



**JEM-EUSO: Joint Experiment Missions for  
Extreme Universe Space Observatory**



# L'osservazione di meteore con l'esperimento Mini-EUSO a bordo della Stazione Spaziale Internazionale e le sinergie con la rete PRISMA...

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(Univ. Torino & INAF-OATo)  
on behalf of the JEM-EUSO Collaboration  
PRISMA day 10-11 Dicembre 2020



# Mini-EUSO & PRISMA a synergy from the beginning

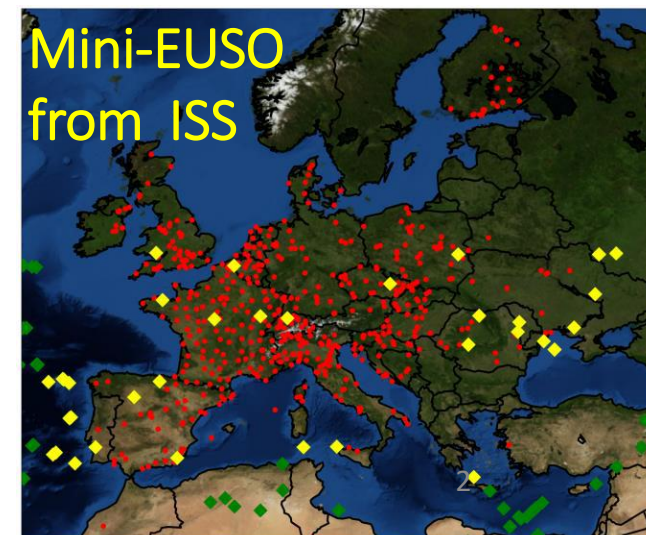


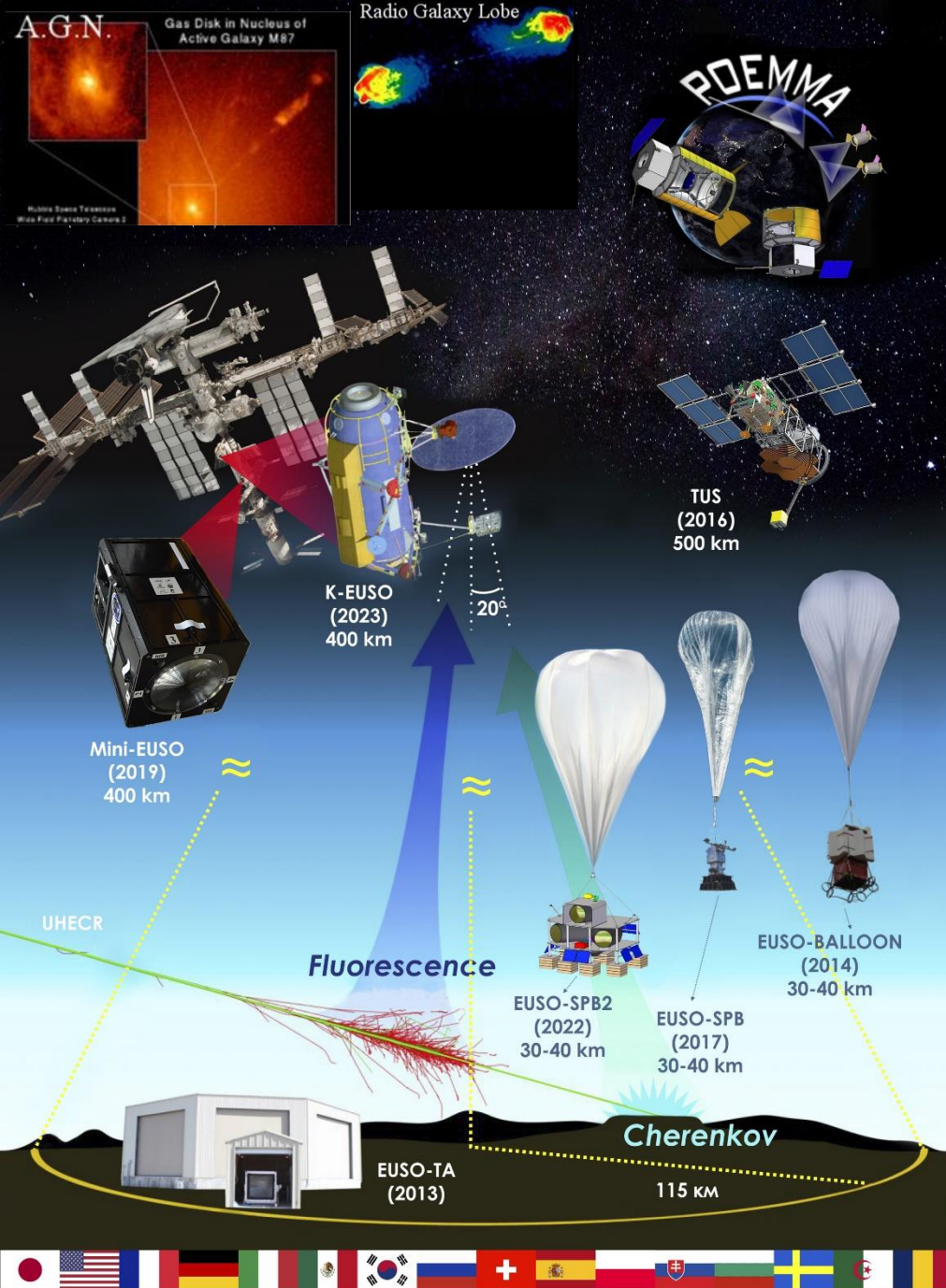
- PRISMA Day – Firenze 2016: M. Bertaina «Mini-EUSO e attività correlate all'osservazione di Meteore e Space Debris in associazione con PRISMA»
- PRISMA Day – Bologna 2018: F. Bisconti «Osservazioni con l'Engineering model di Mini-EUSO e la camera PRISMA all'INAF-OATo»
- PRISMA DAY – 2020: M. Bertaina «L'osservazione di meteore con l'esperimento Mini-EUSO a bordo della Stazione Spaziale Internazionale

Mini-EUSO EM  
@INAF-OATo



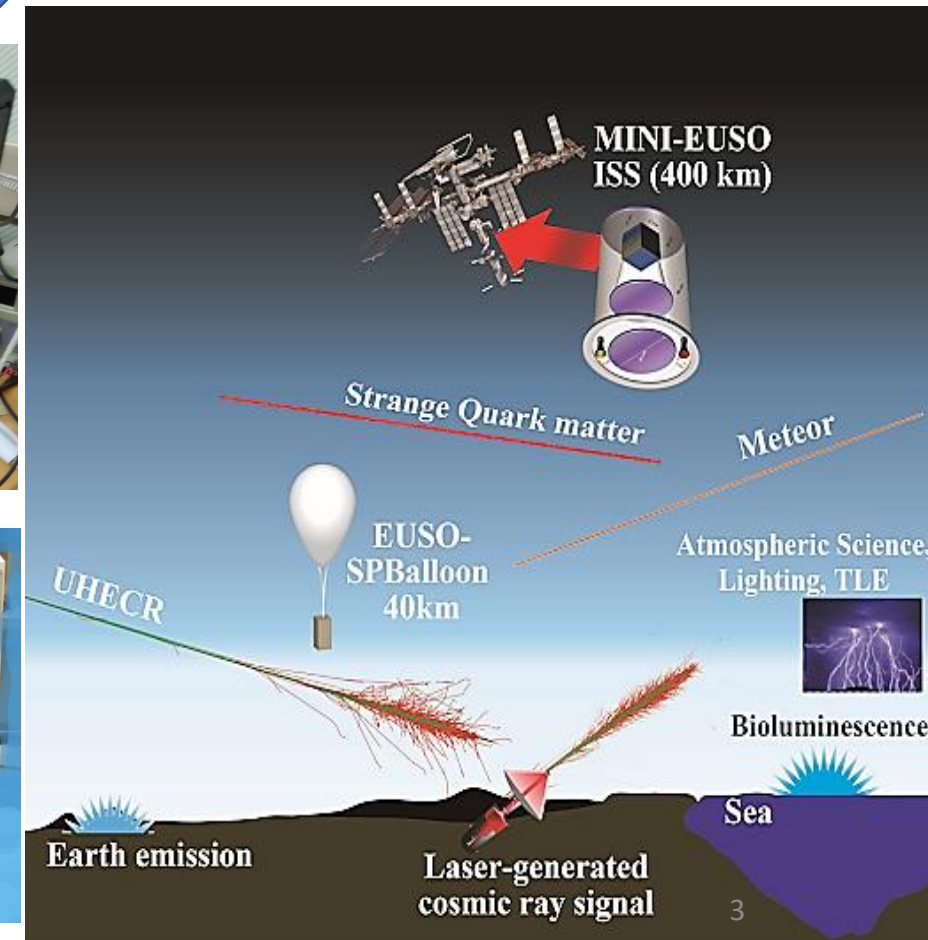
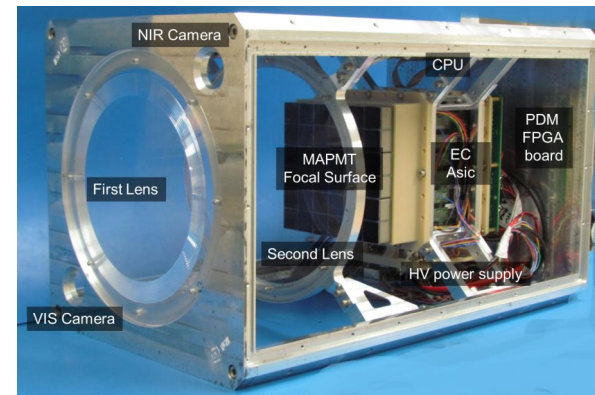
PRISMA camera  
@INAF-OATo





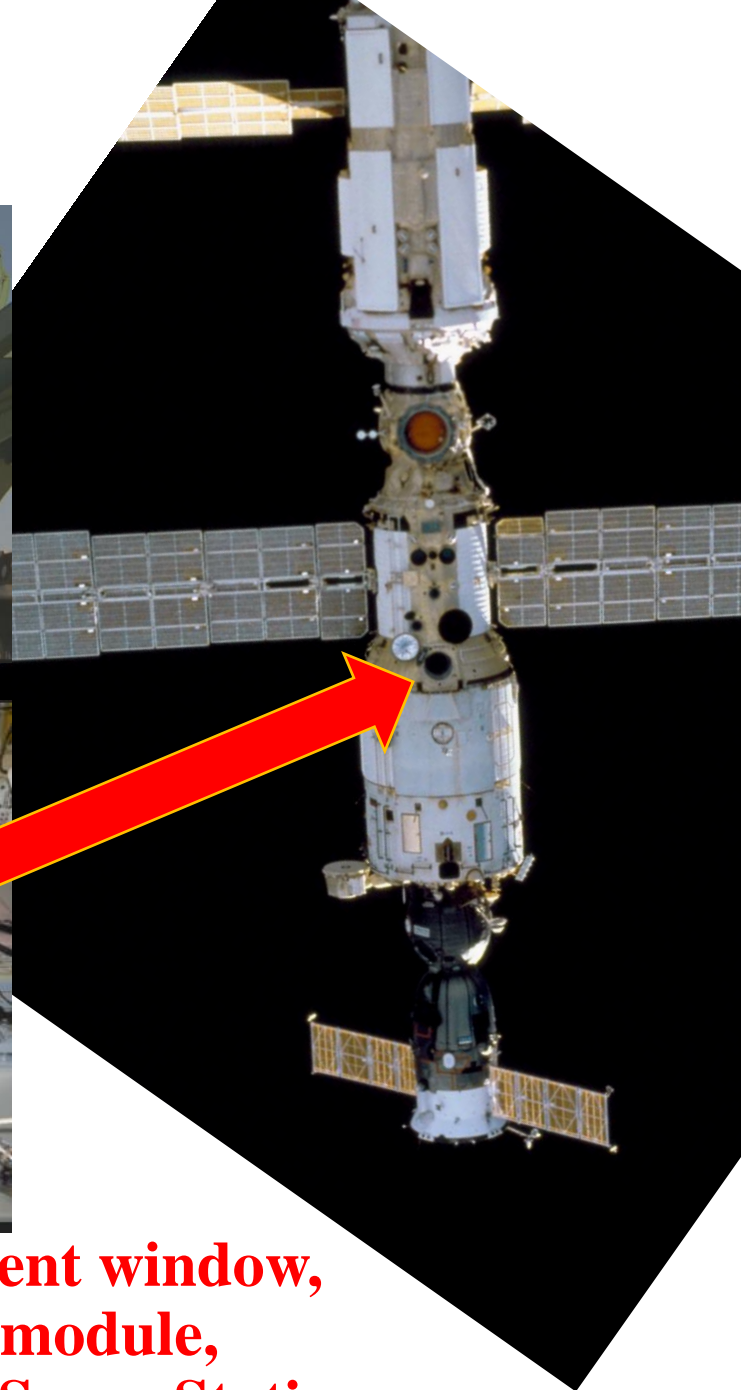
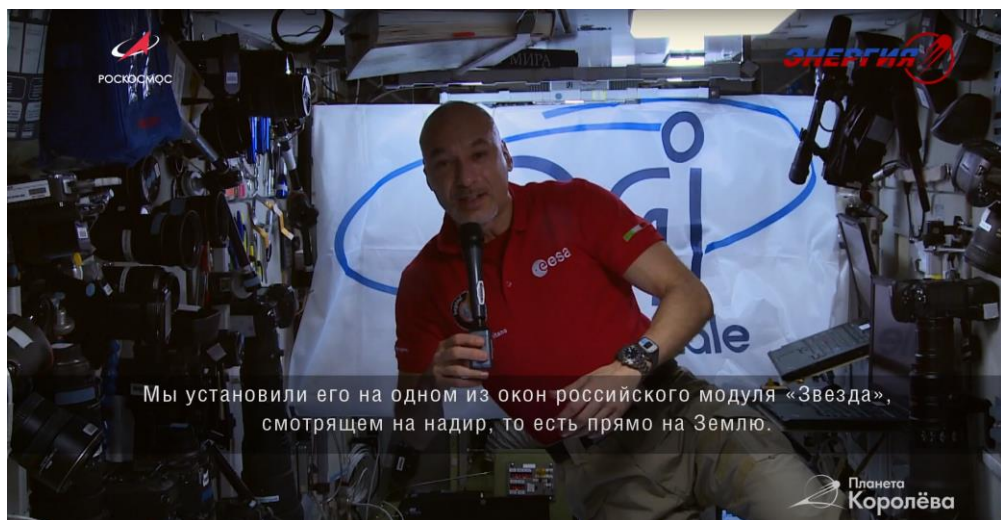
**JEM-EUSO Program:** observation of Extreme Energy Cosmic Rays ( $E > 5 \times 10^{19}$  eV) from space

**Mini-EUSO:** precursor mission with several scientific objectives



# Mini-EUSO on the ISS

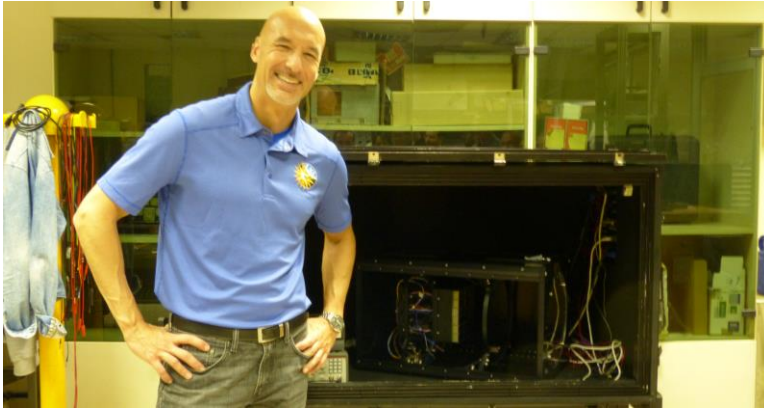
Launch 22/08/2019



Mini-EUSO operated ~2/month for ~12h.  
Data are transferred to ground with ISS crew **once/year**.  
At the moment ~30h of night data available for analysis.

**Uv transparent window,  
Zvezda module,  
International Space Station**

# Beyond mission & outreach



@ Tor Vergata with FM Mini-EUSO



16 SETTEMBRE 2019 LINK | <https://video.corriere.it/cronaca/mini-euso-luca-parmitano-protagonista-web-serie-beyond/2582bd90-aa06-11e9-a88c-fde1fa123548> EMBED EMAIL

Video of outreach on Corriere della sera

<https://video.corriere.it/cronaca/mini-euso-luca-parmitano-protagonista-web-serie-beyond/2582bd90-aa06-11e9-a88c-fde1fa123548>



Video of Outreach from ISS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QincAp4V-SM&t=1s>

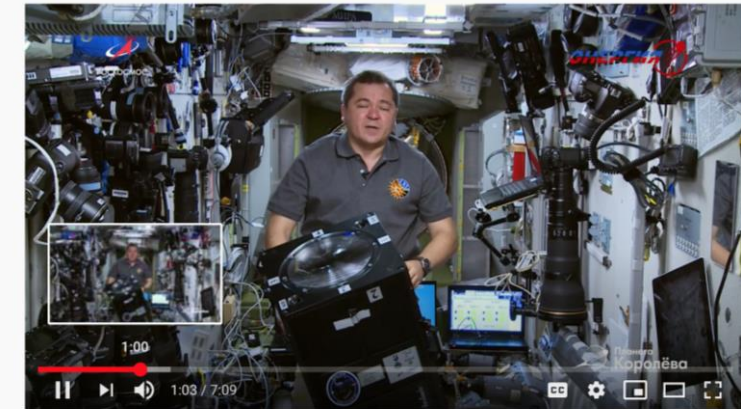


Mentioned in the teleconference with Presid. Mattarella  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMTTSB6BVaw> (min 5:15-6:30)

and Prime Minister Conte:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GDgpyAsz94> (min 16:51 – 19:15)

Also in Russia a certain success:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXedBGVHc4o&t=62s>



Ivan Vagner  
@ivan\_mks63

Using the wide-angle UV emission detector, we conducted an #experiment 'UV Atmosphere'. It is aimed to get the atmosphere nocturnal glowing in the close UV wavelength.

This new experiment has its advantages: detector high light ratio and high time resolution (microseconds).



6:21 PM · Jun 29, 2020 · Twitter Web App

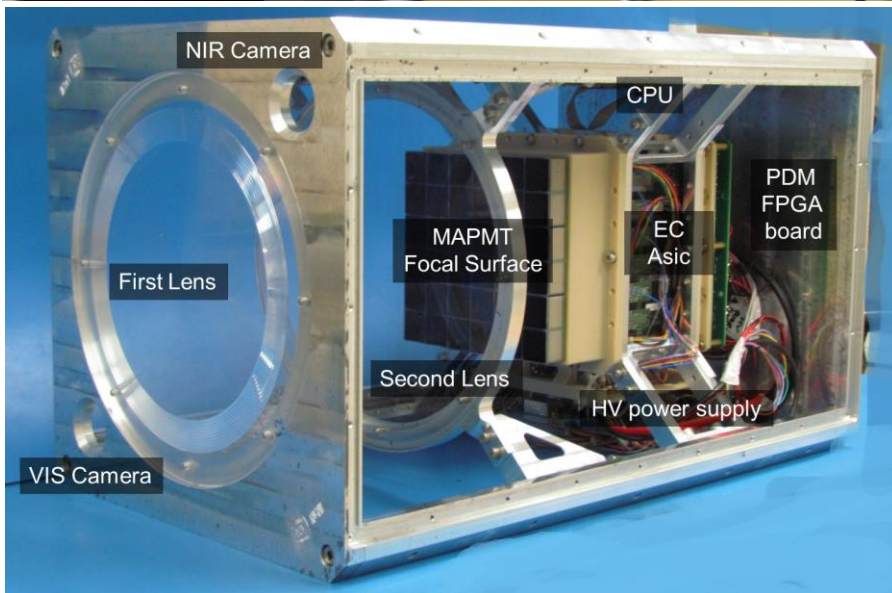
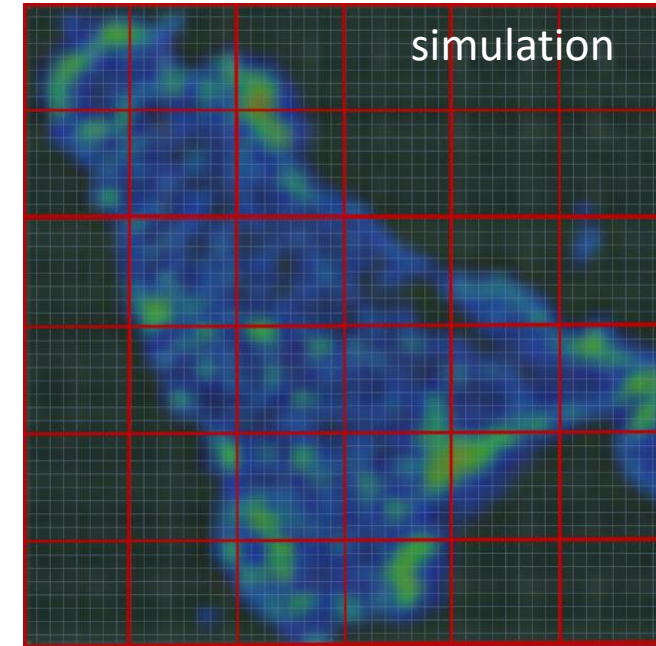
# MINI-EUSO / UV-Atmosfera

*Multiwavelength Imaging New Instrument for the Extreme Universe Space Observatory*



- Detector: dimensions of  $36 \times 36 \times 62 \text{ cm}^3$ , two Fresnel lenses (25 cm of diameter)
- The light focuses on 36 multi-anode photomultiplier tubes (MAPMTs)
- Focal surface of 2304 pixels
- Field of view of  $44^\circ$
- Spatial resolution on ground  $\sim 6.5 \text{ km/pixel}$
- Bandwidth: 300 – 400 nm

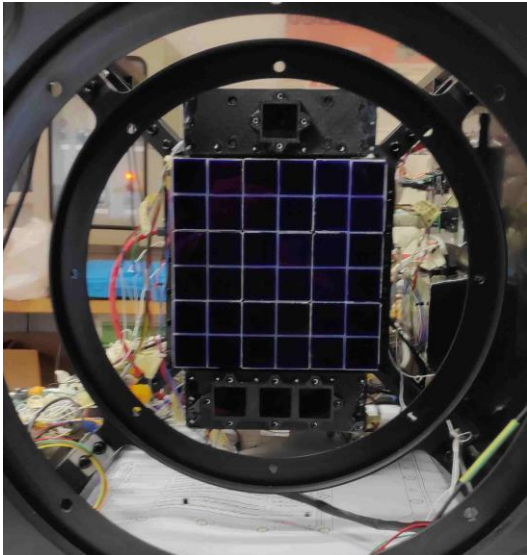
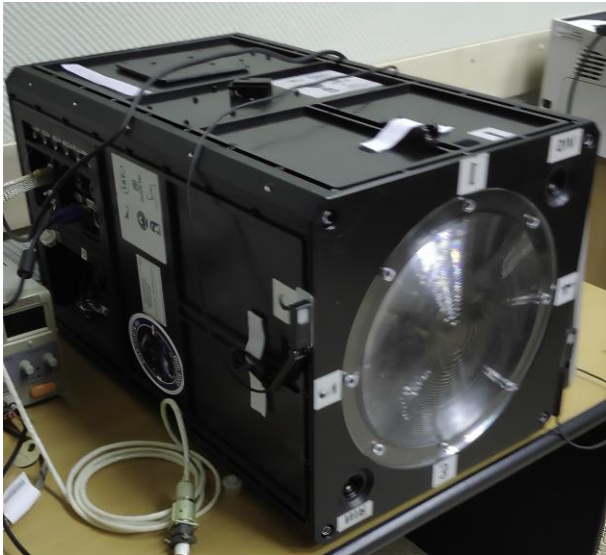
Instantaneous FoV



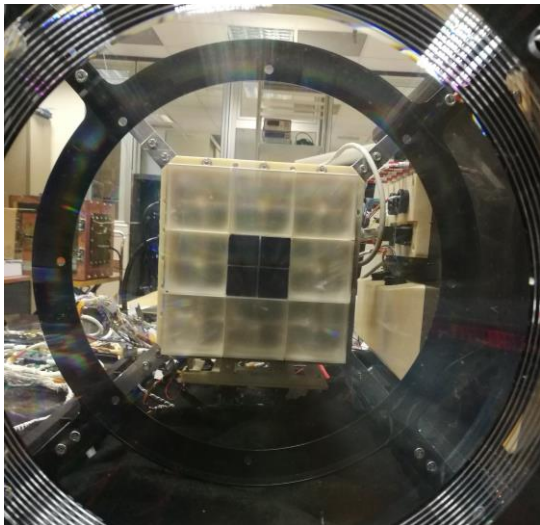
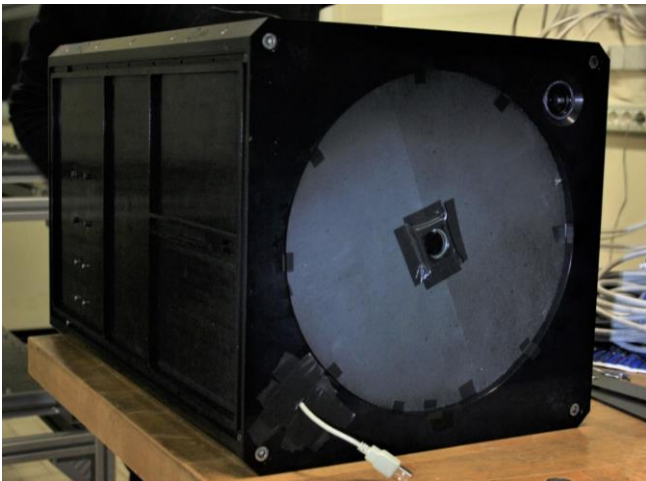
- **Acquisition logic with 3 times resolutions:**
- $D1 = 2.5 \mu\text{s}$ ,  $D2 = 320 \mu\text{s}$  and  $D3 = 41 \text{ ms}$ ,
- 1 packet = 128 frames or Gate Time Unit (GTU)
- $D1$  and  $D2$  are self triggered (4 packets/5.24s),  $D3$  is a continuous video stream.

# Mini-EUSO Flight & Engineer Models

FM



EM



	Mini-EUSO <i>EM</i>	Mini-EUSO
Focal Surface	2 × 2 MAPMTs 16 × 16 = 256 pixels	6 × 6 MAPMTs 48 × 48 = 2304 pixels
Optical system	1 plano-convex lens	2 Fresnel lenses
Diameter lens(-es)	2.5 cm	25 cm
Focal length	30 cm	20.5 cm
Focal ratio	$f/12$	$f/1.2$
Field of view	square	square
Total	~10°	~44°
Per pixel (no gaps)	~0.6°	~0.8°

Table 1: Comparison of the key specifications of Mini-EUSO<sub>EM</sub> and Mini-EUSO.

Integration tests of Mini-EUSO EM in 2017 @ Univ. Torino to mimic ISS orbits & @ INAF-OATo for sky tests

TurLab @ UNITO

TurLab rotaton tank@-4F, UNITO, 5m  $\phi$ , 3s~20min/rot.

MEEM hung on the ceiling

background light (2 strips of white LED)

1"  $\phi$  lens

Torino City

Cloud

mos

Lissajous/meteor

string of 10 white LEDs controlled by

Pieces of SD materials for the reflectivity measurement

glass with LED

bricks

glass

sand

ARDUINO

# Tests at INAF-OATo

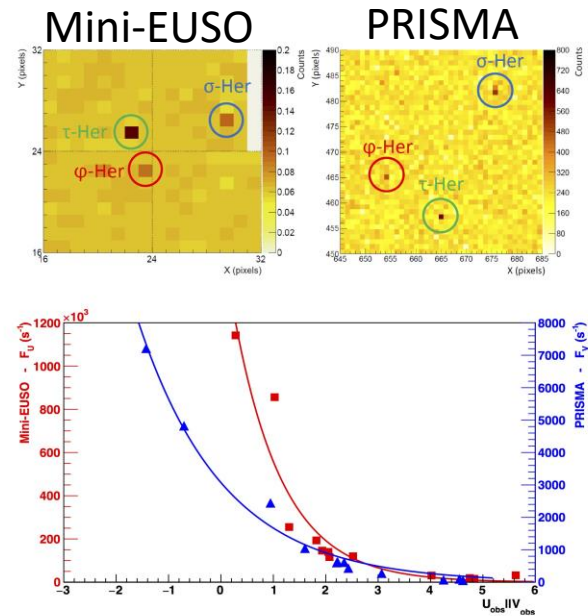


Figure 8: Three stars of the Hercules constellation. Stars in a Mini-EUSO *EM* data frame, integrated over 40.96 ms (top-left). Same stars in an image of the PRISMA camera, integrated over 5 s (top-right). The images have to be mirrored and rotated by a few degrees to have the same orientation. Flux of counts from stars and Jupiter for the Mini-EUSO *EM* (left y-axis) and for the PRISMA camera (right y-axis), with respect to the *U* (for the Mini-EUSO *EM*) and *V* (for PRISMA) apparent magnitudes (bottom).

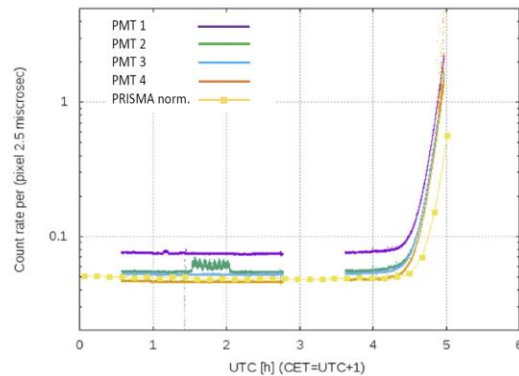


Figure 10: Background count rate over time of the four MAPMTs of the Mini-EUSO *EM* and of the PRISMA camera, normalized to the mean value of the three MAPMTs with lower counts.

Stars

UV light

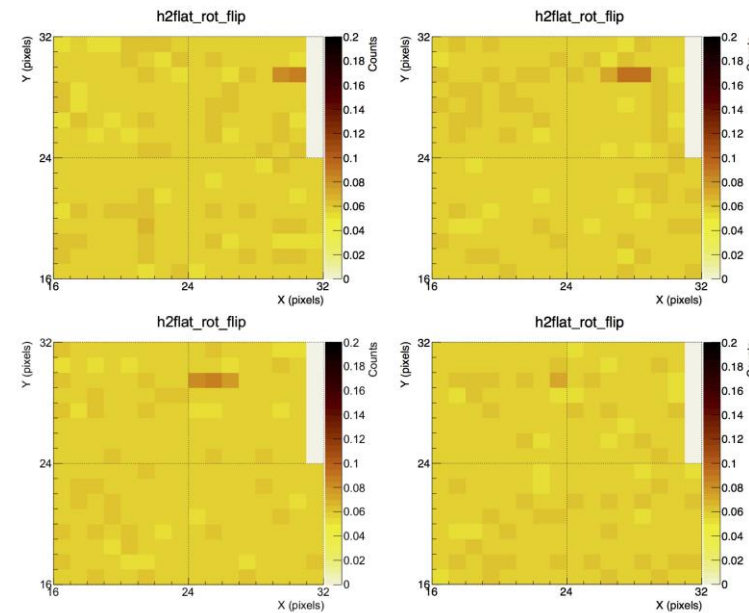


Figure 9: Example of meteor event shown in four consecutive D3 data frames, each integrated over 40.96 ms.

Meteors

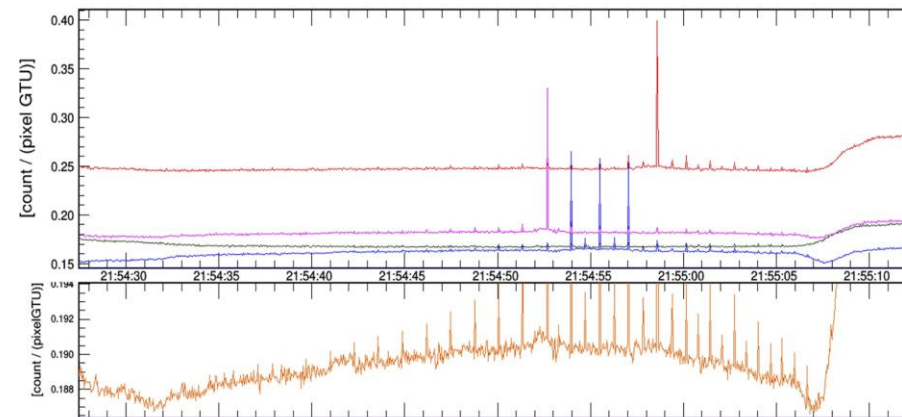
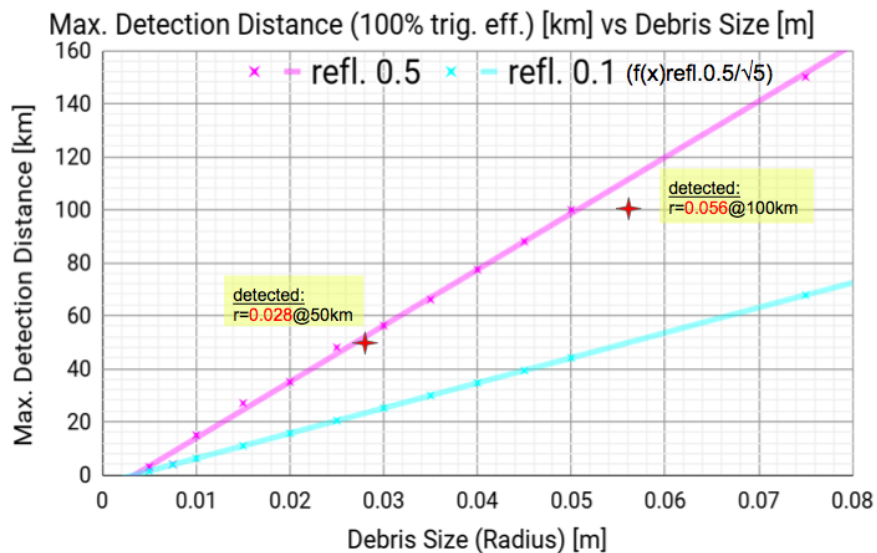
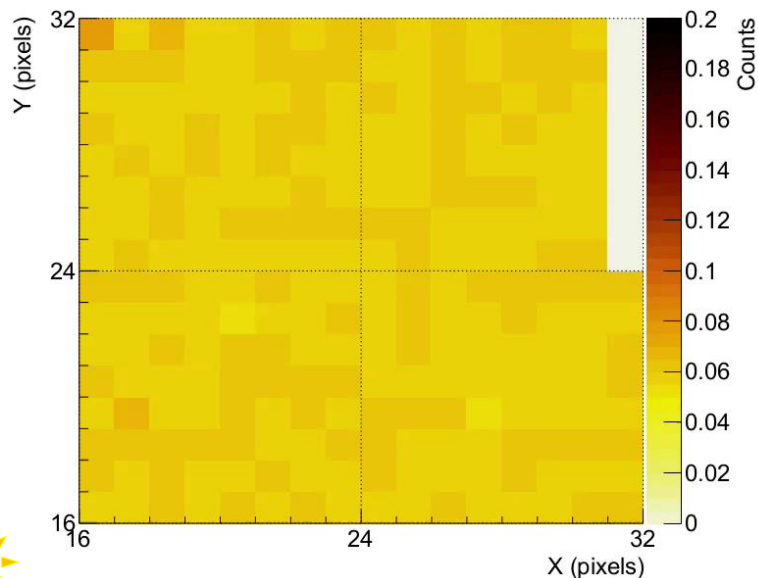
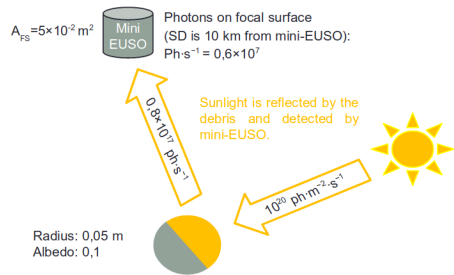


Figure 13: Airplane for the flight LH1902 detected on March 12, 2018 in the time interval 21:54:27-21:55:12 UTC. In the top panel, peaks from four separate MAPMTs are shown. In the bottom panel, peaks from the whole EC are shown: the frequency of the visible flashes changes over the time due to the turning of the airplane while approaching the runway.

Airplane

# Satellite detected!



- In the animation: 1 frame every 10 D3 GTUs (409.6 ms)
- In the FOV for 400 GTUs (182 D3 GTUs in the first PMT, 173 D3 GTUs in the second PMT, 45 D3 GTUs not visible), for a total of 16.4s.
- Consistent with a satellite

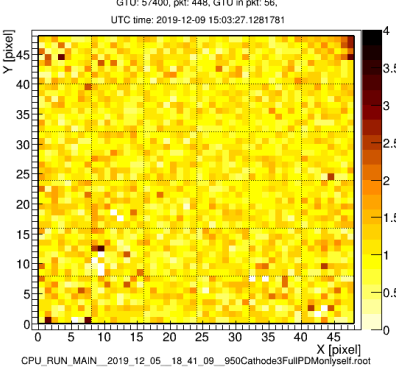
→ Identified as **Meteor 1-31 rocket**, also known as SL-3  
R/B, NORAD: 12586.

Name:	Meteor 1-31 Rocket
Dimensions:	2.8 m x 2.6 m, cylindrical
Brightness:	5.0 mag (at 1000 km, 50% illuminated) 2.8 mag (at perigee, full illumination) Mean magnitude from visual observations
RCS:	7.1m <sup>2</sup> (Radar cross section)
USSPACECOM Nr:	12586
Orbit:	519.4 x 545.5 km, 95.3min
Age Elements:	Inclination: 97.5° 0 days

## Rescaling satellite to Mini-EUSO sensitivity plot

	Sat. Meteor 1-31 Rocket	scale to SD	scale to SD + lens 2.5cm → 25cm	scale to SD	scale to SD + lens 2.5cm → 25cm
distance[km]	530	50	50	100	100
Dimension [mxm]	2.8 x 2.6	0.27 x 0.25	0.085 x 0.08	0.53 x 0.49	0.17 x 0.16
RCS[m <sup>2</sup> ]	7.1	0.063	0.02011	0.25	0.08
corr. SD radius[m]	1.50	0.14	0.028	0.28	0.056
magnitude/full	5/2.8				

# Mini-EUSO on ISS:

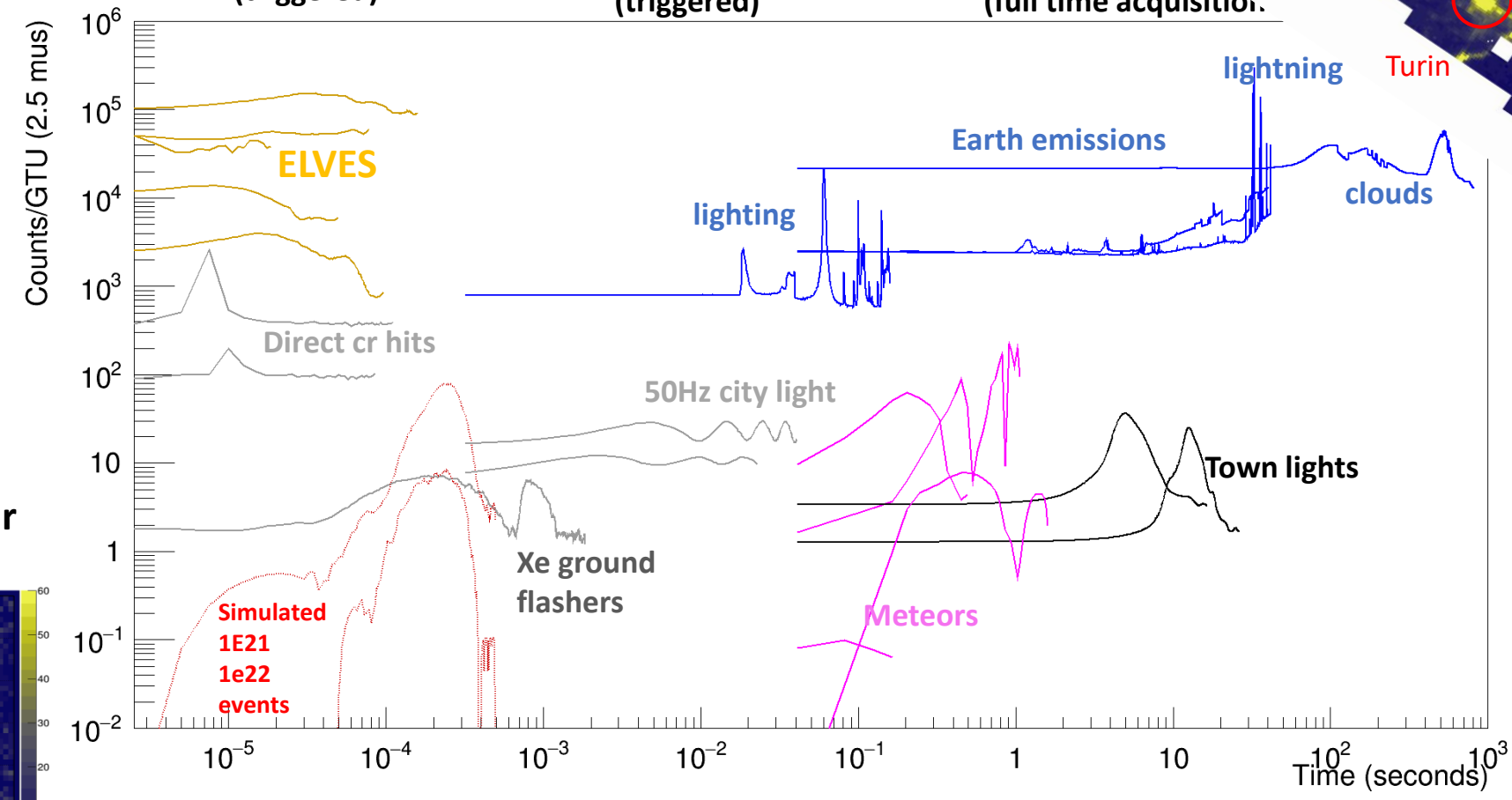


2.5  $\mu$ s sampling  
(triggered)

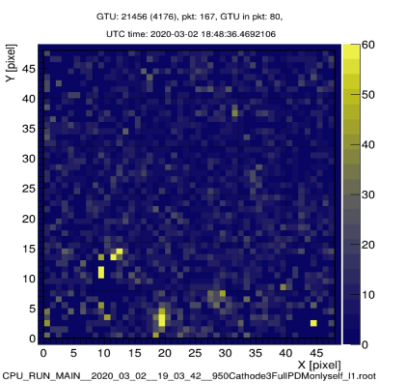
320  $\mu$ s averages  
(triggered)

41ms average  
(full time acquisition)

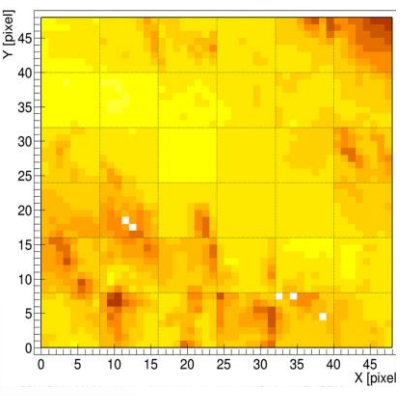
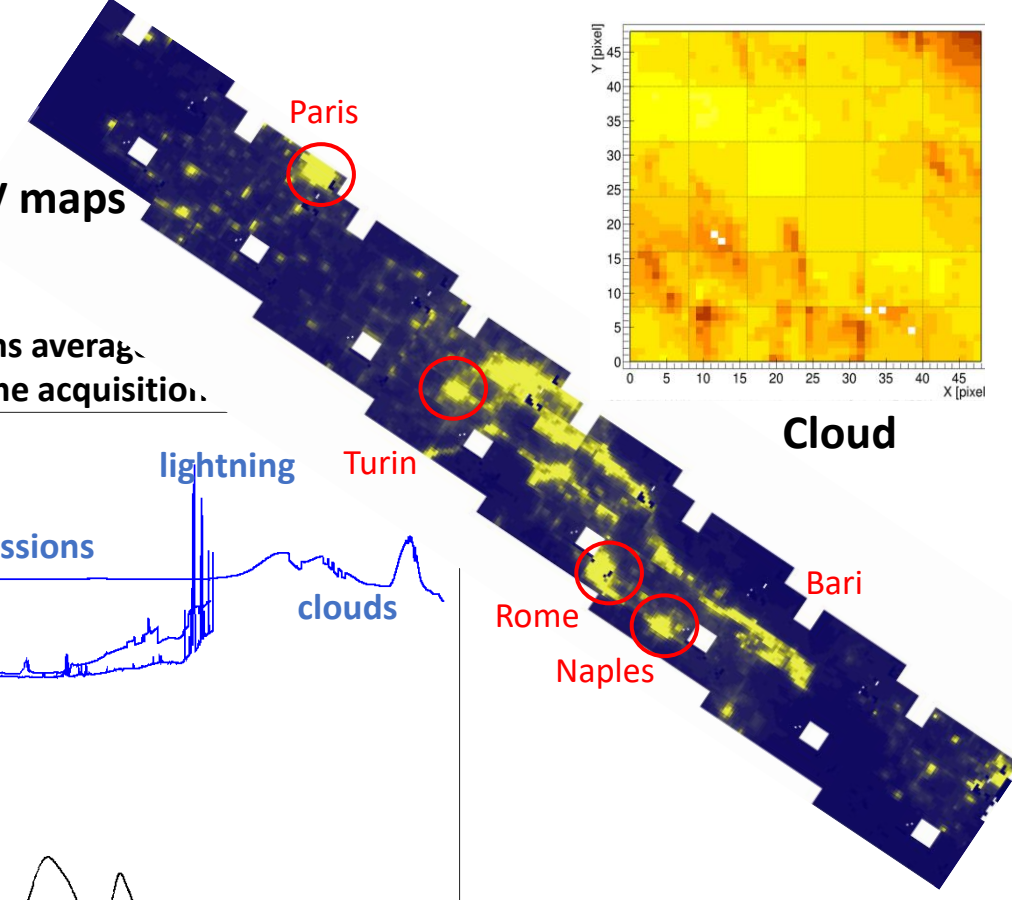
Elve



Ground flasher

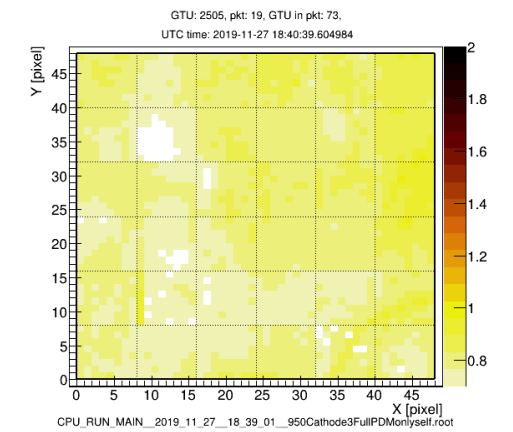


UV maps



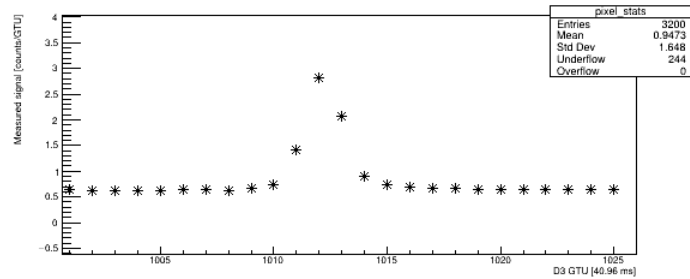
Cloud

Meteor

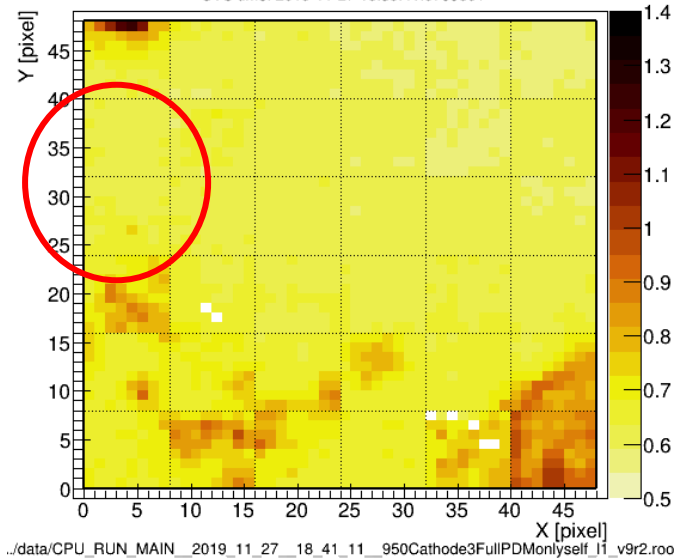


# Meteors in Mini-EUSO:

- automatic offline search & analysis: 1152 events
- offline trigger & visual inspection: 1545 M + 819 M? in 1967 min. of analysis

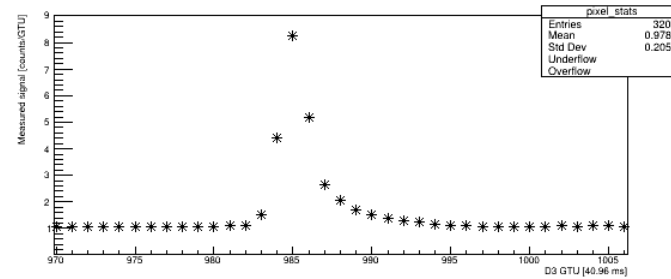


GTU: 999, pkt: 7, GTU in pkt: 103,  
UTC time: 2019-11-27 18:39:41.0799801

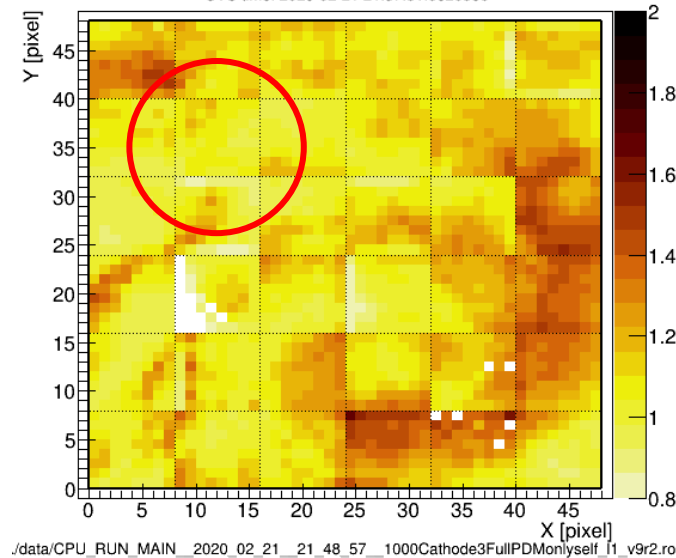


./data/CPU\_RUN\_MAIN\_2019\_11\_27\_18\_41\_11\_950Cathode3FullPDMonlyself\_11\_v9r2.roo

Session 06, 27/11/2019, 18:41:11 UTC  
Andaman sea (near Thailand)

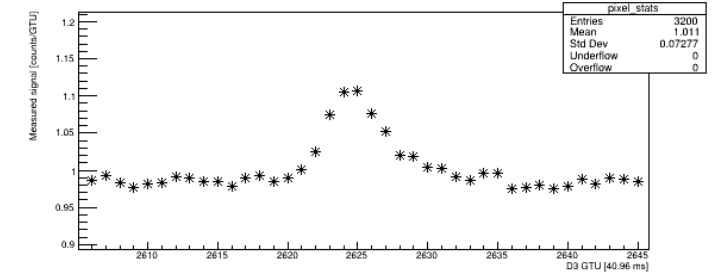


GTU: 978, pkt: 7, GTU in pkt: 82,  
UTC time: 2020-02-21 21:37:51.6620586

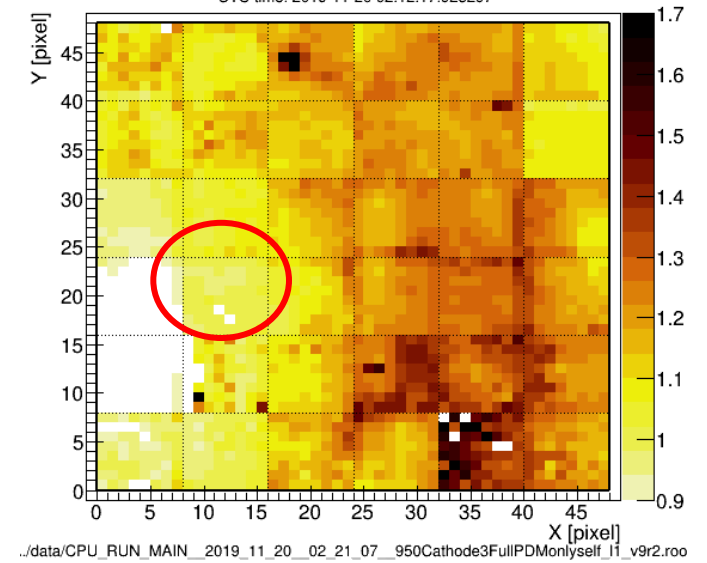


./data/CPU\_RUN\_MAIN\_2020\_02\_21\_21\_48\_57\_1000Cathode3FullPDMonlyself\_11\_v9r2.roo

Session 11, 21/02/2020, 21:48:57 UTC  
Indian Ocean



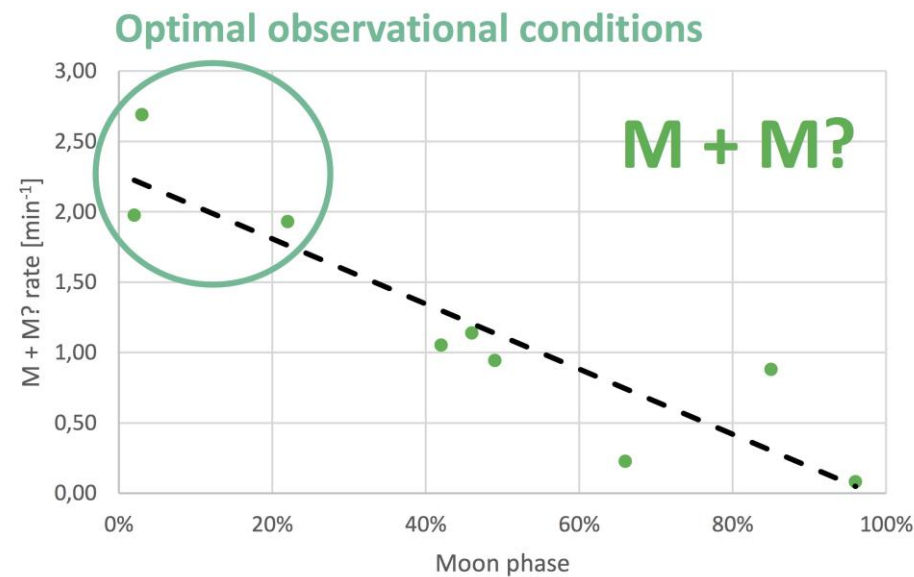
GTU: 2622, pkt: 20, GTU in pkt: 62,  
UTC time: 2019-11-20 02:12:17.928297



./data/CPU\_RUN\_MAIN\_2019\_11\_20\_02\_21\_07\_950Cathode3FullPDMonlyself\_11\_v9r2.roo

Session 05, 19/11/2019, 02:21:07 UTC  
North Atlantic Ocean

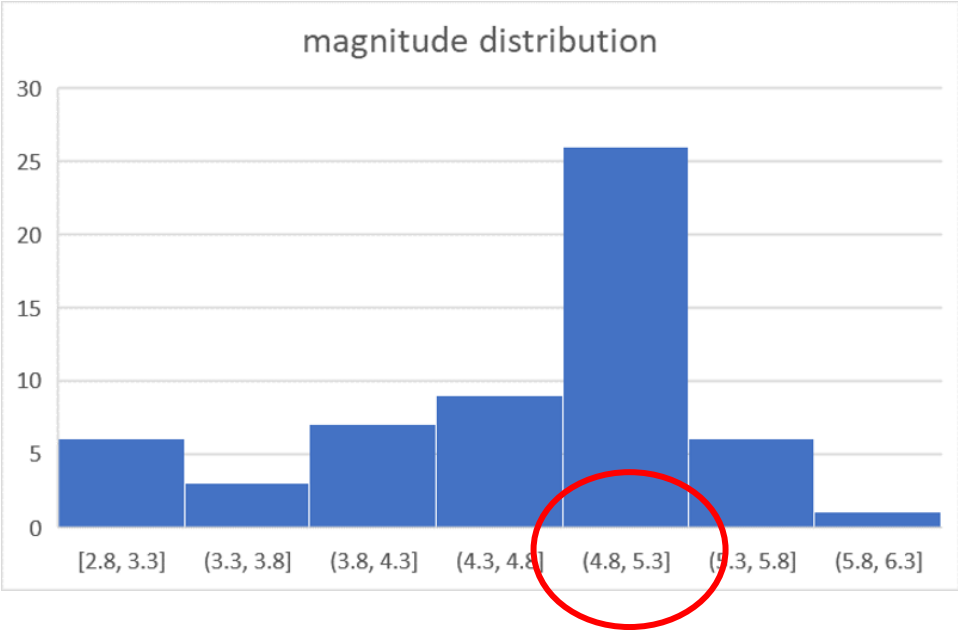
# Flux and Limiting magnitude



Observed rate  
at best conditions:  
2.0 – 2.5 ev/min

Expected rate at +5  
absolute magnitude:  
2.4 ev/min

PRELIMINARY



G. Abdellaoui et al. (JEM-EUSO Coll.)  
Planetary and Space Science 143 (2017) 245–255

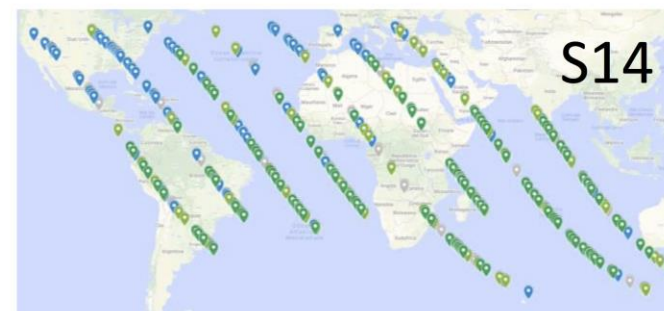
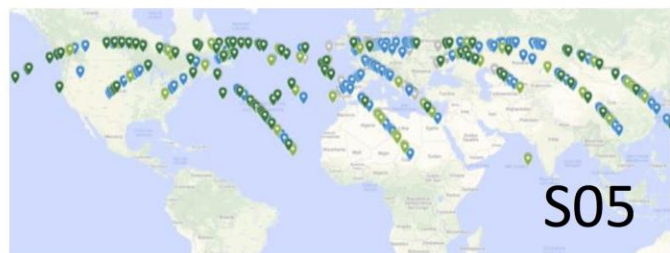
**Table 1**  
For different values of absolute magnitude in visible light, the Table lists the corresponding flux in the U-band (according to the Flux Density Converter of the Spitzer Science Center available at web site <http://ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu/warmmission/propkit/pet/magtoij/index.html>), the corresponding numbers of photons per second (assuming that the meteor is located at a height of 100 km and is observed by the ISS in the nadir direction), and the corresponding number of photo-electrons per GTU, for the cases of JEM-EUSO and Mini-Euso, respectively. The corresponding typical mass of the meteor, and the number of events expected to be observed by JEM-EUSO (by assuming a duty cycle of 0.2) and by Mini-EUSO are also shown. The relationship between mass and magnitude has been obtained following Robertson and Ayers (1968).

Abs. mag	U-band flux (erg/s/cm <sup>2</sup> /Å)	photons (s <sup>-1</sup> )	photo-e <sup>-</sup> GTU <sup>-1</sup> (JEM)	photo-e <sup>-</sup> GTU <sup>-1</sup> (Mini)	mass (g)	event rate (JEM)	event rate (Mini)
+7	6.7·10 <sup>-12</sup>	4.3·10 <sup>7</sup>	4	0.04	2·10 <sup>-3</sup>	1/s	0.4/s
+5	4.2·10 <sup>-11</sup>	2.7·10 <sup>8</sup>	23	0.23	10 <sup>-2</sup>	6/min	2.4/min
0	4.2·10 <sup>-9</sup>	2.7·10 <sup>10</sup>	2300	23	1	0.27/orbit	0.11/orbit
-5	4.2·10 <sup>-7</sup>	2.7·10 <sup>12</sup>	2.3·10 <sup>5</sup>	2300	100	6.3/year	2.5/year

With a crude estimation of Mini-EUSO efficiency of 8%, and by using a subset of faint events the distribution peaks is in a range of magnitude values of [+4.8,+5.3]

# Maps:

## Maps of ISS ground projection for triggered events

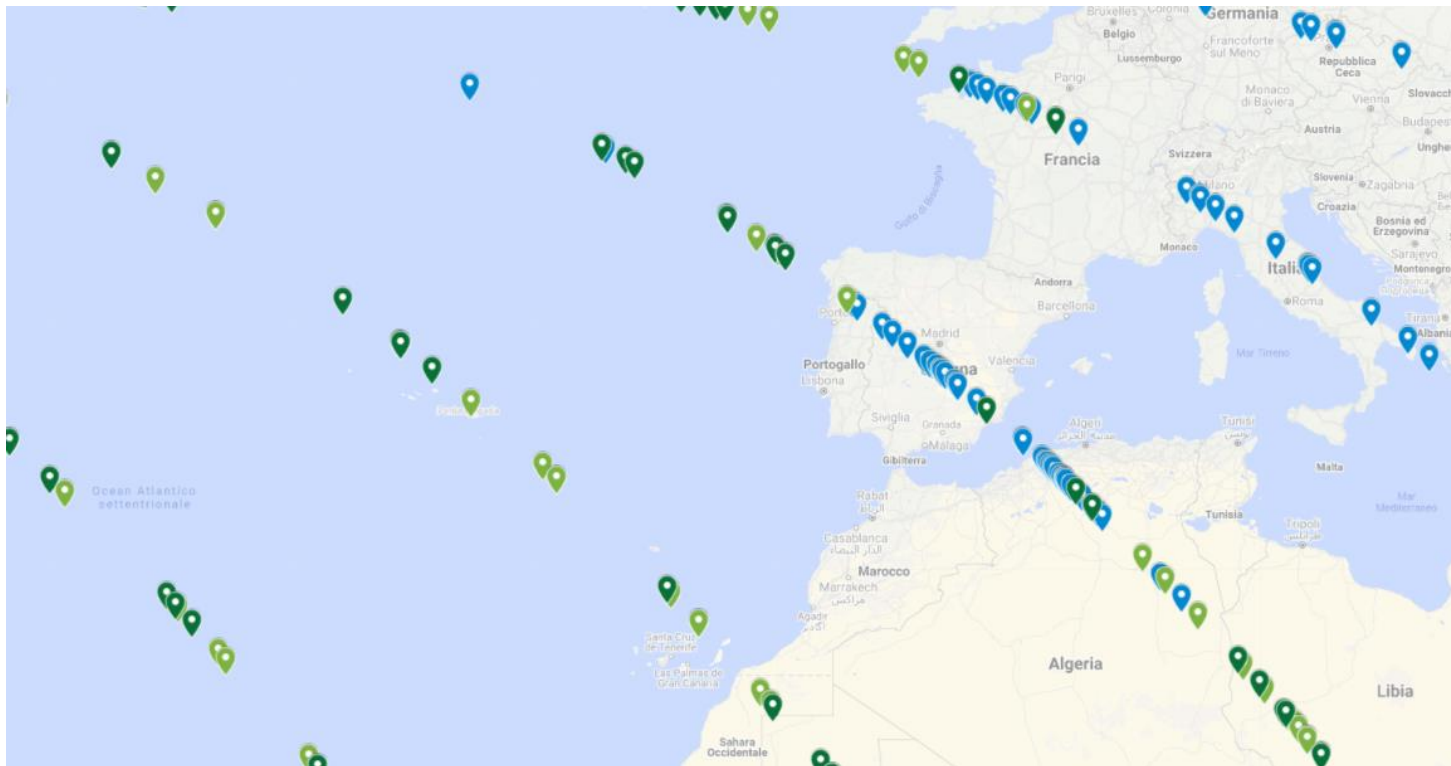


- Meteors
- Meteor candidates
- Noise
- Unidentified events





- Most of the meteors are detected where the background is lower
- The false positives rate is higher over continents

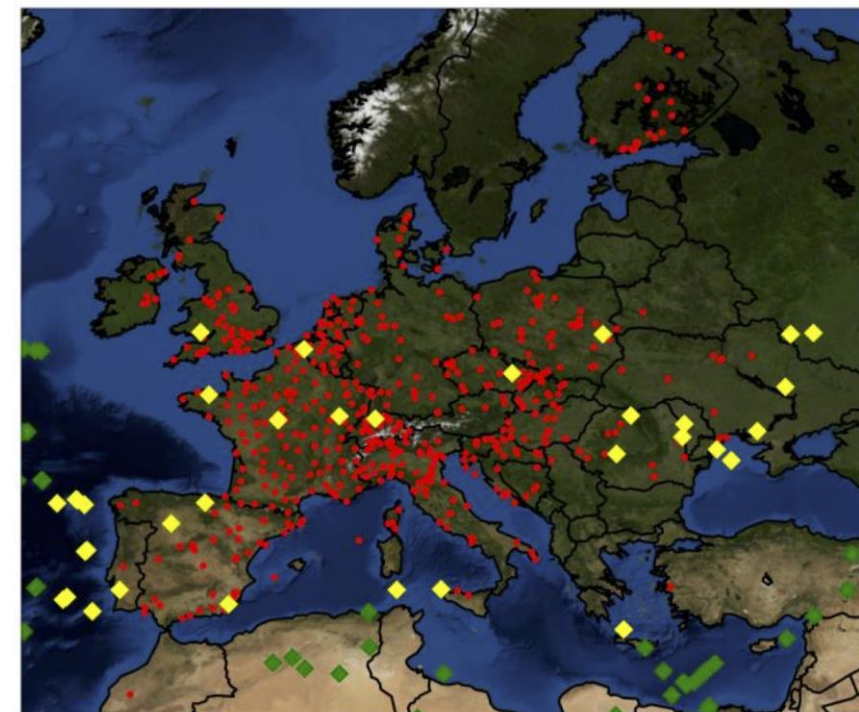
# Correlation with ground sources

(130 ev. with  $d < 400$  km from a ground station around the world)



Detail from session 06

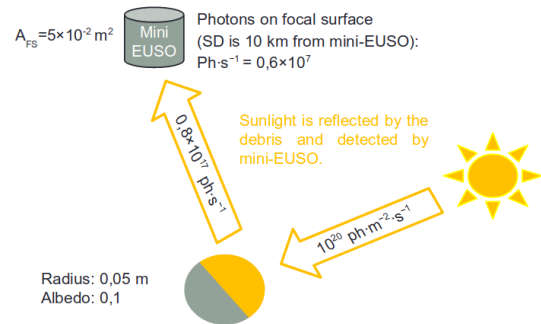
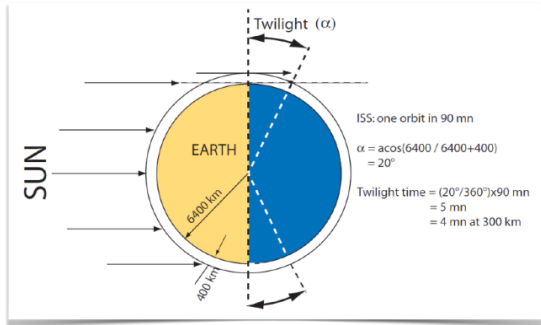
-  Meteors
-  Meteor candidates
-  Noise
-  Unidentified events



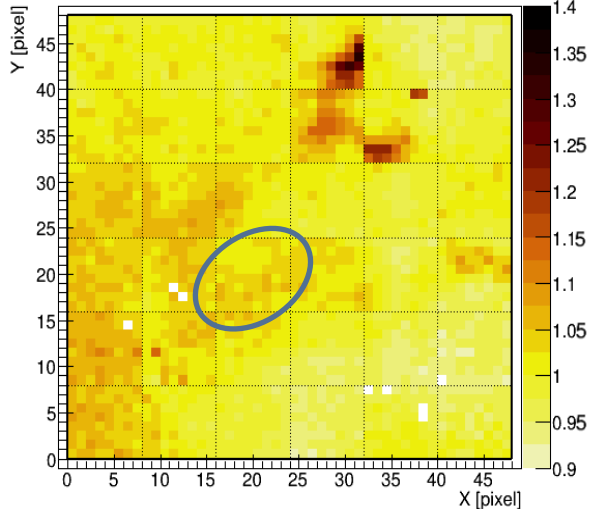
**Red dots: ground networks**  
**Yellow diamonds: ISS position at M event**  
**Green diamonds: position of M event**

- 2 M in FoV of Palermo PRISMA camera: NO counterpart
- 3 M in FoV FRIPON network: still to be checked

# Comparison with expected SD signals according to ESAF

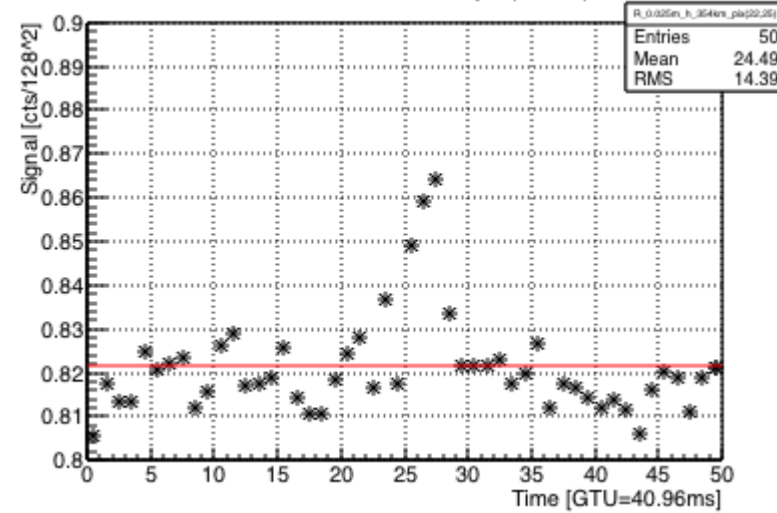


GTU: 2540, pkt: 19, GTU in pkt: 108,  
 UTC time: 2020-03-13 19:30:20.5964603



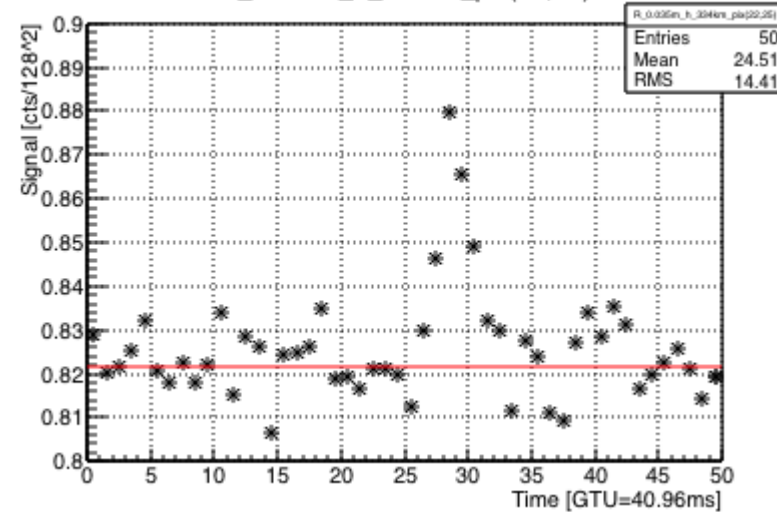
ESAF

$r=0.025\text{m}$ ,  $h=354\text{km}$ ,  $\max 6.1\sigma$   
 $R_{0.025\text{m}_h_{354\text{km}}_{\text{pix}}(22,25)}$

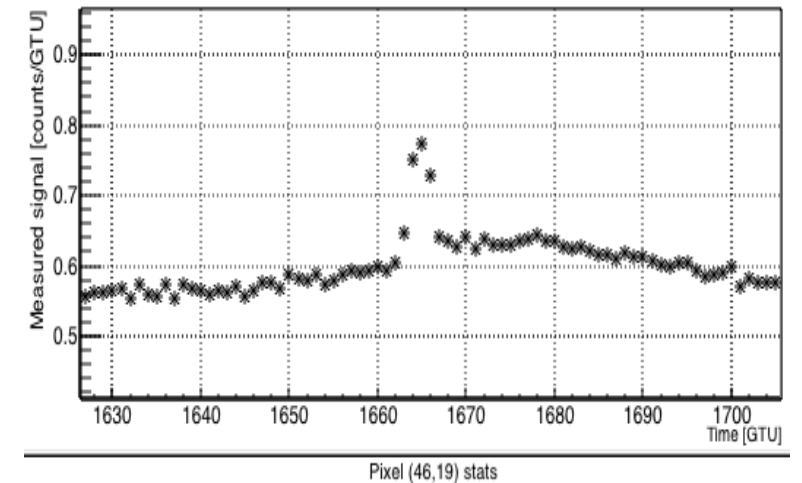
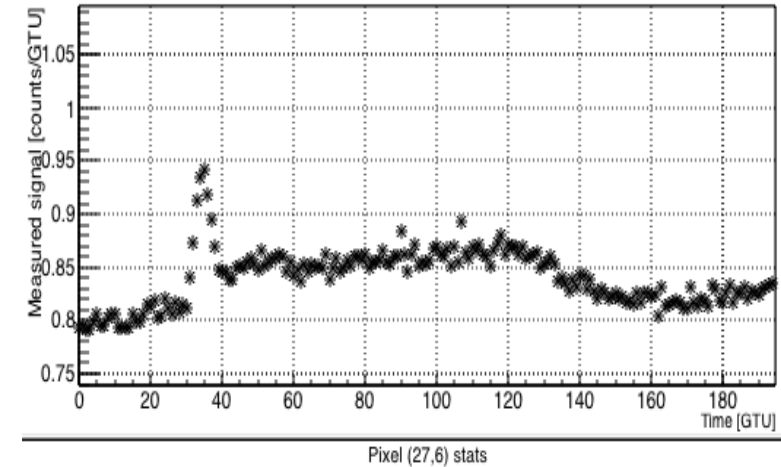


$r=0.035\text{m}$ ,  $h=334\text{km}$ ,  $\max 6.2\sigma$

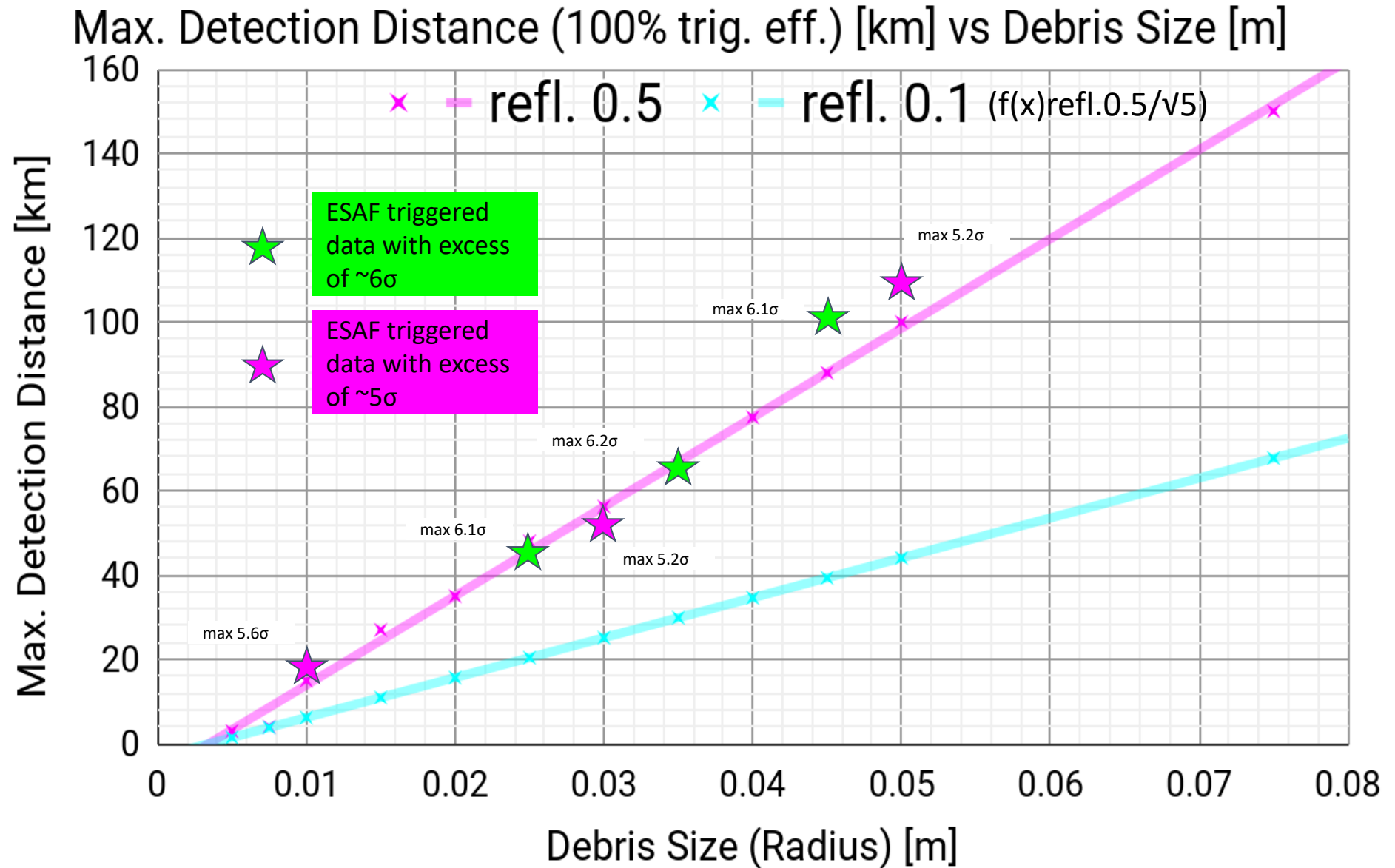
$R_{0.035\text{m}_h_{334\text{km}}_{\text{pix}}(22,25)}$



## Mini-EUSO meteors



# ESAF Simulation results + Mini-EUSO data



CONFIRMATION WITH Mini-EUSO METEOR DATA OF THE EXPECTED SENSITIVITY TO SD

# Conclusions:

- Mini-EUSO is on ISS and takes data 2/month.
- Mini-EUSO detects events of different nature according to expectations.
- Thousands of meteor events to be analysed.
- Preliminary estimation of sensitivity to meteors in agreement with simulations.
- Detailed data analysis in process.
- We look forward to have events detected in correlation with PRISMA, we got close but not lucky yet.
- The meteor study is important also for detection of space debris.

THANK YOU