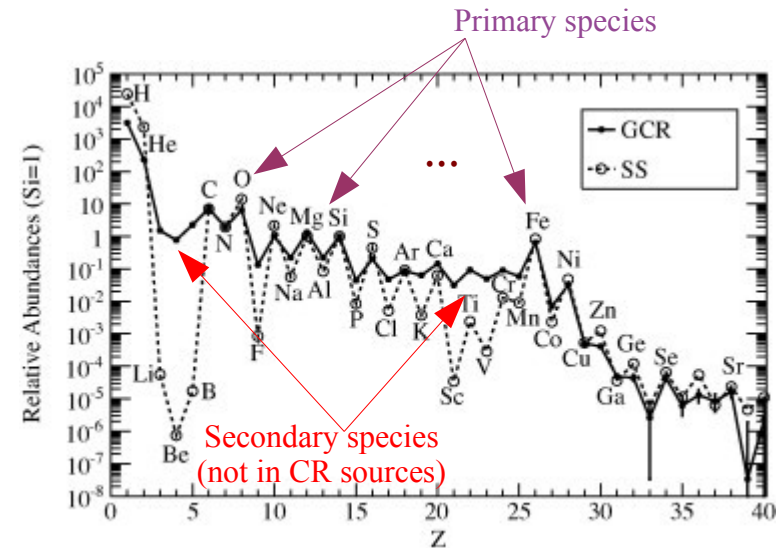
# Galactic CR data ( $E \sim 10^8 - 10^{15}$ eV)

## Elemental spectra



## Energy units

E type	Expression	Unit	Natural for
Rigidity	$R = \frac{pc}{Ze} = \frac{p}{Z} = r_l B$	[GV]	Magnet (AMS)
Total E	$E^2 = p^2 + m^2$	[GeV]	Calorimeter (CREAM)
Ek per nucleon	$E_{k/n}(=T) = \frac{E_k}{A}$	[GeV/n]	Nuclear reaction



Bauch et al., AdSR 53 (2014)

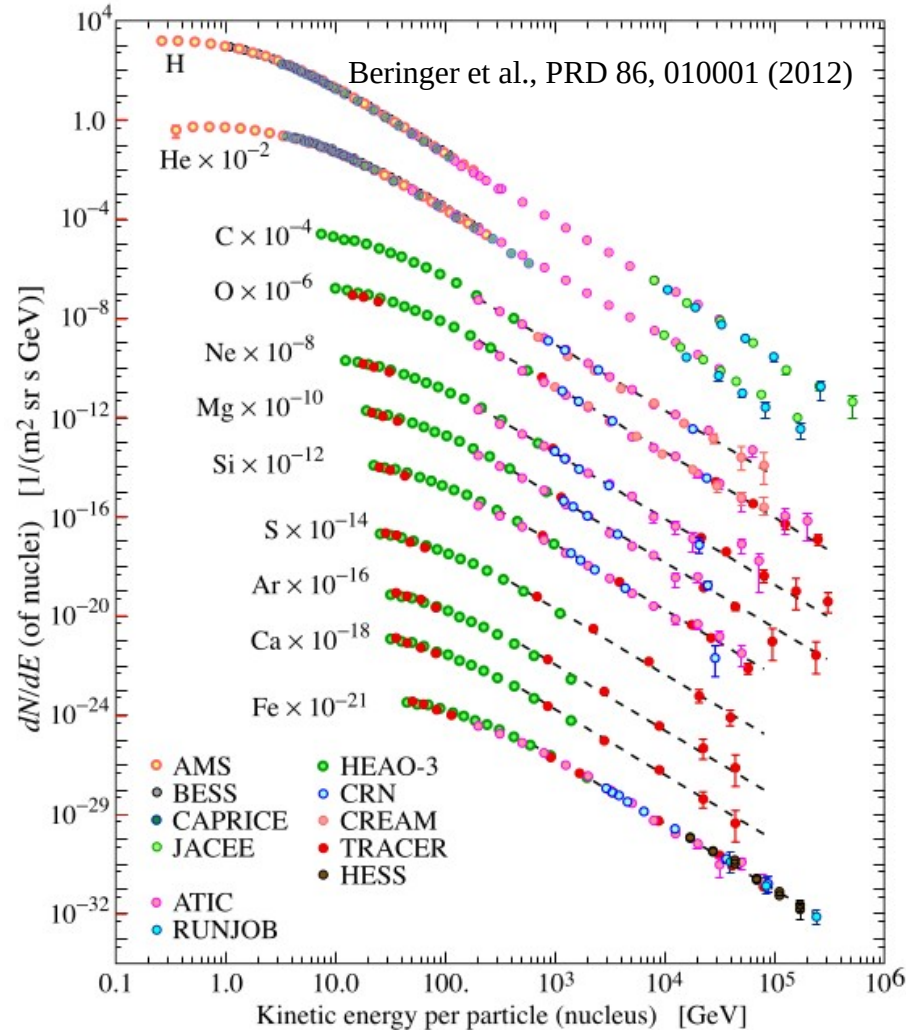
- Origin of 'universal' power law ( $E^{-2.8}$ )?
- Abundances of elements/isotopes?
- CR anisotropy ( $\delta < 10^{-3}$ )

**Antiprotons,  $e^+$ ,  $e^-$ , gamma:**  
**primary or secondary?**

II. CR puzzle

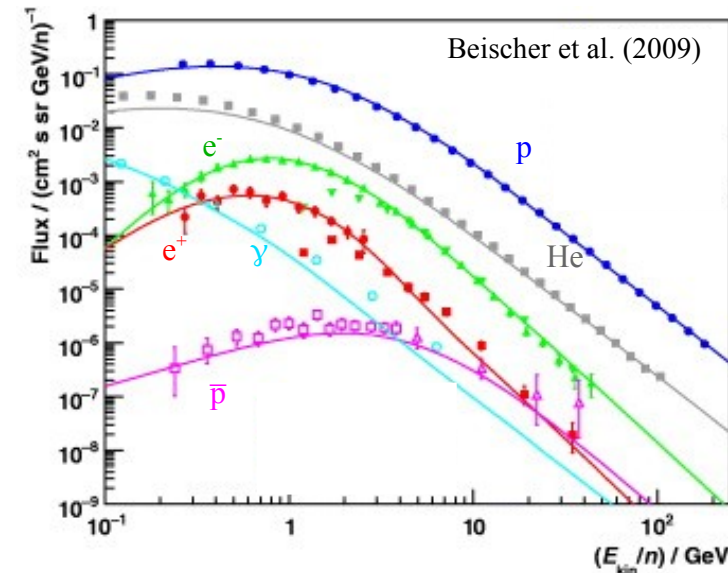
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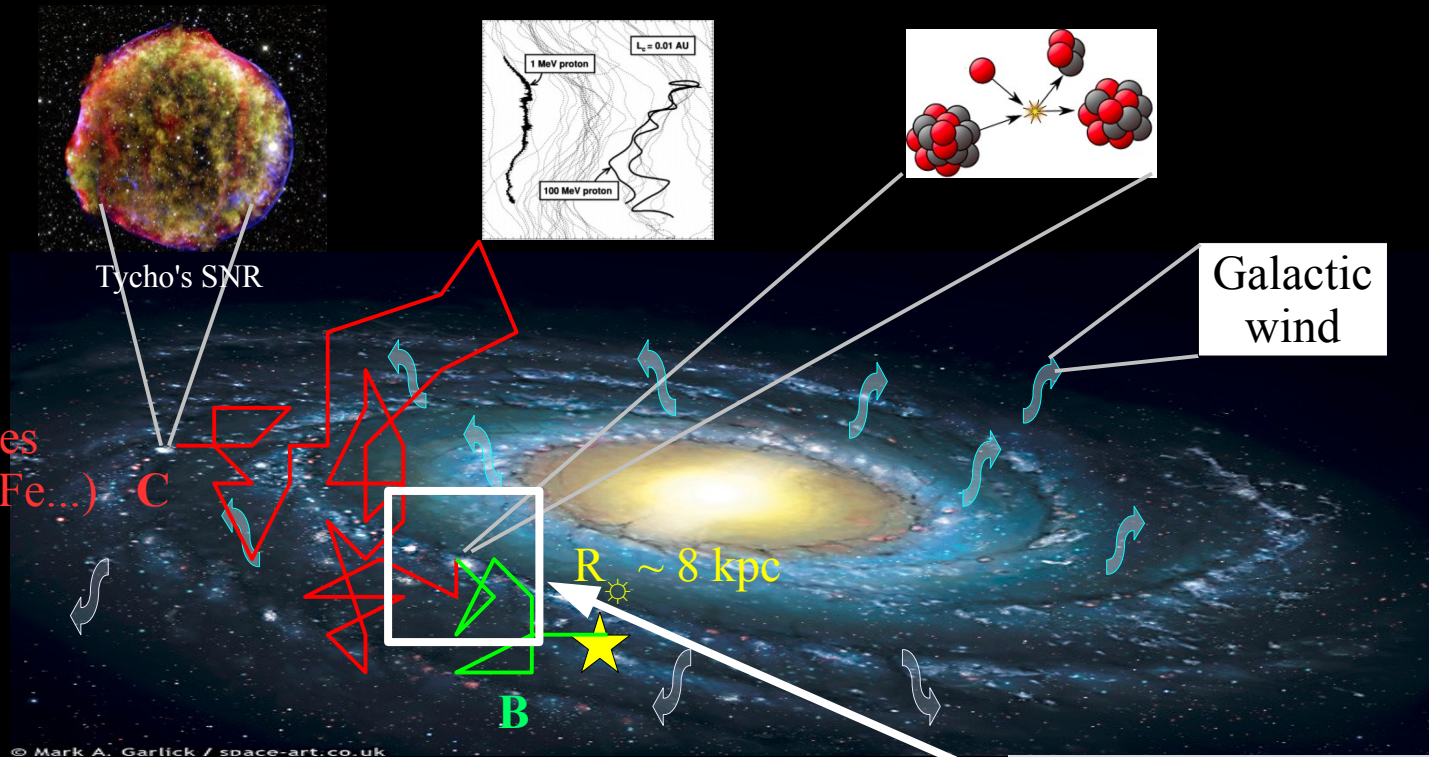
- Origin of 'universal' power law ( $E^{-2.8}$ )?
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## Protons and He vs diffuse $\gamma$ -rays, $p\bar{p}$ , $e^-$ and $e^+$



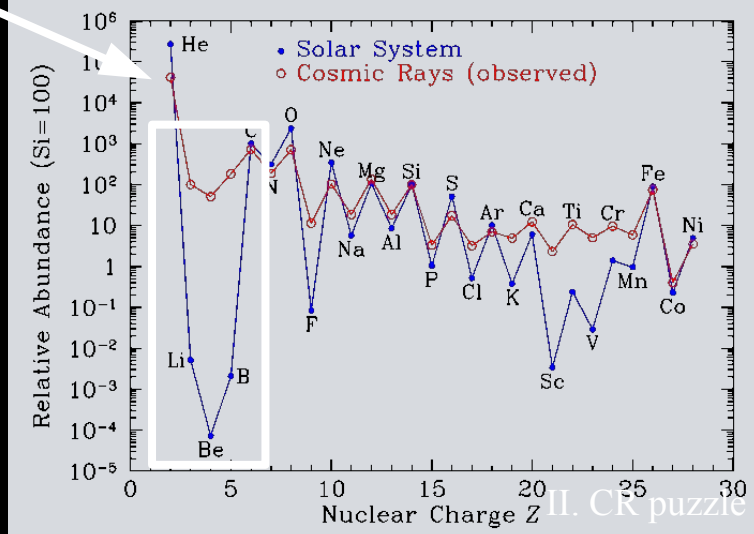
N.B.: rare CRs produced by H, He + ISM  
 → How well do we know the astro. production?  
 → Is it a good place to look for dark matter?

# Nuclear interactions and abundances



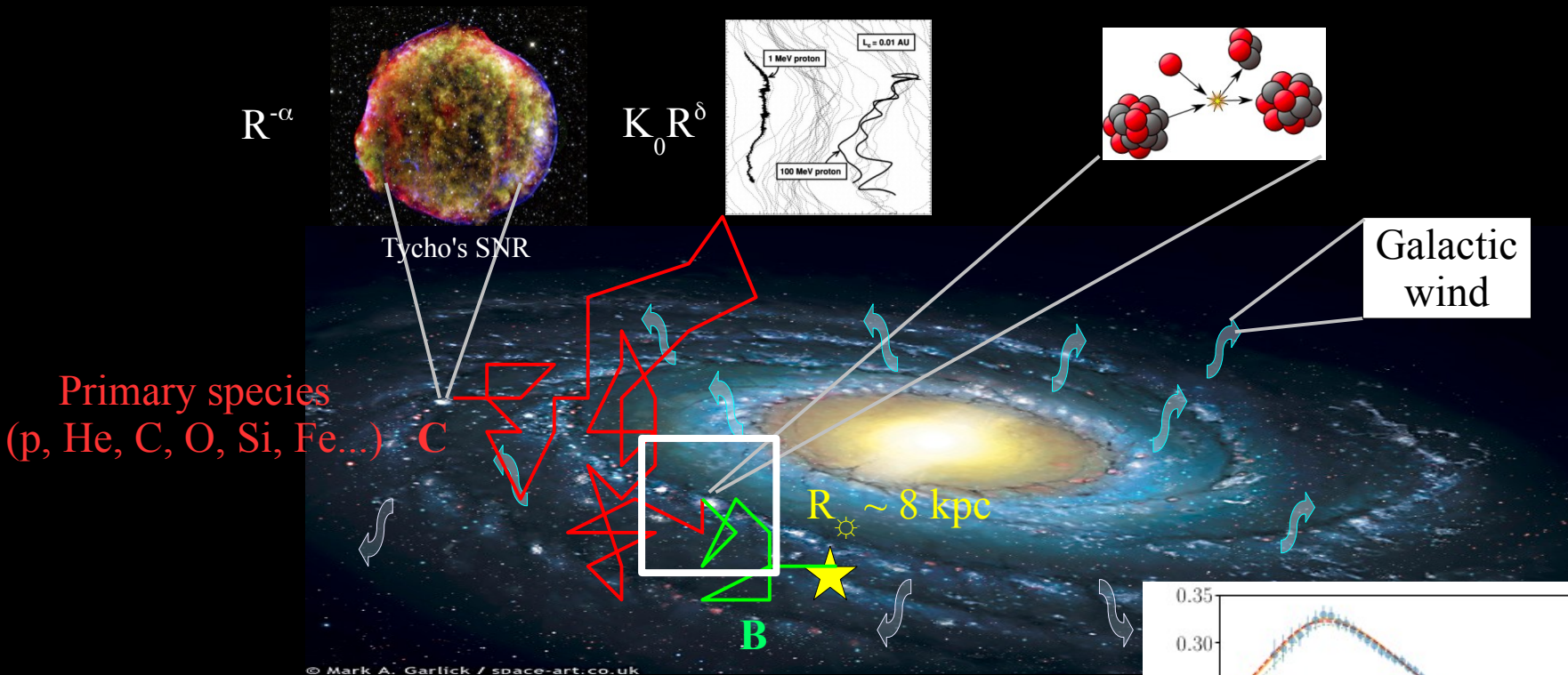
Primary species  
(p, He, C, O, Si, Fe...)

Secondary species  
(<sup>2</sup>H, <sup>3</sup>He, Li-Be-B, sub-Fe)

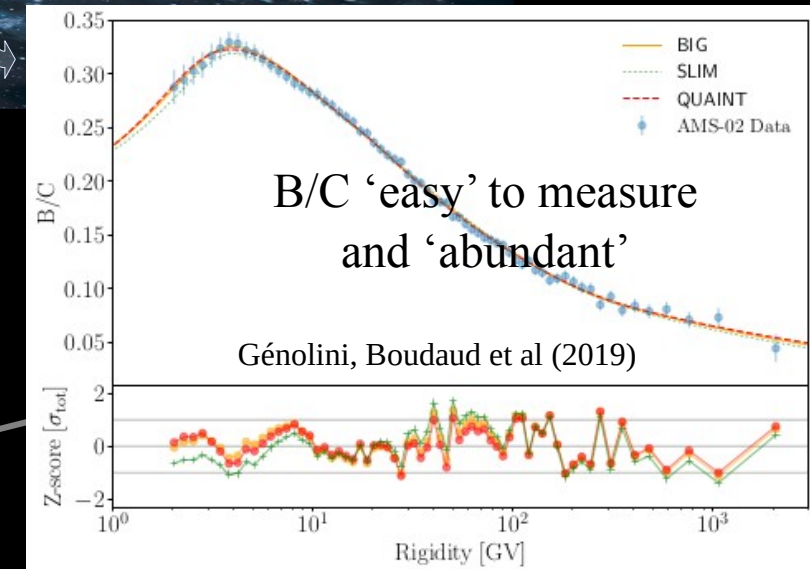




# Diffusion: secondary-to-primary ratio

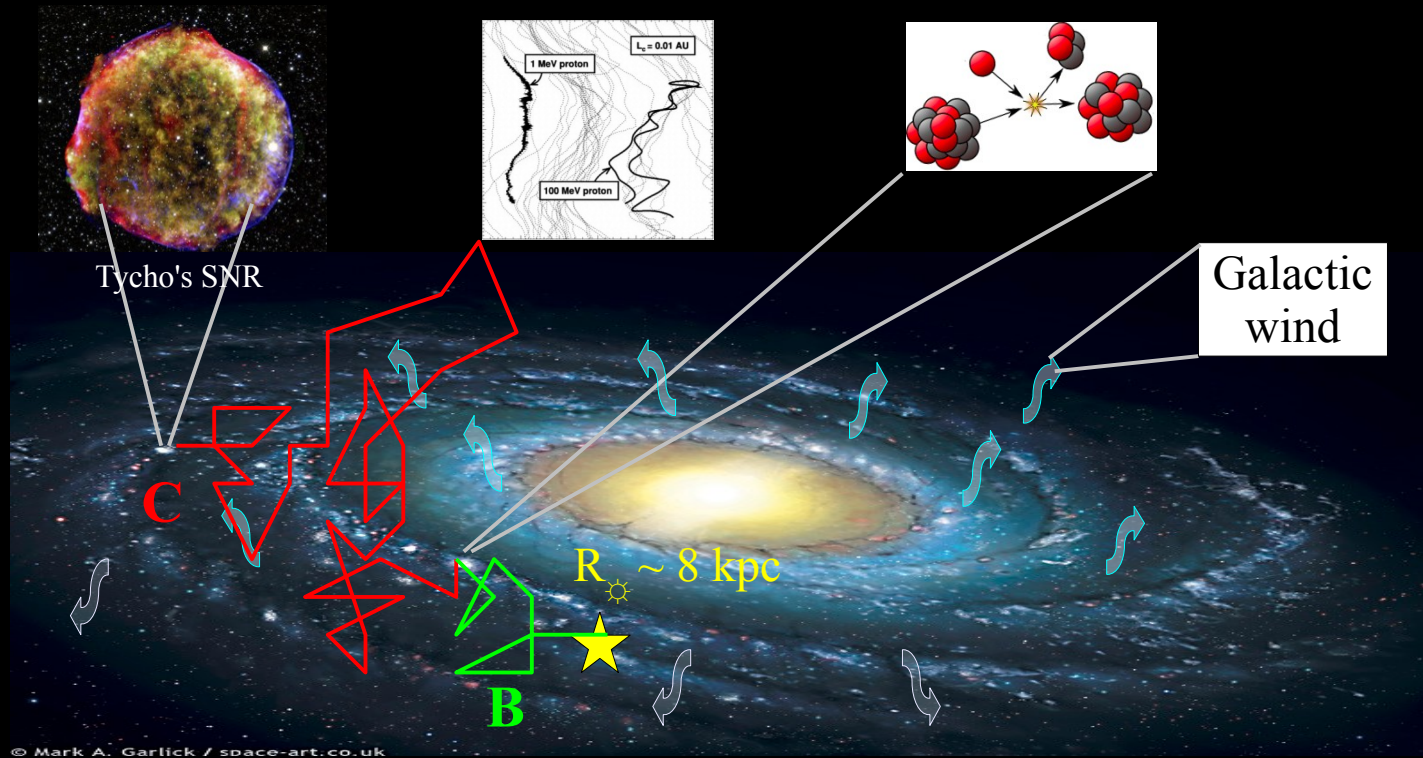


Secondary species  
( $^2\text{H}$ ,  $^3\text{He}$ , Li-Be-B, sub-Fe)

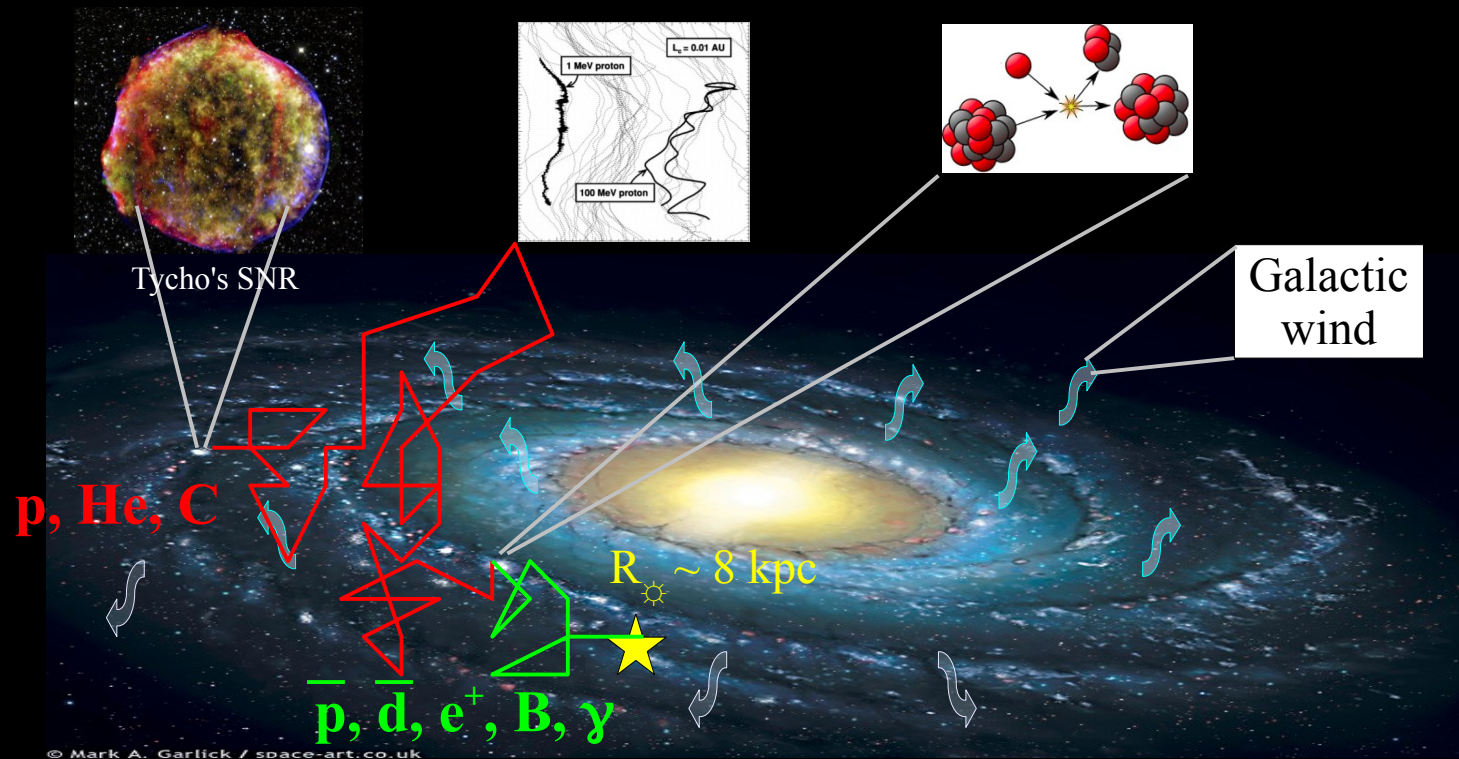


Primary species P: source/diffusion  $\sim R^{-(\alpha+\delta)}$   
 Secondary species S:  $(\sigma^{P \rightarrow S} \cdot P)/\text{diffusion} \sim R^{-(\alpha+2\delta)}$   
 $\rightarrow$  **Secondary to primary ratio  $\sim \sigma^{P \rightarrow S} \cdot R^{-\delta}$**

# Dark matter search: (i) transport calibrated on B/C



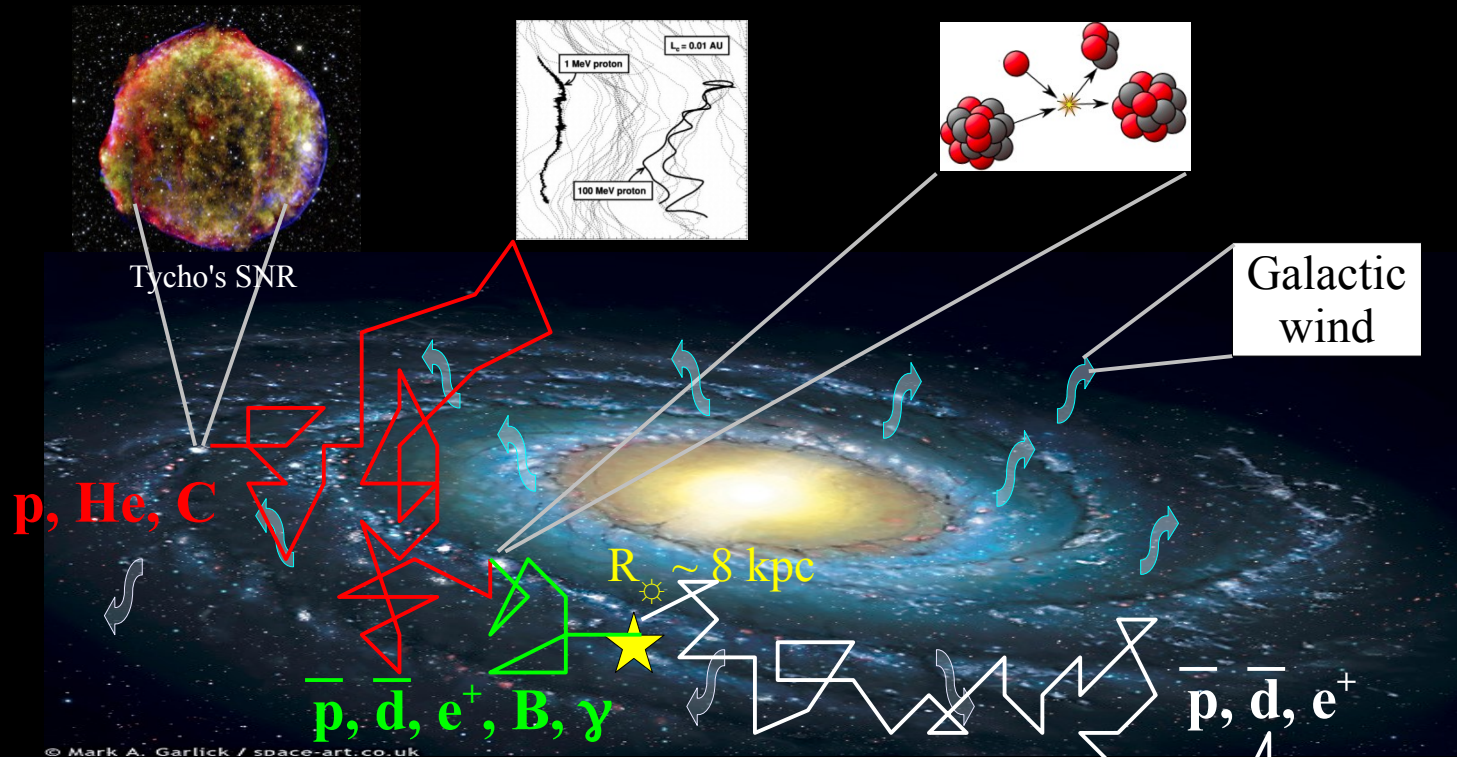
# Dark matter search: (ii) “background” for rare channels



→ Same propagation history for B/C, or  $\bar{p}/p$   
(apply previously derived parameters)



# Dark matter search: (iii) “signal” for rare channels



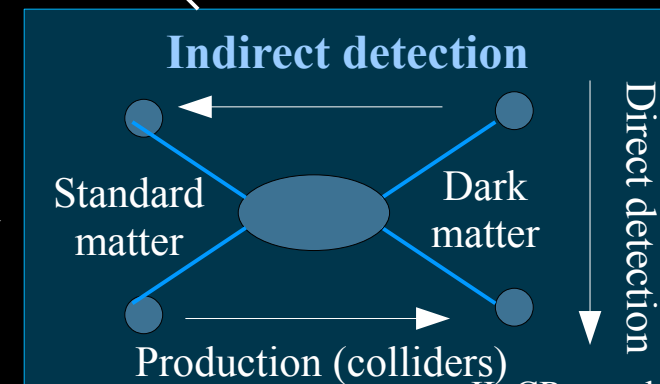
→ Same transport but different origin  
(from DM halo)

## Universe (after Planck)

- 68.3 % dark energy
- 26.8 % dark matter
- 4.9 % ordinary matter

## Milky-Way dark matter halo

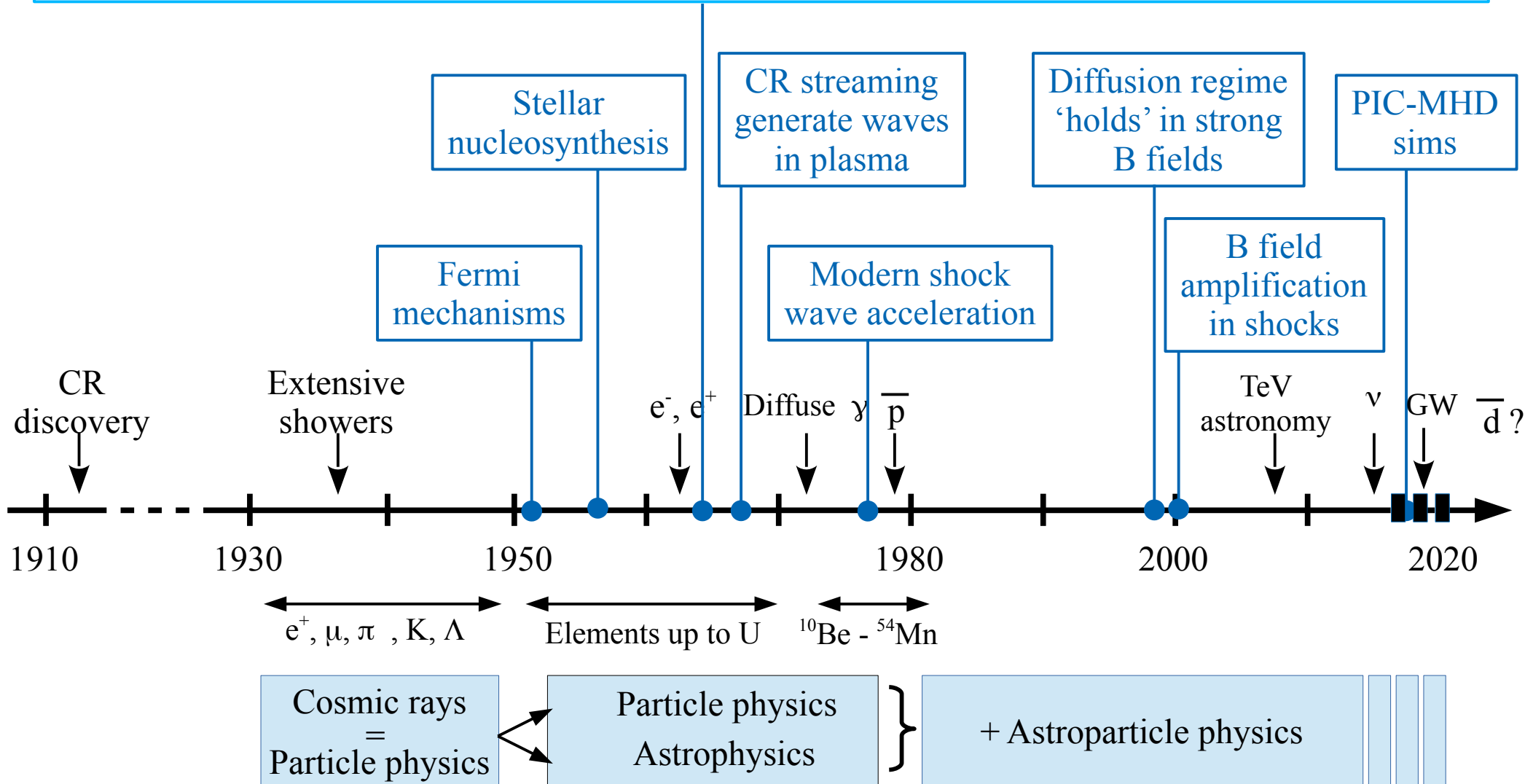
- ~ spherical halo
- radius ~300 kpc



# Theoretical milestones

Transport parameters:  $K_0$  and  $\delta$  (diffusion normalisation and slope),  $L$  (diffusive halo size),  $V_c$  (convection)

$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial N^j}{\partial t}}_{\text{Variation}} + \underbrace{\left( -\vec{\nabla} \cdot \left( K(E, \vec{r}) \vec{\nabla} \right) + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{V}(\vec{r}) \right) N^j}_{\text{Transport (diff+conv)}} + \underbrace{\left( \Gamma_{\text{rad}} + \Gamma_{\text{inel}} \right) N^j}_{\text{catastrophic losses}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial E} \left( b^j N^j - c^j \frac{\partial N^j}{\partial E} \right)}_{\text{E gain/losses}} = \underbrace{Q^j(E, \vec{r}) + \sum_{m_i > m_j} \Gamma^{i \rightarrow j} N^i}_{\text{Sources (prim+sec)}}$$



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II. Cosmic ray puzzle: sources, transport...

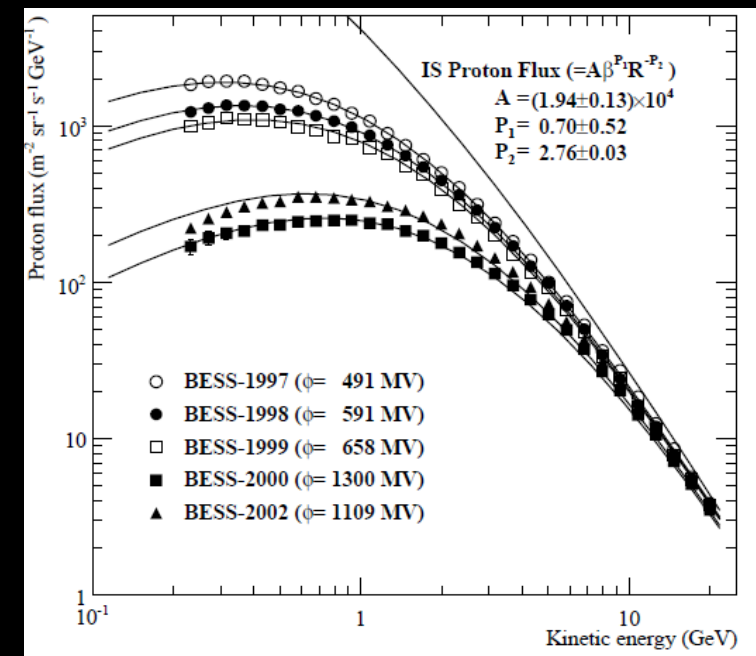
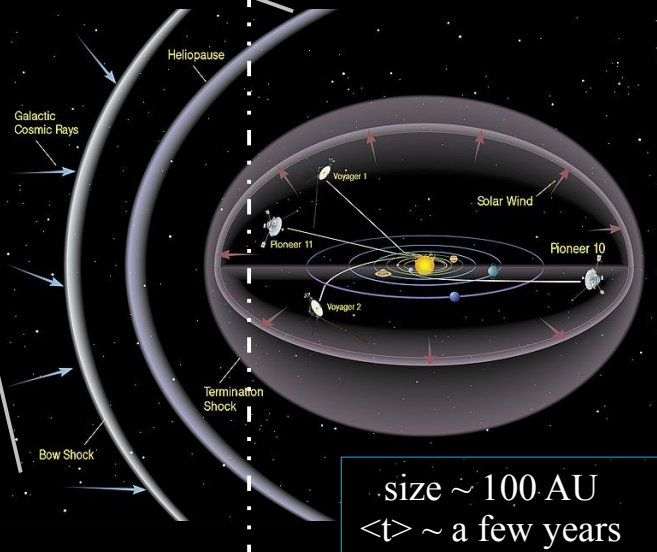
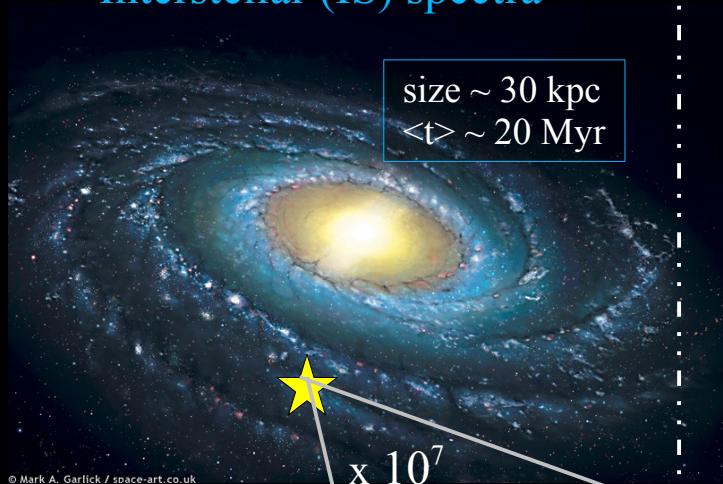
**III. CR experiments: overview**

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# Last steps before detection... Solar modulation

## 1. Transport in the Galaxy → Interstellar (IS) spectra



## 2. Transport in the Solar cavity → modulate CRs ( $< 10$ GeV/n)

[time-independent]

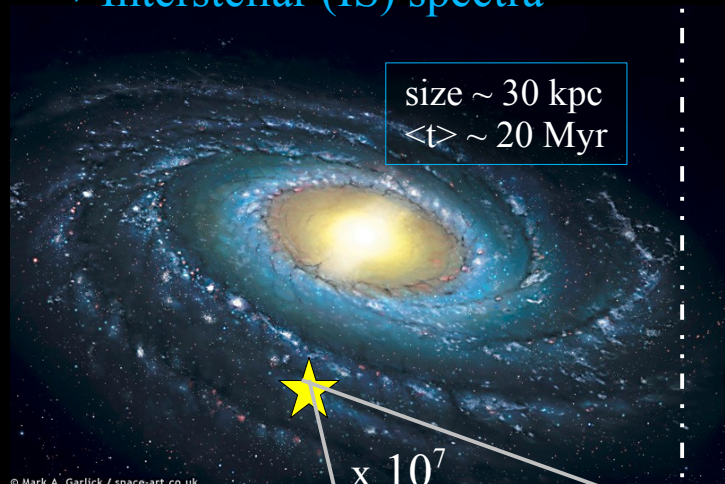
[time-dependent]

III. Detection

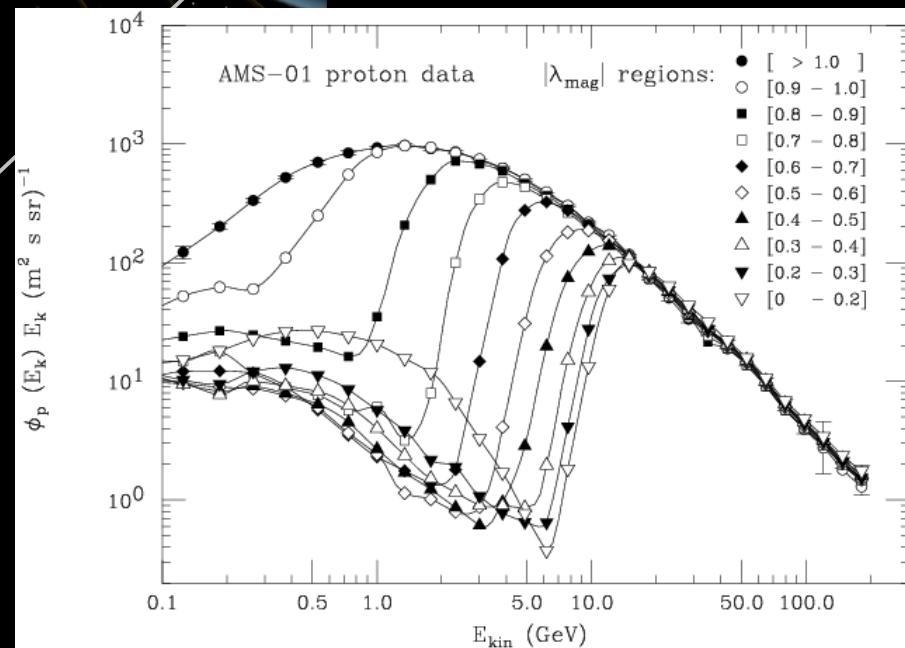
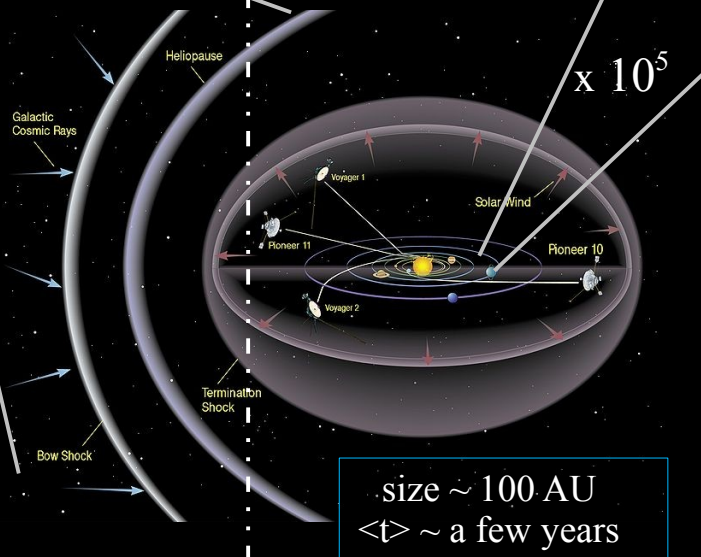
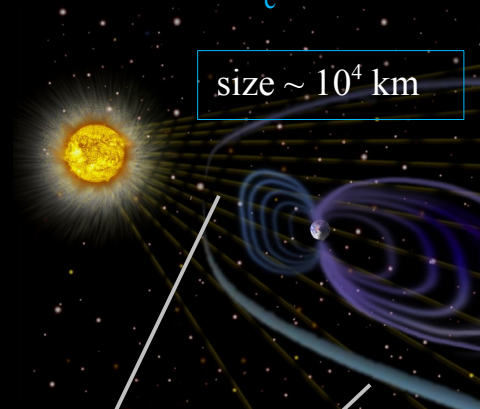


# Last steps before detection... R cutoff

## 1. Transport in the Galaxy → Interstellar (IS) spectra



## 3. Earth magnetic shield → Cut-off rigidity $R_c$ (at Earth)



## 2. Transport in the Solar cavity → modulate CRs (< 10 GeV/n)

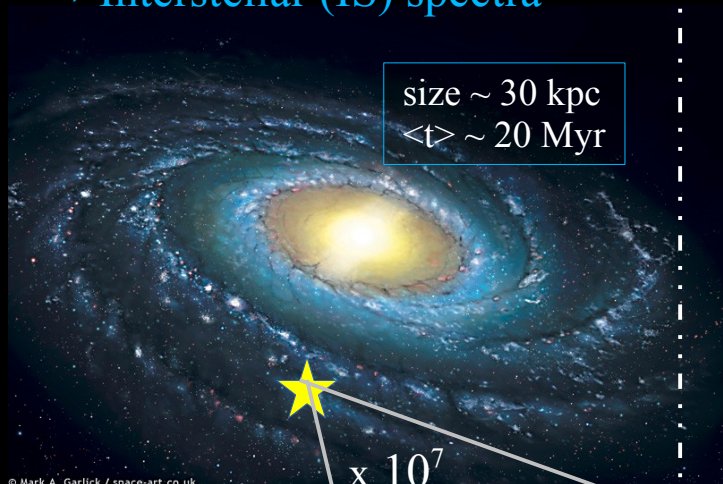
[time-independent]

[time-dependent]

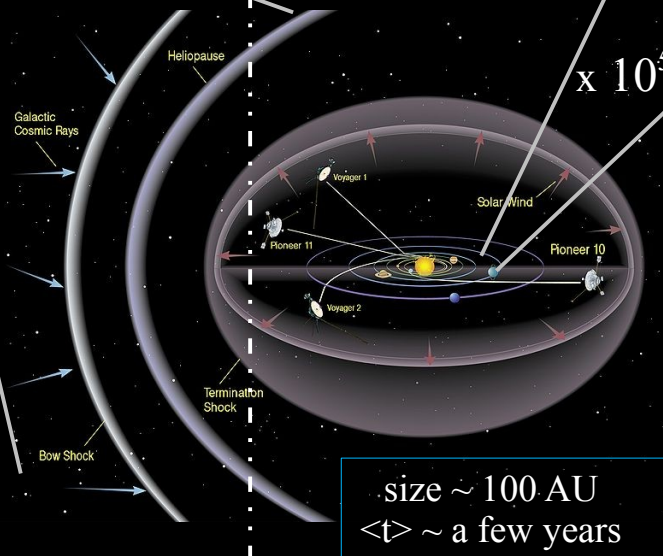
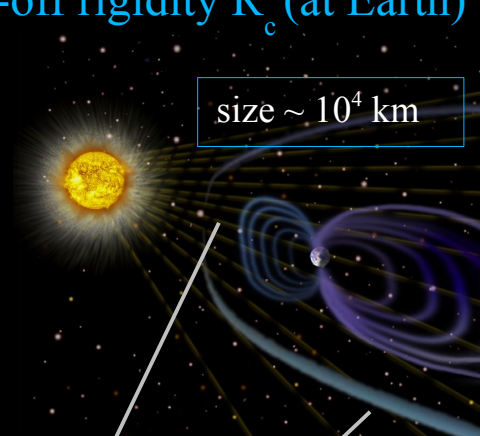
III. Detection

# Last steps before detection... atmosphere

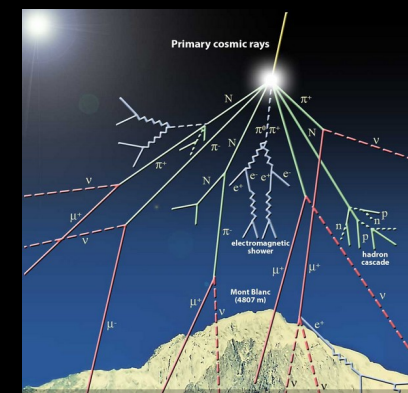
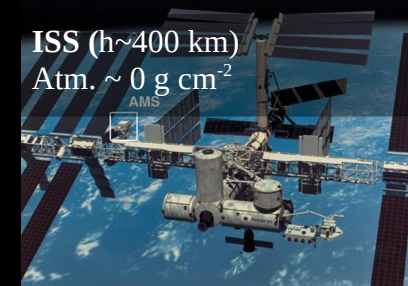
## 1. Transport in the Galaxy → Interstellar (IS) spectra



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## 2. Transport in the Solar cavity → modulate CRs ( $< 10$ GeV/n)



## 4. Atmosphere → CR showers

# Detection: direct vs indirect

## “Direct” CR detection ( $< 10^{15}$ eV $\sim$ PeV)

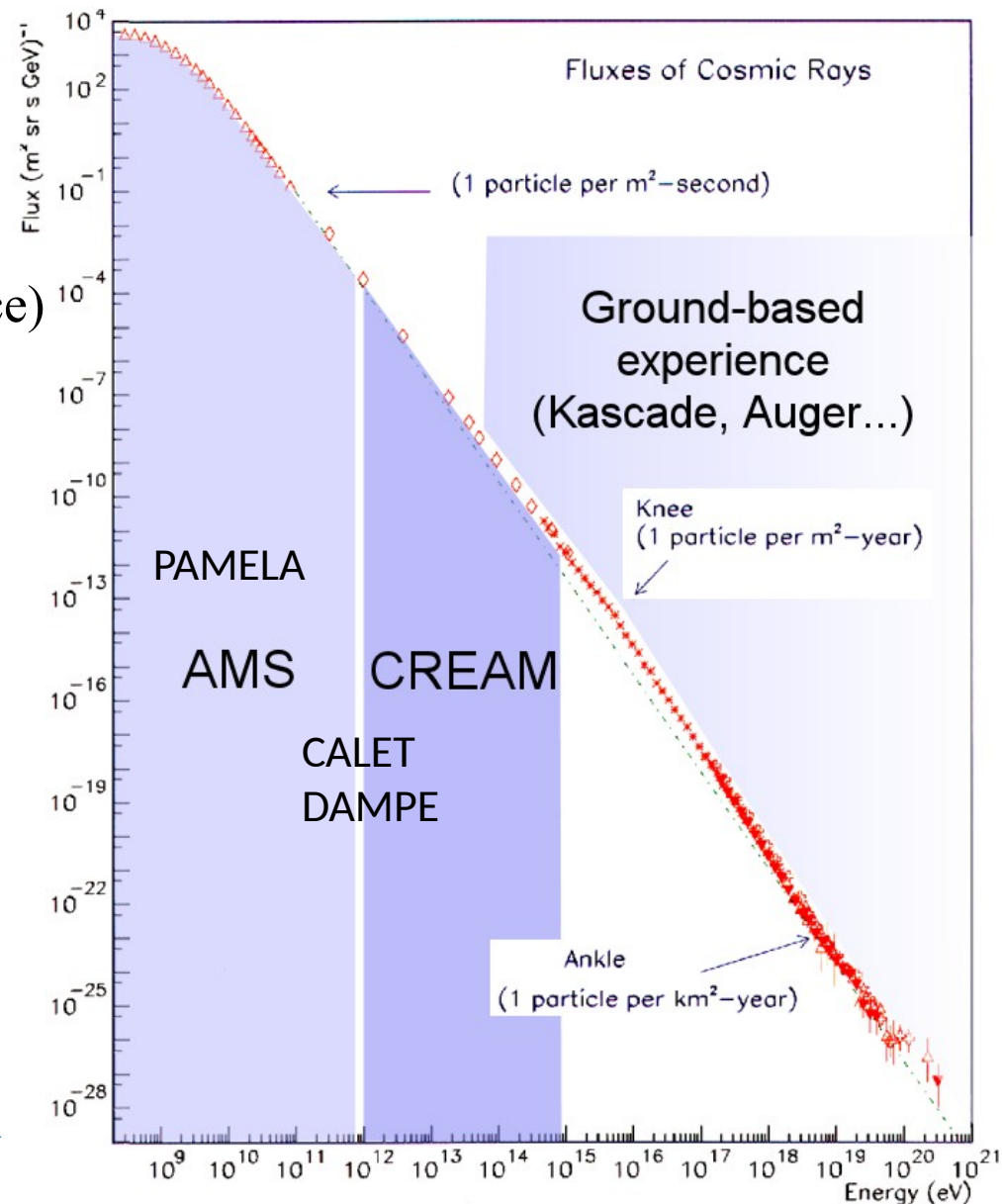
- Detectors “above” atmosphere (balloon or space)
- “Particle physics”-like detectors

→ Identification of CR nature and energy

## “Indirect” CR detection ( $> 10^{15}$ eV)

- Ground-based detectors
- Use atmosphere as “calorimeter”
- Measure shower properties

→ Reconstruct CR most likely nature and energy





# Major GCR experiments

Balloon-borne  
experiments

Magnetic Spectrometer  
« Calorimeter »

Experiments  
in space

MASS (1989-1991)

IMAX (1992)

CAPRICE (1994-  
1998)

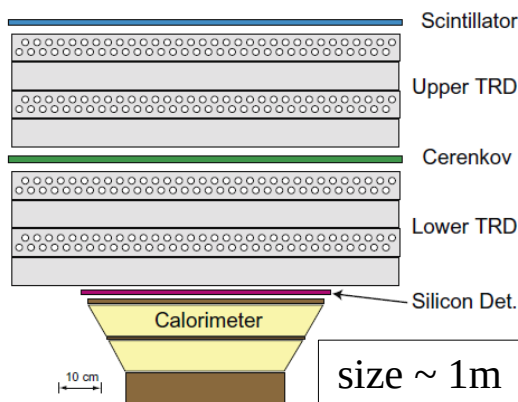
HEAT (1994-1995)

BESS (1994-2000)

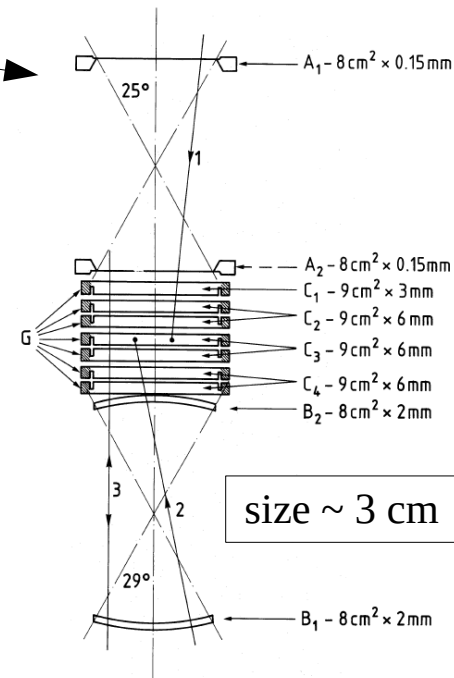
ATIC (2000-2007)

TRACER (2006)

CREAM (2004-2010)



Voyager (1976-...)  
HEAO3 (1979-1981)



AMS01 (1998)

FERMI (2008-...)

PAMELA (2006-2016)

AMS02 (2011-...)

CALET (2015-...)

DAMPE (2015-...)

ISSCREAM (2017-2019)

ALADINO, AMS-100 (2050)?

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→ slides adapted from L. Derome (LPSC)

**Installed on ISS in May 2011**

- Circular orbit, 400 km, 51.6°
- Continuous operation 24/7
- Average rate  $\sim 700$  Hz (60 millions particles/day)

**More than 100 billion events so far!**







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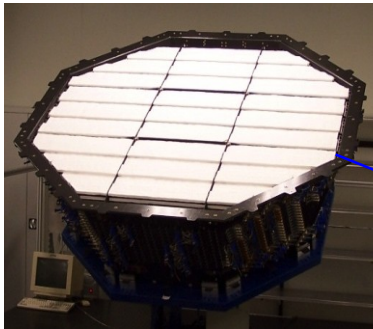
→ Average rate ~700 Hz (60 millions particles/day)

**More than 100 billion events so far!**



# A(lpha) M(agnetic) S(pectrometer)

**TRD**  
**Identify  $e^+$ ,  $e^-$**



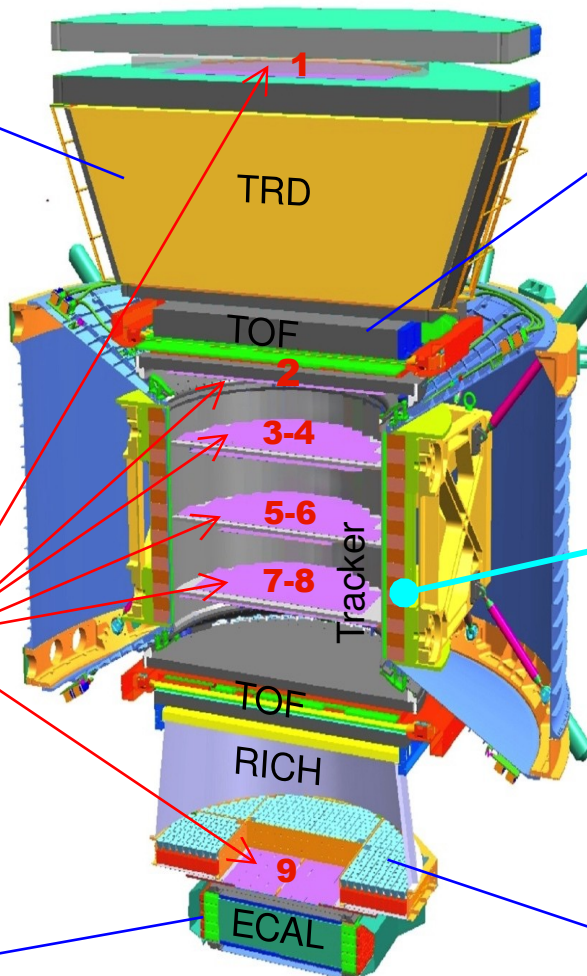
**Silicon Tracker**  
**Z, p**



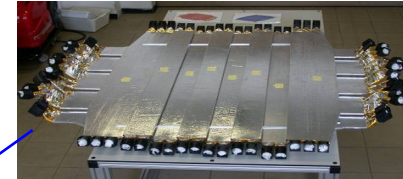
**ECAL**  
**Identify  $e^+$ ,  $e^-$**   
**E of  $e^+$ ,  $e^-$ ,  $\gamma$**



A TeV precision, multipurpose spectrometer in space.



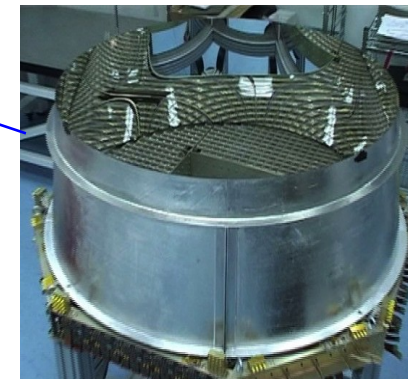
**TOF**  
**Z,  $\beta$**



**Magnet**  
**R,  $\pm Z$**



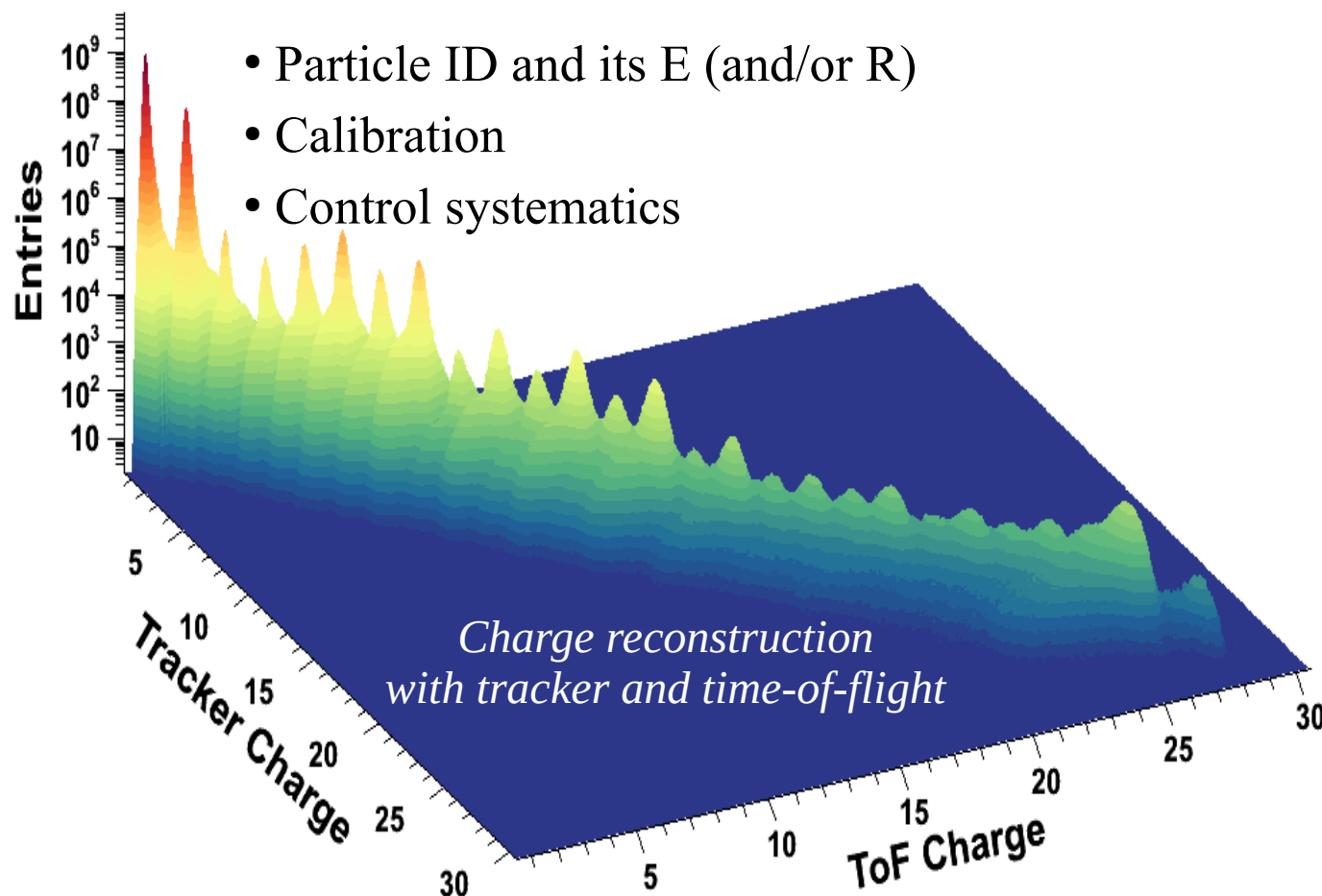
**RICH**  
**Z,  $\beta$**



5m x 4m x 3m  
7.5 tons

# A(lpha) M(agnetic) S(pectrometer)

## Sub-detector redundancy



**Each analysis specific** (flux/ratio, leptons/nuclei)

- ID and E (or R) measurement
- Background from other particles
- Background from interaction in detector

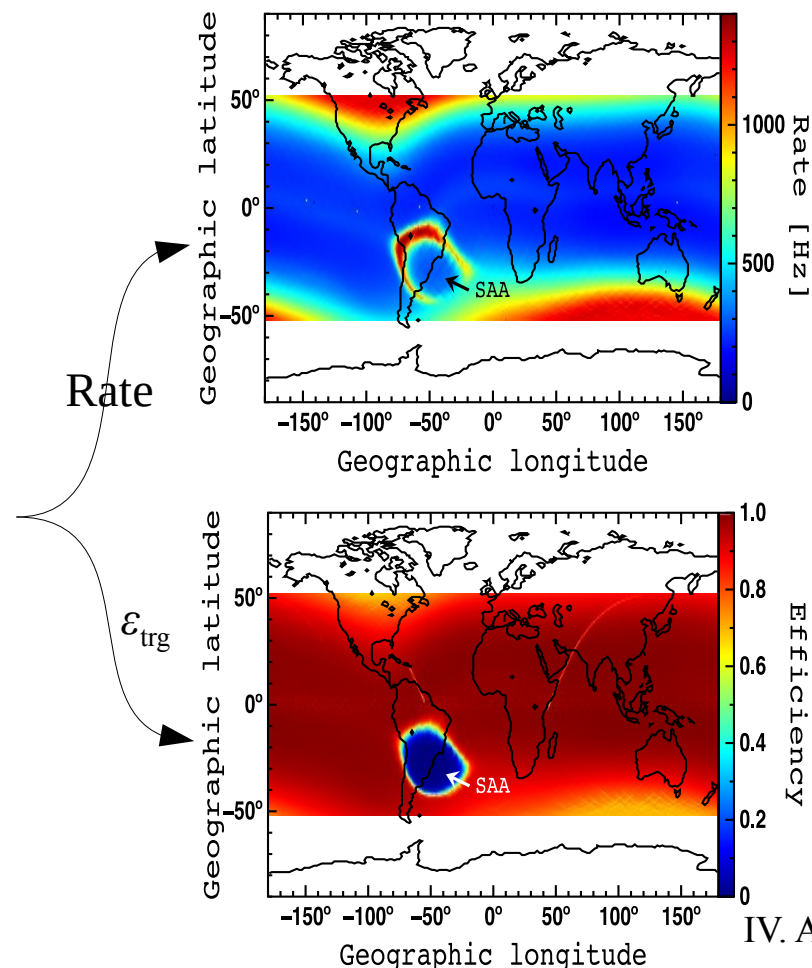
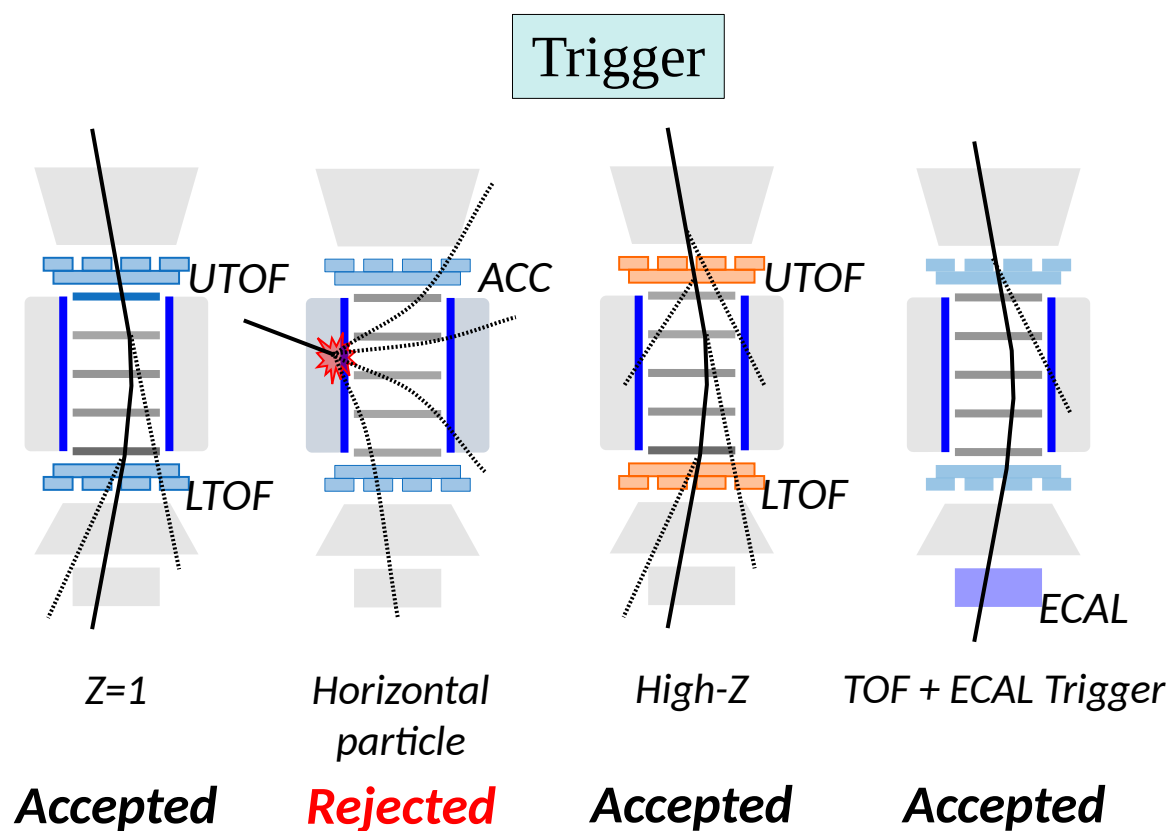
**+ rely on**

- Beam test
- In-flight data
- Monte Carlo sims

# AMS data analysis: proton flux

$$F(R) = \frac{N_{\text{obs.}}(R)}{T_{\text{exp.}}(R) A_{\text{eff.}}(R) \varepsilon_{\text{trig.}}(R) dR}$$

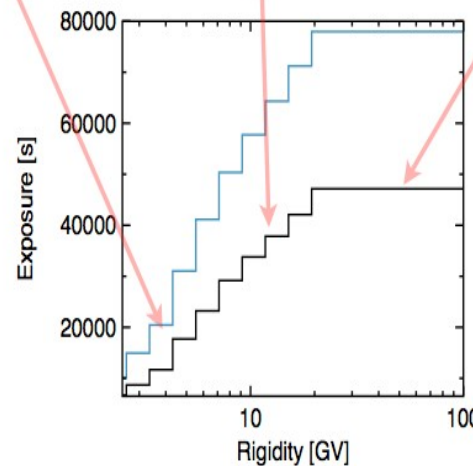
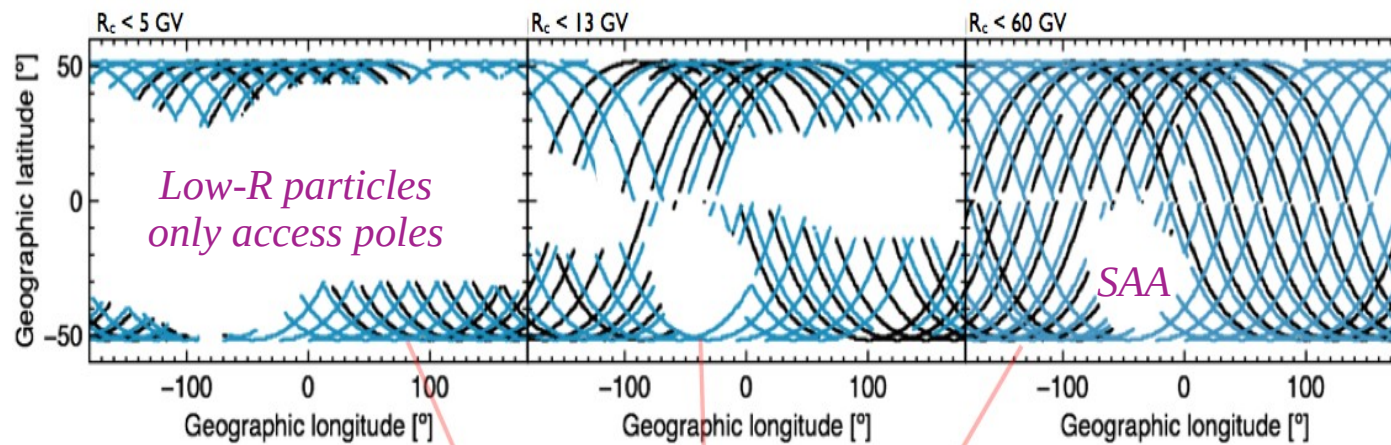
$F$	Differential flux ( $\text{m}^{-2} \text{sr}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1} \text{GV}^{-1}$ )
$R$	Measured rigidity (GV)
$N_{\text{obs}}$	#Events after proton selection
$T_{\text{exp}}$	Exposure life time (s)
$A_{\text{eff}}$	Effective acceptance ( $\text{m}^2 \text{sr}$ )
$\varepsilon_{\text{trg}}$	Trigger efficiency
$dR$	Rigidity bin (GV)



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$dR$	Rigidity bin (GV)



— 03/08/2011  
— 05/08/2011

→  $T_{\text{exp}}$  is R-dependent

→  $T_{\text{exp}}$  varies with  $t$  (ISS orbit)



# AMS data analysis: proton flux

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$\varepsilon_{\text{trg}}$	Trigger efficiency
$dR$	Rigidity bin (GV)

- Differential flux (to measure)

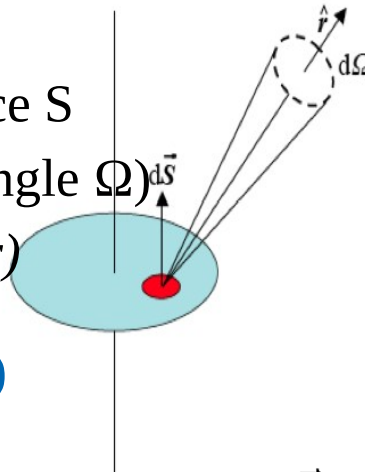
$$\phi(E) = \frac{dN}{d\Omega dS dt dE}$$

- Number of events  $N(E)$

- crossing the detector surface  $S$
- from all directions (solid angle  $\Omega$ )
- with detector efficiency  $\varepsilon(r)$

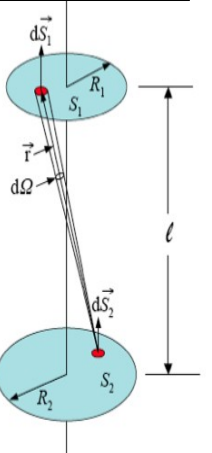
→ for CR flux (cst & isotropic)

$$N(E) = \int_S \int_{\Omega} \int_t \int_{E-\frac{\Delta E}{2}}^{E+\frac{\Delta E}{2}} \phi(E') \varepsilon(E', x, y, \theta, \phi) d\vec{\Omega} \cdot d\vec{S} dt dE'$$



**Simple telescope ( $\varepsilon=1$ )**

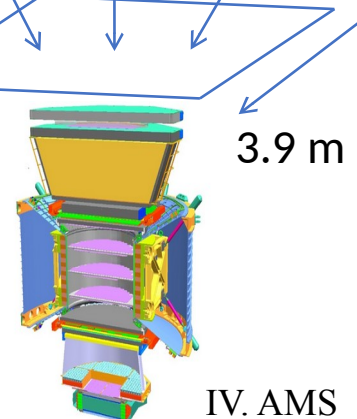
$$Acc(E) = \int_{S_2} \int_{\Omega_2} d\vec{\Omega} \cdot d\vec{S} \approx \frac{S_1 S_2}{l^2}$$



**Real detector (Geant4 simulation)**

$$Acc(E) = Acc_{gen} \frac{N_{sel}}{N_{gen}}$$

$$Acc_{gen} = \pi \cdot 3.9^2 \text{ m}^2 \text{sr}$$



# AMS data analysis: proton flux

$$F(R) = \frac{N_{\text{obs.}}(R)}{T_{\text{exp.}}(R) A_{\text{eff.}}(R) \varepsilon_{\text{trig.}}(R) dR}$$

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$dR$	Rigidity bin (GV)

## Rigidity measurement

“Trace curvature in B”  $\propto 1/R$

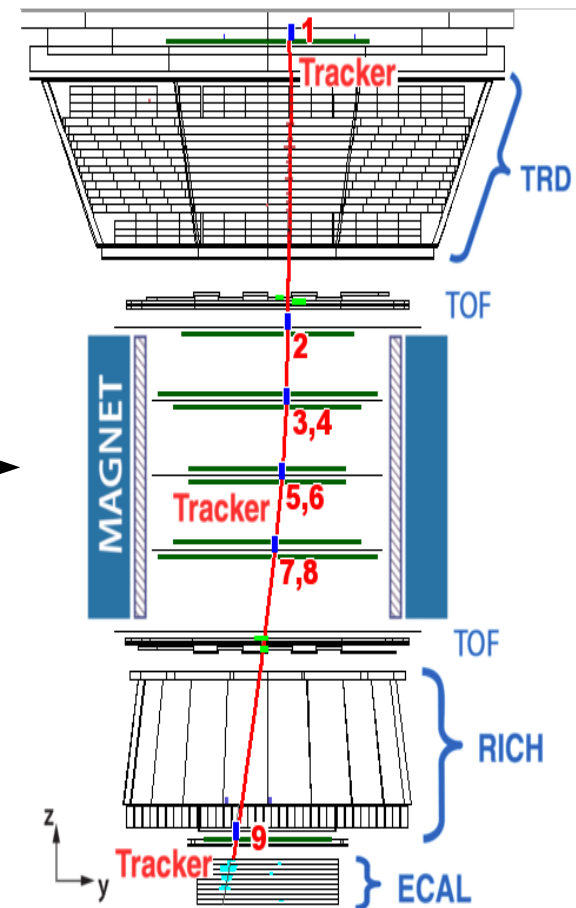
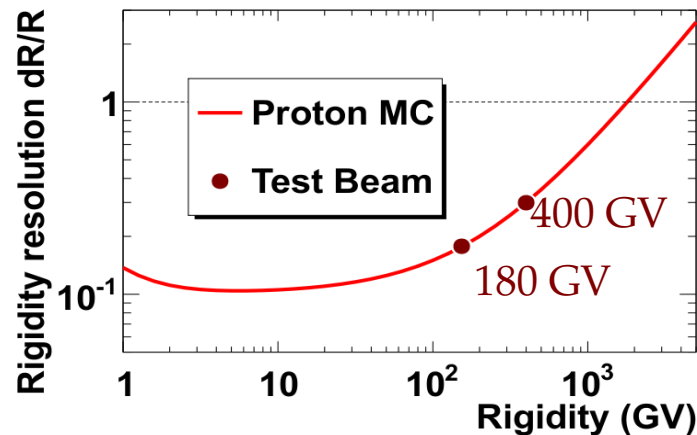
N.B.: MDR=max. detectable R

$$\begin{aligned} B_x &= \sim 0.14 \text{ T} \\ L &= \sim 3 \text{ m} \\ \Sigma_y &= \sim 10 \mu\text{m} \\ \text{MDR} &: \sim 2 \text{ TV} \end{aligned}$$

## Uncertainty on R

$$\Delta \left( \frac{1}{R} \right) = \text{cst} = \text{MDR}$$

$$\frac{\Delta R}{R} = \frac{R}{\text{MDR}}$$



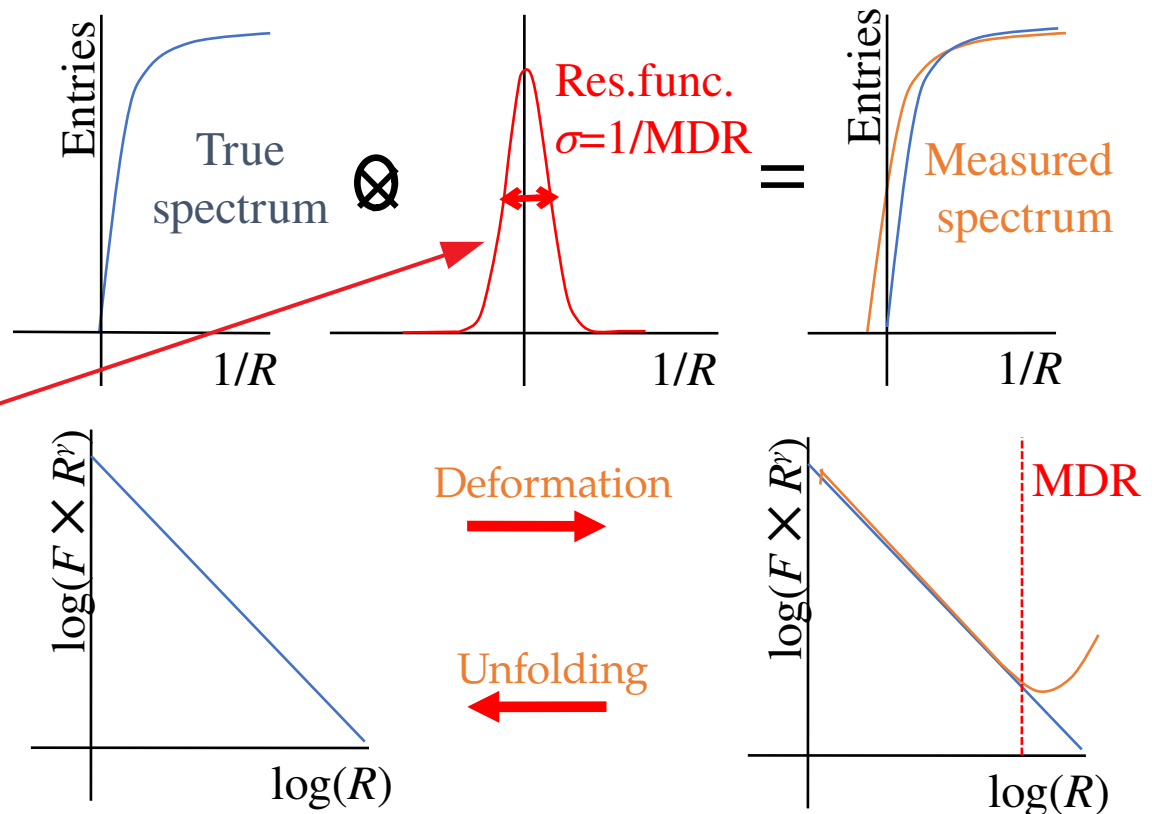
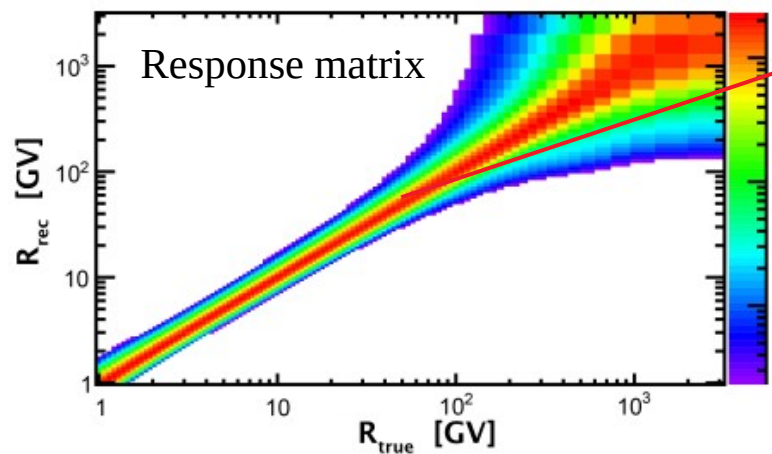


# AMS data analysis: proton flux

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$\varepsilon_{\text{trg}}$	Trigger efficiency
$dR$	Rigidity bin (GV)

**Finite energy resolution**  
 → bias measured spectra  
 Unfolding necessary...



# AMS data analysis: proton flux

## AMS-02 proton flux

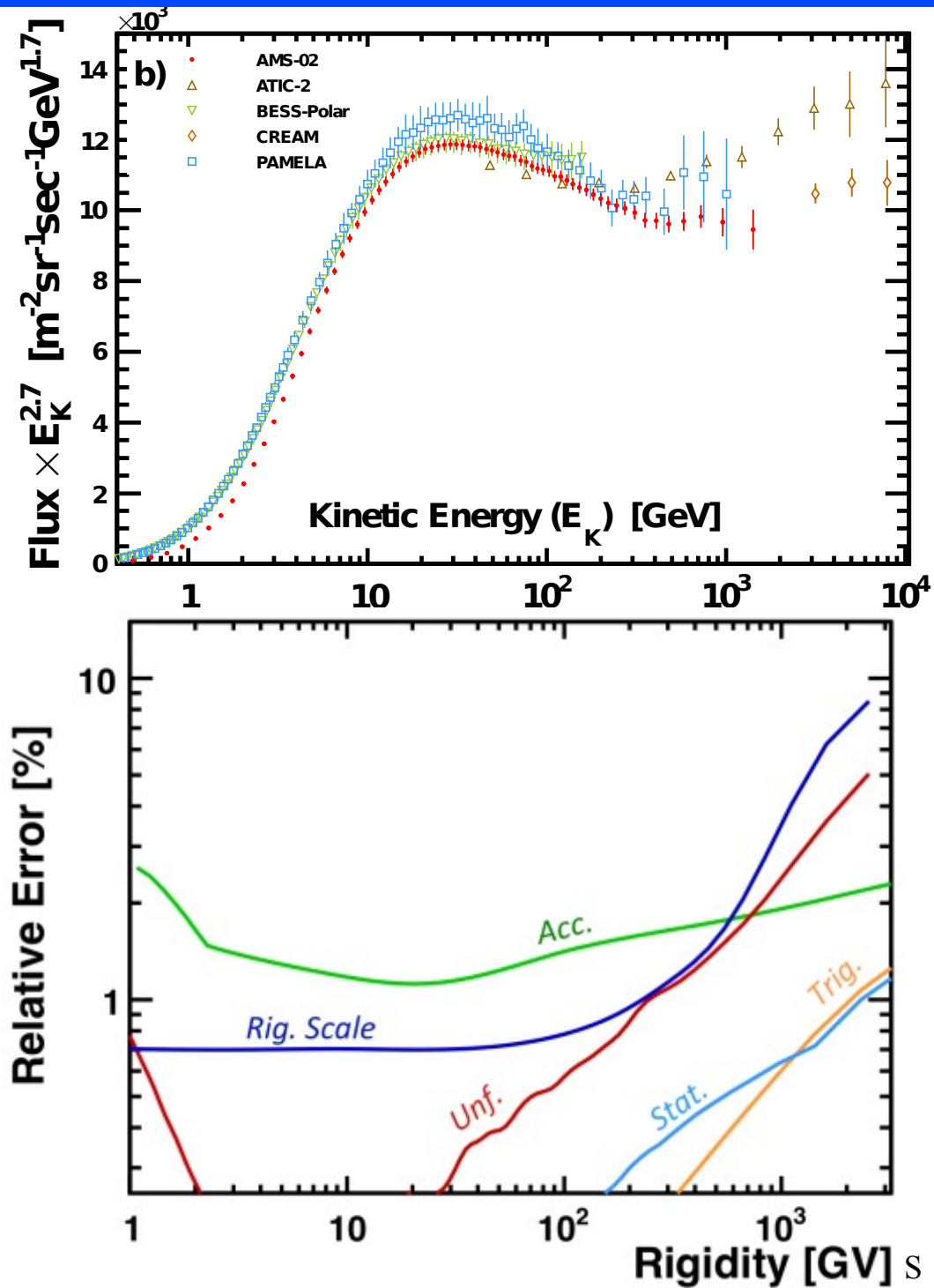
Aguilar et al., PRL 114 (2015)

→ based on 300 million events

## ... and uncertainties

→ most difficult part of the analysis

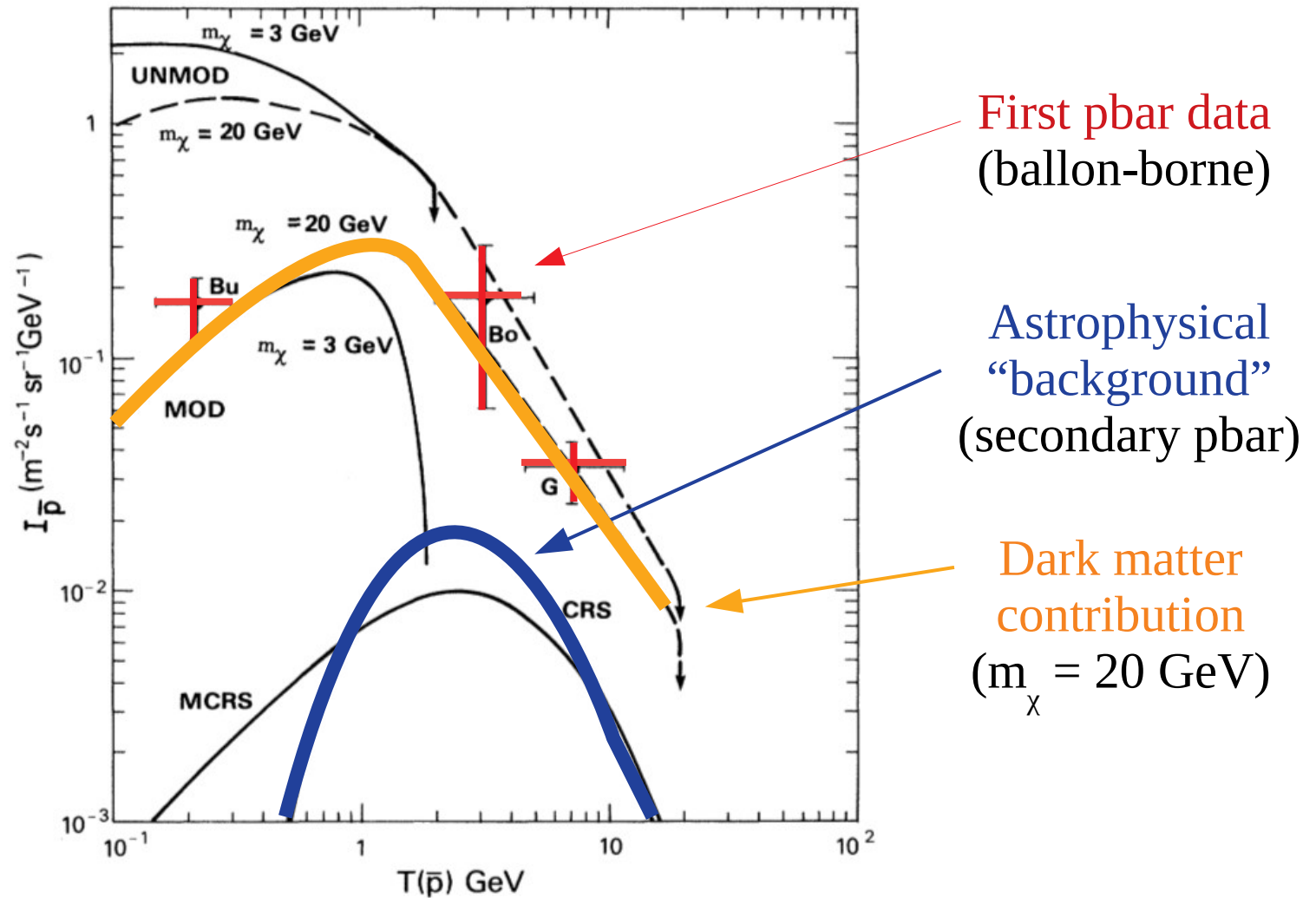
→ stat. uncertainties sub-dominant



- I. Cosmic ray discovery
- II. Cosmic ray puzzle: sources, transport...
- III. CR experiments: overview
- IV. AMS experiment: data analysis
- V. Recent results**

# Dark matter detection in CRs?

Stecker, Rudaz & Walsh, PRL **55**, 2622 (1985)

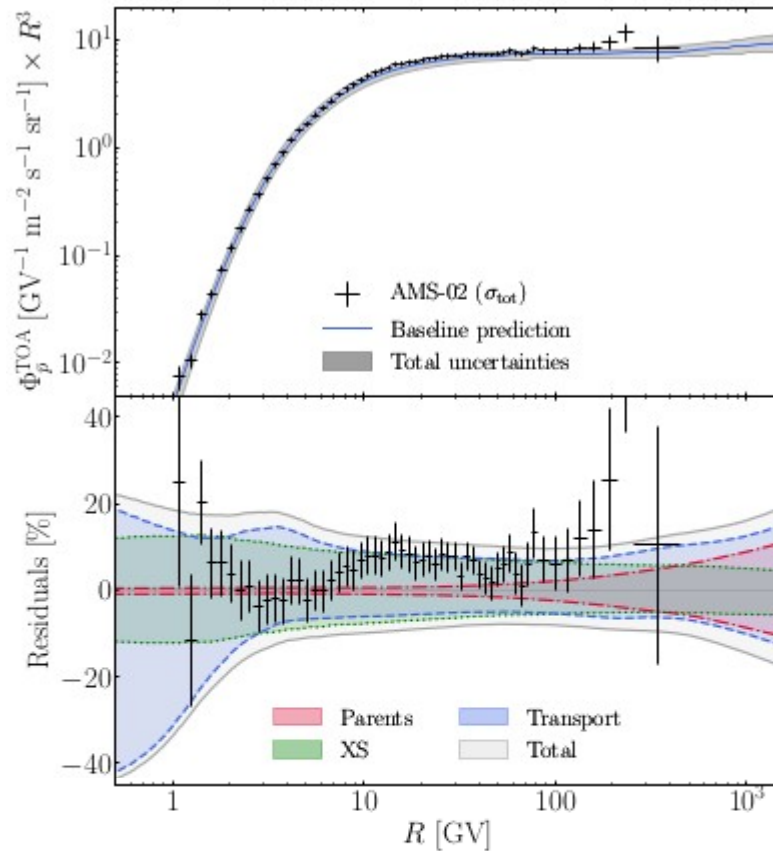


Give me 3 possible conclusions  
from this plot?



# Dark matter detection with AMS-02?

Boudaud, Génolini et al. (2019)

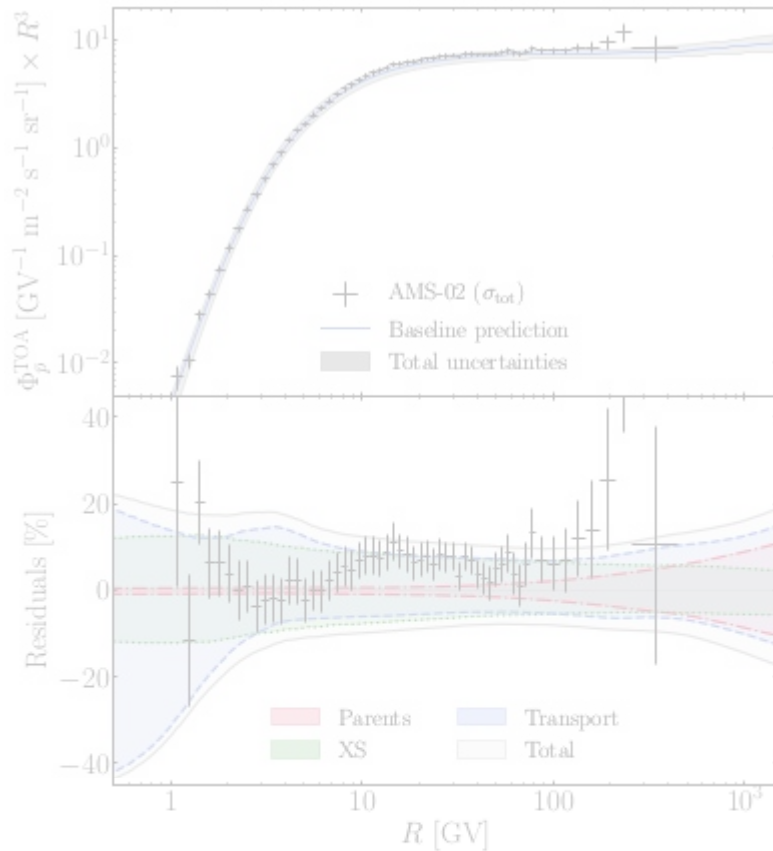


## Antiprotons

- Seems consistent with astrophysics only
- Several groups working on X-sections

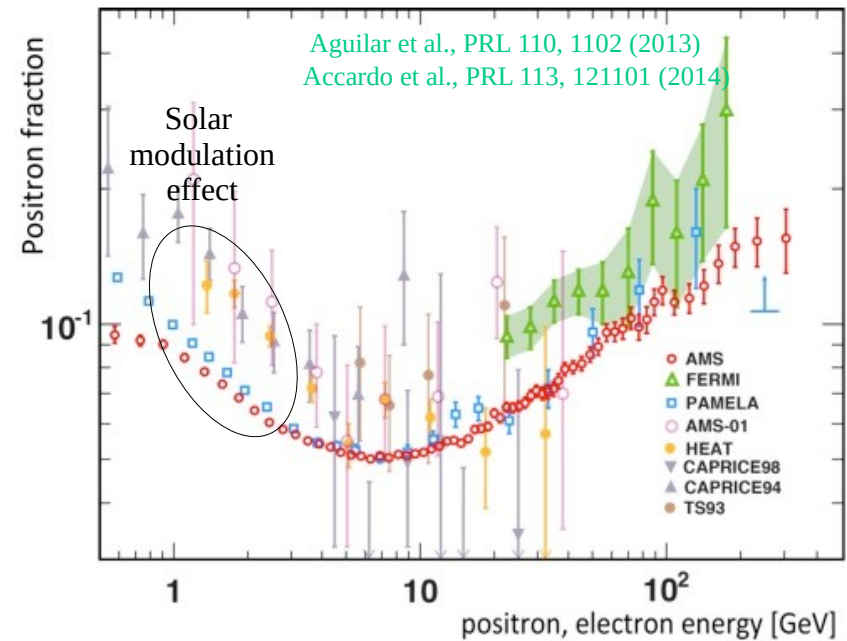
# Dark matter detection with AMS-02?

Boudaud, Génolini et al. (2019)



## Antiprotons

- Seems consistent with astrophysics only
- Several groups working on X-sections



## Positron fraction, $e^-$ , $e^+$ and $e^-+e^+$ spectra used to test astrophysical and/or dark matter hypothesis

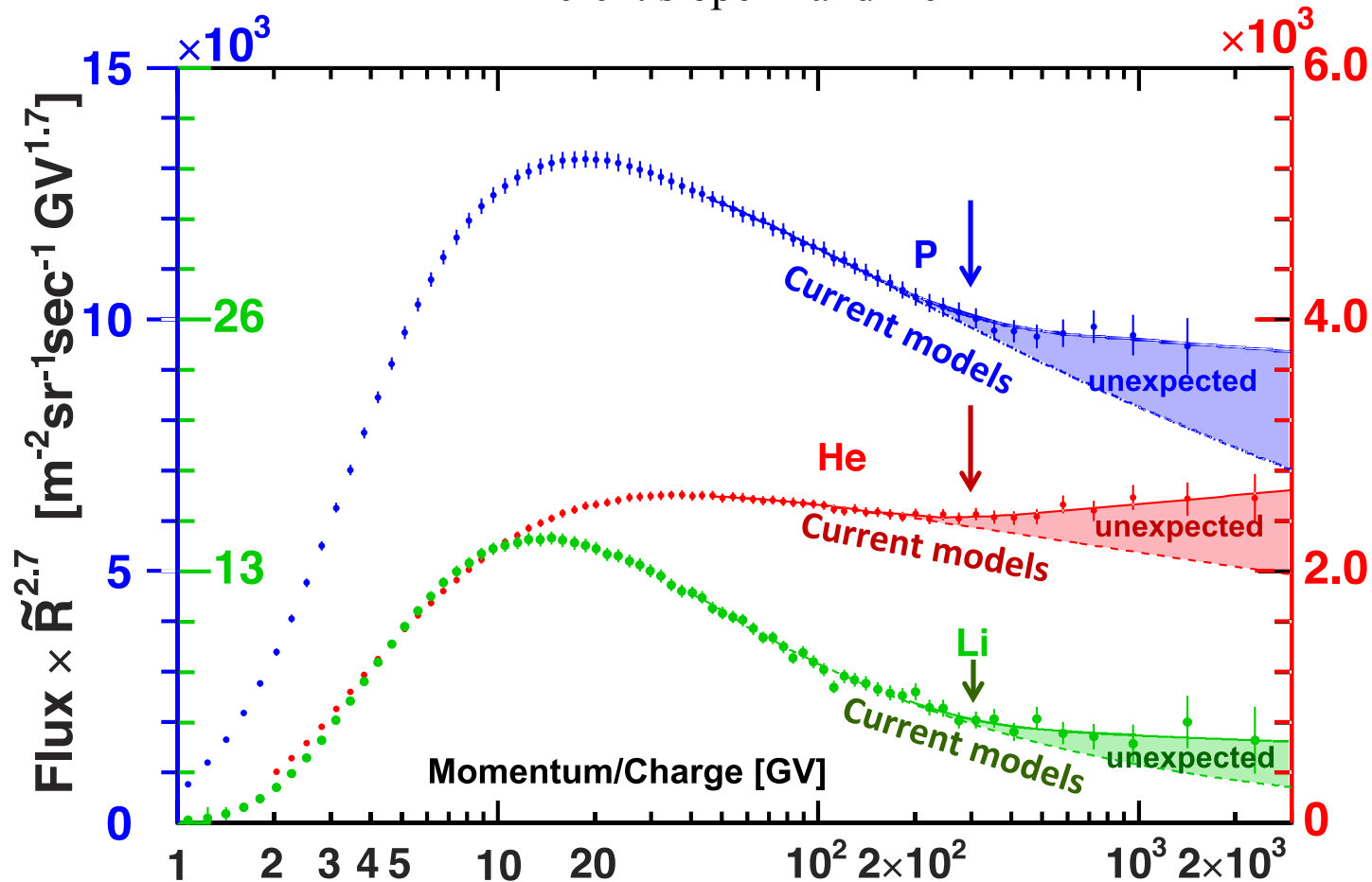
- Contribution from local SNRs/pulsars?  
→ e.g., Delahaye et al., A&A 524, A51 (2010)
- Dark matter hypothesis?  
→ e.g., Boudaud et al., A&A 575, 67 (2015)  
[N.B.: no boost, Lavalle et al., A&A 479, 427 (2008)]

N.B.: see also  $e^-$  and  $e^+$  in Aguilar et al., PRL 113, 121102 (2014)

# Unexpected results: breaks

→ Spectral break at  $\sim 300$  GV

→ Different slope H and He



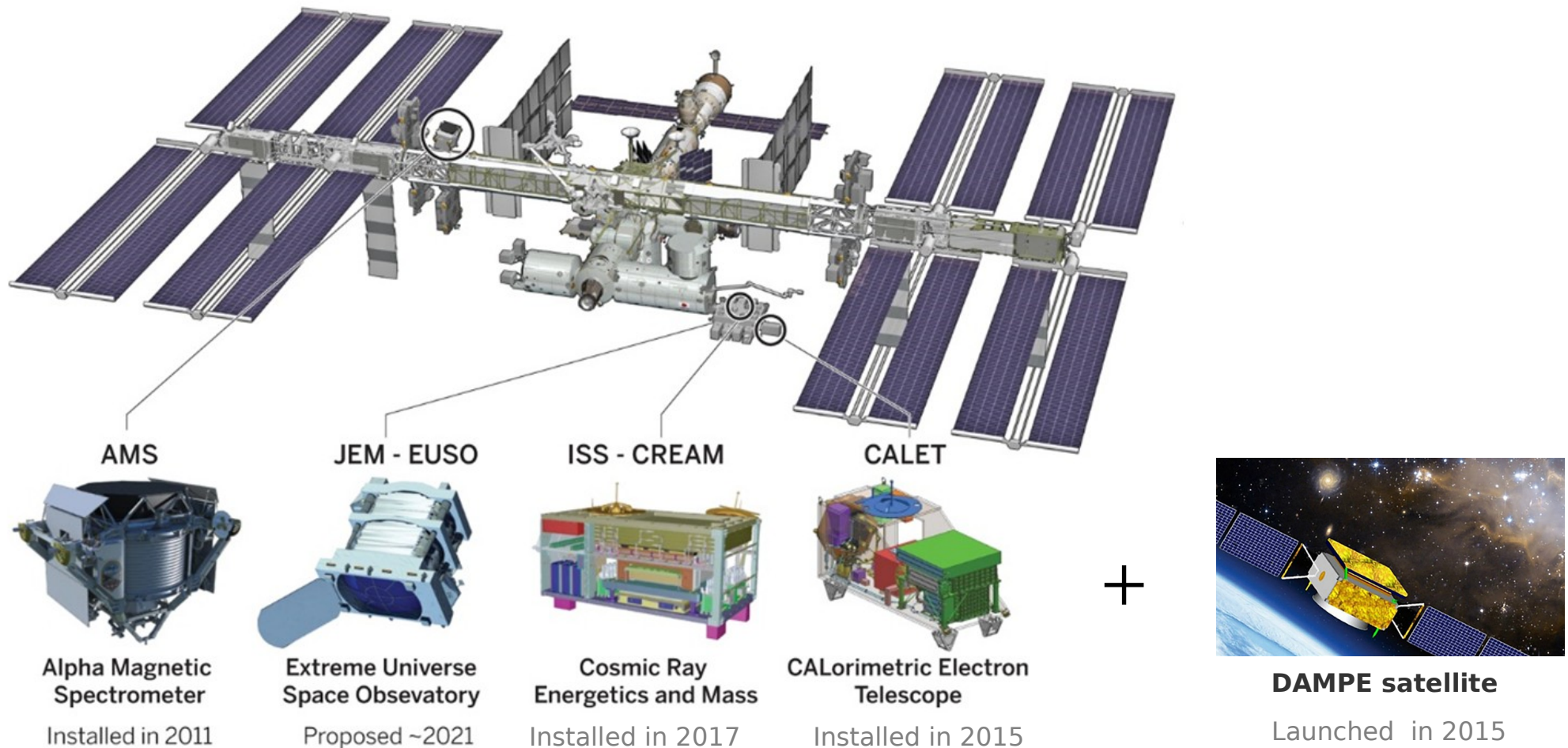
→ Break seen in all data  
(primary and secondary species)

Aguilar *et al.*,  
PRL 120, 021101 (2018)

→ most likely transport (not source spectrum)  
[coupling CR/B/gas via MHD]

# Conclusions

→ A bright present (and near future) for HE cosmic-rays



... and a lot of theoretical work to understand the data!

*For more on CR phenomenology,  
play with the propagation code USINE*

<https://lpsc.in2p3.fr/usine/>