

# Towards the optimization of IACTs as dark matter probes using DCNs

Advanced Workshop on Accelerating  
the Search for Dark Matter with  
Machine Learning



D. Nieto

on behalf of the Cherenkov Telescope Array Consortium



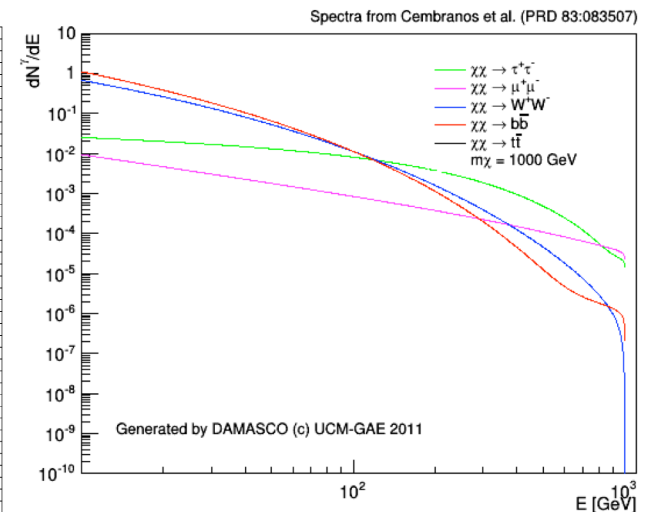
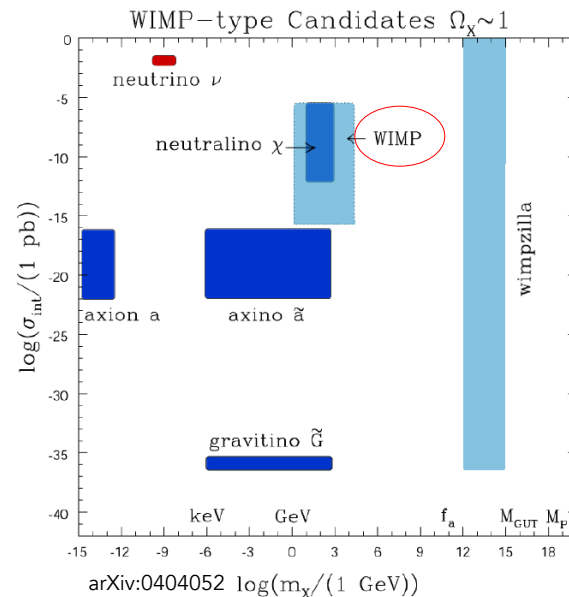
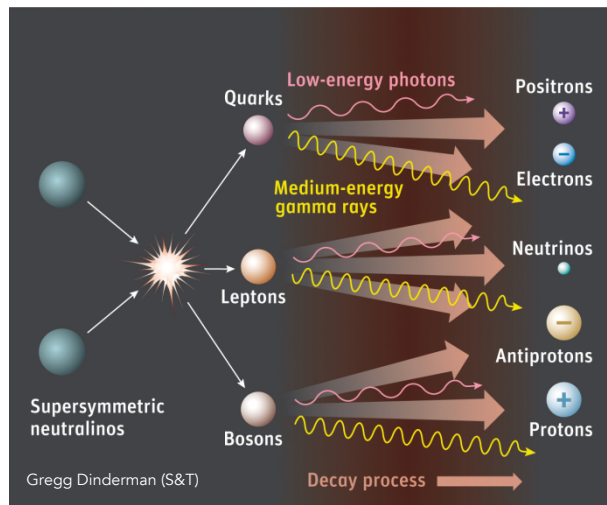
UNIVERSIDAD  
COMPLUTENSE  
MADRID



- Indirect dark matter searches in the  $\gamma$ -ray band
- Imaging atmospheric Cherenkov technique
- Machine learning & current-generation IACTs
- Prospects for dark matter searches with CTA
- Enhancing CTA's performance with deep learning



- Basis: Detection of DM annihilation or decay products (SM particles)
- In most cases, entangled with CR and subdominant
- WIMPs with masses  $> 100$  GeV are good DM particle candidates
- Photons are privileged messengers
  - No deflection by B-fields, trace back to source
  - Observation of astrophysical targets
  - Characteristic spectral shape: identification



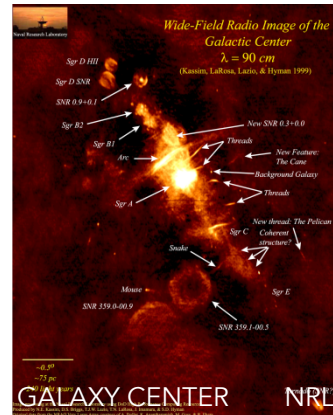
## Expected spectrum from annihilating DM

$$\frac{d\Phi}{dE} = \mathcal{J}(\Delta\Omega) \times \frac{d\Phi^{pp}}{dE} = \int_{l.o.s,V} \rho_{DM}^2(l) d\Omega dl \times \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{\langle \sigma_{ann} \mathbf{v} \rangle}{2m_{DM}^2} \sum_i B_i \frac{dN_i^\gamma}{dE}$$

Key concepts:  $\rho_{\text{DM}}$ , distance, background

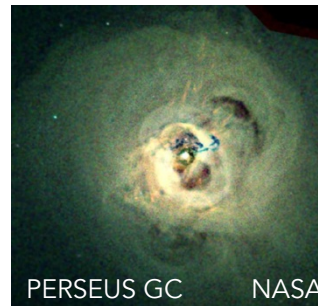
## Galactic Center & Halo

- High flux
- Background Issues



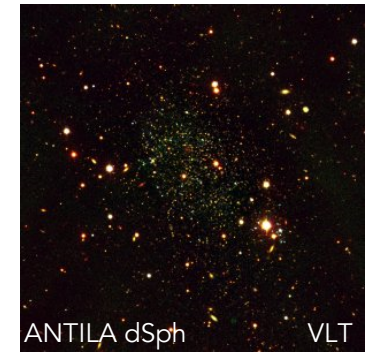
# Galaxy Clusters

- Huge DM content
- Large distance
- High background



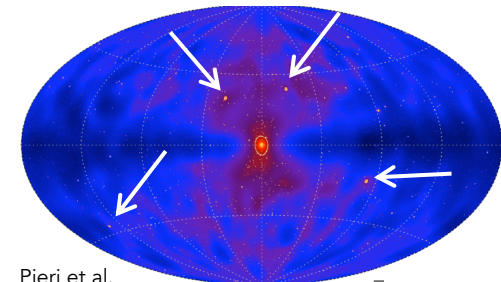
# Dwarf Galaxies

- Large M/L
- No background
- Low flux

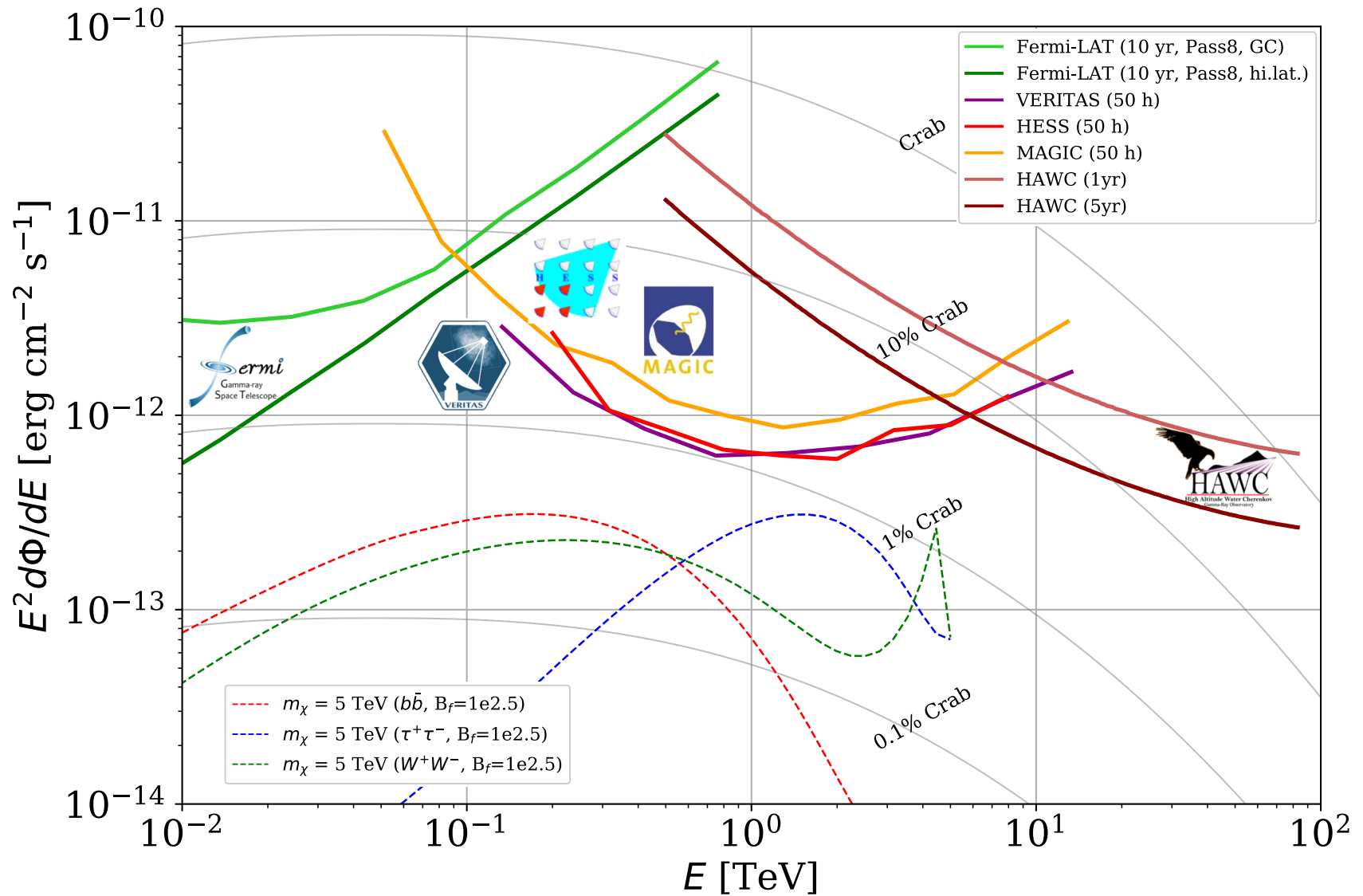


## Unassociated HE Sources:

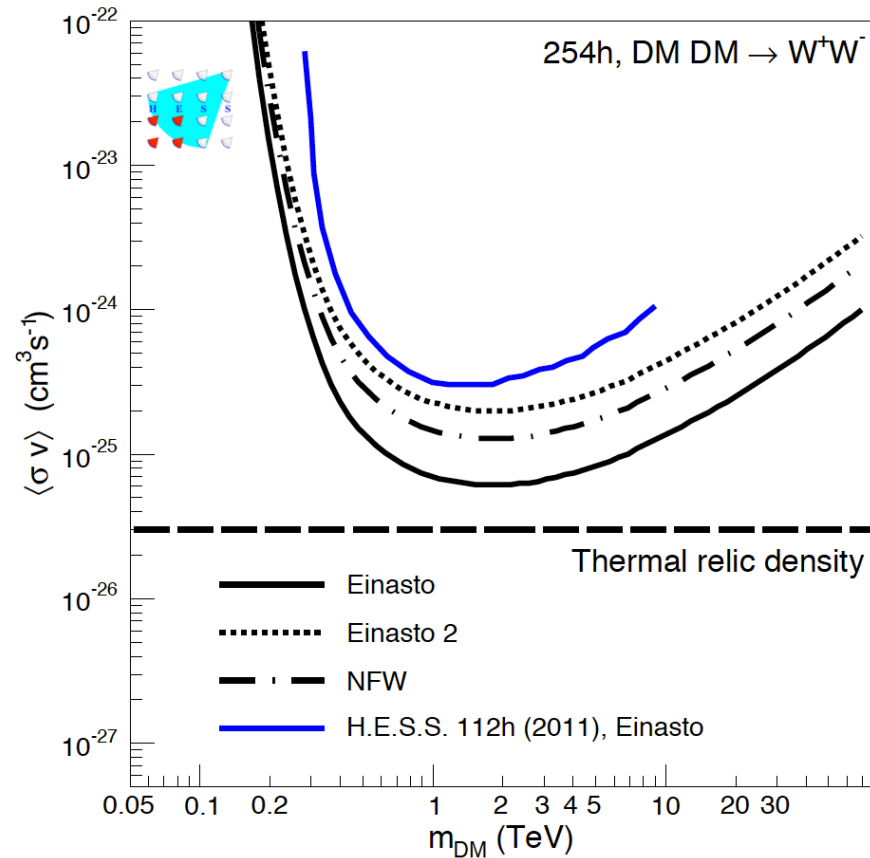
- DM Subhalos?

Pieri et al.  
PRD 83:0235, 2008
$$\chi\chi \rightarrow b\bar{b}, m_\chi = 40 \text{ GeV}$$

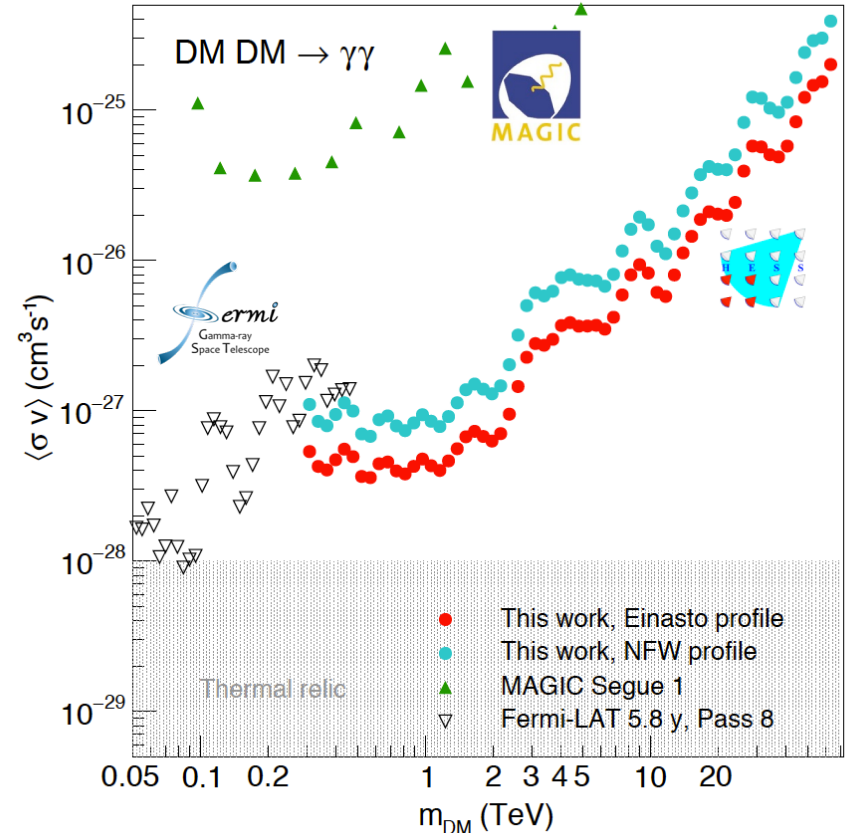
## Sensitivity of current-generation $\gamma$ -ray telescopes



## Galactic Halo

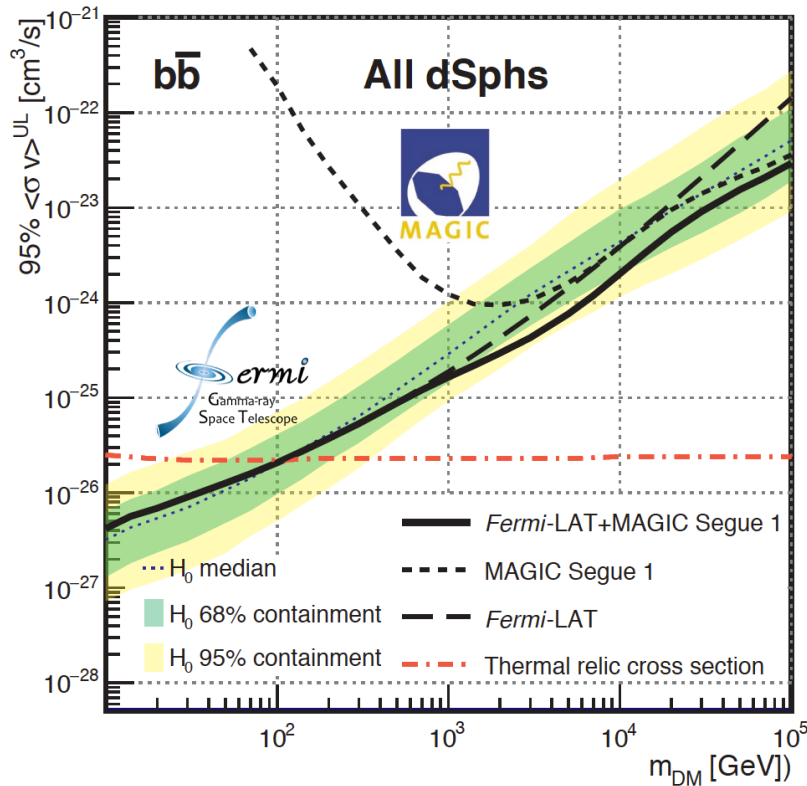


Abdallah et al., PRL 117, 111301 (2016)

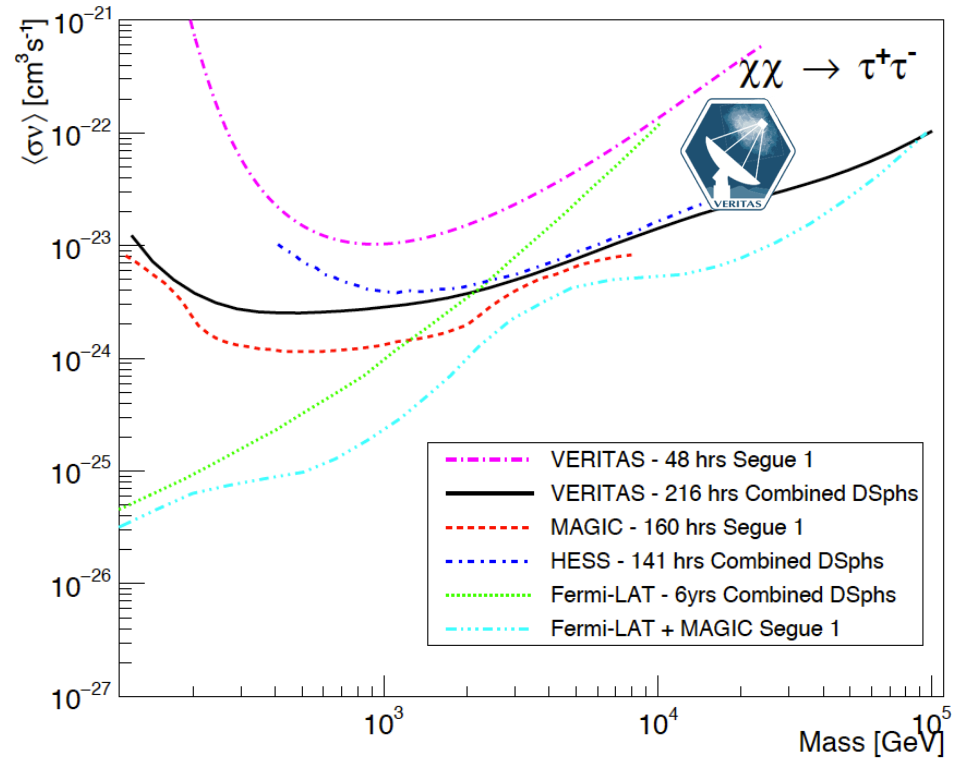


Abdallah et al., PRL 120, 201101 (2018)

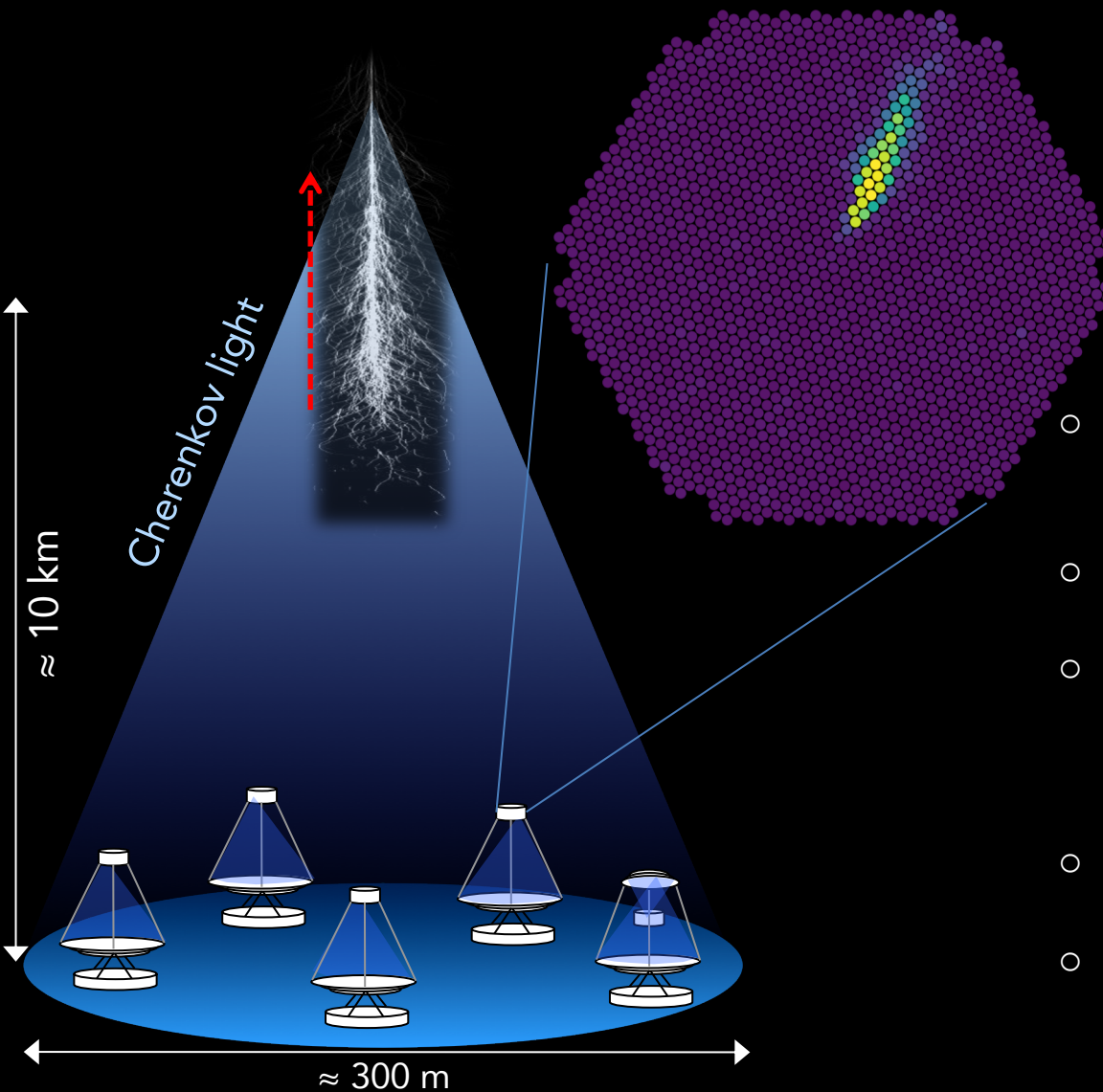
## Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxies



Ahnen et al., JCAP 02 (2016) 039

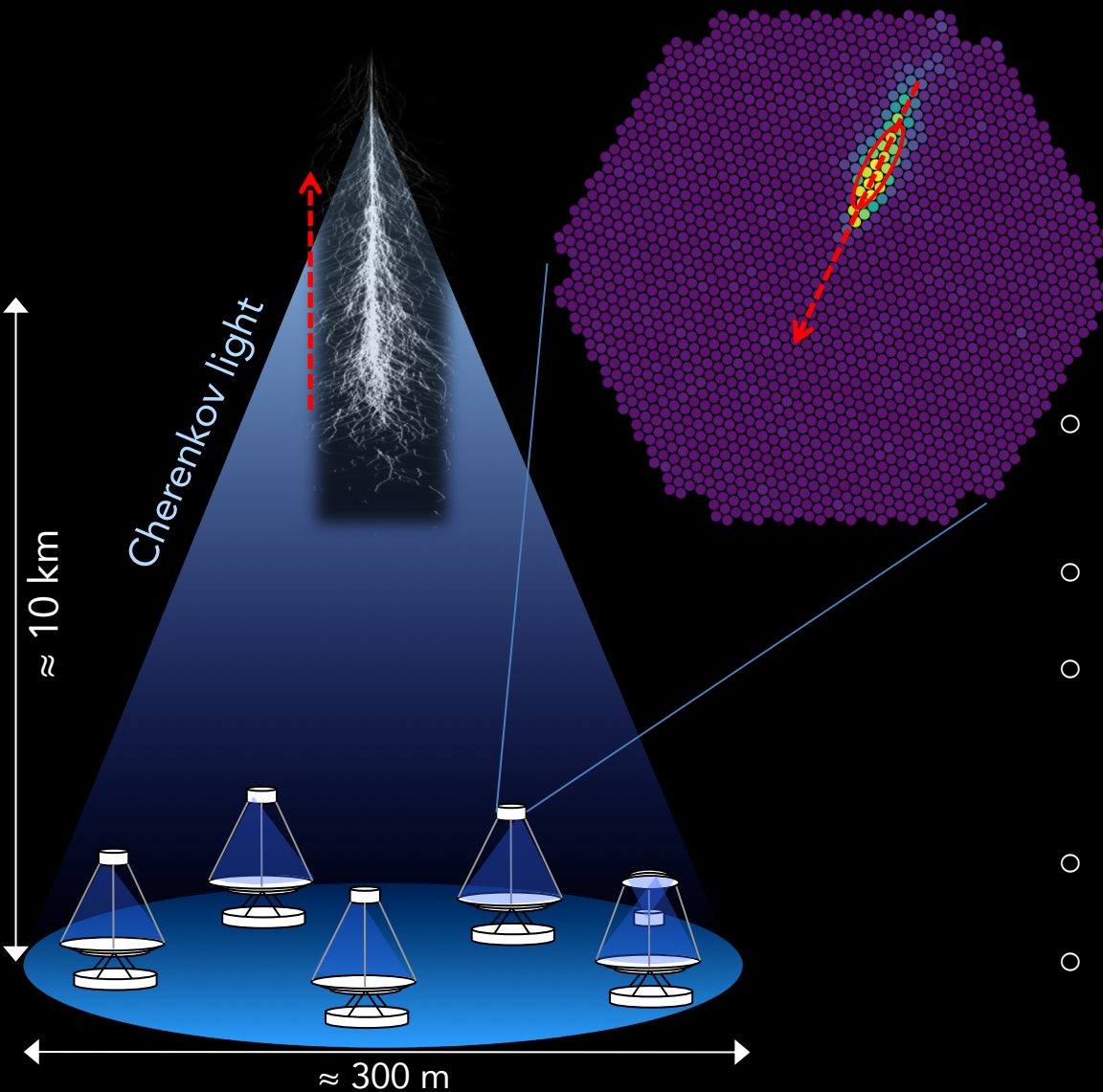


Archambault et al. PRD 95, 082001 (2017)

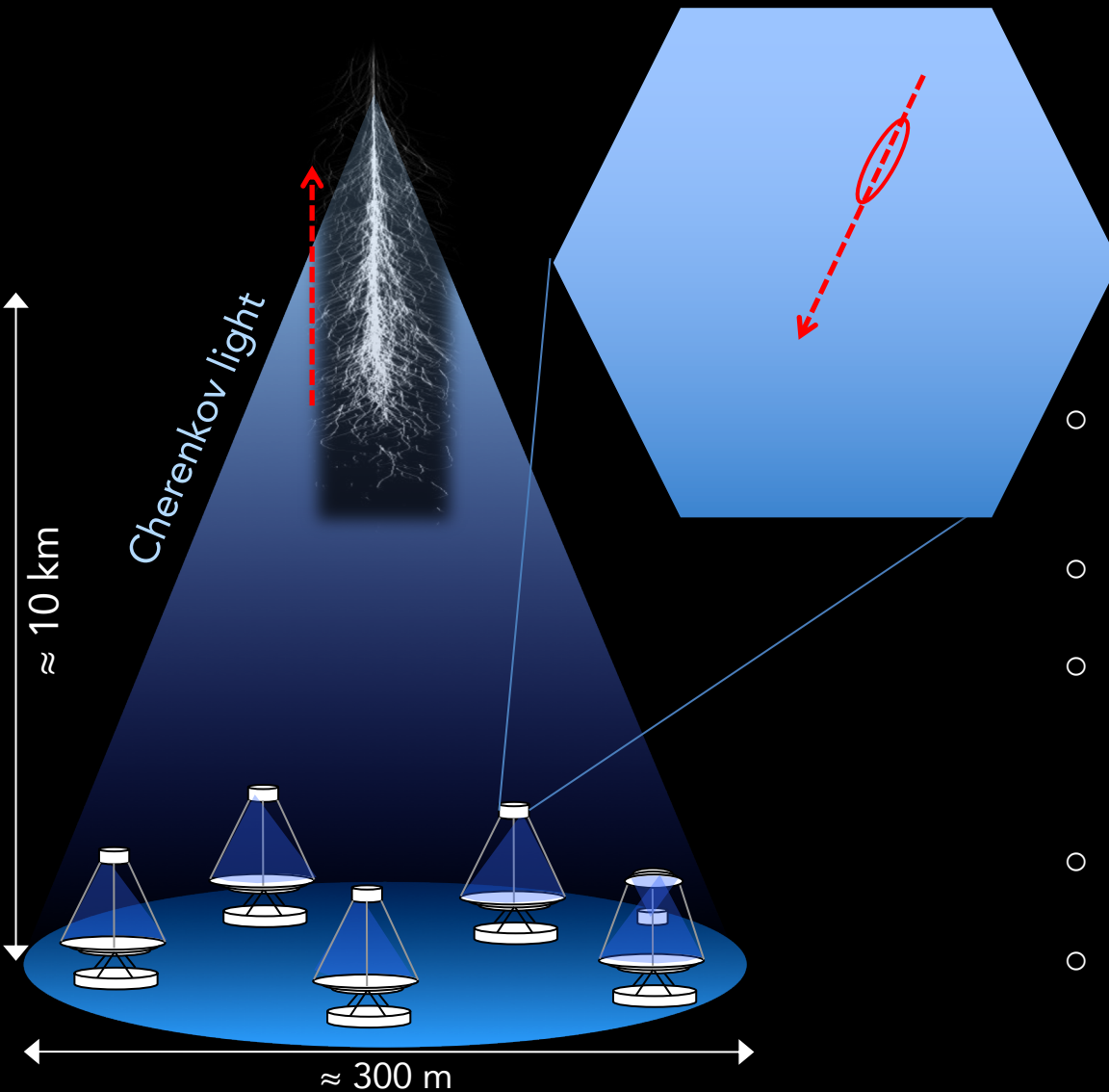


- Detection of extended air showers using the atmosphere as a calorimeter
- Huge  $\gamma$ -ray collection area ( $\sim 10^5 \text{ m}^2$ )
- Large background from charged CR
  - Partly irreducible ( $e^-/e^+$ , single-EM, with current methods)
- Energy window: tens GeV - tens TeV
- Event reconstruction from image:
  - Type of primary event
  - Primary energy estimation
  - Primary arrival direction



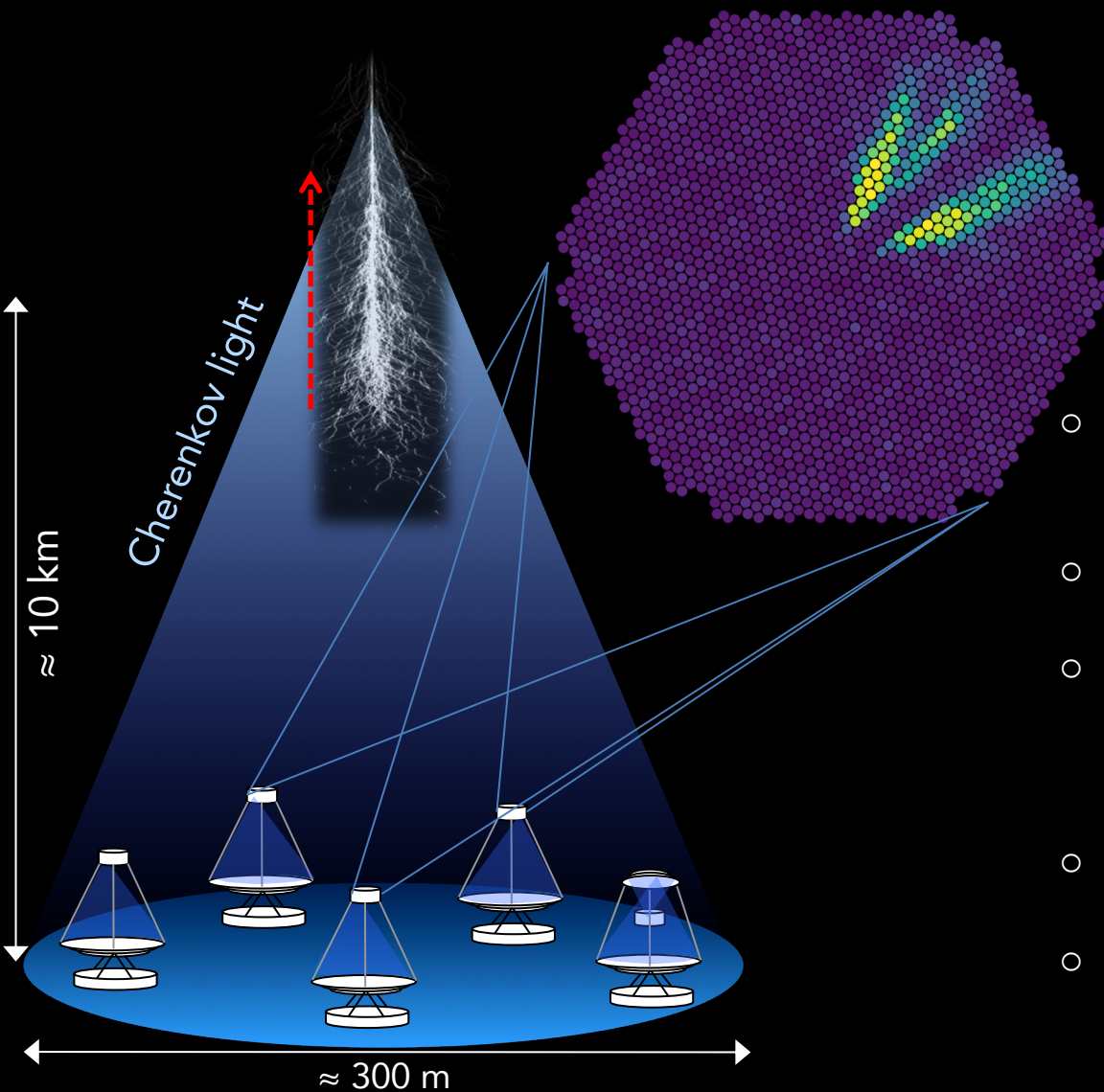


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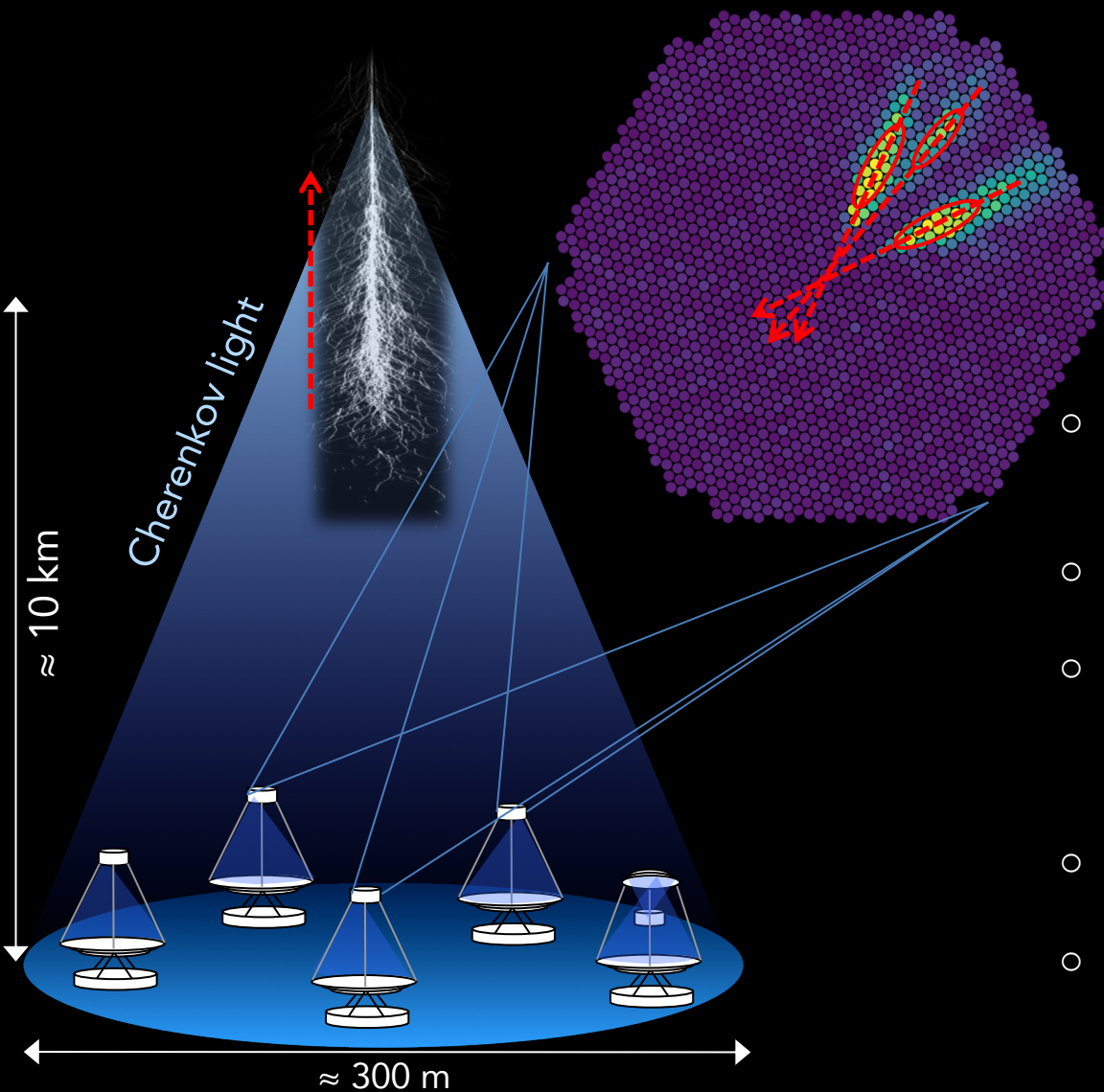


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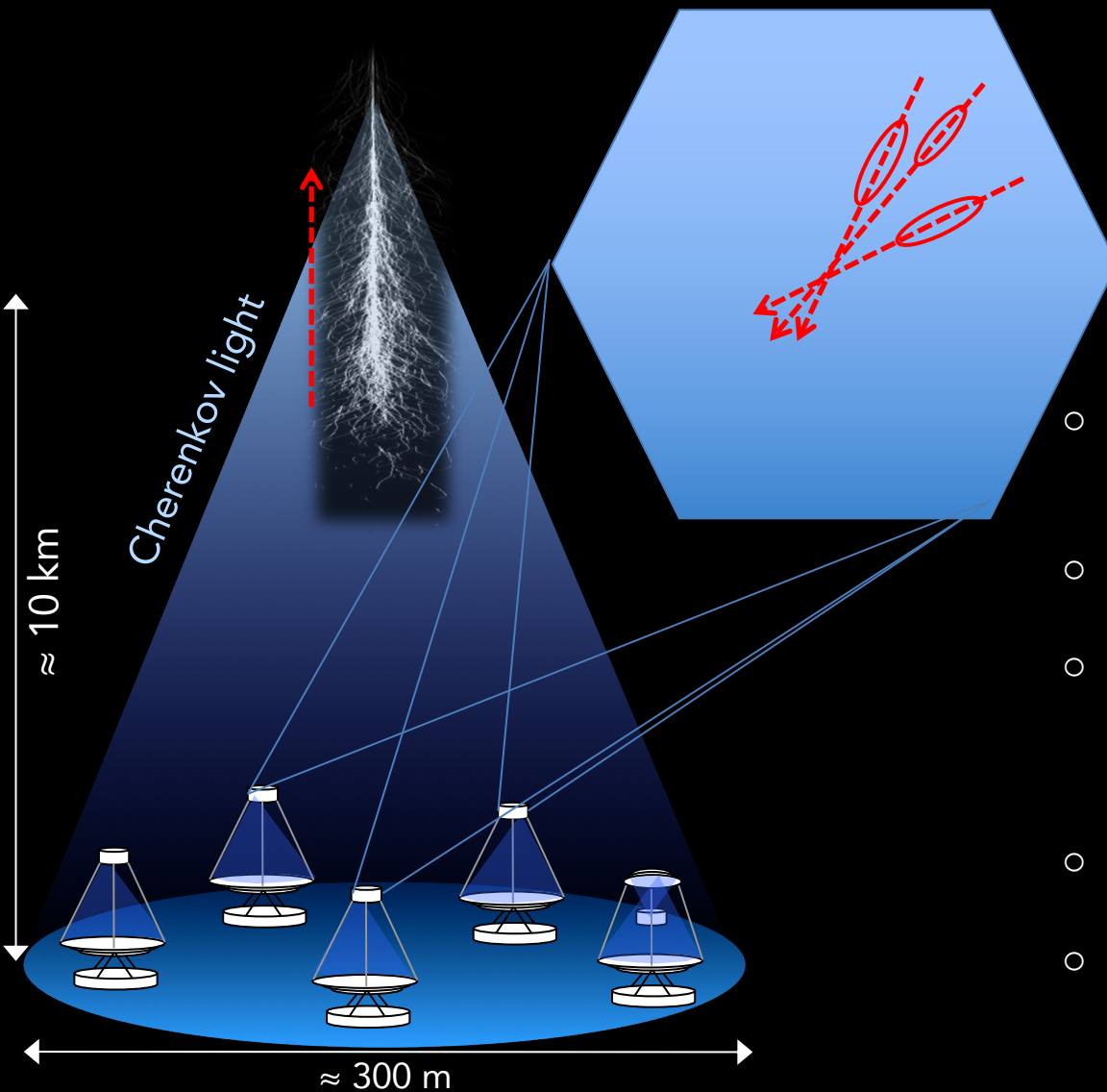




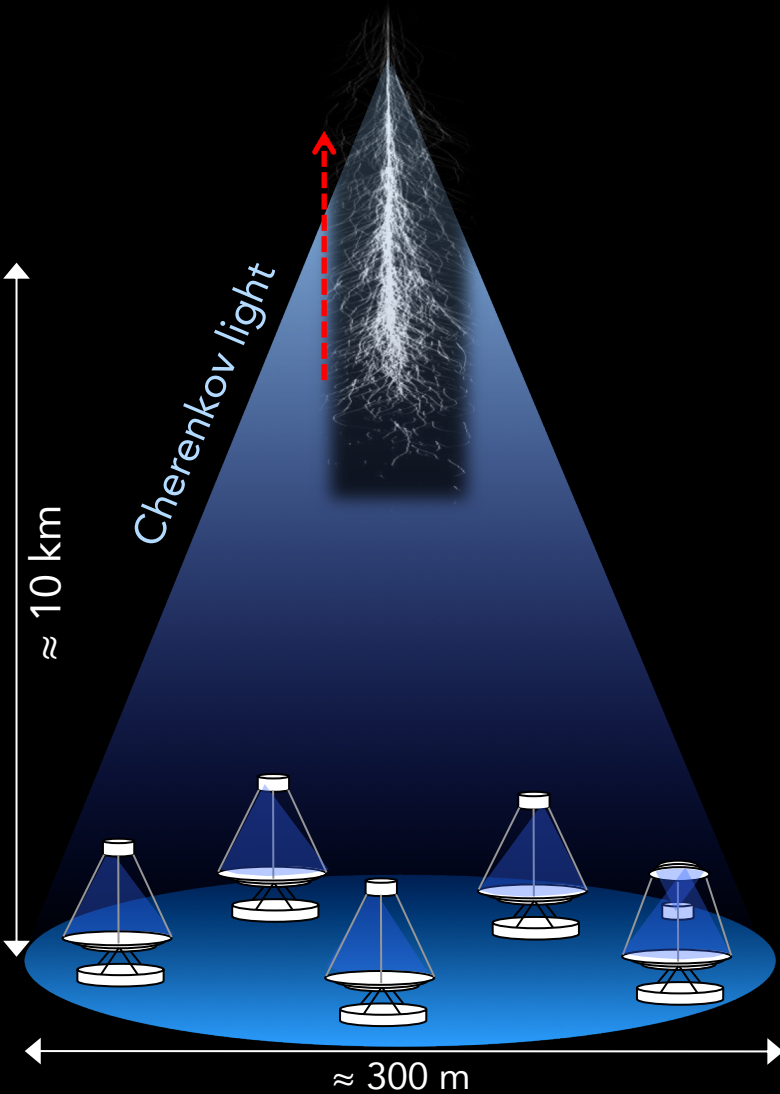
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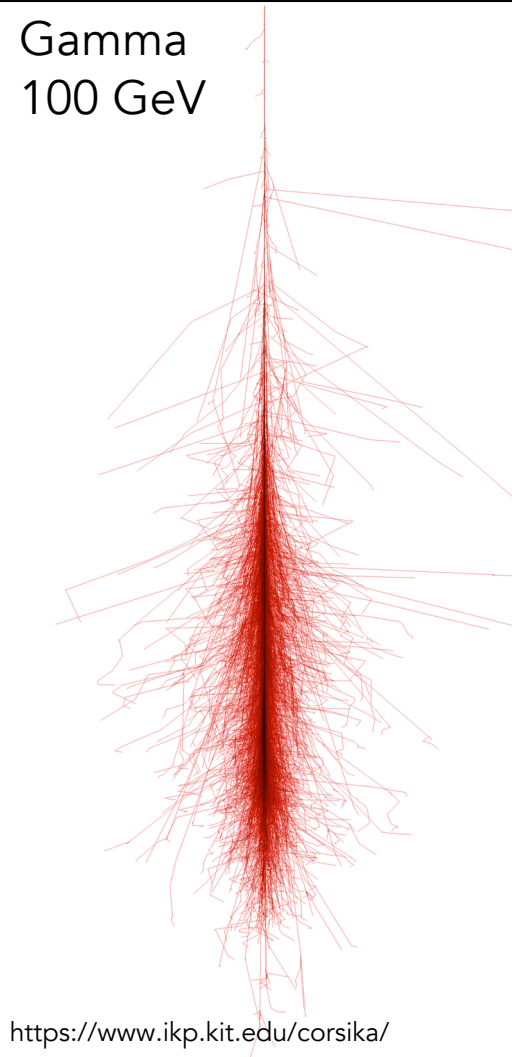
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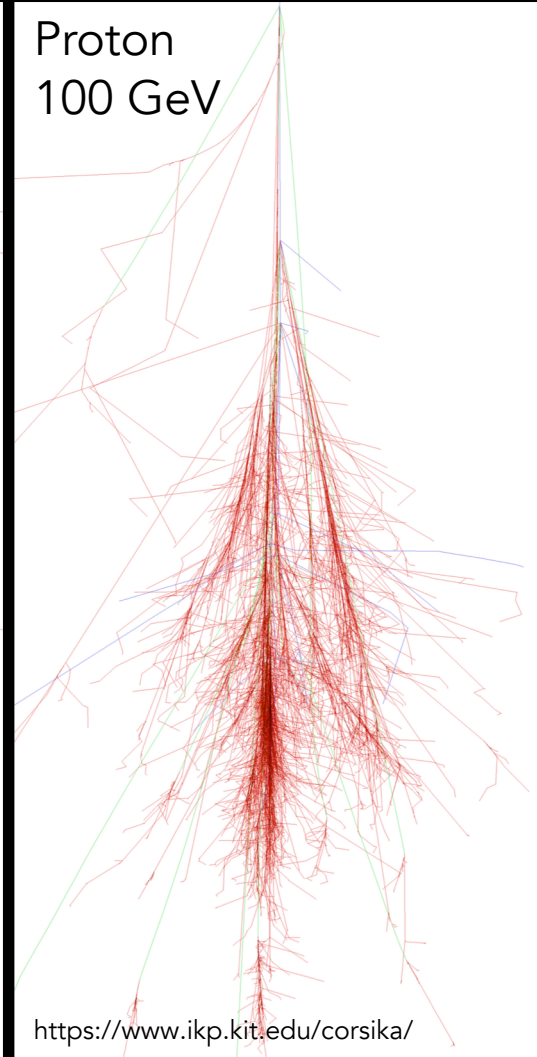


Gamma  
100 GeV



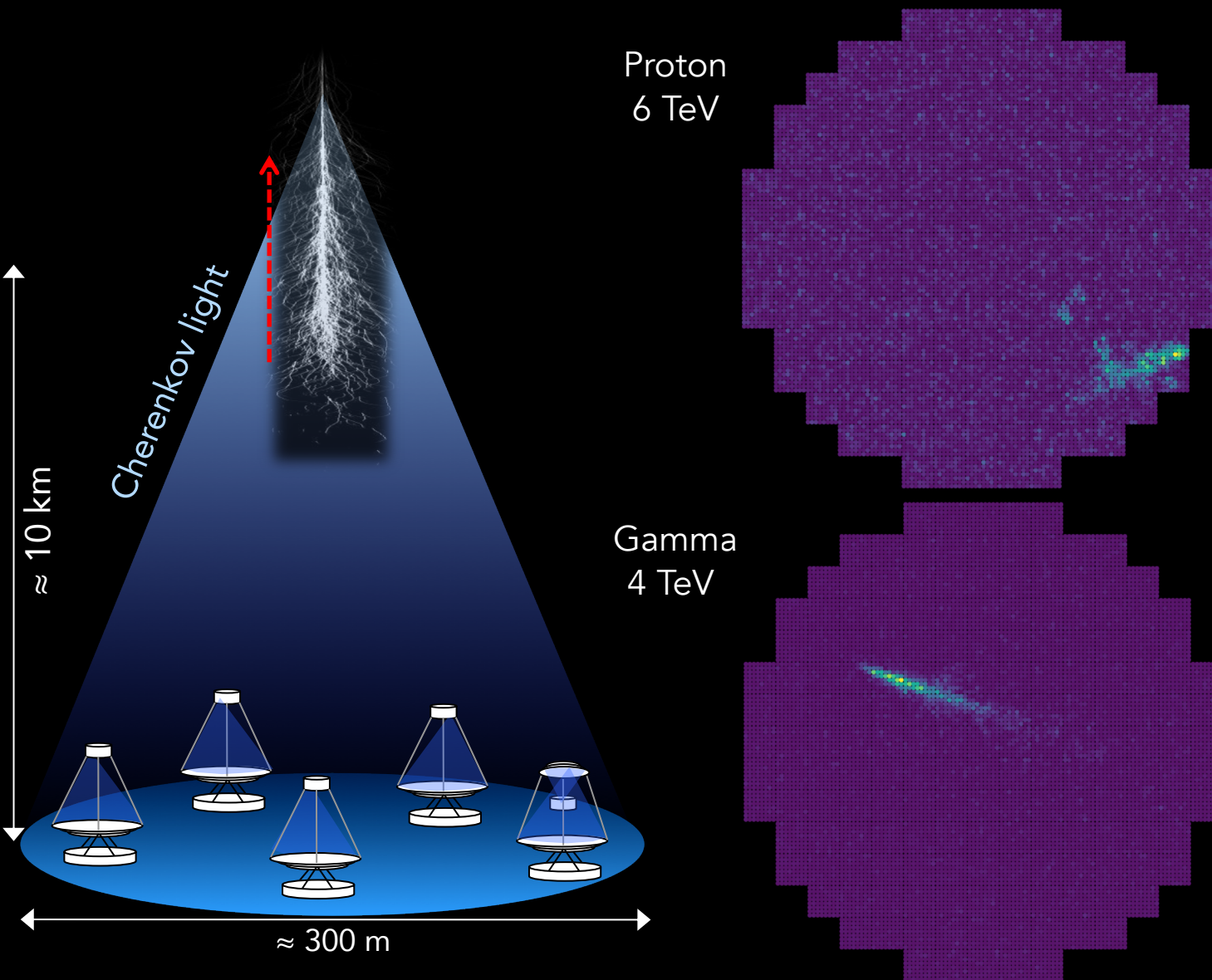
<https://www.ikp.kit.edu/corsika/>

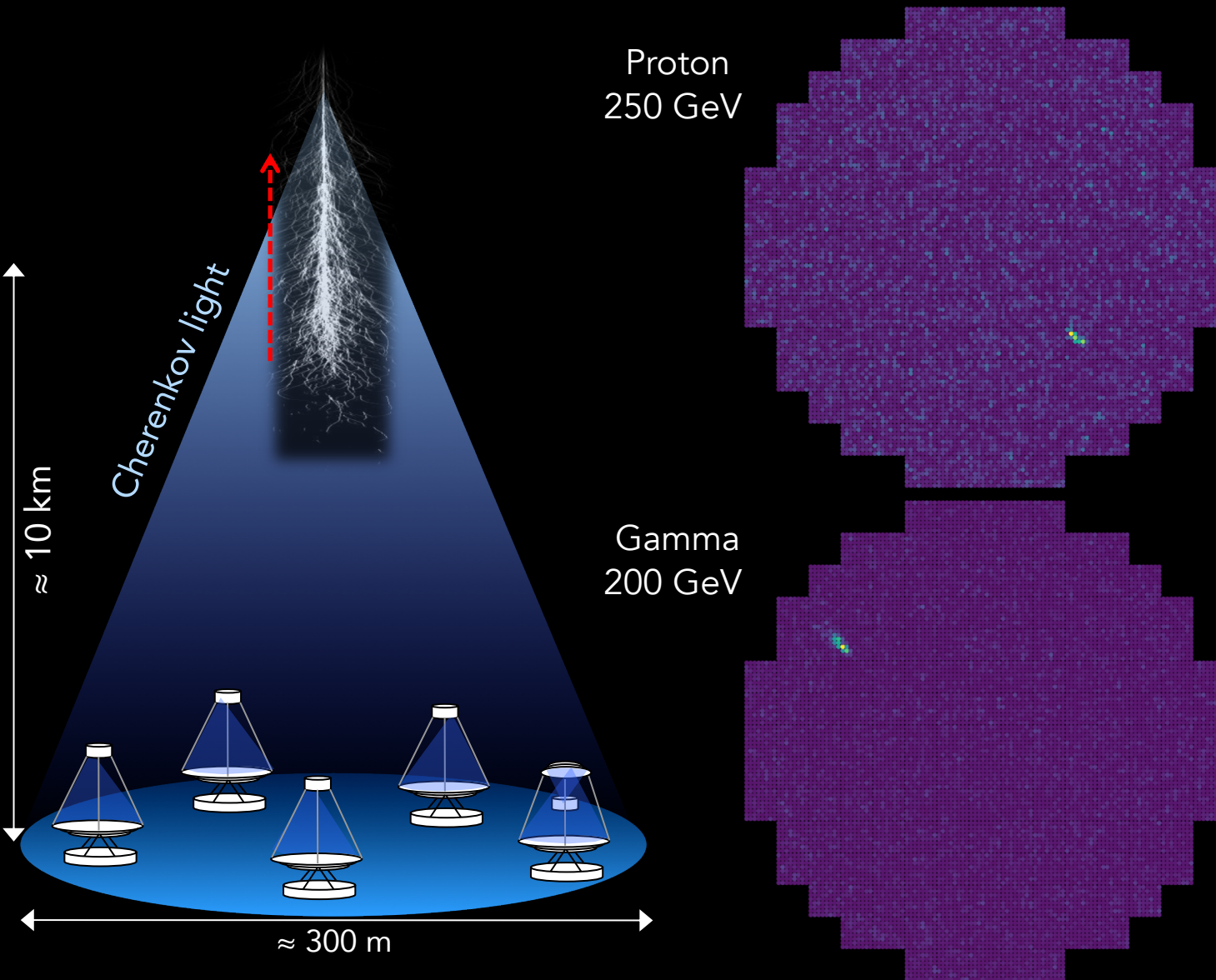
Proton  
100 GeV

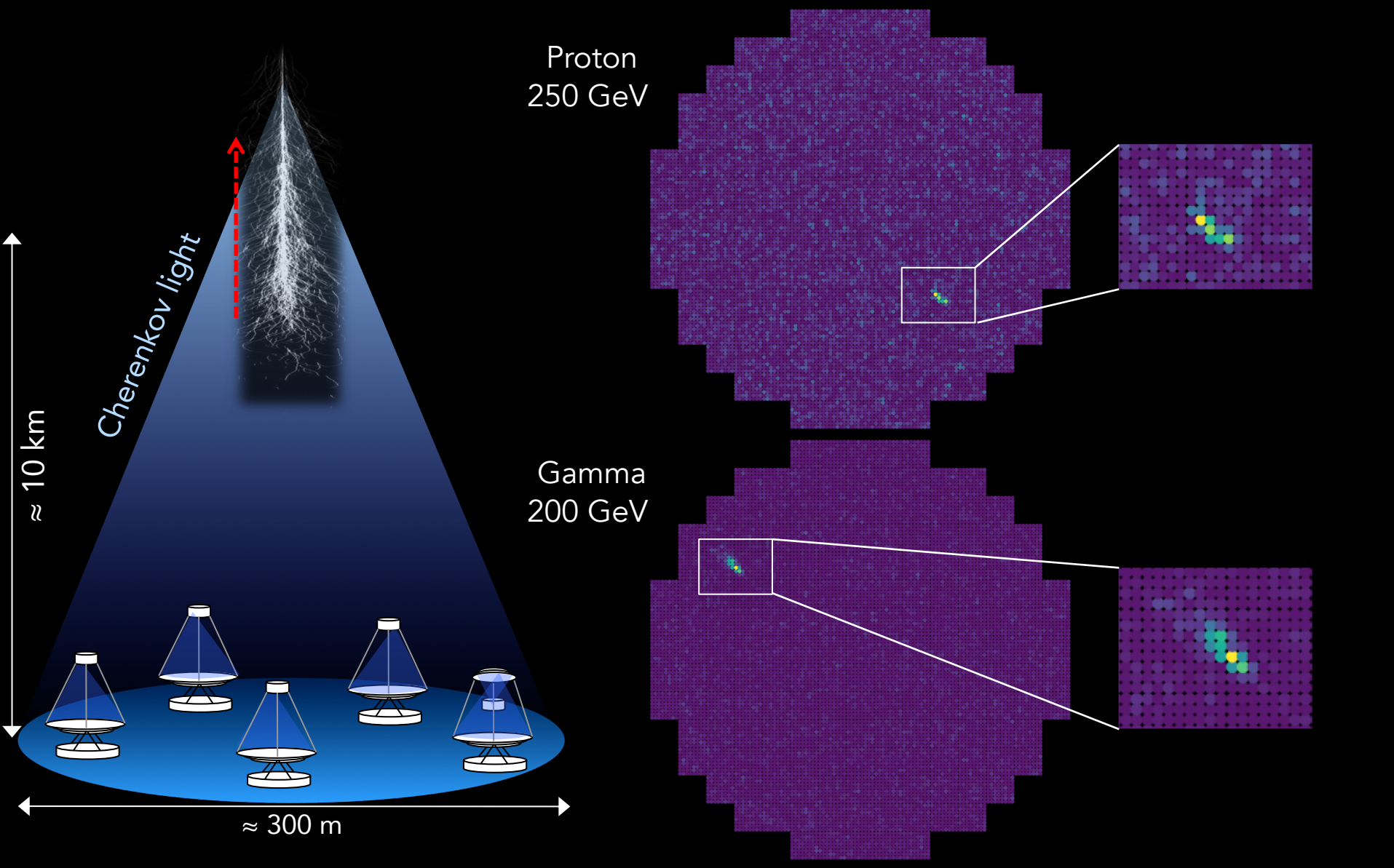


<https://www.ikp.kit.edu/corsika/>





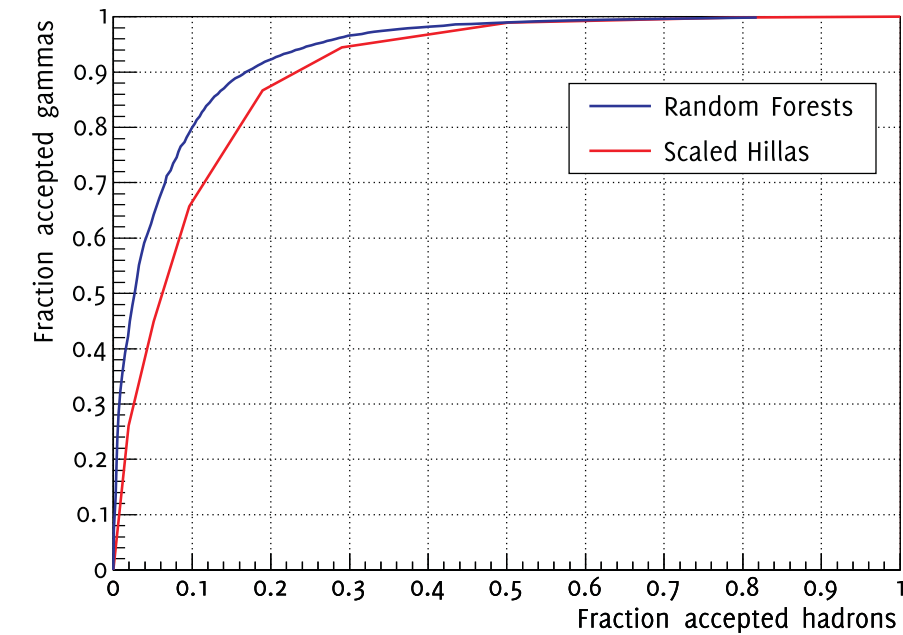




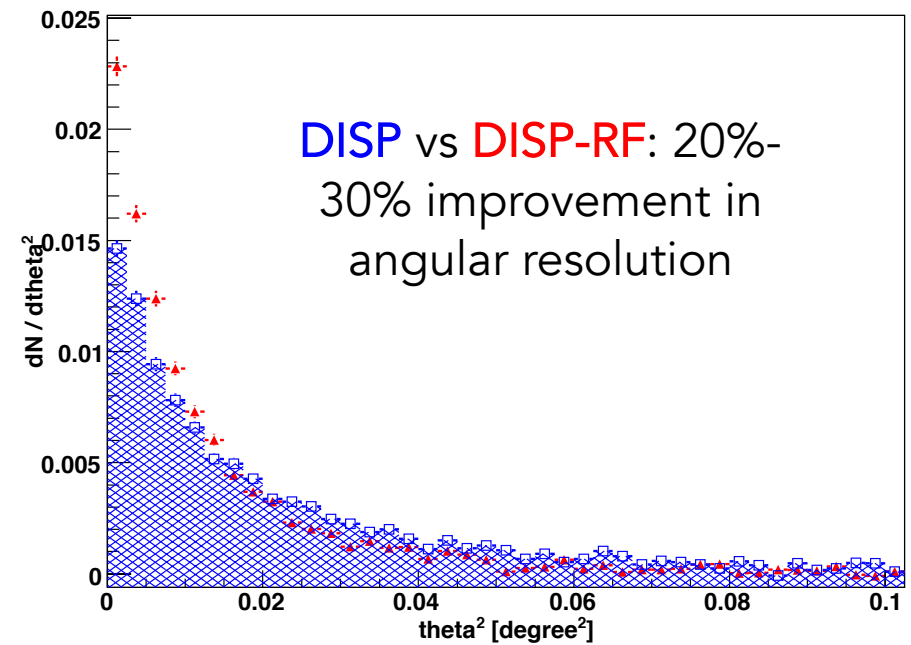




- ML method: Random Forest (RF)
- Applied to: background rejection, arrival direction



Albert et al., NIM-A 588:424-432 (2008)

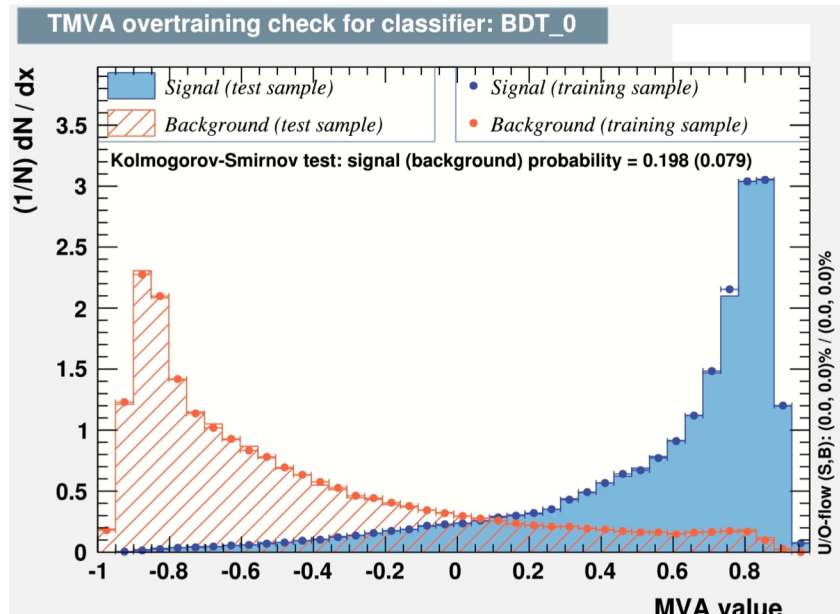


Aleksic et al., A&A 524 A77 (2010)

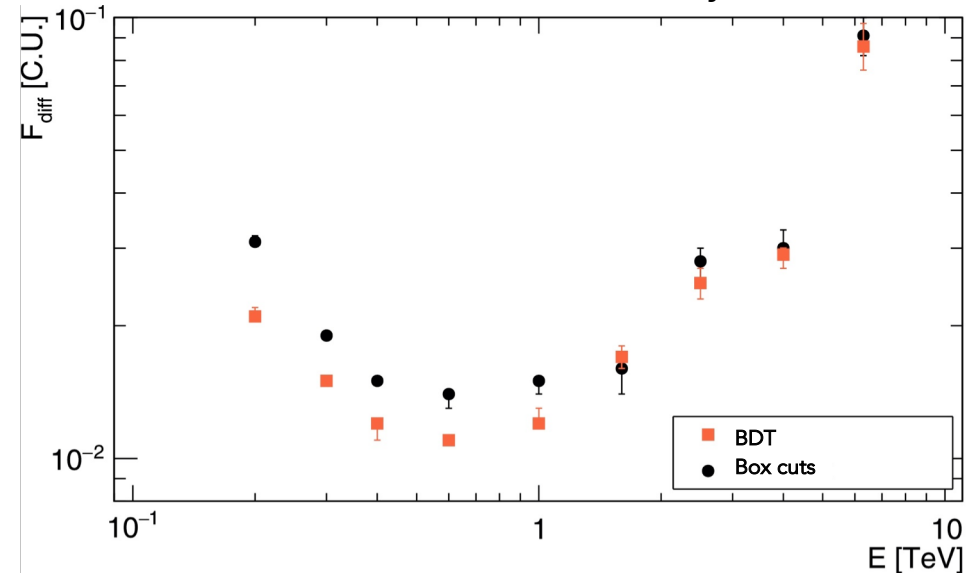




- ML method: Boosted Decision Trees (BDT)
- Applied to: background rejection



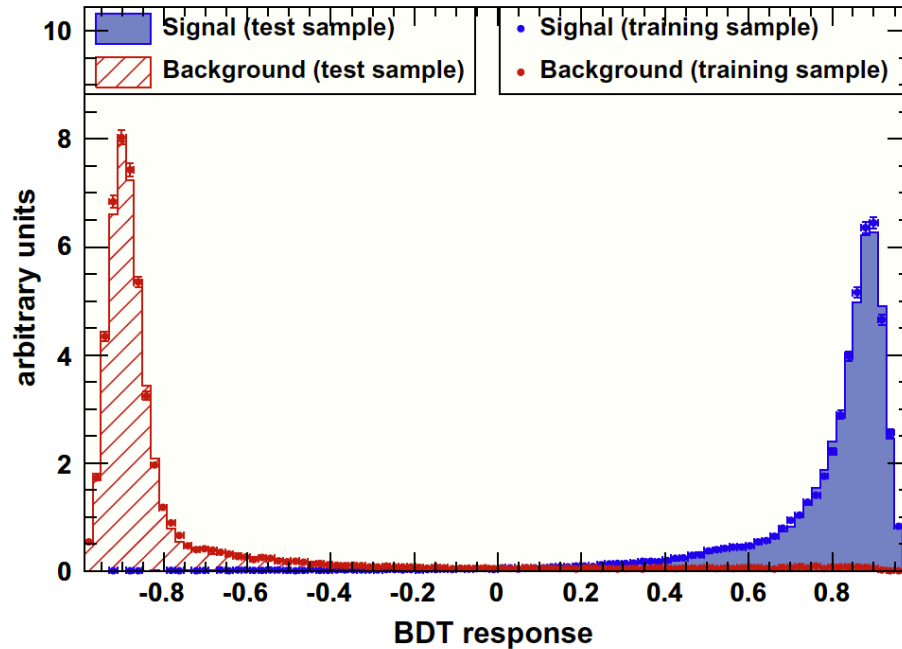
VERITAS diff. sensitivity



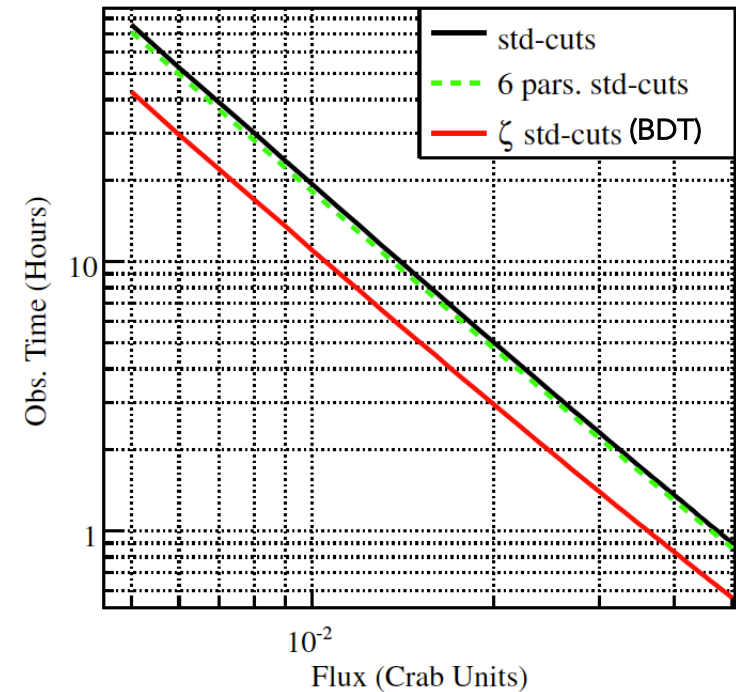
Krause et al., APP V89 P1-9 (2017)



- ML method: Boosted Decision Trees (BDT)
- Applied to: background rejection



Becherini et al., APP V34-12 P858-870 (2011)



Ohm et al., APP V31-5 P383-391 (2009)

(Results for H.E.S.S. I only)

- 5-20 fold better sensitivity w.r.t. current IACTs
- 4 decades of energy coverage: 20 GeV to 300 TeV
- Improved angular and energy resolution
- Two arrays (North/South)

## Low-energy range:

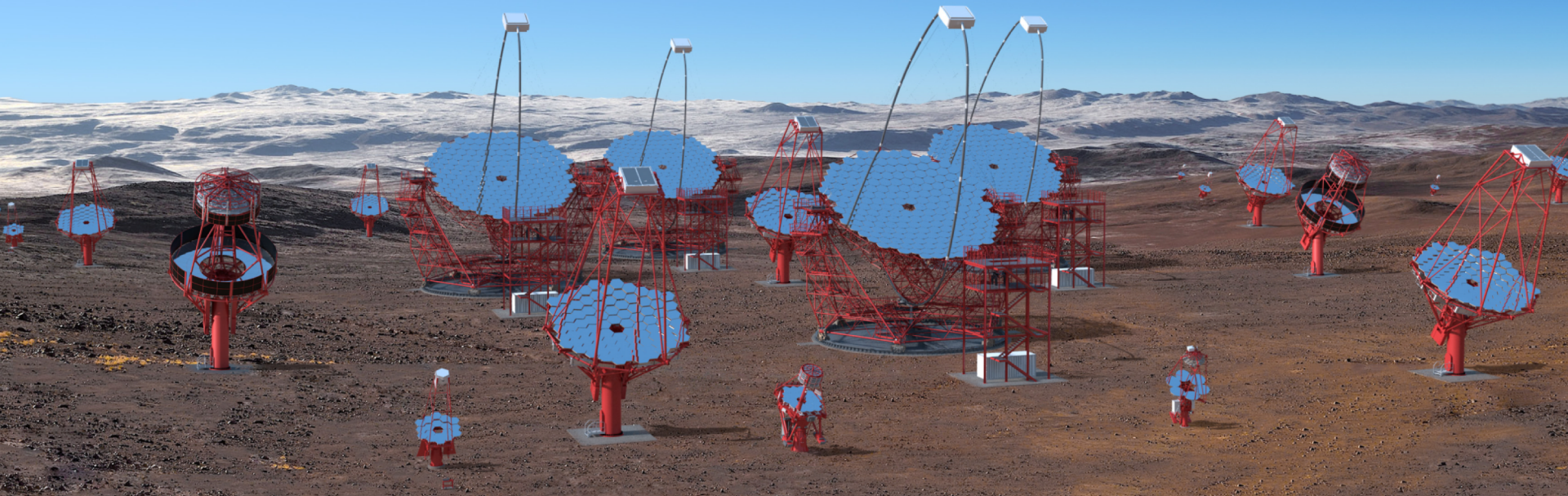
23 m  $\varnothing$   
Parabolic reflector  
4° - 5° FoV  
Energy threshold 20 GeV

## Mid energy-range:

12 m  $\varnothing$  modified Davies-Cotton reflector  
9.7 m  $\varnothing$  Schwarzschild-Couder reflector  
7° - 8° FoV  
Best sensitivity in the  
100 GeV – 10 TeV range

## High-energy range:

4 m  $\varnothing$  Davies-Cotton reflector  
4 m  $\varnothing$  Schwarzschild-Couder reflector  
9 - 10° FoV  
Several km<sup>2</sup> area at  
multi-TeV energies

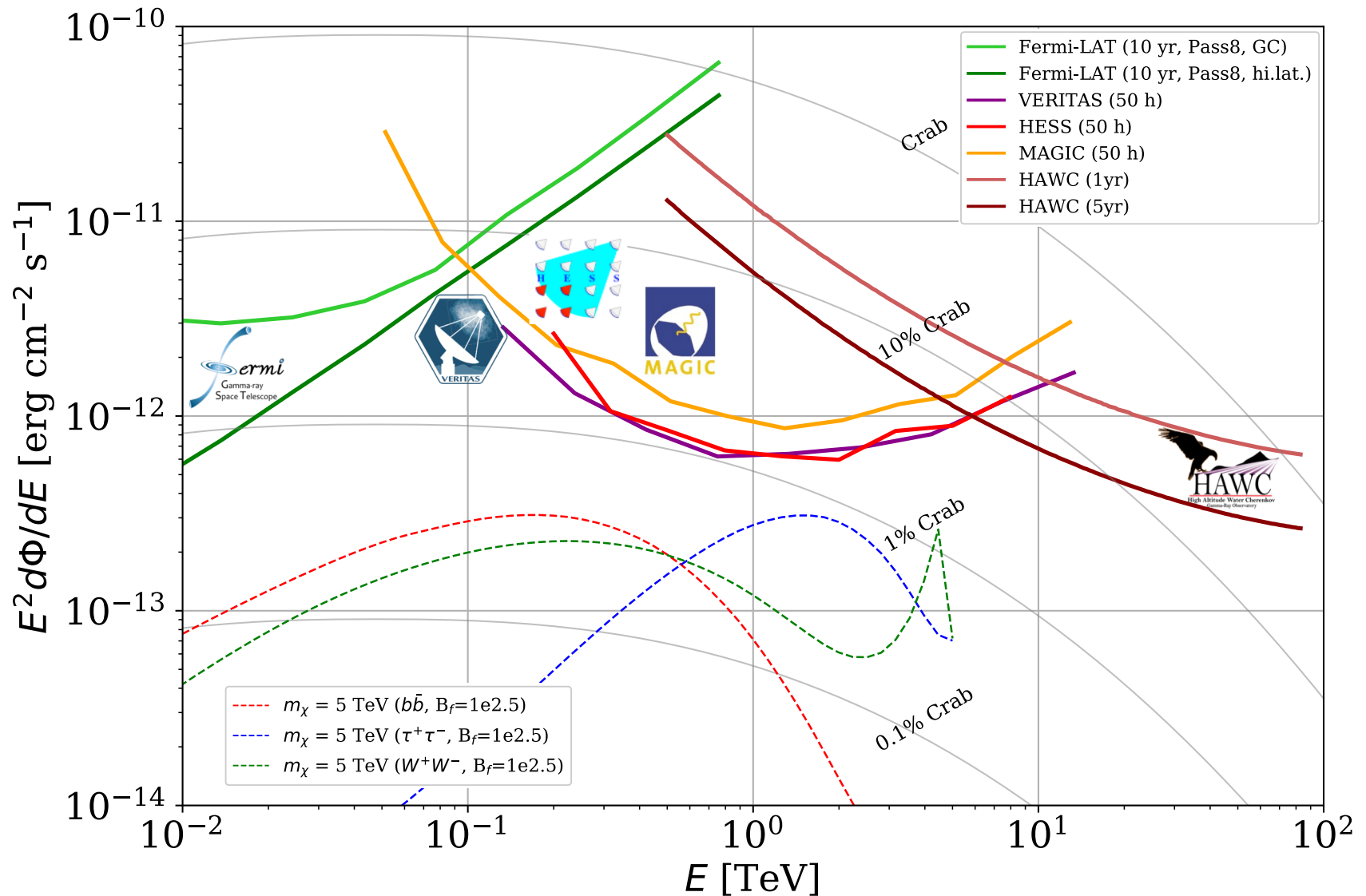


[www.cta-observatory.org/](http://www.cta-observatory.org/)

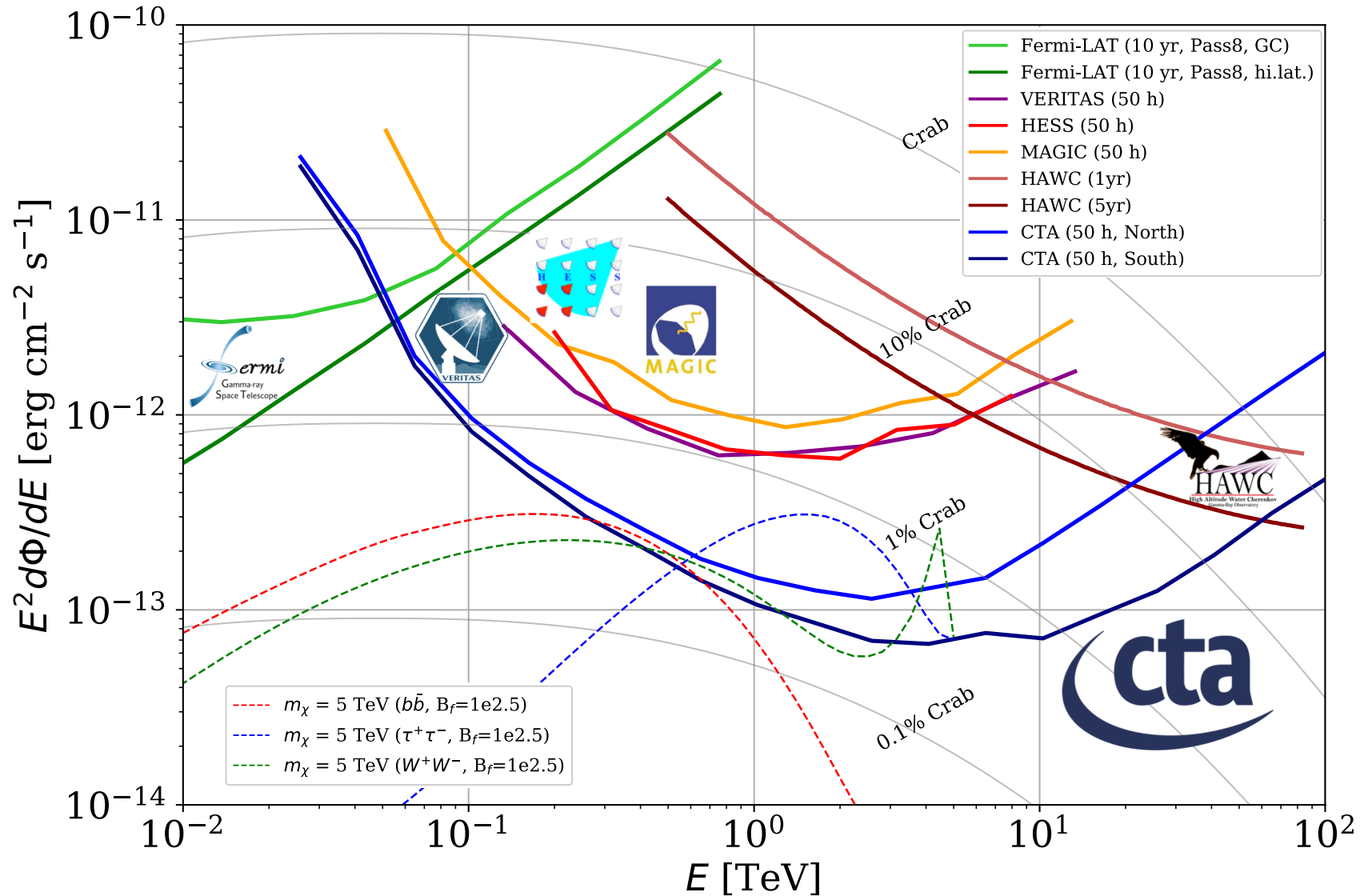
Science with CTA, arXiv:1709.07997



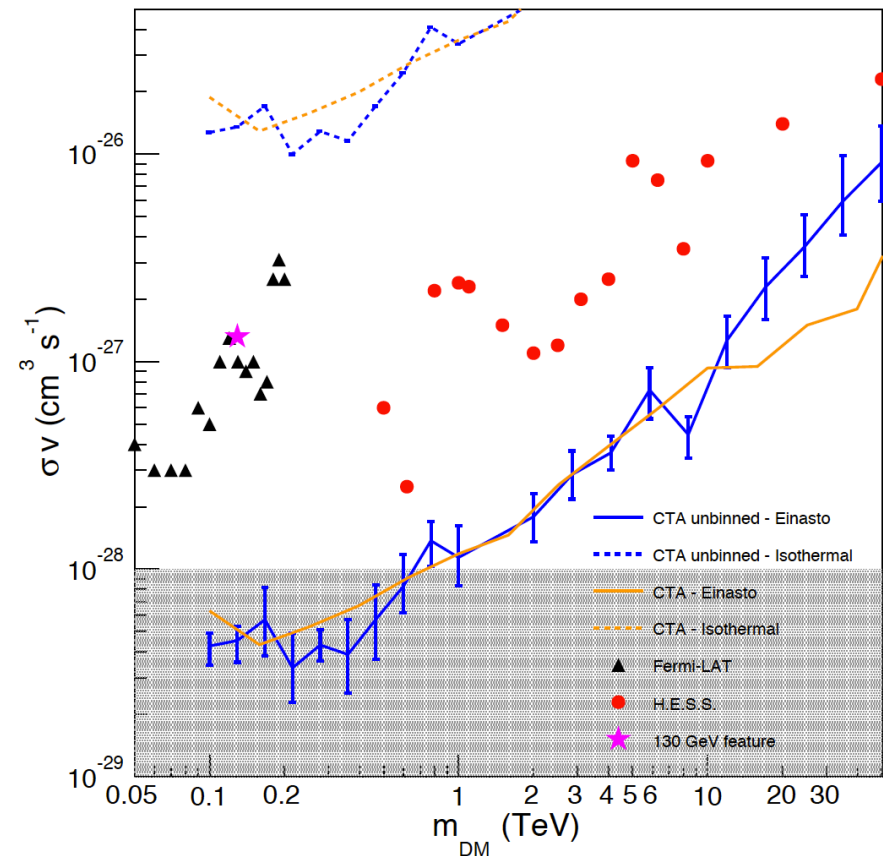
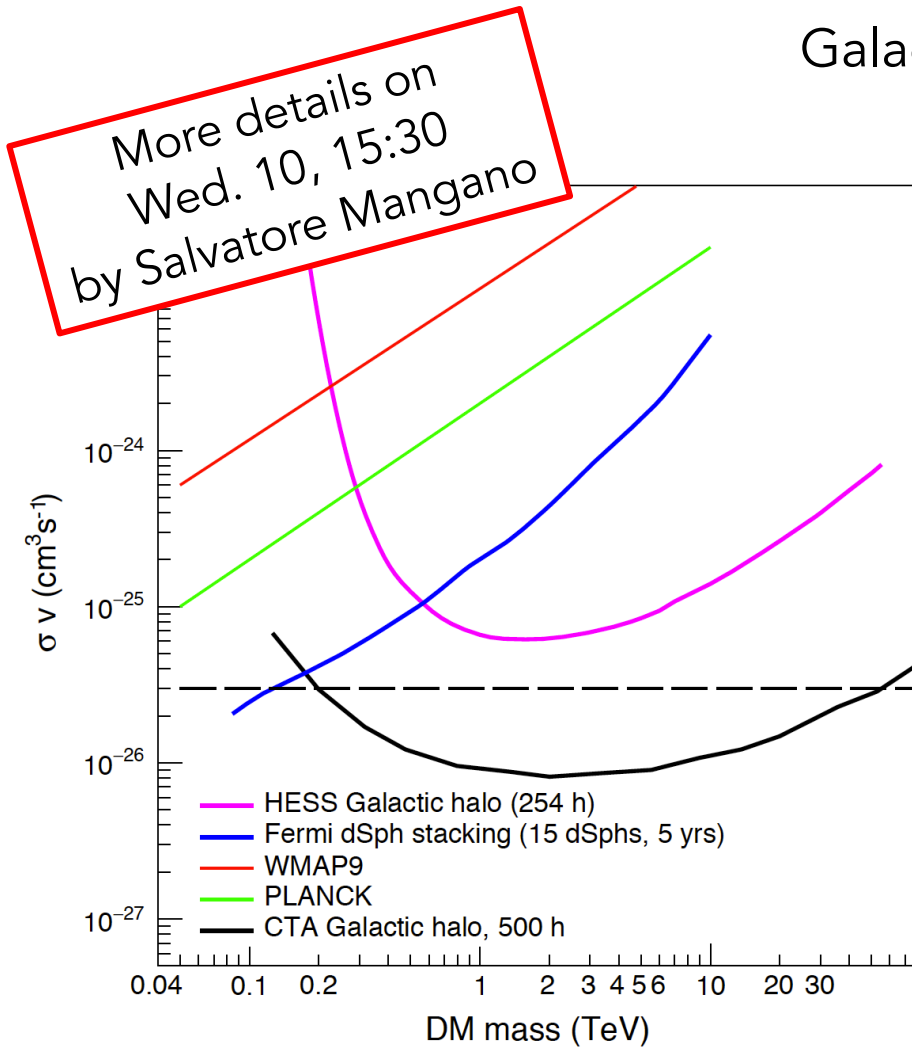
## Sensitivity of current-generation $\gamma$ -ray telescopes



## Sensitivity of CTA: the next-generation $\gamma$ -ray observatory



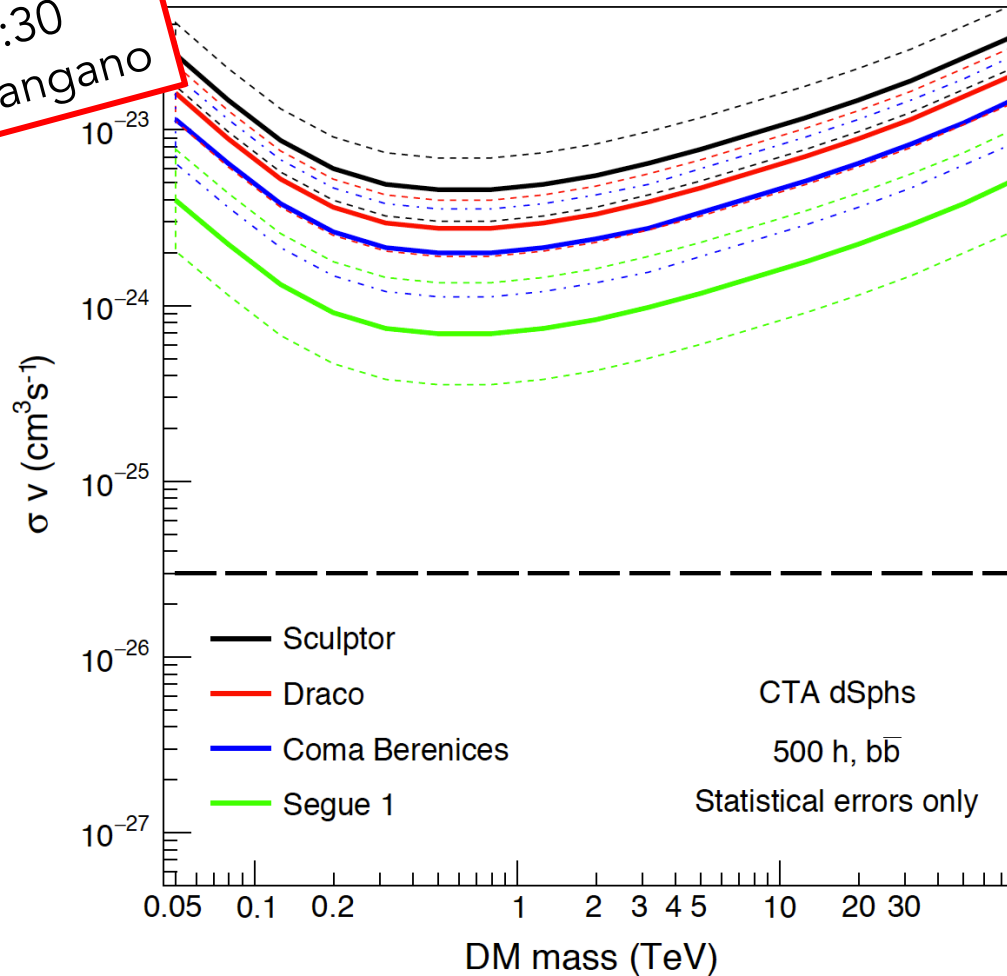
## Galactic Halo



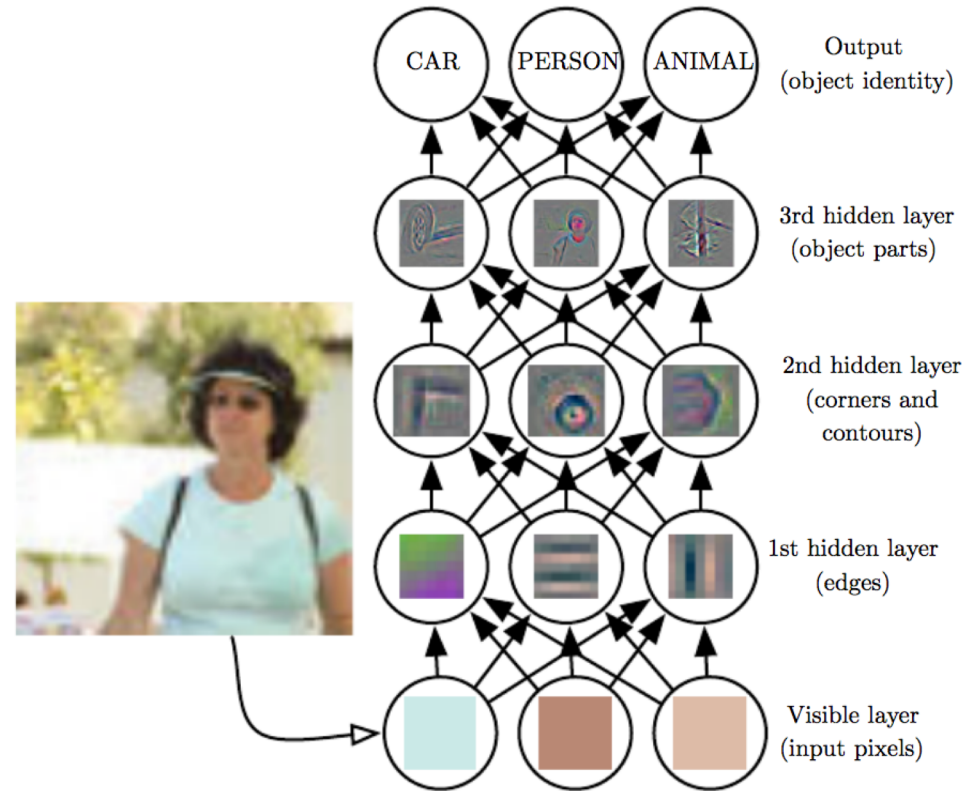
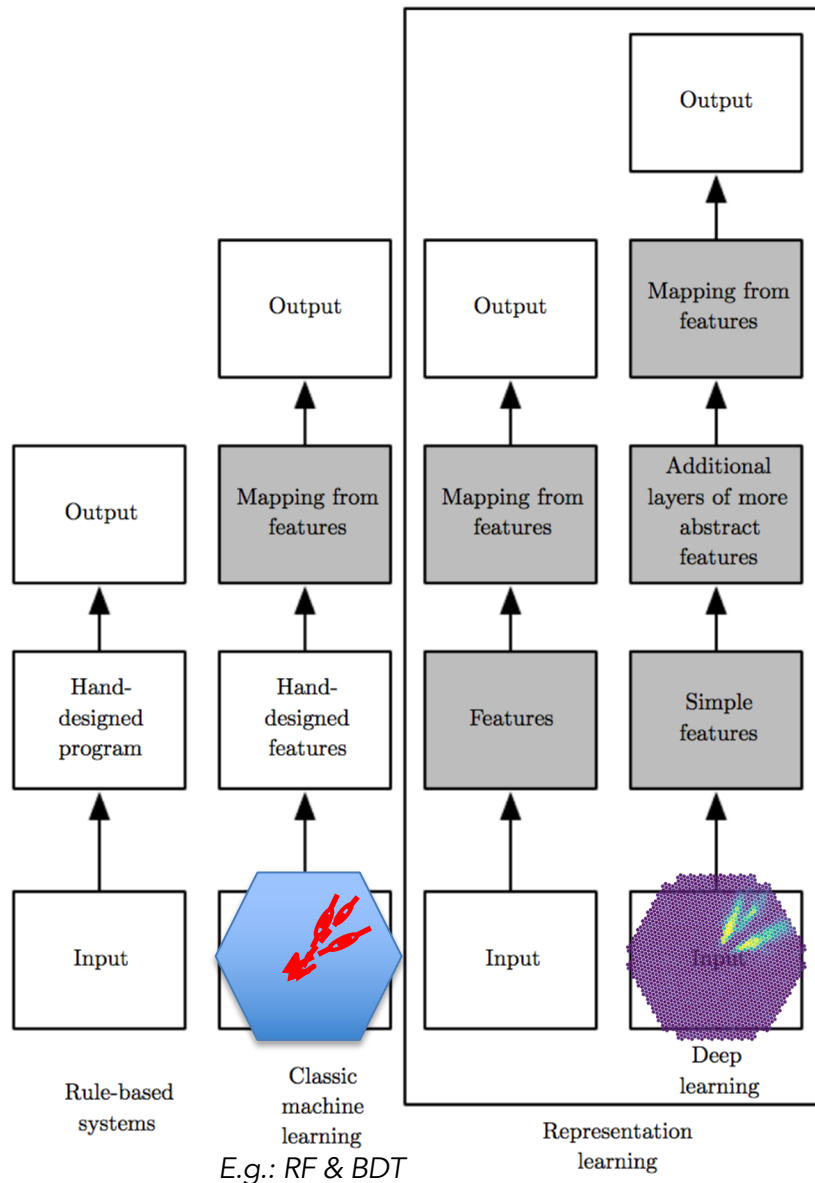
Science with CTA, arXiv:1709.07997

More details on  
Wed. 10, 15:30  
by Salvatore Mangano

## Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxies



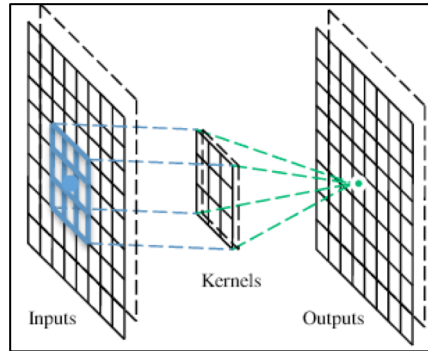
Science with CTA, arXiv:1709.07997



Deep Learning, Goodfellow et al.

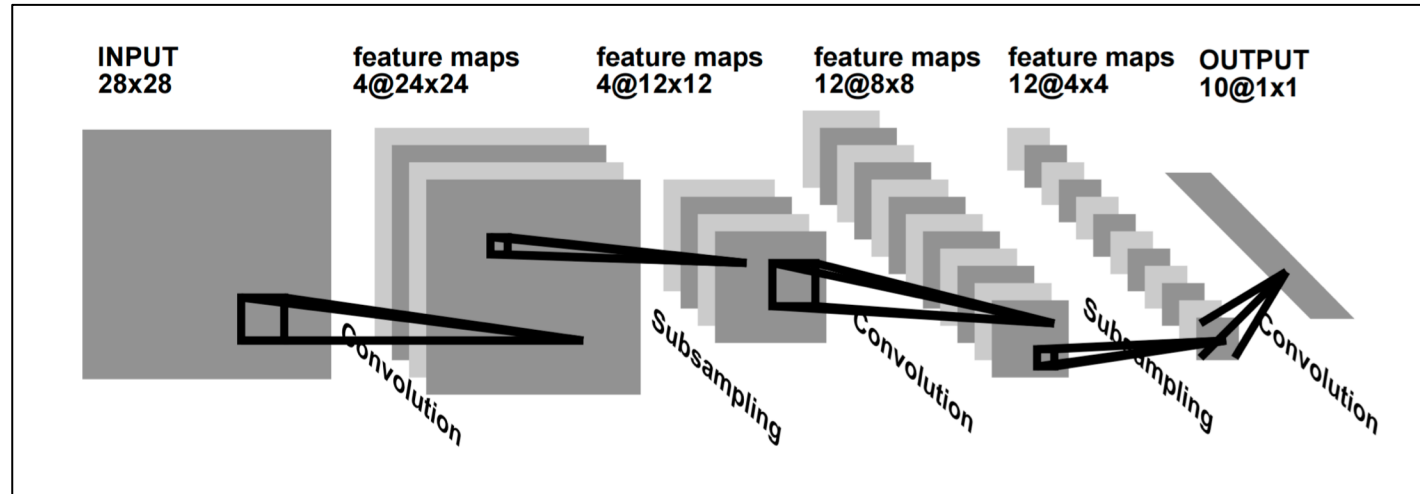


## Convolution



Guo et al.

## Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)



LeCunn et al.

- DL capable of **extracting** and mapping image features automatically with unprecedented classification accuracy. Hyper-active CS research field constantly improving
- Many HEP/Astro experiments already exploring/utilizing the technique (LIGO, LHC, MicroBooNe, NOvA, etc...)

## Method:

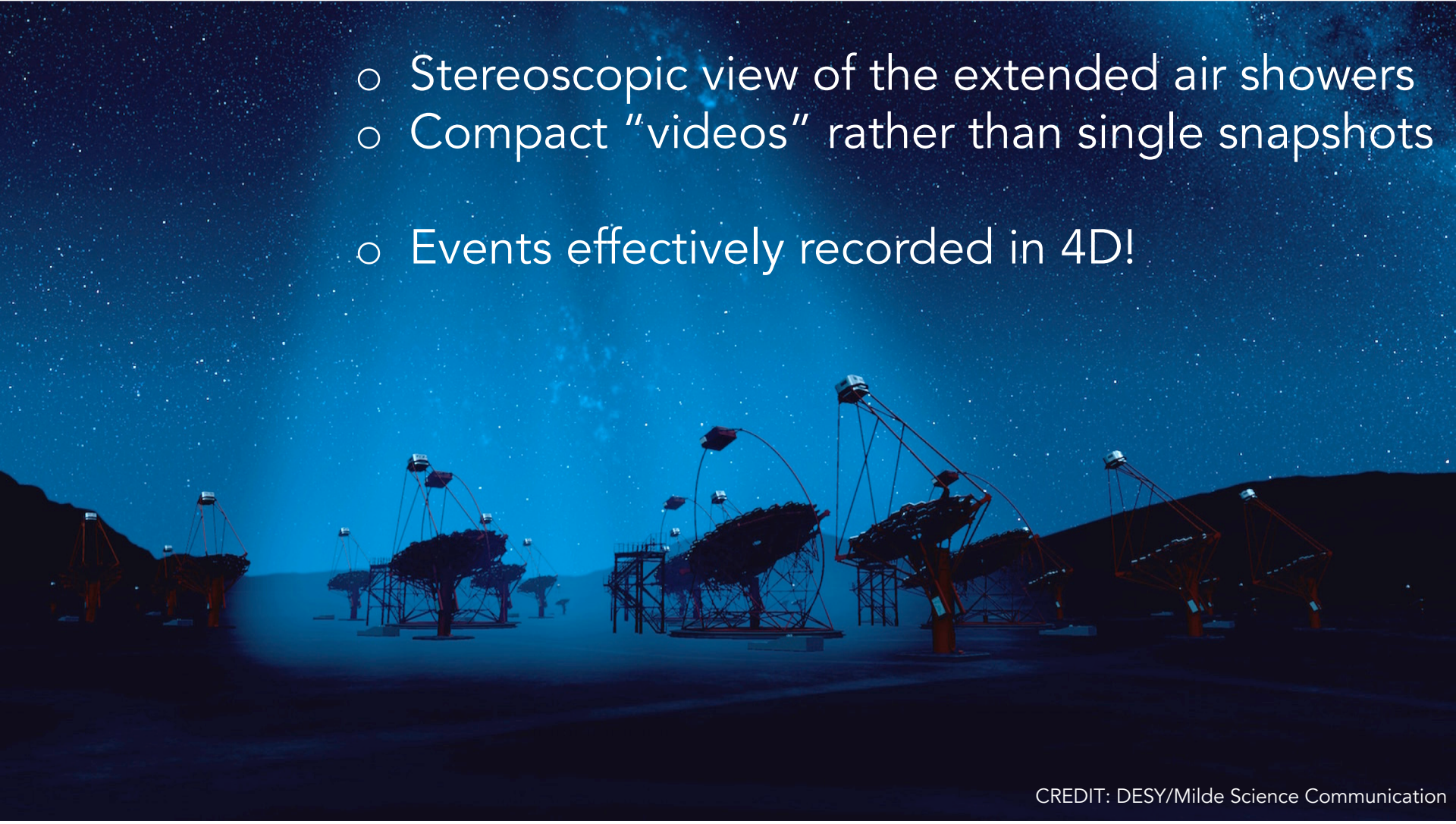
- Use deep learning to reconstruct CTA events from non-parameterized images
  - Performance enhancement -> better sensitivity to DM

## But there are risk...

- MC reliability (e.g. network selecting some features from your MC not present in real data)

- Stereoscopy:

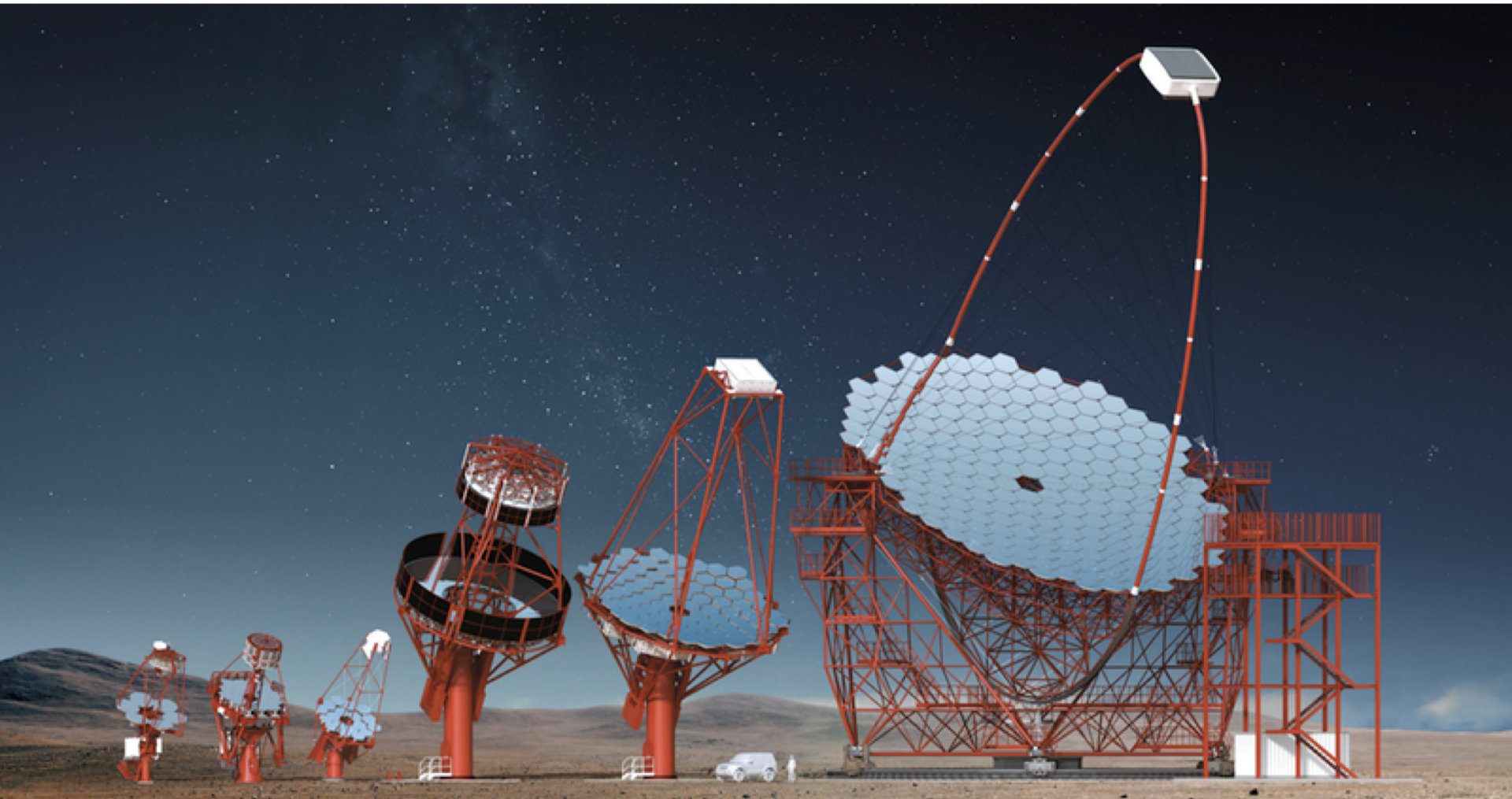
- Stereoscopic view of the extended air showers
- Compact “videos” rather than single snapshots
- Events effectively recorded in 4D!



CREDIT: DESY/Milde Science Communication

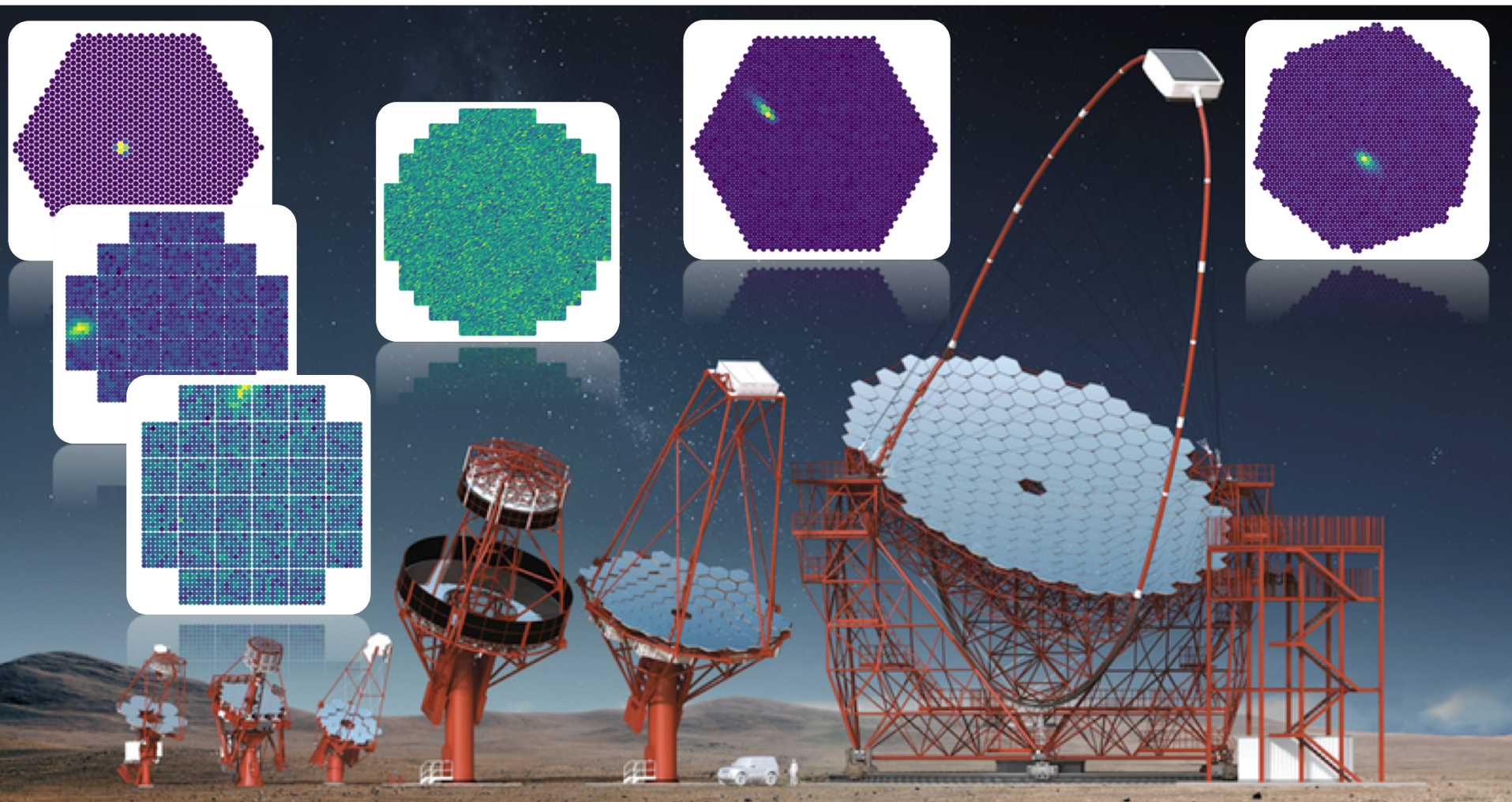


- Heterogeneity of instruments:



- Heterogeneity of instruments:

Camera images courtesy of T. Vuillaume

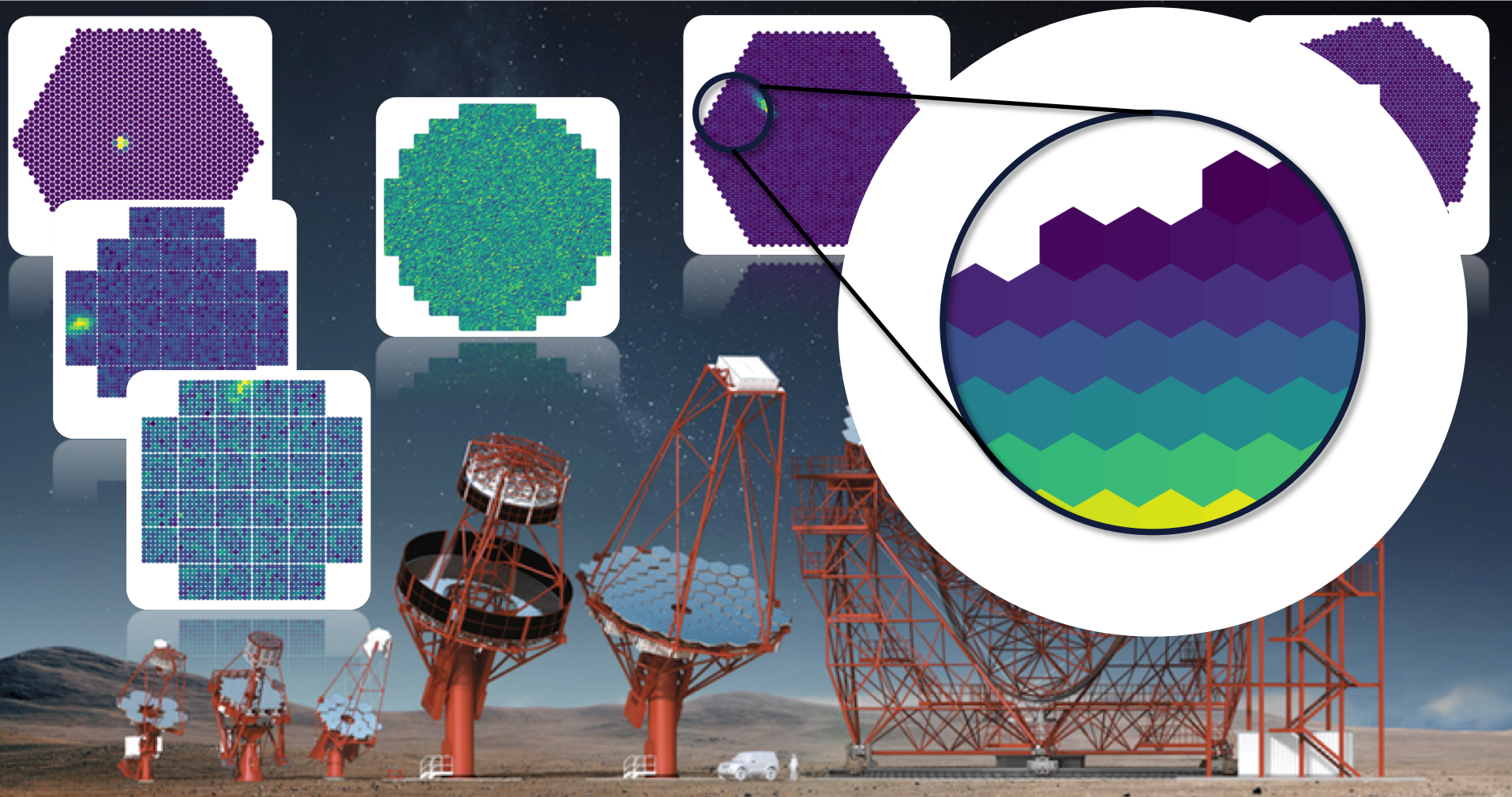




- Heterogeneity of instruments:

Hexagonal pixels

Camera images courtesy of T. Vuillaume



- DL can actually classify CTA events!

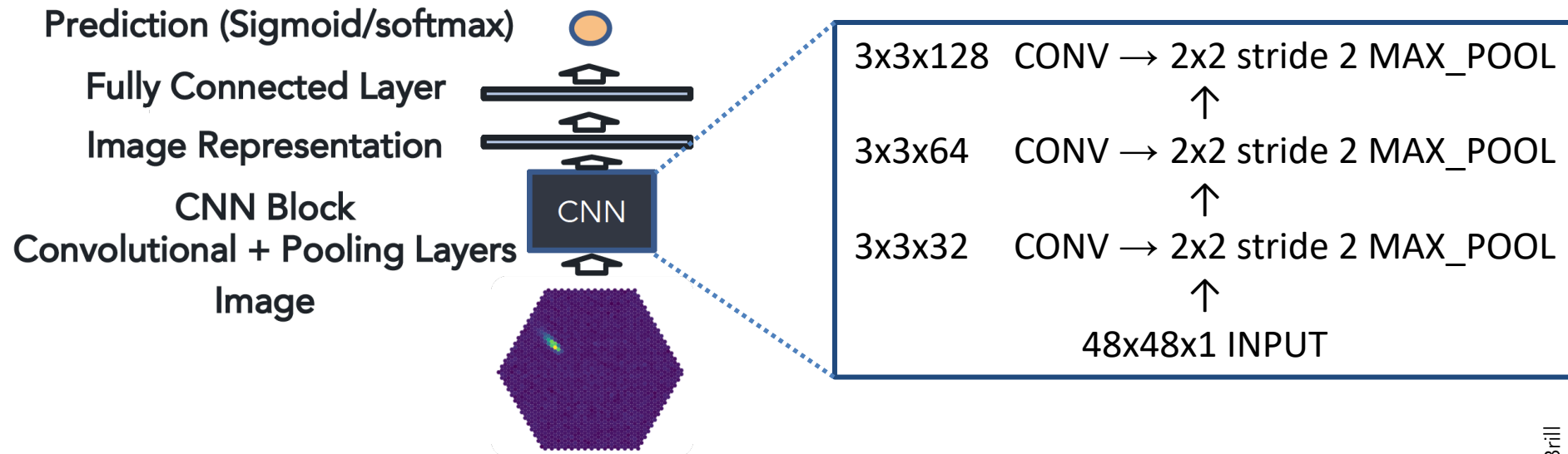
CTLearn: *single telescope* model



A. Brill, B. Kim, Q. Feng,  
D. Nieto, T. Miener,  
et al.



<https://github.com/ctlearn-project/>



Courtesy of A. Brill

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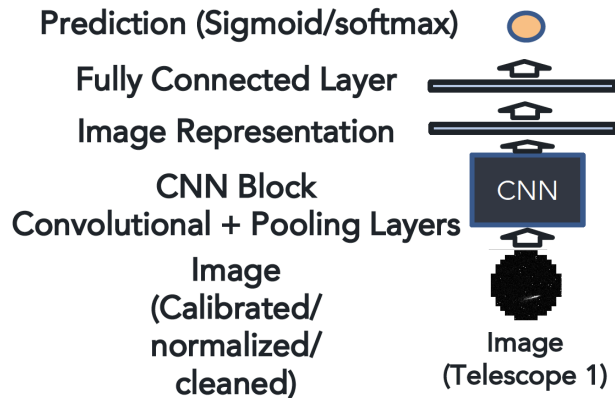
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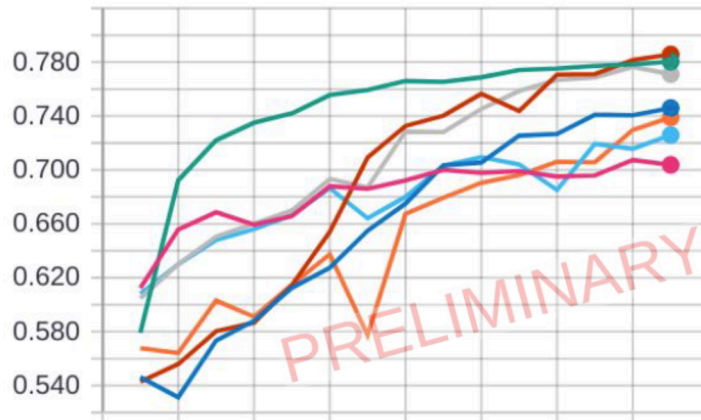


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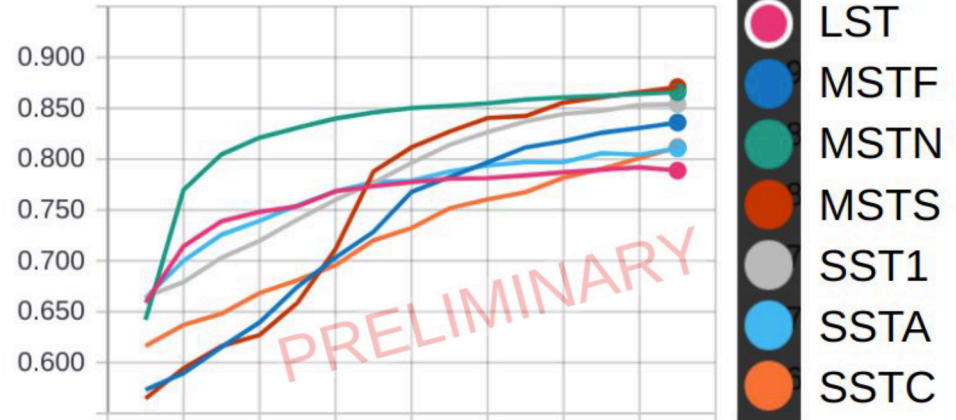


Telescope Type	Gamma Images	Proton Images	Validation Accuracy	Validation AUC
LST	89165	90426	70.38%	0.7887
MSTF	360787	379533	74.60%	0.8360
MSTN	414502	443704	78.04%	0.8659
MSTS	307498	294714	78.57%	0.8709
SST1	213795	207996	77.11%	0.8542
SSTA	221810	228042	72.59%	0.8105
SSTC	217940	218312	73.90%	0.8118

accuracy



auc



Courtesy of A. Brill

- Tackling the stereo challenge:

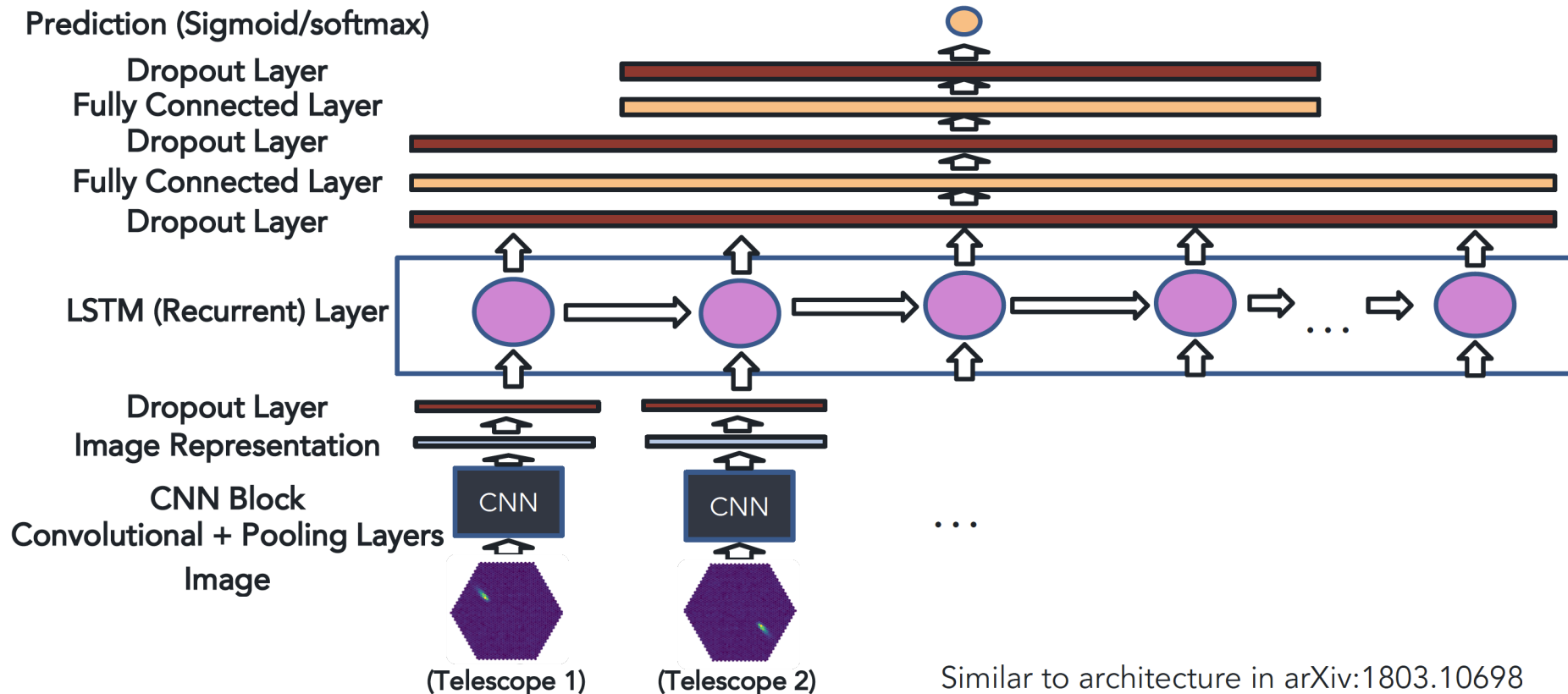
CTLearn: *CNN-RNN* model



A. Brill, B. Kim, Q. Feng,  
D. Nieto, T. Miener,  
et al.



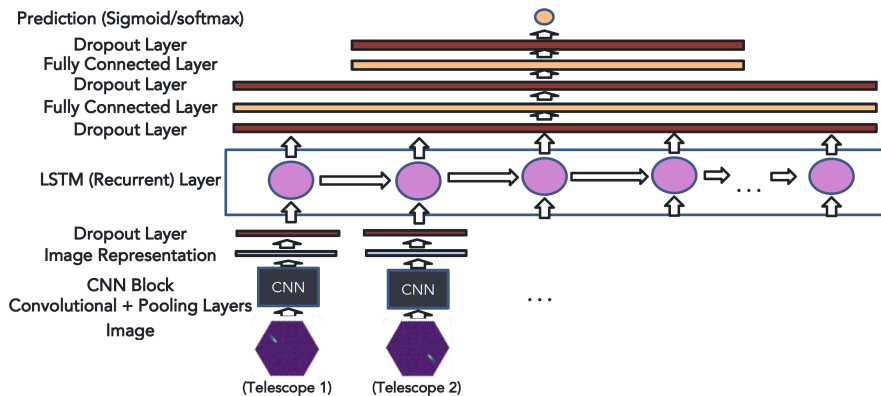
<https://github.com/ctlearn-project/>





- Tackling the stereo challenge:

## CTLearn: CNN-RNN model



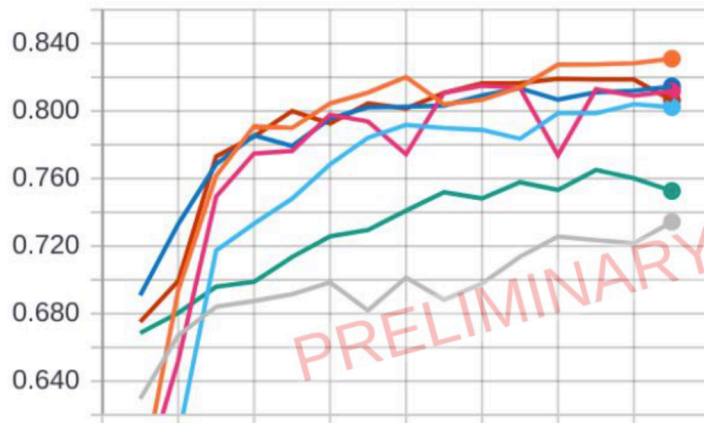
A. Brill, B. Kim, Q. Feng,  
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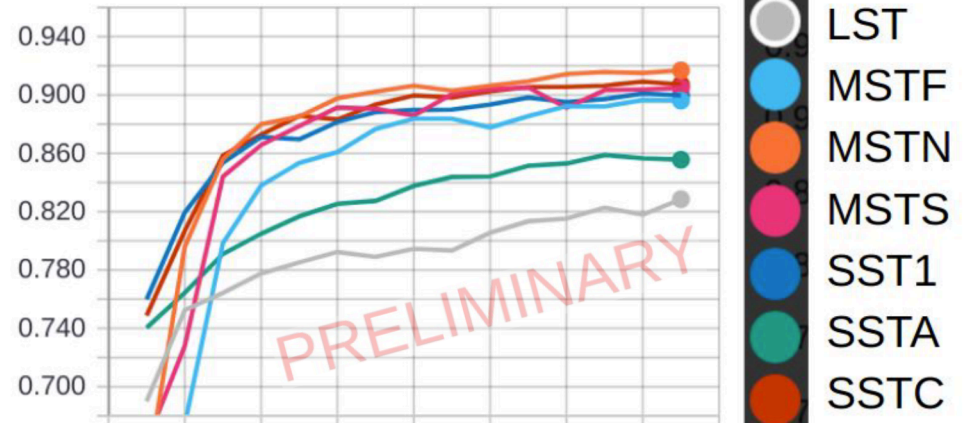
<https://github.com/ctlearn-project/>

Telescope Type	Total Events	Validation Accuracy	Validation AUC
LST	85401	73.43%	0.8285
MSTF	249813	80.23%	0.8961
MSTN	269362	83.10%	0.9169
MSTS	223051	81.18%	0.9048
SST1	197878	81.47%	0.8997
SSTA	183669	75.27%	0.8556
SSTC	190638	80.64%	0.9072

accuracy

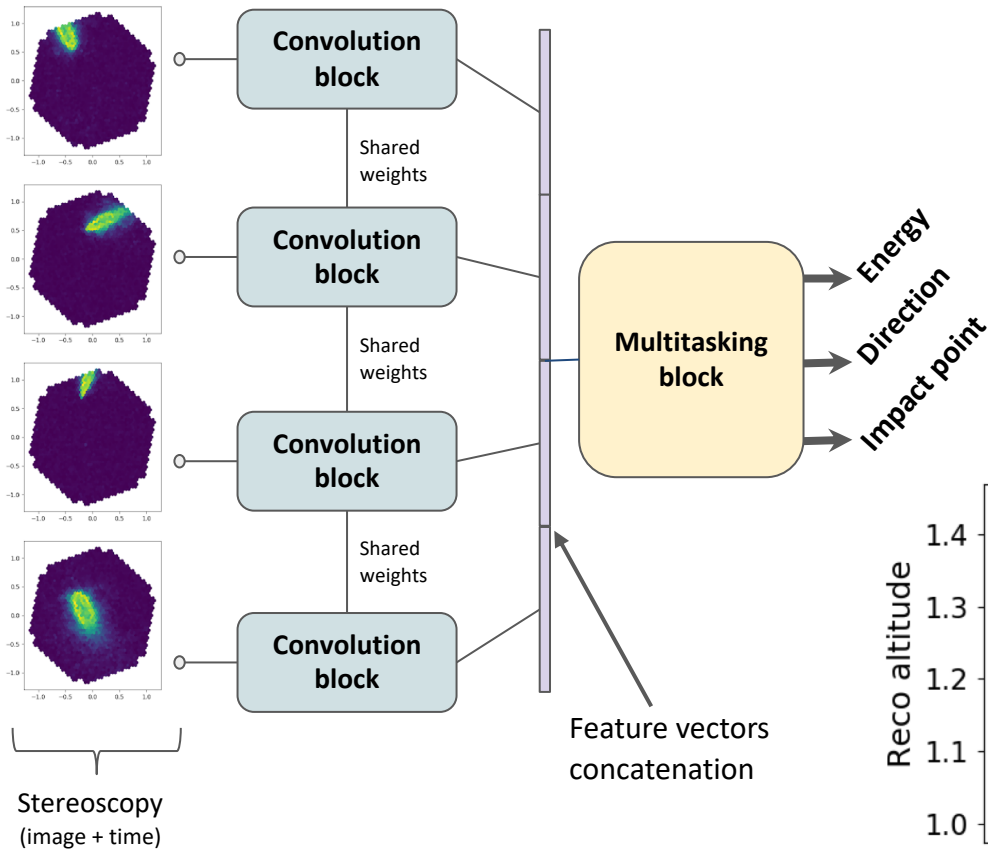


auc



Courtesy of A. Brill

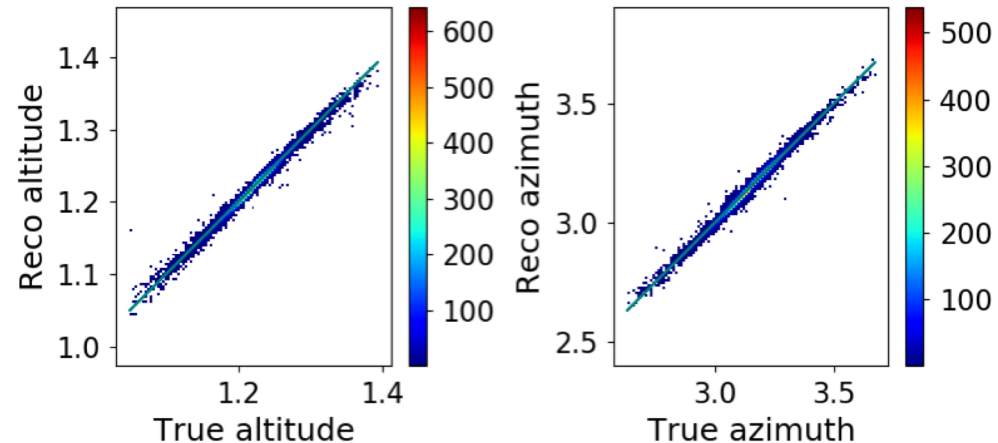
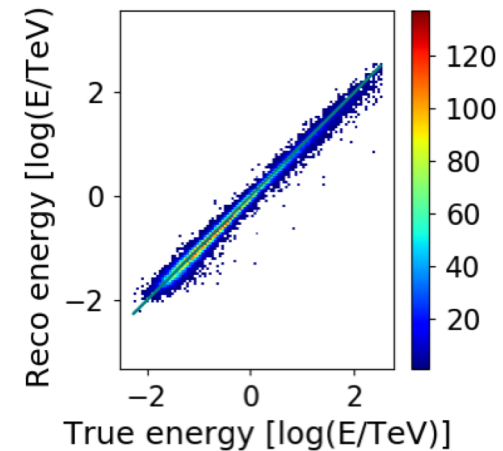
- Tackling the stereo challenge:



T. Vuillaume,  
M. Jaquemont, et al.



<https://gitlab.lapp.in2p3.fr/GammaLearn>



- Tackling the hexagonal-pixel challenge:

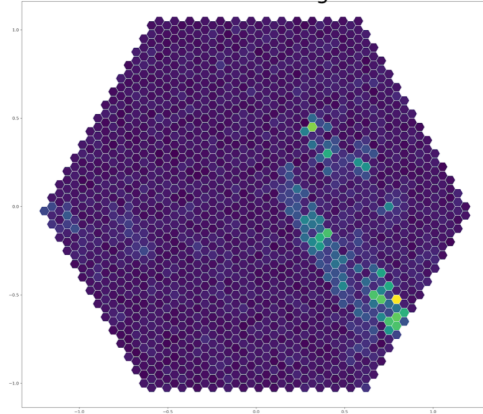


A. Brill, B. Kim, Q. Feng  
D. Nieto, T. Miener,  
et al.

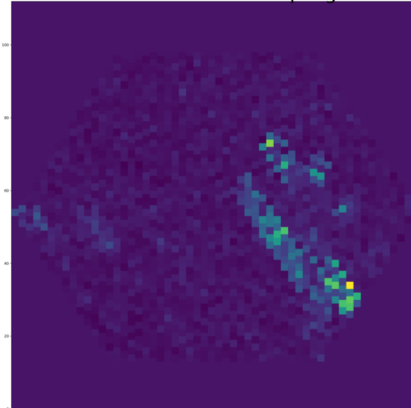


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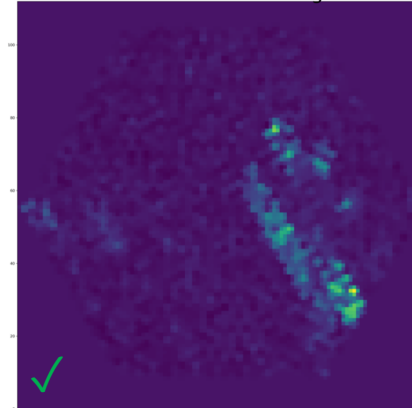
FlashCam - hexagonal



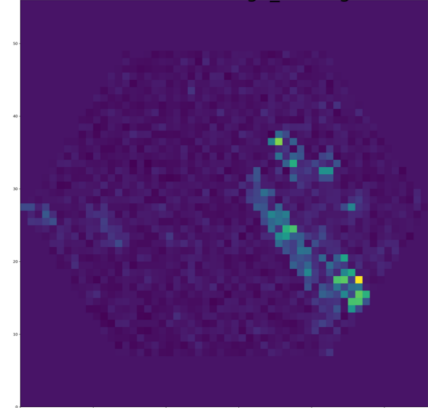
FlashCam - oversampling



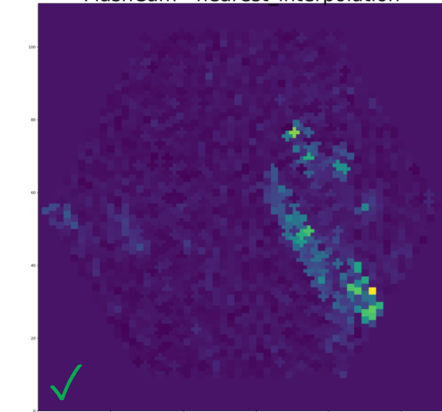
FlashCam - rebinning



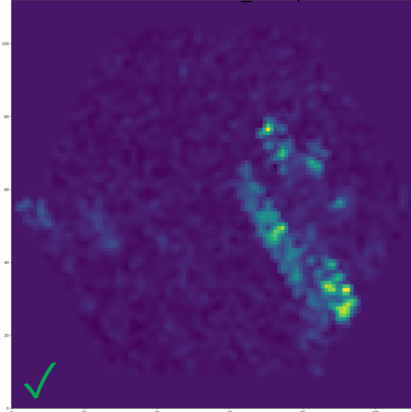
FlashCam - image shifting



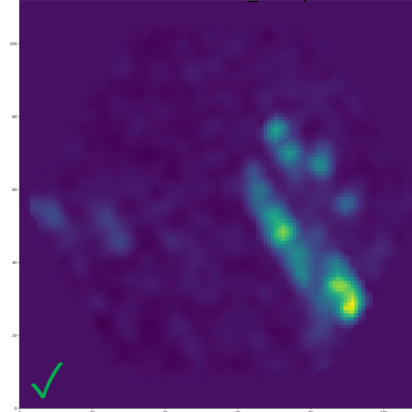
FlashCam - nearest interpolation



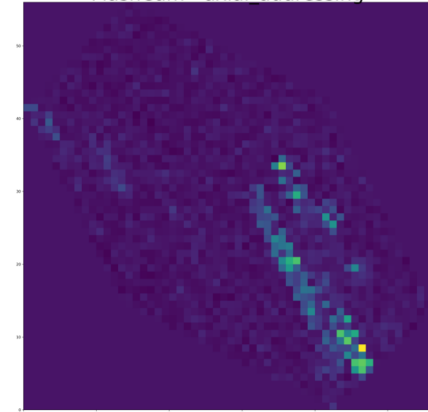
FlashCam - bilinear interpolation



FlashCam - bicubic interpolation



FlashCam - axial addressing



✓ Angles and distances preserved

- Tackling the hexagonal-pixel challenge:

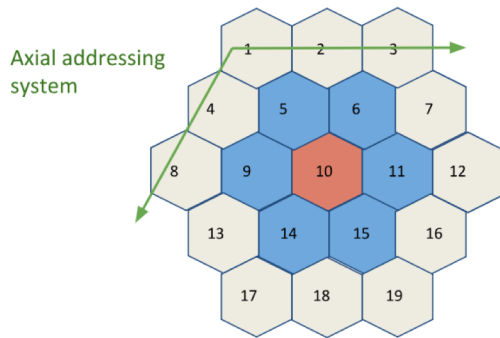
- Convolution



T. Vuillaume,  
M. Jacquemont, et al.



<https://github.com/IndexedConv>



Convolution  
kernel

Index matrix

1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16
		17	18	19

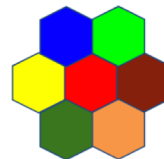
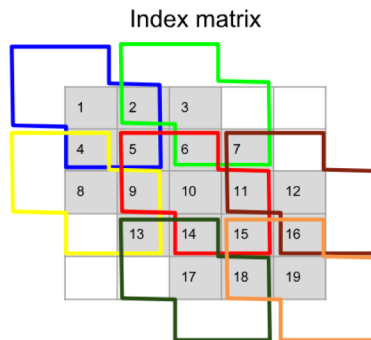
$W \times$

5		
6		
9		
10		
11		
14		
15		

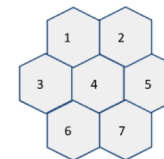
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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Image stored as a vector

- Pooling



Rebuild index matrix

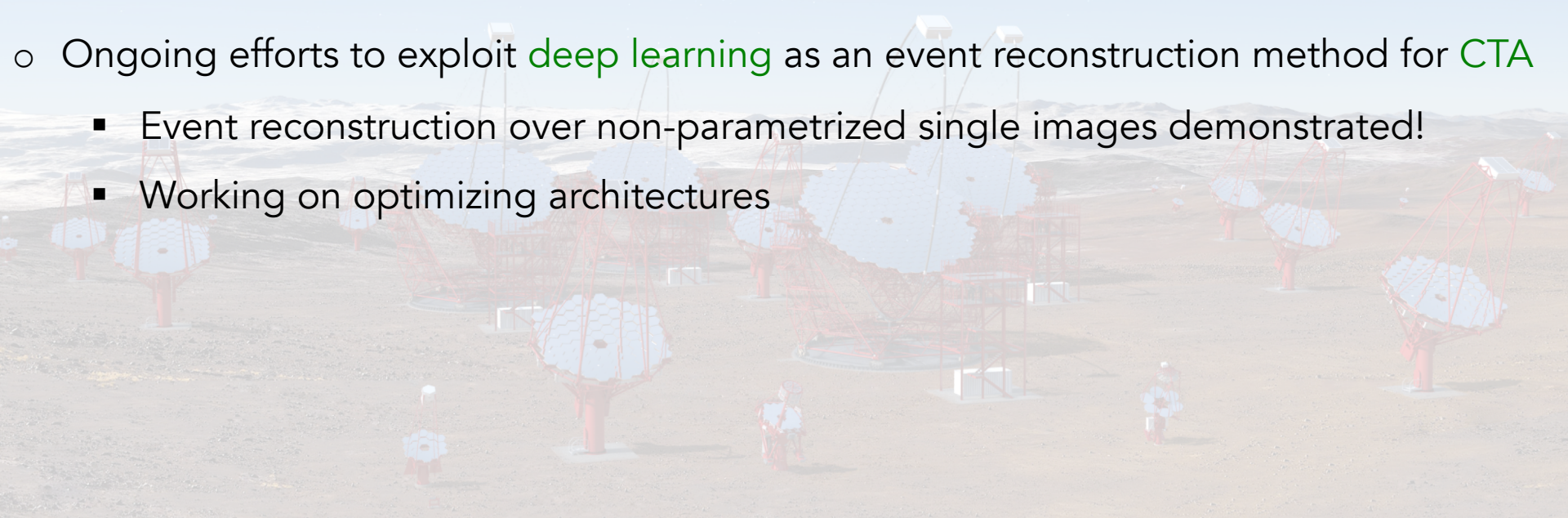


1	2	
3	4	5
	6	7

(M. Jacquemont et al. 2019)



- Gamma-ray telescopes and **IACTs** in particular are **competitive DM probes**
- Current-generation IACTs have enhanced their performances through ML
- **Next-generation** IACT may profit from **latest developments in ML**
  - Any gain in performance can be translated into **better sensitivity to DM**
- Ongoing efforts to exploit **deep learning** as an event reconstruction method for **CTA**
  - Event reconstruction over non-parametrized single images demonstrated!
  - Working on optimizing architectures

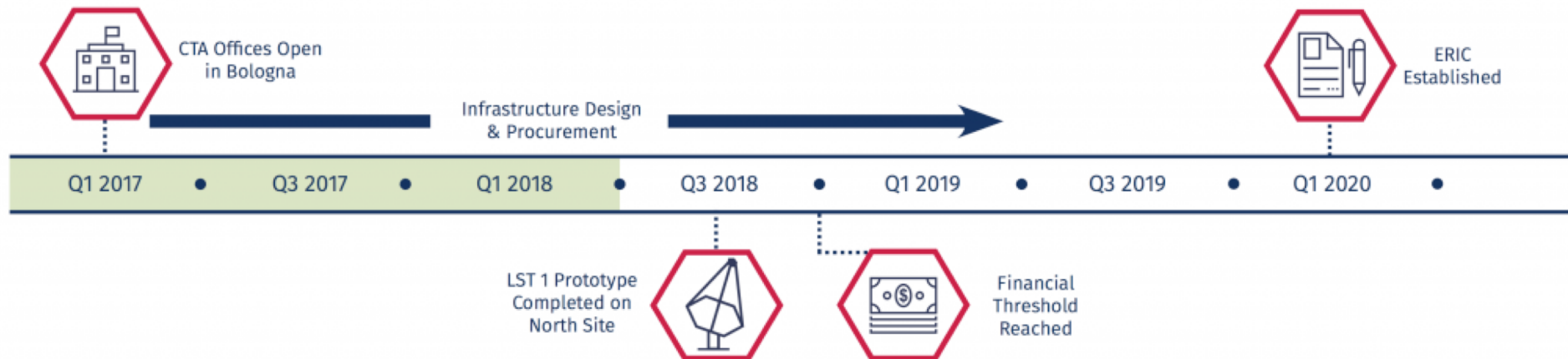




## Project Phases



## Current Phase



- 2022: Beginning of observatory operations
- 2025: Construction project completion



- Hexagonal convolutions:



T. Vuillaume,  
M. Jaquemont, et al.



<https://github.com/IndexedConv>

Comparison of the loss for regression task with hexagonal and standard kernels

