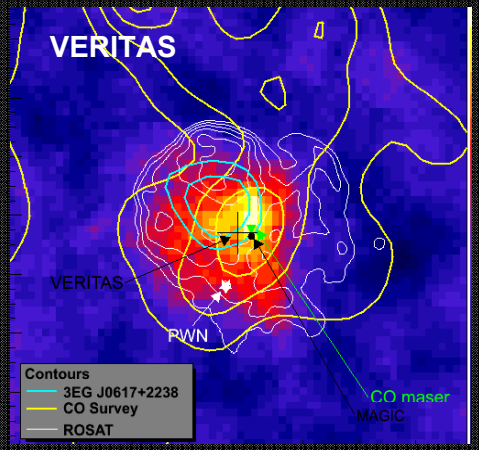
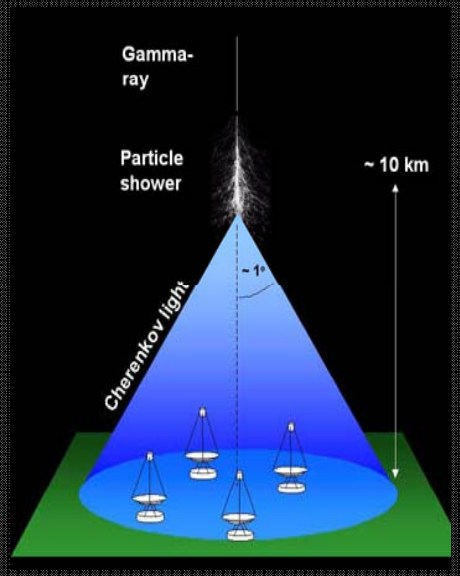
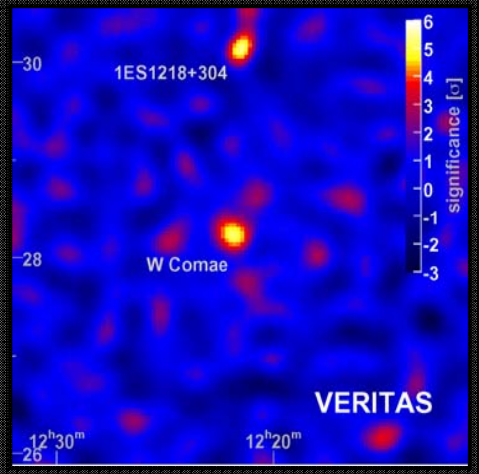
Particle Astrophysics at Very High Energies







Rene A. Ong Colloquium @ Ga Tech 28 Oct 2009

Outline

Scientific Motivation

- A "New Astronomy"
- Physicist's Viewpoint
  - *Astrophysical TeV accelerators*
    1 TeV = 10^{12} eV or VHE = very high energy
  - *Origin of Cosmic Rays, understanding black holes …*
  - *Probes of new physics,*

Experimental Technique

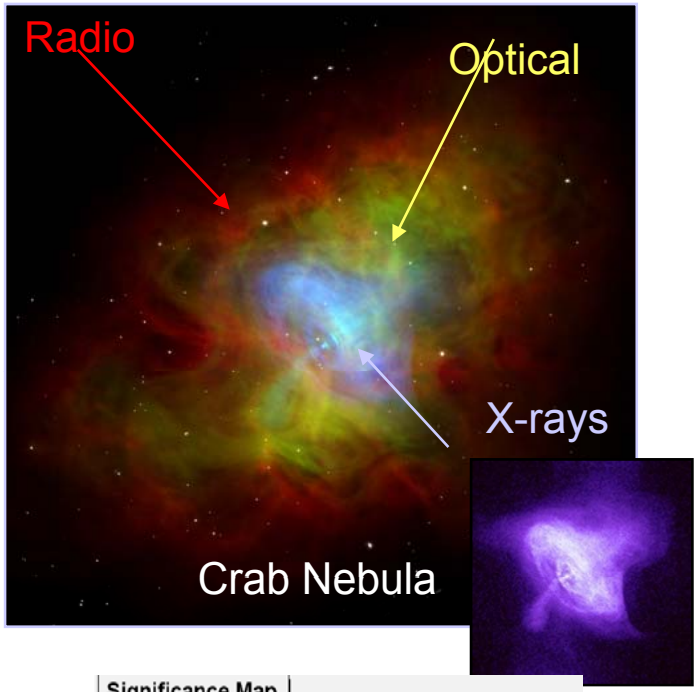
The VERITAS Project

- Description, performance, operations
- Science Highlights – brand new results
- Fermi Gamma-ray Space telescope

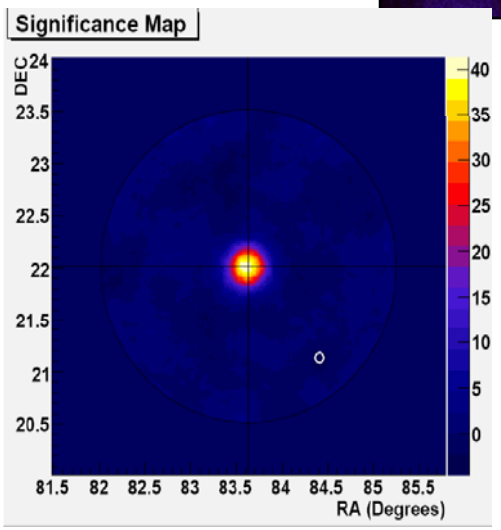
Future

A New Astronomy

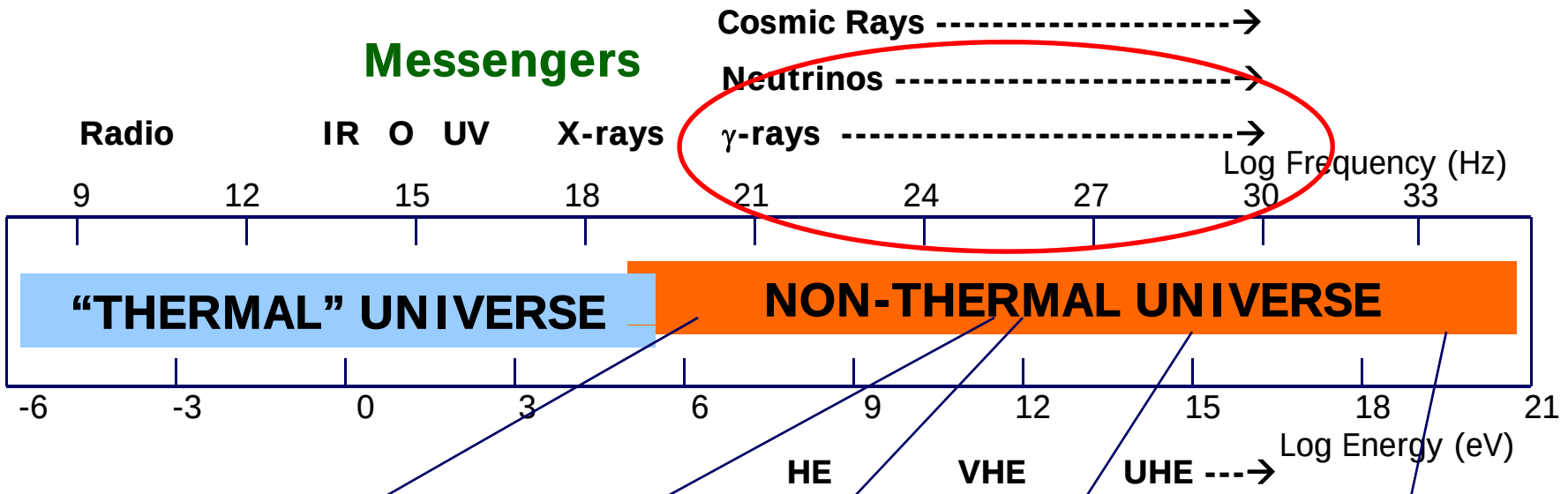
- Before 1940's – Astronomy only used visible light.
- New wavebands (radio, IR, X-ray, γ-ray) change our picture of the universe
  - Different spatial scales
  - Different time scales
  - Different emission processes
  - New physics
- Other messengers (cosmic rays, neutrinos, grav. waves)

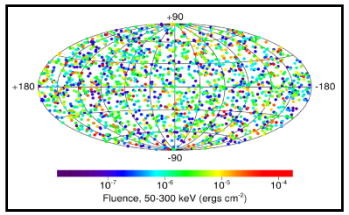


TeV γ-rays

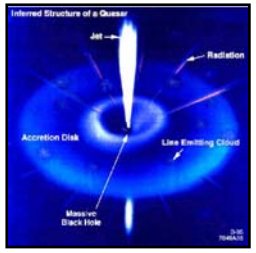


New Windows & New Messengers

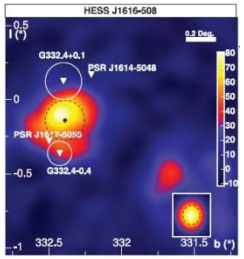




Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs)

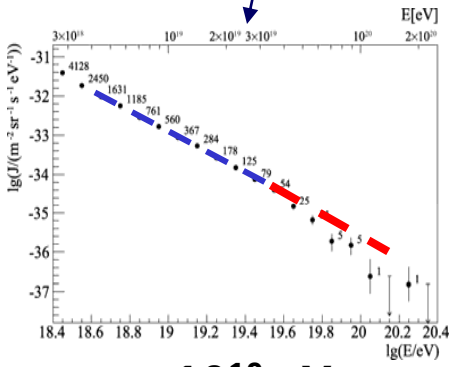


Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN)



"Dark" TeV Accelerators

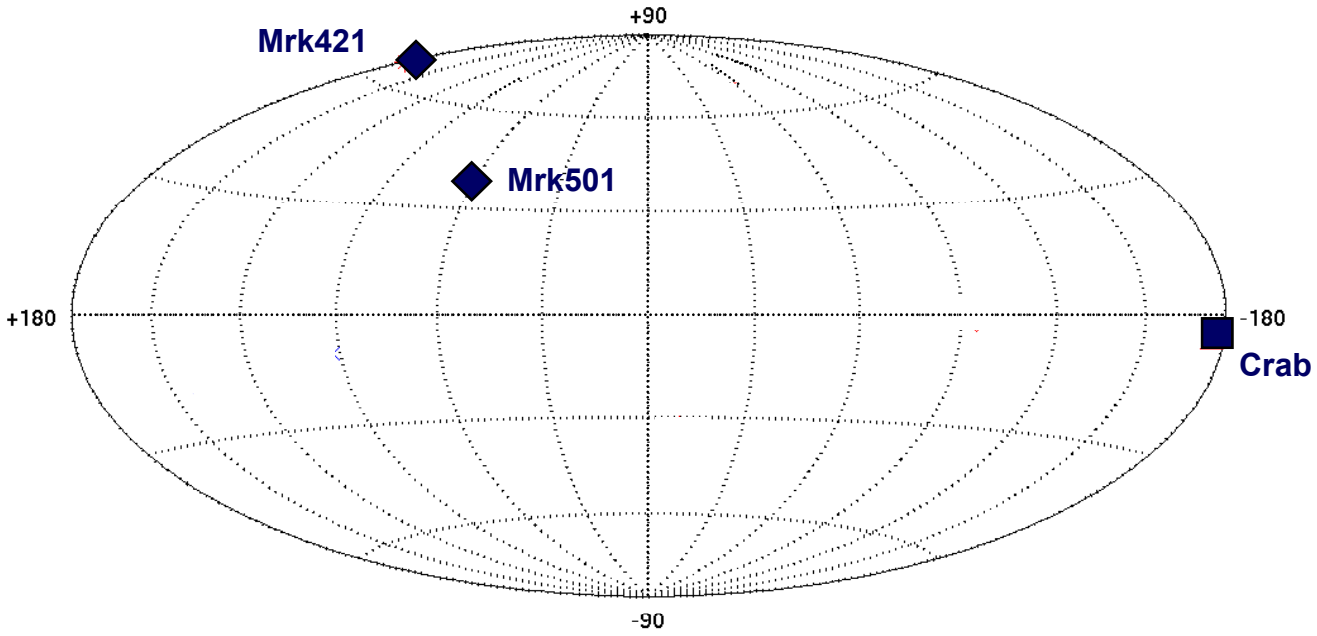
PeV ν's



>10^{19} eV Particles

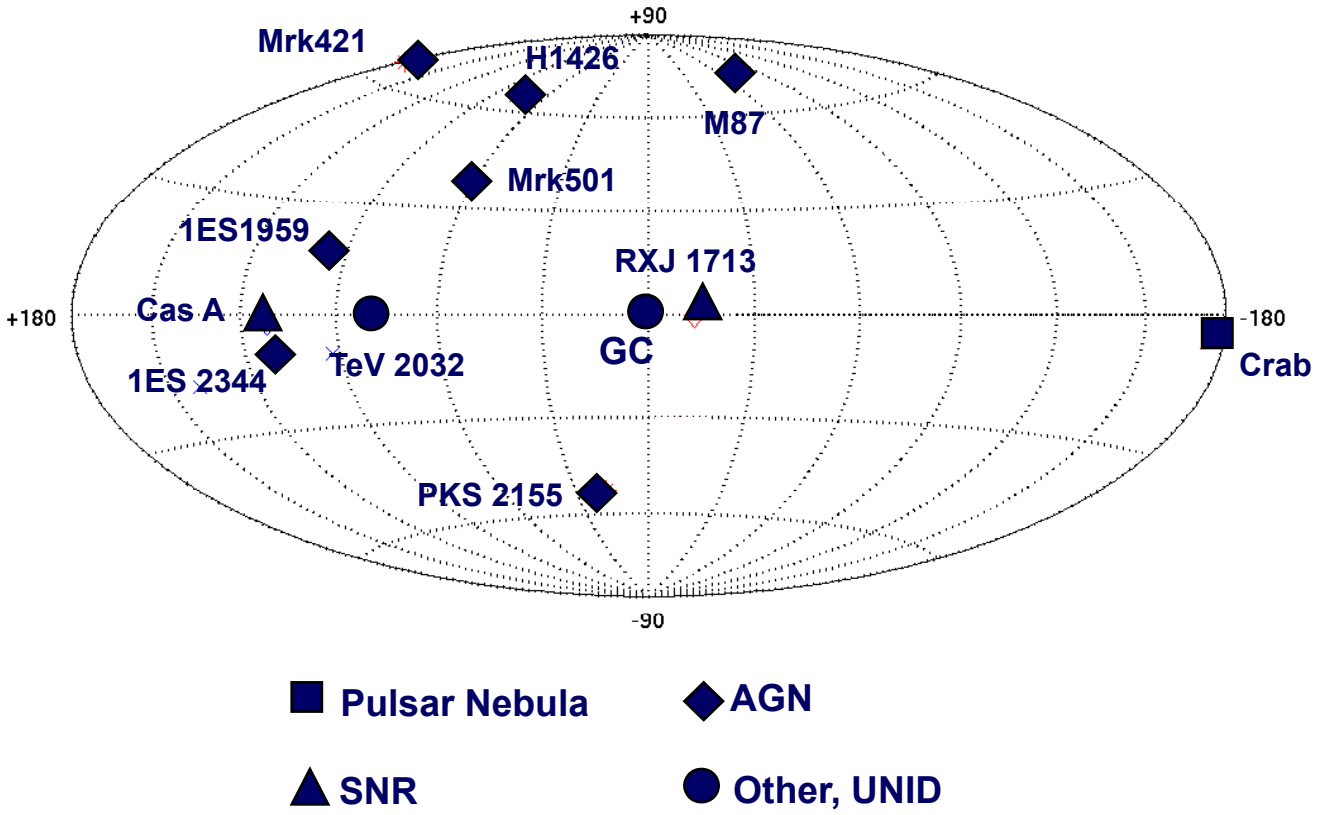
The TeV γ-ray Sky - 1999

3 sources



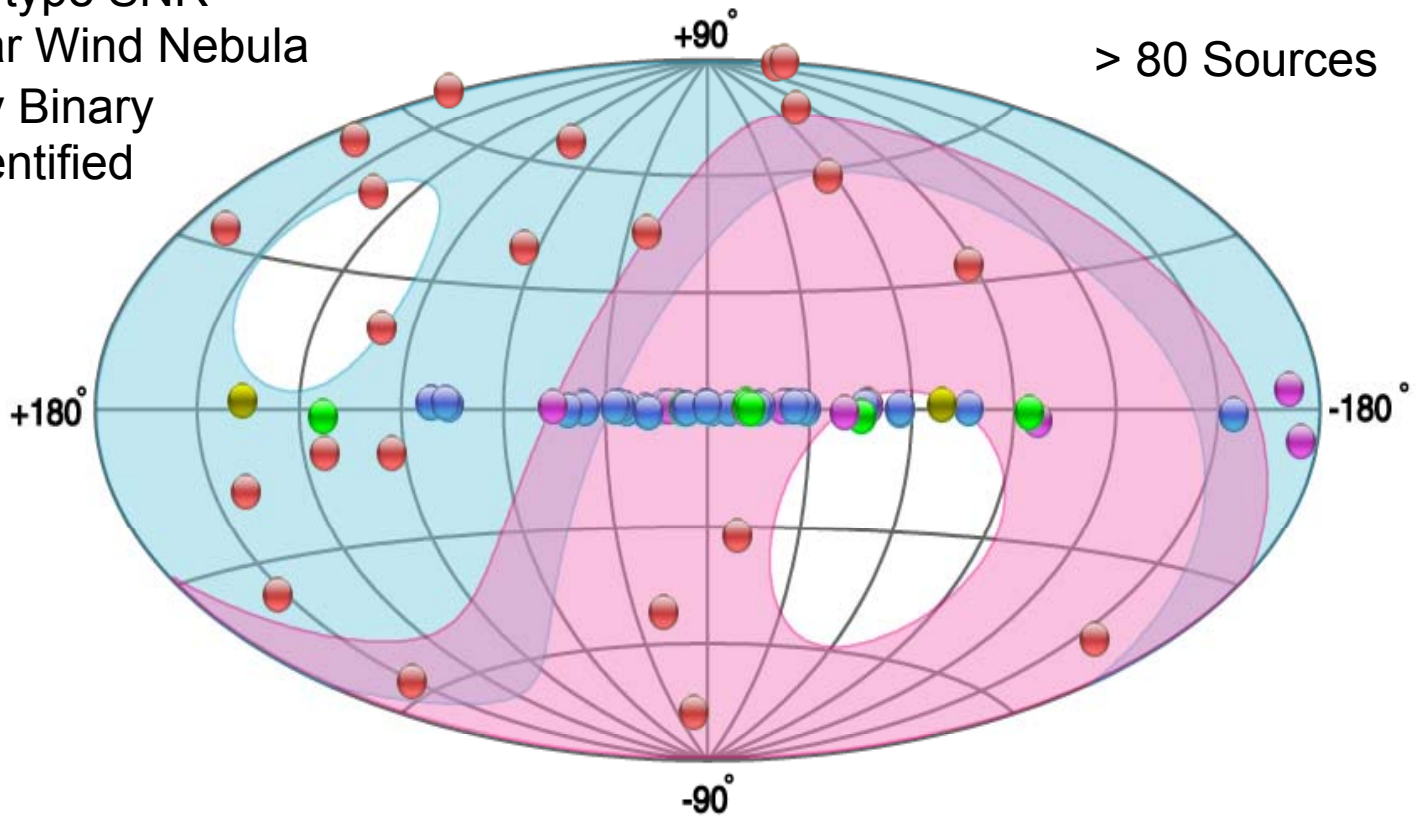
The TeV γ-ray Sky - 2004

12 sources



The TeV γ-ray Sky - 2009

- Shell-type SNR
- Pulsar Wind Nebula
- X-ray Binary
- Unidentified
- AGN

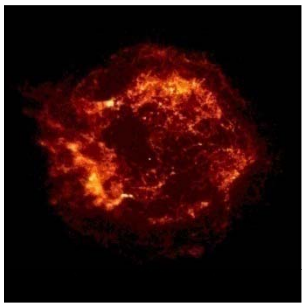


- Explosion in number of sources, and a variety of source classes..
- Much more information: imaging, spectra, light curves …

(Almost all) discoveries made by Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes

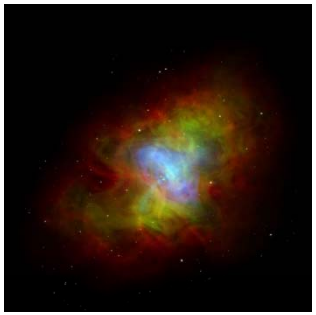
A Wide Variety of Sources …

Supernova Remnants



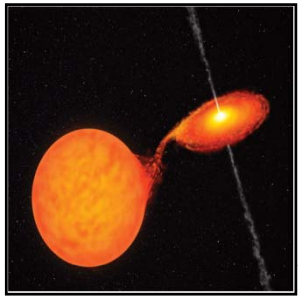
Shocks
Fermi Mechanism

Pulsars/PWN



NS dynamo
Winds

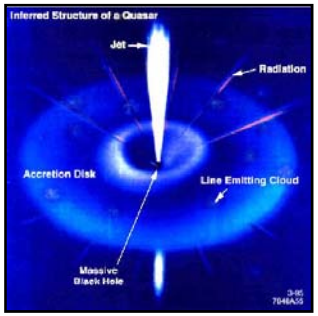
HMXBs (microquasars)



Accretion-powered jets,
colliding winds, or …?

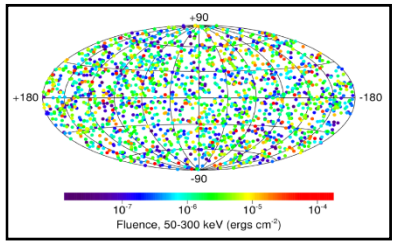
GALACTIC

Active Galactic Nuclei



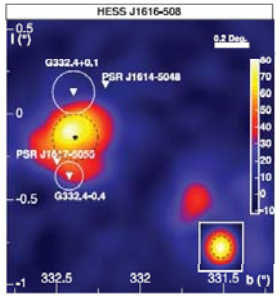
Massive BH
Jets

Gamma-Ray Bursts



Massive star collapse
Int./ext. shocks

Dark accelerators…

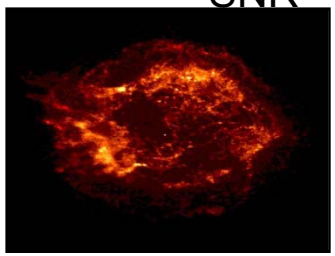


???

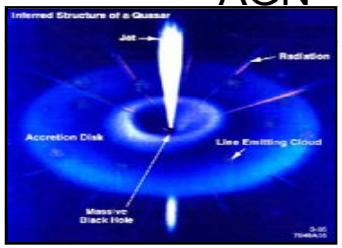
EXTRA-GALACTIC

Key Physics Issues

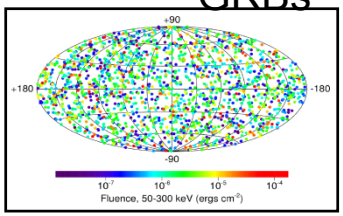
SNR

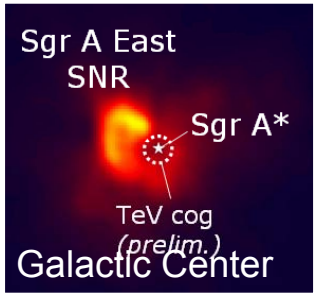


AGN

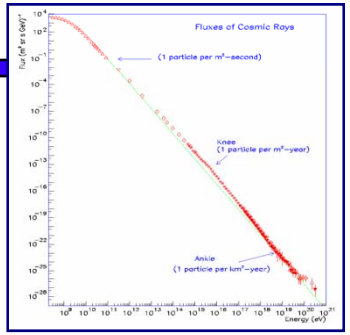


GRBs



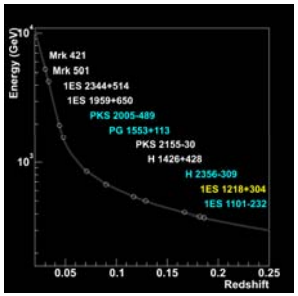


Origin of cosmic rays

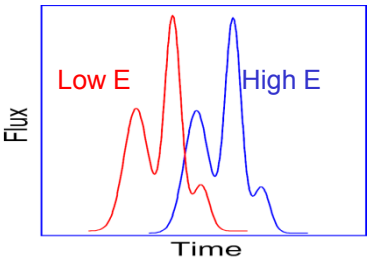


?

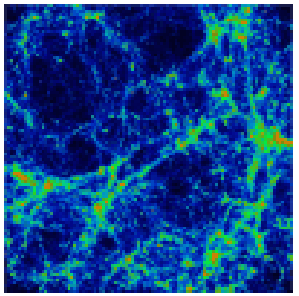
Cosmological γ-ray horizon



Tests of Lorentz invariance



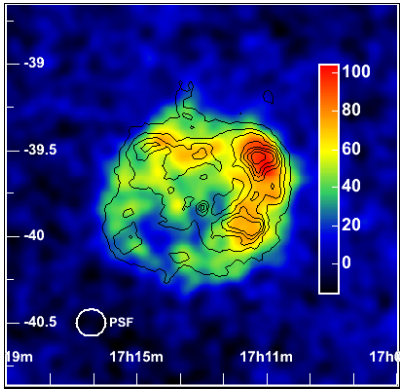
Cold dark matter (WIMP) searches



Origin of Cosmic Rays = SNRs ?

Why (VHE) gamma rays?

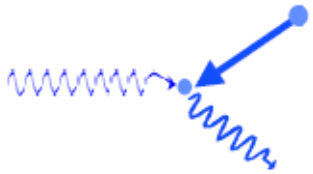
- Unlike cosmic rays, *not deflected* by interstellar magnetic fields.
- *Tracers* of parent particle populations – those particles accelerated by shocks.



SNR Image (RXJ 1713-3946)

Accelerated electrons → VHE γ-rays

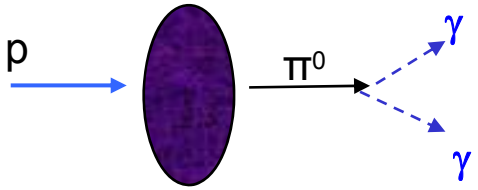
Up-scattering of soft photons



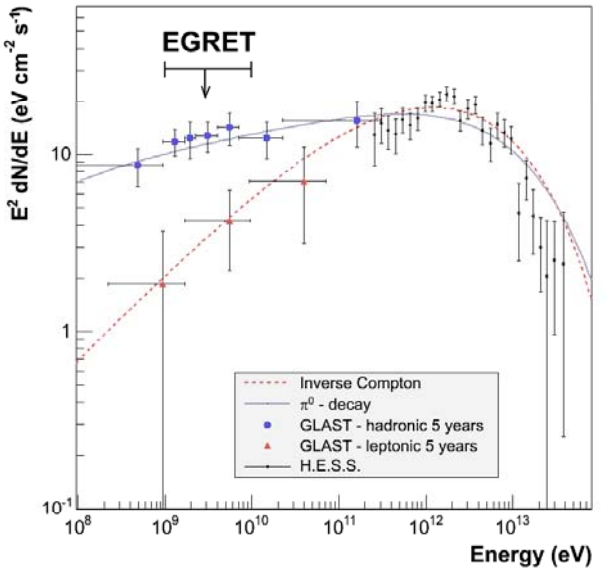
Inverse Compton Scattering

Accelerated protons → VHE γ-rays

Target interaction, π^0 decay



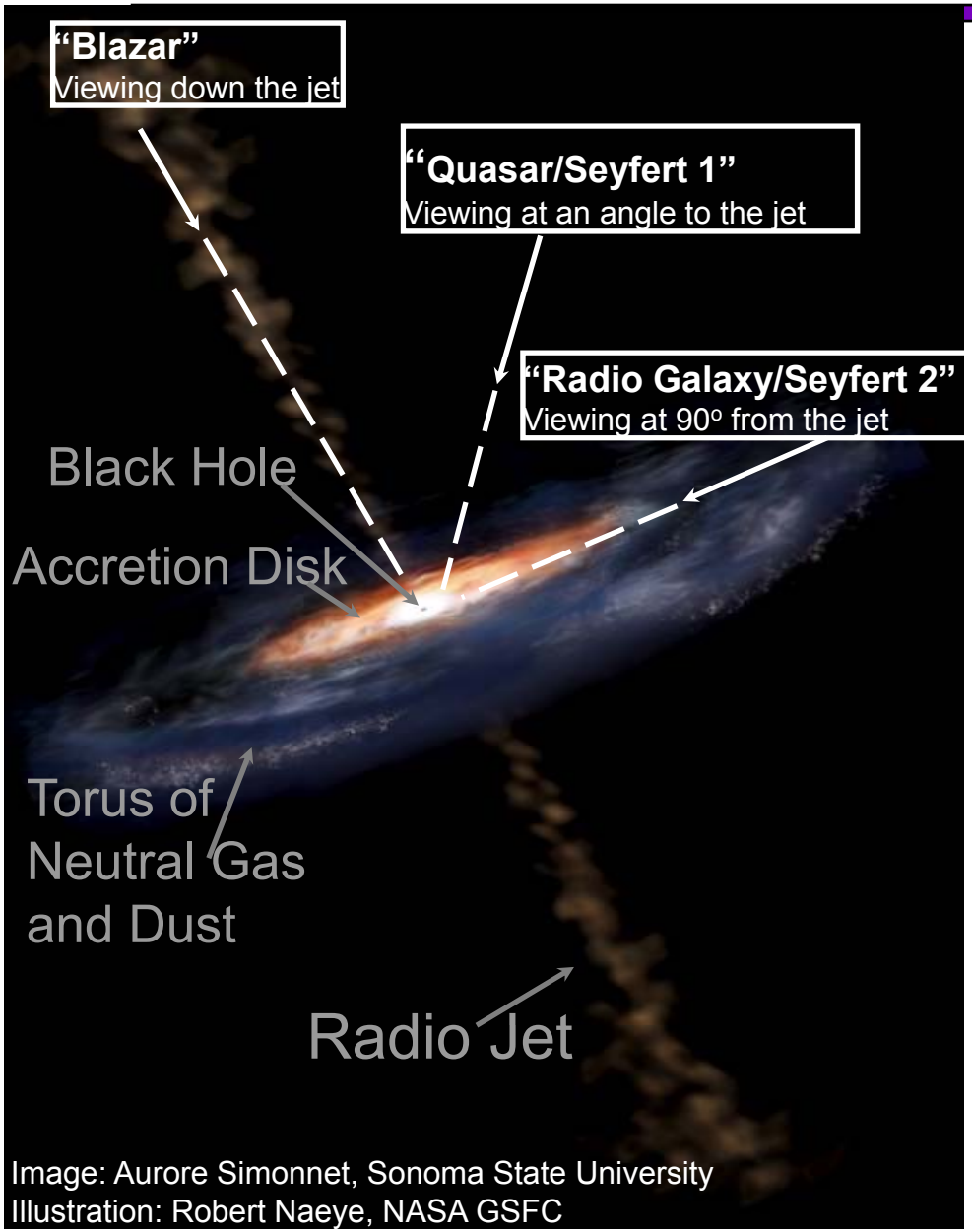
Target material



Spectral Energy Distribution

There is evidence for SNR acceleration of CRs, but case is far from settled.

Active Galaxies



Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN)

- High-luminosity extragalactic objects
  - ➔ Probe properties of the universe at large distances
- Highly variable !
- Jets powered by accretion on to supermassive BH

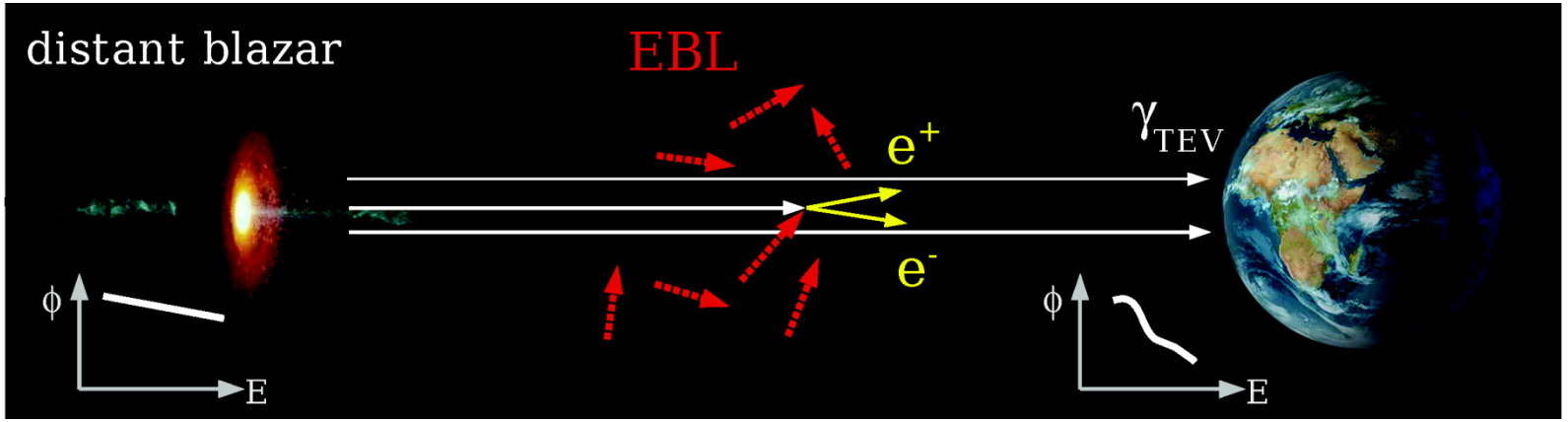
So far, AGN detected in VHE γ-rays are generally:

- **Blazars**
  - ➔ Jets aligned with line of sight

But also radio galaxies (e.g M87)

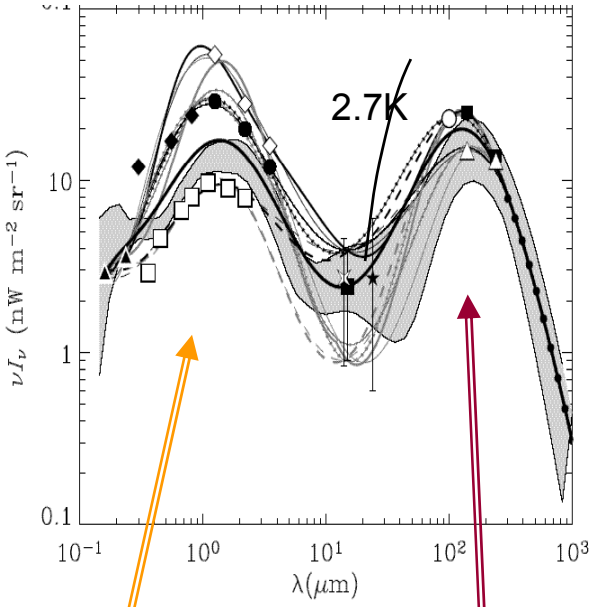
- ➔ Jet viewed from the side

Extragalactic Background Light (EBL)



Diffuse extragactic background light (how much light since recombination?)

- Complements direct measurment in Optical, IR: *difficult.*
- Absorption signature in 50-1000 GeV band for distant sources.



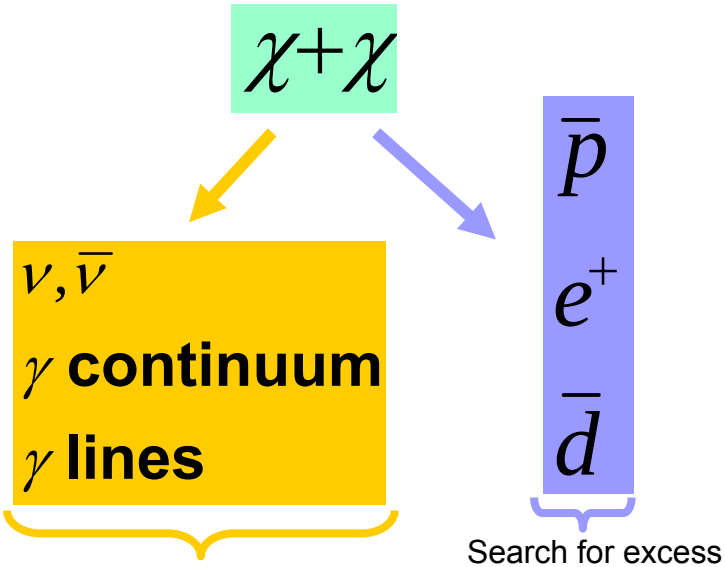
Red shifted stellar light

Red shifted dust light

Search for Cold Dark Matter

Hypothesis: DM = WIMPs

- Indirect detection of WIMP annihilation → γ, ν etc.



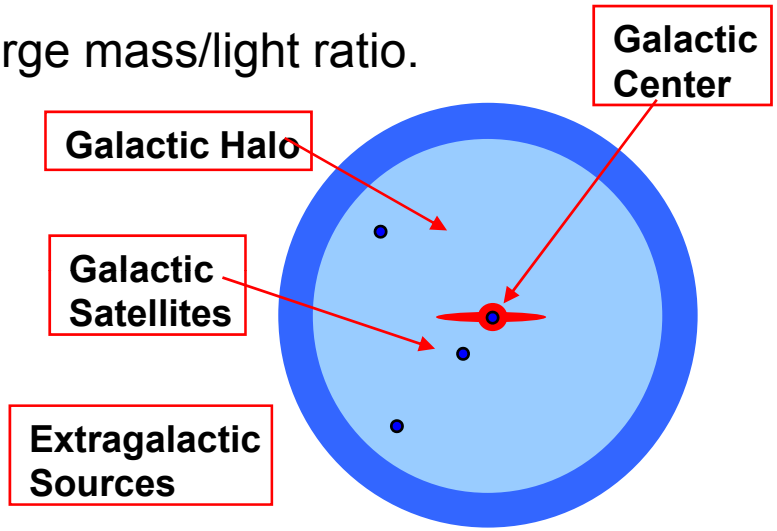
Point back to source

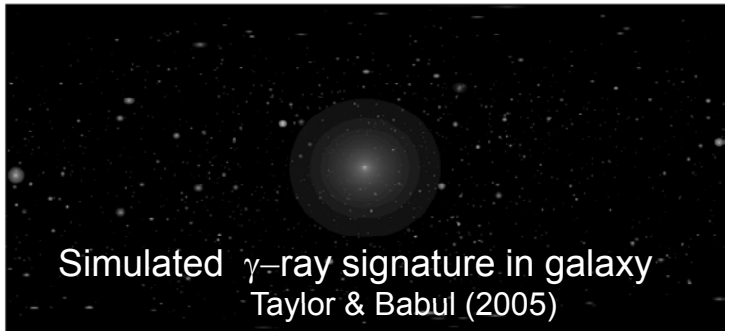
Search for excess components in cosmic rays (Diffusion)

(PAMELA,AMS,GAPS)

Target regions with:

- Favorable DM distributions.
- Large mass/light ratio.

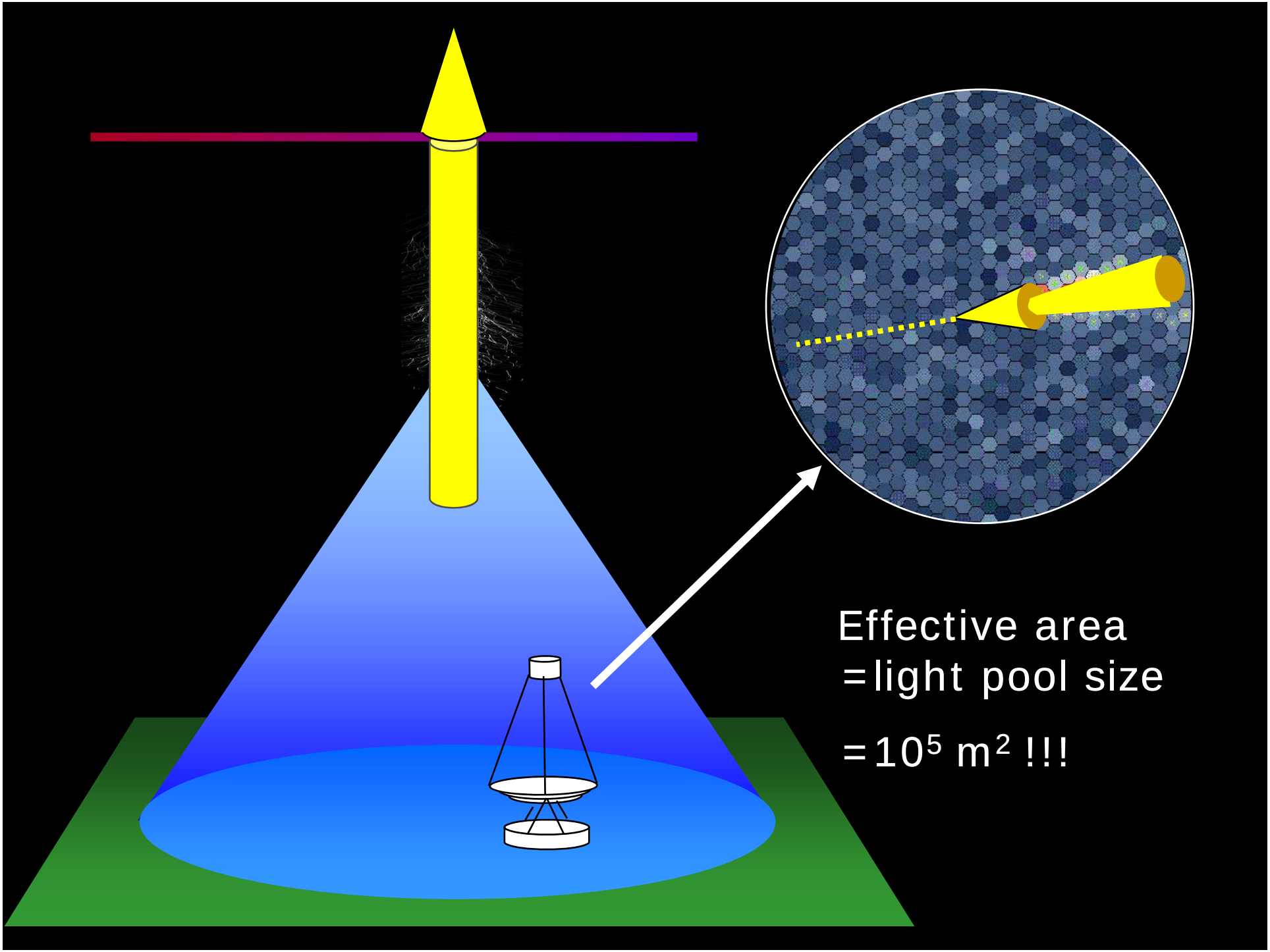




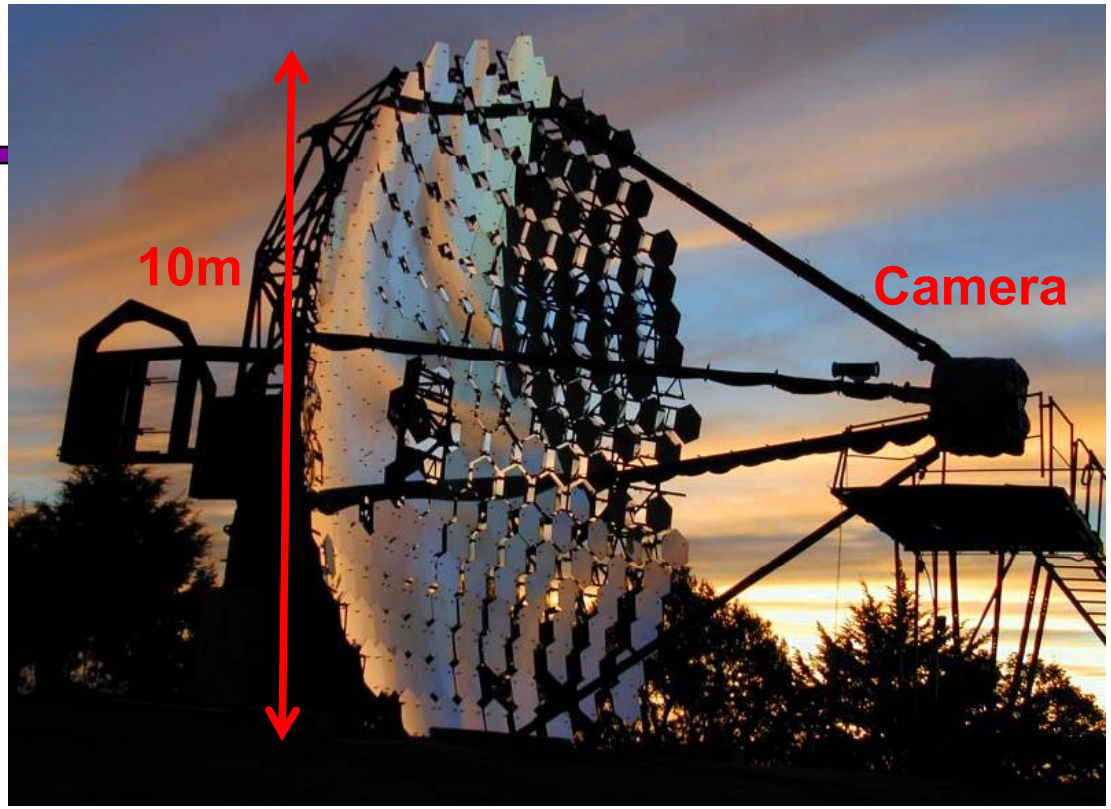
Complementary approach to direct detection & LHC

Hope is to do DM astronomy !

Experimental Technique


Effective area
=light pool size
=10^5 m^2 !!!

Whipple 10m
γ-ray Telescope



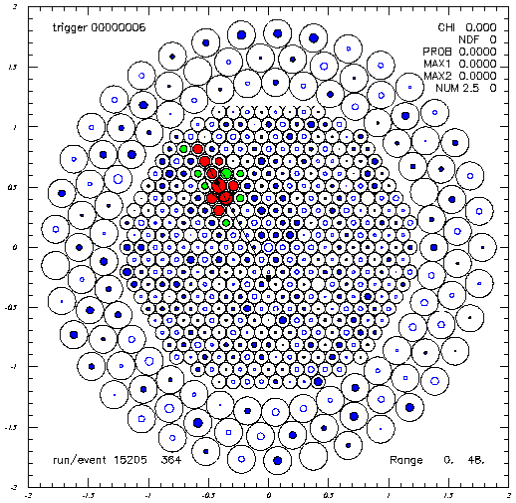
- The Whipple 10m (1968 -)

.

- Pioneered use of Imaging.
  (T. Weekes et al.)

- Made first source detections.
  (Crab Nebula in ~90 hours)

gamma ray?



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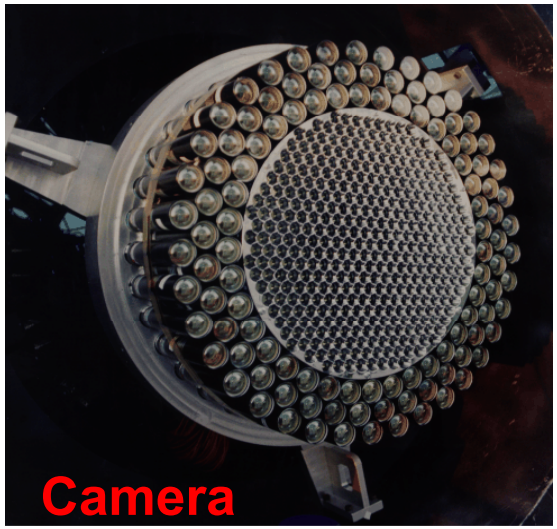
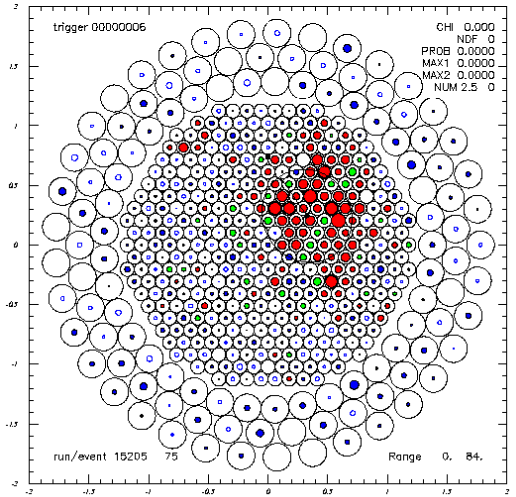
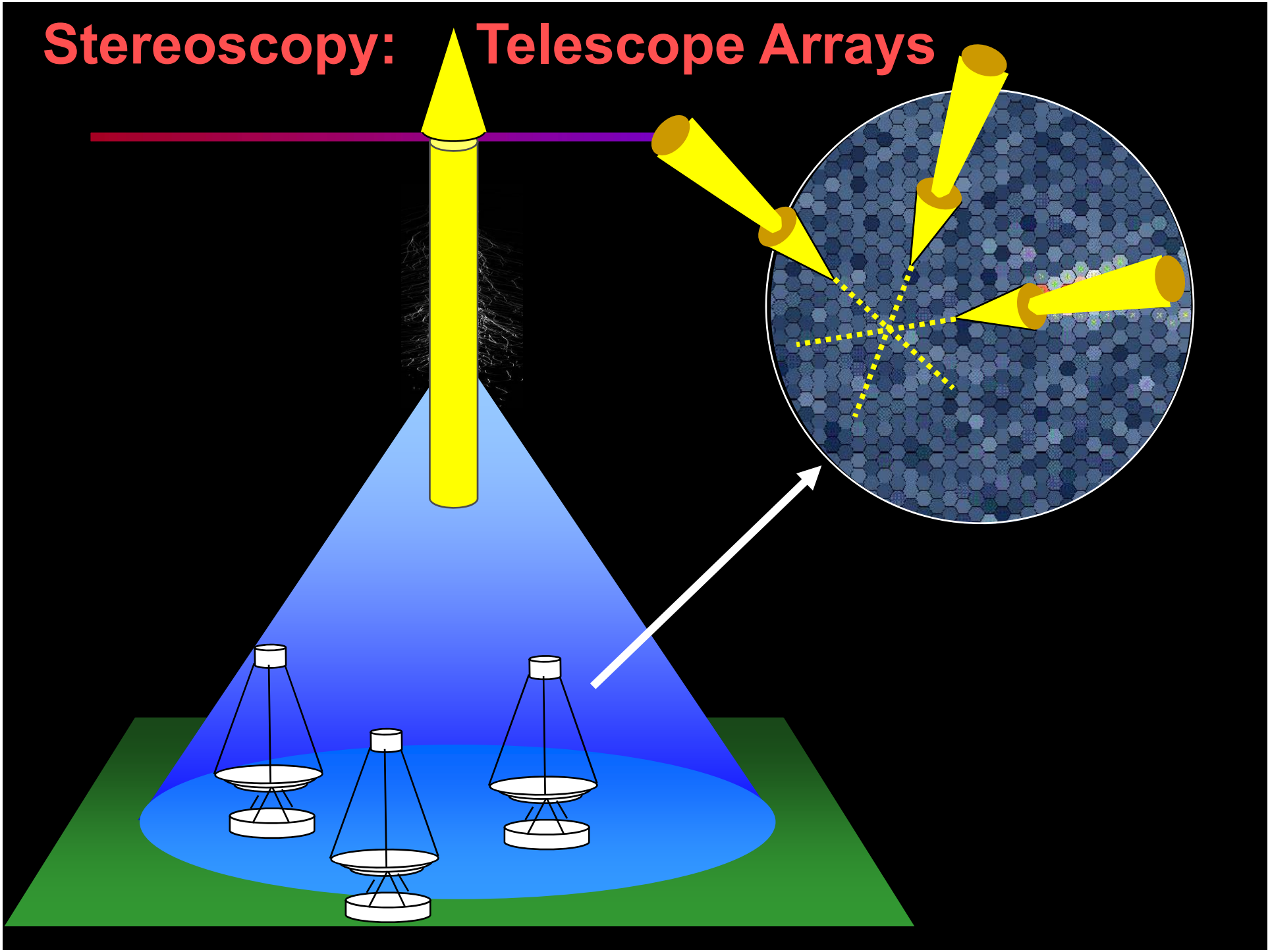


cosmic ray?



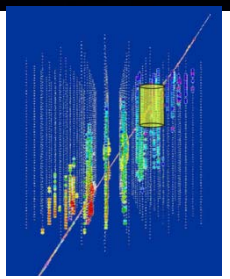
Stereoscopy: Telescope Arrays



Major VHE Telescopes

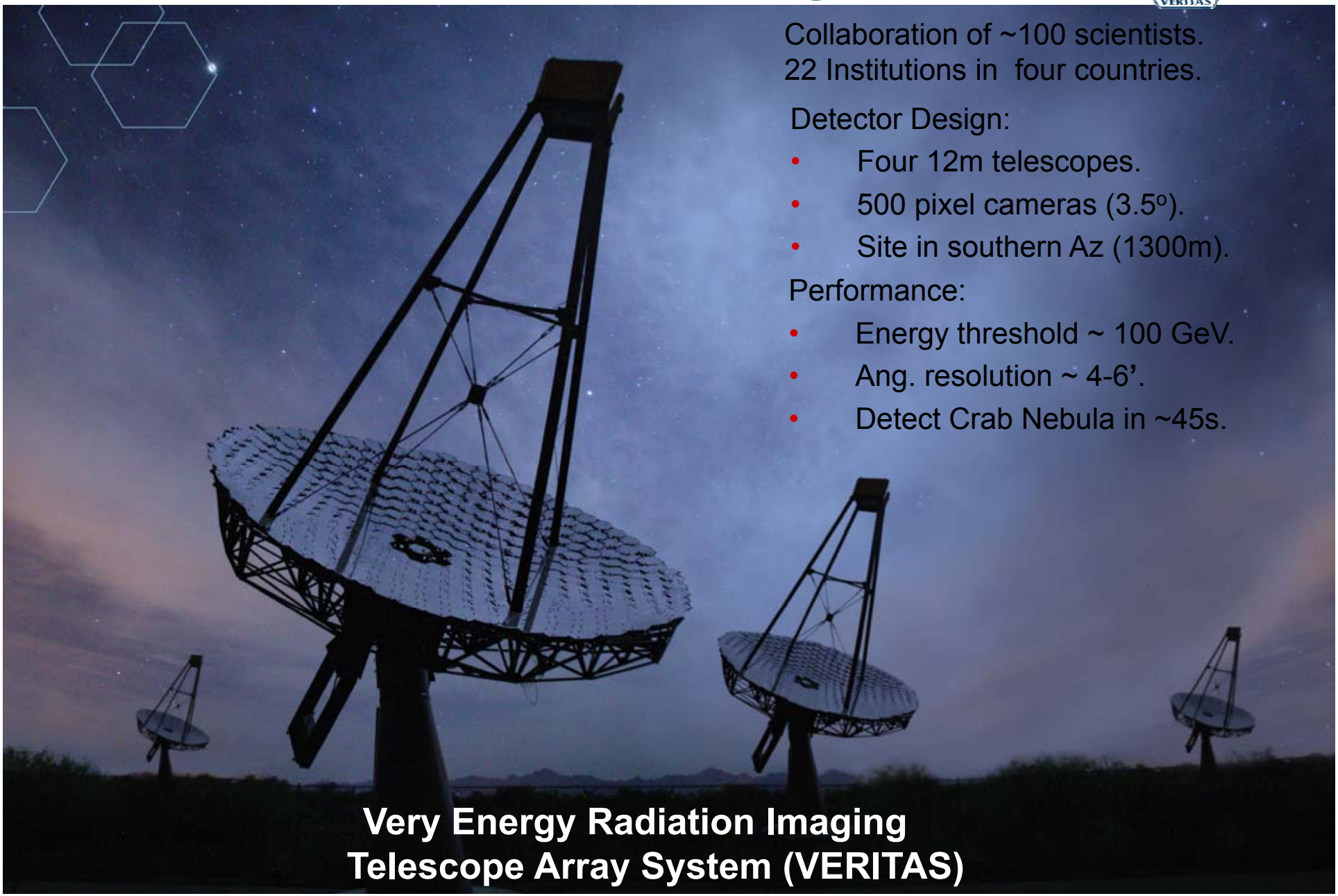
Fermi

Multi-messenger Astronomy



IceCube

VERITAS



Collaboration of ~100 scientists.
22 Institutions in four countries.

Detector Design:

- Four 12m telescopes.
- 500 pixel cameras (3.5º).
- Site in southern Az (1300m).

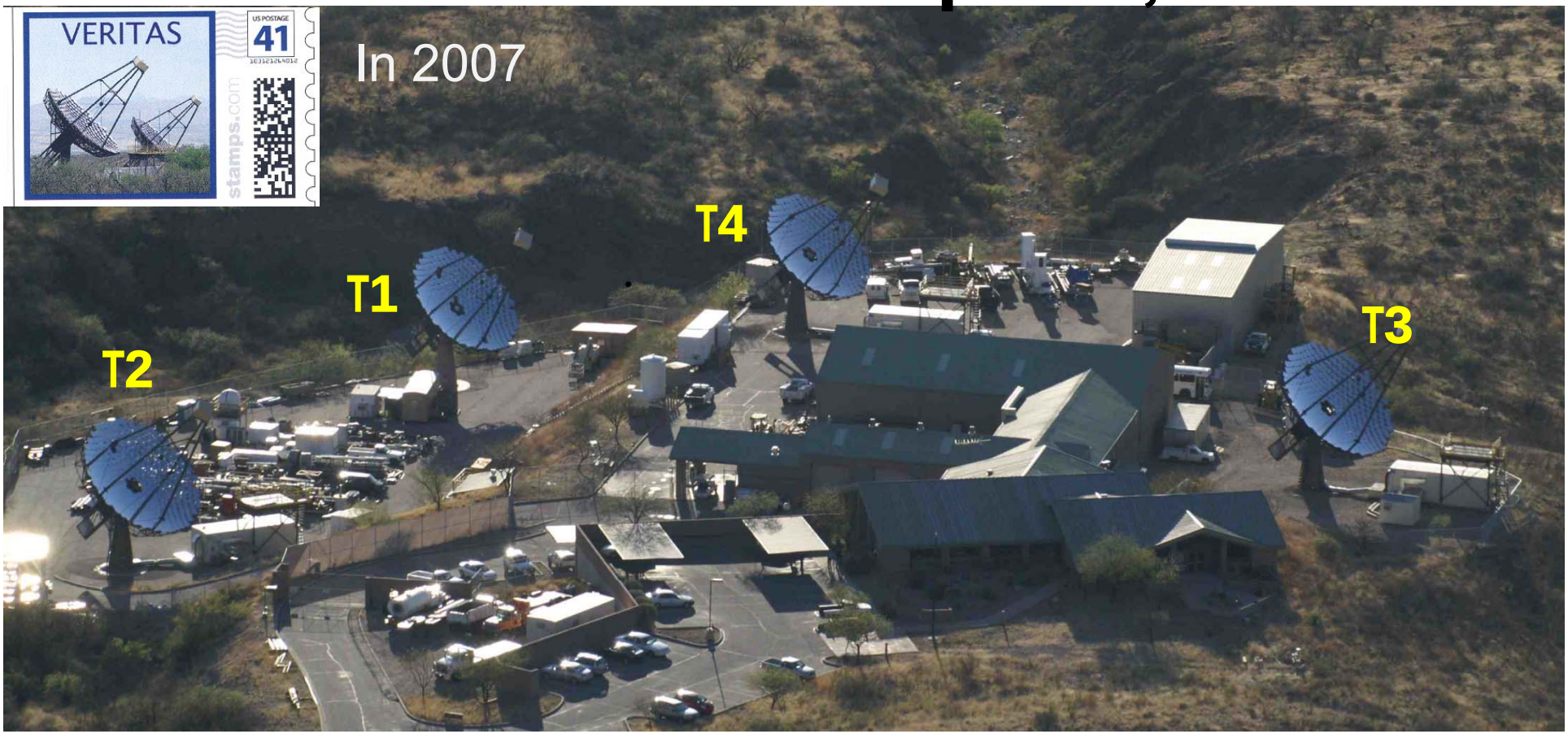
Performance:

- Energy threshold ~ 100 GeV.
- Ang. resolution ~ 4-6’.
- Detect Crab Nebula in ~45s.

Very Energy Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS)

Bumps in the Road

VERITAS: Mt. Hopkins, AZ



U.S.:

Adler Planetarium
Argonne National Lab
Barnard College
DePauw Univ.
Grinnell College
Iowa State Univ.
Purdue Univ.
Smithsonian
Univ. of California, Los Angeles
Univ. of California, Santa Cruz
Univ. of Chicago
Univ. of Delaware
Univ. of Iowa
Univ. of Massachusetts
Univ. of Utah
Washington Univ., St. Louis

Canada:

McGill Univ.

U.K.:

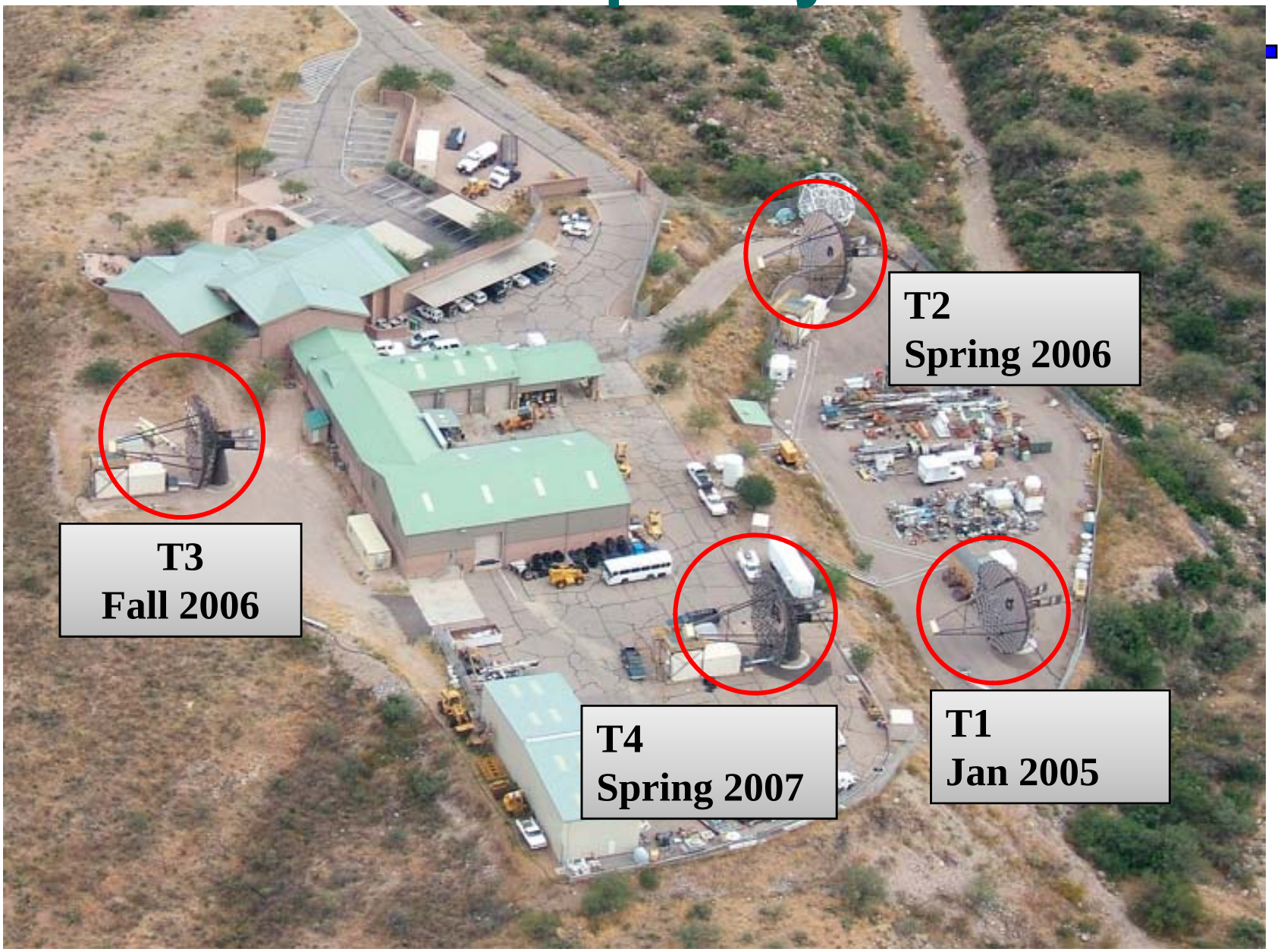
Leeds Univ.

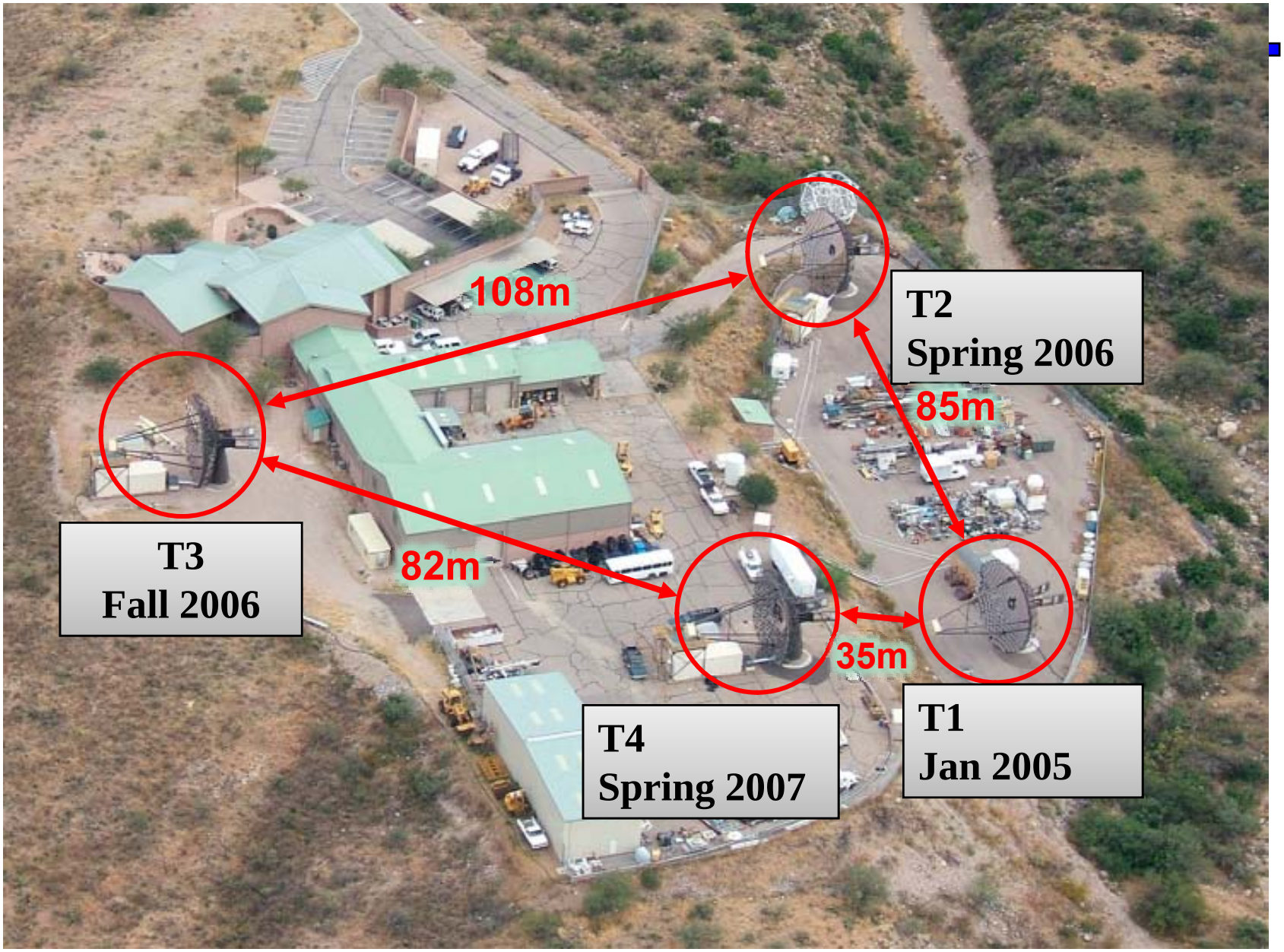
Ireland:

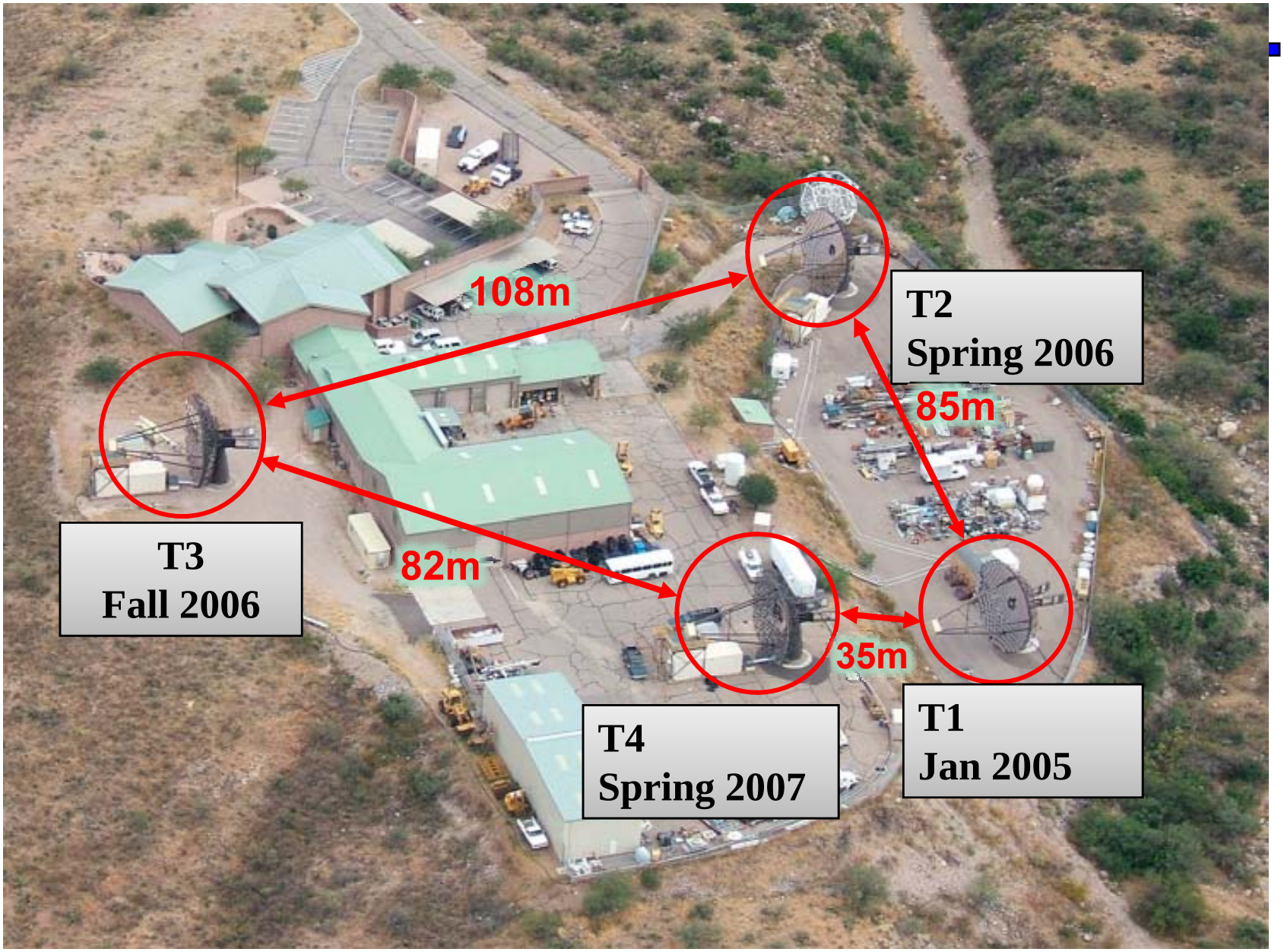
Cork Inst. Tech.
Galway-Mayo Inst. Tech.
Nat. Univ. Ireland, Galway
Univ. College Dublin

+ ~25 Associate Members

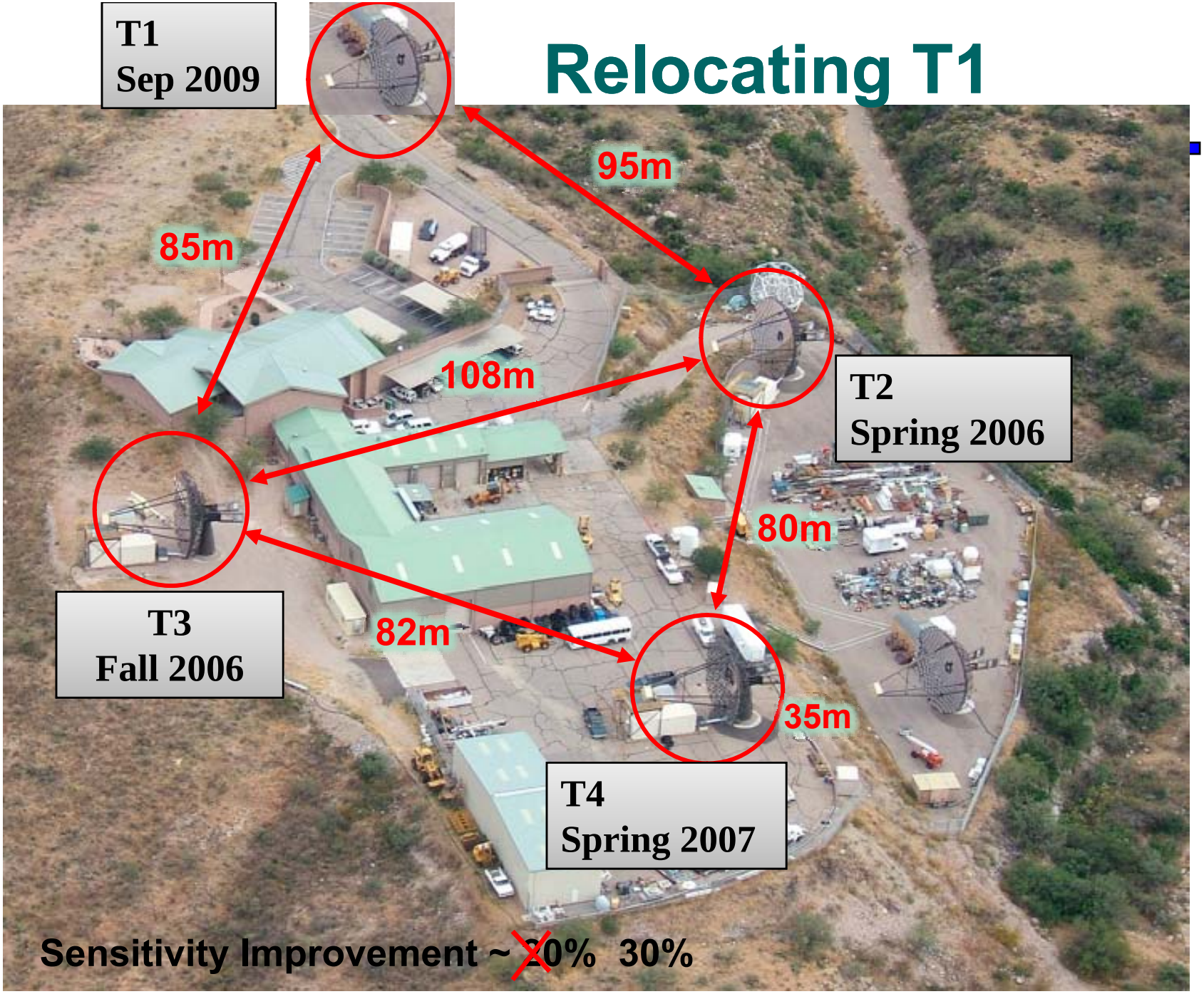
Telescope Layout




108m
T2
Spring 2006
85m
T3
Fall 2006
82m
35m
T4
Spring 2007
T1
Jan 2005


108m
T2
Spring 2006
85m
T3
Fall 2006
82m
35m
T4
Spring 2007
T1
Jan 2005

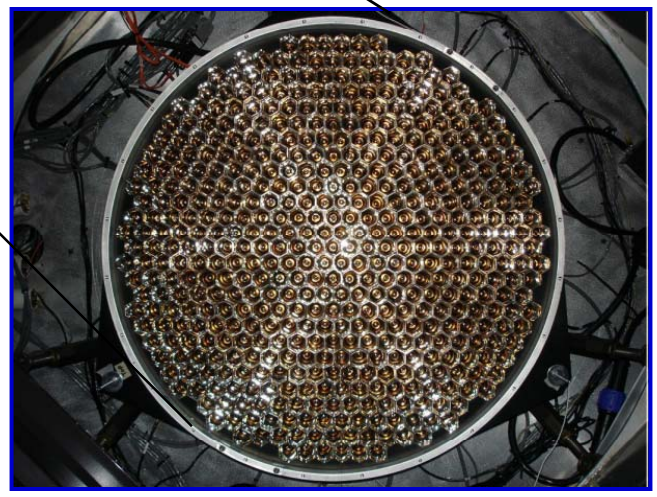
Relocating T1



A VERITAS Telescope

12m reflector, f1.0 optics

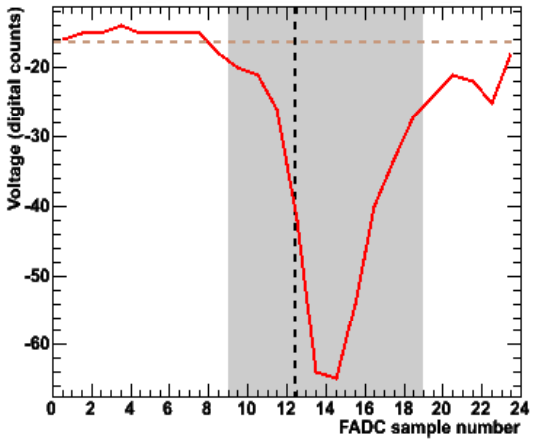
350 Mirror Facets

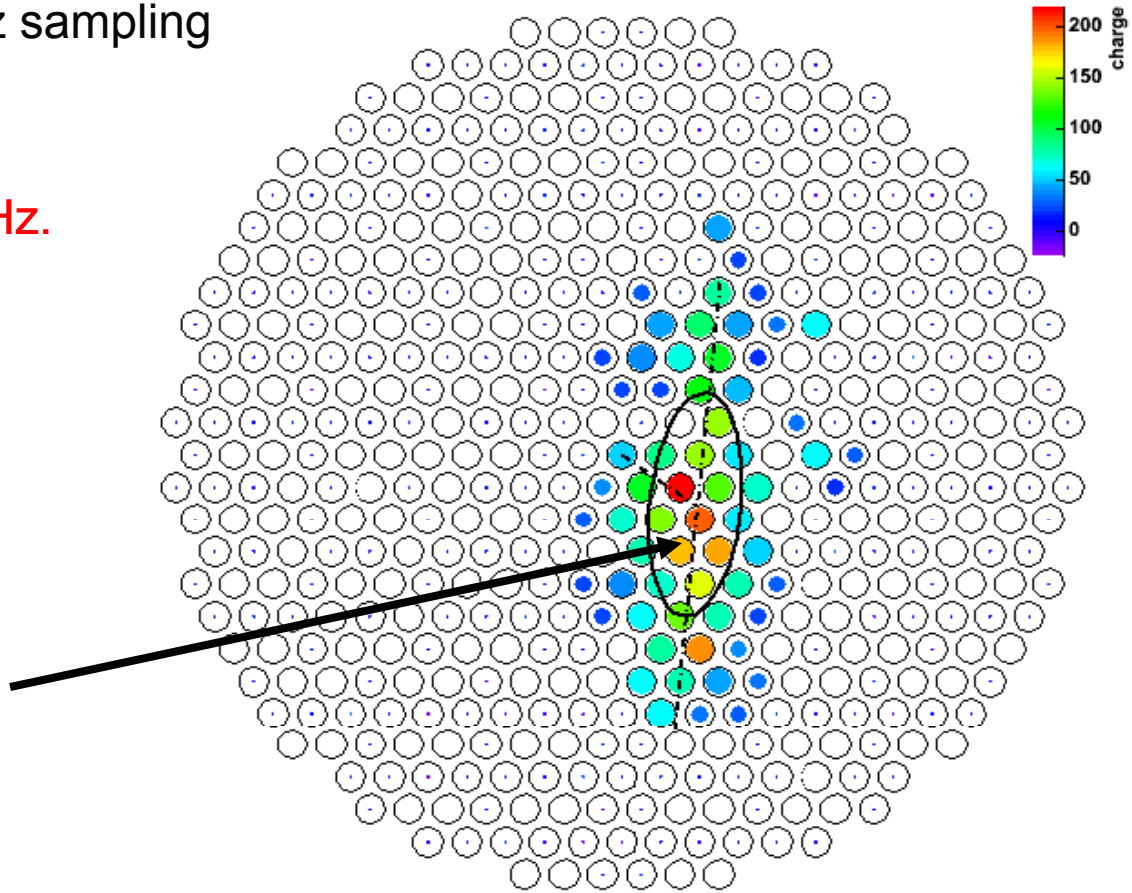


500 pixel Camera

VERITAS Data Acquisition

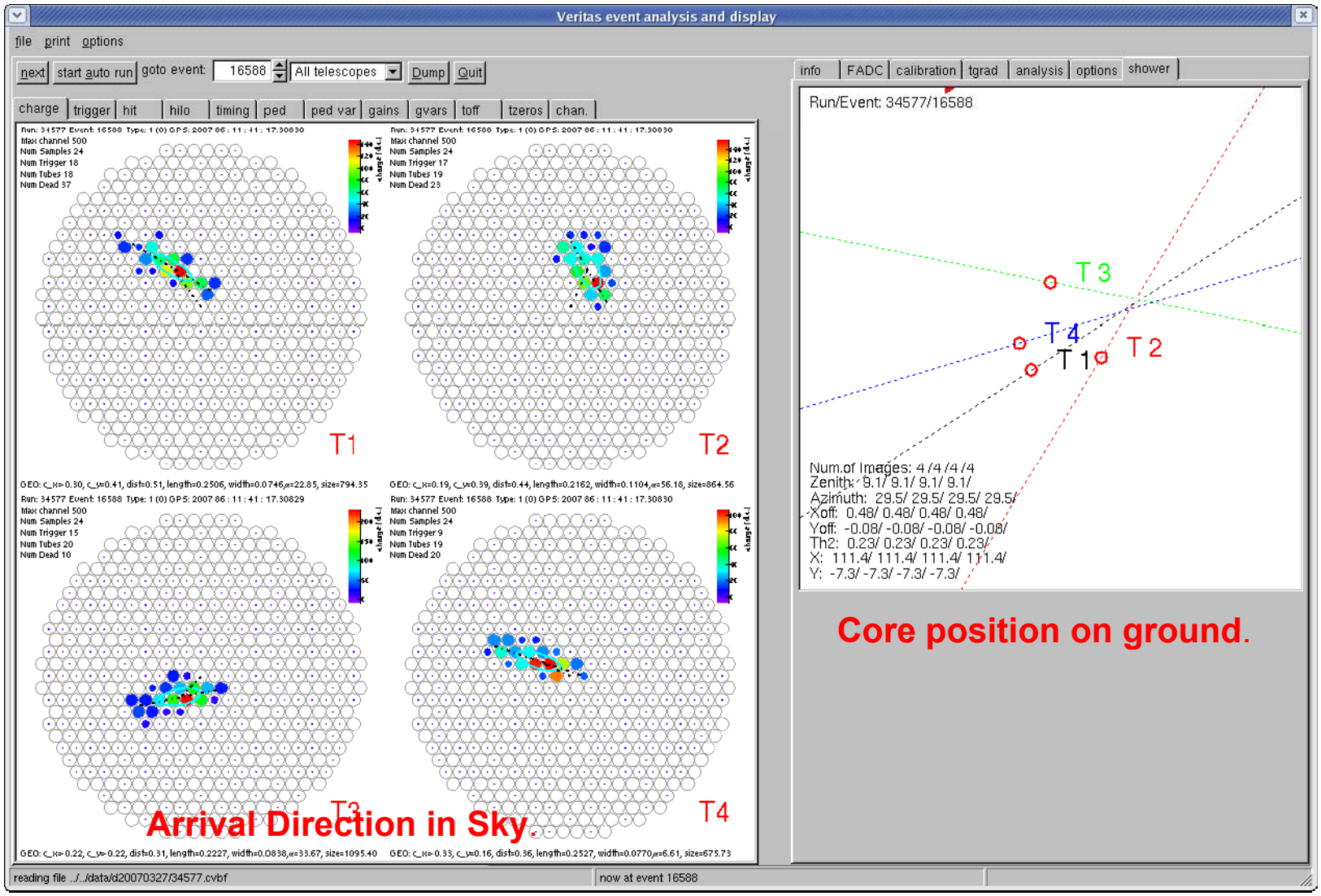
- PMTs digitized with 500 MHz sampling FADCs
  - 20 samples/channel.
  - <10% deadtime @ 250 Hz.





Timing & Amplitude on all channels.

Four-Telescope Event



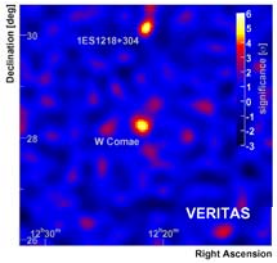
Arrival Direction in Sky.

Core position on ground.

VERITAS Science Highlights (so far)

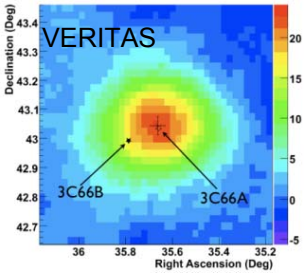
2007:

- **Detection of SNR IC 443 (w. MAGIC).**
- Detection binary LS I +61 303, confirming variability.
- Detection of blazar 1ES 1218+304 and radio galaxy M87.



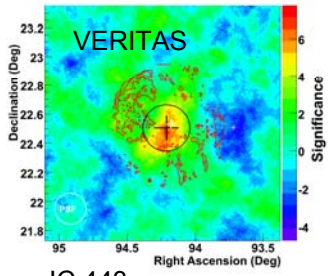
W Comae & 1ES 1218+304

2008:



3C 66A

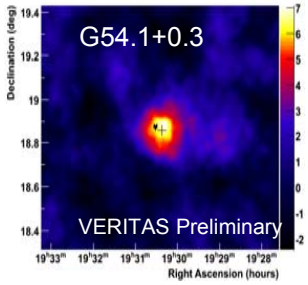
- Detection of blazar 1ES 2344+514, correlated TeV flare with X-ray.
- **Discovery of blazar 1ES 0806+524 (ATEL #1415).**
- **Discovery of blazar W Comae (ATEL #1422), a new LBL.**
- Detection of SNR Cas-A.
- **Discovery of blazar 3C 66A (ATEL #1753), the first IBL.**

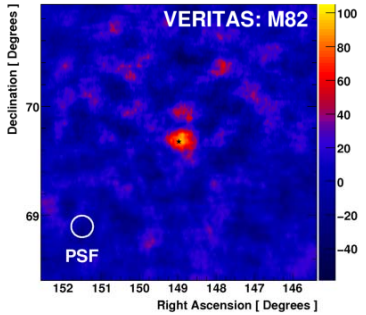


IC 443

2009:

- Measurement of source extent of SNR IC 443.
- Simultaneous MWL observations of Mrk 421 reported (w. MAGIC).
- **Discovery of blazar RGB 0710 (ATEL #1941).**
- MWL observations of LS I +61 303 (w. Swift, RXTE).
- **Radio imaging of TeV emission region of M87 (w. MAGIC, HESS, VLBA).**
- Evidence for variability in HESS J0632+057.

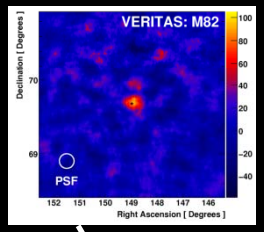




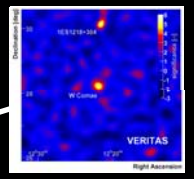
- **July 2009 (ICRC):**
  Many new results, including 5 New Source Detections.

The VERITAS SKY (Sep 09)

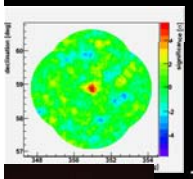
Starburst
M 82

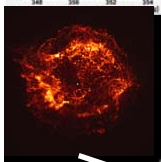


AGN
W Comae



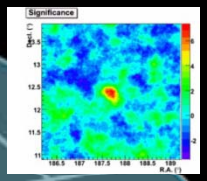
SNR Cas-A

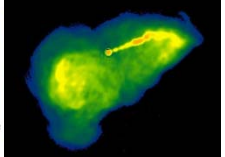


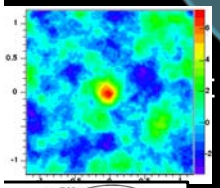


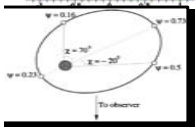
Mrk 421
+90°
W Comae
1ES 1218+304
M87
M82
H 1426+428
PKS 1424+240
1ES 0806+524
Mrk 501
RGB J0710+591
1ES 1959+650
G106.3
+2.7
HESS
J1857+026
IC443
+180°
LSI +61 303
Cas A
G54.1
+0.3
MGRO
J1908+06
-180°
1ES 2344+514
Crab
3C66A

Radio Galaxy
M 87



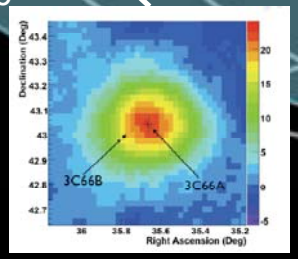




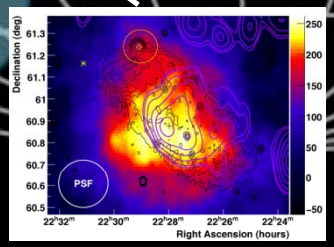


al. 2006

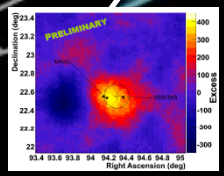
Binary
LS I +61 303



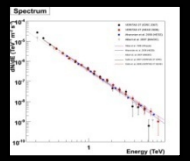
AGN
3C 66A



SNR
G106.3 +2.7



SNR IC 443



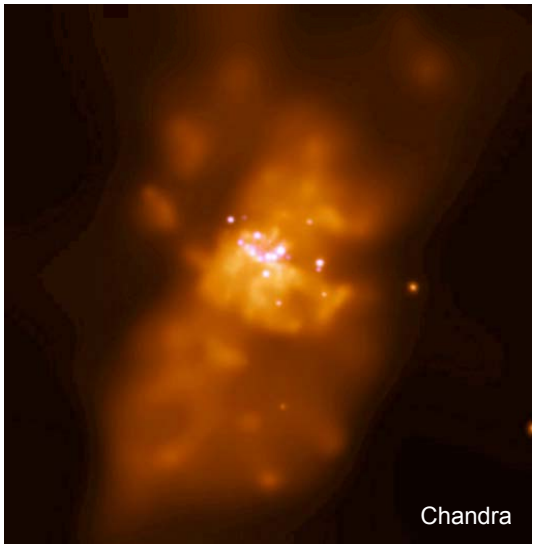
Crab
Nebula

/tevcat.uchicago.edu/

NEW: Starburst Galaxy M 82

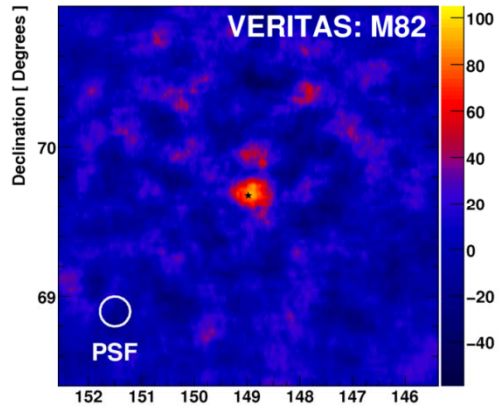
- **M82: Prototype starburst galaxy**
  - Interacting with group of galaxies over hundreds of Myrs.
  - Tidal forces → active starburst region (HST shows > 200 massive star clusters.
  - SMBH < 3 x 10^7 M_{sun}, no AGN activity.

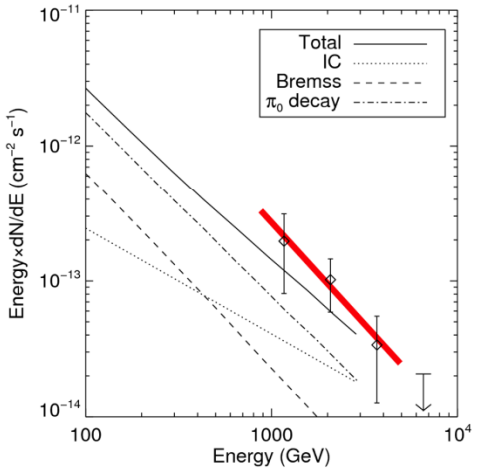
- **Starburst Region**
  - High star formation and SNR rate.
  - High CR density (from radio emission).
  - High gas density ~ 150 /cm^3.
  - γ-rays from cosmic rays interacting with gas and photon fields. Insight onto origin of CR's.
  - Previous limits < 10% Crab (HEGRA, Whipple).



NEW: Starburst Galaxy M 82

- **VERITAS Data & Analysis**
  - 2007-09: 137 h live time.
    Extremely long exposure.
- **Detection !**
  - 4.8 σ excess (post-trials).
    Consistent with point source at M82.
  - Many systematic checks of analysis procedure, background method, and potential biases.
  - Among weakest VHE sources ~0.8% Crab.
- **Interpretation**
  - **First detection of extragalactic VHE source not clearly associated with AGN activity.**
  - Consistent with predictions, general nature of CR interactions.



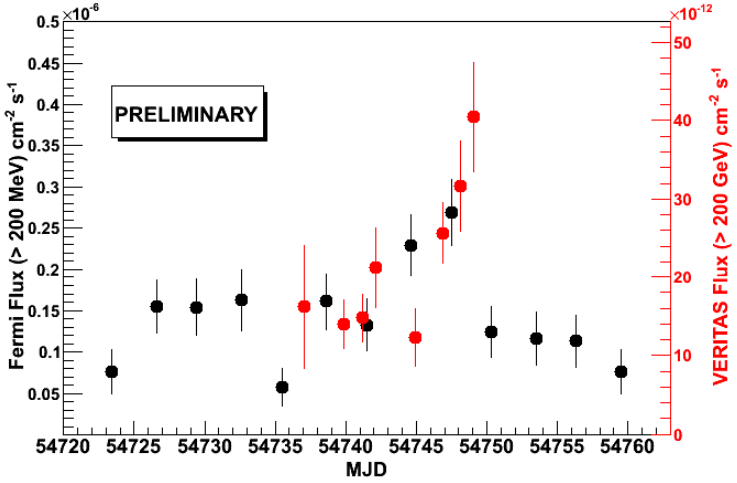


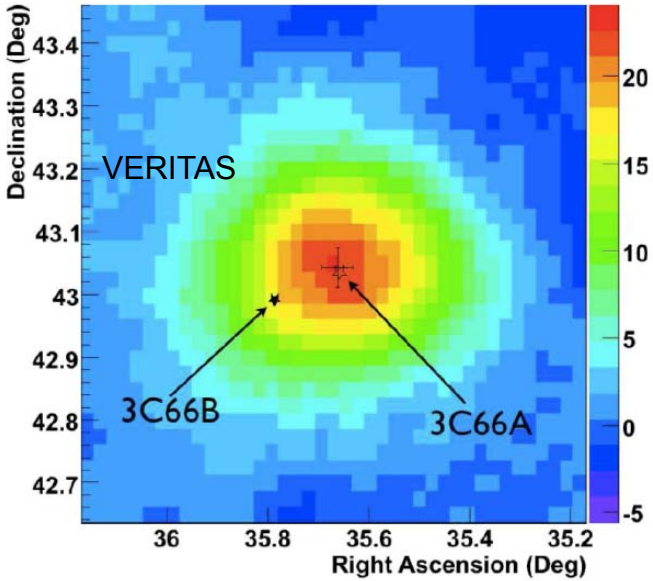
"A Connection between Star Forming Activity and Cosmic Rays in the Starburst Galaxy M 82," V. Acciari et al., Nature, 02 November 2009.

3C 66A: A Typical VERITAS Blazar

- 3C 66A
  - Int. BL Lac at nominal z=0.44.
  - **VERITAS discovery 21σ, 33h, Flare !**
    ATEL #1753, V.A. Acciari et al., ApJ 693, L104 (2009).
  - Soft spectrum: $\Gamma = 4.1 \pm 0.4_{stat} \pm 0.6_{sys}$ (due to absorption ?) .

TeV γ-ray flare

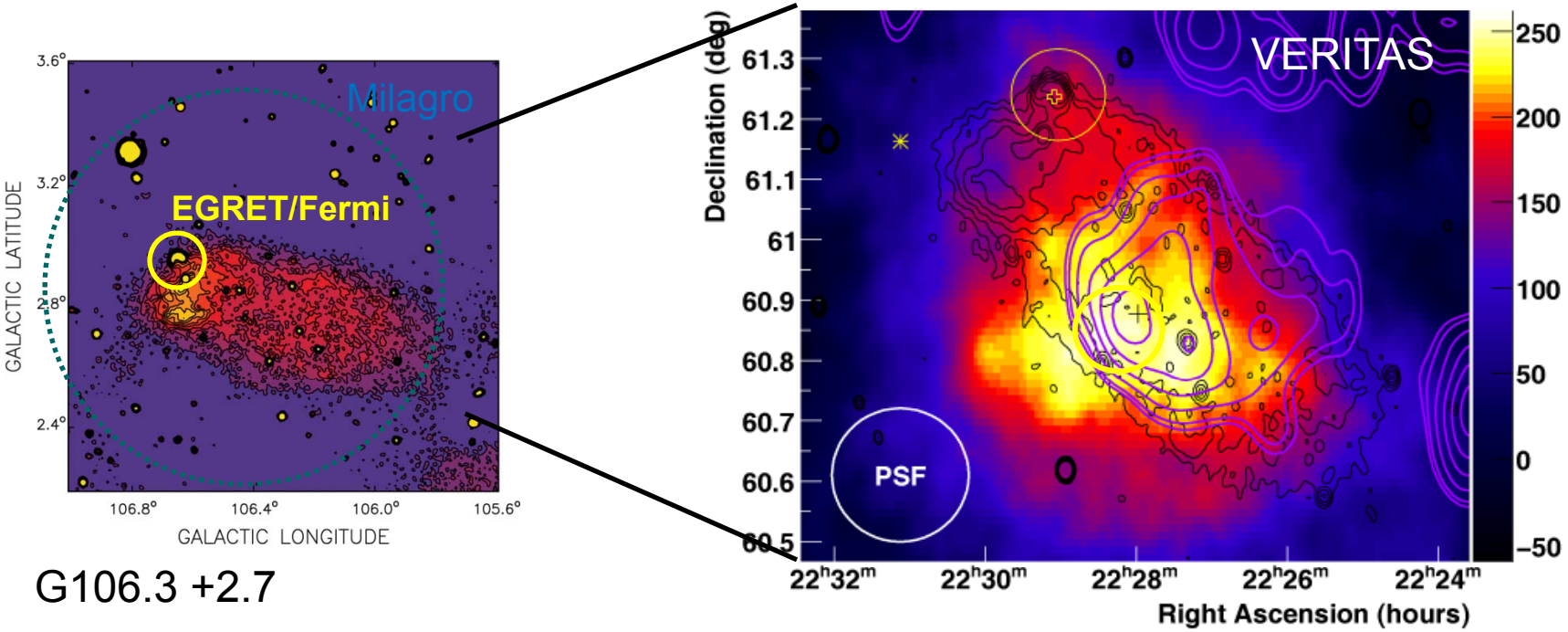




- MAGIC reports 3C66B 0.12° away. 5.4σ in 54 h from 2007 data.
- VERITAS data excludes 3C66B at 4.3σ.

VERITAS clearly detects 3C 66 A !

NEW: SNR G106.3 +2.7 (“Boomerang”)



- G106.3 +2.7
  - Energetic pulsar PSR and SNR E-dot ~ 2 x 10^{37} erg/s, age ~ 10 ky.
  - EGRET source error ellipse and Fermi-LAT source J2229.0+6114.
  - Milagro reports > 10 TeV emission from region.

- VERITAS Results

  V. A. Acciari et al., ApJ 703, L6 (2009).
  - 33 h data, solid detection, flux ~5% Crab.
  - Clearly extended, peak overlaps CO.
  - Γ = 2.3 ± 0.3stat ± 0.3sys, hard power-law spectrum.

  Hadronic Origin ?

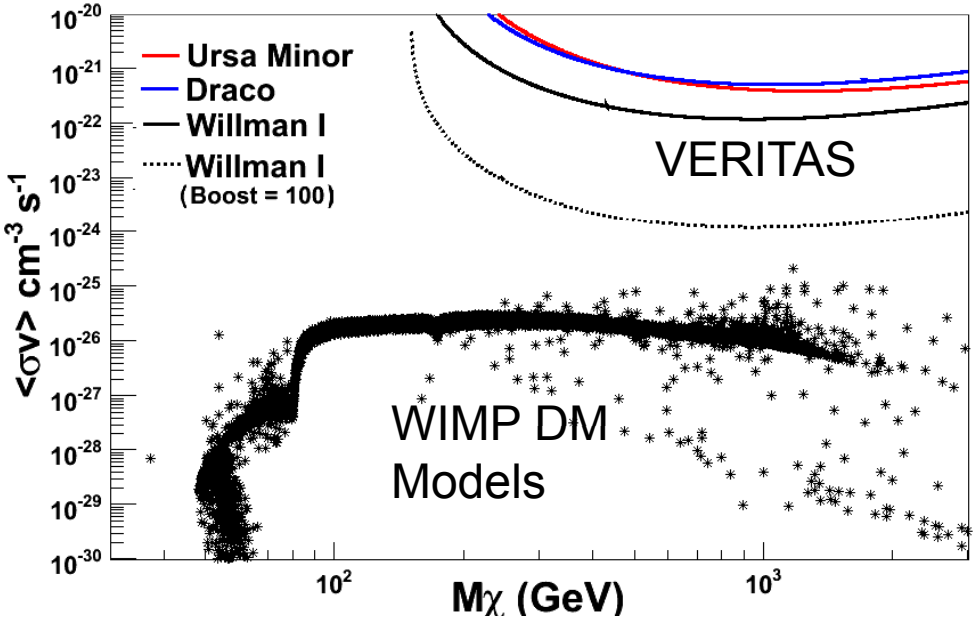
Dark Matter Searches

- VERITAS DM Program

- Comprehensive program, ~ 7% of observing time, variety of objects:

  Dwarf Galaxies (e.g. Draco…)
  Local Galaxies (e.g. M32, M33)
  Globular Clusters (e.g. M5)
  Galaxy Clusters (e.g. Coma)

VERITAS limits on dwarf galaxies



- **So far, no Detections**
  → Limits on 7 candidate sources

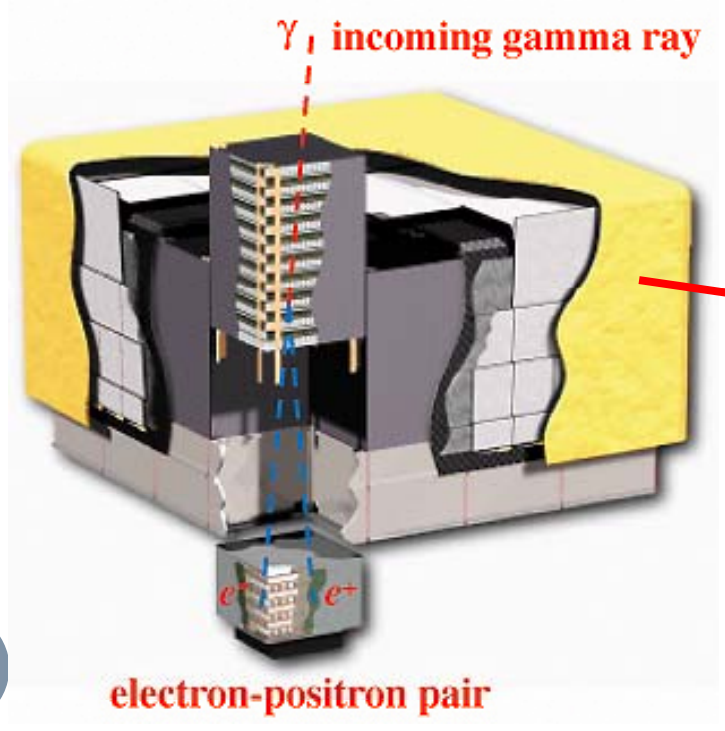
What's next for VERITAS ?

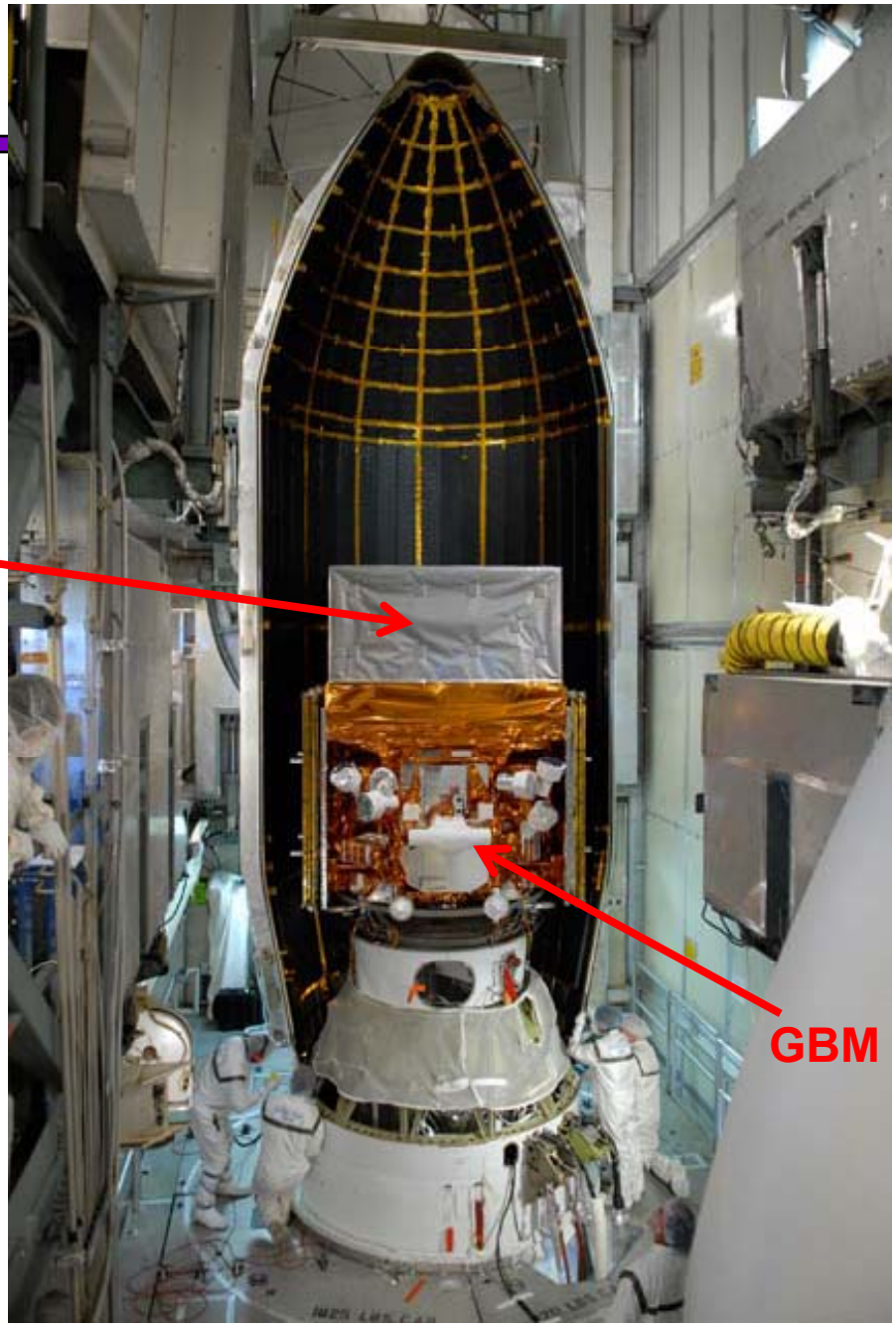
Many Things !

- New Results: to be announced next week.
- Observing: completed only 2 years of 5+ year program.
- Fermi Gama-Ray Space Telescope overlap.
- Spectra and modelling: → source mechanisms.
- MWL studies: radio, optical, X-ray, γ-ray.
- Upgrade possibilities: e.g. new cameras, triggers.
- …

Fermi GST

Large Area Telescope (LAT)





LAT images the sky one photon at a time

γ-ray converts in LAT to an electron and a positron ; direction , energy of these tell us the direction and energy of the photon.

Fermi-LAT science objectives

> 2000 AGNs
blazars and radiogal = f(θ,z)
evolution z < 5
Sag A*

10-50 GRB/year
GeV afterglow
spectra to high energy

γ-ray binaries
Pulsar winds
μ-quasar jets

Possibilities
starburst galaxies
galaxy clusters
measure EBL
unIDs

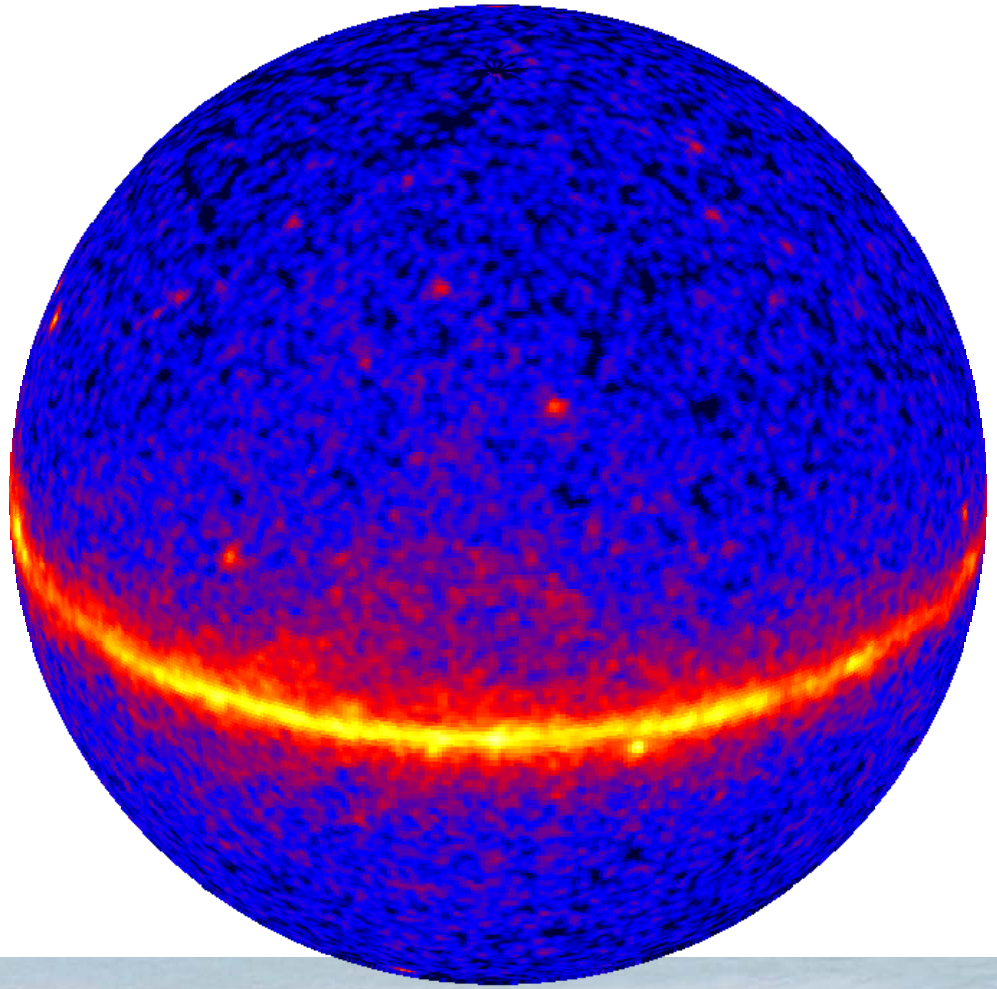
Dark Matter
neutralino lines
sub-halo clumps

Cosmic rays and clouds
acceleration in Supernova remnants
OB associations
propagation (Milky Way, M31, LMC, SMC)
Interstellar mass tracers in galaxies

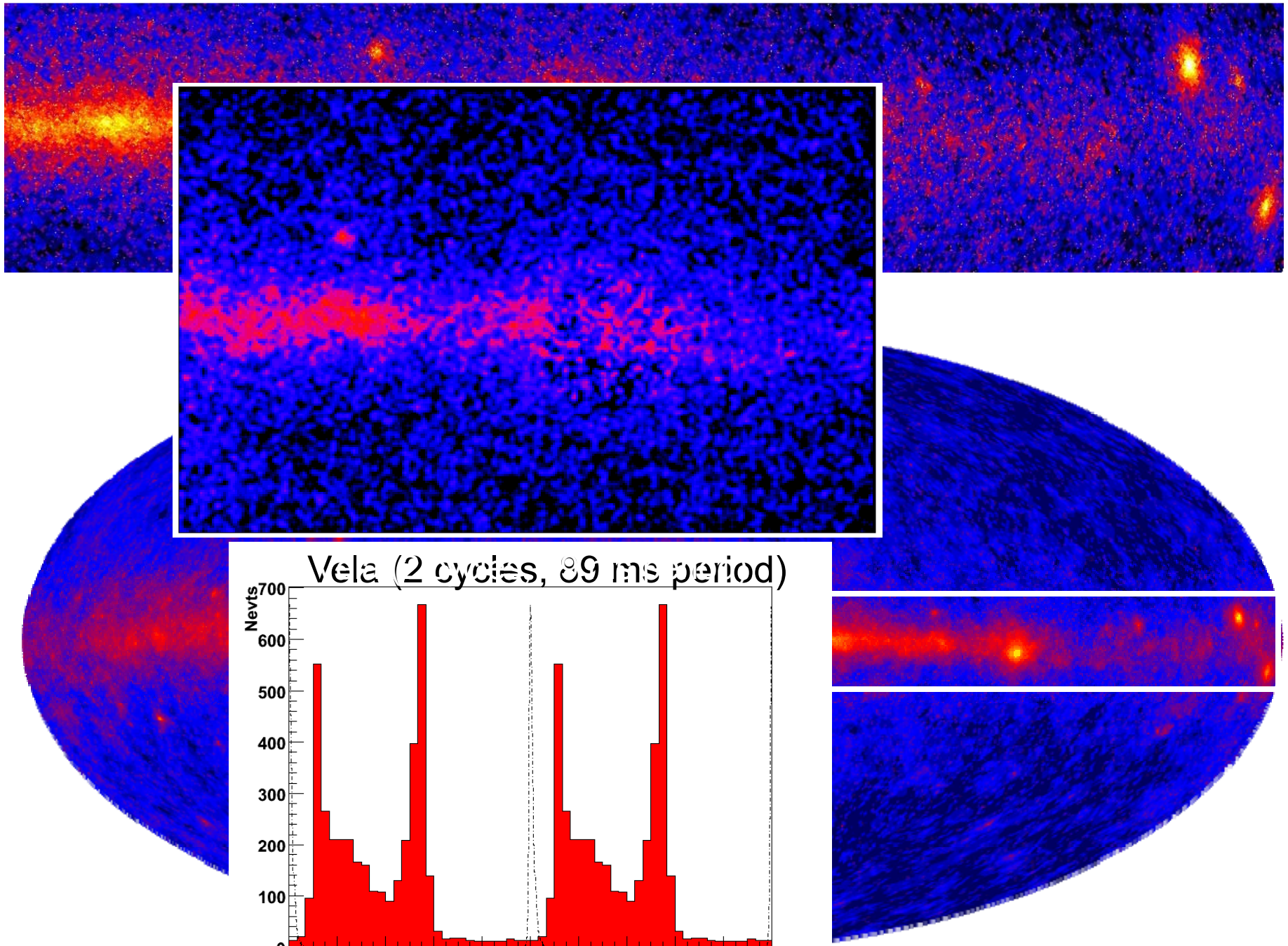
Pulsars
emission from radio and X-ray pulsars
blind searches for new Gemingas
magnetospheric physics
pulsar wind nebulae


Launch from Cape Canaveral Air Station
11 June 2008 at 12:05PM EDT.

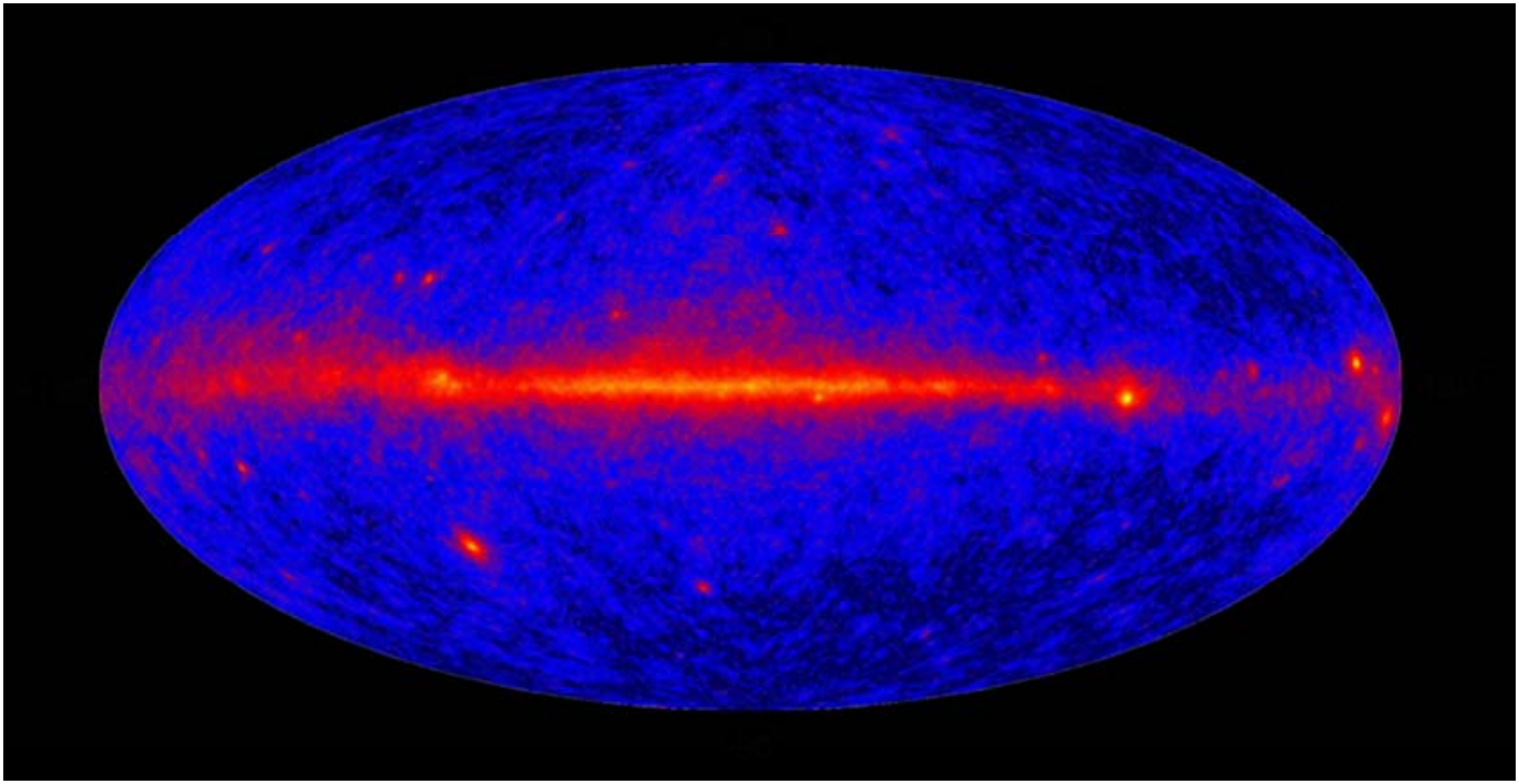
First Light FGST-LAT

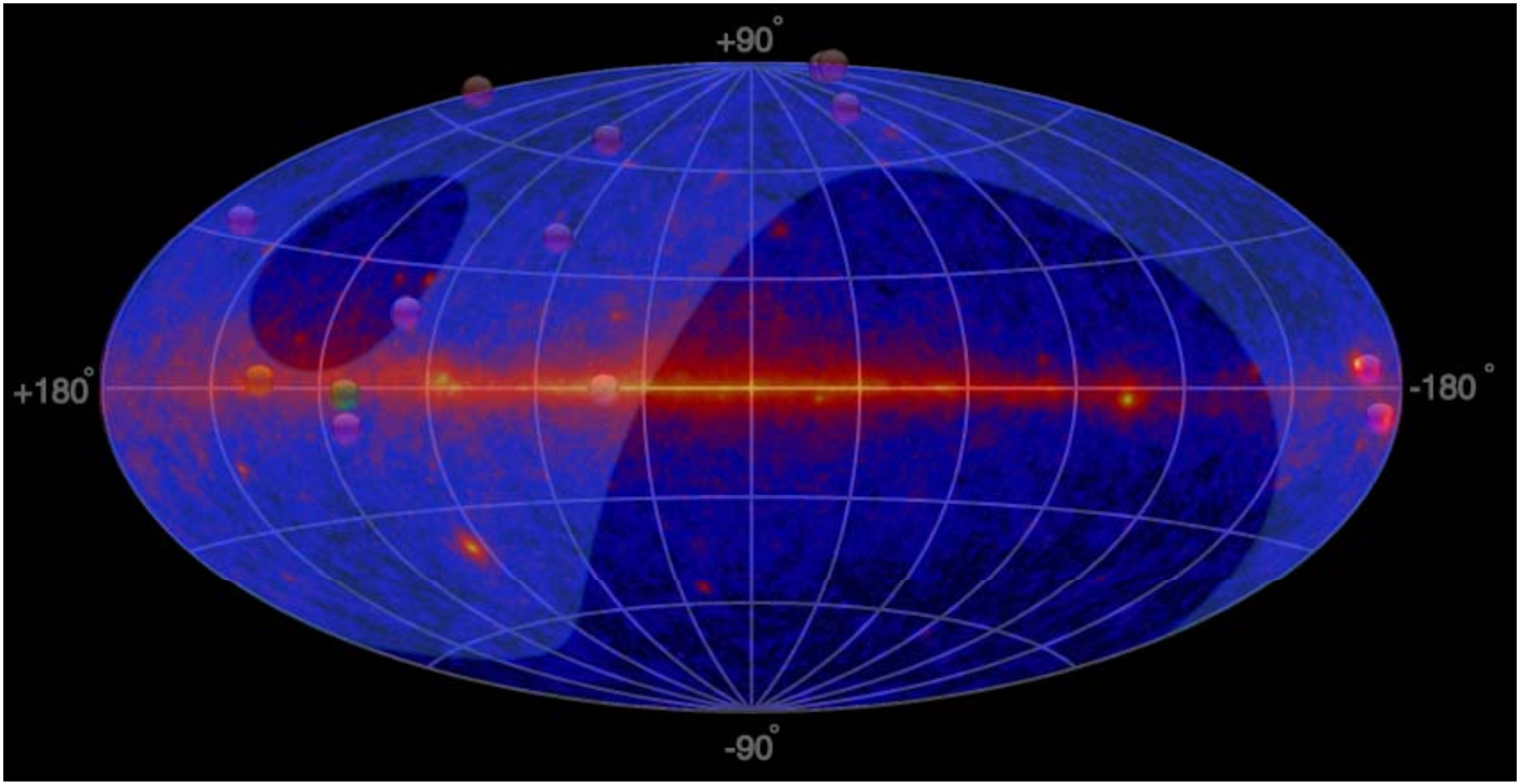


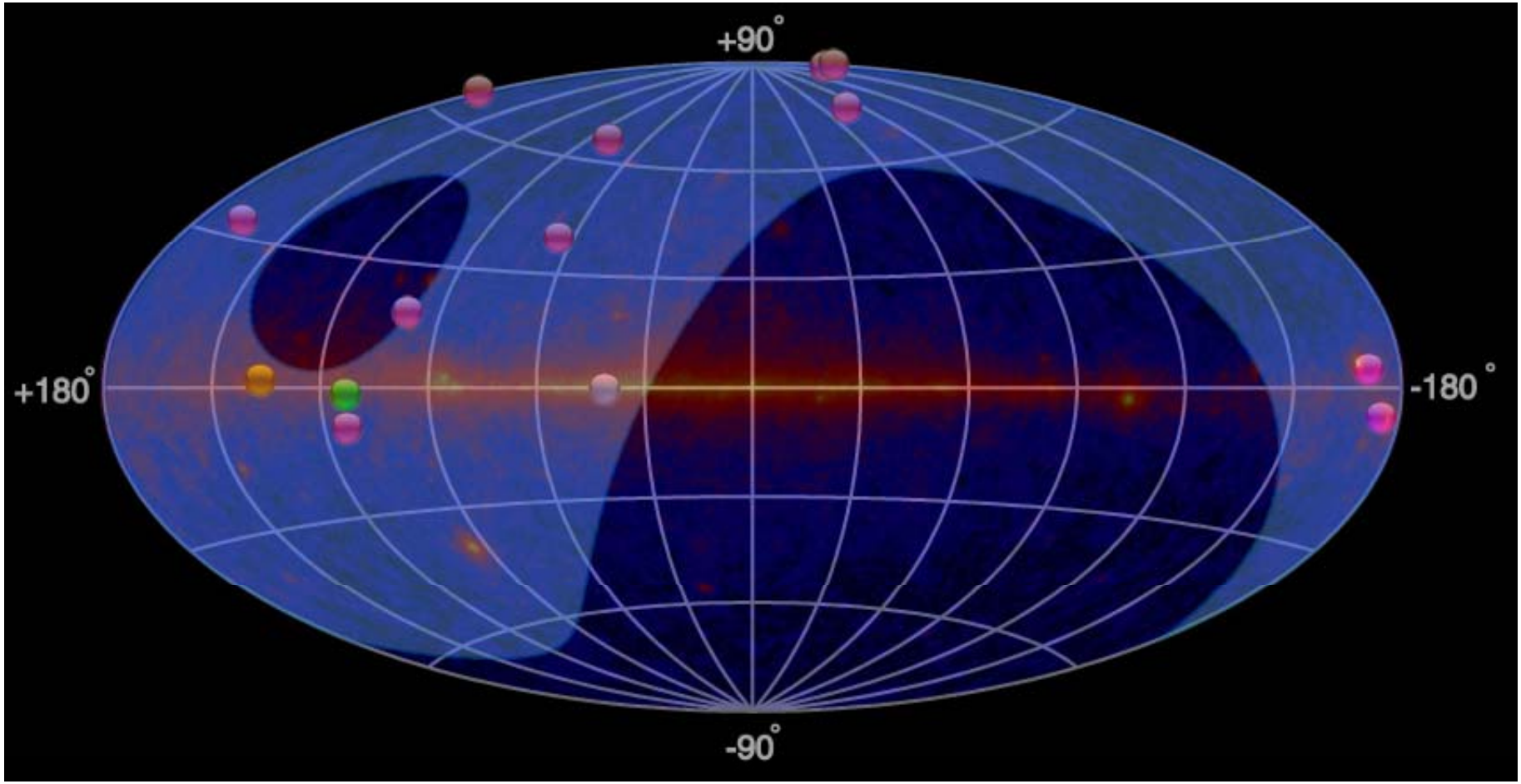
- ~4-day First Light exposure, June 30 – July 3, 2008.
- Orthographic projection.
- Comparable to EGRET on CGRO!


Vela (2 cycles, 89 ms period)
Nevts
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1
1.2
1.4
1.6
1.8
2
Phase

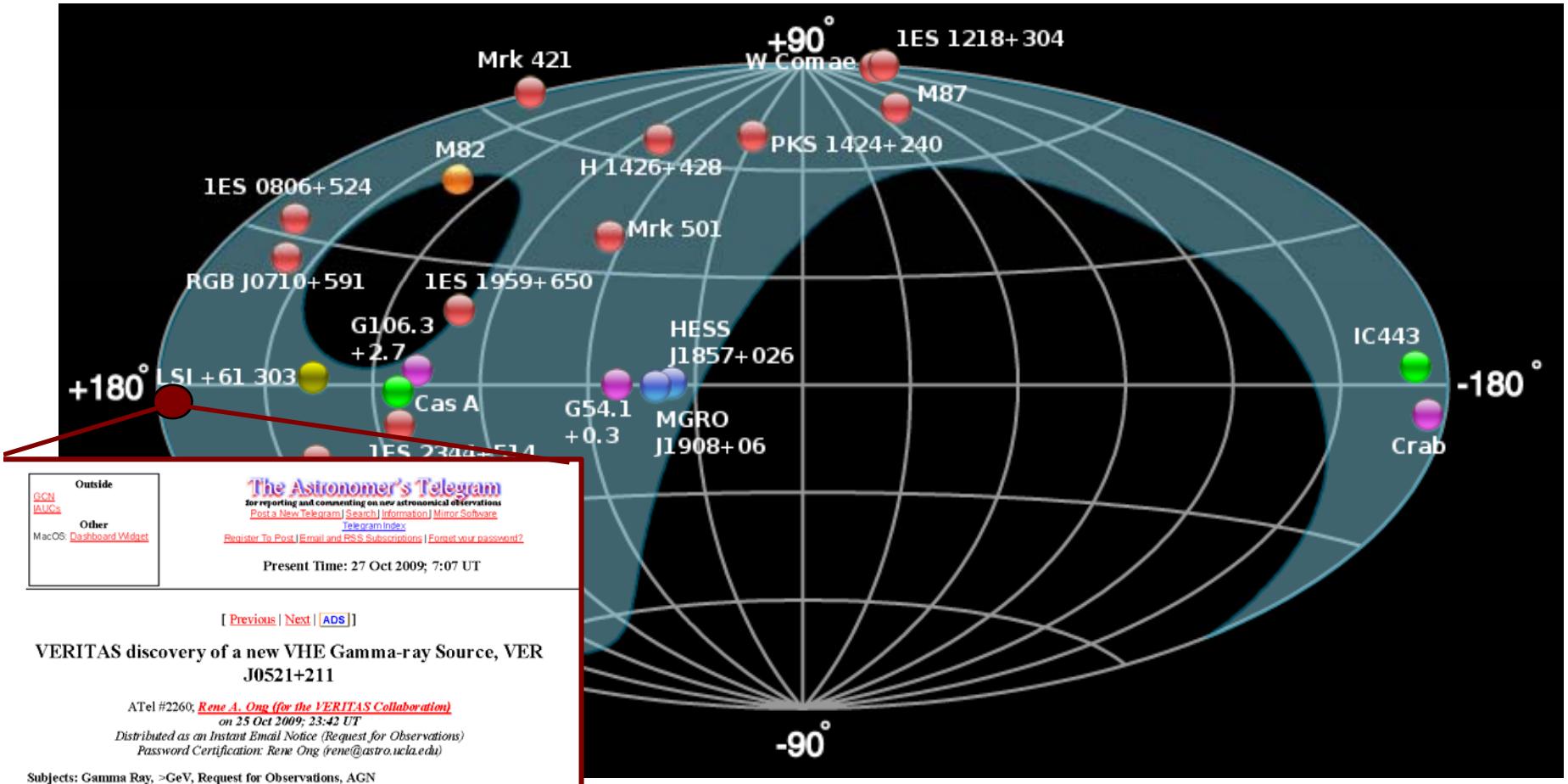
Fermi γ-ray Sky (Feb 2009)




+90°
+180°
-180°
-90°


+90°
+180°
-180°
-90°

The VERITAS Sky (Oct 2009)



Outside
GCN
IAUCs
Other
MacOS: Dashboard Widget

The Astronomer's Telegram
for reporting and commenting on new astronomical observations
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Register To Post | Email and RSS Subscriptions | Forget your password?

Present Time: 27 Oct 2009; 7:07 UT

[Previous | Next | ADS]

VERITAS discovery of a new VHE Gamma-ray Source, VER J0521+211

ATel #2260; *Rene A. Ong (for the VERITAS Collaboration)*
on 25 Oct 2009; 23:42 UT
Distributed as an Instant Email Notice (Request for Observations)
Password Certification: Rene Ong (rene@astro.ucla.edu)

Subjects: Gamma Ray, >GeV, Request for Observations, AGN

The VERITAS Collaboration reports the discovery of a new very high energy (VHE; E>100 GeV) gamma-ray source, VER J0521+211, at R.A. = 80.48, Dec. = +21.19 (J2000), with a positional uncertainty of about 0.05 degrees. This new VHE source was detected with a significance of 5.5 standard deviations in 230 minutes of observations between 22 October 2009 and 24 October 2009 (UT) with the VERITAS atmospheric-Cherenkov telescope array. The observations were motivated by the identification of a high energy (>30 GeV) source at this position in the public Fermi-LAT data. This position is also consistent, within errors, with the position of the radio-loud active galaxy RGB J0521.8+2112, detected in the ROSAT all-sky X-ray survey and included in the RASS-Green Bank catalog, for which the redshift is unknown. The VHE flux measured by VERITAS is ~5% of the steady Crab Nebula flux above 200 GeV. Observations at all wavelengths are encouraged in order to clarify the nature of this object. In particular, optical spectroscopy would be extremely valuable to determine the unknown redshift.

So far,
22 sources detected
6 source categories

FUTURE

Next 5-10 years will be very exciting for this field:

VERITAS will survey the VHE γ-ray sky with great sensitivity, complementing:

Fermi-LAT (GeV γ-rays, in space)

IceCube (ν, South Pole)

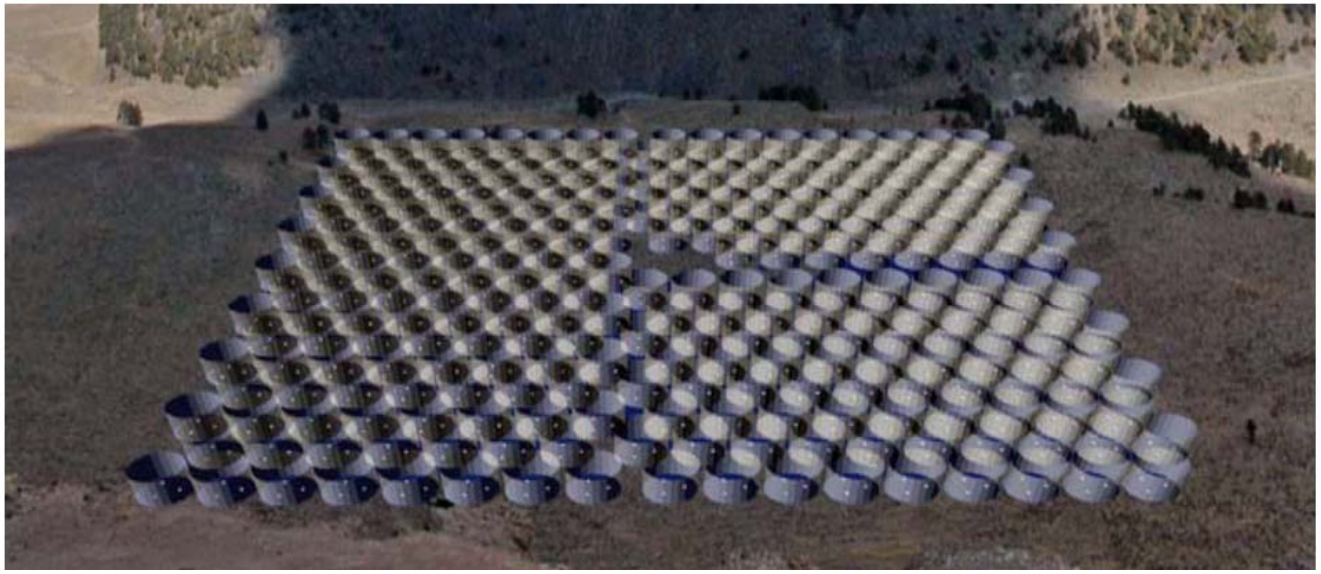
Auger (UHECR, S. Hemisphere)

(HAWC, TeV γ-rays, Mexico, proposed)

Farther in the future:

- Large 1 km^2 Cherenkov telescope array.

HAWC



HAWC array of water tanks at high altitude
(operational by 2014 ?)

Prototype tank

- HAWC Design

- Measures the air shower particles that reach ground level.
- Main advantages: high-duty cycle, wide field-of-view.
- Higher E threshold (TeV), not as sensitive as atm-Cherenkov.

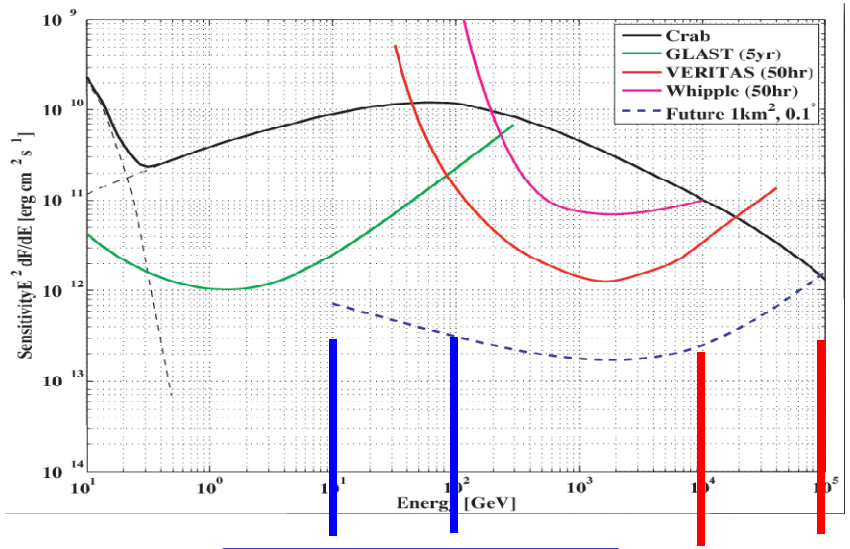
AGIS (Advanced Gamma Imaging System)

Large (1 km^2) array.

- ~50-75 telescopes, aperture 8-20m.
- $100-150M class observatory.

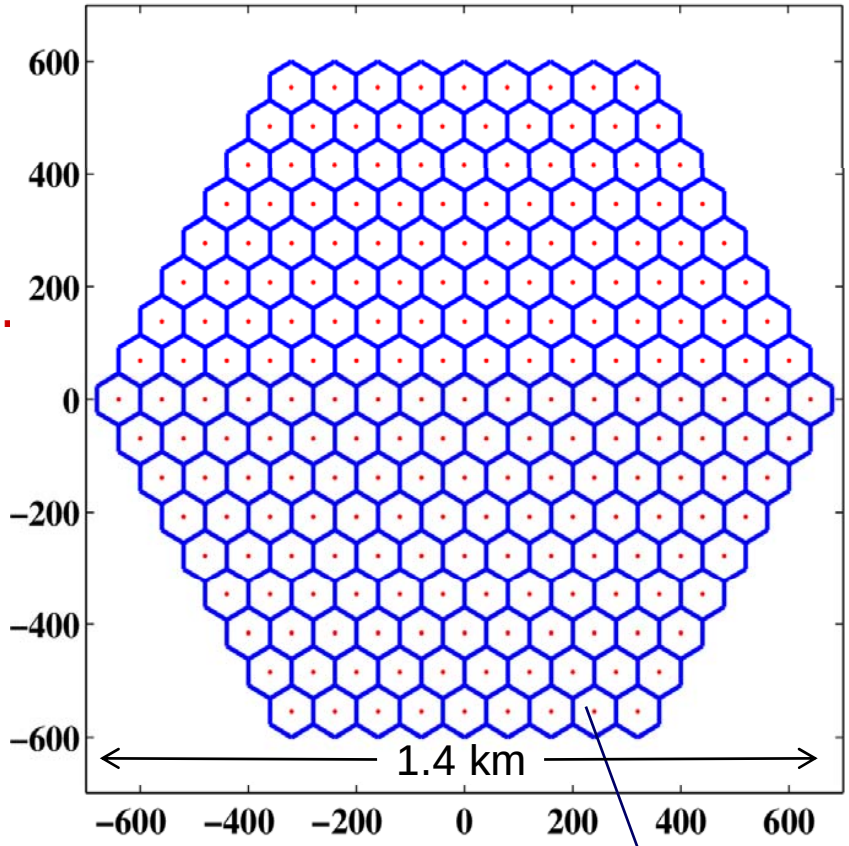
Much more sensitive than FGST/VERITAS..

CTA (Europe) – considerable momentum.



Transition to Fermi Regime (GRBs, etc.)

Spectral cutoffs (acceleration mechanisms)



9-12m telescope
Wide-field
8-10^o

AGIS (2019)

Institutions:

ADLER	SAO
ANL	Stanford/KIPAC
Barnard	UNAM
Delaware	UC, Los Angeles
IAFE	UC, Santa Cruz
Iowa State	U. Chicago
LANL	U. Iowa
McGill	Utah
Penn State	Yale
Purdue	Washington U.

Wide-Field
Schwarzschild-Coudet Telescope

Summary

- VHE γ-rays probe astrophysics of extreme physical conditions, as yet not well explored. There is also discovery potential for physics beyond our standard model.

- Exciting discoveries of many, unexpected sources of VHE γ-rays. But still, most of the sky remains unexplored.

  → **VERITAS and Fermi are now both operational and getting exciting results**.

- New Astronomy of TeV γ-rays (and neutrinos, grav. waves) should reveal many surprises over the next 10 years.

"The real voyage of discovery consists, not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes."

Marcel Proust (1871-1922)