

# Particle physics in cosmic rays

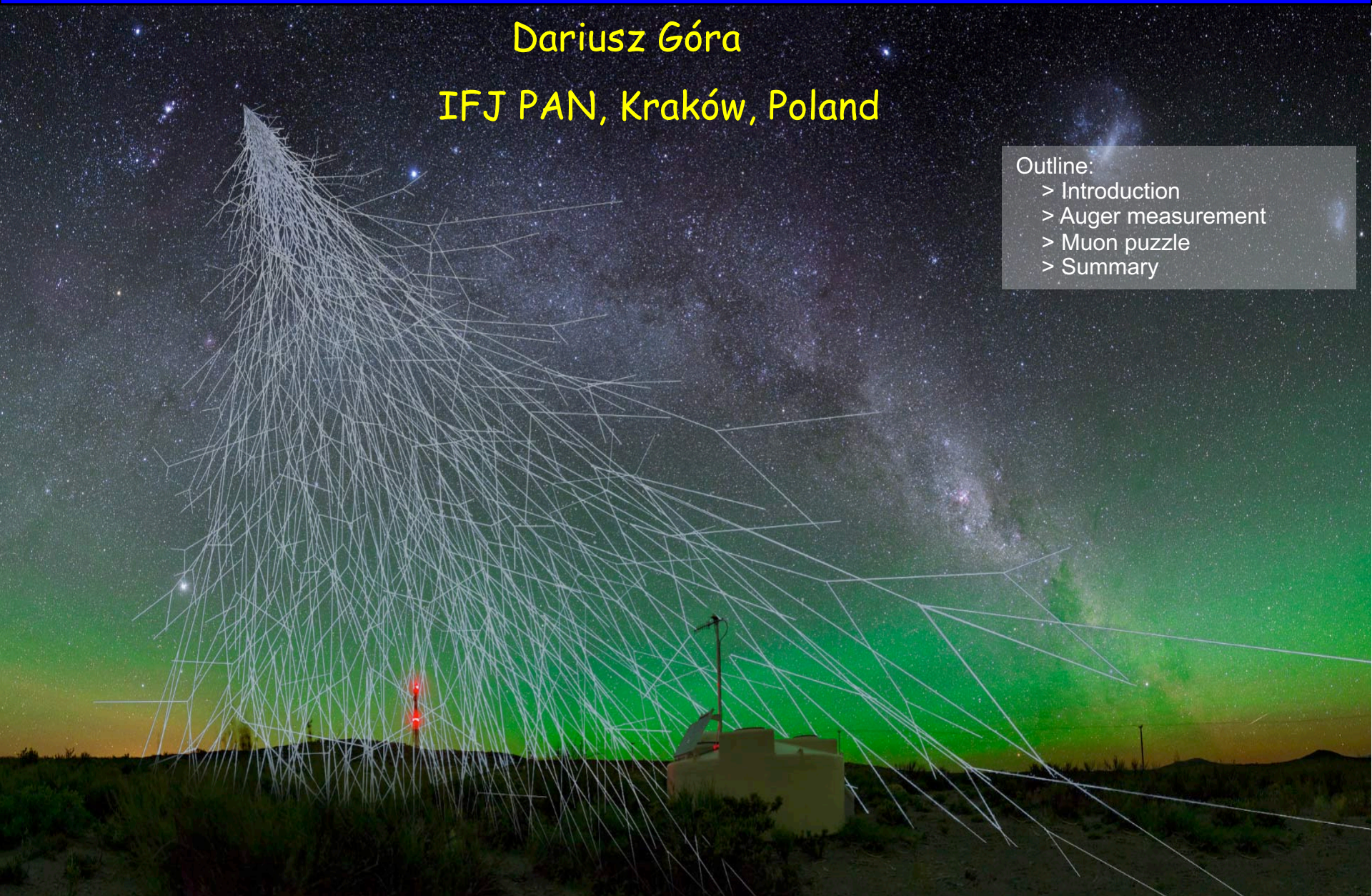


Dariusz Góra

IFJ PAN, Kraków, Poland

## Outline:

- > Introduction
- > Auger measurement
- > Muon puzzle
- > Summary



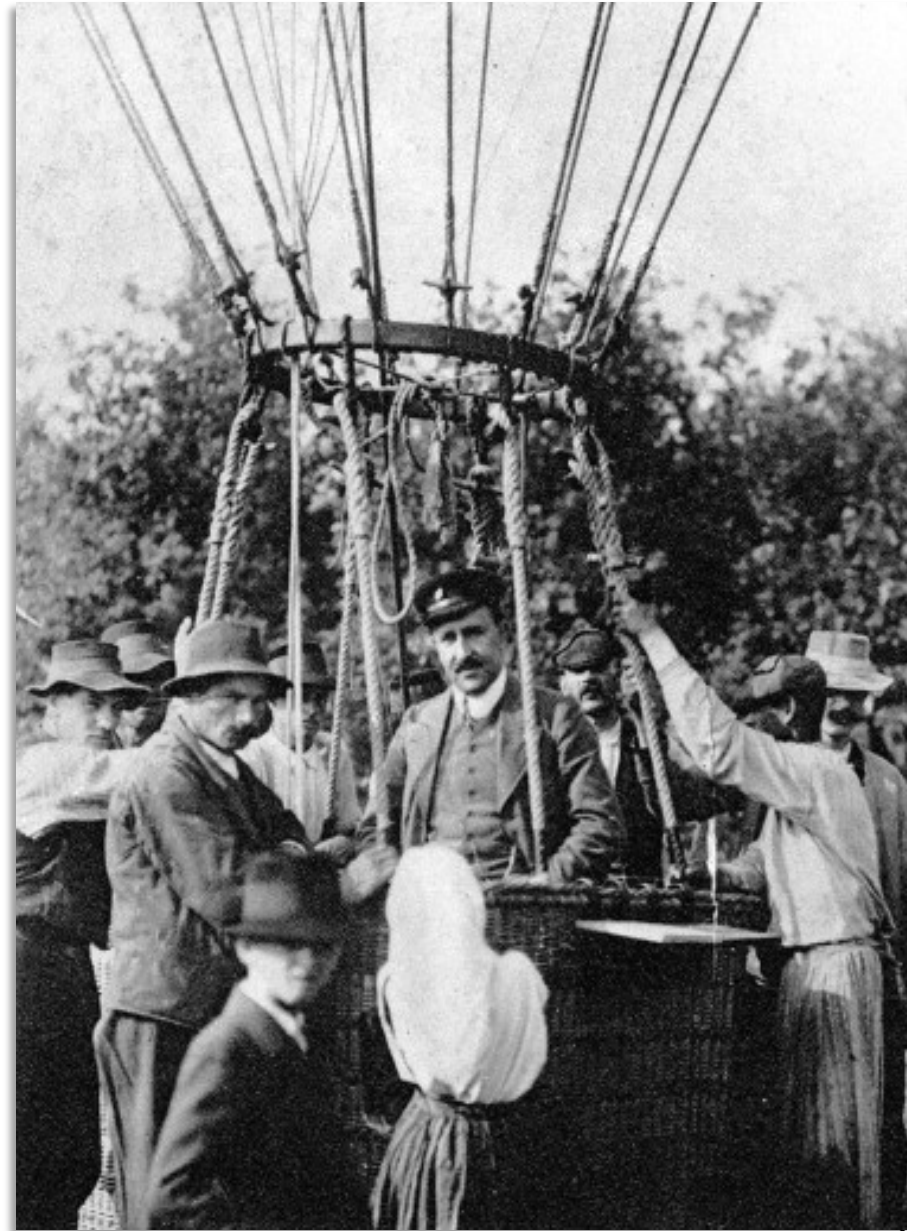
# The Ultra-High-Energy Cosmic Rays

**1912:** Discovery of ionizing radiation of cosmic origin by Victor Hess

> **charged particles (mainly proton)**

> It increases as the balloon gains altitude

The background radiation is of **cosmic origin!**

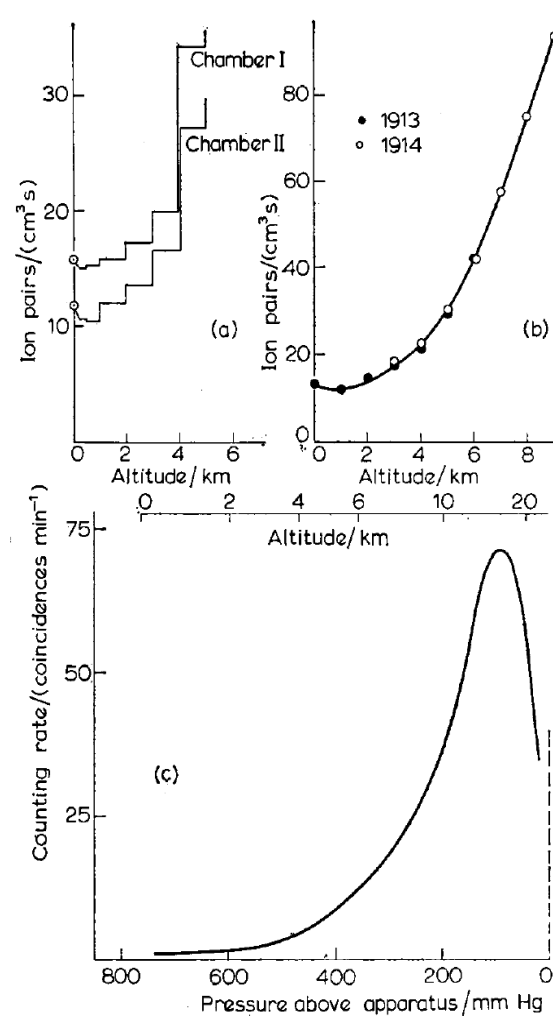
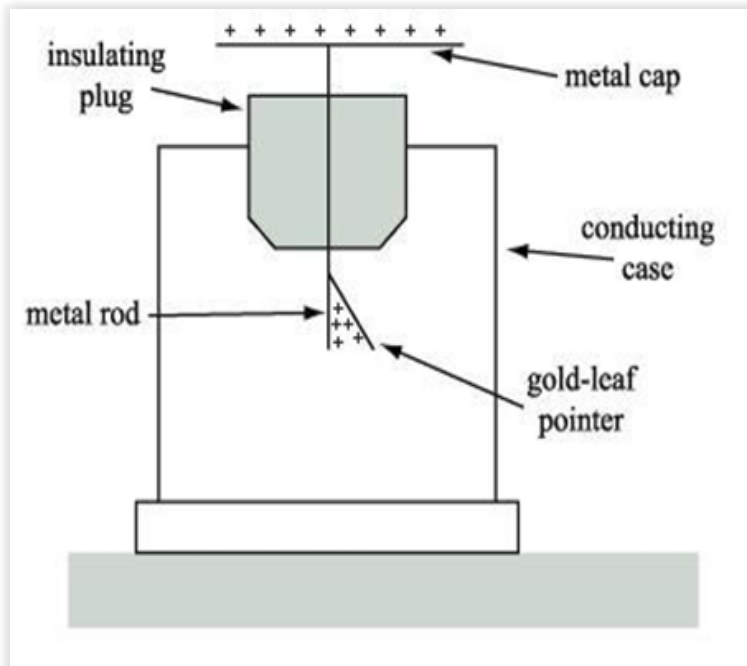


# A brief history of cosmic rays

**Beginning of the XXth century:**  
electroscopes are used to measure the radioactivity of materials.

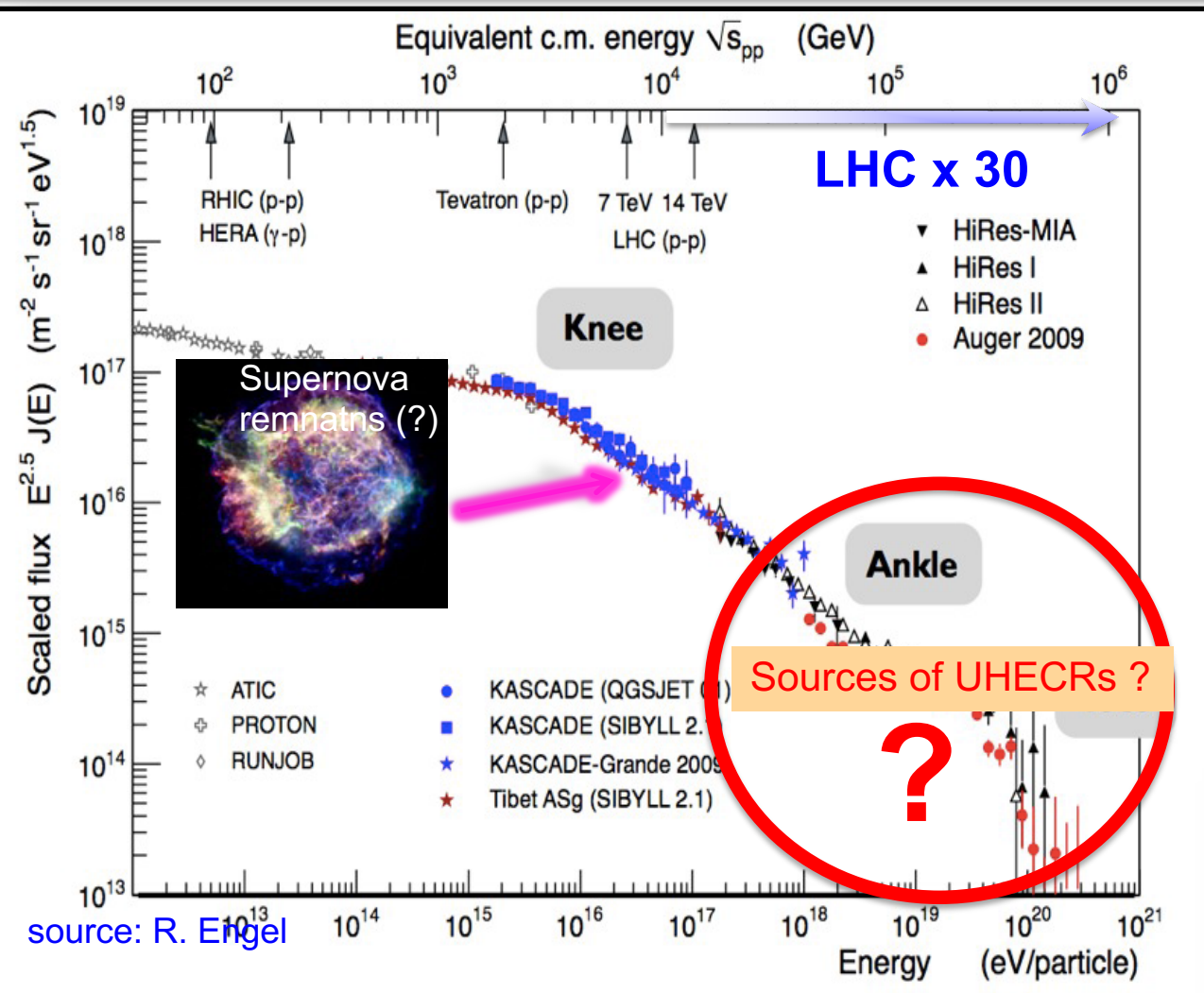
Discharge of electroscopes in the absence of any ionizing source → **existence of background radiation!**

What is its nature ?



1. Altitude variation of ionization. (a) Balloon ascent by Hess (1912) carrying two ion chambers. (b) Ascents by Kolhörster (1913, 1914) using ion chambers. (c) Coincidence counter telescope flown by Pfitzer (1936).

# The Ultra-High-Energy Cosmic Ray mystery



> What's their composition?

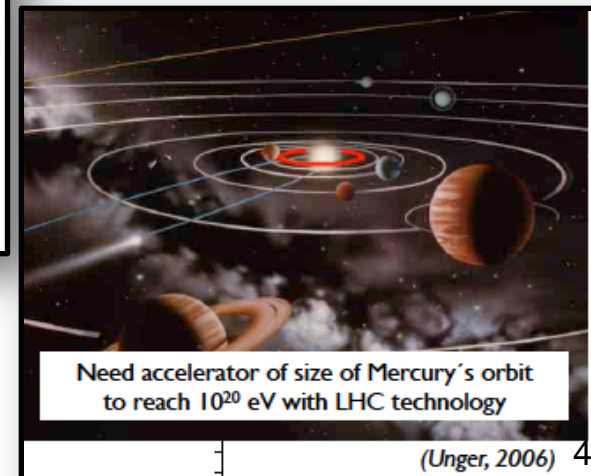
> Where do they come from?

→ anisotropies weakly correlated to known possible sources: active galactic nuclei, gamma-ray burst, ...

> How do they reach such tremendous energies?

**Spectrum suppression:**

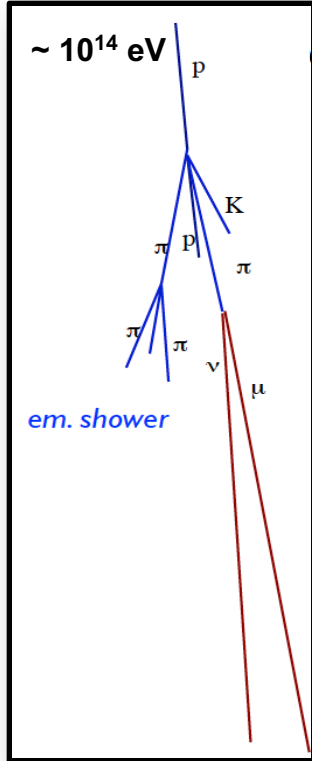
**in the past:** the GZK cut-off  
**now:** rather the efficiency limit of particle acceleration by sources



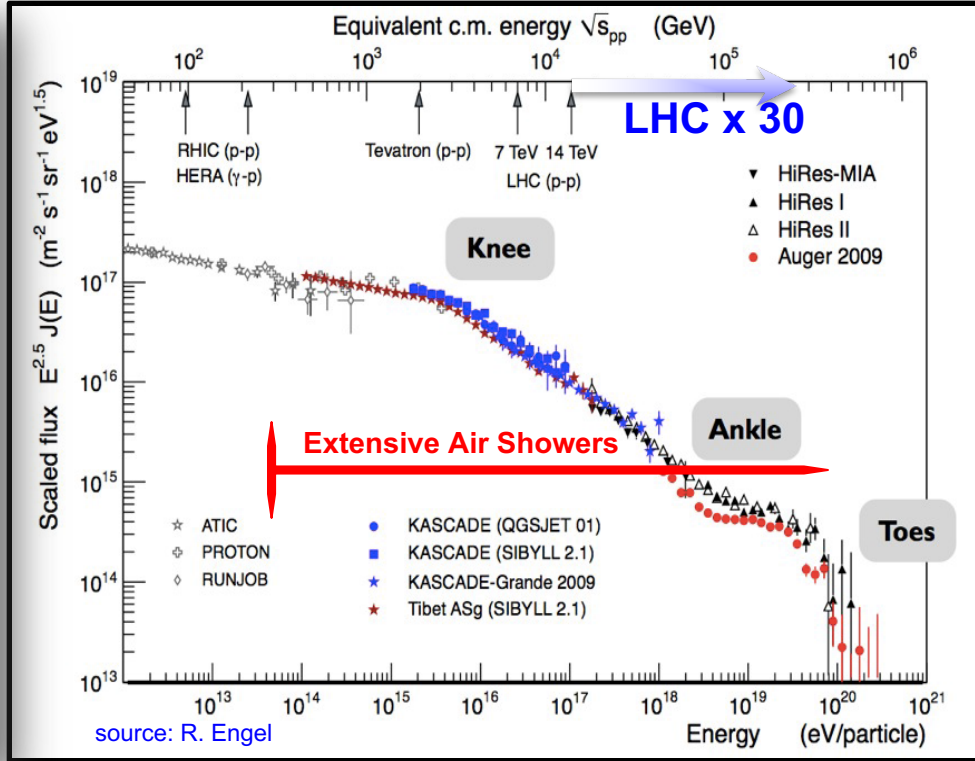
Particle physics beyond the reach of colliders

# UHECRs: Flux of cosmic rays and interaction energies

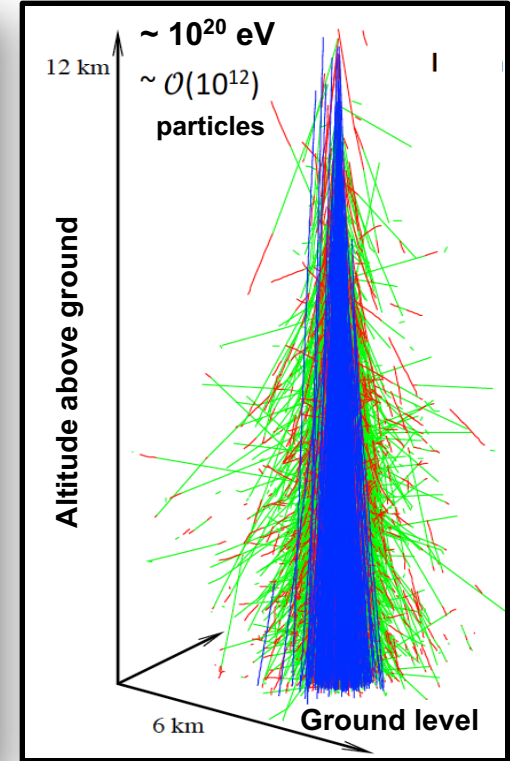
## Low energy air shower



## Cosmic rays spectrum



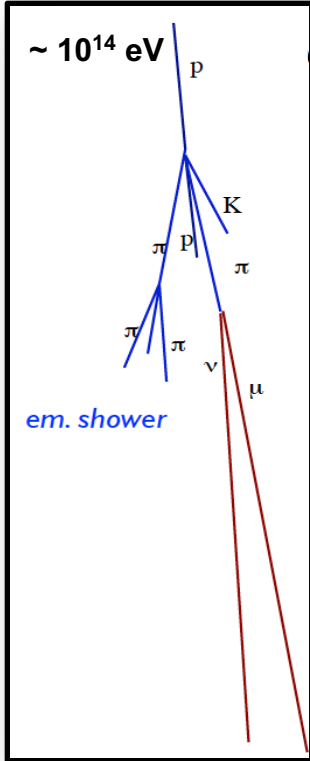
## High energy extensive air shower



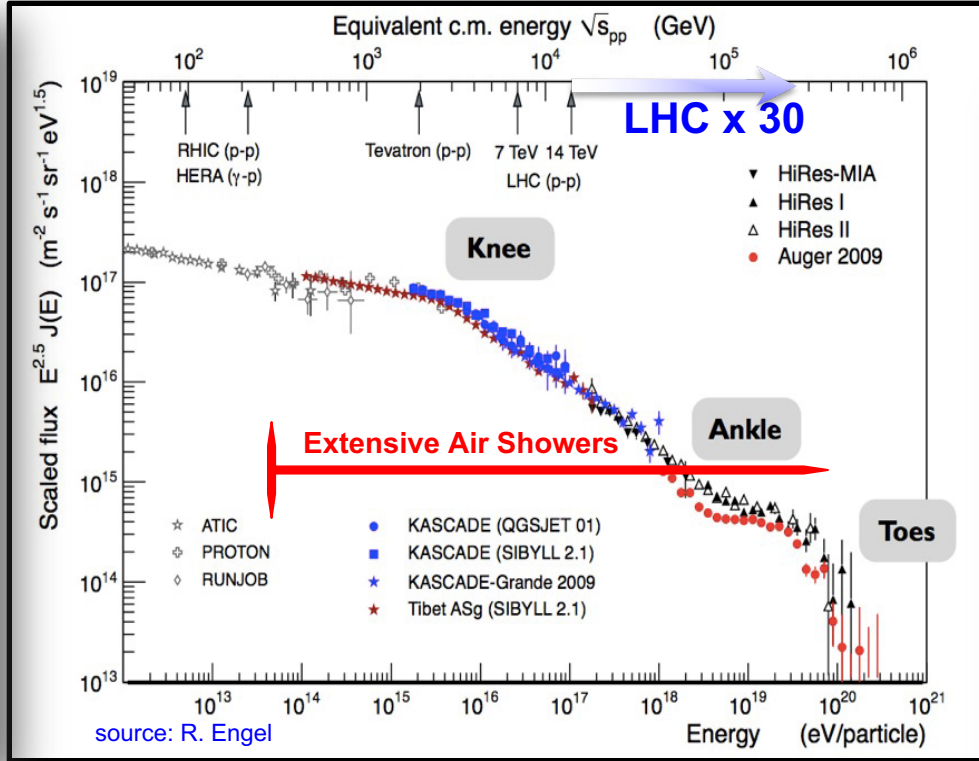
> At ultra-high-energies ( $> 10^{17}$  eV) particle physics beyond the reach of colliders  
 Need accelerator of size of Mercury's orbit to reach  $10^{20}$  eV with LHC technology

# UHECRs: Flux of cosmic rays and interaction energies

## Low energy air shower

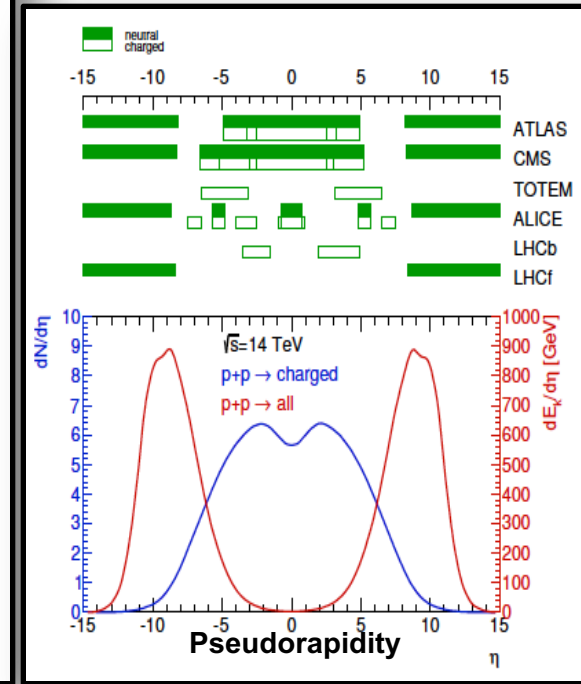


## Cosmic rays spectrum



## LHC acceptance and phase space

p-p data mainly from "central" detectors  $|\eta| < 2.5$

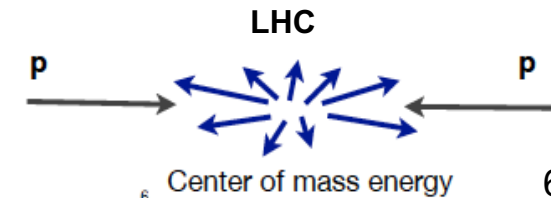


## Different phase space for LHC and air showers:

- > most of the particles produced at midrapidity - important for models
- > EAS:  $N_{\text{particle}} \sim E$ , most of energy carried by forward (backward) particles - important for air showers
- > More LHC data needed in the forward directions and for heavier targets to fill required phase-space for EAS

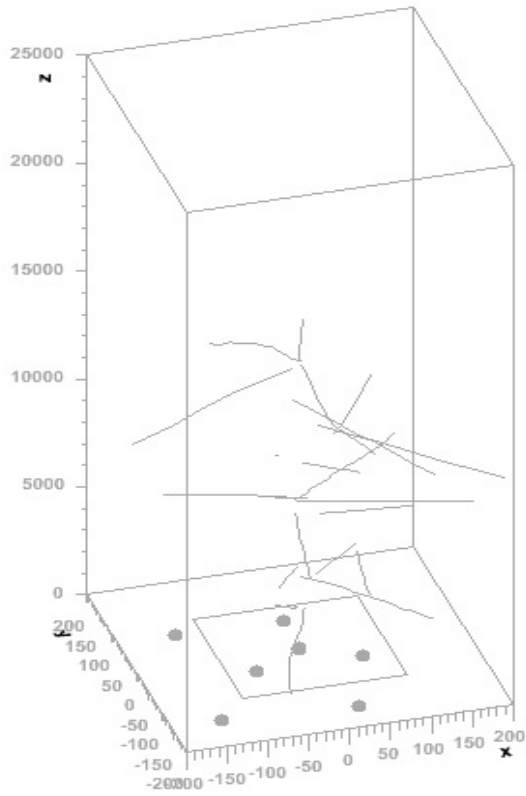


$\eta \equiv -\ln(\tan(\theta/2))$   
 $\eta = 0$  ( $\theta = 90$ ) is midrapidity  
 $\eta \gg 1$  is forward  $\eta \ll 1$  is backward

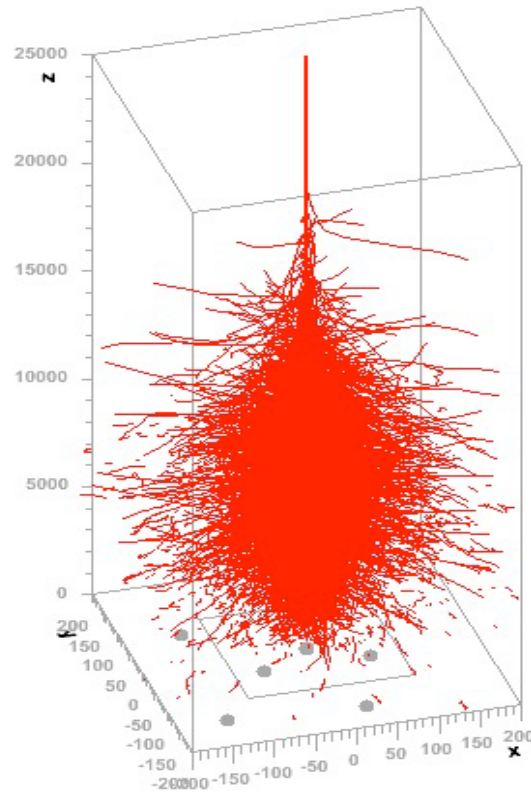


# Particles of a gamma-ray shower

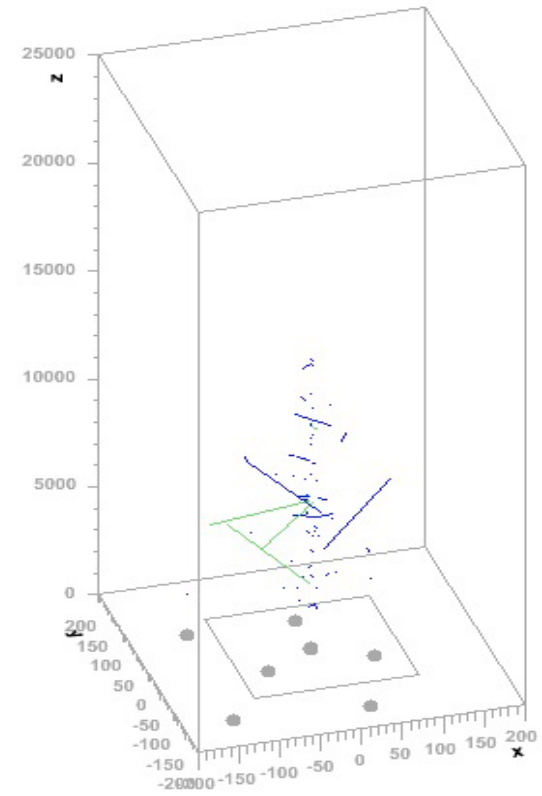
muons



electrs

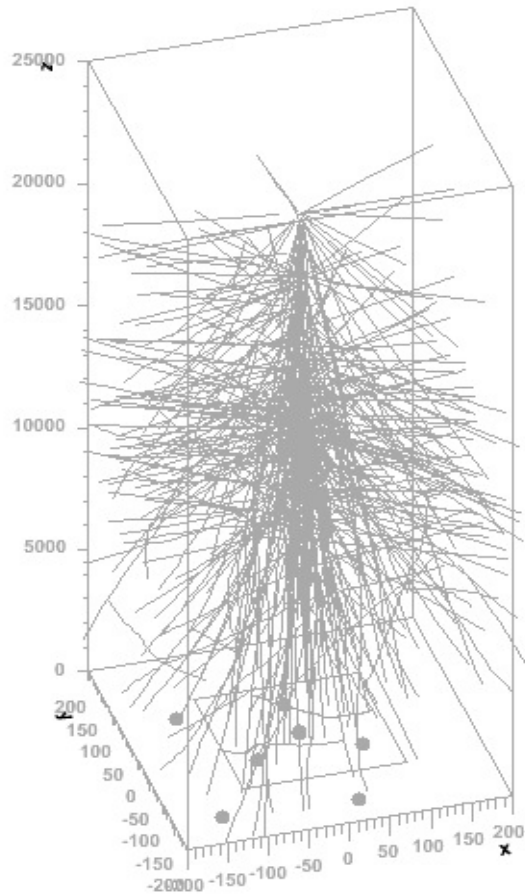


hadrons neutrns

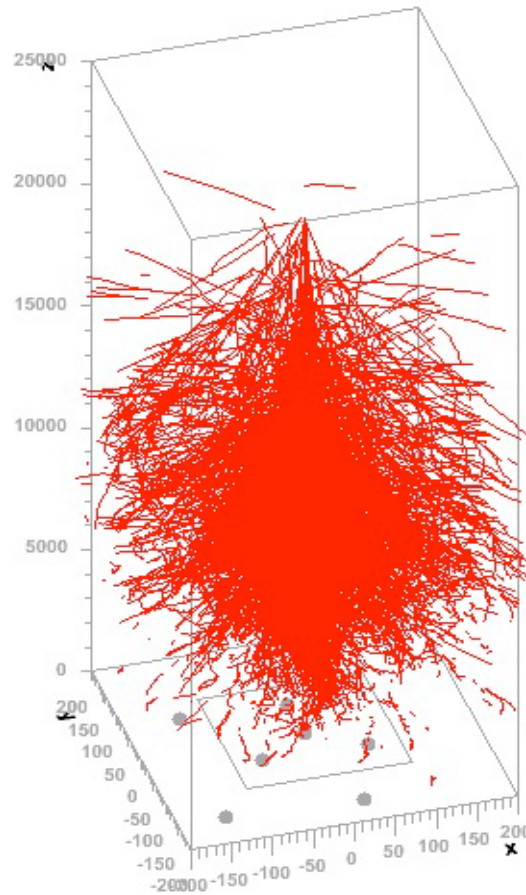


# Particles of an proton shower

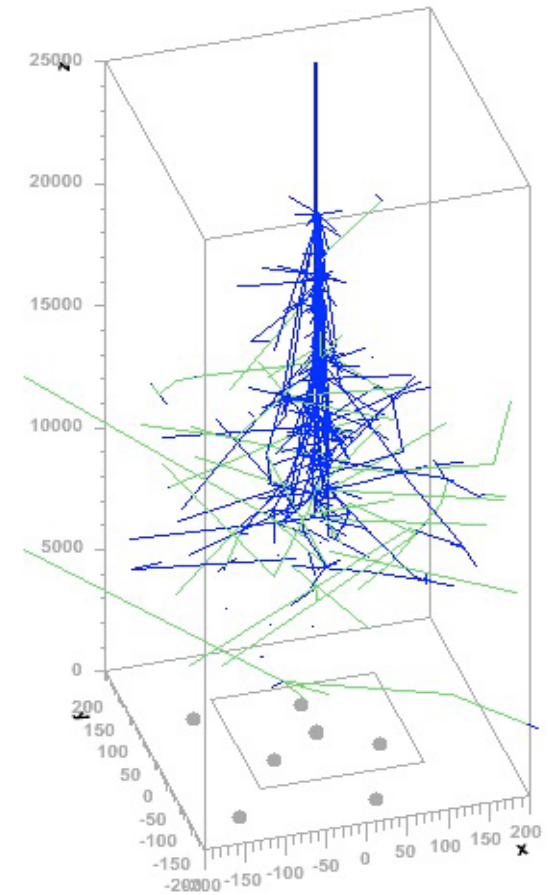
muons



electrs



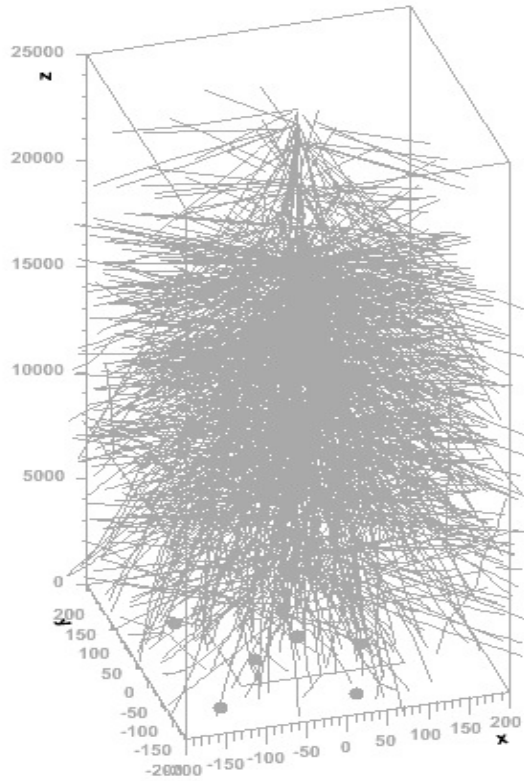
hadrons neutr



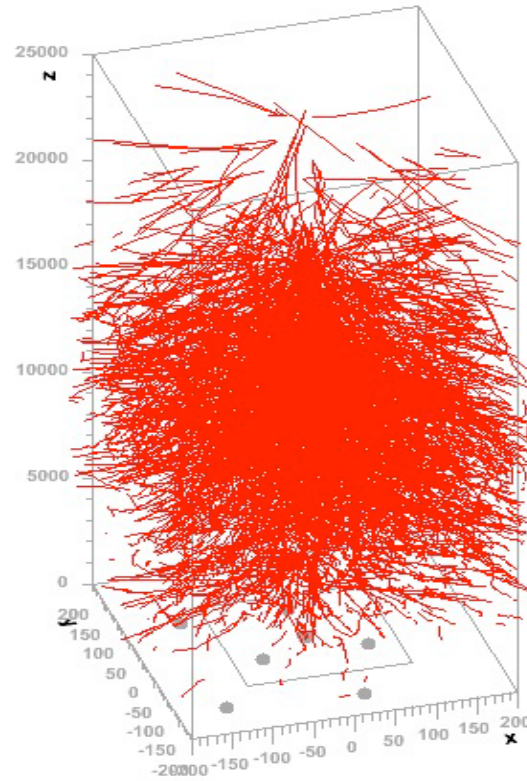


# Particles of an iron shower

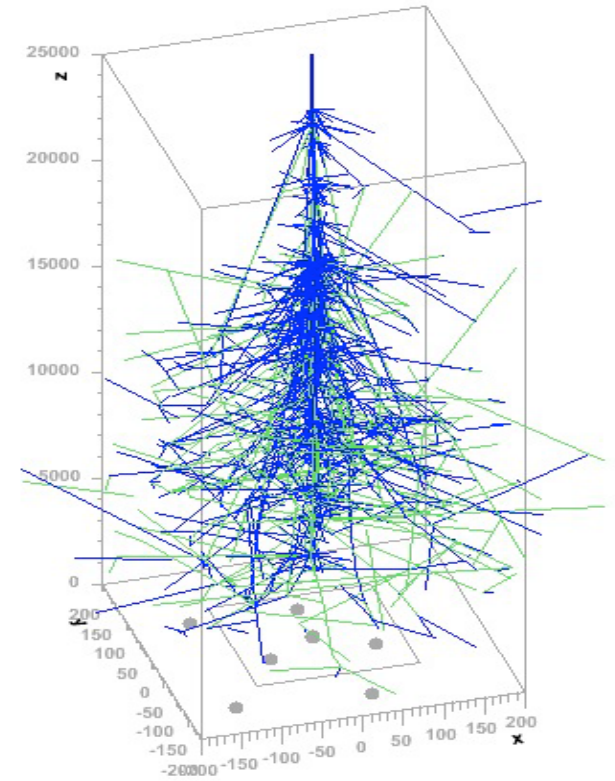
muons



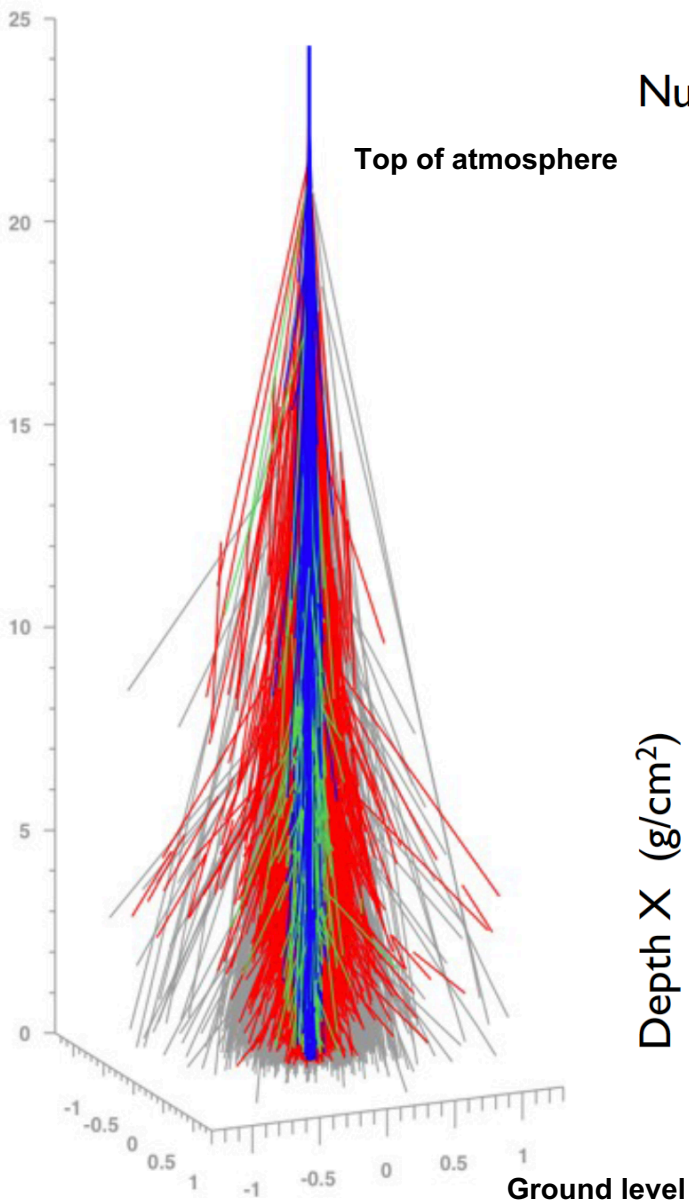
electrs



hadrons neutrns



# Electromagnetic showers: Heitler model



Number of charged particles

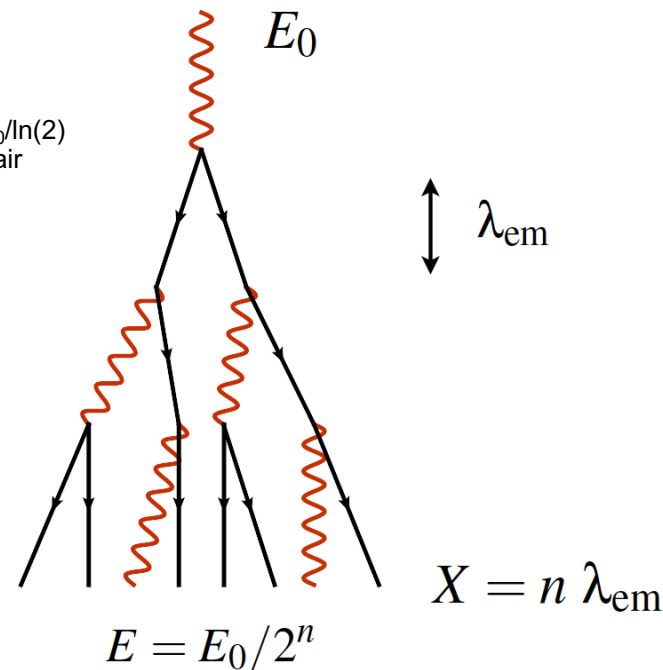
**Primary photon in air**

travel some fixed distance  $d=X_0/\ln(2)$   
and interact, producing e-/e+ pair

electron and positron radiates  
one bremsstrahlung photo

Depth X (g/cm<sup>2</sup>)

... until e- and e+  
reach a critical energy  $E_c$   
below which radiative energy losses  
are overpowered by ionization  
and Compton scattering energy losses



Shower maximum:  $E = E_c$

$$N_{max} = E_0 / E_c$$

$$X_{max} \sim \lambda_{em} \ln(E_0 / E_c)$$

# Electromagnetic showers: Cascade equations

Energy loss  
of electron:  $\frac{dE}{dX} = -\alpha - \frac{E}{X_0}$

Critical energy:  $E_c = \alpha X_0 \sim 85 \text{ MeV}$

Radiation length:  $X_0 \sim 36 \text{ g/cm}^2$

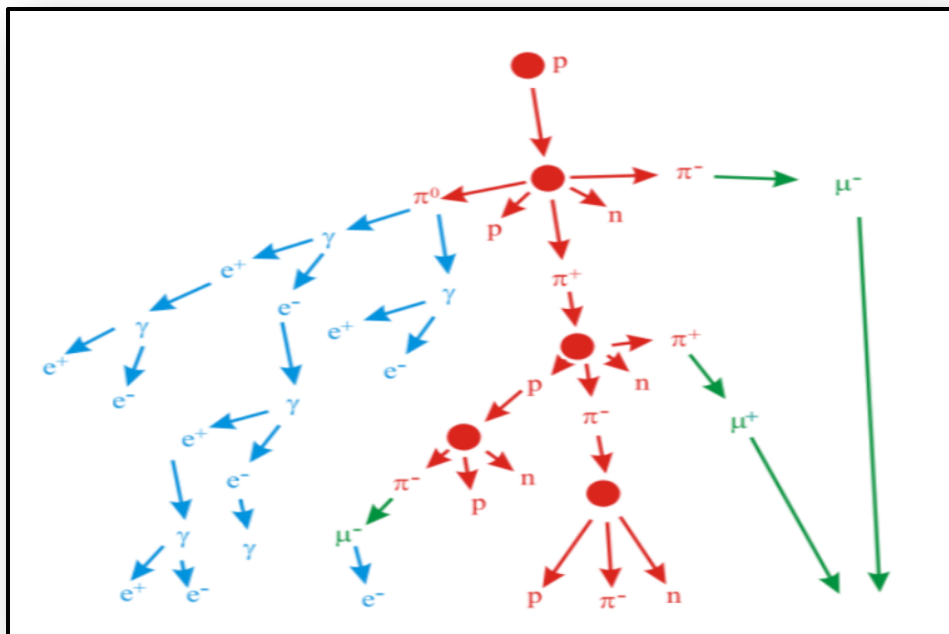
## Cascade equations

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\Phi_e(E)}{dX} = & -\frac{\sigma_e}{\langle m_{\text{air}} \rangle} \Phi_e(E) + \int_E^\infty \frac{\sigma_e}{\langle m_{\text{air}} \rangle} \Phi_e(\tilde{E}) P_{e \rightarrow e}(\tilde{E}, E) d\tilde{E} \\ & + \int_E^\infty \frac{\sigma_\gamma}{\langle m_{\text{air}} \rangle} \Phi_\gamma(\tilde{E}) P_{\gamma \rightarrow e}(\tilde{E}, E) d\tilde{E} + \alpha \frac{\partial \Phi_e(E)}{\partial E} \end{aligned}$$

$$X_{\text{max}} \approx X_0 \ln \left( \frac{E_0}{E_c} \right)$$

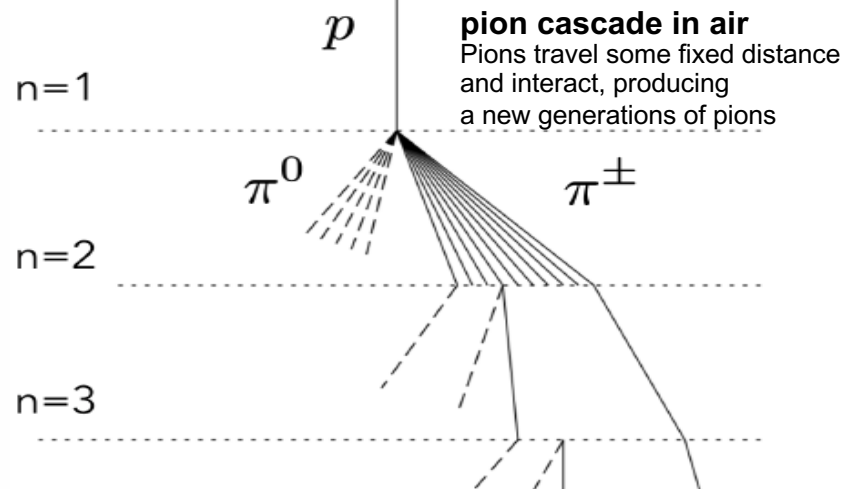
$$N_{\text{max}} \approx \frac{0.31}{\sqrt{\ln(E_0/E_c) - 0.33}} \frac{E_0}{E_c}$$

# Air shower and its connections to hadronic interactions



## Hadronic Heitler model

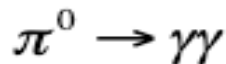
J. Matthews, Astropart. Phys. 22 (2005) 387



## Electromagnetic part (EM):

well understood

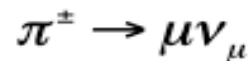
EM cascade takes > 50% of energy from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> hadronic generations



Sensitive to High Energy Physics

## Hadronic cascade:

Keeps developing until critical energy of mesons  $\xi_c^{\pi^\pm}$



Sensitive to High & Low Energy Physics

**Muon part:** have large model uncertainties

measured observables:

Muon number

$$N_\mu \propto A E^\beta / (A \xi_c^{\pi^\pm})^\beta$$

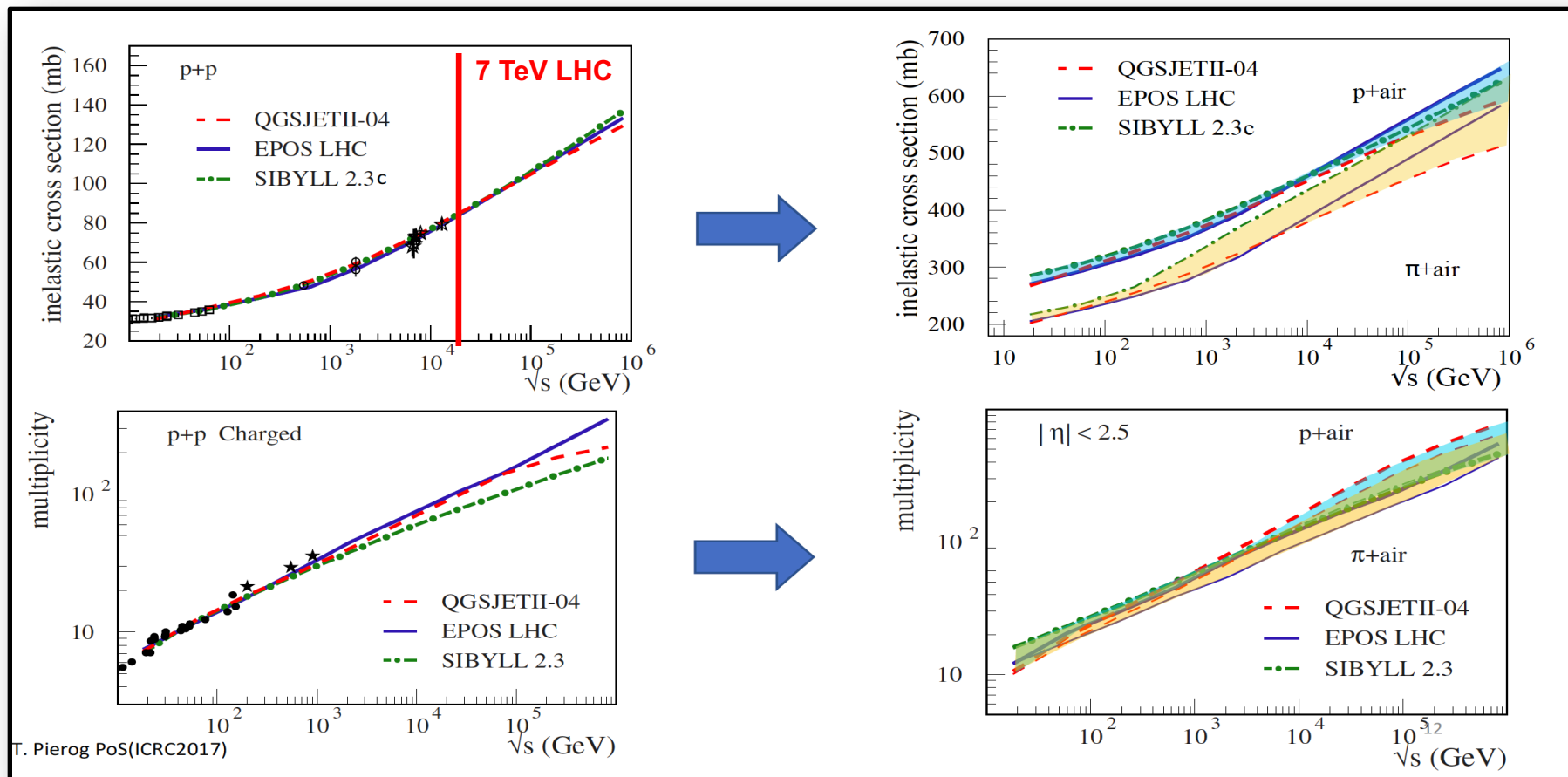
Muon production depth and its error

$$X_\mu, \text{RMS}_{X_\mu}$$

> Muon number via parameter  $\beta$  depends on multiplicity, pion charge-ratio, and (in)elasticity,  
- connection between air shower physics and hadronic interaction models

# Hadronic interactions models

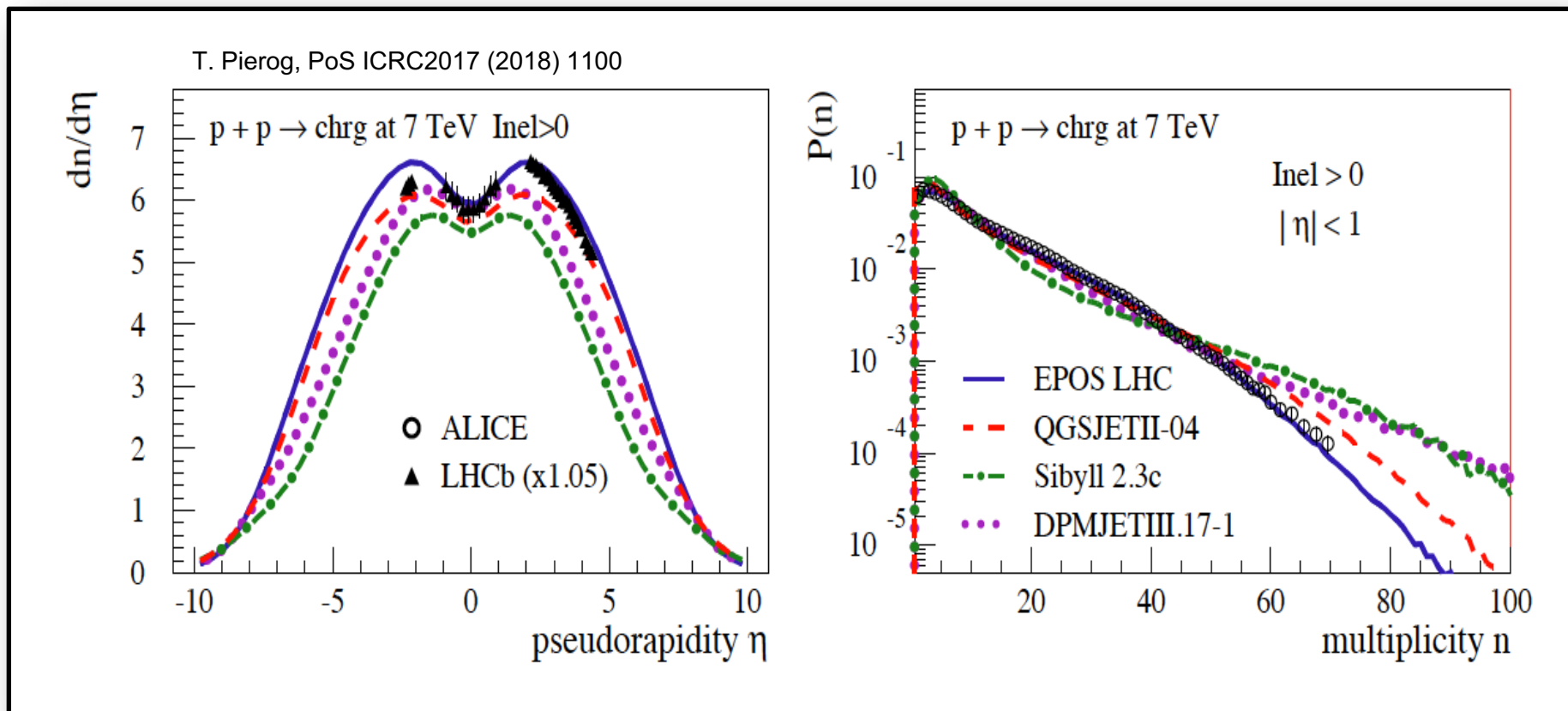
- > Hadronic interaction models commonly used to simulate EAS were updated to take into account LHC data at 7 TeV: **QGSJETII-04** Phys. Rev. D 83, 014018, **EPOS-LHC** Phys. Rev. C 92, 034906, and **SIBYLL-2.3c** Phys. Rev. D 80, 094003



- > The p-p cross section is very well described up to the LHC energy (extrapolation up to the highest energies is very similar between models).
  - ... but differences in the extrapolations of the p-air and  $\pi$ -air inelastic cross-sections
- > More LHC data needed in the forward directions and for heavier targets.

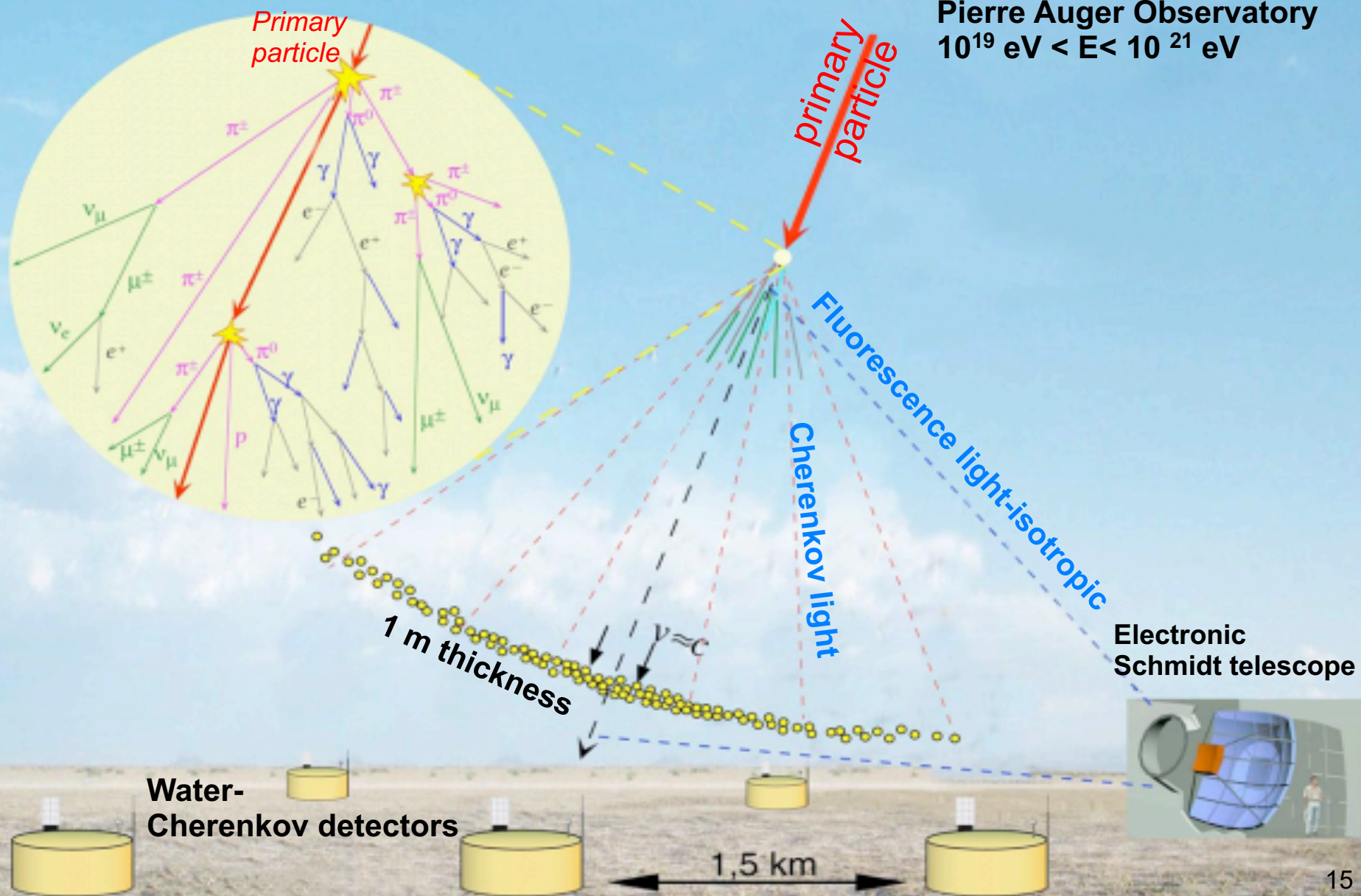
# Hadronic interactions models

> Only small differences in p-p model predictions - main difference in high multiplicity tail



> The extrapolations of p-p data to highest energies have large uncertainties

# Extended air showers



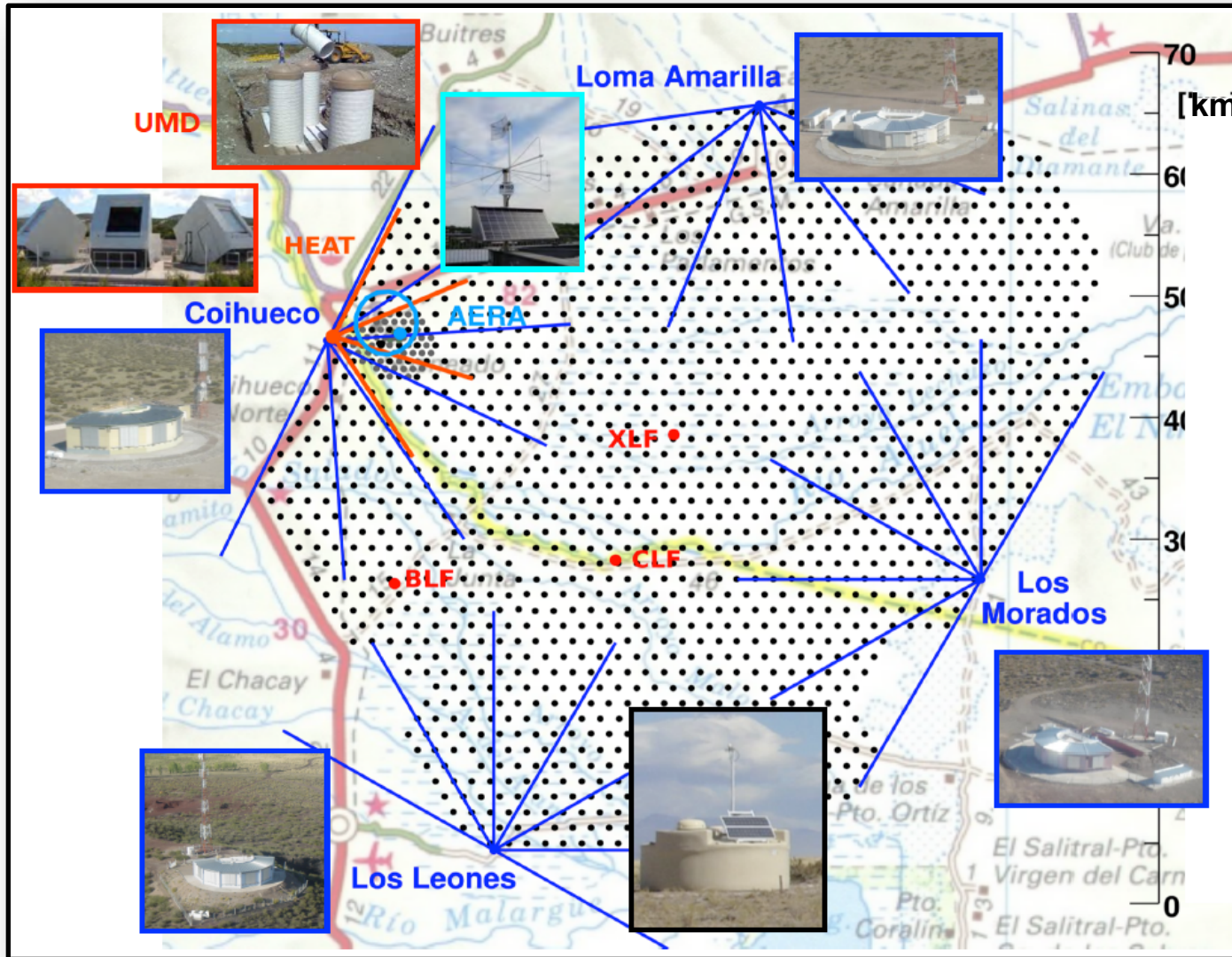
# Pierre Auger Observatory - the largest UHECRs observatory

## > Water-Cherenkov stations

- ➔ SD1500 : 1600, 1.5 km grid, 3000 km<sup>2</sup>
- ➔ SD750 : 61, 0.75 km grid, 25 km<sup>2</sup>

## > Fluorescence Sites:

- ➔ 4 sites, 24 telescopes, 1-30deg FoV
- HEAT: ➔ 3 high elevation FD, 30-60 deg FOV



## Underground Muon Detectors:

- ➔ 7 in engineering array phase -61 aside the Infill stations

## AERA radio antennas

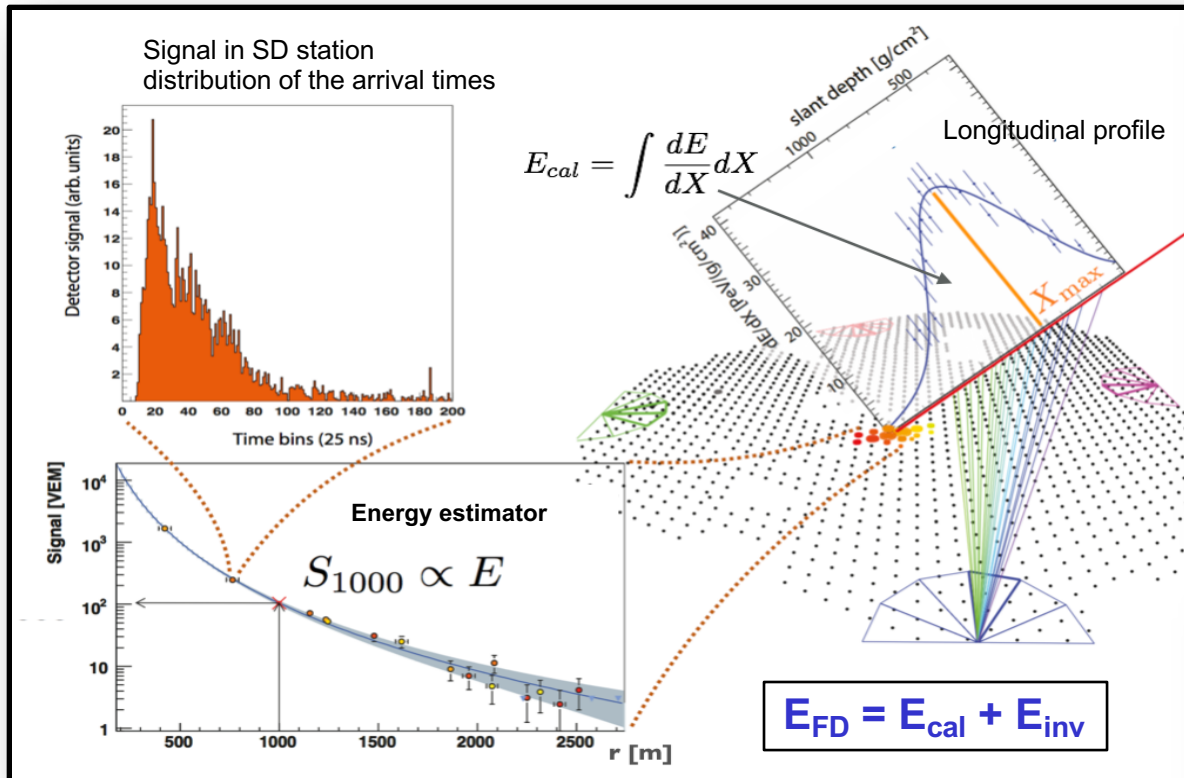
- ➔ 153 graded 17 km<sup>2</sup>

+Atmospheric monitoring devices CLF, XLF, Lidars, ...

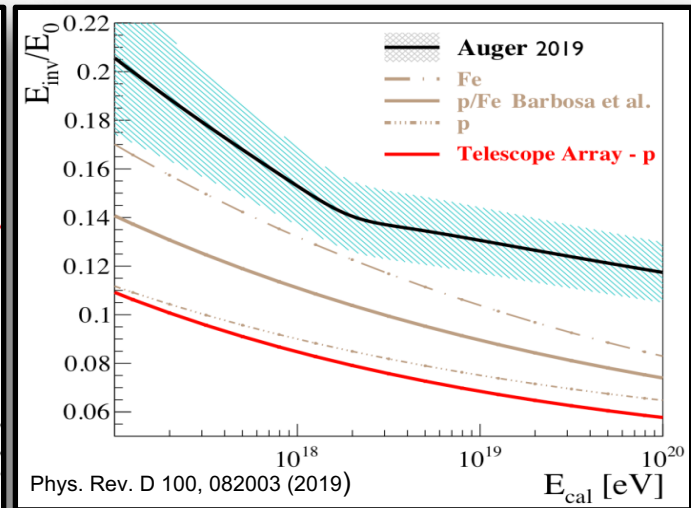


# Hybrid reconstruction

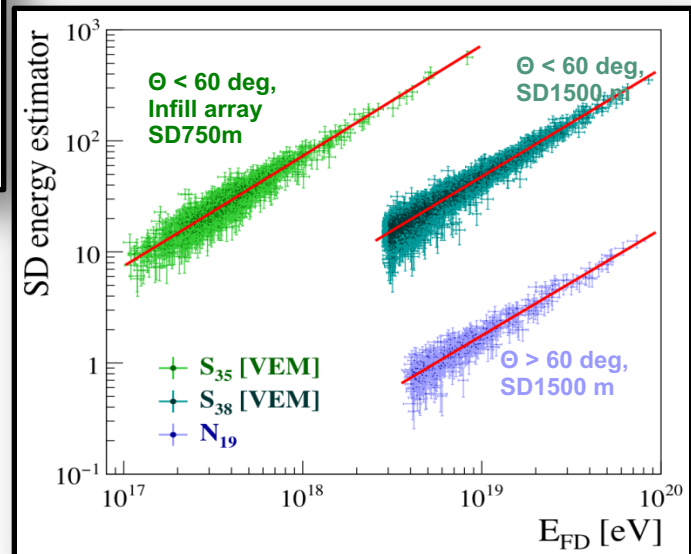
## > Detection of air shower



## Invisible energy fraction



## Hybrid Energy Calibration (model indepen.)



- Auger “design concept”. Twofold benefit:
- > Hybrid events fewer (DC  $\approx$  15%) but superior (better geometry, energy and mass determination)
  - > Hybrid events calibrate SD events (DC  $\approx$  100%)

Energy scale set by Fluorescence Detector

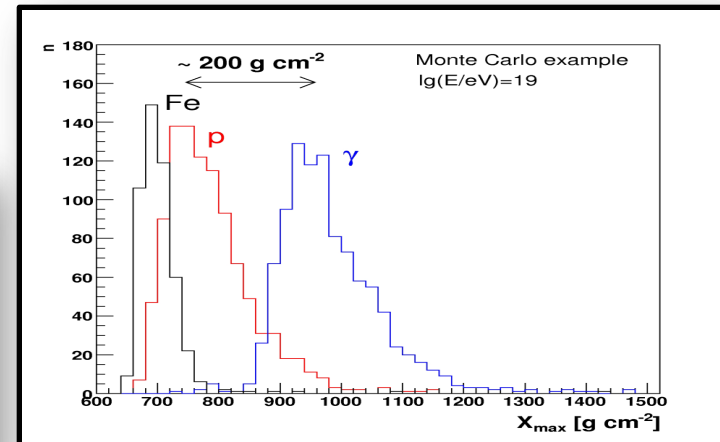
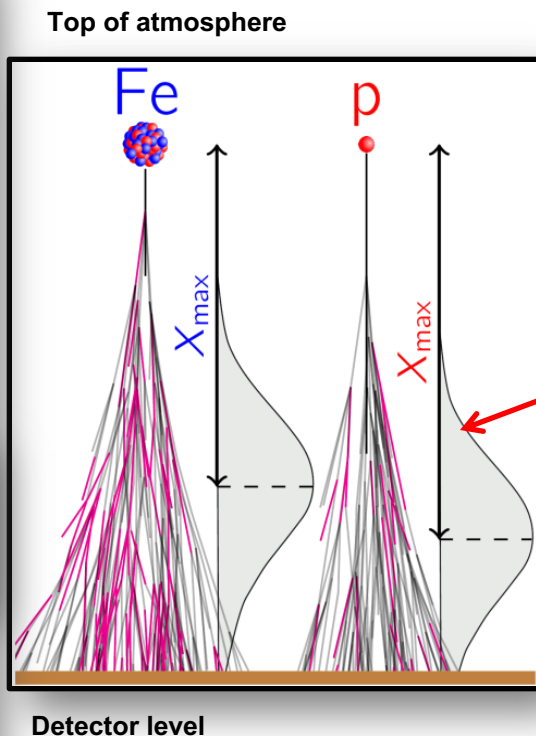
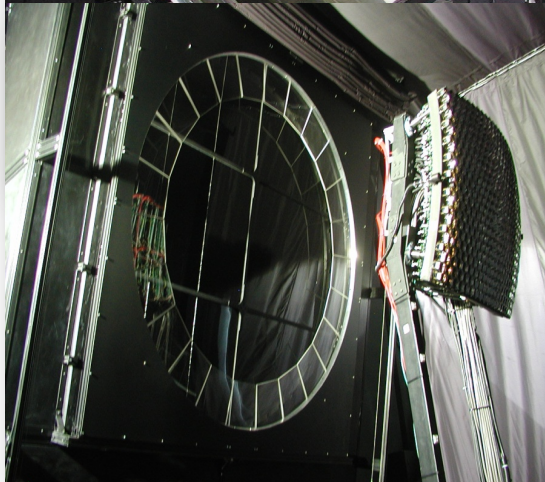
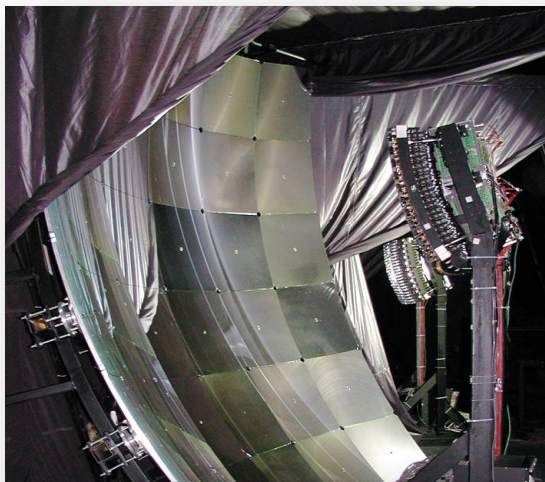
$\sigma(E_{FD})/E_{FD} \sim 8\%$

Systematic uncertainty  $\sim 14\%$

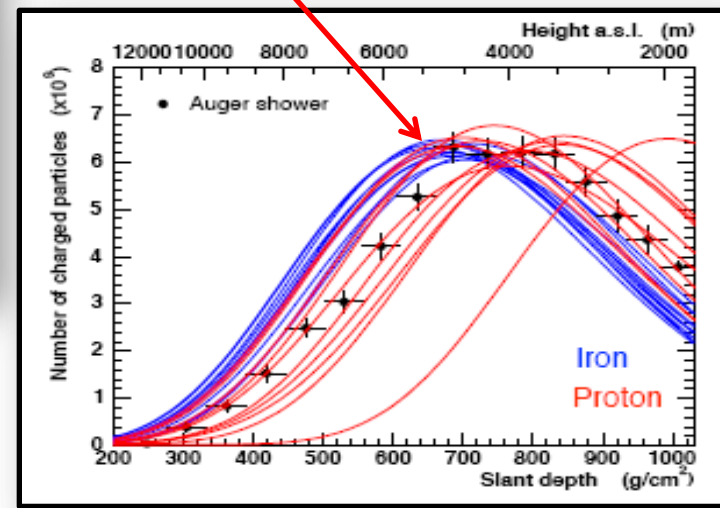
# Mass composition with FD

> **Depth of shower maximum**  $X_{\max}$  is an observable sensitive to the mass composition

> ... from fluorescence detector:



Longitudinal Profile



$$X_{\max}(\text{Fe}) < X_{\max}(\text{p}) < X_{\max}(\gamma)$$

$$\text{RMS}[X_{\max}(\text{Fe})] < \text{RMS}[X_{\max}(\text{p})]$$

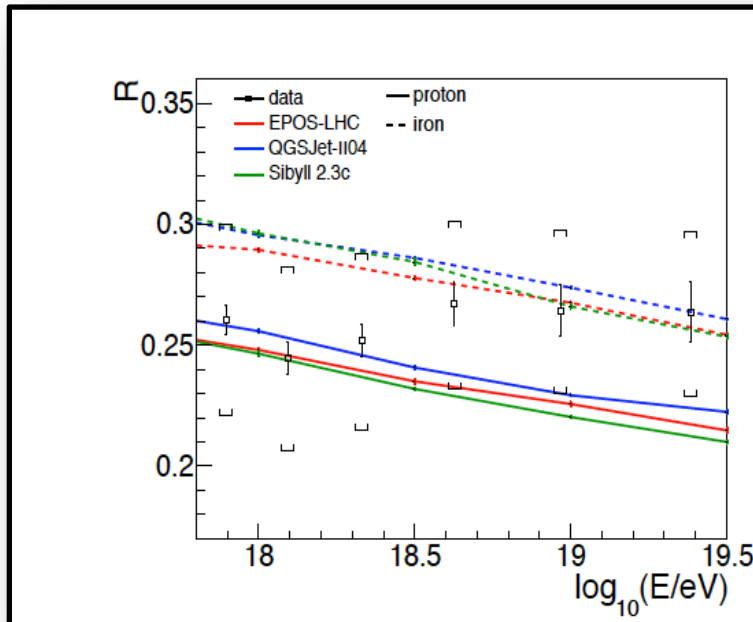
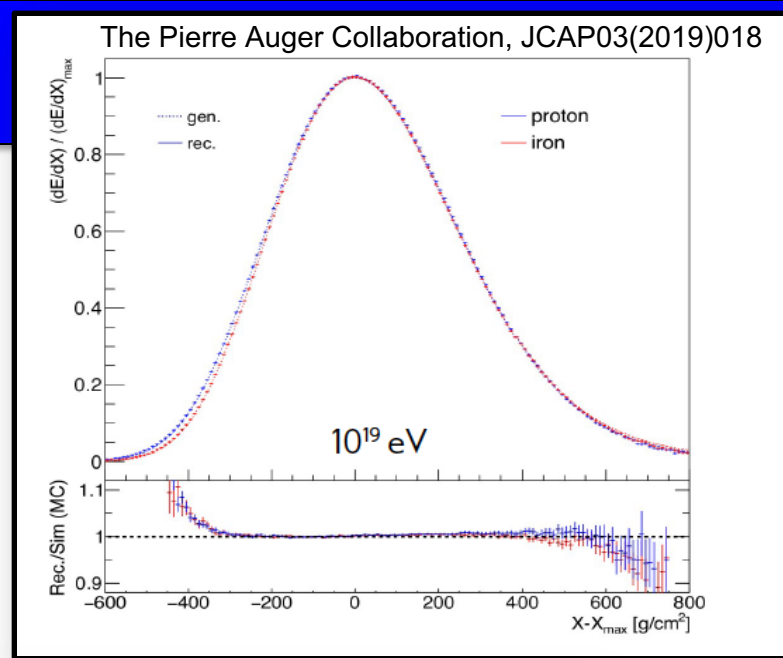
# Longitudinal profile

> Gaisser-Hillas function describes shape of longitudinal profile well (within measurement uncertainties)

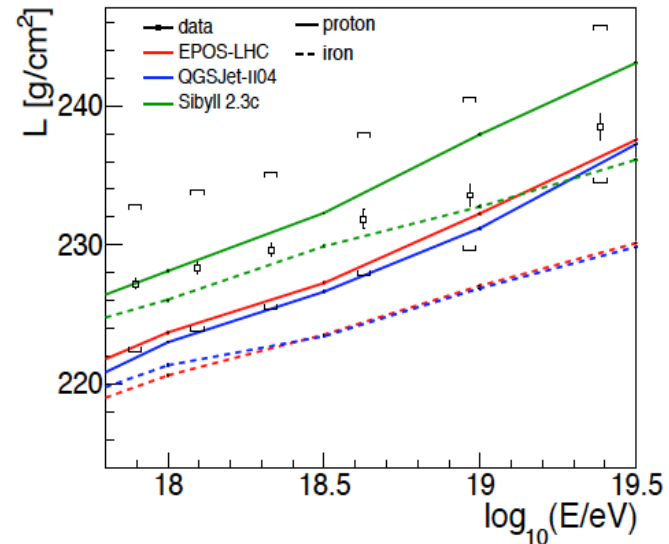
$$\left(\frac{dE}{dX}\right)' = \left(1 + R \frac{X'}{L}\right)^{R-2} \exp\left(-\frac{X'}{RL}\right)$$

width parameter

asymmetry parameter  $R = \sqrt{\lambda/|X'_0|}$ ,  $L = \sqrt{|X'_0|\lambda}$  and  $X'_0 \equiv X_0 - X_{\max}$



The Pierre Auger Collaboration, JCAP03(2019)018



> The asymmetry,  $R$ , and the width,  $L$ , in data agree well with the predicted values for all models

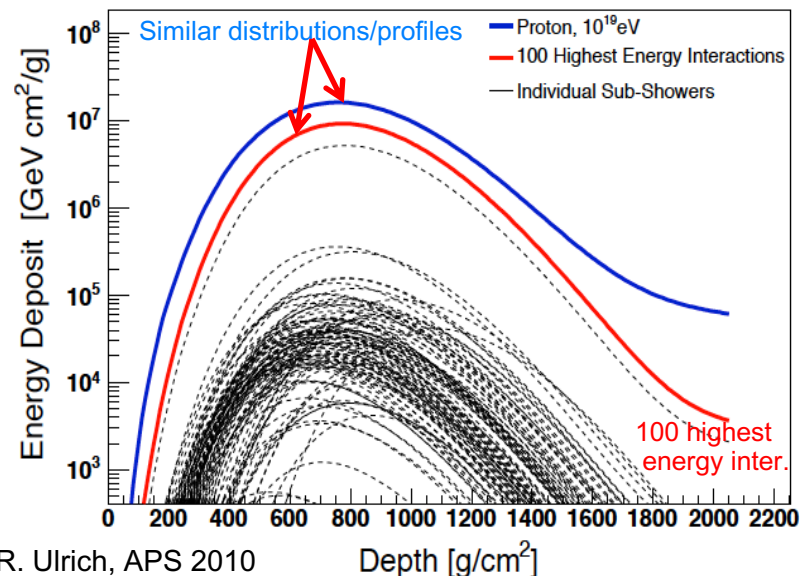
# Influence of hadronic models parameters

## $X_{\max}$ and its RMS sensitive to

- inelastic cross-section (very sensitive)

High-precision measurements from LHC, see e.g. LHCb collab. JHEP 1806 (2018) 100 and refs. therein

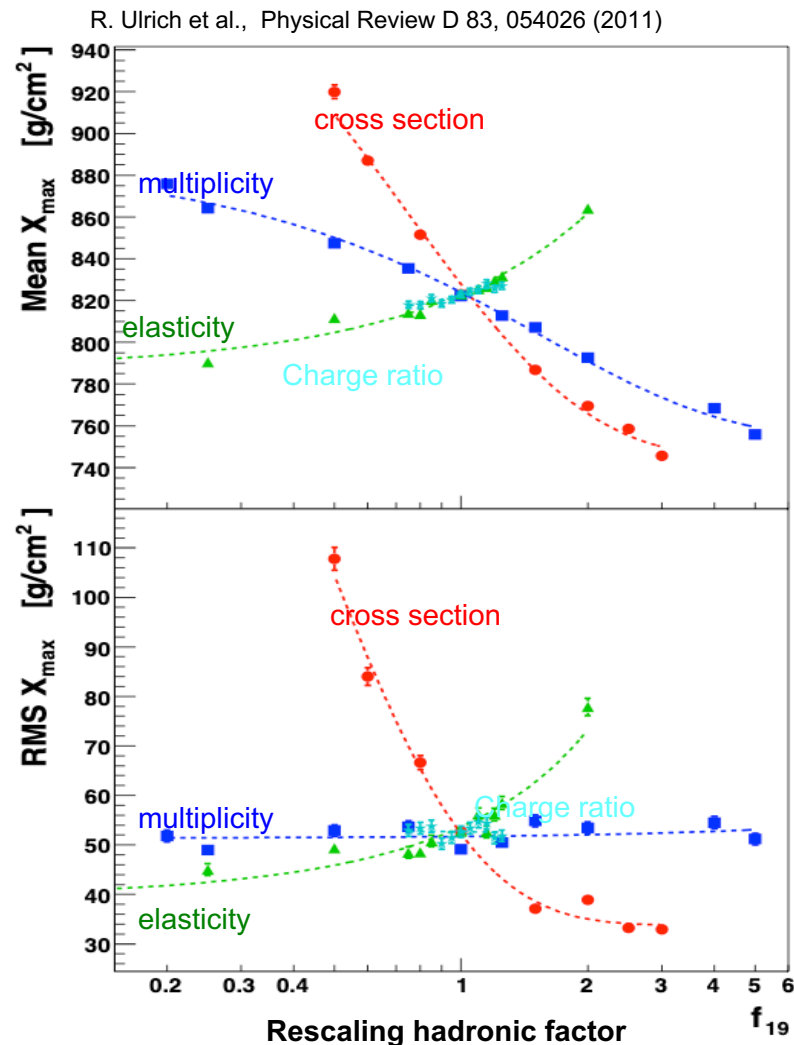
- hadron multiplicity



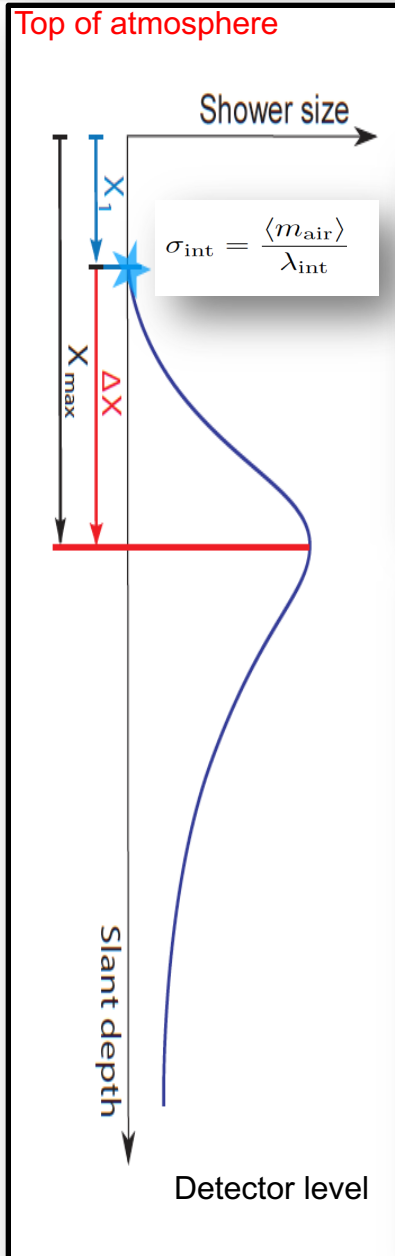
$X_{\max}$  is dominated by first interactions and related mostly to electromagnetic component of EAS

The average shape of profile is well reproduced by the Gaisser-Hillas parametrization and agree well with predictions from hadronic interaction models, The Pierre Auger Collaboration, JCAP03(2019)018

## Impact of hadronic interaction features on the shower maximum



# p-Air cross-section method



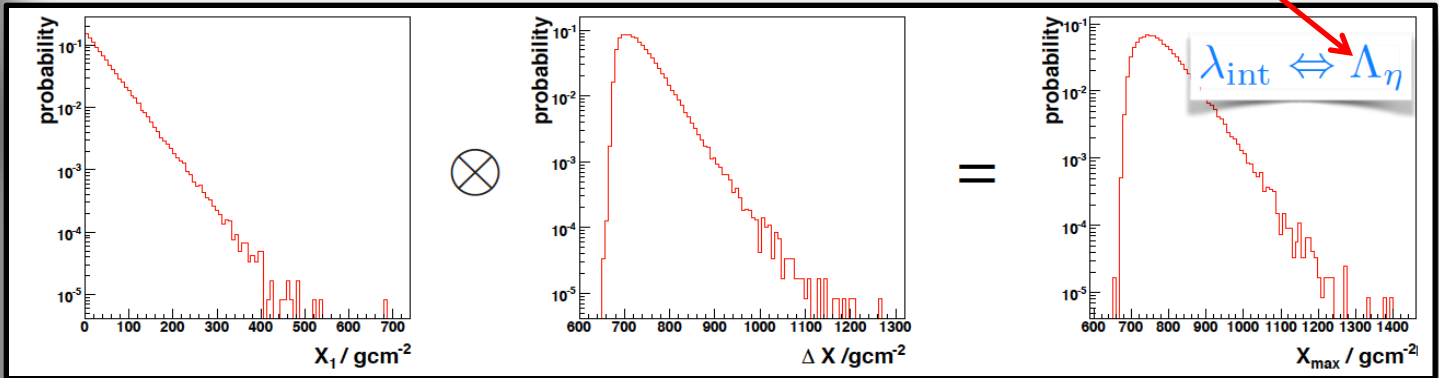
$$\frac{d p}{d X_1} = \frac{1}{\lambda_{int}} e^{-\frac{X_1}{\lambda_{int}}}$$

Interaction length

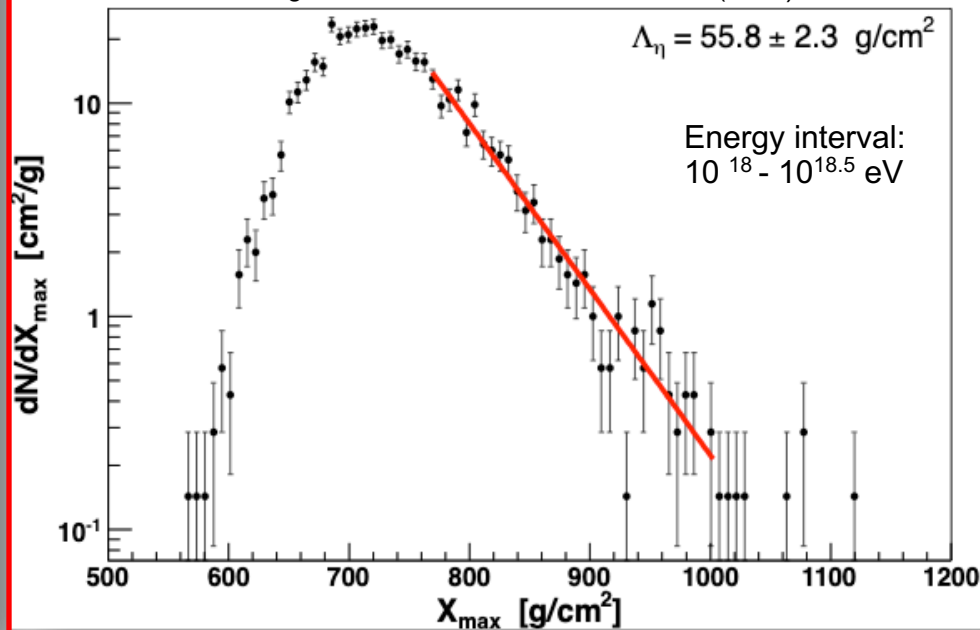
Tail of  $X_{max}$  distributions:

$$\frac{d N}{d X_{max}} \propto e^{-\frac{X_{max}}{\Lambda_{\eta}}}$$

Fitting parameter



The Pierre Auger Collaboration, PRL 109, 062002 (2012)



## Difficulties

- mass composition
  - Possible He contamination main source of systematic uncertainty.  $\eta = 25\%$  He maximum contamination assumed
- fluctuations in shower development
  - (model needed for correction)
- experimental resolution
  - $\sim 20 \text{ g/cm}^2$

# p-p/p-Air cross-section

> Conversion from p-air to p-p by Glauber theory to get inelastic p-p cross-section

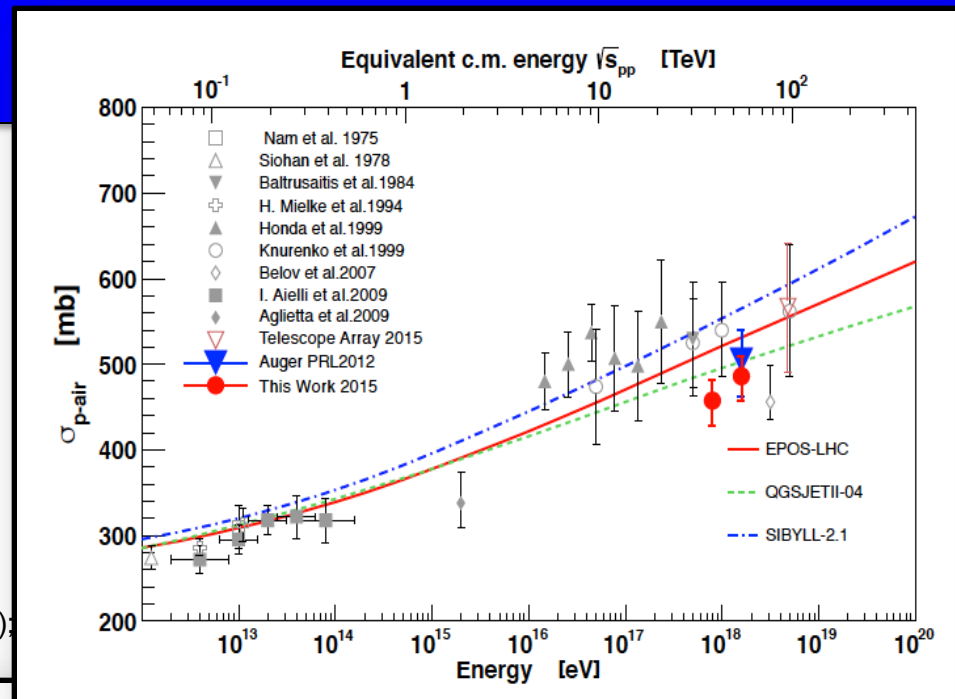
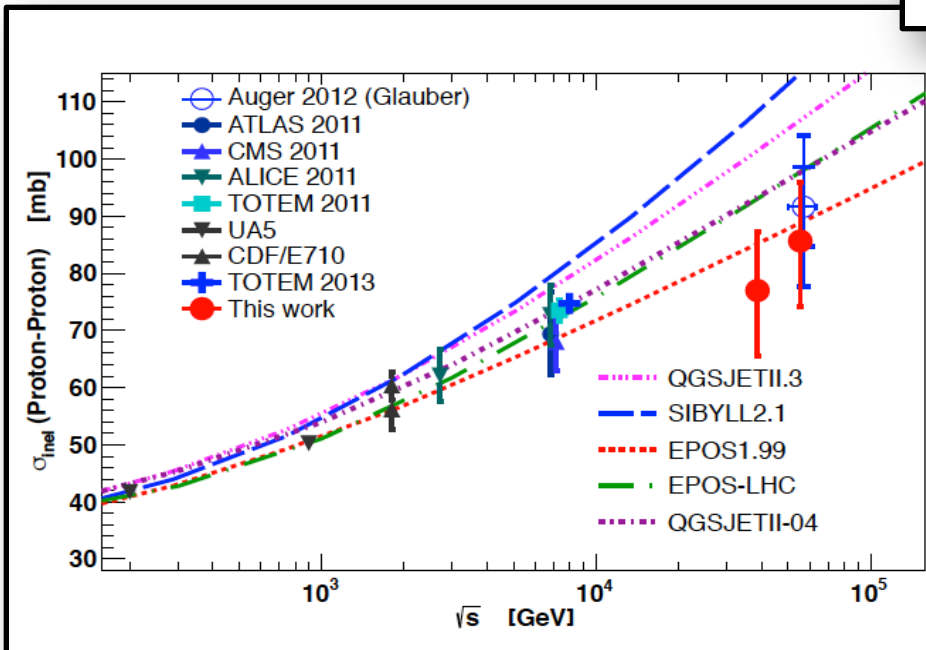
lower energy point in mb

$$457.5 \pm 17.8(\text{stat}) +_{-25}^{+19}(\text{sys})$$

higher energy point in mb

$$485.8 \pm 15.8(\text{stat}) +_{-25}^{+19}(\text{sys})$$

The Pierre Auger Collaboration Phys. Rev. Lett. 109, 062002 (2012);  
R. Ulrich for the Pierre Auger Collaboration, ICRC2015



p-p cross-section in mb:

$$85.62 \pm 5(\text{stat}) +_{-7.4}^{+5.5}(\text{sys}) \pm 7.1(\text{Glauber})$$

$$\text{at } \sqrt{s_{pp}} = 55.5 \pm 3.6 \text{ TeV}$$

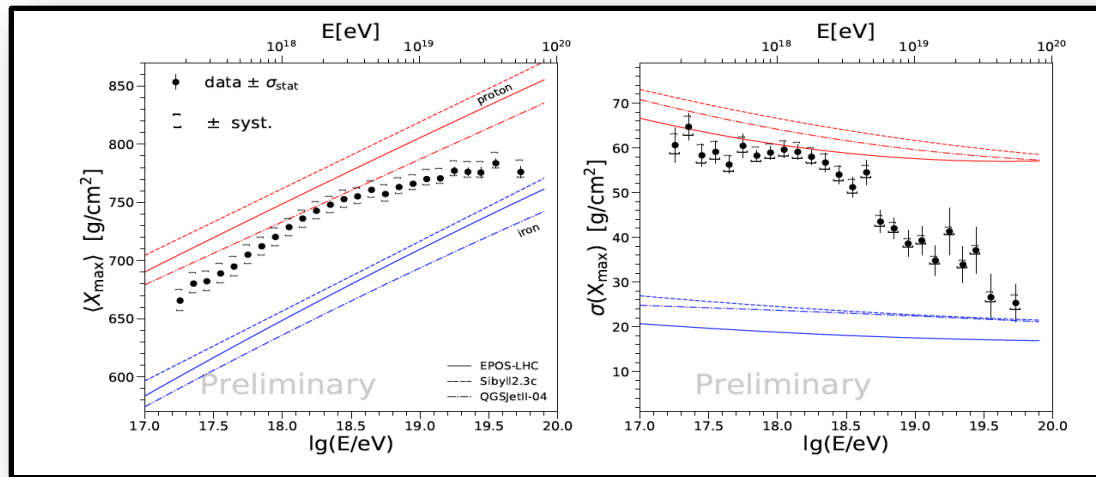
$$76.95 \pm 5.4(\text{stat}) +_{-7.2}^{+5.2}(\text{sys}) \pm 7.1(\text{Glauber})$$

$$\text{at } \sqrt{s_{pp}} = 38.7 \pm 2.5 \text{ TeV}$$

> The data agree with an extrapolation from LHC energies to 57 TeV for a limited set of models.

# Models show contradictions in the interpretation of $X_{\max}$

> Above  $E = 2 \text{ EeV}$  both  $X_{\max}$  moments become compatible to MC predictions for heavier nuclei



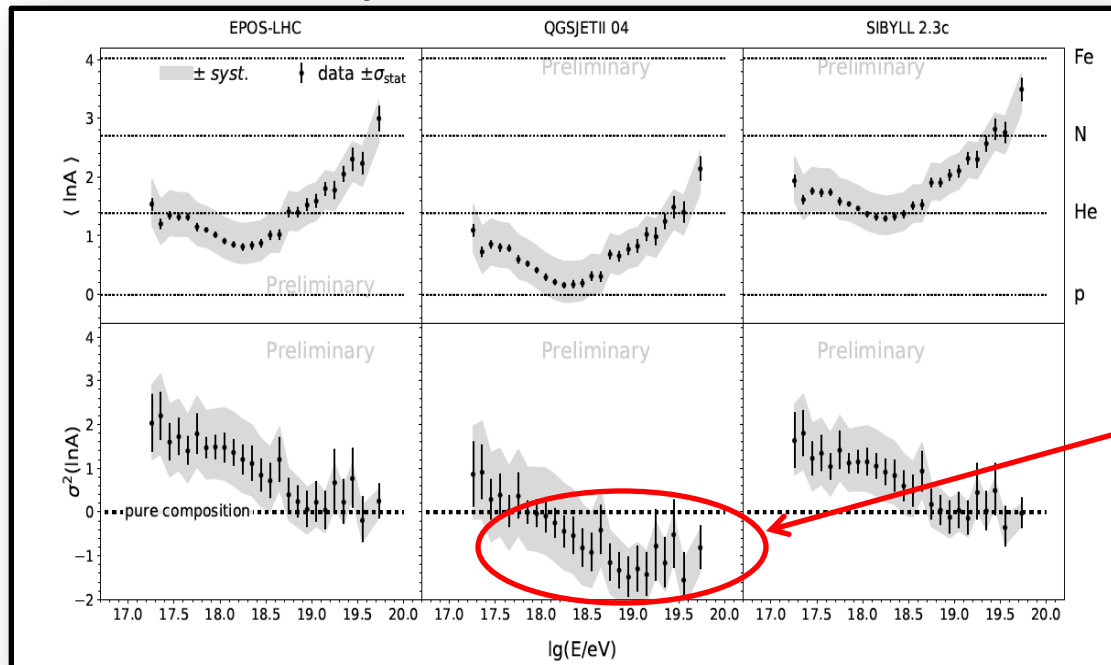
## Method to interpret $X_{\max}$ and $\sigma^2(X_{\max})$ :

The Pierre Auger Collaboration, JCAP 02 (2013) 026

$$\langle X_{\max} \rangle = \langle X_{\max} \rangle_p + f_E \langle \ln A \rangle$$

$$\sigma^2(X_{\max}) = \langle \sigma_{\text{sh}}^2 \rangle + f_E^2 \sigma^2(\ln A)$$

A.Yushkov for the Pierre Auger Collaboration, ICRC 2019

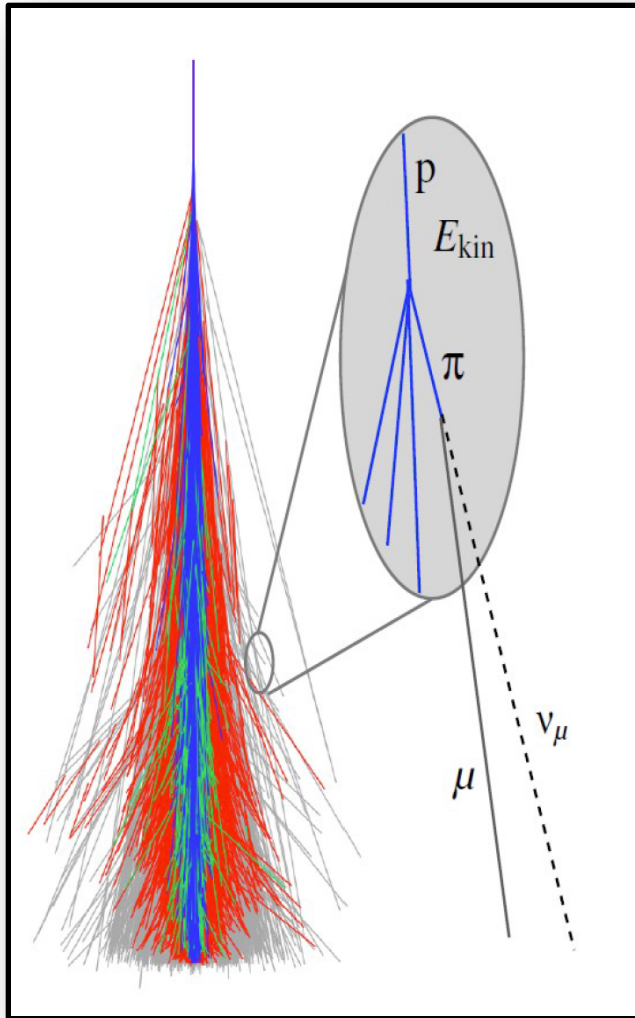


>  $\langle \ln A \rangle$  and  $\sigma^2(\ln A)$  vary depending on hadronic interaction models

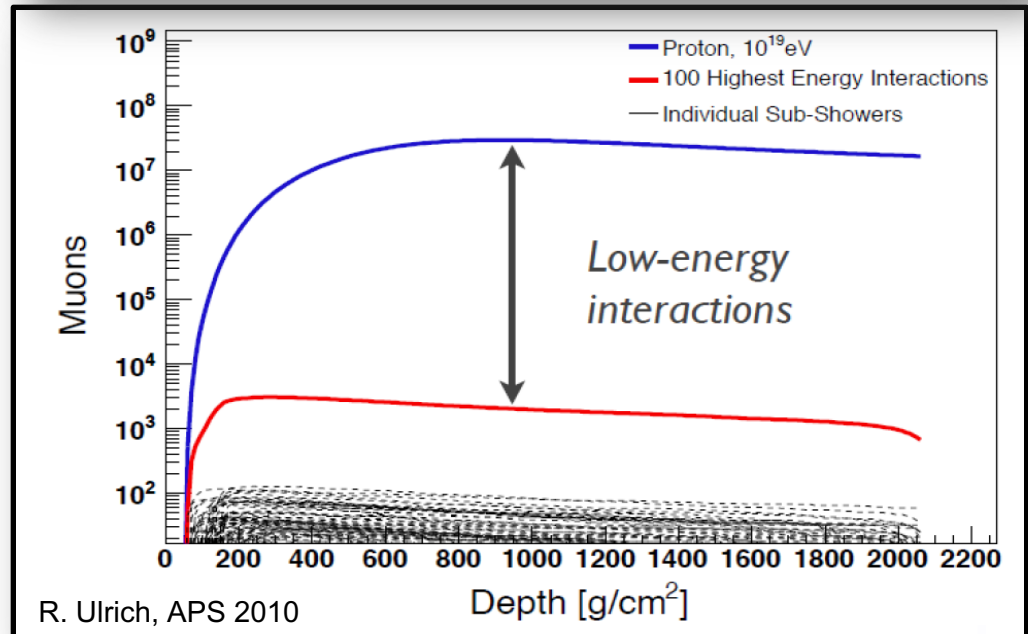
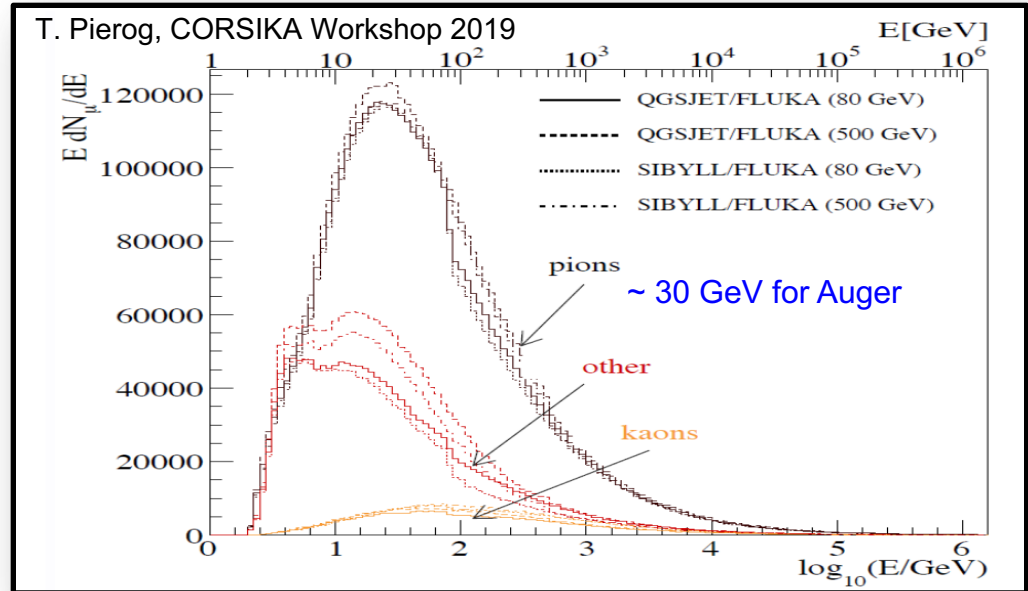
> Trend is similar, but not in absolute value

> QGSJET-II.04 predicts shower-to-shower fluctuations larger than mass range considered.  $X_{\max}$  distributions not well predicted, leading to unphysical results. .

# Muon production by low energy interactions



> Muons are produced late in shower cascade, amplified sensitivity to hadronic interactions

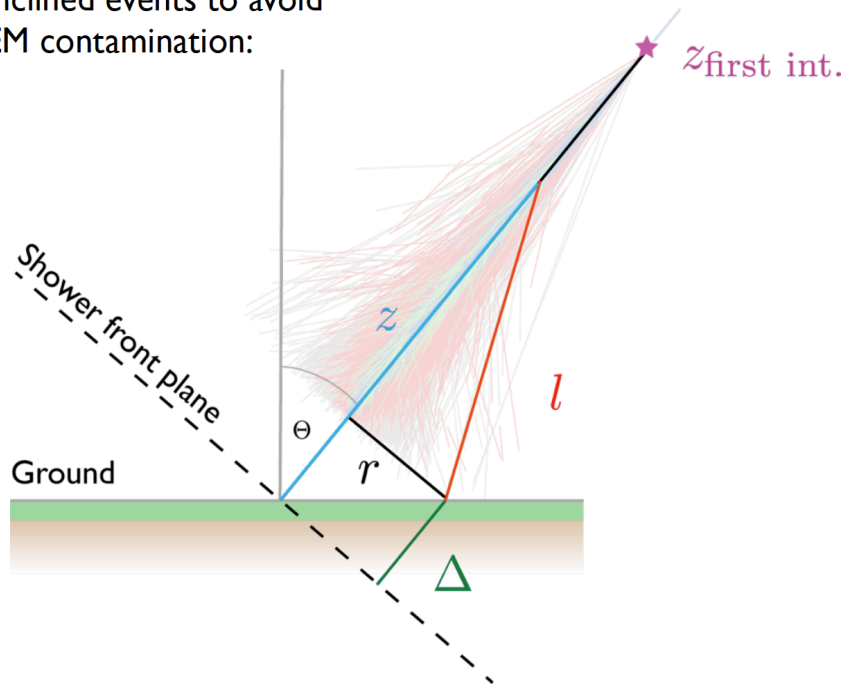


R. Ulrich, APS 2010



# Muon production depth

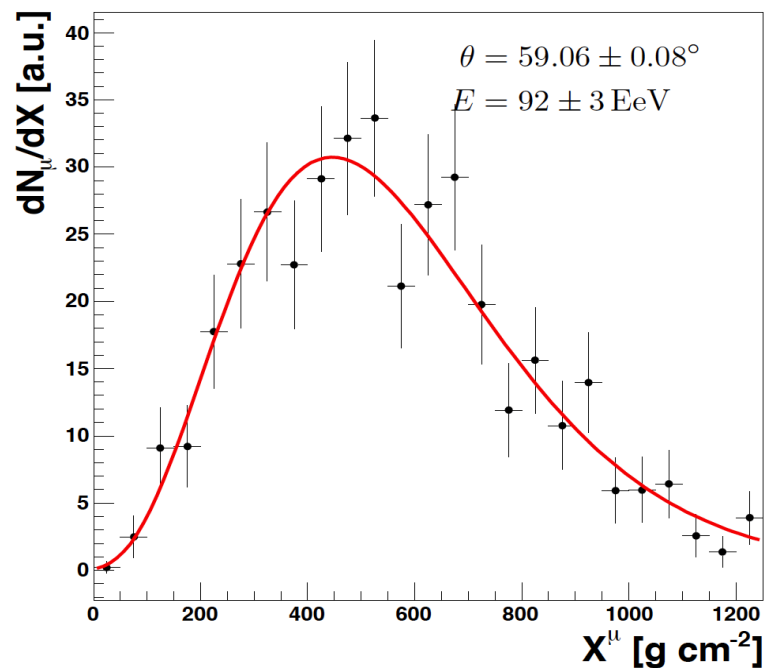
Inclined events to avoid  
EM contamination:



Geometric time delay of arriving muons:

$$c \cdot t_g = l - (z - \Delta)$$

$$= \sqrt{r^2 + (z - \Delta)^2} - (z - \Delta)$$



Mapped to muon production depth:

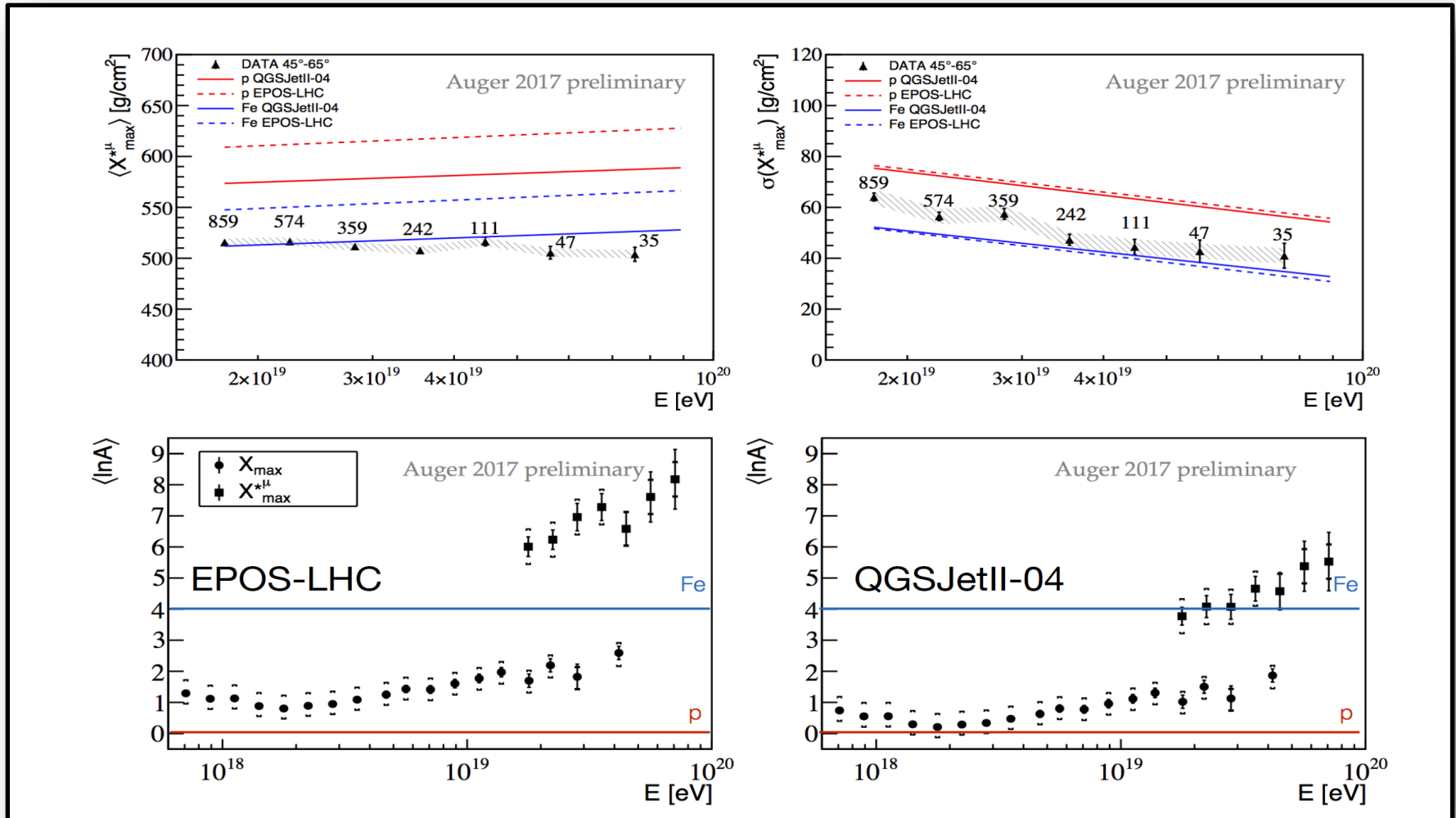
$$z = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{r^2}{ct_g} - ct_g \right) + \Delta$$

> Two assumptions:

- muons are produced in the shower axis
- muons travel following straight lines

# Muon production depth $X_{\max}^{\mu}$ and $X_{\max}$

Pierre Auger Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 90, 012012 (2014); M. Mallamaci for the Pierre Auger Collaboration, ICRC 2017

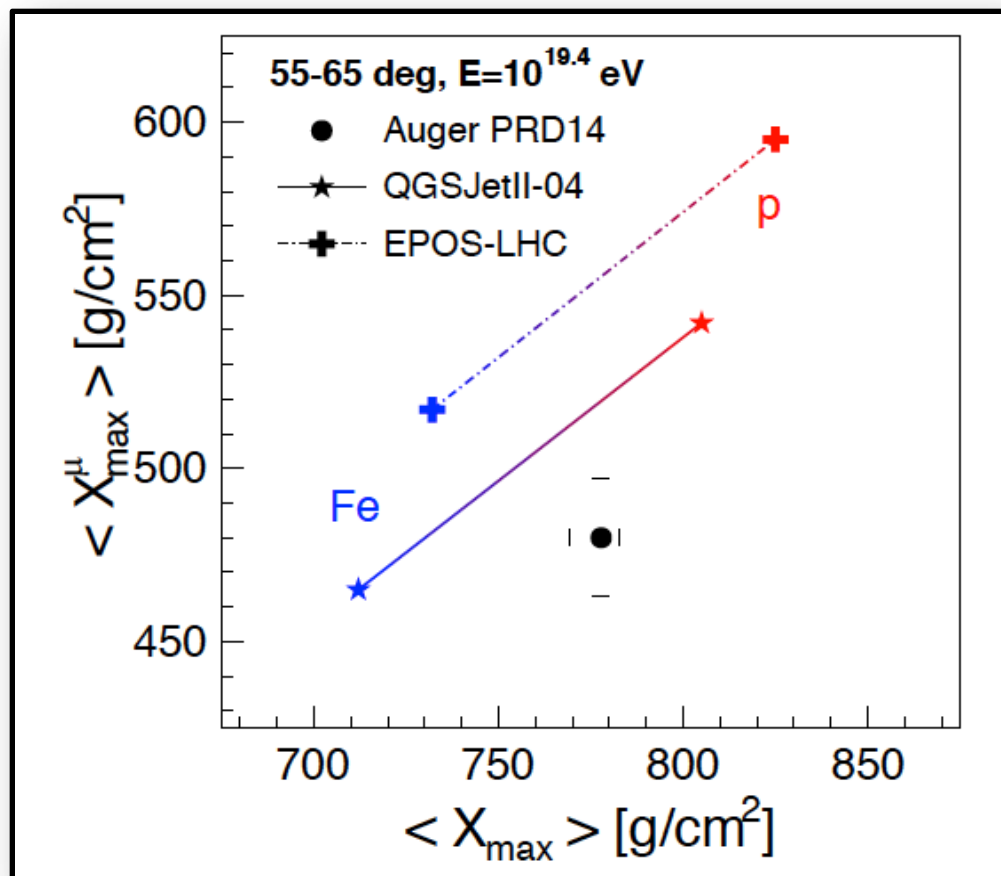


- > two independent mass composition measurements, both results should be between p and Fe
- > both results should give the same mean logarithmic mass for the same model
- > ... as we can see results from  $X_{\max}^{\mu}$  are incompatible with the one from  $X_{\max}$

# Muon production depth $X_{\max}^{\mu}$ : discussion

- > Data from the Pierre Auger Observatory can be used to constrain diffraction in pion interactions to get consistent results between the mean logarithmic mass extracted from  $X_{\max}^{\mu}$  and the one deduced from  $X_{\max}$

The Pierre Auger Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 90, 012012 (2014)



$\langle X_{\max}^{\mu} \rangle$  is very sensitive to:

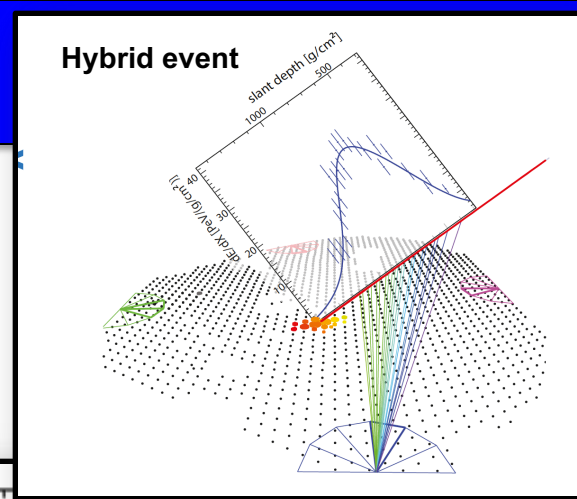
- **baryon production:**  
baryons have smaller critical energy.  
They reach deeper and do not produce muons
- **$\pi$ -Air diffraction:**  
slows down multiplicative process
- **K &  $\pi$  energy spectrum:**  
bulk of mesons closer to critical energy

**See for example:** S. Ostapchenko and M. Bleicher, *Constraining pion interactions at very high energies by cosmic ray data*, Phys. Rev. D93 (2016) 051501, [1601.06567], also EPS Web Conf. 210 (2019)02001

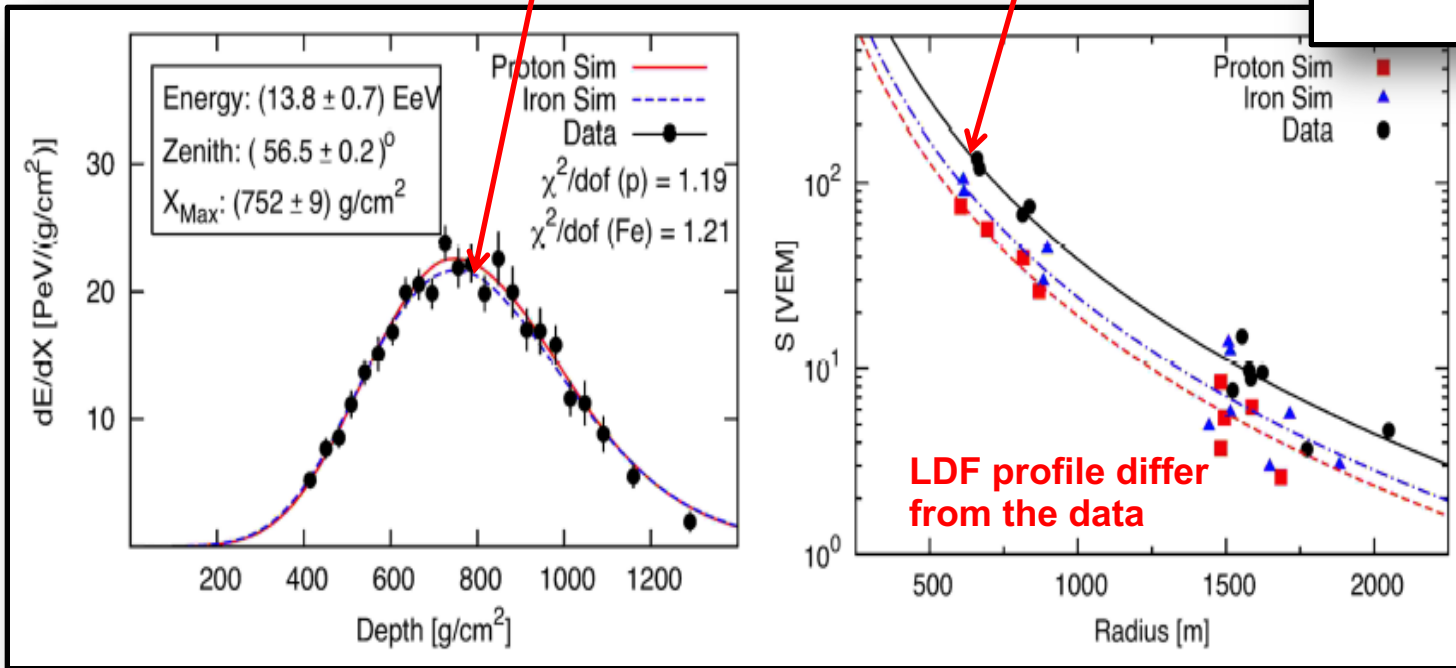
# Muon studies with hybrid events (<math> < 60^\circ </math>)

> We observe more muons than we simulate, Monte Carlo correctly reproduces Longitudinal Profile (LP)

but has too low SD signal (LDF)



The Pierre Auger Collaboration, Phys. Rev. Lett. 117, 0192001 (2016)



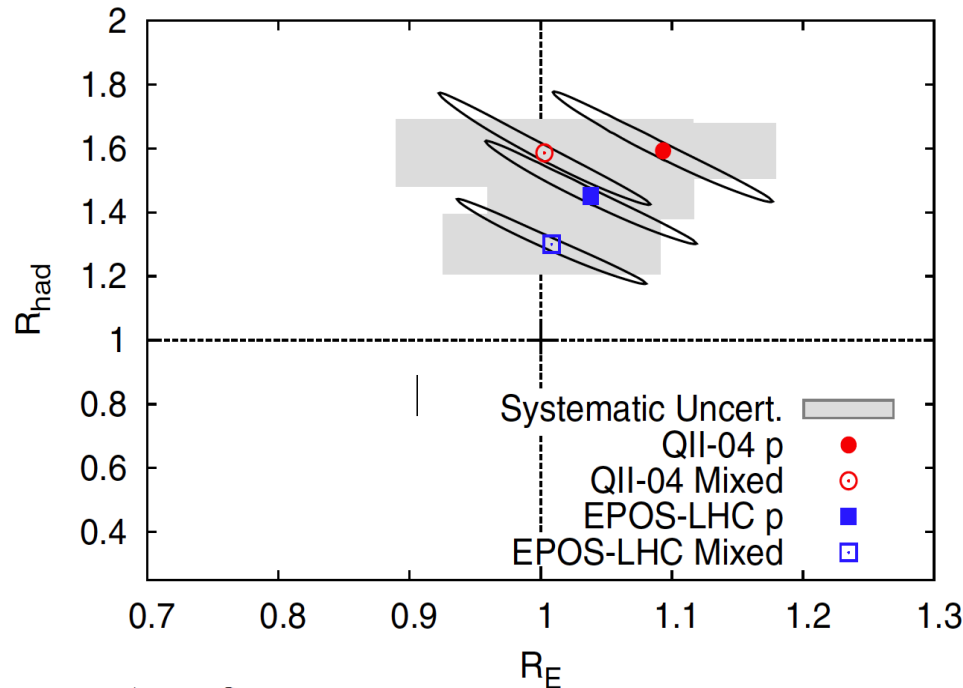
- $E = 10^{18.8} - 10^{19.2}$  eV
- zenith angles  $[0^\circ, 60^\circ]$
- 411 hybrid events after quality cuts

> Idea: compare hybrid data with simulated showers

- match longitudinal FD light profile data with best simulation profile (p, He, N, Fe)
- extract  $S_{EM}$  and  $S_{had}$  from simulation
- rescale simulated SD signal to match data (extract  $R_E$  and  $R_{had}$ )

# Muon studies with hybrid events (<math> < 60^\circ </math>)

The Pierre Auger Collaboration, Phys. Rev. Lett. 117, 0192001 (2016)



Model	$R_E$	$R_{had}$
QII-04 p	$1.09 \pm 0.08 \pm 0.09$	$1.59 \pm 0.17 \pm 0.09$
QII-04 mixed	$1.00 \pm 0.08 \pm 0.11$	$1.61 \pm 0.18 \pm 0.11$
EPOS p	$1.04 \pm 0.08 \pm 0.08$	$1.45 \pm 0.16 \pm 0.08$
EPOS mixed	$1.00 \pm 0.07 \pm 0.08$	$1.33 \pm 0.13 \pm 0.09$

> Fit adjusting EM and muonic contribution to signal at 1000 m ( $S_{resc}$ )

$R_E$  and  $R_{had}$  rescaling factors to match the SD and FD signals (hybrid data)

$$S_{resc} = R_E S_{EM} + R_{had} R_E^\alpha S_{had}$$

$$\alpha \simeq 0.9$$

$$R_\mu \approx 0.93 R_E^{0.9} R_{had} + 0.07 R_E$$

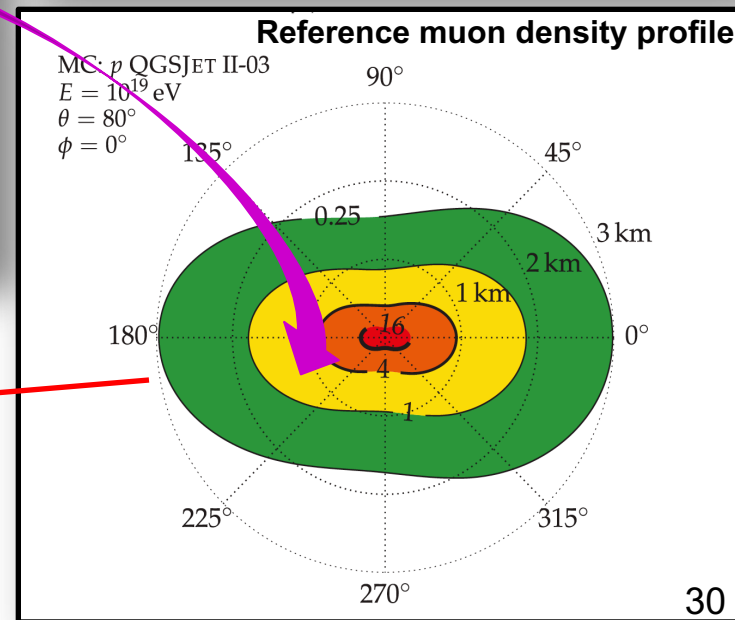
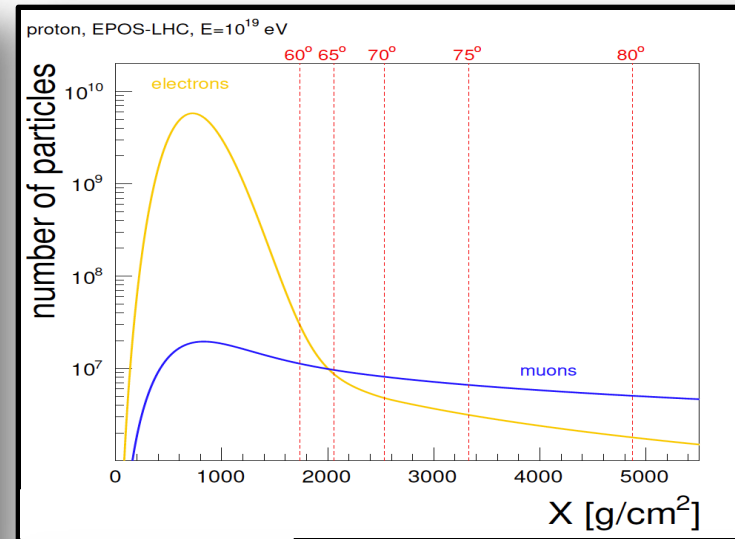
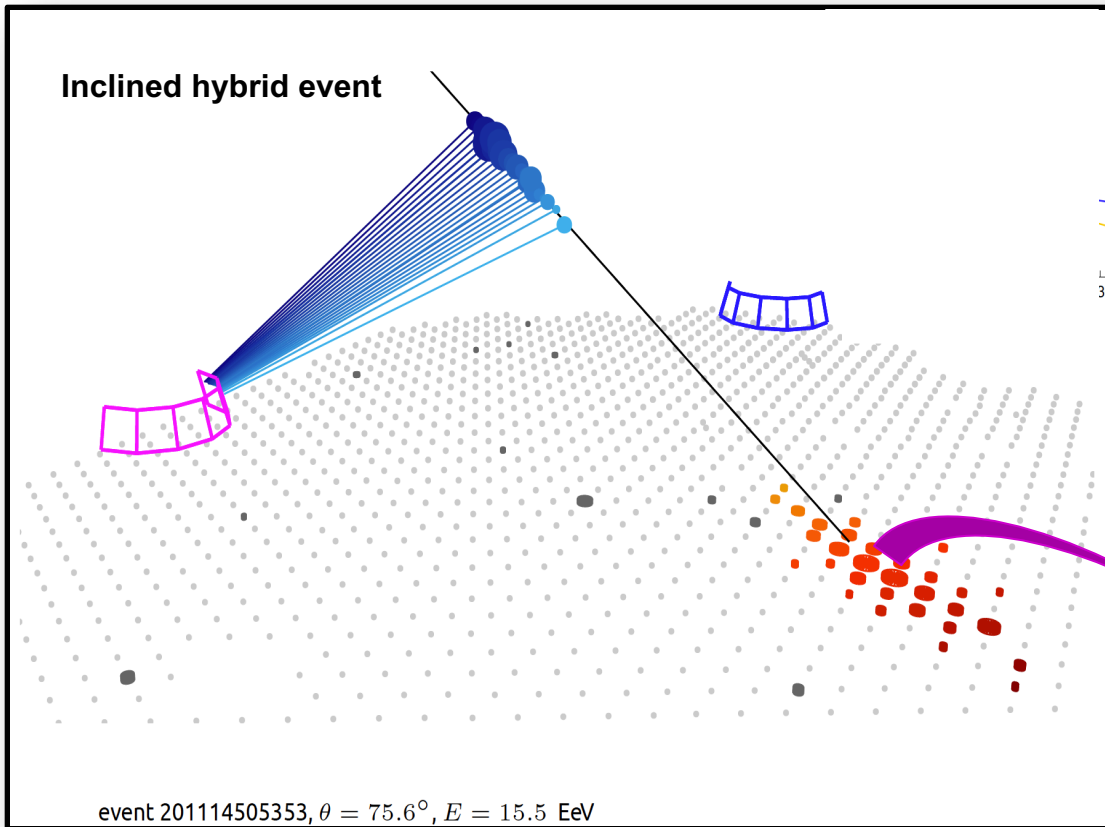
> Smallest discrepancy for EPOS-LHC with mixed composition at level of  $1.9\sigma$

Systematic uncertainties on  $R_E$  and  $R_{had} \sim 10\%$

> The observed muon signal is a factor 1.33 (EPOS-LHC) to 1.61 (QGSJET-II.04) larger than predicted by models

# Muon studies with inclined hybrid events (60° -80°)

> Inclined showers: only the muon components survive to the ground.



**Muon density from fit of the normalization factor of reference model**

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

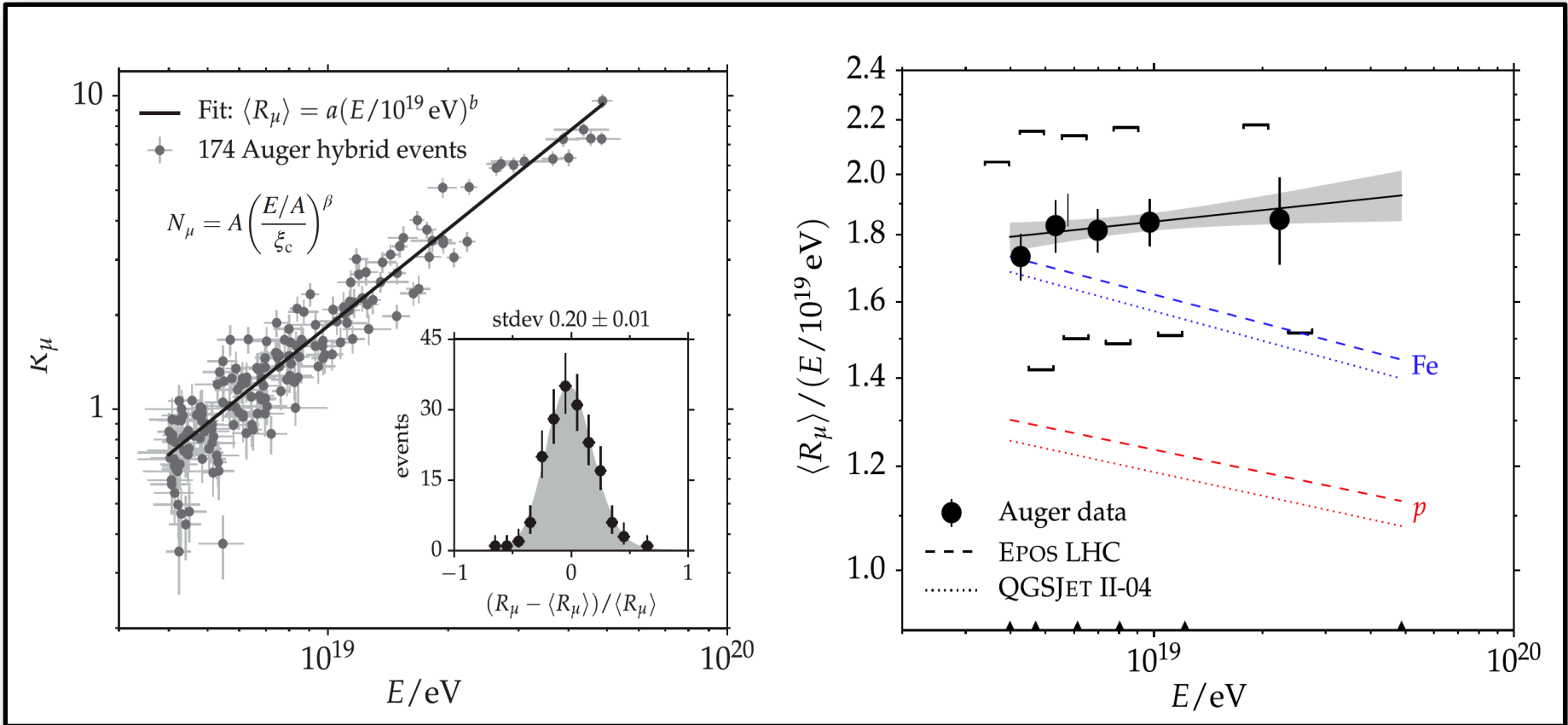
**Reference muon profile**

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

Total numbers of muons at the ground relative to the average number of muons in a shower with energy  $10^{19}$  eV.

# Muon studies with inclined hybrid events ( $60^\circ - 80^\circ$ )

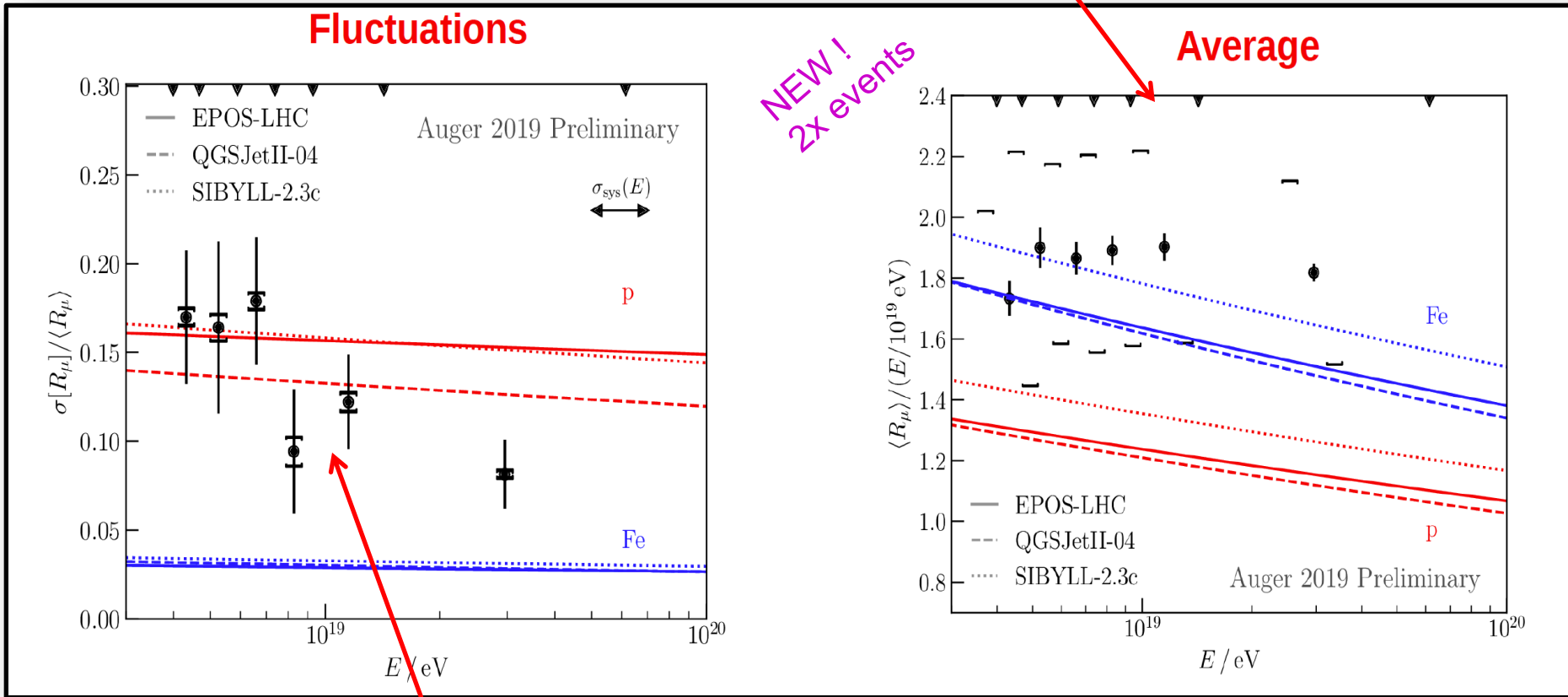
The Pierre Auger Collaboration, PRD D91 (2015) 3, 032003



> Hadronic models underestimate the number of muons produced in showers.

# Update ICRC 2019: Muon studies with inclined hybrid events (60° -80°)

> Hadronic models underestimate the number of muons produced in showers.

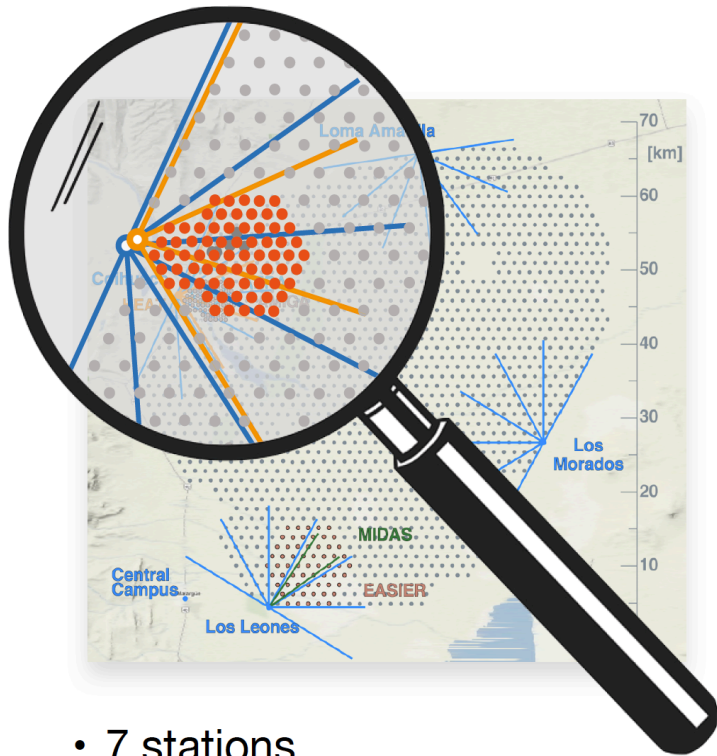


> Muon fluctuations however appears to fit expectation.

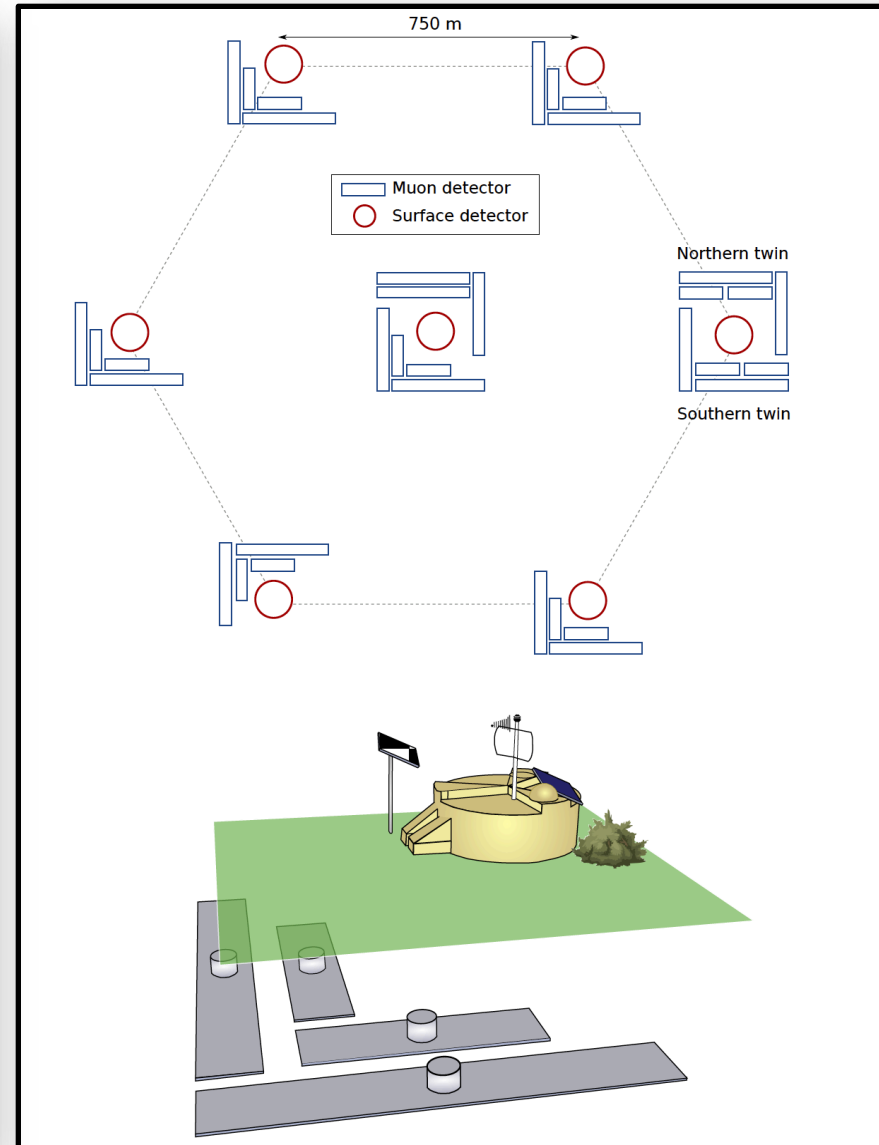
Could be an indication that first interaction may not be responsible for the muon deficit in models.  
Small difference that accumulates over particle generations?



# Direct muon measurement with AMIGA



- 7 stations
- 30 (60) m<sup>2</sup> scintillator modules
- 2.3 m below ground ( $\sim 530 \text{ gcm}^{-2}$  to shield E.M. component of EAS)
- 1 GeV/cos $\theta$
- AMIGA in slave mode wrt SD station
- 1 full year of data with PMTs
- PMTs to be replaced by SiPMs



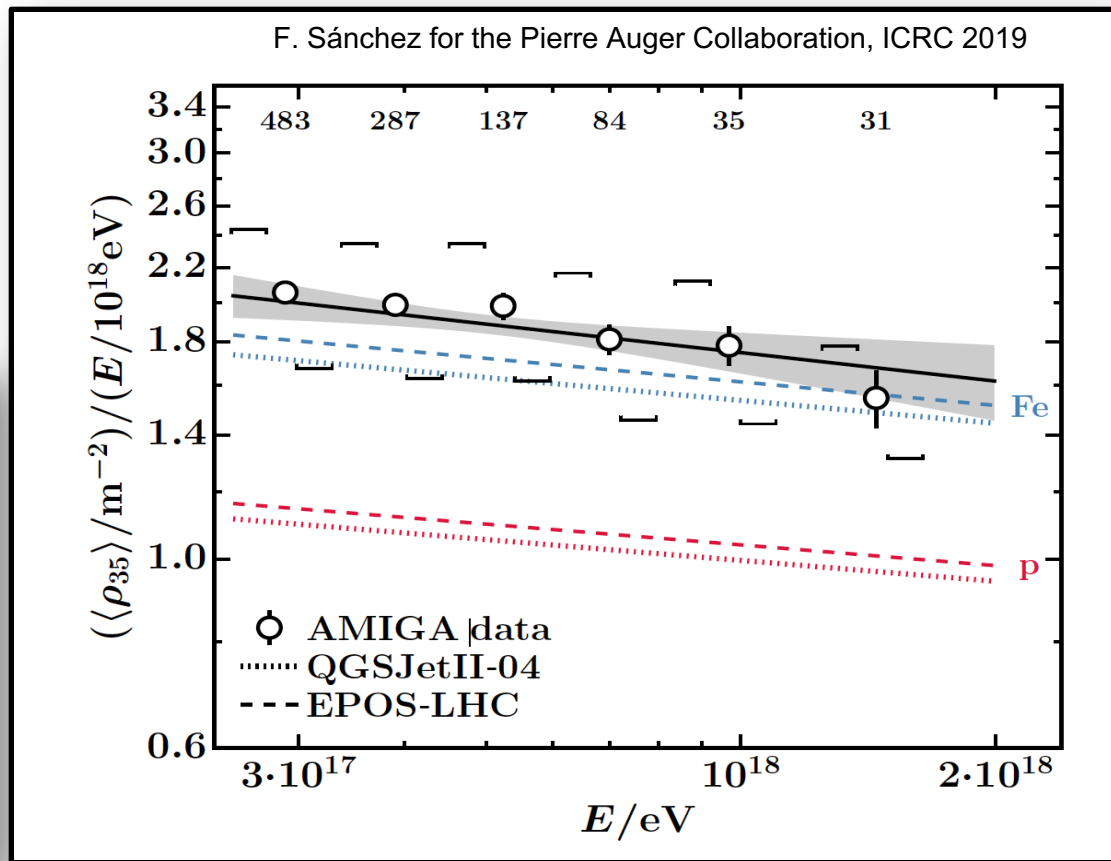
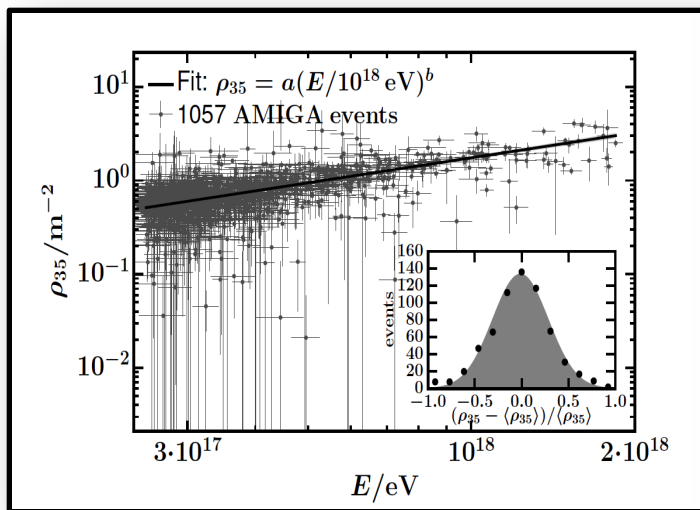
# Direct muon measurement with AMIGA

> First direct measurement of the muon densities at energies  $10^{17.3} \text{ eV} < E < 10^{18.3} \text{ eV}$

The attenuation curve  $f_{\text{att}}$  is used to determine an attenuation-free muon density

$$\rho_{35} = \rho(450) / f_{\text{att}}(\theta)$$

Muon density at 450 m



> Hint to muon deficit in simulations at lower energies (from  $X_{\text{max}}$  dominated by light elements!)

@ $10^{17.5} \text{ eV}$	EPOS	38%
	QGSJet	50%

@ $10^{18.0} \text{ eV}$	EPOS	38%
	QGSJet	53%

# Comparison with other Auger measurements

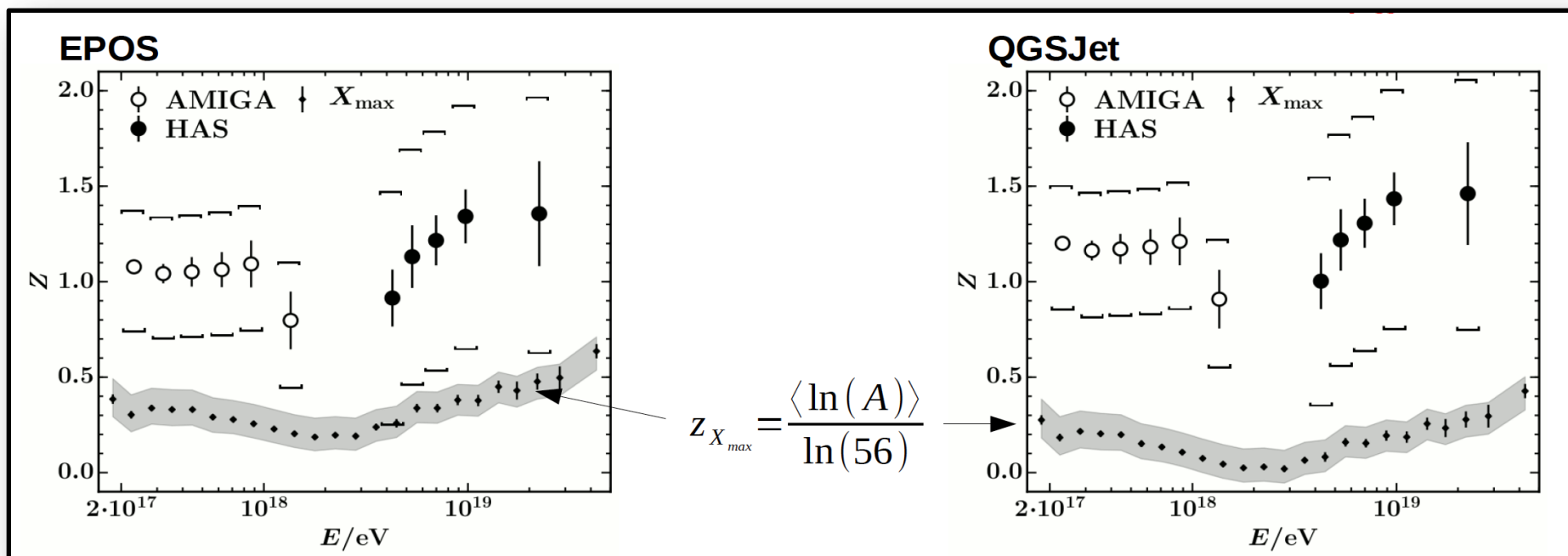
## Muon number estimator

$$Z_\alpha = \frac{\langle \ln(\alpha) \rangle - \langle \ln(\alpha) \rangle_p}{\langle \ln(\alpha) \rangle_{Fe} - \langle \ln(\alpha) \rangle_p}$$

one composition-sensitive from various measurement

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{SD} \rightarrow R_\mu \\ \text{FD} \rightarrow X_{max} \\ \text{UMD} \rightarrow \rho_{35} \end{array} \right.$

F. Sánchez for the Pierre Auger Collaboration, ICRC 2019



- > Within the statistical and systematic uncertainties, the z-factors derived by the two muon studies seem to be in agreement at the intermediate energies between their distinct energy ranges
- > The combined muon measurements match the trend of z derived from  $X_{max}$  measurements as a function of the energy

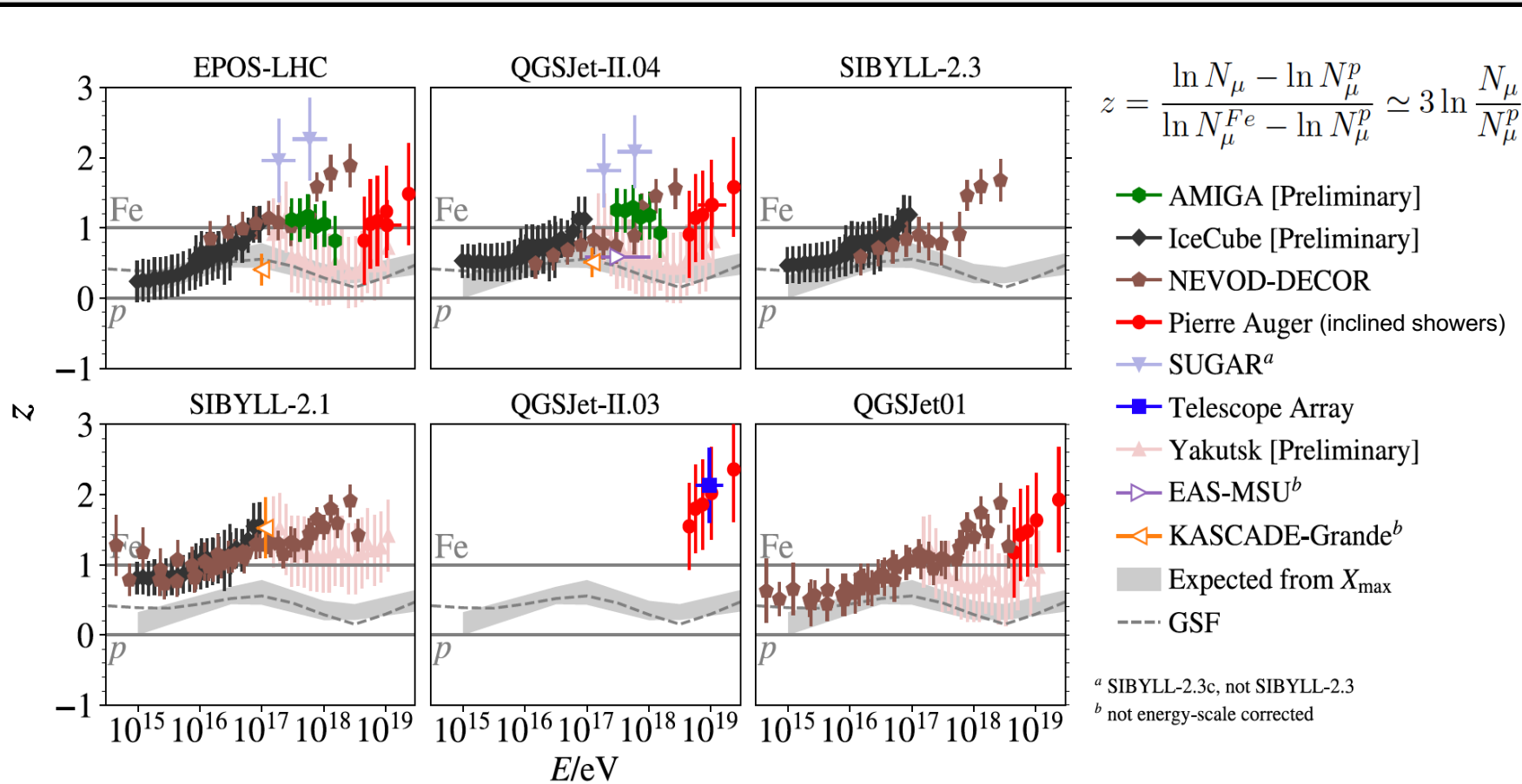
# Muon deficit in simulations (aka muon excess in data)

## Muon number estimator

$$Z_\alpha = \frac{\langle \ln(\alpha) \rangle - \langle \ln(\alpha) \rangle_p}{\langle \ln(\alpha) \rangle_{Fe} - \langle \ln(\alpha) \rangle_p}$$

→ one composition-sensitive from various measurement

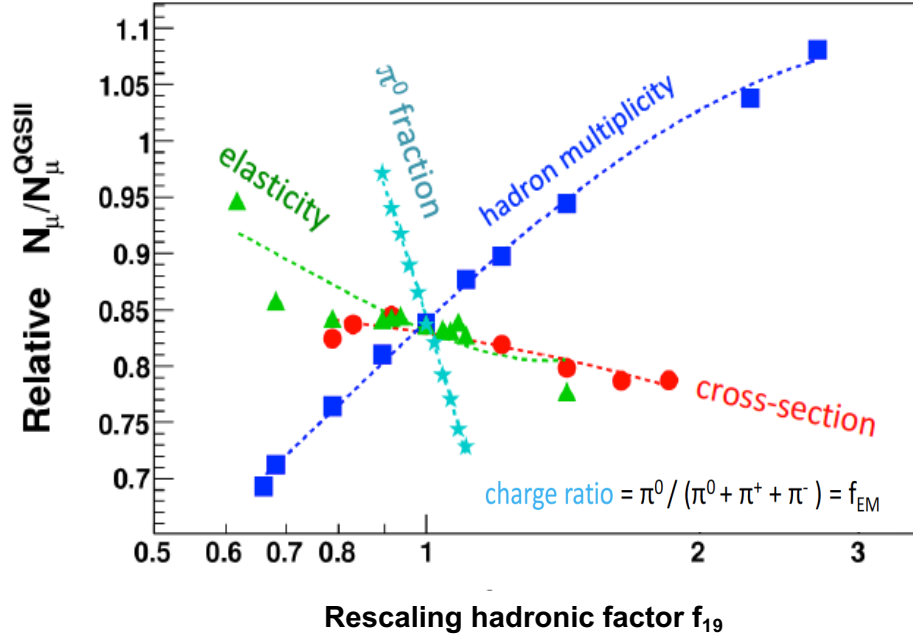
$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{SD} \rightarrow R_\mu \\ \text{FD} \rightarrow X_{max} \\ \text{UMD} \rightarrow \rho_{35} \end{array} \right.$



> Muon deficit seen also in other experiments

# Muon deficit: Possible solutions

R. Ulrich et al., Physical Review D 83, 054026 (2011)



> The muon deficit can be fixed by a smooth increment of hadronic fraction ( $f = E_{\text{had}}/E_0$ ) over several generations  
For example in Heitler model:

$$N_\mu \propto (f + \delta f)^c \quad (1 + 0.05)^6 \simeq 1.30$$

> Models to solve the muon deficit:

String percolation

Strange Fireball

Chiral Symmetry Restoration

Quark Gluon Plasma

Lorentz Invariance Violation

astro.ph:1209.6474

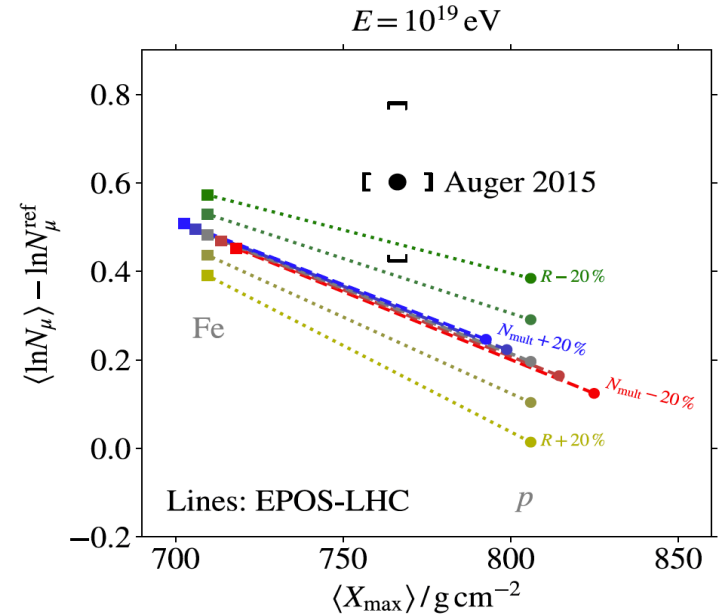
PRD 95(2017) 06005

EPJ Web Conf. 53(2013) 07007

PoS(ICRC2019)387

Phys. Rev. D 59, 116008 (1999)

... but still unsolved



S. Baur et al. arXiv: 1902.09265

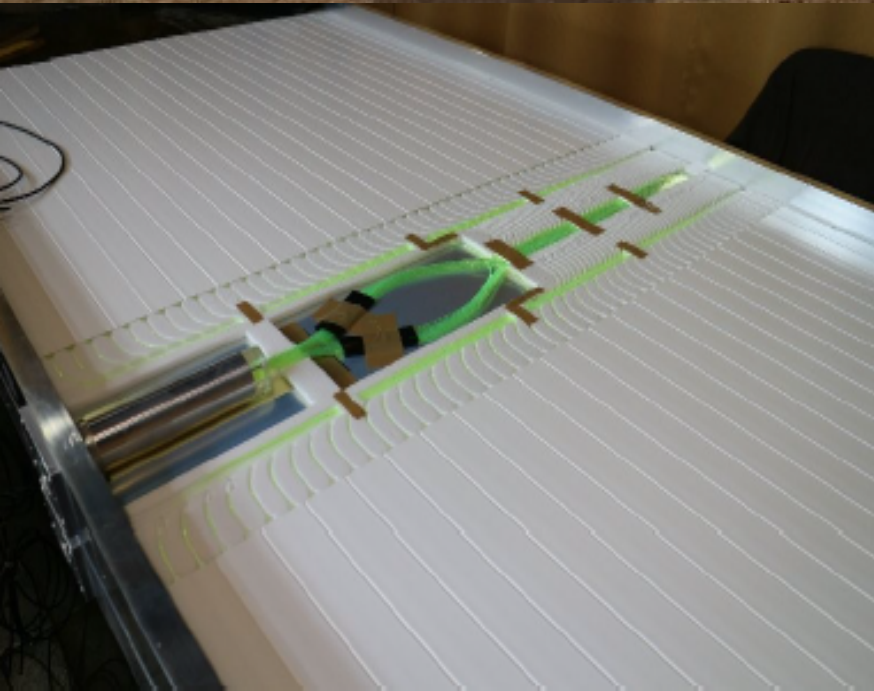
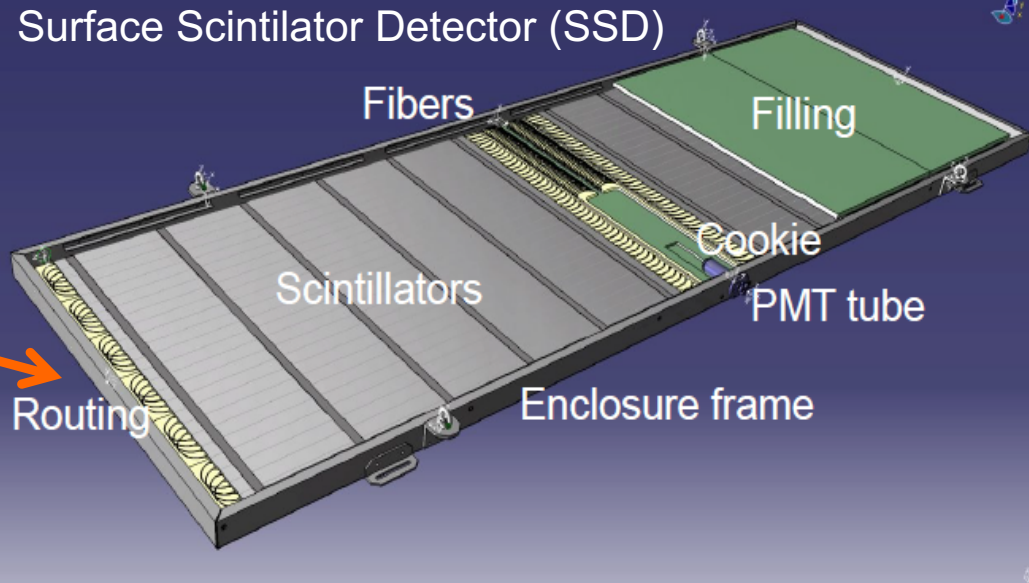
T. Pierog et al. PoS(ICRC2019)387

H. Dembinski et al. PoS(ICRC2019)235

R- energy ratio of electromagnetic particles  
to hadronic one

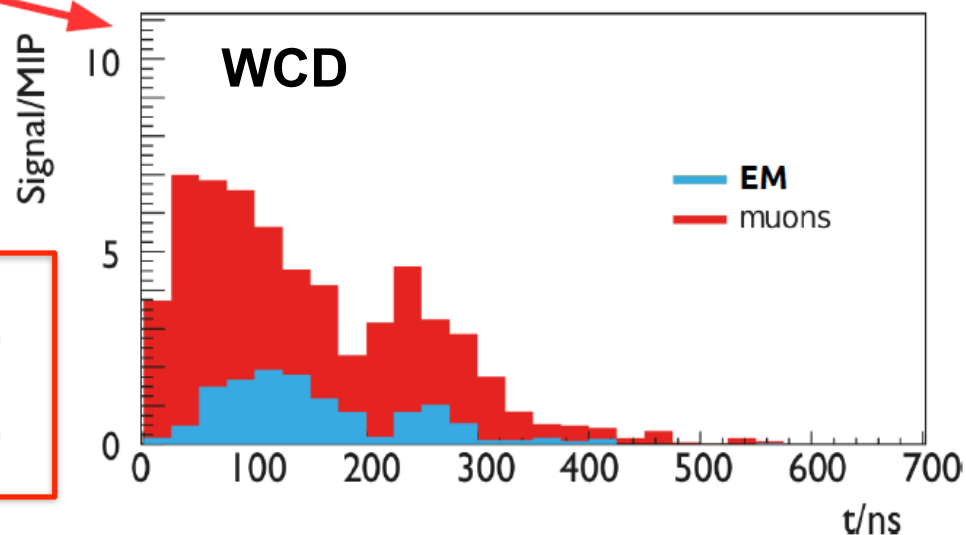
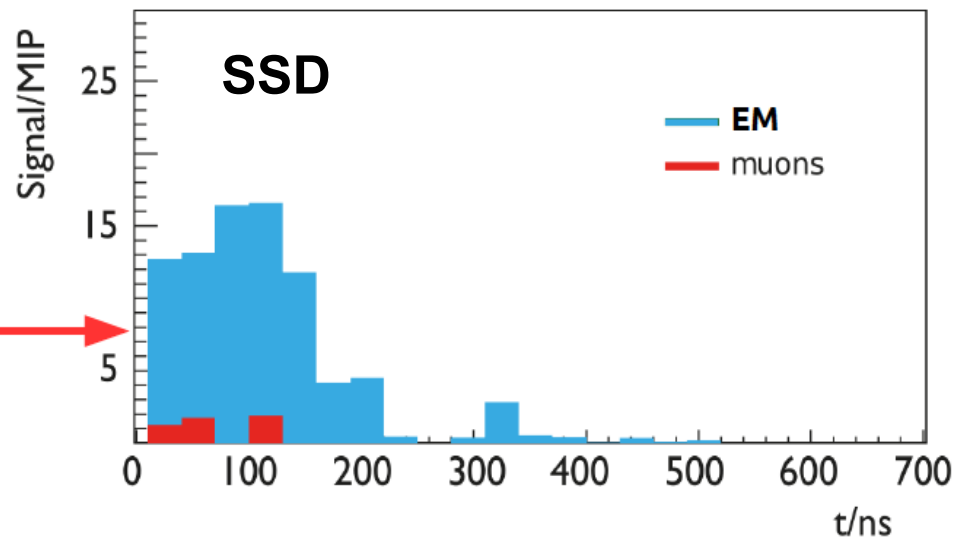
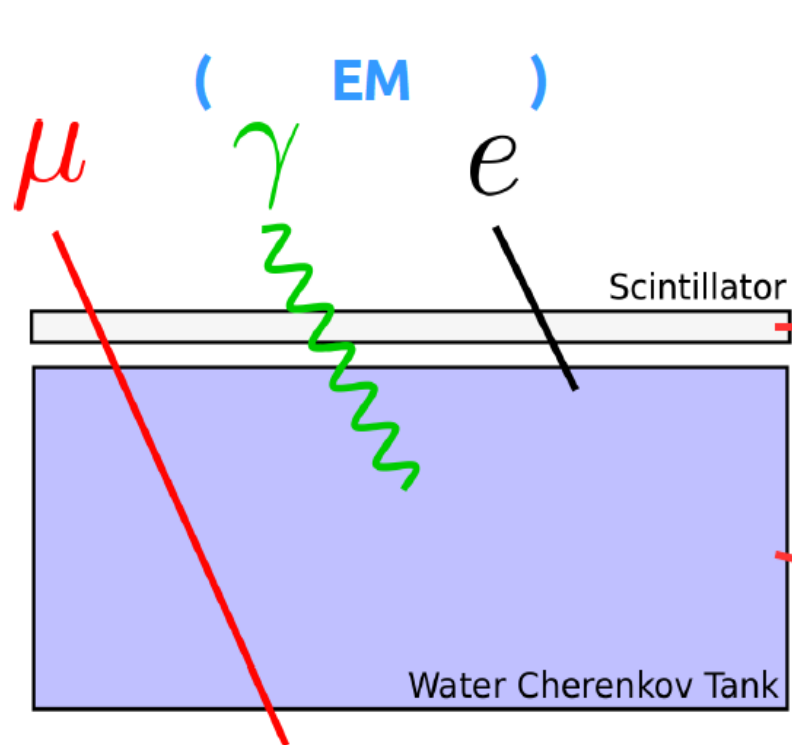
Auger prime

# Detector Upgrades for AugerPrime



- > 3.8 m<sup>2</sup> scintillators (SSD) on each 1500-m array station
- > Upgrade of station electronics
- > Additional small PMT to increase dynamic range
- > Buried muon counters in 750-m array (AMIGA)
- > Increased FD uptime

# Complementary response



$$S_{\mu, \text{WCD}} = a S_{\text{WCD}} + b S_{\text{SSD}}$$
$$S_{\text{em}, \text{WCD}} = c S_{\text{WCD}} + d S_{\text{SSD}}$$



# Summary

## > Auger measurements:

- FD: EM shower is fairly well described by models, our best mass estimator is  $X_{\max}$
- FD+SD: Measurements of muon content;
  - no need for energy rescaling, thus muon problem
  - Muon rescaling factor 1.3-1.6
- SD:  $R_{\mu}$  in inclined showers  
Increasing MC deficit with increasing energy
- SD: Muon Production Depth mismatch provides further constraints in hadronic models
- AMIGA (new): extending down to  $3 \times 10^{17}$  eV

## > Muon Puzzle

Experimentally established at  $8\sigma$

- statement by eight leading air shower experiments
- problem not in the data, theory has to change

## > Future:

Key measurements to be done at the LHC

- energy ratio  $R$  of  $\pi^0$  to other hadrons at forward rapidity
- nuclear modification in forward hadron production
- Proton+oxygen collisions planned about  $\sim 2023$

Auger Prime: Increased accuracy of muon measurements

