



SPACEOPS 2023  
THE 17th INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON SPACE OPERATIONS  
6-10 March 2023  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates



## Space Radiation Characterization for Safe Human Space Exploration and Settlements

Alessandro Bartoloni

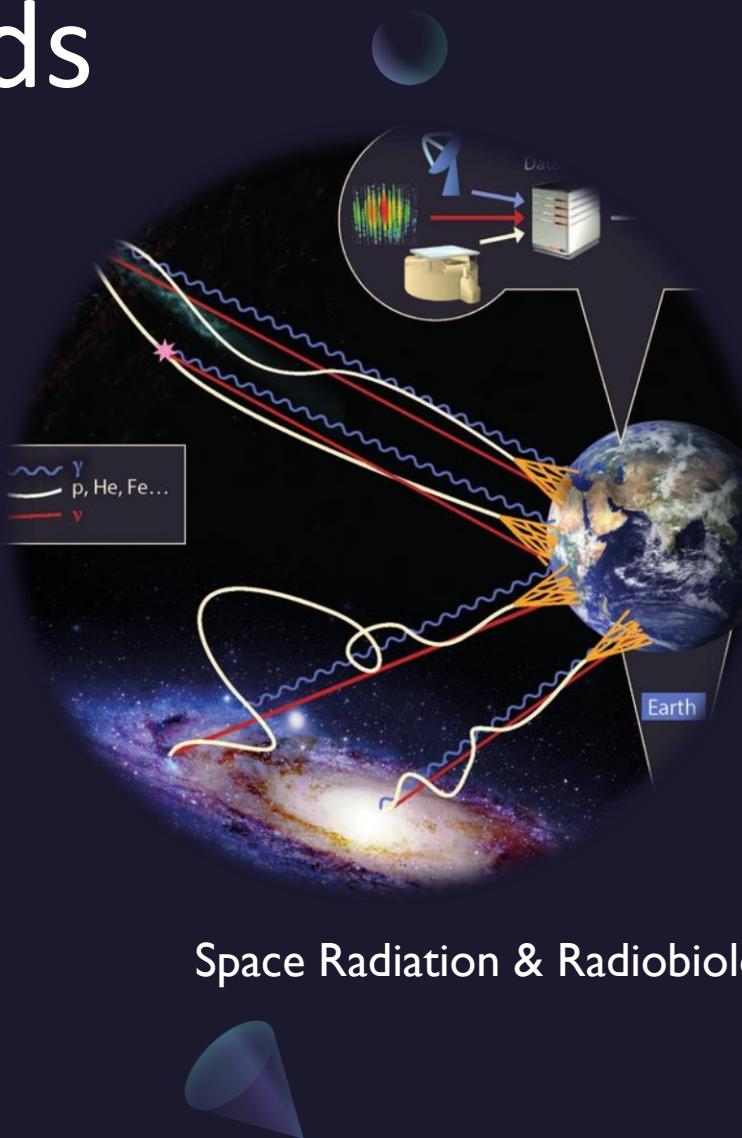
On behalf of the AMS Roma Sapienza group  
Italian Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN)

*I gratefully acknowledge the strong support from the AMS collaboration, from the INFN Scientific Committee CNS2 and from the Italian Space Agency (ASI) within the agreement ASI-INFN n. 2019-19-HH.0*

# Outline & Keywords

- The AMS Roma Sapienza Group
- Space Radiation Characterization
- AstroParticle Experiments
- Enabling Research @ AMS Roma Group

AMS02  
(Space Cosmic Ray Detectors)



Space Radiation & Radiobiology

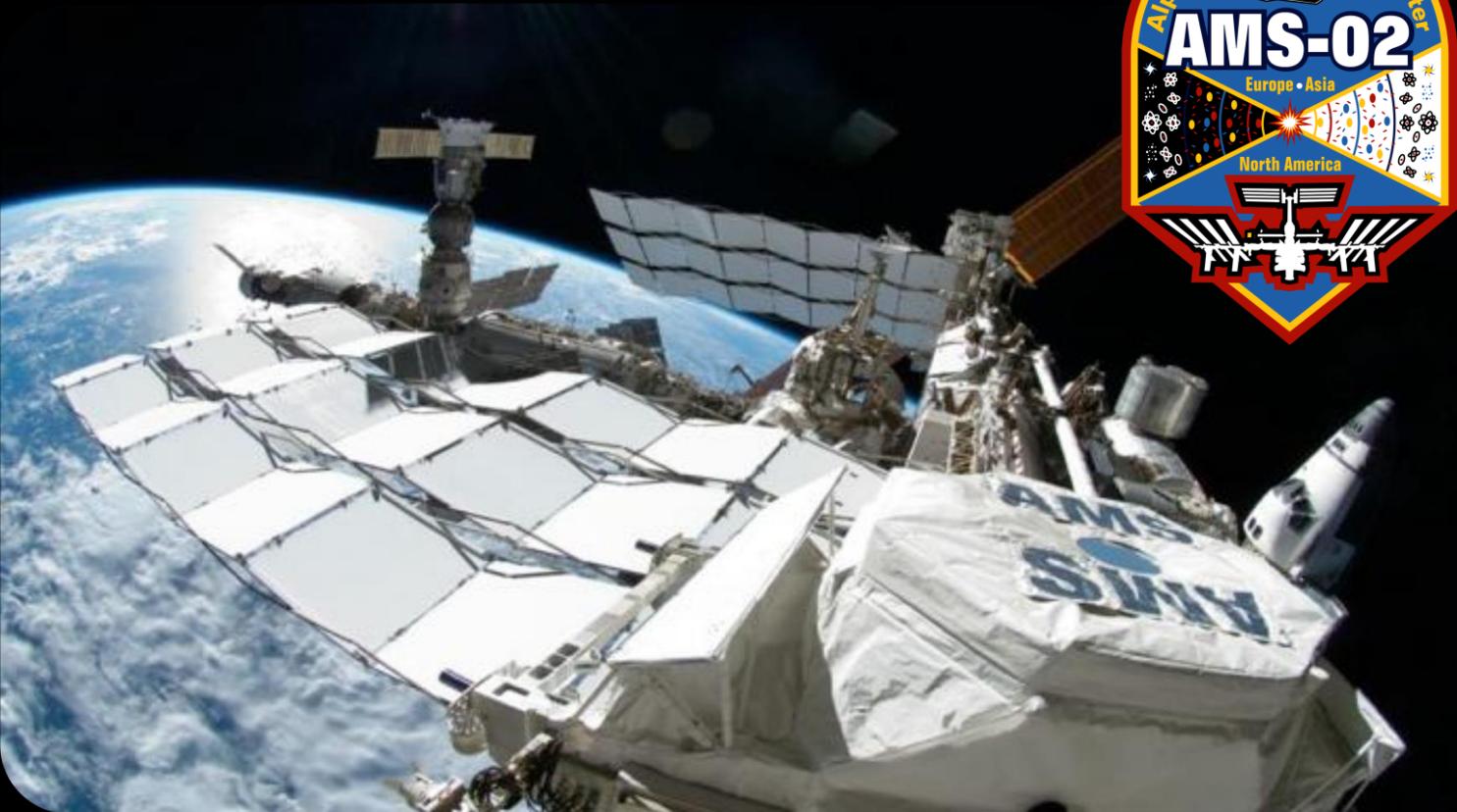
Human Space Exploration

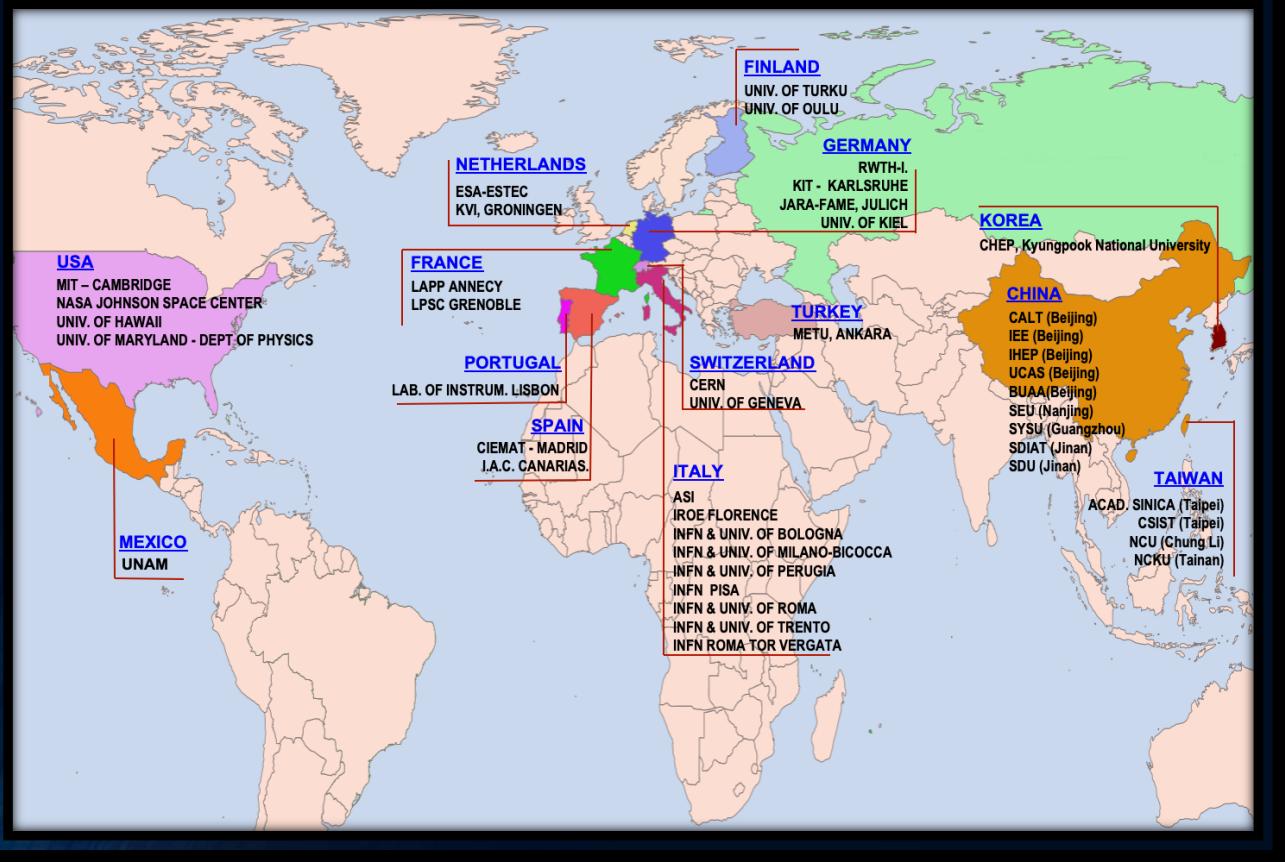


# The AMS Roma Sapienza Research Group

# Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer AMS02

AMS is a particle detector measuring Galactic Cosmic Ray fluxes.  
It was installed on the International Space Station (ISS) on May 19, 2011





# The AMS collaboration

(<http://ams02.space>)

An international collaboration made of 44 Institutes  
from America, Asia and Europe



It uses the unique environment of space to study the universe and its origin by searching for antimatter, dark matter while performing precision measurements of cosmic rays' composition and flux.



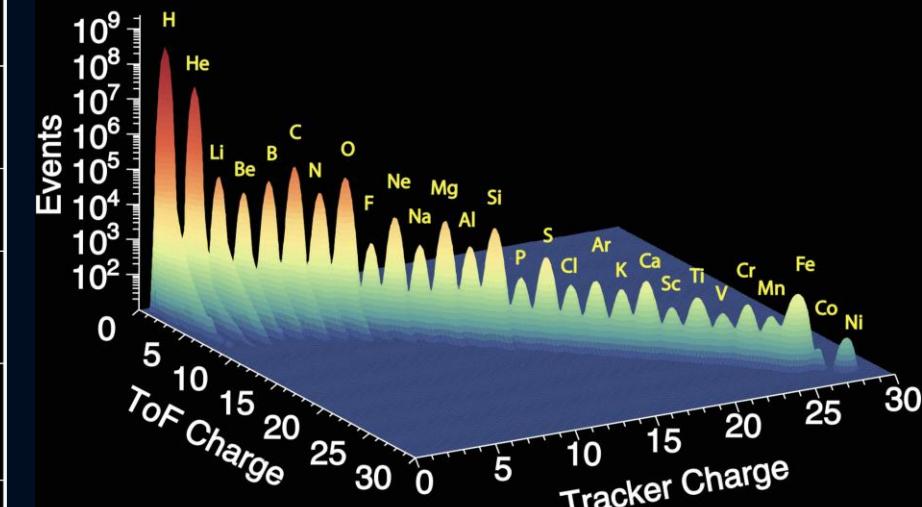
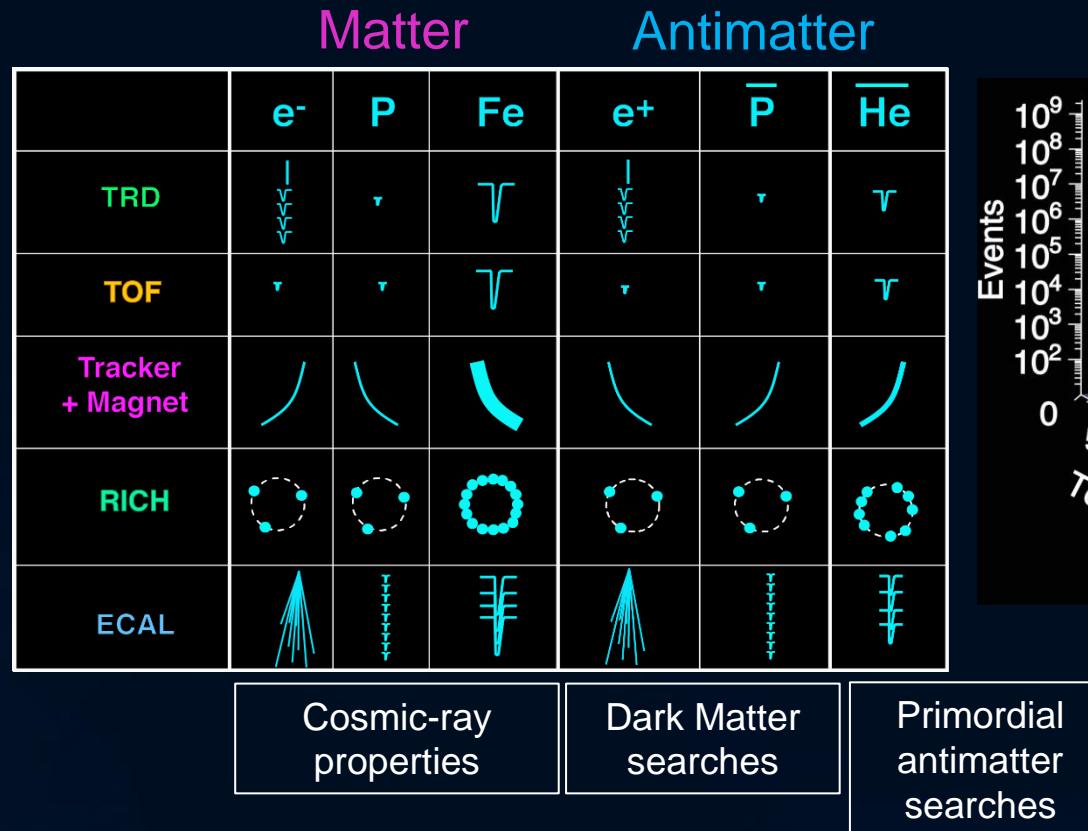
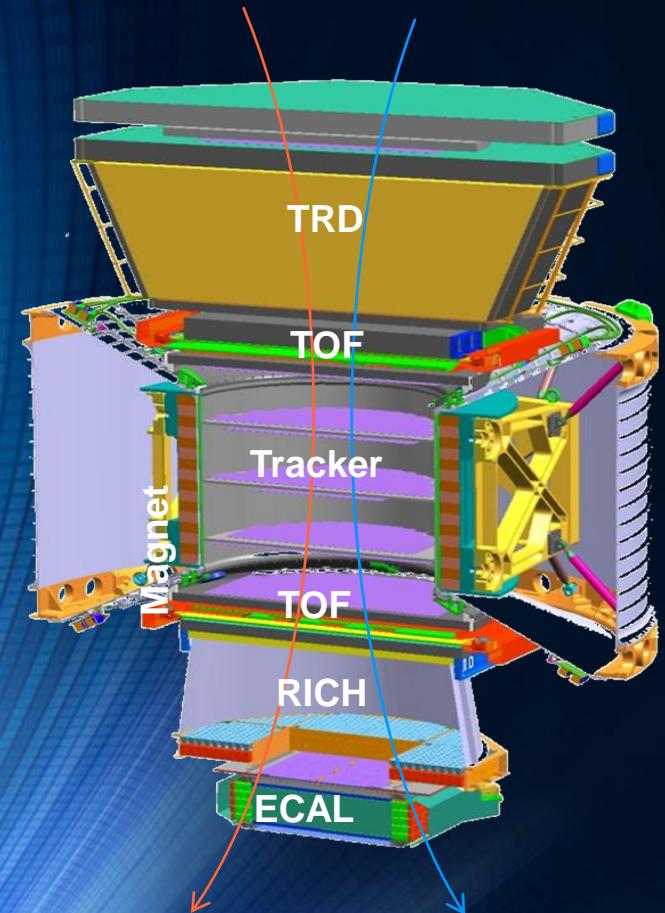
The AMS Payload Operation Control Center at CERN operates 365 days year h24

The AMS02 detector has collected so far more than **200 billion** Cosmic Rays events.

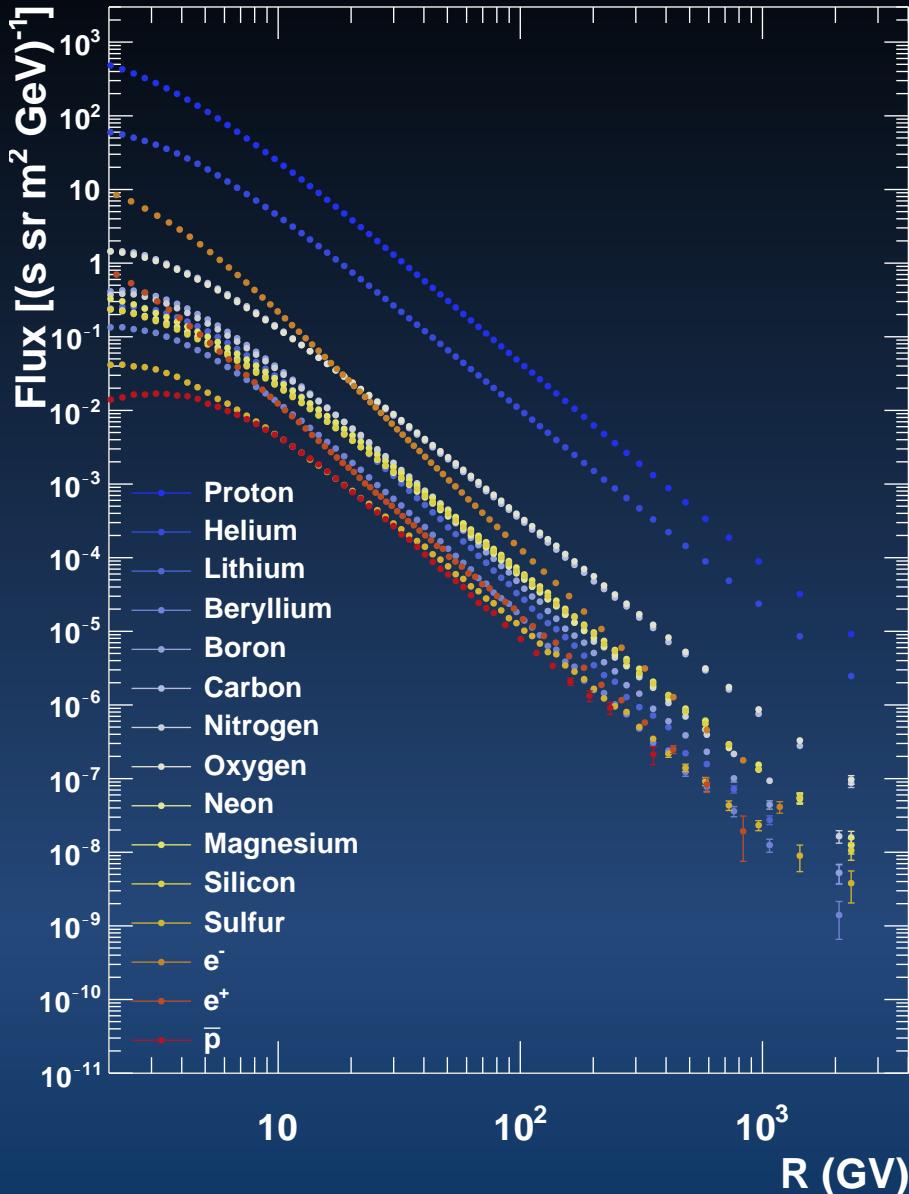
More Info in the AMS-02 webpage:  
<https://ams02.space>

# AMS is a space version of a precision detector used at accelerators

particle      anti-particle

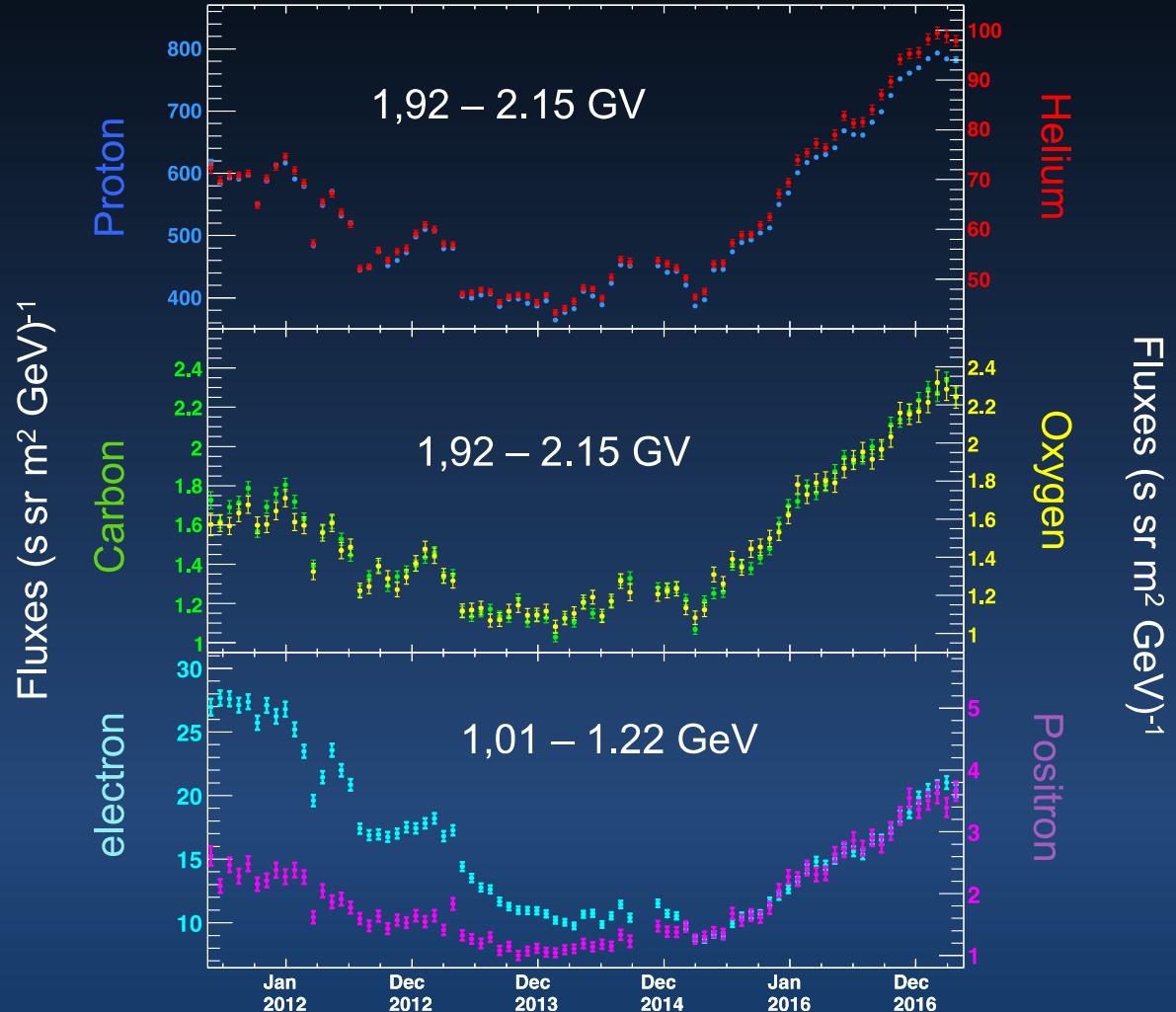


# AMS – Measurements

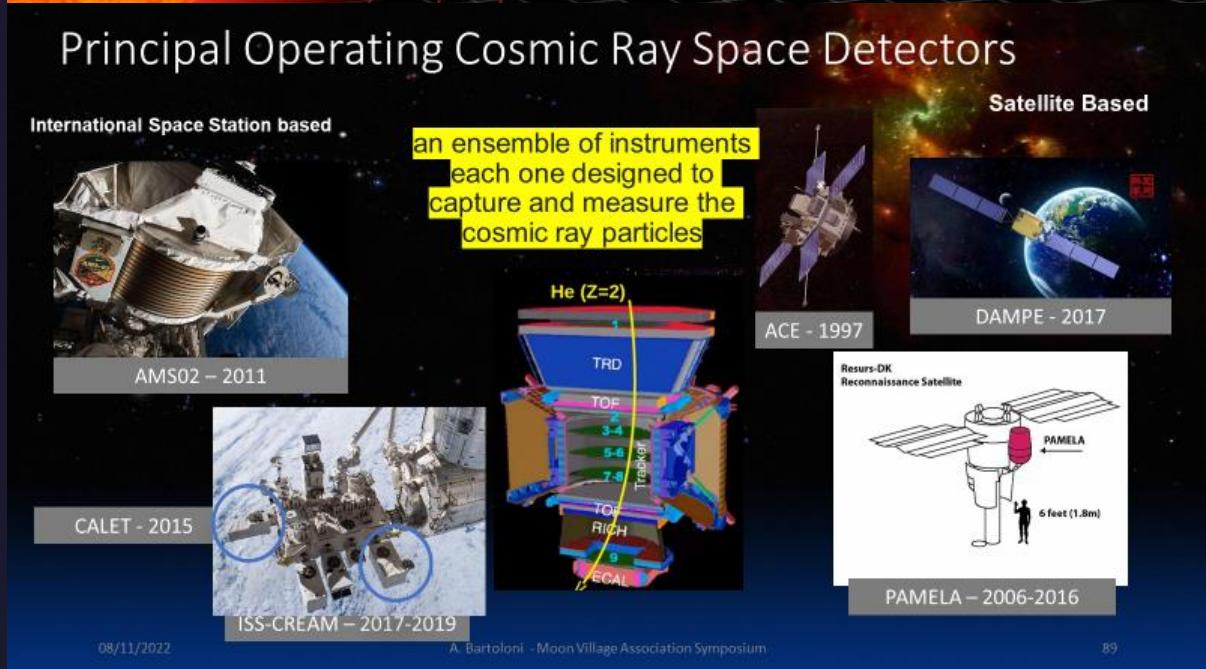
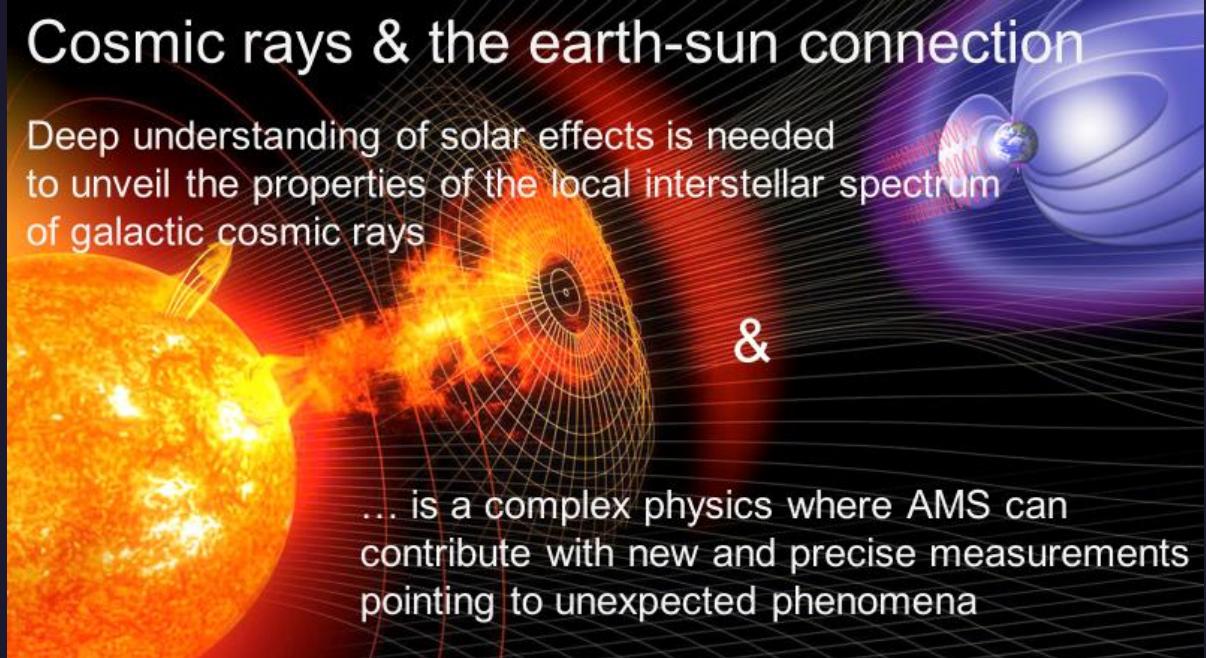
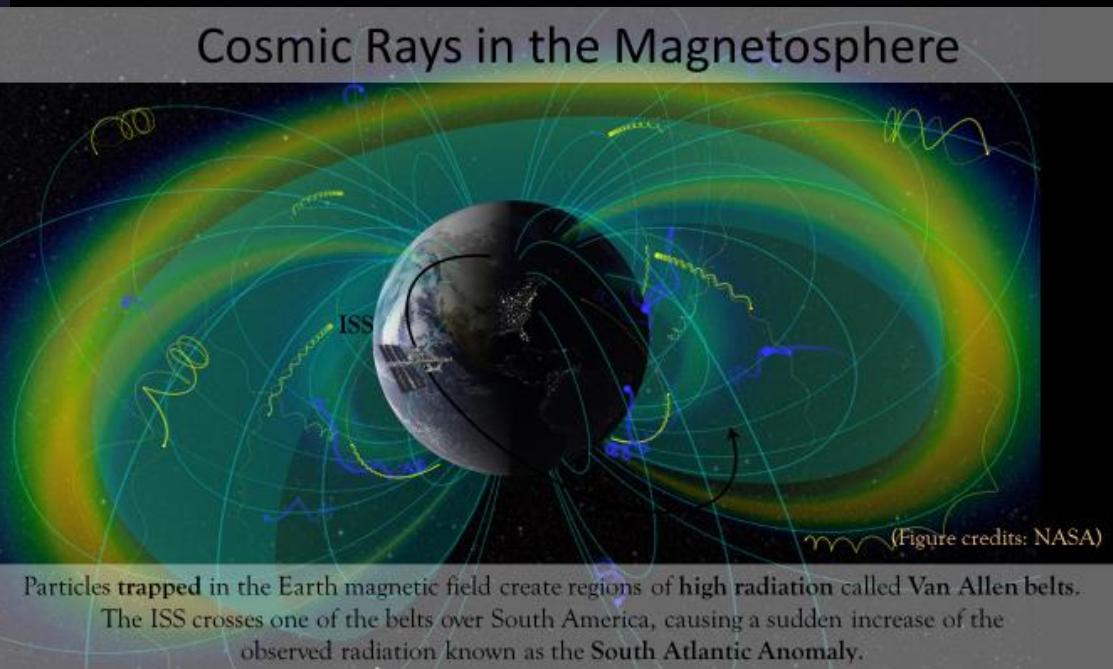
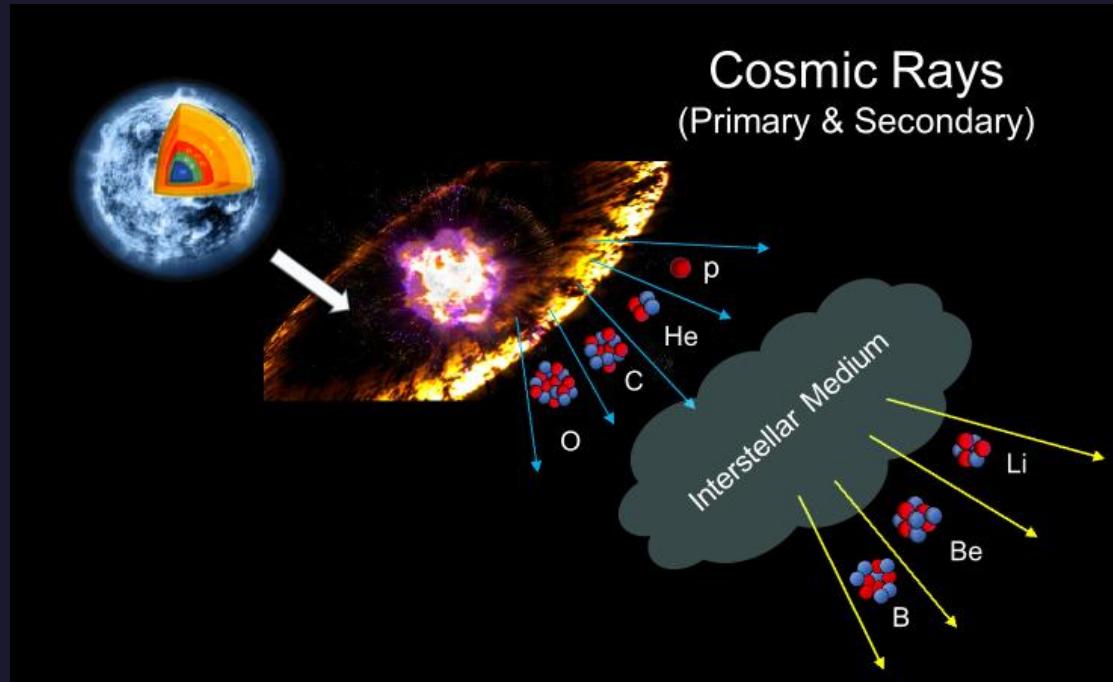


6-10 March 2023

Alessandro Bartoloni - SpaceOPS 2023 Conference



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## Properties of Daily Helium Fluxes

AMS Collaboration • M. Aguilar (Madrid, CIEMAT) et al. (Jun 10, 2022)

Published in: *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 128 (2022) 23, 231102

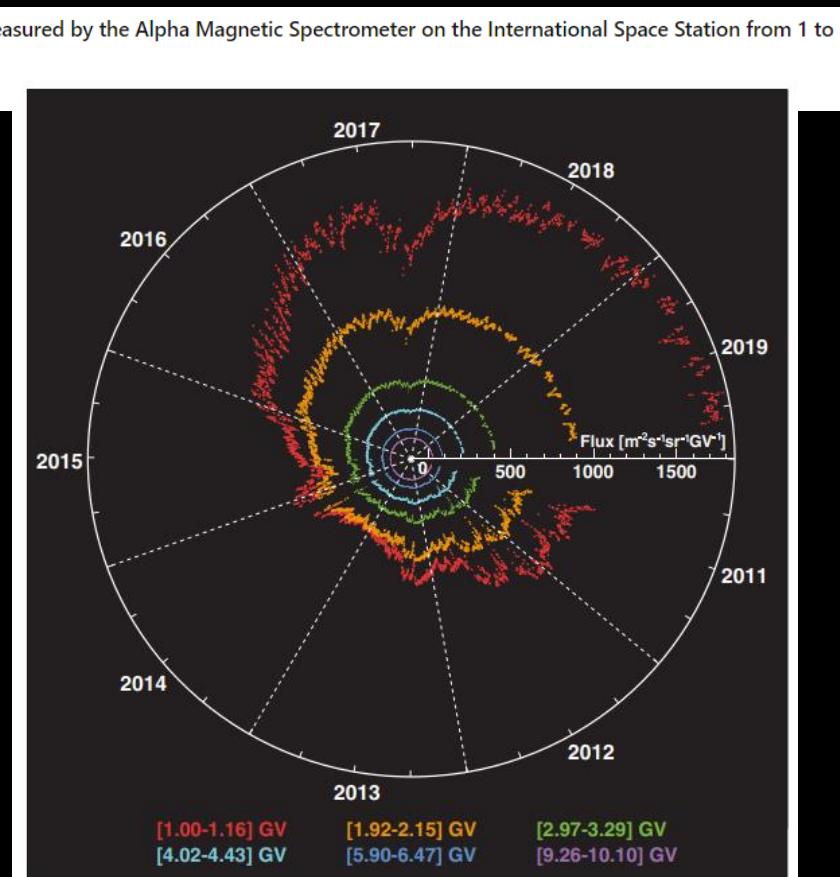
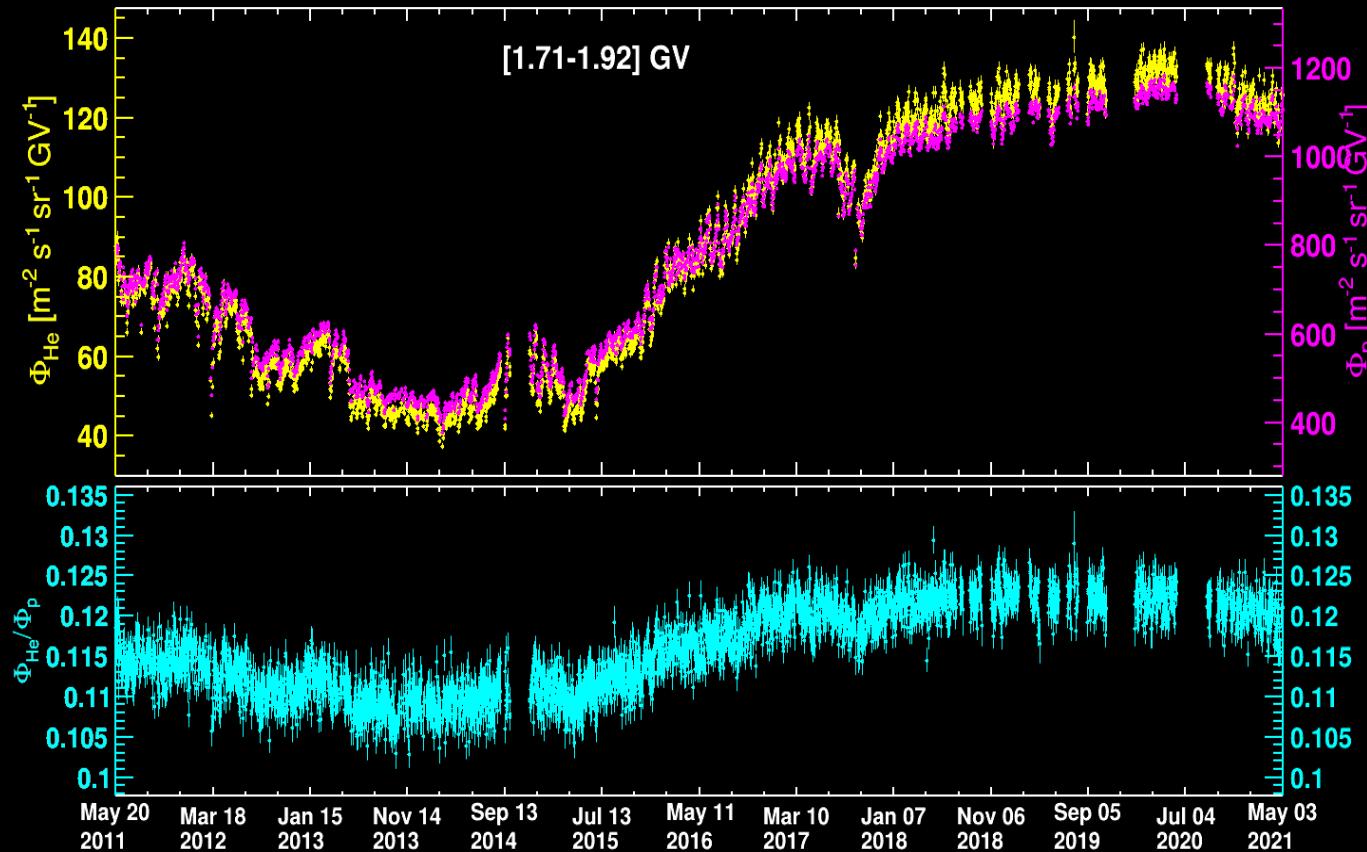


FIG. 1. The daily AMS proton fluxes for six typical rigidity bins from 1.00 to 10.10 GV measured from May 20, 2011 to October 29, 2019 which includes a major portion of solar cycle 24 (from December 2008 to December 2019). The AMS data

# Short term Solar Modulation of GCR

## Daily Proton and Helium Fluxes and Helium to Proton flux ratio

# Part of the AMS02 experiment was built at Rome (INFN & Sapienza)

The INFN Roma and the Sapienza university joined the AMS collaboration in 2001.

The group has taken part to the construction of the **Transition Radiation Detector** (TRD), having as main task the responsibility to develop the slow control electronics of the GAS System of the TRD (UG-Crate).

The UG-CRATE was part of a safety-critical system and the group took care of all the phases of the development (Design–Test–Integrate–Fly) following the NASA requirements.



**Design**



- 2001-2003
- Engineering Modules
- 2004-2005
- Qualification Modules (EMC-Thermo/Vacuum-Vibration Test)

**Integrate**



- 2006-2008
- Flight & Spare Modules production (now on ISS)
- 2009-2011
- UGPD-Crate Assembly in AMS02 and Space Qualification at ESA-ESTEC
- Launch ops at NASA-MSFC

**Fly**



**The AMS SPRB collaboration was created in 2017 by the synergy of the AMS INFN Roma Sapienza (Italy) group leaded by Alessandro Bartoloni with the medical physics research group leaded by Lidia Strigari currently at IRCCS university Hospital of Bologna (Italy)**

# AMS INFN ROMA SAPIENZA GROUP

A world map with several regions highlighted in green and blue boxes, indicating the locations of group members. The highlighted regions include the USA (MIT - CAMBRIDGE, NASA JOHN HOPKINS, UNIV. OF HARVARD, UNIV. OF MASSACHUSETTS), FINLAND (UNIV. OF TURKU, UNIV. OF OULU), Mexico (UNAM), and Italy (INFN & UNIV. OF PERUGIA, INFN PISA, INFN & UNIV. OF ROMA, INFN & UNIV. OF TRENTO, INFN ROMA TOR VERGATA). A red box highlights NCKU (Tainan) in Taiwan.

**Space Generation Advisory Council**

- Sara Parsaei**  
Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman
- Mustafa Rafiei**
- Faith Tng**

Aboma Negasa Guracho



Silvia Strolin



Miriam Santoro

Alessandro Bartoloni



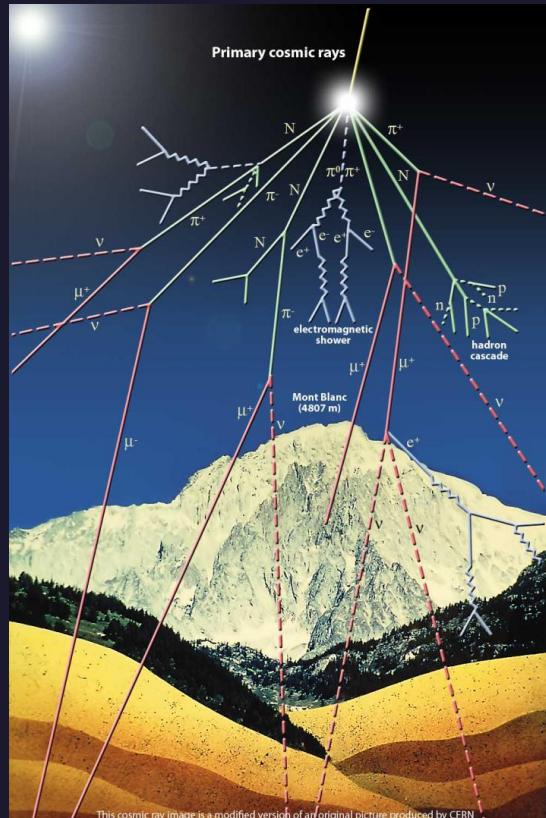
Giulia Paolani



Lidia Strigari

Cosmic rays (CR) approaching our planet interact with the Earth's magnetic field and atmosphere, and such interaction protects humans living on the Earth's surface.

The Magnetosphere rejects most particles (99%) while the rest loose most energy going through the atmosphere before reaching the Earth's surface.



Completely different is the situation in space where the CR interacting with the human body release some energy and can be dangerous for the human health.

In this regard, this is one of the main concerns for safe space exploration as planned for the coming years by all the national space Agencies.

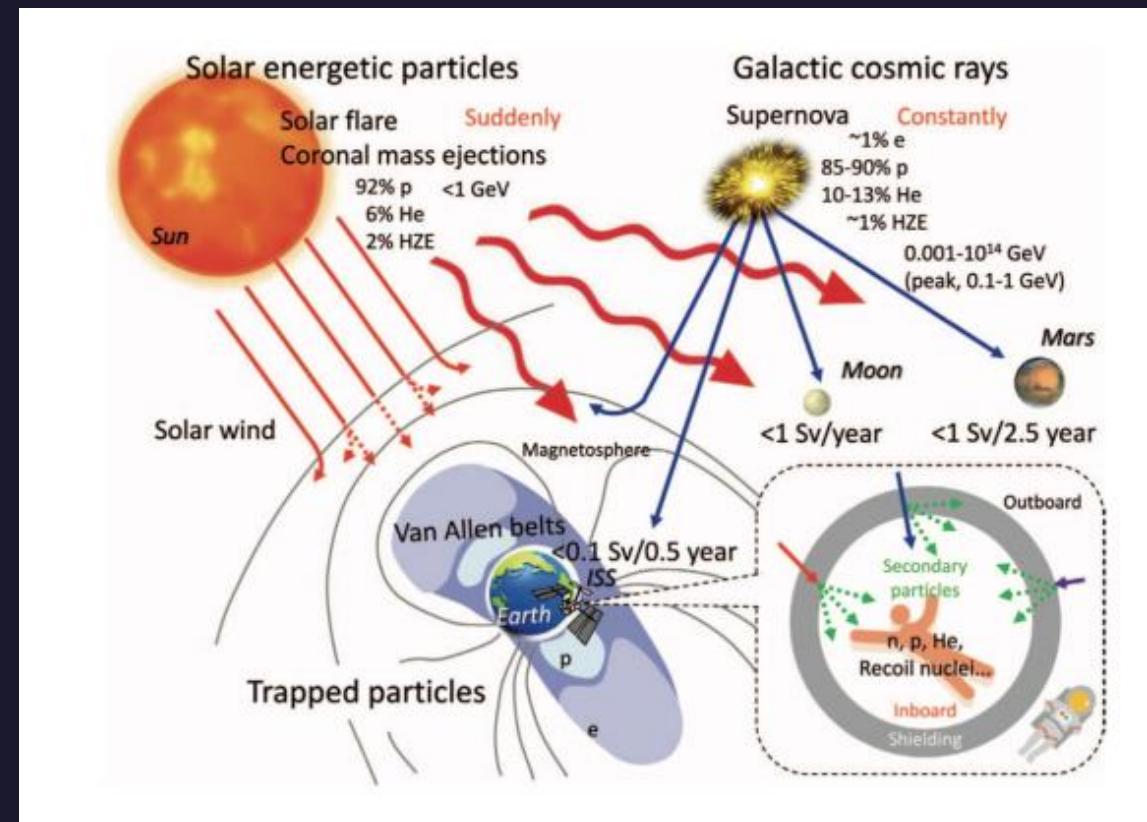


Image courtesy of European Space Agency (ESA)

Since 2018, the INFN Roma Sapienza AMS group has collaborate with researchers and scientists to investigate the possibilities of using the CRD to improve the radiation health risk assessment for humans in space missions.

In 2019 we organize at INFN Roma Sapienza a thematic meeting with participants from ESA and Thales Alenia Space

**SPACE RADIobiology  
AND  
PRECISION GALACTIC COSMIC RAY MEASUREMENTS**

ON HOW THE AMS02 EXPERIMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION CAN HELP THE RADIATION HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT IN EXPLORATORY SPACE MISSIONS

LUNEDÌ 4 NOVEMBRE 2019  
DIPARTIMENTO DI FISICA – AULA CONVERSI

 14:30-14:45  
Introduzione  
*A. Bartoloni – INFN Roma*

 14:45-15:35  
High precision measurements of charged cosmic rays in space with the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer.  
*M. Paniccia, Università di Ginevra*

 15:35-16:20  
ESA Human Spaceflight Radiation Research Programme activities.  
*L. Surdo, European Space Agency*

 16:20-17:05  
Shielding design for long duration human exploratory space missions : issues and future perspective.  
*M. Giraudo, Thales Alenia Space*




**INFN ROMA**  
Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare  
Sezione di Roma

**SAPIENZA**  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

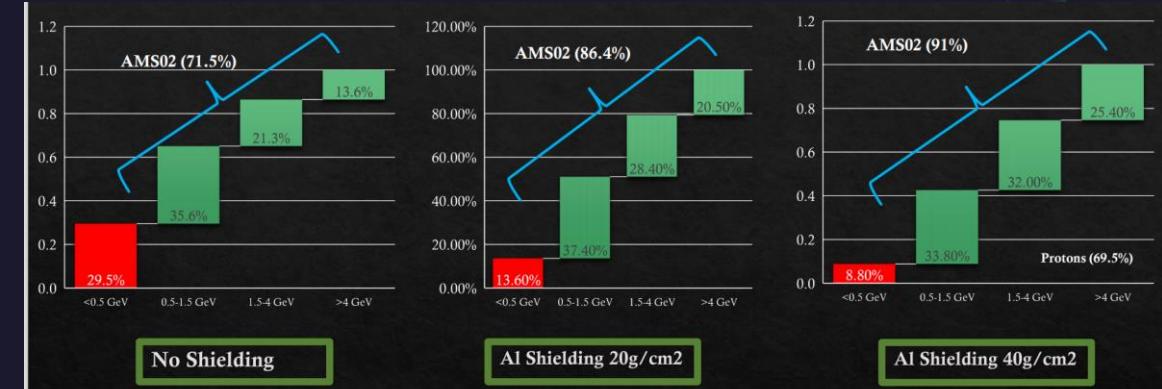
<https://agenda.infn.it/event/20462/>

Collaborations were mainly focused on creating synergy within different scientific communities (radiobiology, medical physics, radiotherapy, and nuclear medicine)

and Institutions playing a crucial role in the human space exploration  
(Research, Universities, and National Space Agencies).

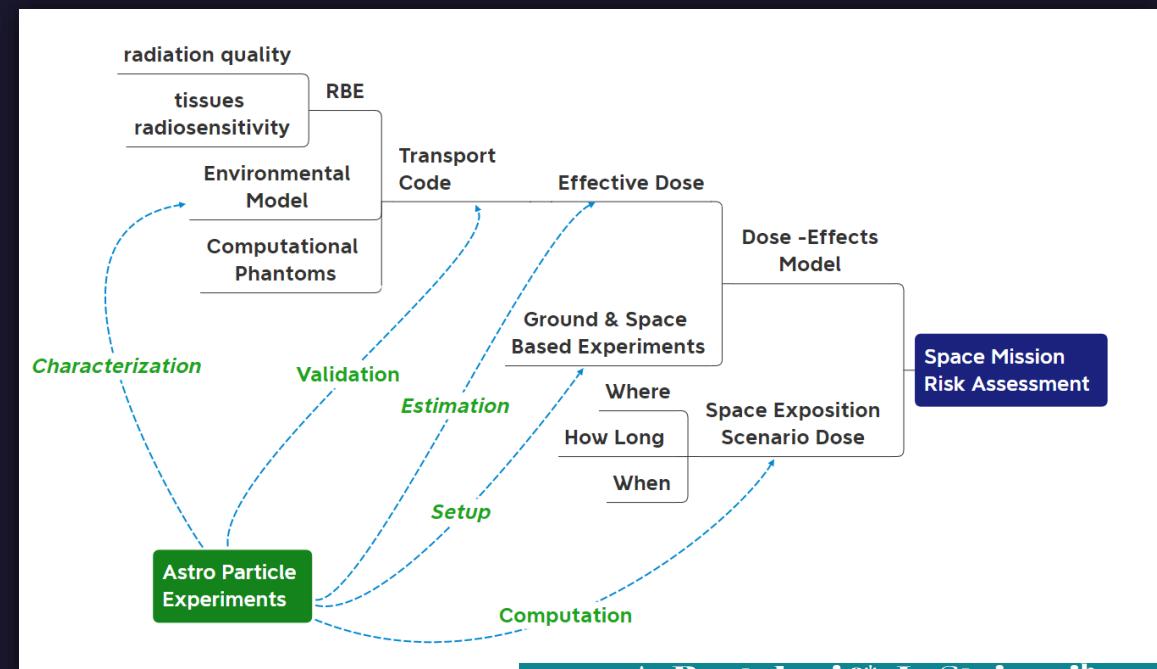
We have many studies on the capabilities and possibilities in that direction, especially regarding the AMS02 and also we identify many opportunities for improvement.

### AMS02 GCR sensitivity analysis



A. Bartoloni <sup>a\*</sup>, L. Strigari<sup>b</sup>

SIF2019



A. Bartoloni <sup>a\*</sup>, L. Strigari<sup>b</sup>

GLEX-2I-8.2.5 (ID:62186)

# SPACE RADIATION & ASTRONAUT SAFETY

«To fully understand the relationship between ionizing radiation and biology, and to solve problems in this field, researchers incorporate fundamentals of **biology, physics, astrophysics, planetary science, and engineering**» *(credit : NASA)*

The manned spaceflight especially Beyond the Low Earth Orbit (BLEO) could represent a concern for the health of astronauts.



Deep Space (BLEO) travelling (x750)



LEO-ISS (x150-200)



Moon Surface (x300-x400)

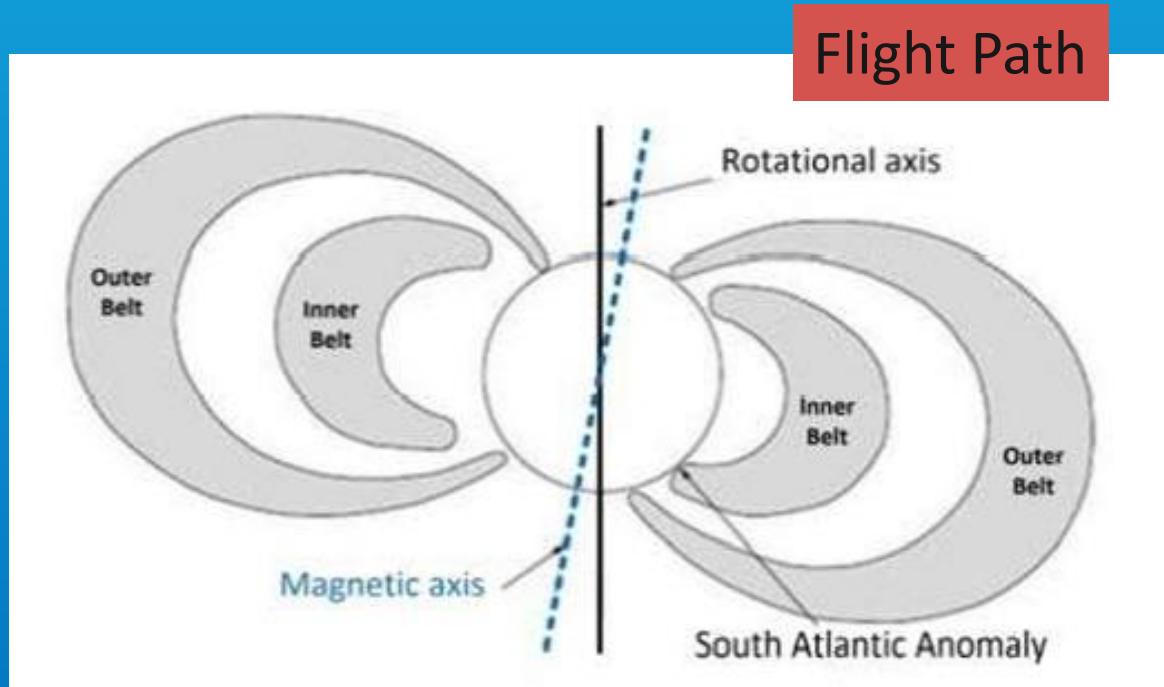


Mars Surface (x250)

# Travelling to the Moon to Stay

Apollo 11 data reports from dosimetry 1.8 mGy  
that the are optimistically equal to 1.8 mSv  
(Sievert indicates the biological effects).

Less than the annual dose expected on the Earth (2.-4.5 mSv)



## Radiation Quality

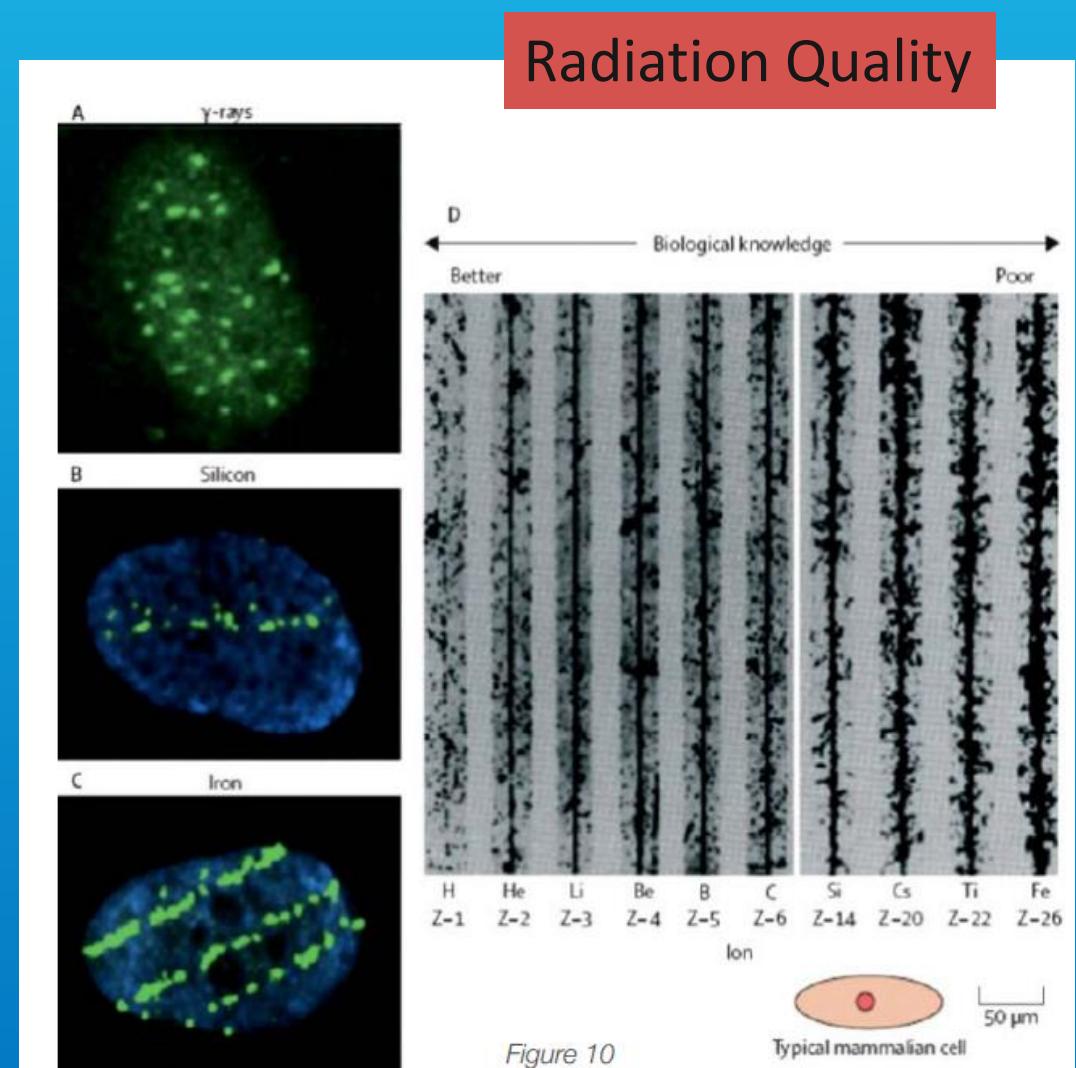


Figure 10

# Travelling through the VAB (Worst Case Flight Path )

## Radiation Analysis for Moon and Mars Missions

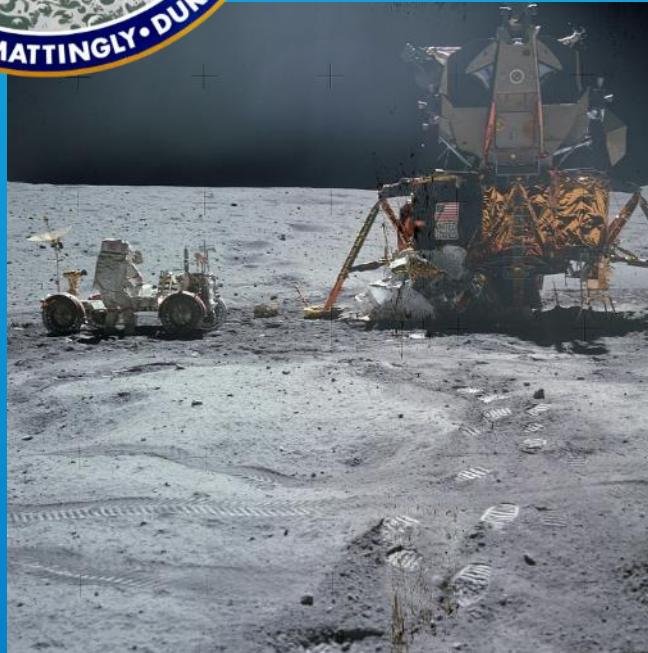
Andreas Märki

Märki Analytics for Space, Erlenbach ZH, Switzerland

**Table 2.** Determination of the Radiation Dose for 4mm Al Shielding through the VAB.

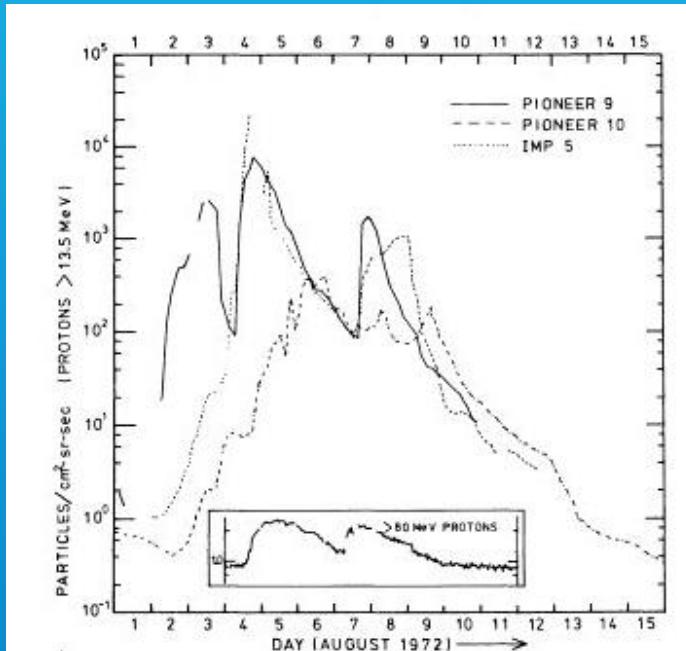
	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Time in Zone</b>	<b>Dose Calculation</b>	<b>Dose</b>
Path to the Moon	1E3 ... 1E4 p <sup>+</sup>	400s ≈ 7min	400s * (1/300)*465mSv/h	>0.2 mSv
	1E4 ... 1E5 e <sup>-</sup>	≈0s	≈0 mSv	≈0 mSv
	1E5 ... 1E6 e <sup>-</sup>	800s ≈ 13min	800s * (1/30)*355mSv/h	>2.6 mSv
	>(≈) 1E6 e <sup>-</sup>	700s ≈ 12min	700s * (1/3)*355mSv/h	>(≈) 23.0 mSv
	1E6 ... 1E5 e <sup>-</sup>	2700s=45min	2700s * (1/30)*355mSv/h	>8.9 mSv
Total Outward	1E5 ... 1E4 e <sup>-</sup>	1383s ≈ 23min	1383s * (1/300)*355mSv/h	>0.5 mSv
Return Path	1E4 ... 1E5 e <sup>-</sup>	1500s=25min	1500s * (1/300)*355mSv/h	>0.5 mSv
	1E5 ... 1E6 e <sup>-</sup>	1200s=20min	1200s * (1/30)*355mSv/h	>3.9 mSv
Total Return	1E5 ... 1E4 e <sup>-</sup>	≈0s	≈0 mSv	≈0 mSv
Total Resulting Dose				>4.4 mSv
Apollo 11 Mission Dose				>39.6 mSv
				>39.6 mGy
				1.8 mGy

This analysis reports more than 70 mSv from VAB Protons and Electrons using a 4mm Aluminum shields



April 1972

# The 4 August 1972 Solar Flare



August 1972

Sun Activities

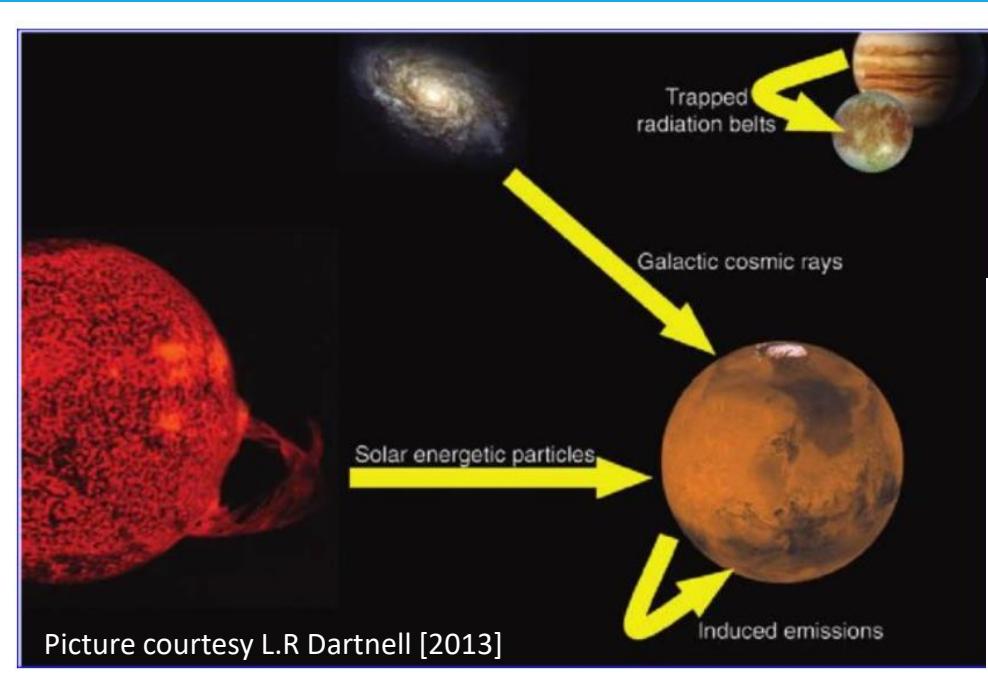


December 1972

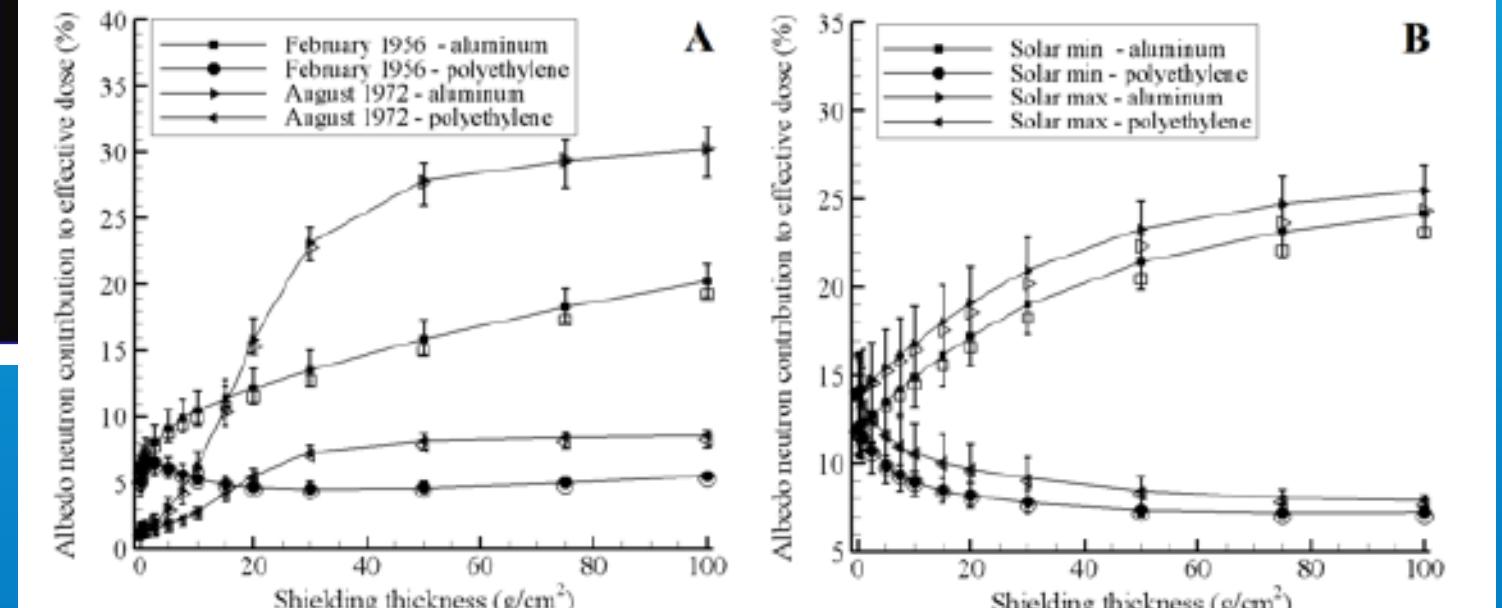


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# GCR and SEP interaction with the lunar surface



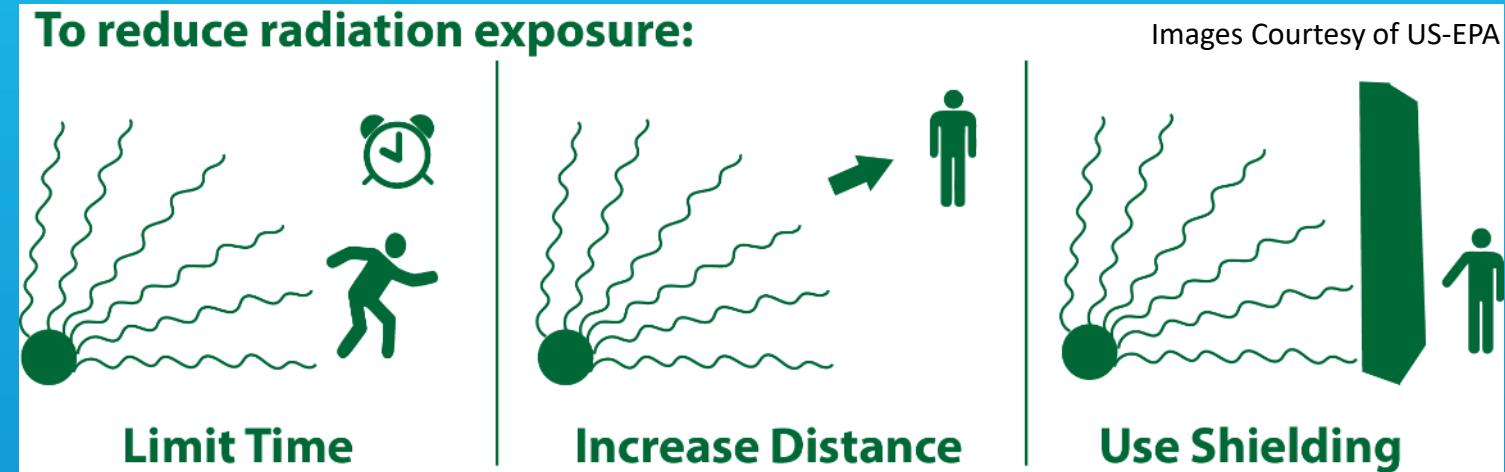
## Albedo Ionizing Radiation



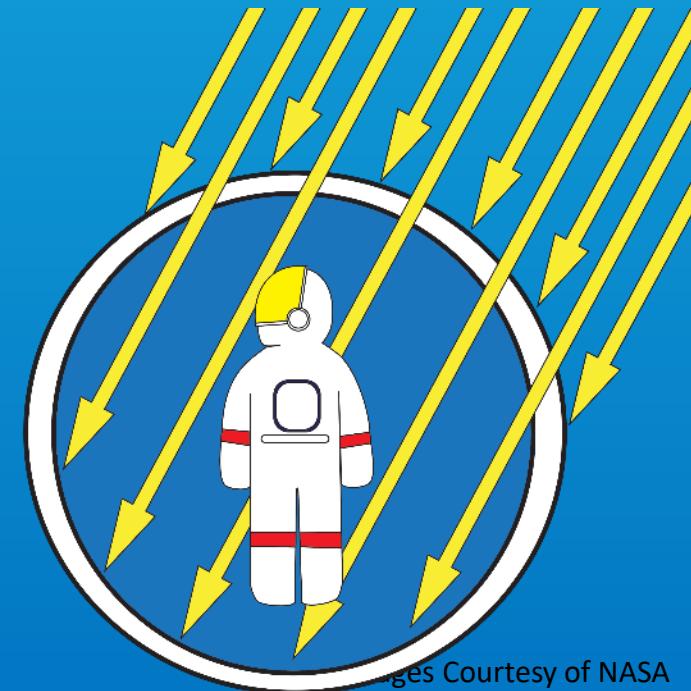
On the surface of the Moon the free space GCR or SPE environments interact with the planetary surface, yielding a back-scattered radiation field.

Percent Contribution to Effective Dose from Albedo Neutrons on Lunar Surface behind different types of shield From Slaba et Al [2011]

# Radioprotection criteria used on Earth....



...do not work in space !



Images Courtesy of NASA

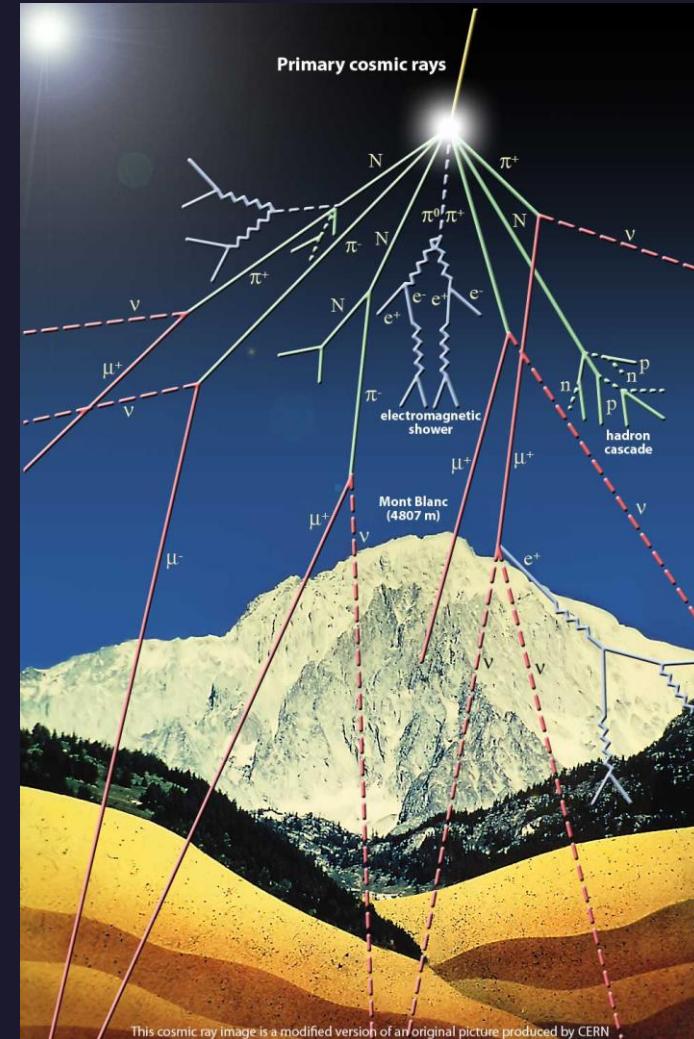
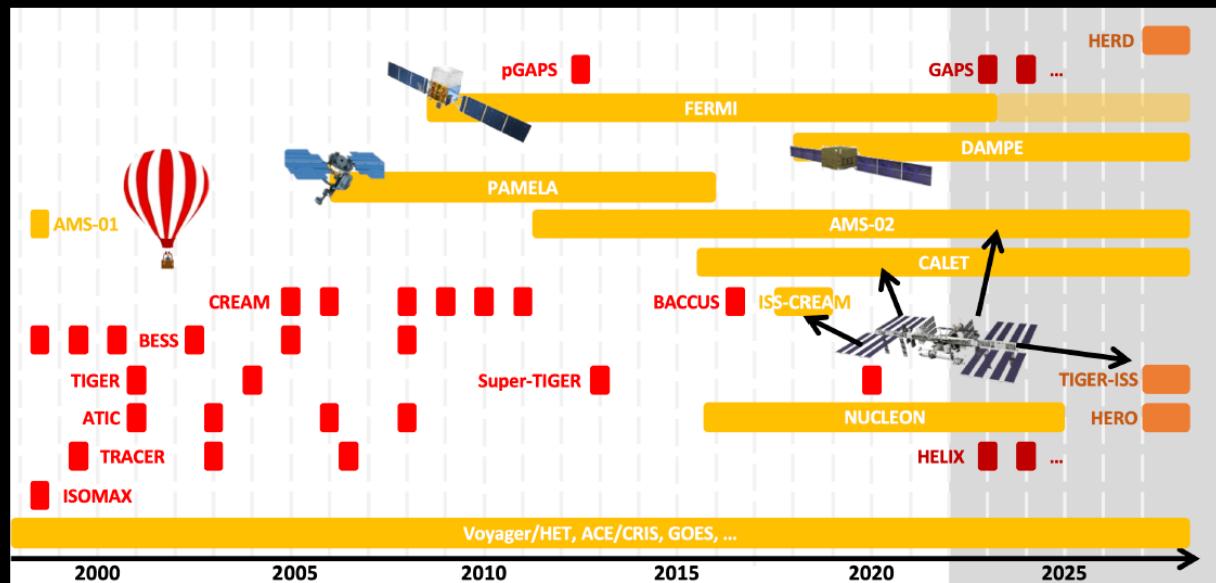
# Cosmic Ray Detectors in Space

# Astroparticle Experiments in Space

In the last two decades, many astroparticle experiments have been built and deployed in space to investigate many open questions in fundamental physics and cosmology, for example, the dark matter and dark energy existence and composition or the existence of primordial antimatter.

A particular class of experiments, the CR Detectors (CRD), are designed to produce a complete inventory of charged particles and nuclei in CR since the knowledge of this information is crucial to solving the above physics open problems.

## Timeline of Direct Measurement of CRs from 2000



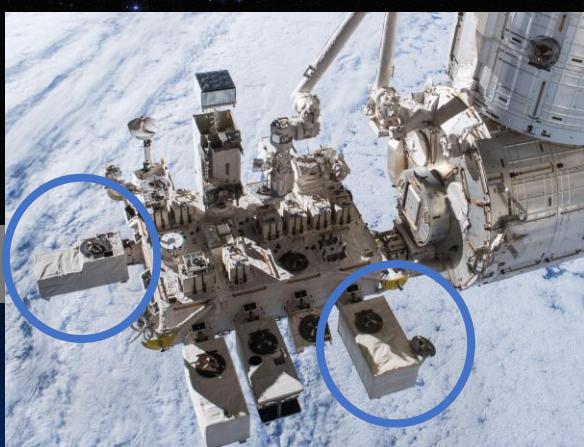
This cosmic ray image is a modified version of an original picture produced by CERN

# Principal Operating Cosmic Ray Space Detectors

International Space Station based



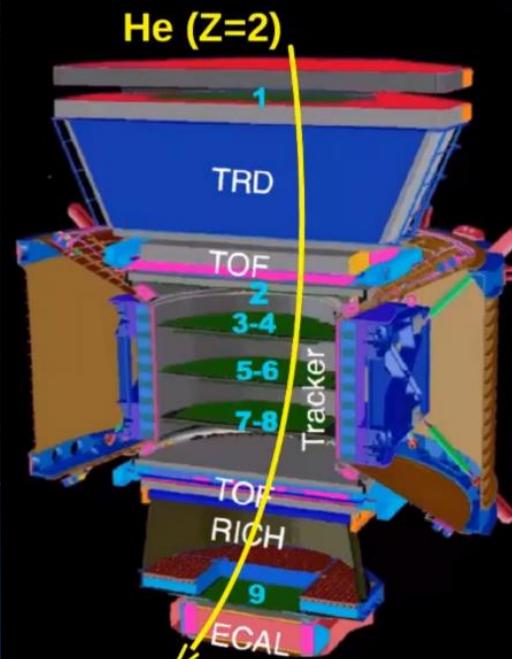
AMS02 – 2011



CALET - 2015

ISS-CREAM – 2017-2019

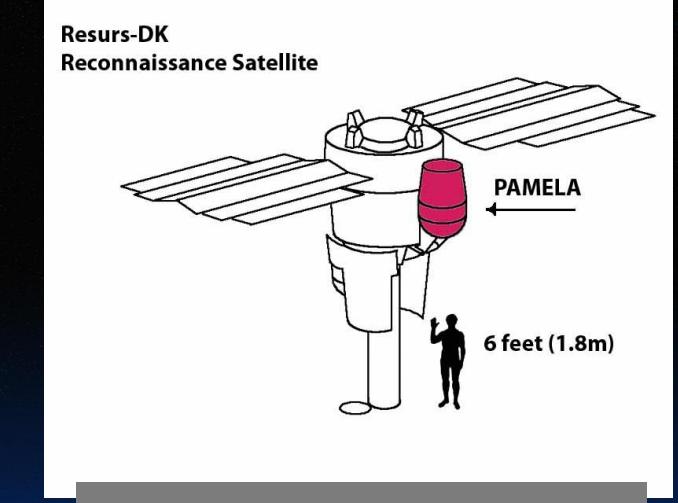
an ensemble of instruments  
each one designed to  
capture and measure the  
cosmic ray particles



ACE - 1997



DAMPE - 2017

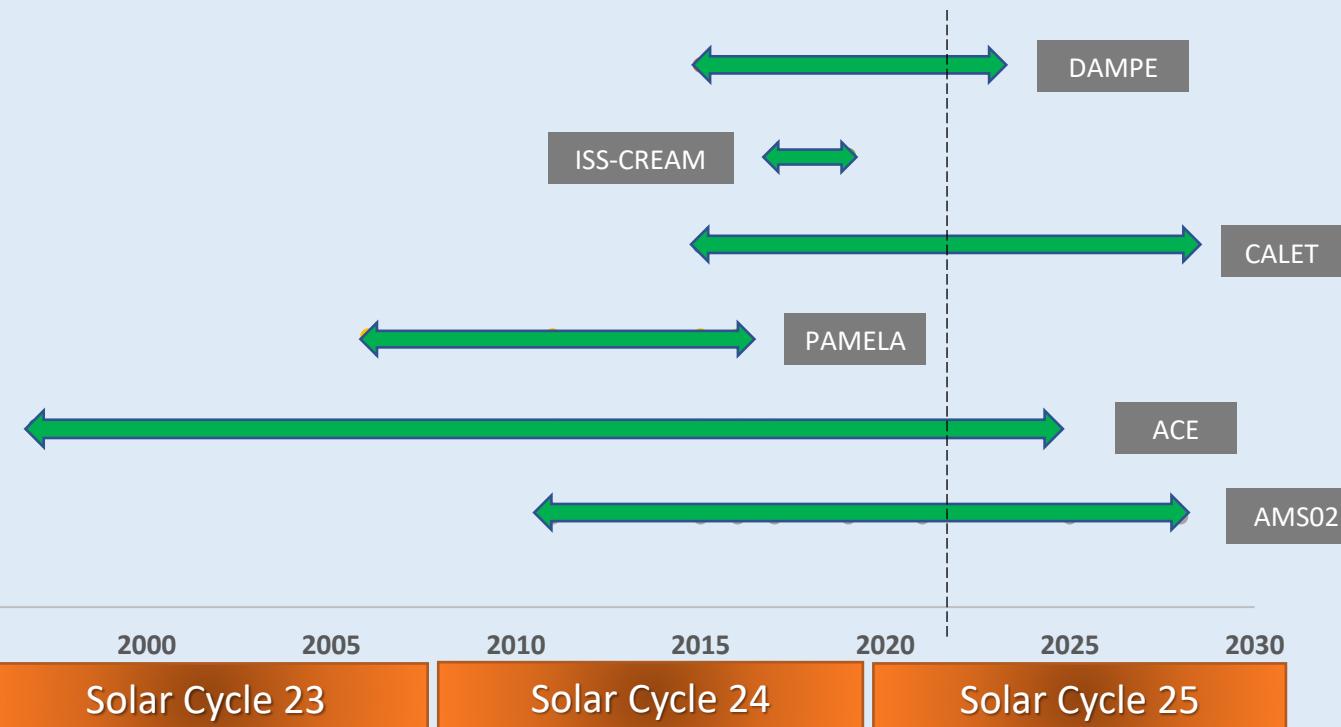
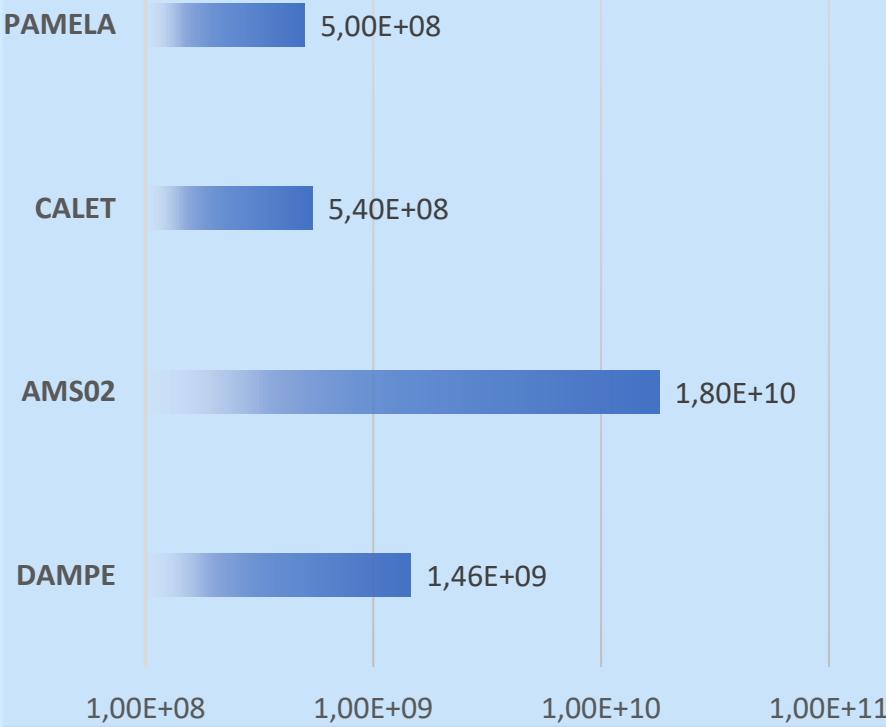


PAMELA – 2006-2016

Satellite Based

# Missions Operations

## CR EVENTS/YEAR (BILLION)

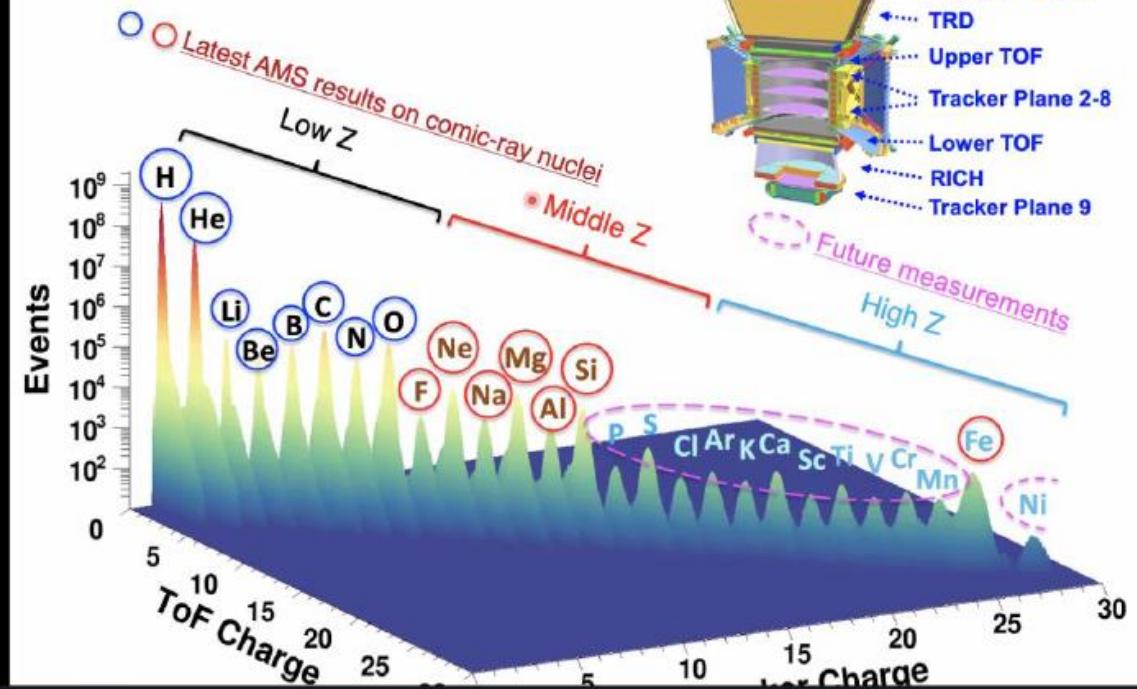


## Cosmic Ray Components Identification

e+,e-	✓ ALL
p+,p-	✓ ALL
D,He	✓ ALL
Low-Z (<=8)	✓ ALL (PAMELA up to Z=6)
Middle-Z	✓ AMS02, CALET, ISS-CREAM, ACE, DAMPE
High-Z (>14)	✓ AMS02, CALET, ISS-CREAM, ACE, DAMPE

## Future AMS Cosmic-Ray Nuclei Analysis

(Image by V. Choutko – AMS Collaboration)



### Properties of Iron Primary Cosmic Rays: Results from the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer

AMS Collaboration • M. Aguilar (Madrid, CIEMAT) et al. (Jan 29, 2021)

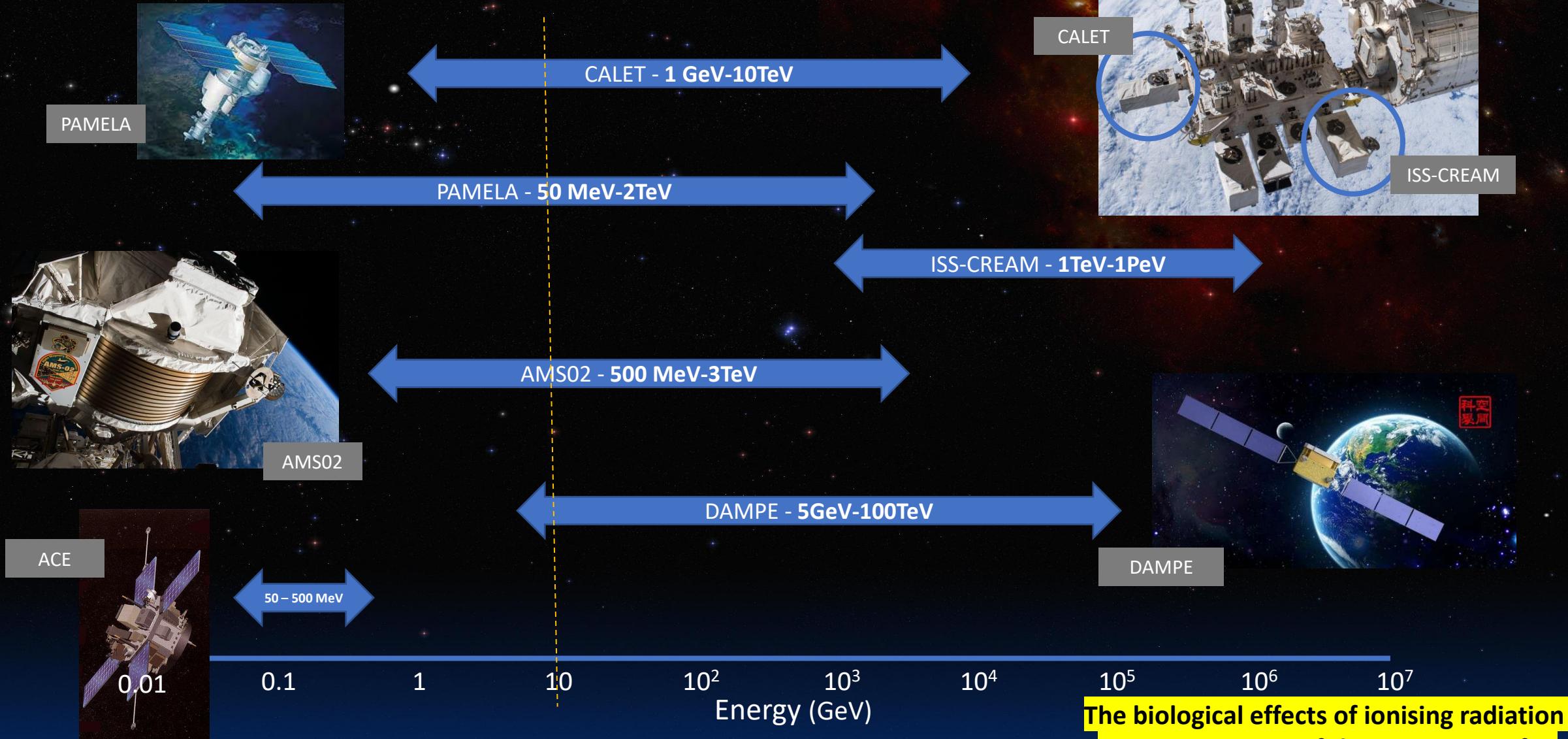
Published in: *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 126 (2021) 4, 041104

### Properties of Heavy Secondary Fluorine Cosmic Rays: Results from the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer

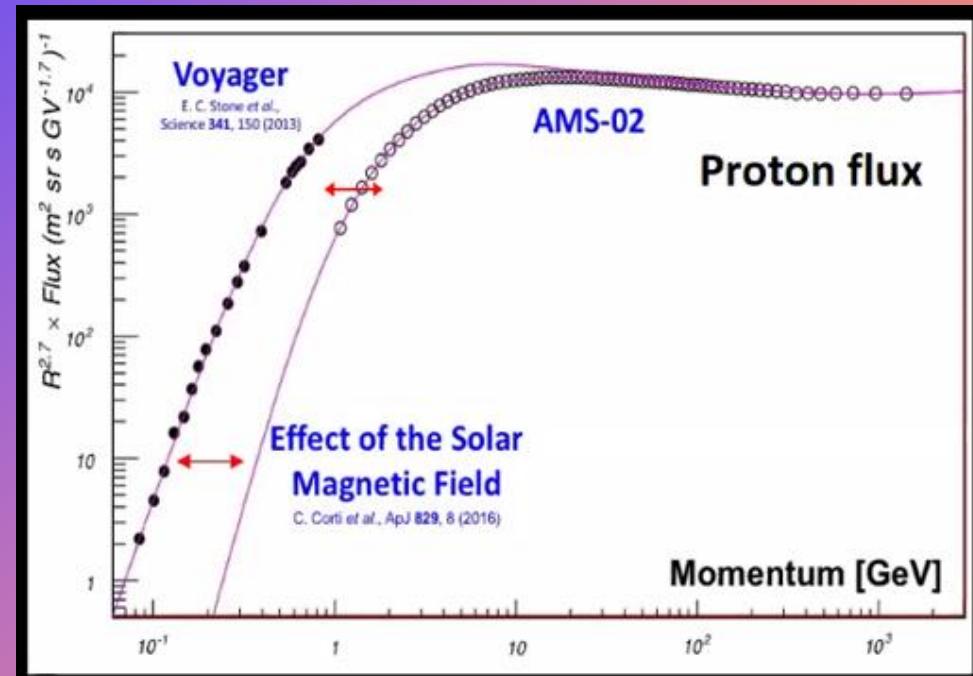
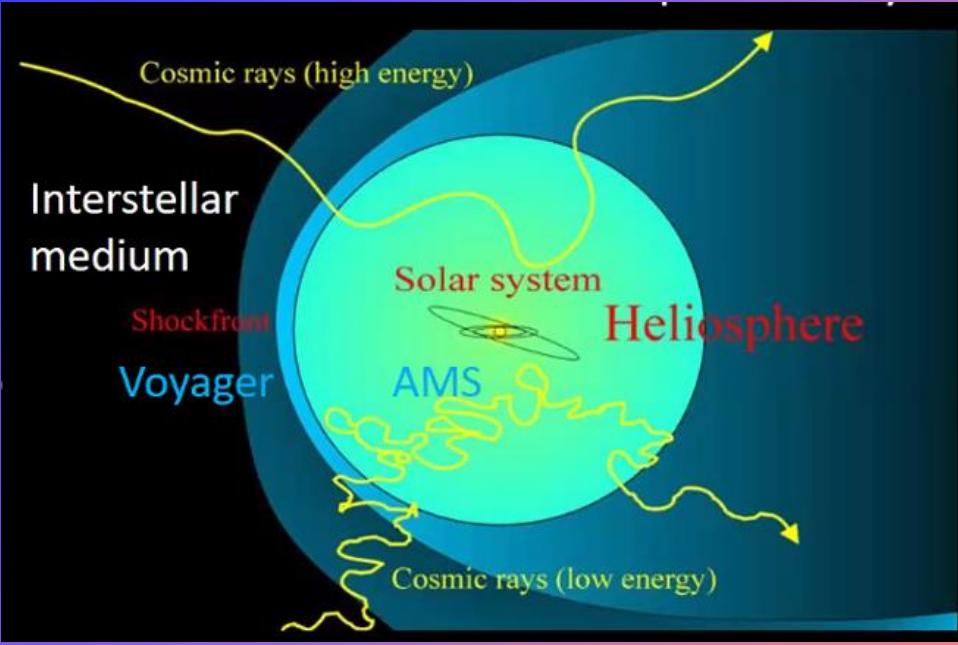
AMS Collaboration • M. Aguilar (Madrid, CIEMAT) et al. (Feb 25, 2021)

Published in: *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 126 (2021) 8, 081102

# CRDs Energy Range



# Cosmic Rays Solar modulation



Credit S.Ting & AMS Collaboration

Cosmic rays from interstellar mediaum are «screened» by the Heliosphere.

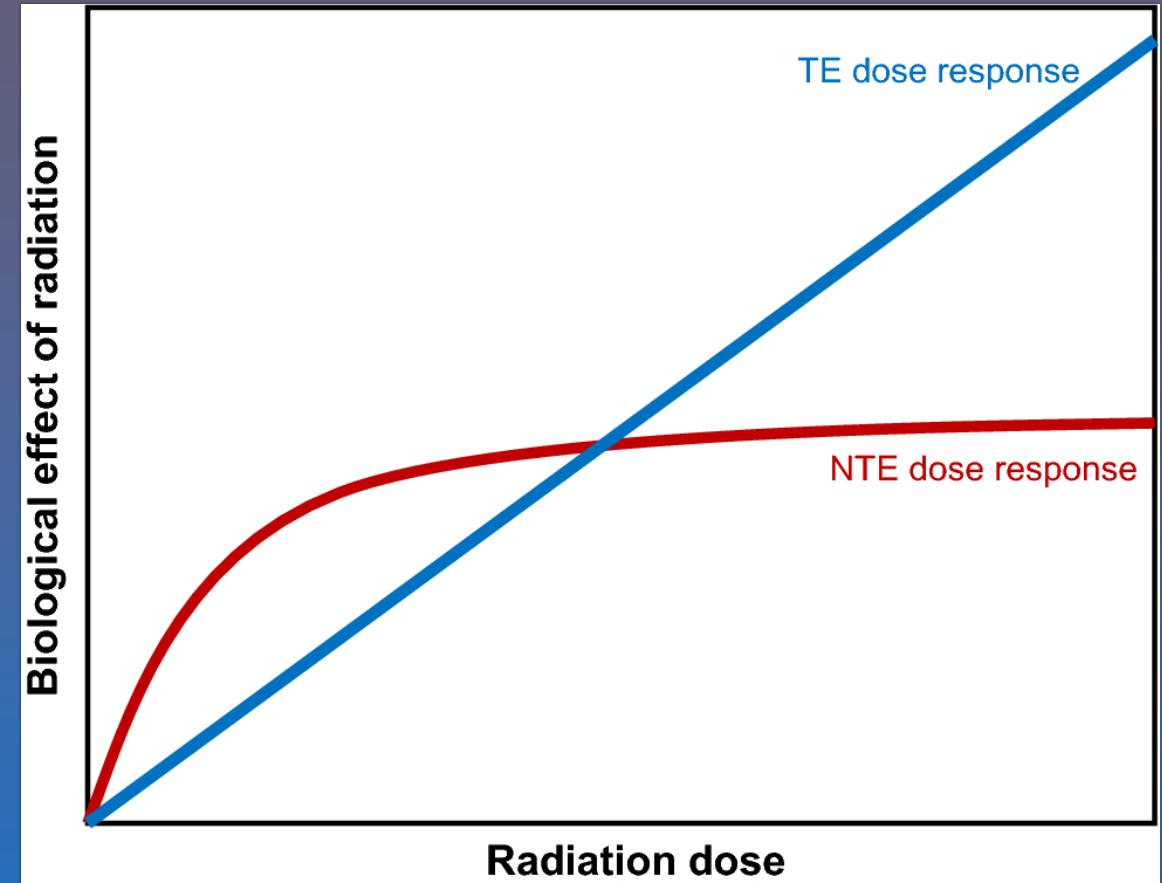
This effect is particulary visible at low energies

Measurements of time evolution of cosmic ray fluxes of different particles over an extende period of time is very valuable

# Enabling Research @ AMS Roma Group

# Dose-Effect Relationship (DER)

A crucial point to predict the toxicity of the space radiation expected for the astronauts/space workers is the creation of reliable mathematical models that describe the correlation between the exposition to IR and the possible damage to the organ at risk.



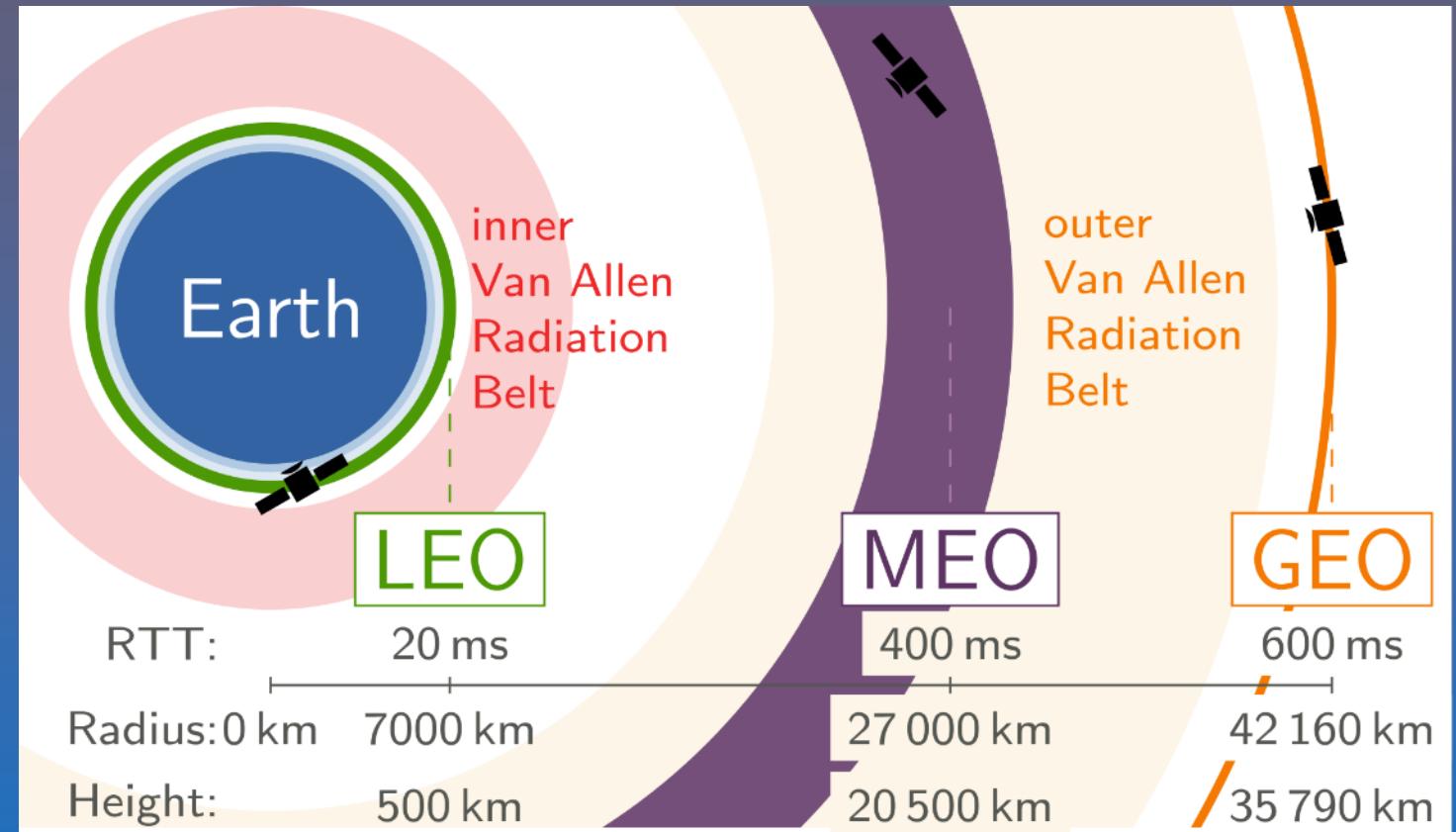
The known dose-effect relationships are based on a limited number of astronauts

574 people have gone into space according to the FAI criterion (as 20 July 2021)

Space travelers have spent a cumulative total of over 77 years

3 only reached a sub-orbital flight, 567 people reached the LEO

24 traveled in BLEO + 12 walked on the Moon



We made and publish in 2021 an extensive review of the existent literature to use as starting point for improvements this research areas

## REVIEW article

Front. Public Health, 08  
November 2021  
Sec.Radiation and Health  
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.733337>

This article is part of the Research Topic  
Medical Application and Radiobiology Research of Particle Radiation  
[View all 16 Articles >](#)

# Dose-Effects Models for Space Radiobiology: An Overview on Dose-Effect Relationships



Lidia Strigari<sup>1</sup>,



Silvia Strolin<sup>1</sup>,



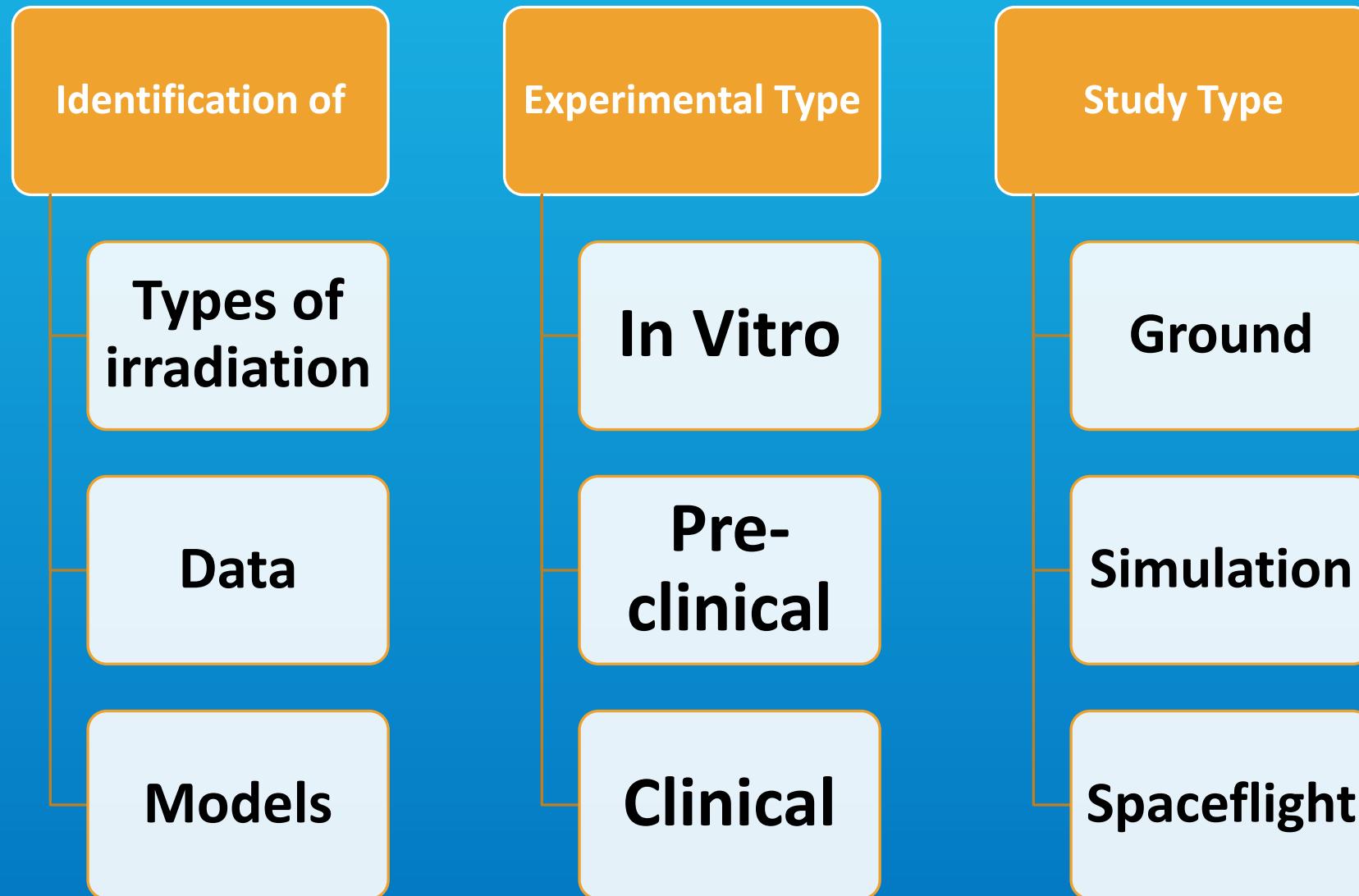
Alessio Giuseppe Morganti<sup>2</sup> and



Alessandro Bartoloni<sup>3\*</sup>

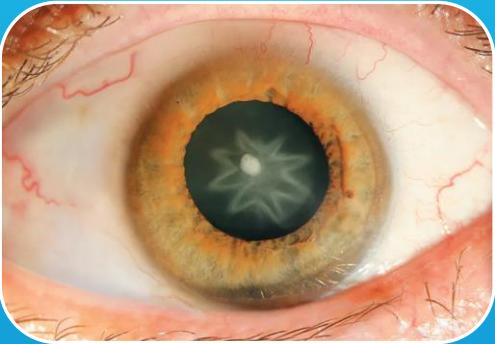
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.733337>

# Articles dose-effect models exploration and identification

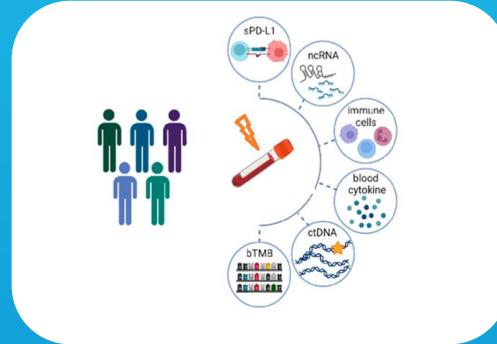




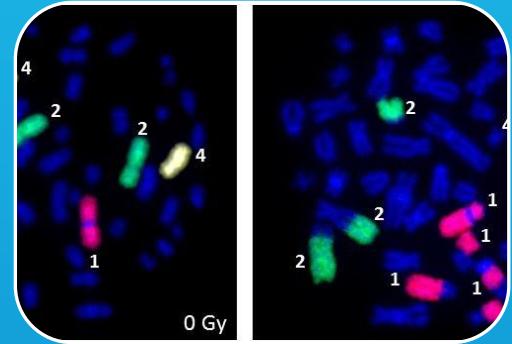
«Eye-Flashes»



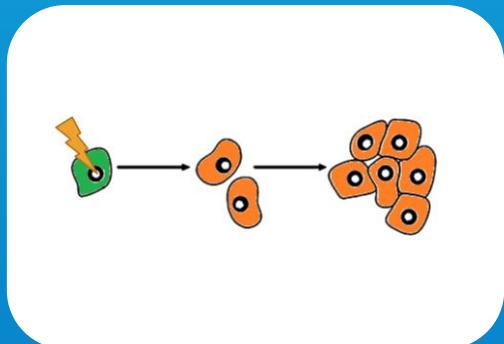
Cataract or  
Visual impairments



Biomarkers



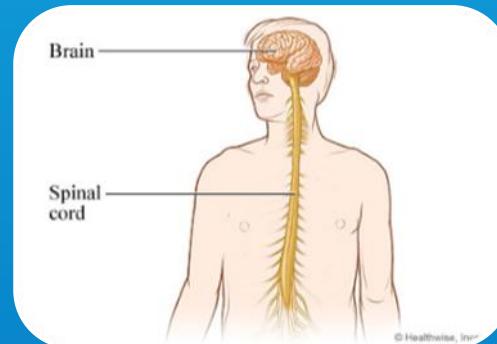
Chromosomal  
Aberrations



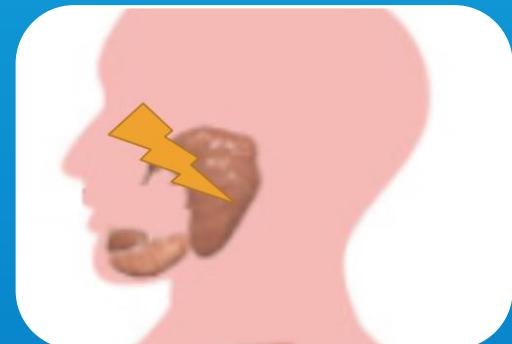
Carcinogenesis



Cardiovascular Disease  
(CVD)



Central Nervous System  
(CNS)



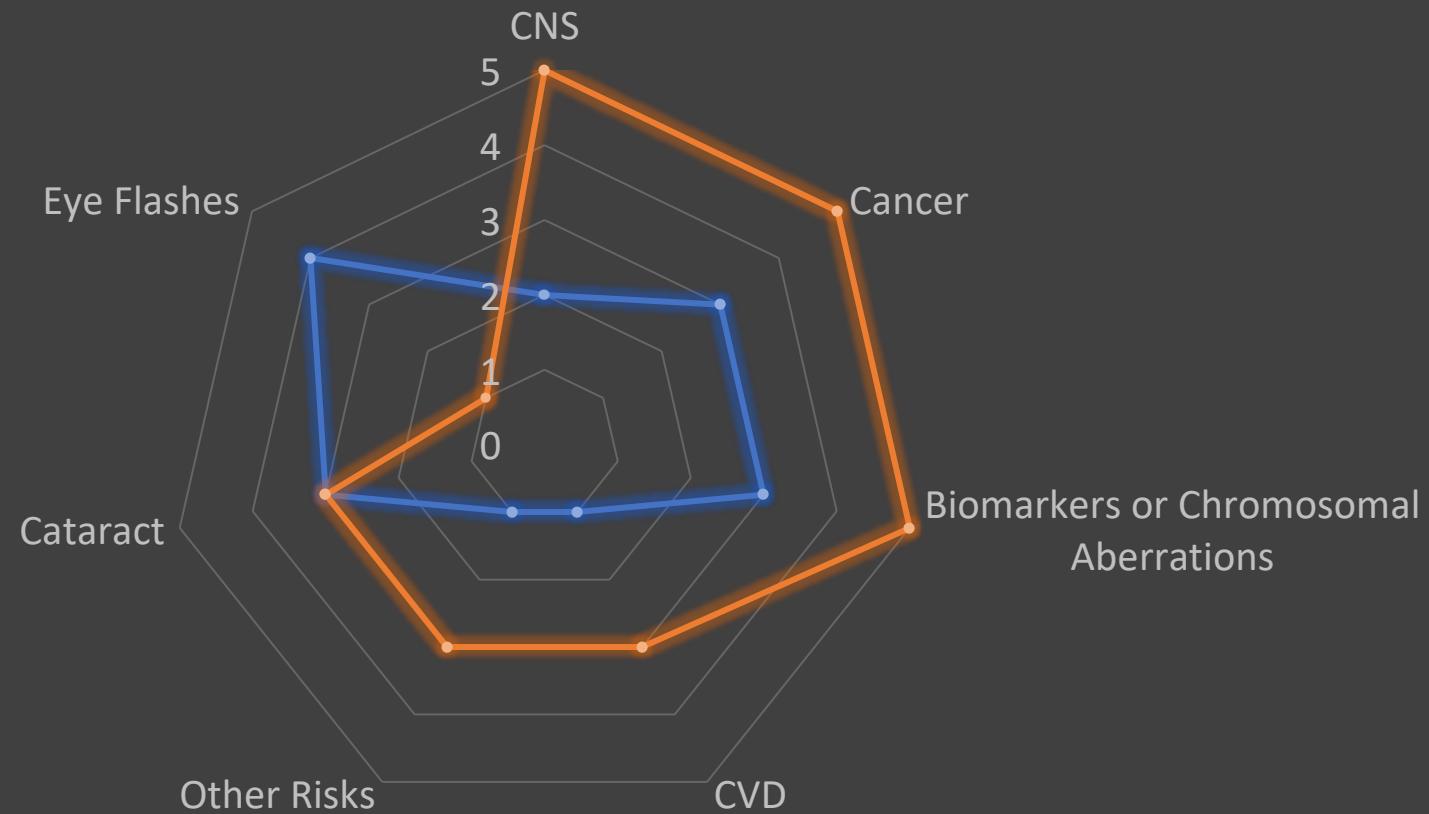
Other Risks

## Analysed IR related health hazard

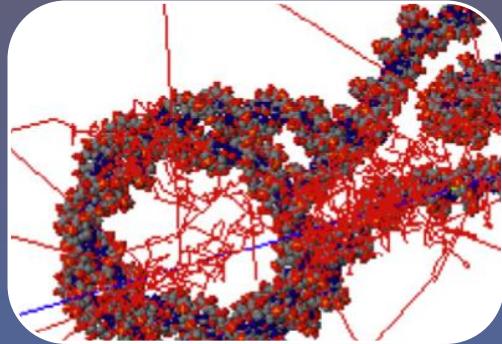
Model	Study Type	Dose Range/Threshold or LET	#Papers	Reliability	Priority
Eye Flashes	Spaceflight	LET>5-10 KeV/ $\mu$ m	4	****	*
Cataract	Spaceflight	8 mSv	5	***	***
CNS	Ground/Simulations	100-200 mGy	11	**	*****
CVD	Spaceflight	1000 mGy	4	*	***
	Ground/Simulations	0.1-4,500 mSv	8		
Cancer	Spaceflight	< 100 mGy	2	***	*****
	Ground/Simulations	< 100 mGy	9		
Biomarkers or Chromosomal Aberrations	Spaceflight	<5-150 mGy	11	***	*****
	Ground /Simulations	< 10,000 mGy	4		
Other Risks	Ground/Simulations	2,000 mGy	2	*	***
<p>* = Very Low, ** = Low, *** = Medium, **** = High, ***** = Very High.</p>					

## Dose-Effect Models Overview Evaluation

● Reliability   ● Priority



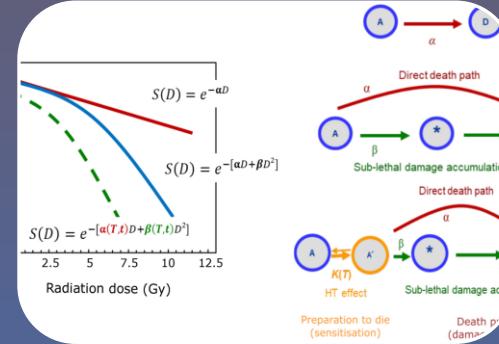
Further investigation are required to produce dose-effects models that will allows to predict the risk due to radiation during the space exploration



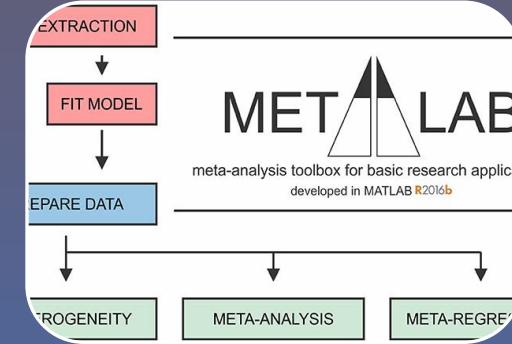
Computer Simulation  
of interactions of IR  
with biological matter



Synergy with the  
Clinical Field



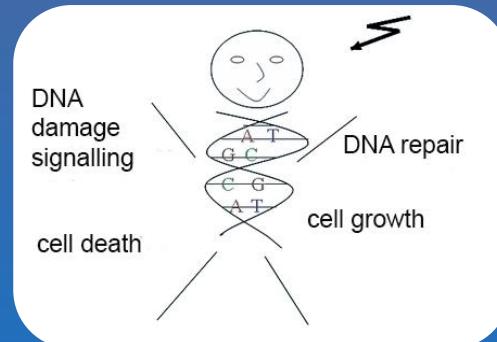
Mathematical  
Modelling



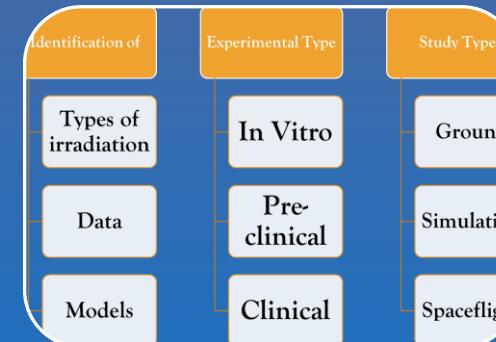
Quantitative Meta  
Analysis



Radioprotectors  
inclusion in DER



Individual Radio  
Susceptibility



Dose-Effects Model  
Integration Platform



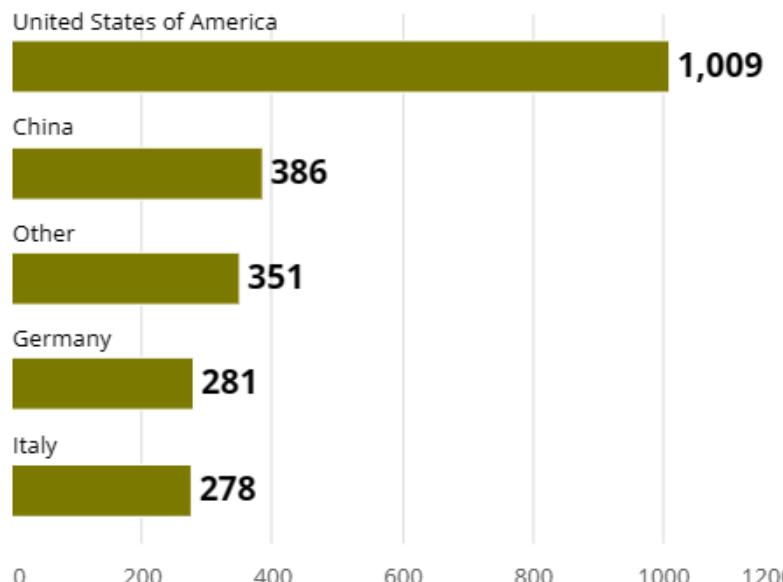
Synergy with  
Astroparticle  
Experiments

6-10 March 2023

# Dose-Effects Models for Space Radiobiology: An Overview on Dose-Effect Relationships



Frontiers in Public Health  
Published on 08 Nov 2021



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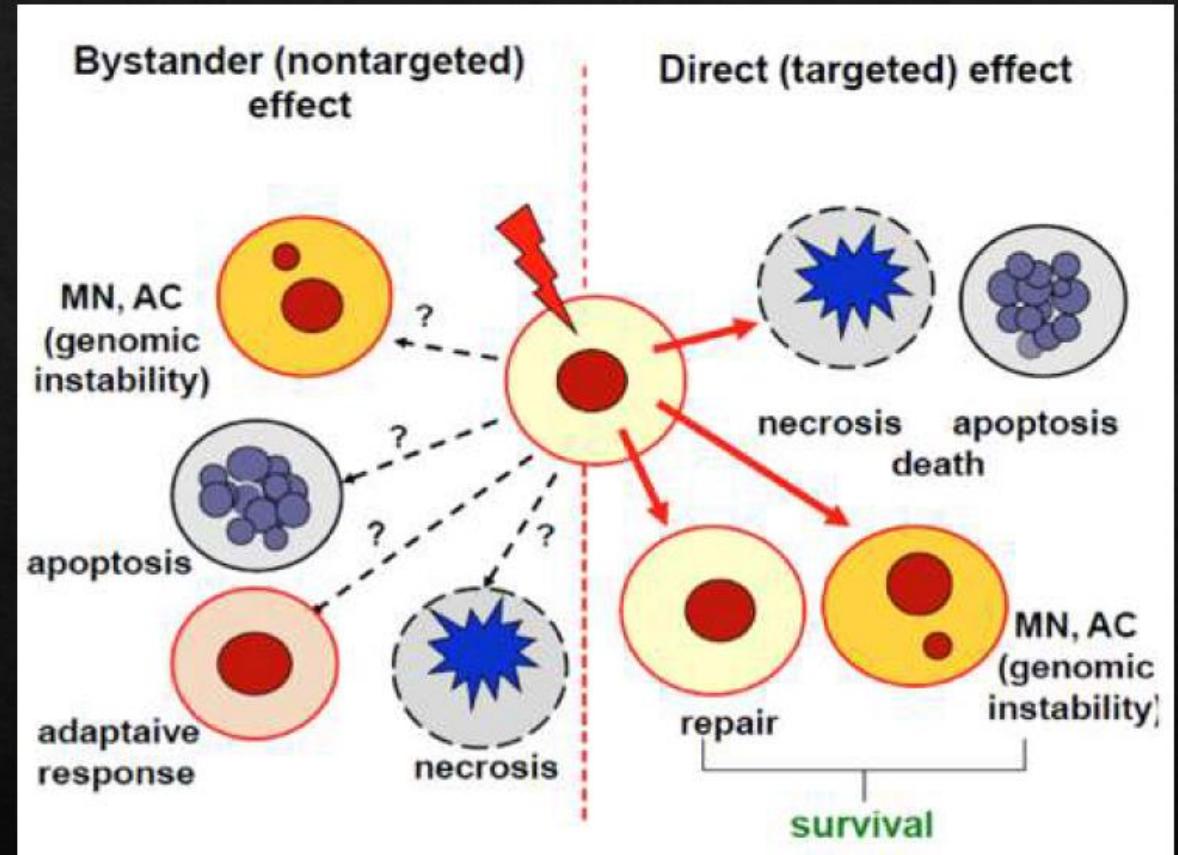
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# Target Effects vs Non Target Effects

- Non-targeted effects (NTEs) include bystander effects where cells traversed by heavy ions transmit oncogenic signals to nearby cells, and genomic instability in the cell's progeny.
- Studies on the Harderian gland, chromosomal aberrations at low dose and many mechanistic studies support the NTE model, with evidence of a supra-linear effect at low doses of NTE compared to a linear effects for TE .
- These NTEs are expected also at the fluences and for radiation species that occur in space.



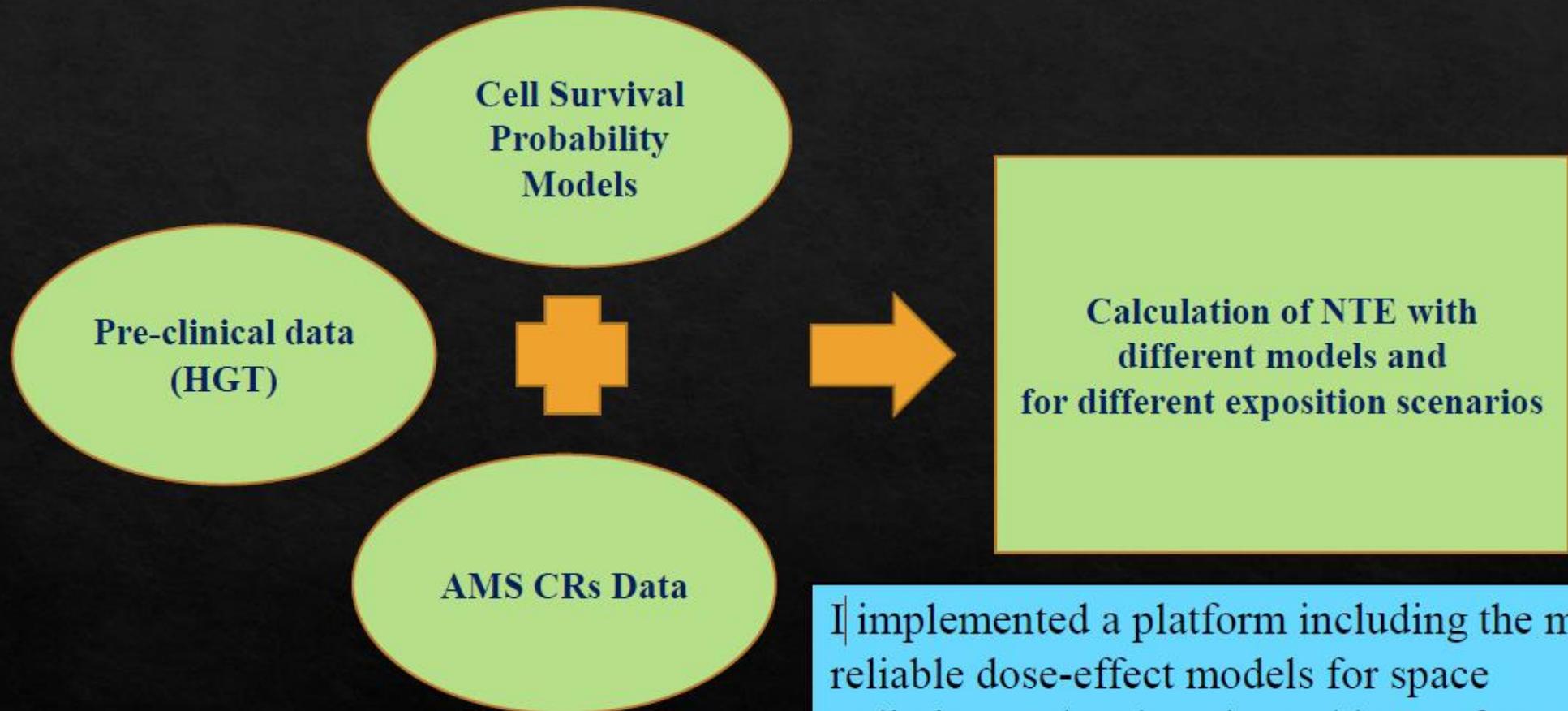
**Non-Targeted Effects Models Predict Significantly Higher Mars Mission Cancer Risk than Targeted Effects Models**

F. Cucinotta, E. Cucinotta, E. Cacao • Published 12 May 2017 • Biology, Physics • Scientific Reports

Alessandro Bartoloni - SpaceOPS 2023 Conference

**Work in progress at Roma Sapienza AMS group**

## A Tool for NTE components evaluation



I implemented a platform including the more reliable dose-effect models for space radiation, I developed an ad hoc software in R-script language (> 10,000 code lines).

### Tumor Prevalence Dose Effects Model

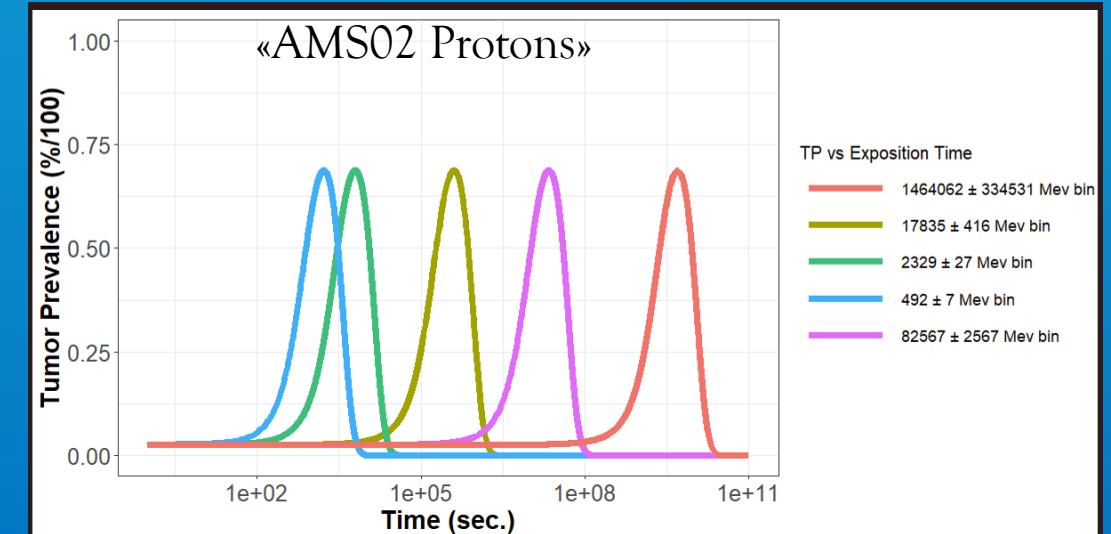
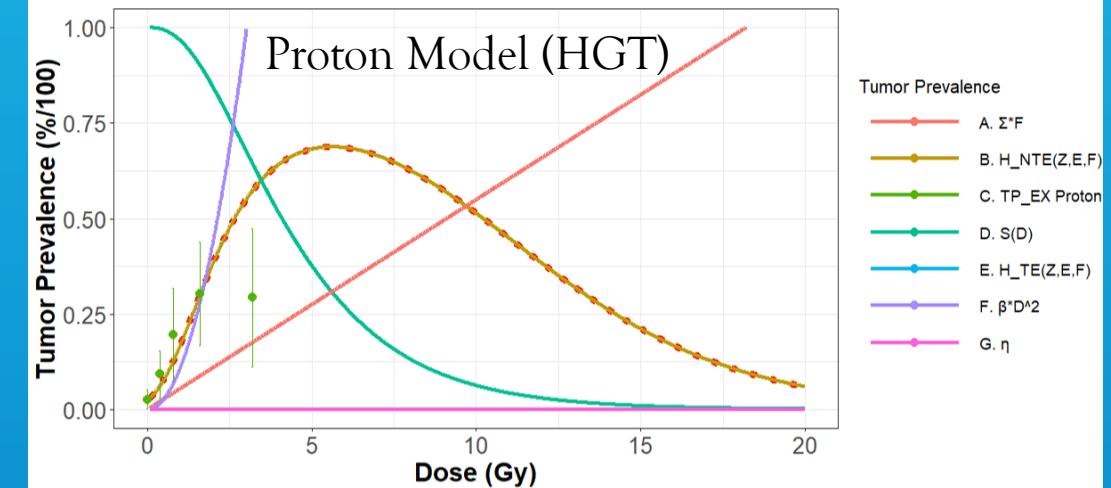
$$TP = 1 - e^{(-H(Z,E,F))}$$

### Hazard Function for Target effects

$$H_{TE}(Z, E, F) = H_0 + [\Sigma F + \beta_{CP} D^2] S(Z, E, F).$$

### Hazard Function for Target + Non Target Effects

$$H_{NTE}(Z, E, F) = H_0 + [\Sigma F + \beta_{CP} D^2 + \eta] S(Z, E, F)$$



# Conclusions

Technological advancements might realize the dream of human space exploration, and crewed spaceflights to explore the Moon and Mars are on the agenda of space agencies.

In the latest years, significant improvements have been made in the absorbed dose-effect estimation for predicting risks for human health on space exploration.

Unfortunately, the number of events helpful in modeling the radiobiological effects is still limited. On Earth experiments may reinforce knowledge on cancer and non-cancer space-radiation induced effects.

The AMS Roma Sapienza group is part of the scientific community investigating this crucial research topic for safe human exploration of space.

Actual research on DEM are on the evaluation in Non-Target Effects in Carcinogenesis Risk

# Thanks for yours attention !

Alessandro Bartoloni

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[Sapienza University Web Site](#)



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