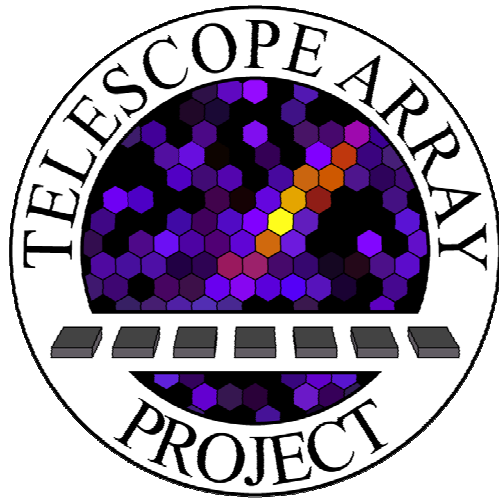


# Energy Spectrum Measured by the Telescope Array Surface Detector



**Student:** Dmitri Ivanov

**Rutgers University**

**Advisor:** Prof. Gordon Thomson

Piscataway, NJ, April 30, 2012

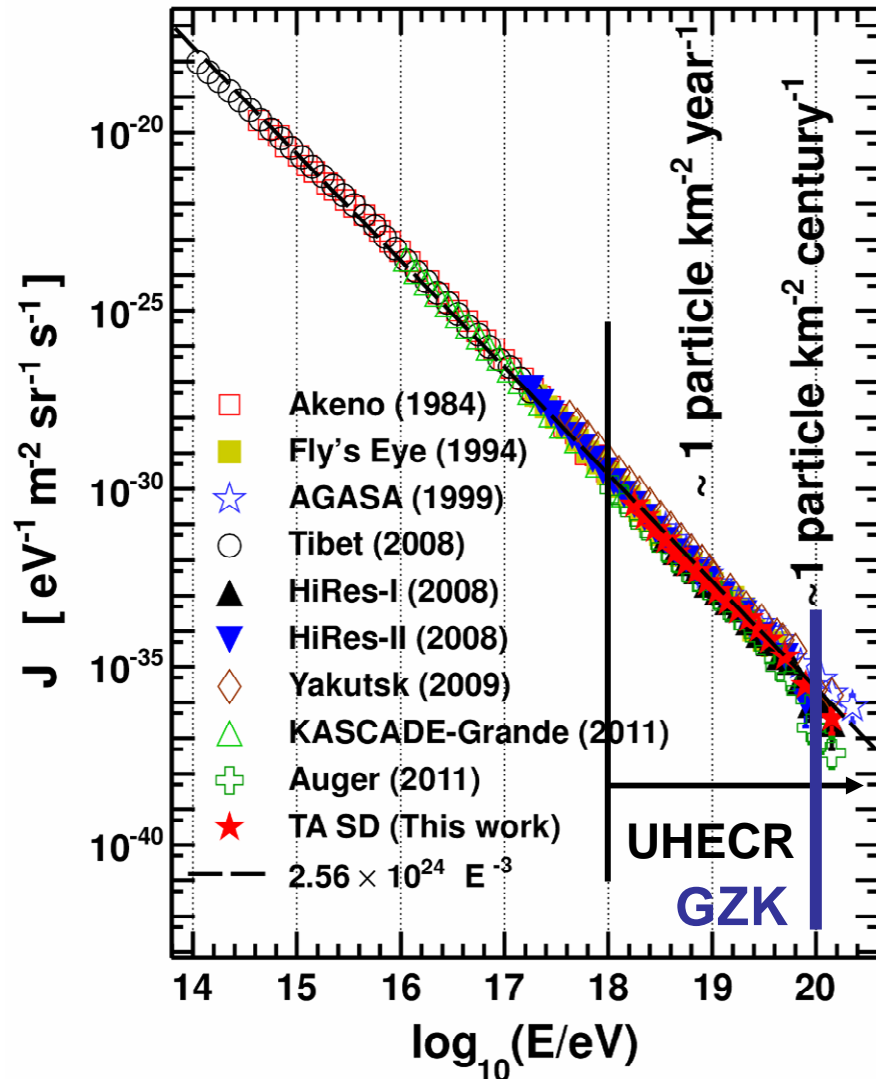
# OUTLINE

- Ultra High Energy Cosmic Rays (**UHECR**)
- Greisen-Zatsepin-Kuzmin **GZK** suppression
  - HiRes<sup>1</sup>-AGASA<sup>2</sup> contradiction
- Telescope Array (TA)
- TA Surface Detector (**SD**)
- TA SD Event Reconstruction
- TA SD Monte-Carlo (**MC**) Simulation
- Energy Spectrum Result
- Conclusions

<sup>1</sup>**HiRes**: High Resolution Fly's Eye (UHECR) experiment)

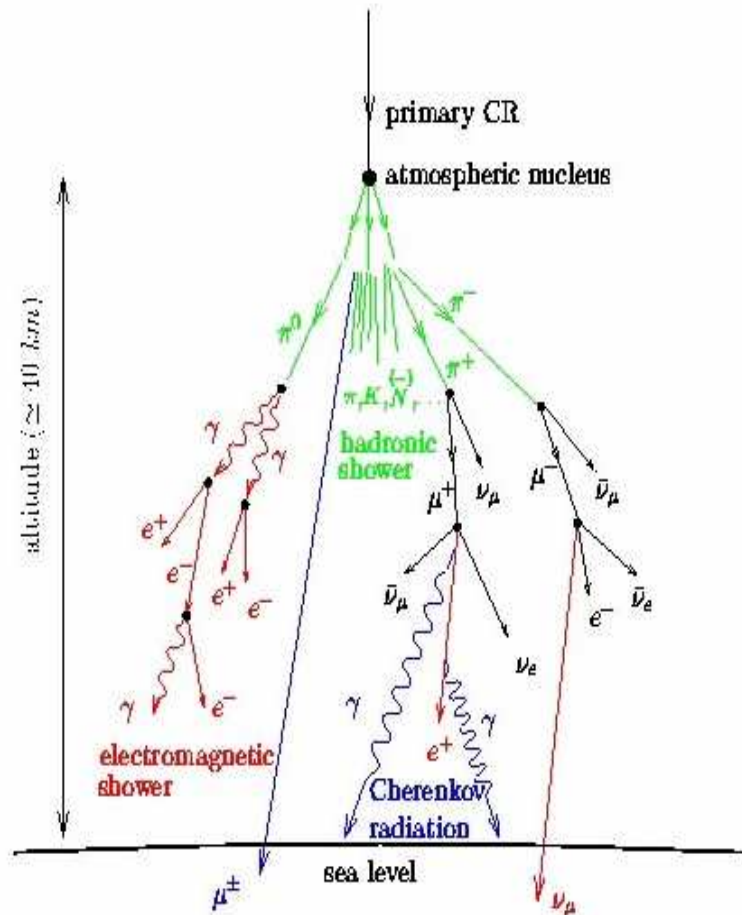
<sup>2</sup>**AGASA**: Akeno Giant Air Shower Array (UHECR experiment)

# Cosmic Rays



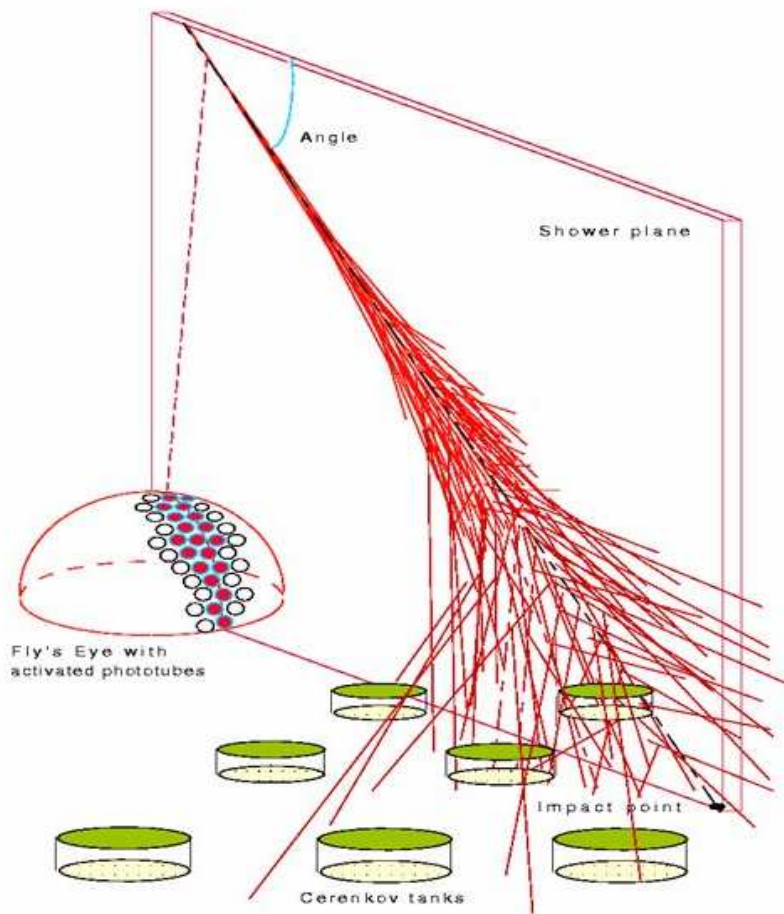
- Cosmic Rays
  - First discovered by V. Hess
  - Mostly charged particles
  - Flux = steeply falling power law  $\rightarrow$  UHECR ( $E > 10^{18}$  eV) are **rare**
- $E > 10^{18}$  eV, UHECR
  - Sources unknown
  - Produce extensive air showers in atmosphere (Auger)
  - Secondary particles reach the ground  $\rightarrow$  Sparsely spaced ground array detectors (Rossi)
  - Volcano Ranch saw a first  $10^{20}$  eV event (Linsley).

# Extensive Air Showers



- Hadronic core
  - Baryons,  $\pi$ ,  $K$
- Electromagnetic component
  - Started by  $\pi^0 \rightarrow 2\gamma$  decays
  - Pair production
  - Bremsstrahlung
  - Ionization & Excitation losses
    - Produce Fluorescence and Cherenkov light
  - Compton scattering
- Muon component
  - Due to charged  $\pi$  and  $K$  decays
  - Muons are long-lived, penetrating, and reach the ground level

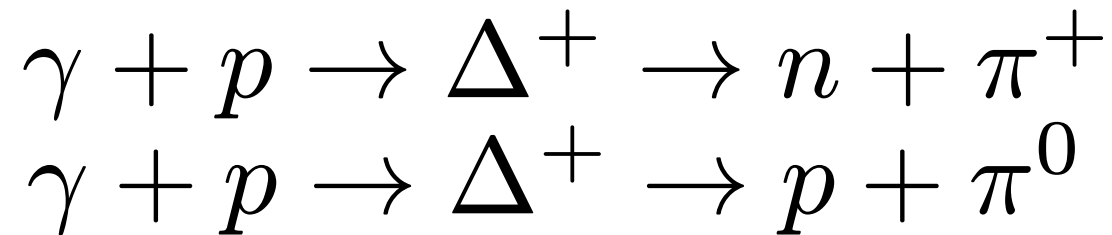
# Extensive Air Showers (Contd.)



- Fluorescence detectors register fluorescence light due to the excitation of  $N_2$  molecules by the electromagnetic component
- Ground Arrays register secondary particles from electromagnetic and muonic component

# GZK Suppression

- A well known fact from accelerator experiments of  $\sim 0.5$  GeV gamma + stationary proton:

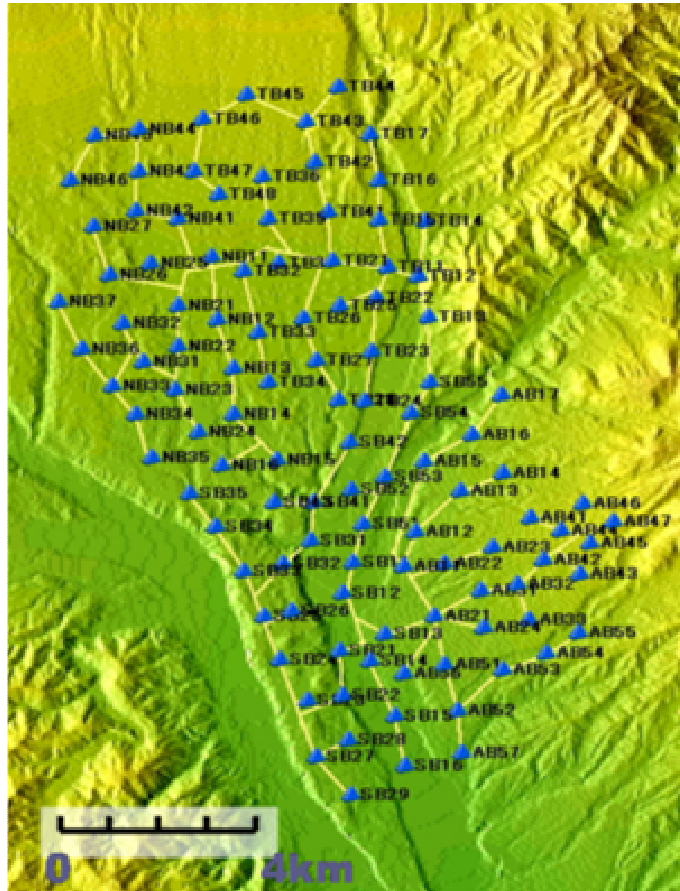


- Cosmic Microwave Background
  - 2.7 K  $\sim 2 \times 10^{-4}$ eV
  - $10^{20}$ eV protons should lose energy (efficiently) due to this **photopion** production  $\rightarrow$  strong suppression in cosmic ray flux near  $10^{20}$ eV (Greisen, Zatsepin, Kuzmin)

# GZK Suppression (Contd.)

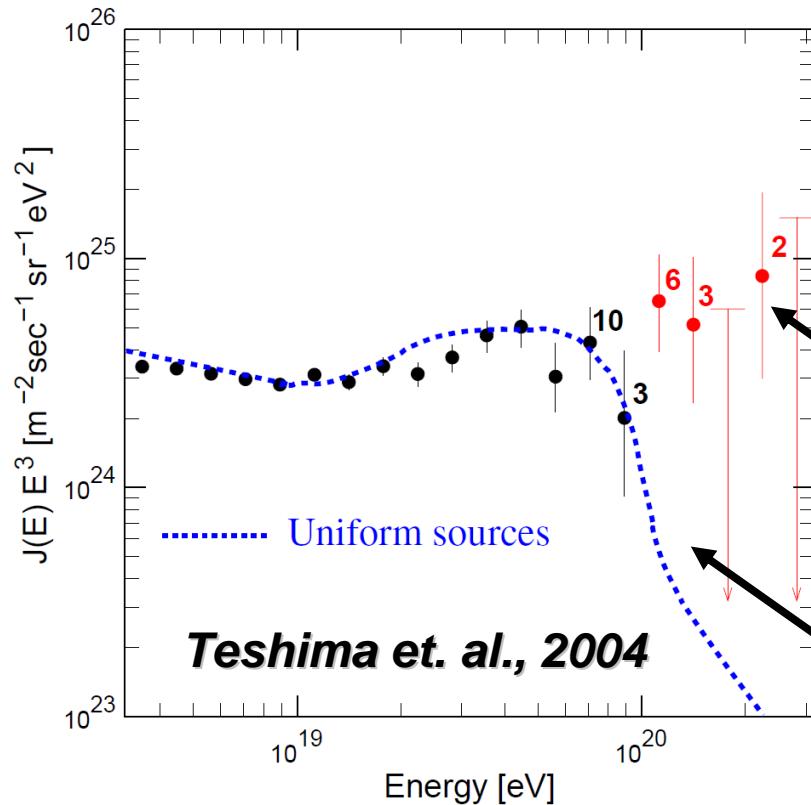
- But early ground array experiments reported seeing  $E \geq 10^{20}$  eV events
  - Volcano Ranch, SUGAR, Yakutsk
- Fly's Eye reported  $3 \times 10^{20}$  eV
  - Largest particle energy ever measured
  - Used Air-fluorescence technique
    - pioneered by University of Utah experiment
- The experiments were too small to conclusively rule out the GZK suppression
  - few tens of square kilometers
  - small (Area x Solid Angle x Observation Time) factors for measuring flux at  $E > 10^{19}$  eV

# AGASA



- Akeno, Japan
- 1<sup>st</sup> experiment large enough to measure flux above  $10^{19}$  eV
- Area  $\sim 100$  km<sup>2</sup>
- $\sim 1$  km spacing
- 111 plastic scintillation counters
- 13 years of operation, 1991-2004
- $\sim 120$  km<sup>2</sup> sr aperture above  $10^{19}$  eV

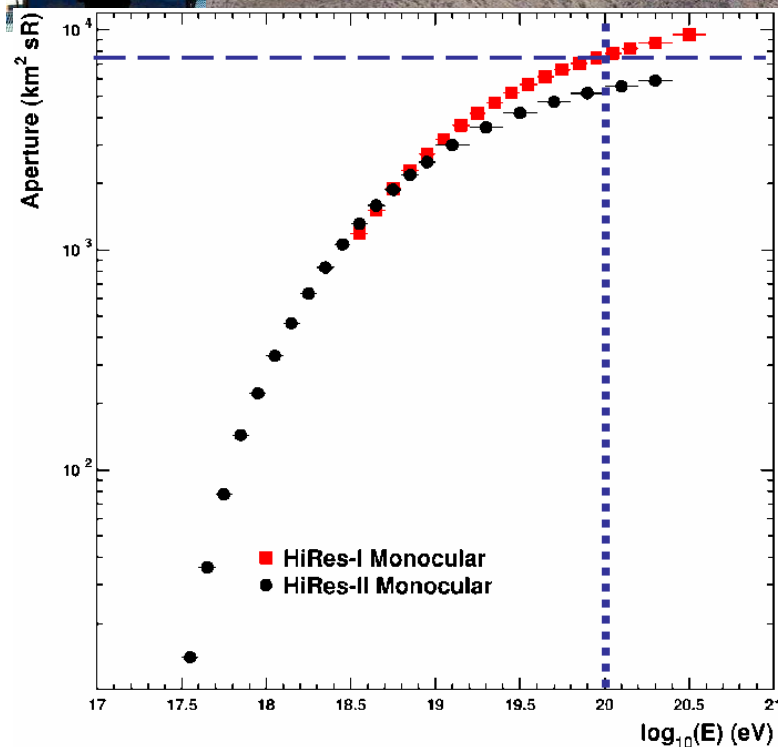
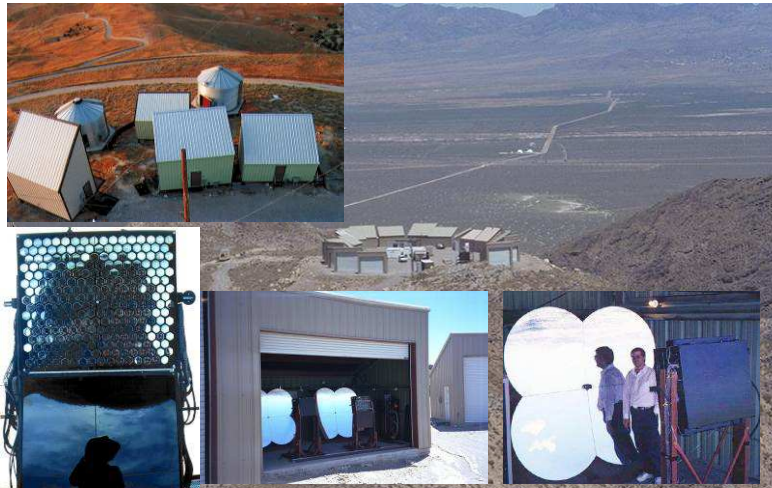
# AGASA: No GZK effect



Dotted line = spectrum by uniform sources, propagated through cosmic microwave background

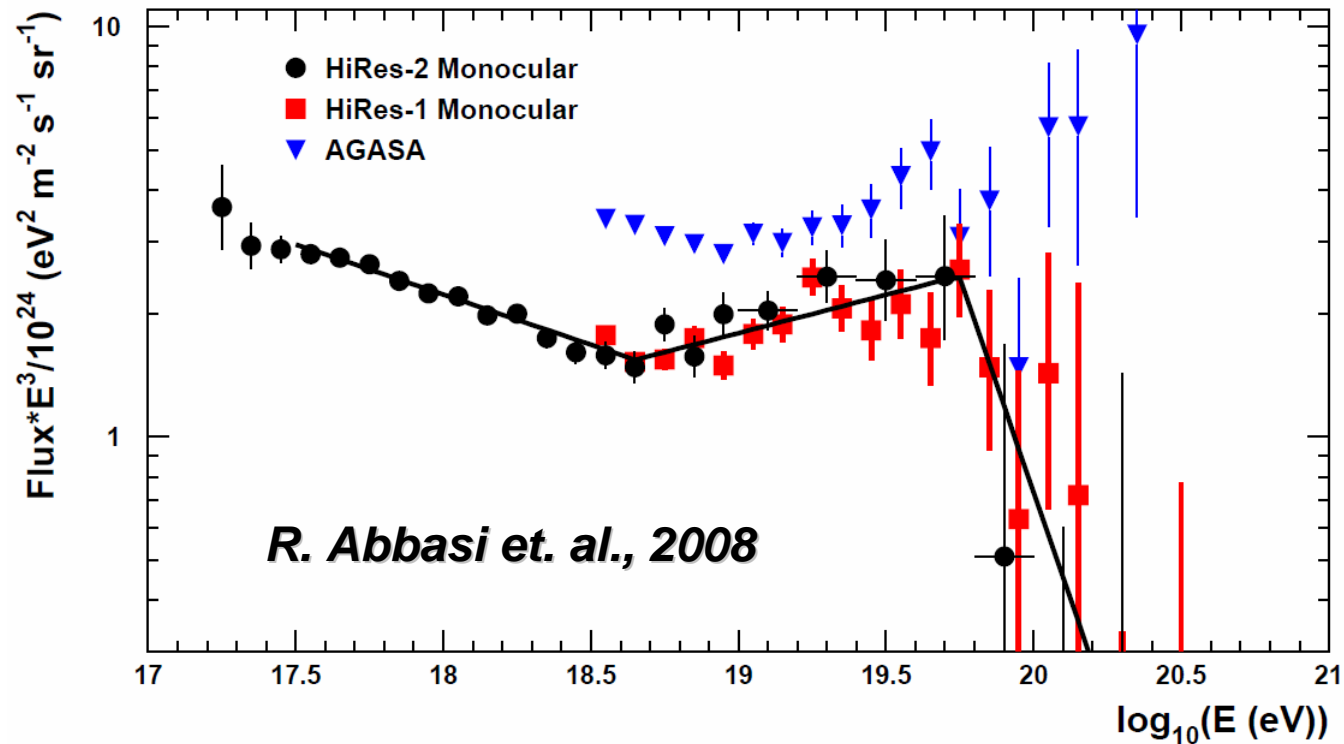
- 11 “super-GZK” events in AGASA data
- Flux limited by the rate at which sources can produce UHECR?
- GZK suppression ??

# HiRes



- Dugway Proving Grounds, UT
- Two-site fluorescence detector
  - Spherical mirrors, 4.2m<sup>2</sup>
  - 256 photomultiplier tubes / mirror
  - Each tube ~1 degree cone of the sky
  - **HiRes1**
    - 1 ring of 21 mirrors
    - 3 – 17 degree elevations
  - **HiRes2:**
    - 12.6 km South-West of HiRes1.
    - 2 rings x 42 mirrors
    - 3 – 31 degree elevations
- **9 years of operation 1997 – 2006**
  - 10% duty cycle
- **Aperture ~7.5x10<sup>3</sup> km<sup>2</sup> sr at 10<sup>20</sup> eV**

# HiRes: GZK Cutoff Exists



- Fluorescence detector
  - First to **observe GZK effect**
    - **Chance probability > 5  $\sigma$**

# HiRes vs AGASA

- Combine HiRes and AGASA experiments
  - AGASA-like array of scintillation counters
  - HiRes – like fluorescence detectors
- **Telescope Array** experiment
  - Deployed in 2007
  - Measure UHECR anisotropy, mass composition
  - Measure UHECR energy spectrum:
    - Using fluorescence detectors only
    - Using surface detectors only
      - large statistics above  $10^{19}$  eV
      - **This work**
    - Using surface and fluorescence detectors (hybrid)

# The Telescope Array (TA) Collaboration

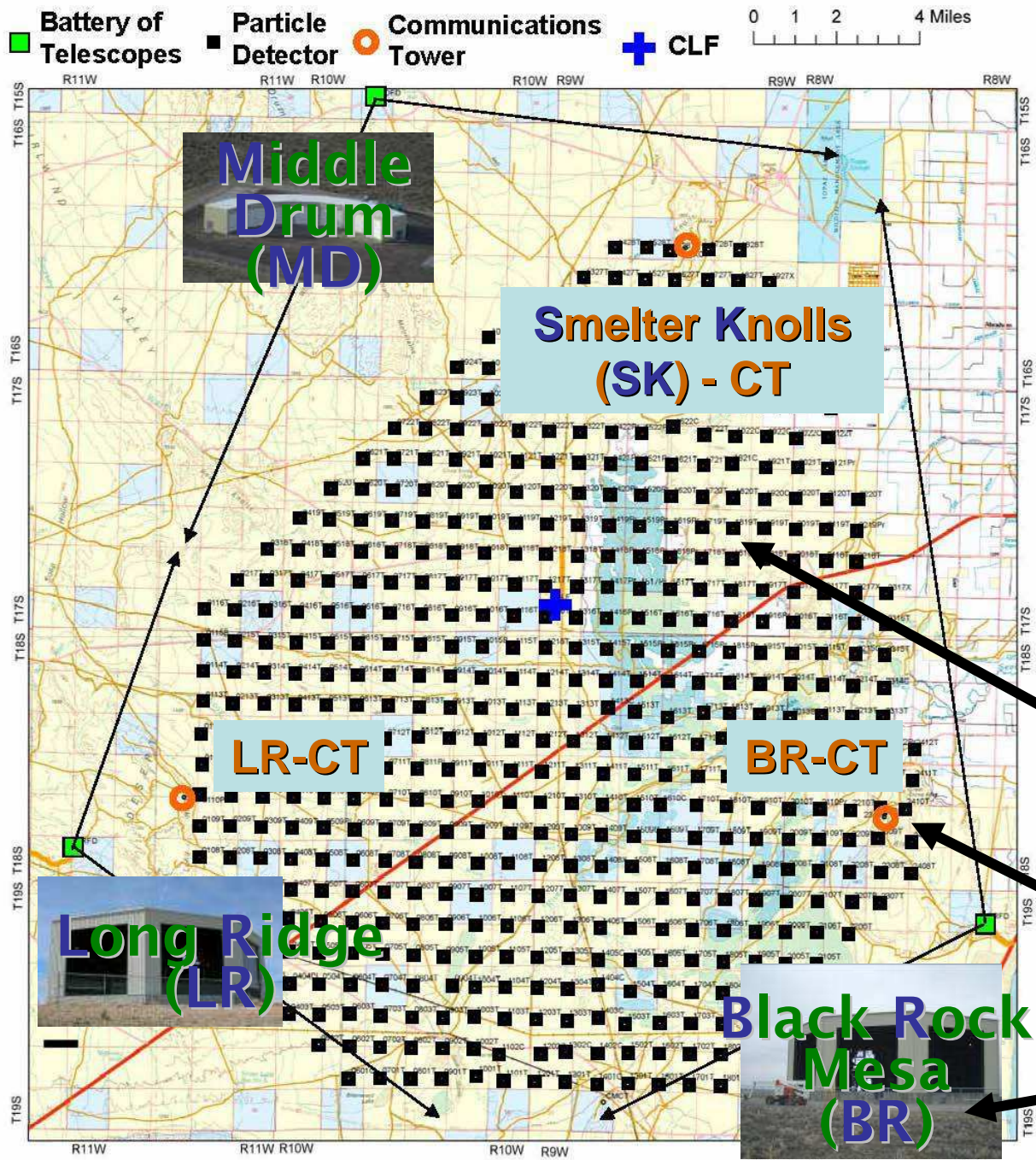
T. Abu-Zayyad<sup>a</sup>, R. Aida<sup>b</sup>, M. Allen<sup>a</sup>, R. Anderson<sup>a</sup>, R. Azuma<sup>c</sup>, E. Barcikowski<sup>a</sup>, J.W. Belz<sup>a</sup>, D.R. Bergman<sup>a</sup>, S.A. Blake<sup>a</sup>, R. Cady<sup>a</sup>, B.G. Cheon<sup>d</sup>, J. Chiba<sup>e</sup>, M. Chikawa<sup>f</sup>, E.J. Cho<sup>d</sup>, W.R. Cho<sup>g</sup>, H. Fujii<sup>h</sup>, T. Fujii<sup>i</sup>, T. Fukuda<sup>c</sup>, M. Fukushima<sup>1,t</sup>, D. Gorbunov<sup>k</sup>, W. Hanlon<sup>a</sup>, K. Hayashi<sup>c</sup>, Y. Hayashi<sup>i</sup>, N. Hayashida<sup>l</sup>, K. Hibino<sup>l</sup>, K. Hiyama<sup>j</sup>, K. Honda<sup>b</sup>, T. Iguchi<sup>c</sup>, D. Ikeda<sup>j</sup>, K. Ikuta<sup>b</sup>, N. Inoue<sup>m</sup>, T. Ishii<sup>b</sup>, R. Ishimori<sup>c</sup>, **D. Ivanov<sup>a,n</sup>**, S. Iwamoto<sup>b</sup>, C.C.H. Jui<sup>a</sup>, K. Kadota<sup>o</sup>, F. Kakimoto<sup>c</sup>, O. Kalashev<sup>k</sup>, T. Kanbe<sup>b</sup>, K. Kasahara<sup>p</sup>, H. Kawai<sup>q</sup>, S. Kawakami<sup>i</sup>, S. Kawana<sup>m</sup>, E. Kido<sup>j</sup>, H.B. Kim<sup>d</sup>, H.K. Kim<sup>g</sup>, J.H. Kim<sup>d</sup>, J.H. Kim<sup>r</sup>, K. Kitamoto<sup>f</sup>, K. Kobayashi<sup>e</sup>, Y. Kobayashi<sup>c</sup>, Y. Kondo<sup>j</sup>, K. Kuramoto<sup>l</sup>, V. Kuzmin<sup>k</sup>, Y.J. Kwon<sup>g</sup>, S.I. Lim<sup>s</sup>, S. Machida<sup>c</sup>, K. Martens<sup>t</sup>, J. Martineau<sup>a</sup>, T. Matsuda<sup>h</sup>, T. Matsuura<sup>c</sup>, T. Matsuyama<sup>i</sup>, J.N. Matthews<sup>a</sup>, I. Myers<sup>a</sup>, M. Minamino<sup>i</sup>, K. Miyata<sup>e</sup>, H. Miyauchi<sup>i</sup>, Y. Murano<sup>c</sup>, T. Nakamura<sup>u</sup>, S.W. Nam<sup>s</sup>, T. Nonaka<sup>j</sup>, S. Ogio<sup>l</sup>, M. Ohnishi<sup>j</sup>, H. Ohoka<sup>j</sup>, K. Oki<sup>j</sup>, D. Oku<sup>b</sup>, T. Okuda<sup>i</sup>, A. Oshima<sup>i</sup>, S. Ozawa<sup>p</sup>, I.H. Park<sup>s</sup>, M.S. Pshirkov<sup>v</sup>, D. Rodriguez<sup>a</sup>, S.Y. Roh<sup>r</sup>, G. Rubtsov<sup>k</sup>, D. Ryu<sup>r</sup>, H. Sagawa<sup>j</sup>, N. Sakurai<sup>i</sup>, A.L. Sampson<sup>a</sup>, L.M. Scott<sup>n</sup>, P.D. Shah<sup>a</sup>, F. Shibata<sup>b</sup>, T. Shibata<sup>j</sup>, H. Shimodaira<sup>j</sup>, B.K. Shin<sup>d</sup>, J.I. Shin<sup>g</sup>, T. Shirahama<sup>m</sup>, J.D. Smith<sup>a</sup>, P. Sokolsky<sup>a</sup>, T.J. Sonley<sup>a</sup>, R.W. Springer<sup>a</sup>, B.T. Stokes<sup>a</sup>, S.R. Stratton<sup>a,n</sup>, T.A. Stroman<sup>a</sup>, S. Suzuki<sup>h</sup>, Y. Takahashi<sup>i</sup>, M. Takeda<sup>j</sup>, A. Taketa<sup>w</sup>, M. Takita<sup>j</sup>, Y. Tameda<sup>j</sup>, H. Tanaka<sup>i</sup>, K. Tanaka<sup>x</sup>, M. Tanaka<sup>h</sup>, S.B. Thomas<sup>a</sup>, G.B. Thomson<sup>a</sup>, P. Tinyakov<sup>k,v</sup>, I. Tkachev<sup>k</sup>, H. Tokuno<sup>c</sup>, T. Tomida<sup>b</sup>, S. Troitsky<sup>k</sup>, Y. Tsunesada<sup>c</sup>, K. Tsutsumi<sup>c</sup>, Y. Tsuyuguchi<sup>b</sup>, Y. Uchihori<sup>y</sup>, S. Udo<sup>l</sup>, H. Ukai<sup>b</sup>, G. Vasiloff<sup>a</sup>, Y. Wada<sup>m</sup>, T. Wong<sup>a</sup>, M. Wood<sup>a</sup>, Y. Yamakawa<sup>j</sup>, H. Yamaoka<sup>h</sup>, K. Yamazaki<sup>i</sup>, J. Yang<sup>s</sup>, S. Yoshida<sup>q</sup>, H. Yoshii<sup>z</sup>, R. Zollinger<sup>a</sup>, Z. Zundel<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>**University of Utah, High Energy Astrophysics Institute, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA**, <sup>b</sup>University of Yamanashi, Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Medicine and Engineering, Kofu, Yamanashi, Japan, <sup>c</sup>Tokyo Institute of Technology, Meguro, Tokyo, Japan, <sup>d</sup>Hanyang University, Seongdong-gu, Seoul, Korea, <sup>e</sup>Tokyo University of Science, Noda, Chiba, Japan, <sup>f</sup>Kinki University, Higashi Osaka, Osaka, Japan, <sup>g</sup>Yonsei University, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul, Korea, <sup>h</sup>Institute of Particle and Nuclear Studies, KEK, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan, <sup>i</sup>Osaka City University, Osaka, Osaka, Japan, <sup>j</sup>Institute for Cosmic Ray Research, University of Tokyo, Kashiwa, Chiba, Japan, <sup>k</sup>Institute for Nuclear Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia, <sup>l</sup>Kanagawa University, Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan, <sup>m</sup>Saitama University, Saitama, Saitama, Japan, <sup>n</sup>**Rutgers University, Piscataway, USA**, <sup>o</sup>Tokyo City University, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo, Japan, <sup>p</sup>Waseda University, Advanced Research Institute for Science and Engineering, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan, <sup>q</sup>Chiba University, Chiba, Chiba, Japan, <sup>r</sup>Chungnam National University, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon, Korea, <sup>s</sup>Ewha Womans University, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul, Korea, <sup>t</sup>University of Tokyo, Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, Kashiwa, Chiba, Japan, <sup>u</sup>Kochi University, Kochi, Kochi, Japan, <sup>v</sup>University Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium, <sup>w</sup>Earthquake Research Institute, University of Tokyo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan, <sup>x</sup>Hiroshima City University, Hiroshima, Hiroshima, Japan, <sup>y</sup>National Institute of Radiological Science, Chiba, Chiba, Japan, <sup>z</sup>Ehime University, Matsuyama, Ehime, Japan

- 140 collaborators, 26 schools, 5 countries
- US, Japan, Korea, Russia, Belgium
- Many former HiRes & AGASA members

# TA SD Spectrum Group

- Prof. Gordon Thomson - Faculty Supervisor
  - Dr. Benjamin Stokes - Post Doc
    - Detailed CORSIKA Monte-Carlo simulation of the TA SD
    - Circumvent problems due to approximations in CORSIKA
    - Solve computational performance issues
    - Simulate UHECR as they exist in nature
    - Include TA SD details: response, electronics, and calibration
  - Dmitri Ivanov - Graduate Student
    - Parsing and handling raw data, calibration
    - GEANT-4 simulation of the detector response
    - Event reconstruction and quality cuts
    - Monte-Carlo validation (comparison with data)
    - Energy spectrum calculation and interpretation



# Telescope Array Hybrid detector

**Millard County, UT**  
 39.3° N, 112.9° W,  
 Alt. 1400m  
 ~880g/cm<sup>2</sup>

507 **Surface Detector (SD)** counters, 1.2km apart, cover 680km<sup>2</sup>



3 **Communication Towers (CT)**:  
 BR, LR, SK

3 **Fluorescence Detectors (FD)**:  
 BR, LR, MD

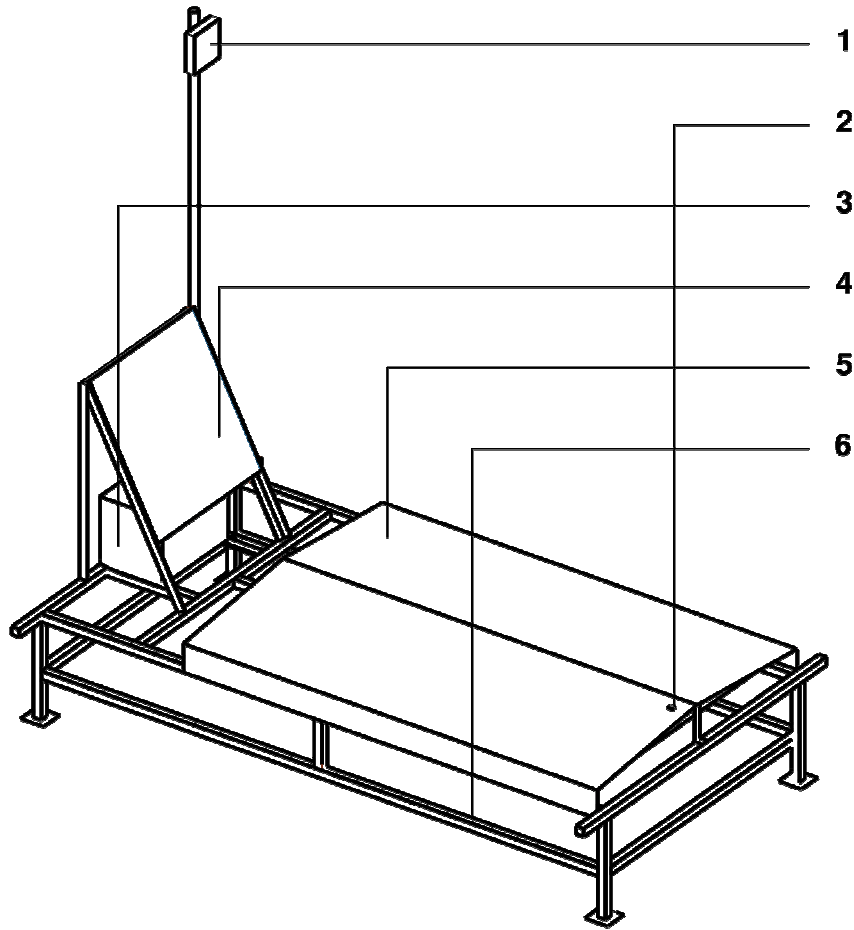


# TA Surface Detector (**TA SD**)

- Powered by solar cells; radio readout.
- Calibration using atmospheric muons.
- Energy deposition by secondary cosmic ray particles measured in **VEM** units (**V**ertical **E**quivalent **M**uon)
  - Energy deposited by a vertical minimum-ionizing muon

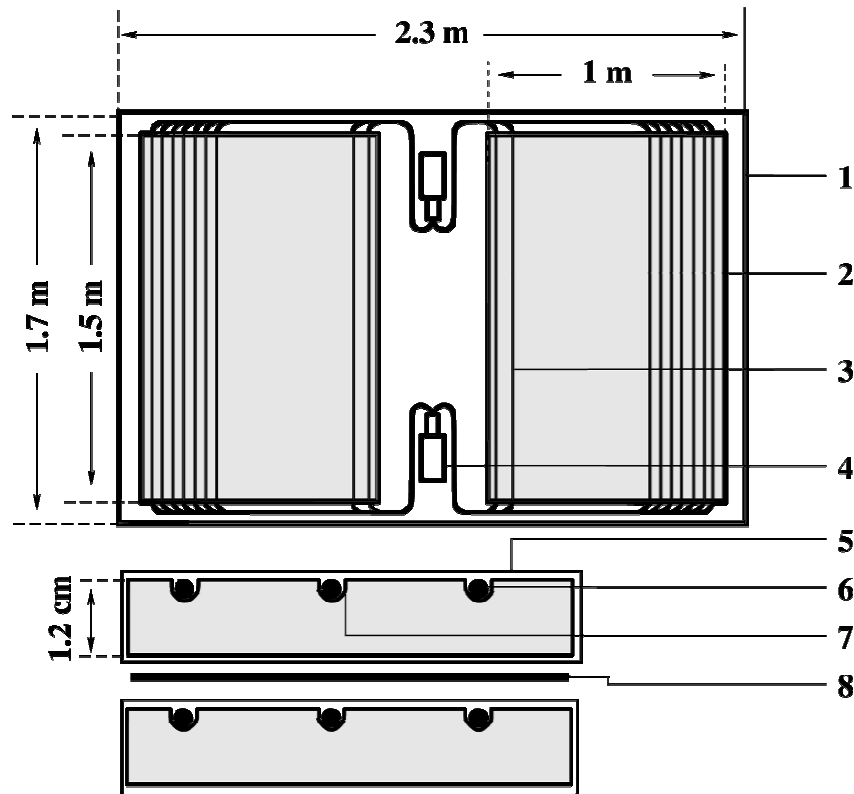


# Exterior Parts



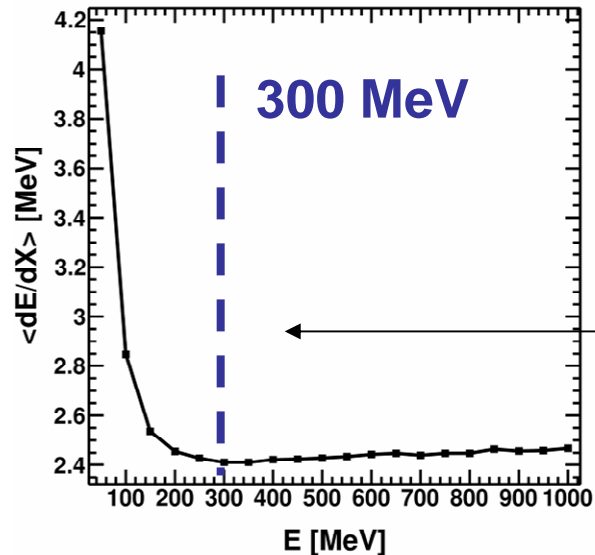
1. Wireless antenna
2. GPS receiver
3. Battery & electronics box
4. Solar panel
5. Iron roof
6. Supporting metal frame

# Sensitive Parts

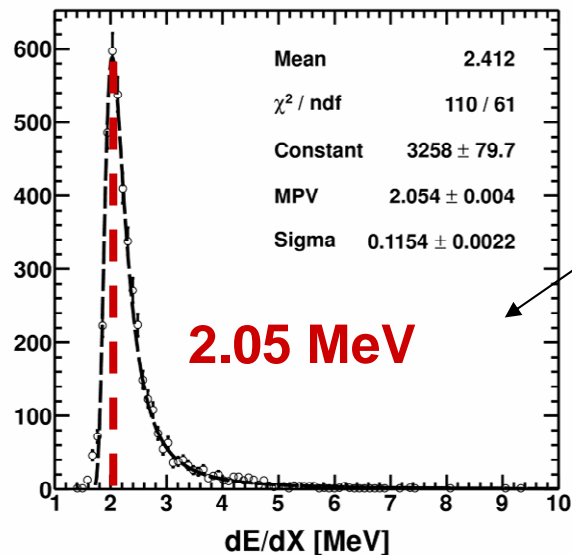


1. Stainless steel box
2. Two layers of 1.5m x 2m plastic scintillators, 1.2cm thick each
3. **W**avelength **S**hifting **F**iber (**WLS**)
4. **P**hotomultiplier **T**ube (**PMT**)
  - Operate at  $\sim 1000$  V
  - Gain  $\sim 2 \times 10^6$
  - One PMT for each (upper, lower) scintillator layer
5. Tyvek sheet
6. WLS (cross-sectional view)
7. WLS Grooves
8. Separator plate

# VEM Definition

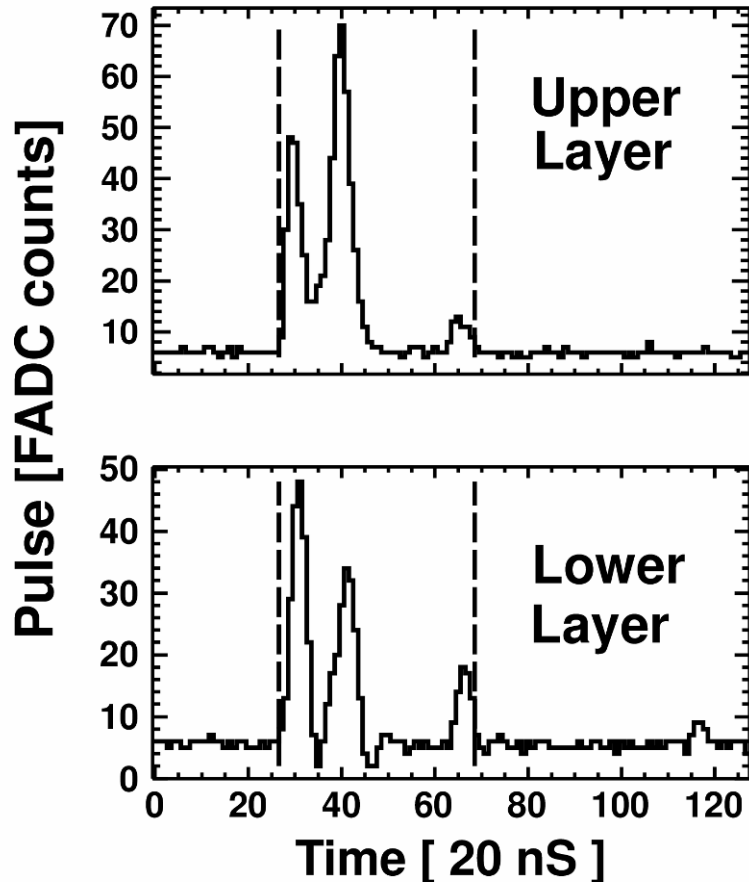


- GEANT4 simulation:
  - Minimum ionizing energy occurs at vertical muon (kinetic) energy of  $\sim 300$  MeV
  - Most probable value of  $dE/dX$  for a vertical 300 MeV muon is 2.05 MeV



- **1 VEM = 2.05 MeV**
- Varies slowly with increasing (kinetic) energy of muon

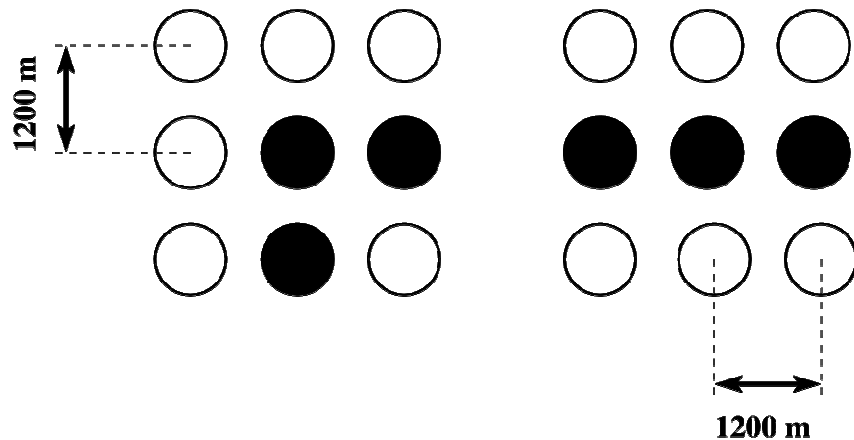
# Electronics



- Energy deposition in each counter is read out by two PMTs
  - upper, lower scintillator layers
- PMT output recorded by 12 bit 50 MHz **Flash-Analog-to-Digital-Converter (FADC)**
- Waveforms (signal vs time) reported to the communication towers

Typical waveform reported by a counter  
(signal from an extensive air shower)

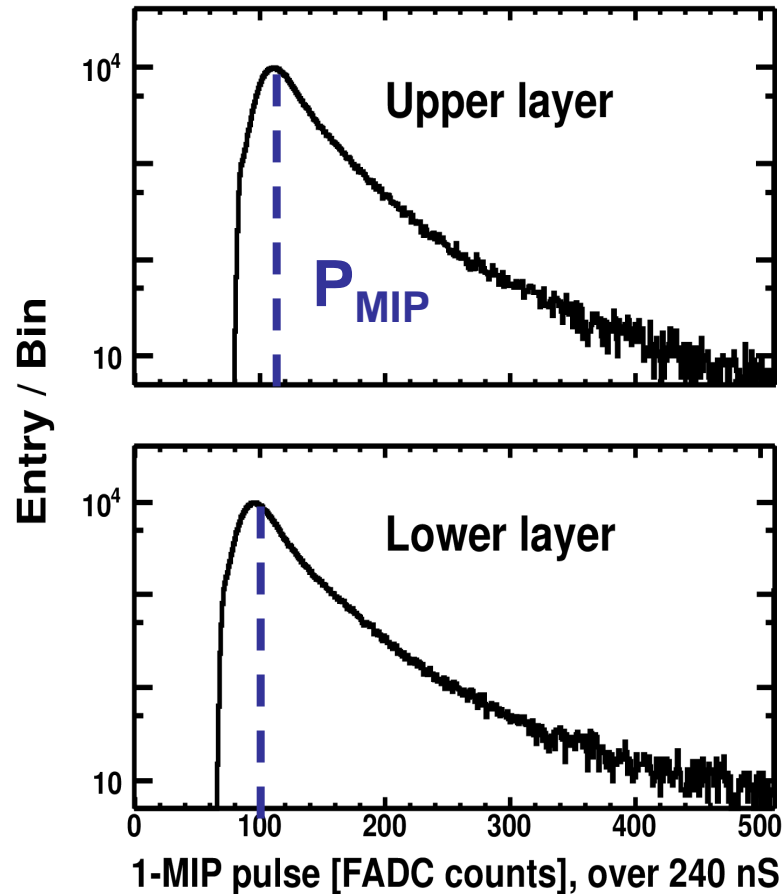
# Trigger and Data Acquisition



Acceptable trigger patterns  
(up to rotations by 90°)

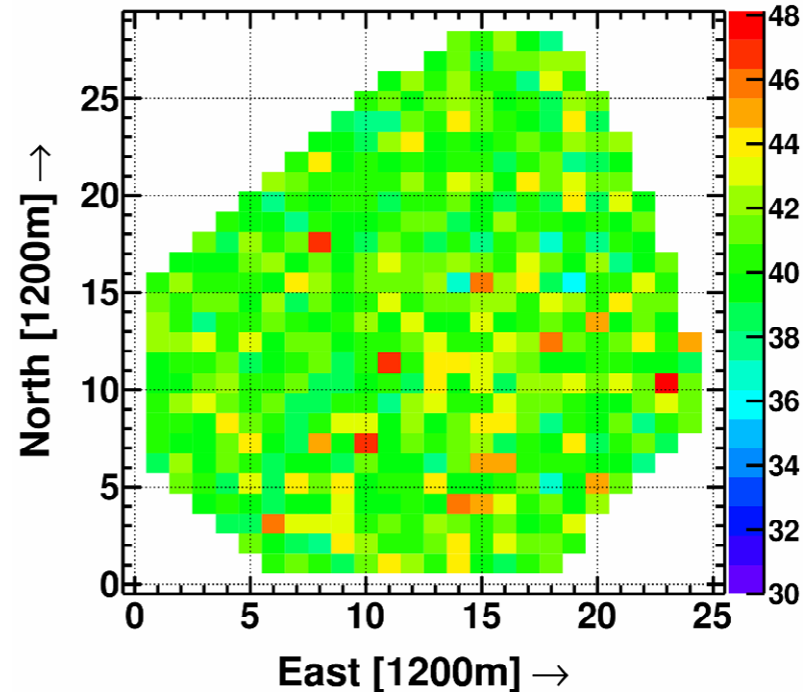
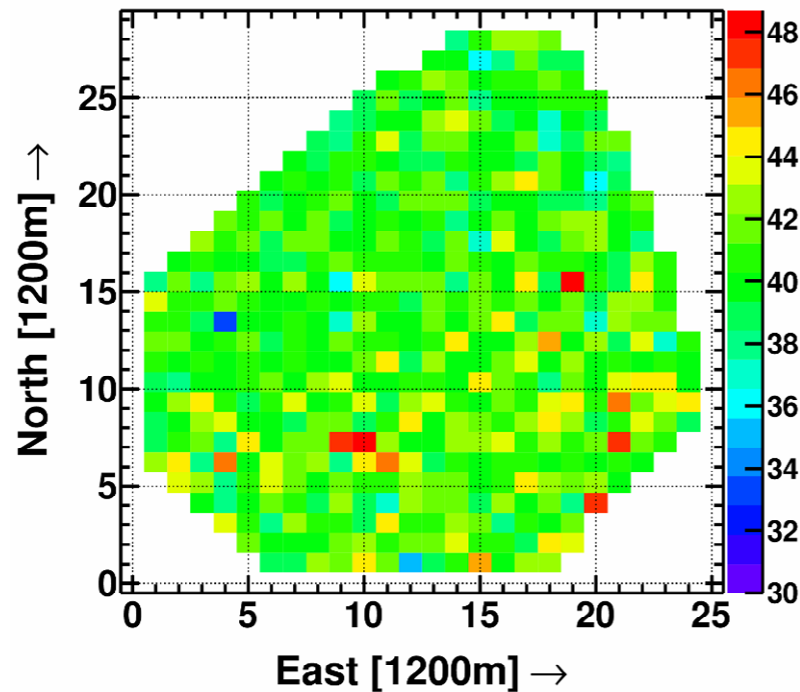
- Trigger issued by **C**ommunication **T**owers (**CT**) when:
  - 3 adjacent counters
  - $\geq 150$  FADC counts each
  - Upper/lower layer coincidence
  - Within  $8\mu\text{S}$
- Data acquisition  $\leftrightarrow$  request waveforms from counters:
- $\geq 15$  FADC counts each
  - Upper/lower layer coincidence
  - $\pm 32 \mu\text{S}$  of the trigger time
- Hybrid Trigger
  - FDs can send commands that prompt data acquisition
    - just like normal CT trigger

# VEM Calibration



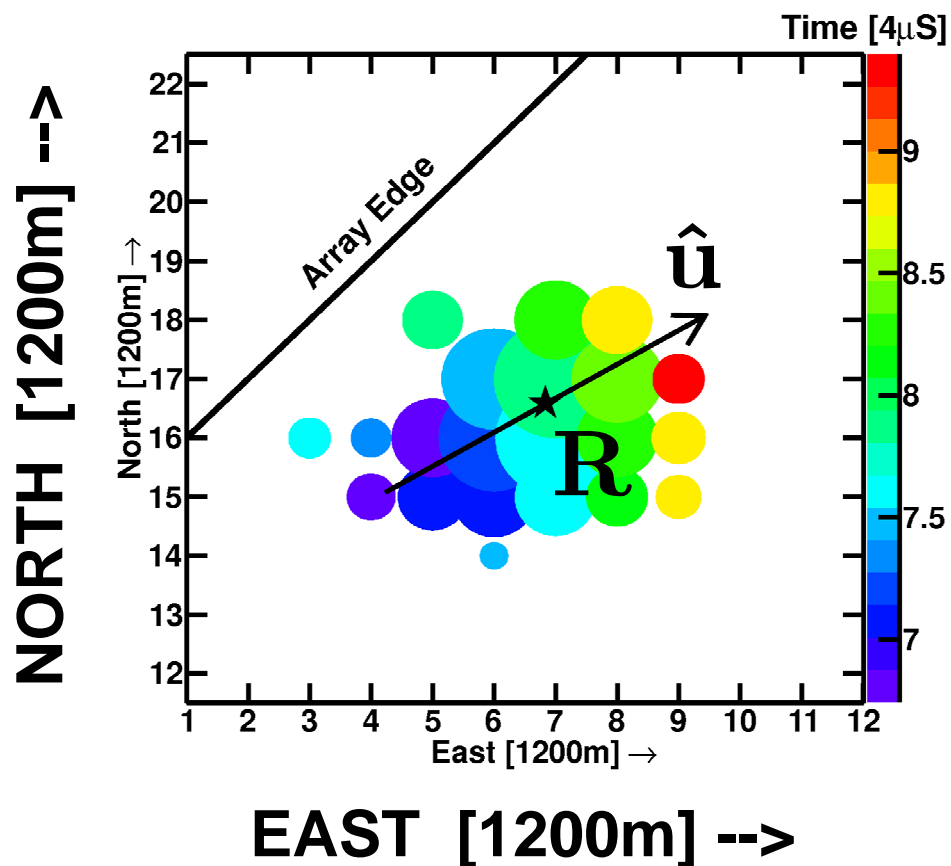
- Convert signal from [FADC] to [VEM]
- **Minimum Ionizing Particle (MIP)** pulses
  - ~700 Hz at a counter
  - Histogrammed over 10 minute periods by each counter
- Peak  $P_{MIP}$  of the histogram related to FADC counts per VEM (separately for each layer):
- $P_{MIP} \approx FADC_{VEM} \sec(30^\circ)$ 
  - 30° is the effective zenith angle of particles
  - Detailed simulations of atmospheric particles give answers within 1.5%

# VEM Calibration (Contd.)



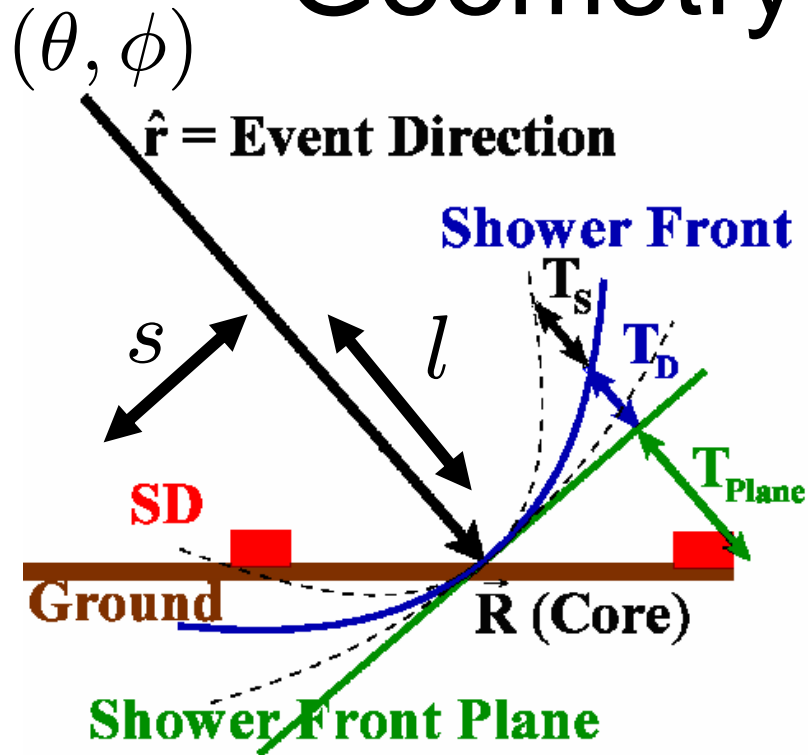
- $FADC_{VEM}$  (color) plotted versus counter X, Y position
  - a randomly chosen 10 min monitoring cycle
- Typically,  $FADC_{VEM} \approx 40$  FADC counts  $VEM^{-1}$

# Event Reconstruction



- Circle = a counter
  - Color = counter time
  - Circle size proportional to the log of the counter pulse height (in VEM)
  - Star = shower impact position
  - Arrow = projection of the event direction on the ground (the “u-axis”)
  - Geometry reconstructed from the counter time
  - Energy estimated from the lateral distribution of counter signals
- After pattern recognition
    - Pick out counters that are part of the event (remove random muons)

# Geometry Reconstruction



- **Event direction is found by minimizing:**

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{\text{nSDs}} \frac{(t_i - T_0 - T_{\text{Plane}} - T_D)^2}{T_S^2} + \frac{(\vec{\mathbf{R}} - \vec{\mathbf{R}}_{\text{COG}})^2}{(180\text{m})^2}$$

$T_0$  - Time of the core hitting ground

$T_{\text{Plane}}$  - Time of the shower front plane

$T_D$  - Time delay (next slide)

$T_S$  - Fluctuation of the time delay

$\vec{\mathbf{R}}$  - Fitted (2D) core position

$\vec{\mathbf{R}}_{\text{COG}}$  - 2D core position found from the center of gravity of charge

- **6 parameters in the final fit:**
  - Zenith and azimuthal angles
  - Core X, Core Y, Core time
  - Curvature of the front

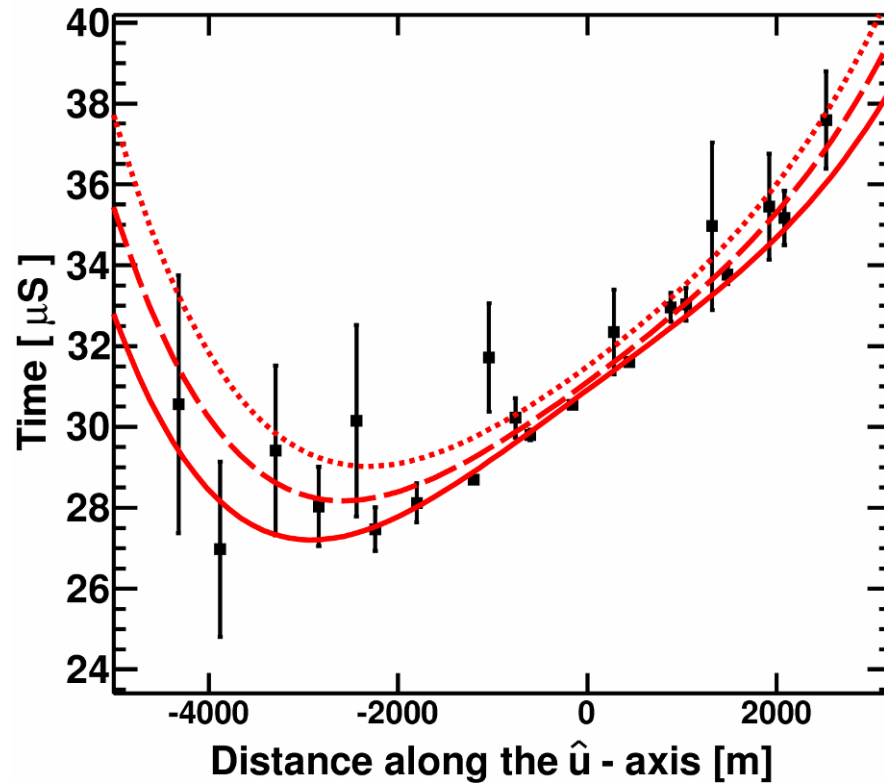
# Time Structure of the Shower Front

$$T_D = a \left(1 - \frac{l}{12 \times 10^3 \text{m}}\right)^{1.05} \left(1.0 + \frac{s}{30 \text{m}}\right)^{1.35} \rho^{-0.5}$$

$$T_S = (1.56 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{S}) \left(1.0 - \frac{l}{12 \times 10^3 \text{m}}\right)^{1.05} \left(1.0 + \frac{s}{30 \text{m}}\right)^{1.5} \rho^{-0.3}$$

- $T_D$  = Counter delay time due to the shower front curvature
  - $T_S$  = Fluctuation of the shower front time at the counter
  - $a$  = Curvature parameter
  - $l$  = Counter distance from the core along the (3D) shower axis
  - $s$  = Counter perpendicular distance from the shower axis
  - $\rho$  = Charge (pulse height) density at the counter, VEM  $\text{m}^{-2}$
- 
- Started with AGASA-Linsley formula
  - Empirically adjusted **using TA SD data only**
  - Tested that it works for Monte-Carlo also

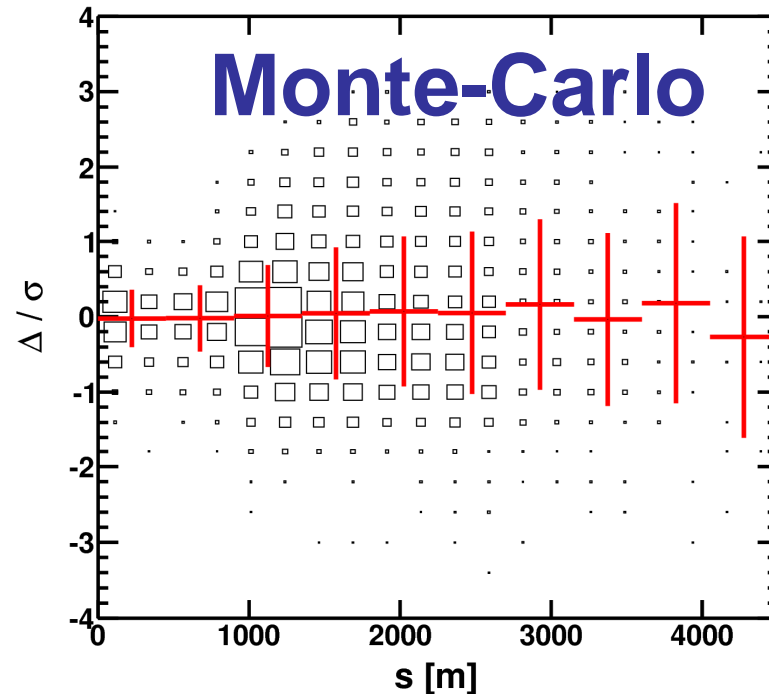
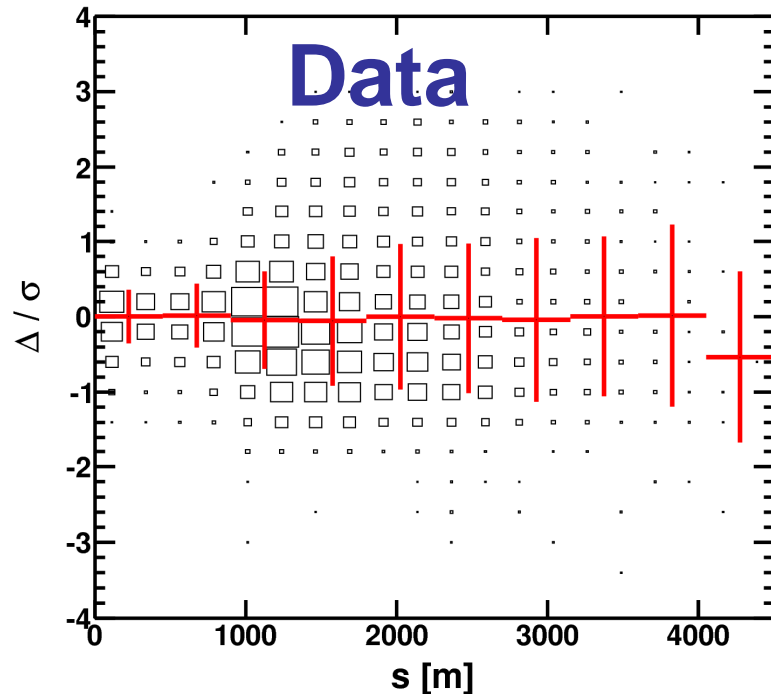
# Time Fit



(A 1D illustration of a multi-dimensional fit)

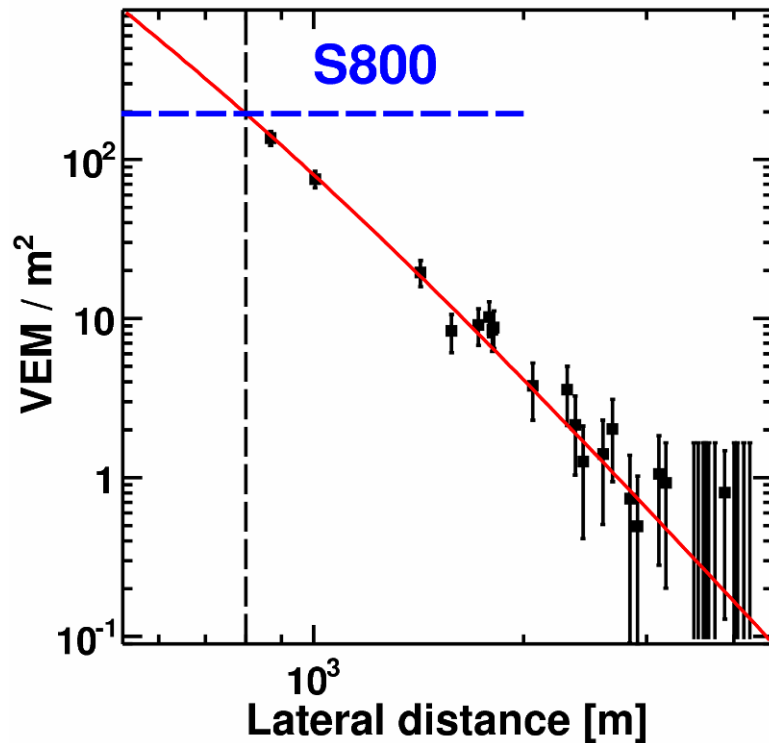
- Counter time plotted vs distance along the  $u$ -axis (points with error bars = data)
- Solid line = fit expectation time for counters on the  $u$ -axis
- Dashed line = fit expectation for counters 1km off the  $u$ -axis
- Dotted line = fit expectation for counters 2km off the  $u$ -axis

# Time Fit Residuals



- Test the time fit formulas derived from the TA SD data
- Each entry = counter, plots are **over all counters and over all events**
- Normalized residual = (counter time – fit time) /  $T_s$
- Plotted versus (perpendicular) distance from the shower axis
- **Data and Monte-Carlo fit in the same way**

# Lateral Distribution Fit



- Counter signal versus perpendicular (lateral) distance from the shower axis
- Fit to the AGASA **L**ateral **D**istribution **F**unction (LDF)
- Determine the **S**ignal **S**ize at **800**m (**S800**) from the shower axis

**AGASA LDF:**

$$\rho = A \left( \frac{s}{91.6\text{m}} \right)^{-1.2} \left( 1 + \frac{s}{91.6\text{m}} \right)^{-(\eta(\theta)-1.2)} \left( 1 + \left[ \frac{s}{1000\text{m}} \right]^2 \right)^{-0.6}$$

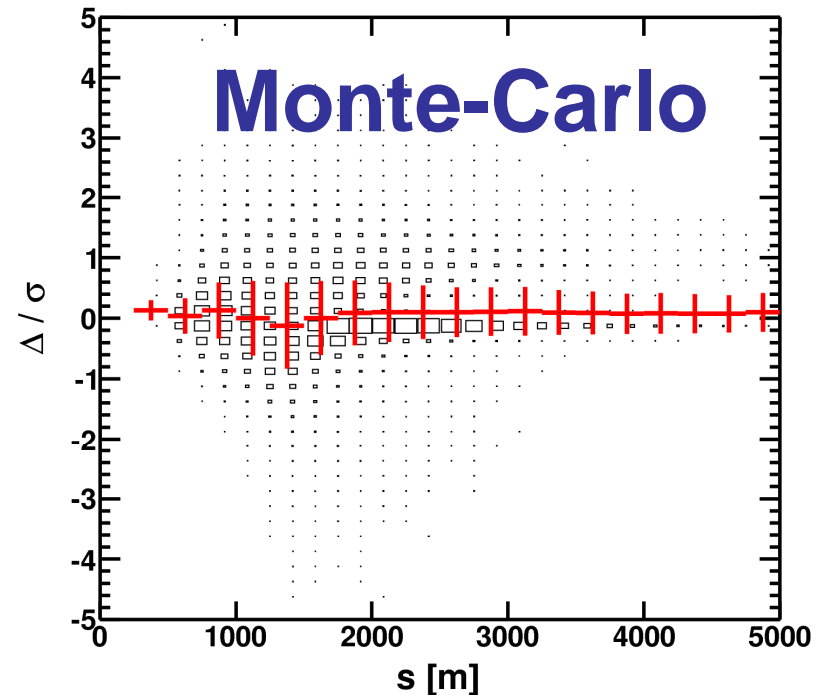
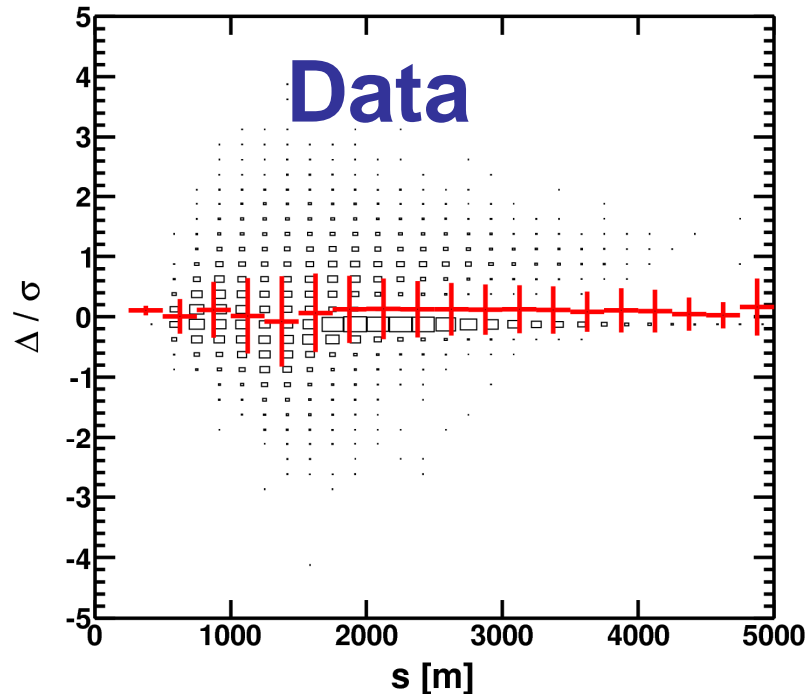
$$\eta(\theta) = 3.97 - 1.79 [\sec(\theta) - 1]$$

$$\sigma_\rho = \sqrt{0.56 \rho + 6.3 \times 10^{-3} \rho^2}$$

**uncertainty on charge density  $\rho$  determined empirically from the TA SD data**

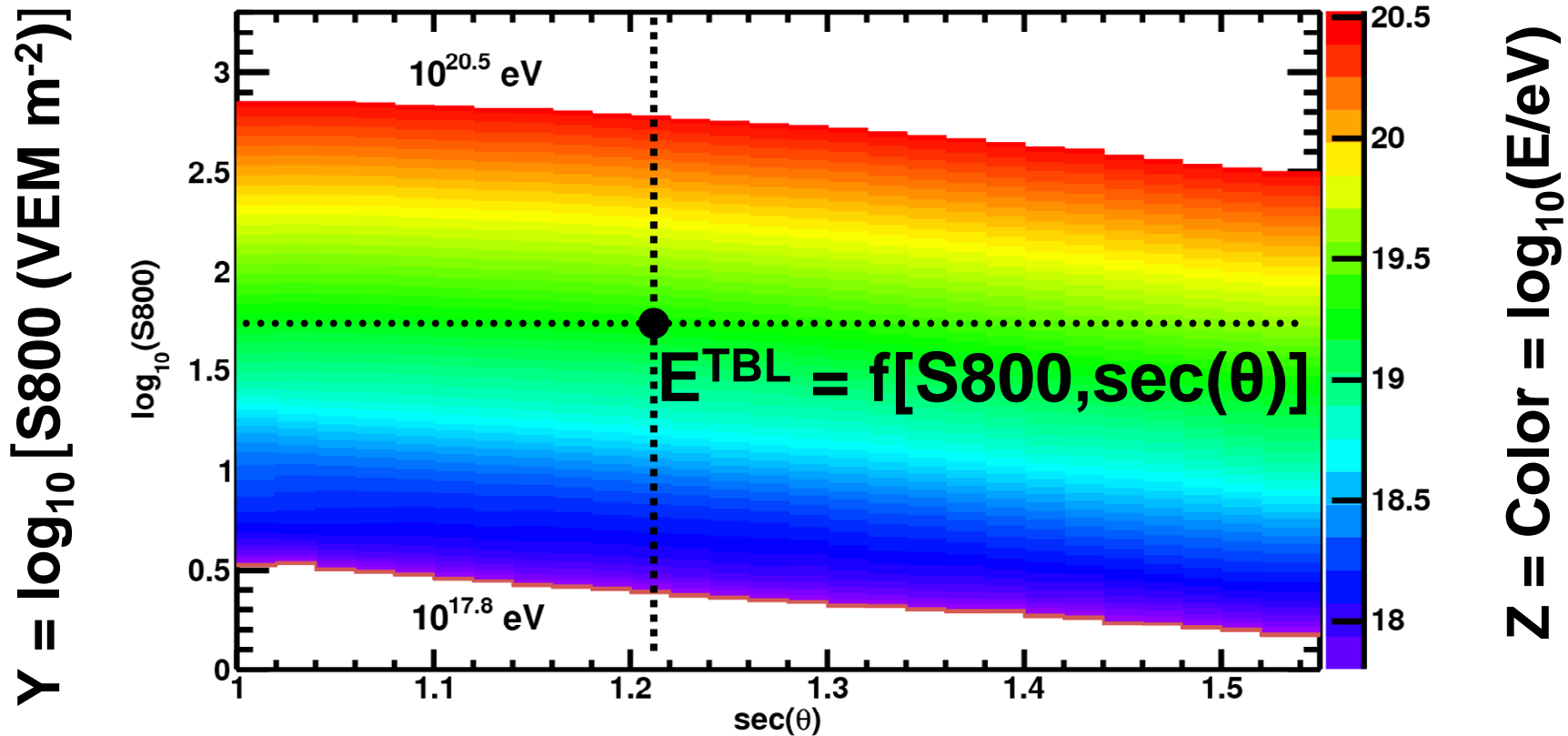
3 fit parameters: A, Core X, and Core Y

# Lateral Distribution Fit Residuals



- Each entry = counter, plots are **over all counters and over all events**
- Normalized residual =  $(\text{counter } \rho - \text{fit } \rho) / \sigma_\rho$
- Plotted versus (perpendicular) distance from the shower axis
- **Data and Monte-Carlo fit to the AGASA LDF in the same way**

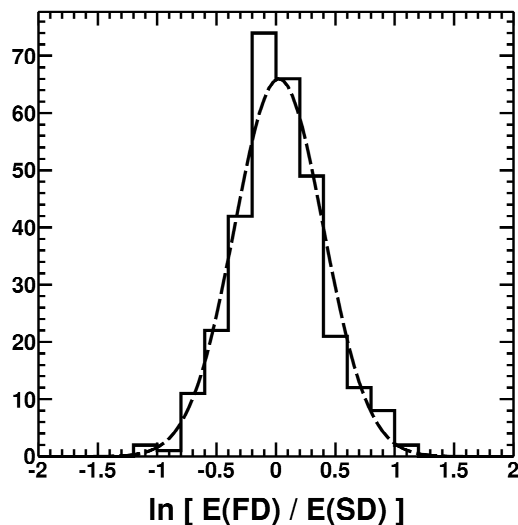
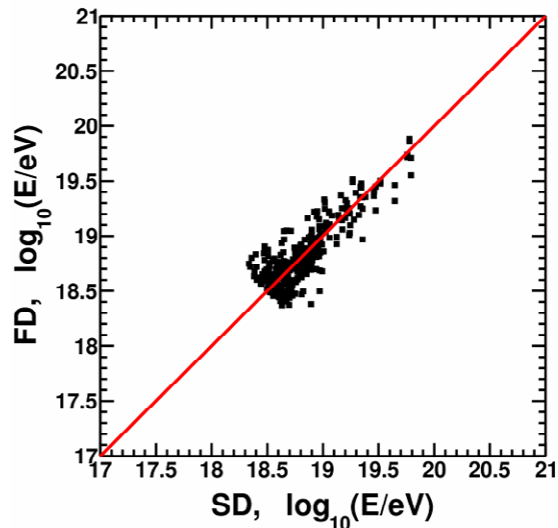
# Energy Determination, Step 1/2



**X = Secant of zenith angle**

- A look-up table made from the Monte-Carlo
- Event energy ( $E^{\text{TBL}}$ ) = function of *reconstructed* S800 and  $\sec(\theta)$
- Energy reconstruction  $\leftrightarrow$  interpolation between S800 vs  $\sec(\theta)$  contours of constant values of  $E^{\text{TBL}}$

# Energy Determination, Step 2/2



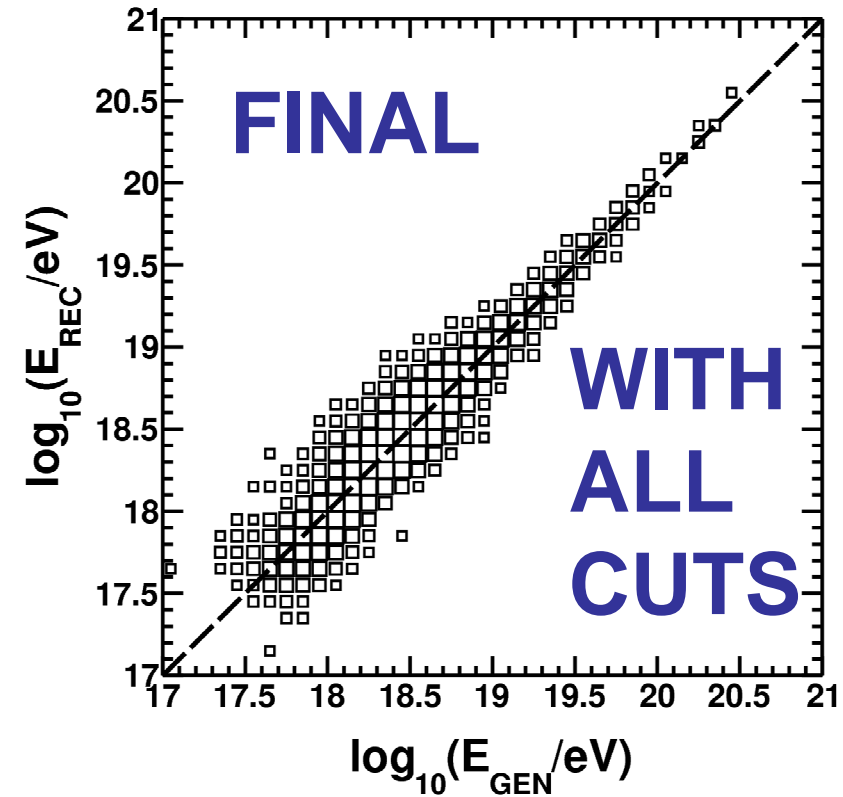
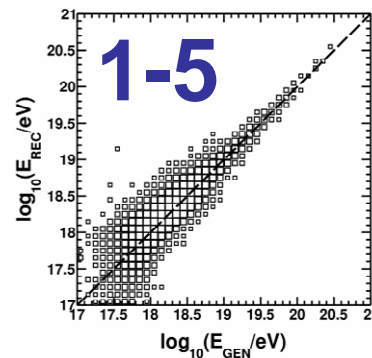
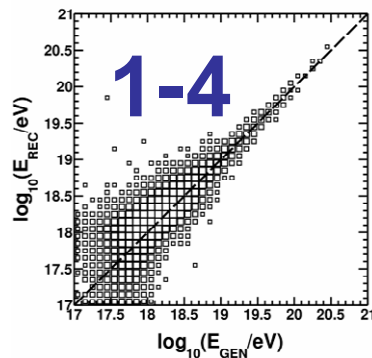
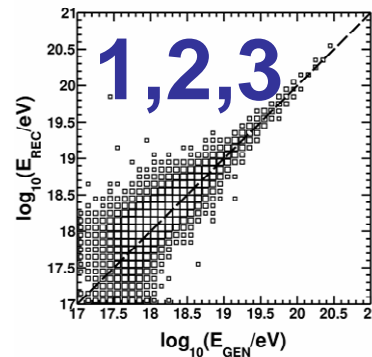
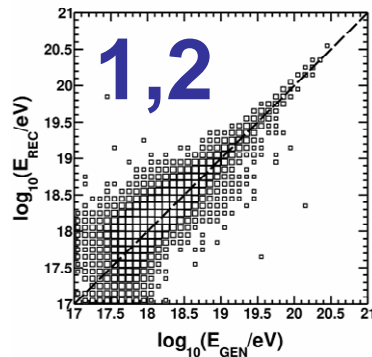
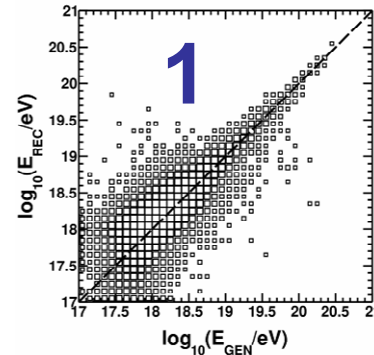
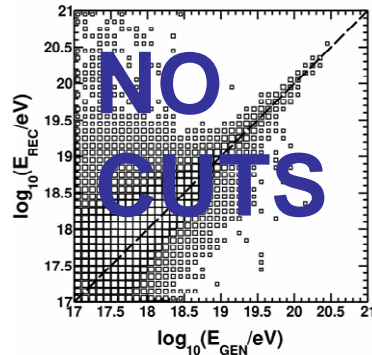
- Energy scale locked to the TA FD to reduce the systematic due to the model
- Used well-reconstructed events seen in common by the TA SD and TA FD:
  - TA SD  $\cap$  [BR U LR U MD]
  - $E^{FINAL} = E^{TBL} / (1.27 \pm 0.02)$
- Energy scale systematic uncertainty is now same as that of the TA FD, which is 21%
- TOP figure:  $E^{FINAL}$  vs  $E^{FD}$  scatter plot
- BOTTOM figure: histogram of  $E^{FINAL} / E^{FD}$  ratio

# List of Quality Cuts

- Remove events reconstructing with bad resolution, otherwise may “miss” important features in the energy spectrum.
- Quality cuts:
  1.  $N_{SD} \geq 5$  : minimum number of counter / event
  2.  $\theta < 45^\circ$  : maximum zenith angle
  3.  $D_{Border} \geq 1200m$  : minimum core distance from the edge of the array
  4.  $\chi^2 / d.o.f. < 4$  : maximum  $\chi^2$  per degree of freedom of time and LDF fits.
  5.  $\sigma_G < 5^\circ$  : maximum pointing direction uncertainty (from the time fit)
  6.  $\sigma_{S800} / S800 < 0.25$  : maximum fractional uncertainty of S800 (from the LDF fit)
- Next page shows the effects on the energy resolution of incrementally applying cuts 1 through 6

# Effect of Quality Cuts

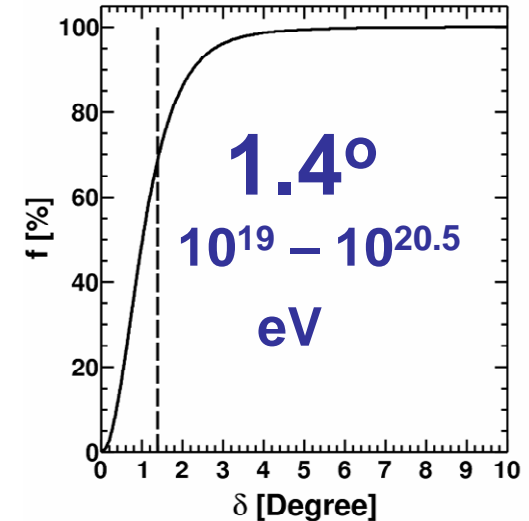
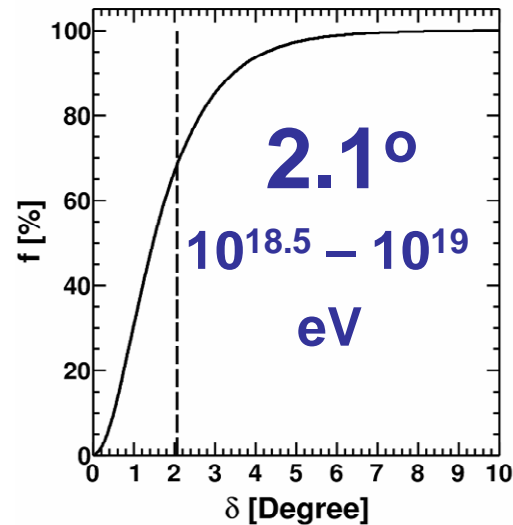
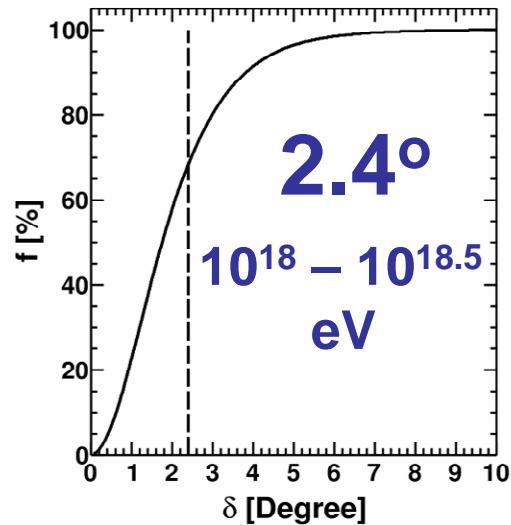
Reconstructed Energy



True (Generated) Energy

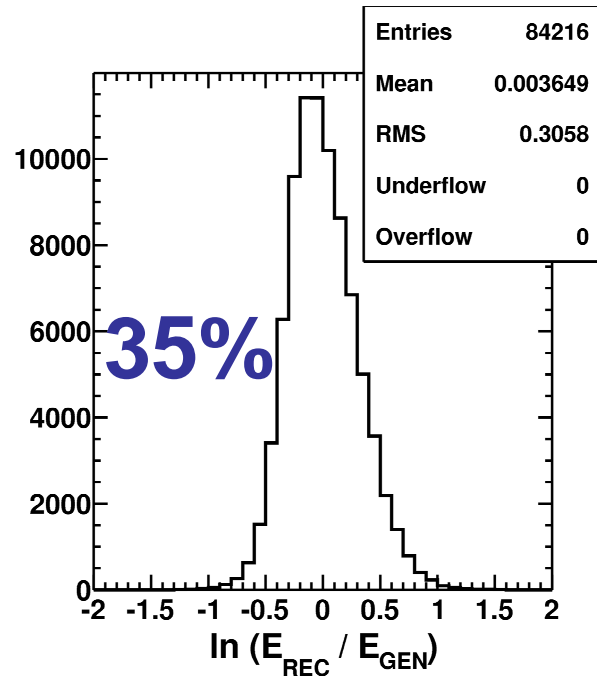
- Used a detailed Monte-Carlo to develop quality cuts

# Angular Resolution

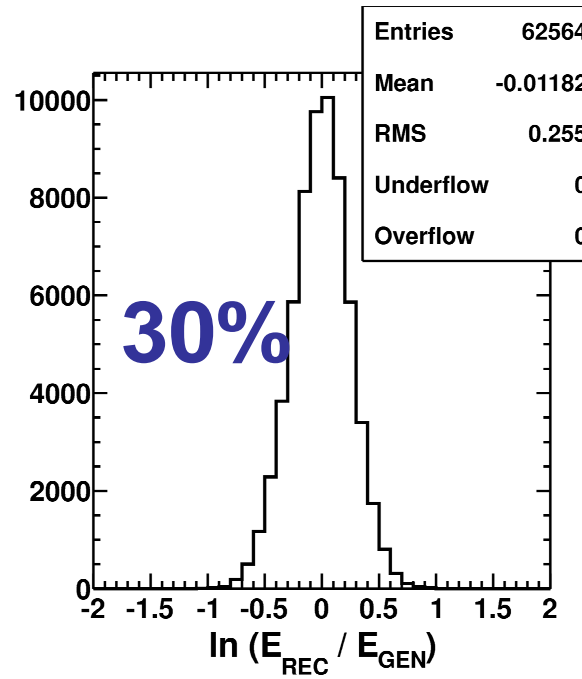


- Determined from the Monte-Carlo
- Cumulative distribution ( $f$  = fraction of events) of the opening angle between the true and reconstructed event directions ( $\delta$ )
- Quoted 68% confidence limits:
  - values of  $\delta$  that contain 68% of events ( $f = 68\%$ )

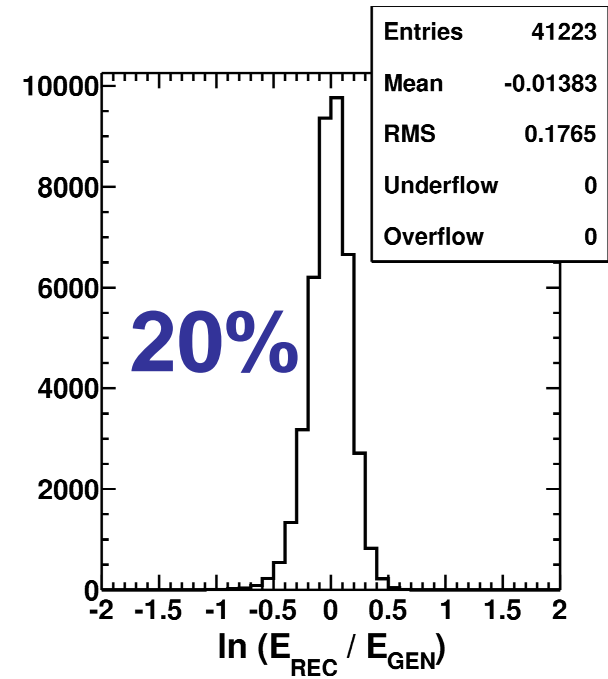
# Energy Resolution



$10^{18} - 10^{18.5} \text{ eV}$



$10^{18.5} - 10^{19.0} \text{ eV}$



$10^{19.0} - 10^{20.5} \text{ eV}$

- Determined from the Monte-Carlo
- Histogram (natural logarithm) of reconstructed over generated (true) energies
- Use the root-mean-square (RMS) of the distribution to determine the energy resolution in percent of the true energy

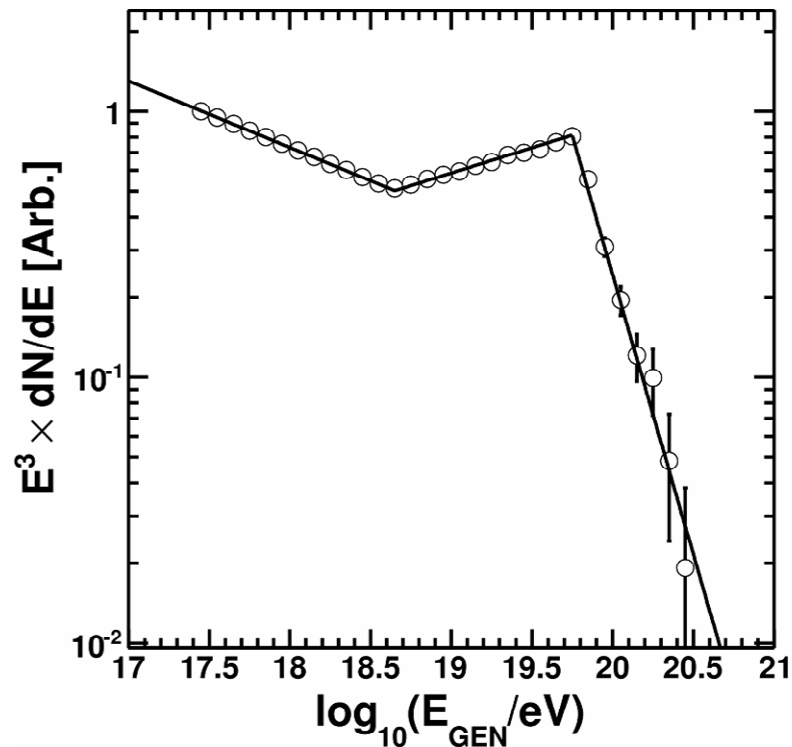
# Reconstruction Summary

- Two fits:
  - Time fit  $\rightarrow$  event geometry
  - Lateral distribution fit  $\rightarrow$  S800 (Signal 800m from shower axis)
  - Fitting procedure and formulas adjusted using data only  $\rightarrow$  avoid model dependences
- Energy determination:
  - Reconstructed (S800,  $\sec \theta$ ) + Monte-Carlo  $\rightarrow$  initial estimate of energy
  - FD energy scale (1/1.27 rescaling of look-up table values)  $\rightarrow$  reduce model dependence
  - Quality cuts  $\rightarrow$  improve resolution

# TA SD Monte-Carlo Approach

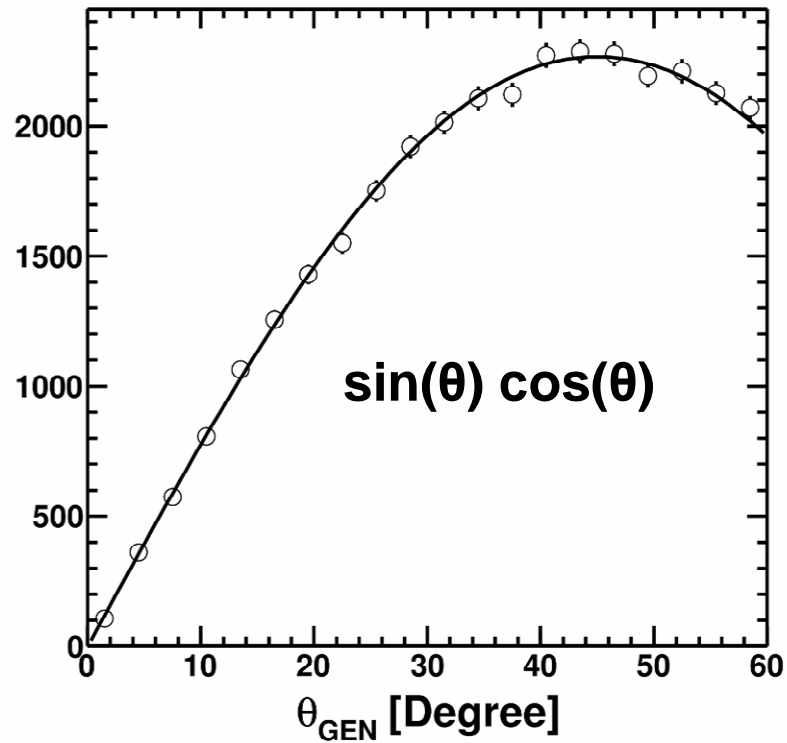
- Simulate UHECR as they exist in nature
  1. Primary particle type
    - Proton, mass composition measurement by HiRes
  2. Energy spectrum
    - previously measured by HiRes
  3. Angular distribution
    - Isotropic in local sky
  4. Shower impact parameter
    - Distributed randomly in a large circular area surrounding the Telescope Array experiment

# Generated Energy Distribution

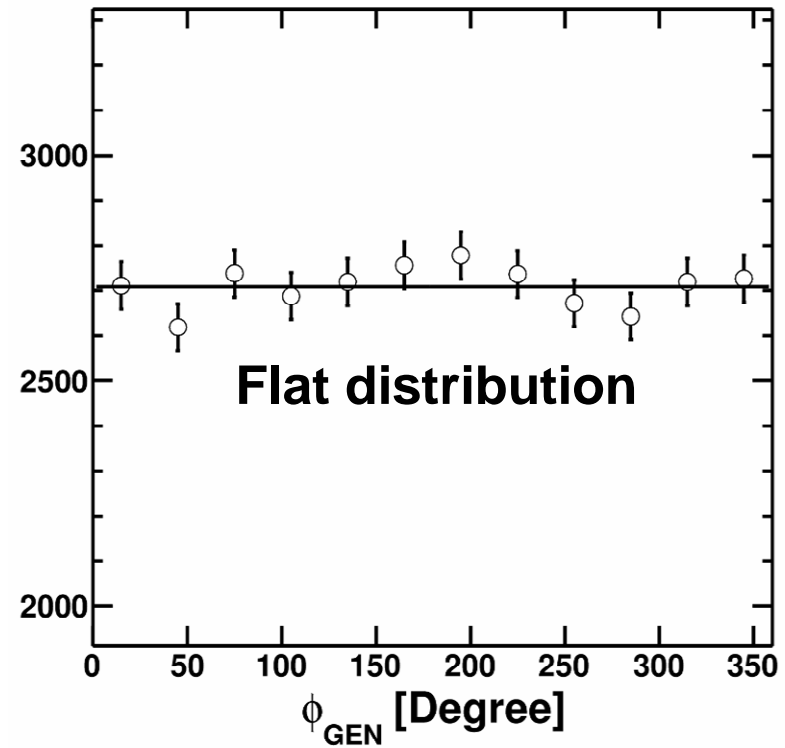


- Generated MC energy histogram displayed using format:
  - $0.1 \log_{10}(E/eV)$  bins
  - Each bin content
  - divided by the (linear) bin size in energy
  - Multiplied by  $E^3$  (energy of the bin center)
  - Normalized so that the first bin is unity
- Solid line = HiRes spectrum, parameterized by a broken power law function

# Generated Angular Distribution

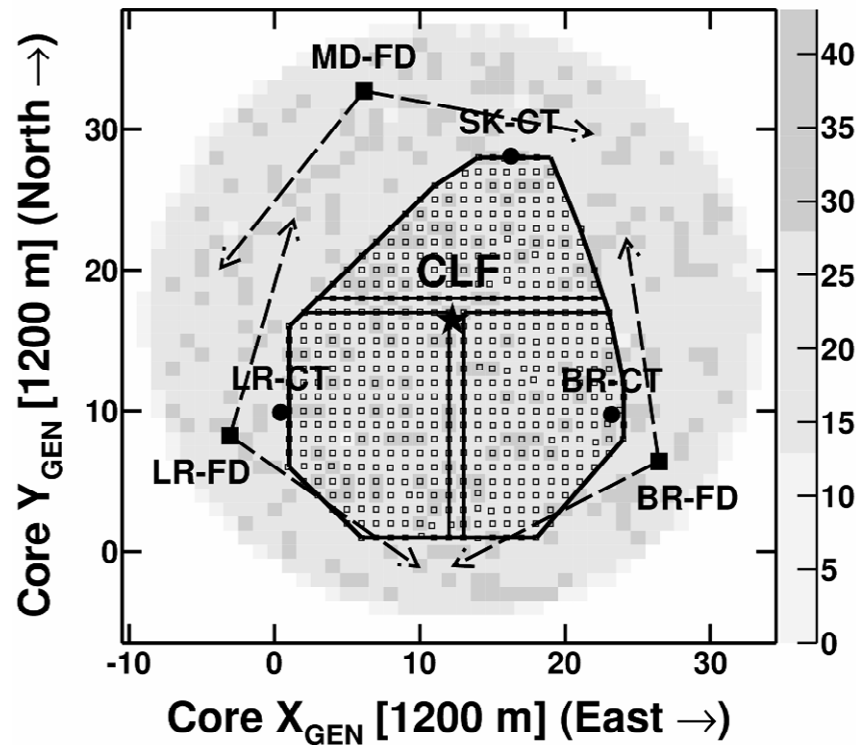


**Zenith Angle**



**Azimuthal Angle**

# Generated Impact Position



- Random point inside a circle
  - radius = 25 km
  - centered at the **C**entral **L**aser **F**acility (**CLF**)
  - Encircles entire experiment

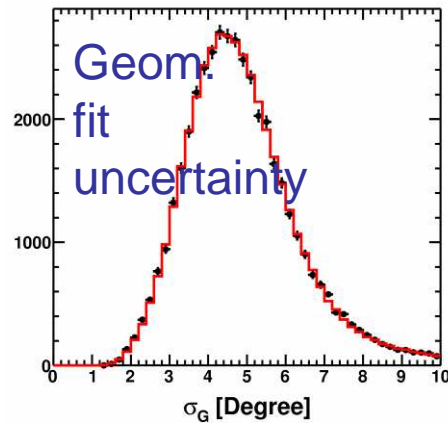
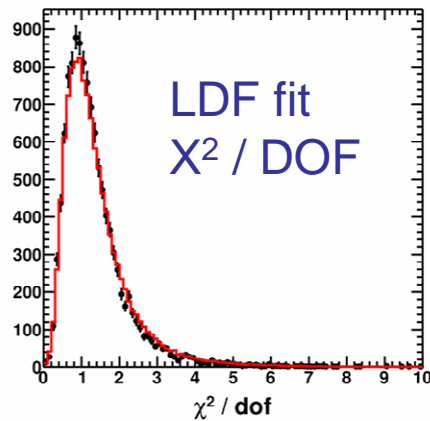
# TA SD Monte-Carlo Procedures

- Simulate Extensive Air Showers
  - Use CORSIKA:
    - QGSJET-II high energy hadronic model
    - EGS4 electromagnetic model
    - FLUKA low energy hadronic model
  - Include atmospheric muon flux
  - Simulate detector response to secondary particles by GEANT4
    - Including  $\gamma$ ,  $e^\pm$ ,  $\mu^\pm$ ,  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $p$ ,  $n$
  - Use real-time detector calibration and life-time
  - Simulate the trigger and electronics
  - Write events in the same format as data, reconstruct with the same programs, apply same quality cuts
- **Validate the Monte-Carlo by comparing the distributions of reconstructed variables with data**

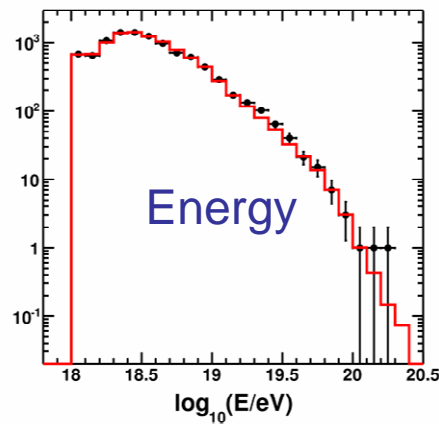
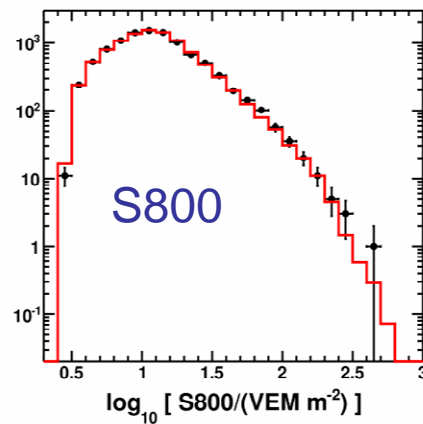
# DATA / MC Comparisons

Points with error bars = DATA histograms

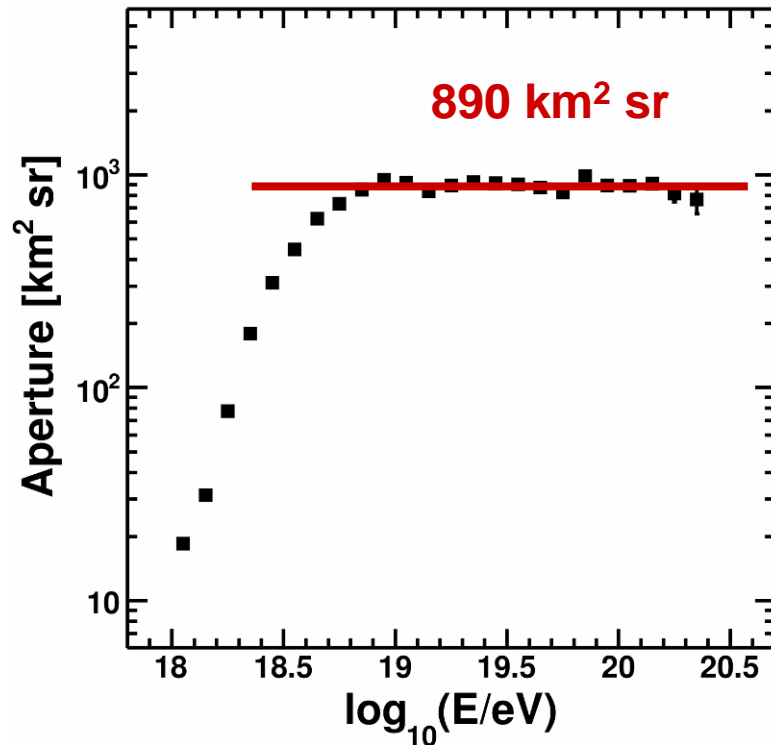
Solid line = MC histograms normalized to the data histograms by area



1 to 2 % agreement  
between the DATA and MC in  
most variables



# Next Step: Aperture



(Efficiency plateaus at  $E \sim 10^{19}$  eV)

- Calculated from the MC
- Including:
  - Effects of quality cuts
  - Effects of energy resolution

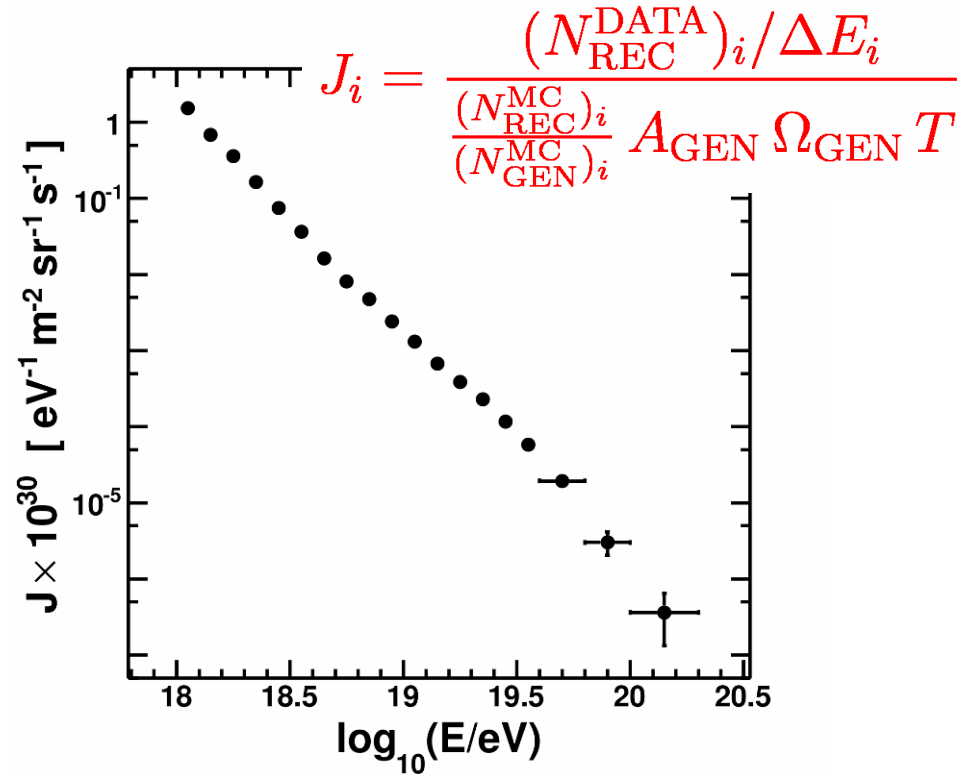
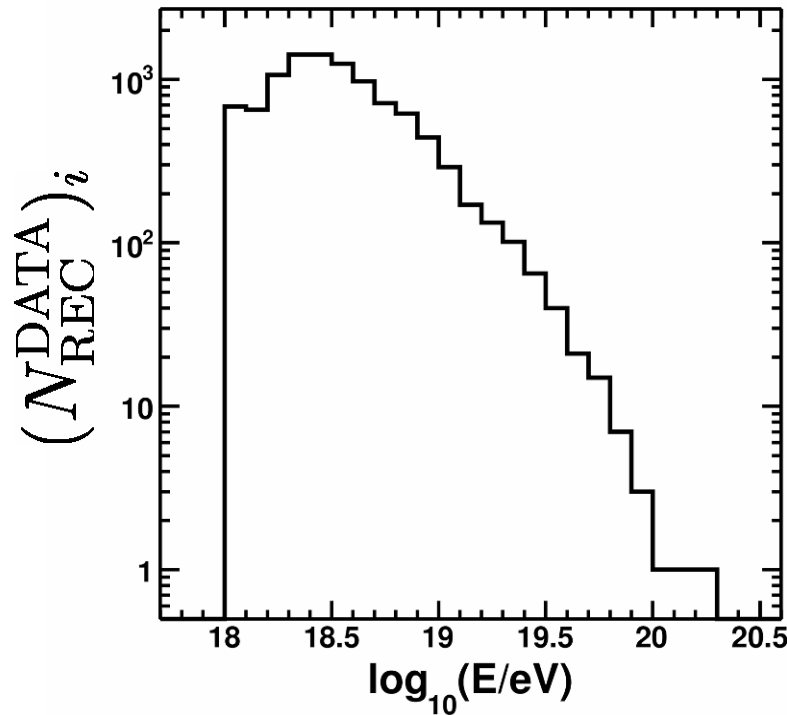
$$\alpha_i = A_{\text{GEN}} \Omega_{\text{GEN}} (N_{\text{REC}}^{\text{MC}})_i / (N_{\text{GEN}}^{\text{MC}})_i$$

$A_{\text{GEN}} \Omega_{\text{GEN}}$  MC generation aperture,  
4626  $\text{km}^2 \text{sr}$

$(N_{\text{REC}}^{\text{MC}})_i$  Number of MC events reconstructing in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  energy bin

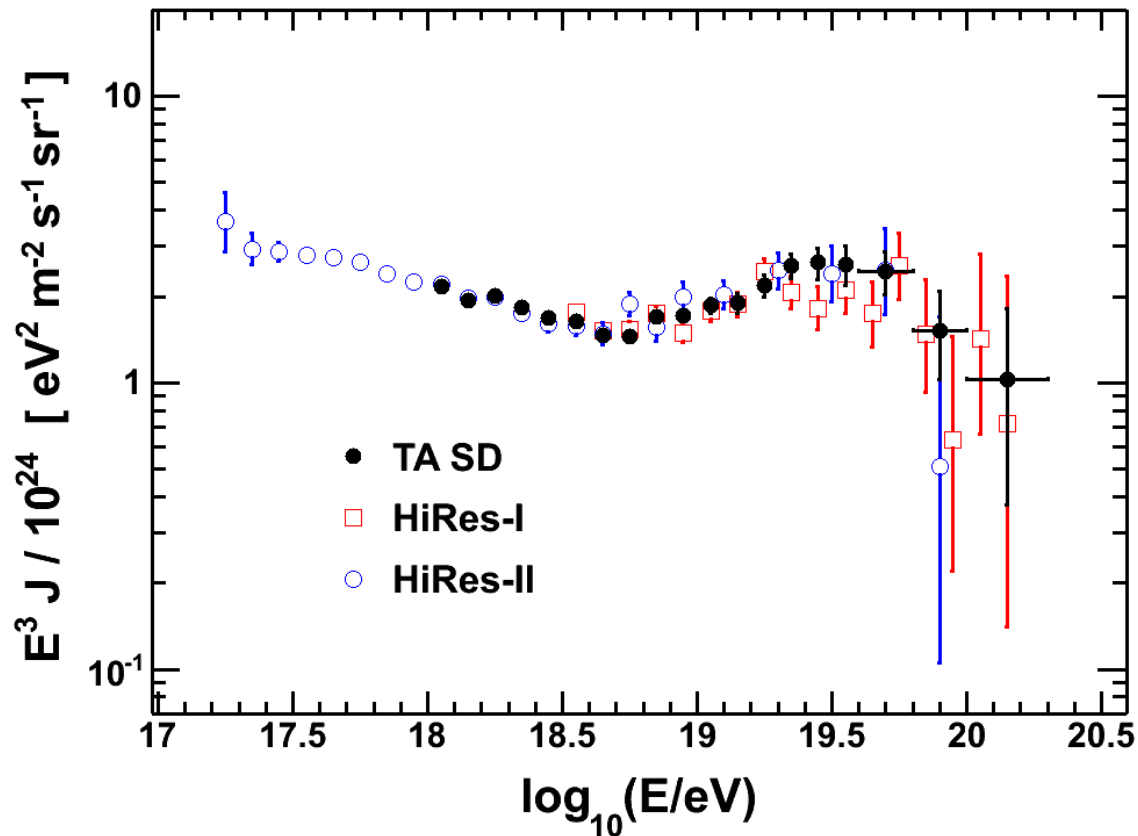
$(N_{\text{GEN}}^{\text{MC}})_i$  Number of MC events generated in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  energy bin

# Measured UHECR Flux



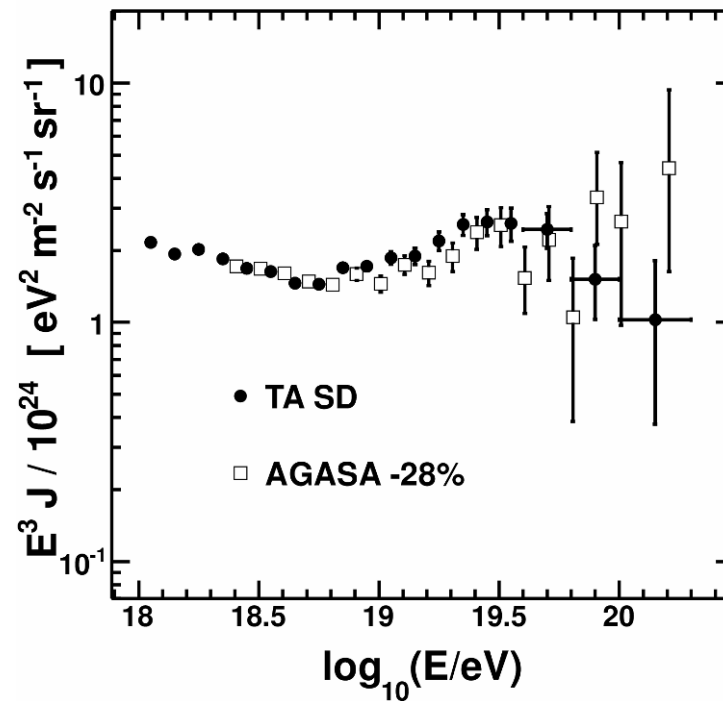
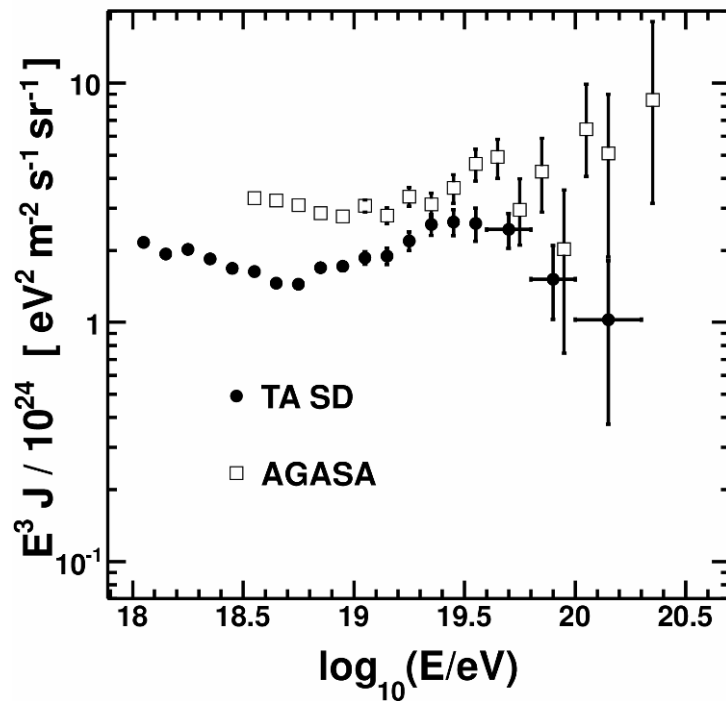
- 2008/05/11 – 2011/04/25 (T ~ 3 yr)
- Systematic uncertainties
  - 21% on energy scale (controlled by the FD) → ~35% on J
  - 2% due to the acceptance (14% below  $10^{18.2}$  eV)
  - 2 % due to the resolution unfolding

# Comparison with HiRes



- Different detection techniques, **excellent agreement**
- Both experiments clearly see the ankle feature near  $10^{18.7}$  eV
- **TA SD confirms the existence of the break at  $10^{19.7}$  eV**

# Comparison with AGASA



- Clear disagreement
- (RIGHT) Accounting for AGASA – TA energy scale difference
  - Doesn't explain discrepancy above  $10^{19.7}$  eV

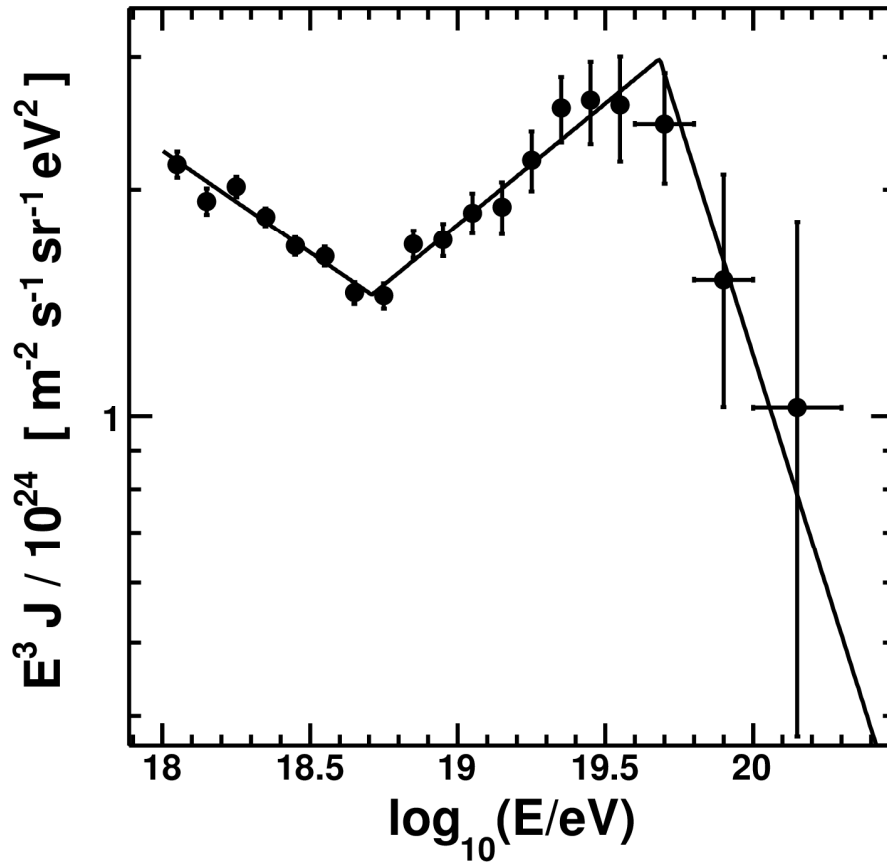
# TA SD Flux Fit

- Differential flux is described by the **B**roken **P**ower **L**aw formula (**BPL**):

$$J(E) = K \times \begin{cases} E^k, E < E_{ANK} \\ E_{ANK}^{k-l} E^l, E_{ANK} \leq E < E_{GZK} \\ E_{ANK}^{k-l} E_{GZK}^{l-m} E^m, E \geq E_{GZK} \end{cases}$$

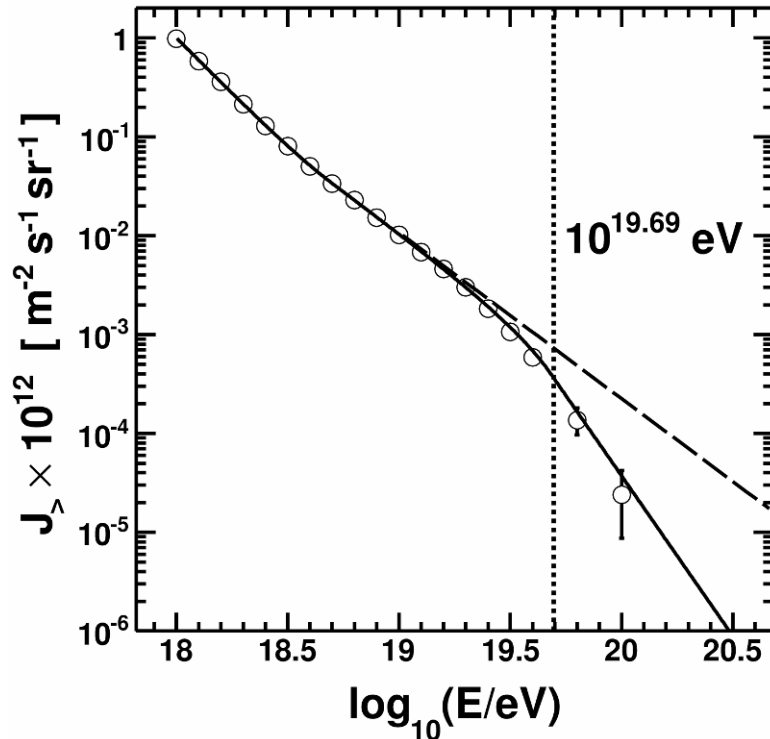
- 6 Fit parameters:
  - K = normalization factor
  - k, l, m (negative) spectral indices
  - $E_{ANK}$  – 1<sup>st</sup> break point
  - $E_{GZK}$  – 2<sup>nd</sup> break point

# TA SD Flux Fit (Contd.)



Parameter	Value
$K$	$2.25 \pm 0.06 \times 10^{-30} \text{ eV}^{-1} \text{m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$
$E_{\text{ANK}}$	$10^{18.70 \pm 0.03} \text{ eV}$
$E_{\text{GZK}}$	$10^{19.68 \pm 0.09} \text{ eV}$
$k$	$-3.27 \pm 0.03$
$l$	$-2.68 \pm 0.04$
$m$	$-4.2 \pm 0.7$

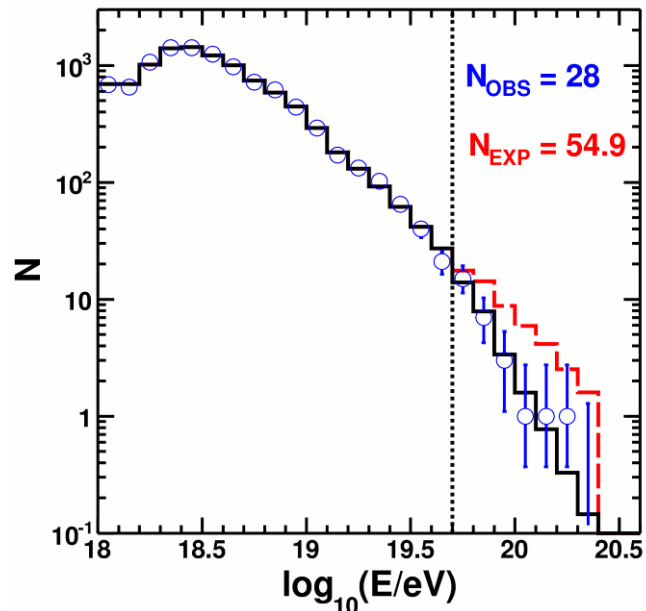
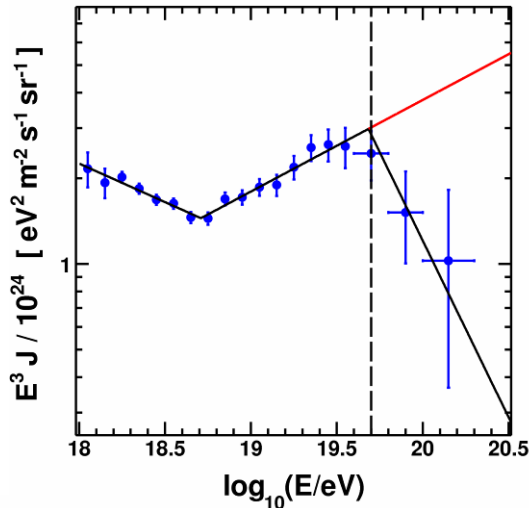
# Measured GZK cutoff



$$J_{>} = \int_E^{\infty} dE' J(E')$$

- Quantify position of the break by  $E_{1/2}$  (Berezinsky et. al)
  - Integral flux becomes  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the flux obtained by linear extrapolation beyond the GZK break
- TA SD measures
  - $\log_{10}(E_{1/2}) = \mathbf{19.69 \pm 0.10}$
- Berezinsky calculates for proton primaries propagating in cosmic microwave background
  - $\log_{10}(E_{1/2}^{\text{THEORY}}) = \mathbf{19.72}$
- **TA SD measurement fits the extra-galactic proton model**

# Significance of the GZK cutoff



- Assume no GZK cutoff and extend the broken power law fit beyond the break
- Apply this extended flux formula to the actual TA SD exposure, find the number of expected events and compare it to the number of events observed in  $\log_{10} E$  bins after  $10^{19.7} \text{ eV}$  bin:

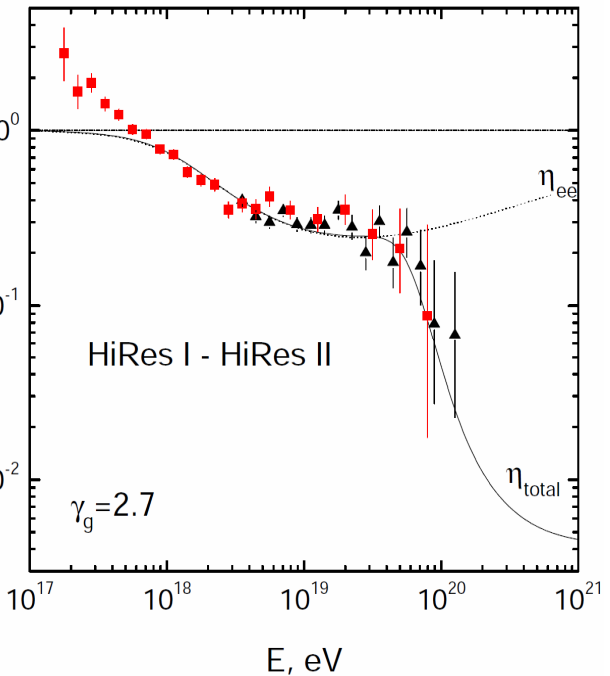
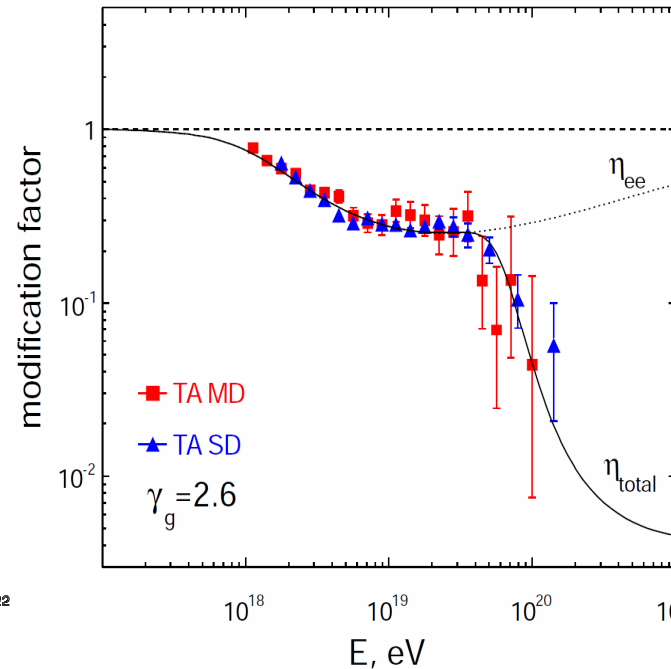
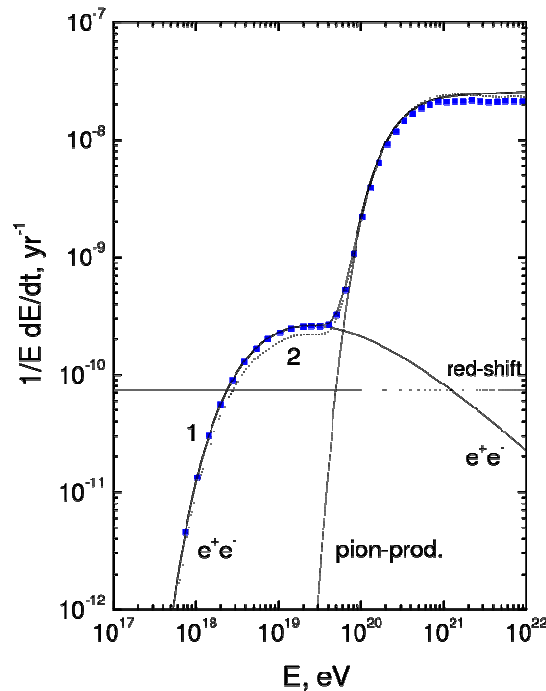
–  $N_{\text{EXPECT}} = 54.9$

–  $N_{\text{OBSERVE}} = 28$

$$\text{PROB} = \sum_{i=0}^{28} \text{Poisson}(\mu = 54.9; i) \approx 4.75 \times 10^{-5}$$

**(3.9 $\sigma$ )**

# Recent - UHECR 2012



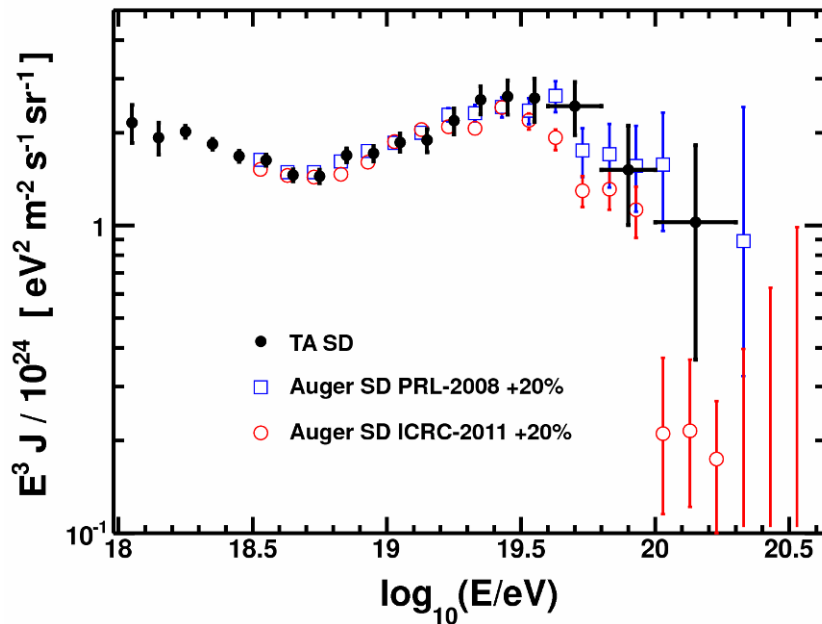
- Fits to extragalactic proton model made by V. Berezhinsky  
– UHECR-2012 Conference, Feb. 2012, CERN
- Both TA and HiRes consistent with model of extragalactic proton propagation in Cosmic Microwave Background

# Conclusions

- Telescope Array combined measurement techniques used by the AGASA and HiRes experiments
  - Fit formulas derived starting with AGASA functions, tuned to fit the TA SD data
  - DATA / MC analysis used, just like in HiRes experiment (excellent control of systematic uncertainties)
  - Energy scale locked to the FD to avoid large systematic uncertainties due to the hadronic models
- Existence of the GZK cutoff is verified, for the first time, by an array of scintillation counters
- Measurement suggests extra-galactic proton interpretation (Berezinsky *et. al.*)

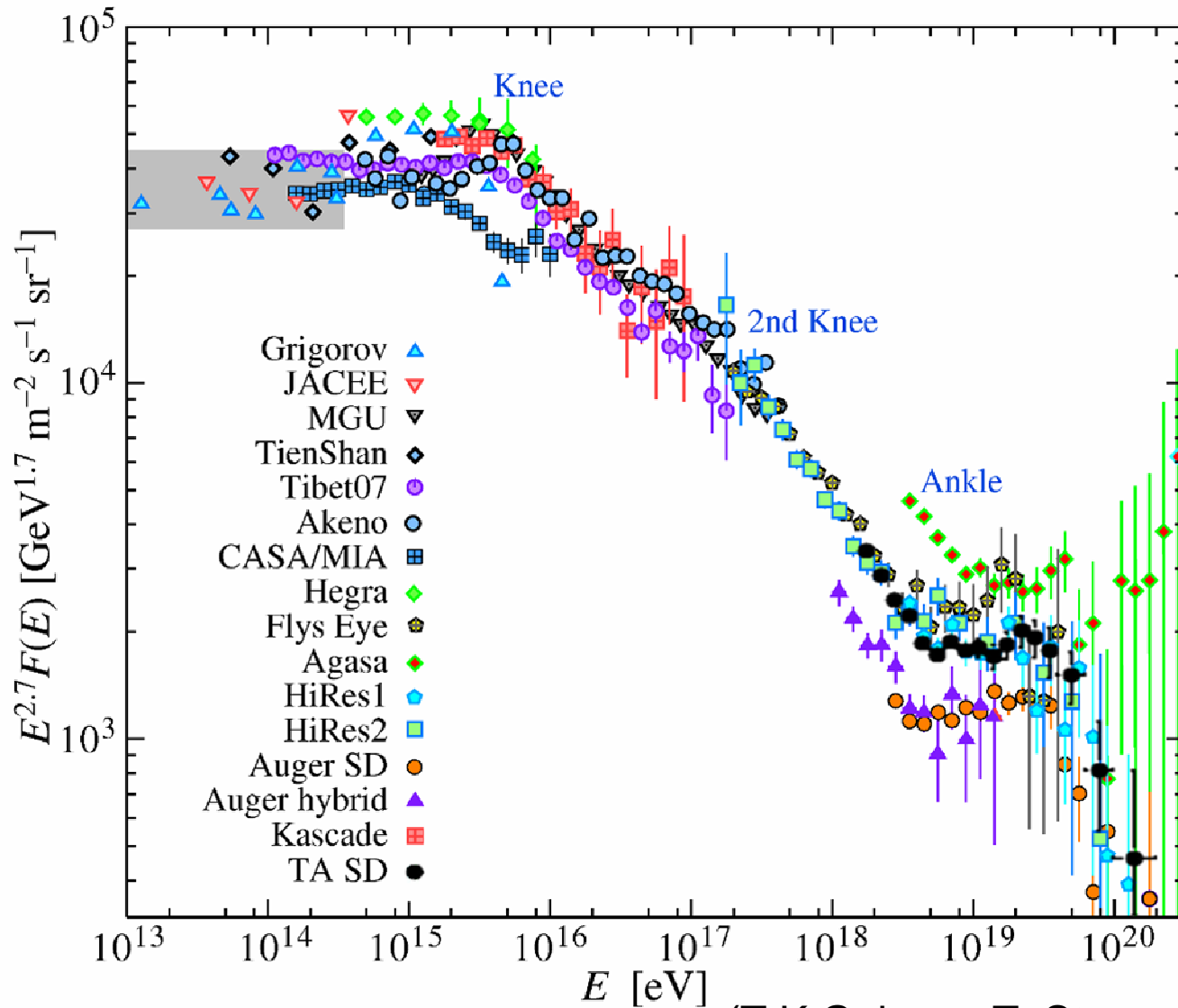
*Fin*

# Comparison with Pierre Auger Observatory



- ~20% energy scale difference
  - Comes from the FD
- Same power laws (within fitting errors)
- Position of the second break ( $E_{\text{GZK}}$ ) different
- Most recent Auger result (ICRC-2011)
  - Auger ~27% lower
  - After taking energy scale into account

# Compare with other CR experiments



(T.K Gaisser, T. Stanev, 2009)

