

The Astroparticles Lens: Using Particles From Space To Understand Our World



Neutrino Tomography

Keith McBride-Compton Lecture 3

The Astroparticle Lens: Lecture 3





$$E \propto \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

The Electromagnetic Spectrum

10^{-15} m
 $\lambda \sim 1$ fm

More energy
→

$\lambda \sim 1$ m



Radio

long wavelengths
that are used
for radio stations

Microwaves

Cooks snacks!

Infrared

Makes up heat

Visible Light

All the colors of the
rainbow - what we see

Ultraviolet

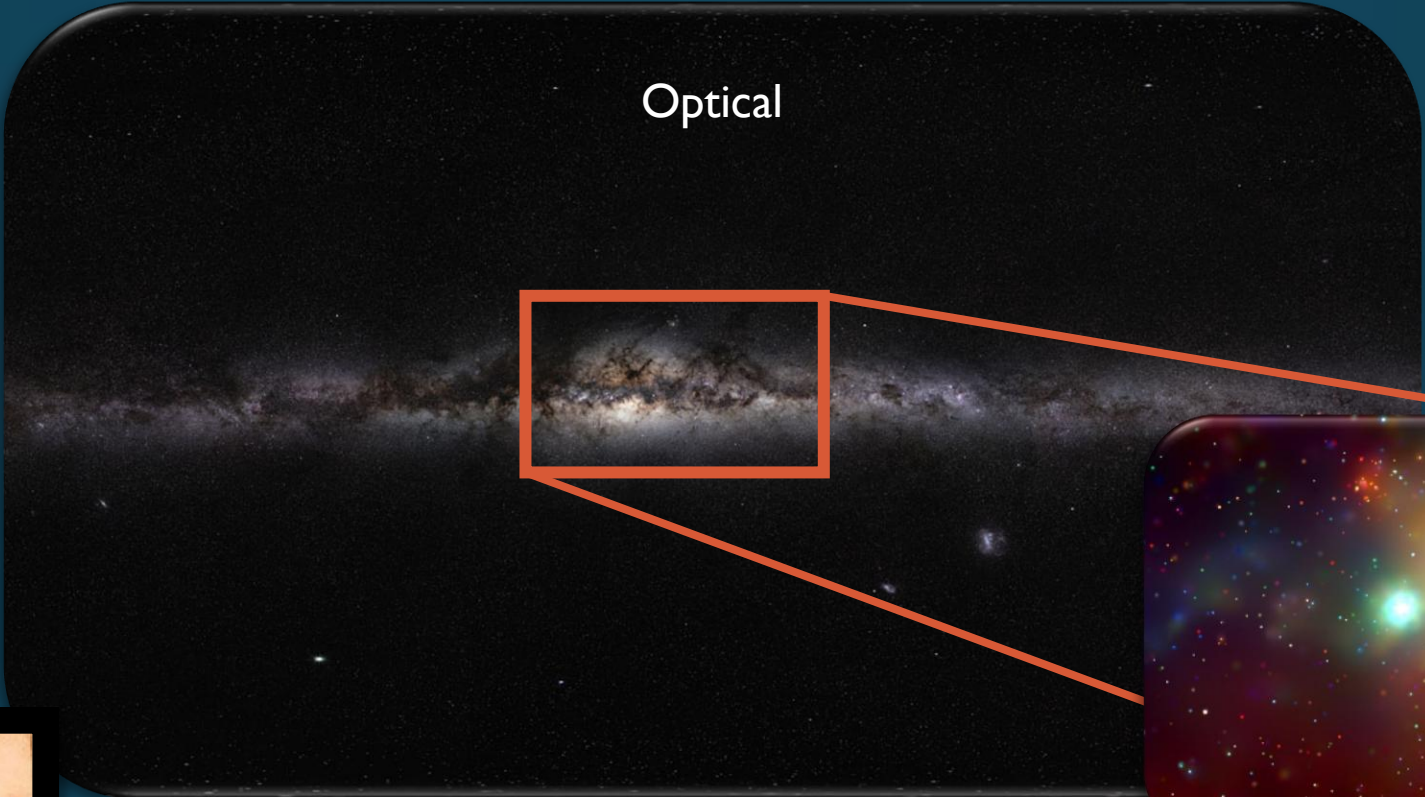
Responsible for
sunburns ☹️

X-Ray

Takes pictures of
your bones!

Gamma Ray

Part of many superheroes'
origin stories -
like the Incredible Hulk!



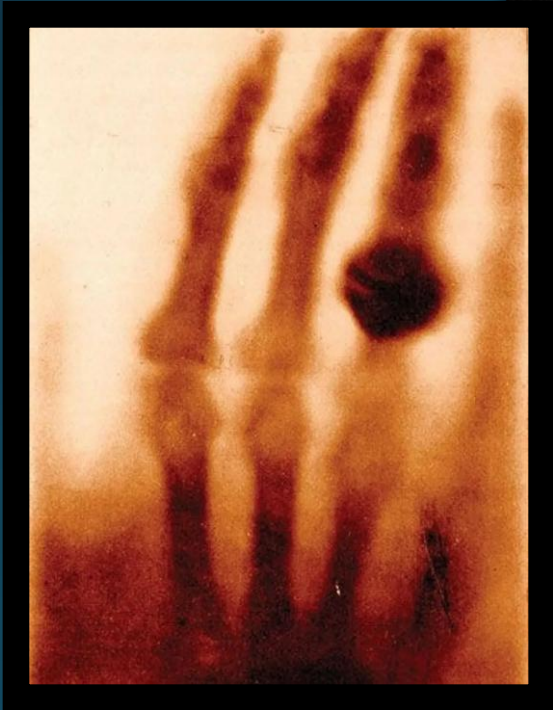
Optical

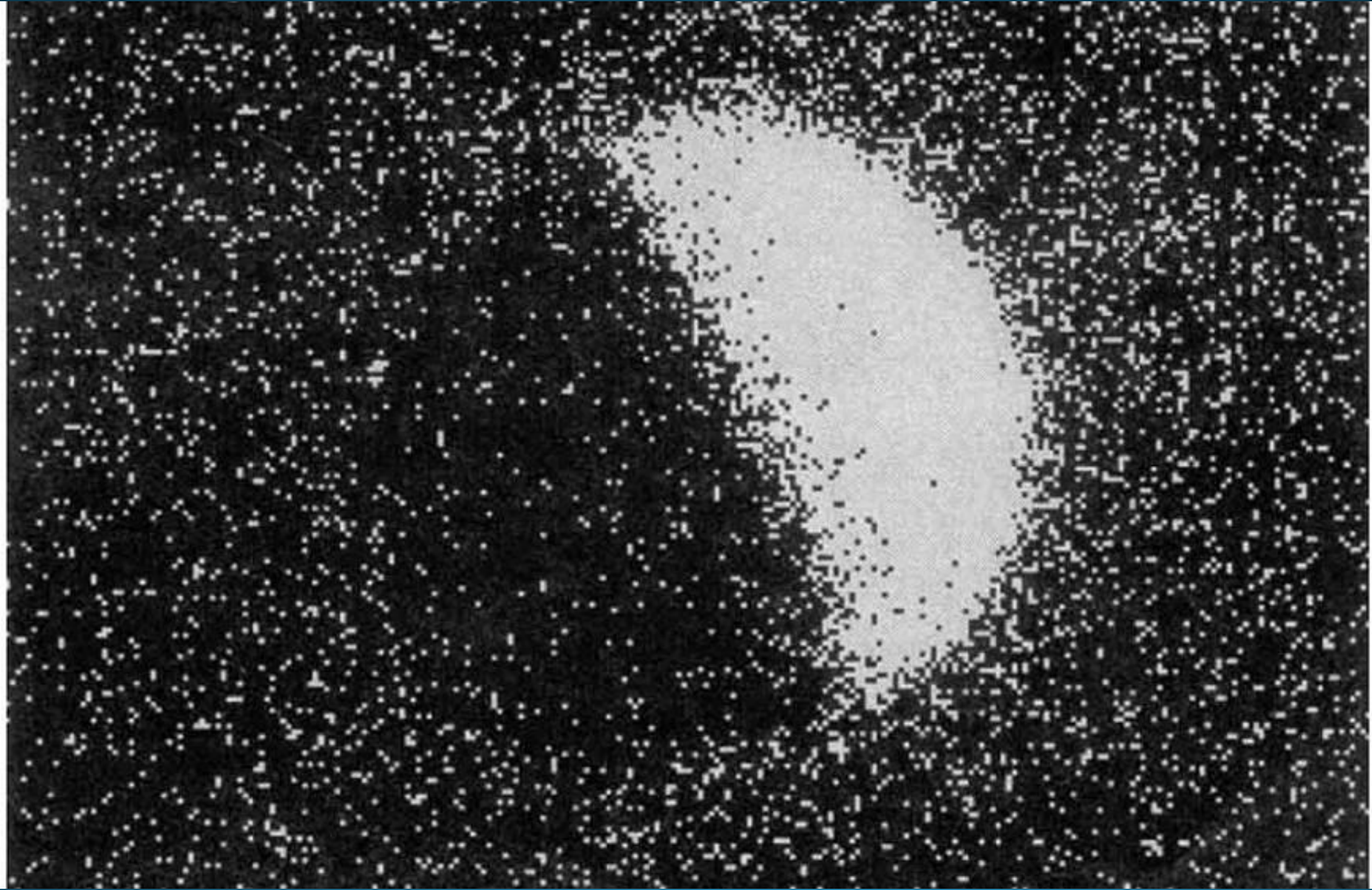
Gas in the center is Millions of degrees!

X-Ray



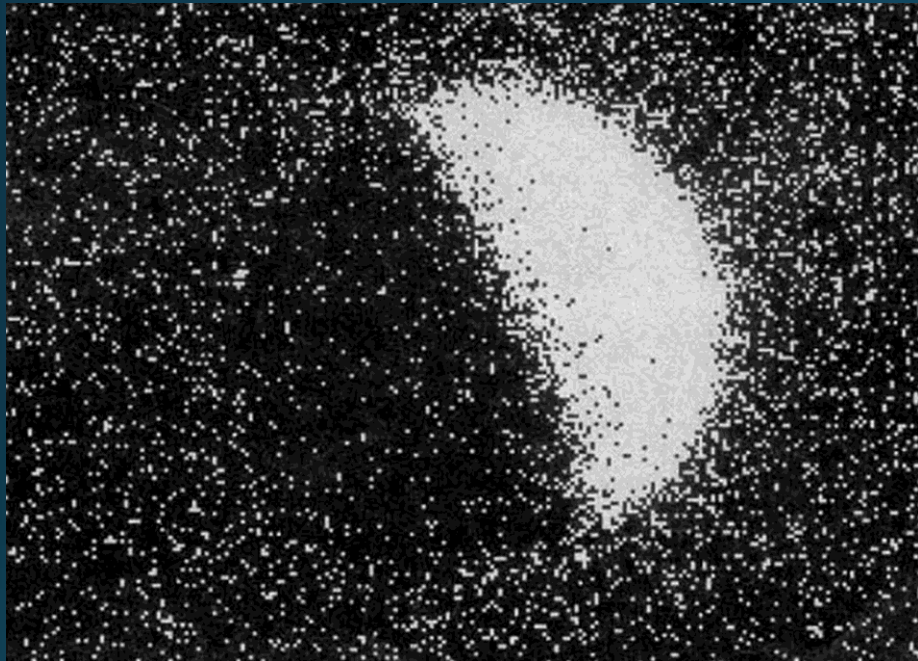
With a different type of lens, you can:
I. See through opaque objects







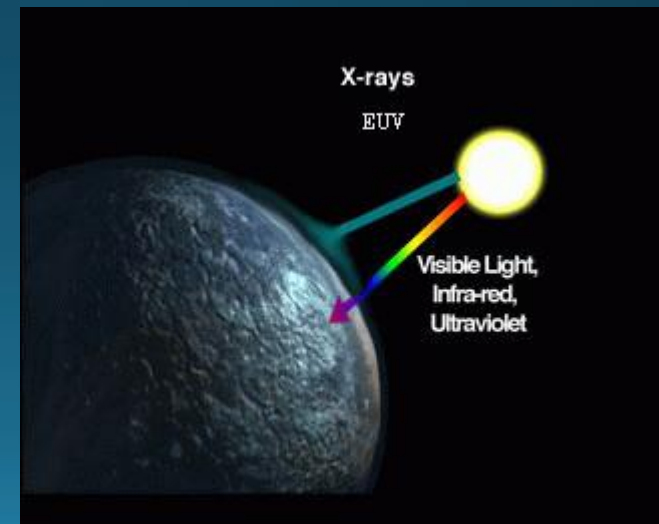
X-rays don't make it to the ground



Line of sight – The atmosphere is in our way

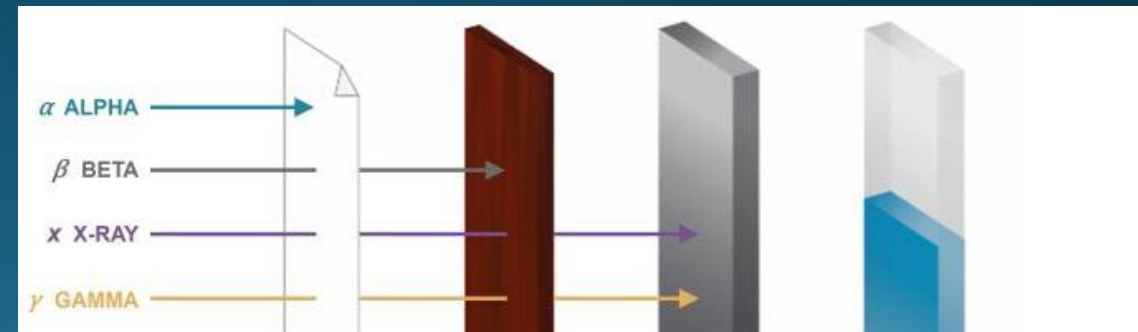
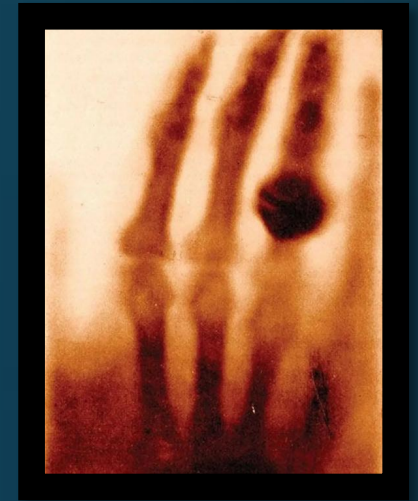
X-Ray telescopes have to be in space

- The universe's X-rays are absorbed in the atmosphere

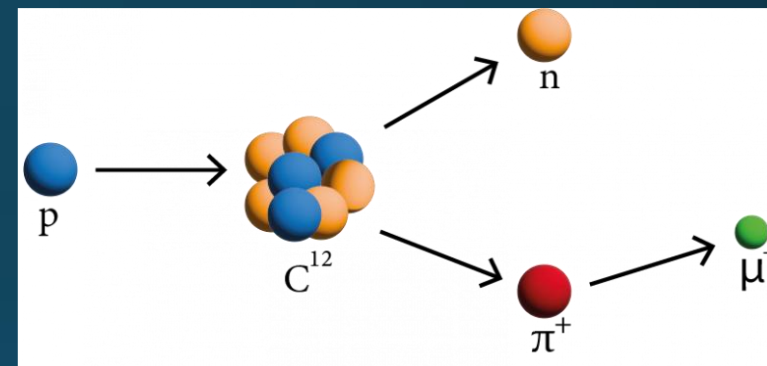
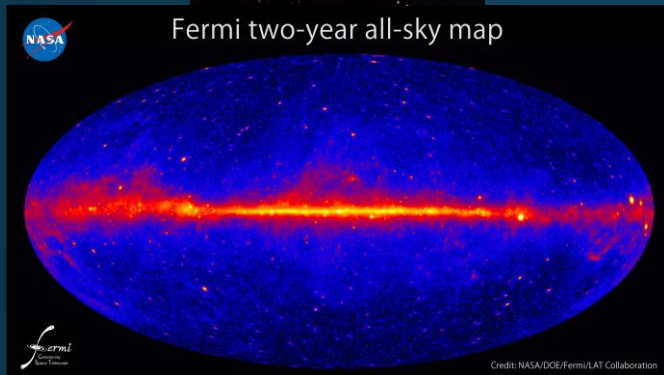
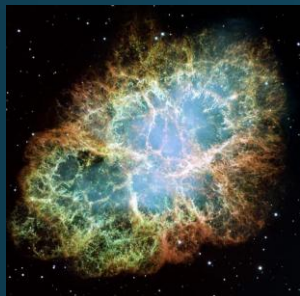


X-rays can't probe everything

- X-Rays can go through the skin
 - But not the metal ring
- The moon is dense
- Other kinds of radiation might help?

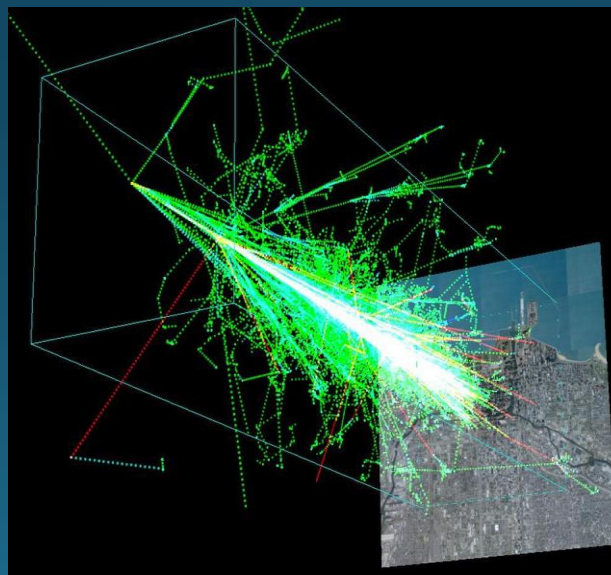


We live in a sea of cosmic rays



1. The cosmic ray protons interact with gas in the atmosphere

2. The muons make it to the surface
→ Penetrating radiation

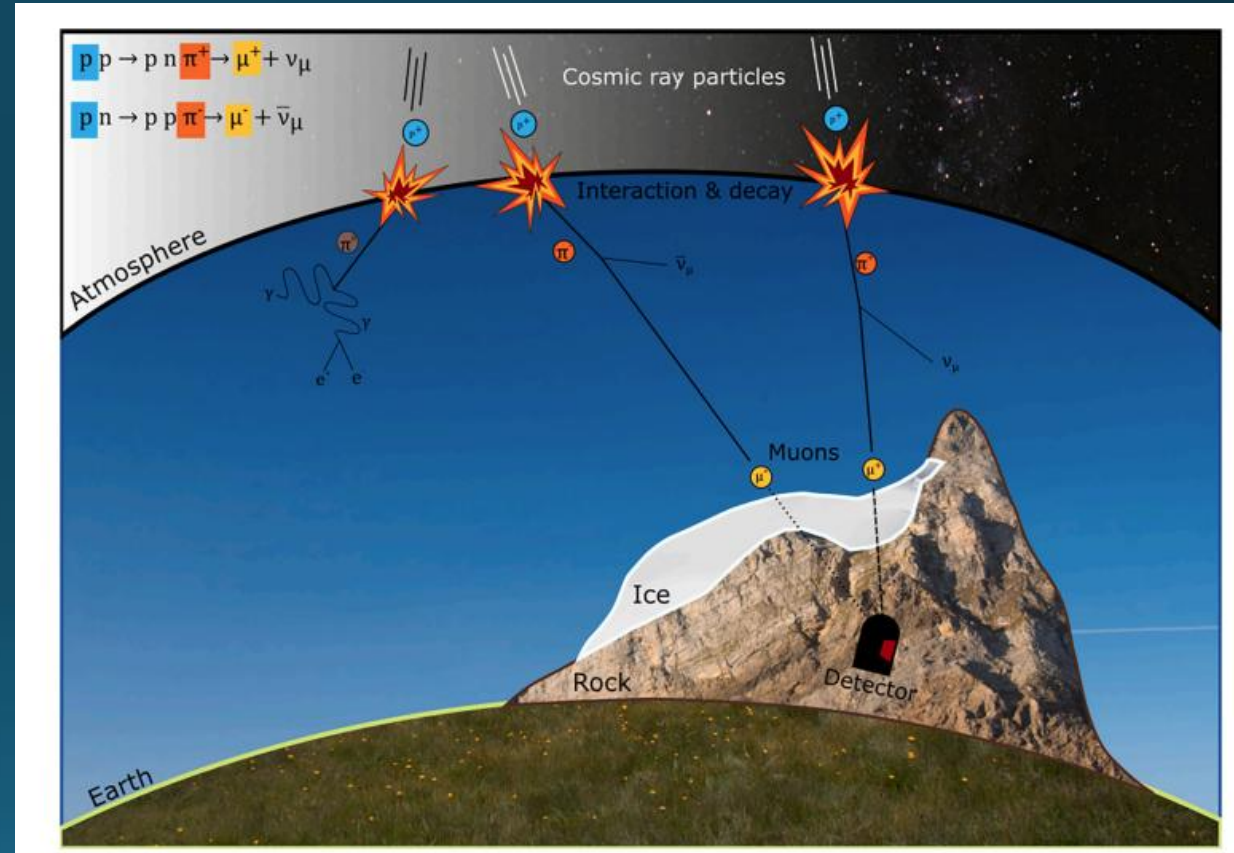
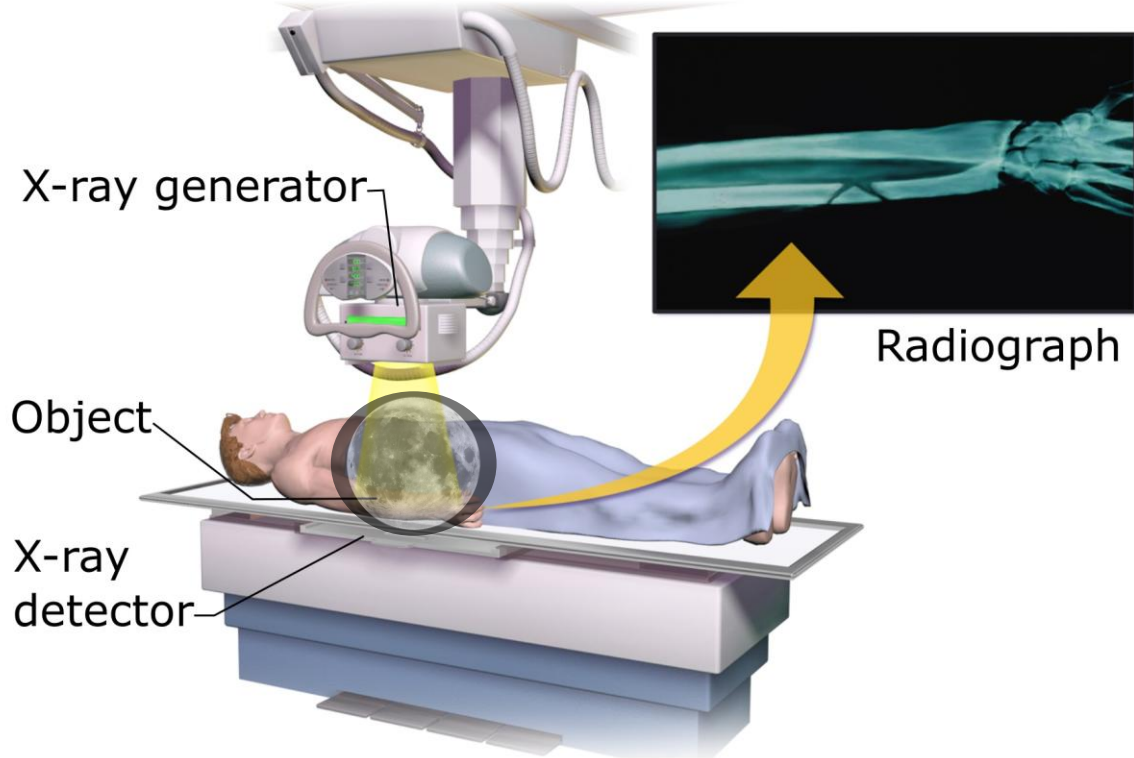


The Astroparticle Lens: Lecture 3

Last time- muon tomography

Muography

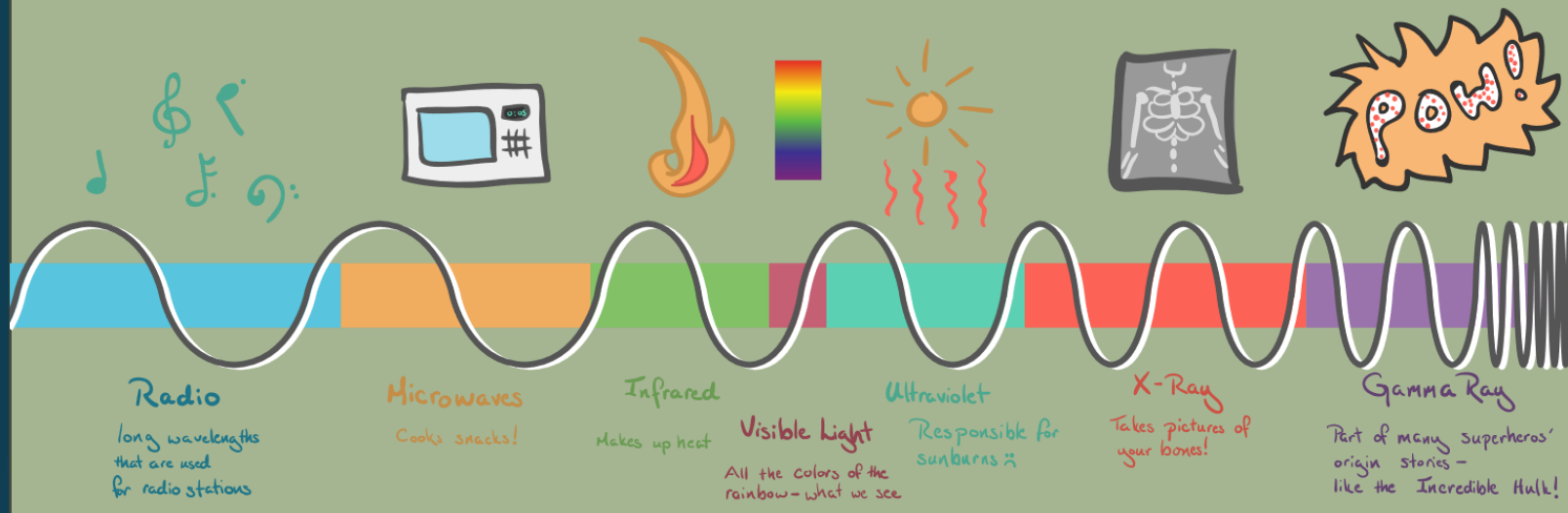
Projectional radiography



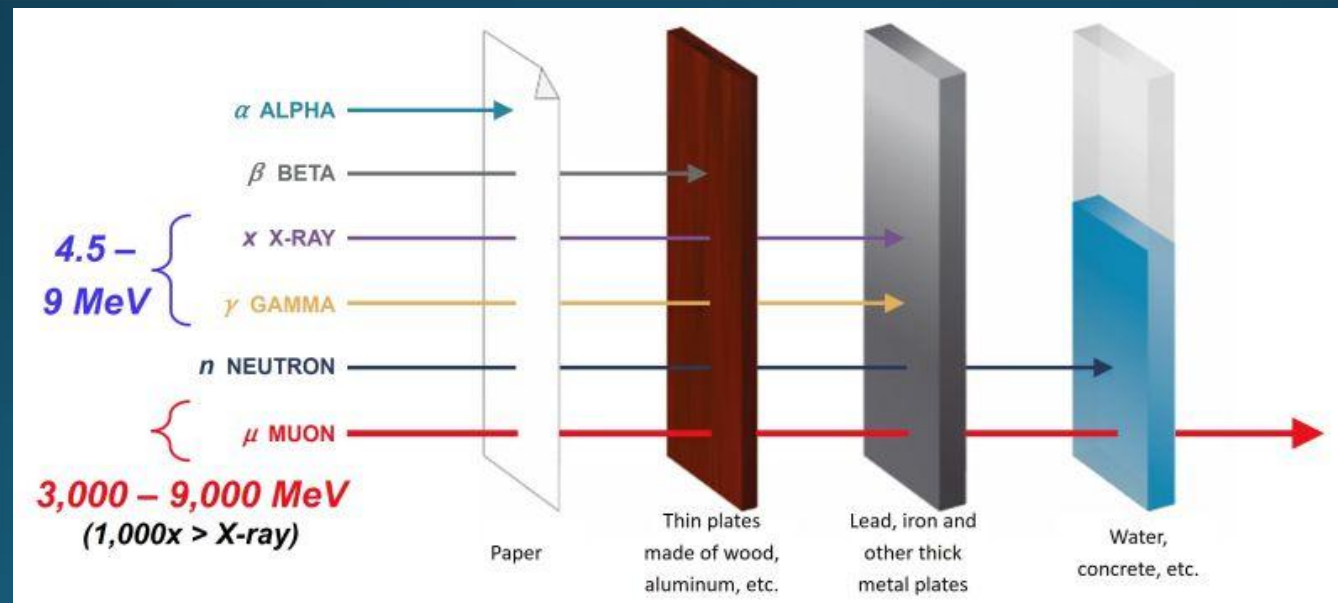
“Sit there for 100 days”

Line of sight with the cosmic ray muon lens

The Electromagnetic Spectrum



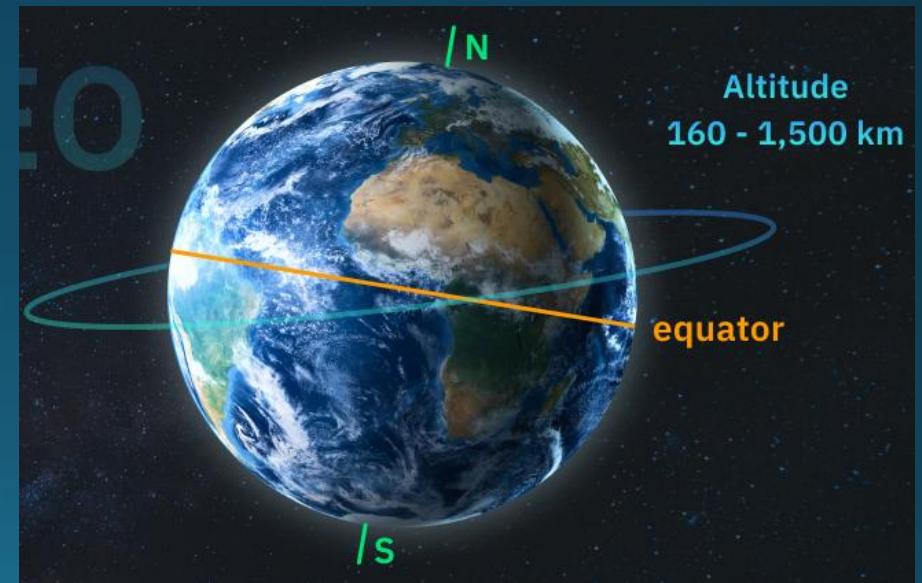
Radiation



Muon tomography of the moon?

- Muons can travel through hundreds of meters of rock
- But cosmic ray muons produced at Earth b/c of atmosphere
- What about muons from outer space?
 - Muons decay
 - 2.2us (even with time dilation)
 - They can travel ~60km or so
- And even then, the moon is too thick and dense (~3,400km)
 - Same with the Earth (~12,000km)

Not really feasible



Different kinds of radiation

Alpha

Nucleus of Helium atoms

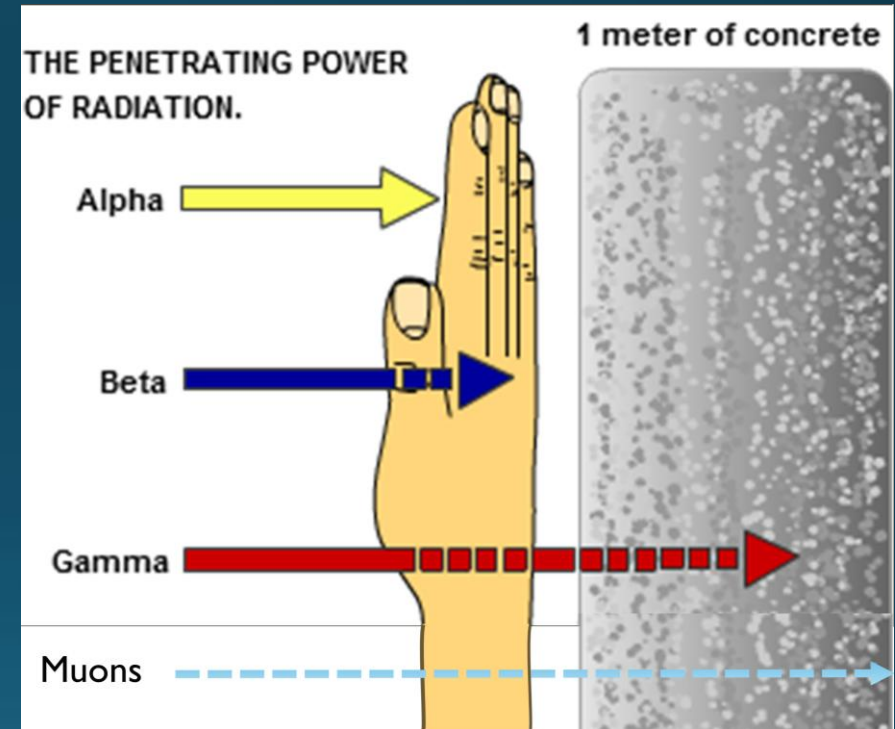
Beta

Electrons

Gamma

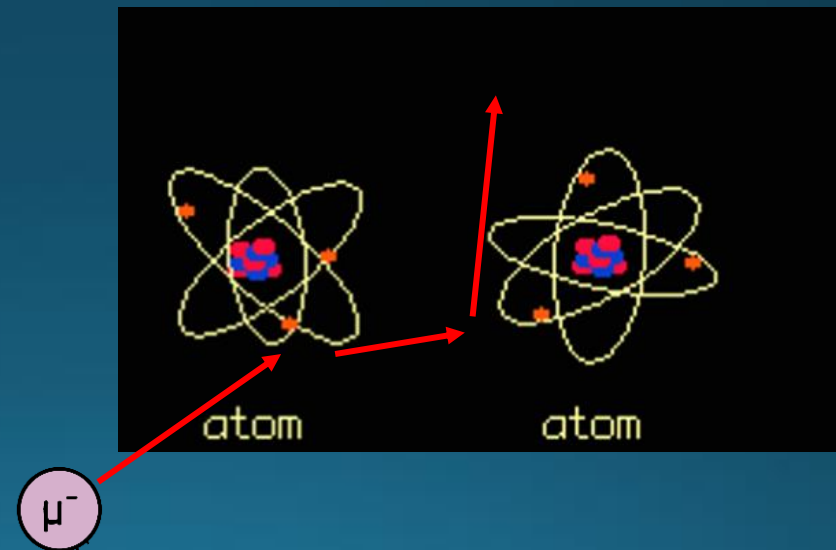
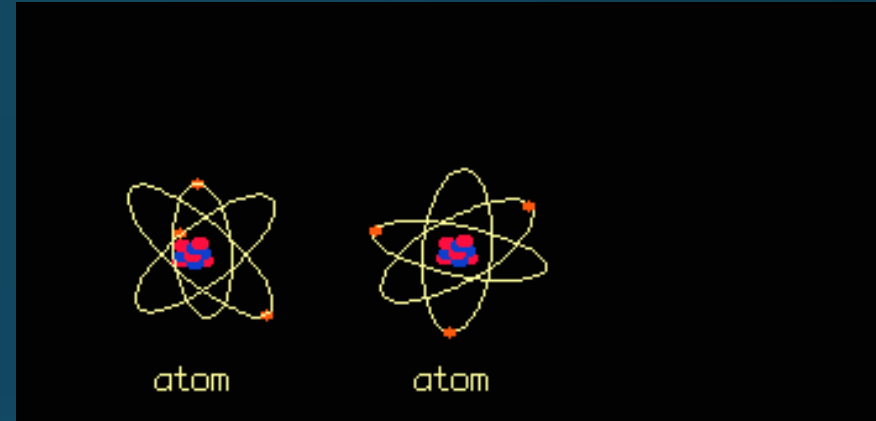
Photons

Muons are more
penetrating



Energy loss of radiation

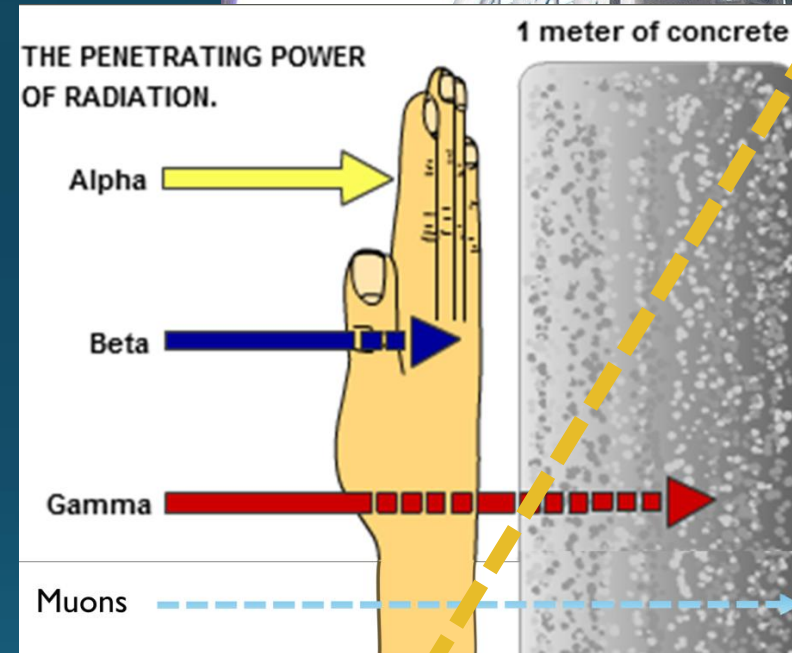
- It was determined how electrons/beta rays were losing energy
 - Ionization of the electrons of atoms in the material
- Muon is 200 times more massive than electron
 - So travels through much more material
- Coulomb scattering
- Alpha, beta, and muons are charged particles



Electromagnetic force

- Get rid of the electromagnetic force from the muon
 - Just have the weak force left!
- It goes through all the lead!
 - Well not all, but most of it.
- This is why it's called the weak force

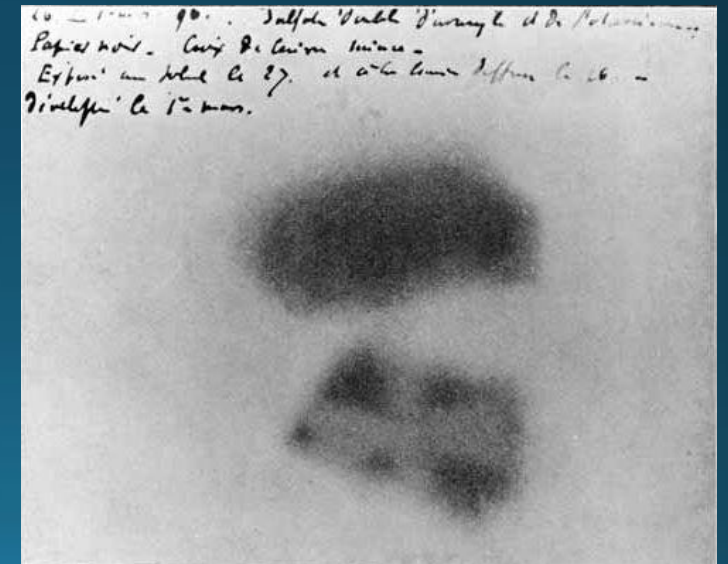
Monadnock Building, built in 1890's



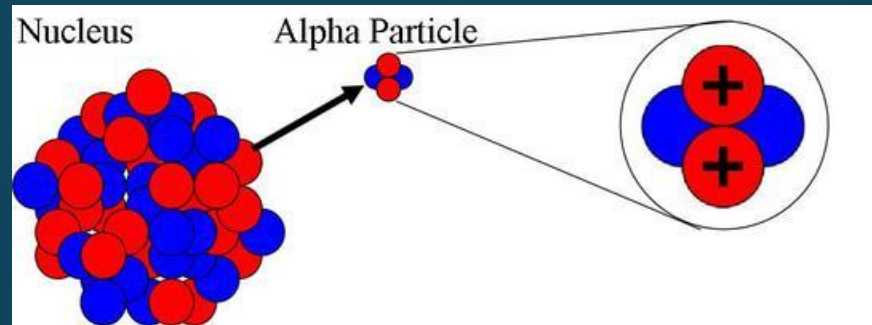
Neutrinos

It all started in 1896

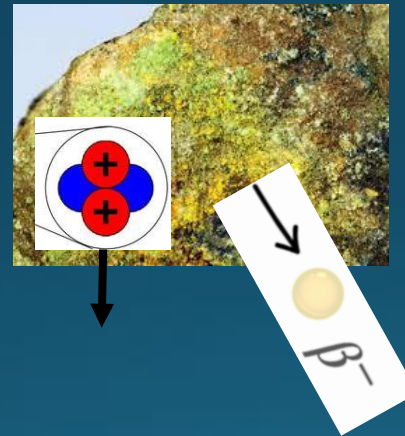
- Becquerel discovered radioactivity with Uranium
 - At the time, he thought that it had to do with sunlight
- Was looking for the X-rays reported by Roentgen
 - He wrapped photographic plates in black paper
- Shared Nobel prize in 1903 with Marie Curie



The radiation from the salt



1. Uranium-238 in salts
2. Photographic plates
3. Paper (sunlight)

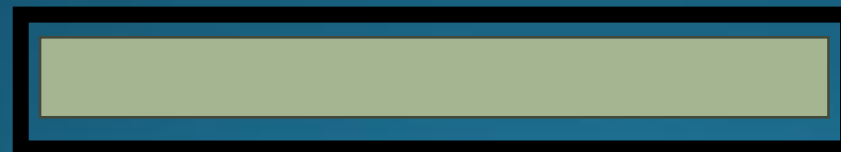


Alpha

Nucleus of Helium atoms

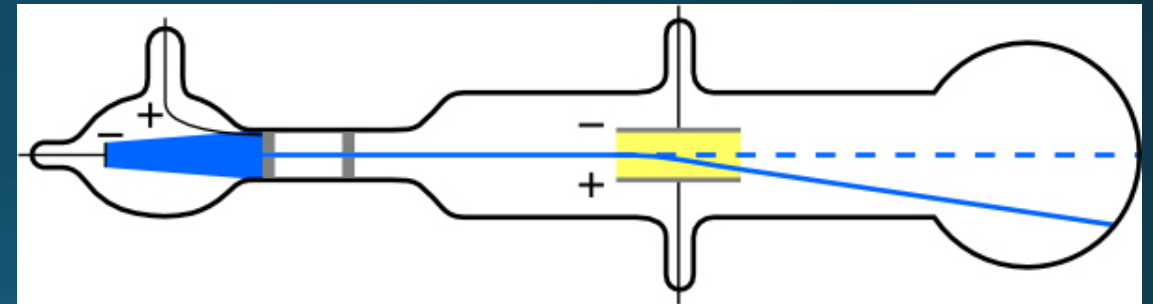
Beta

Electrons



Electrons were just being discovered

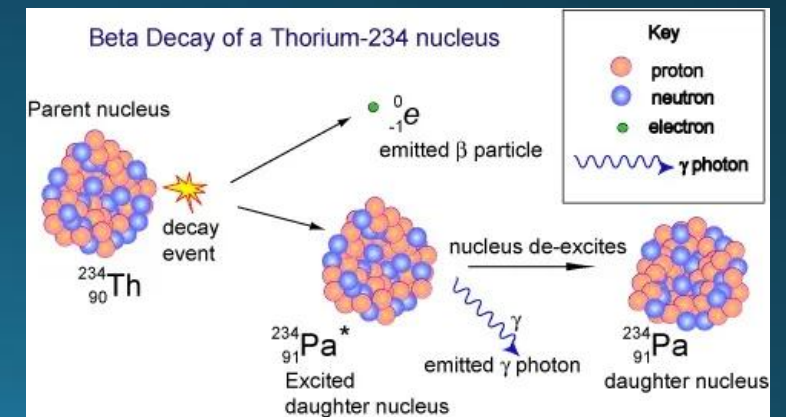
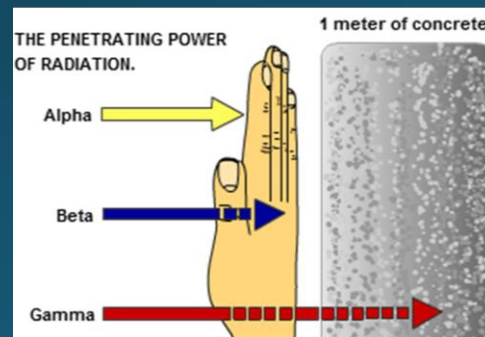
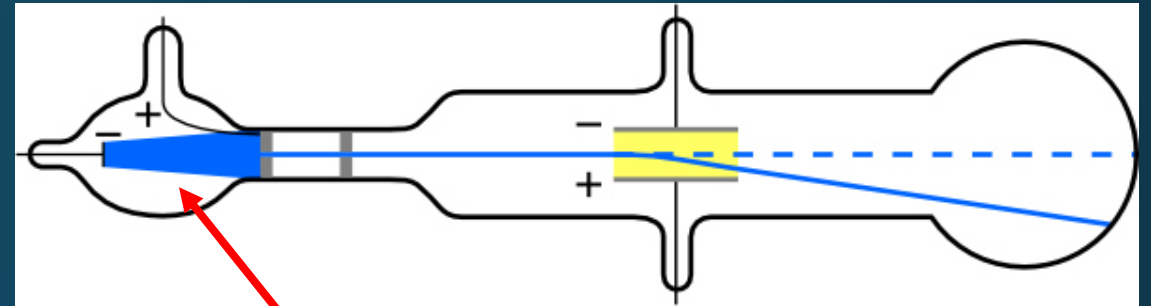
- J.J. Thompson bent cathode rays in fields
 - calculated the charge to mass ratio
 - e/m
 - Used both electric and magnetic fields
- Discovery of electrons
 - Fundamental particle
 - 1906 Nobel Prize



Rutherford and Becquerel do a “J.J. Thompson”

- Determined that:
 - Alphas are positively charged (+2)
 - Betas are negatively charged (-1)
 - The electrons!
- Unstable materials

Becquerel’s uranium salts actually produced all 3 of these radiation



- Elements are identified by number of protons in the nucleus
 - Helium has 2 protons
 - Alphas are +2 charge
- Isotopes – identified by the number of neutrons and protons together
 - Some combinations are not stable
 - Will revisit in another lecture in a few weeks

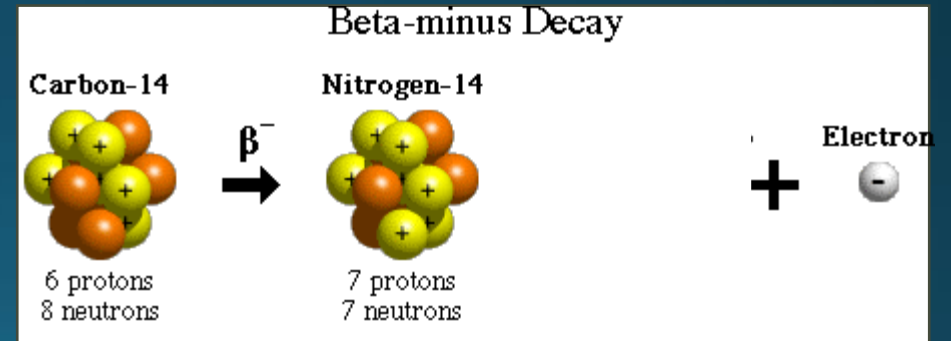
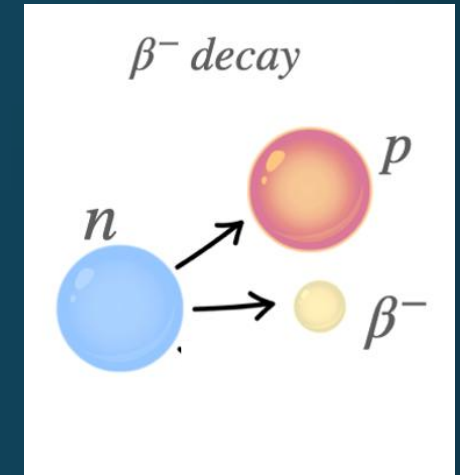
Remember:
Protons don't decay

Proton lifetime is longer than 10^{34} years

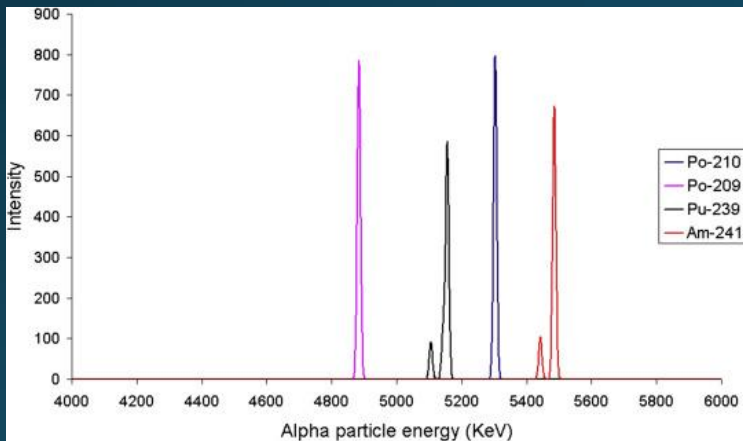
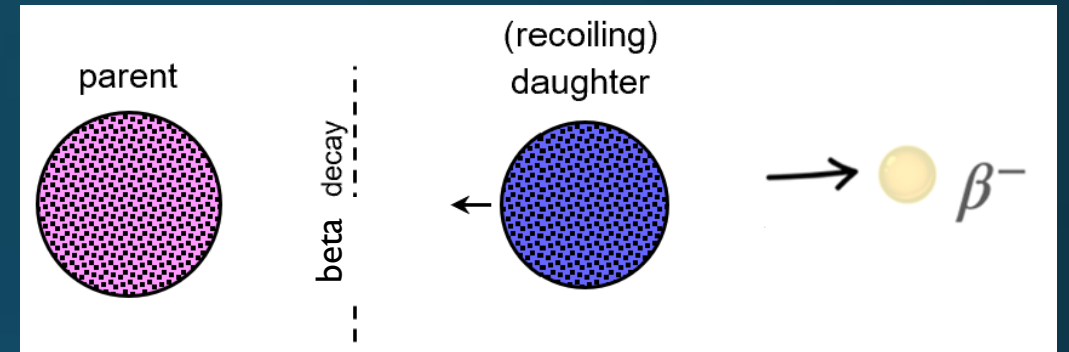
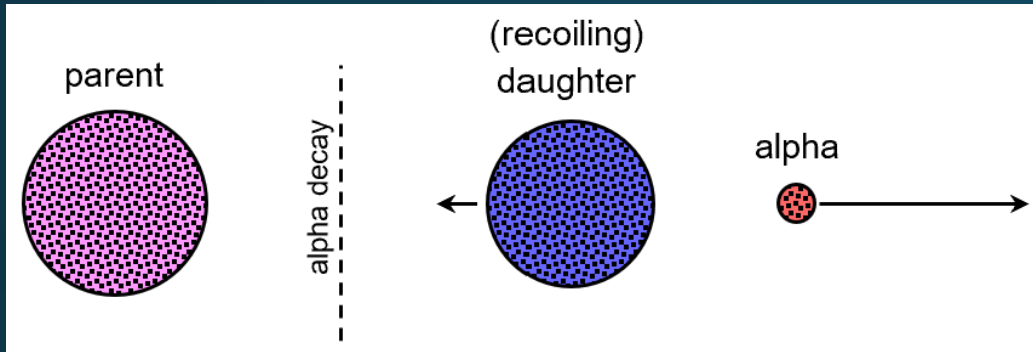
Neutrons and some nuclei decay!

Developed an understanding

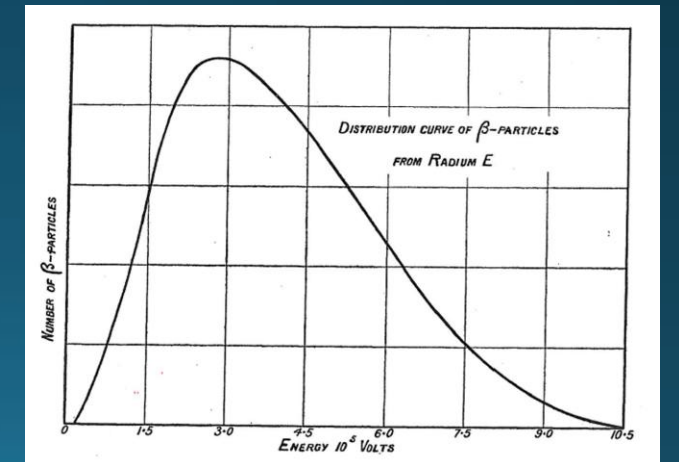
- Neutrons in a nucleus can decay
- Elements of one kind can “transform” to other elements
- Good example is carbon
 - Useful for carbon dating
 - Amount of Carbon-14 can be used to radioactively date organic material



Alpha decay vs Beta decay

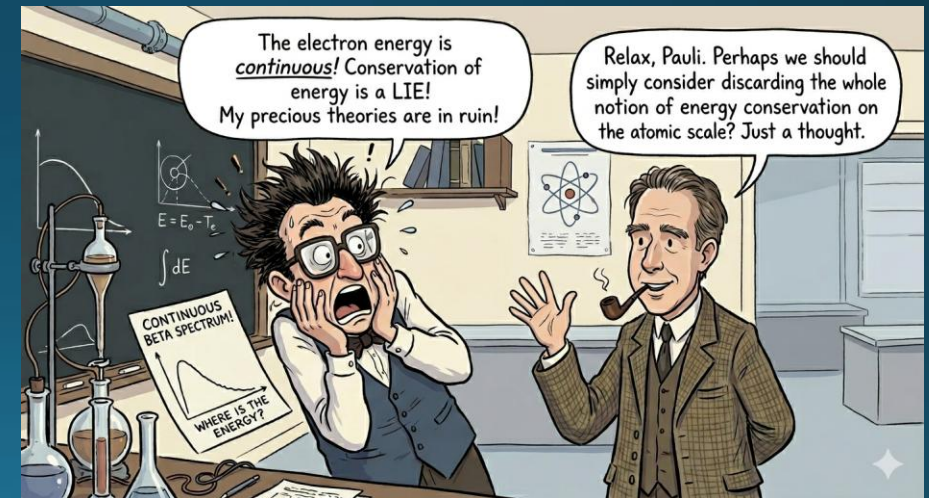
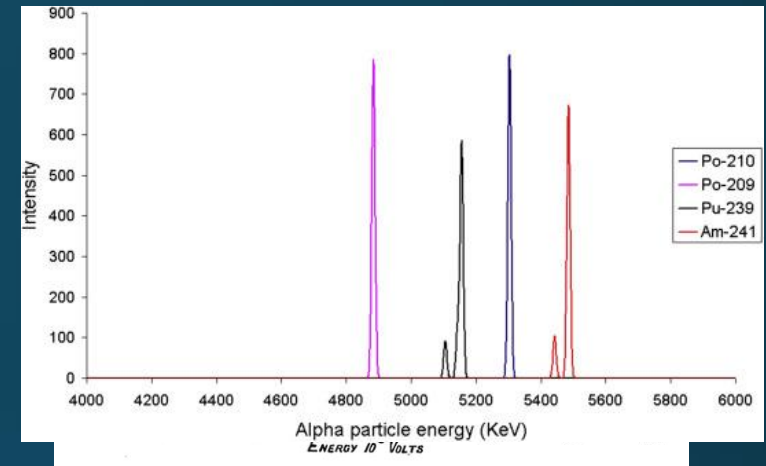


Measure the energy



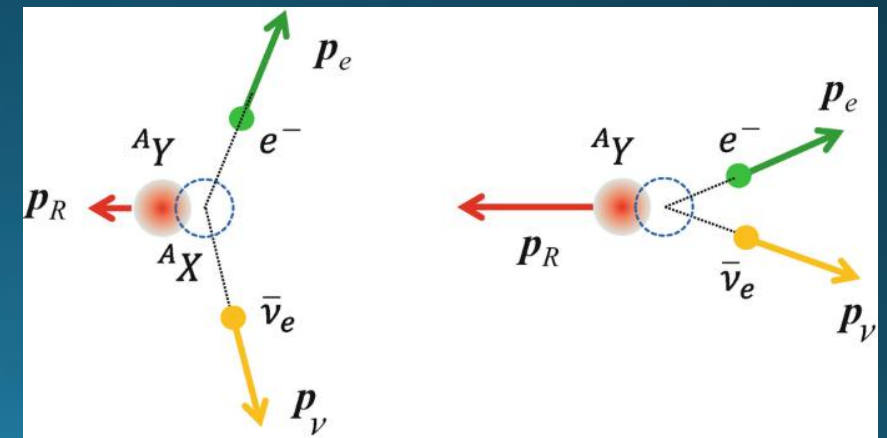
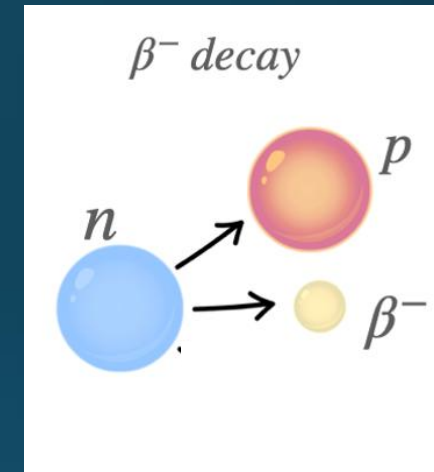
Everyone is shocked

- In both decays, momentum and energy conservation predicted very specific energies
- In alpha decay
 - This determined the spectrum accurately
 - And only measured the new nucleus and the alpha particle
- Chadwick's 1914 measurement of beta decay showed something extremely wrong
- Another particle?
 - Bohr was fine with just losing conservation of energy



Around 1930

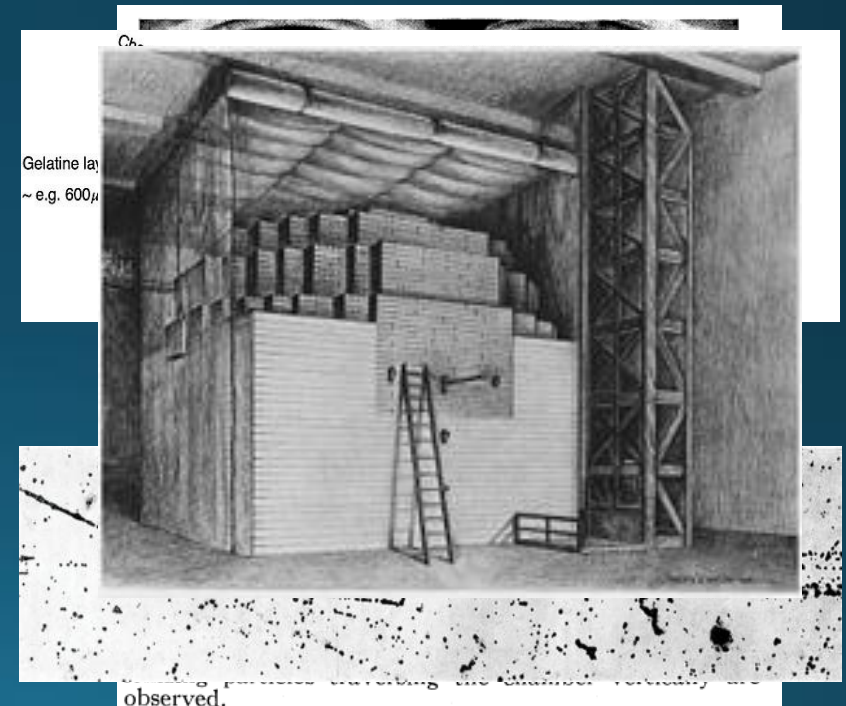
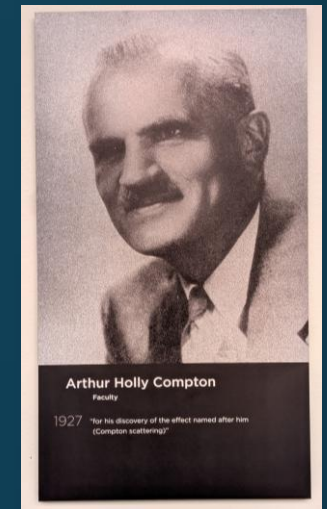
- Wolfgang Pauli and Enrico Fermi had an idea
- Propose a third, undetectable particle
 - Solves the issue, because the electron energy changes each time
 - Keeps energy conserved!
- Undetectable? What is this new particle?



From 1930s to the 1950s

Cosmic rays played an important role in this period!

1. Put cloud chambers at high altitude to investigate the cosmic radiation
 - Discovered muons
2. World War 2 and the atomic bomb
 - Fermi and Compton at the University of Chicago
3. More cosmic ray measurements on balloons
 - Discovered pions



We figured out what was happening with cosmic rays and the particle cascades

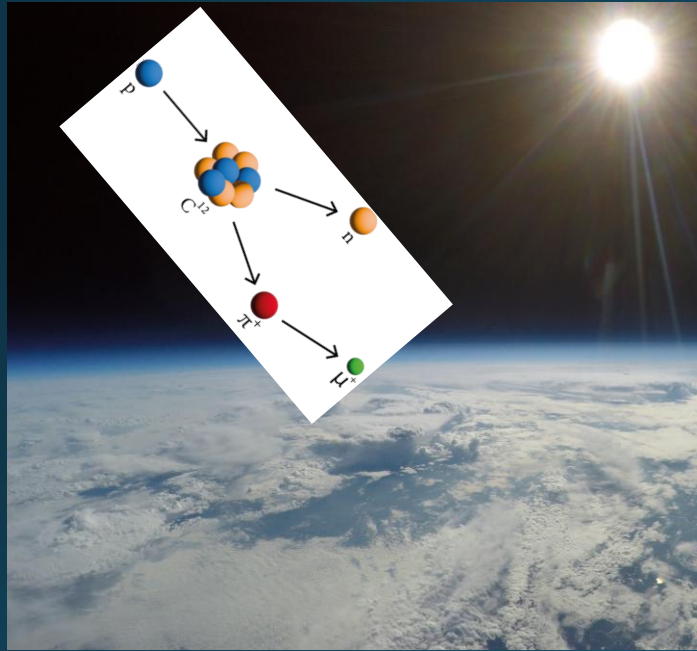
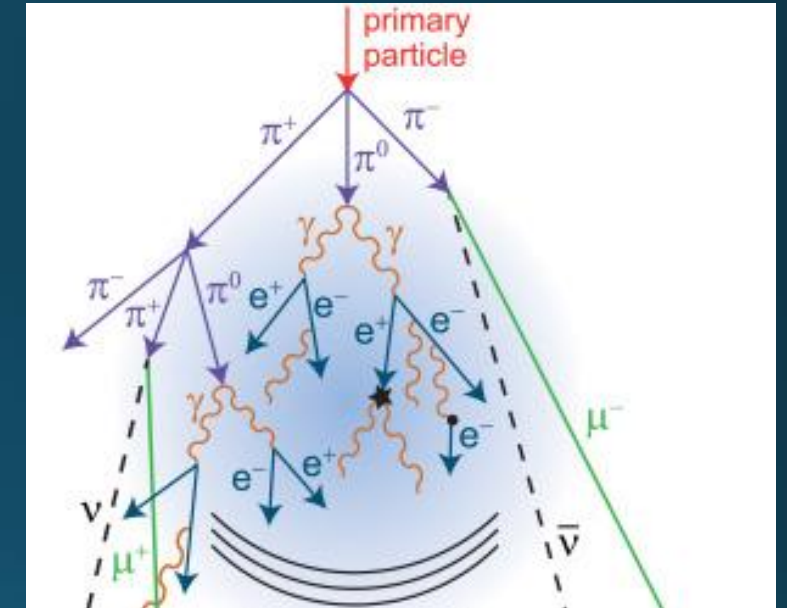


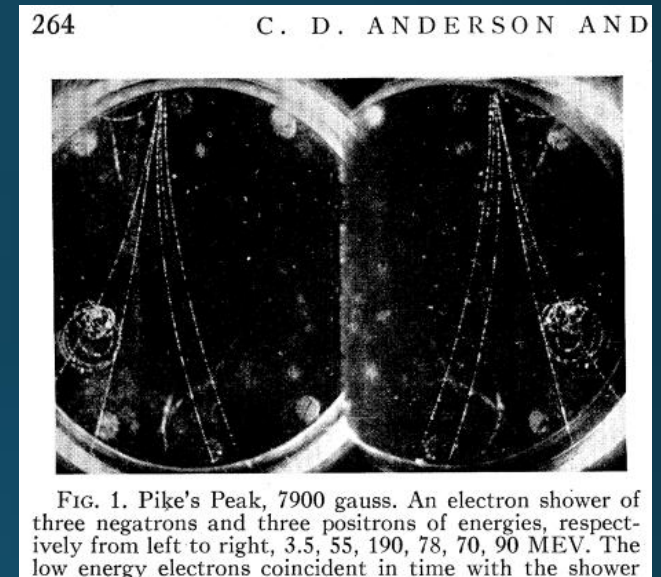
Image taken from our recent flight of the HELIX payload



- Muons decay to neutrinos
- Pions decay to neutrinos
- Cosmic ray particles hit the atmosphere and produce pions and muons

Neutrinos should be everywhere

- So how do you detect this new particle?
 - You can't!
 - Well not directly
 - Remember: ionization, tracking charged particles
 - Neutrinos wouldn't leave trails
 - Traces of their interactions, instead
 - Indirect detection
- “Needle in a haystack”



Frederick Reines and Clyde Cowan

Crazy idea...

- We need a lot of neutrinos and a big detector
 - Cosmic ray neutrinos (from muons) are too low in number
 - How do you get a lot of neutrinos?
- Set off a nuclear bomb?
 - Proposal: 20 kilo-ton in Nevada
- Detector developed called “El Monstro”
 - Drop the detector down a vacuum shaft at the same moment the bomb goes off
- Project “Mad Scientist”
 - Actually, called Project Poltergeist
 - And was approved

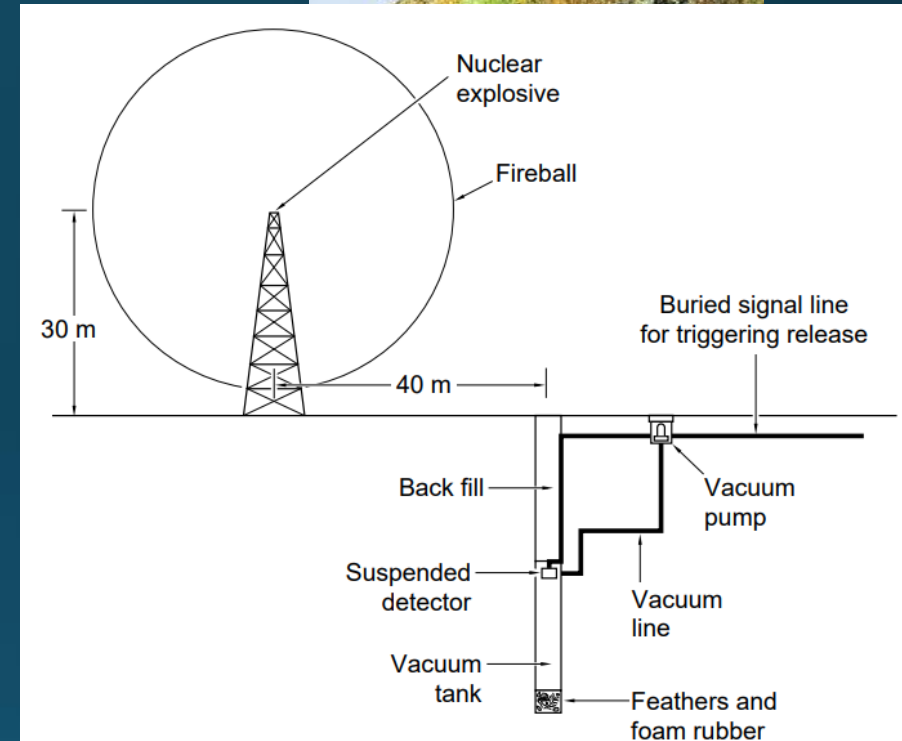
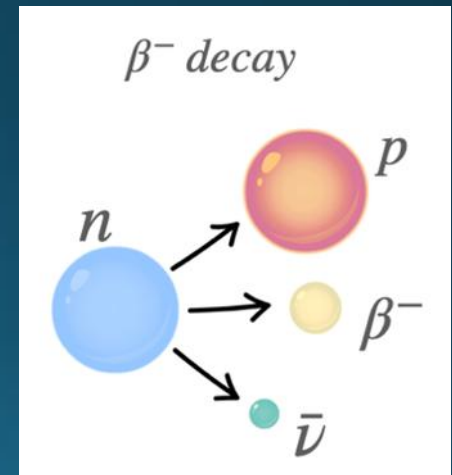
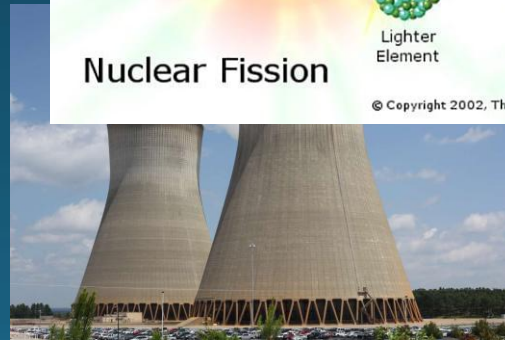
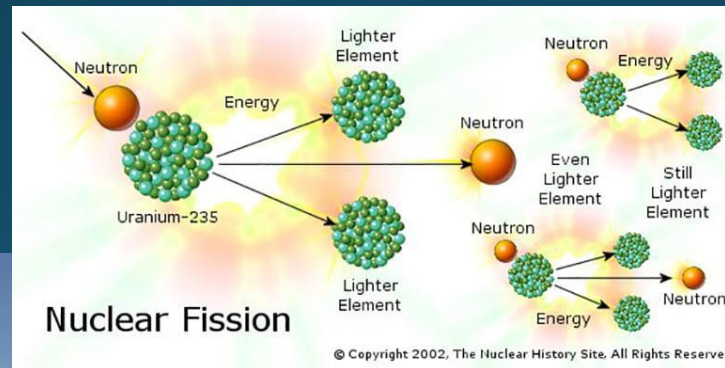
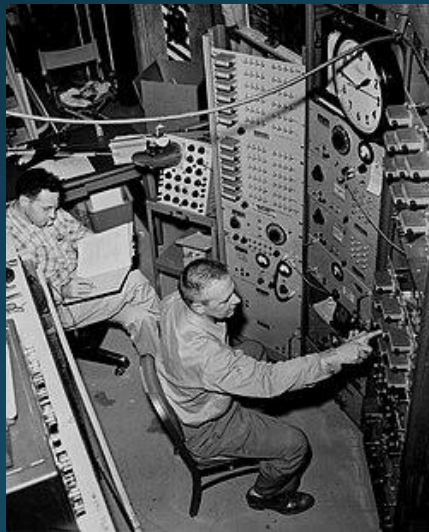
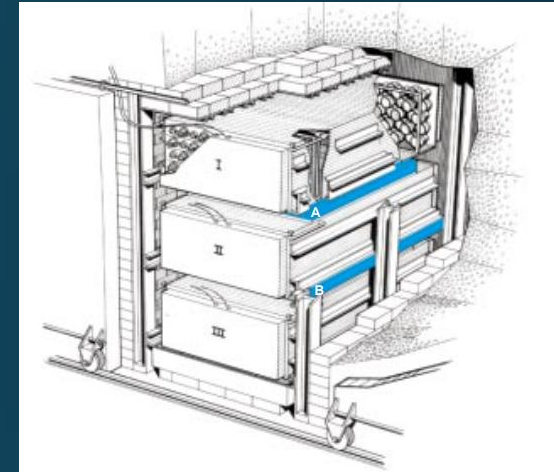


Figure 1. Detecting Neutrinos from a Nuclear Explosion

Neutrinos from the fireball of a nuclear device would impinge on a liquid scintillator detector suspended in the hole dug below ground at a distance of about 40 meters from the 30-meter-high tower. In the original scheme of Reines and Cowan, antineutrinos would induce inverse beta decay, and the detector would record

The real Project Poltergeist

- Savannah River Plant in South Carolina
 - Second site choice

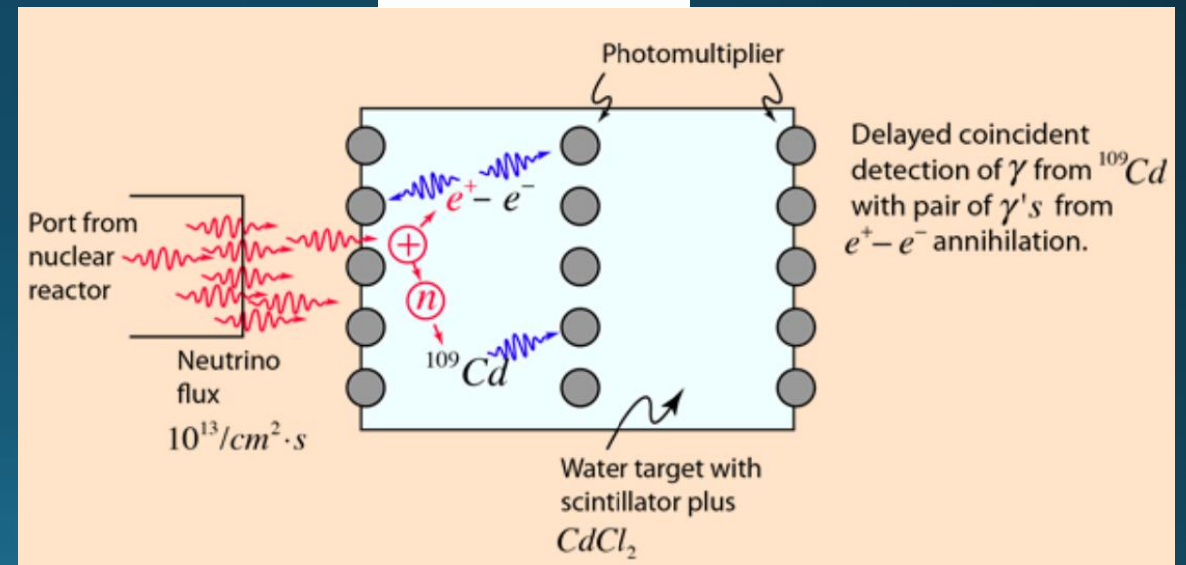
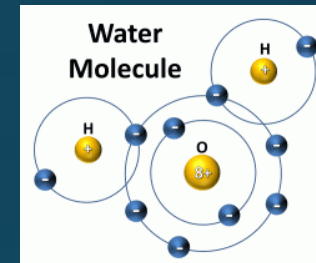


First neutrino measurements

- Indirect measurements near a reactor
 - Need material to absorb neutrinos
- Theory predicts a neutron and a positron from proton interactions
 - Water (protons)
 - Detect those neutrons and positrons together
- Designed a coincident experiment

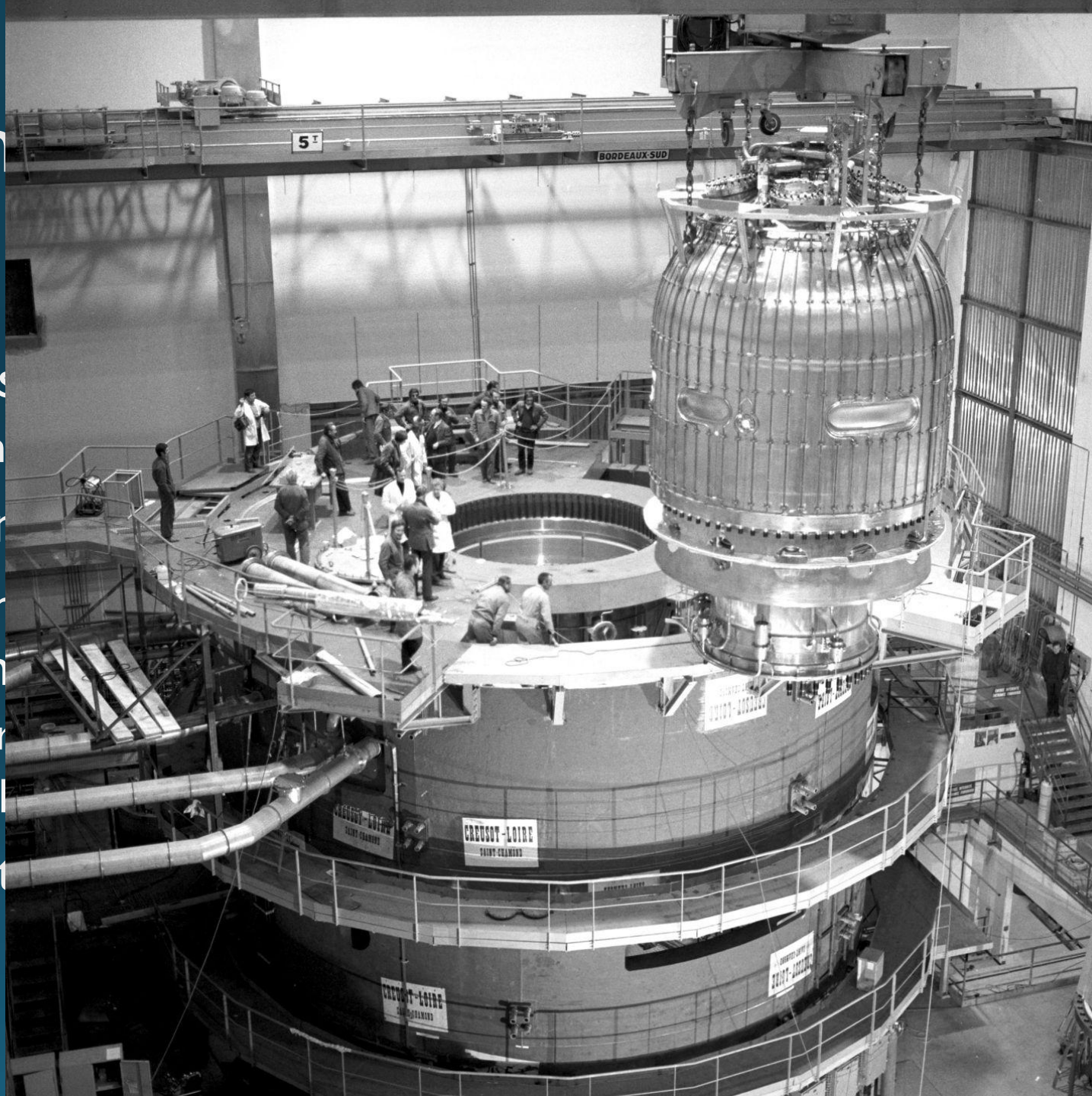
Turned off reactor and see events go away

Won the Nobel prize in 1995

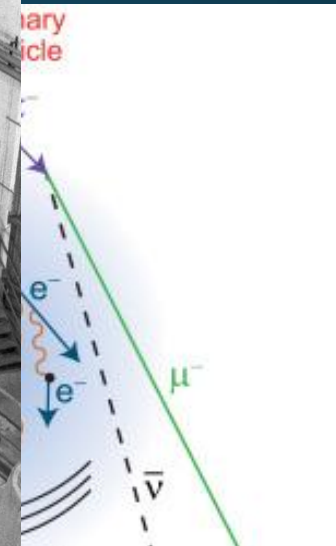


Neutrinos

- Reactors
 - And nuclear power plants
 - But we rarely see them
 - There should be a lot of them in the atmosphere
 - And from the sun
 - And from other sources
- We start with reactors

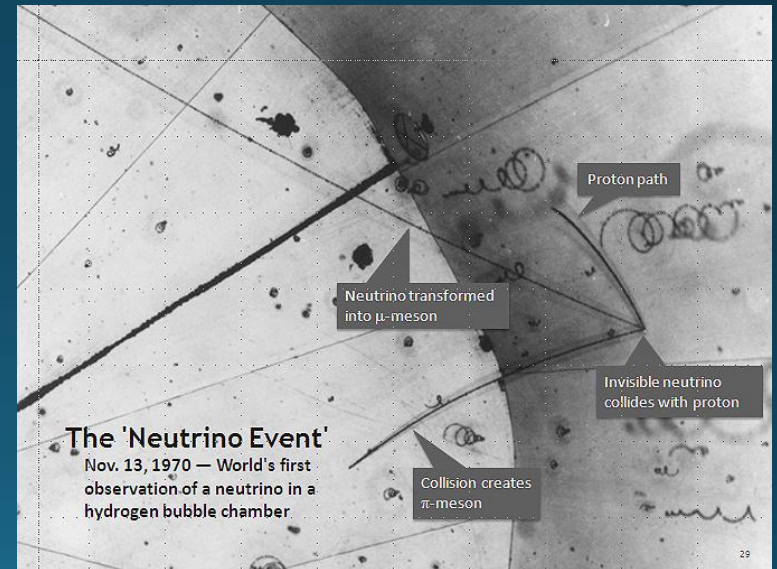
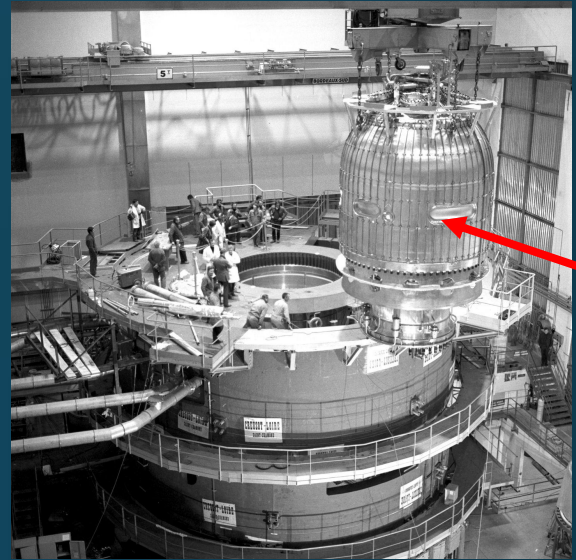


more?



Tracks of the interactions

- First bubble chamber image of a neutrino
 - ~1970
- Neutrino comes in undetected
 - Experiment just watching nothing
- Then bam, nucleus changes!
 - And nothing happened before
 - Neutrinos!

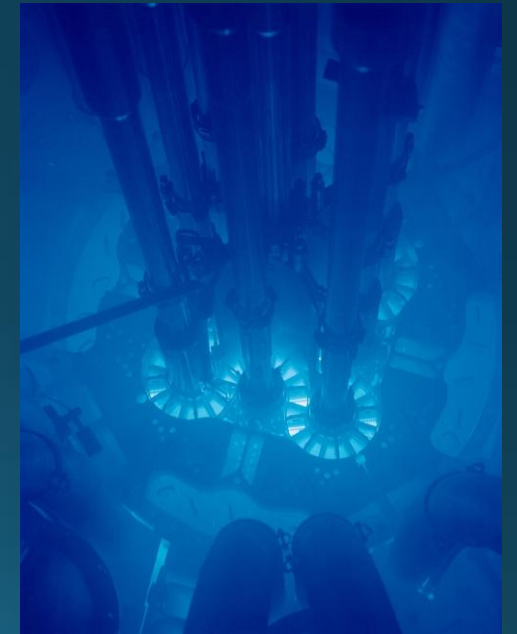
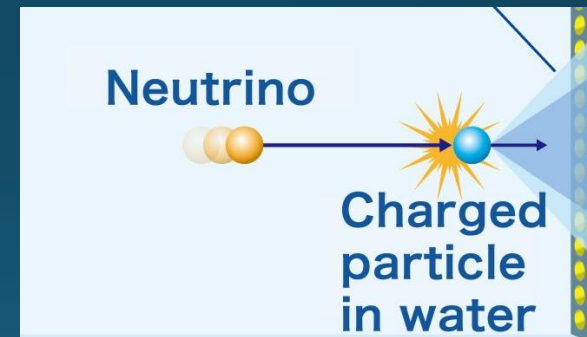
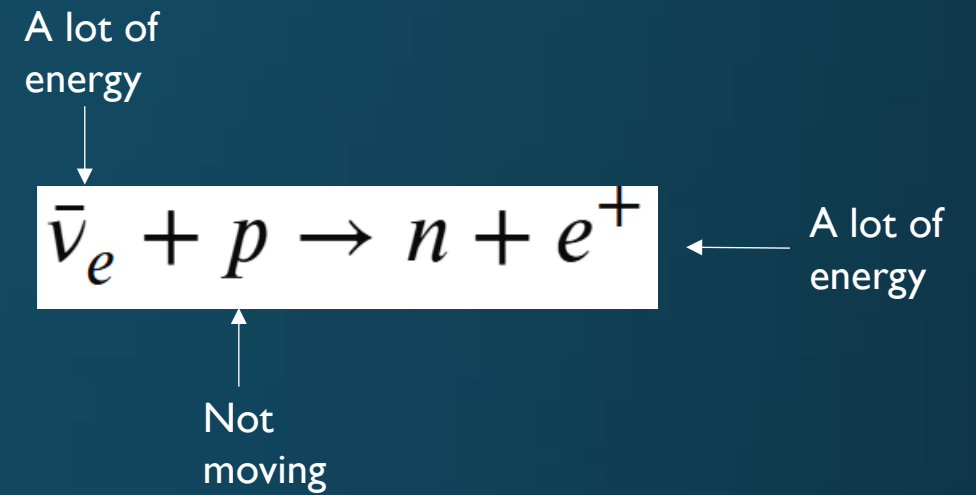


Valuable, but this is beamline neutrinos. What about the atmospheric and astrophysical neutrinos?
→ New detectors

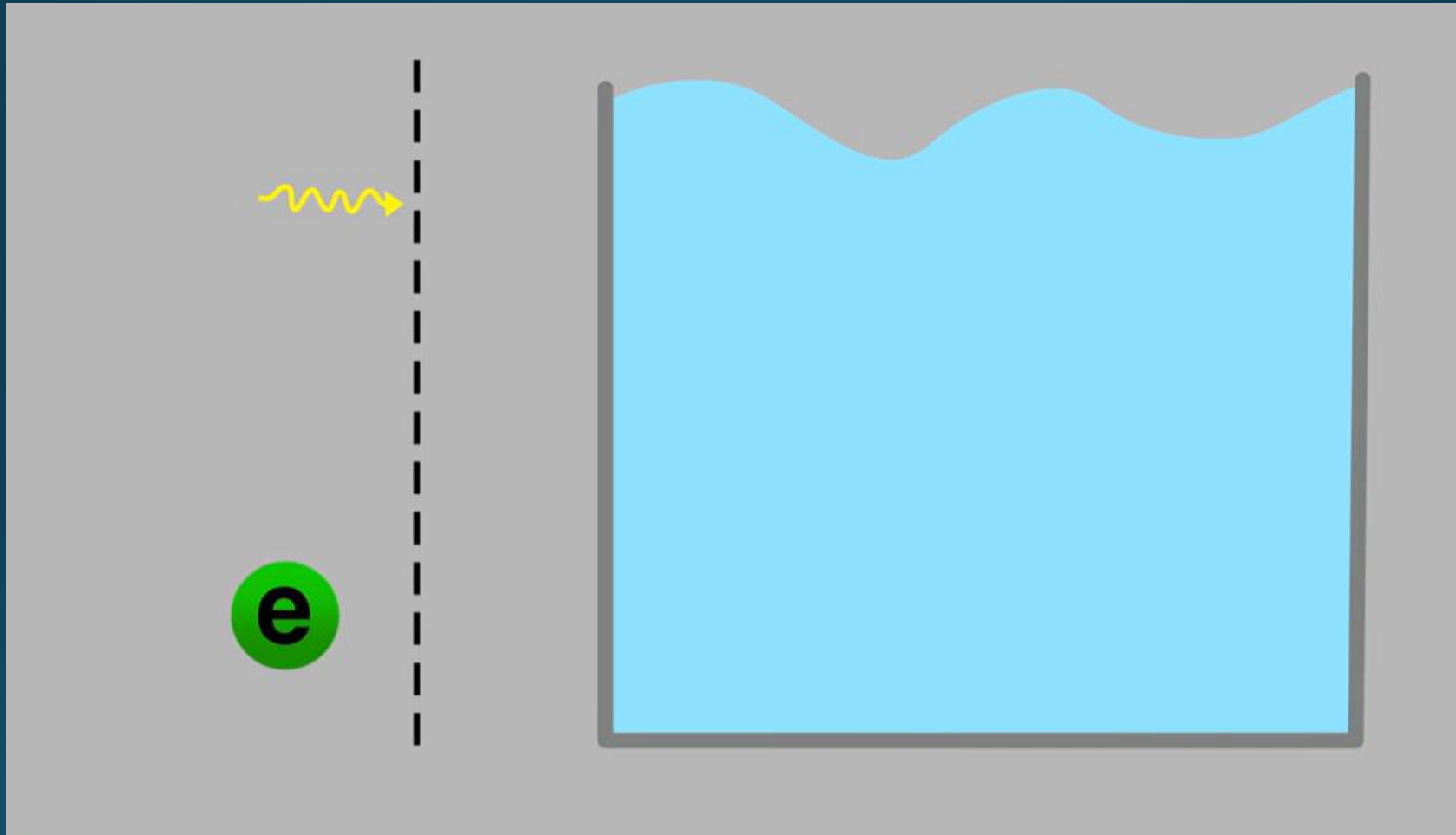
Neutrino interactions

- Neutrinos have a lot of energy
 - Basically travelling the speed of light
 - ~massless
 - Topic for another lecture (and previous series have covered this!)
- The particles produced are also moving pretty fast (usually)
- New detection mechanism
 - Cherenkov light
 - “light-equivalent of a sonic boom”

*Light slows down in denser materials

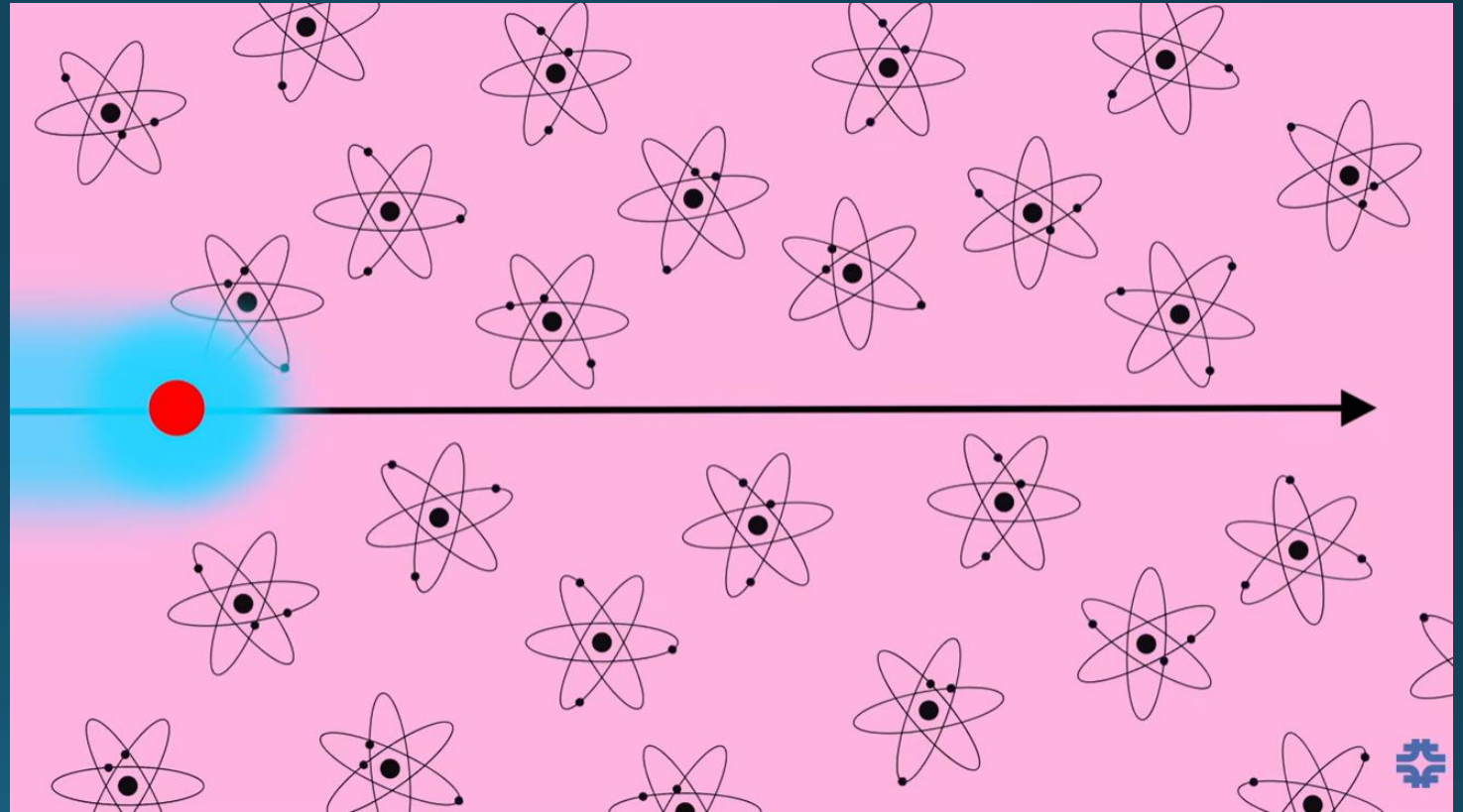


A particle traveling near the speed of light

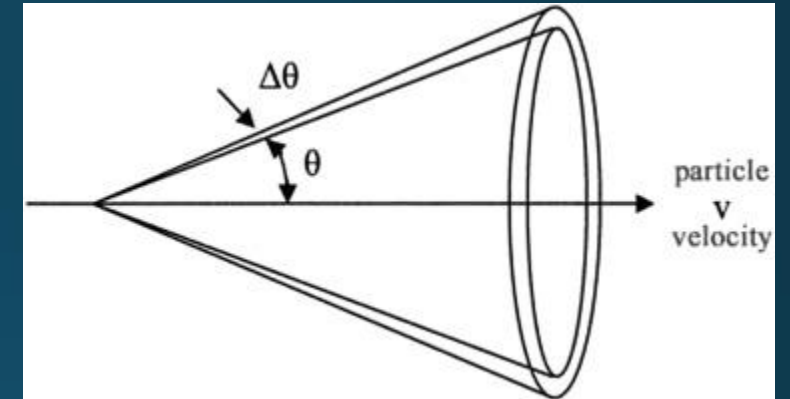
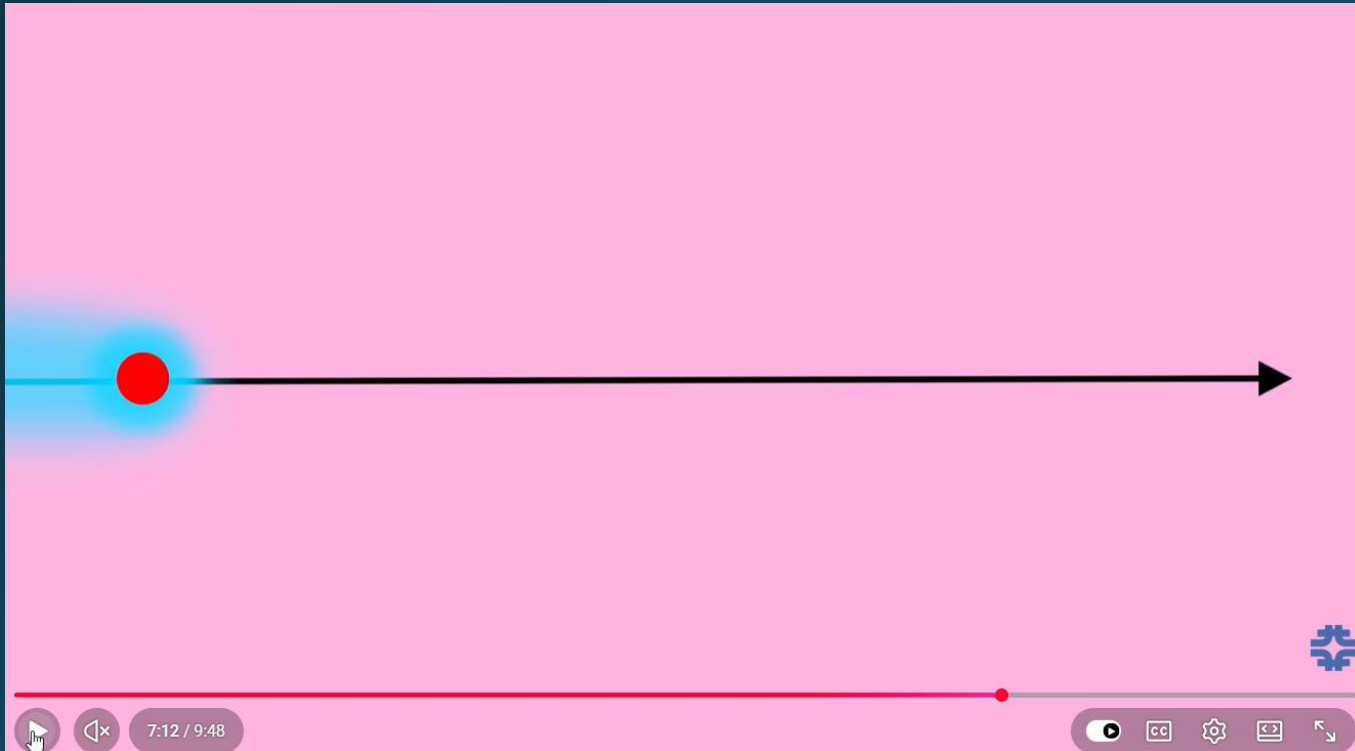


Cherenkov radiation 101

- Since light slows down in the medium, particles can travel “faster than light does in the medium”
- In the water, blue light emission
 - As was found in the discovery
 - *Only if the particle is charged

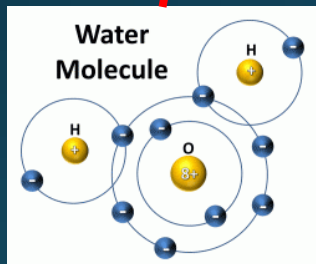
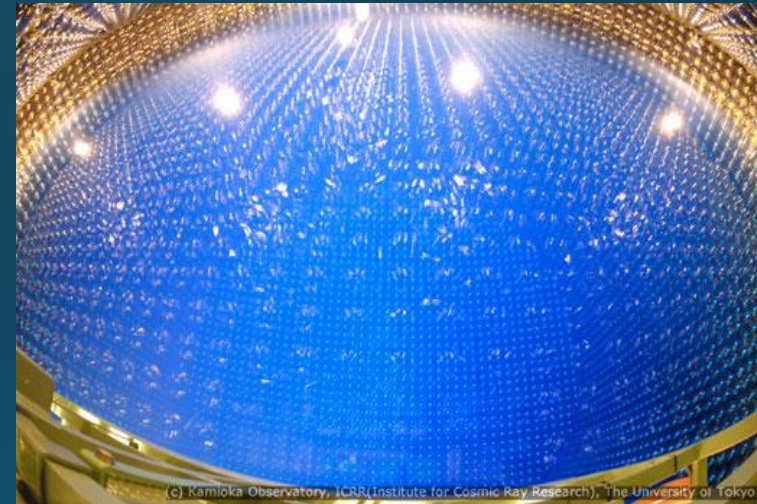
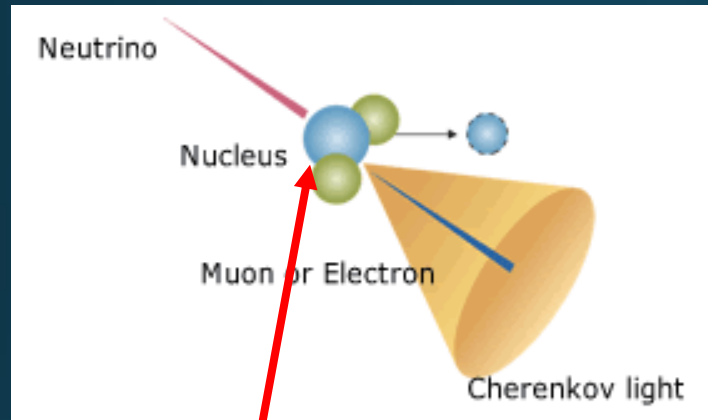


Cherenkov light tells you the direction of the fast, charged particle

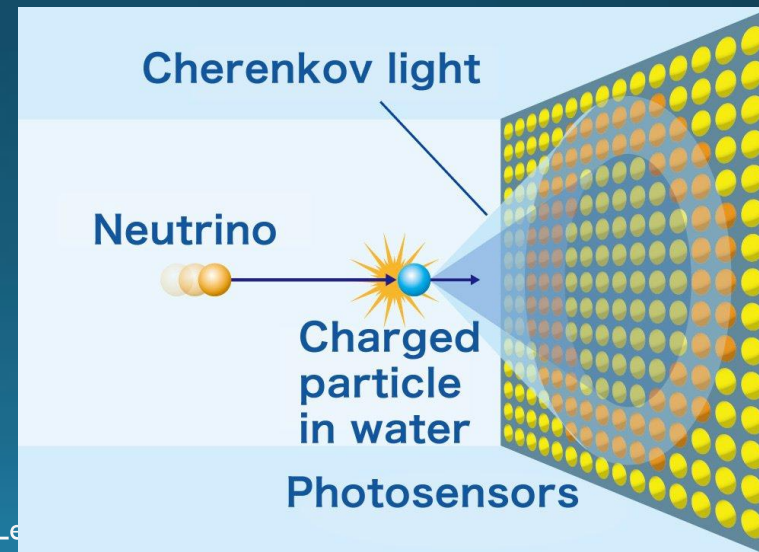


1. Cherenkov light will be emitted at an angle
2. That angle is related to the speed of the particle and the speed of light in the medium

“New” neutrino detection mechanism



Cherenkov light can be seen great in water
Direction of the neutrino is determined

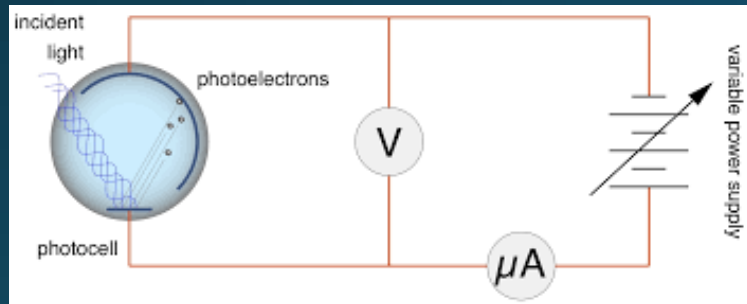


Neutrino detection in water-Cherenkov

Optical/Cherenkov light sensors

- Photomultiplier tubes (PMT)

Count the light and flashes with photoelectric effect, measure voltage

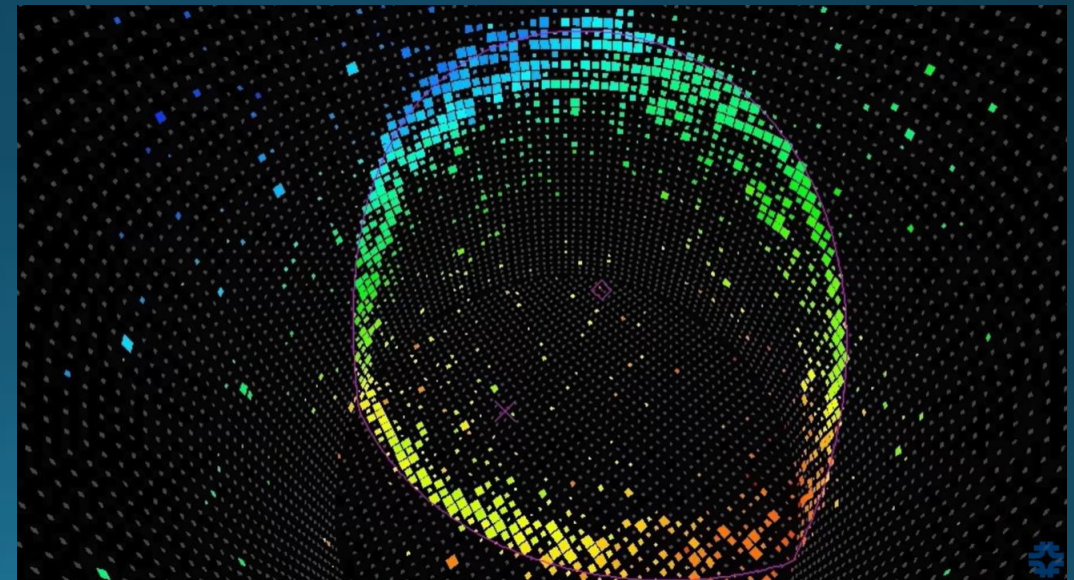
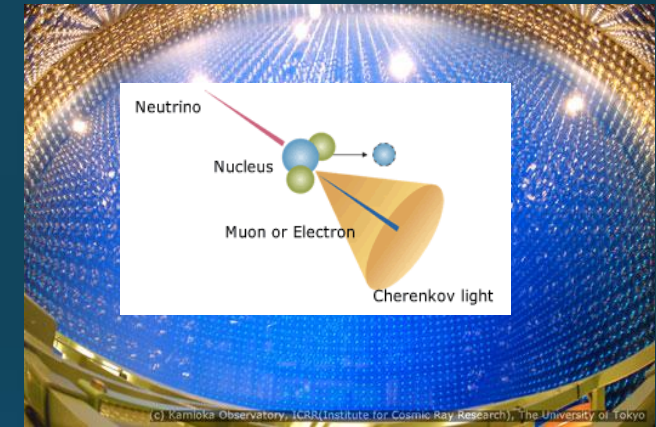


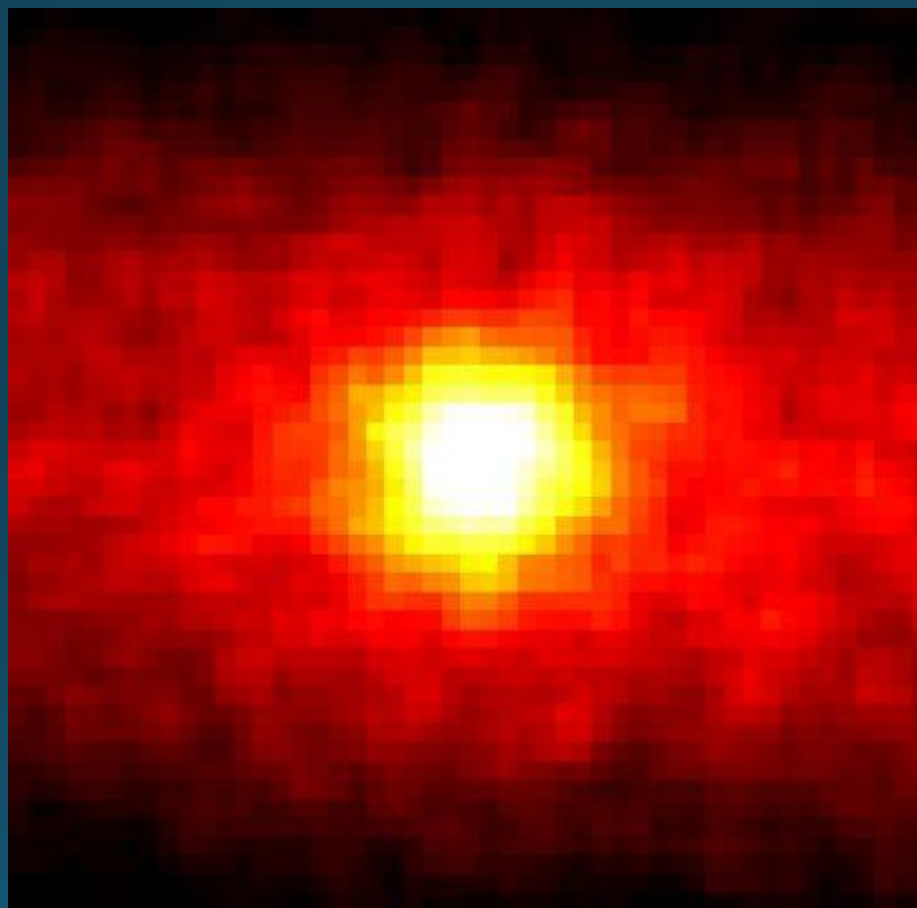
Photomultiplier Tube (PMT)

11,000 PMTs

50,000 tons of water
~11 million cats

Super-Kamiokande



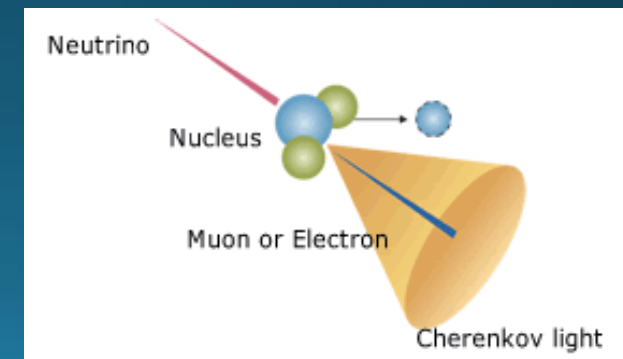
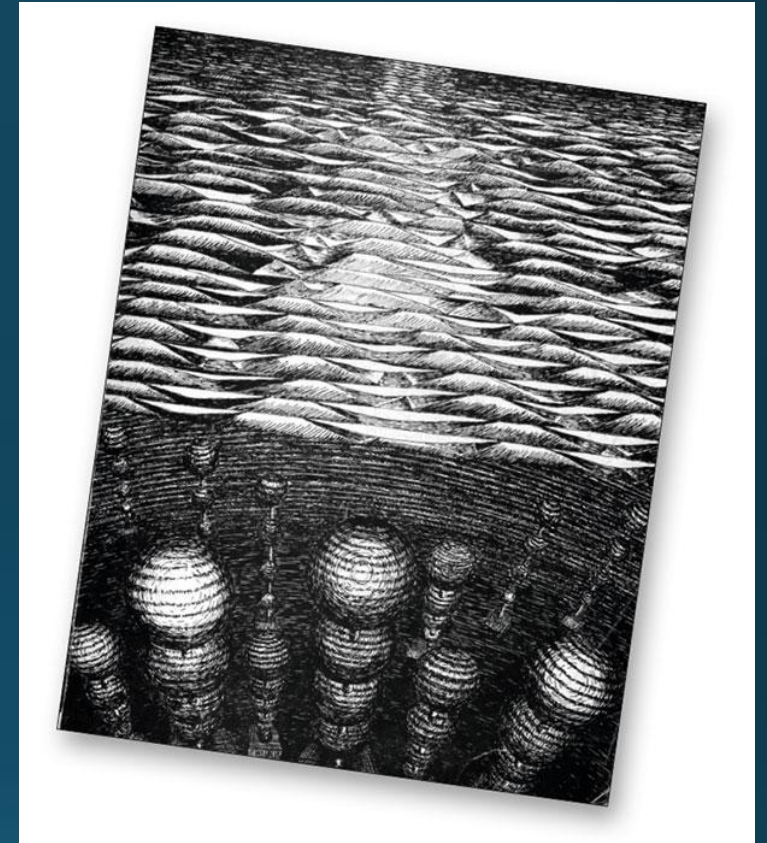


The sun in neutrinos (1998)

DUMAND

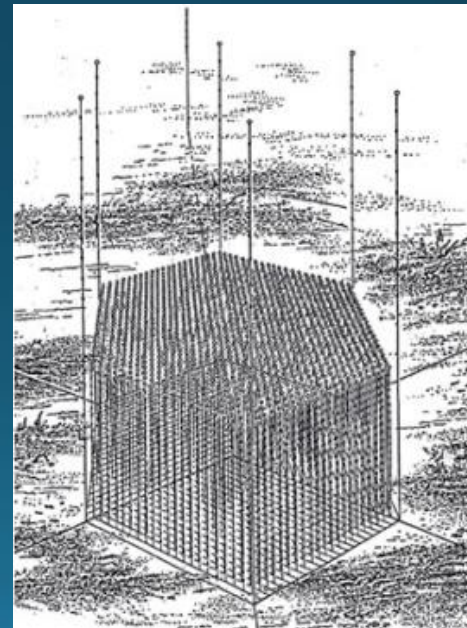
Deep Underwater Muon and Neutrino Detector

- Soviet and US collaboration
 - ~1976
- Actually laid the ground work for Kamiokande (and later Super-K)
- Naturally occurring medium transparent to Cherenkov light
 - The ocean?
- We knew to detect the “showers” or secondary particles
 - Only real way to measure neutrinos and their interactions is with large detectors



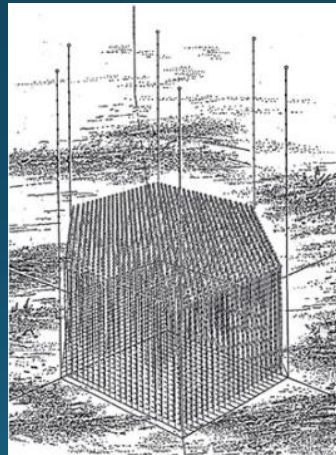
DUMAND proposal

- Off the coast of Hawaii
 - Confusing choice, right?
- Detect atmospheric and astrophysical neutrinos
 - Cherenkov and Acoustic
- String a bunch sensors underwater (~20k)
- In a few years, Soviet and US collaboration ended



From salt to ice

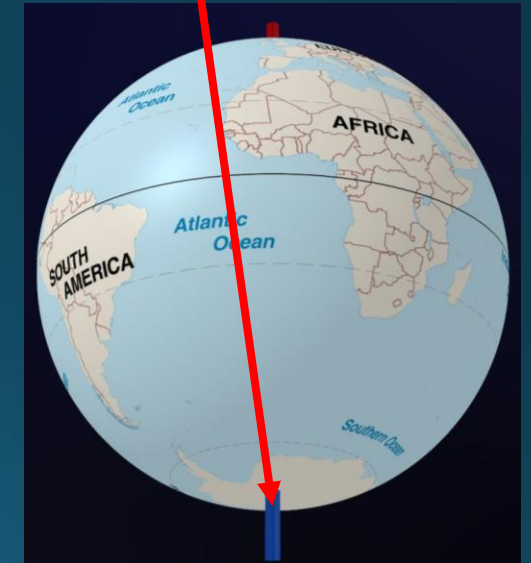
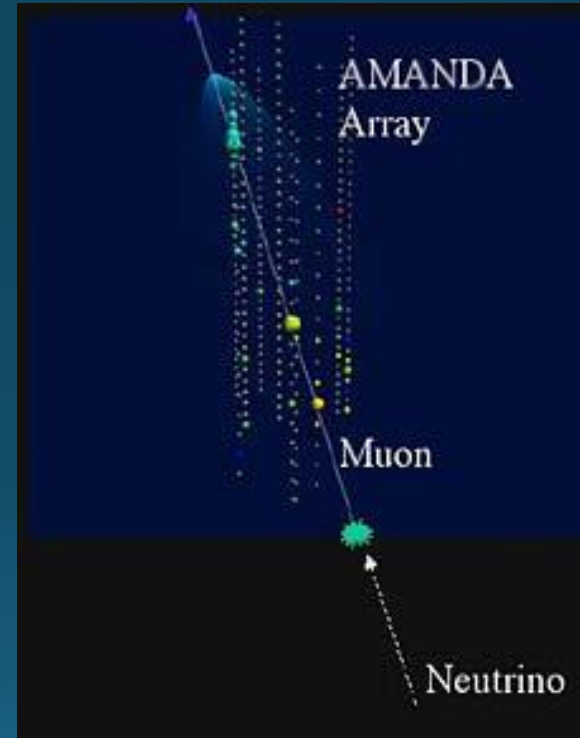
Challenges: salt-water corrosion, pressure at large depths, deep currents with ~ 1 km long cables



Antarctic Muon And Neutrino Detector Array

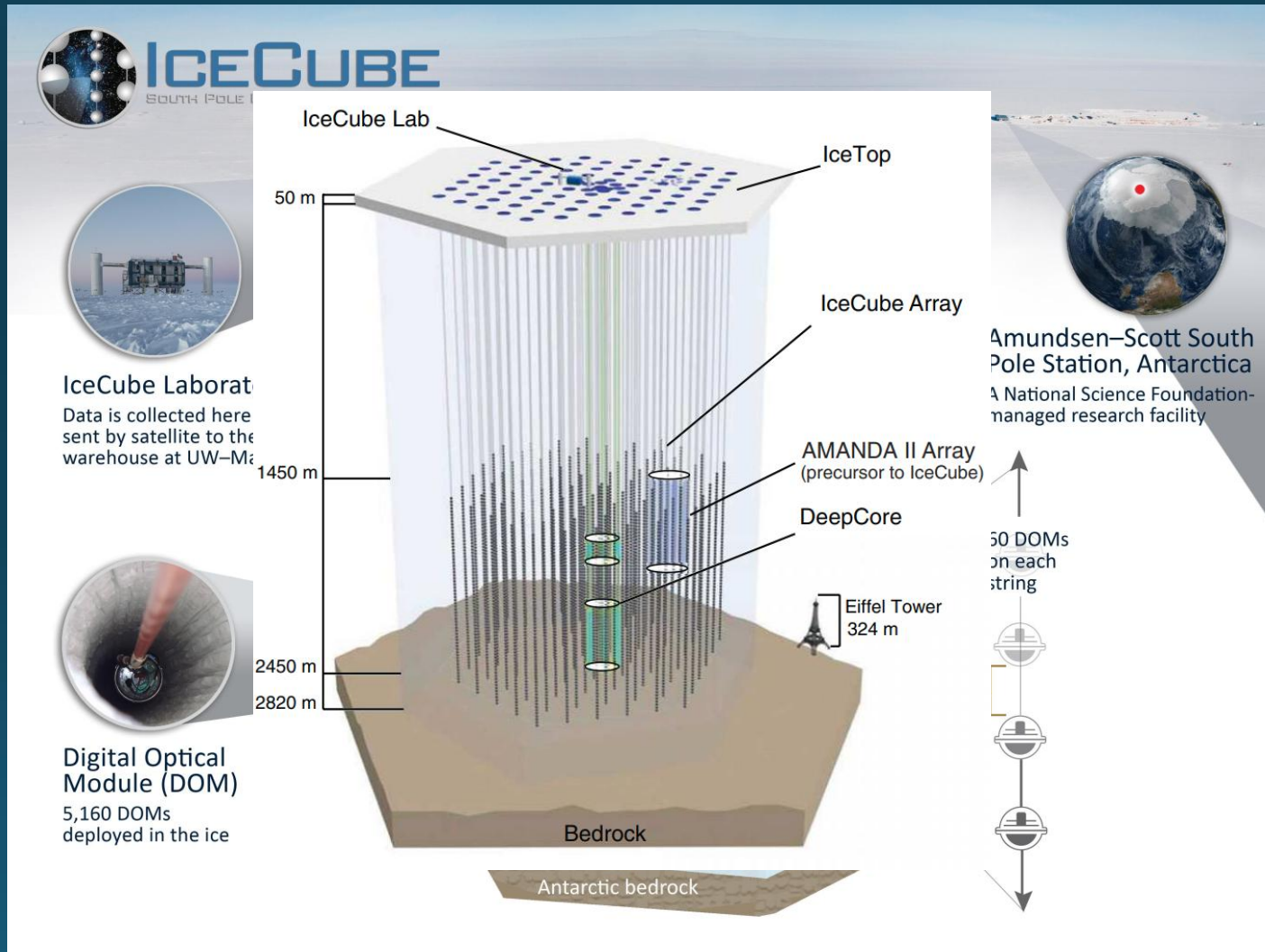
AMANDA

- Drill holes in Antarctic ice
 - At South Pole
 - ~2km deep (1.25 miles)
- Install optical/PMT devices
 - Measure Cherenkov light from neutrino interactions
- The sensors are stuck there forever
- First atmospheric neutrino in 1997



Neutrino telescopes in the ice works!

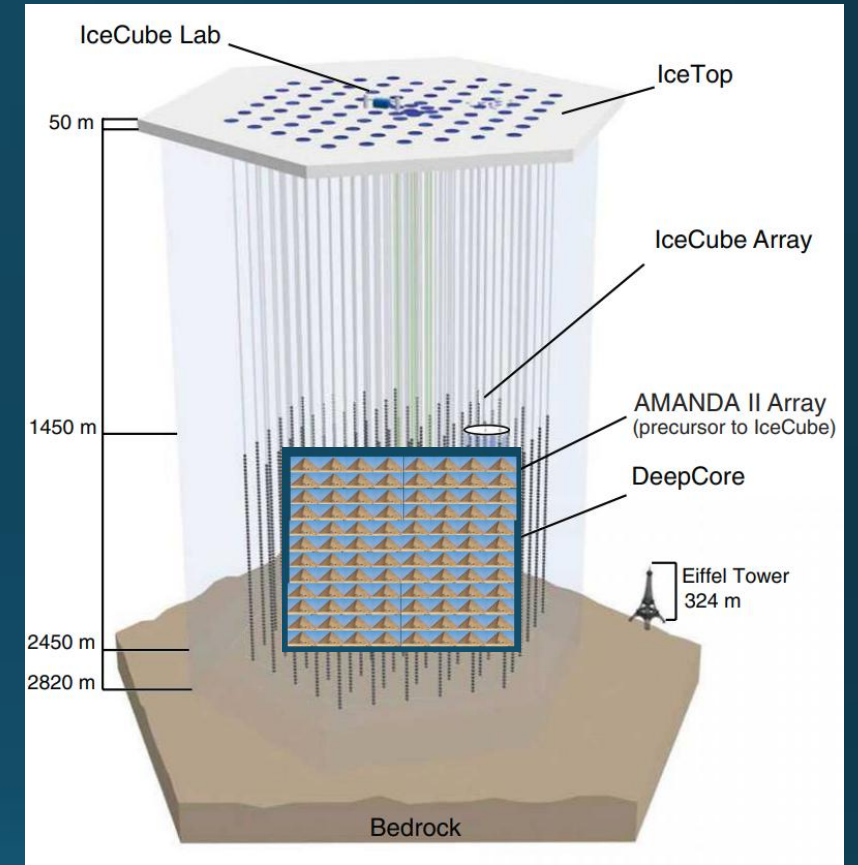
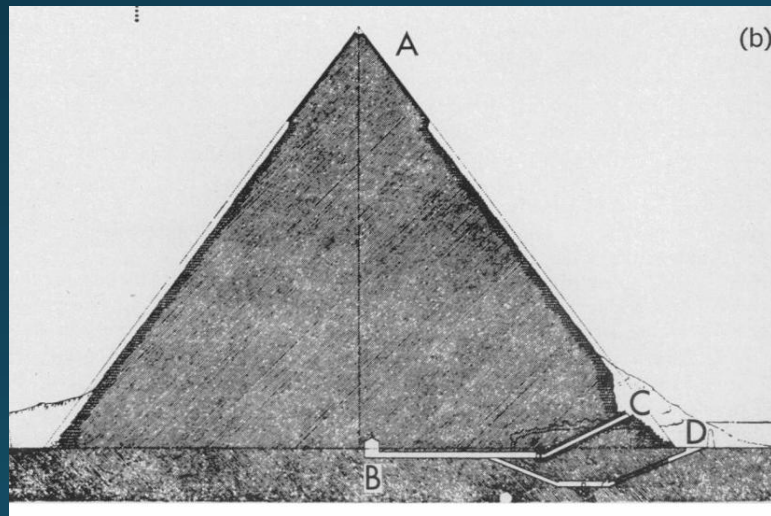
AMANDA to IceCube



IceCube

Need large detectors to catch neutrinos

- Well, this is a cubic kilometer

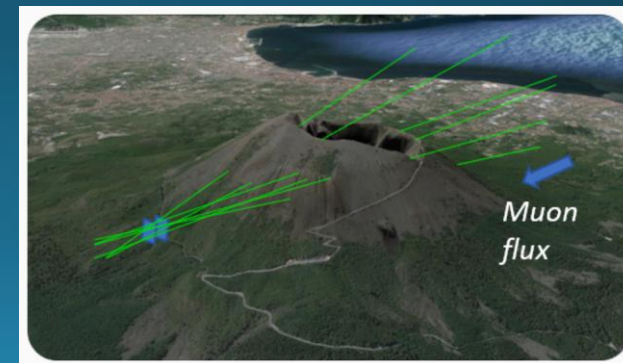
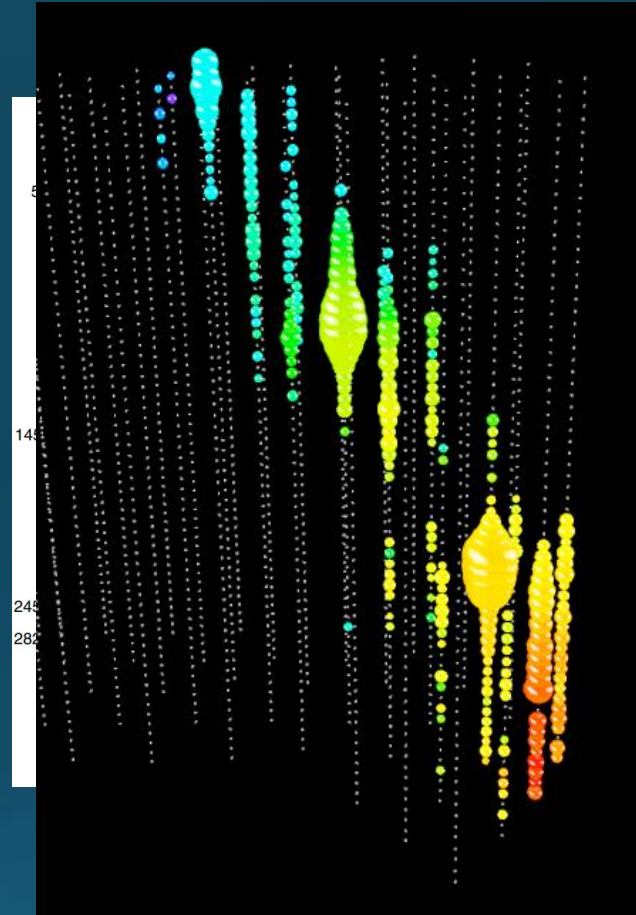


Need 400 of these



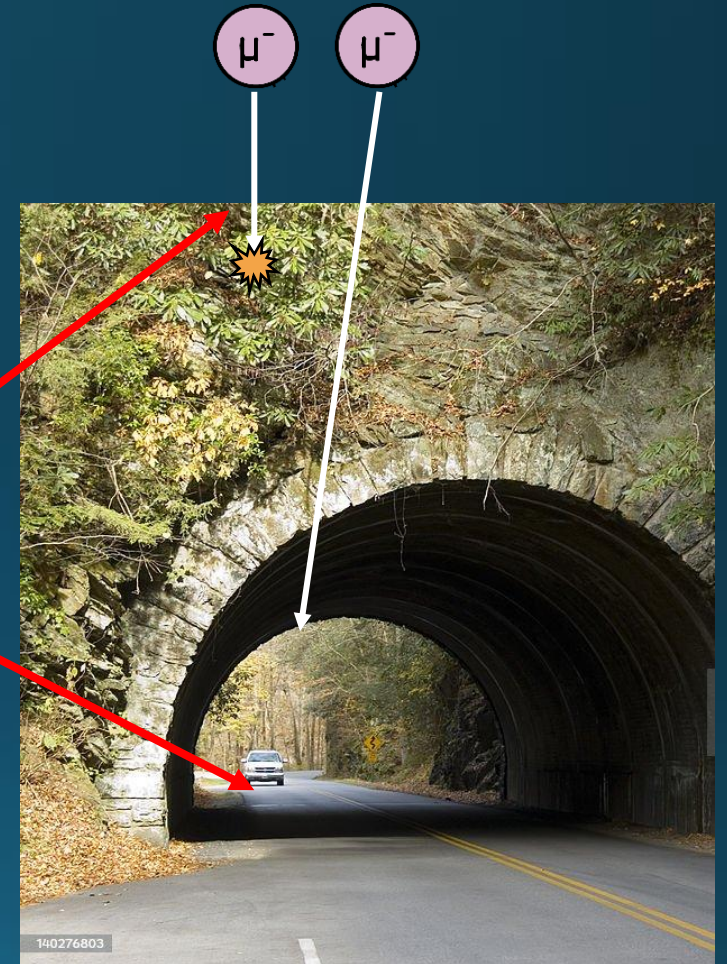
IceCube

- Finished in 2010
- By 2013, observed neutrinos of very high energies
 - Peta electron volts
 - One thousand - trillion
- Remember: muons from last week were giga (billion) electron volt
 - These neutrinos are 1 million times the energy of the muons

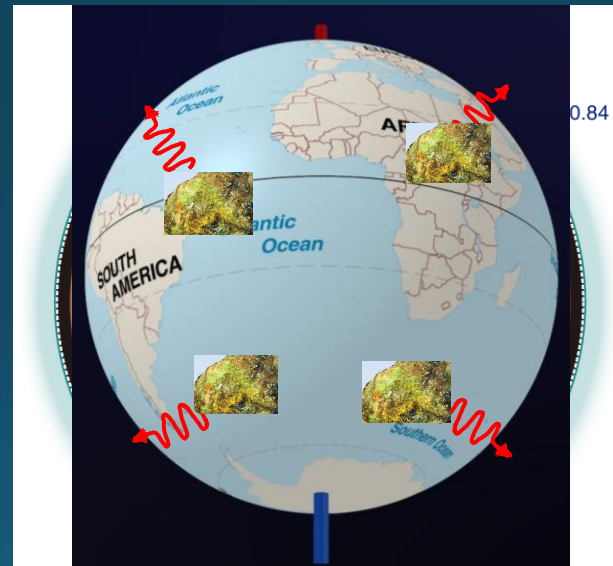
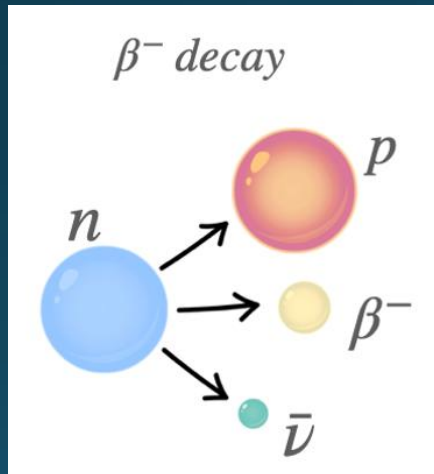
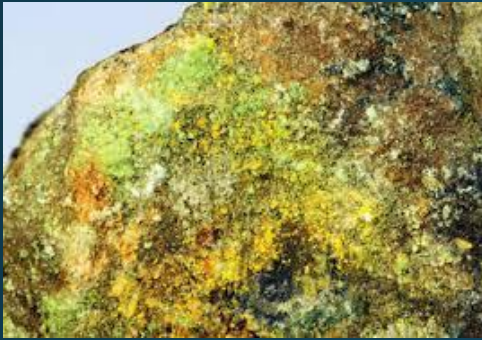


Last week with muons

1. We know how many muons are above the tunnel
2. We measure the number of muons above and below
3. We can find the density of rock above



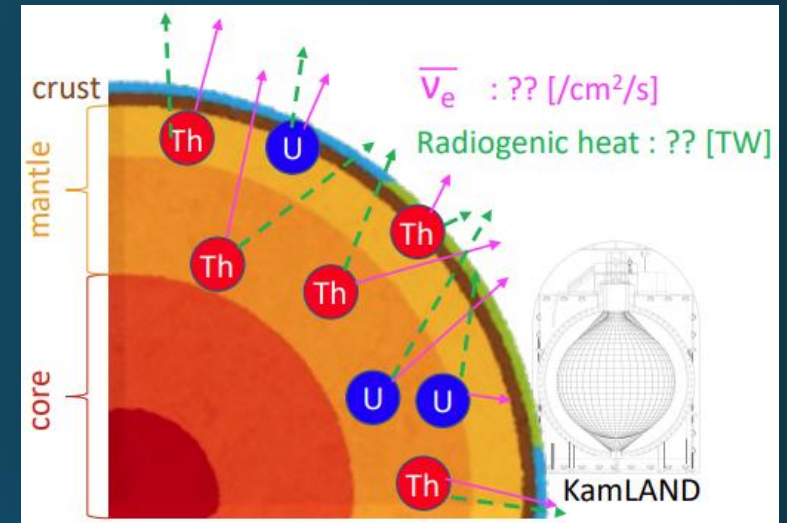
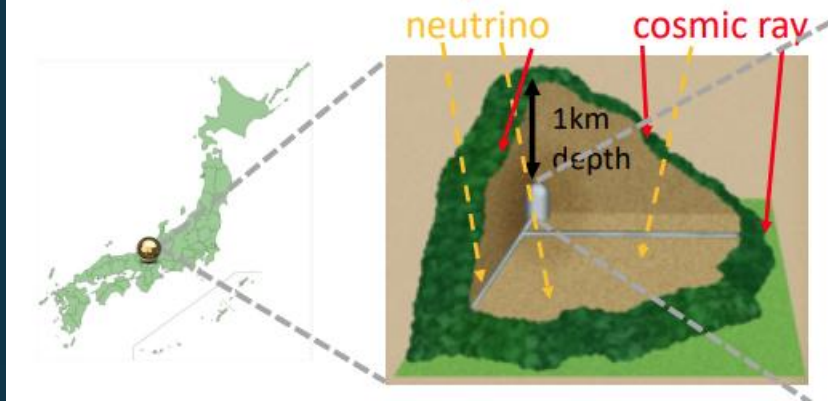
Back to Uranium



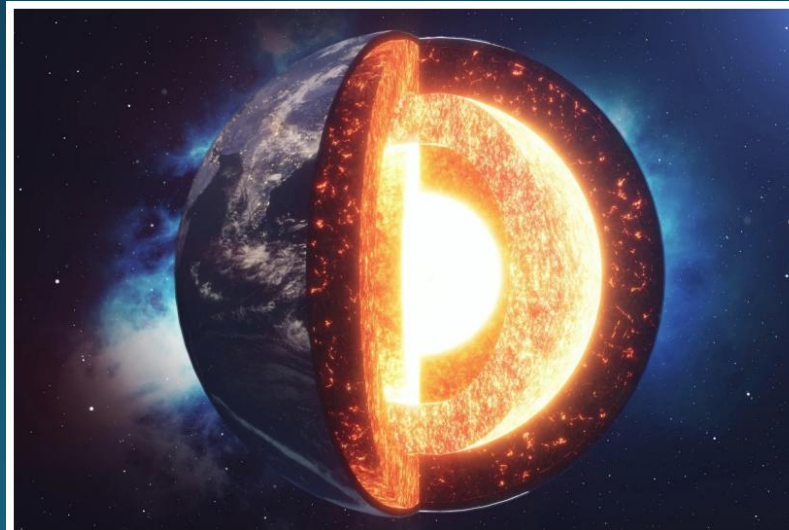
Detect Geoneutrinos

KamLAND

Detector site and components



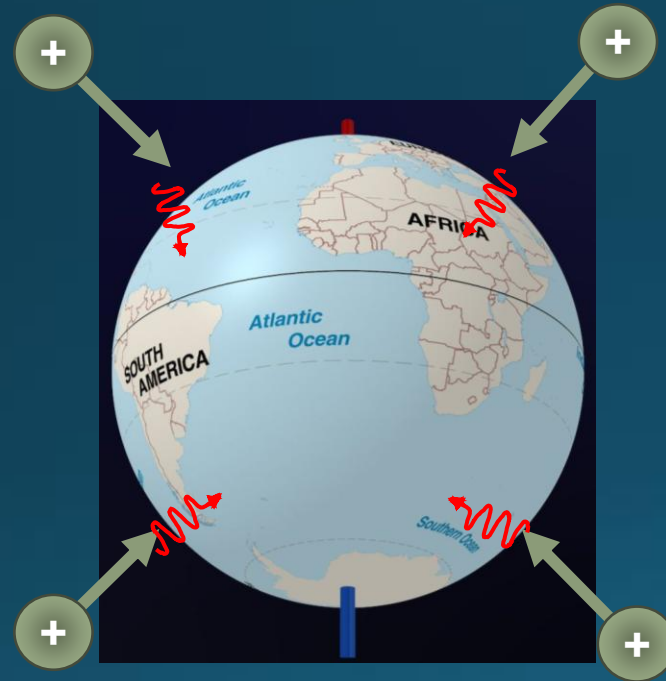
Kamioka Liquid Scintillator Antineutrino Detector (KamLAND)



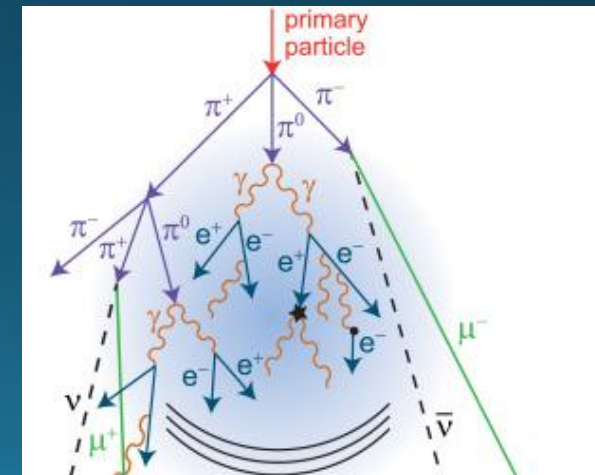
Geophysics
How much heat is generated in
different layers

A sea of neutrinos

Cosmic rays are constantly bombarding our atmosphere



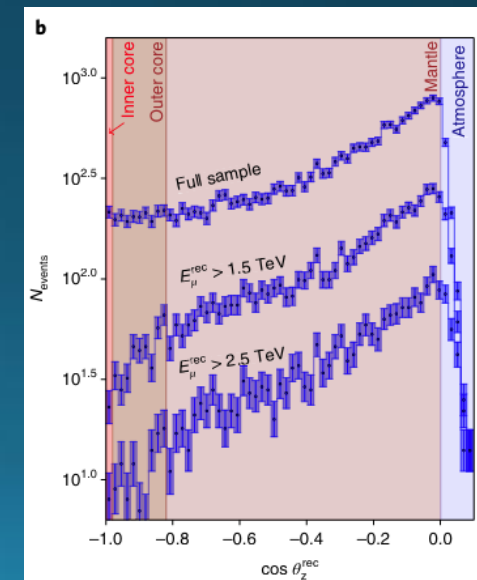
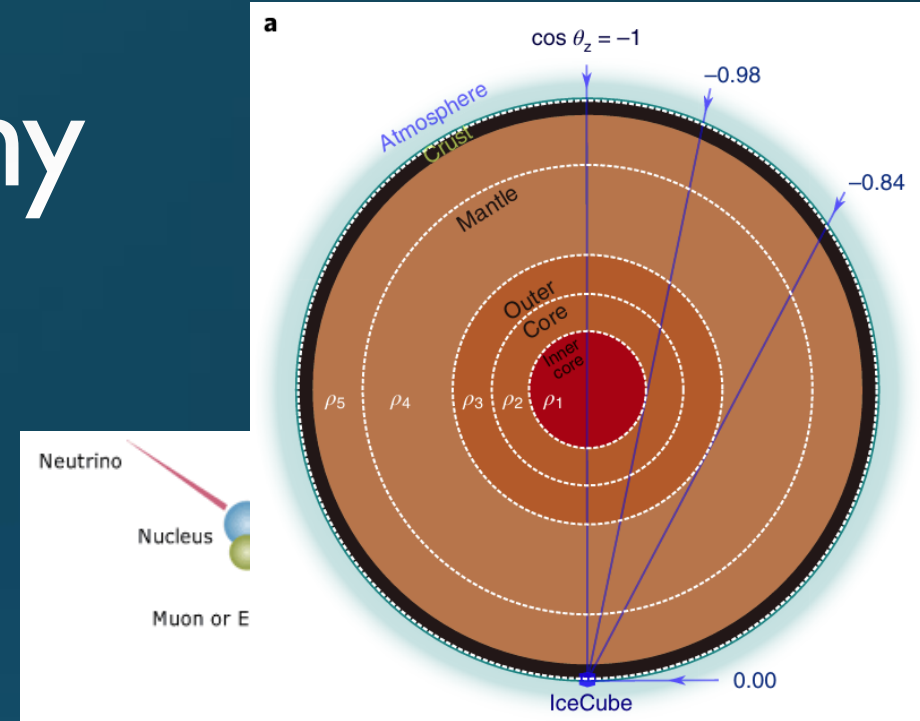
And their interactions are producing neutrinos (and muons)



Neutrino Tomography

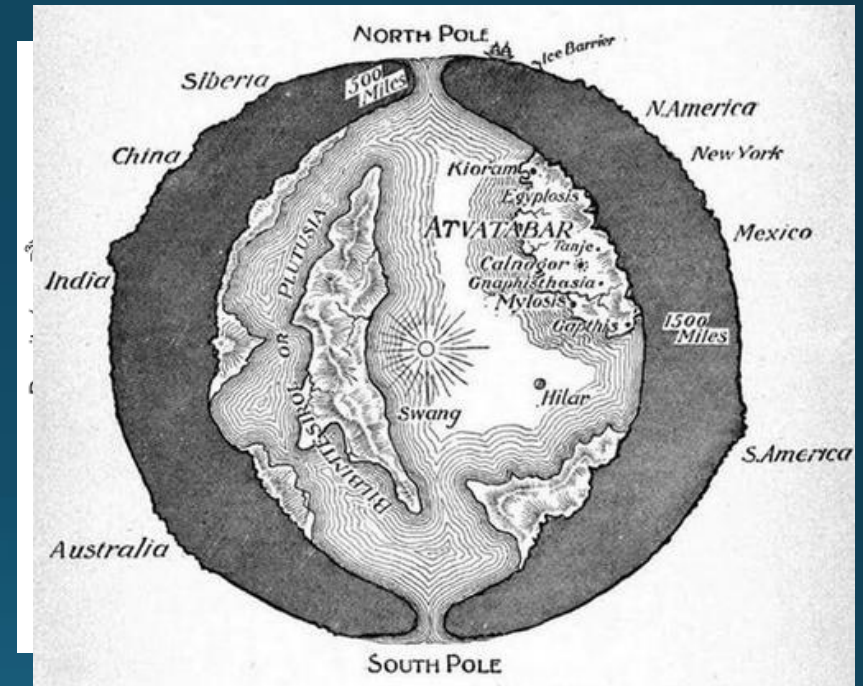
- We know the size of the Earth
- IceCube measured 20k upward going muons from neutrinos
 - Range of crossing angles through the Earth
- The core of the Earth is more dense, so less neutrinos will come from directions that go through the core

Line of sight with neutrino vision



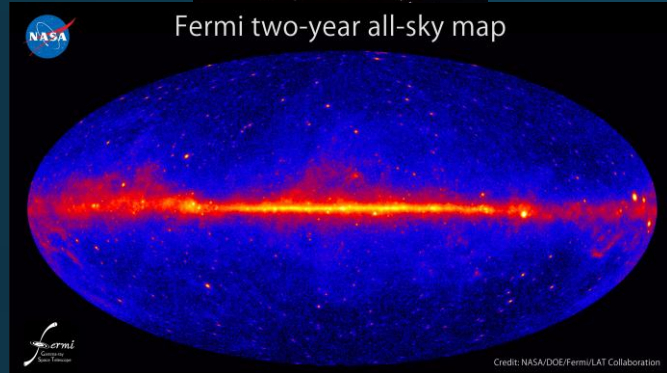
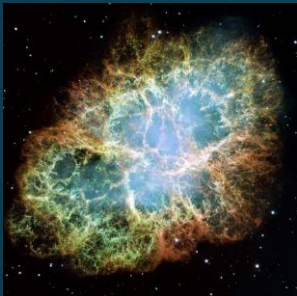
(ongoing) Neutrino tomography of the Earth

- Density determined by the neutrino measurements with IceCube
- Estimate that the mass of the Earth with neutrinos is
 - $6.0 * 10^{24}$ kg (Good agreement)
- The first measurement of Earth's mass not using gravitational force
 - Cavendish's measurement in 1798 was more precise than this

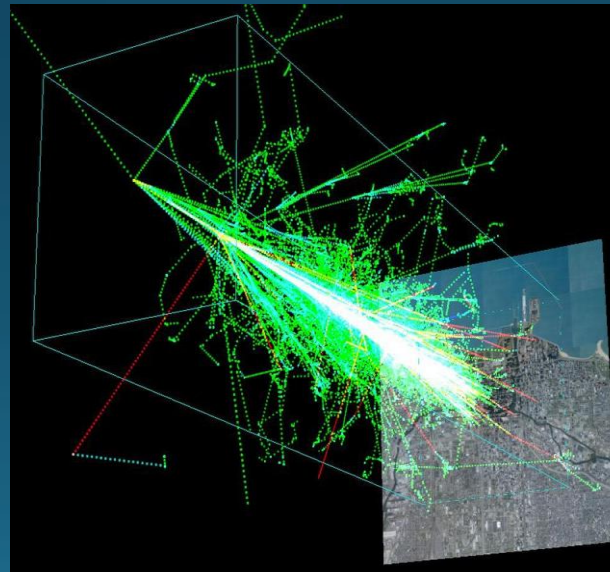


More importantly: the Earth isn't hollow

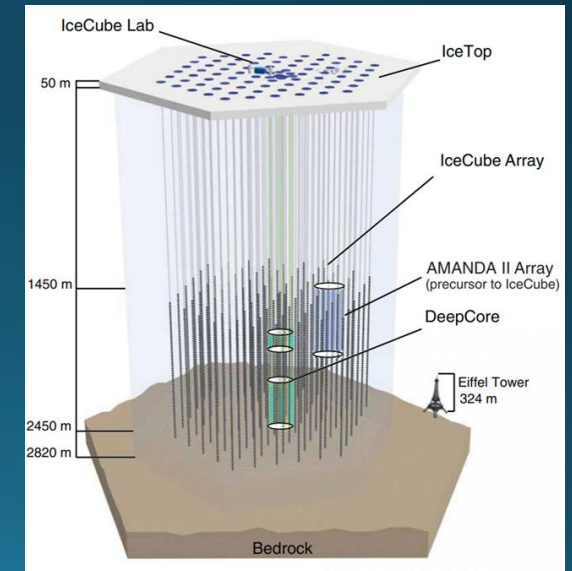
We live in a sea of cosmic rays

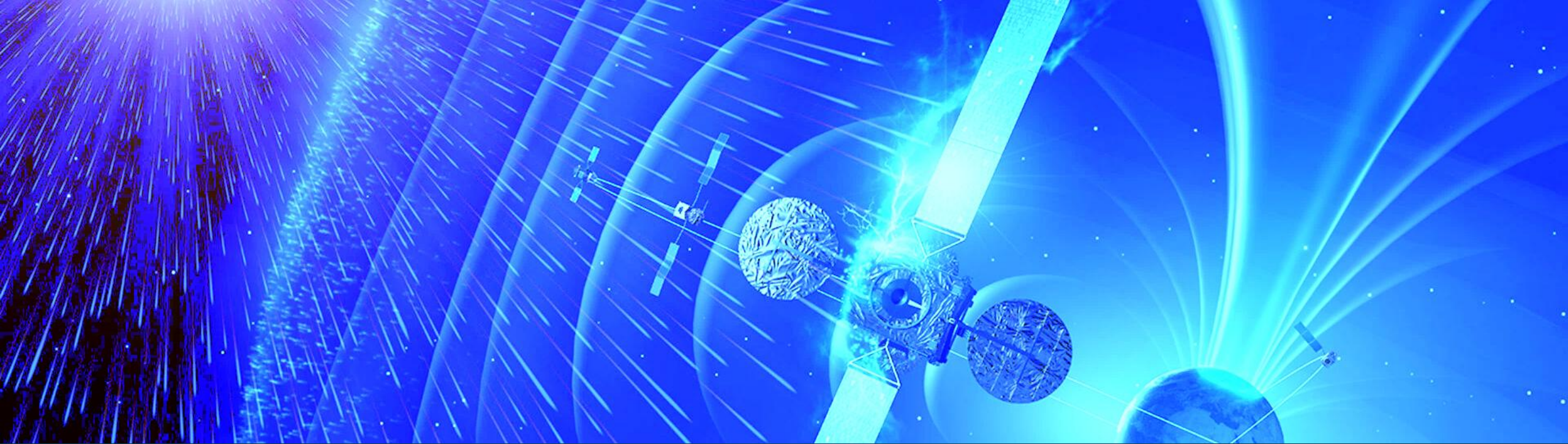


We just have to put on the astroparticle lens.



The Astroparticle Lens: Lecture 2





Next week, cosmic ray air showers and
how they may play a role in lightning

Thank you!