

# Assessment of terrestrial effects during strong and extreme SEPs using neutron monitor records

Alexander Mishev & Ilya Usoskin

Sodankylä Geophysical Observatory  
Space Physics and Astronomy Research Unit

University of Oulu  
[alexander.mishev@oulu.fi](mailto:alexander.mishev@oulu.fi)

# Outline

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Model for analysis of strong GLEs using NM data**
- 3. Examples of derived spectra and PAD**
- 4. Terrestrial effects (exposure to radiation and ionization)**
- 5. Conclusion**

# Introduction

GLEs, what, when and where

An important topic of solar physics, space weather, atmospheric physics is

## **Assessment**

**Primary SEP parameters:**

**energy spectrum**

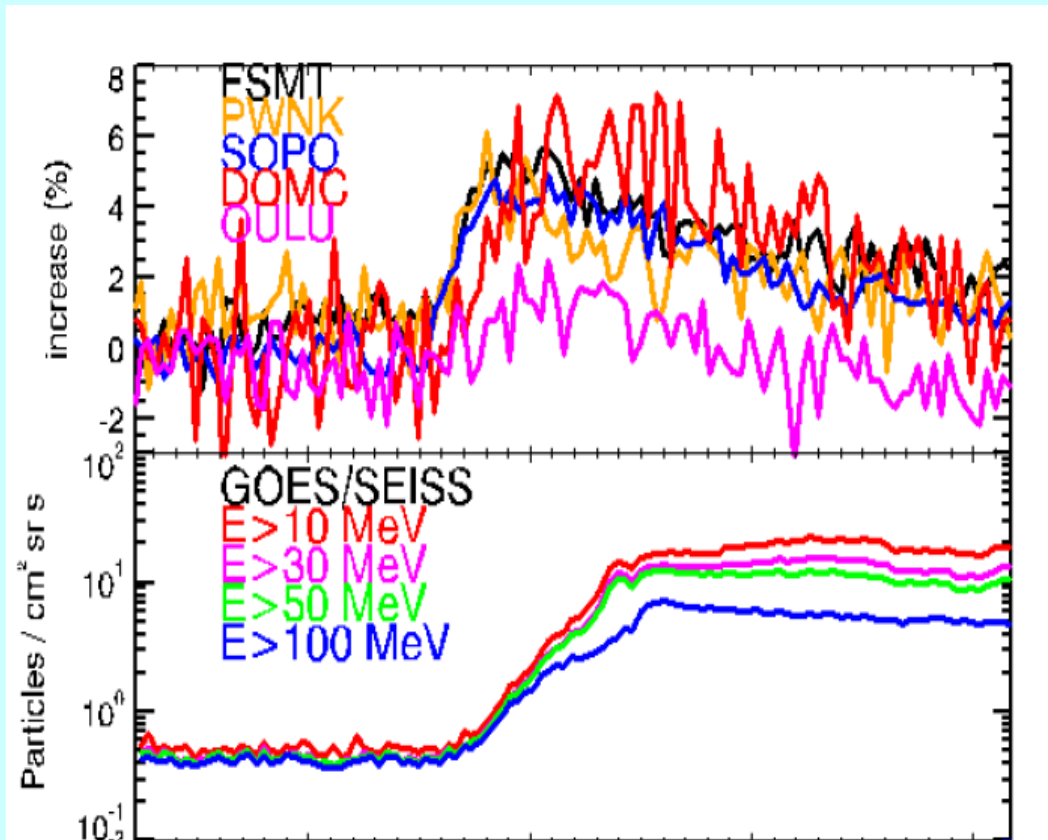
**anisotropy**

**using the information from NMs**

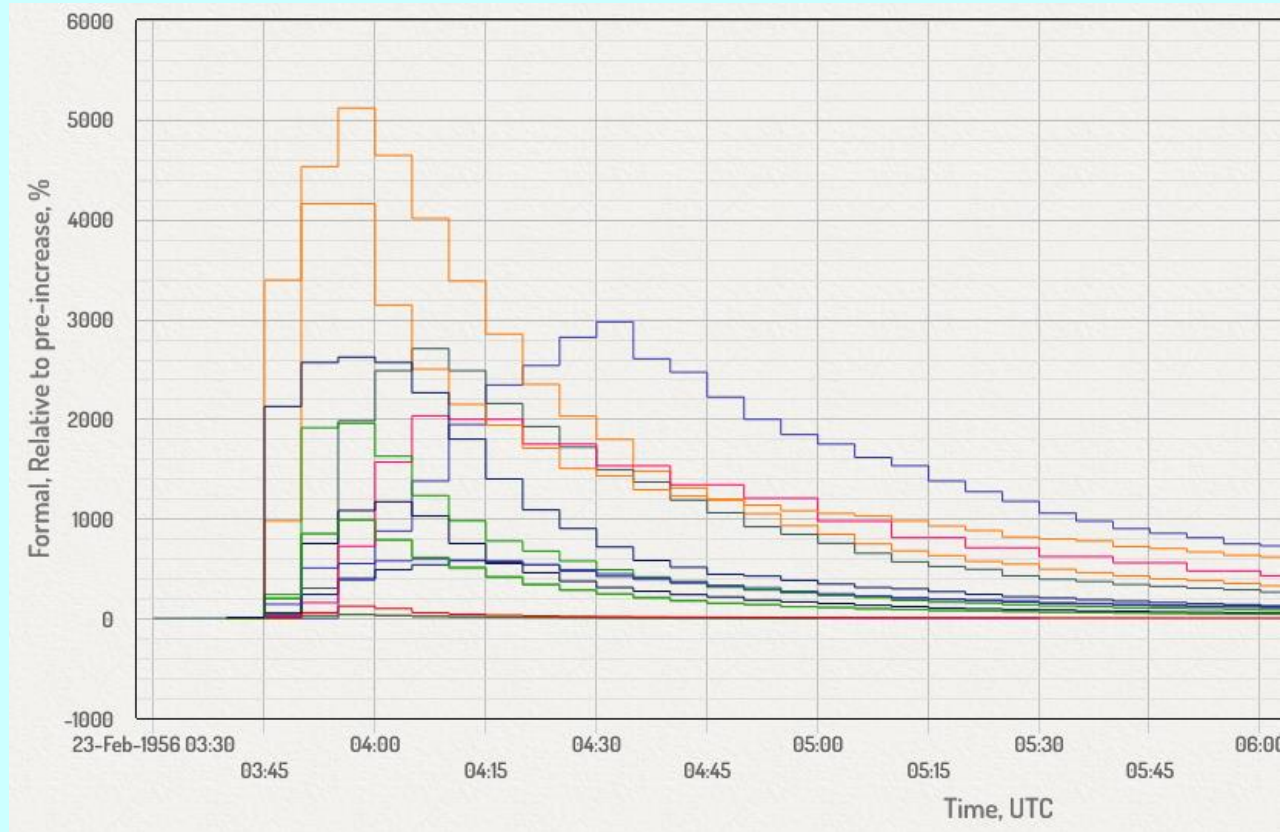
## GLE # 73 on 28 October 2021

**GLE73** revealed a typical gradual increase, and slight anisotropy during the onset

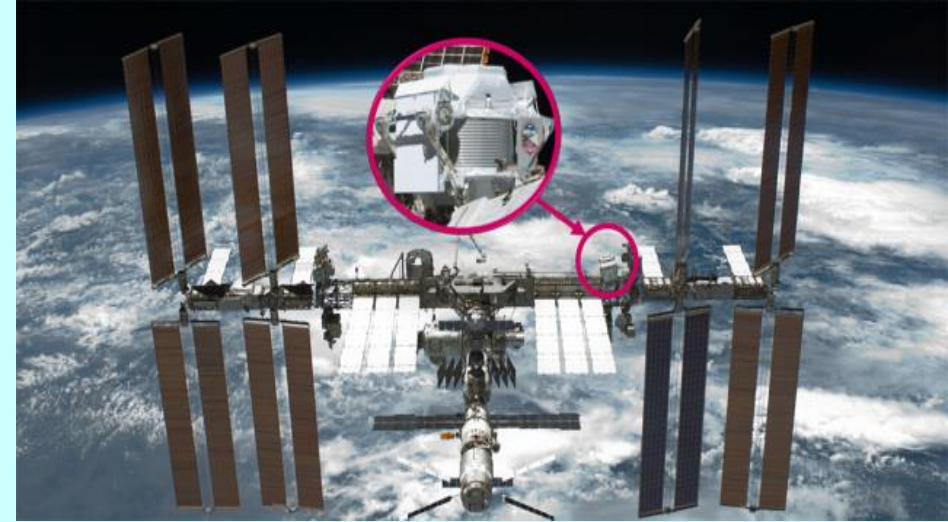
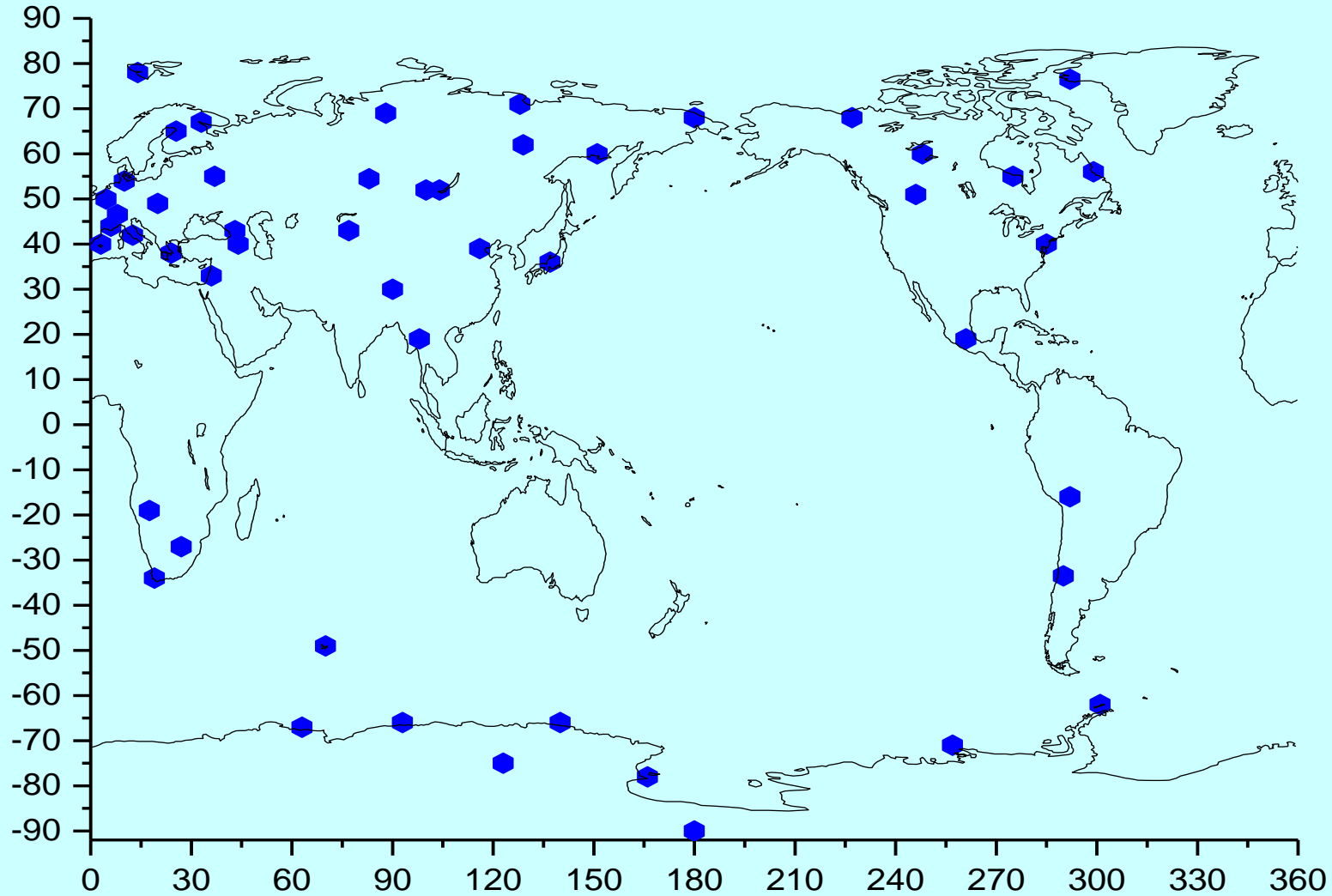
The flux remained above the background level for **~ 4.5 hours**



## GLE # 5 on 23 February 1956



# Global neutron monitor network, AMS 02



# Method for GLE analysis

## Modelling the global NM network response

$$N(P_c, h, t) = \sum_i \int_{P_c}^{\infty} S_i(P, h) J_i(P, t) dP$$

$$S_i(P, h) = G(P) \sum_j \int \int A_i(E, \theta) \cdot F_{i,j}(P, h, E, \theta) dE d\Omega$$

$$\frac{\Delta N(P_{cut})}{N} = \frac{\frac{1}{13} \sum_k \int_{P_{cut}}^{P_{max}} J_{sep}(P, t) S_k(P) G(\alpha(P, t)) A(P) dP}{\int_{P_{cut}}^{\infty} J_{GCR}(P, t) Y(P) dP}$$

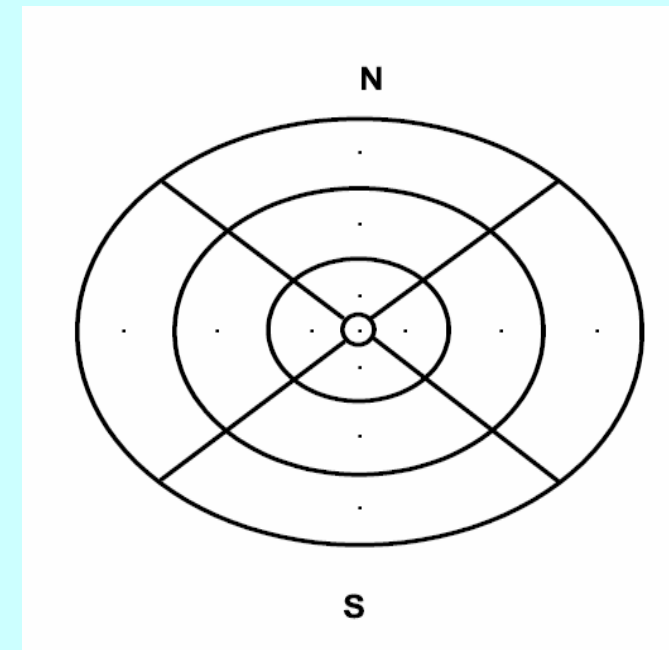
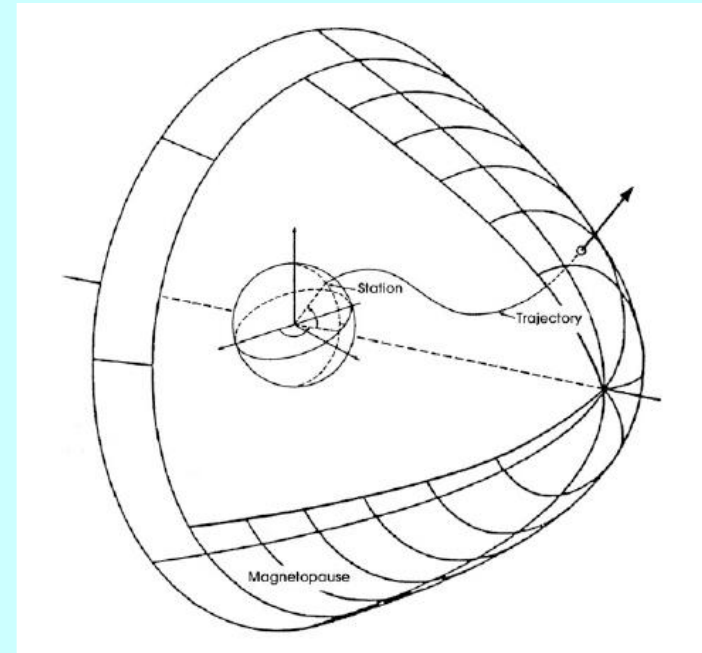
Computation of asymptotic viewing cones and  $P_c$  of the NM stations:

Computation of particle trajectory in a model magnetosphere.

Application of a optimization procedure (inverse method)

**primary solar proton parameters:**

(energy spectrum, anisotropy axis direction, pitch-angle distribution)



## Modeling of spectra and PAD of SEPs

### Modified power law, exponent or Ellison-Ramaty

$$J_{\parallel}(P) = J_0 P^{-(\gamma + \delta\gamma(P-1))}$$

At  $P \leq 1$  GV

$$J_{\parallel}(P) = J_0 P^{-(\gamma + \delta\gamma \cdot P)}$$

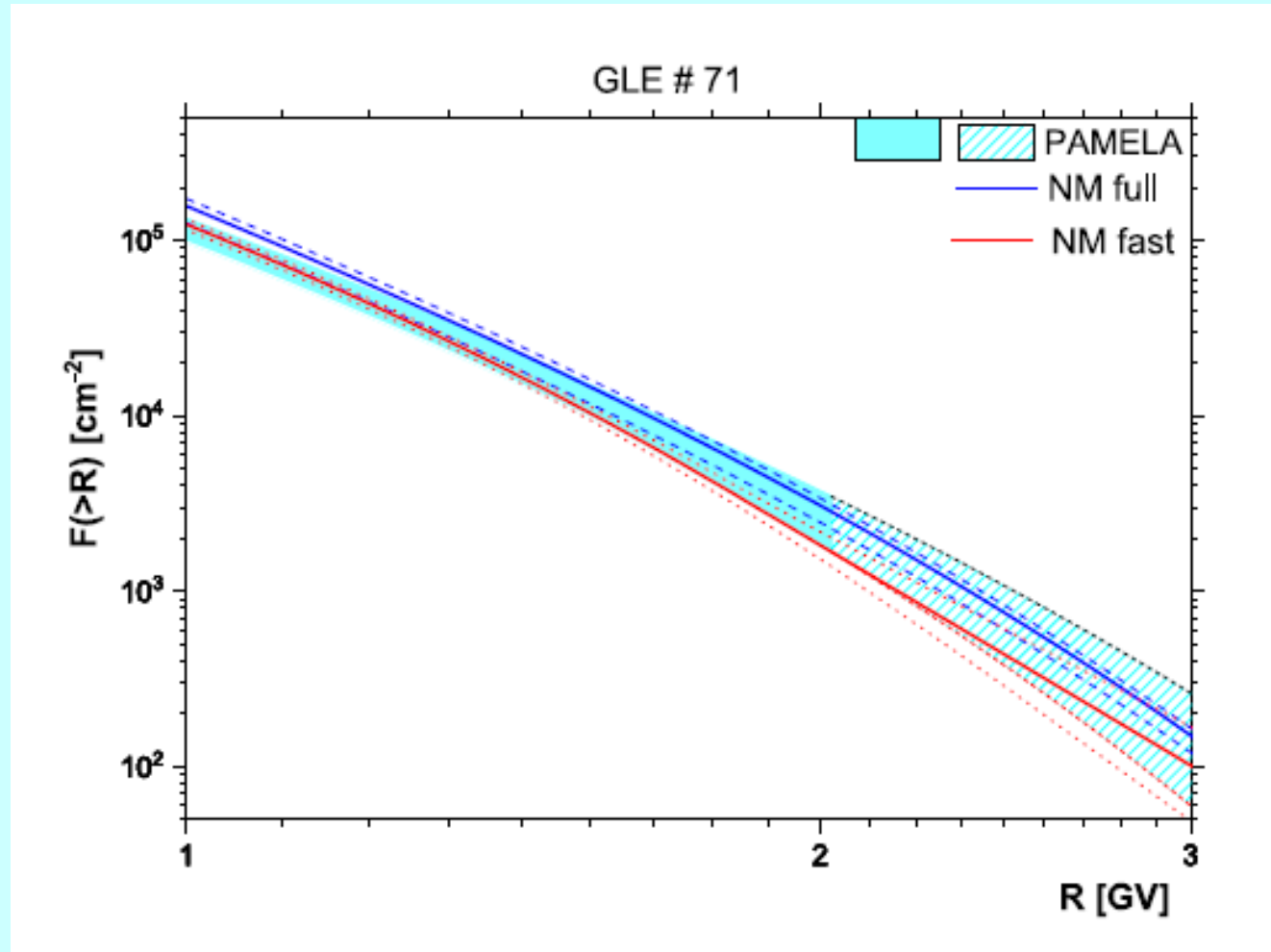
$$J_{\parallel}(P) = J_0 \exp(-P/P_0)$$

$$F(R) = J_1 \left(\frac{R}{1 \text{ GV}}\right)^{-\gamma_1} \exp\left(-\frac{R}{R_1}\right) \quad \text{if } R < R_b,$$
$$F(R) = J_2 \left(\frac{R}{1 \text{ GV}}\right)^{-\gamma_2} \exp\left(-\frac{R}{R_2}\right) \quad \text{if } R \geq R_b,$$

PAD – Gaussian

$$G(\alpha) \propto \sum_i \exp\left[-(\alpha_i - \alpha_i')^2 / \sigma_i^2\right]$$

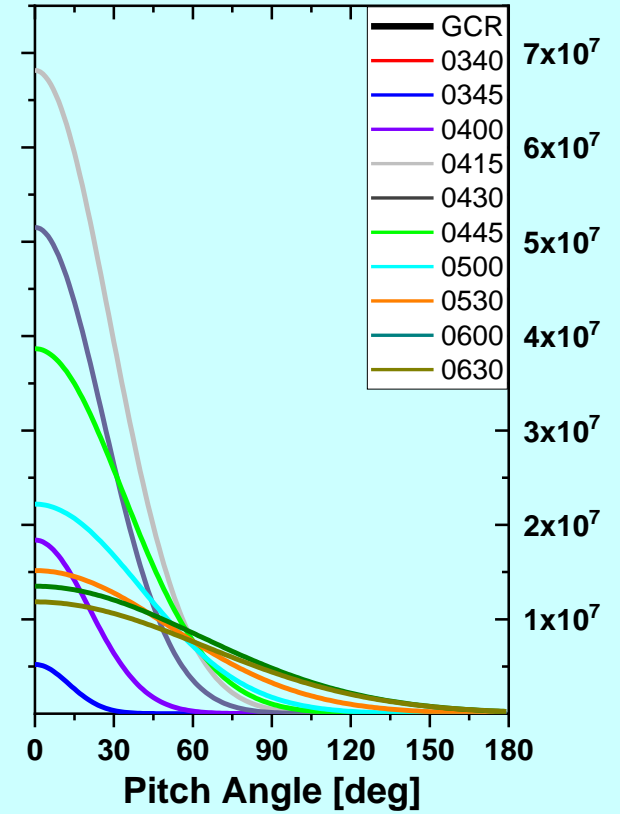
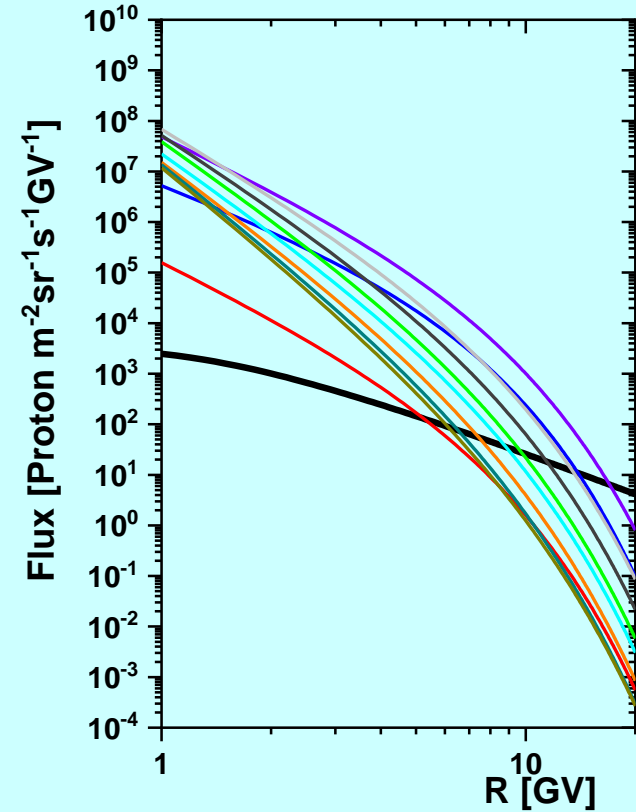
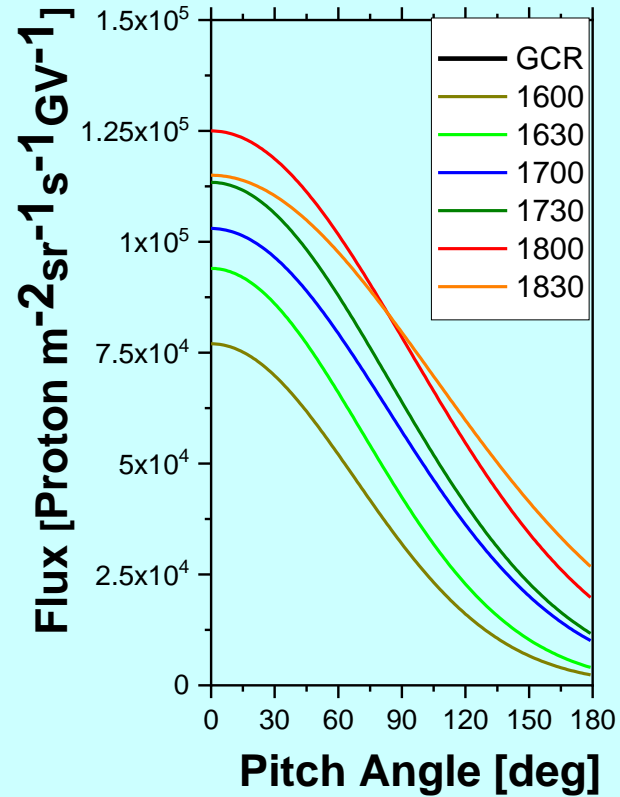
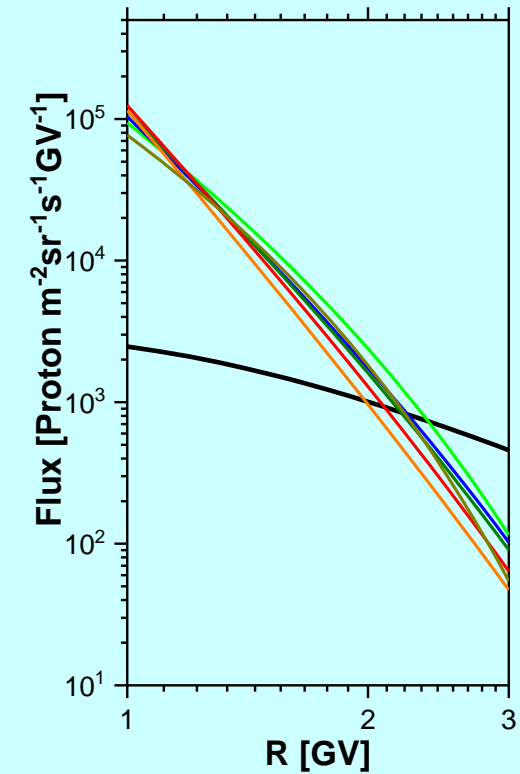
# GLE analysis comparison with direct measurements



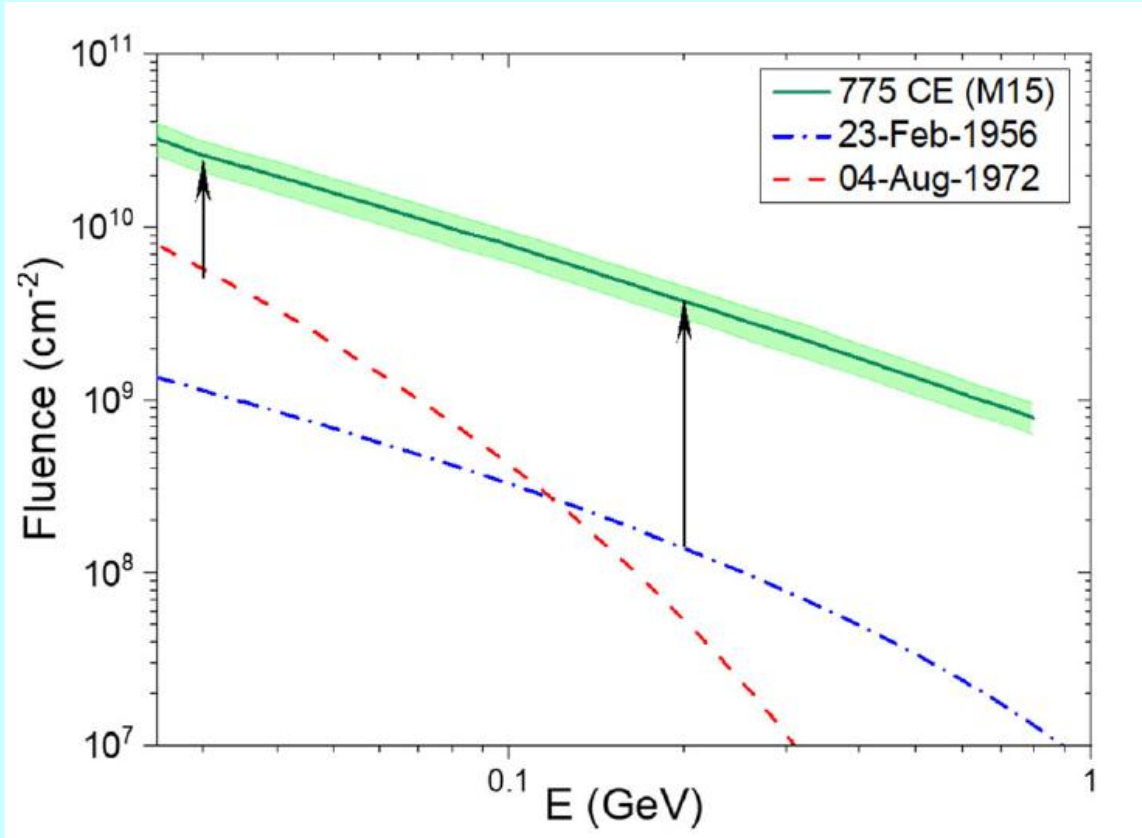
Reconstruction of the integral SEP fluence for GLE #71 (17 May 2012)  
Direct measurements by the PAMELA experiment parameterized via the Ellison–Ramaty  
 $1\sigma$  uncertainties are shown with the *filled area* (Bruno *et al.*, 2018).



# Rigidity spectra and PAD during GLE #5, 23 February 1956 GLE # 73, 28 October 2021

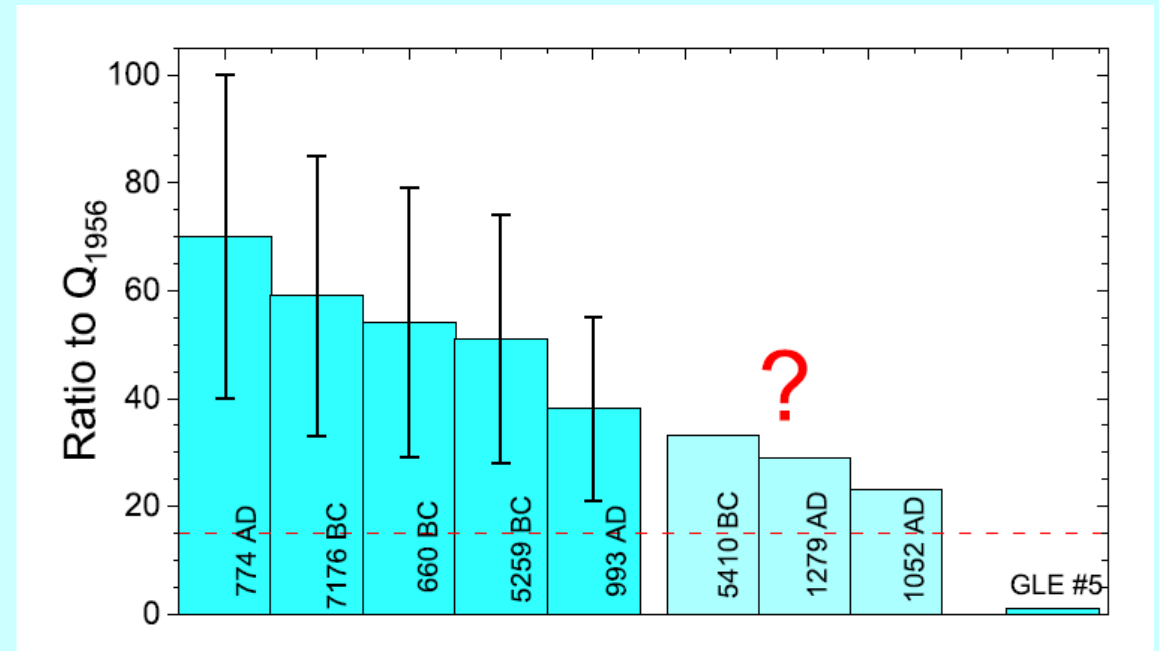


# Event integrated fluence of selected events incl. 774 AD



774 AD (Mekhaldi et al. 2015, green line),  
two major GLE: hardest (23 February 1956; blue dashed curve) and softest (4 August 1972; red dotted curve)  
see (Koldobskiy et al. 2021); for details see Cliver et al., LRSP 2022

Ratio of the modelled annual radiocarbon production  $Q$  of known (blue) and candidate (light blue) historical SEP events



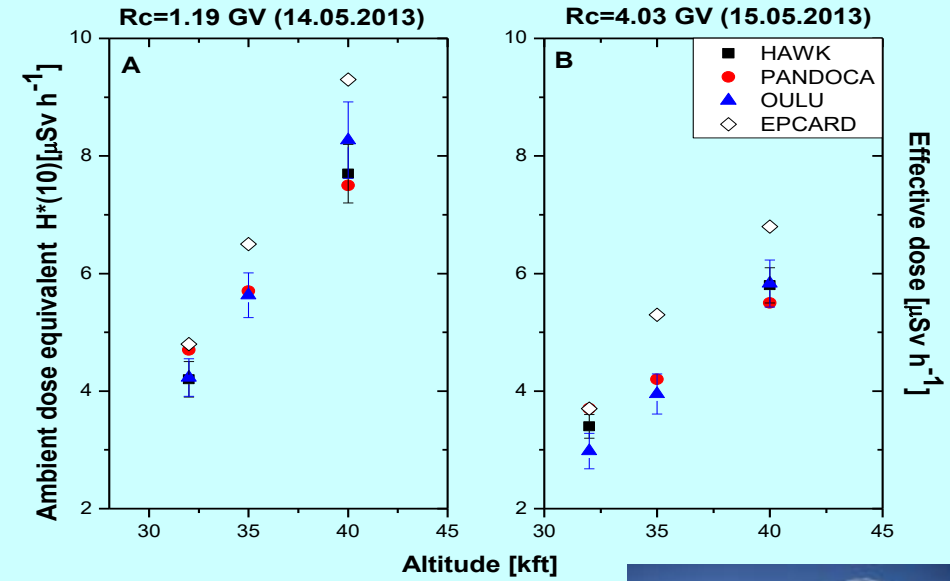
# Model for computation of exposure to radiation at aviation altitudes

Effective and/or ambient dose equivalent dose rate

$$E(h, R_c, \theta, \varphi) = \sum_i \int_{E_{cut,i}(R_c)}^{\infty} \int_{\Omega} J_i(T') Y_i(T', h) d\Omega dT'$$

MC computed Yield function

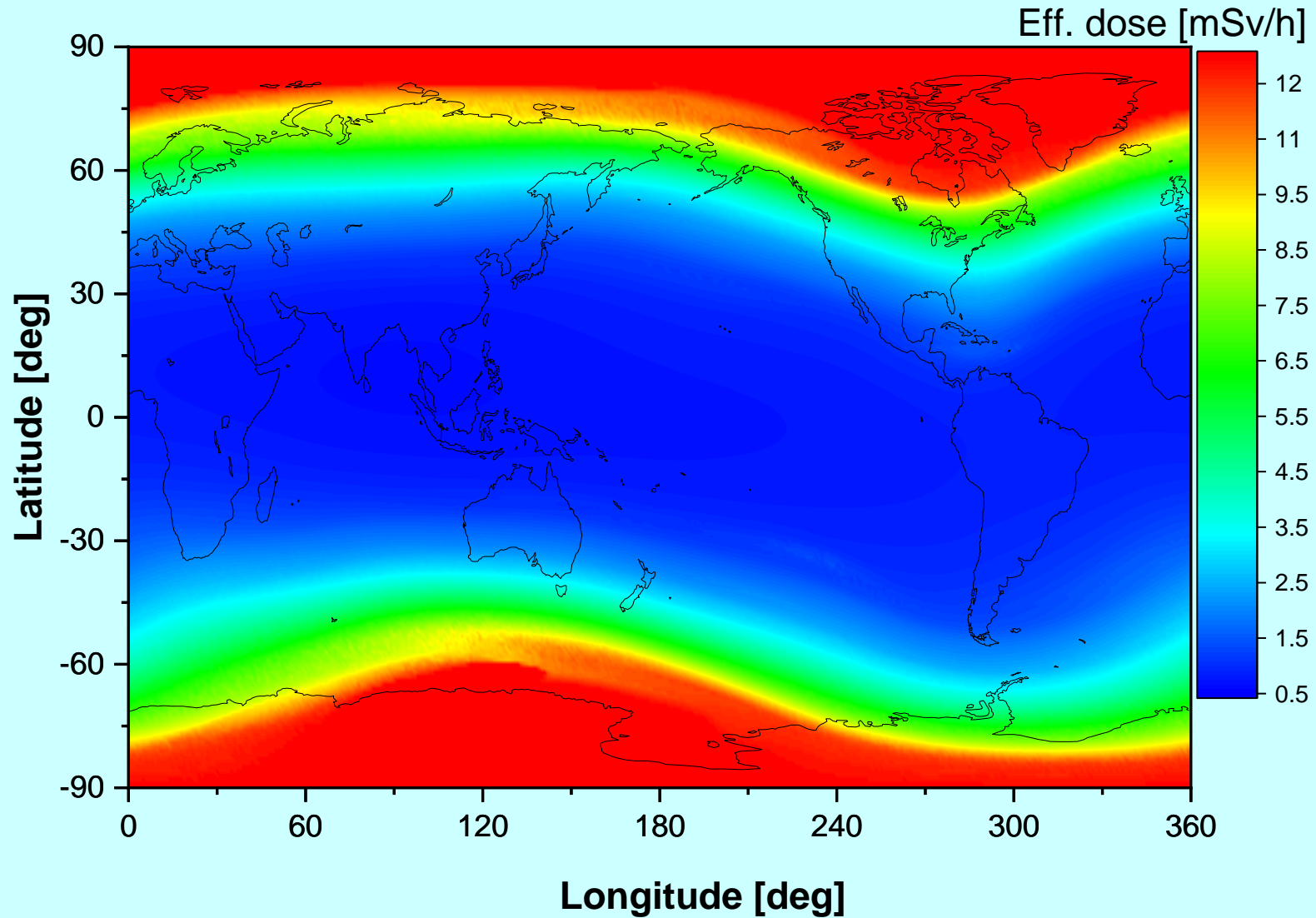
$$Y_i(T', h) = \sum_j \int_{T^*} F_{i,j}(h, T', T^*, \theta, \varphi) C_j(T^*) dT^*$$



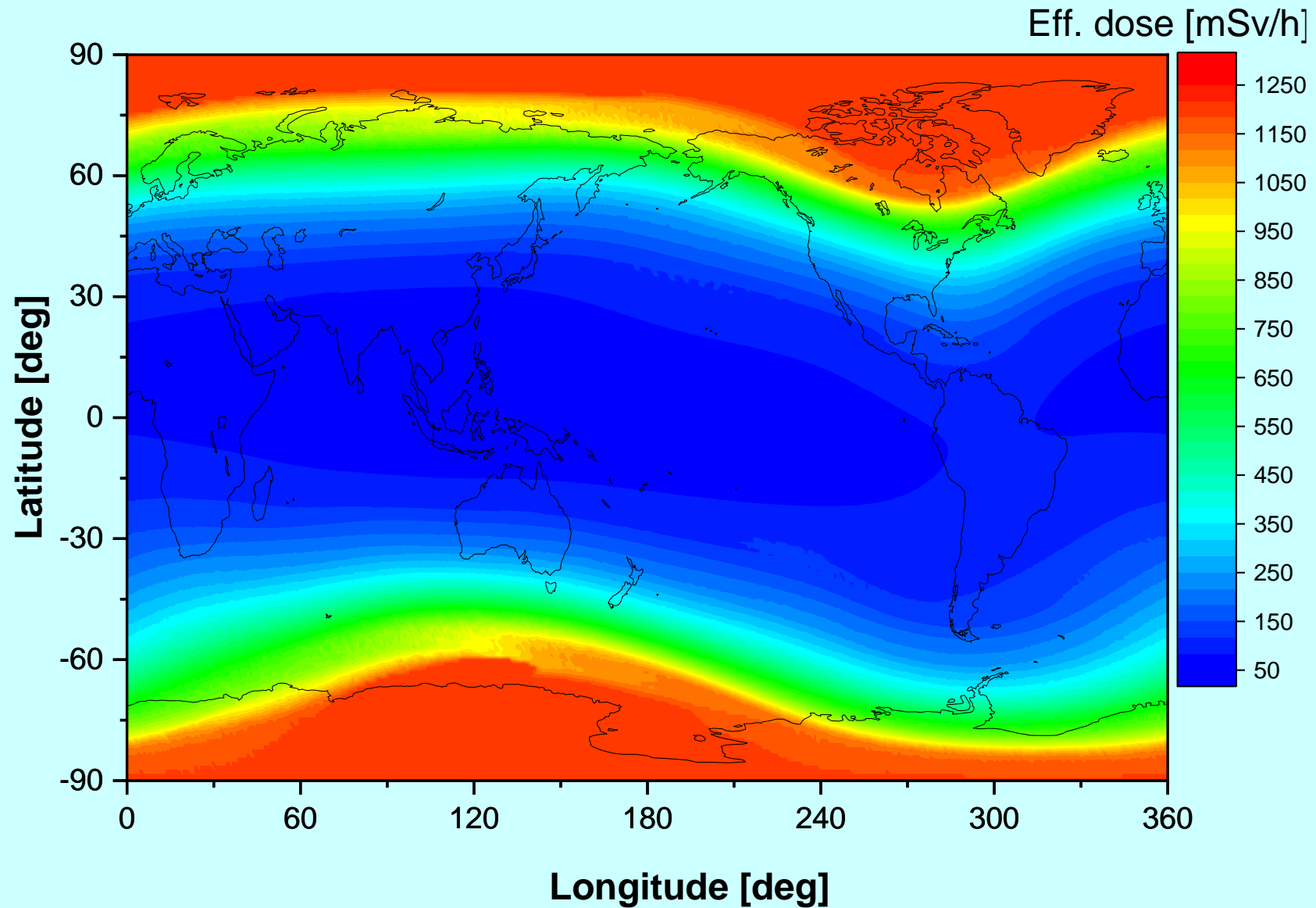
Comparison between MDU-1 Liulin measurements with Oulu dosimeter and spherical ionization models. Column 1-2 correspond to the altitude and dose rate respectively. Column 3 correspond to MDU-1 Liulin measurement, modeled absorbed dose, while columns 5-6 to ion production in air.

Alt. [km]	Alt. [kft]	Dose rate [ $\mu\text{Gy/h}$ ]		Ionization [ion pairs/s $\text{cm}^3$ ]	
		Liulin	Model	Liulin	Model
3	9.85	$0.37 \pm 0.9$	$0.22 \pm 0.08$	$16 \pm 6$	$21 \pm 5$
10.7	35	$2.8 \pm 0.7$	$6.4 \pm 2.0$	$43 \pm 14$	$55 \pm 12$
15.2	50	$5.2 \pm 1.3$	$7.7 \pm 2.1$	$57 \pm 18$	$62 \pm 14$

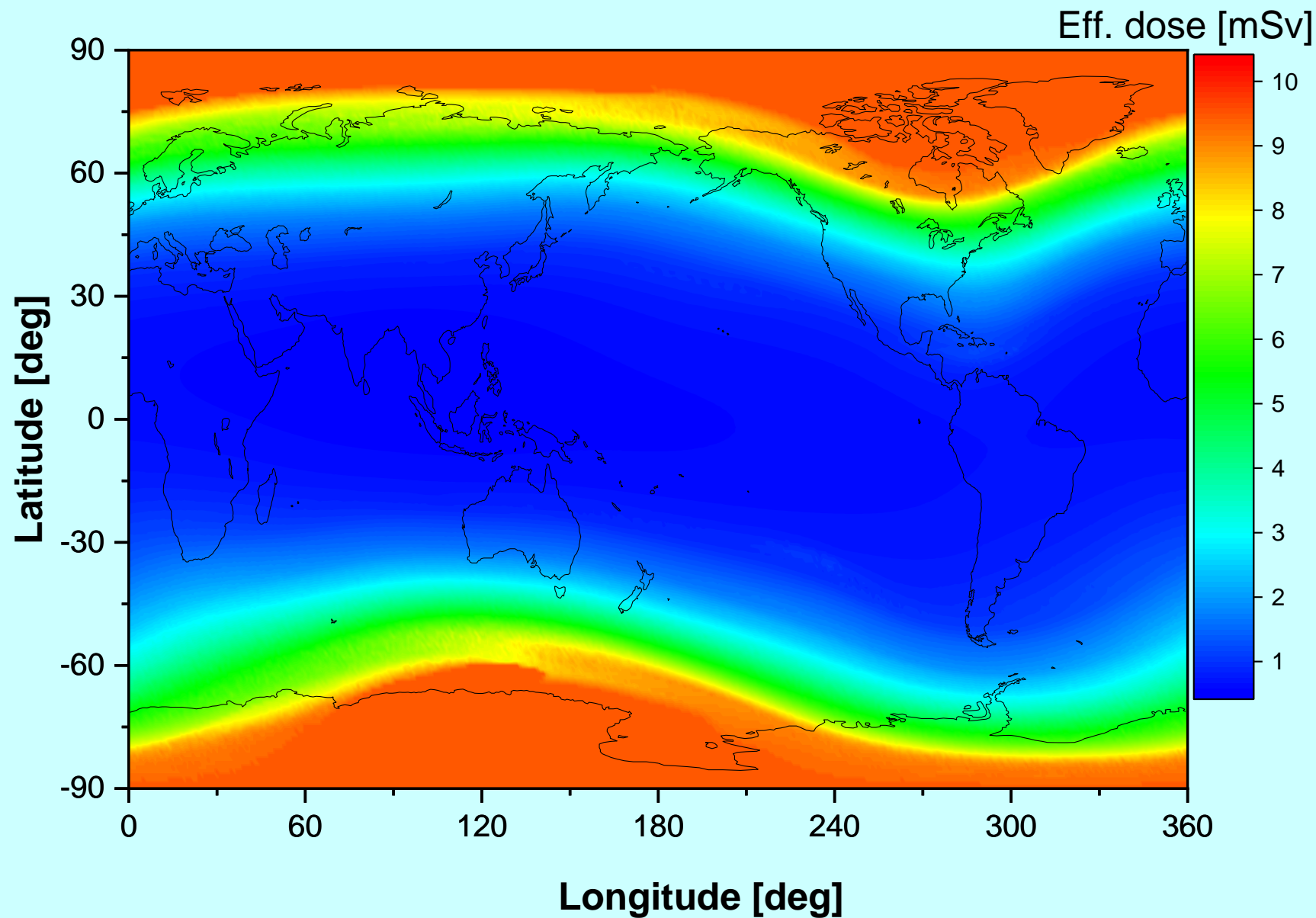
# Peak effective dose at level 050 during GLE #5, 23 February 1956



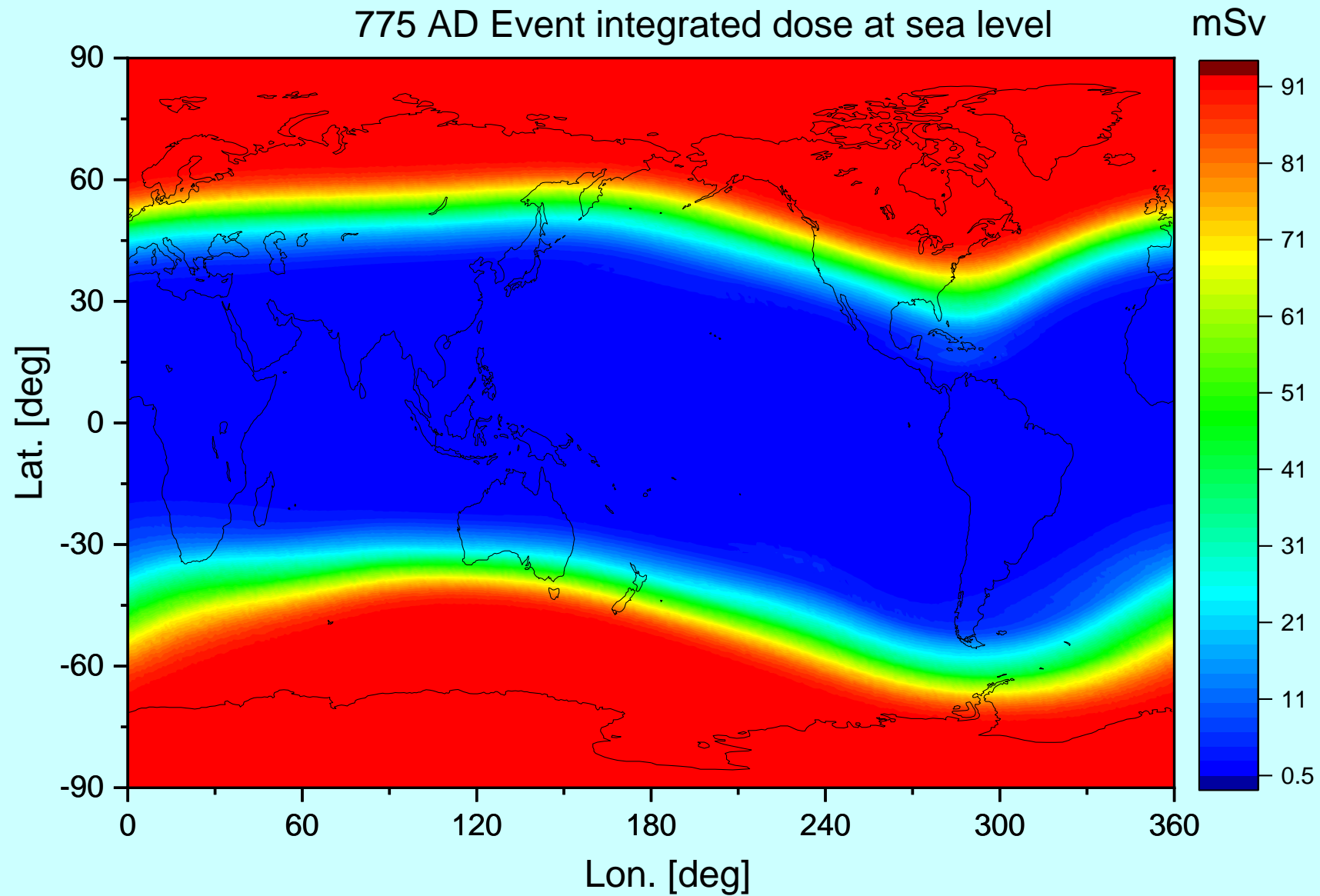
# Peak effective dose at level 050 during 774 AD event



# Integrated exposure during the first 4h of GLE# 5 at L040



# Event integrated effective dose at sea level during 774 AD event



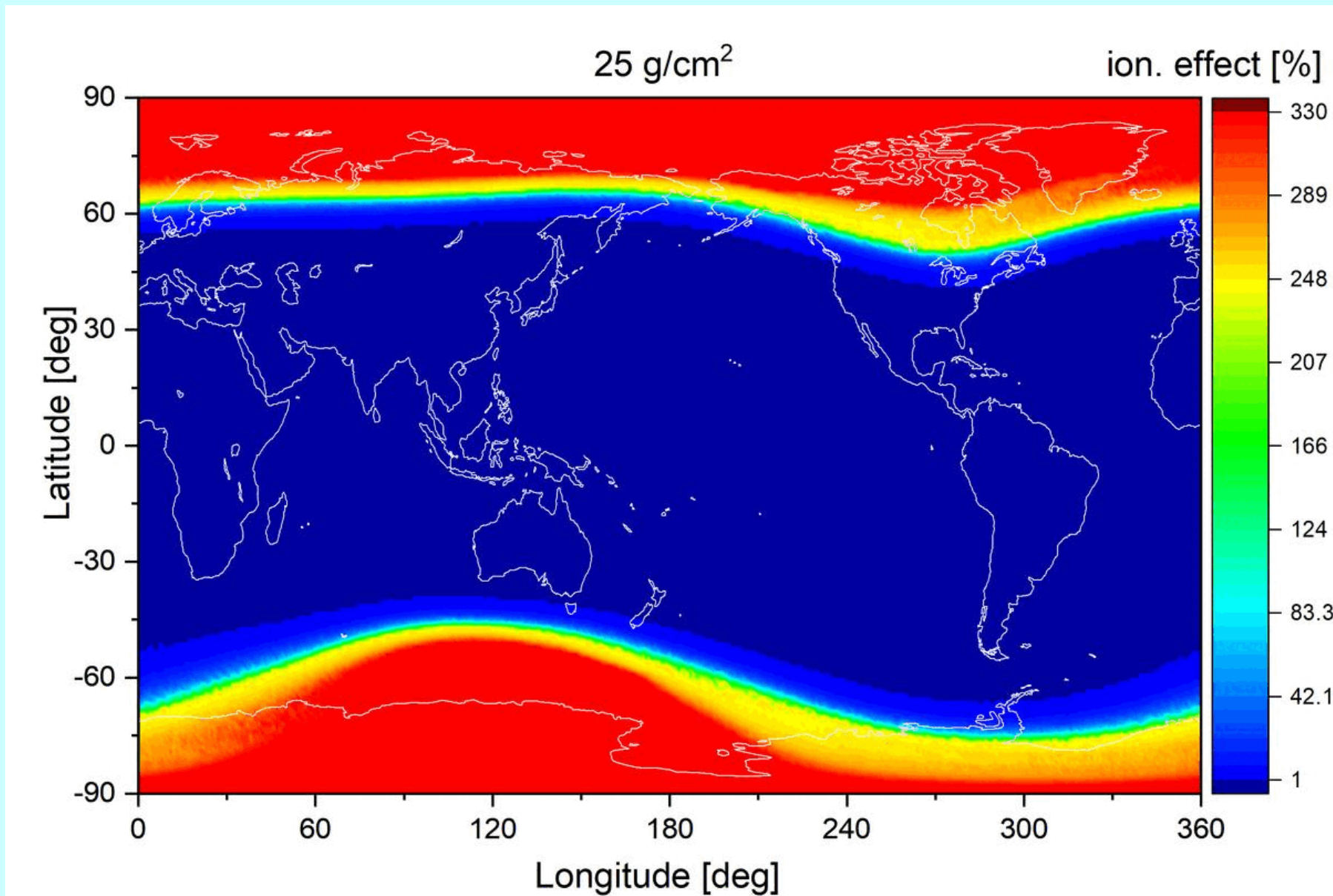
# Atmospheric ionization

$$q(h, E) = \frac{1}{E_{ion}} \sum_i \int_{E_{cut}(R_c)}^{\infty} \int_{\Omega} D_i(E) \frac{\partial E(h, E)}{\partial h} \rho(h) dE d\Omega$$

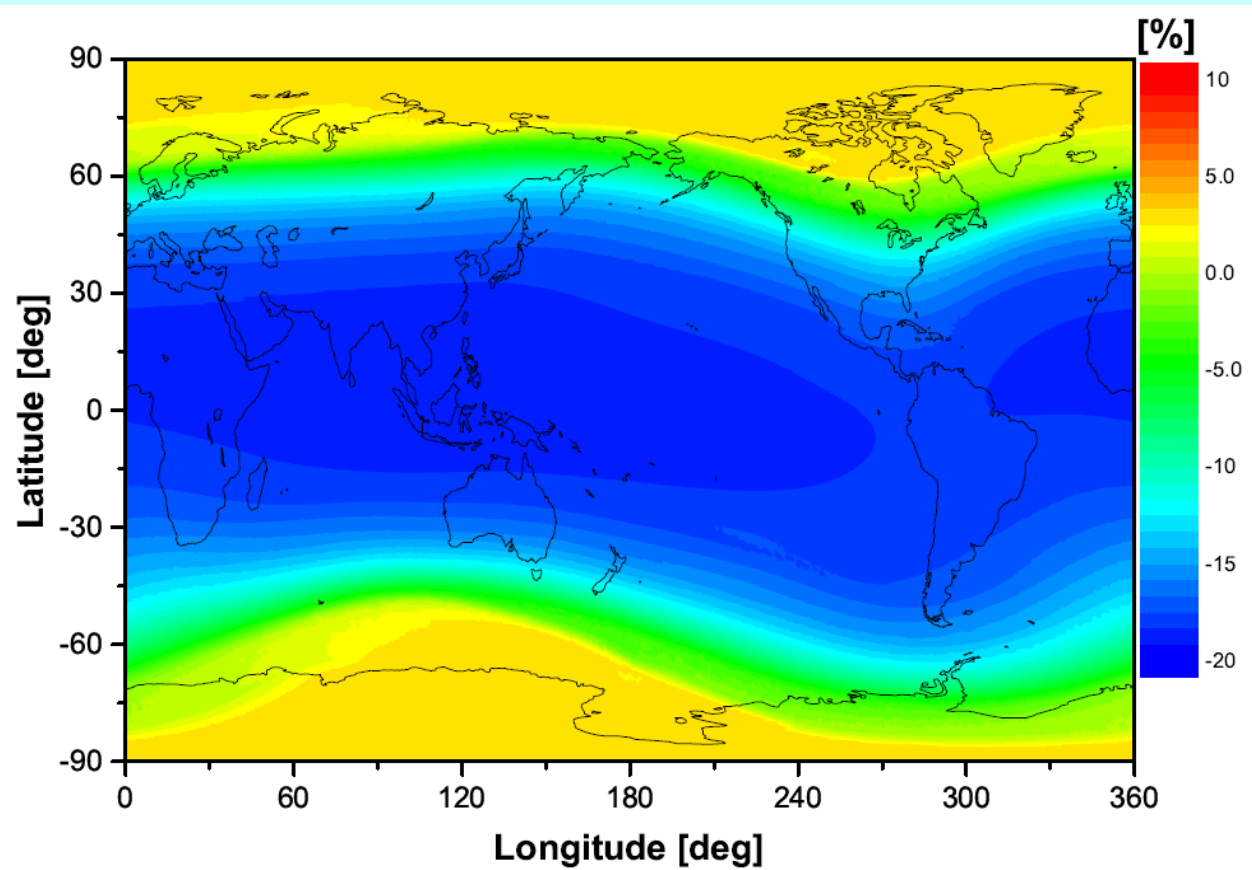
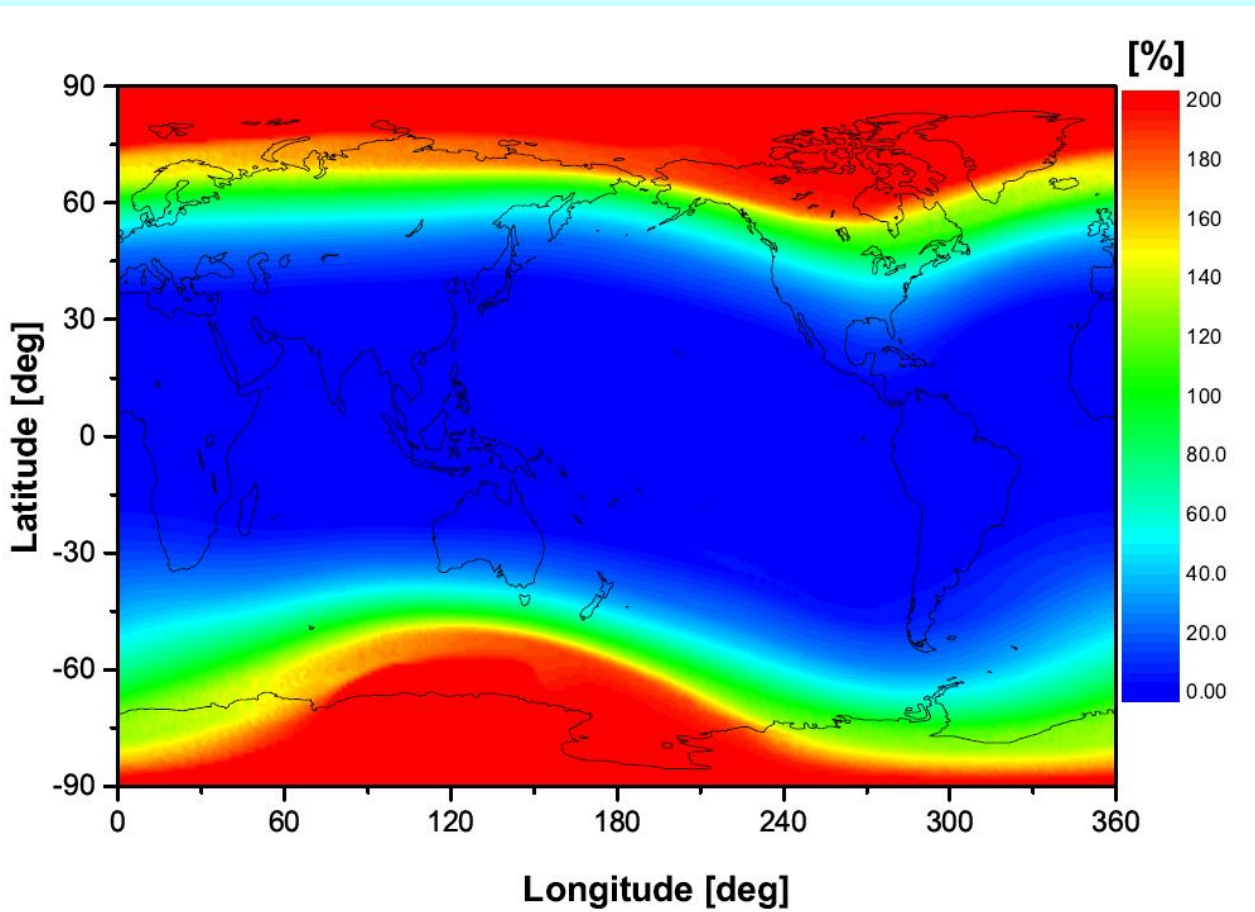
where  $\delta E$  is the deposited energy in an atmospheric layer  $\delta h$ ,  $h$  is the air overburden (air mass) above a given altitude in the atmosphere expressed in  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$  or altitude a.s.l.,  $D_i(E)$  is the differential cosmic ray spectrum for a given component  $i$ : protons  $p$ , Helium ( $\alpha$ -particles), the latter representative for heavier nuclei with atomic number  $Z > 2$ ,  $\rho$  is the atmospheric density in  $\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-3}$ ,  $E$  is the initial energy of the incoming primary nuclei on the top of the atmosphere,  $\Omega$  is a solid angle and  $E_{ion} = 35 \text{ eV}$  is the average energy necessary for creation of an ion pair in air.



# 24h integrated ionization effect vs. altitude during GLE # 73



# 24h integrated ionization effect at R-P maximum during GLE # 65 and 66



# Conclusion

1. Using verified NM yield function & verified method for GLE analysis based on NM data
2. Spectra of selected GLEs, scaling of GLE # 5 to 774 AD
3. Assessment of space weather & terrestrial effects, including 774 AD

**THANK YOU**

