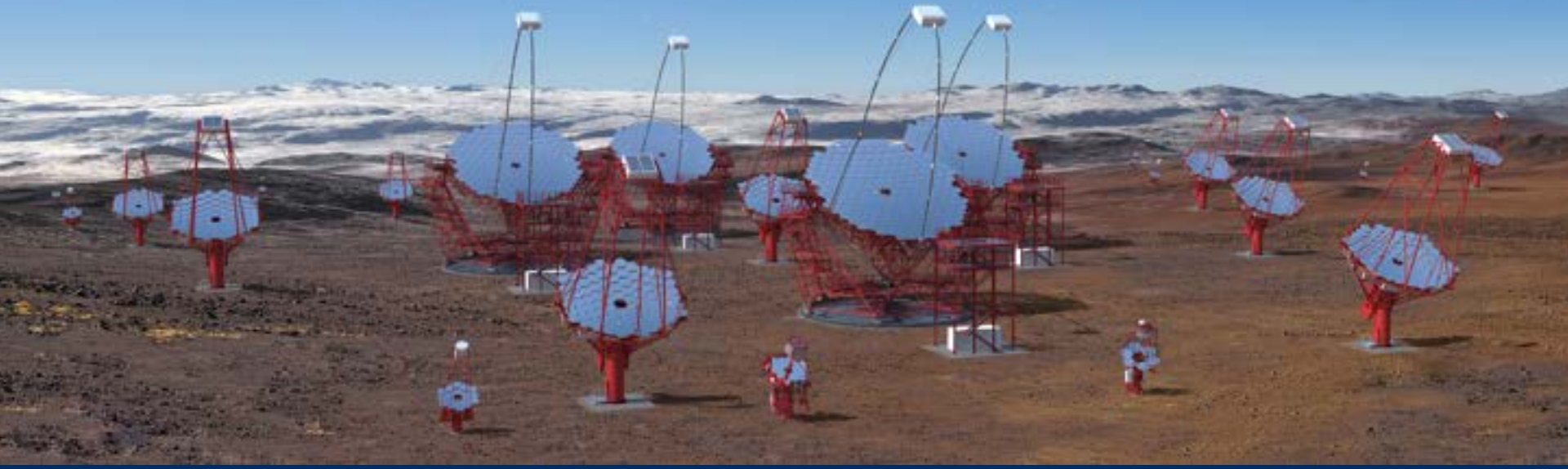
cherenkov telescope array

The Cherenkov Telescope Array: project status and scientific program



The CTA Consortium[1]
represented by Stefano Vercellone (INAF – OA Brera)

stefano.vercellone@brera.inaf.it

1: See www.cta-observatory.org/consortium_authors/authors_2018_07.html

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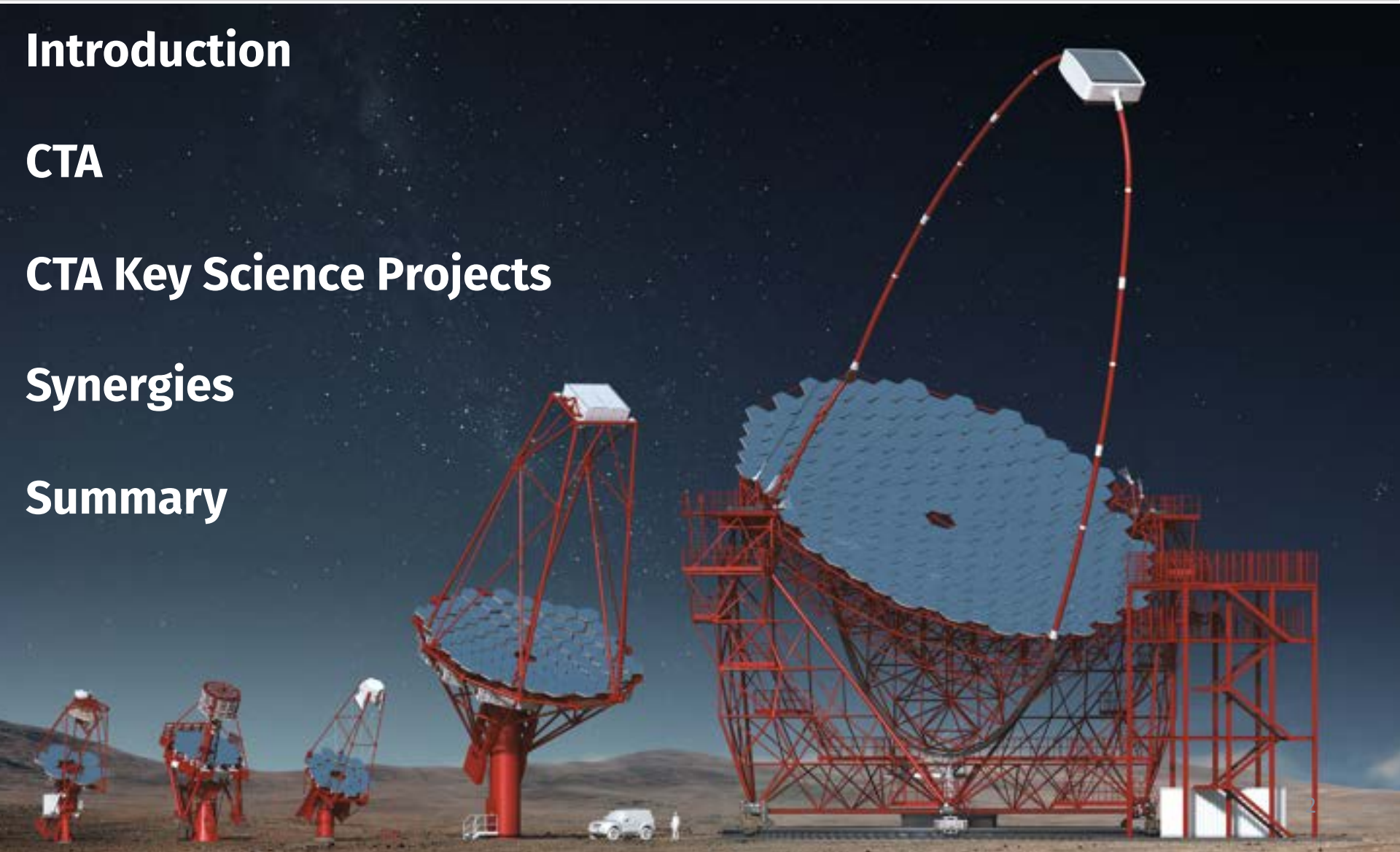
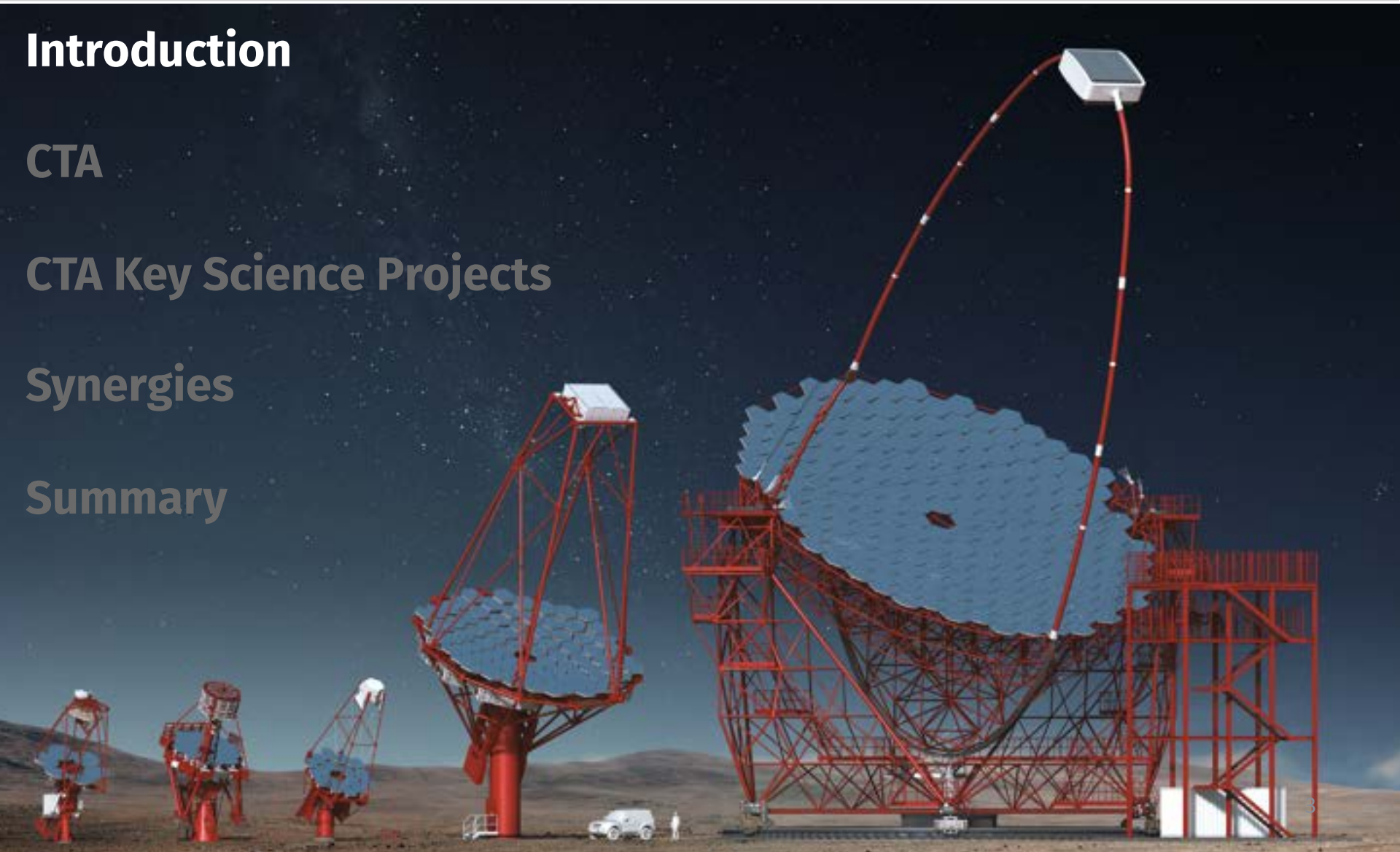


Outline



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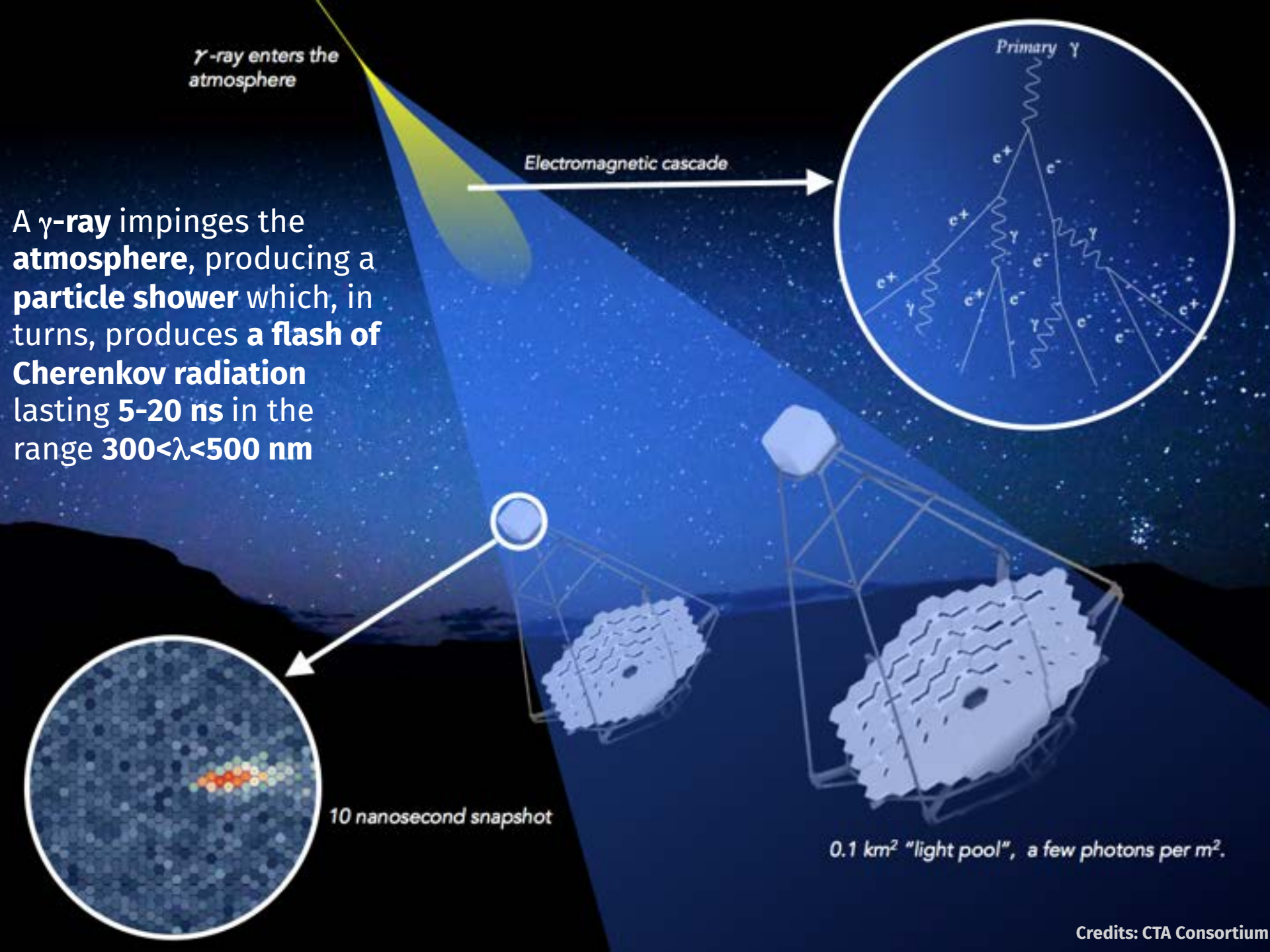
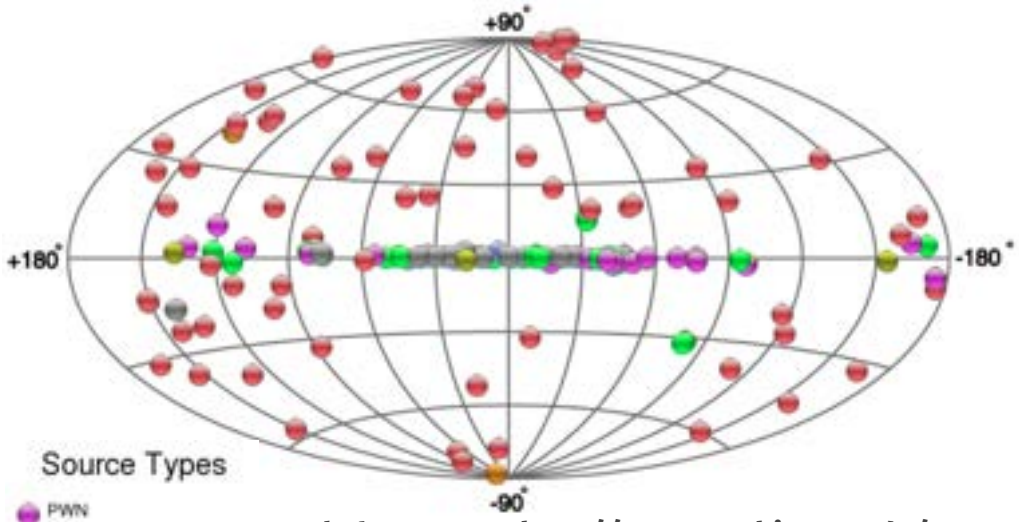


A γ-**ray** impinges the **atmosphere**, producing a **particle shower** which, in turns, produces **a flash of Cherenkov radiation** lasting **5-20 ns** in the range **300<λ<500 nm**

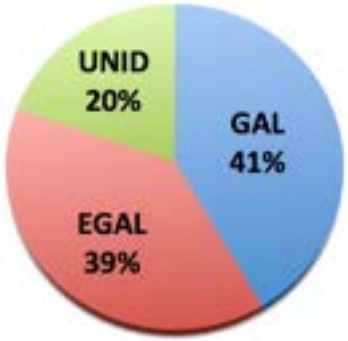
Credits: CTA Consortium

The sky above 50 GeV



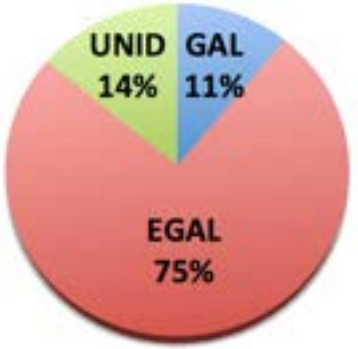
Wakely & Horan http://tevcat.uchicago.edu/

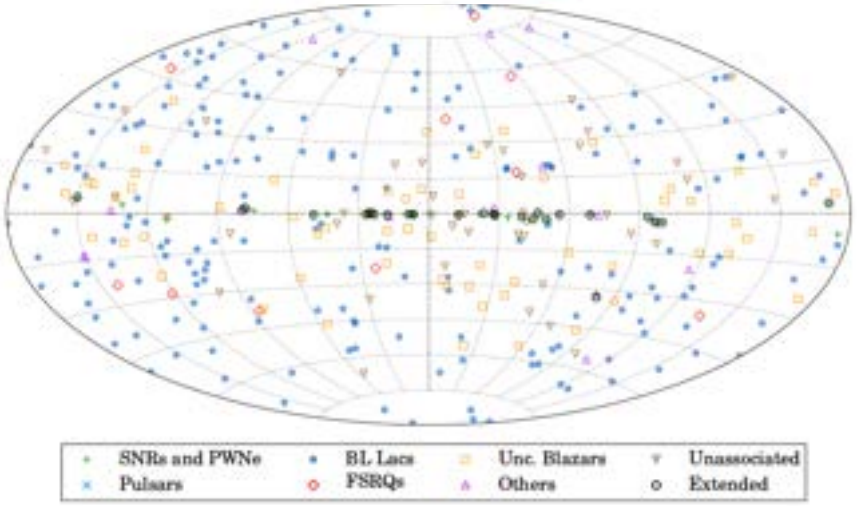
~180 TeVCat sources



H.E.S.S.
MAGIC
VERITAS

360 *Fermi*-LAT sources E>50 GeV





2FHL Ackermann+16

Only ~25% of the 2FHL sources have been previously detected by Cherenkov telescopes.
2FHL provides a reservoir of candidates to be followed up at very high energies.

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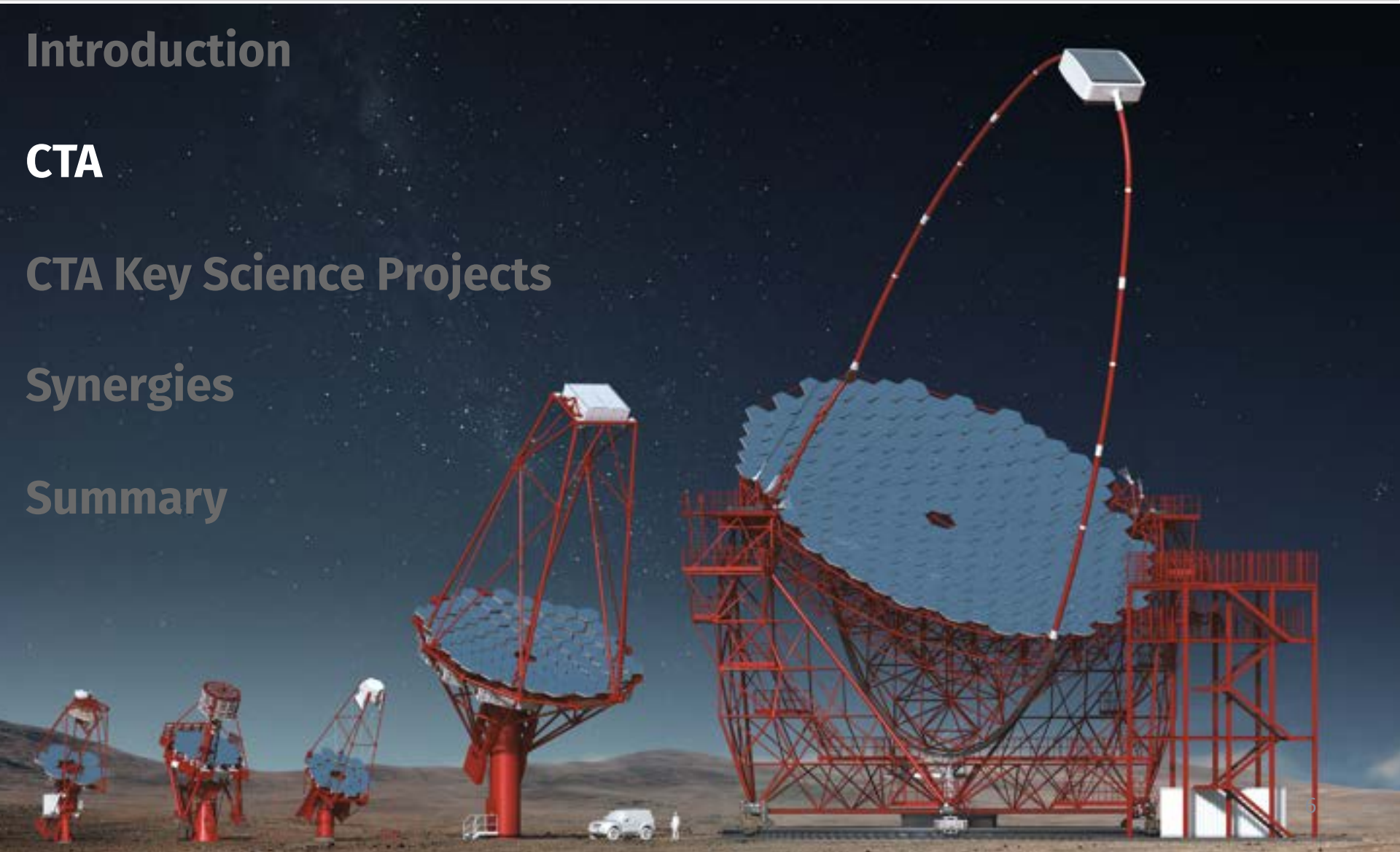
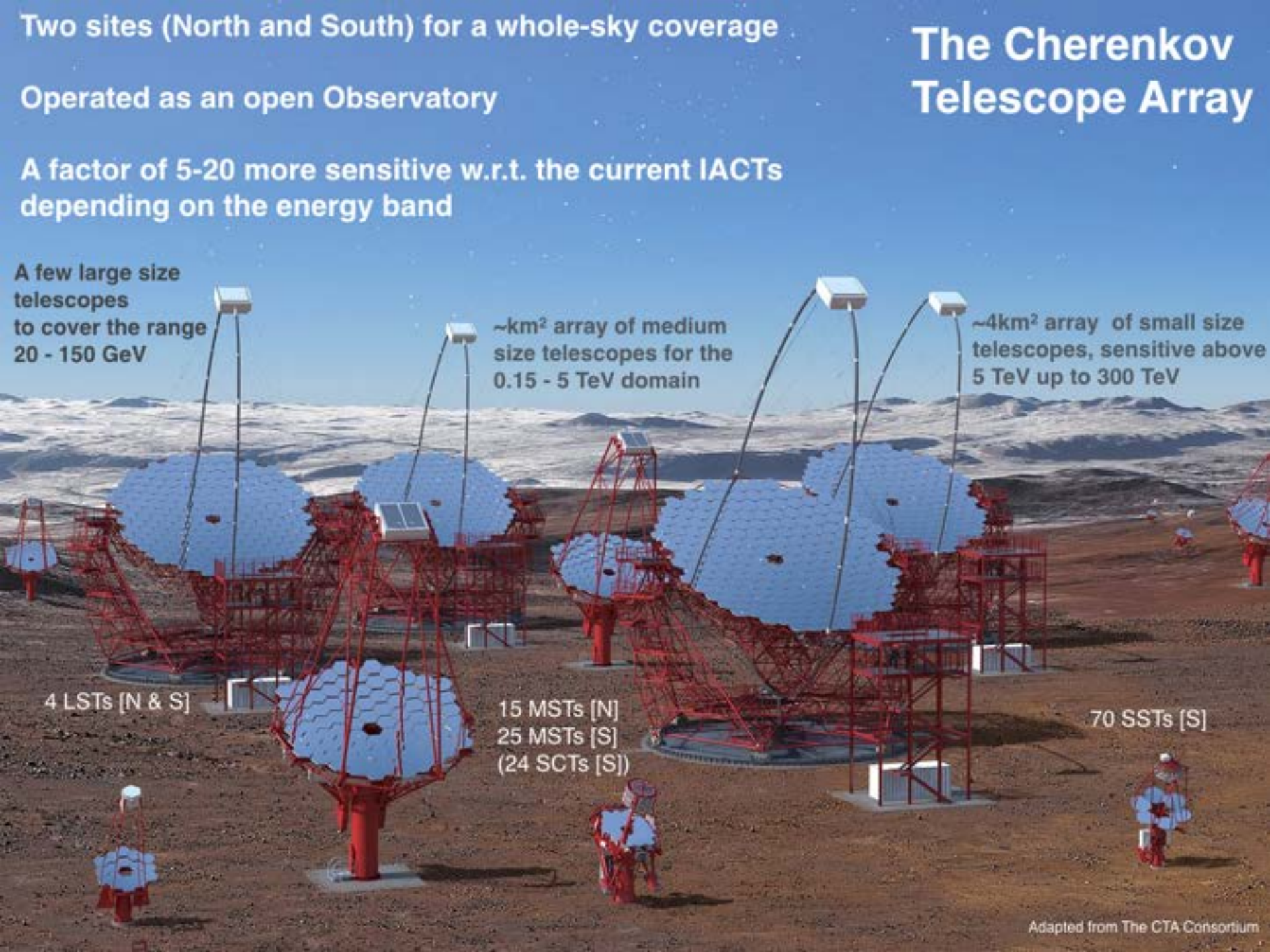


The Cherenkov Telescope Array

Two sites (North and South) for a whole-sky coverage

Operated as an open Observatory

A factor of 5-20 more sensitive w.r.t. the current IACTs depending on the energy band



Where to find us

CTA Northern site

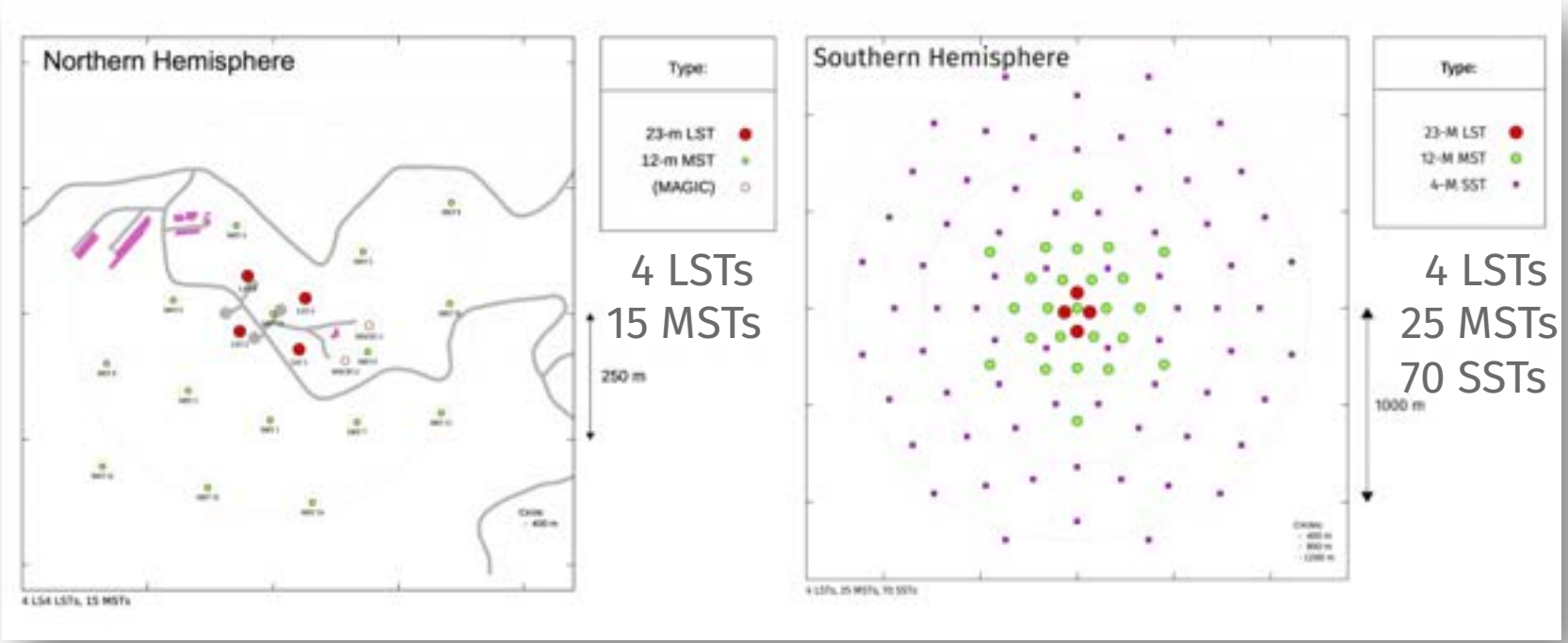
CTA Southern site

High-level timeline and proposed layout

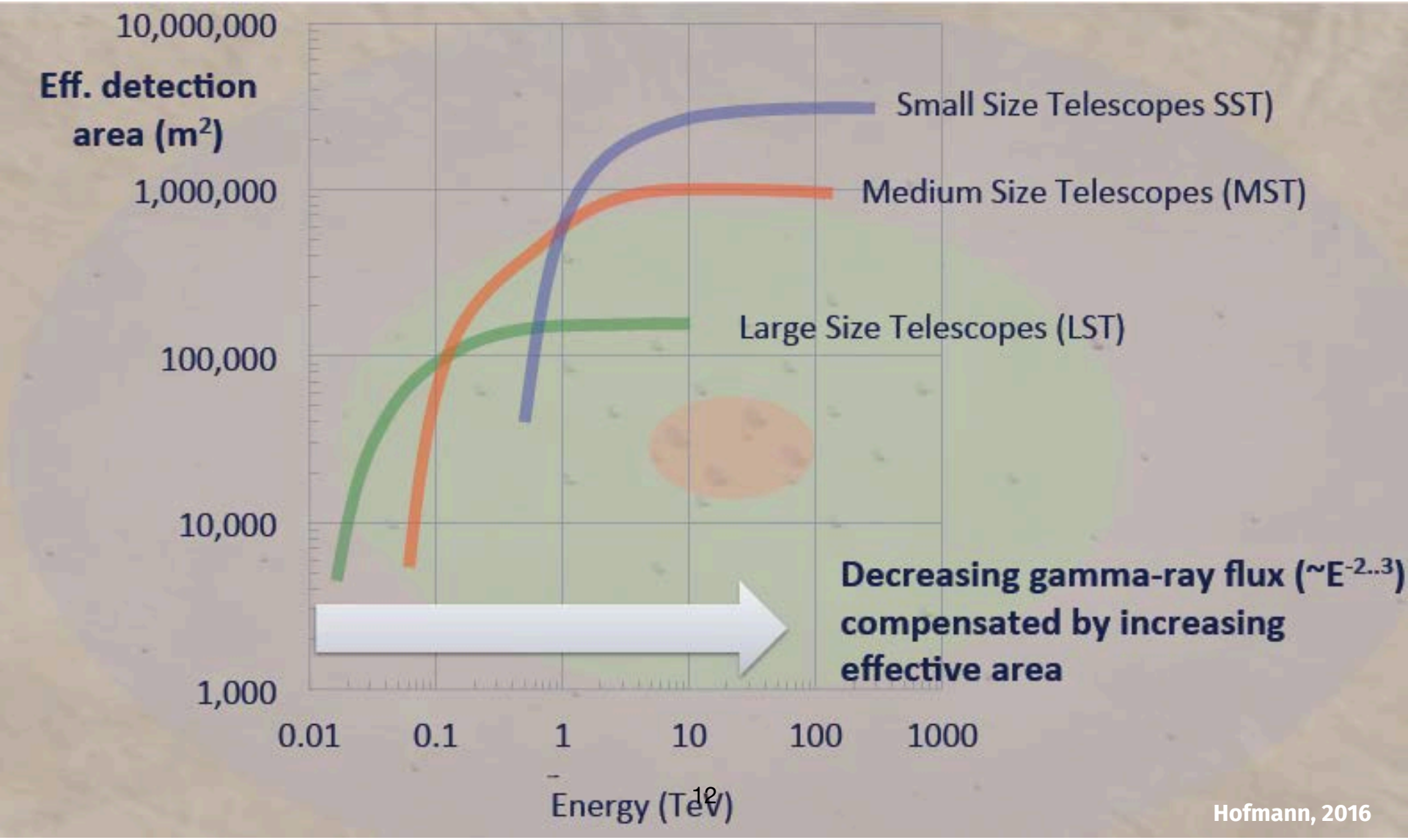
Project Phases

Pre-Construction	Pre-Production	Production
Current Phase	2019-2021	2021-2025

First Pre-Production Telescopes on Site



Effective area for gamma-ray detection



Hofmann, 2016

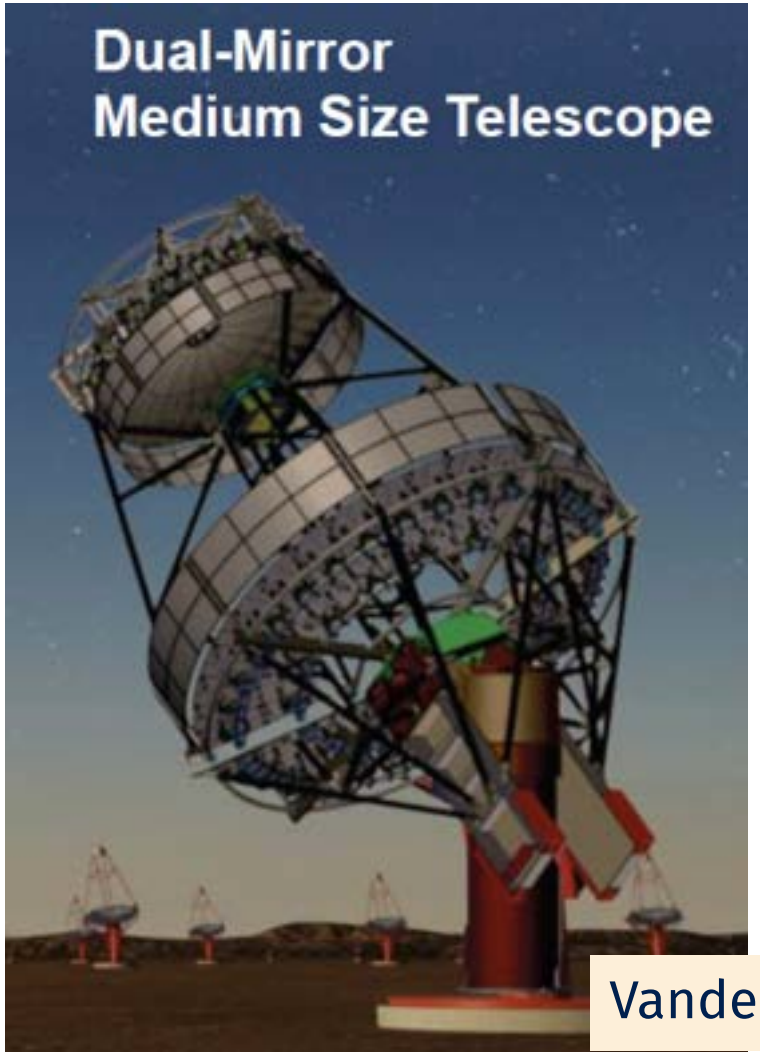
Large Size Telescope

Medium Size Telescope Prototype

https://www-zeuthen.desy.de/cta_cam/photogallery/content/index.html

Credits: The CTA Consortium

Dual-mirror MST prototype



Vandenbroucke (Schwarzschild-Couder Telescope)

Credits: The CTA Consortium

Small size telescope prototypes

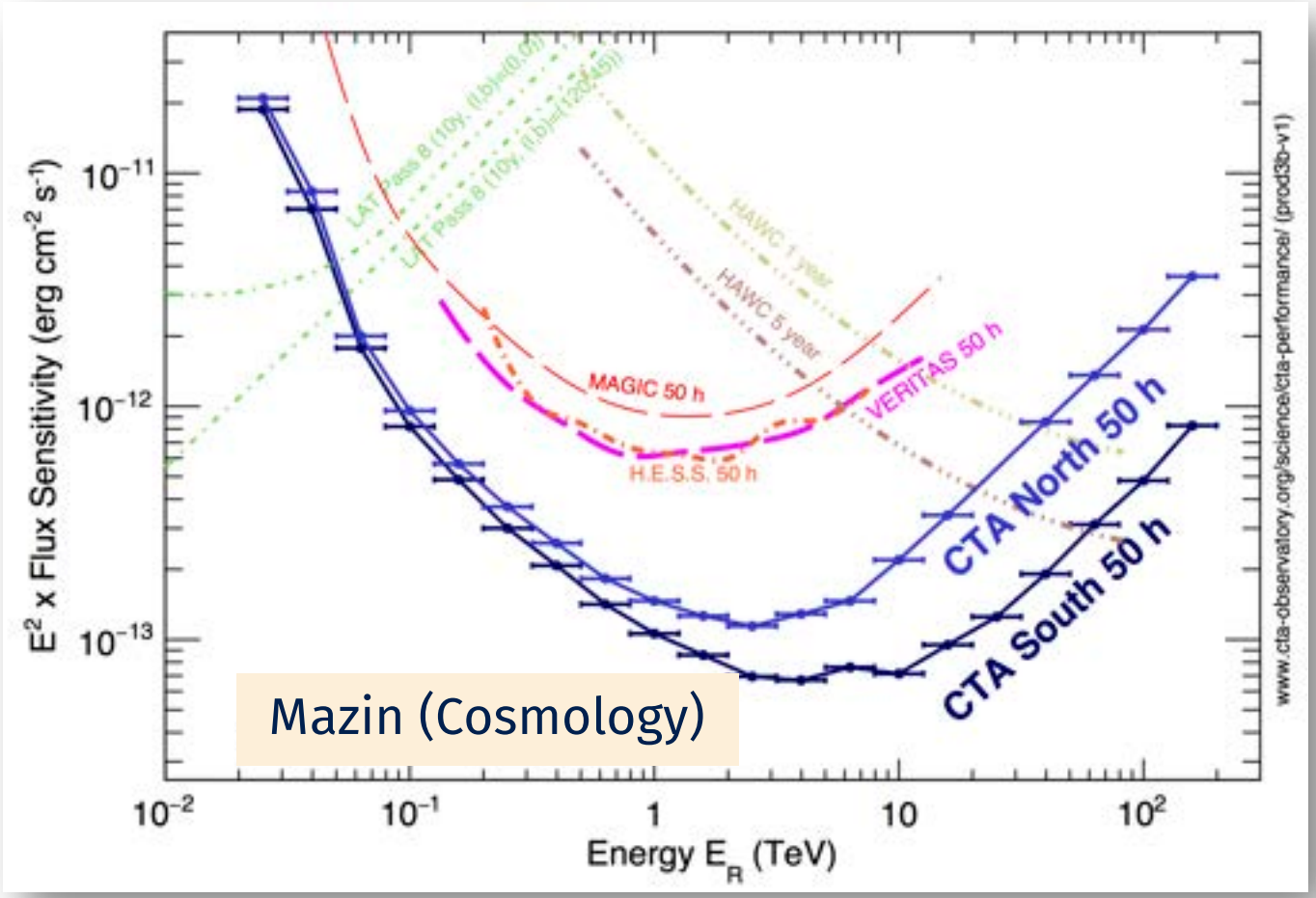
SST-2M GCT prototype in Paris

SST-1M prototype in Krakow

SST-2M ASTRI prototype on Mt. Etna (Sicily)

CTA Performance

Differential Sensitivity

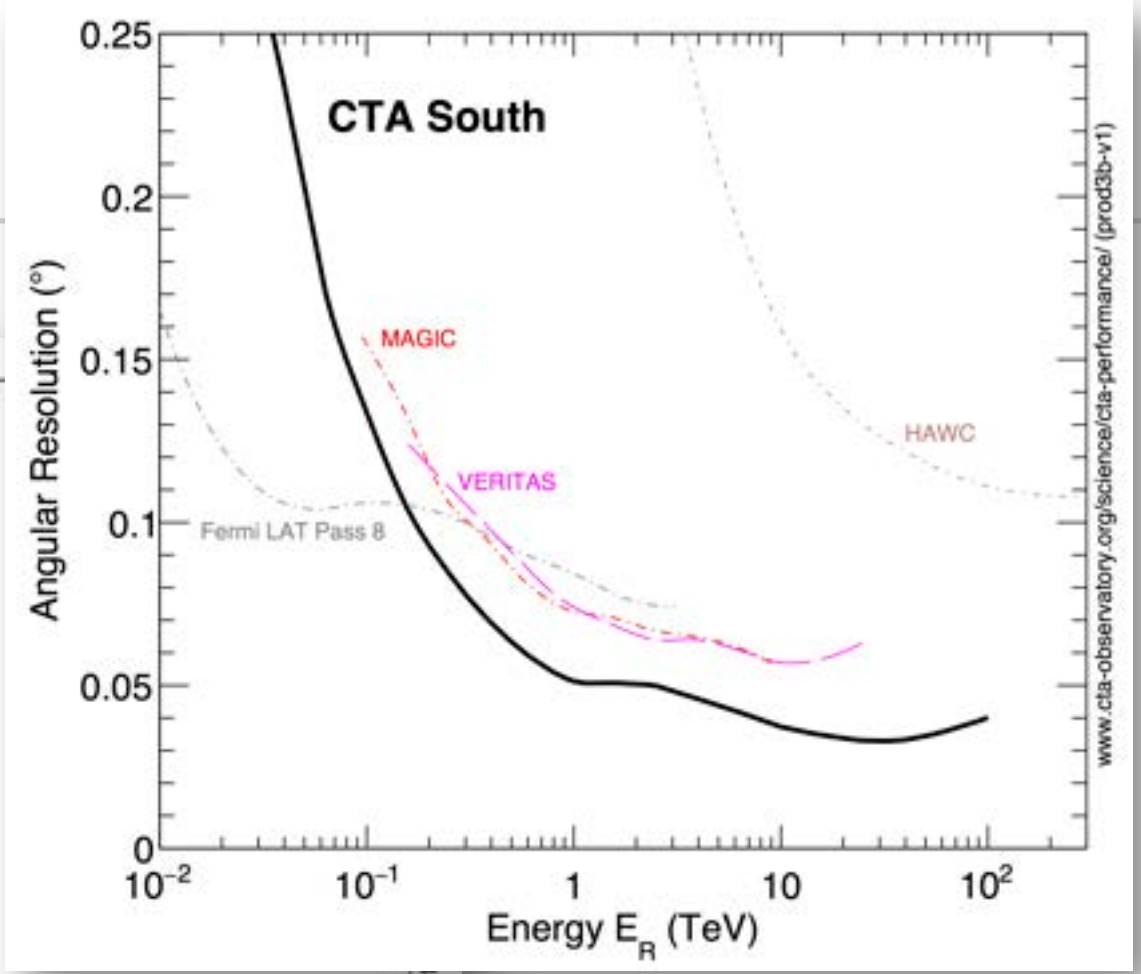


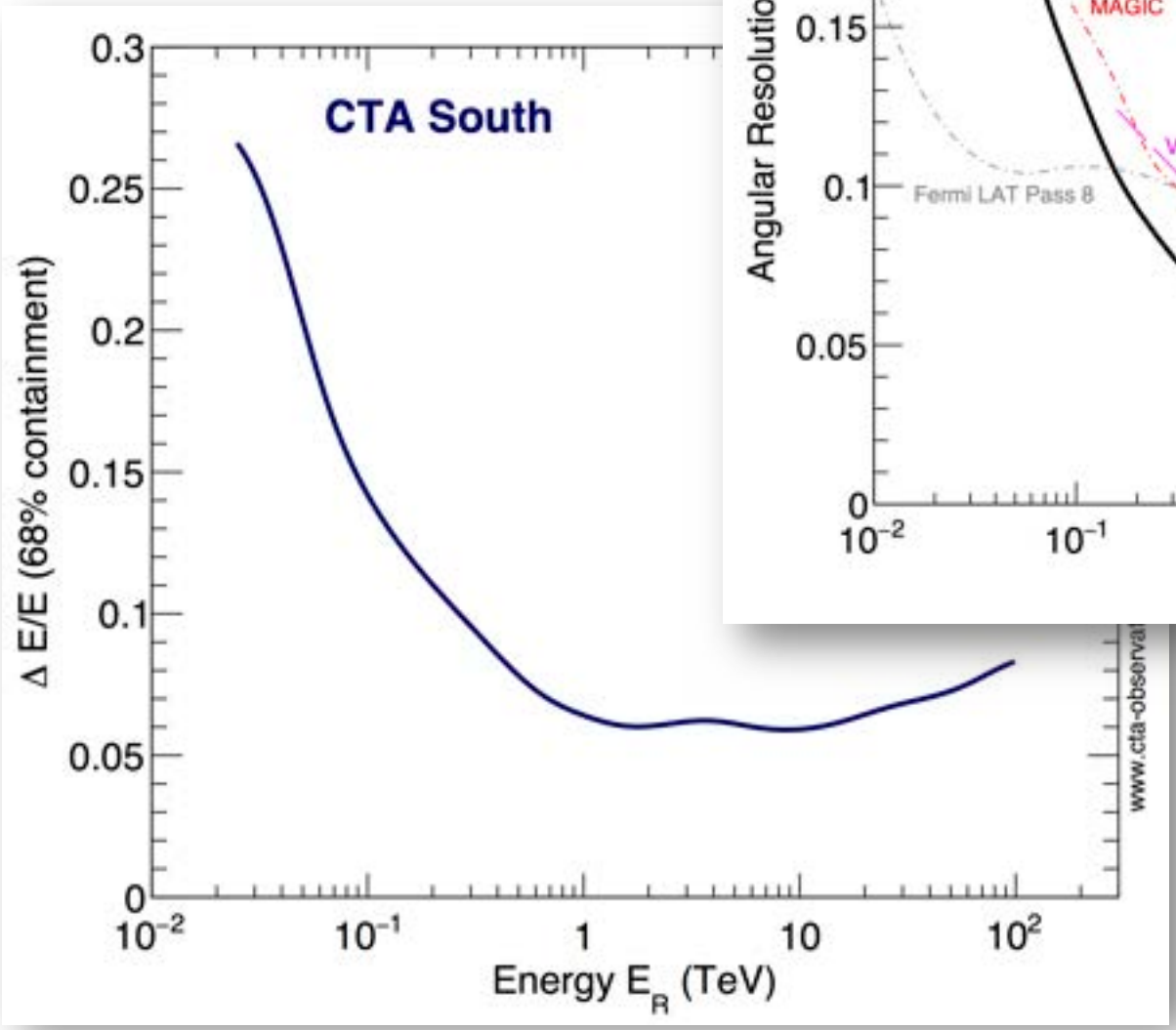
A factor of **5-20 improvement** in sensitivity depending on energy, relative to current IACTs.

Extension of the accessible energy range from **well below 100 GeV to above 100 TeV**.

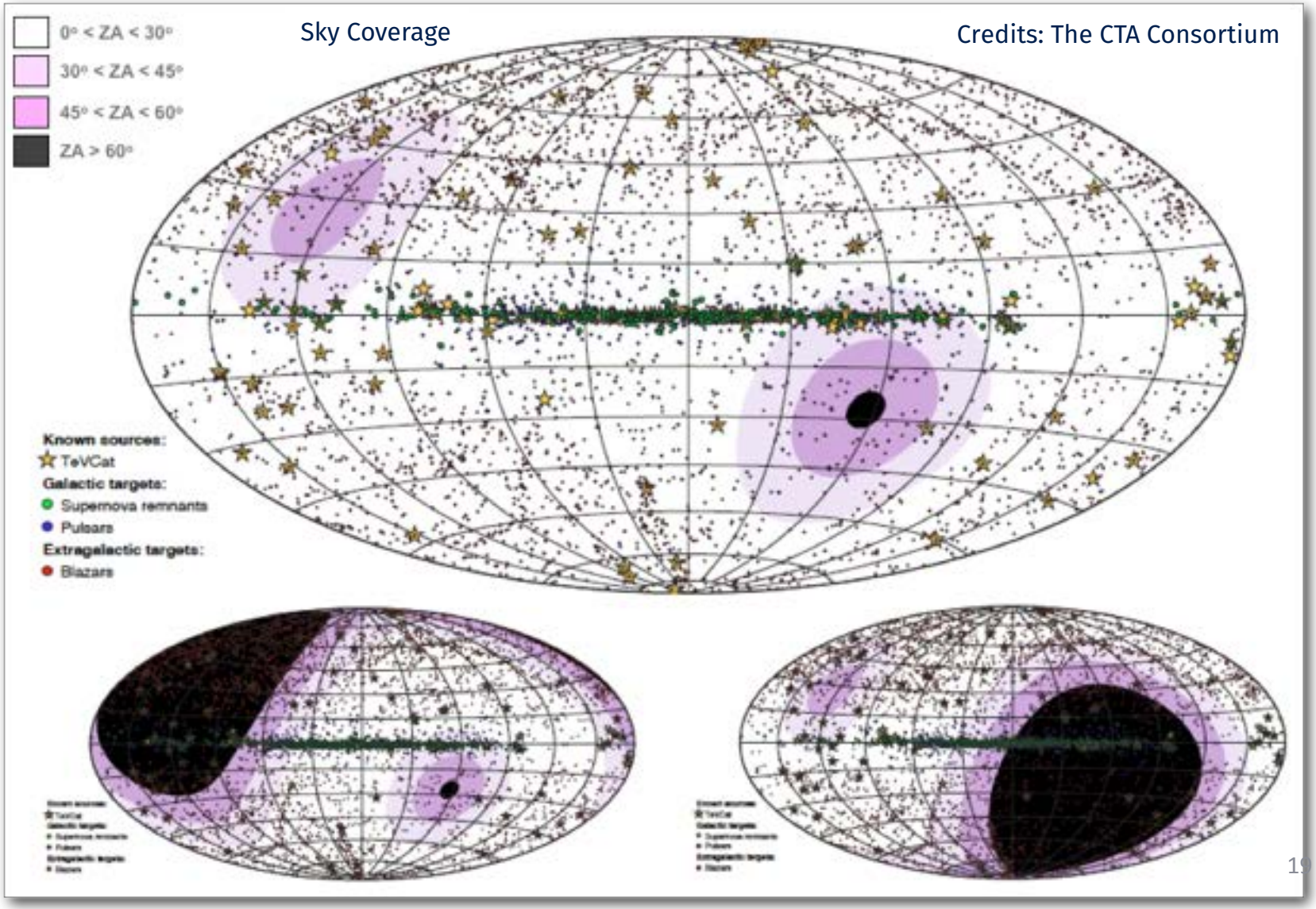
https://www.cta-observatory.org/science/cta-performance/

CTA Performance





CTA as an *all-sky* Observatory



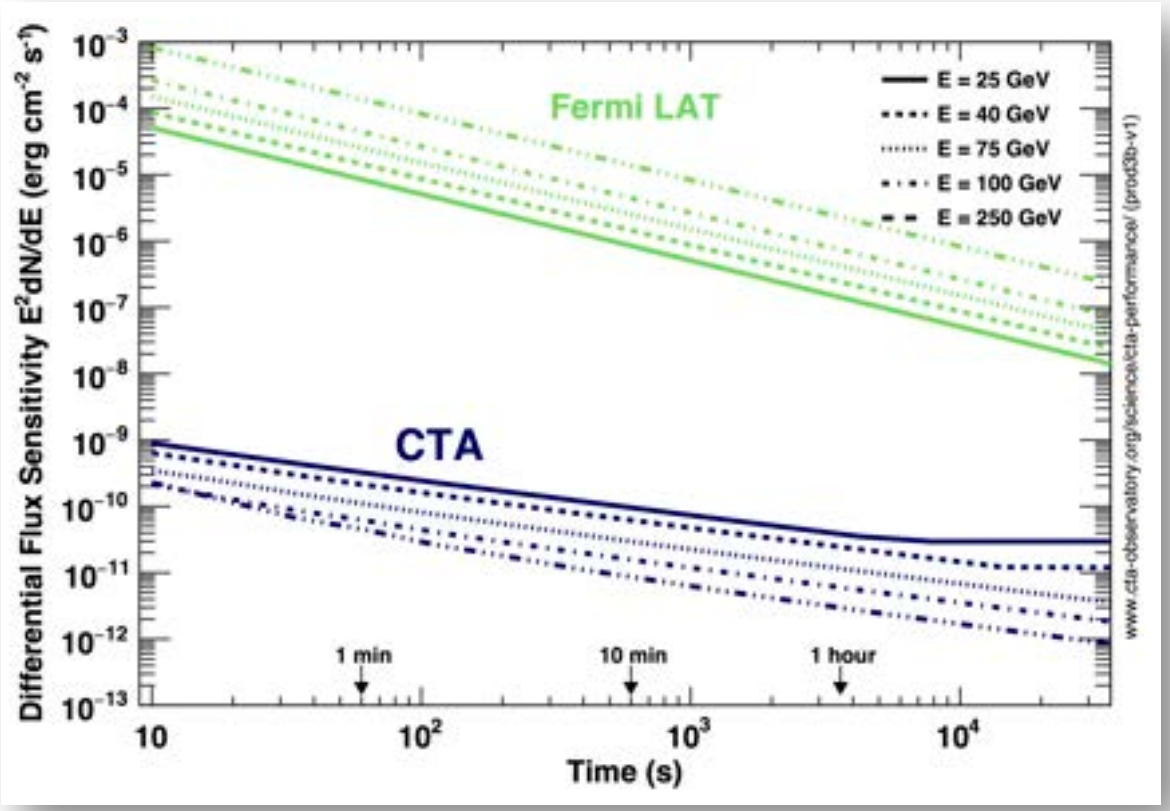
CTA as a *transient factory*

Huge advantage over Fermi in energy range of overlap for ~minute to ~day timescale phenomena

- Explosive transients
- AGN flares
- γ-ray binaries
- ***Real-time analysis SW is crucial***

Disadvantage over Fermi

- Limited FoV (compared to Fermi)
- Prompt reaction to external triggers is critical



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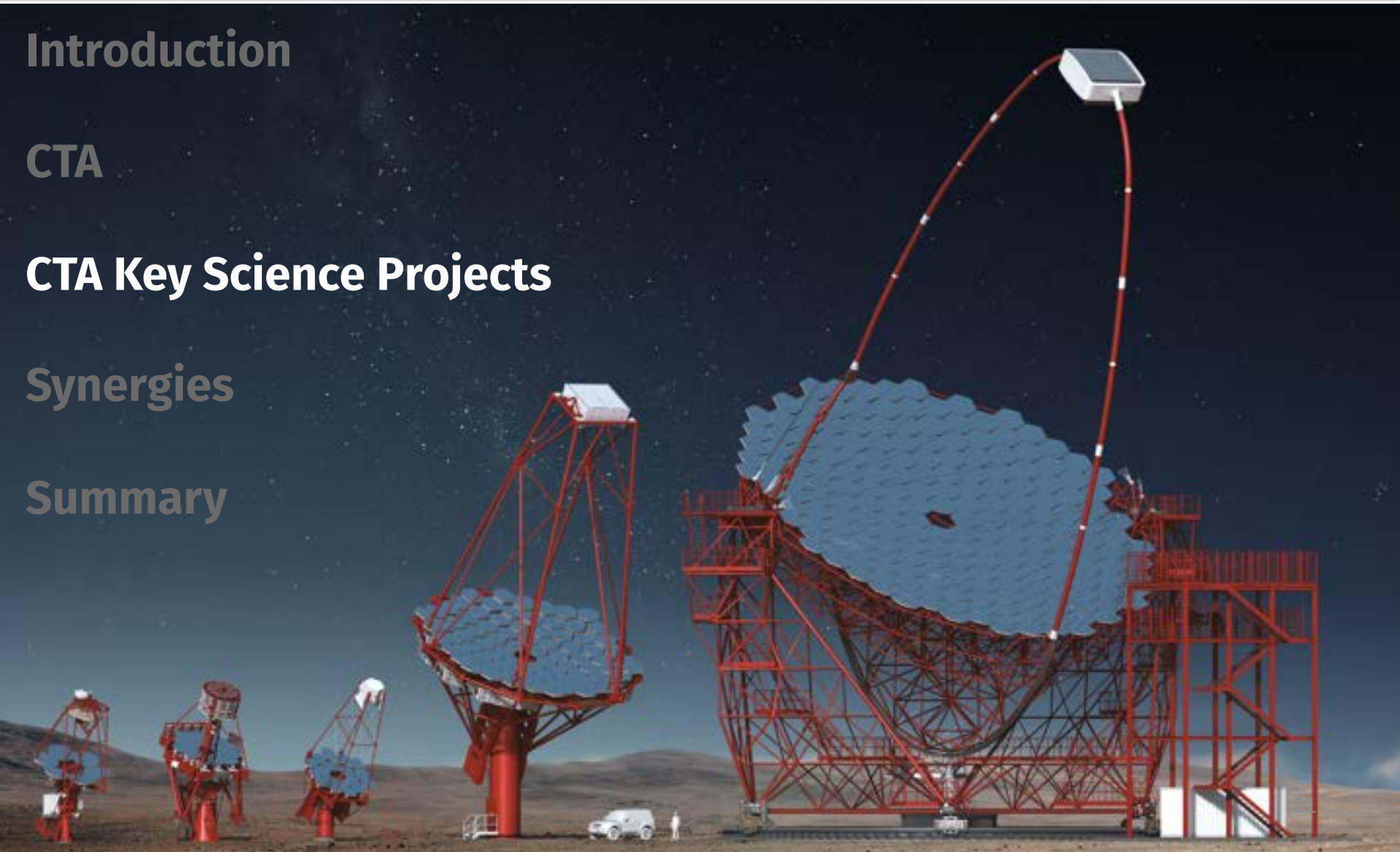


Science Themes

Theme 1: Cosmic Particle Acceleration

- How and where are particles accelerated?
- How do they propagate?
- What is their impact on the environment?

Theme 2: Probing Extreme Environments

- Processes close to neutron stars and black holes?
- Processes in relativistic jets, winds and explosions?
- Exploring cosmic voids

Theme 3: Physics Frontiers – beyond the SM

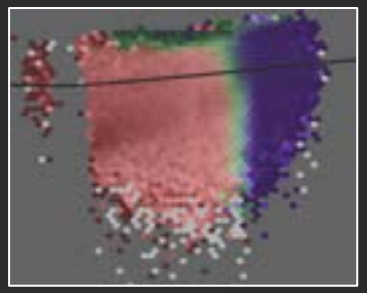
- What is the nature of Dark Matter? How is it distributed?
- Is the speed of light a constant for high energy photons?
- Do axion-like particles exist?

CTA Observing Programme

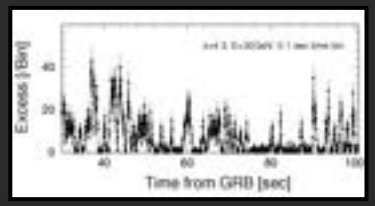
- **9 Key Science Projects** (KSPs) and **1 DM Programme**
  - **KSPs are a sets of observations addressing multiple science questions within CTA themes**

- Focused on **major legacy projects**:
  - surveys & population studies (providing legacy data-sets)
  - large classes of sources
  - a few iconic objects

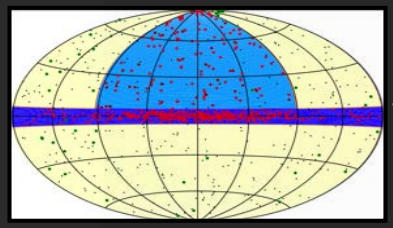
- Large potential for **guest observer proposals**
  - building on results from the KSP surveys



Dark Matter Programme



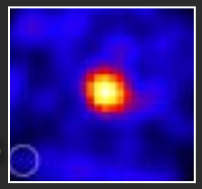
Transients



ExGal Survey

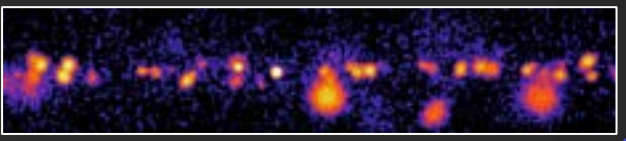
Extragalactic

Galaxy Clusters



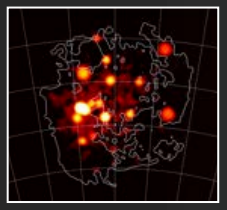
Star Forming Systems

AGN

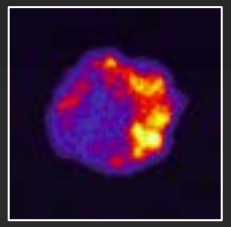


Galactic

LMC Survey

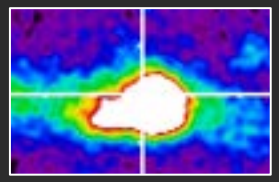


Galactic Plane Survey



PeVatrons

Galactic Centre Survey



cta
cherenkov telescope array

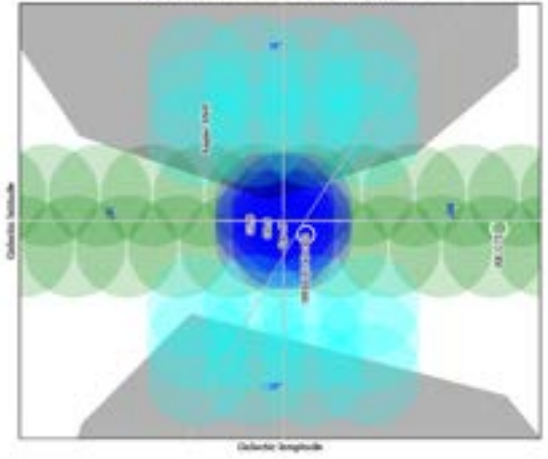
Science with CTA

200+ pages describing CTA science goals

arXiv:1709.07997

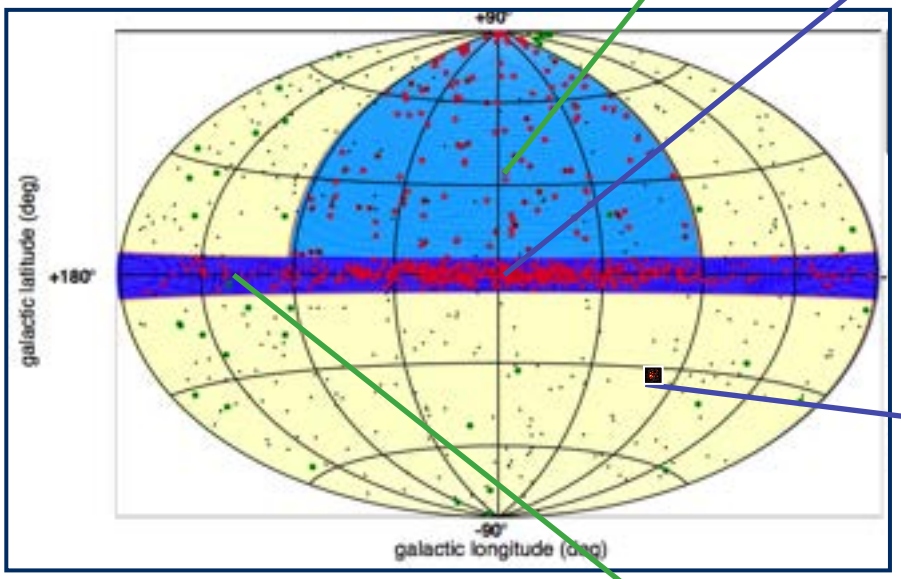
To be published as a book & open-access online version by World Scientific.

The Survey KSPs



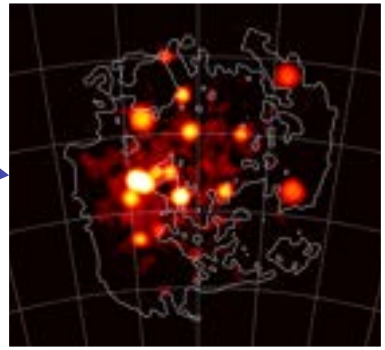
Extragalactic Survey:

Unbiased survey of ¼ sky to ~6 mCrab
VHE population study, duty cycle
New, unknown sources; O(1000) h



Galactic Centre Survey:

ID of the central source
Spectrum, morphology of diffuse emission
Deep DM search; base of the Fermi Bubbles
Central exposure: O(525) h, 10^ox10^o : O(300) h



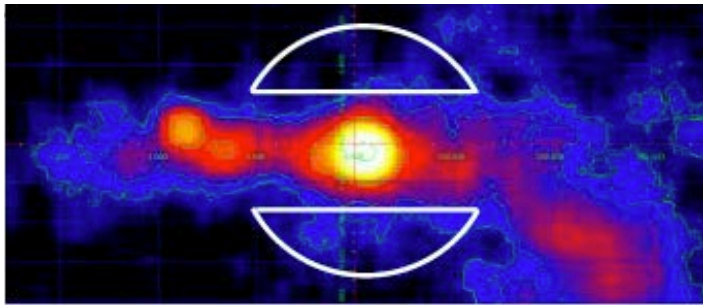
Galactic Plane Survey:

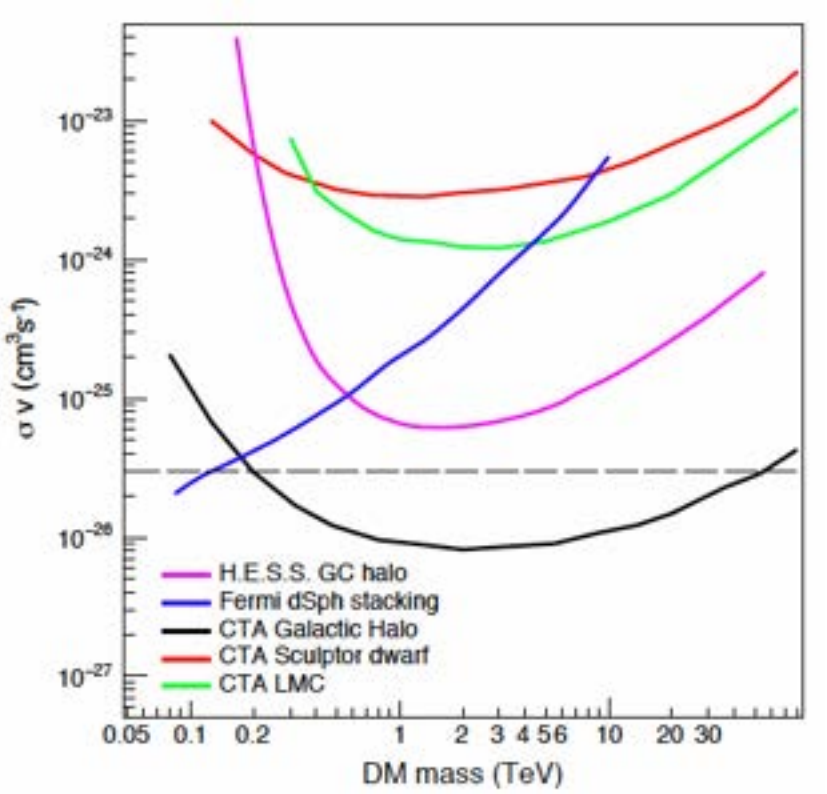
Survey of entire plane to ~2 mCrab
Galactic source population: SNRs, PWNe, etc.
PeVatron candidates, early view of GC, O(1620) h

Large Magellanic Cloud Survey:

Face-on satellite galaxy with high SFR
Extreme Gal. sources, diffuse emission (CRs)
DM search; O(340) h in six pointings

The Dark Matter Programme





- **Key target: Galactic Centre halo**
  - Deep observation O(525 h) to reach canonical thermal cross-section for wide WIMP mass range
- **Complementary observations**
  - Dwarf Sph. Galaxies O(100 h)
  - LMC O(340 h)
  - Perseus Gal. Cluster O(300 h)
  - Expect strategy to evolve with new information

Viana (Fund. Physics)

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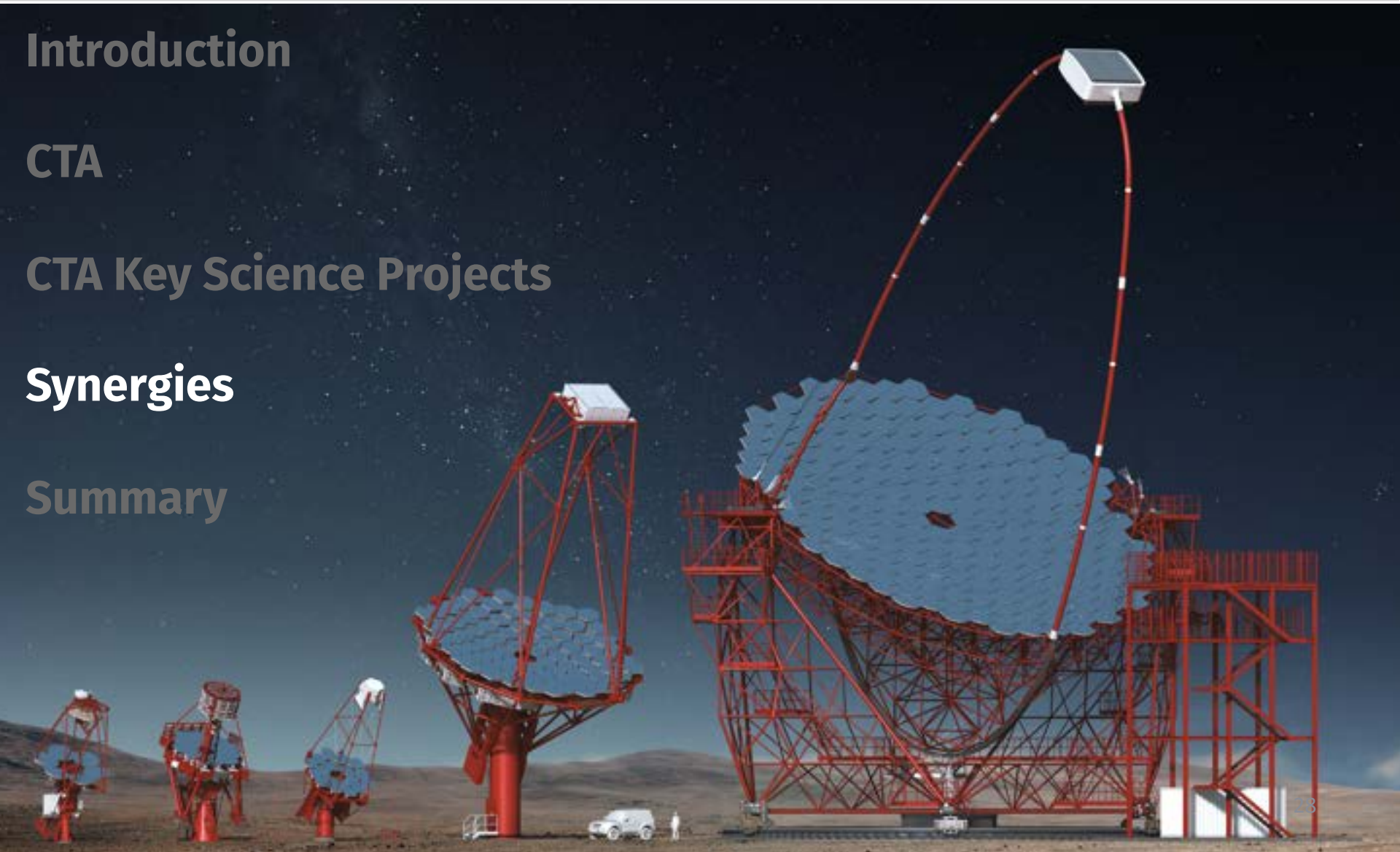


KSPs vs. proposal-driven programs

Key Science Projects

- Ensure that important science questions for CTA are addressed in a coherent fashion and with a well-defined strategy,
- Conceived to provide legacy data sets for the entire community

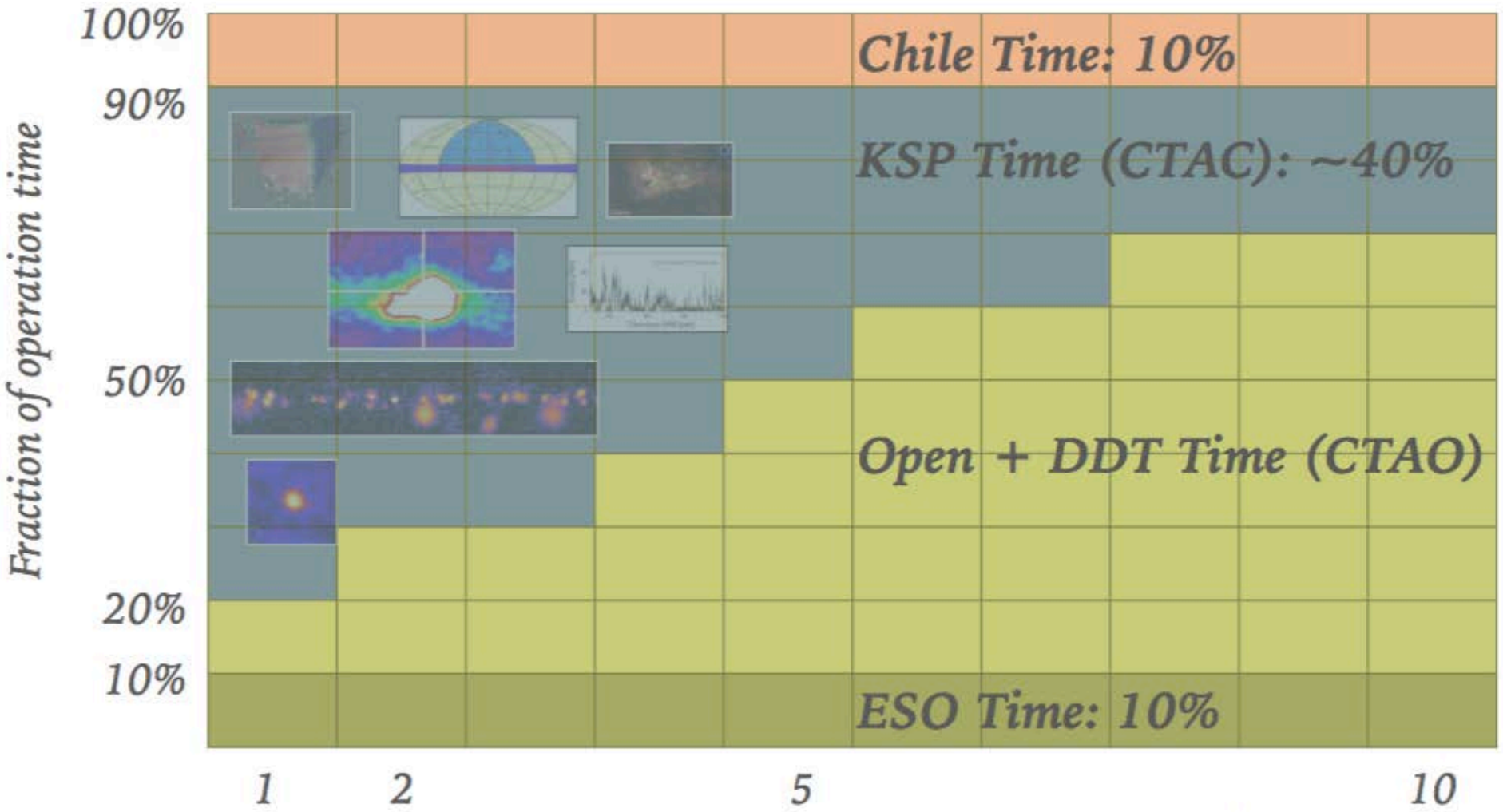
Example: galactic and extragalactic surveys

- Deep investigation of known sources
- Follow-up of KSP discovered sources
- Multiwavelength campaigns
- Follow-up of ToOs from other wavebands / messengers
- Search for new sources
- ...

Proposal-Driven User Programme

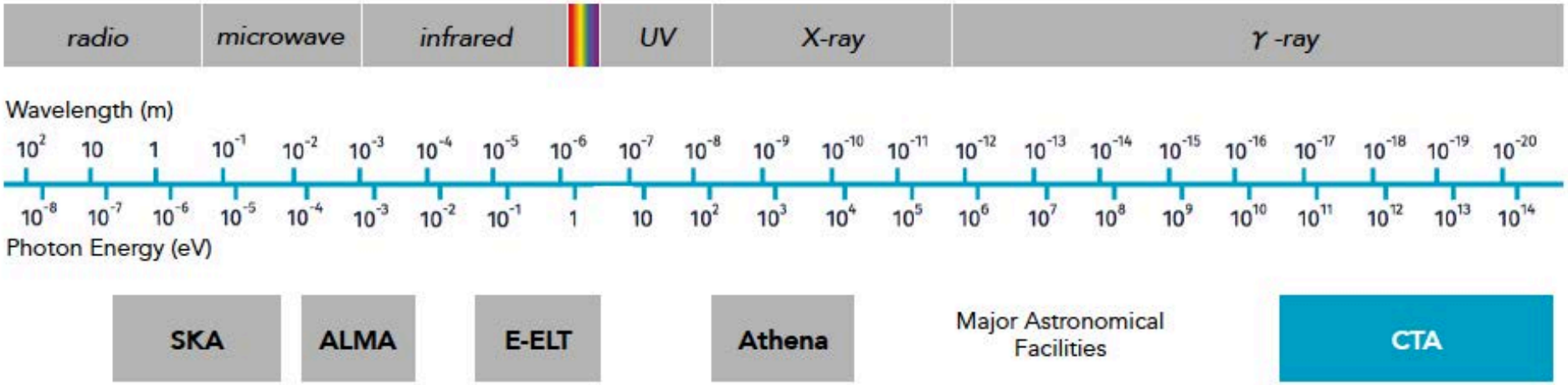
Credits: Hofmann, Gamma 2016

Example of KSPs vs. GO time budget



About 1350 hours/yr (South)

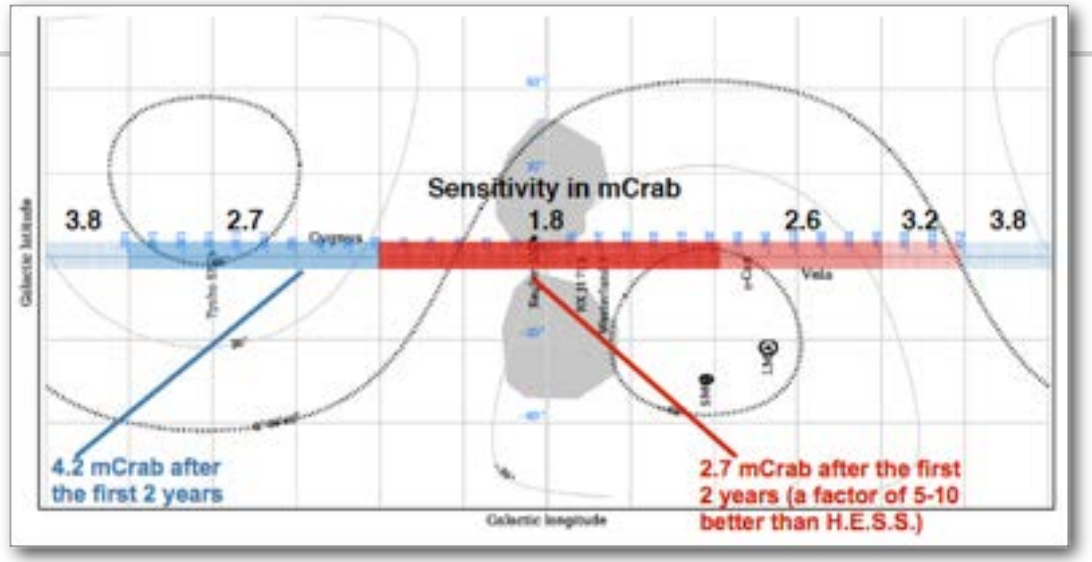
Synergies during CTA operation



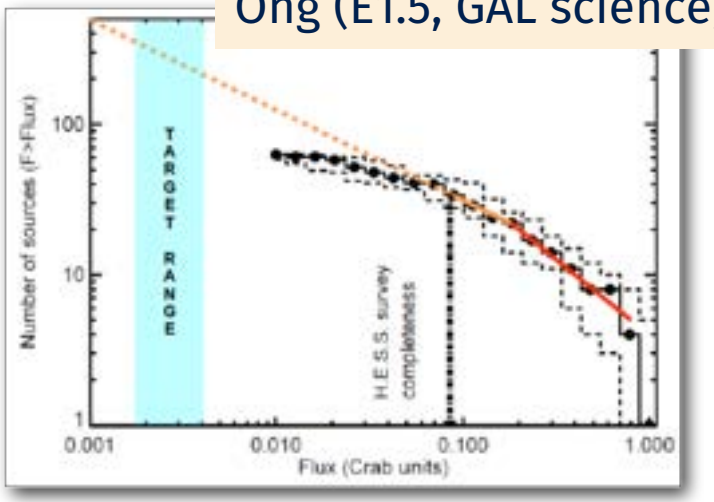
These are just a few of the future major multi-wavelength facilities available during the CTA era at lower energies.

Dominguez (Fermi), BenZvi (HAWC), Morselli (future missions), Barres de Almeida (LATTES), Paredes (Radio), Slane (X-ray), de Young (νs), Santander (E1.17, HE νs)

Galactic Plane Survey

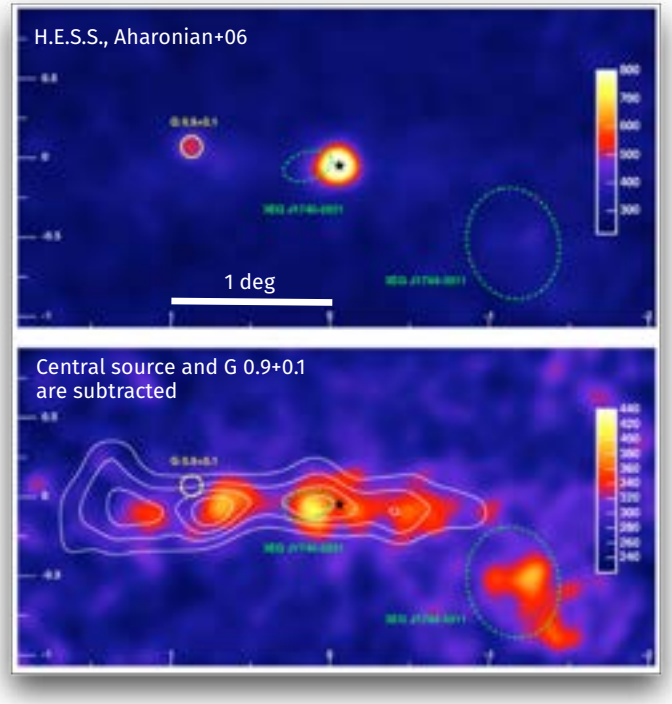


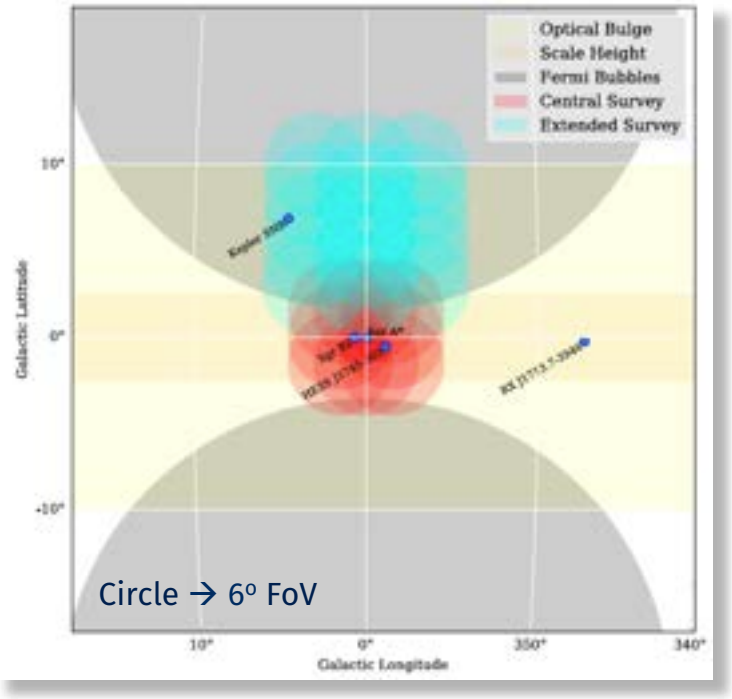
Gabici (Cosmic rays)
Ong (E1.5, GAL science)



- Discovery of PeVatron candidates ➡ origin of cosmic rays
- Detection of many new VHE sources O(300 – 500), particularly PWNe and SNRs
- Discovery of new VHE gamma-ray binaries
- Production of a multi-purpose legacy data set
- **Radio/mm and X-ray facilities** →PSR ephemerides, **PWNe/SNRs morphology**/SEDs, MWL **phase-resolved studies in binaries**, **cross-correlation of catalogs** and identification of new VHE sources, …
- **Non-thermal X-ray emission** → a natural **tracer of locations of extreme particle acceleration.**

Galactic Centre Survey



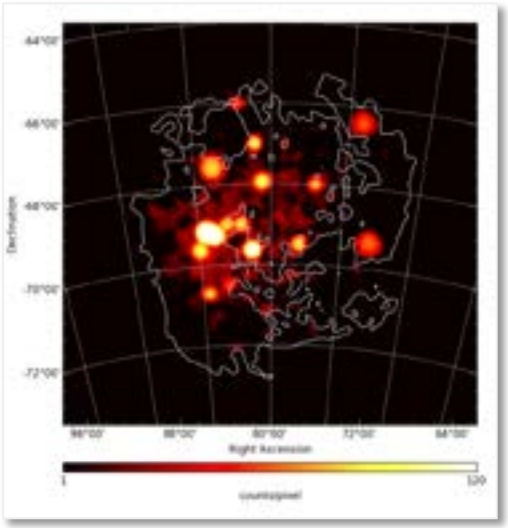


- Determination of the nature of the central source
- A detailed view of the VHE diffuse emission
- Search for variability in the VHE source near Sgr A*
- Studying the interaction of the central source with neighboring clouds
- Global **VLBI array at mm/sub-mm frequencies**, → direct **imaging of the jet-launching regions** of key sources such as Sgr A*
- AGNs **optical polarisation** studies of jets → derivation of **magnetic field parameters** that can be used to improve SED modeling and emission-region localisation

The CTA Consortium

LMC Survey

Credits: Schaefer 2015



The **Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC)** is one of the nearest **star-forming galaxies**, at a distance of 50 kpc (± 2% → important for source energetics).

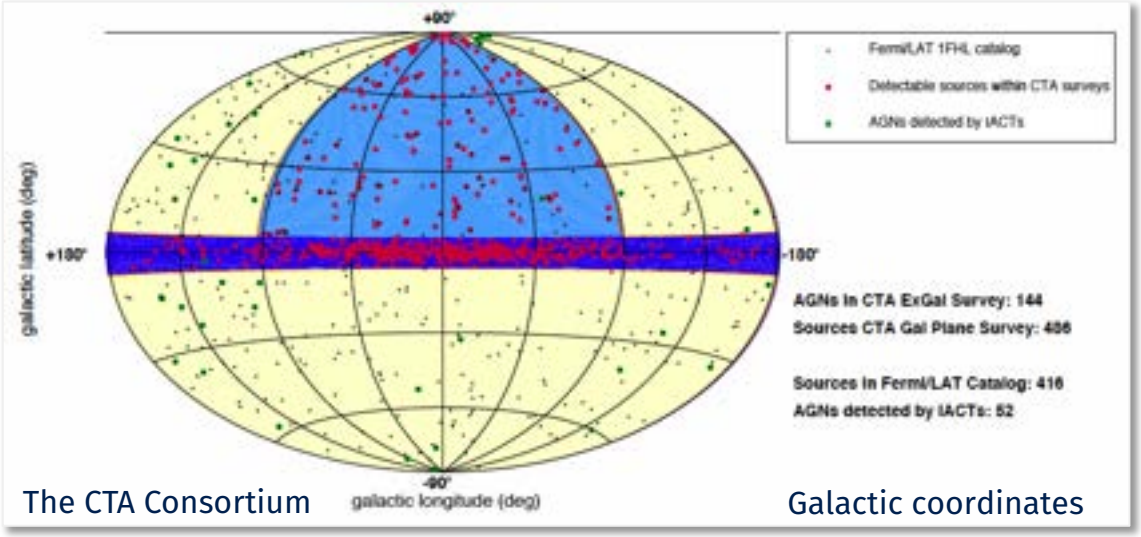
Its activity is attested by more than 60 supernova remnants, several HII regions, bubbles and shells observed at various wavelengths.

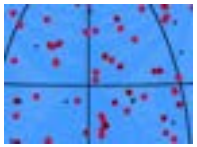
It is a unique place to obtain a resolved, global view of a star-forming galaxy at TeV energies.

Mapping of the interstellar gas over wide areas is absolutely essential to enable **identification of sources** within large scale surveys such as that of the LMC.

(Sub)-millimeter wavelengths → detailed **understanding of the environment** into which shock waves propagate and through which accelerated particles are transported and interact.

Extra-galactic Survey





1/4 of the sky (~10^4 deg^2)
Limiting flux ~ 5 mCrab

O(100) AGNs in 10^4 deg^2

The survey would connect with the Galactic Plane Survey ($|b| < 5^o$) over Galactic longitude $-90^o < l < 90^o$.

Several highly interesting regions such as the Virgo & Coma clusters, the Fermi Bubbles (North) and Cen A (South) will be covered by the proposed survey.

eROSITA will be the first imaging **all-sky survey in the 2–10 keV** range → a primary reference for CTA source identification and **multi-wavelength correspondences**.

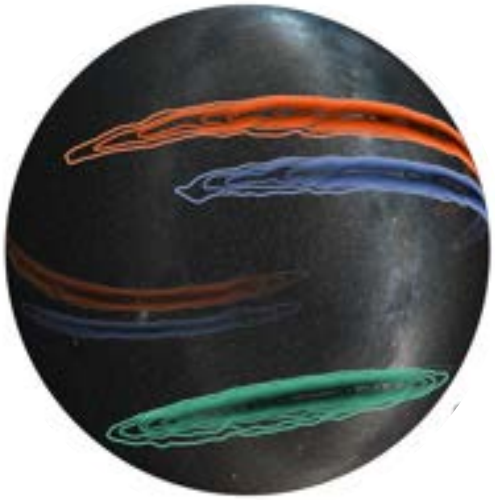
Multi-messenger Astrophysics window is open !

Detection of a gravitational wave event following a GRB onset and its MWL follow-up

Association of an extra-galactic source with an IceCube neutrino event.

Transients

Credits: The LIGO Scientific Collaboration



Transients are a diverse population of astrophysical objects. Some are known to be prominent **emitters of high-energy gamma-rays**, while others are sources of non-photonic, multi-messenger signals such as cosmic rays, **neutrinos and/or gravitational waves.**

Transient Factories & SKA will generate an **overwhelming number of triggers.**

The **definition of appropriate response criteria** is the key to understand the potential for VHE follow-up

Priority	Target class	Observation times (h yr^{-1} site^{-1}) Early phase	Years 1–2	Years 3–10	Years 1–10
1	GW transients	20	5	5	
2	HE neutrino transients	20	5	5	
3	Serendipitous VHE transients	100	25	25	
4	GRBs	50	50	50	
5	X-ray/optical/radio transients	50	10	10	
6	Galactic transients	150	30	0(?)	

Follow-up priority	Target class	Detected @ HE	Trigger	Rate (yr^{-1})	Urgency	Activity duration	Obs. time (h) /night	Total time (h)	Site
1	Magnetar giant flares	–	MeV	0.1	1 min	1–2 d	Max. 1	10	A/B
2	PWN flares: Crab nebula	Y	HE	1	1 d	5–20 d (HE)	4	50	S&N
3	HMXB microquasars: Cyg X-3	Y	HE/X-ray	0.5	1 d	50–70 d (HE)	Max. 1	50	N
	Cyg X-1	Y	HE/X-ray	0.2	1 d	1–10 d ?	Max. 1	30	N
4	Unidentified HE transients	Y	HE	1	1 d	?	2	20	A/B
5	LMXB microquasars	?	X-ray/radio	1	1 d	Weeks	2	20	A/B
6	Novae	Y	HE/opt.	2	1 d	Weeks	2	20	A/B
7	Transitional pulsars	Y	Radio/opt.	0.5	1 d	Weeks	2	20	A/B
8	Be/X-ray binary pulsars	N	X-ray	1	1 d	Weeks	2	20	A/B

Marka (GW), Piel (GRBs), de Young (HE νs), Santander (E1.17, HE νs)

Outline

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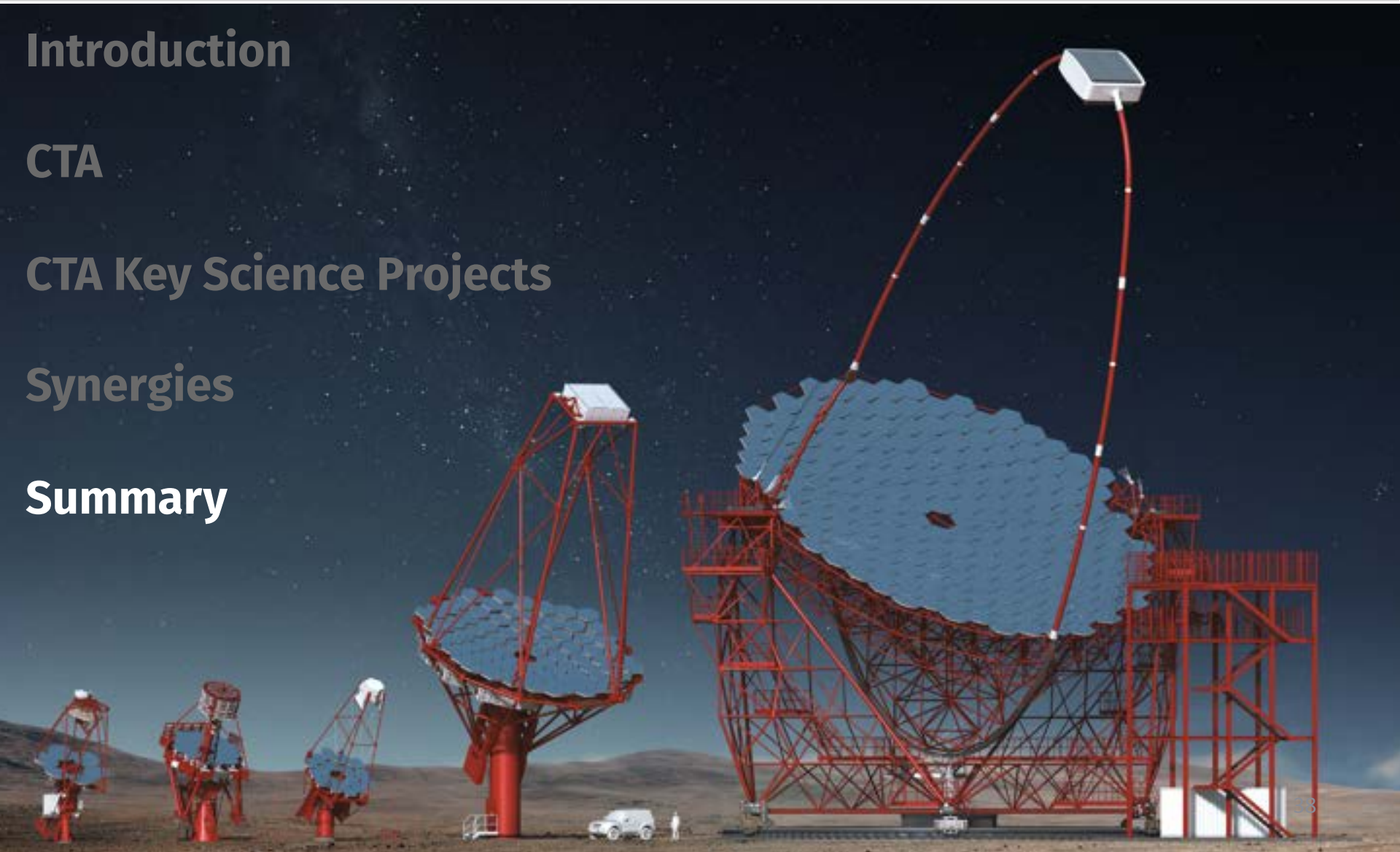
Synergies

Summary



CTA will be an **Observatory** open to the scientific community.

Science will focus on cosmic particle acceleration, extreme environments, and physics beyond the standard model.

Proprietary time (significant fraction in the first years) will be articulated in **Key Science Projects.**

Large potential for **Guest Observer proposals** – e.g., building on results from the KSP surveys.

CTA will have important **synergies** with many astronomical and astro-particle facilities.

We gratefully acknowledge financial support from the agencies and organizations listed here:
http://www.cta-observatory.org/consortium_acknowledgments