

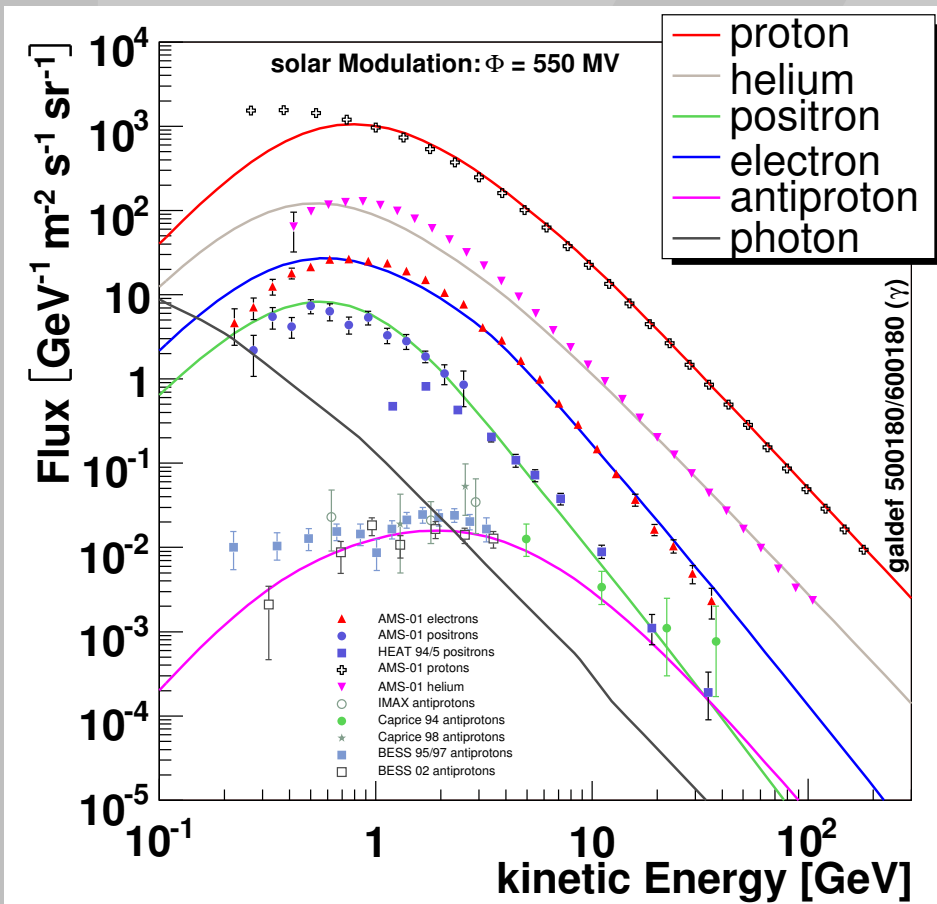
# **Simulationen der Wechselwirkungen von kosmischer Strahlung mit der Erdatmosphäre**

**DPG Heidelberg 2007**  
**9. März 2007**

**Philip von Doetinchem**  
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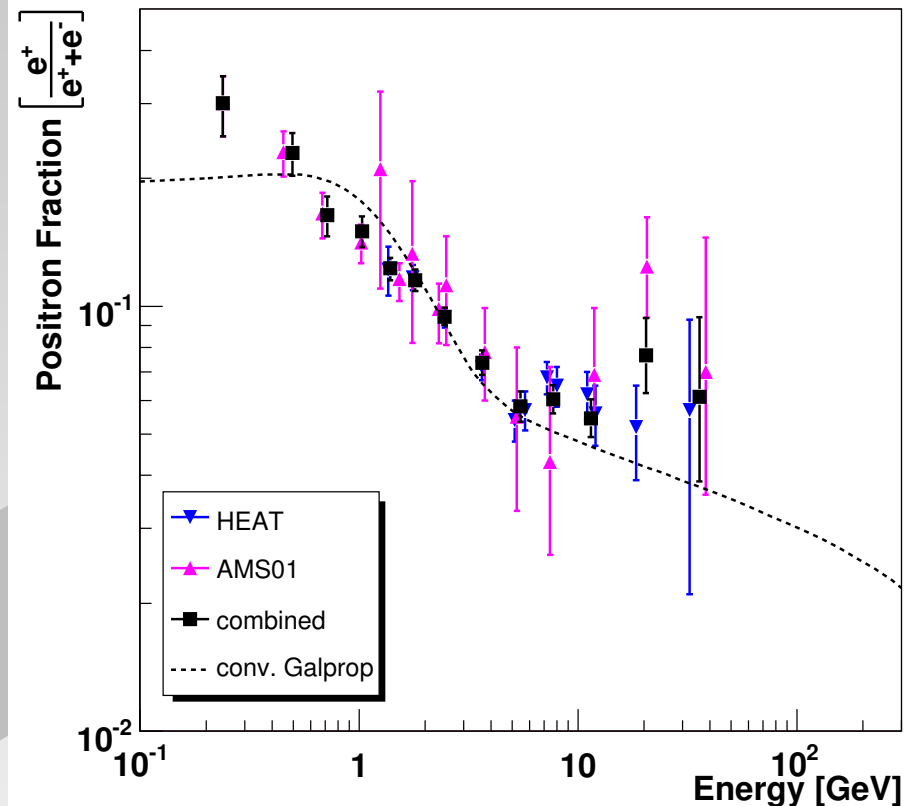
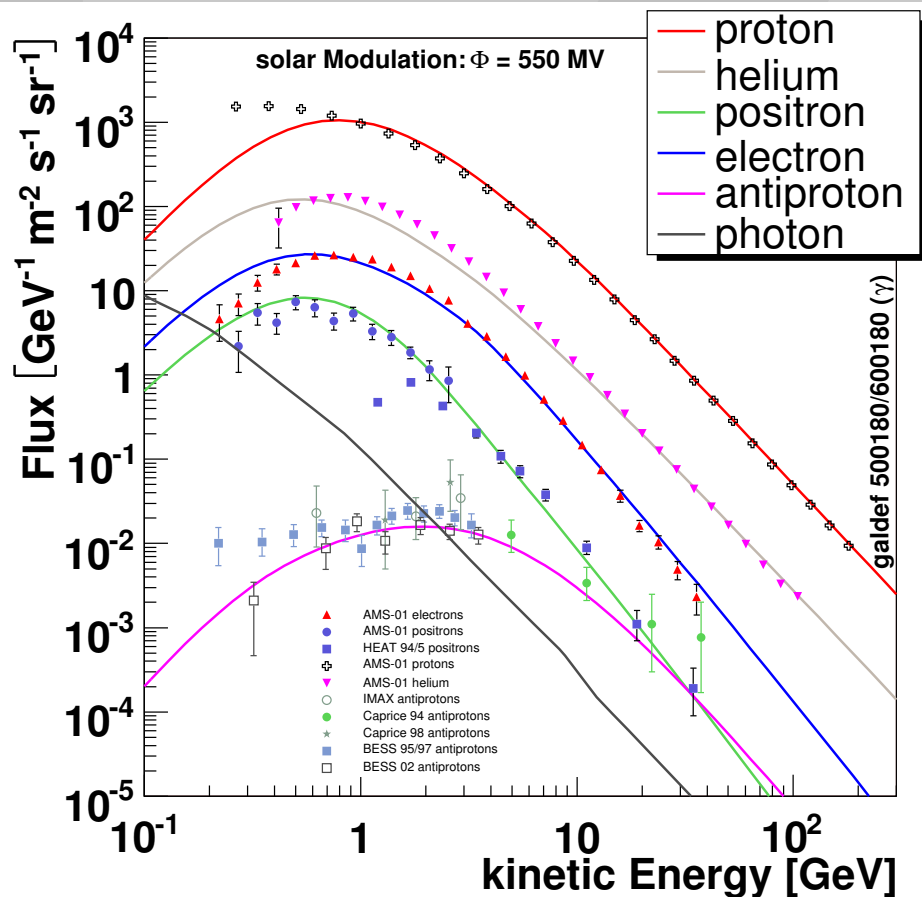
**I. Physikalisches Institut B, RWTH Aachen**

# Status of galactic cosmic ray measurements



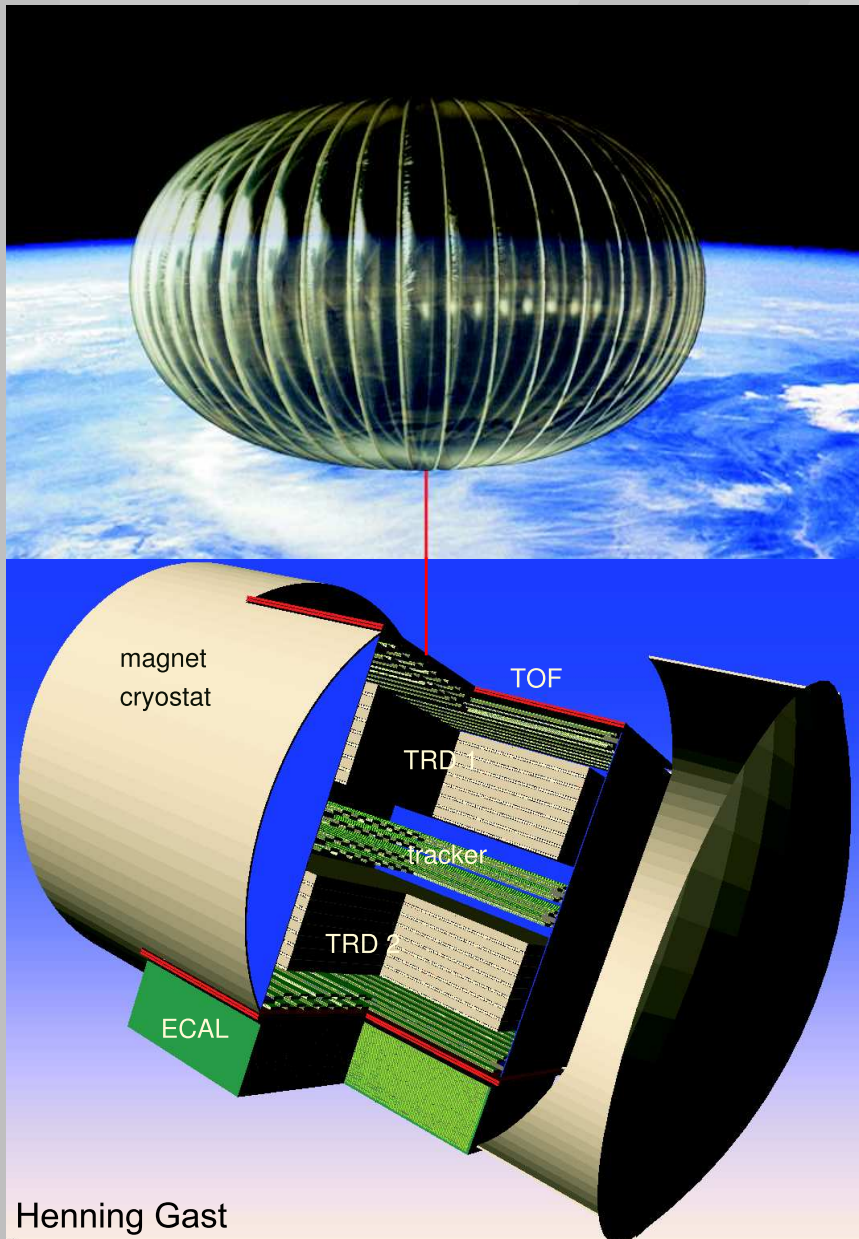
- ★ good agreement between cosmic ray propagation/production model and data in background fluxes ( $p$ ,  $e^-$ ,  $\alpha$ , other heavy nuclei) → **general model works!**

# Status of galactic cosmic ray measurements



- ★ good agreement between cosmic ray propagation/production model and data in background fluxes ( $p$ ,  $e^-$ ,  $\alpha$ , other heavy nuclei) → **general model works!**
- ★  $e^+$ ,  $\bar{p}$ ,  $\gamma$  are sensitive to possible dark matter signals (annihilation) and fluxes/fractions show some unexplained features  
→ **need precise measurement of fluxes up to high energies!**
- ★ measurements are **old**: HEAT (balloon: 94/95), AMS (space: 98)

# PEBS detector



## PEBS detector proposal:

- ★ cosmic ray measurements @ North- or Southpole
- ★ use of a balloon to measure in Earth's atmosphere @ 40 km altitude

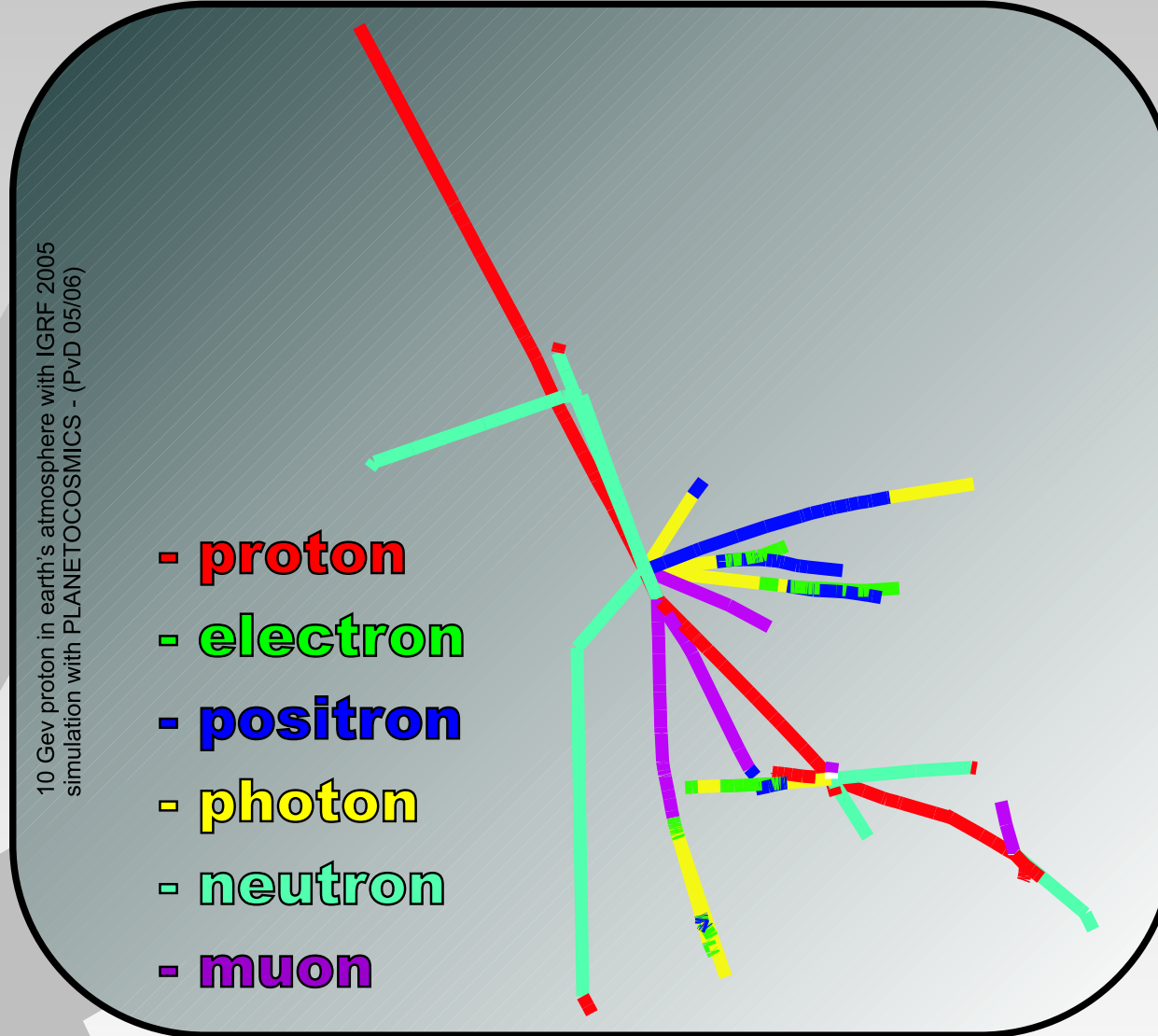
## Detector properties:

|                                |                                                     |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| flight time:                   | 20 days                                             |
| acceptance:                    | 2500 cm <sup>2</sup> sr                             |
| weight:                        | < 2 t                                               |
| magnetic field:                | 1 T                                                 |
| momentum resolution:           | $\sigma_p = \frac{0.14\%}{\text{GeV}} p \oplus 2\%$ |
| proton-positron rejection:     | $\mathcal{O}(10^6)$                                 |
| electron-antiproton rejection: | $\mathcal{O}(10^5)$                                 |

→ Details: presentation H. Gast

## PEBS Detector

# Air shower in Earth's atmosphere



⇒ careful study of secondary fluxes caused by atmosphere needed!

# PLANETOCOSMICS

**Simulation of the Earth's atmosphere and magnetic field with PLANETOCOSMICS (GEANT4)**

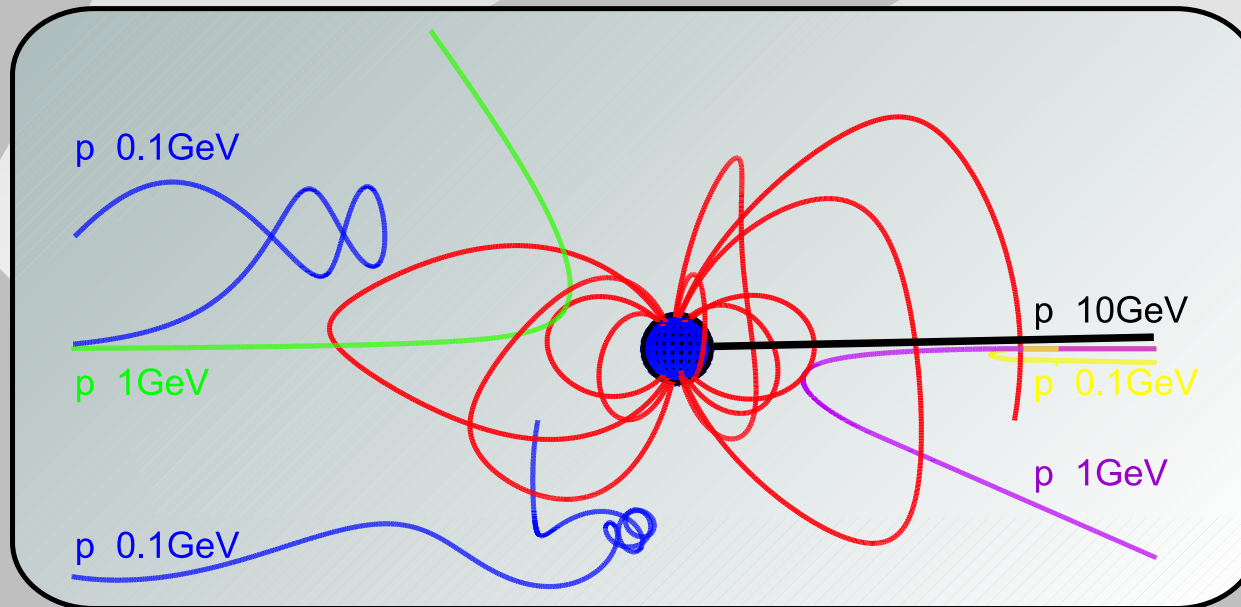
(developed by L. Desorgher, Uni. Bern <http://cosray.unibe.ch/laurent/planetocosmics>)

## ★ general properties:

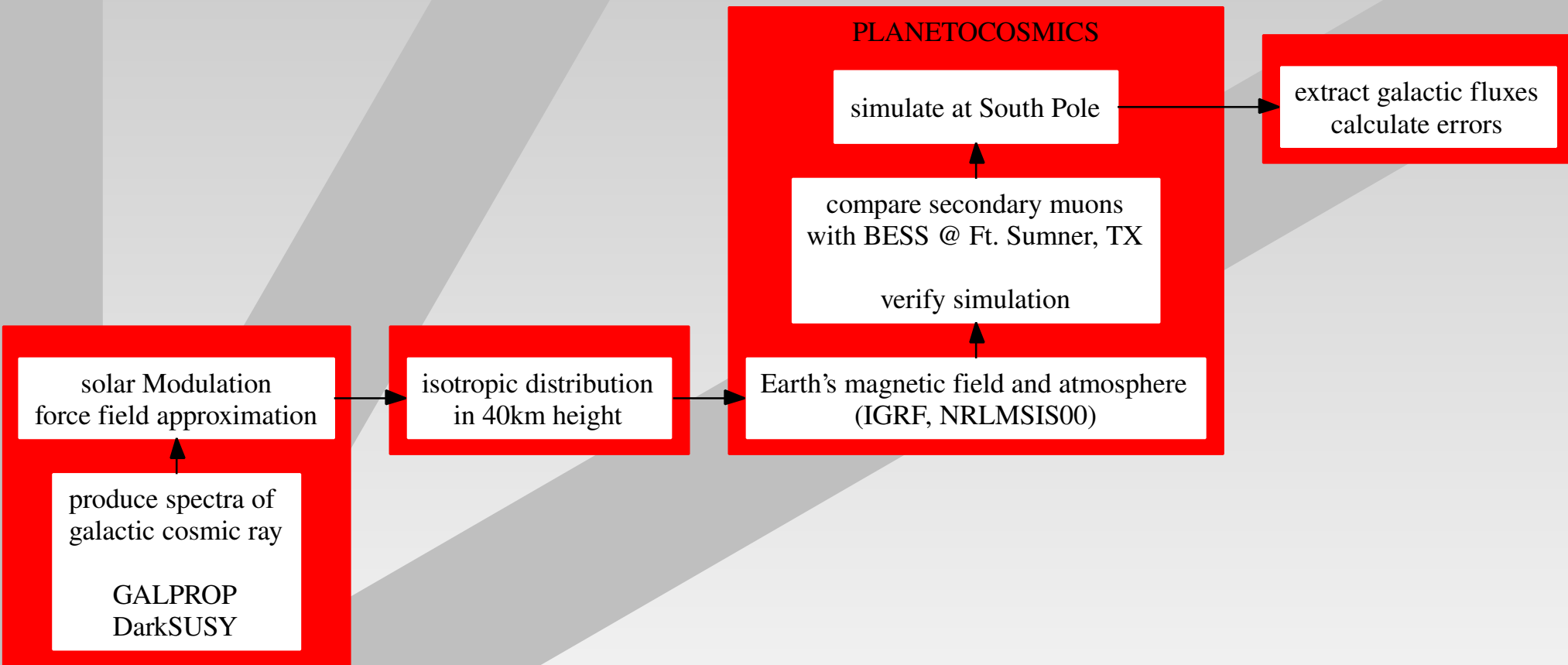
- atmospheric model: NRLMSISE00
- magnetic field: IGRF 2005
- solar modulation: mean field approximation

## ★ properties of this simulation:

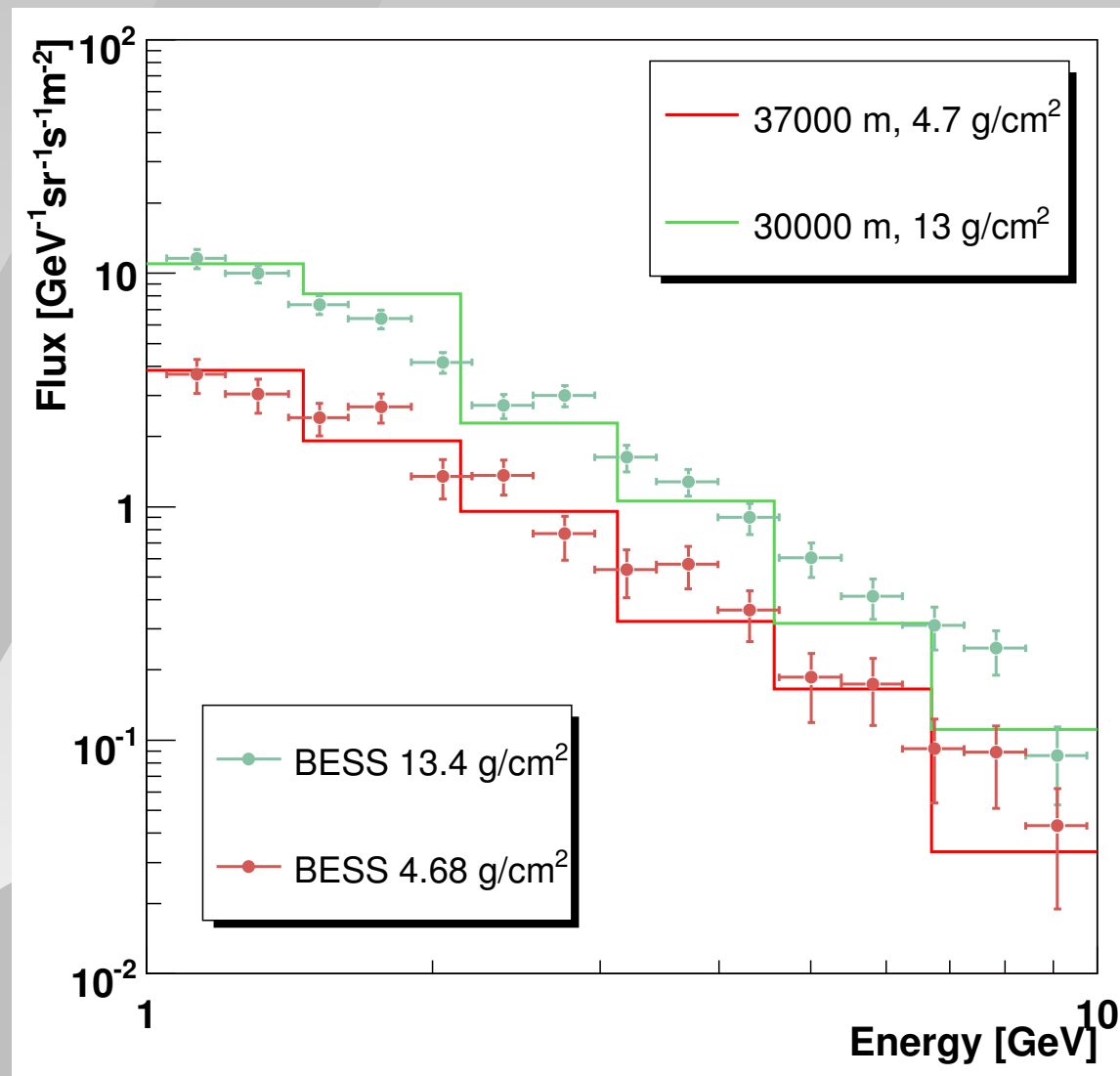
- input spectra fluxes: conventional Galprop model (tuned in the lower energy region) (galdef 500180 → astro-ph/0406254)
- particle gun in 500 km altitude produces isotropic distribution in altitudes



# Scheme of simulations and analysis



# Verification of atmospheric physics model

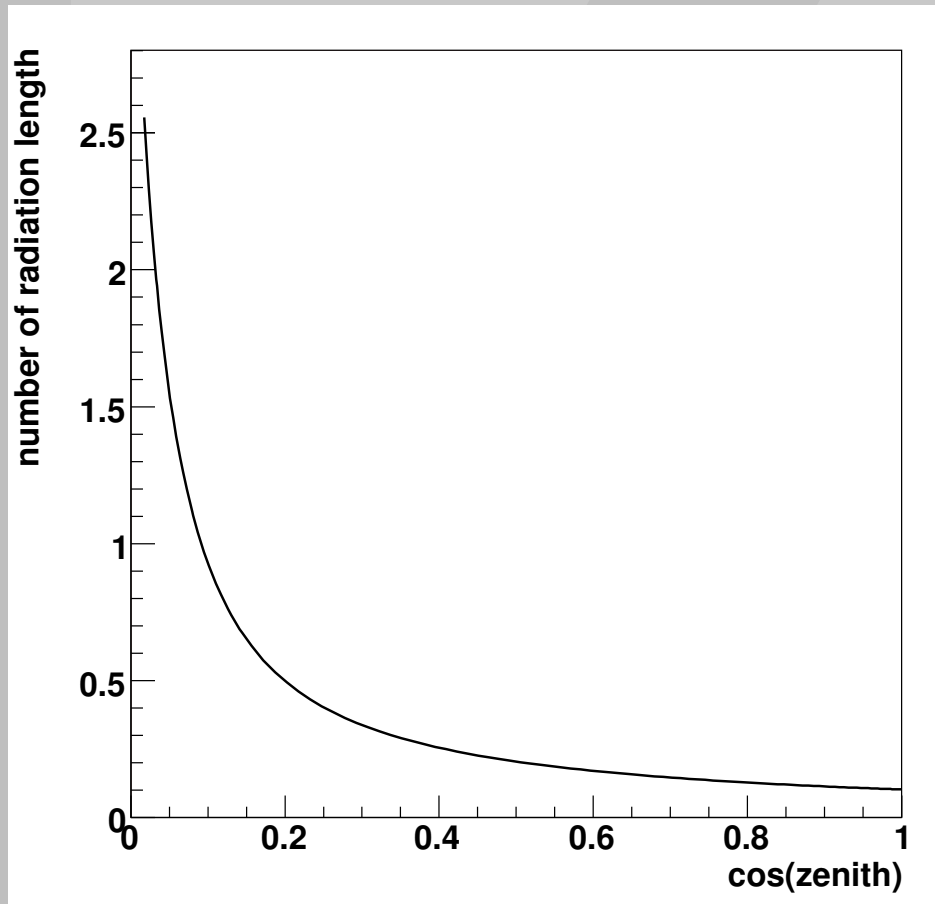


Comparison of simulations with BESS data in Ft. Sumner, TX (09/2001).

**Simulation seems to work within the errors!**

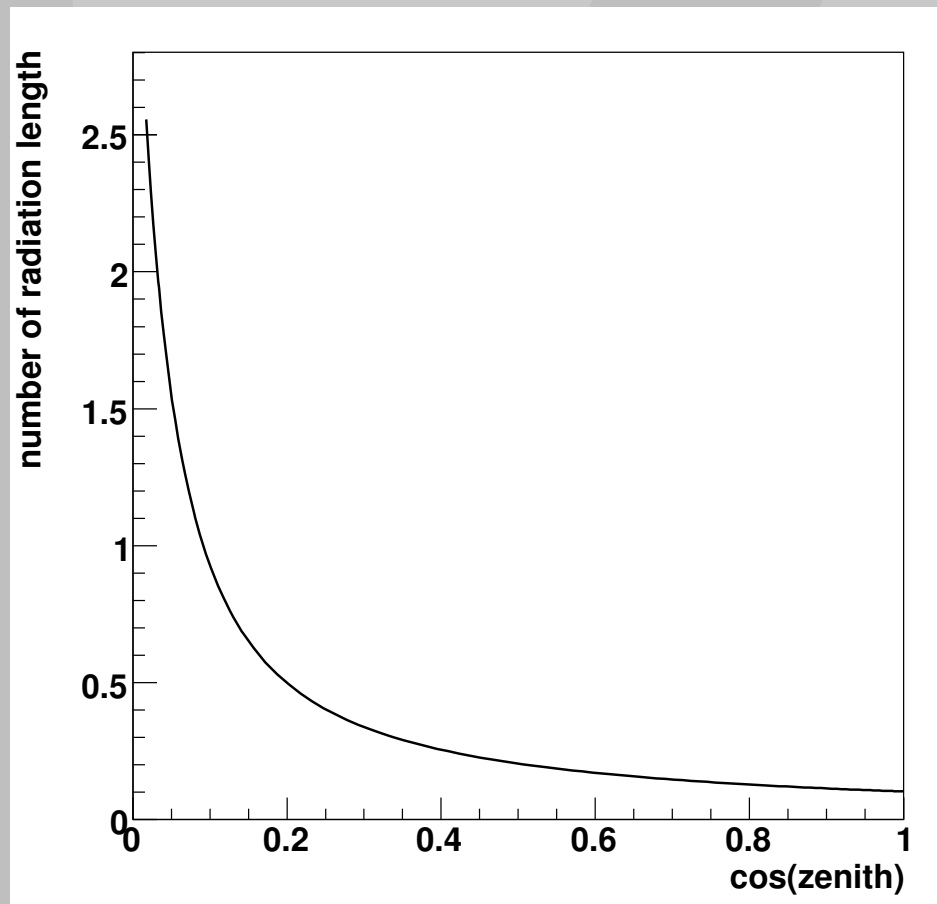


# Mean radiation length in Dec. 2005 at the South Pole

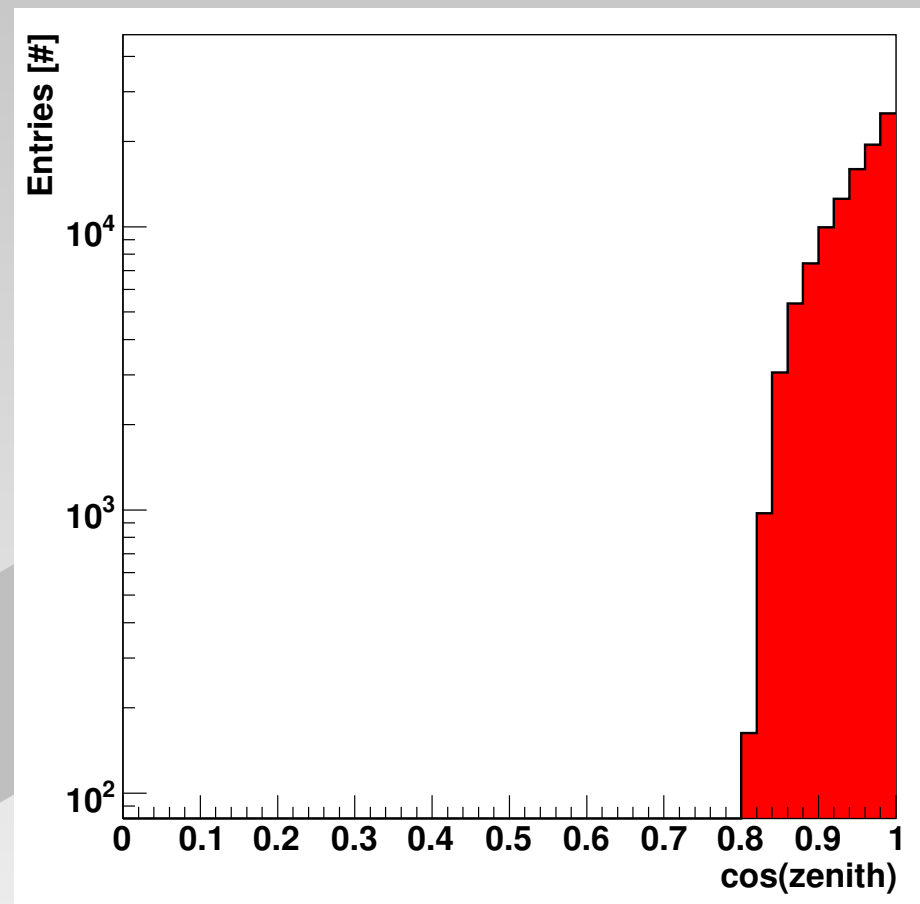


- ★ calculated with the atmospheric model and the trajectory of the cosmic rays
- ★ mean number of radiation lengths before 40 km is 39 % for isotropic distribution

# Mean radiation length in Dec. 2005 at the South Pole



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- ★ mean number of radiation lengths before 40 km is 39 % for isotropic distribution



- ★ **BUT:** upright detector in atmosphere is only sensitive to small zenith angles  
⇒ mean number of radiation lengths goes down (less secondaries)

# Corrections & detector properties

$$N_{e^+}^{\text{PEBS}} = N_{e^+}^{\text{prim}} \cdot \epsilon_{e^+}^{\text{PEBS}} \cdot \epsilon_{e^+}^{\text{atmo}} + N_{e^+}^{\text{sec}} \cdot \epsilon_{e^+}^{\text{PEBS}} + \frac{N_p^{\text{tot}}}{R_p} + N_{e^-}^{\text{tot}} \cdot \epsilon_{e^- \rightarrow e^+}^{\text{PEBS}}$$

## ★ meaning of quantities:

- **number of particles** (GalProp, PLANETOCOSMICS):

$$N_{e^+}^{\text{PEBS}}, N_{e^+}^{\text{prim}}, N_{e^+}^{\text{sec}}, N_p^{\text{tot}}, N_{e^-}^{\text{tot}}$$

- **detection efficiency** (detector simulation):

$$\epsilon_{e^+}^{\text{PEBS}} = 50 \%$$

- **proton-positron Rejection** (detector simulation):

$$R_p = 10^6 \text{ for all energies}$$

- **electron-antiproton Rejection** (detector simulation):

$$R_{e^-} = 10^5 \text{ for all energies}$$

with very high rejection for  $E_{\text{kin}} < 1 \text{ GeV}$  (TOF  $\rightarrow$  time resolution)

- **loss of particles in atmosphere** (PLANETOCOSMICS):

$$\epsilon_{e^+}^{\text{atmo}} \text{ energy dependent}$$

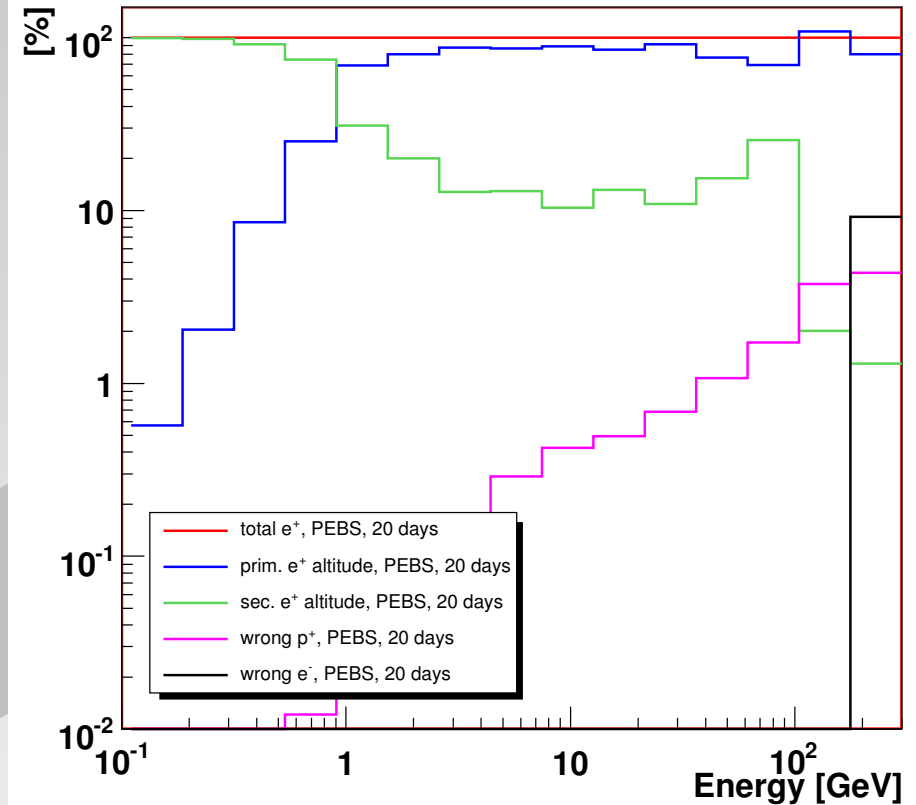
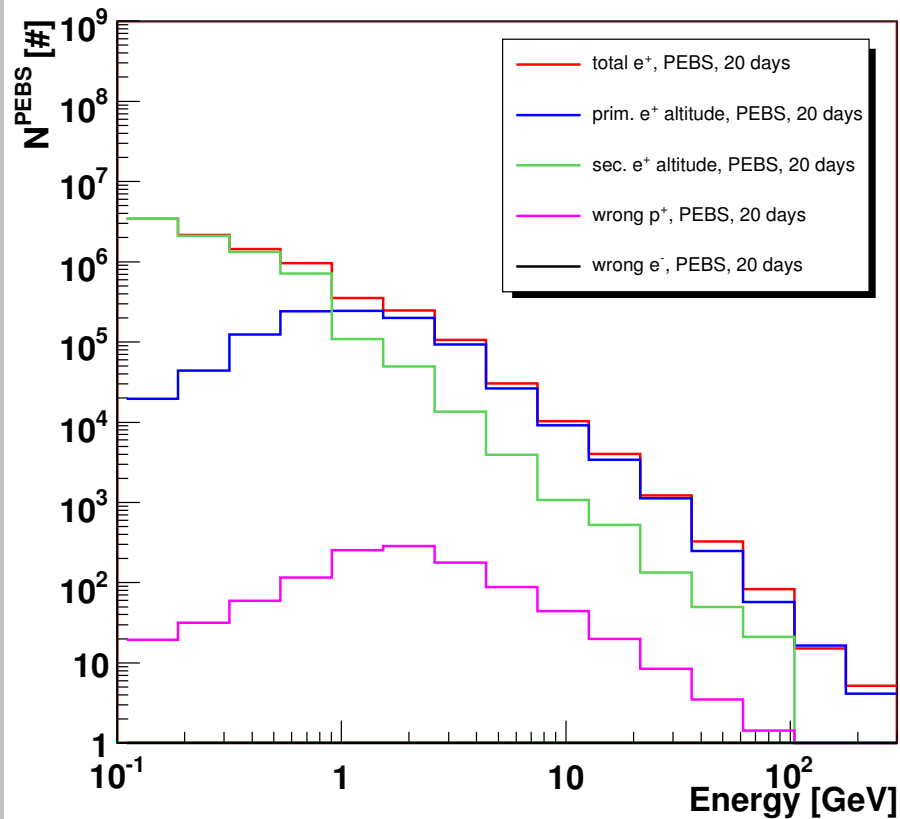
- **tracker misidentification** (detector simulation):

$$\epsilon_{e^- \rightarrow e^+}^{\text{PEBS}} \text{ from } \sigma_p = \frac{0.14\%}{\text{GeV}} p \oplus 2\%$$

## ★ error estimates:

- statistical errors:  $\sqrt{N_{\dots}}$
- systematic errors for atmospheric physics: 10 %
- systematic errors for detector properties: 3 %

# Positrons



flux composition of simulated positron flux in 40 km

composition of simulated positron flux in 40 km

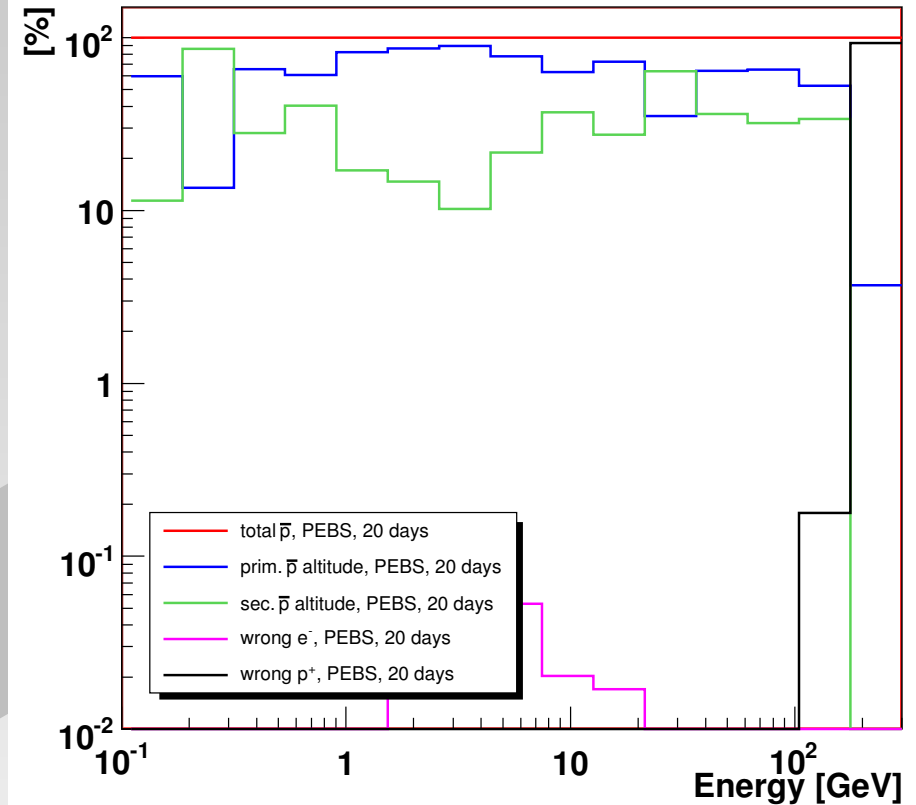
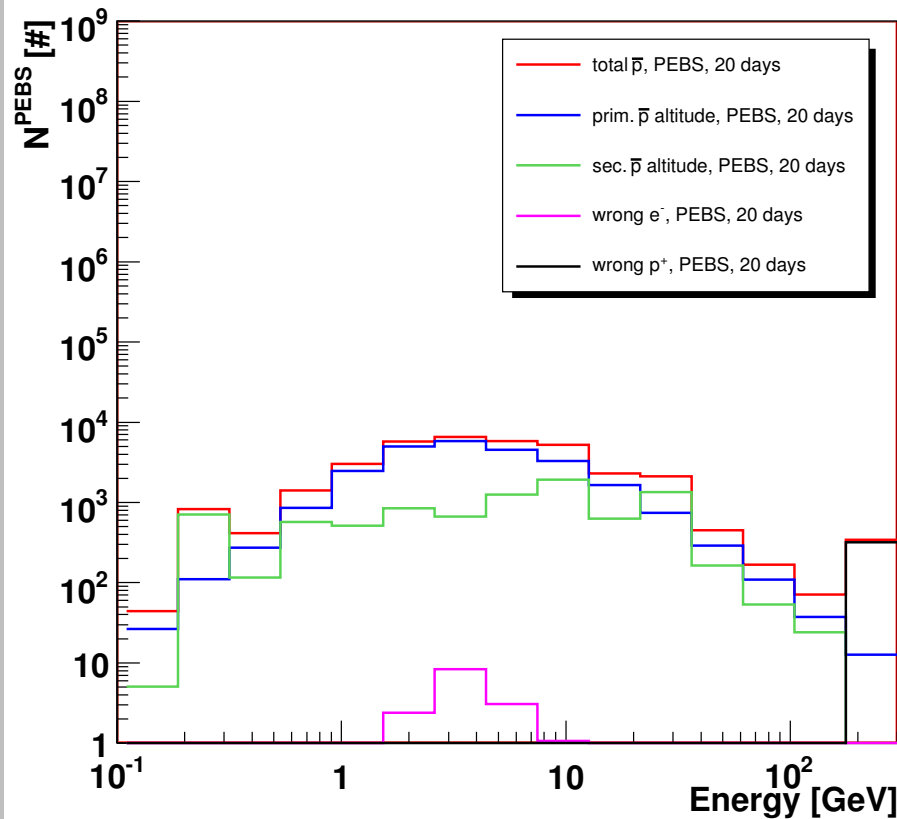
altitude = 40 km

acceptance =  $0.25 \text{ m}^2 \text{ sr}$

time = 20 days

solar Modulation  $\Phi$  = 750 MV

# Antiprotons



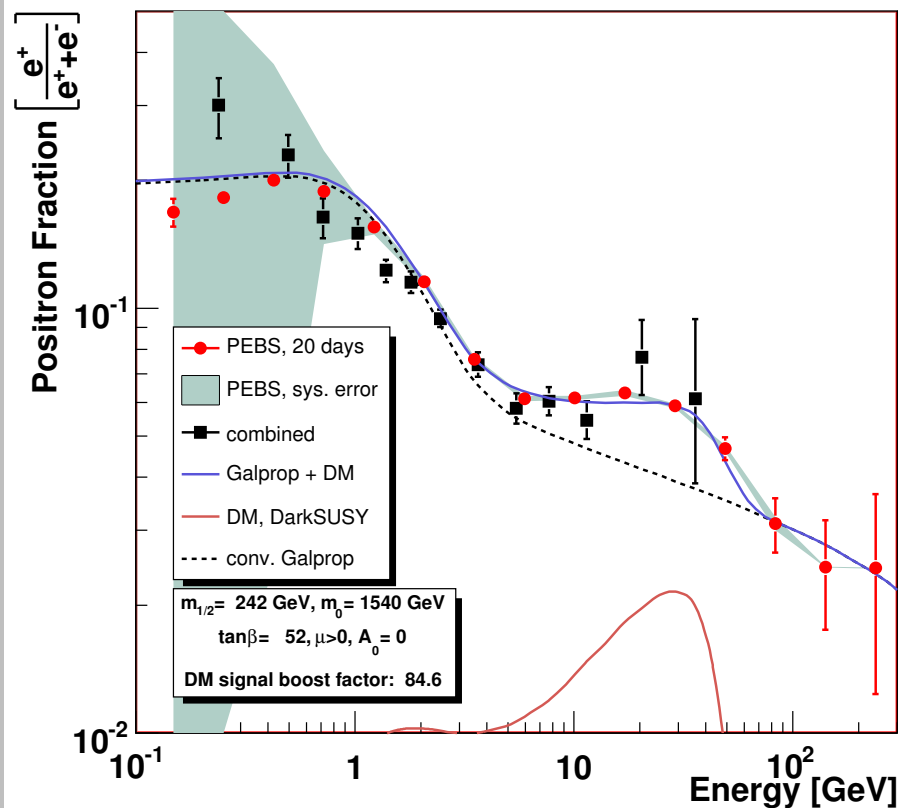
flux composition of simulated antiproton flux in 40 km altitude = 40 km

acceptance =  $0.25 \text{ m}^2 \text{ sr}$

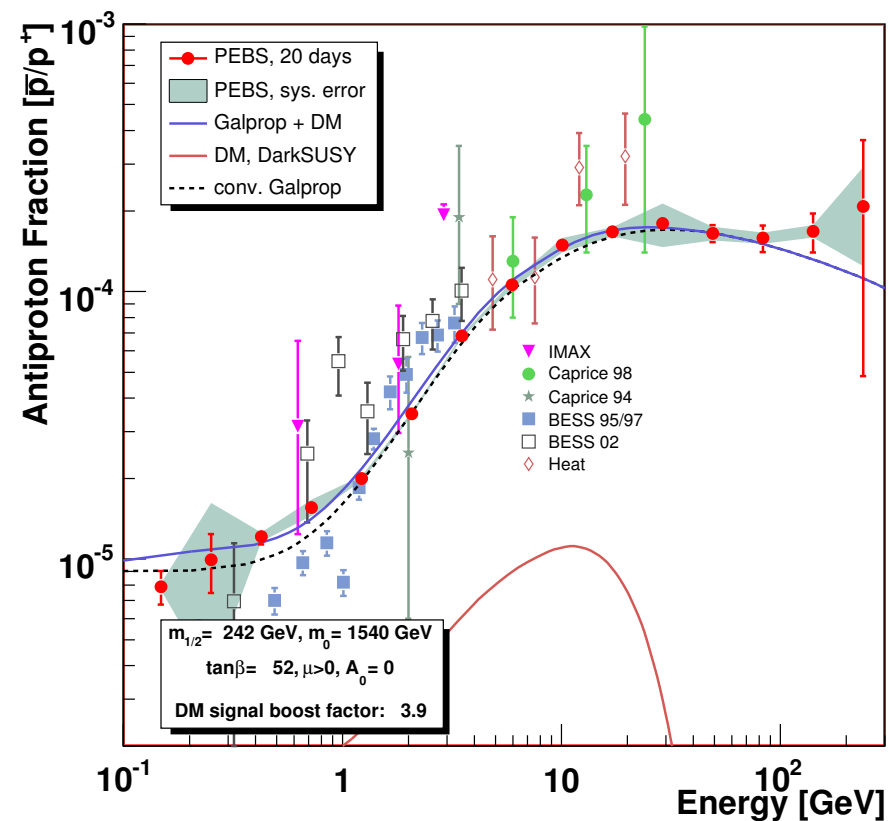
time = 20 days

solar Modulation  $\Phi$  = 750 MV

# Fractions (lower sys. errors!) : $e^+/(e^+ + e^-)$ & $\bar{p}/p$



Positron fraction (50 % detector eff.)



Antiproton fraction (50 % detector eff.)

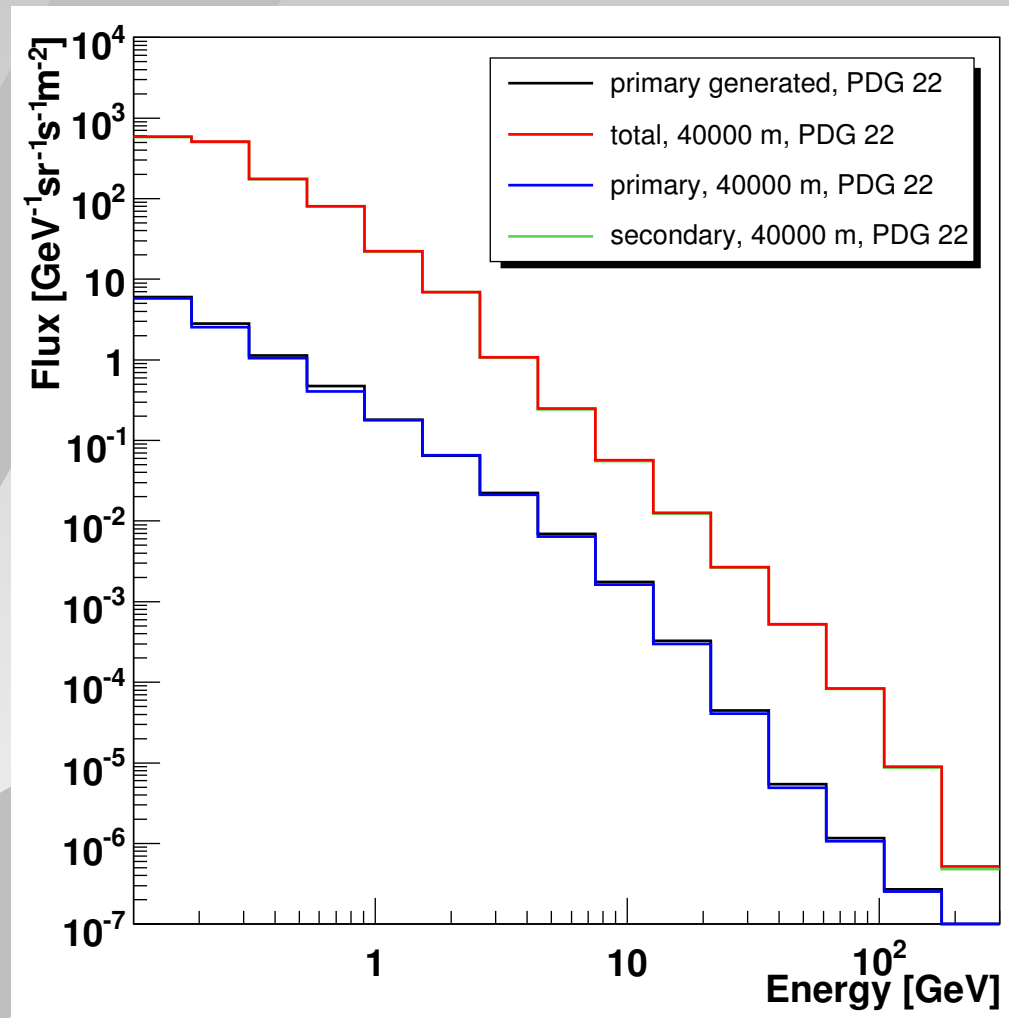
altitude = 40 km

acceptance =  $0.25 \text{ m}^2 \text{ sr}$

time = 20 days

solar Modulation  $\Phi$  = 750 MV

# Photon fluxes in 40 km



- ★ diffuse  $\gamma$ 's, averaged over all directions in the galaxy
- ★ **too many secondaries, flux measurement not possible!**

# Summary & Outlook

## What have been done:

- ★ simulation of cosmic ray measurement on the South Pole in 40 km altitude with PEBS
- ★ error estimation including the correction of the main uncertainties
- ★ good measurement of positron fraction possible (ca.  $10^2 \times$  statistics of HEAT)
- ★ good measurement of antiproton ratio possible



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## What should be done:

- ★ study the detectability of heavy ions to measure e.g. B/C ratio
- ★ develop a simulation for a better estimation of solar modulation
- ★ study a better implementation of high energetic alphas in GEANT4?