

# Particles and Waves as Cosmic Messengers

Brigitte Falkenburg

in collaboration with Wolfgang Rhode

1. Cosmic Messengers
2. Astroparticle Physics
3. Observation of Jets
4. Gravitational Waves

# Particles and Waves as Cosmic Messengers

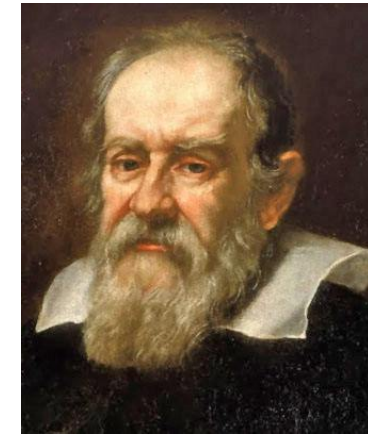
## **1. Cosmic Messengers**

2. Astroparticle Physics

3. Observation of Jets

4. Gravitational Waves

Galileo Galilei  
(1504-1642)



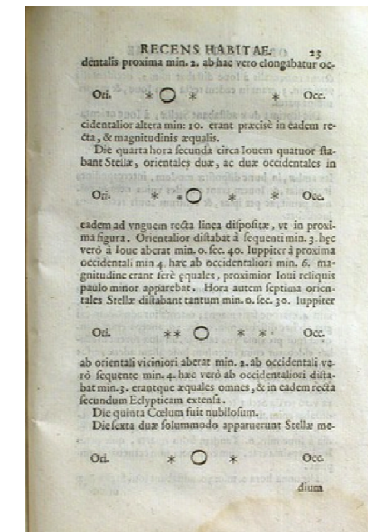
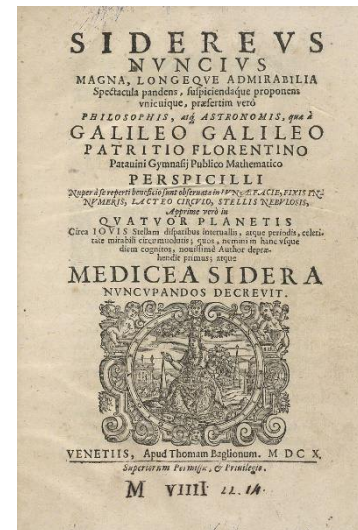
# 1. Cosmic Messengers

## Historical Background:

Light, the cosmic messenger (astronomy)

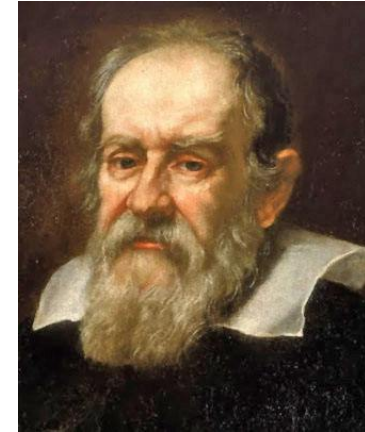
Sidereal Messenger  
(1610)

Observations with  
the telescope  
&  
discovery of  
**Medicean Stars**  
(Jupiter moons)





Galileo Galilei  
(1504-1642)



# 1. Cosmic Messengers

## Scientific Realism

Goal of physics: to **explain** the **phenomena**

Science & truth: *very* different views!

- » science aims at truth (Galileo)  
defence of Copernicus' system
- » observations/empiricism (Aristotle)
- » just save the phenomena (Ptolemy)

in terms of:

**mathematical models**

- » do they describe the *real world*?

# 1. Cosmic Messengers

## Scientific Realism

Goal of physics: to **explain** the **phenomena**

Explanation: *very different views!*

- » „true causes“ (Newton)
- » unification (Einstein, Planck)
- » classification by analogies (Bohr)
- » economy of thought (Mach)

**in terms of: mathematical models**

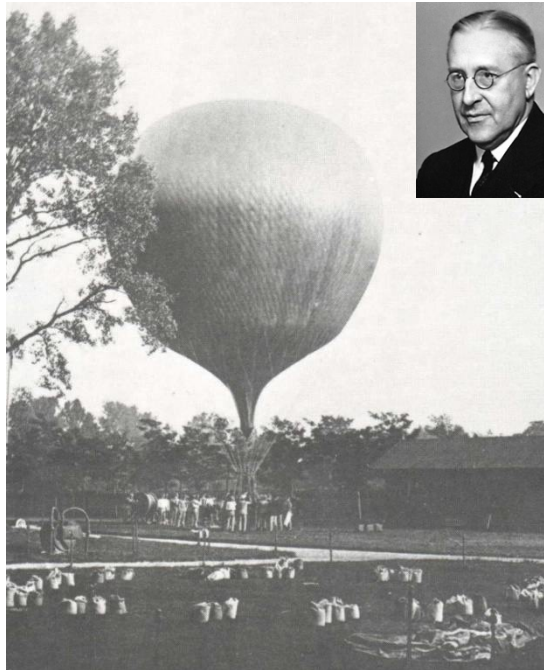
- » do they describe *physical reality*?

# 1. Cosmic Messengers

The phenomena:

Cosmic rays (CRs)

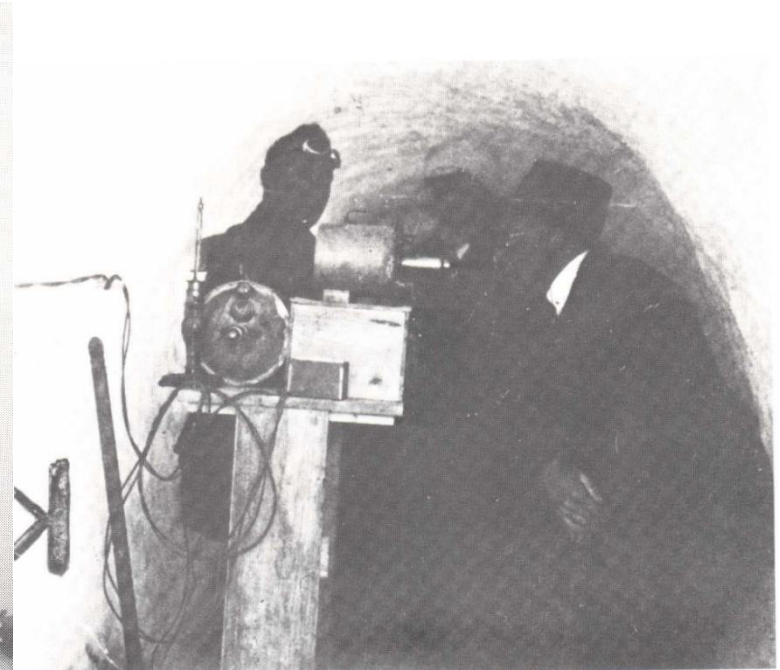
increasing height  
→ increasing # of electrons



Victor Hess (1911/12)  
electrometer in balloon



„Höhenstrahlungs-Labor“  
on top of Zugspitze



Werner Kolhörster  
Eiger glacial (1923)



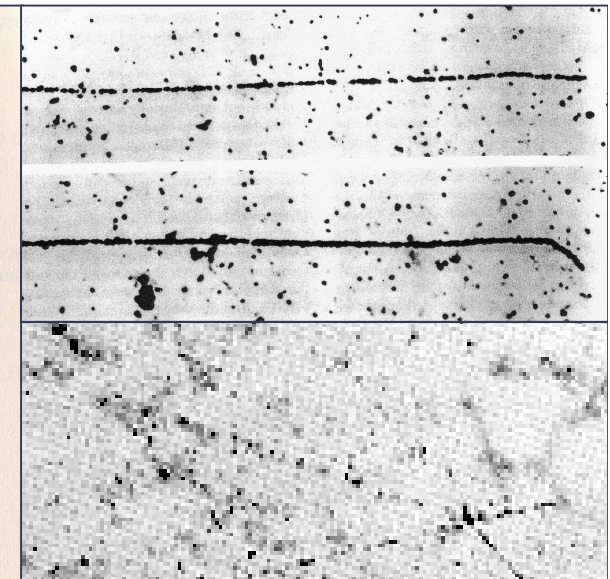
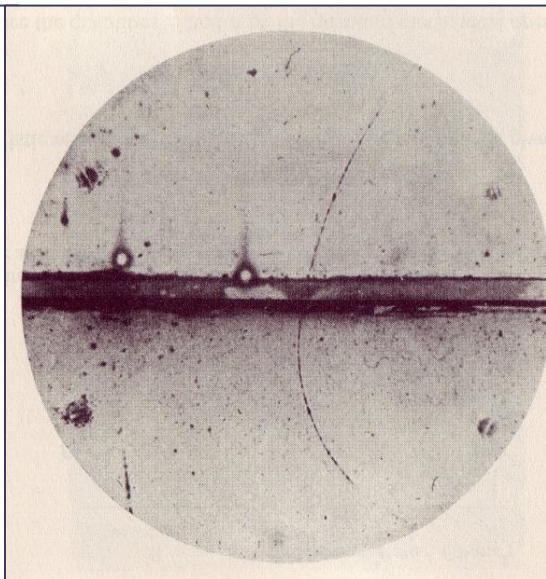
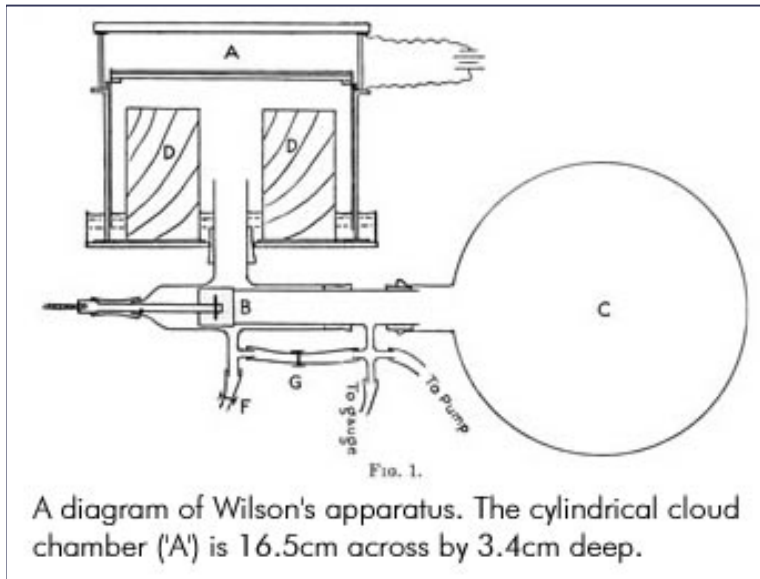
# The phenomena:

## 1. Cosmic Messengers

### Identification of CRs:

Robert Millikan (1920s):  
extra-terrestrial origin

C. Powell (1940s-50s)



C.T.R.Wilson (1911)  
cloud chamber

C.D.Anderson (1932)  
track of positron

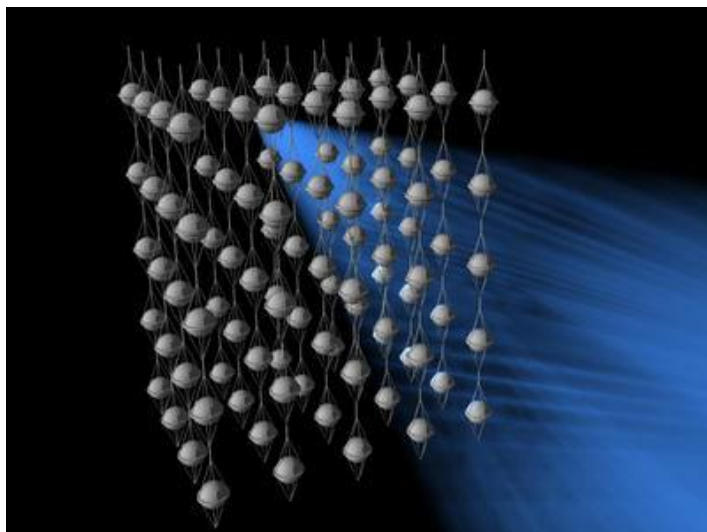
M. Blau & H. Wambacher (1937) nuclear emulsions

## Particle Detectors

# The phenomena: CRs = particles & IR-waves

## 1. Cosmic Messengers

- > 1911 Wilson chamber (*particle tracks*)
- > 1928 Geiger counter (*coincidence measurements*)
- > 1937 nuclear emulsions (*particle tracks*)
- > 1964 antenna (*3K Cosmic Microwave Background*)
- > 1980 Astroparticle physics: all kinds of particle detectors, arranged as telescopes



MAGIC

Cherenkov  
neutrino / gamma ray  
telescopes

ICECUBE



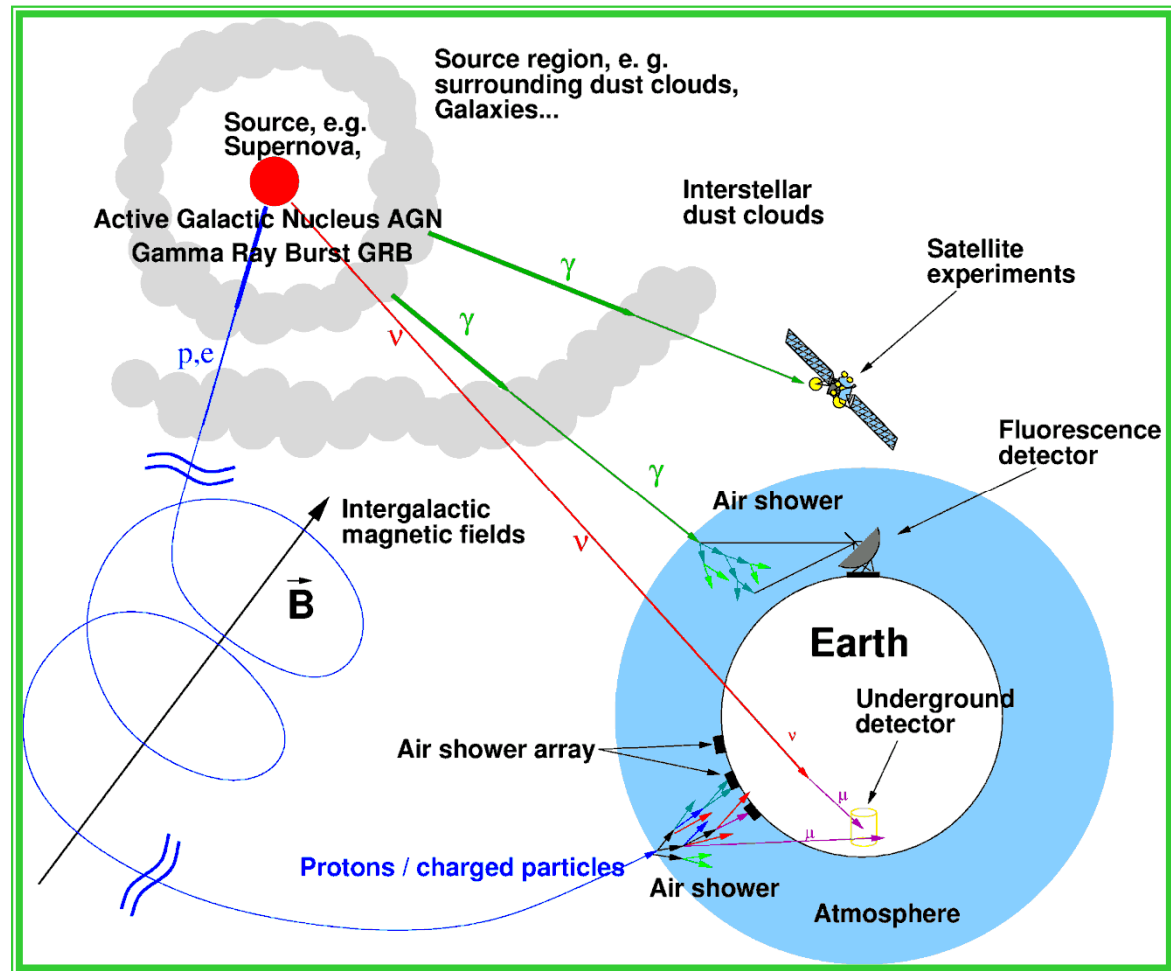
Brigitte.Falk  
Waves as



# Heuristic model: Messenger particles Causal Realism

## 1. Cosmic Messengers

CRs  
carry  
Information  
from Cosmic  
Sources  
(in objective sense!)



# Heuristic model: Messenger particles Causal Realism

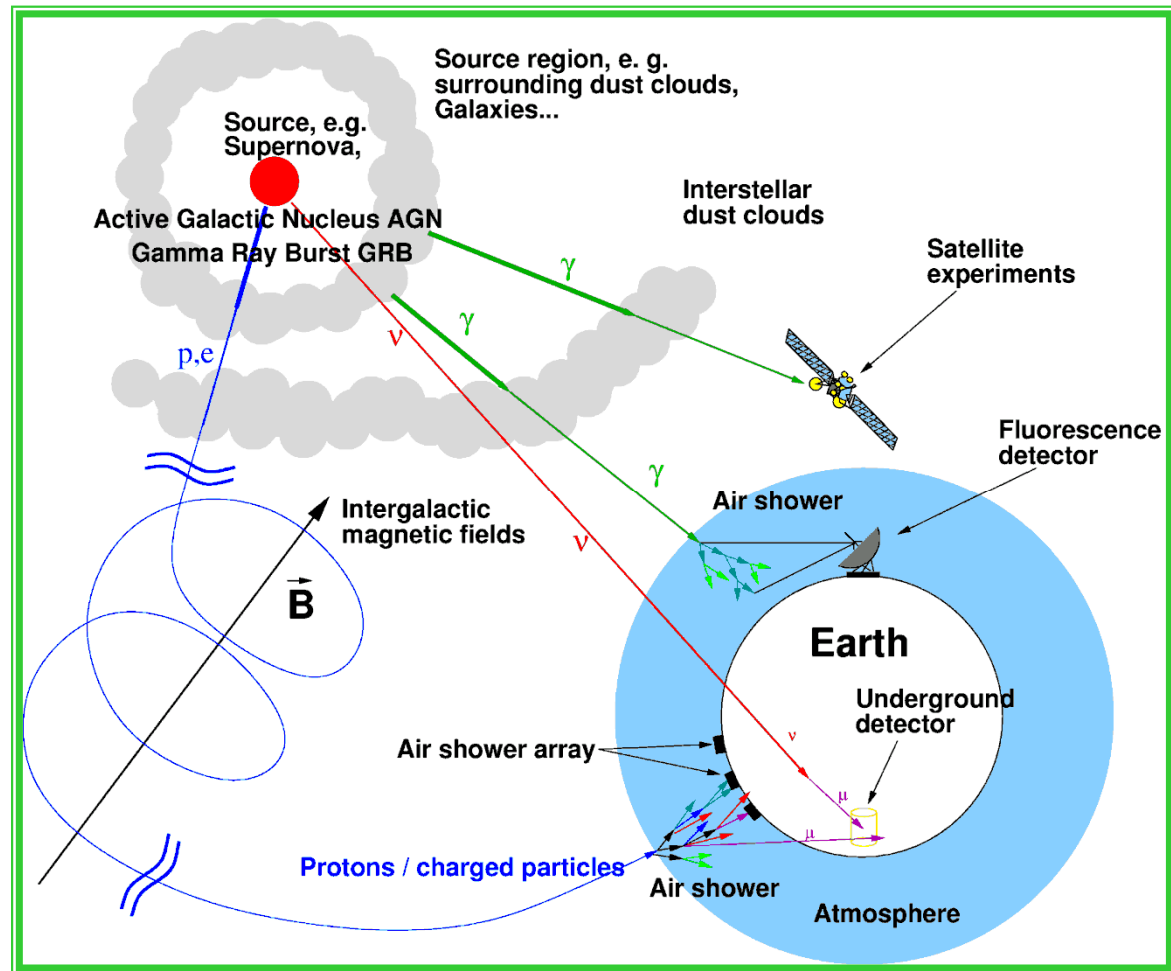
## 1. Cosmic Messengers

### Information

= signal transmission  
from emitter  
to receiver

to read it out, you  
must know 2 of:

- cosmic source
- nature of signal
- interactions during transfer



# Heuristic model: Messenger particles Causal Realism

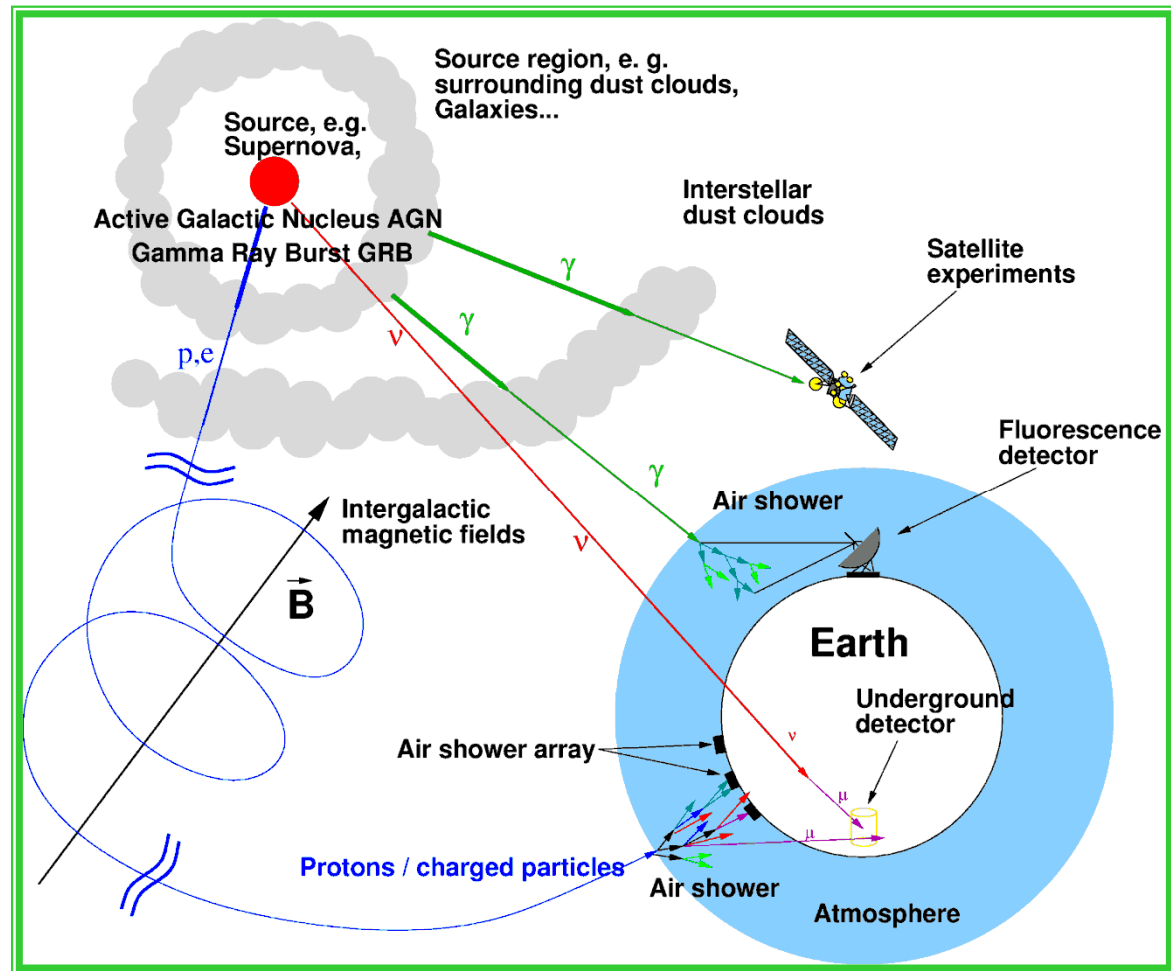
## 1. Cosmic Messengers

### Information

= particle propagation  
from source  
to detector

reading it out, you will  
learn about 1 of:

- cosmic source
- messenger particles
- interactions during propagation





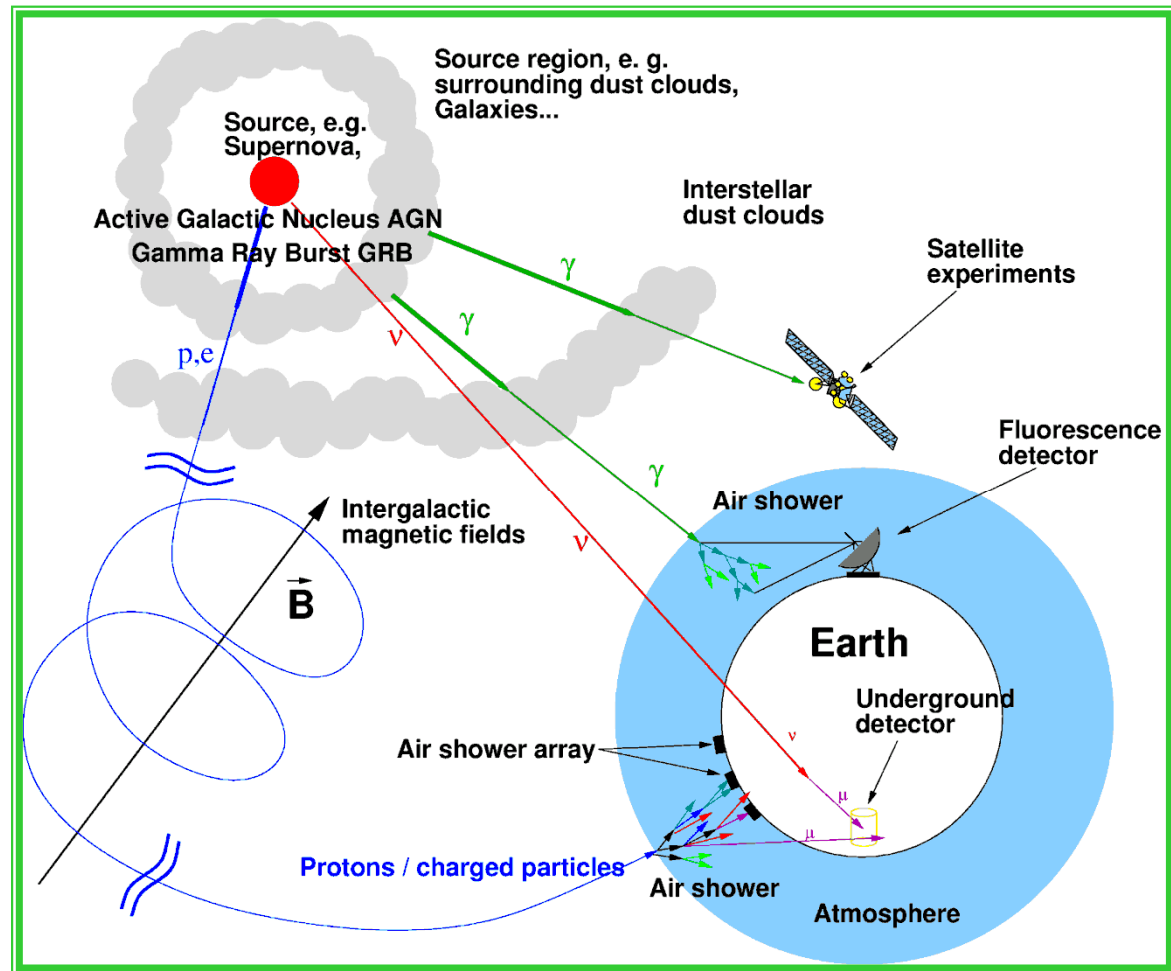
# Heuristic model: Messenger particles Causal Realism

## 1. Cosmic Messengers

Photon & neutrino telescopes observe extragalactic sources, like Galileo observed Jupiter moons

Proton detection does not!

(except at extremely high energies)



# Particles and Waves as Cosmic Messengers

1. Cosmic Messengers

**2. Astroparticle Physics**

3. Observation of Jets

4. Gravitational Waves

## 2. Astroparticle physics

CRs = *many phenomena!*

(high & low energy rays)

Scientific Realism

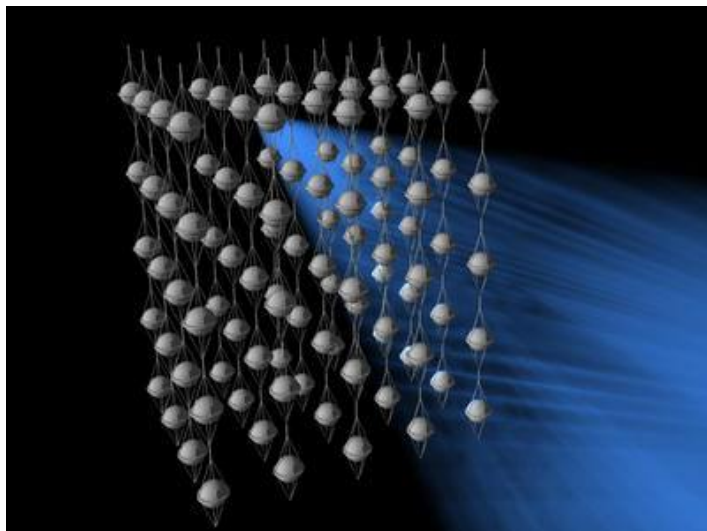
Phenomena = Measured Facts in Nature (Bogen & Woodward)

- effects (Photo, Zeemann, Bohm-Aharanov, Quantum Hall, ...)
- *explananda* of theories & *predictions* from theories

Astroparticle physics:

*Where do CRs come from?*

*Measure & Explain the Spectrum !*



MAGIC

Cherenkov  
neutrino&gamma ray  
telescopes

ICECUBE

Brigitte.Falk  
Waves as

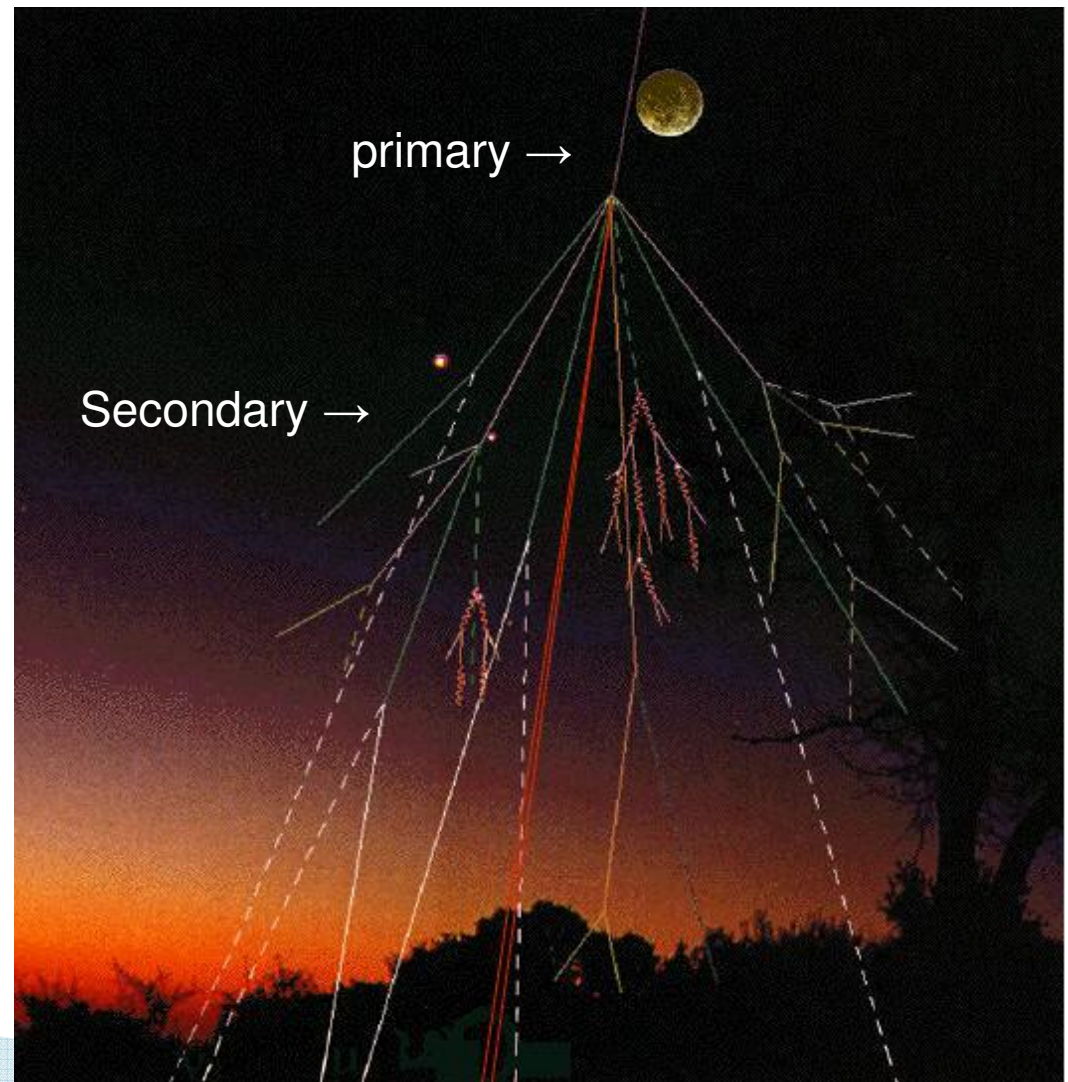




## 2. Astroparticle physics

### 2.1 The Phenomena:

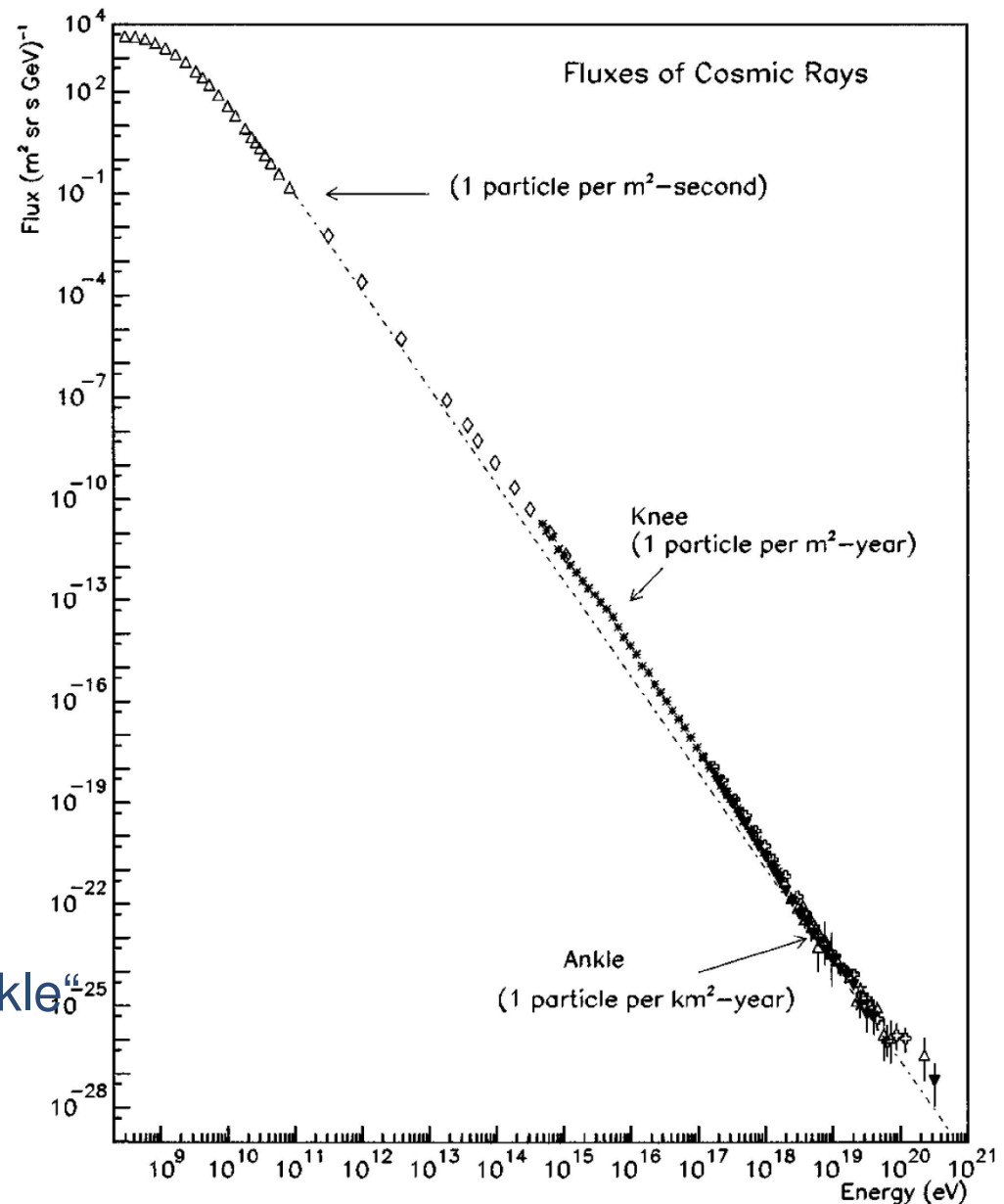
- > 1912 ionizing rays in upper atmosphere (V.Hess)
- > 1927 particle content investigated (baloons & earthbound experiments)
- > 1932 discovery of  $e^+$ ,  $\mu$ ,  $\pi$  (problems of unravelling the particle content)
- > 1937 „primary“ & „secondary“ CRs (scattering in atmosphere)



## 2. Astroparticle physics

### 2.1 The Phenomena:

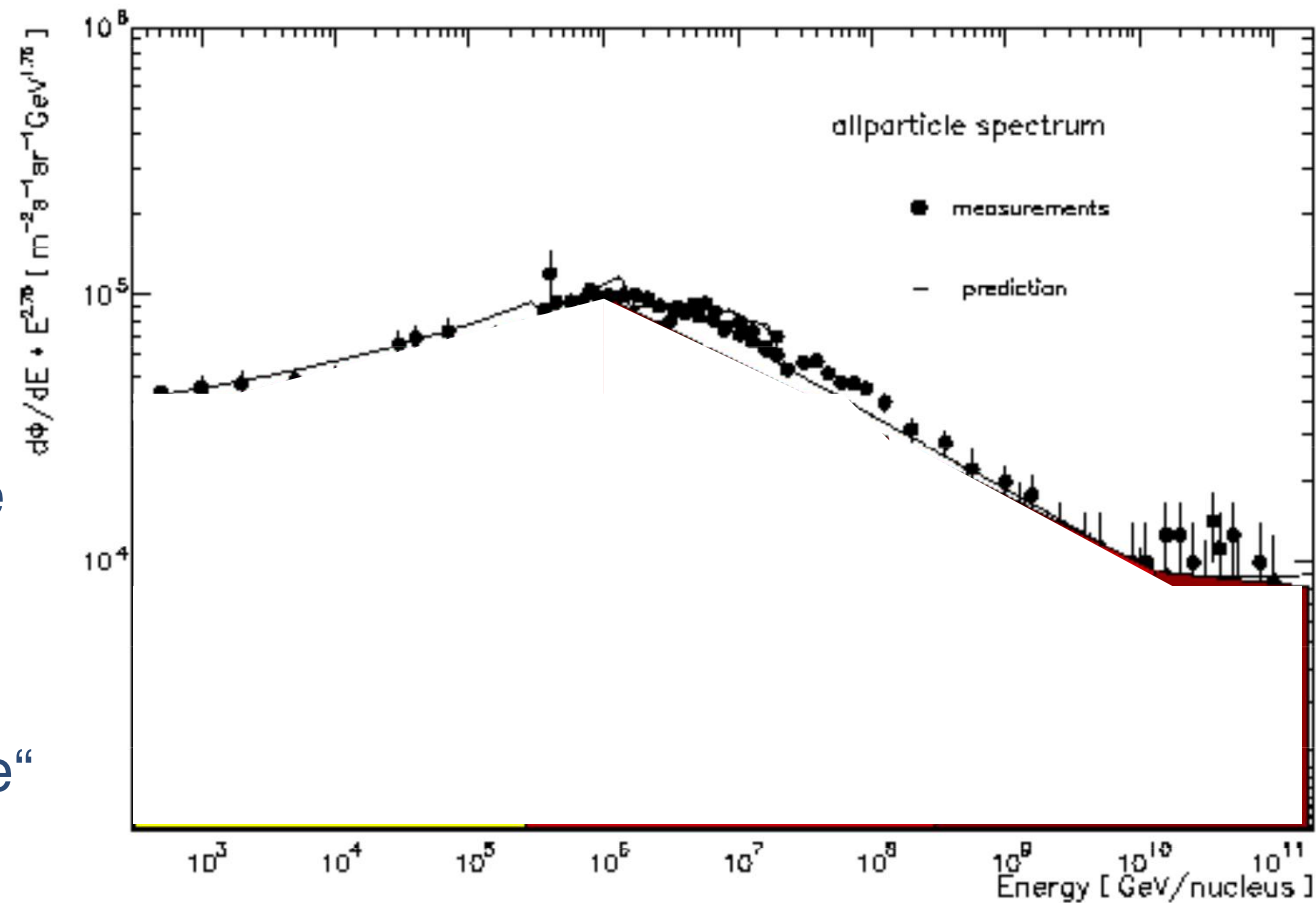
- > 1954 energy measurements of of charged CR particles (B.Rossi, MIT)
- > 1964 discovery of 3K CMB (A.Penzias, R.Wilson)
- > 1967 gamma ray emission from our galaxy (satellites)  
gamma ray bursts (GBRs) (military defense satellites)
- > 1987 energy flux of charged & uncharged CR particles
  - Power law decrease
  - two „kinks“: „knee“ & „ankle“



## 2. Astroparticle physics

### 2.1 The Phenomena: All Particle Spectrum of CRs

- Power law decrease  
 $d\Phi/dE \propto E^{-2.70}$
- two „kinks“:  
 „knee“ & „ankle“





## 2. Astroparticle physics

### 2.1 The Phenomena: All Particle Spectrum of CRs

particle content of primary CRs:

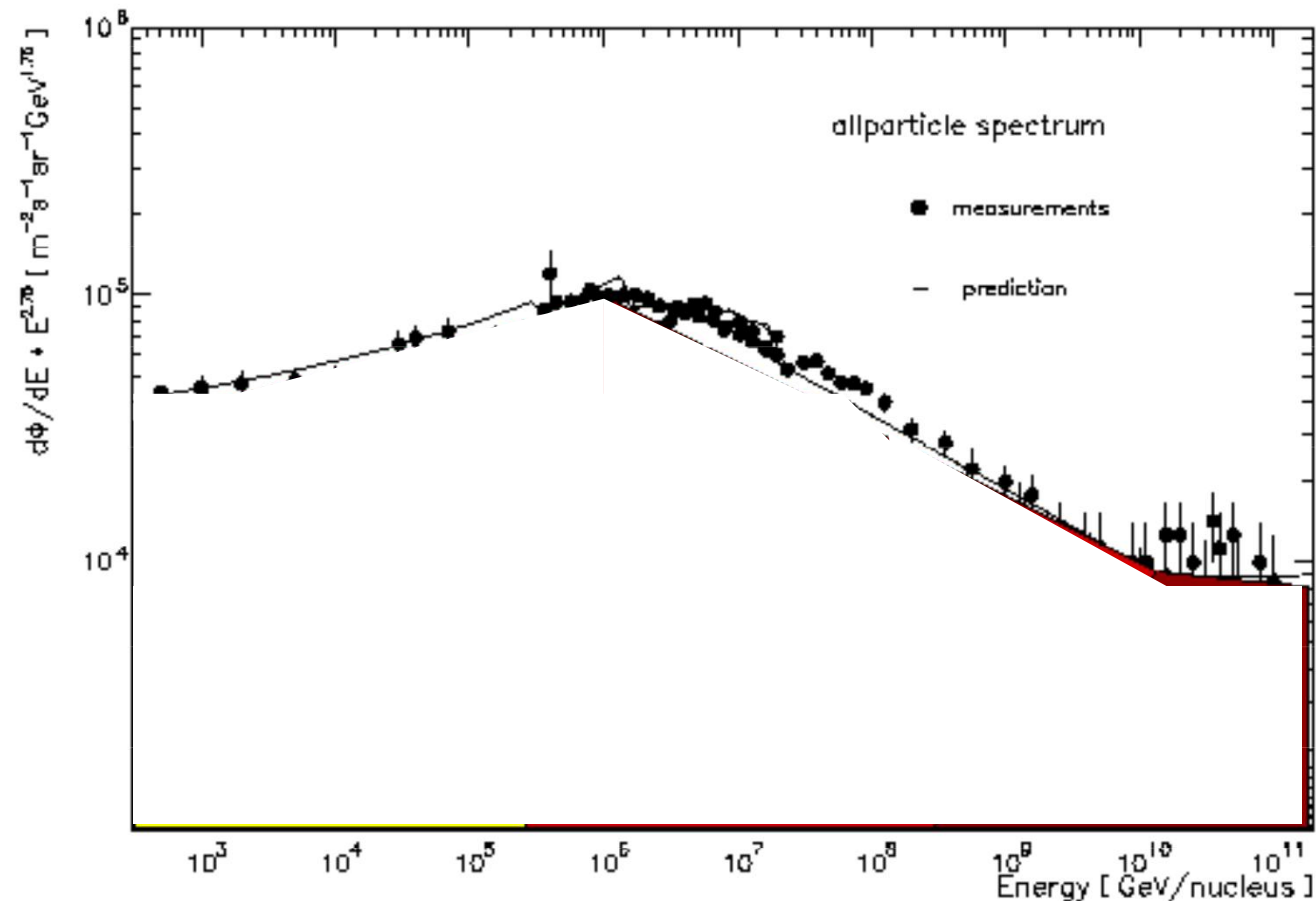
charged particles:

90 % protons

9 %  $\alpha$ -particles

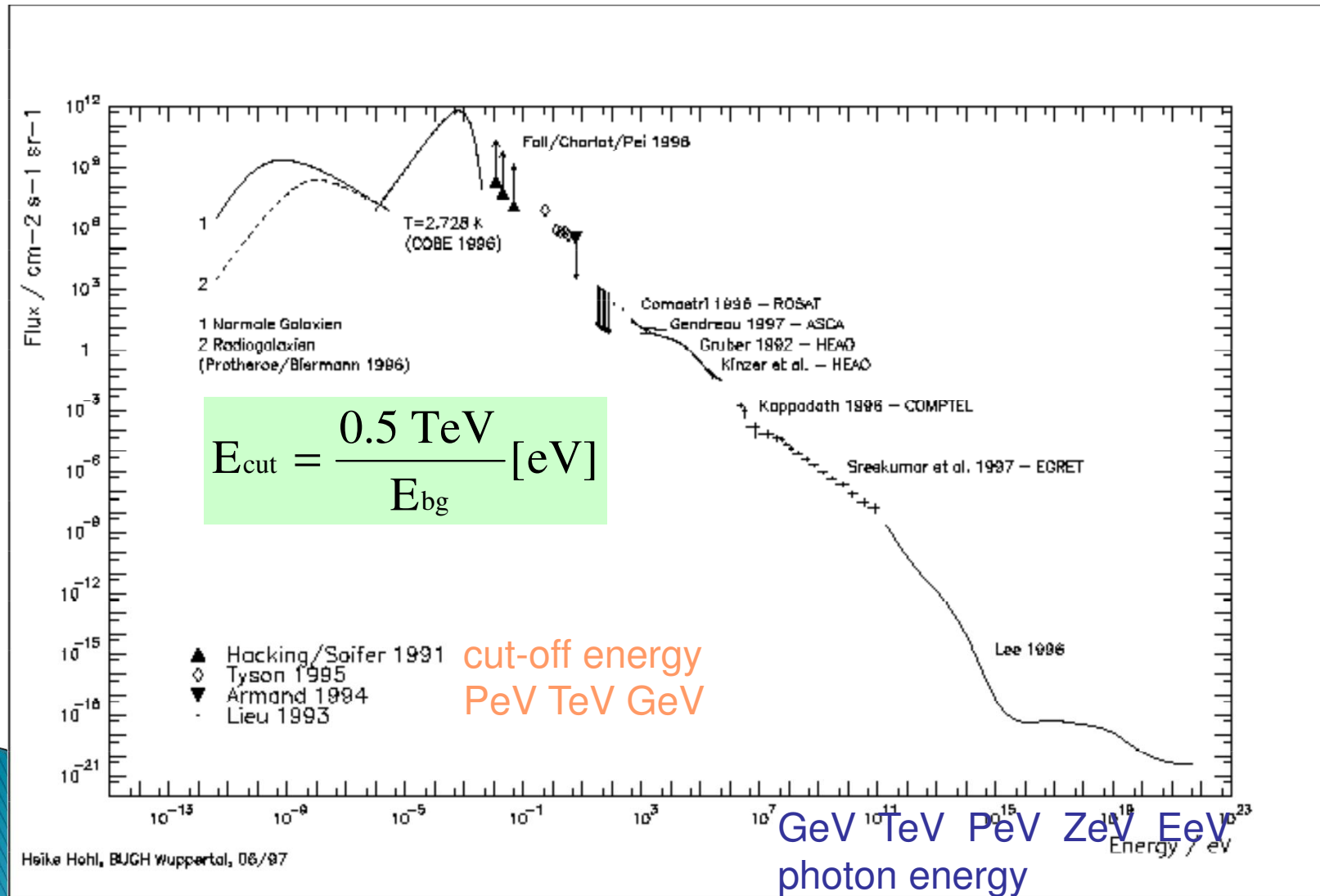
1 % electrons

(uncharged particles:  
photons & neutrinos)



# 2. Astroparticle physics

## 2.1 The Phenomena: Grand Unified Photon Spectrum



# 2. Astroparticle physics

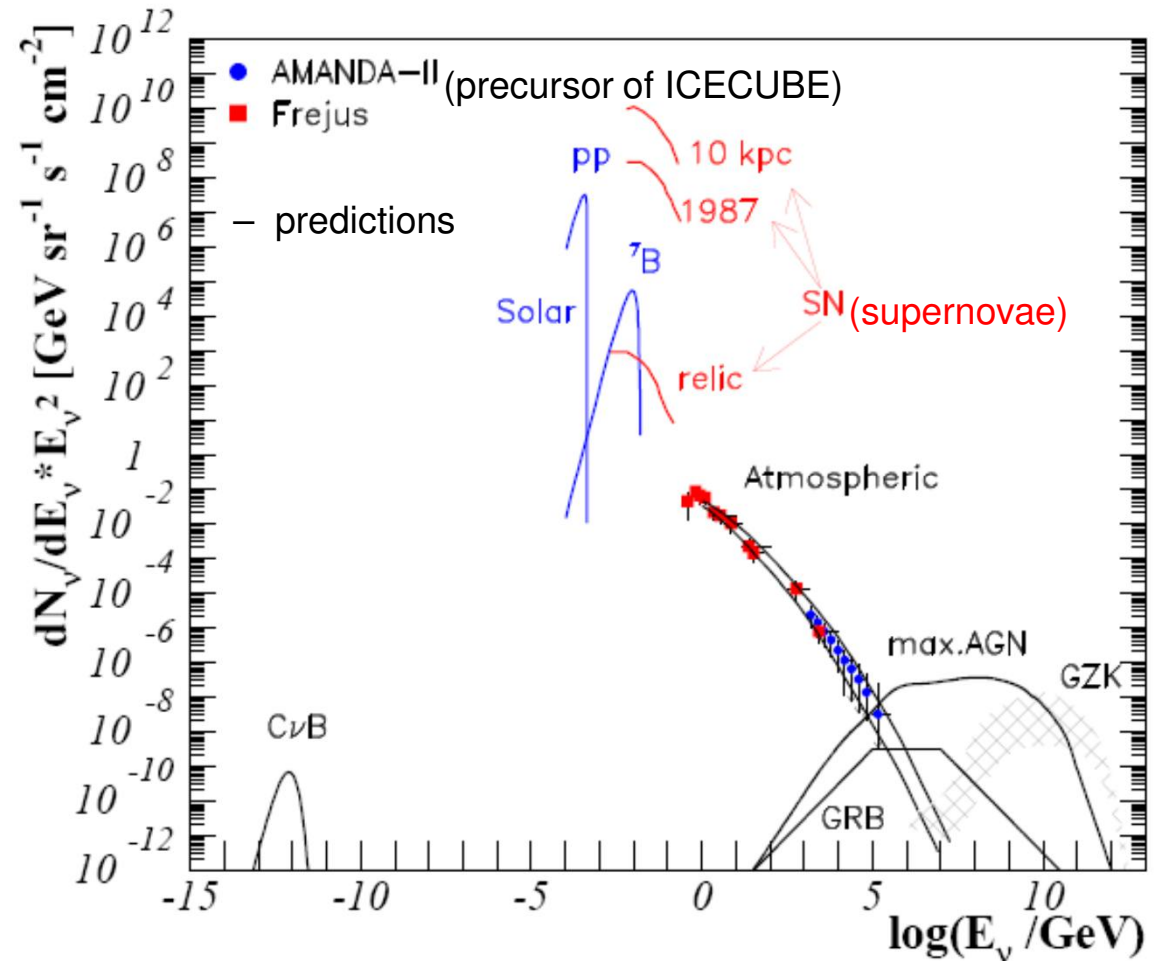
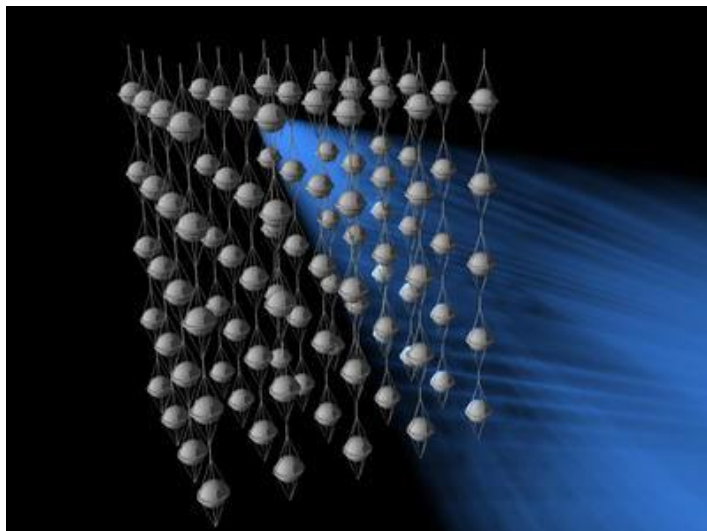
## 2.1 The Phenomena:

## Astrophysical Neutrinos

Hard to catch!

*very low reaction rate*

» look for *bottom-up* neutrino events, in mountains, ice, water





# 2. Astroparticle physics

## 2.2 The Problem: Where do $10^{20}$ eV CRs come from? How to explain CRs?

Extragalactic Sources & their activities

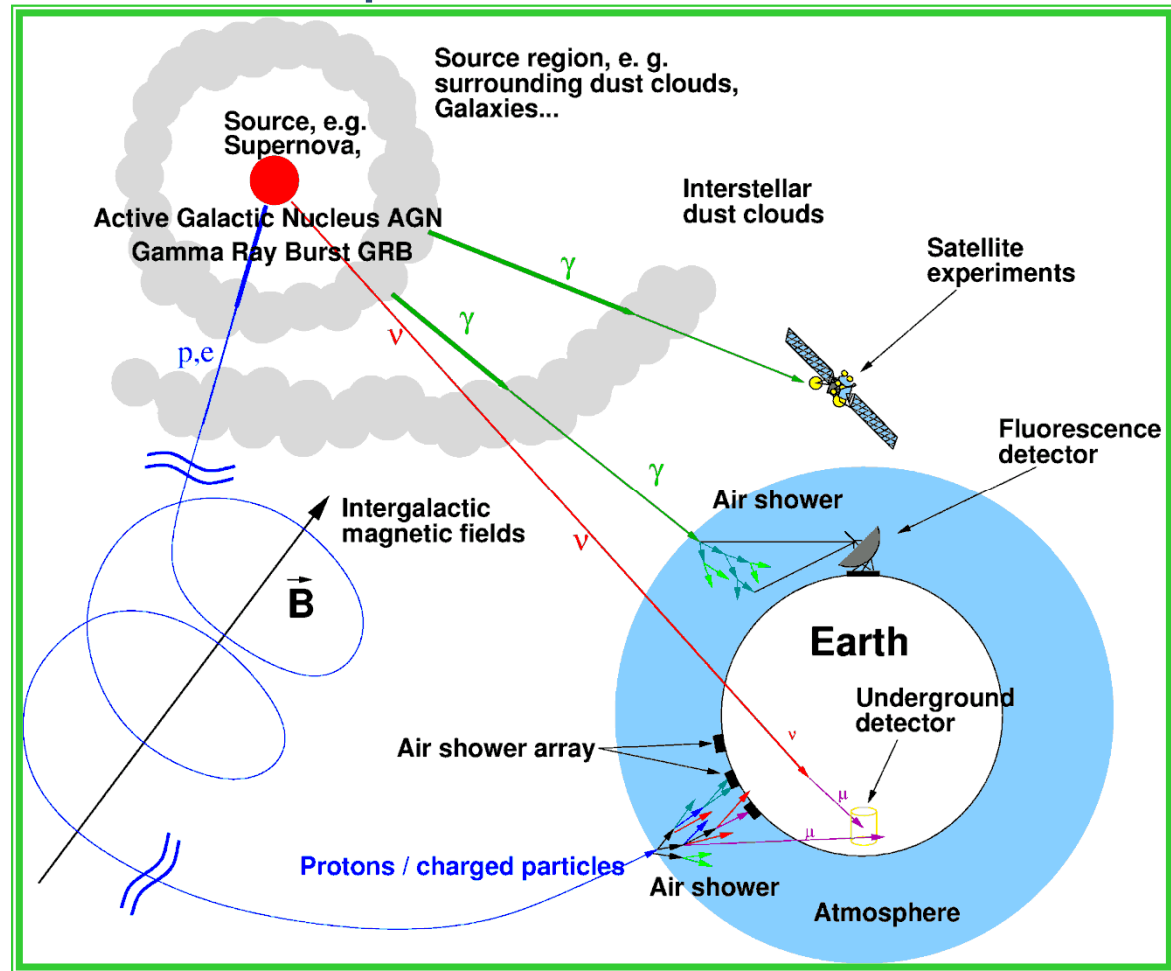
astrophysical data: luminosity & spectra & temporal evolution

of

AGNs,

GRBs,

SNRs



# 2. Astroparticle physics

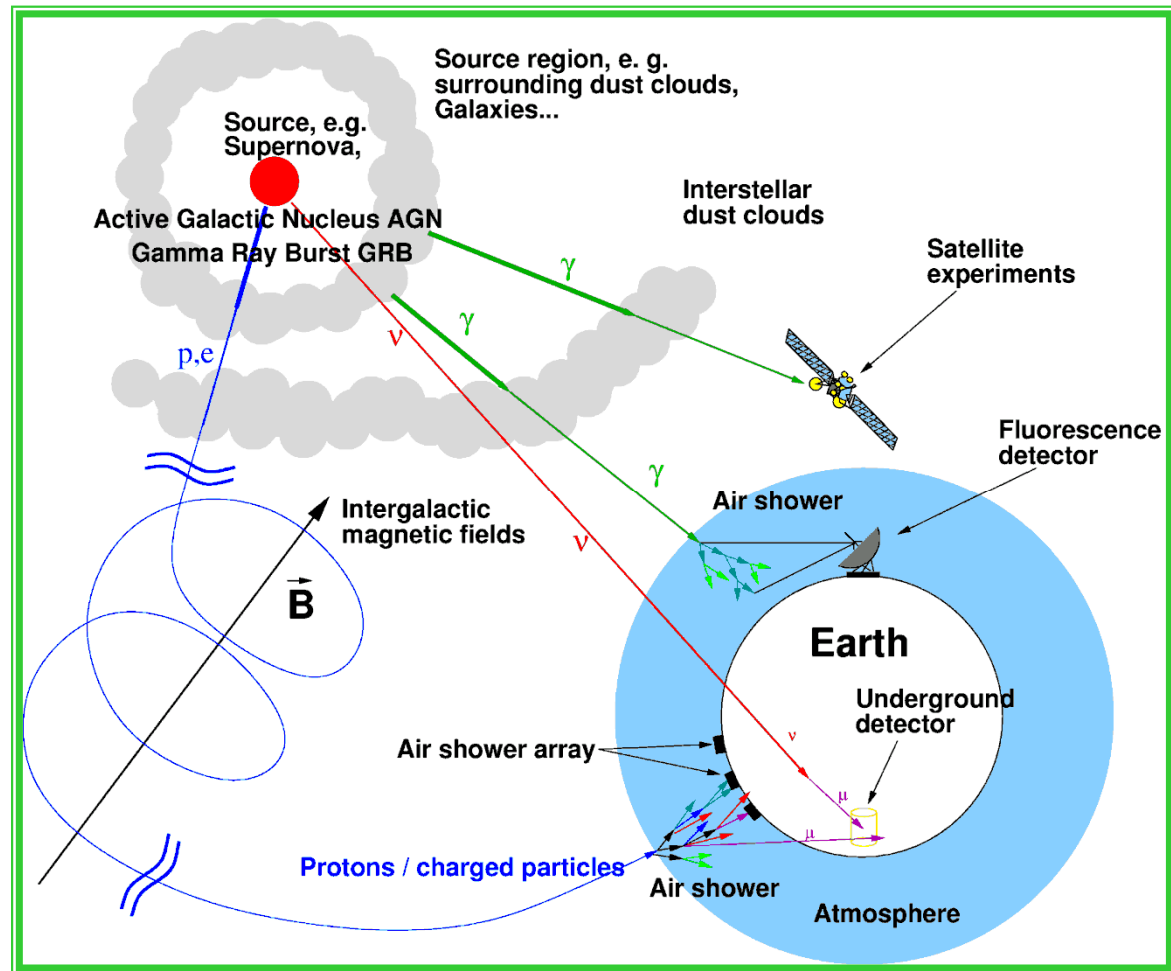
## 2.2 The Problem:

**Data analysis not easy!**

Use of particle telescopes  
in APP:

**tedious work,  
very complex  
data analysis**

*Many* parts of  
physics needed  
as background  
knowledge!  
(*New method:*  
machine learning)

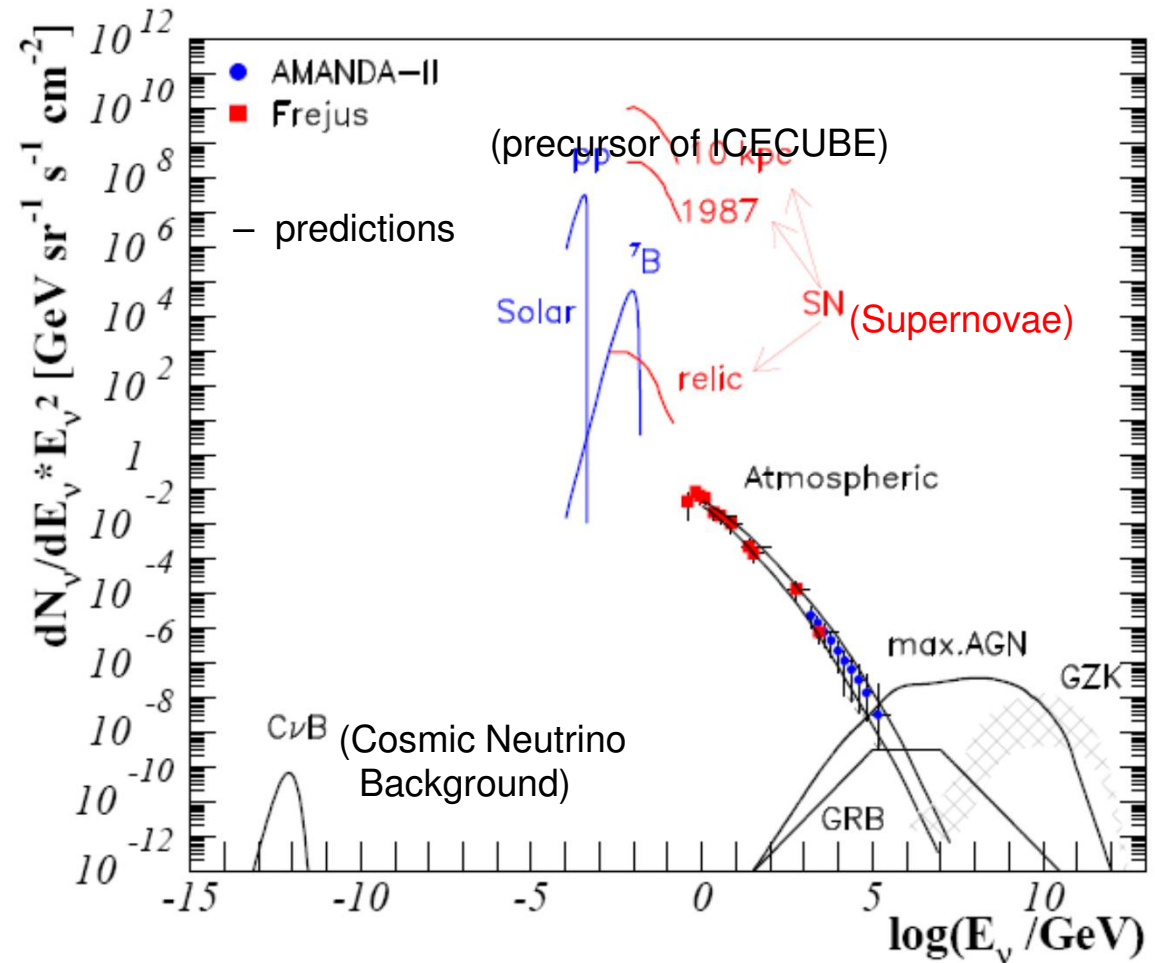


# 2. Astroparticle physics

## 2.3 The Problem:

## Models ↔ Few data

Sources & their activities  
**astrophysical models**  
of  
AGNs,  
GRBs,  
SNRs  
**tested** by gamma ray & neutrino telescopes!



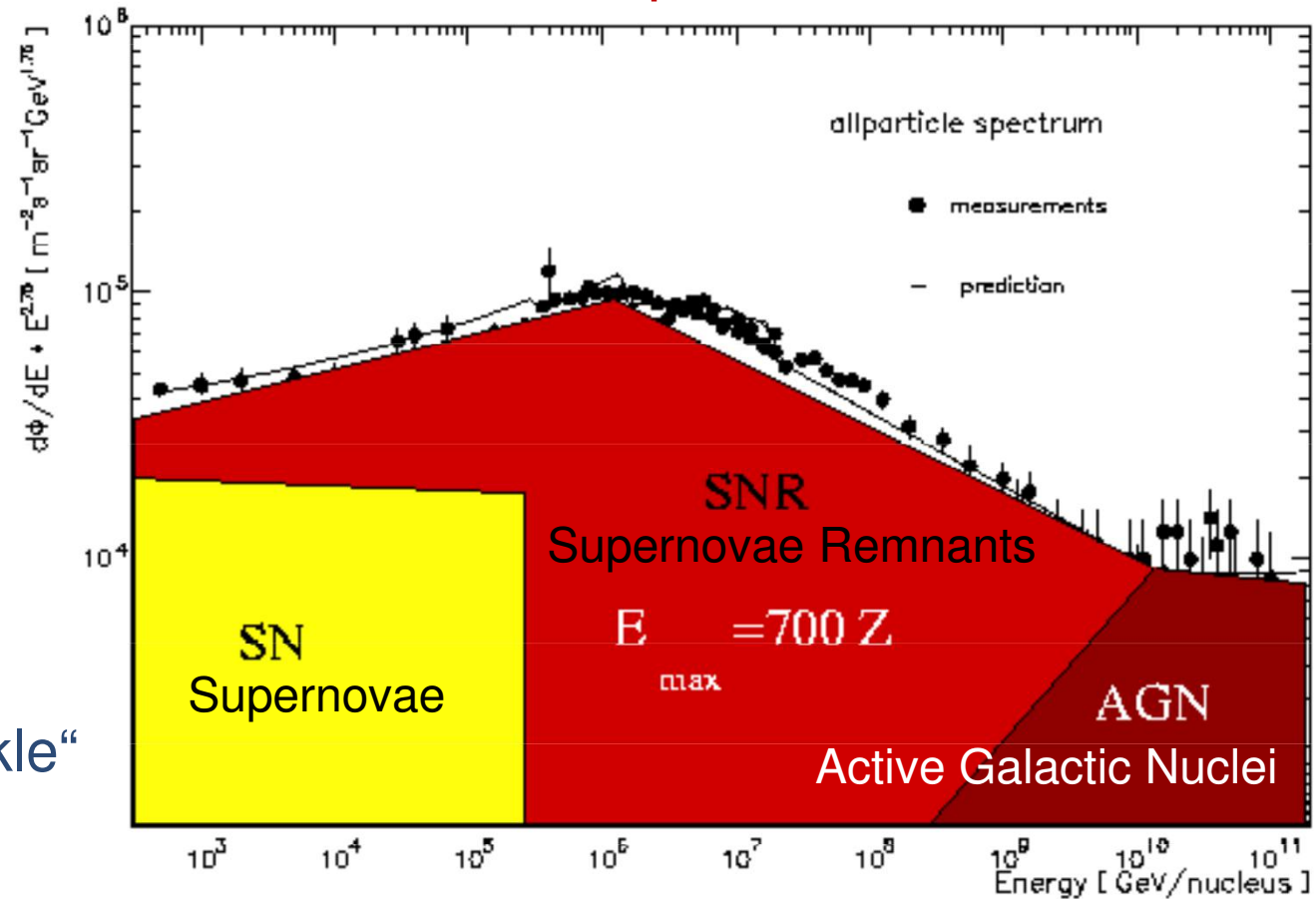


# 2. Astroparticle physics

## 2.3 The Models: Astrophysical Explanation of All Particle Spectrum of CRs

Power law decrease  
 $d\Phi/dE \cdot E^{2.70}$

- two „kinks“:  
 „knee“ & „ankle“



## 2. Astroparticle physics

### 2.4 The Methods: **Astro Particle Physics (APP)** – a *peculiar* discipline!

**Phenomena:** **cosmic rays (CRs)**

light & radio waves, gamma rays,  
all kinds of subatomic particles

**Disciplines:** particle physics & astrophysics

**Methods:** *mixed*

**Models:** nuclear & particle physics & astrophysics

**Detectors:** particle detectors *arranged as* telescopes

**Theory:** **no theory on its own**

***2 standard models &***

***2 incompatible theories***

## 2. Astroparticle physics

### 2.4 The Methods: How to explain CRs? Pragmatic unification!

Goal of physics: to explain the phenomena  
Astroparticle physics: to explain origin & spectra of cosmic rays

**in terms of: concepts & models**

Are you  
sure  
what you  
know?

- CRs = **messenger particles**
  - carry **information** from **extragalactic sources**
  - information may be **disturbed**
- » do they describe *physical reality*?

**Problem of APP: no *unified* foundations**

» „*true causes*“ or *economy of thought*?



## 2. Astroparticle physics

### 2.4 The Methods: **How does Astro Particle Physics work?**

Pragmatic strategies:

#### 1. Methodological unification:

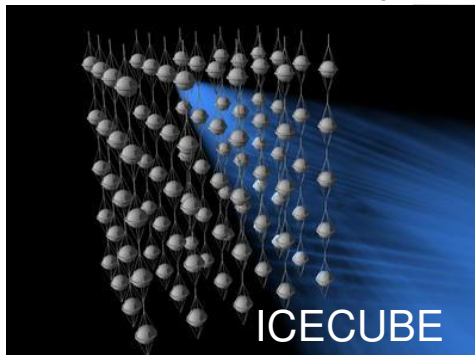
*combine* measurement methods

from particle physics & astrophysics:

arrange particle detectors as telescopes,

add data from space telescopes, ...

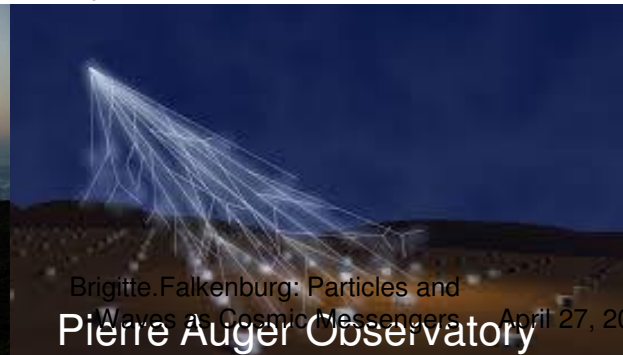
Cherenkov telescopes (Neutrinos, Gamma rays)



Hybrid detector (CR showers)



Hybrid detector (CR showers) CMB



Brigitte Falkenburg: Particles and  
Waves as Cosmic Messengers, April 27, 2011

# 2. Astroparticle physics

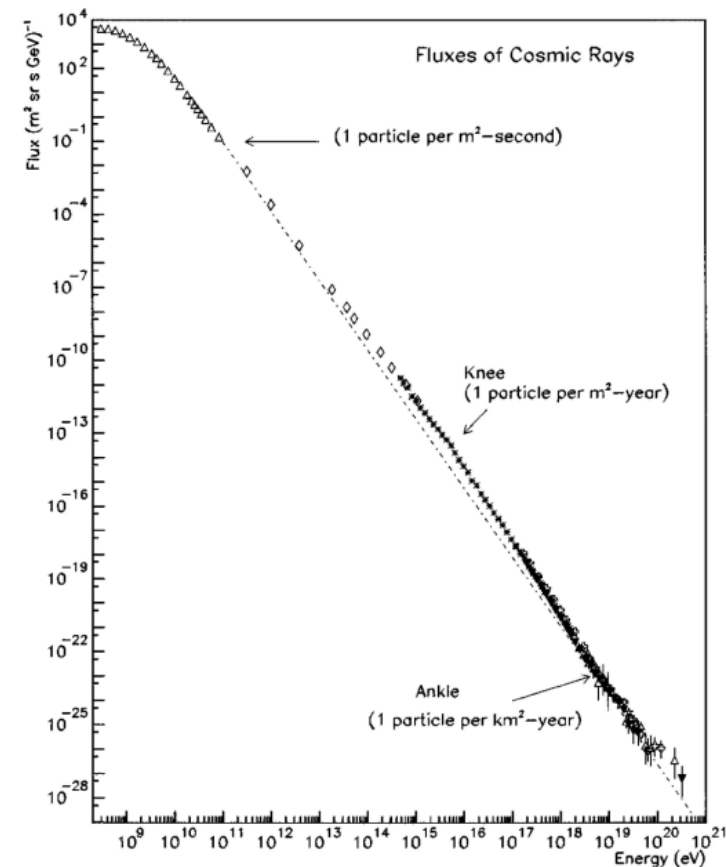
## 2.4 The Methods: How does Astro Particle Physics work?

Pragmatic strategies:

### 2. Phenomenological unification

*combine* cosmic rays

at low & high energy,  
put all kinds together  
in „All particles spectrun



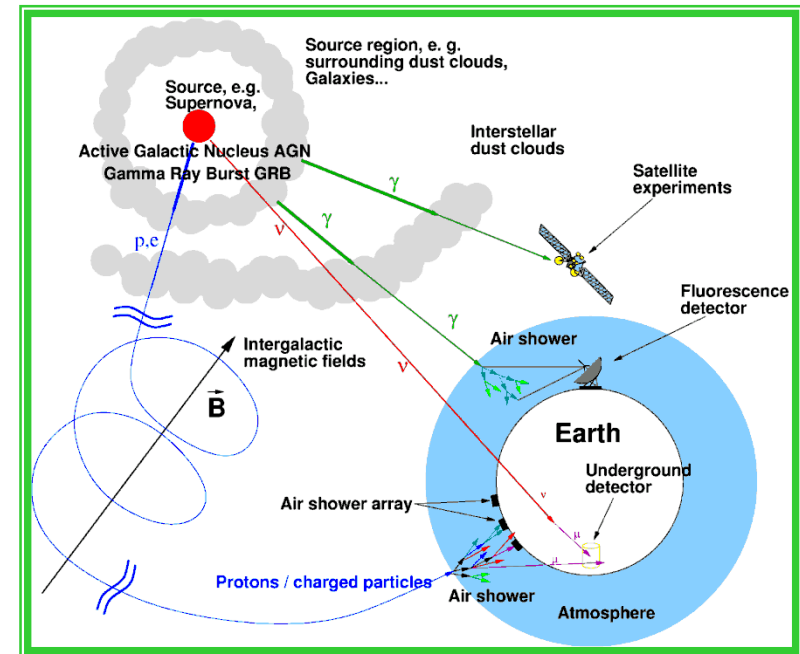
## 2. Astroparticle physics

### 2.4 The Methods: How does Astro Particle Physics work?

Pragmatic strategies:

### 3. Conceptual unification:

tell *causal story* about messenger particles carrying information from cosmic sources



## 2. Astroparticle physics

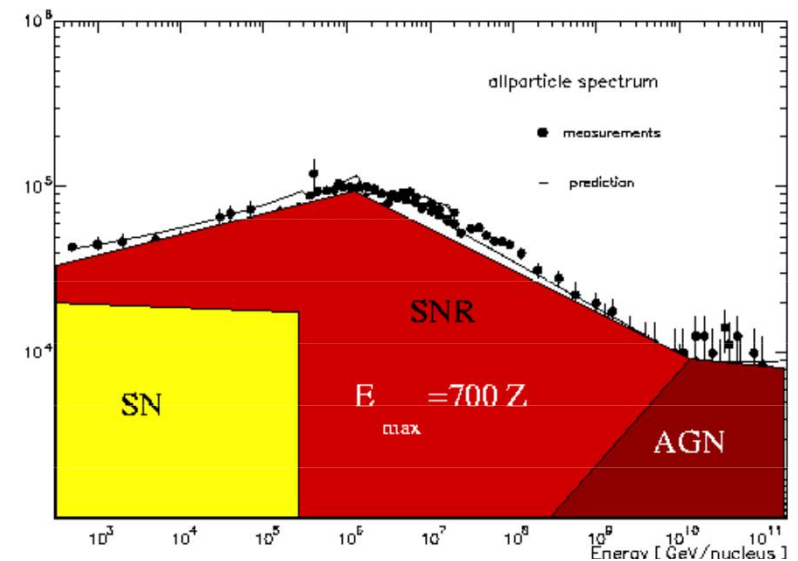
### 2.4 The Methods: How does Astro Particle Physics work?

Pragmatic strategies:

#### 4. Explanatory unification:

construct *models* of

astrophysical sources & mechanisms of particle acceleration in order to explain the „All particle spectrum“





## 2. Astroparticle physics

### 2.4 The Methods: How does Astro Particle Physics work?

Goal of APP: to **explain** the **CR phenomena**

Explanation: *very different views!*

- » „true causes“ (Newton)
- » unification (Einstein, Planck)
- » classification by analogies (Bohr)
- » economy of thought (Mach)

In APP: **stronger & weaker** views coexist

„messenger particles“ ↔ **causal realism**  
 specific models (sources of CR, particle acceleration )  
 ↔ **cautious instrumentalism**  
 background knowledge ↔ **belief in well-known laws**

# Particles and Waves as Cosmic Messengers

1. Cosmic Messengers
2. Astroparticle Physics
- 3. Observation of Jets**
4. Gravitational Waves

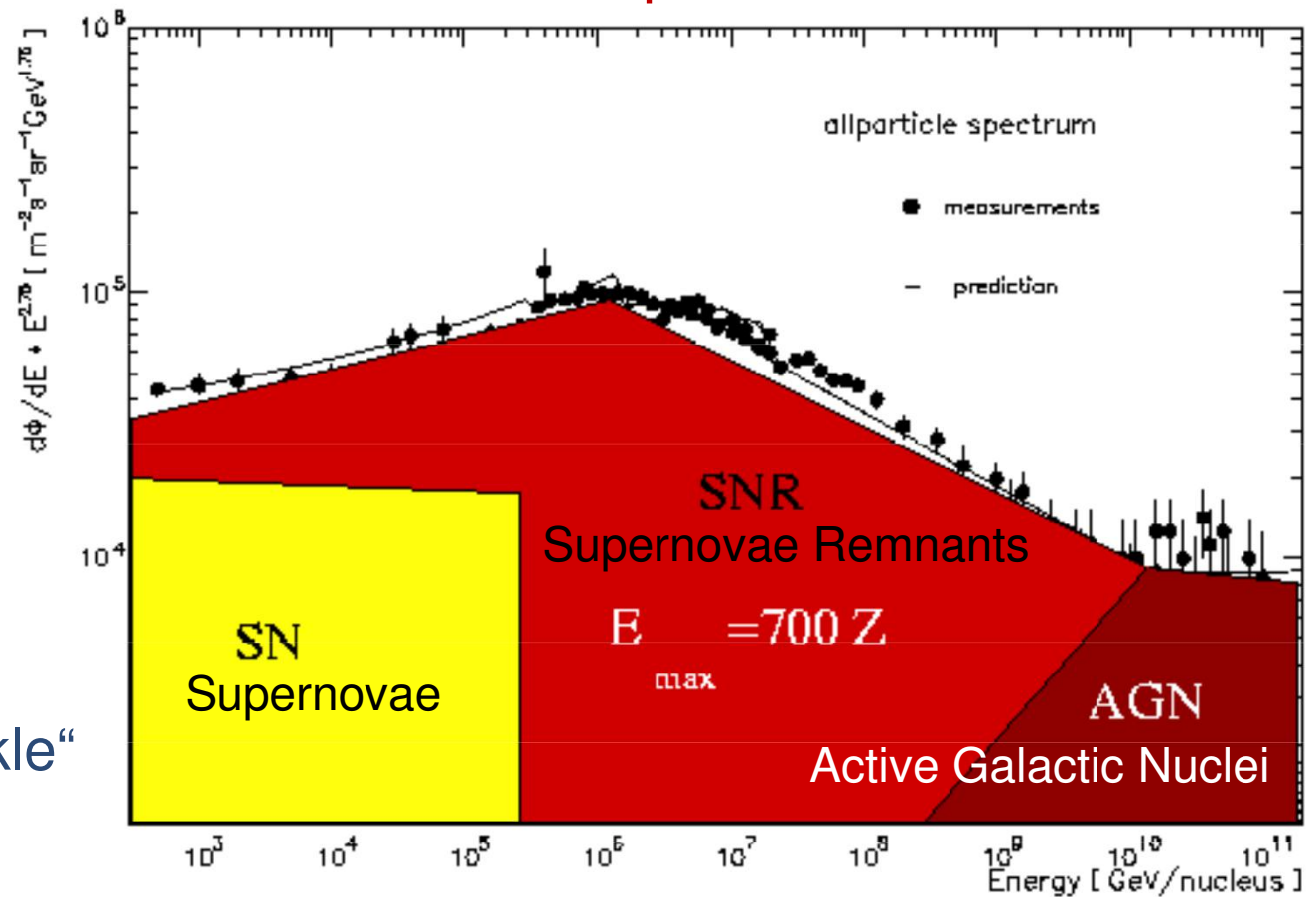
# 3. Observation of Jets

Assumption:  
CRs of  
highest energy  
due to  
AGN (Active  
Galactic Nuclei)

Power law decrease  
 $d\Phi/dE \cdot E^{2.70}$

- two „kinks“:  
„knee“ & „ankle“

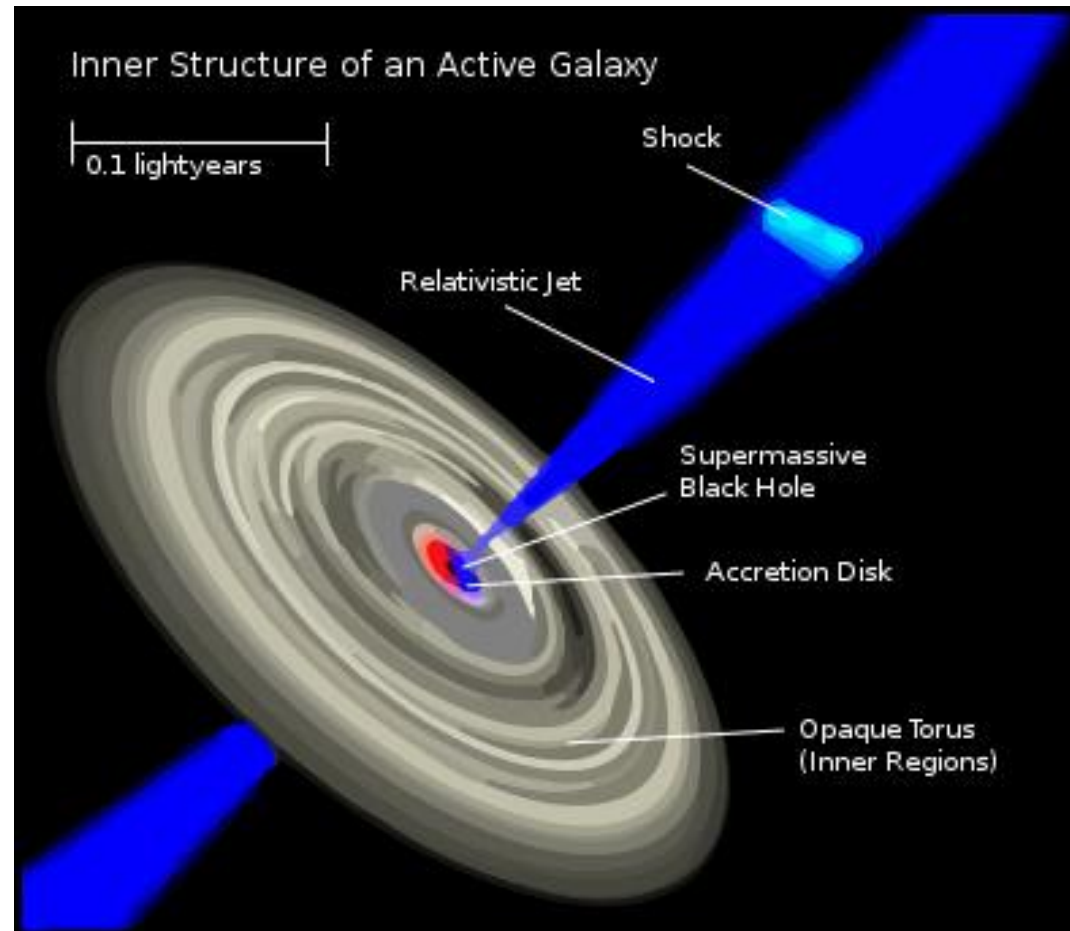
## Astrophysical Explanation of All Particle Spectrum of CRs



### 3. Observation of Jets

Assumption:  
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Supermassive  
Spinning  
Black Hole  
with  
Accretion disk  
Emitting 2Jets



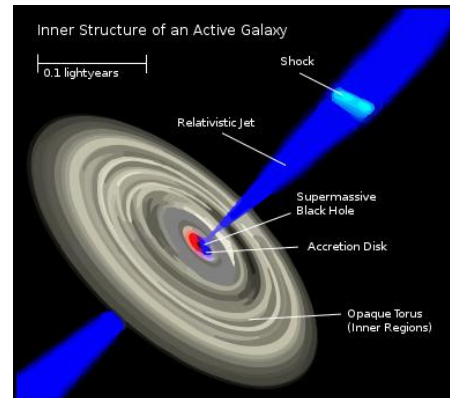
<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/f8/Galaxies-AGN-Inner-Structure.svg/210px-Galaxies-AGN-Inner-Structure.svg.png>



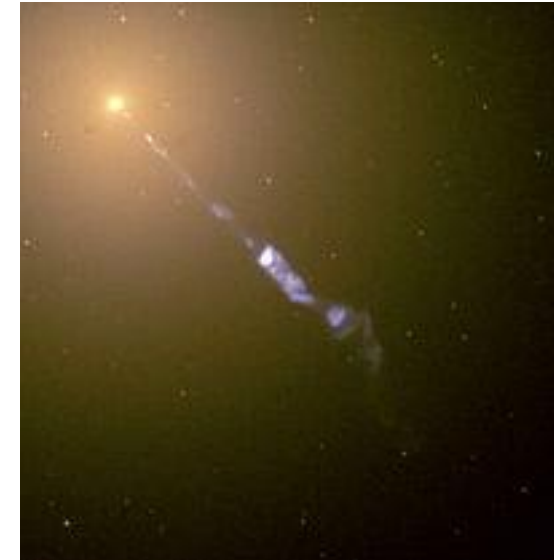
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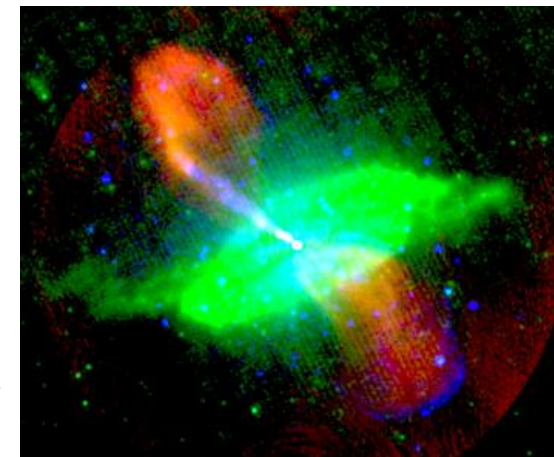
Supermassive  
Spinning  
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Accretion disk  
emitting 2Jets



Jet of 5000 ly length ejected by M87



Radio galaxy Centaurus A



By Martin Hardcastle <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Cena-spc.png>, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2186714>

# 3. Observation of Jets

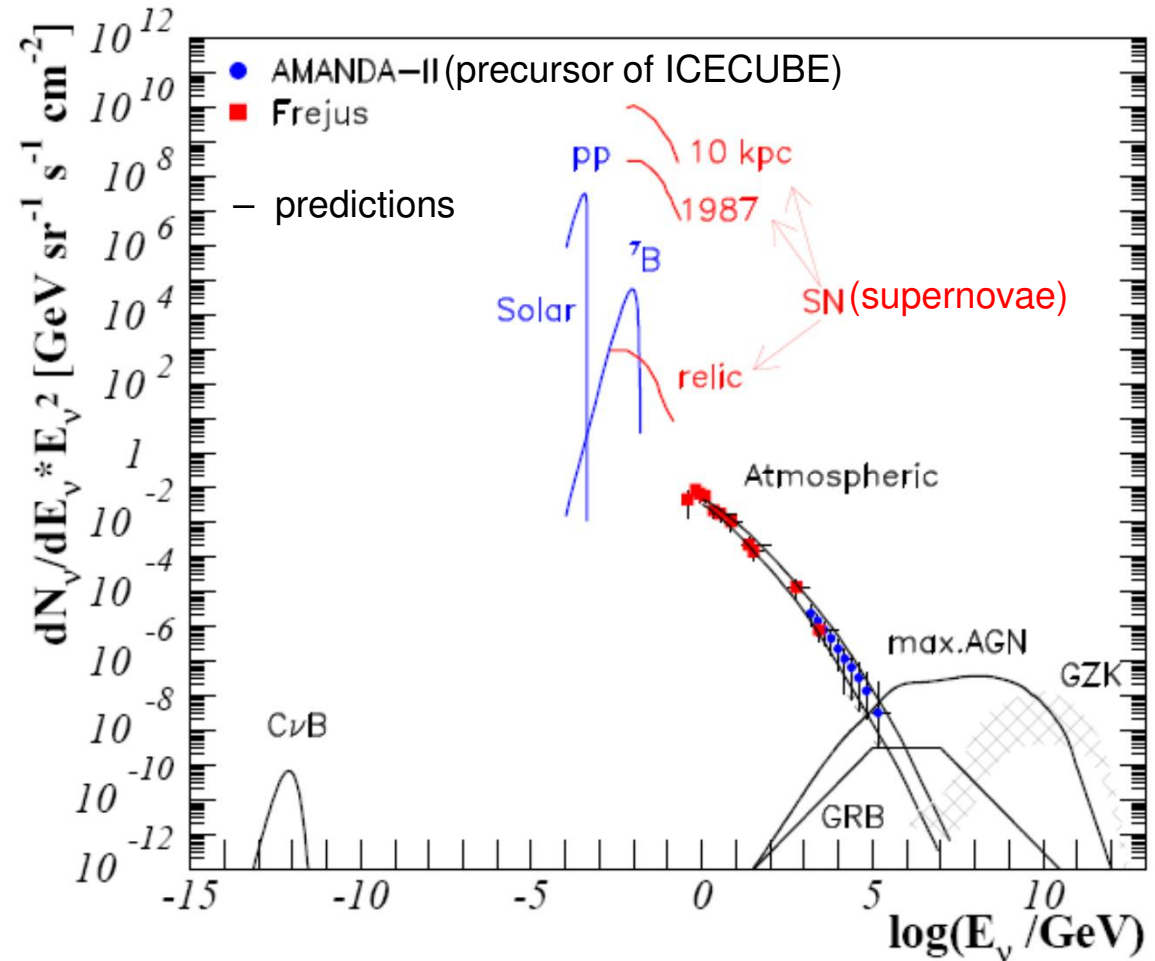
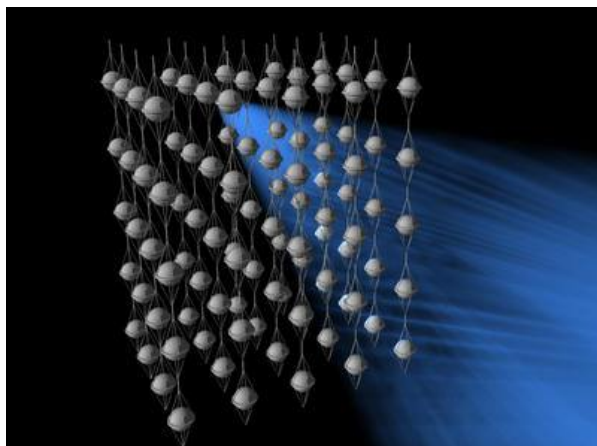
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Hard to catch!

*very low reaction rate*

» look for *bottom-up* neutrino events, in mountains, ice, water



# 3. Observation of Jets

Assumption:  
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Ice Cube Collaboration: Measurement of  
the  $\nu_\mu$  energy spectrum with IceCube-79  
(preliminary)

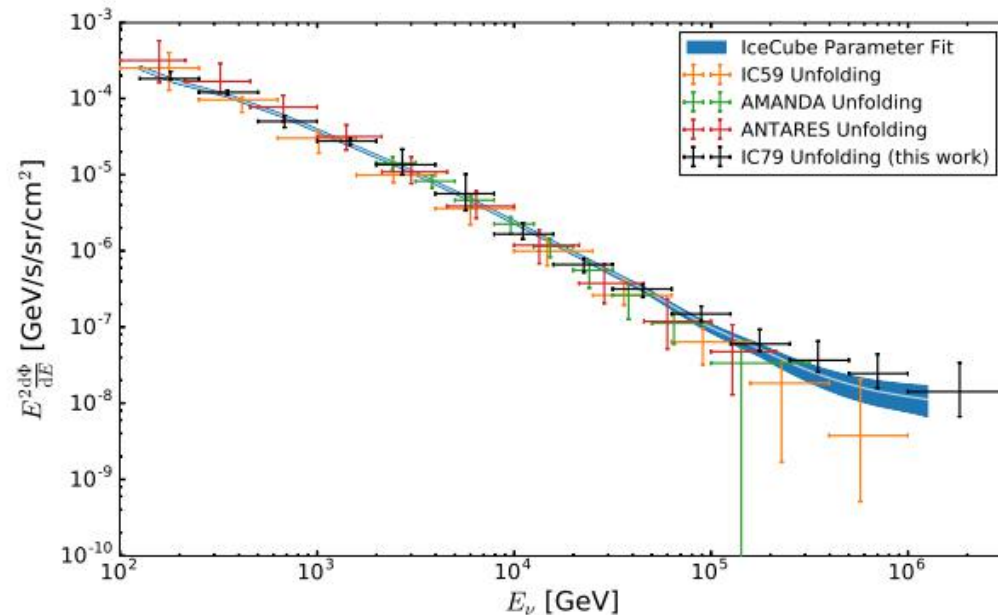
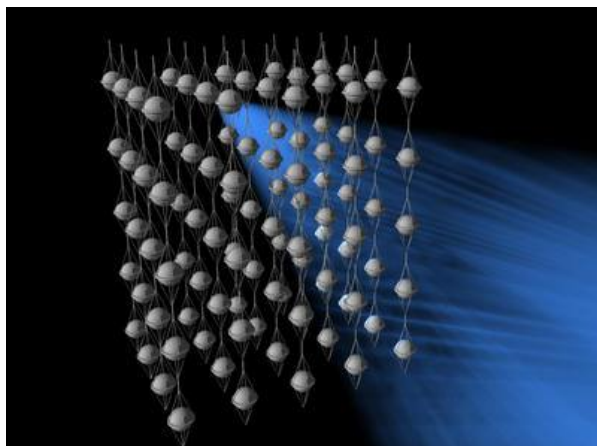


Fig. 7: The obtained  $\nu_\mu$  spectrum of this analysis compared to the unfolding analyses of AMANDA, ANTARES and IceCube-59.

Comparison  
of the  
unfolding  
methods



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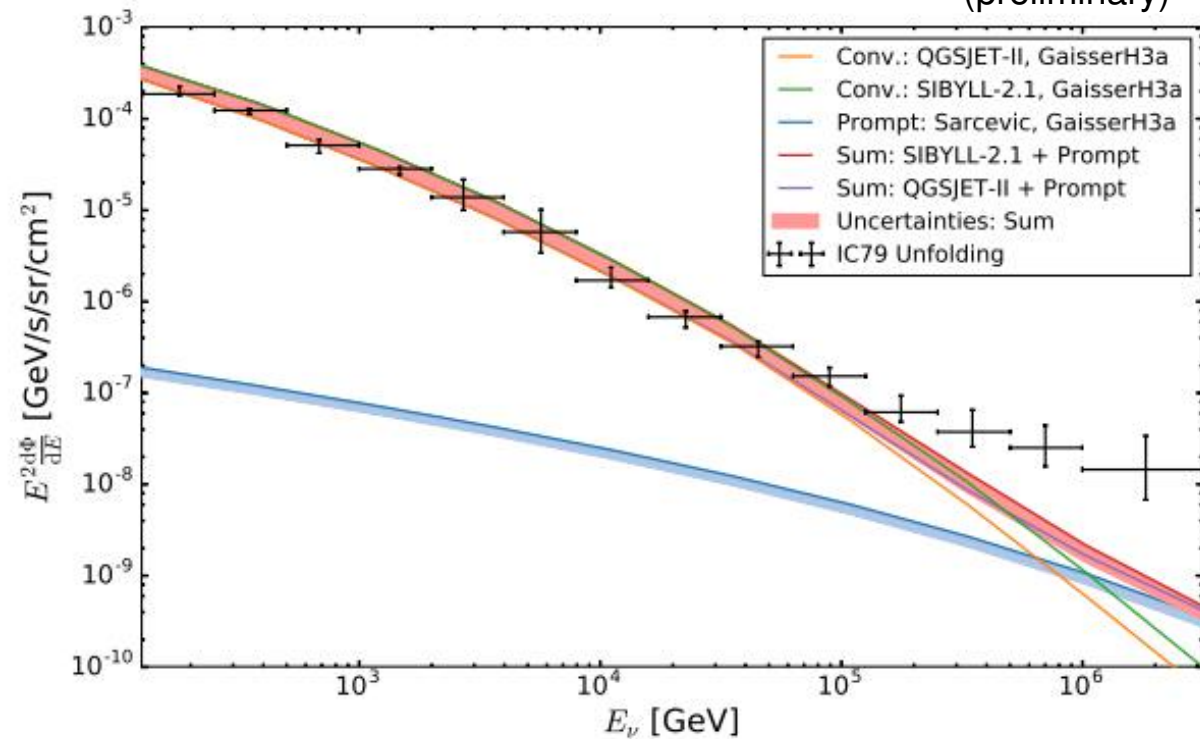
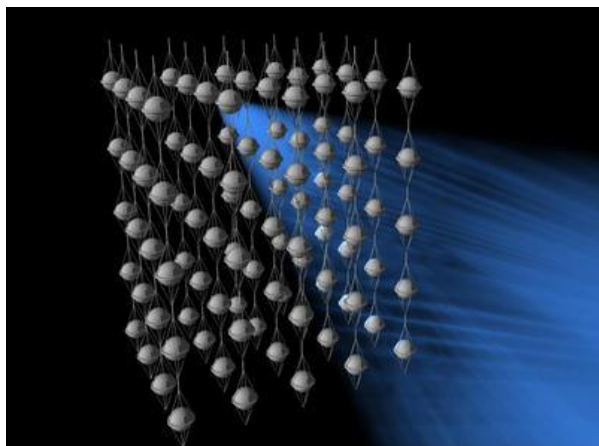


Fig. 8: Unfolded  $\nu_\mu$  energy spectrum compared to theoretical calculations.

Models of  
atmospheric  
neutrinos  
vs. data

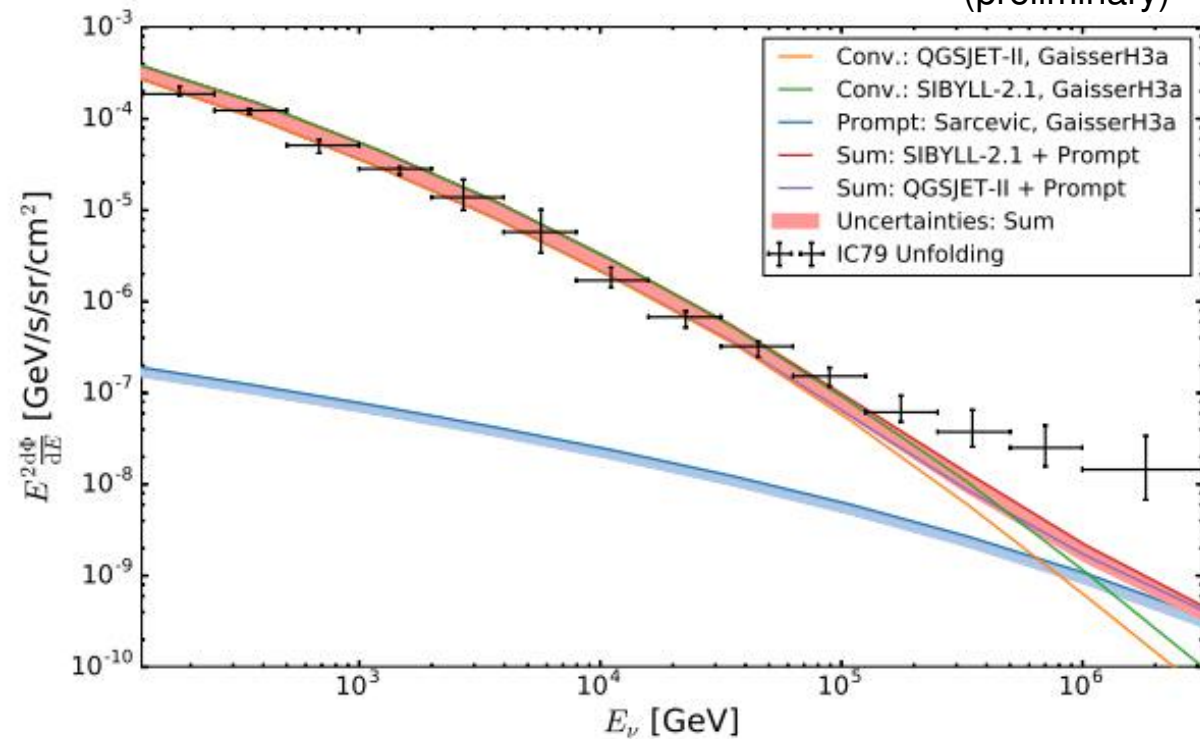




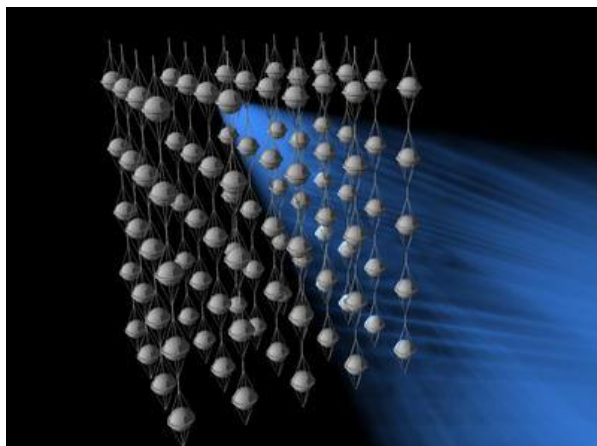
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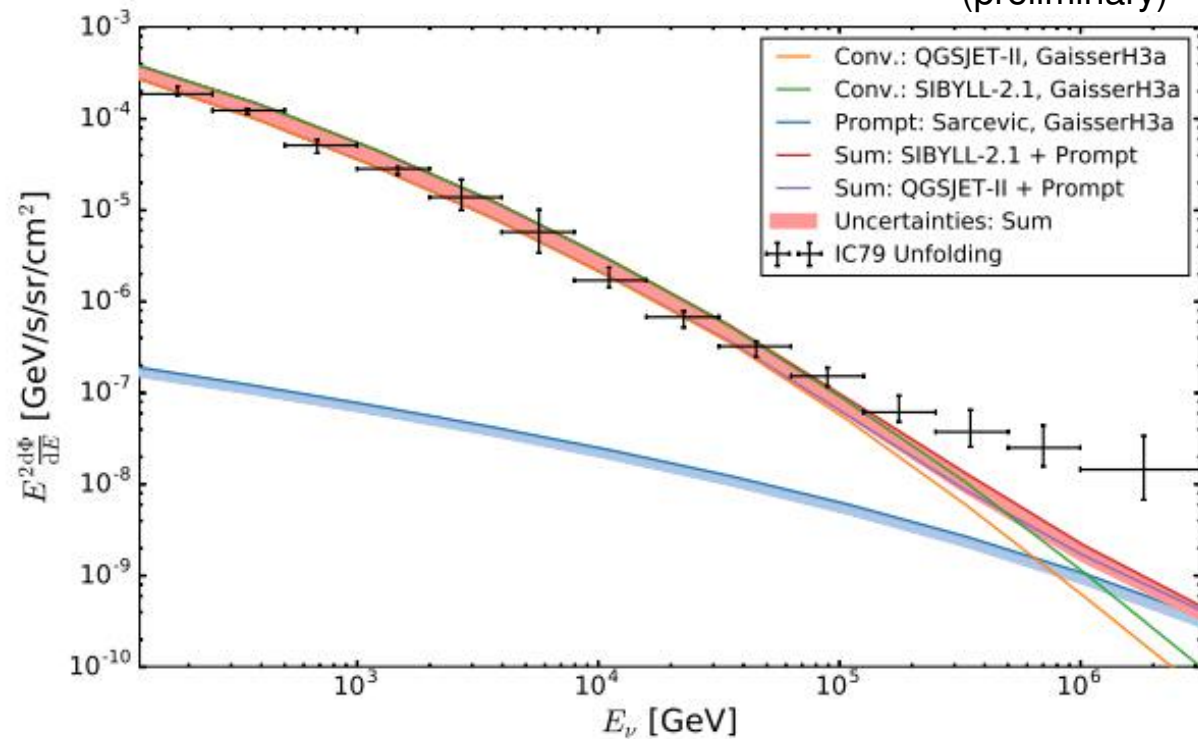
“We therefore conclude that the flattening of the muon neutrino energy spectrum at energies above  $\approx 60$  TeV is consistent with an astrophysical flux of neutrinos. [...] For higher energies the spectrum exceeds an atmospheric only prediction.”



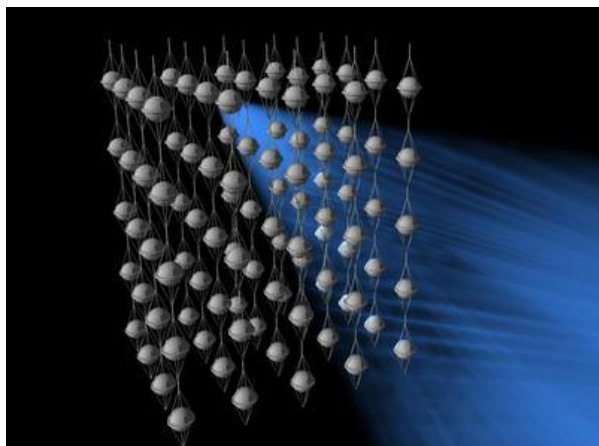
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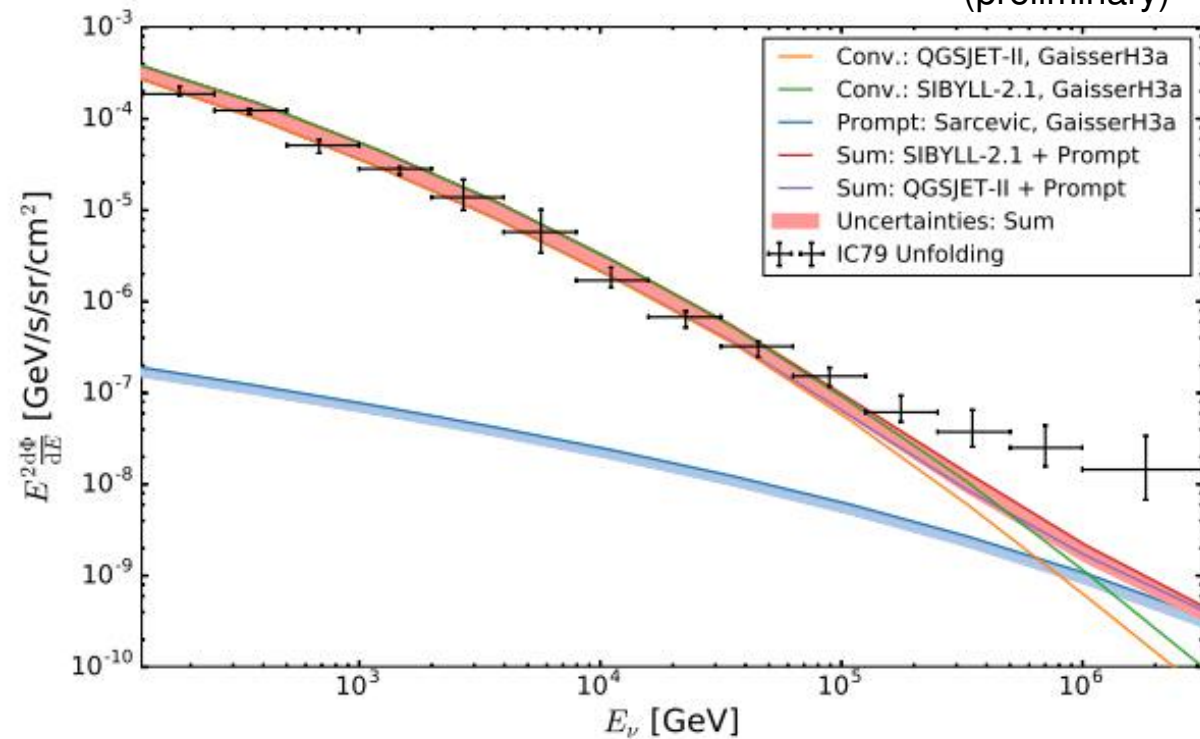
“This excess is compatible with recent measurements of an astrophysical neutrino flux. [...] Therefore, it can be most likely attributed to such an additional component. [...]”



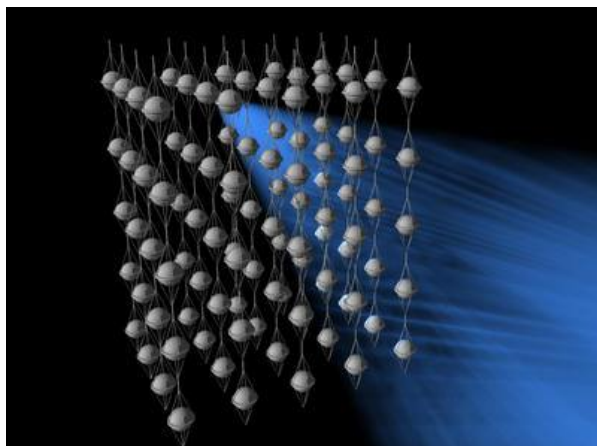
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“This analysis presents the first observation of an  
astrophysical muon neutrino flux in a model independent  
spectral measurement.”



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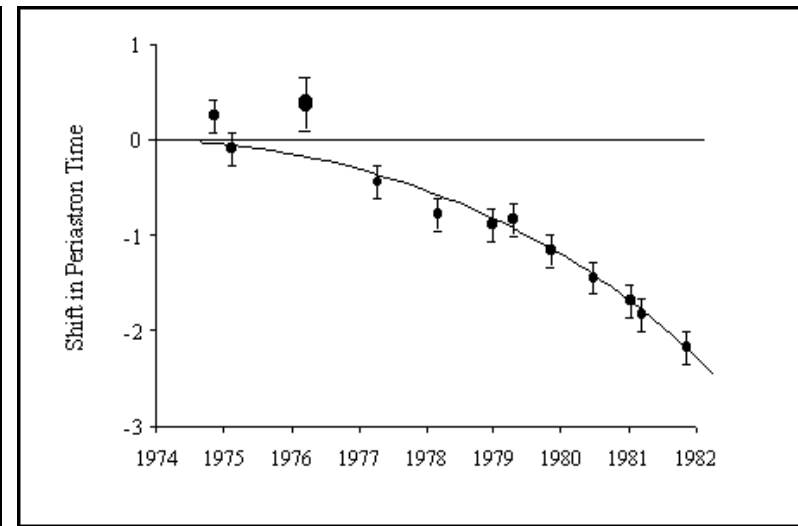
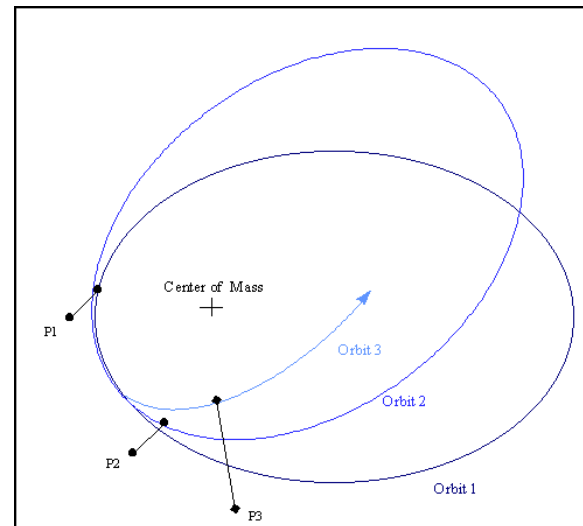
# 4. Gravitational Waves

## 4.1 Indirect Measurement

- 1974 discovery of pulsar PSR 1913+16 (R. A. Hulse and J. Taylor)
- 1983 report of decrease in the orbital period
- 1993 Nobel prize “for the discovery of a new type of pulsar, a discovery that has opened up new possibilities for the study of gravitation”

Figures from: "Gravitational Waves from an Orbiting Pulsar", Weisberg, J.M., Taylor, J.H. and Fowler, L.A., 1981, *Scientific American* Oct, 74

Energy loss by emission of Gravitational Waves



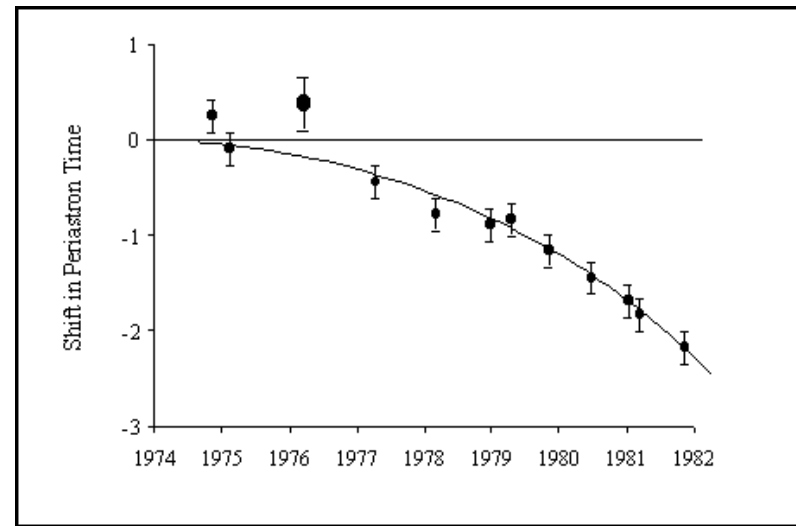
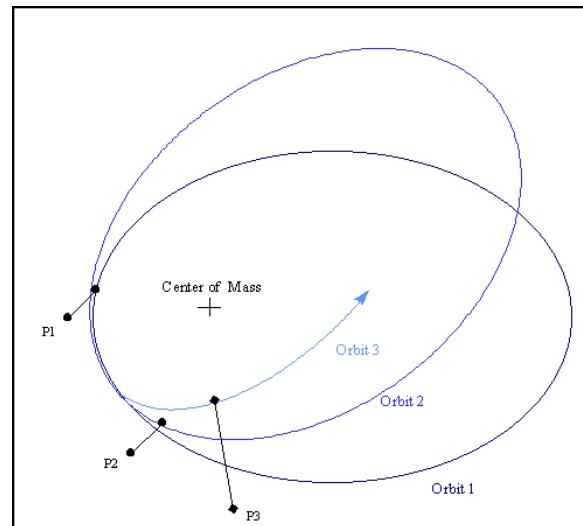
# 4. Gravitational Waves

## 4.1 Indirect Measurement

“Here a new, revolutionary "space laboratory" has been obtained for testing Einstein's general theory of relativity and alternative theories of gravity. [...] Of particular interest has been the possibility of verifying with great precision the theory's prediction that the system should lose energy by emitting gravitational waves in about the same way that a system of moving electrical charges emits electromagnetic waves.” (Nobel Prize Press Release)

Figures from: "Gravitational Waves from an Orbiting Pulsar", Weisberg, J.M., Taylor, J.H. and Fowler, L.A., 1981, *Scientific American* Oct, 74

Energy loss by emission of Gravitational Waves



# 4. Gravitational Waves

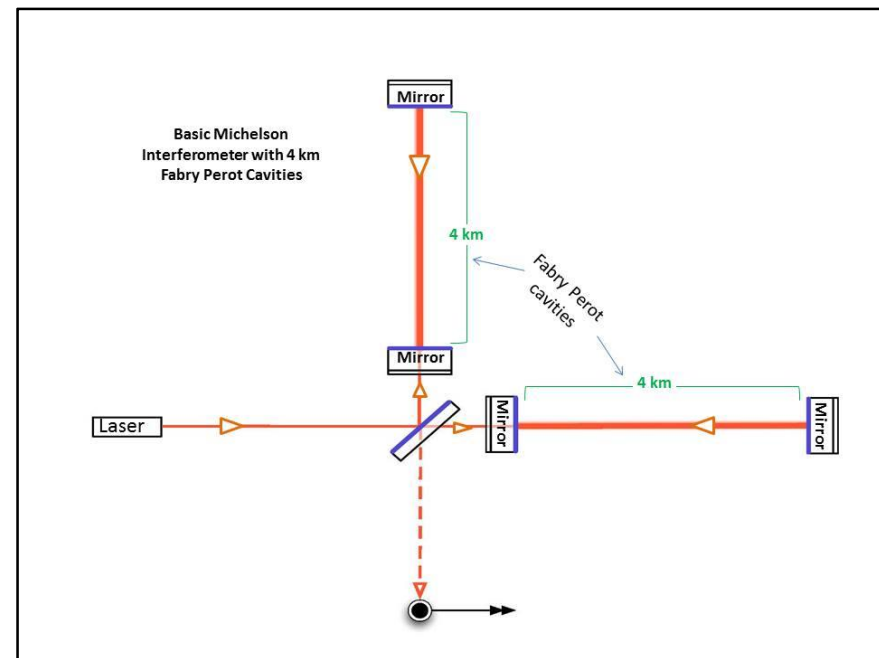
## 4.2 Direct Measurement

2 Twin Interferometers:  
LIGO Livingston & LIGO Hanford

<https://www.ligo.caltech.edu/page/ligo-detectors>



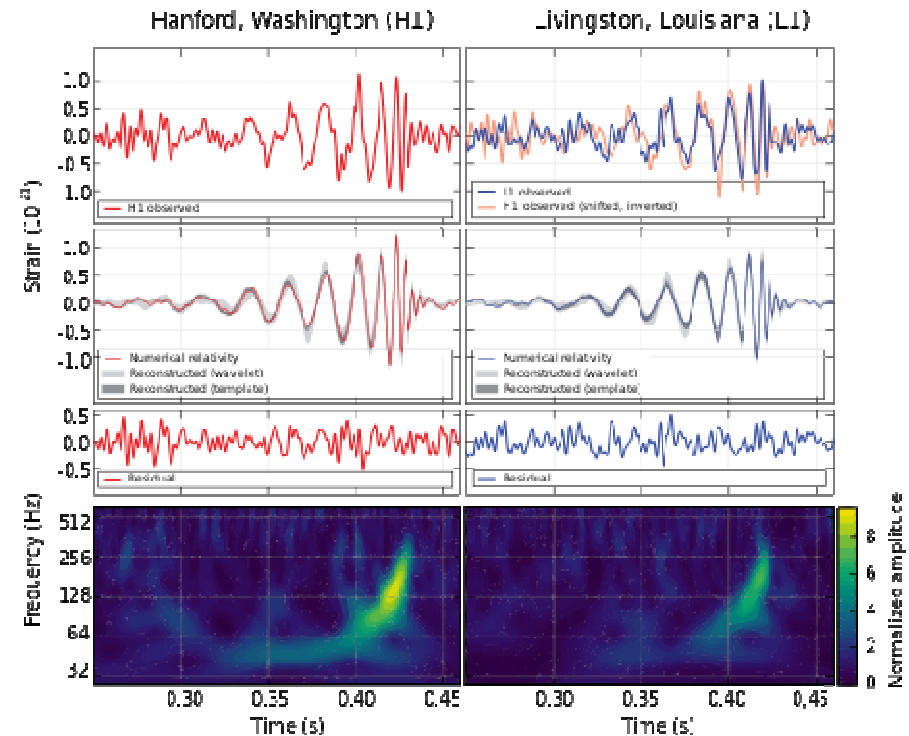
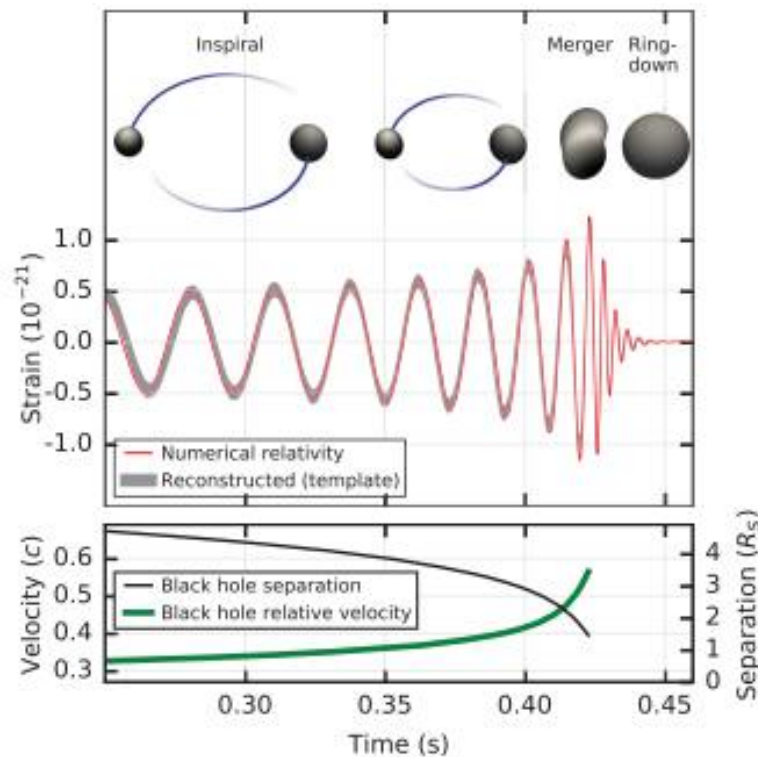
The LIGO Interferometer:



# 4. Gravitational Waves

## 4.2 Direct Measurement

September 14, 2015:  
1<sup>st</sup> detection of  
gravitational waves



By B. P. Abbott et al. (LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration)  
<http://physics.aps.org/featured-article-pdf/10.1103/PhysRevLett.116.061102>,  
CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=46987868>

## Compact Binary Inspiral Gravitational Waves



# 4. Gravitational Waves

## 4.3 The Future: Multi-Messenger Astrophysics

- Gravitational waves: The new cosmic messengers
- Investigate correlations of gravitational waves  $\leftrightarrow$  CRs
- Merging black holes correlated with GBRs (Gamma Ray Bursts) may point to origin of rotating black holes

**A. Loeb: Electromagnetic Counterparts to Black Hole Mergers  
Detected by LIGO, arXiv:1602.04735 [astro-ph.HE]**

- Use arrays of detectors & spatially separated experiments to locate the origin of CRs  $\leftarrow ? \rightarrow$  AGN

**Pierre Auger Collaboration: Correlation of the Highest-Energy Cosmic Rays with Nearby Extragalactic Objects. Science 09 (2007), pp. 938-943.  
- A targeted search for point sources of EeV photons with the Pierre Auger Observatory, arXiv:1612.04155 [astro-ph.HE]**

- Fusion of Astroparticle Physics & Study of Gravitation

**Marica Branchesi: Multi-messenger astronomy: gravitational waves, neutrinos, photons, and cosmic rays. XIV International Conference on Topics in Astroparticle and Underground Physics. <http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1742-6596/718/2/022004/pdf>**

## 4. Gravitational Waves

### 4.3 The Future: Multi-Messenger Astrophysics

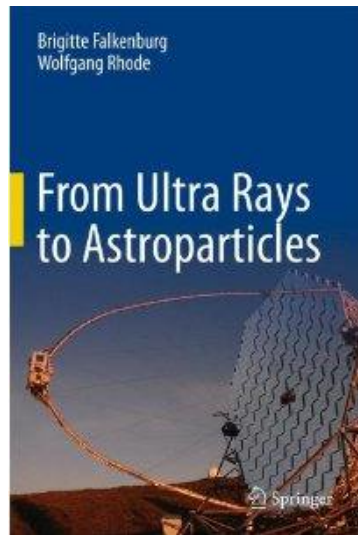
#### **A philosophical conclusion:**

- Change of relation theory  $\leftrightarrow$  data
- **Mutual holism:**
  - Body of **theoretical knowledge**
  - $\leftrightarrow$  Body of **independent empirical data**
- **Goal: A most complete body of empirical evidence**  
from **all** earthbound and satellite experiments

“This ‘world detector’ would, as required by Bacon, observe ‘everything’ at the same time. [...] This however also means, that more information is barely possible.” (Wolfgang Rhode, 2012)

# Thank you for your attention!

## References:



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2. B. Falkenburg, Pragmatic Unification, Observation and Realism in Astro–particle Physics. In: *General Journal for Phil. of Science* 43 (2012), 327–345.
3. B. Falkenburg, From Waves to Particles and Quantum Probabilities. In: B. Falkenburg & W. Rhode (eds.), *From Ultrarays to Astroparticles. A Historical Introduction to Astroparticle Physics*. Springer: Dordrecht 2012, 265–295.
4. W. Rhode, Introduction. In: B. Falkenburg and W. Rhode (eds.), *From Ultrarays to Astroparticles. A Historical Introduction to Astroparticle Physics*. Dordrecht: Springer 2012, 1–16.