

Machine-Learning-based CTAO Telescope data processing



3rd IPARCOS Meeting – December 2024

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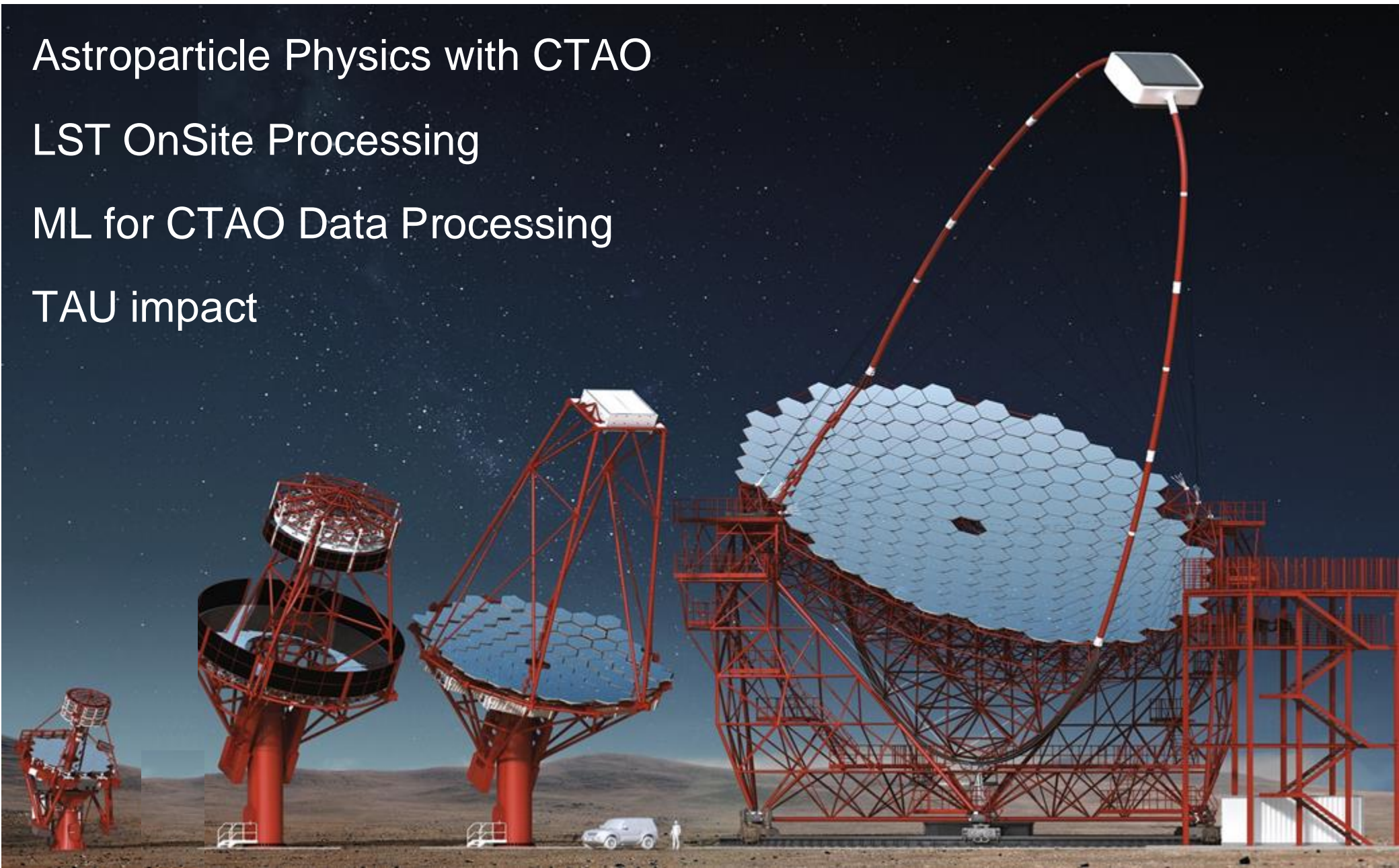


Astroparticle Physics with CTAO

LST OnSite Processing

ML for CTAO Data Processing

TAU impact

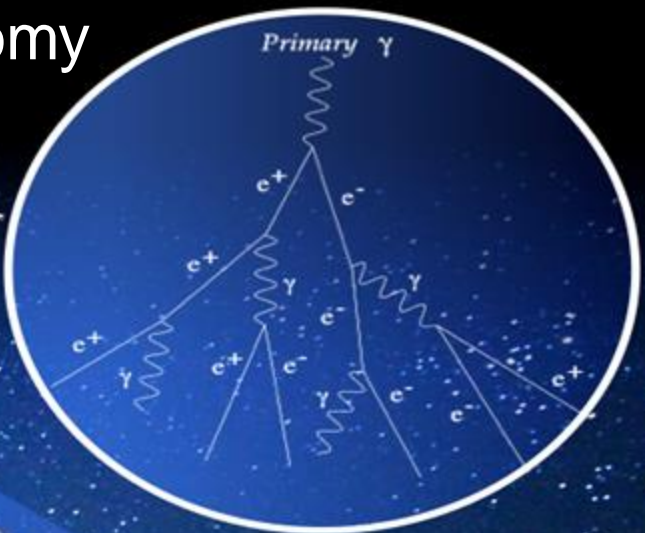


$E > 10 \text{ GeV}$

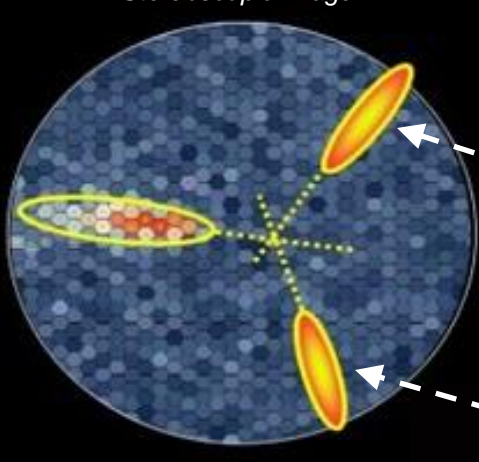
γ -ray enters the atmosphere

VHE Gamma-ray Astronomy

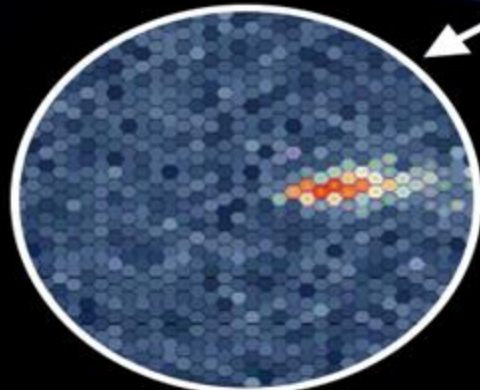
Electromagnetic cascade



Stereoscopic image



10 nanosecond snapshot



0.1 km² "light pool", a few photons per m².

Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes (IACTs) → *Homogeneous EM Calorimeter*

Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory

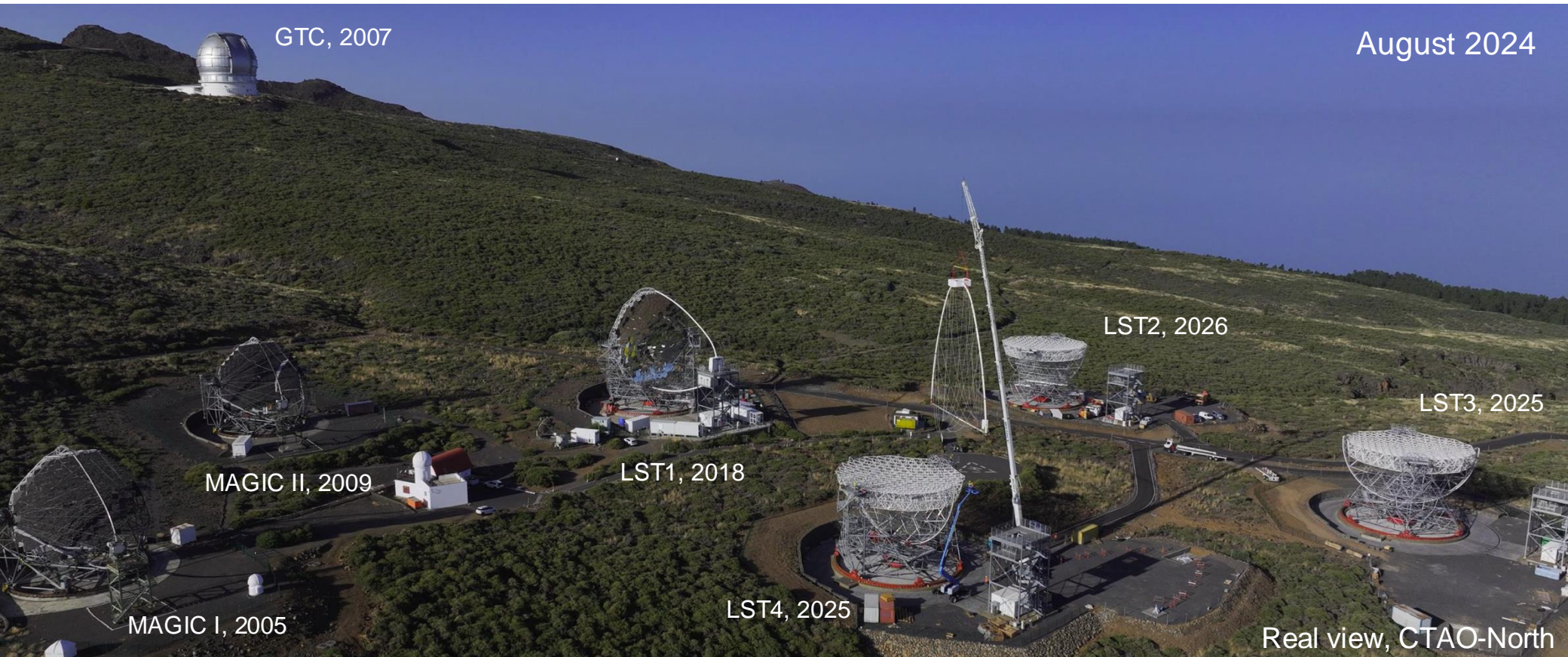


Sensitivity improvement x10
Energy range extension x10
Angular resolution improvement



Two sites:
La Palma (*Canaries*) / Chile
~100 telescopes

Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory



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Energy range extension x10
Angular resolution improvement



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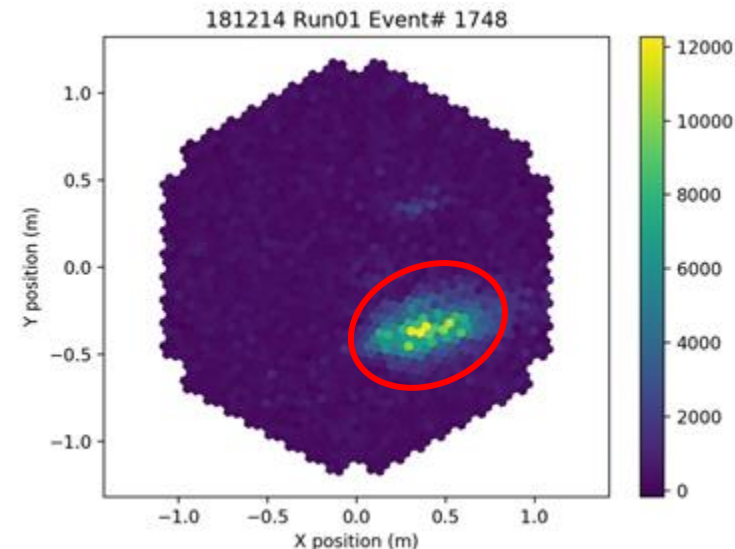
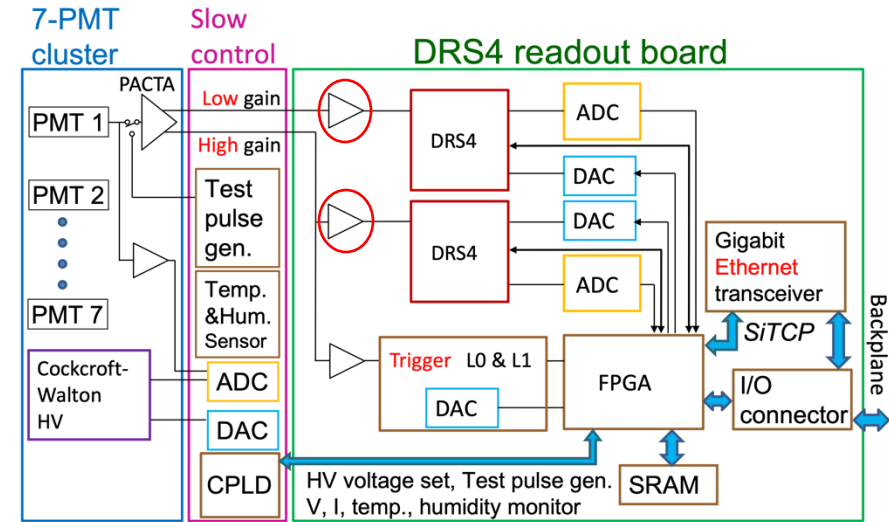
LST OnSite Processing for Data Volume Reduction

OnSite Processing

- LST1 alone produces ~10-20 TB/night raw data; 3 more LSTs to enter commissioning in ~2025
- Data is processed on-site in a *temporary* data center at the telescope base, with ~1800 cores and 5.3 PB HD
- Onsite pipeline process raw data every morning in a highly parallel way
- Building on MAGIC OnSite experience → until recently saving all raw data

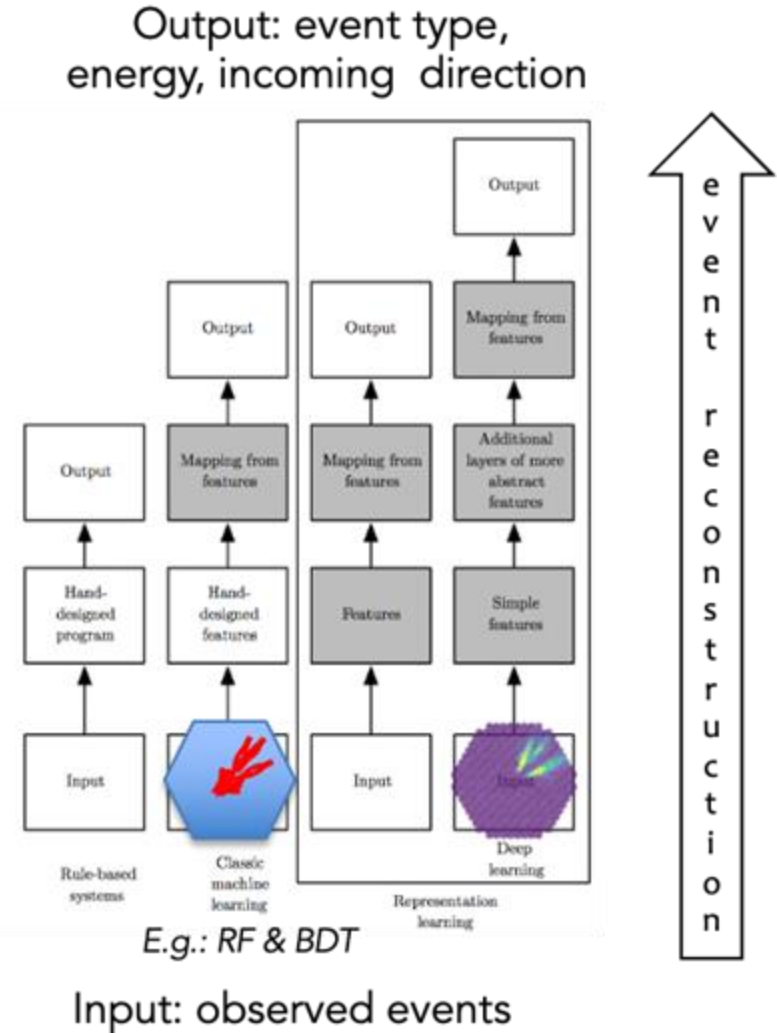
Data Volume Reduction @ OnSite pipeline

- 1st step: select only one of the 2 PMT-amplifier gains
- 2nd step: Region of Interest selection, along with UAH
- LST as test-bed for CTAO DVR



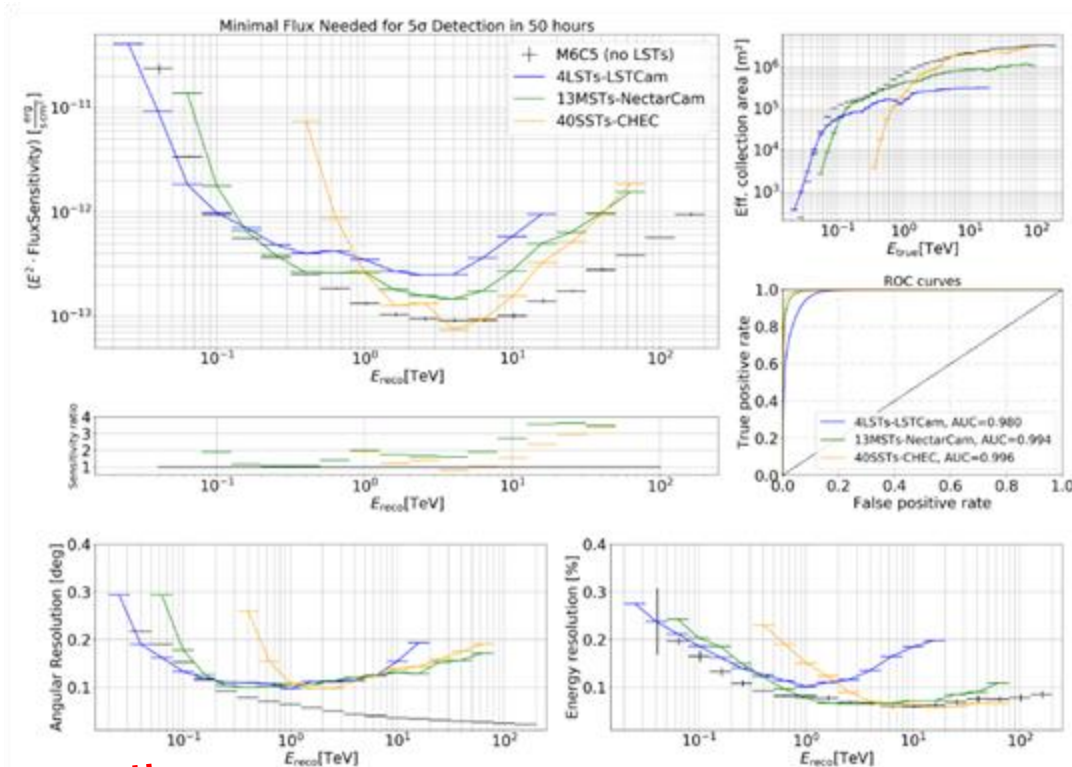
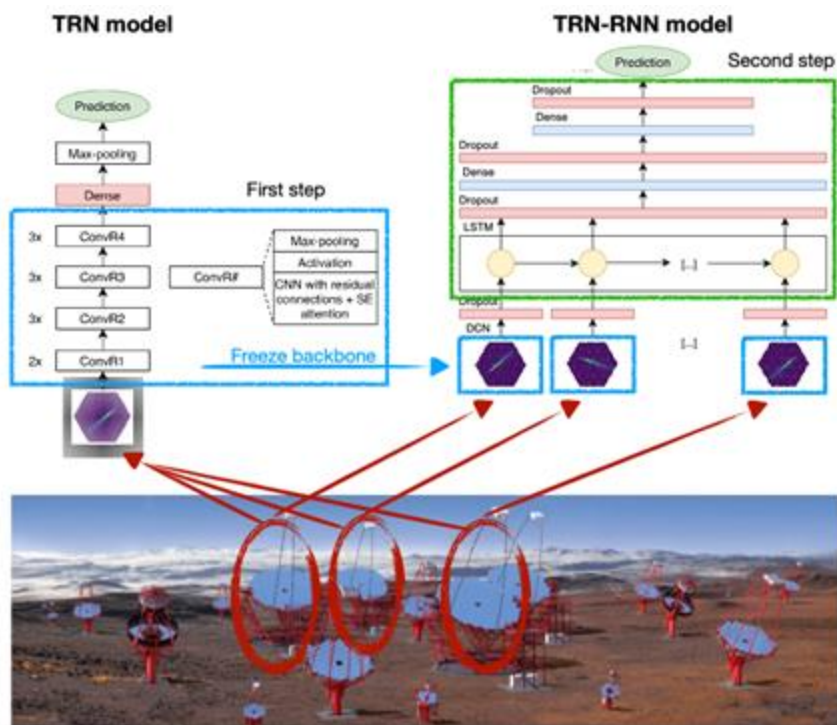
CTLearn

- High-level Python package for using deep learning at IACT:
 - **gamma/hadron/Night-Sky-Background** separation
 - Event Reconstruction
 - Based of pixel information
- Founded at GAE, led by GAE and UniGe
- Open source:
 - <https://github.com/ctlearn-project/ctlearn>
 - <https://zenodo.org/records/11475531>



CTLearn on simulation & real data

A. Cerviño
PhD student session



Application to CTAO simulated data **demonstrated !!**

Application to MAGIC real data **demonstrated !!**

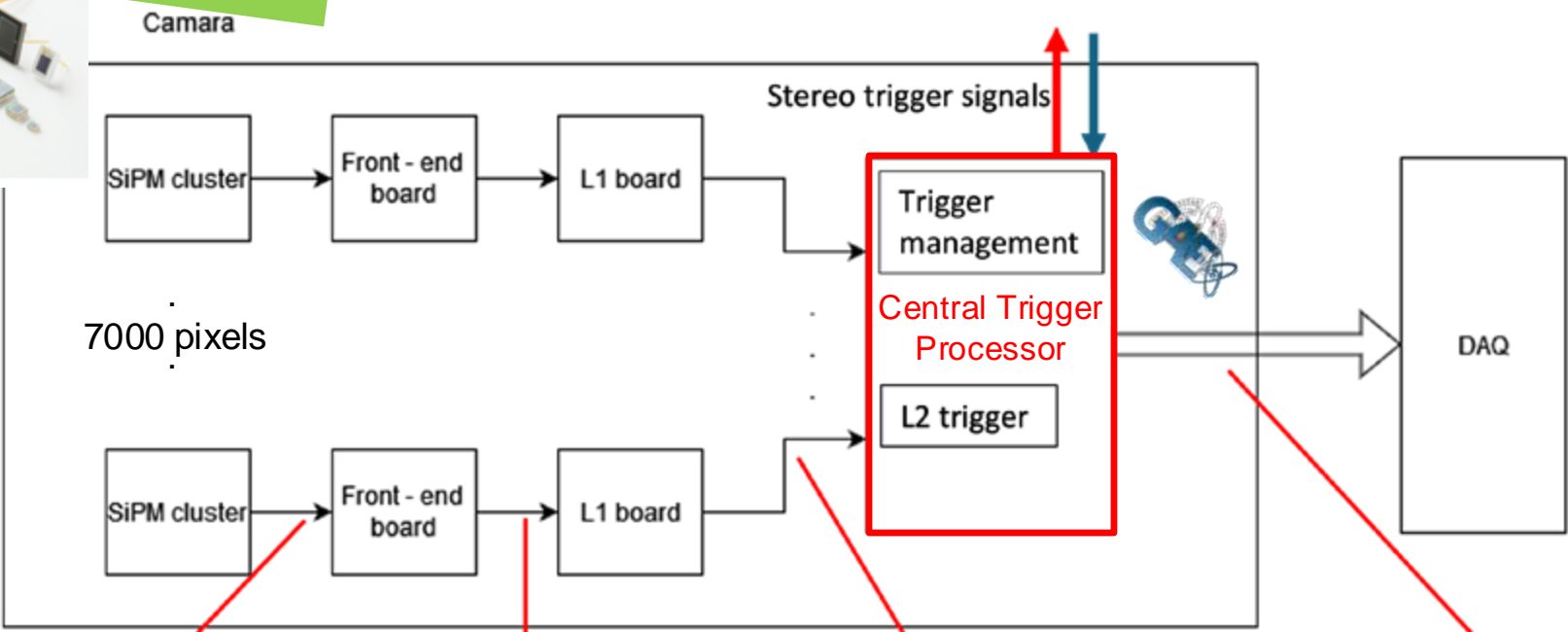
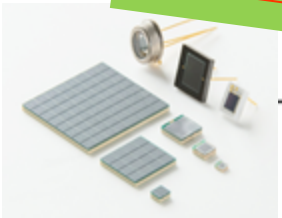
[T. Miener et al., PoS\(ICRC2021\) 730](#)

LST1 real data **coming soon** 😊

Advanced LST SiPM Camera*

Candidate for mid-term upgrade of CTAO telescope cameras

V. Moya
PhD student session



Raw analog SiPM signal

Digital SiPM signal
1 GHz sampling rate
~72 Tb/s

Full event after L1 trigger
300 kHz* event rate
10Gb/s optical links

Full event after L2 trigger
30 kHz* event rate

*M. Heller et al. PoS(ICRC2023)740

Central Trigger Processor: ML-based L2 trigger on FPGAs

L2 Trigger $O(1 \mu s)$ latency

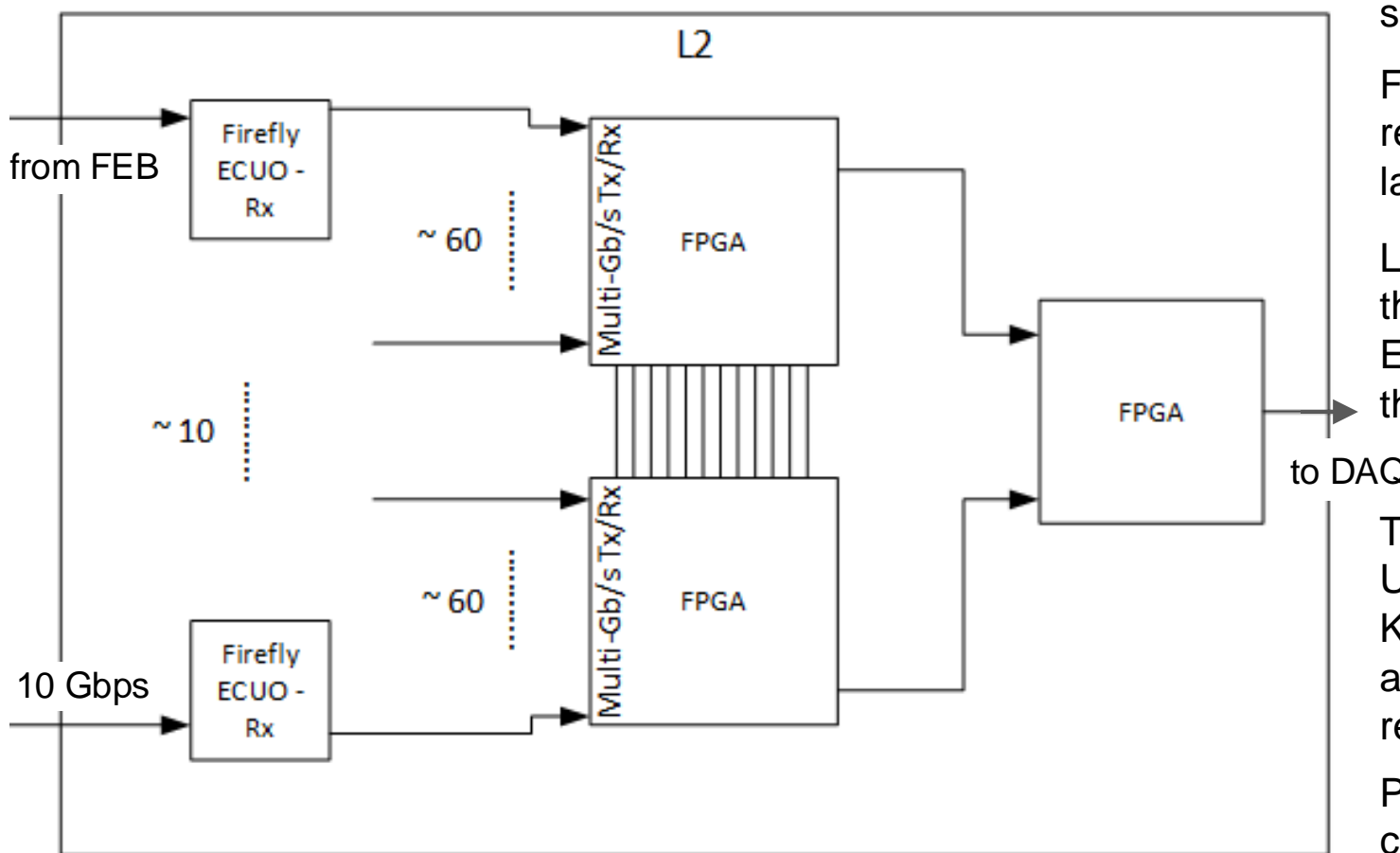
FPGAs in layers to allow scalability

First layer of FPGAs for data reception, formatting and first layers of ML algorithms

Last FPGA will take care of the full-image ML layers, Event Building and sending the data to DAQ.

Tentative FPGA models: Kintex UltraScale KU085, KU095 or KU115, with moderate cost and a large number of high-speed resources.

Prelim. number of high-speed channels, still under design



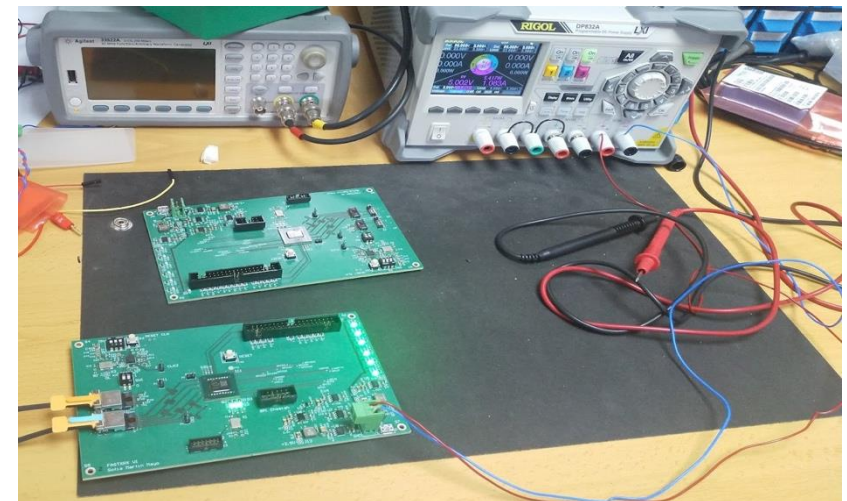
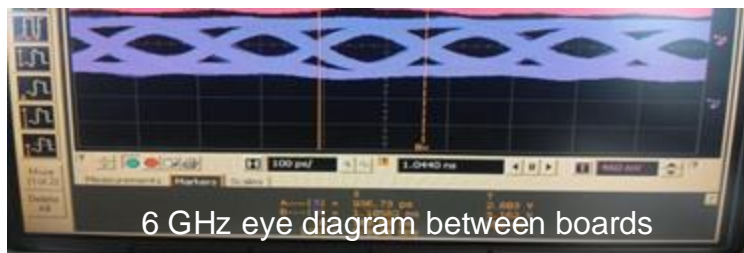
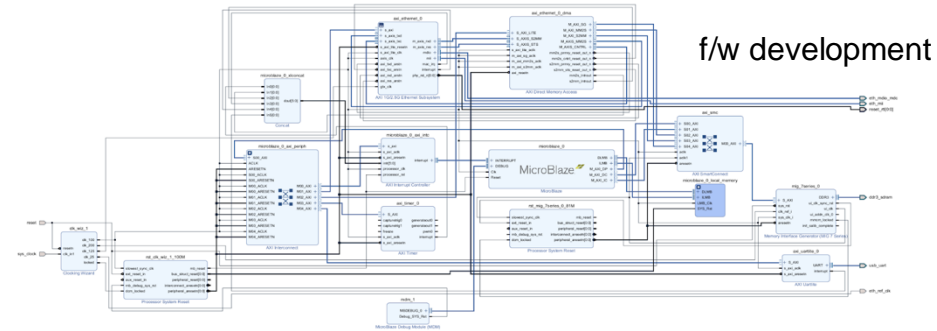
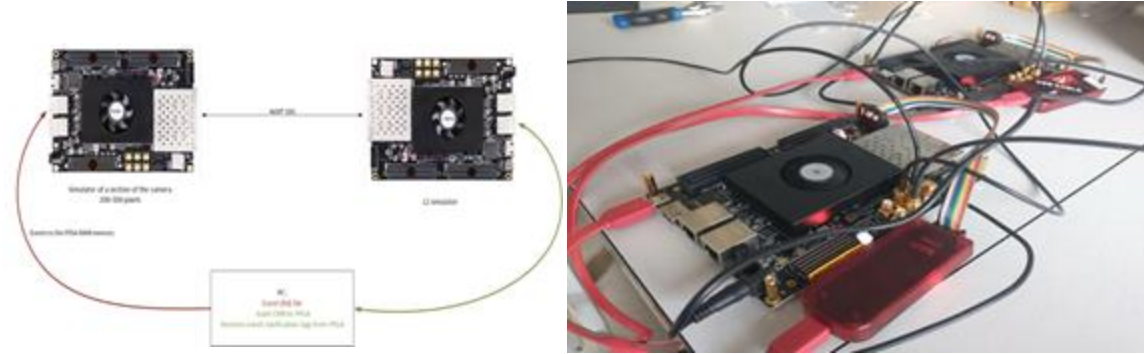
Demonstrators:

- CNN@FPGA trigger test-bench

- 2 development boards with Kintex UltraScale-tier FPGAs
- One board to simulate pixel data information; the other to implement firmware core and L2 algorithms

- CTP high-speed test-bench

- Multi-Gbit *Firefly* optical transceiver + 12-layer Microwave PCB + FPGA interface.
- Test the capabilities and quality of the companies to produce the final board



- Scope & impact:

- TAU-CTA: ~92 k€ (UCM ~500 k€, CM ~1.5 M€, Cataluña ~15 M€)
- Engineer costs: A. Pérez-Aguilera, May 2023 – June 2025
- Support of initial involvement in Advanced LST SiPM-CAM
- Current design and prototyping of a SiPM-CAM key element
- Allow to apply for other grants (PDC2023 ✓ , EU INFRA-Tech 🙌)
- Transfer of knowledge started for fast ML-based image processing on FPGAs

- Network

- **Spain:** CNID/COMCHA (ML@xx, OnSite Proc.); Ciemat/IFIC (ML@FPGAs), UPM (HLS)
- **International:** SiPM-CAM (Ciemat, UB, UniGe, INFN); CERN DRD7 (ML@FPGAs)

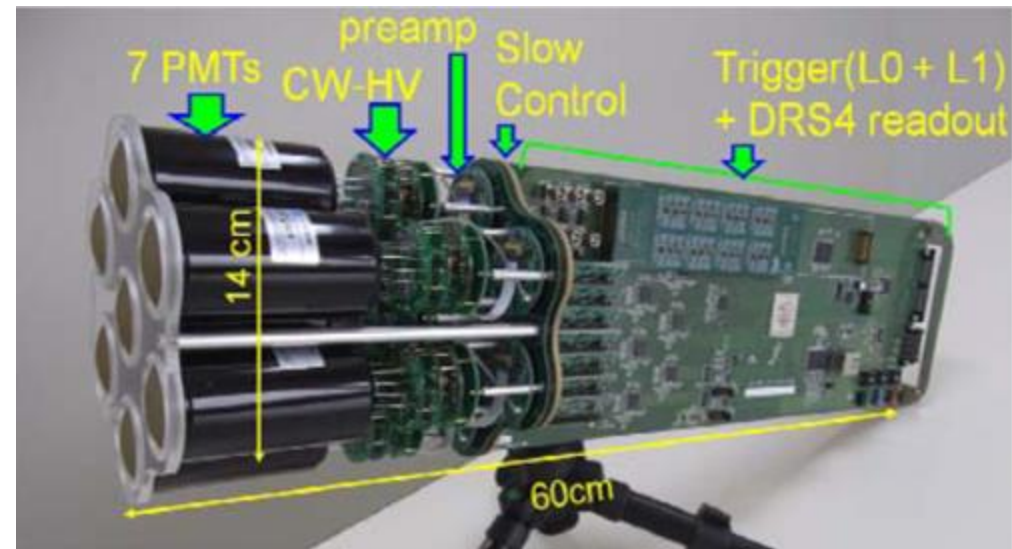
- Plans (2026; 2028):

- **LST OnSite:** automatic processing to the 4 LSTs array; integrate Onsite Pipeline in CTAO scheme
- **CTLearn:** compliance with CTAO software requirements and pipeline integration, optimize DL models for real data; CTAO offline ML-based DVR
- **ML@FPGAs:** deploy & benchmark simple CNNs, optimization of CNNs for FPGAs & start knowledge transfer; build full-scale CTP prototype, benchmark optimized CNNs

- 
- CTAO ESFRI construction started
 - Recent funds → UCM-GAE involvement in ML-based R&D for CTA
 - Sinergies with Spanish/International teams pursued
 - Transfer of knowledge pursued/expected from ML@FPGA activities

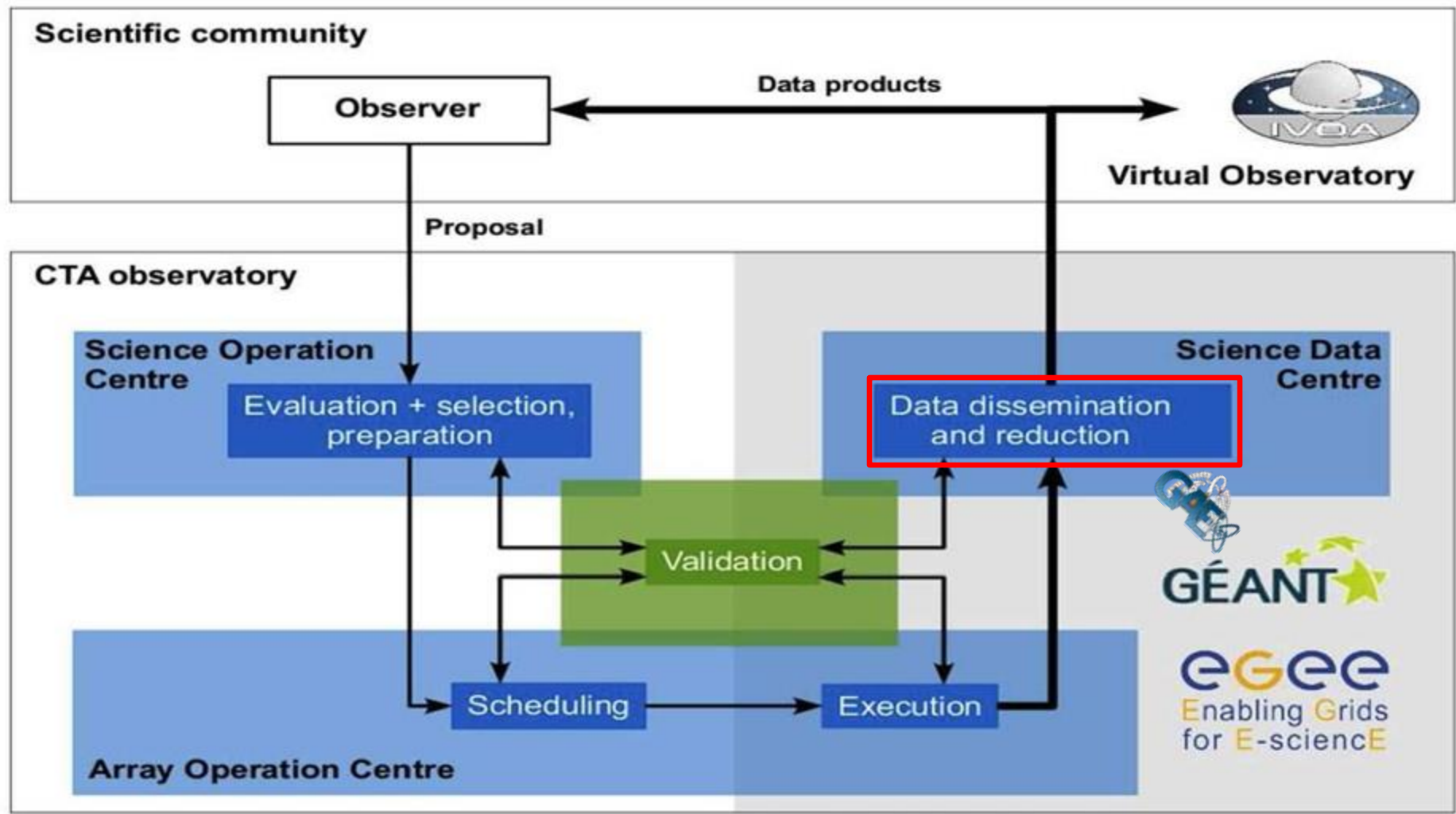
Backup

Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory

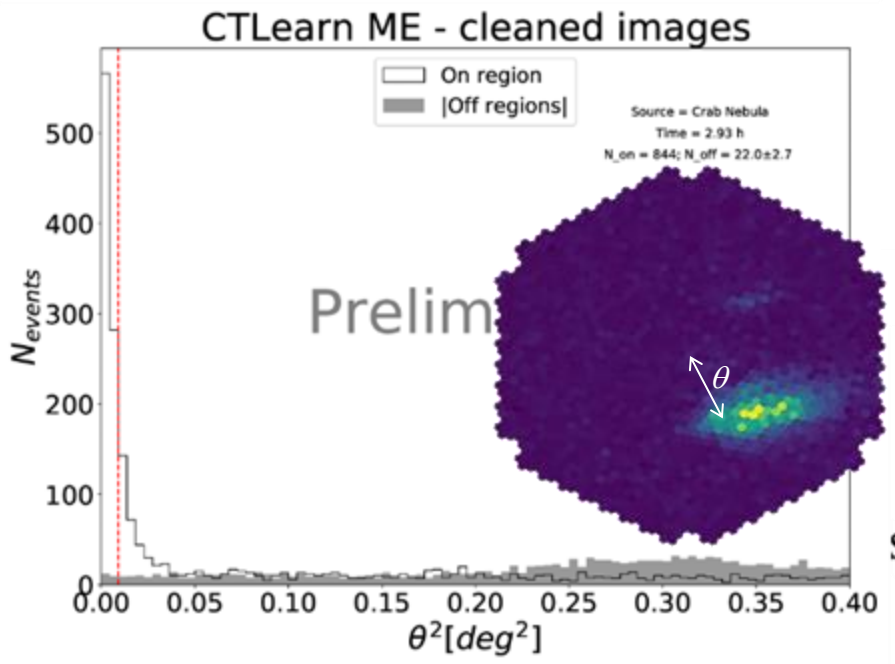
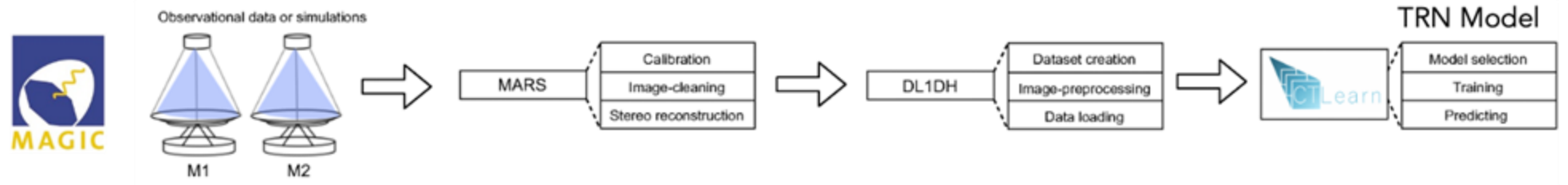


~2000-pixel PMT-based camera

Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory



CTLearn on real data



Analysis	γ rate [/min]	bkg rate [/min]	Sen. [% Crab]	Sig. (Li&Ma)
MARS - ME	4.54 ± 0.16	0.119 ± 0.015	0.70 ± 0.05	43.0σ
CTLearn - ME (raw)	3.45 ± 0.14	0.133 ± 0.018	0.97 ± 0.08	36.5σ
CTLearn - ME (cleaned)	4.68 ± 0.17	0.125 ± 0.015	0.69 ± 0.05	43.6σ
MARS - LE	16.49 ± 0.35	3.861 ± 0.086	1.09 ± 0.03	61.1σ
CTLearn - LE (raw)	11.70 ± 0.32	3.832 ± 0.114	1.53 ± 0.05	47.5σ
CTLearn - LE (cleaned)	16.24 ± 0.35	3.872 ± 0.086	1.11 ± 0.03	60.4σ

Analysis	N_{on}	N_{off}	N_{ex}
MARS - ME	819	21.0 ± 2.6	798.0 ± 28.7
CTLearn - ME (raw)	629	23.3 ± 3.1	605.7 ± 25.3
CTLearn - ME (cleaned)	844	22.0 ± 2.7	822.0 ± 29.2
MARS - LE	3579	679.0 ± 15.0	2900.0 ± 61.7
CTLearn - LE (raw)	2730	673.7 ± 20.0	2056.3 ± 56.0
CTLearn - LE (cleaned)	3536	680.7 ± 15.1	2855.3 ± 61.3

Summary of all performed analyses of the same Crab Nebula sample

[T. Miener et al. 2021 \(ADASS XXXI\)](#)

Application to MAGIC real data **demonstrated !!**

LST1 real data **coming soon** 😊

Milestones Towards The Intermediate Arrays

Can make significant achievements along the way

	Milestone	Criteria
#1	Operate LSTN-01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telescope accepted CTAO Software package integrated Illuminator, WS
#2	Open science data challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 years of simulated observations provided as DL3 data CTAO Software DPPS and SUSS
#3	Operate 1 SSTS + 1 MSTN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTAO-S Infrastructure Computing s/w and h/w integrated Illuminator, WS
#4	Operate 4 LSTN + 1 MSTN	
#5	Operate ≥ 5 SSTS + 2 MSTN + 2 LSTS (JAB)	

LSTS

We Are Looking For 22 New People In 2025!



- Hiring across nearly all disciplines!
- Deputy project manager
- Project / quality assurance
- Scientists in multiple areas
- Systems engineers of all different types (general, requirements, CM, AI&V etc.)
- North and South Site staff
(operator, engineers, safety, north site construction management)
- Software developers and coordinators (across all work packages)
- Telescope group – camera expert