

New approach for gamma-hadron separation at the IceCube Neutrino Observatory

DPG 2024 - Karlsruhe, Germany

March 4, 2024

16:15-16:30, Geb. 20.30: 2.059

Session: T 4 starting at 16:00

Bontempo, Federico
for the IceCube collaboration

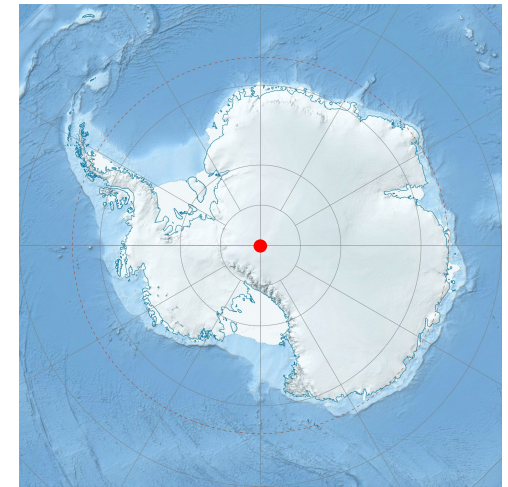
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IceCube Neutrino Observatory

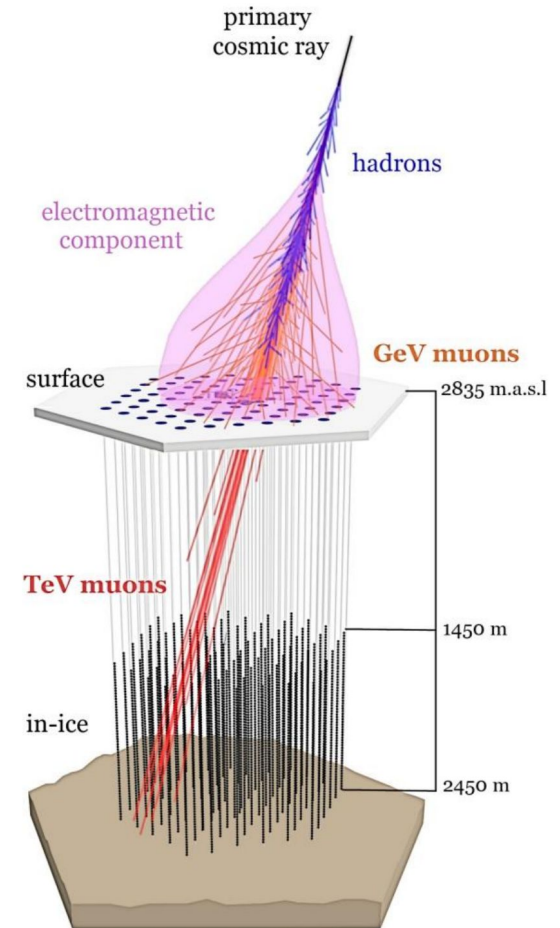
- IceCube Neutrino Observatory is located at the Amundsen–Scott South Pole Station in Antarctica
- The successor of Antarctic Muon And Neutrino Detector Array (AMANDA)



Source: <https://icecube.wisc.edu/>

IceCube Neutrino Observatory

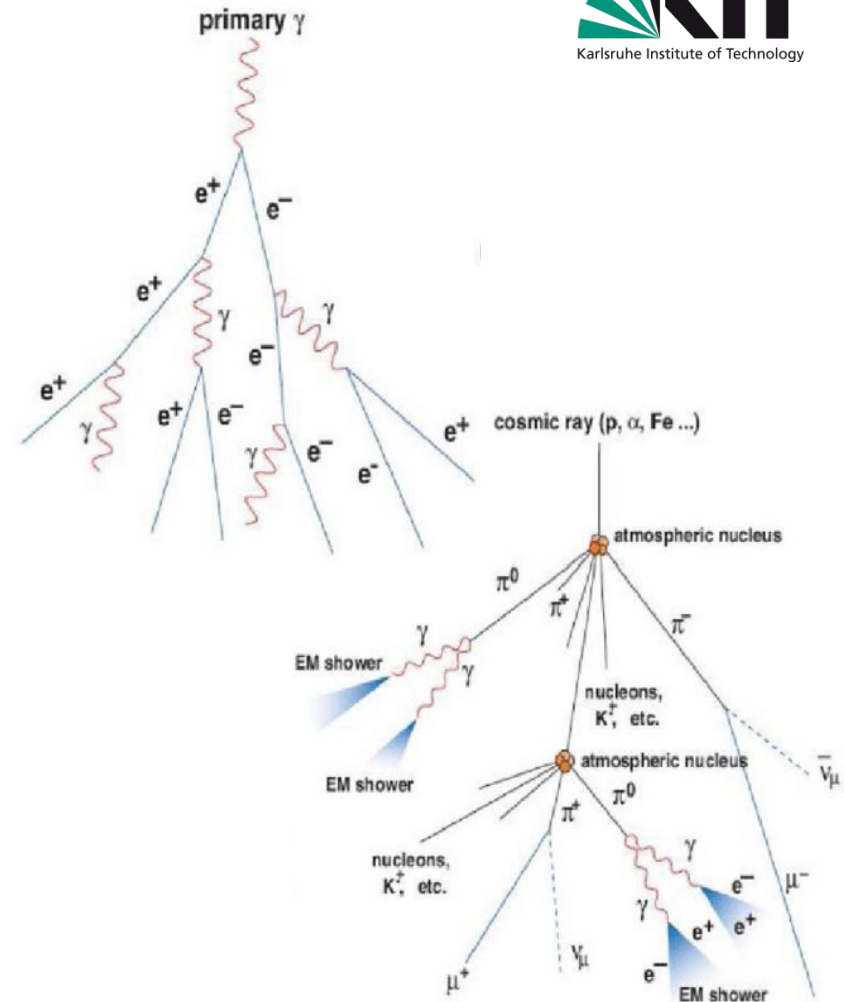
- A three-dimensional cosmic ray detector located at the South Pole:
 - IceTop is a 1 km² array of 81 stations each with 2 ice-Cherenkov tanks on the surface that serve:
 - to detect cosmic ray air showers generated by interactions of high-energy cosmic rays in the atmosphere
 - Cosmic ray detection
- Measure electromagnetic and muonic components of air shower
- Shower reconstruction (energy, direction, core position)
- IceCube 1 km³ in-ice array 86 strings with 60 DOMs each:
 - Measure high energy muon ($E > 400$ GeV)
 - Detection of high energy muons generated by:
 - high energy cosmic rays interacting with the atmosphere
 - neutrino in-ice interaction



Source: <https://icecube.wisc.edu/>

Gamma-hadron separation

- Gamma-ray induced air showers:
 - fewer muons
 - less shower-to-shower fluctuation
 - narrower lateral spread
- Hadronic air showers:
 - more muons
 - more shower-to-shower fluctuation
 - wider lateral spread
- How to separate them:
 - Calculating the total in-ice charge deposited by high energy muon
 - Reconstructed energy of the primary



Images source: doi: 10.13140/RG.2.1.4140.4969

What now?

Current goal:

- Investigate lower energies enabled by a new reconstruction approach (< 1 PeV)
- Gamma-hadron separation using in-ice and surface detector

Search for gamma-ray sources:

- IceTop used for the air-shower reconstruction
- In-ice used for measuring the total charge of high energy muon

Next Goal:

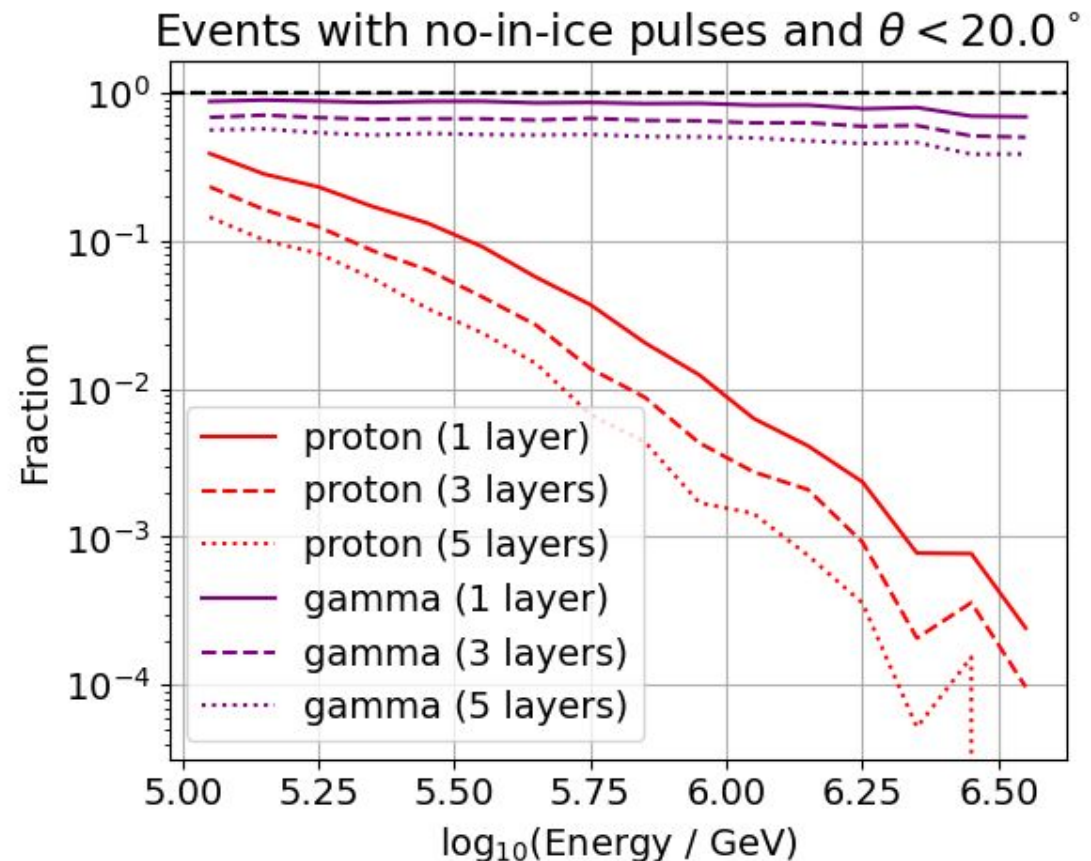
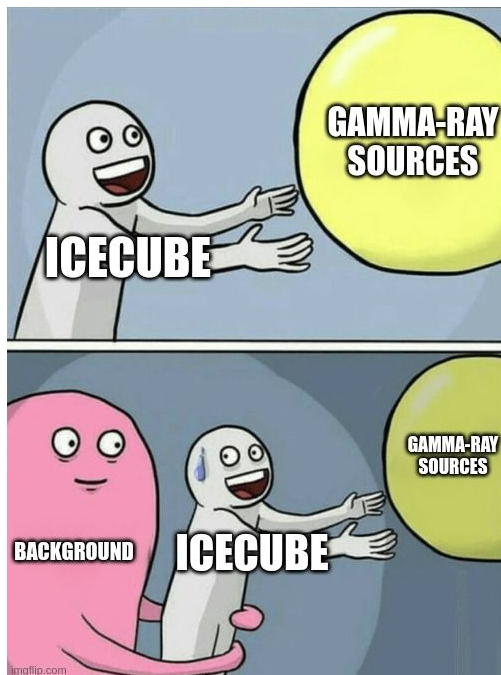
- search for gamma-ray sources
- study the emission from the galactic plane



AI humor by [ChatGPT](#)

High-energy moun selection

- MC Simulations Sibyll 2.3d
- Events:
 - detected on the surface
 - contained in-ice
- Selected events with:
 - no-in-ice trigger
 - no-in-ice charge



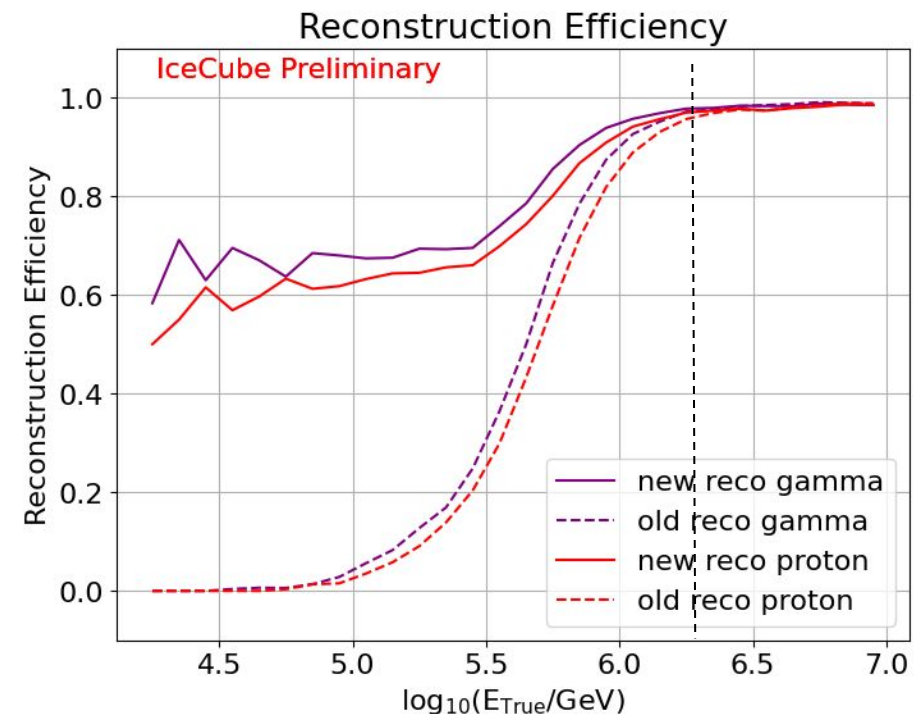
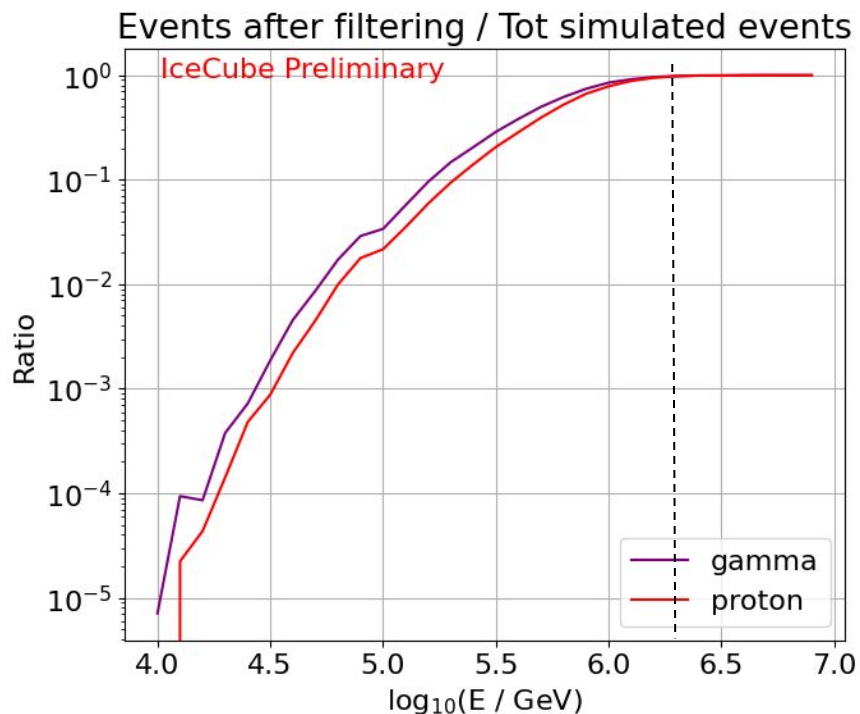
Low energy reconstruction

- Trigger and filtered (left)
- Filtered to reconstructed (right)
- A new reconstruction method allows to retain more events



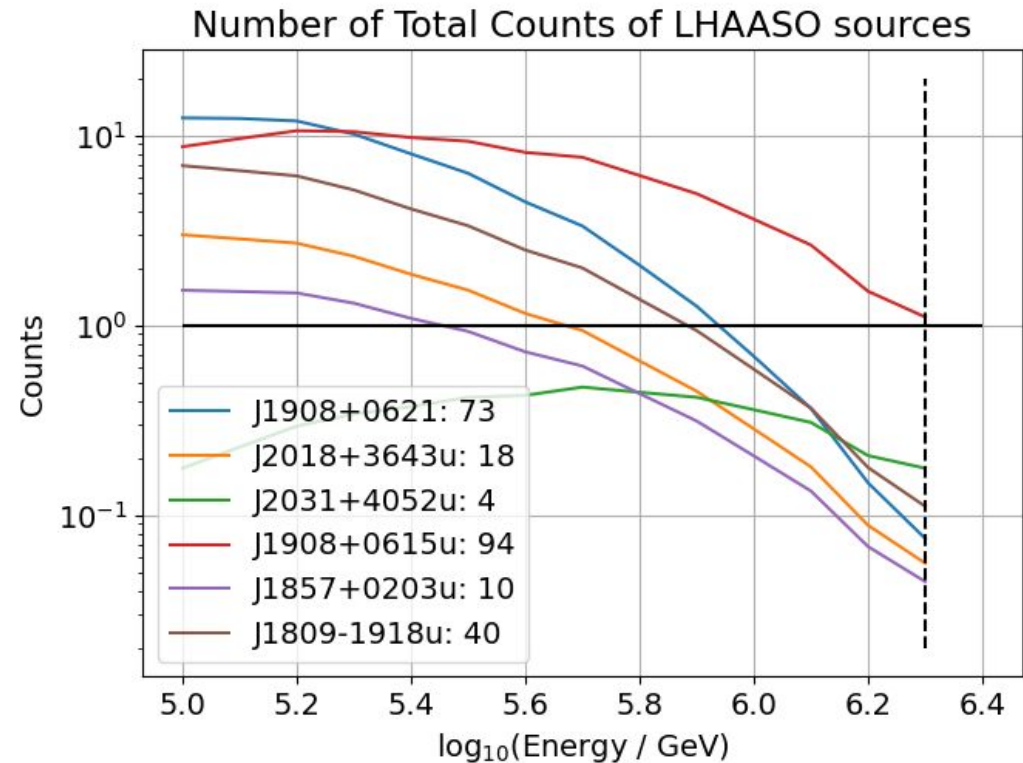
Measured data

Simulations



Expected gamma rays per year

- Assuming LHAASO like source in Icecube FOV
- the expected flux
- Applying:
 - Trigger Efficiency
 - Reconstruction Efficiency
 - Selection with the in-ice detector
- Background is function of:
 - Energy
 - Zenith
 - Time



Summary & Outlook

- The IceCube Neutrino observatory is successfully used for the study of cosmic rays
- IceTop used for the air-shower reconstruction and the in-ice used for measuring the charge deposited by high energy muon
- Gamma-hadron separation can be performed by combining the surface and the in-ice detector
- Next step:
 - identify gamma-ray sources in the southern sky
 - study the galactic plane emission



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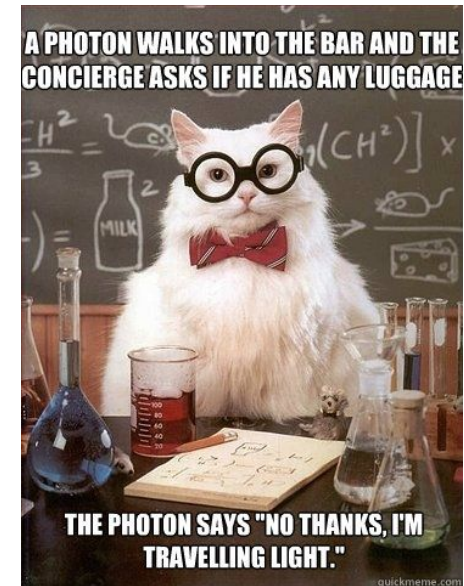
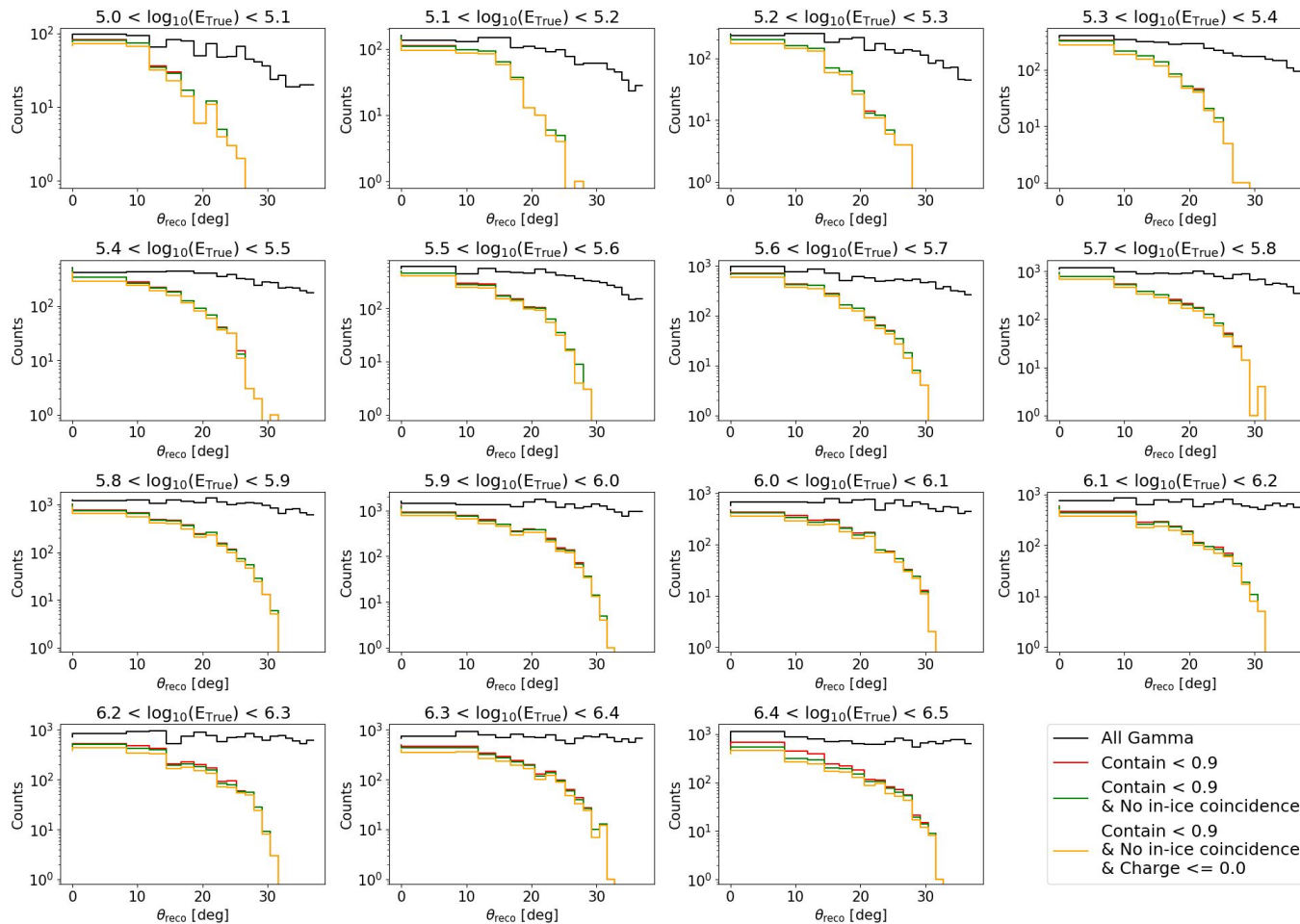
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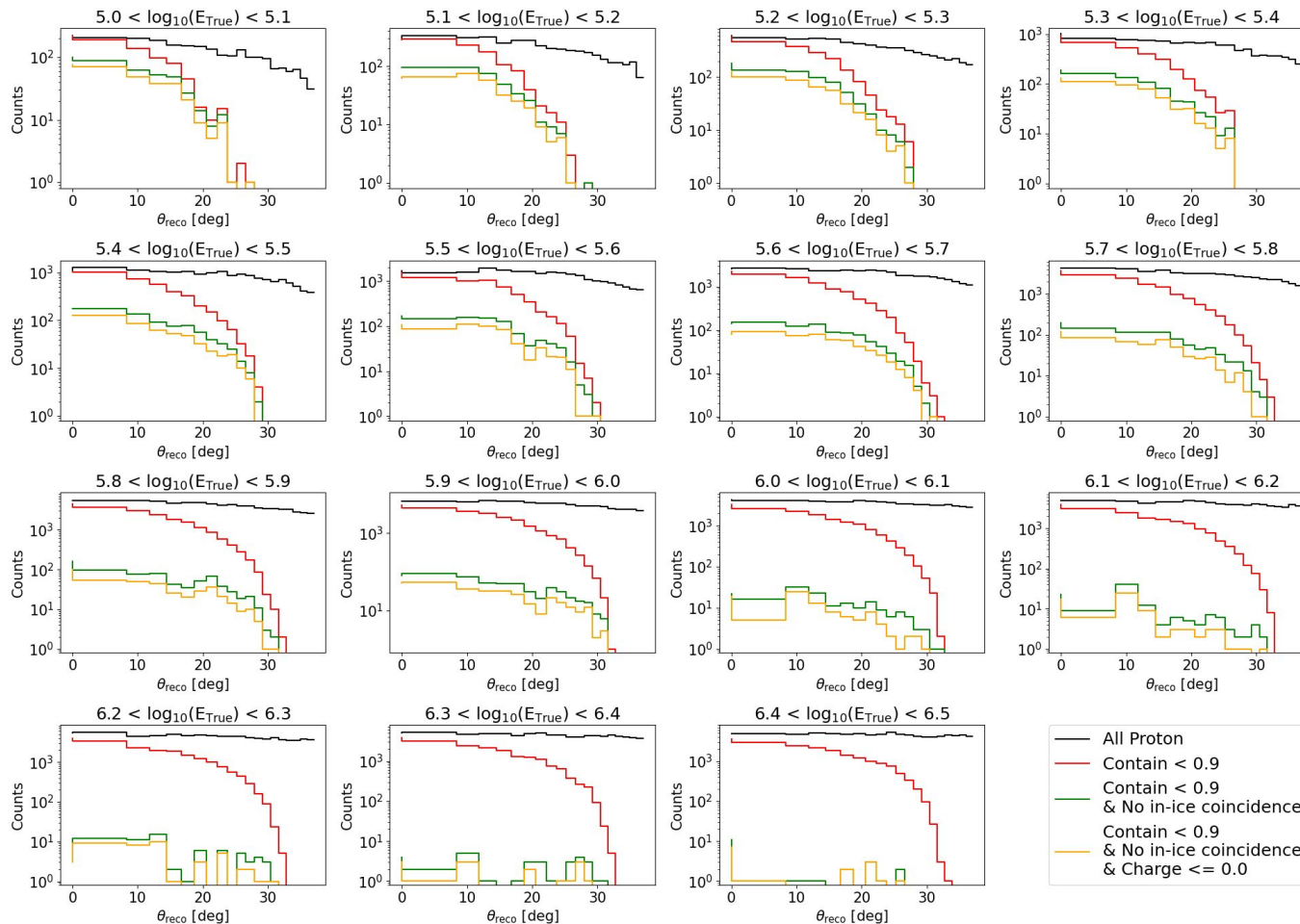
High-energy moun

Gamma simulations - year 2012

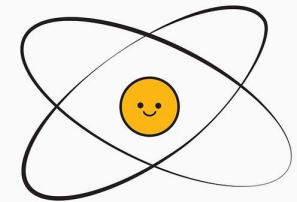


High-energy moun

Proton simulations - year 2012



THINK LIKE
A PROTON



ALWAYS
POSITIVE

starsufflers

Background Estimation

- Estimated background of potential gamma ray candidates
- Estimation per year 2012
- Events per solid angle
- Number as a function of zenith
-

