



# Five+ years of Mini-EUSO telescope on board the ISS.



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2-6-2025



JEM-EUSO collaboration

16 Countries, 93 Institutes, 351 people



# The EUSO program

**1. EUSO-TA:** Ground detector installed in 2013 at Telescope Array site: currently operational

**2. EUSO-BALLOONS:**

- 2014, Timmins, Canada
- 2017 NASA Ultra long duration flight. EUSO-SPB

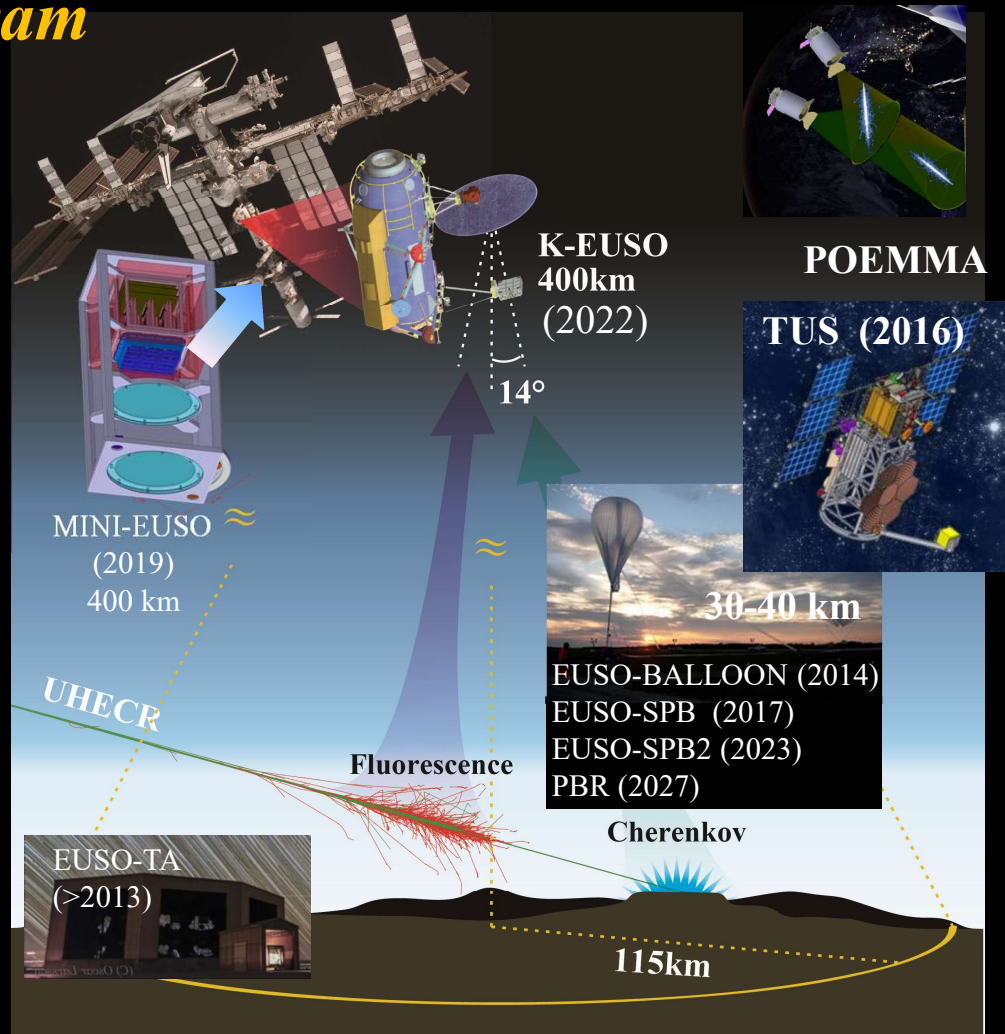
**3. TUS (2016):** free-flyer on Lomonosov Russian Satellite

**4. MINI-EUSO (2019):** Detector from International Space Station (ISS): 40 kg total.

**5. SPB-2 (NASA) (2023)**

**6. PBR (2027):** ISS Phase A, Russian Space Agency

**7. POEMMA (2030+):** NASA twin free-Flyer



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# Mini-EUSO/UV-Atmosfera

40kg, 60 W, 62\*37\*37 cm<sup>3</sup>

Ultraviolet, with Fresnel lenses

Near Infrared camera

Visible camera

SiPM

2304 pixel

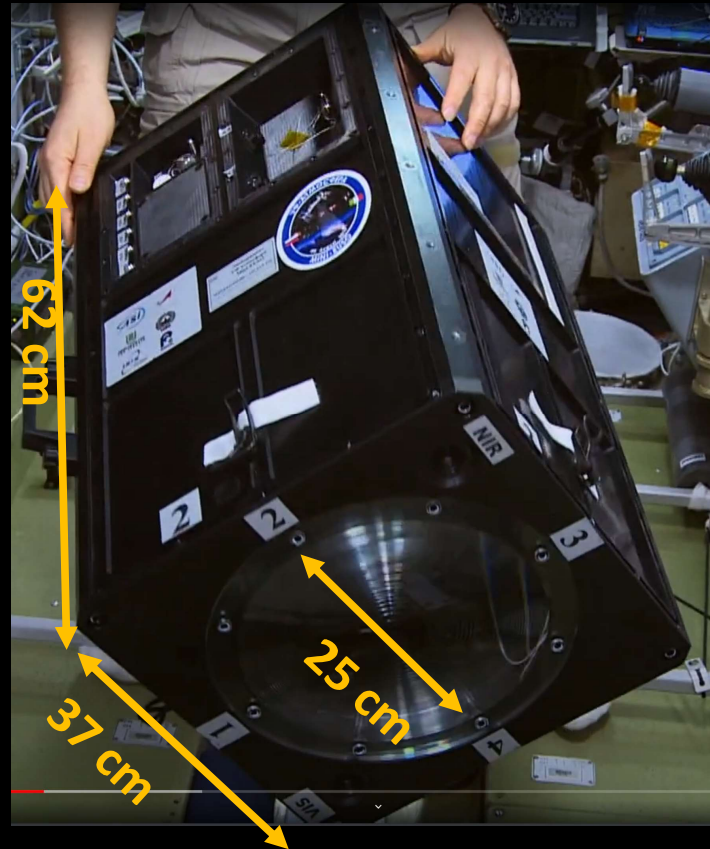
Same light/pixel of K-EUSO design

HVPS switch and dynamic range  
extension

*Mini-EUSO: A high resolution detector for the study of  
terrestrial and cosmic UV emission from the International Space  
Station. ASR 62(10):2954{2965, Nov 2018.*

*Capel, F., et al. Mini-EUSO data acquisition and control  
software. JATIS, 5(4), OCT 2019. ISSN 2329-4124.  
doi:10.1117/1.JATIS.5.4.044009.*

*The integration and testing of the Mini-EUSO multi-level trigger  
system, ASR62 Issue: 10 Pages: 2966-2976 , 2018*

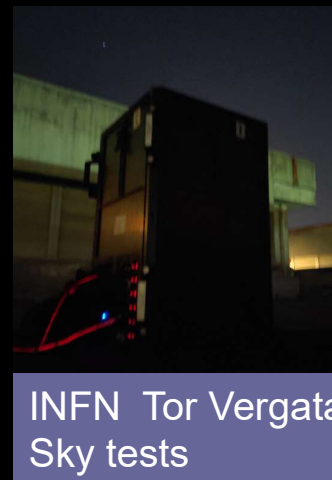
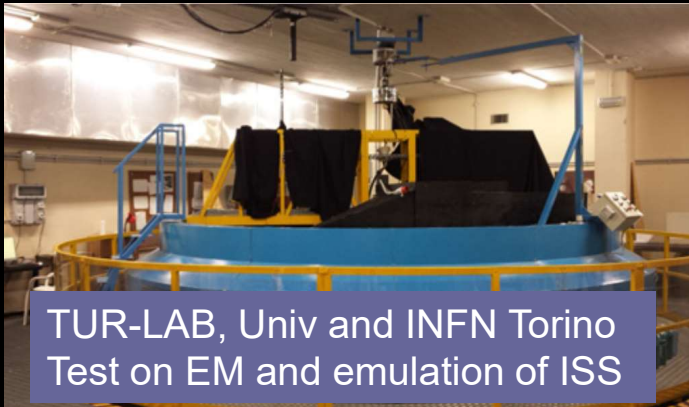


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# Test and Integration of EM and FM 2017-2019





**Roll-out of Soyuz MS-14, 19/8/2019**



**Launch, 22/8/2019**



**First docking, 24/8/2019  
unsuccessful**



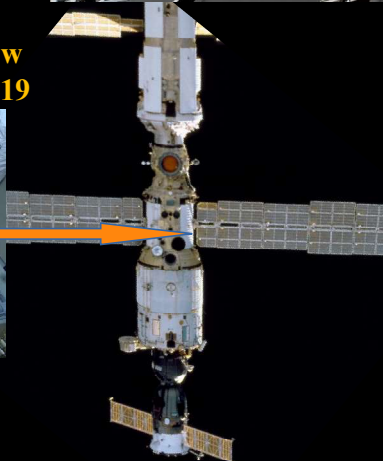
**Relocation of MS-13 from  
Zvezda to Poisk**



**Second docking, 27/8/2019  
successful**



**Installation - Uv transparent window  
Zvezda module, first light 07/10/2019**





# Mini-EUSO/UV-Atmosfera

JEM-EUSO collaboration

16 Countries, 93 Institutes, 351 people



# Focal Surface

Silicon  
Photomultipliers  
C14047-3050EA08  
8\*8 pixel Imaging  
system



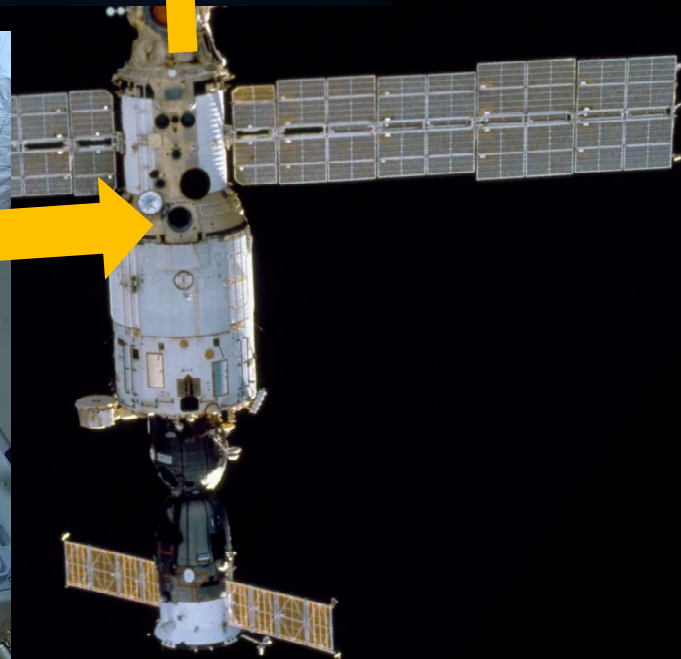
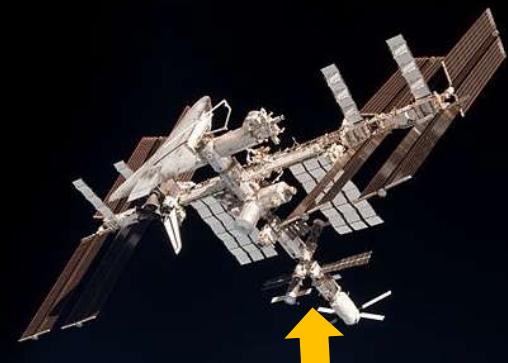
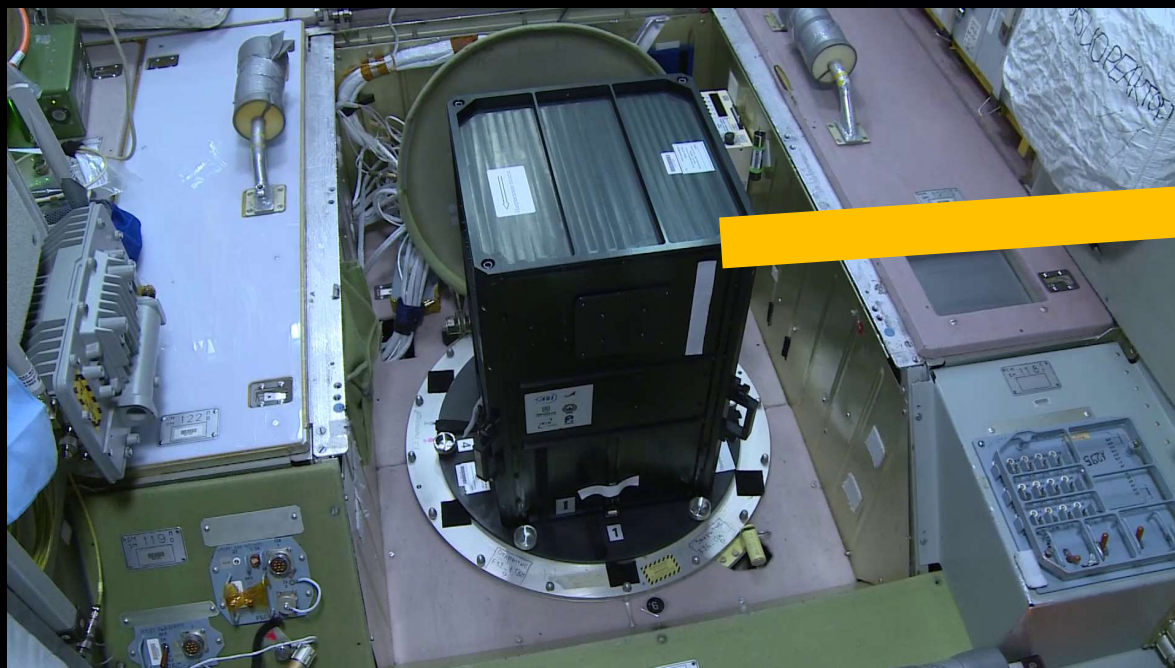
C13365 single pixel

Light sensors  
Hamamatsu  
S1226-5BQ log  
190-1000nm

ML8511 linear  
280-400 nm



**Uv transparent window,  
Zvezda module,  
International Space Station**





# Data Cards



CORSAIR 3.1 – new model



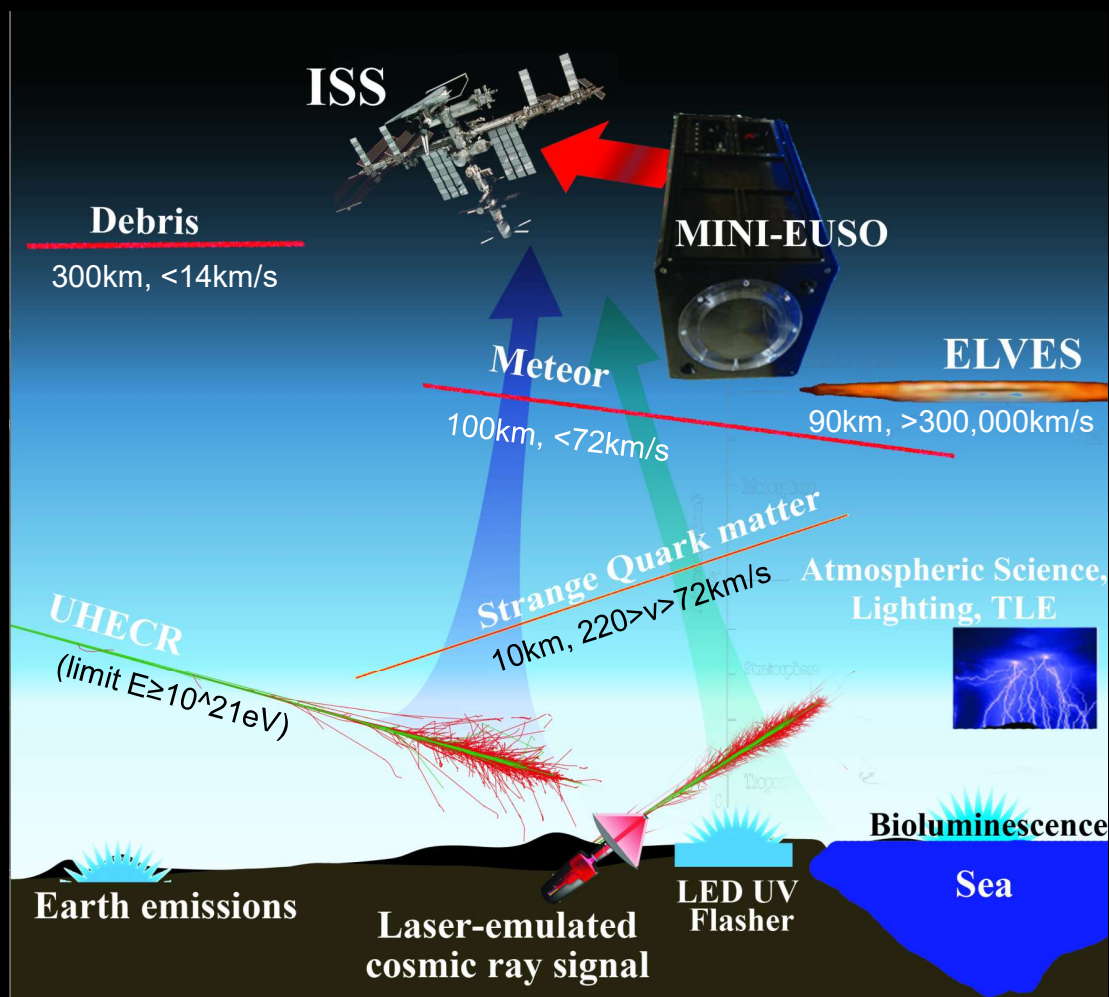
CORSAIR 3.0 – old model  
Continuous CPU reset  
No longer used



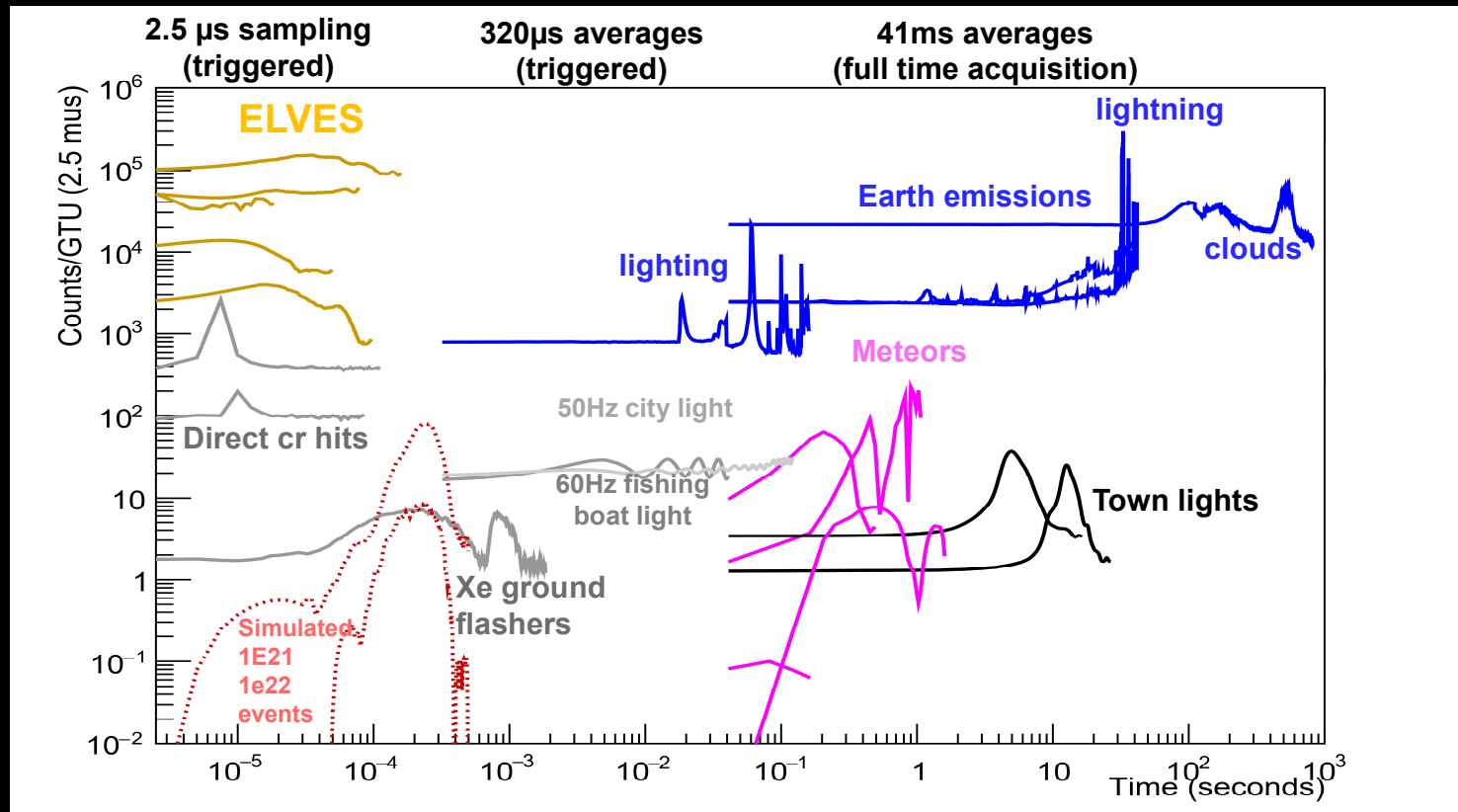
KINGSTON 3.0  
Currently used – slow

Pouch 004 - v2 - will be completely equipped with  
CORSAIR 3.1 pens

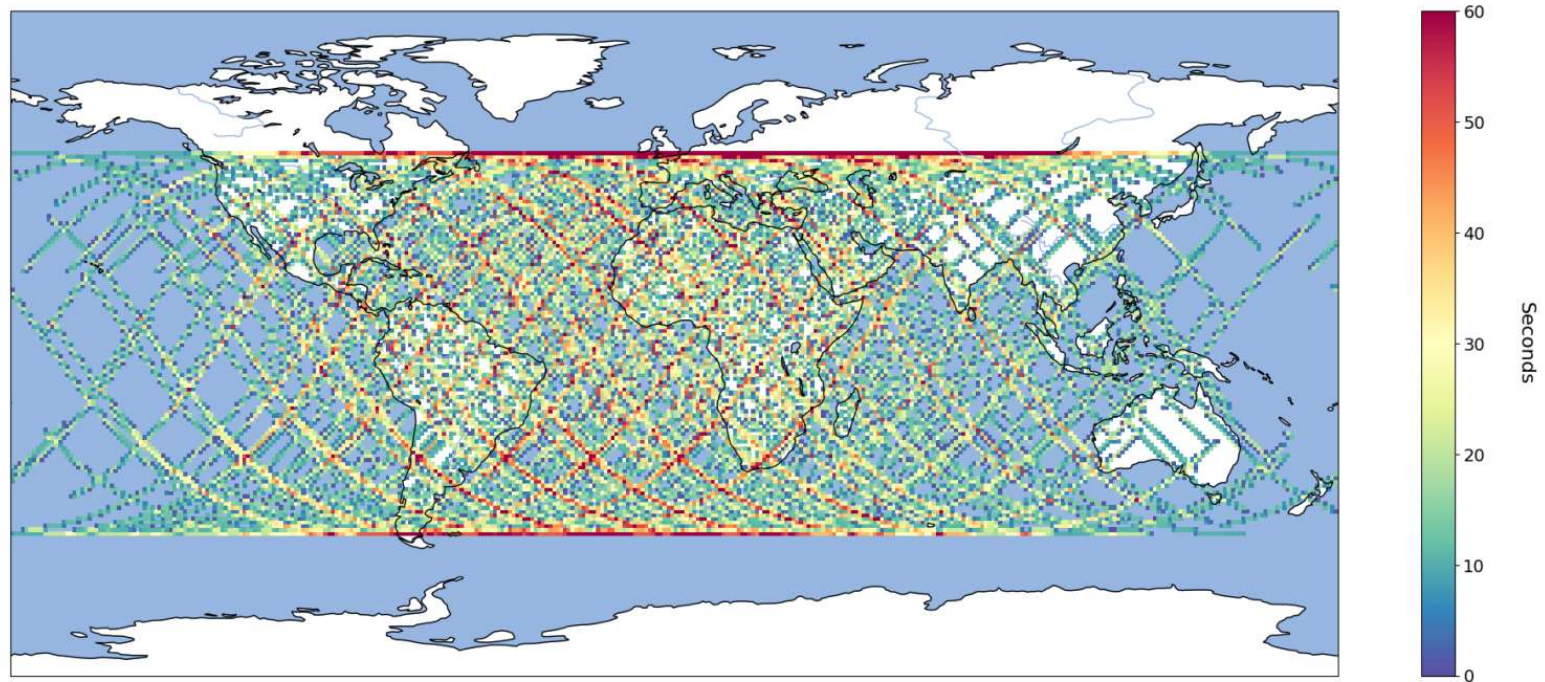
# Science Objectives



# Time profile of various events



# Earth Coverage



Sessions 4 - 44

From Matteo B.

>116 sessions  
Almost 5 years  
More than half of data on board ISS



# Night-time Earth Emissions



Time sampling: 40.96 ms

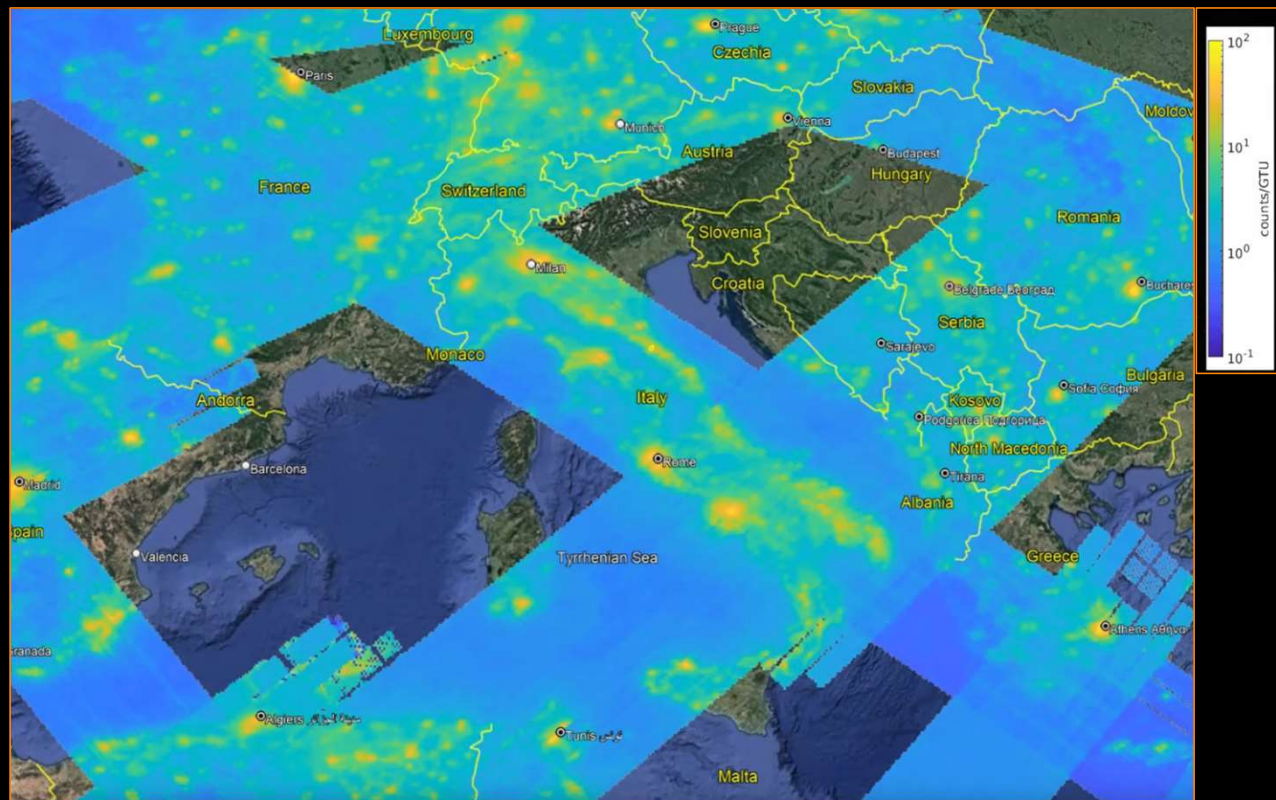
Pixel size: 6 x 6 km<sup>2</sup>

Mendeley database: <https://data.mendeley.com/datasets/57fmn7rh4n/4>

[https://youtu.be/X\\_QATIf38Og](https://youtu.be/X_QATIf38Og)

Youtube video: [https://youtu.be/X\\_QATIf38Og](https://youtu.be/X_QATIf38Og)

# First night UV maps of the Earth



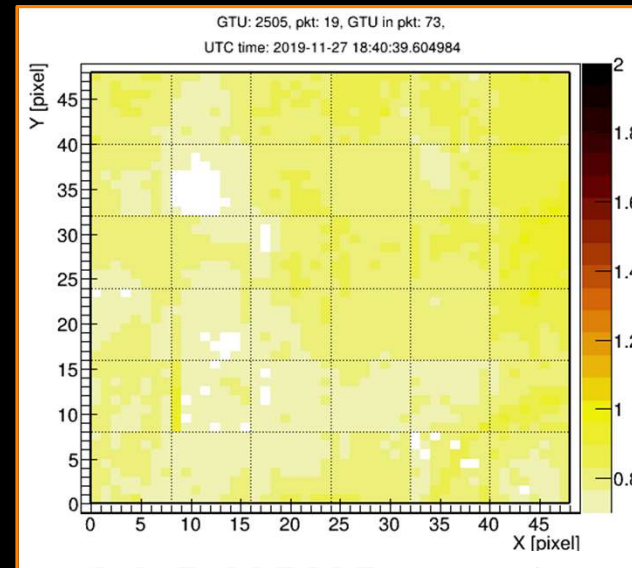
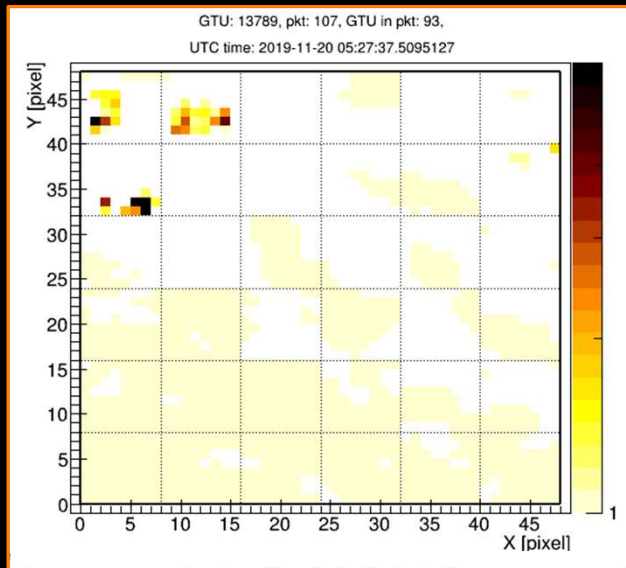
*Open data available to the scientific community*

ADSC data centre

Observation of night-time emissions of the Earth in the near UV range from the International Space Station with the Mini-EUSO detector M. Casolino et al., **Remote Sensing of Environment** 284 (2023) 113336

Dataset of night-time emissions of the Earth in the near UV range Marcelli et al., **Data in Brief** 48 (2023) 109105

# Meteors



Mini-EUSO detected meteors: 24k  
(less than half dataset received)

First systematic survey of meteors from space

rate  $\sim 3$  meteors/min  
70% over ocean, 30% over land

*Observation of meteors from space with the Mini-EUSO detector on board the International Space Station*  
*D. Barghini et al "Astronomy & Astrophysics",*



## Observation of meteors from space with the Mini-EUSO detector on board the International Space Station

D. Barghini<sup>1,2</sup>, M. Battisti<sup>3,4</sup>, A. Belov<sup>5,6</sup>, M. Bertina<sup>2,3</sup>, S. Bertone<sup>2</sup>, F. Bisconti<sup>7</sup>, C. Blaksley<sup>8</sup>, S. Blin<sup>4</sup>, K. Bolmgren<sup>9</sup>, G. Cambiè<sup>7,10</sup>, F. Capel<sup>11</sup>, M. Casolino<sup>7,8,10</sup>, A. Cellino<sup>1</sup>, I. Churilo<sup>12</sup>, A. G. Coretti<sup>2,3</sup>, M. Crisconio<sup>13</sup>, C. De La Taille<sup>14</sup>, T. Ebisuzaki<sup>8</sup>, J. Eser<sup>15</sup>, F. Fenu<sup>13</sup>, G. Filippatos<sup>15</sup>, M. A. Franceschi<sup>16</sup>, C. Fuglesang<sup>9</sup>, D. Gardiol<sup>1</sup>, A. Golzio<sup>17</sup>, P. Gorodetzky<sup>9</sup>, F. Kajino<sup>18</sup>, H. Kasuga<sup>8</sup>, P. Klimov<sup>3</sup>, V. Kungel<sup>19</sup>, V. Kuznetsov<sup>12</sup>, M. Manfrin<sup>2,3</sup>, L. Marcelli<sup>7</sup>, G. Mascetti<sup>13</sup>, W. Marszał<sup>20</sup>, M. Mignone<sup>3</sup>, H. Miyamoto<sup>2,3</sup>, A. Murashov<sup>6</sup>, T. Napolitano<sup>16</sup>, H. Ohmori<sup>8</sup>, A. Olinto<sup>15</sup>, E. Parizot<sup>4</sup>, P. Picozza<sup>7,10</sup>, L. W. Piotrowski<sup>21</sup>, Z. Plebaniak<sup>7,10,20</sup>, G. Prévôt<sup>4</sup>, E. Reali<sup>7,10</sup>, F. Reynaud<sup>2</sup>, M. Ricci<sup>16</sup>, G. Romoli<sup>7,10</sup>, N. Sakaki<sup>8</sup>, S. Sharakin<sup>6</sup>, K. Shinozaki<sup>20</sup>, J. Szabelski<sup>22</sup>, Y. Takizawa<sup>8</sup>, V. Vagelli<sup>13</sup>, G. Valentini<sup>13</sup>, M. Vrabec<sup>20</sup>, L. Wiencke<sup>19</sup>, and M. Zotov<sup>6</sup>

(Affiliations can be found after the references)

Received 15 January 2024 / Accepted 14 May 2024

### ABSTRACT

**Context.** Observations of meteors in the Earth's atmosphere offer a unique tool for determining the flux of meteoroids that are too small to be detected by direct telescopic observations. Although these objects are routinely observed from ground-based facilities, such as meteor and fireball networks, space-based instruments come with notable advantages and have the potential to achieve a broad and uniform exposure.

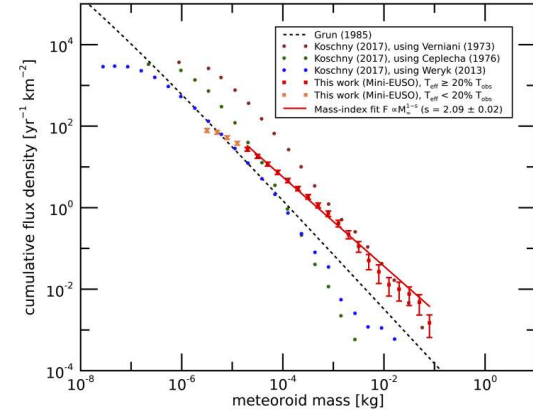
**Aims.** In this paper, we describe the first observations of meteor events with Mini-EUSO, a very wide field-of-view telescope launched in August 2019 from the Baikonur cosmodrome and installed on board the Russian Zvezda module of the International Space Station. Mini-EUSO can map the night-time Earth in the near-UV range (290–430 nm) with a field of view equal to  $44^\circ \times 44^\circ$  and a spatial resolution of about 4.7 km at an altitude of 100 km from the ground. The detector saves triggered transient phenomena with a sampling frequency of 2.5  $\mu$ s and 320  $\mu$ s, as well as a continuous acquisition at 40.96 ms scale that is suitable for meteor observations.

**Methods.** We designed two dedicated and complementary trigger methods, together with an analysis pipeline able to estimate the main physical parameters of the observed population of meteors, such as the duration, horizontal speed, azimuth, and absolute magnitude. To compute the absolute flux of meteors from Mini-EUSO observations, we implemented a simulation framework able to estimate the detection efficiency as a function of the meteor magnitude and the background illumination conditions.

**Results.** The instrument detected 24 thousand meteors within the first 40 data-taking sessions from November 2019 to August 2021, for a total observation time of approximately 6 days with a limiting absolute magnitude of +6. Our estimation of the absolute flux density of meteoroids in the range of mass between  $10^{-5}$  kg to  $10^{-1}$  kg was found to be comparable to other results available in the literature.

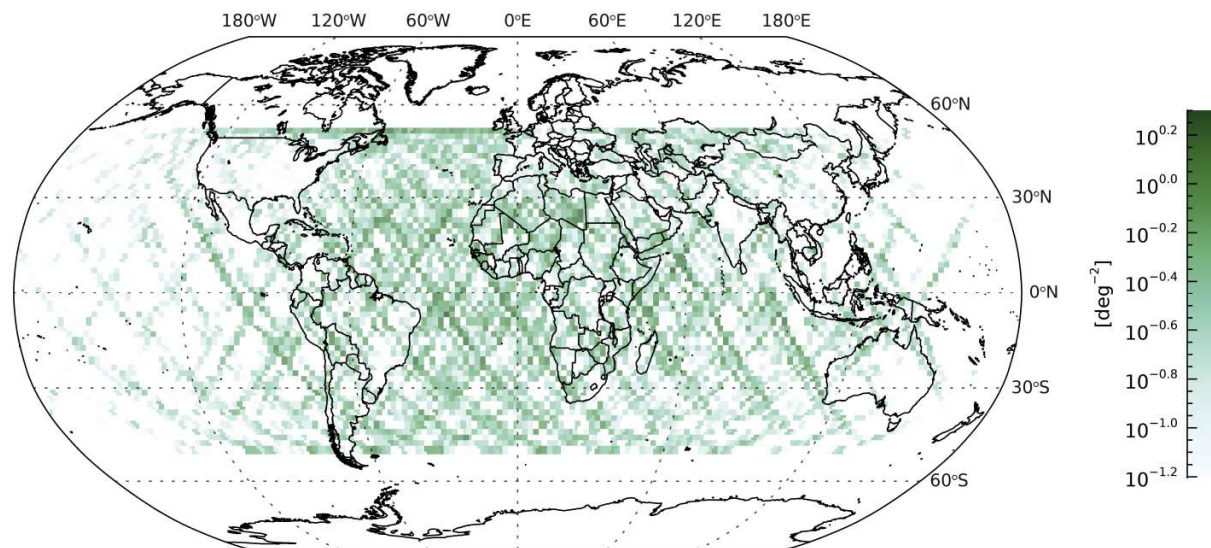
**Conclusions.** The results of this work prove the potential for space-based observations to increase the statistics of meteor observations achievable with instruments operating on the ground. The slope of the mass distribution of meteoroids sampled with Mini-EUSO suggests a mass index of either  $s = 2.09 \pm 0.02$  or  $s = 2.31 \pm 0.03$ , according to two different methodologies for the computation of the pre-atmospheric mass starting from the luminosity of each event.

**Key words.** instrumentation: detectors – methods: data analysis – methods: observational – telescopes – meteorites, meteors, meteoroids



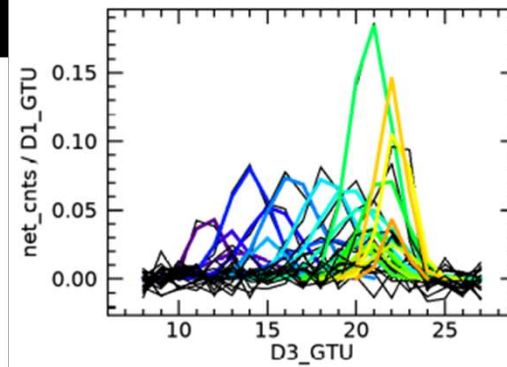
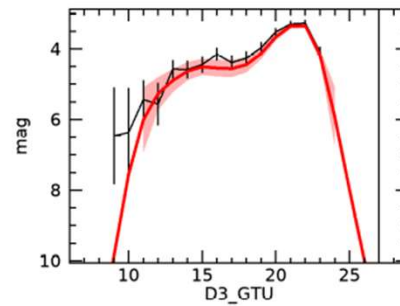
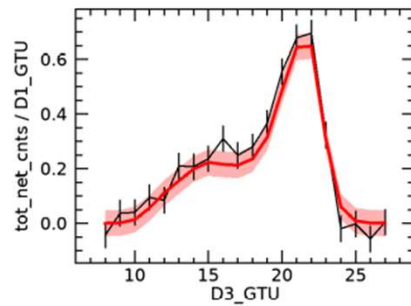
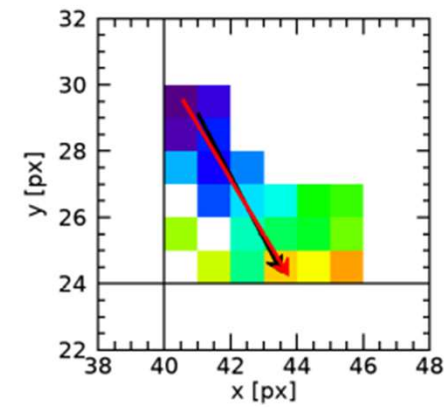
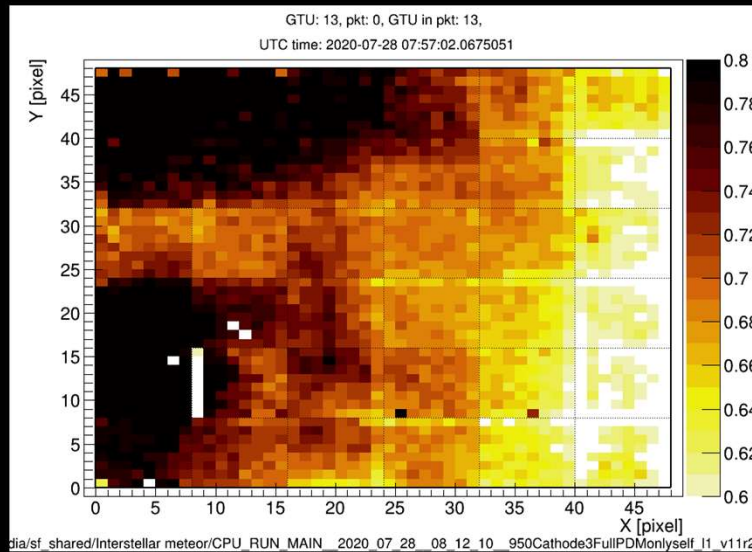
**Fig. 10.** Cumulative flux density of meteors as a function of the pre-atmospheric mass of the meteoroid estimated from the observations of Mini-EUSO of sessions no. 05–44 (red squares with error bars), when assuming Eq. (12) for the conversion of the peak absolute magnitude to the pre-atmospheric mass of the meteoroid. Orange squares represent magnitude values  $M \geq +5$  that are associated with an overall trigger efficiency  $\epsilon(M) < 20\%$ . The red thick lines plot the result of a linear fit in the log-log space to determine the mass-index of the distribution ( $N \propto M_s^{1-s}$ ), which was estimated as  $s = 2.09 \pm 0.02$  from the Mini-EUSO data (see Sect. 5.1). As a comparison, the black dashed line plots the flux estimate of Grun et al. (1985) that was deduced from the study of micro-craters on returned lunar samples and from satellite measurements of micrometeoroid impacts. The three series of dots (brown, green, and blue) plot the results of Koschny et al. (2017), computed from the dataset of  $\sim 20$  thousand double-station observations of meteors performed at the Canary Island Long-Baseline Observatory (CILBO) during a period of about 3.5 yr. Each series corresponds to a different method used by Koschny et al. (2017) to compute the pre-atmospheric mass from the absolute magnitude (Verniani 1973; Ceplecha & McCrosky 1976; Weryk & Brown 2013, see the legend in the figure adapted from Koschny et al. 2017).



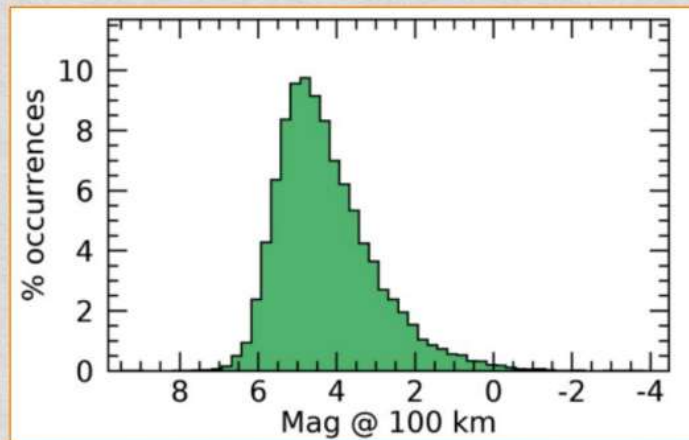


**Fig. 5.** Map of the spatial density (in logarithmic colour scale, bins of  $2^\circ \times 2^\circ$ ) of meteor events detected by the Mini-EUSO telescope during the data-taking sessions no. 05-44 (from November 2019 to August 2021). The low rate of detections of meteors over the Pacific Ocean is due to the fact that, during the operational time of Mini-EUSO, this area is predominantly in daytime.

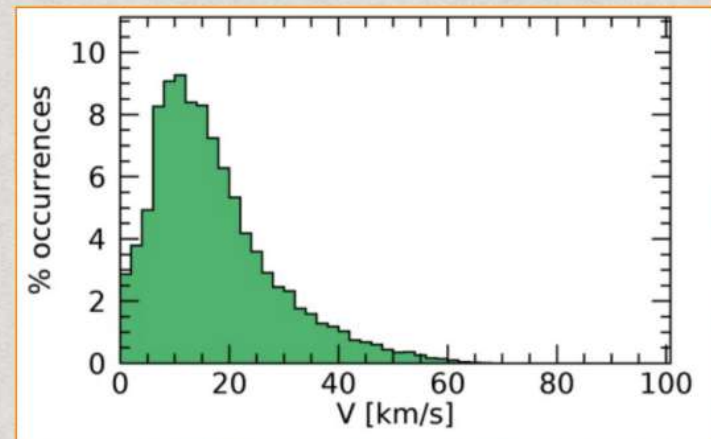
# Meteors



# Meteors



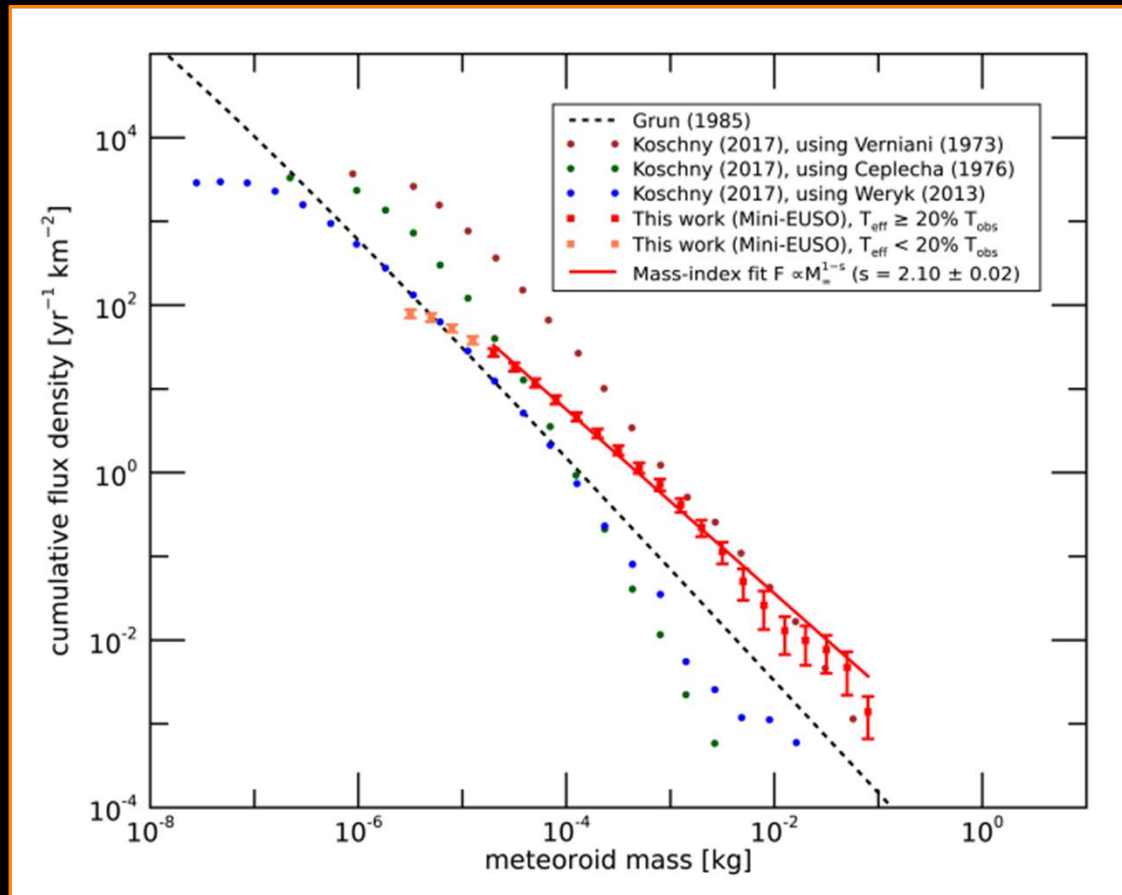
Mag 7  $\rightarrow$   $\sim$  2 mg  
Mag 5  $\rightarrow$   $\sim$  10 mg  
Mag 0  $\rightarrow$   $\sim$  100 mg



maximum detected speed  $\sim$  65 km/s

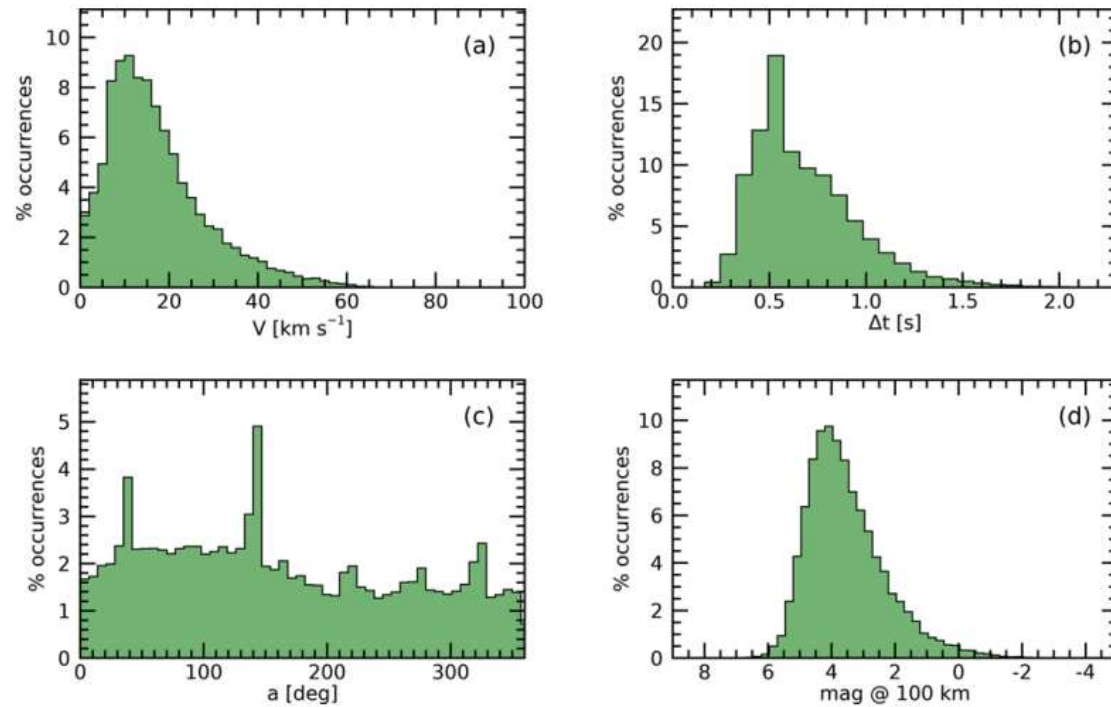
Mini-EUSO detected meteors: 24k  
half dataset received

# Meteors

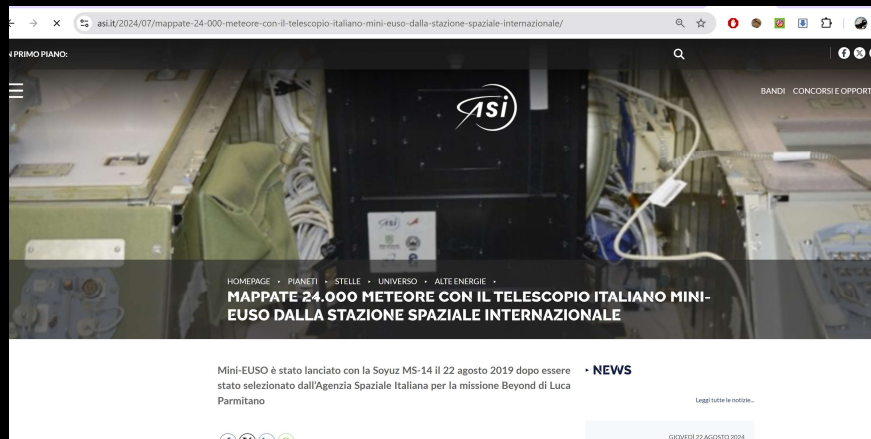


Observation of meteors from space with the Mini-EUSO detector on board the International Space Station  
D. Barghini et al., "Astronomy & Astrophysics"

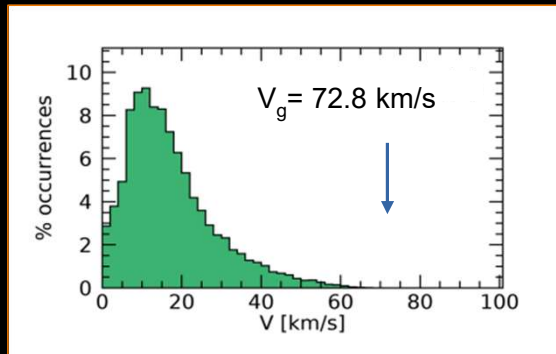




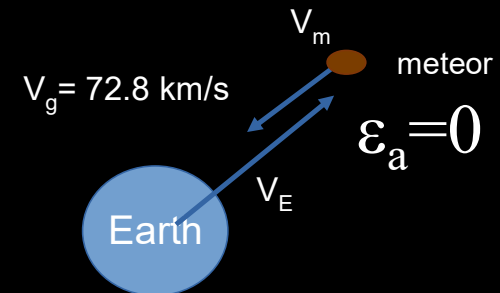
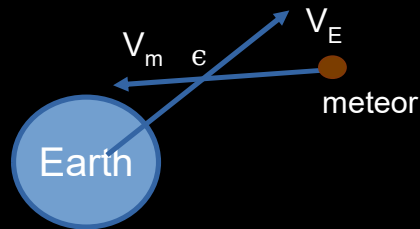
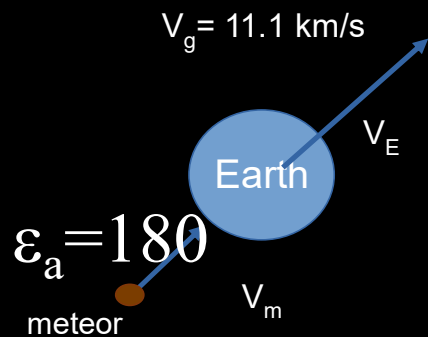
**Fig. 6.** Distribution of the physical parameters of 24 thousand meteors detected by Mini-EUSO during the data-taking sessions no. 05-44 (see Table 1). (a) Horizontal speed,  $V$  (Eq. (4)), at a 100 km reference altitude; (b) duration,  $\Delta t$ , of the event on the Mini-EUSO PDM; (c) arrival azimuth angle,  $a$  (Eq. (5)); and (d) minimum absolute magnitude,  $M$  (Eq. (7)).



# Search for Interstellar meteors



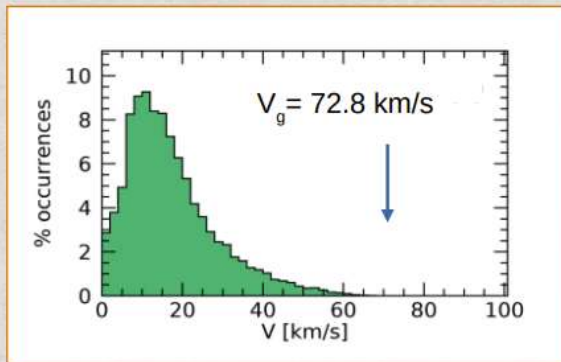
Solar system meteors:  
 $11.1 \text{ km/s} < v_g < 72.8 \text{ km/s}$



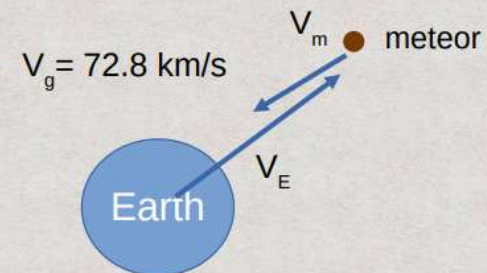
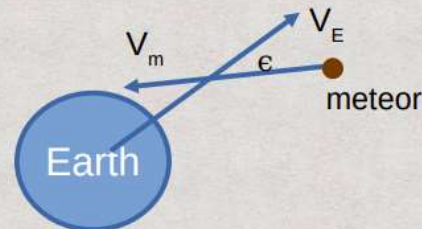
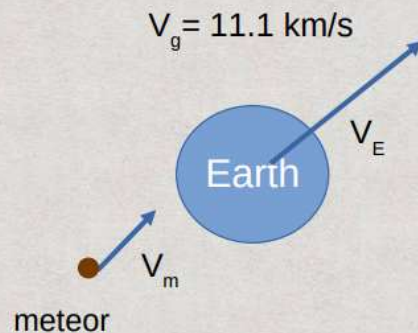
**Interstellar meteors:** meteor with a speed above solar system allowed speed



# Search for Interstellar meteors

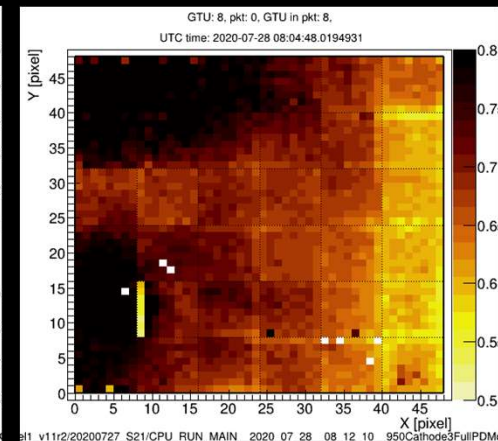
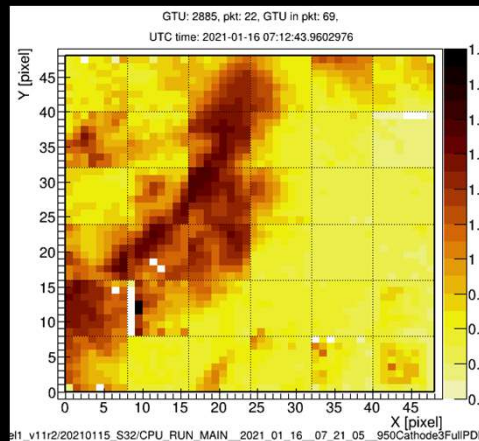
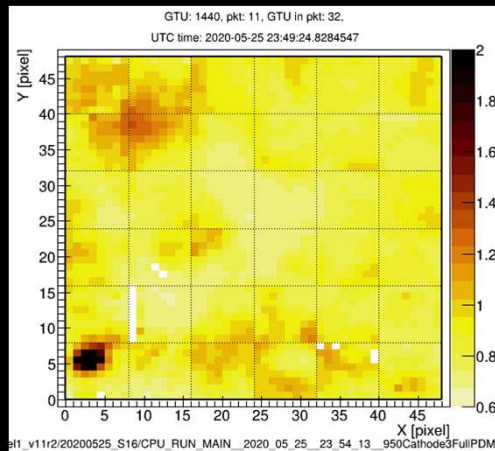


Solar system meteors:  $11.1 \text{ km/s} < v_g < 72.8 \text{ km/s}$

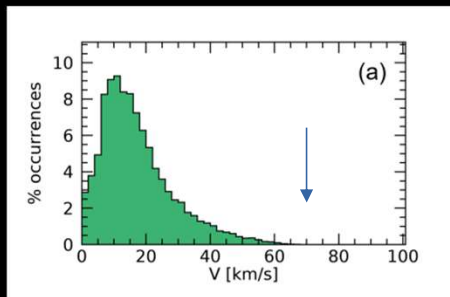


**Interstellar meteors:** meteor with a speed above solar system allowed speed

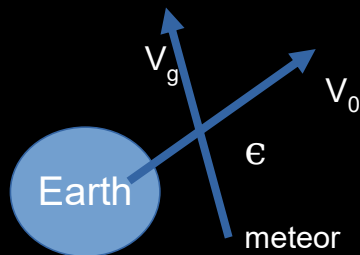
# Interstellar meteors: three candidates



# Interstellar meteors

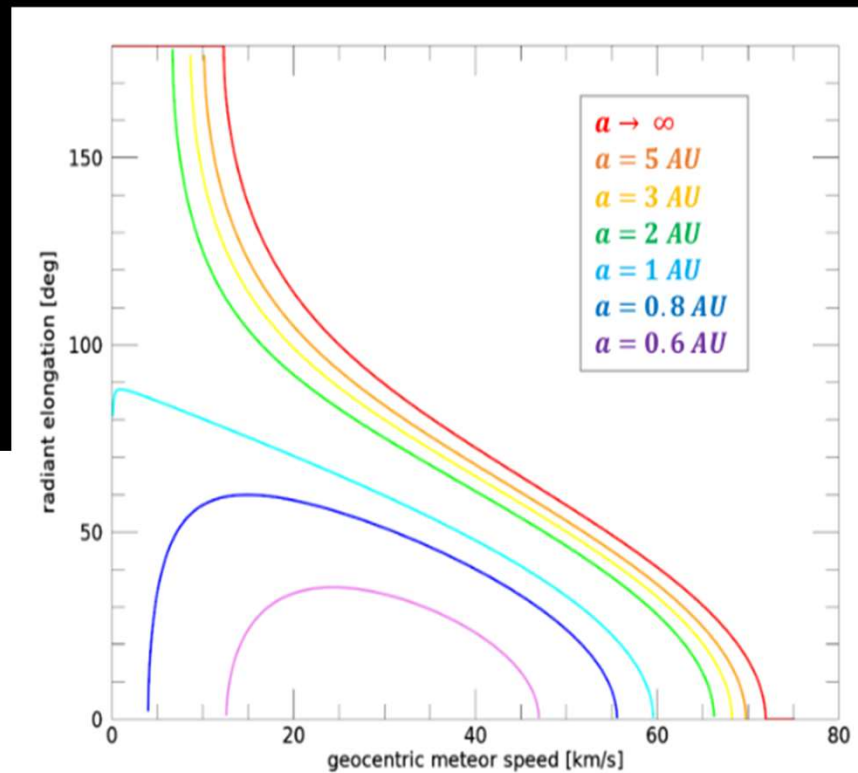


Solar system meteors:  $11.1 \text{ km/s} < v < 72.8 \text{ km/s}$



$V_g$  = **geocentric speed** =  
= meteor pre-atm. speed corrected  
for Earth's gravity attraction

$\epsilon$  = **radiant elongation** =  
= angle between  $\vec{V}_g$  and  $\vec{V}_0$  (Earth  
orbital speed)





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Outline

Highlights

Abstract

Keywords

Introduction

Meteor observations and their accuracy

Conclusions

edit authorship contribution statement

Declaration of competing interest

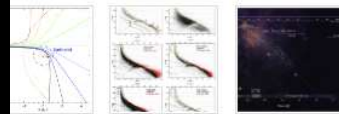
Acknowledgments

References

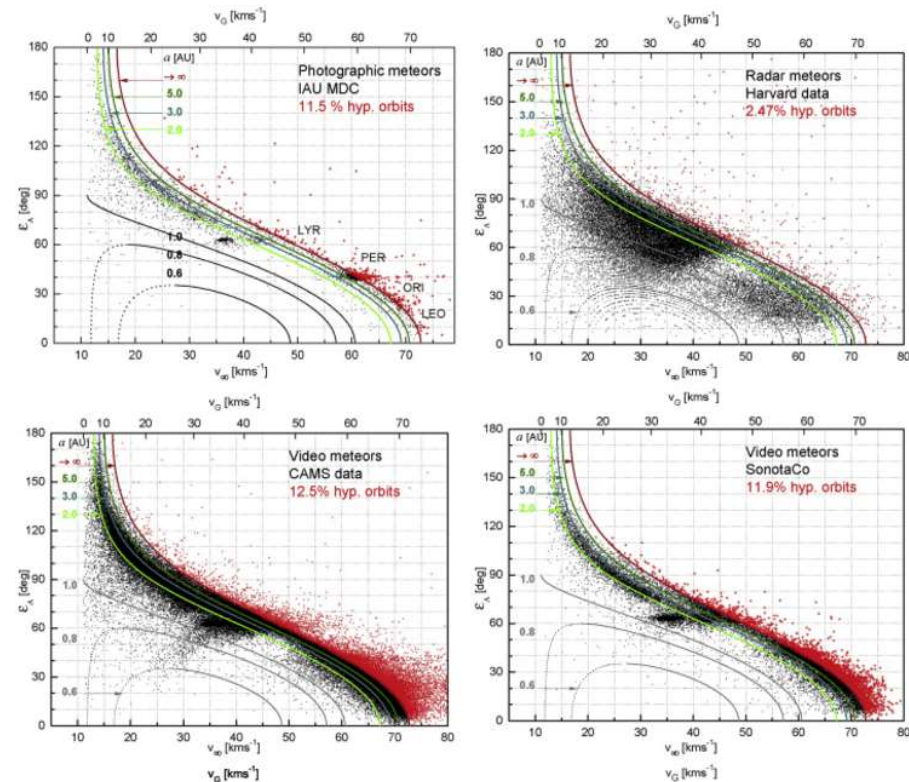
Download full outline

Fig. 18

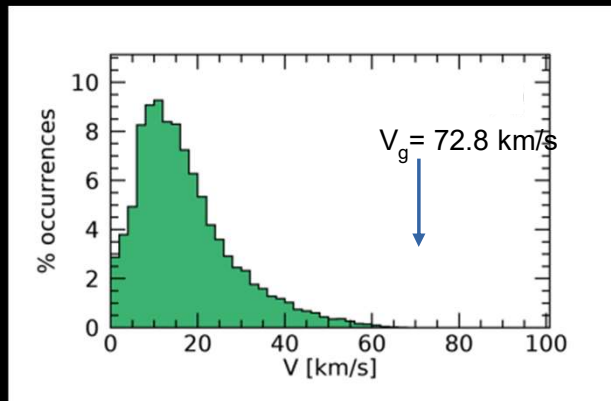
Figures (3)



The effect of both the measured speed and the measured radiant position on the semimajor axis can be demonstrated in a graph showing the relation between the non-atmospheric velocity  $v_{inf}$  (or geocentric velocity  $v_G$ ) and the angular elongation of the apparent radiant from the apex,  $\epsilon_A$ :  $v_H^2 = v_G^2 + v_0^2 - 2v_G v_0 \cos \epsilon_A$ , where  $v_0$  is the mean heliocentric velocity of the Earth. Based on Kresák and Kresáková (1976), we constructed graphs (Fig. 2) for different values of semi-major axis  $a$  (different curves in each plot) and used various meteor data (different plots).



# Interstellar meteors

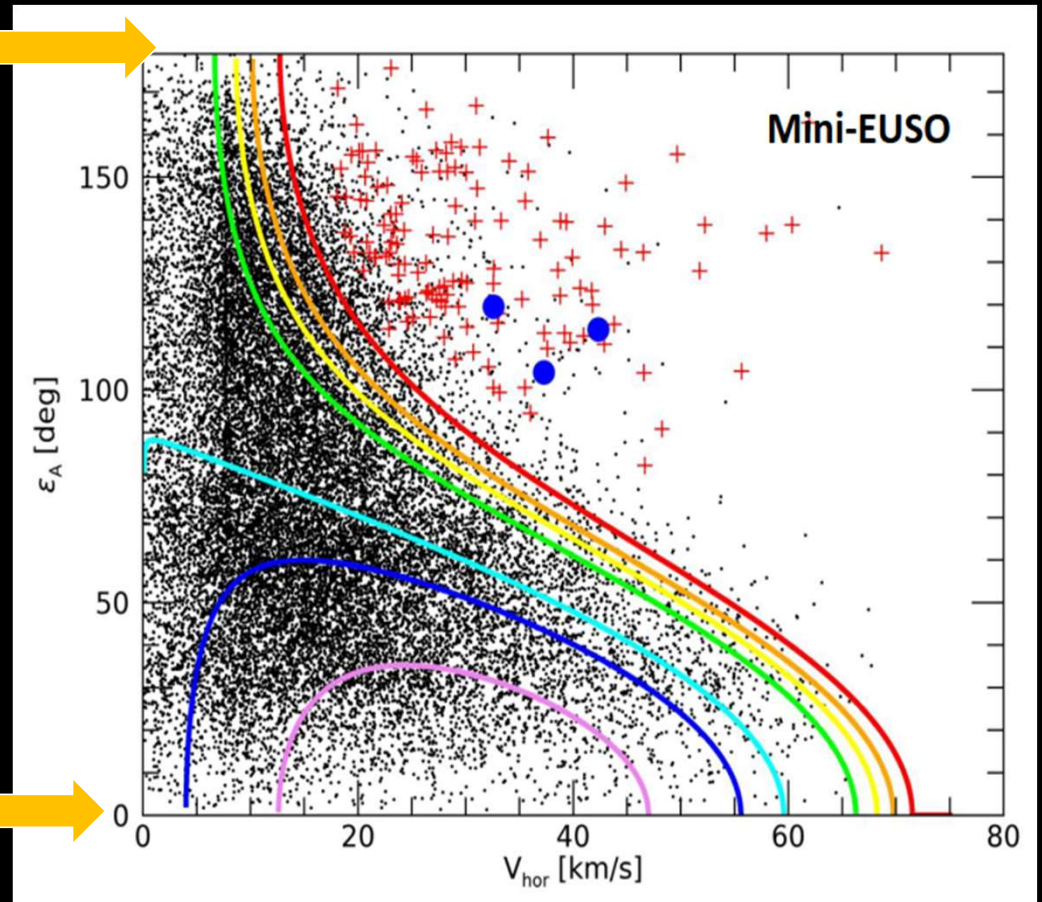


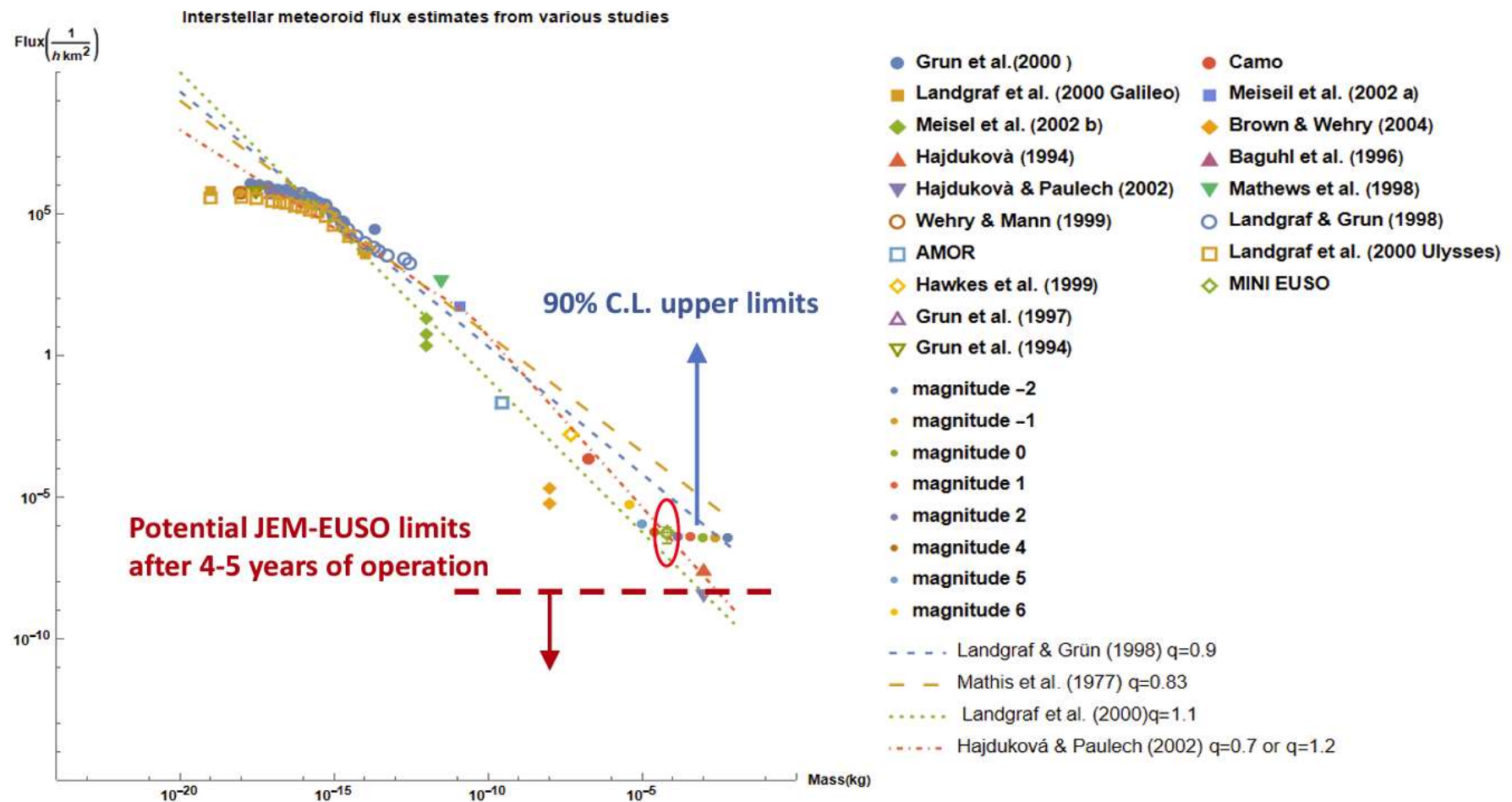
## 3 Candidates

Selection criteria:

- robust track reconstruction  
(n. pixel, magnitude, ...)
- correct estimation of uncertainty  
on velocity measurement  
(trajectory inclination info missing)

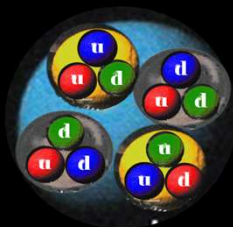
From the back



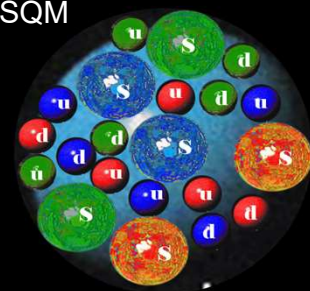


# Search for Strange Quark Matter

Ordinary matter



SQM



Roughly equal numbers of u,d,s quarks in a single 'bag' of cold hadronic matter:

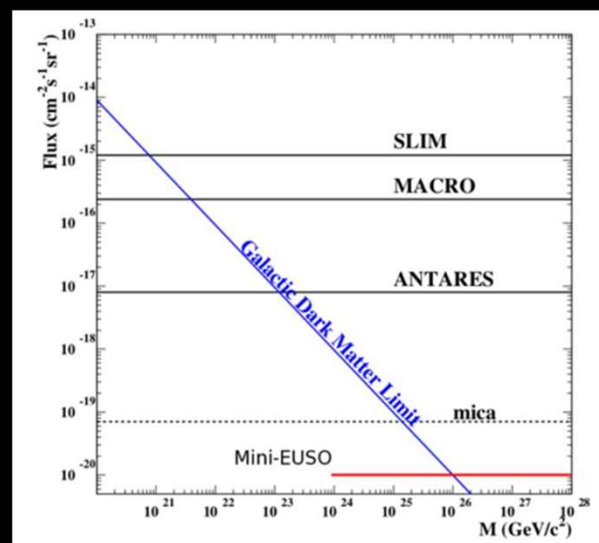
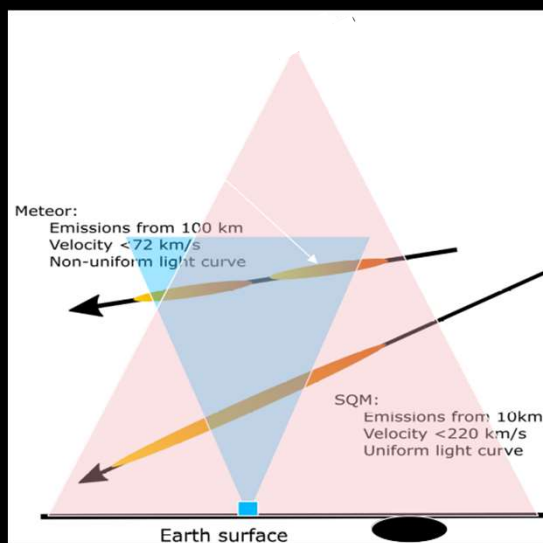
u,d,s quark matter might be stable

Not limited in A: A=100, 1000....

Z is almost zero due to cancellation of quark charge

Could account for a (small) part of DM

Also candidate of UHECR



Meteor studies in the framework of the JEM-EUSO program. *PLANETARY AND SPACE SCIENCE*, 143(SI):245-255, 2017.

JEM-EUSO: Meteor and nuclearite observations. *Experimental Astronomy*, 40:253- 279, 2015.

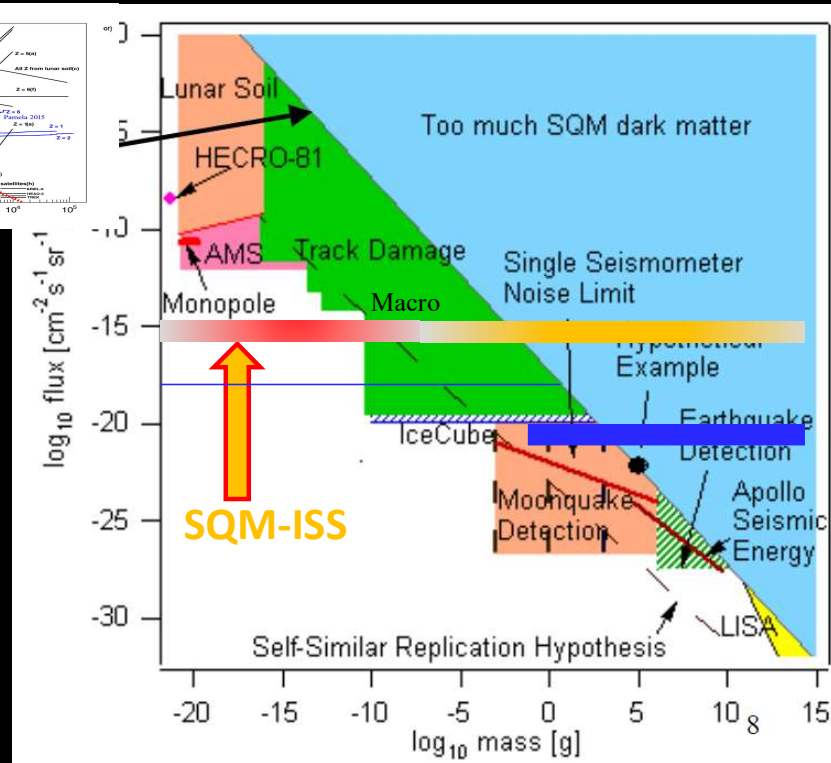


# SQM-ISS

## Expected upper limit for three years of operations

Pamela  
( $Z=1-8$ )

AMS ( $Z=2$ )

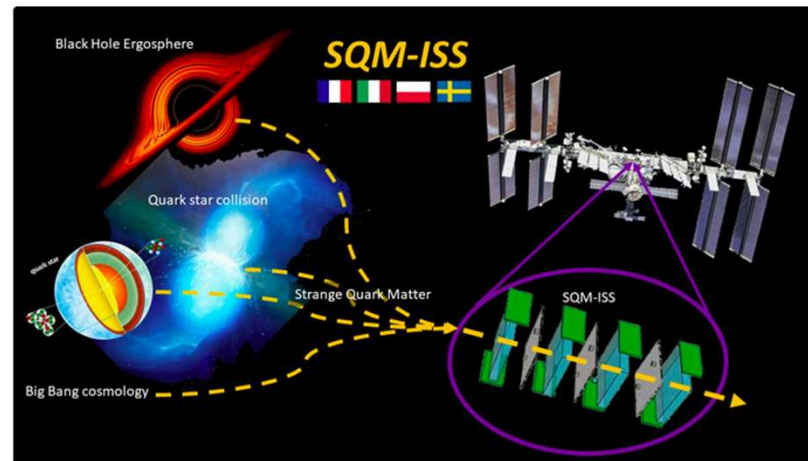


Mini-EUSO

IDEA: I-2022-02839

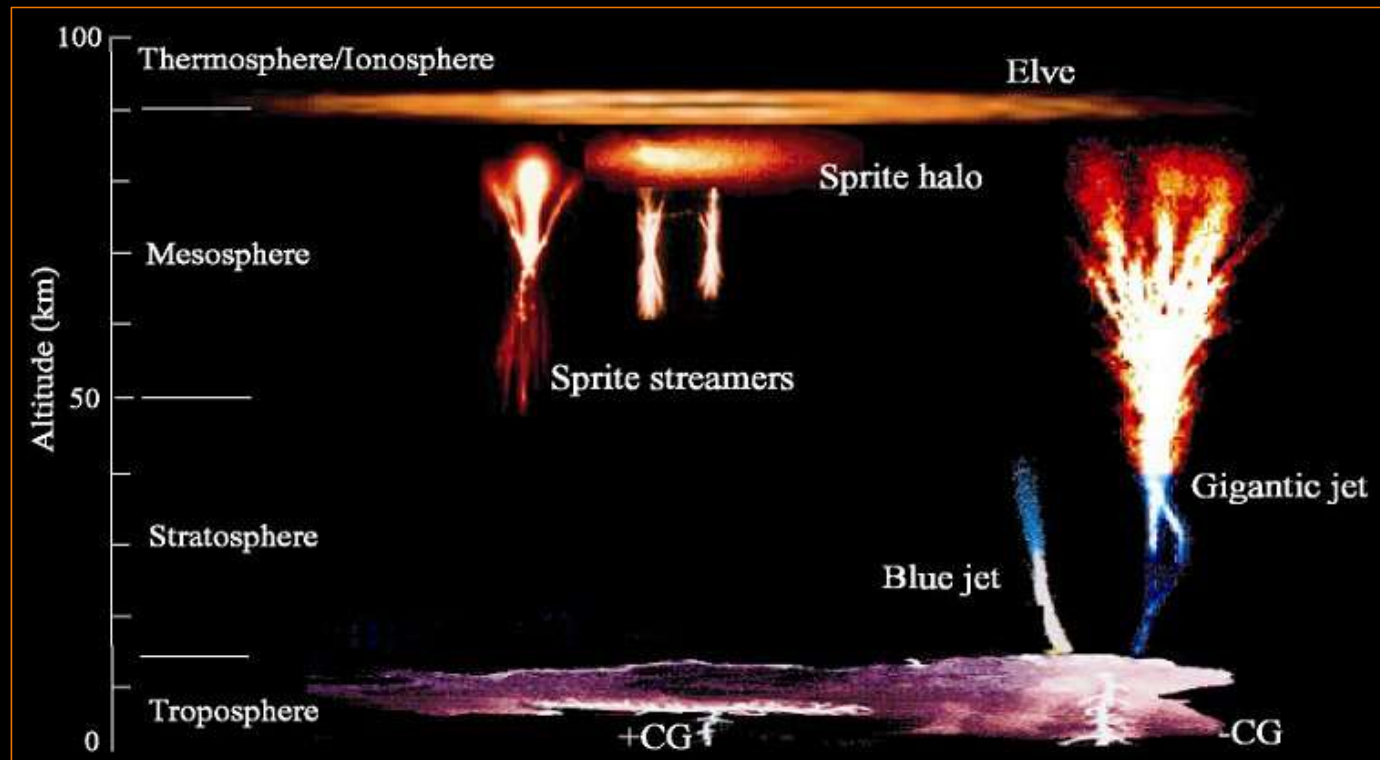
## SQM-ISS Search for Strange Quark Matter and nuclearites on board the International Space Station

Campaign: Reserve pools of Science Activities for ISS: A SciSpacE Announcement of Opportunity



*“.... It is our pleasure to inform you that your proposal, with the registration code AO-2022-ISS-I-2022-02839 and the title “SQM-ISS Search for Strange Quark Matter and nuclearites on board the International Space Station” was judged favourable by the peers and has been selected for definition. The overall scientific merit was **Excellent (90/100)**.”*

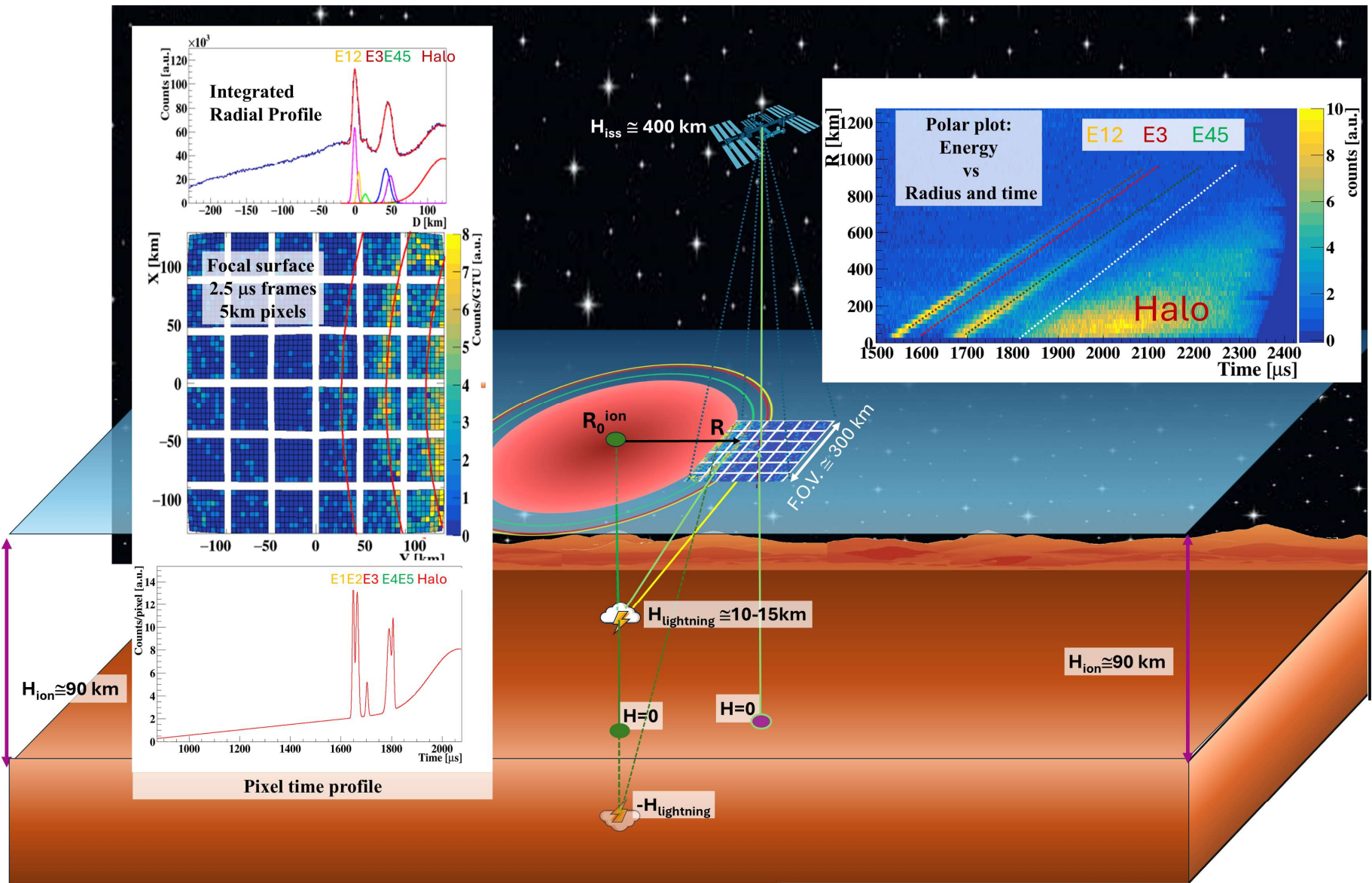
# Transient Luminous events and ELVES



C0.2-0014-24 09:30 - 09:50 (solicited)

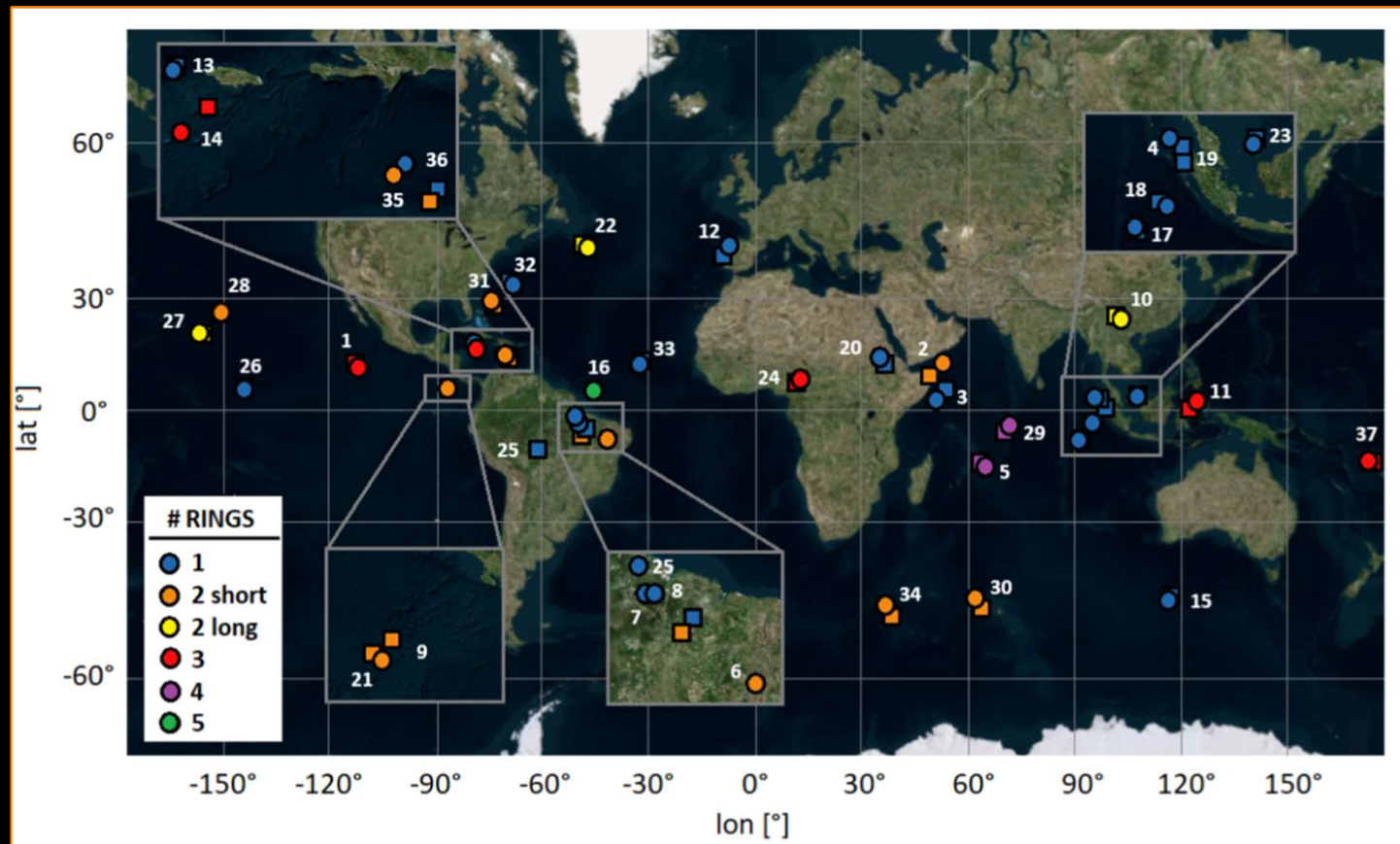
Observation of Atmospheric ELVES and Their Multiple  
Rings by Mini-EUSO Detector onboard ISS

Plebaniak, Zbigniew Team: The JEM-EUSO Collaboration p. 459

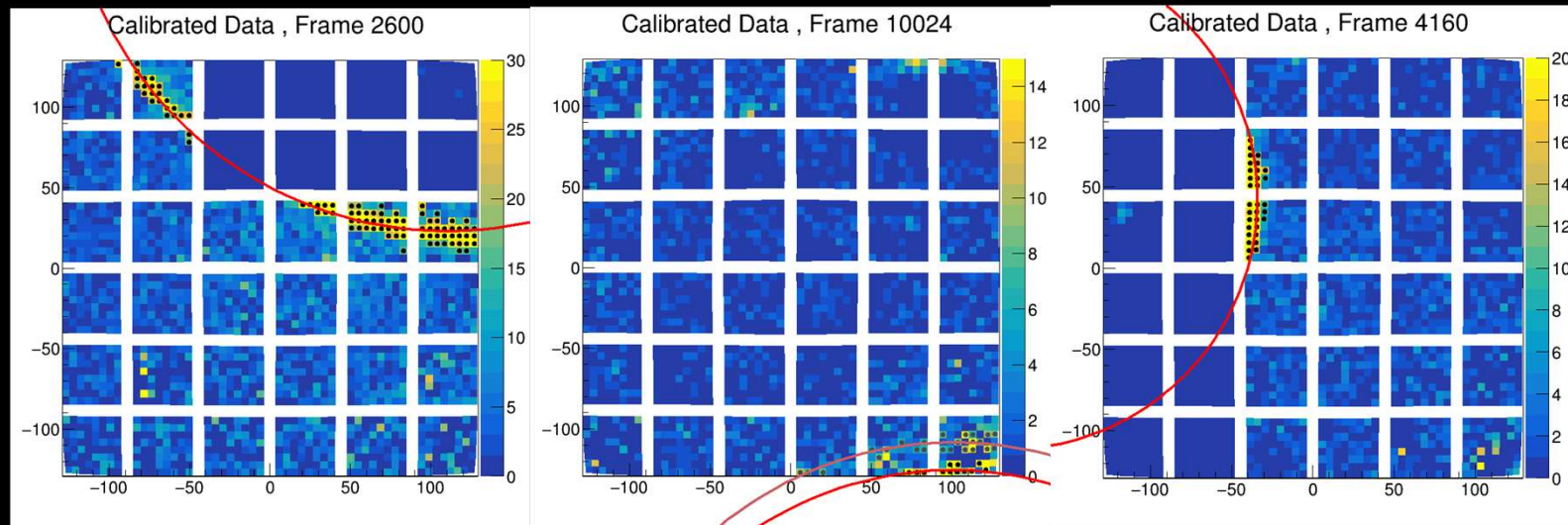




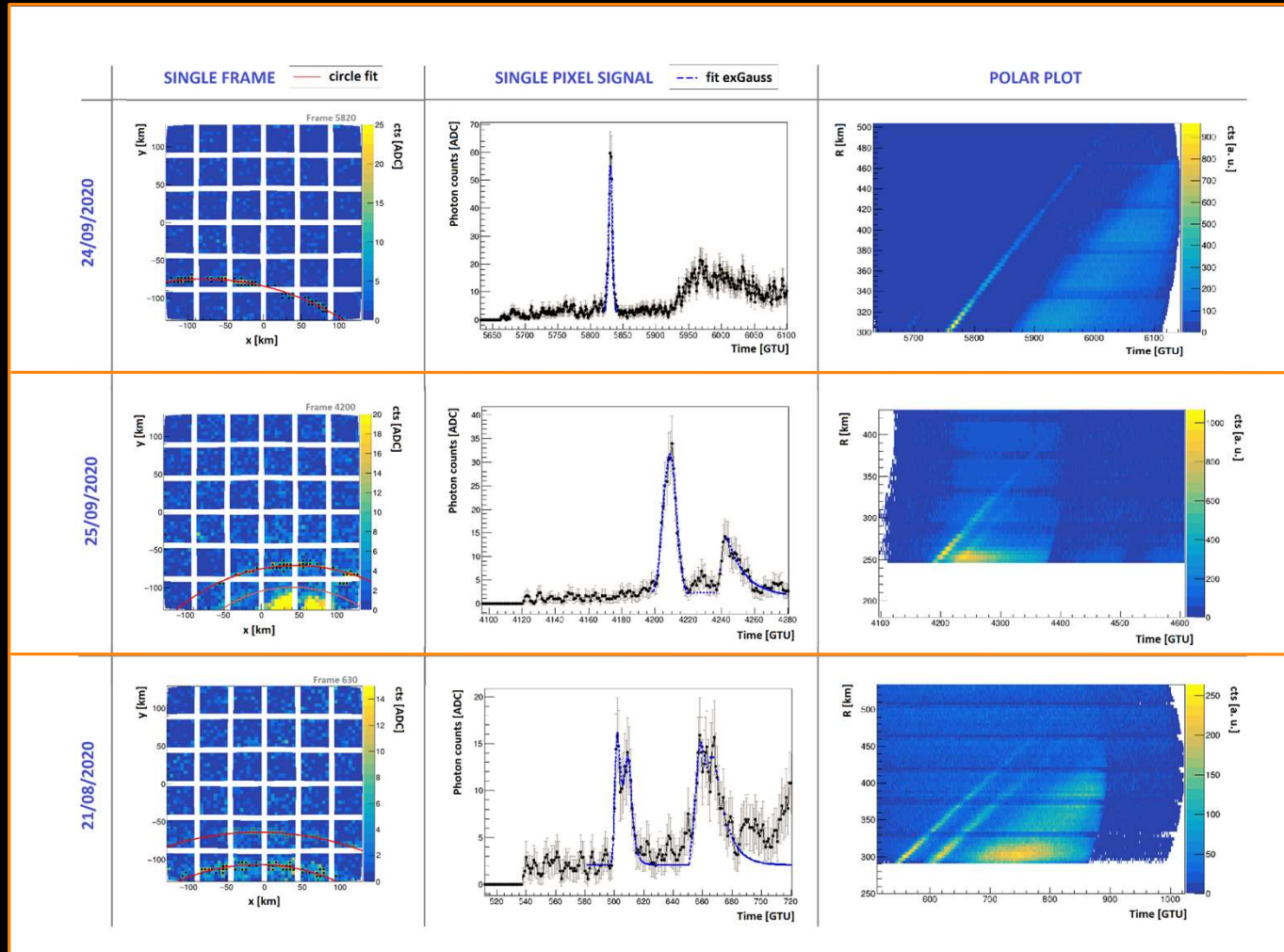
**37 ELVES** detected so far (less than half dataset received)  
mostly in the equatorial region



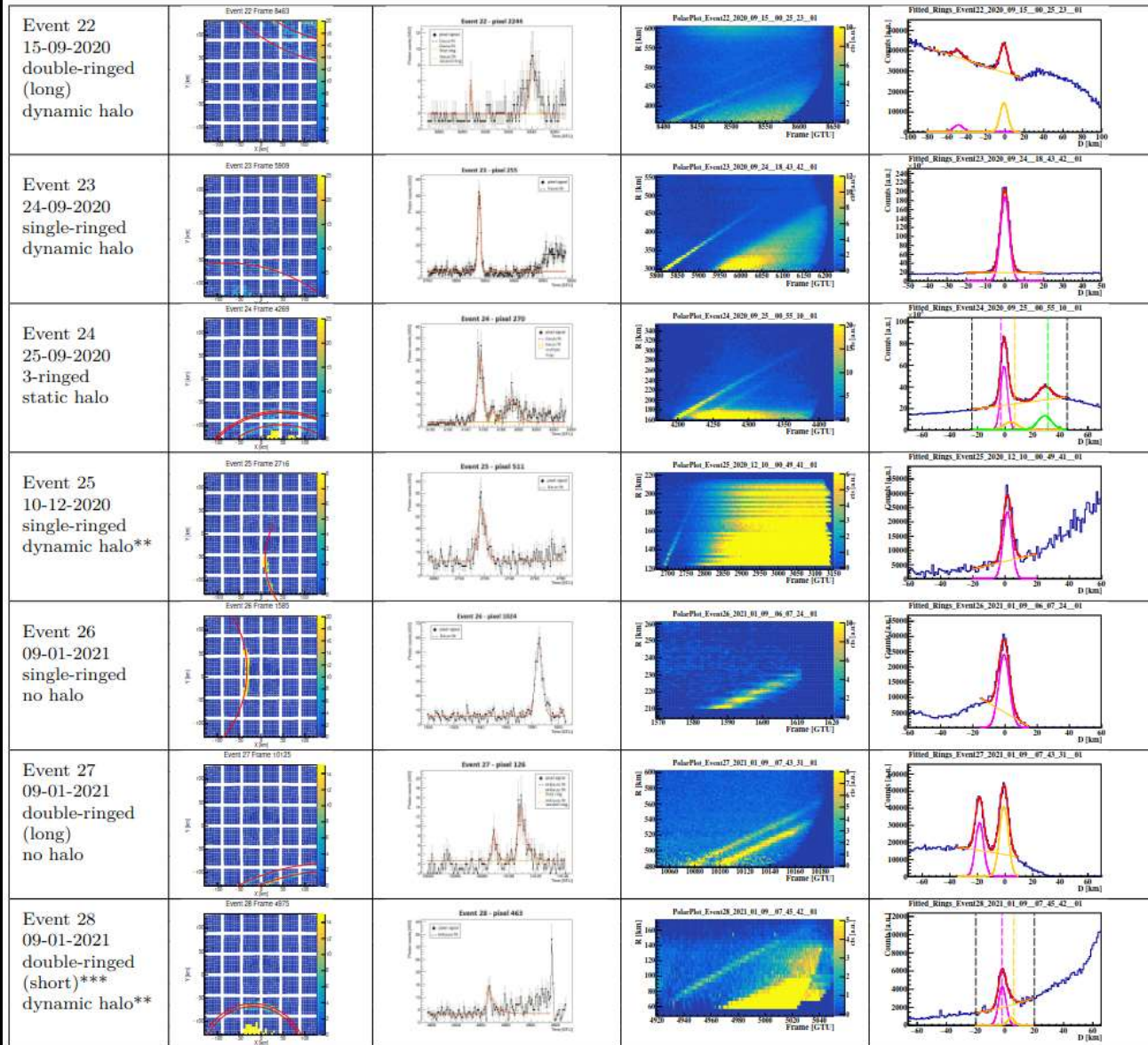
# ELVES



# ELVES

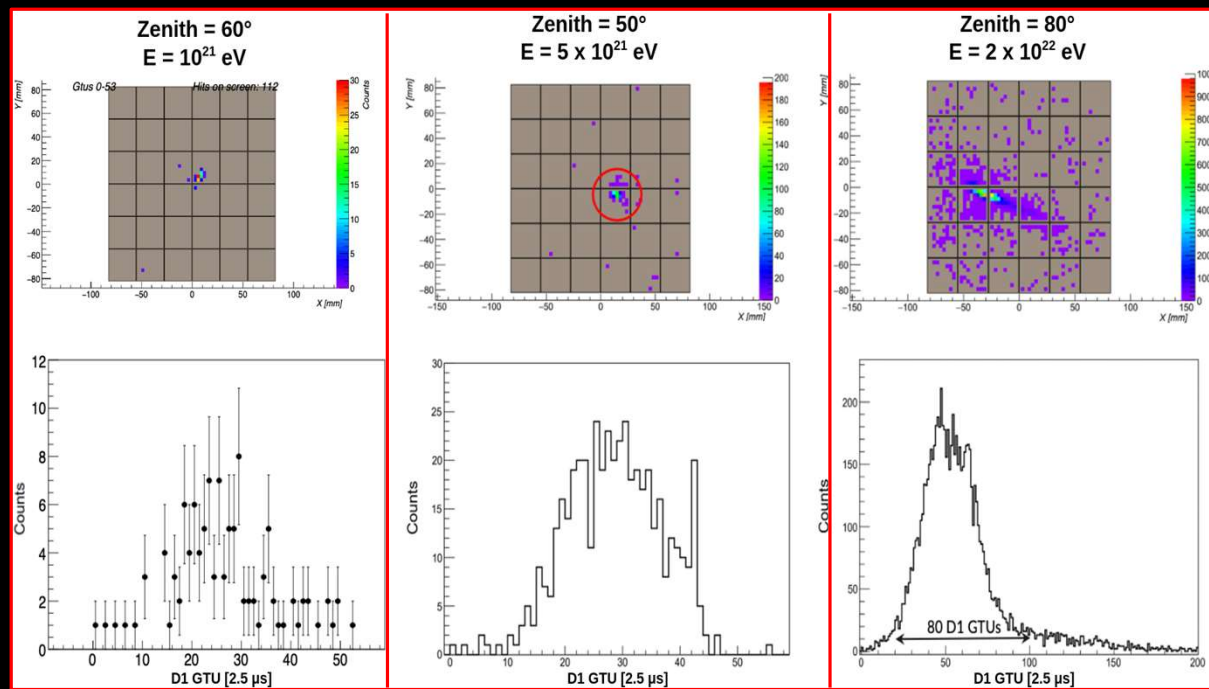




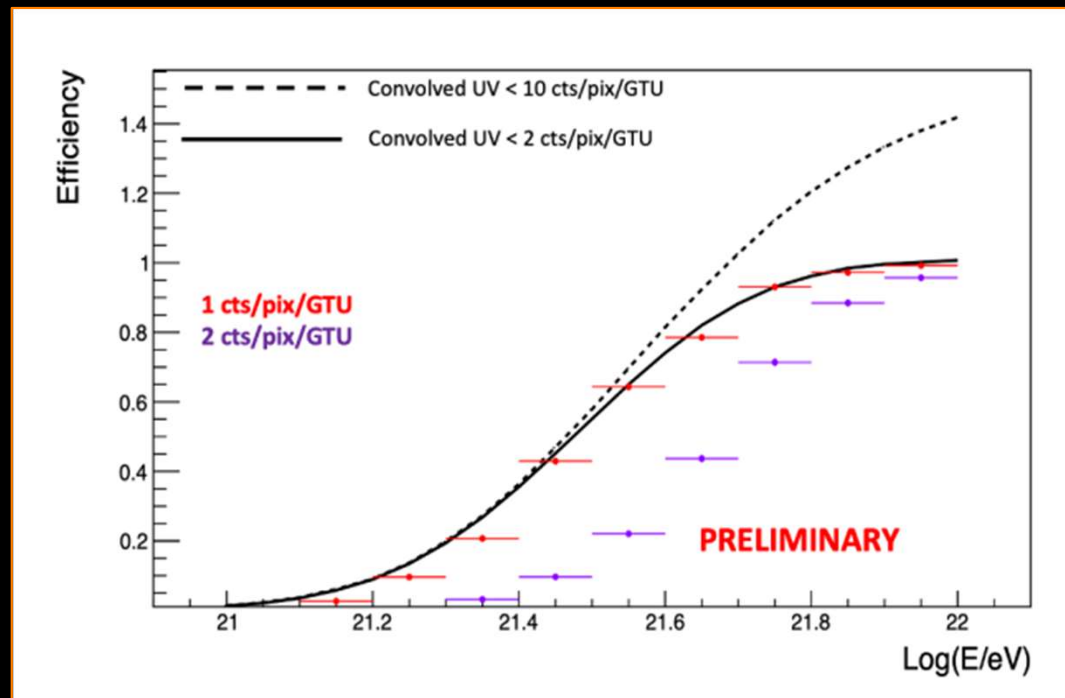




# UHECR: simulated EAS



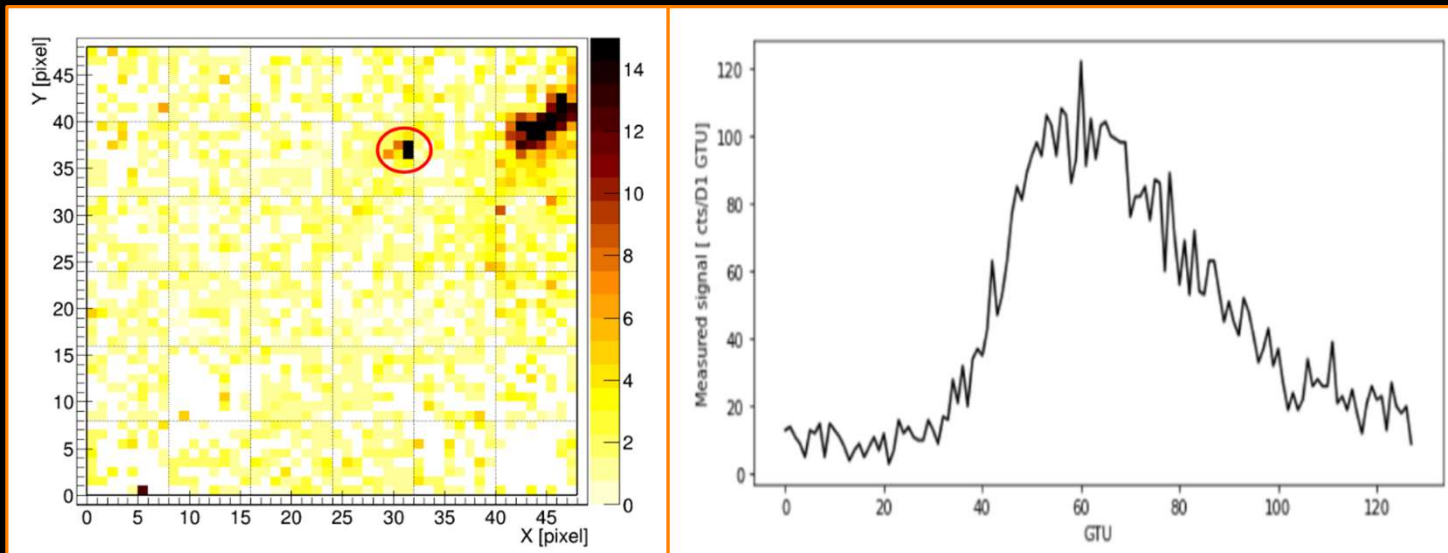
# UHECR detection efficiency



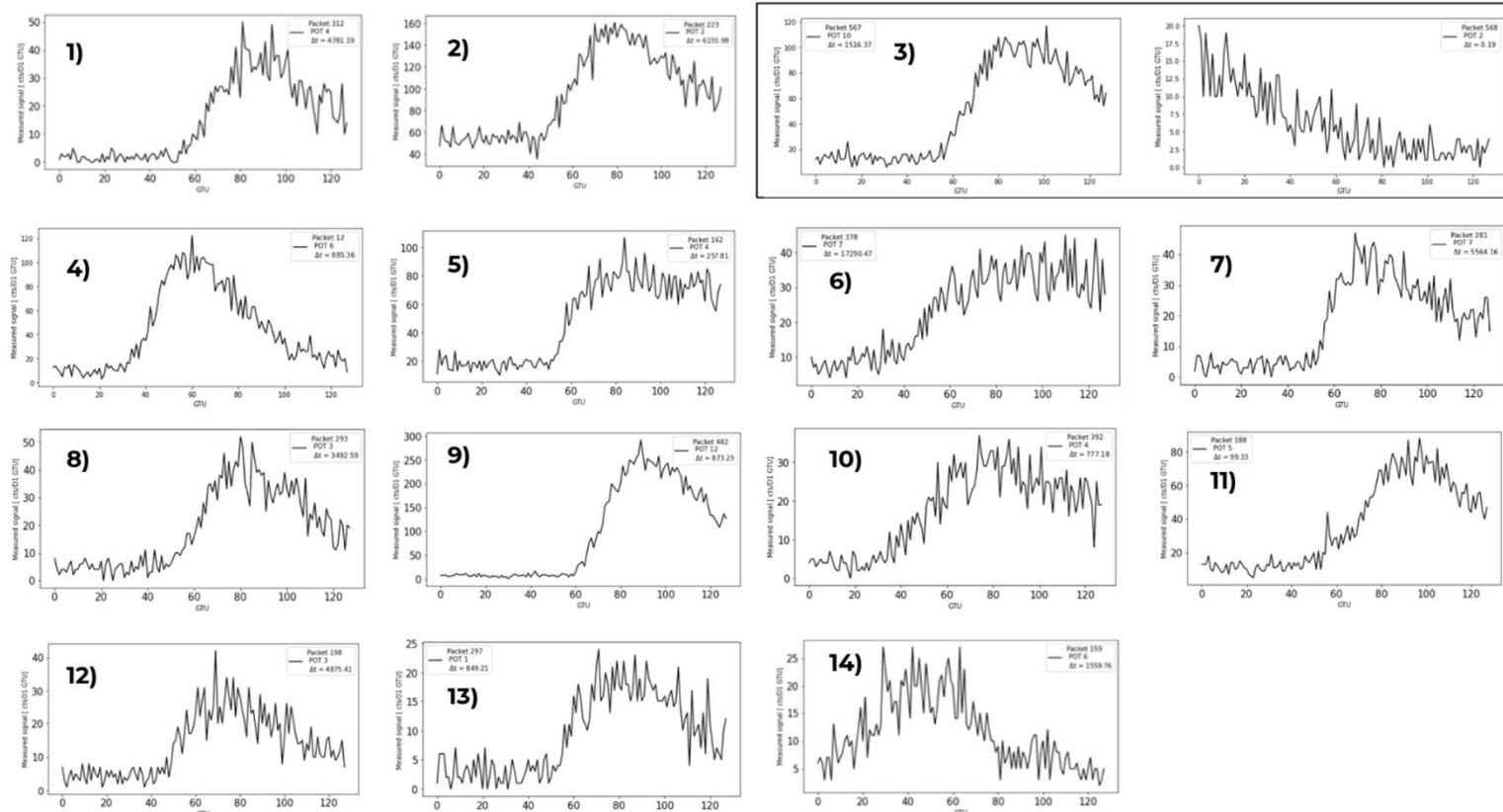
*Implications of Mini-EUSO measurements for a space-based observation of UHECRs*  
M. Bertaina et al., EPJ Web of Conferences 283 , 06008 (2023).

E1.1-0069-24 12:00 - 12:20  
Implications of Mini-EUSO measurements for a space-based observation of UHECRs  
Battisti, Matteo; Bertaina, Mario Edoardo; Bianciotto, Marta; Fenu, Francesco Team: JEM-EUSO Collaboration p. 453

# Short Light Atmospheric Transient events



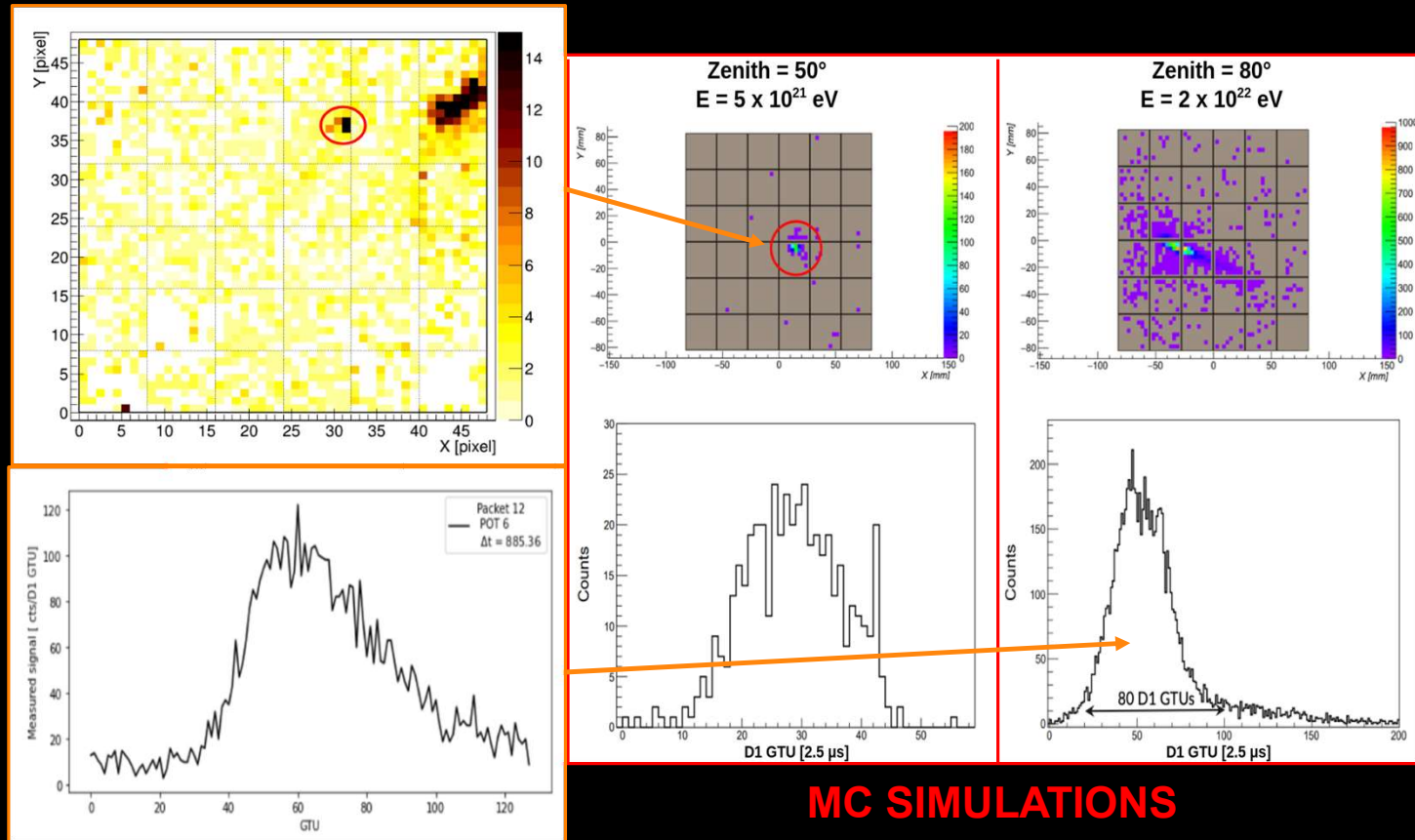
# SLT lightcurves



**Figure 5.** Lightcurves of the 14 SLTs. Event 3 is the only one triggered in two consecutive packets. For events 1, 2, 6, 8, 12, and 13 an atmospheric event has been detected from the exact same position within a few ms after the EAS-like events. Event 4 is the one already shown on the right side of Fig. 2. See the text for more details. Image taken from [25].



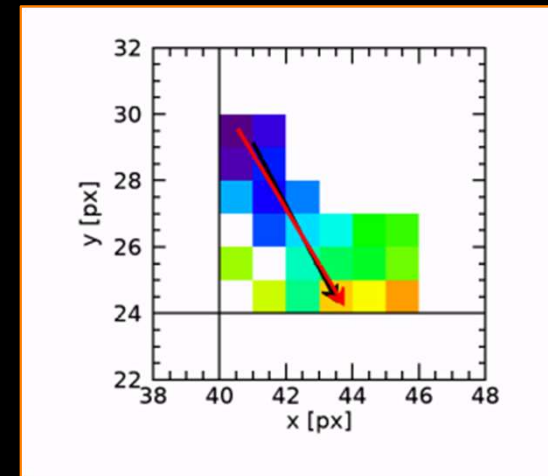
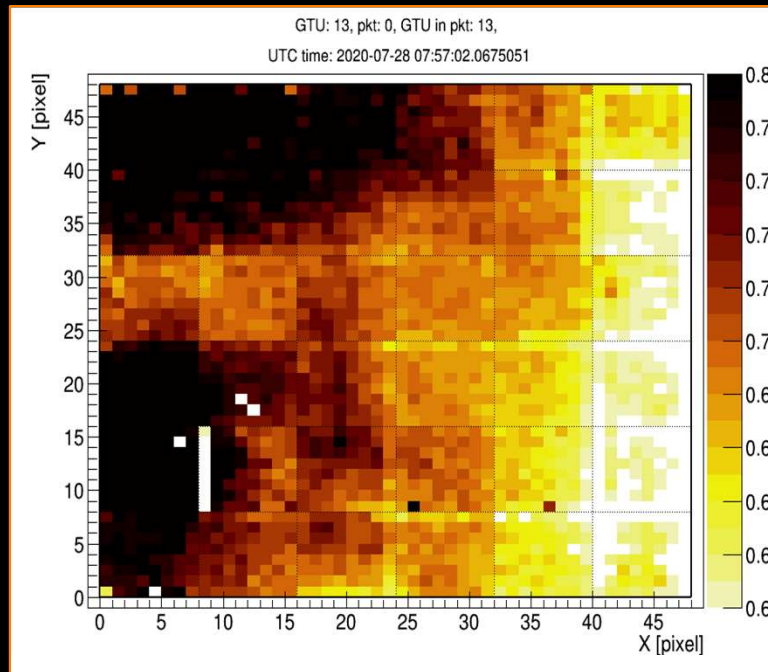
# Short Light Transient events



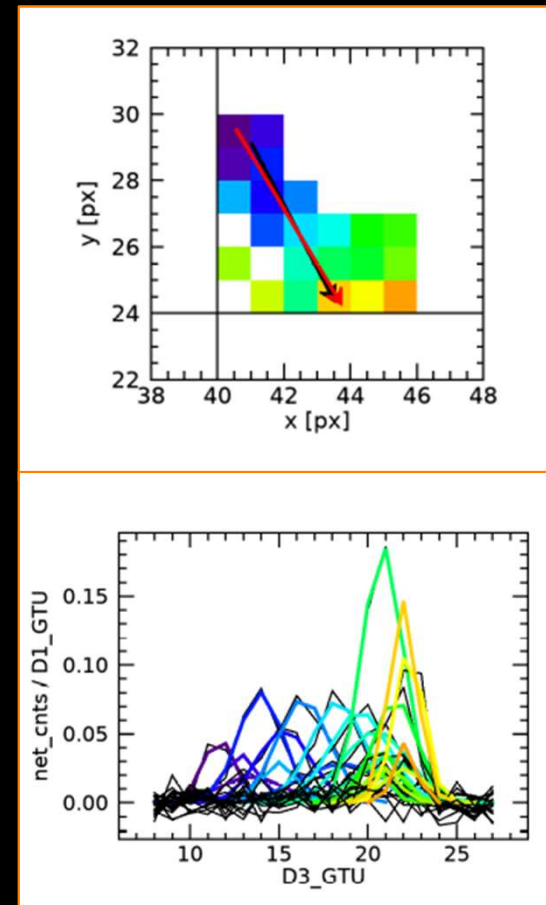
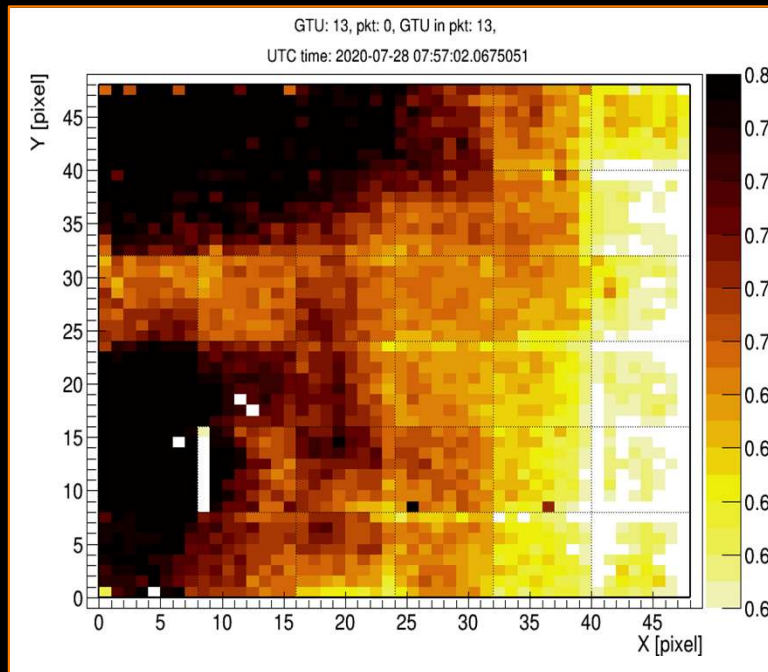
Mini-EUSO Data

MC SIMULATIONS

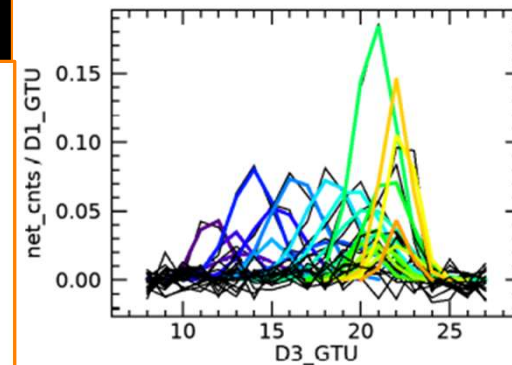
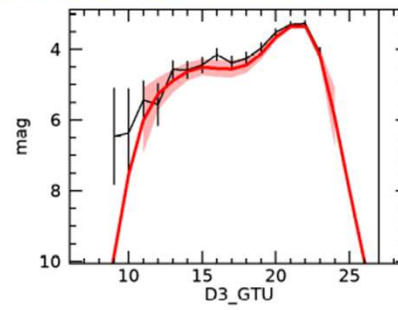
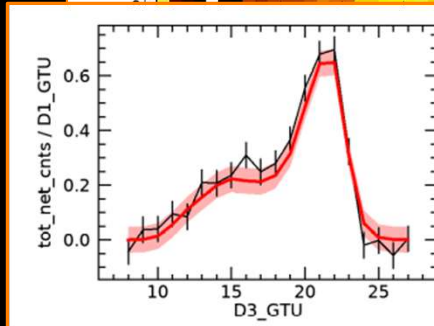
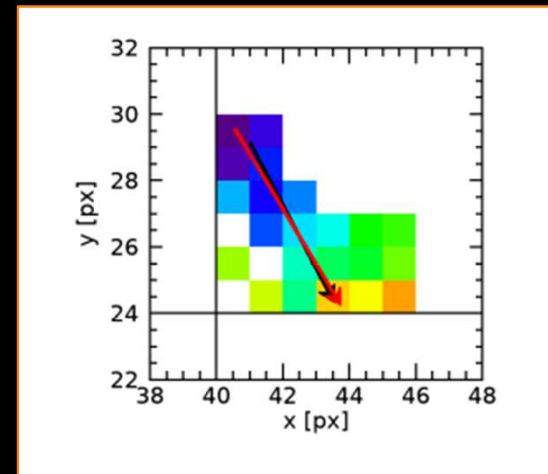
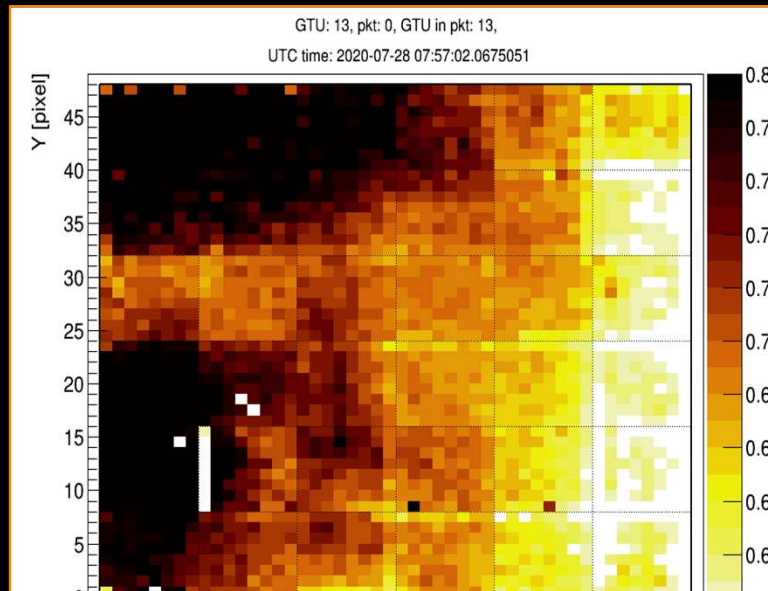
# Meteor tracking algorithm



# Meteor tracking algorithm

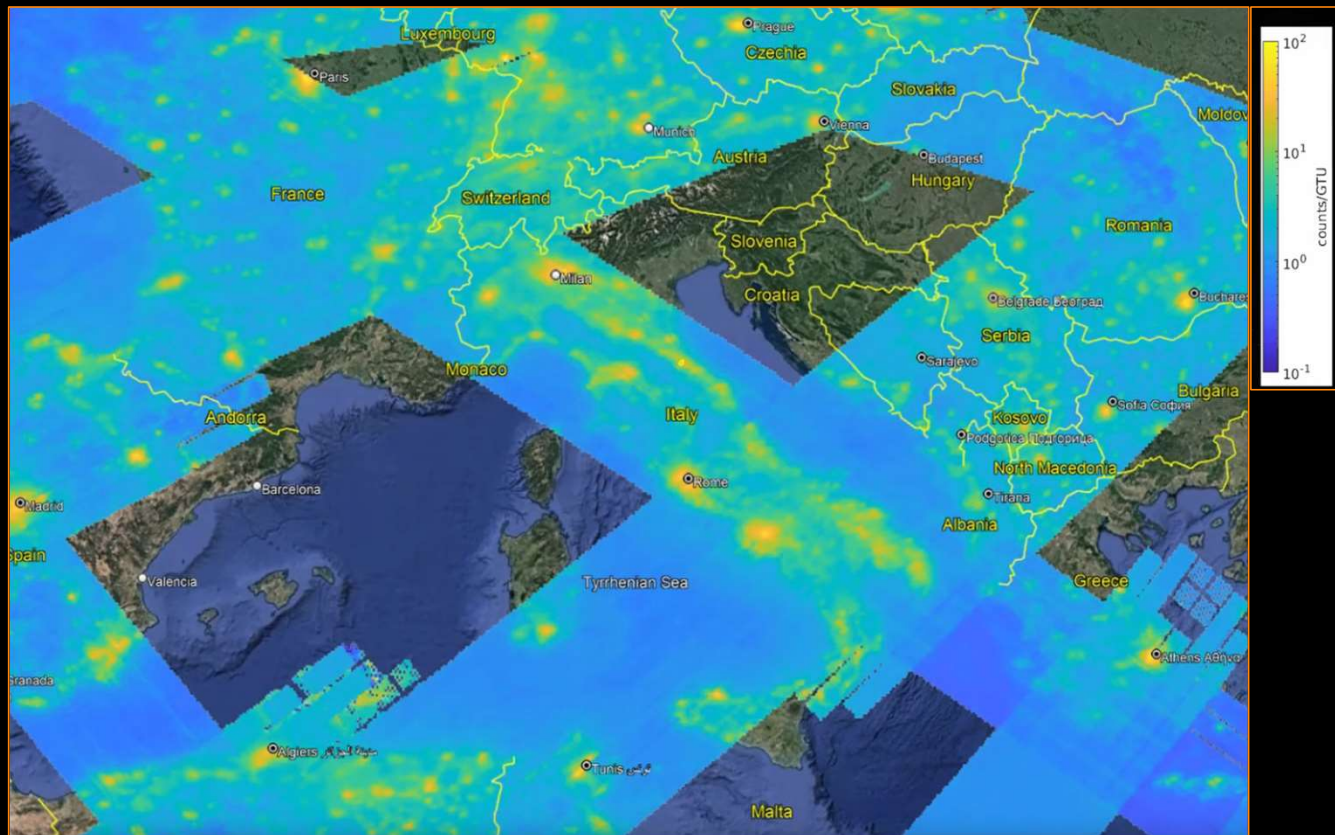


# Meteor tracking algorithm

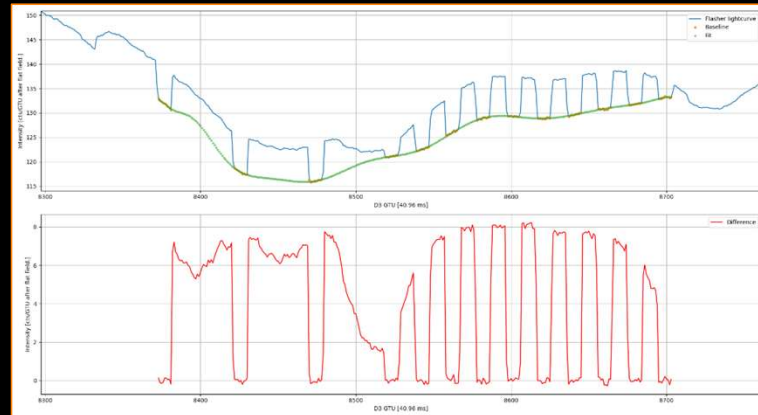
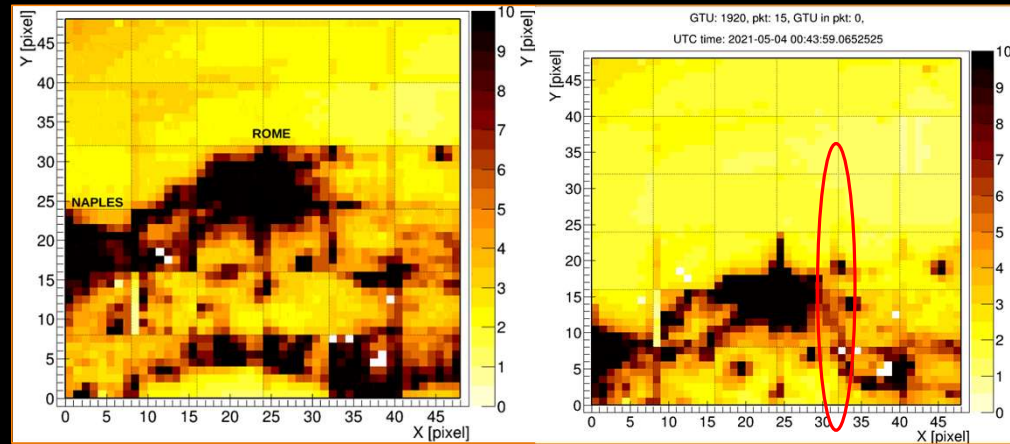




# Night-time Earth Emissions



# End-to-end in-flight Calibration with ground UV flashers



09:00	<b>MINI-EUSO: Status of the detector</b>	<i>Marco Casolino, Pavel Klimov</i>
	<i>105 and 153, Olympe de Gouges</i>	09:00 - 09:15
	<b>MINI-EUSO: Updates on Mini-EUSO data</b>	<i>Laura Marcelli</i>
	<i>105 and 153, Olympe de Gouges</i>	09:15 - 09:20
	<b>MINI-EUSO: Scurves and Pile-up</b>	<i>Enzio M'sihid, Etienne PARIZOT</i>
	<i>105 and 153, Olympe de Gouges</i>	09:20 - 09:40
	<b>MINI-EUSO: Meteor events in coincidence with ground based observatories</b>	<i>Anike Bowaire</i>
	<i>105 and 153, Olympe de Gouges</i>	09:40 - 09:55
10:00	<b>MINI-EUSO: Nuclearites</b>	<i>Mario Bertaina, Rosario Pullano</i>
	<i>105 and 153, Olympe de Gouges</i>	09:55 - 10:10
	<b>MINI-EUSO: Elves - status and results</b>	<i>Laura Marcelli</i>
	<i>105 and 153, Olympe de Gouges</i>	10:10 - 10:20
	<b>Break</b>	
	<i>105 and 153, Olympe de Gouges</i>	10:20 - 10:50
	<b>MINI-EUSO: Nasa review</b>	<i>Federico Reynaud</i>
	<i>105 and 153, Olympe de Gouges</i>	10:50 - 11:00
11:00	<b>MINI-EUSO: Exposure estimation based on Mini-EUSO data</b>	<i>Mario Bertaina</i>
	<i>105 and 153, Olympe de Gouges</i>	11:00 - 11:20
	<b>MINI-EUSO: Stack CNN Evolution</b>	<i>Antonio Giulio Coretti</i>
	<i>105 and 153, Olympe de Gouges</i>	11:20 - 11:35
	<b>EUSO-TA: Neural networks for EUSO-TA - Recent progress</b>	<i>Mikhail Zotov</i>
	<i>105 and 153, Olympe de Gouges</i>	11:35 - 11:50

## Selected publications

An end-to-end calibration of the Mini-EUSO detector in space <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0927650524001348> M. Battisti *Astroparticle Physics*  
ELVES Measurements in the "UV Atmosphere" (Mini-EUSO) Experiment Onboard the ISS and Their Reconstruction <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0010952524600379> S. Sharakin *Cosmic Research*  
Refined STACK-CNN for Meteor and Space Debris Detection in Highly Variable Backgrounds <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/10521686> L. Olivi *IEEE JOURNAL OF SELECTED TOPICS IN APPLIED EARTH OBSERVATIONS AND REMOTE SENSING*,

Observation of meteors from space with the Mini-EUSO detector on board the International Space Station  
D. Barghini et al., *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, 

**Mini-EUSO on Board the International Space Station: Mission Status and Results**  
*Instruments* 2024, 8 (1), 2024.

**Dataset of night-time emissions of the earth in the near uv range (290-430 nm), with 6.3 km resolution in the latitude range -51.6<L<+51.6 degrees, acquired on board the international space station with the mini-euso detector**  
*Data in Brief*, 48, 2023.

**Observation of night-time emissions of the earth in the near uv range from the international space station with the mini-euso detector**  
*Remote Sensing Of Environment*, 284, 2023.  **IF 13.85**

**Neural Network Based Approach to Recognition of Meteor Tracks in the Mini-EUSO Telescope Data**  
*Algorithms*, 16(9), 448, 2023.

**Onboard performance of the level 1 trigger of the mini-euso telescope**  
*Advances in Space Research*, 70(9):2750–2766, 2022.

**Pre-flight qualification tests of the mini-euso telescope engineering model**  
*Experimental Astronomy*, 53(1):133–158, 2022.

**Mini-EUSO Mission to Study Earth UV Emissions on board the ISS**  
*The Astrophysical Journal Supplement Series*, 253, 2 , 36, 2021.

Neural Network Based Approach to  
Recognition of Meteor Tracks in the Mini-  
EUSO Telescope Data

**Secondary cameras onboard the Mini-EUSO experiment: Control software and calibration**  
*Advances in Space Research*, 64(5):1188-1198, 2019.

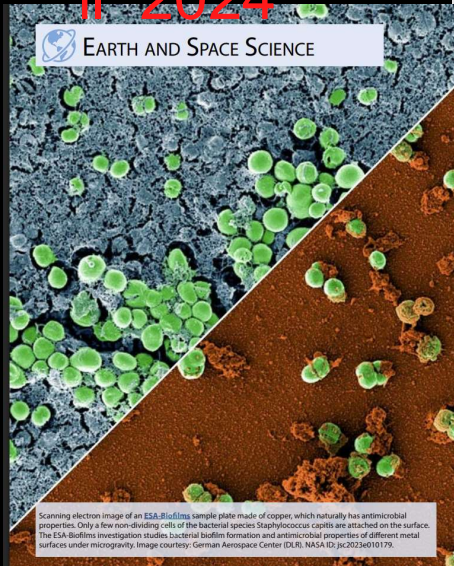
**Mini-EUSO data acquisition and control software**  
*Journal of Astronomical Telescopes Instruments and Systems*, 5(4), 2019.

**Mini-EUSO: A high resolution detector for the study of terrestrial and cosmic UV emission from the International Space Station**  
*Advances in Space Research*, 62(10):2954-2965, 2018.

**The integration and testing of the Mini-EUSO multi-level trigger system**  
*Advances in Space Research*, 62(10), 2966-2976, 2018.



# Highlight NASA per la ISS per il 2024



BENEFITS FOR  
HUMANITY

The Roscosmos-ASI-ESA investigation [Multiwavelength Imaging New Instrument for the Extreme Universe Space Observatory \(Mini-EUSO\)](#) is a state-of-the-art multipurpose telescope designed to examine terrestrial, atmospheric, and cosmic ultraviolet emissions entering Earth's atmosphere. Its optical system of 36 multianode photomultiplier tubes capable of detecting single photons allows exceptional imaging during day/night and night/day transitions (Figure 15). Mini-EUSO has been onboard station since August 2019 and is the first mission of a larger program (JEM-EUSO) that includes about 300 scientists from 16 countries.

Data from Mini-EUSO has recently been used to test a new machine learning algorithm to detect space debris and meteors when space objects move across the field of view of the telescope. The study, published in the *IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing*, reports that the highly sensitive algorithm, called [Refined Stacking Method and Convolutional Neural Network \(R-Stack-CNN\)](#), is an improved version of a previous machine learning method expected to become more significant and useful as increasing traffic of satellites and spacecraft sharing the same orbits add to the risk of collisions.<sup>14</sup> Millions of unidentified pieces of space debris could be removed from their orbit once detected.



**Figure 15.** Digitized image of space debris around Earth. Image adopted from Mini-EUSO research team video.

The R-Stack-CNN model showed precision of 88.2%, a 2% improvement over the standard method used before, and detected 63.4% more events. Researchers improved the detection of space debris and meteors by using many instances of simulated and real data, enabling offline detection, and including light curves that provide information about the rotation rates of the objects and their physical characteristics. These upgrades allowed researchers to reduce false positives and increase the reliability of the algorithm.

Despite the challenges of detecting opaque objects with a moving telescope, a changing background of clouds, light emissions from cities, Moon reflections, and the small fraction of optimal conditions during twilight, researchers employed an advanced neural network used in computer vision that allowed them to classify information more accurately.

# Conclusions

After 136+ sessions

(**about 5 years in space**) Mini-EUSO works nominally

Mini-EUSO is a multidisciplinary experiment (ELVES, UV Earth maps, SQM...)

UHECR detection efficiency estimation validated for future missions

**Mini-EUSO (+ balloons) results pave the way for UHECR detection from space**

