

The mystery of antimatter



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Retired electronics and software engineer

CERN guide & tutor at a CERN school & FPGA programming teacher at CERN

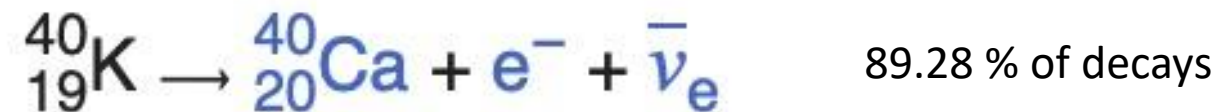
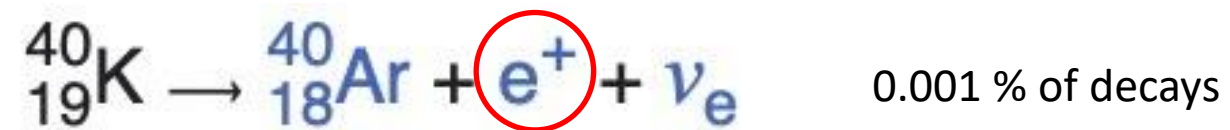
Advisor in a start-up for control and measurement systems

Many thanks to Tommy Eriksson, antimatter expert, for a lot of the slides

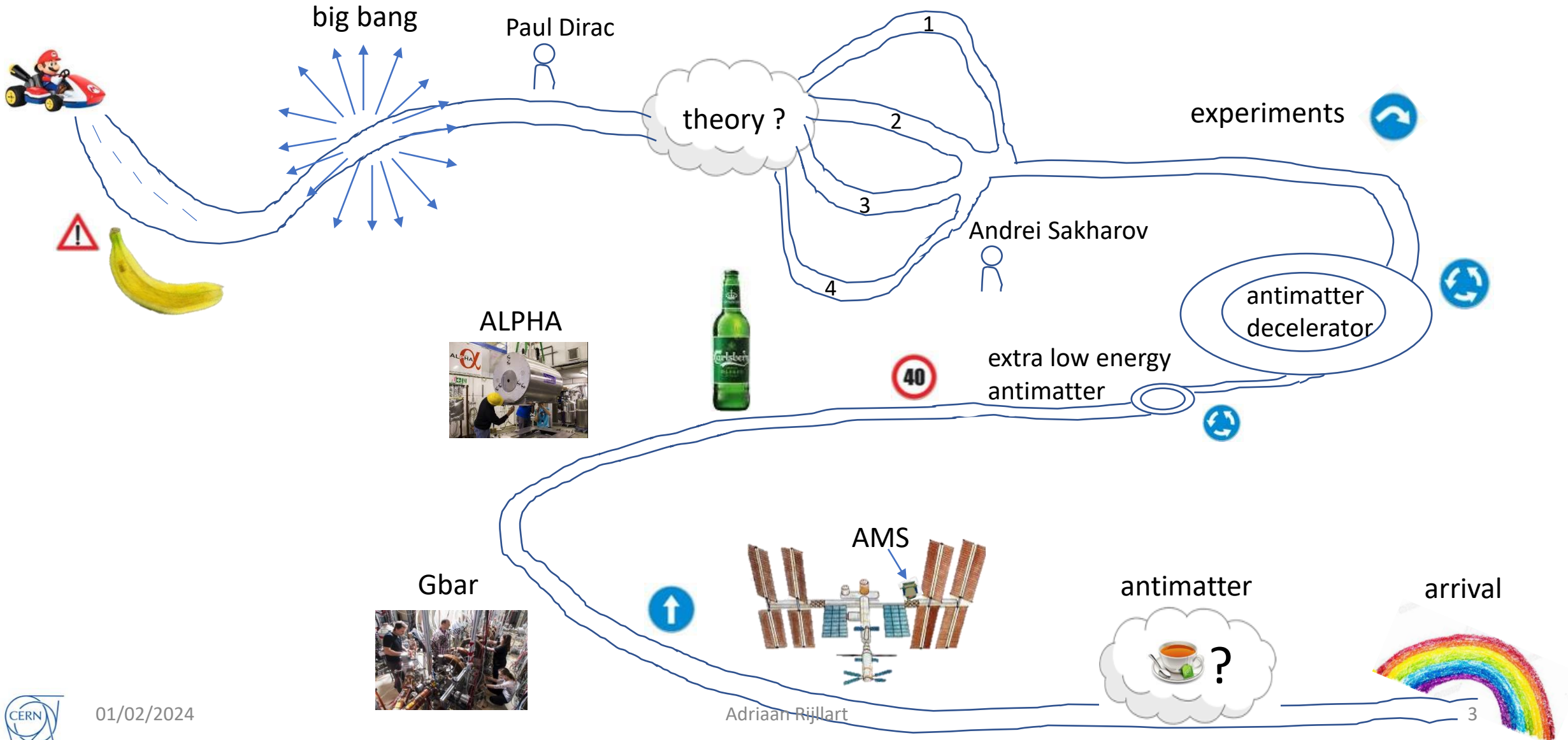
Source of antimatter



Releases a positron every 75 minutes on average



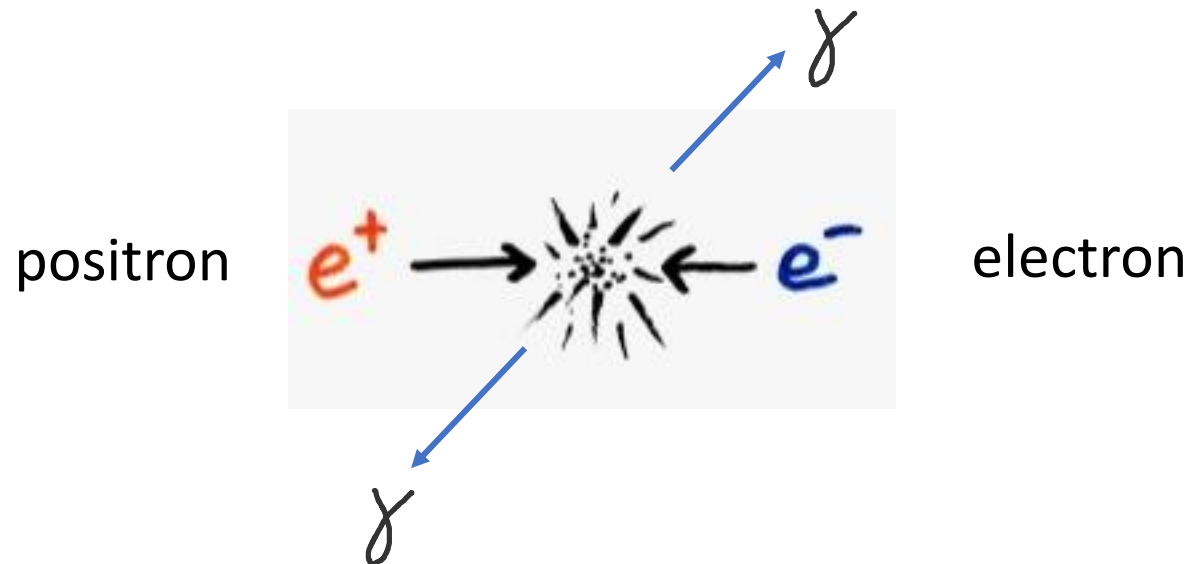
Talk overview



What is antimatter?

Antimatter is a material composed of antiparticles. These have the same mass as particles of ordinary matter, but have opposite charge and properties, such as lepton and baryon number.

Encounters between a particle and an antiparticle lead to both of them being destroyed (transformed into energetic photons).



Paul Dirac: key discovery



Paul A. M. Dirac

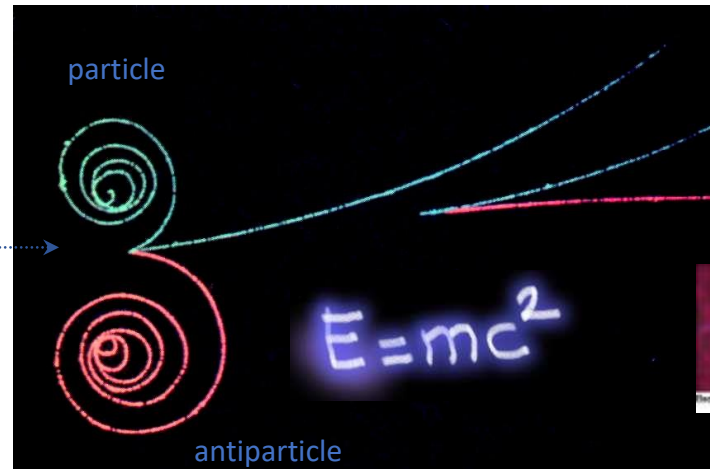
Nobel prize 1933

Relativity + Quantum Theory
⇒ **'Antiparticles'**

$$(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\psi = 0$$

Energy*

* gamma rays



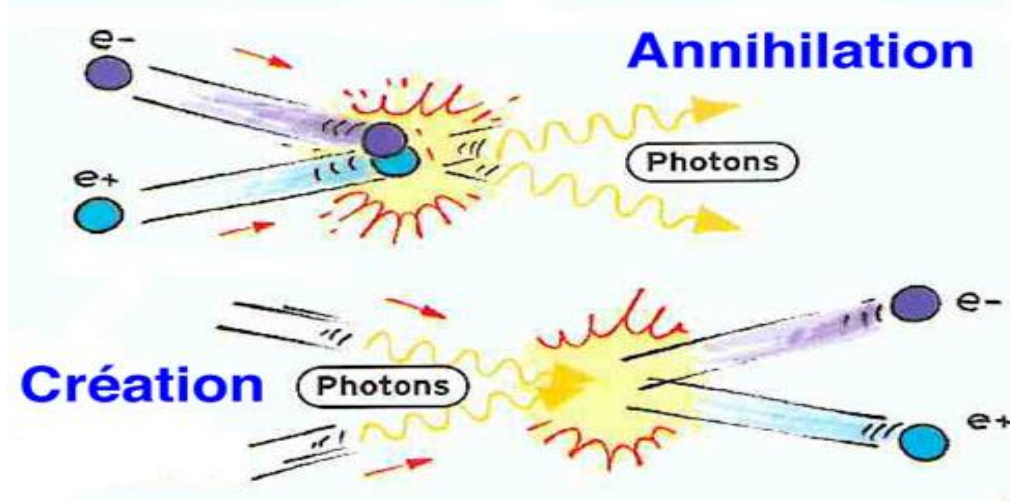
Properties of antimatter

Every particle has an antiparticle

Example:

Electron: **Mass = 0.511 (MeV) Charge = -1**

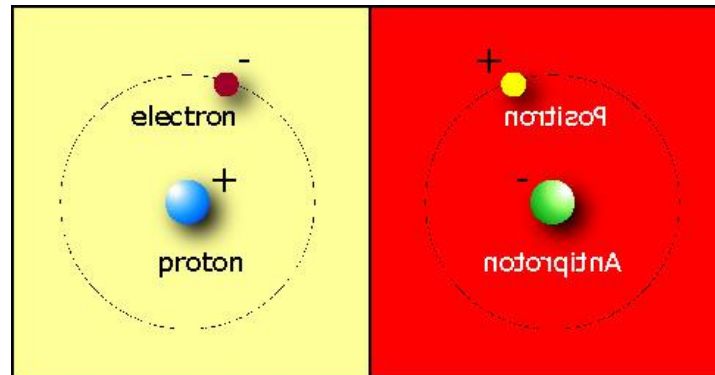
Positron: **Mass = 0.511 (MeV) Charge = +1**



Is the universe symmetric?

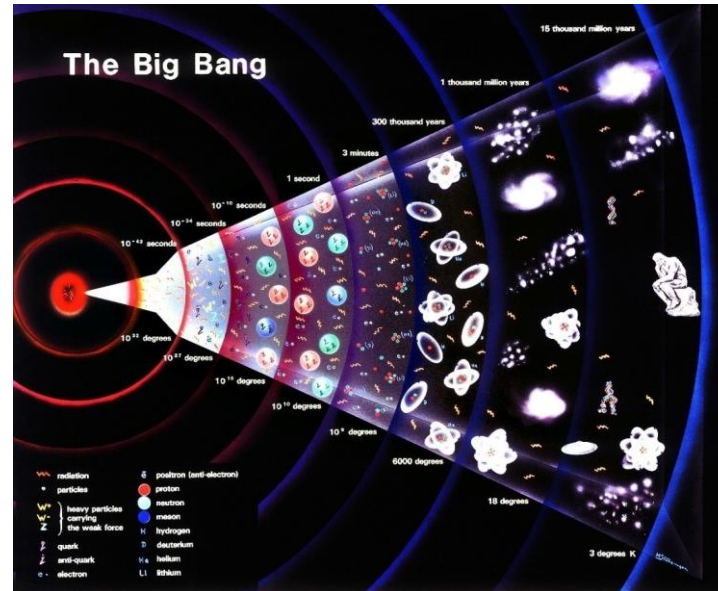
1933 Dirac (from his Nobel lecture)

"If we accept the view of complete symmetry between positive and negative electric charge so far as concerns the fundamental laws of Nature, we must regard it rather as an accident that the Earth (and presumably the whole solar system), contains a preponderance of negative electrons and positive protons.



It is quite possible that for some of the stars it is the other way about, these stars being built up mainly of positrons and negative protons. In fact, there may be half the stars of each kind.

Let's go to the origin



Big Bang

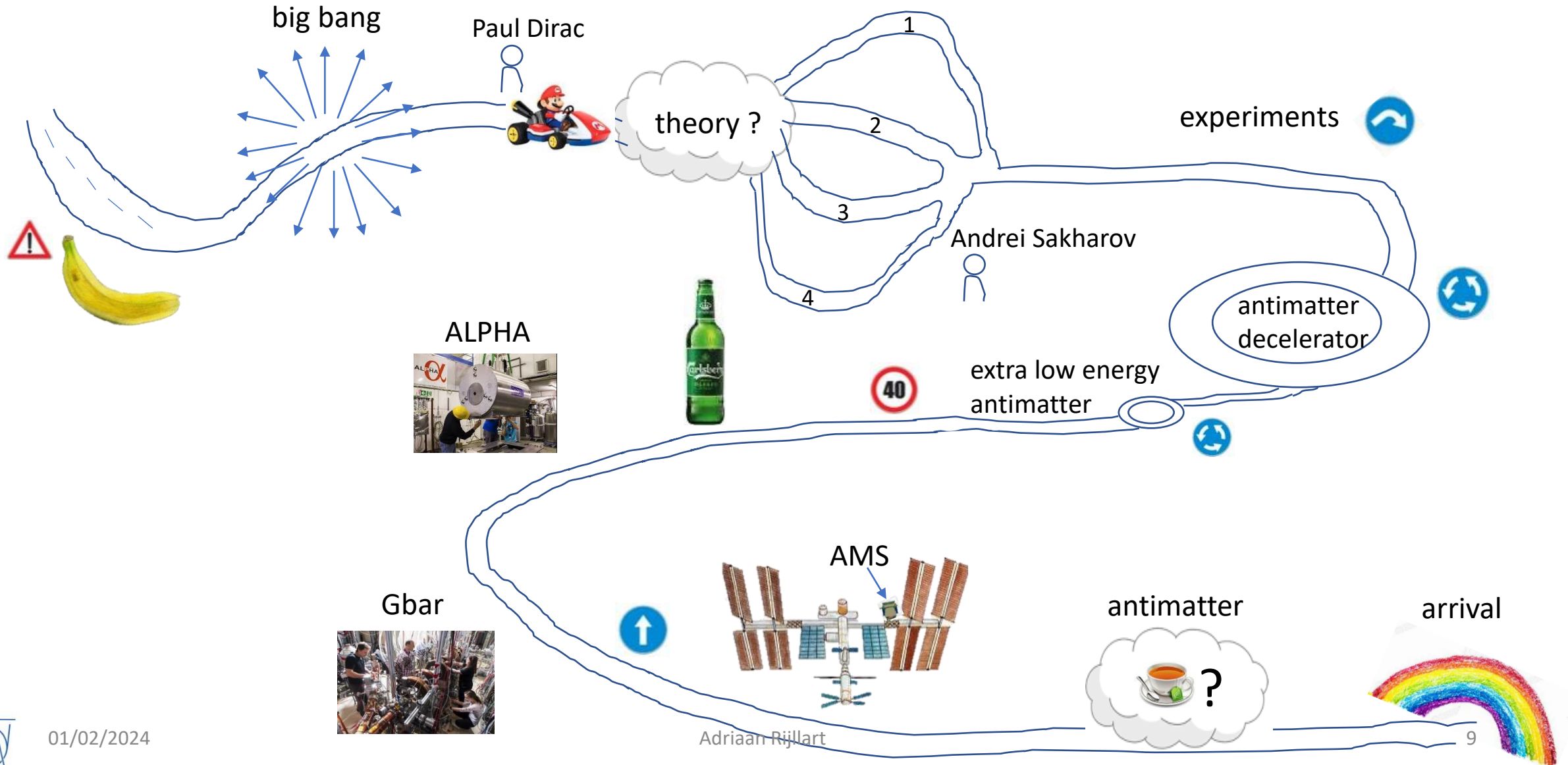
13.7 billion years ago

How did the energy
transform into mass ?
(...and atoms, stars, planets)

Big Bang: 50 % matter - 50 % antimatter

Now: 100 % matter - 0 % antimatter

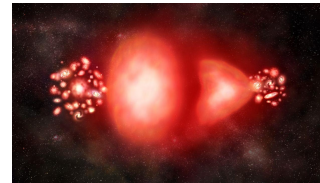
Talk overview



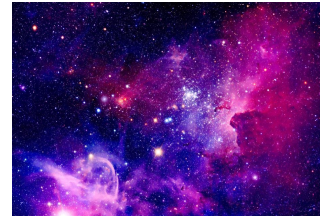
How to explain?

Three theories:

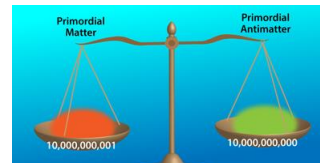
1. Antigravity



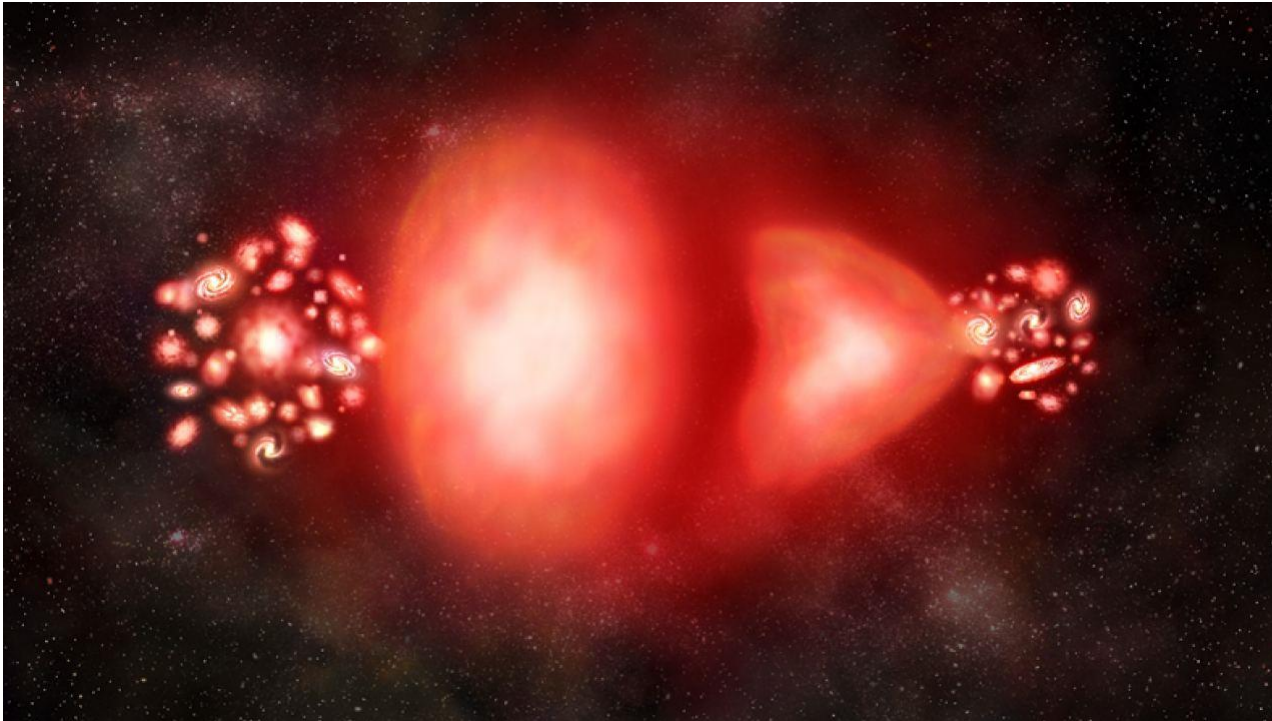
2. Antimatter galaxies



3. Particle asymmetry



1. Antigravity



After the big bang there was equal quantity of matter and antimatter

If matter and antimatter repel each other (antigravity) then they separated and occupy different parts of the universe

How to detect?

2. Antimatter galaxies



After the big bang there was equal quantity of matter and antimatter

Half of the galaxies are matter, the other half antimatter

This would make intergalactic gamma rays emerging from collisions between matter and antimatter (which we don't see)

Perhaps the Leidenfrost effect at the boundaries, where matter and antimatter collide, could reduce the gamma rays (so we don't see them)

Detect weak gamma rays in between galaxies!

3. Particle asymmetry



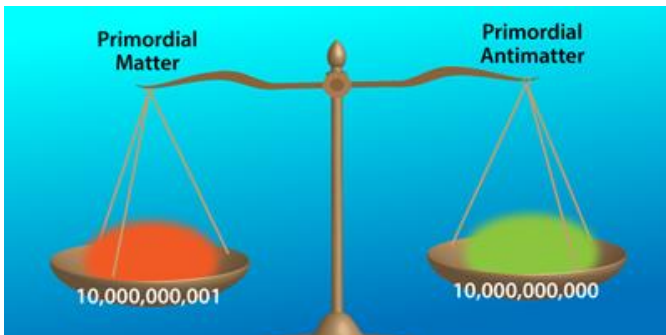
Andrei D. Sakharov
Nobel peace prize 1975

Particles and antiparticles have (slightly) different decay rates*
(*this would break the CPT theorem)

Small imbalance (10,000,000,001 : 10,000,000,000)
Occurs during cool-down of Universe

Most particle-antiparticle pairs annihilate to radiation

Galaxies, stars, planets, us = 'left-over'



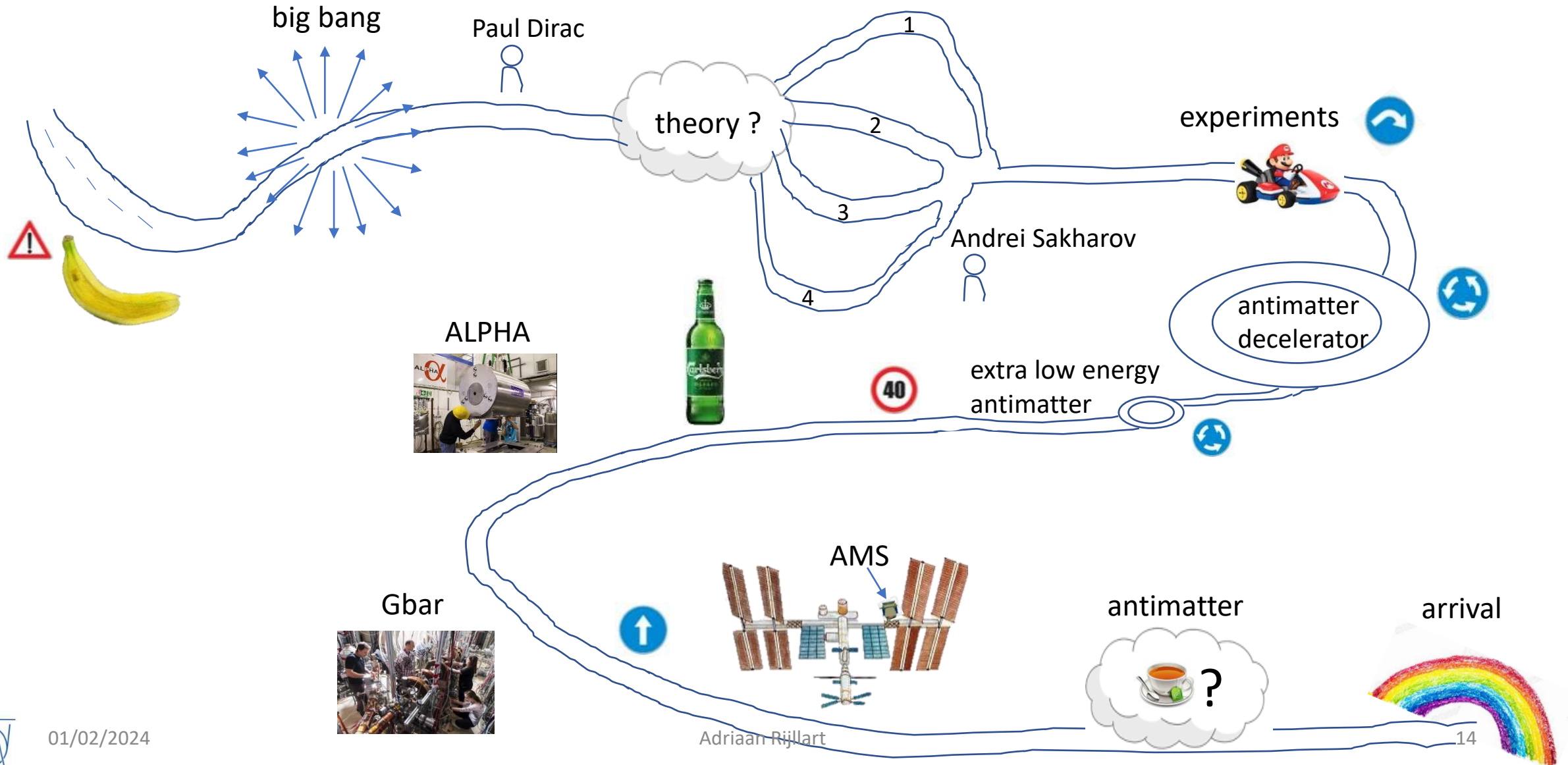
⇒ Could matter and antimatter be different?
⇒ What kind of asymmetry ?

CPT theorem of physics wrong? : “NO” !!

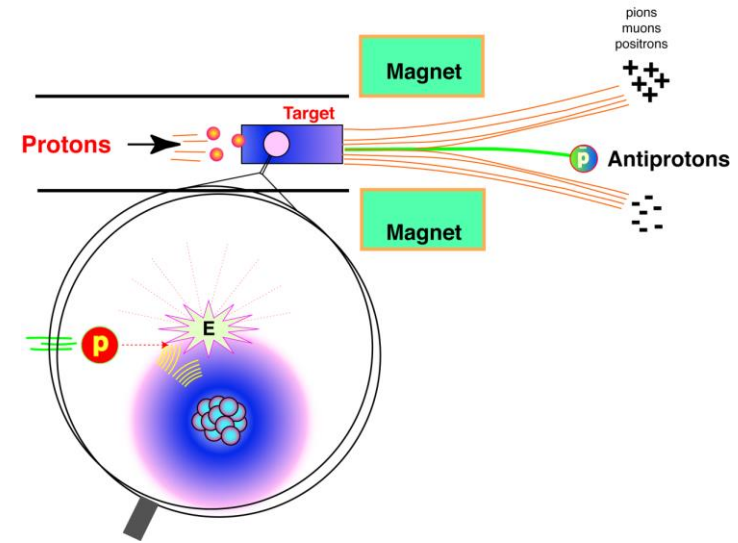
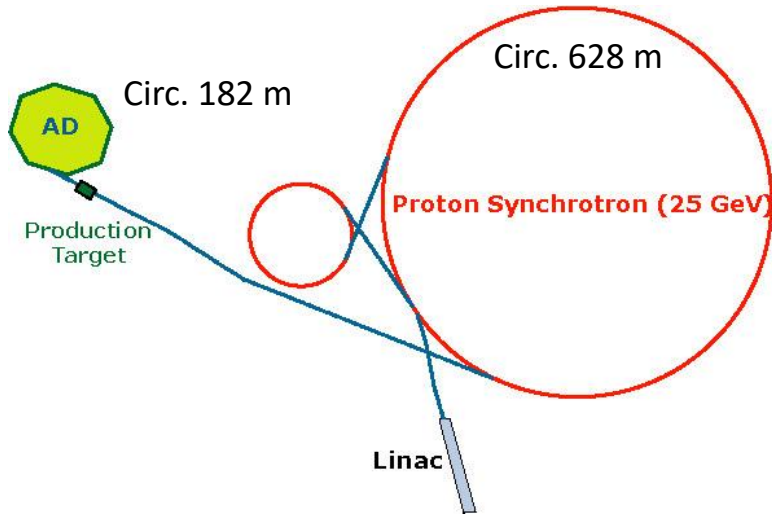
Experimental physicists : “Let’s see ... ”

Compare: Mass - charge - magnetic moment - lifetime - gravitation

Talk overview



Experimentalists: Let's make antimatter



Needs (at least) 6.2 GeV of (proton) energy to produce antiprotons
Use the kinetic energy of 25 GeV protons readily available at the PS

Magnetic fields used to filter particles
with correct polarity/energy

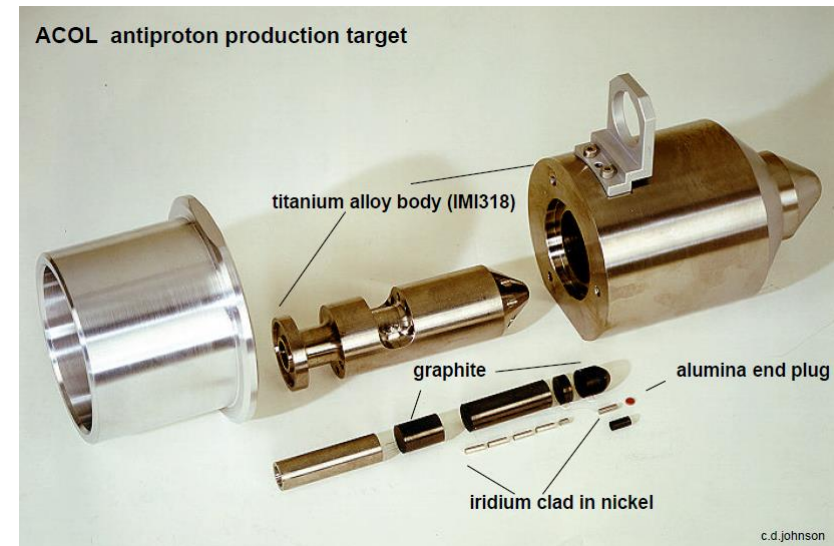
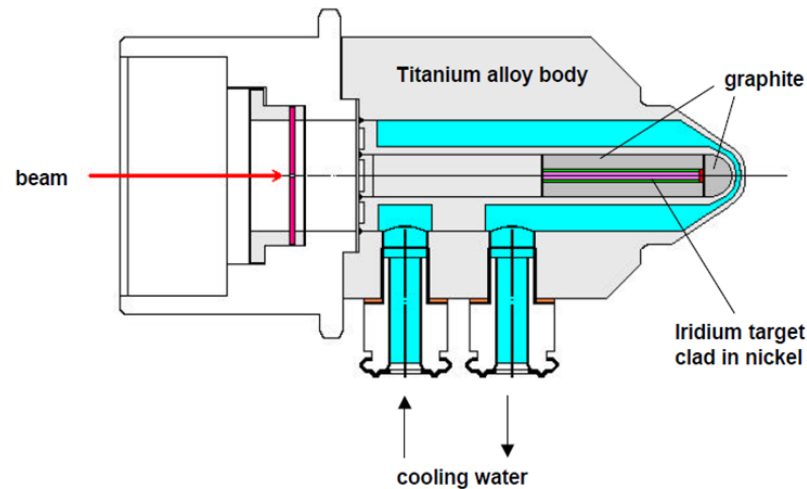
50,000,000 antiprotons (per 100 s) available at 5.3 MeV for the AD experiments

Experimentalists: Let's make antimatter

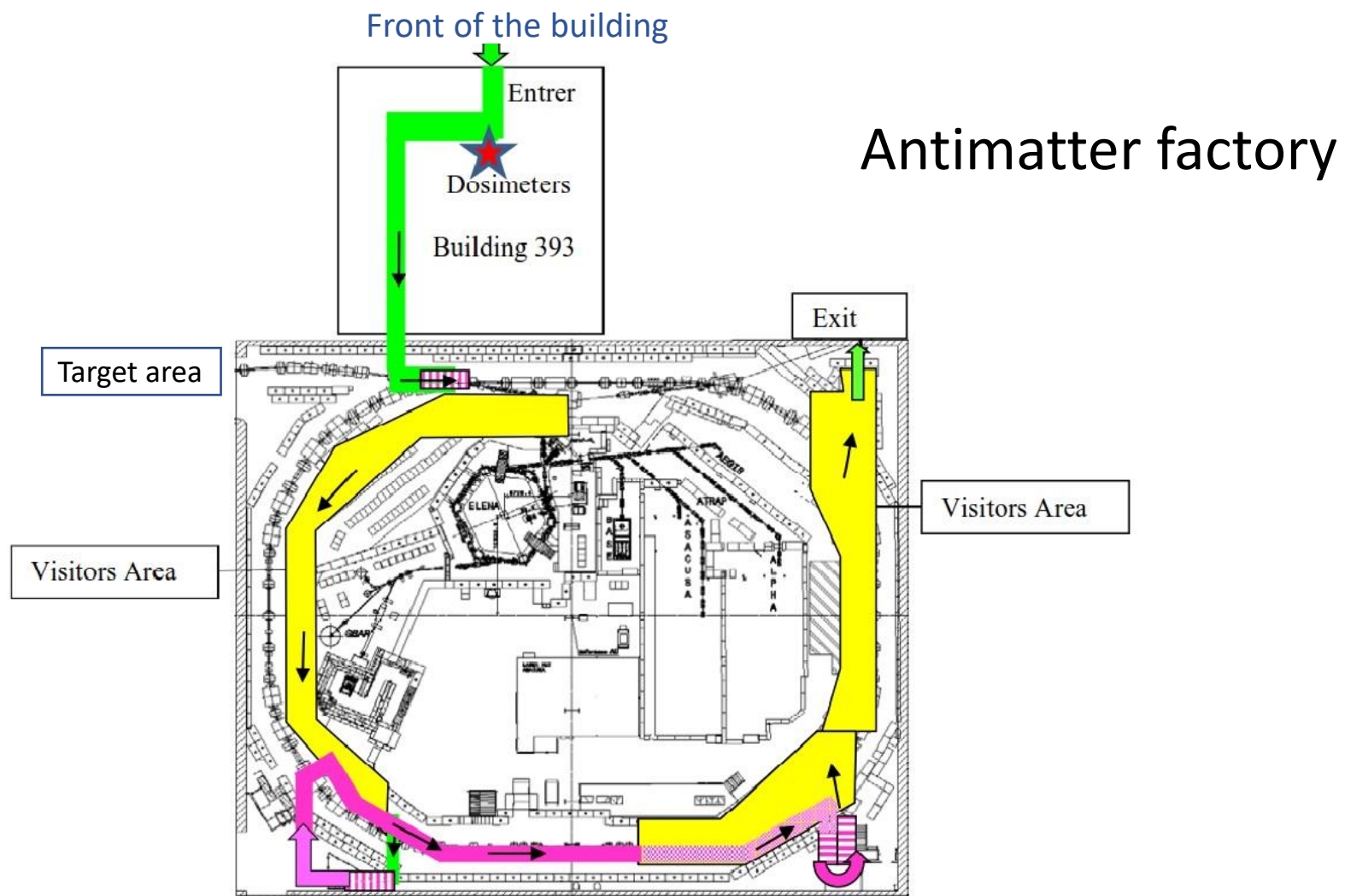
Shoot protons on a metal: 1.5×10^{13} protons yields 5×10^7 antiprotons in the AD

Production target:

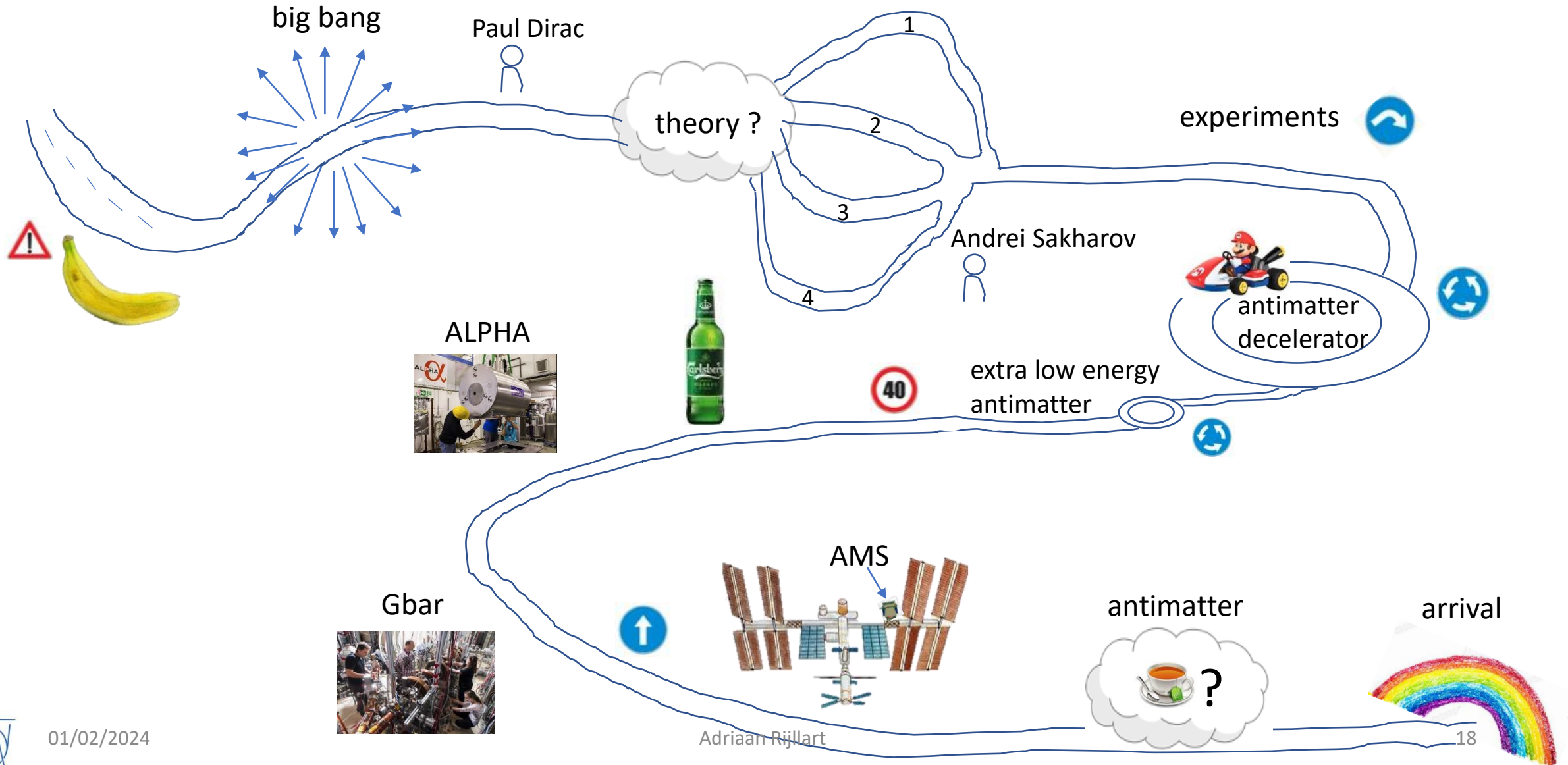
- Iridium production material
- 3*55mm rod
- Graphite cladding
- Water-cooled Ti alloy body



Places you will see



Talk overview



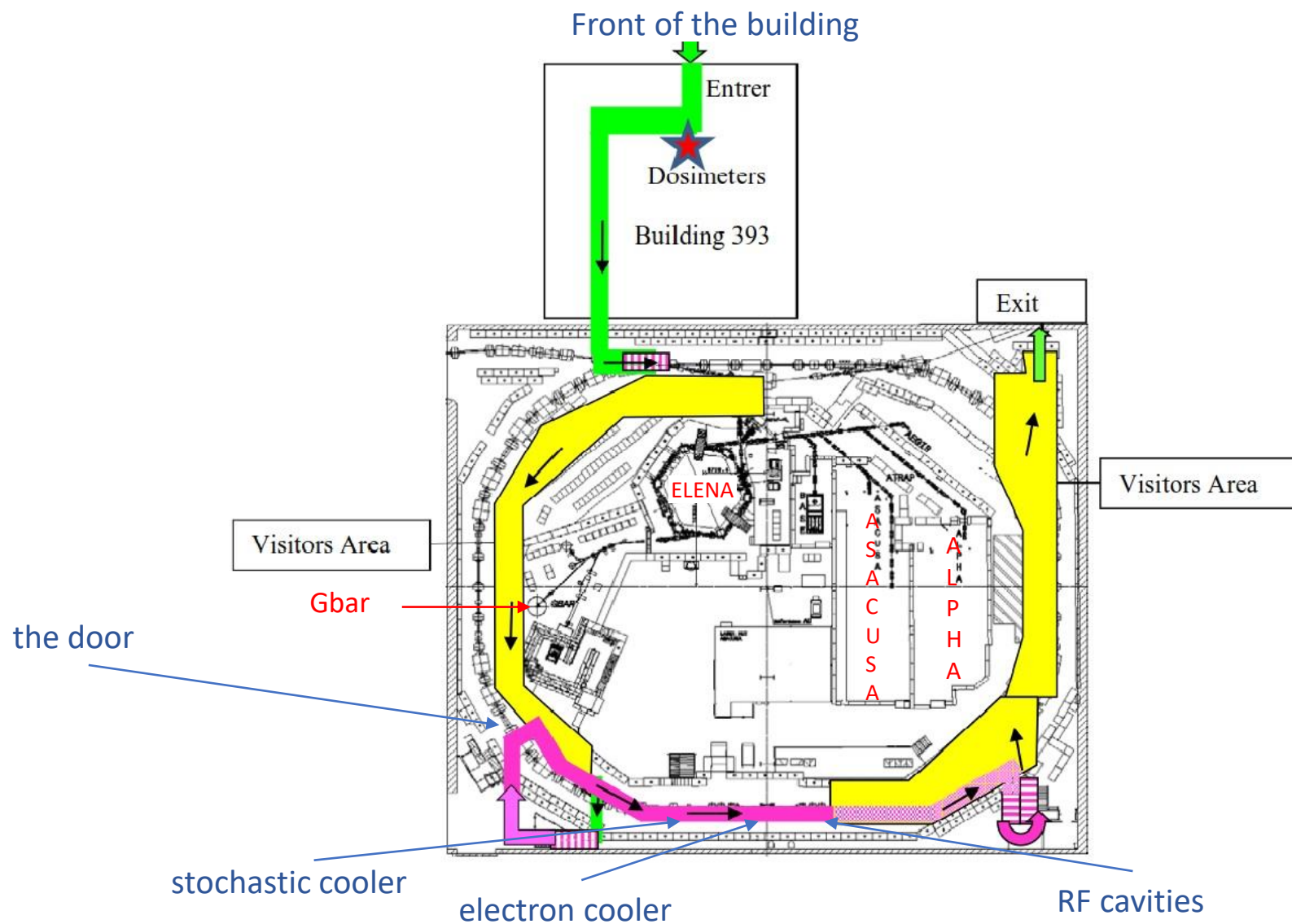
Antimatter factory



Antiproton experiments walkthrough



Places you will see



The door

AD ring access point with:

- badge reader
- Database check
- retina scanner
- interlock key
- 1 person at the time check

Similar to the door used in
Angels & Demons movie !



Inside the decelerator



Stochastic cooling of antiprotons

- Invented by Simon Van der Meer (Nobel Prize -84)
- Aim of cooling:
 - reduction of transverse and longitudinal emittances
 - Increase of phase space density
- Pickup and kicker must be correctly placed
- Moving p/u and kicker follow beam size for optimum gain and signal to noise
- Large system bandwidth: 1–1.6 GHz
- Cryogenic cooling of certain components to reduce thermal noise



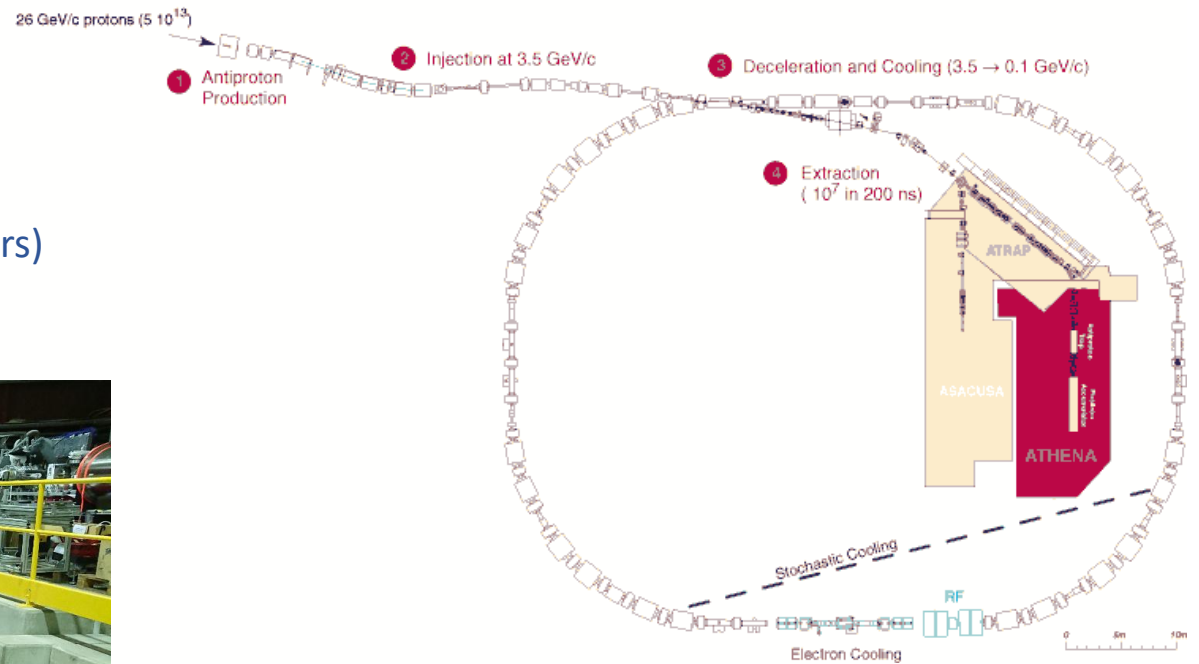
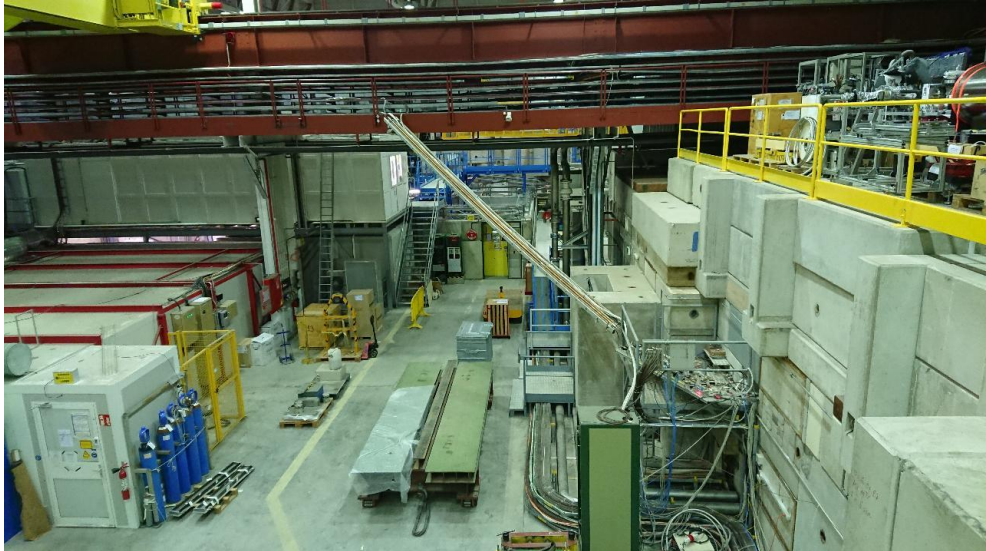
pick up



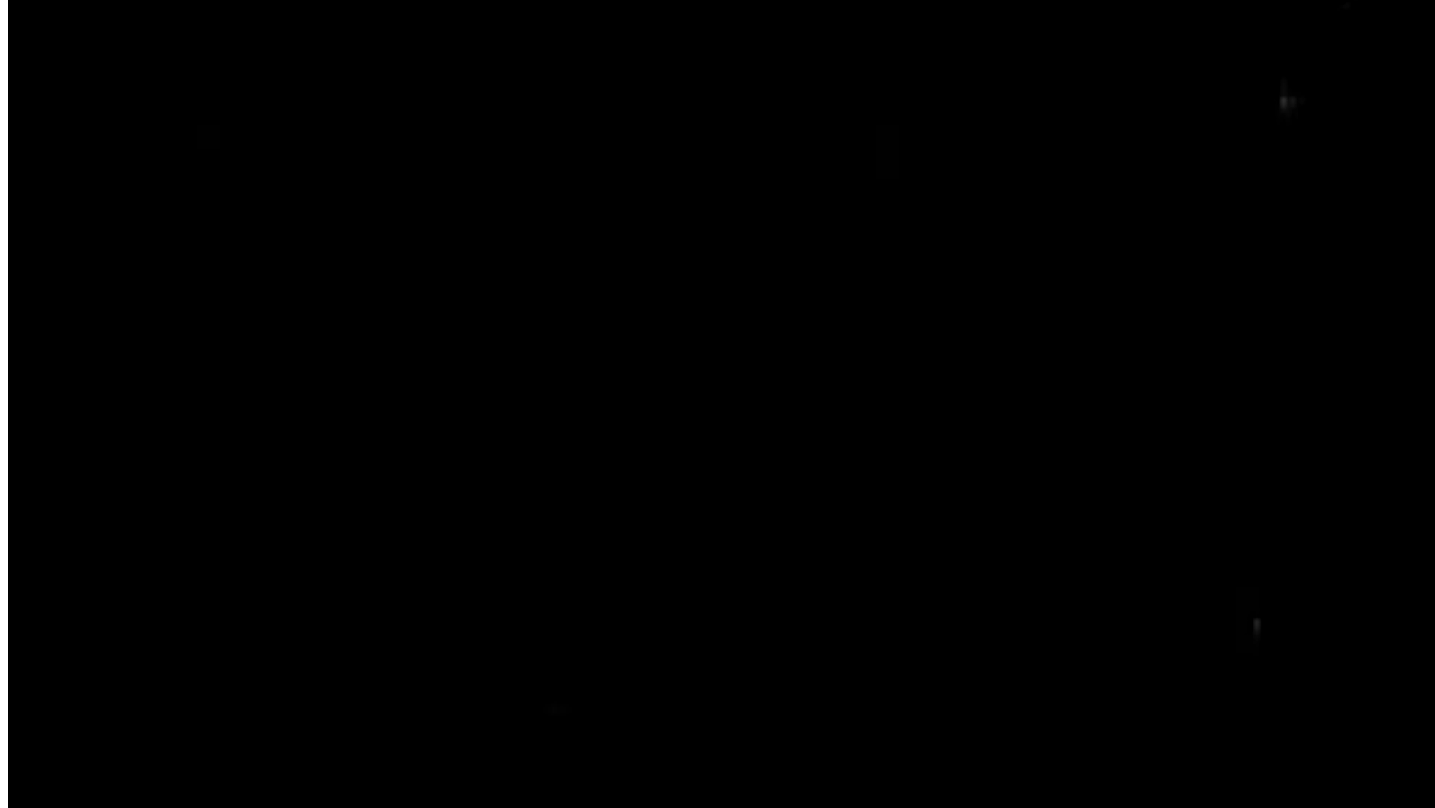
kicker

Stochastic cooling of antiprotons

Stochastic cooling transfer line (pick-ups to kickers)
routed shortest possible way



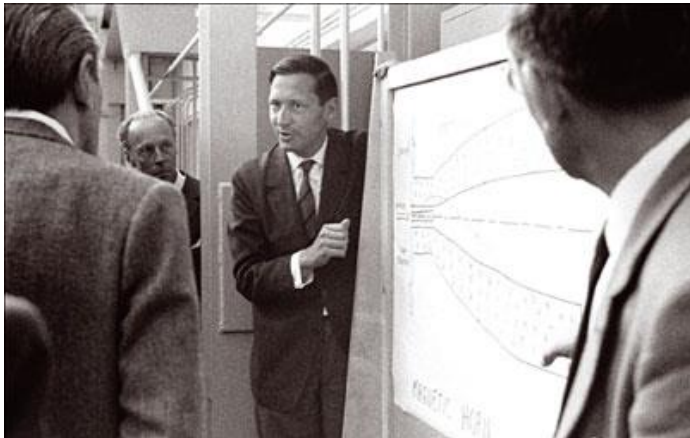
Stochastic cooling of antiprotons



A break-through moment



Simon and Carlo



1983 Discovery of the W and Z bosons

1984 Nobel prize for Carlo Rubbia and Simon van der Meer

Accelerating science

To go **quickly** to higher energy collisions to do a **discovery** (and beat the competition!):

- Construct a big ring (takes time)
 - Takes time to decide



- Turn the existing SPS into a **collider** (**double the energy!**)
 - Using antiprotons (they can circulate in opposite direction in the same magnetic field!)
 - But antiprotons are hard to get by and you need many to have good statistics



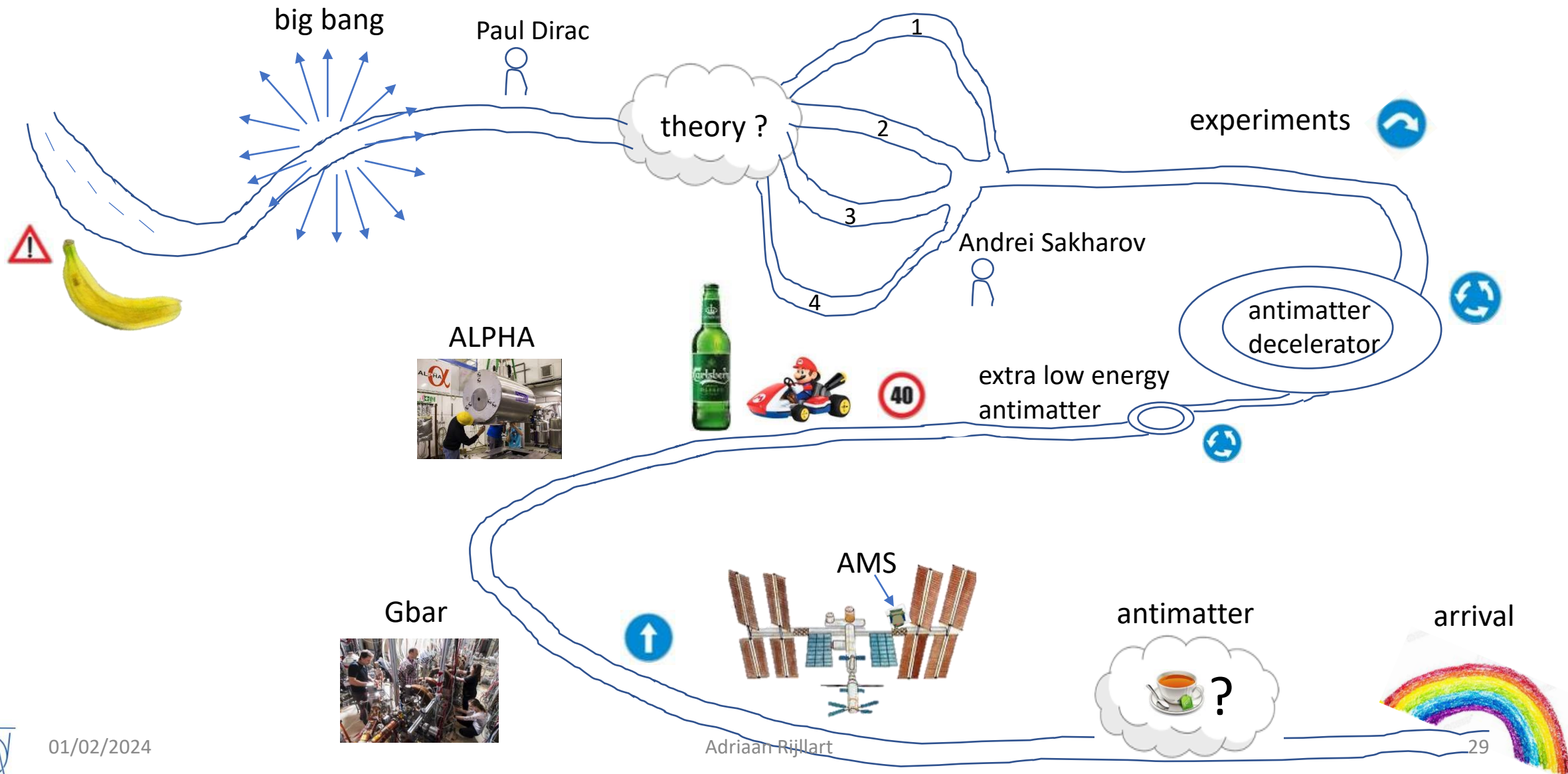
- There is a way: construct a small **Antiproton Accumulator**
- Critical problem: how to cool the very large momentum spread so they can be accumulated?



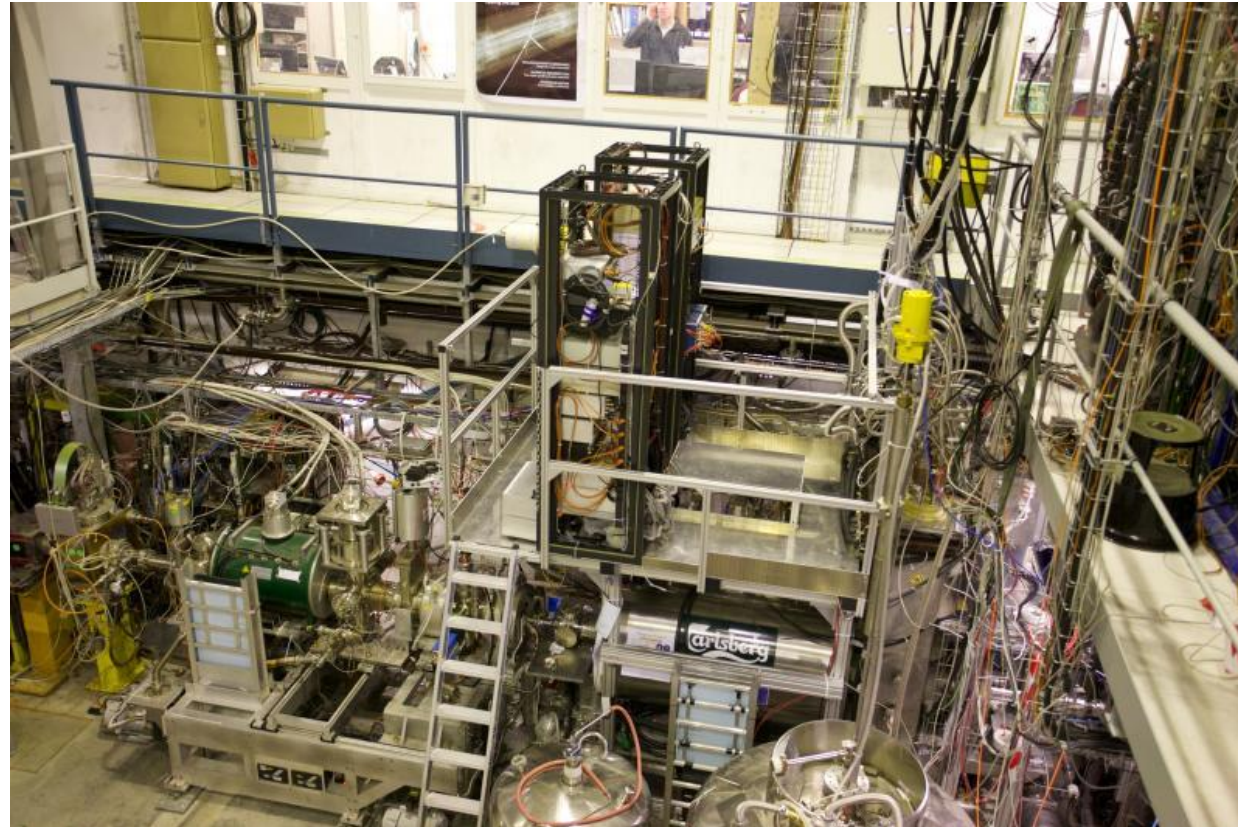
- The solution: **stochastic cooling!** (new invention)



Talk overview



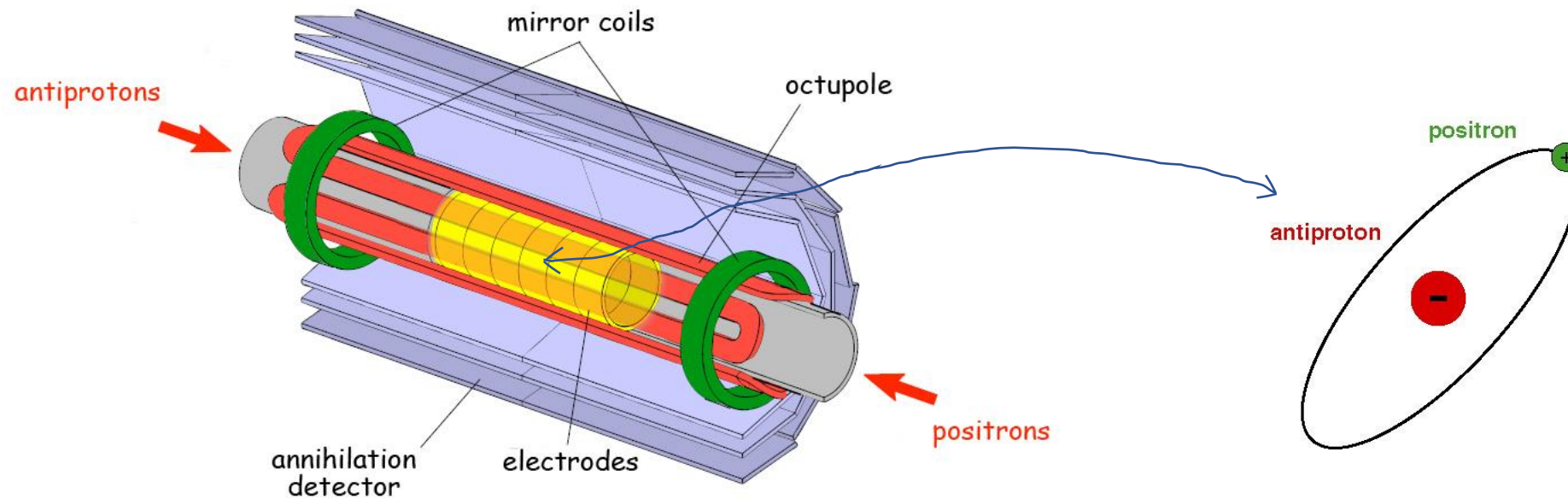
Beer



Sponsor of the ALPHA experiment

Antihydrogen

Penning trap

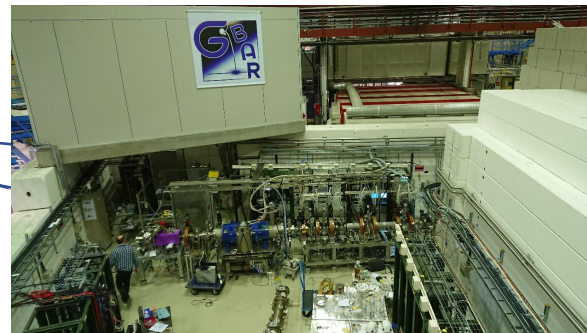


Passing by 2 experiments

ALPHA



Gbar

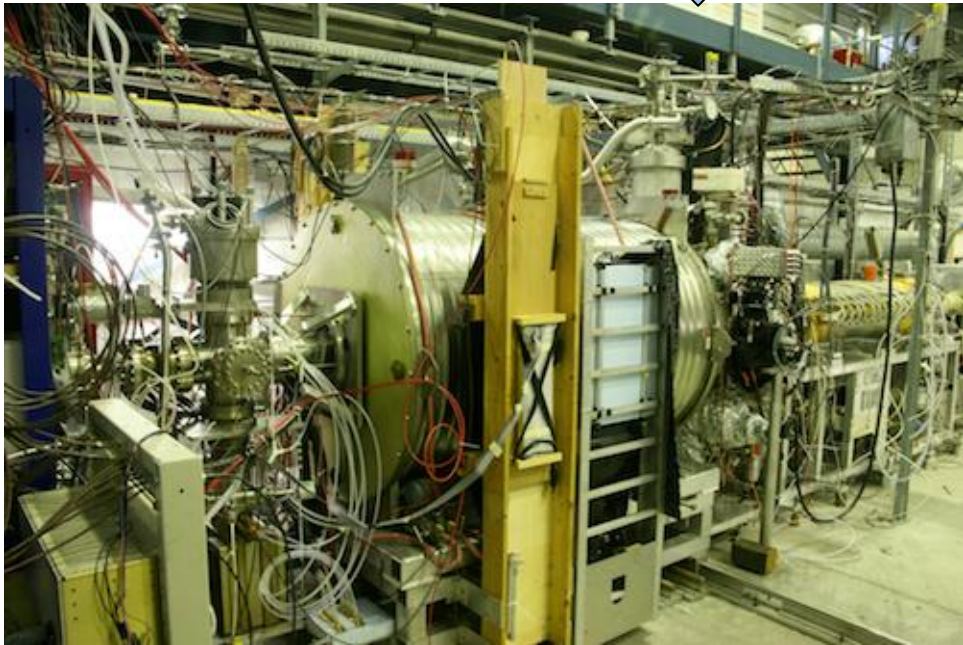


ALPHA experiment

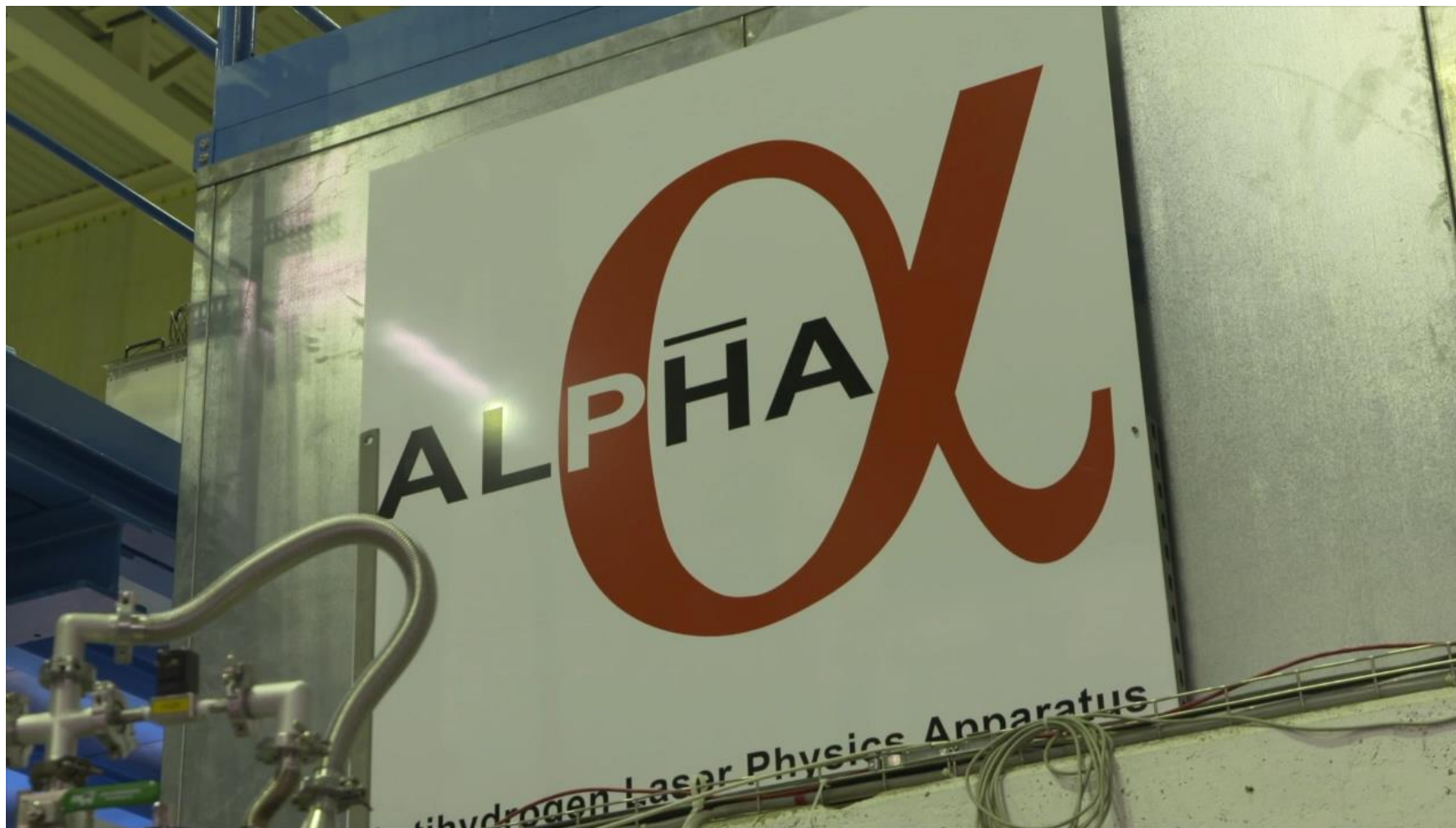


Penning trap inside....

...fully assembled ALPHA experiment



ALPHA experiment



ALPHA experiment



Gbar: antigravity

Drop antihydrogen in the gravitational field of the earth



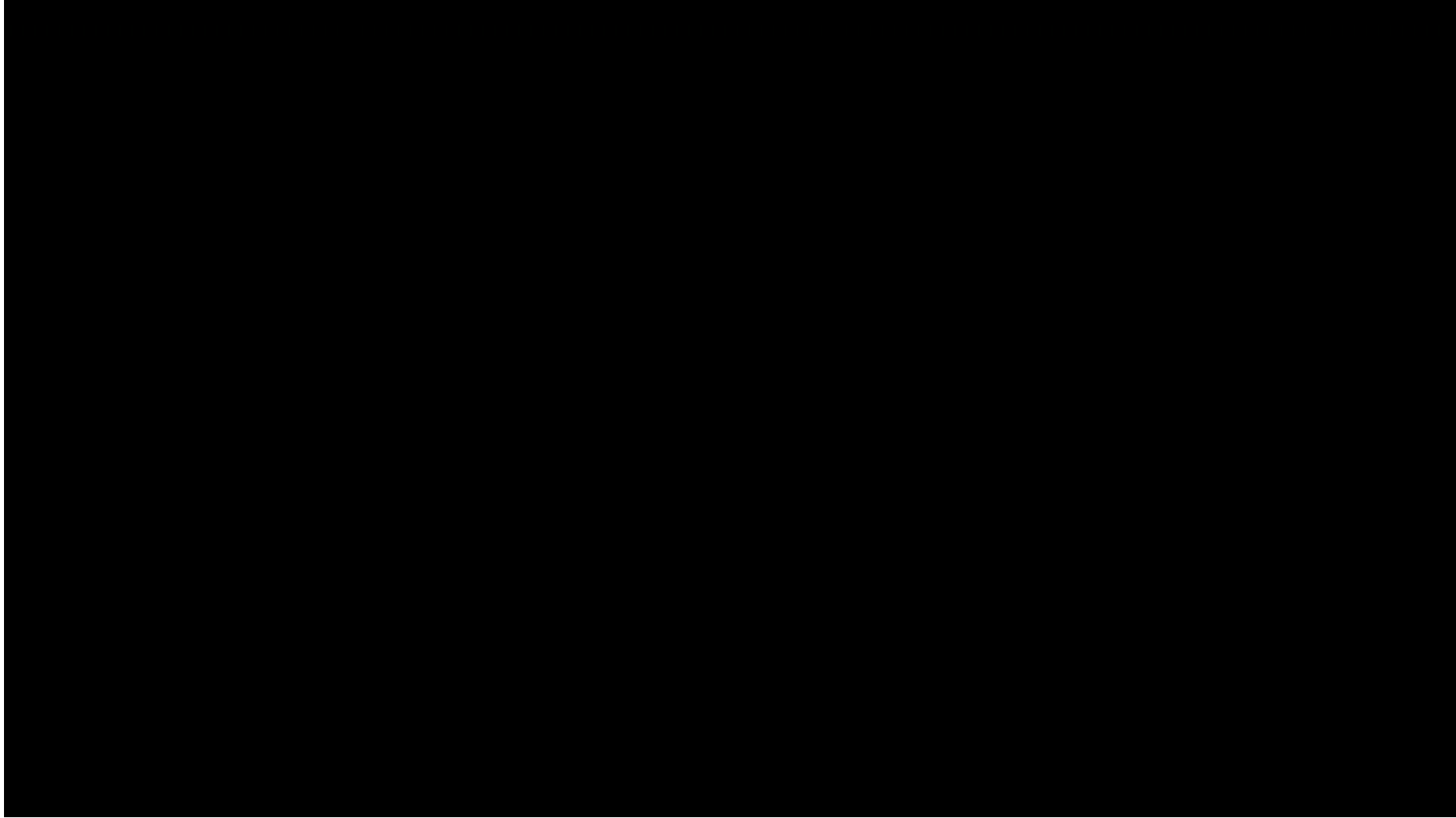
The experiment:

- Positron beam line and trapping equipment
- Pbar line from ELENA under hut
- Free fall vessel

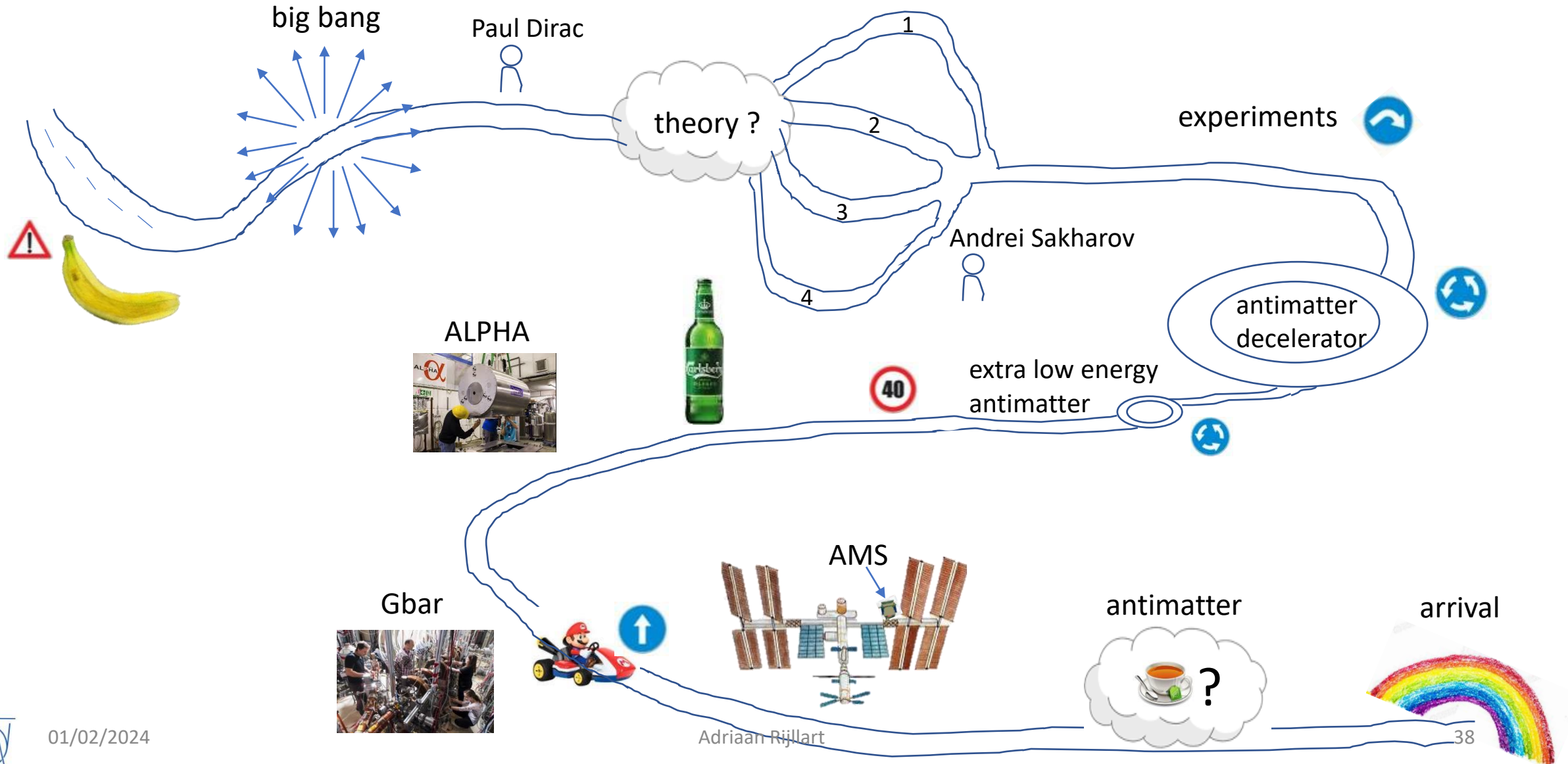


ALPHA-g

Drop antihydrogen in the gravitational field of the earth



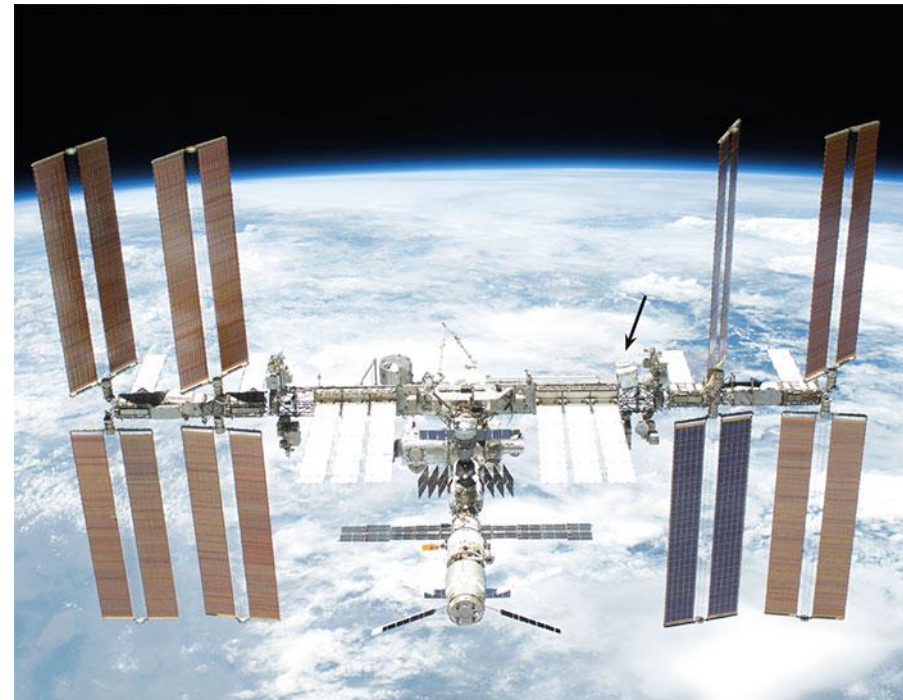
Talk overview



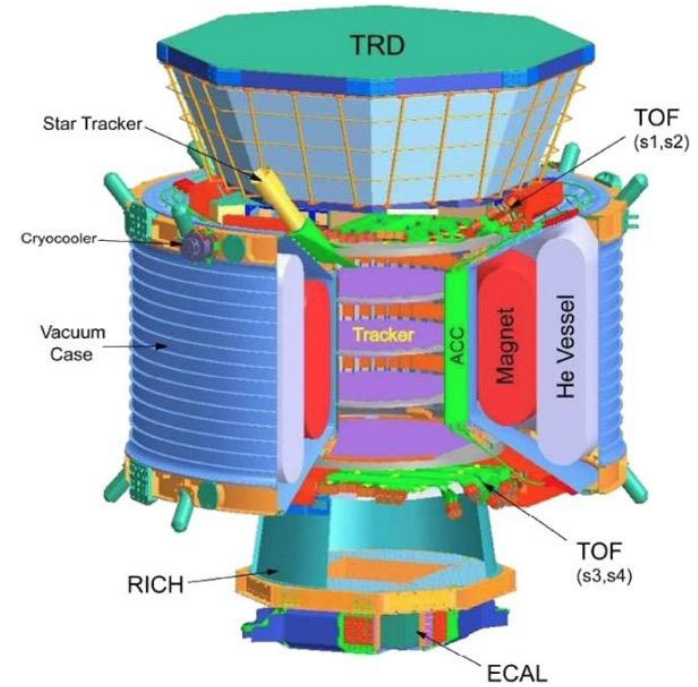
Antimatter in space



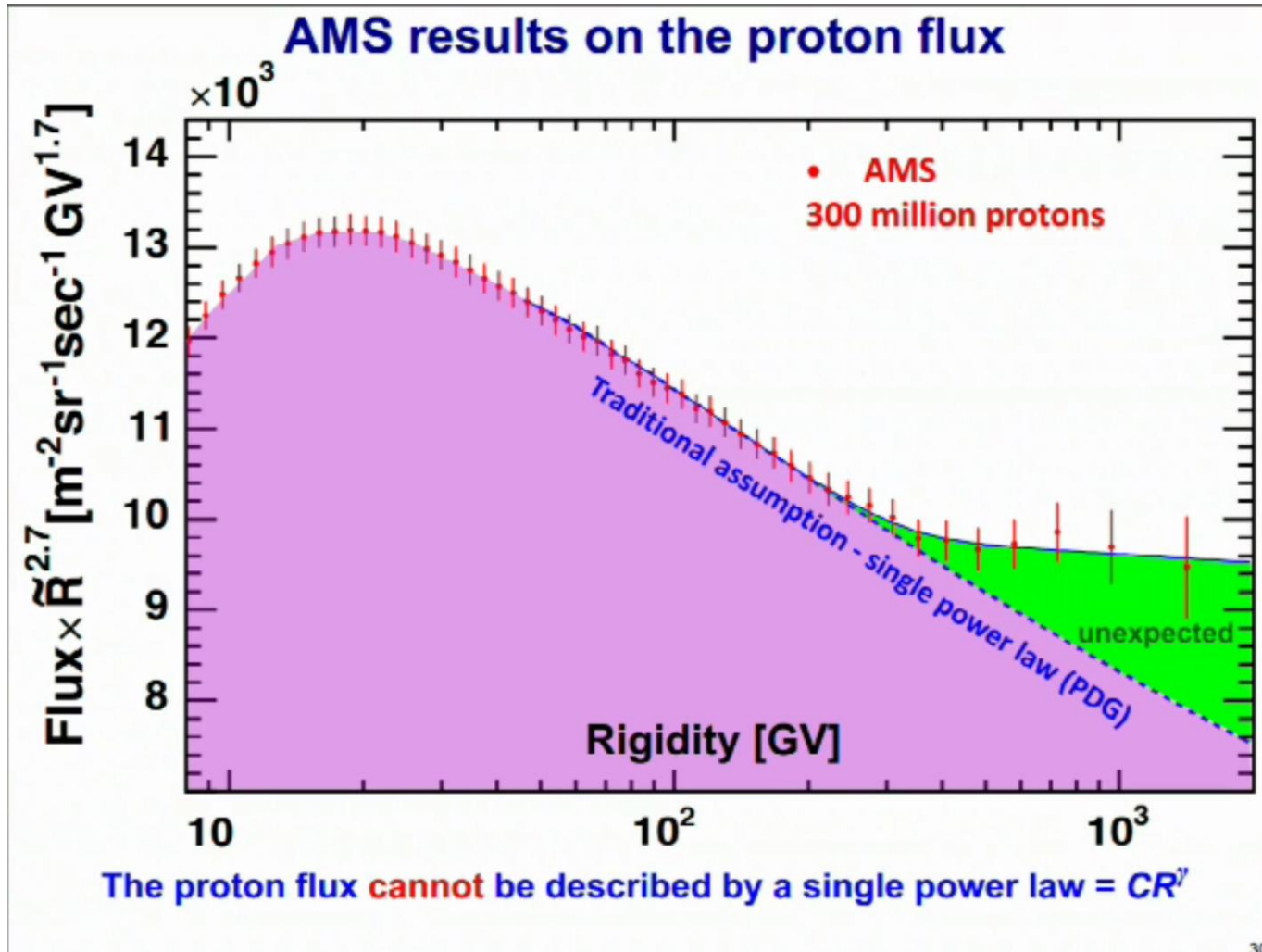
- Charged particles from space collide with the atmosphere and are lost
- To study them, the detector needs to be in space
- The Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS-02) was mounted on the International Space Station (ISS) in 2011



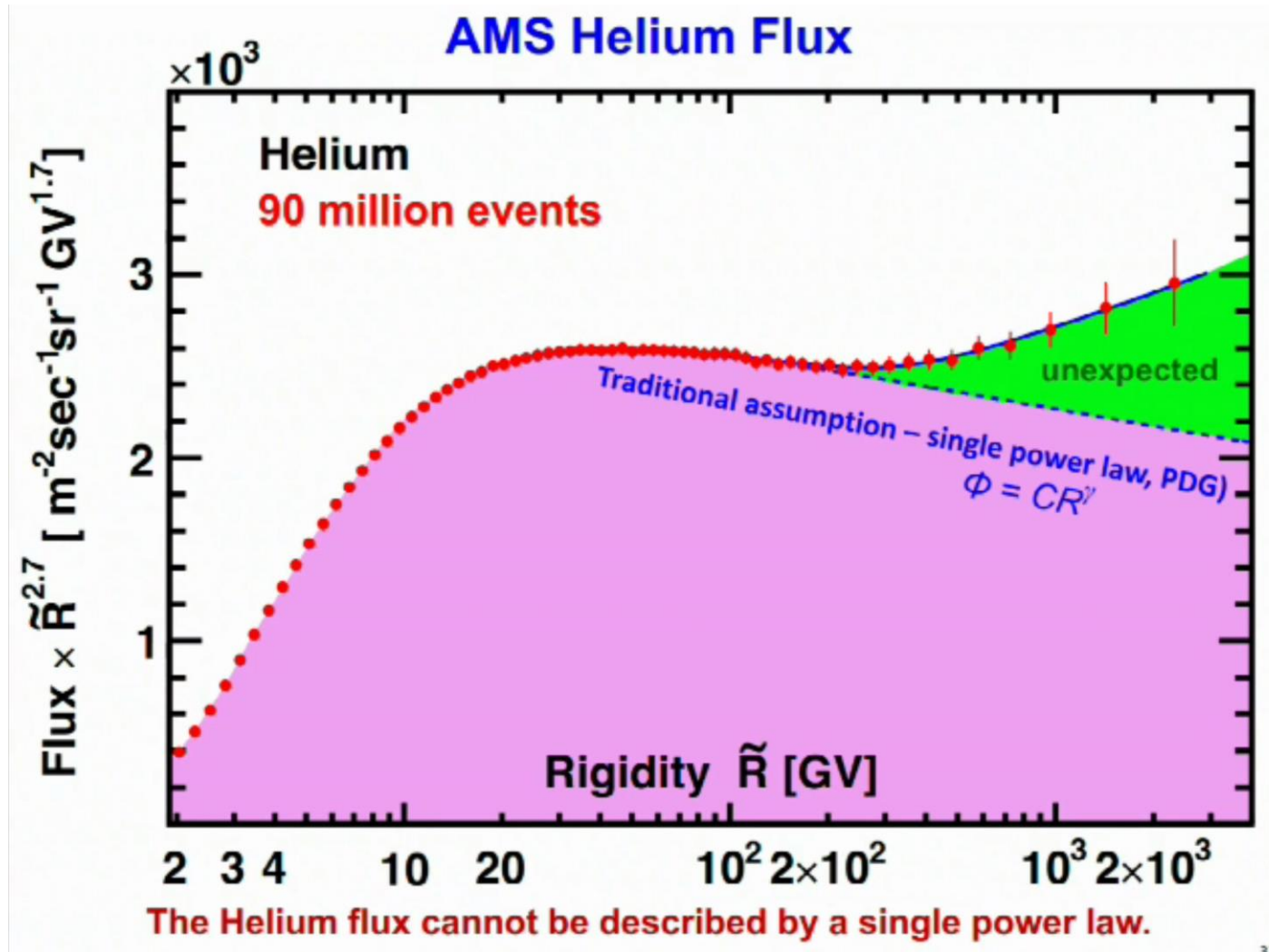
AMS-02



Proton flux

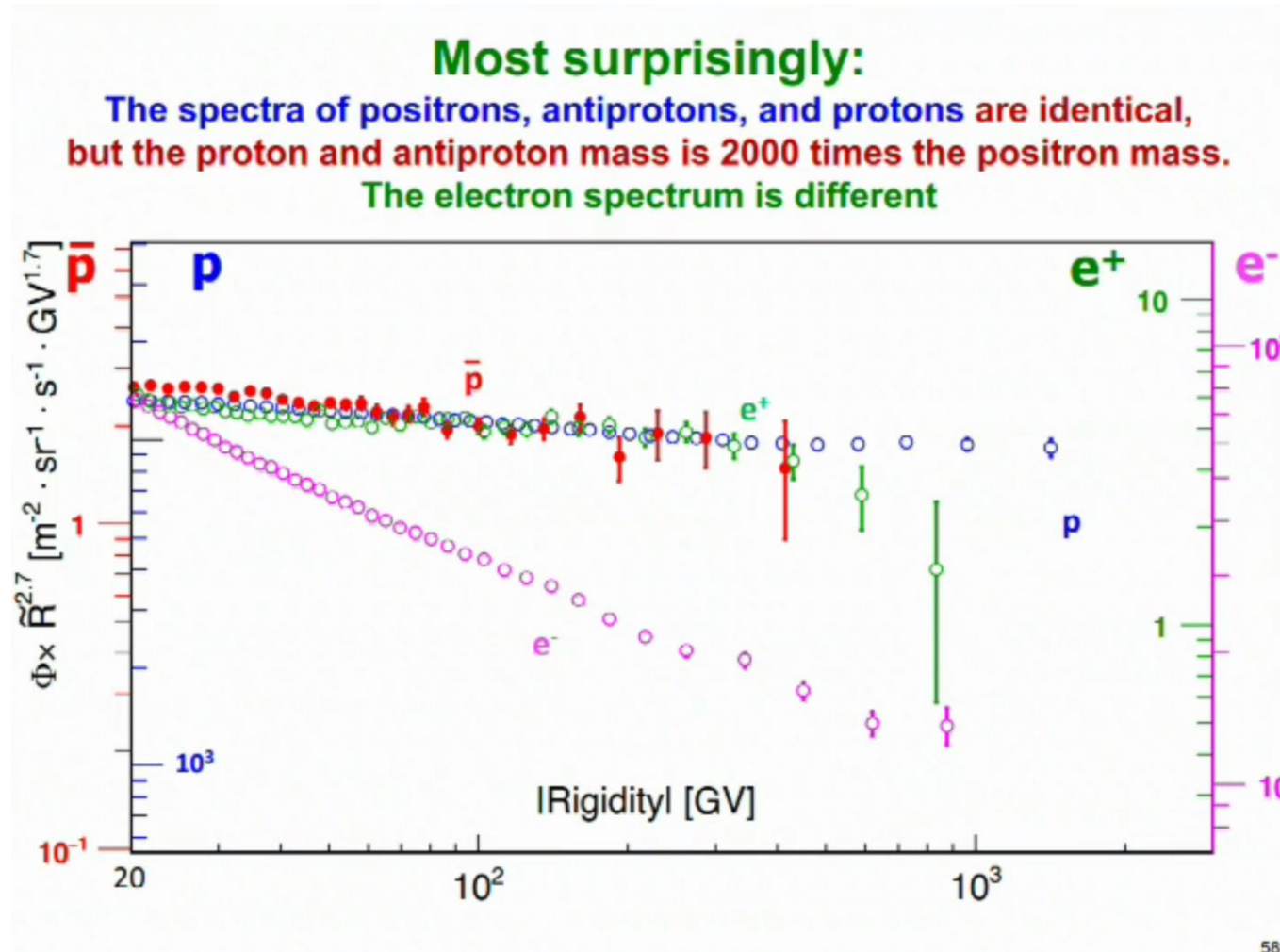


Helium flux



33

AMS-02

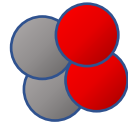


Anti-alpha

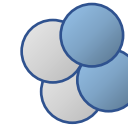
matter particles

antimatter particles

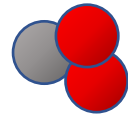
helium-4



antihelium-4

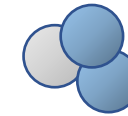


helium-3

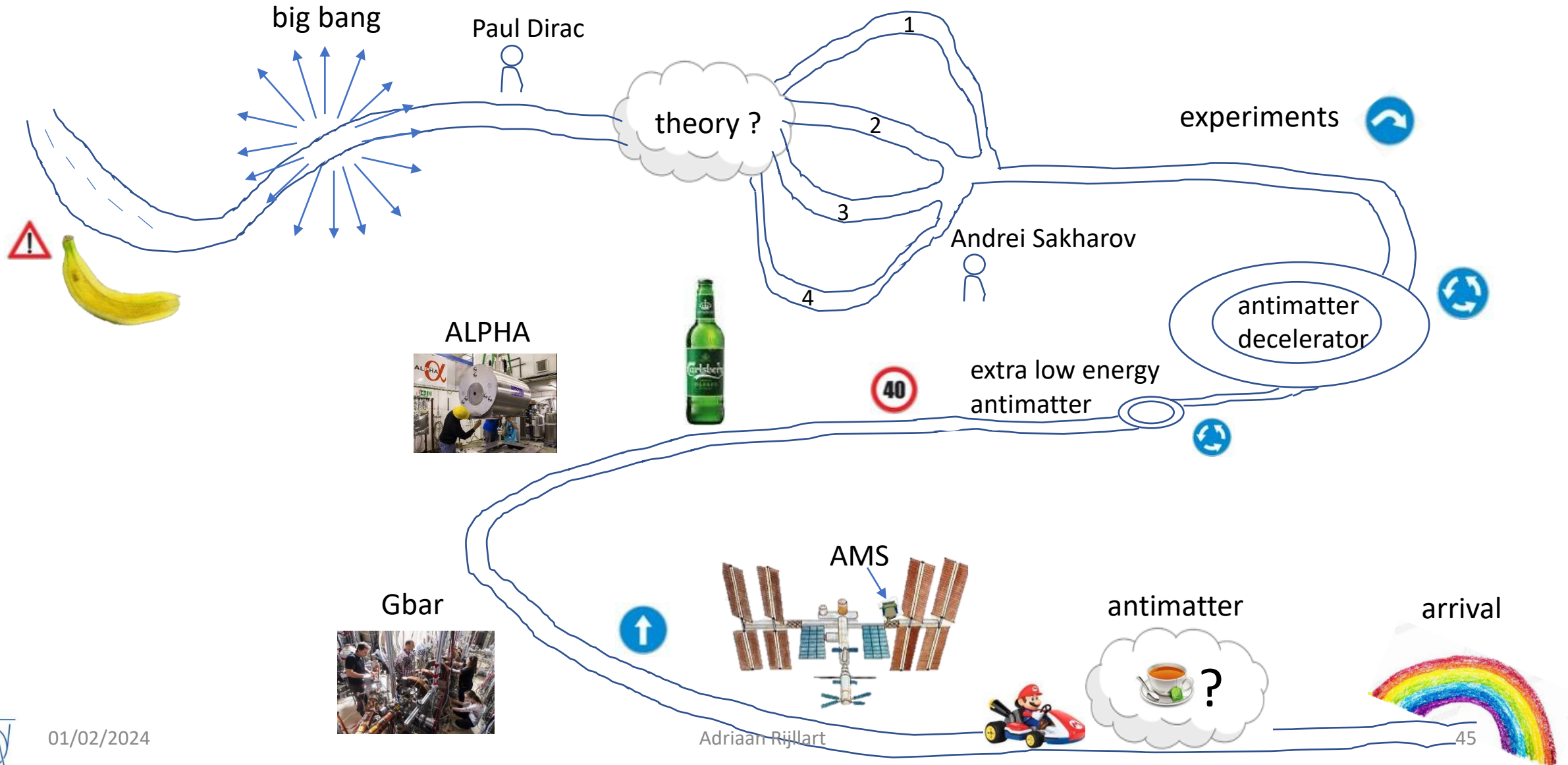


1.38 ppm

antihelium-3



Talk overview

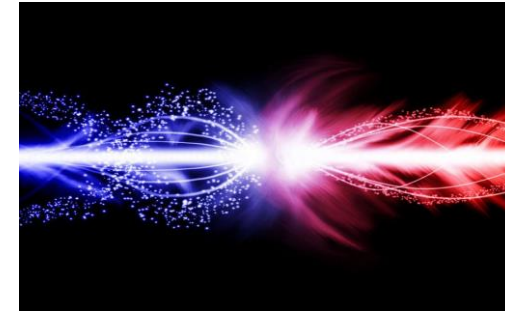


Energy release

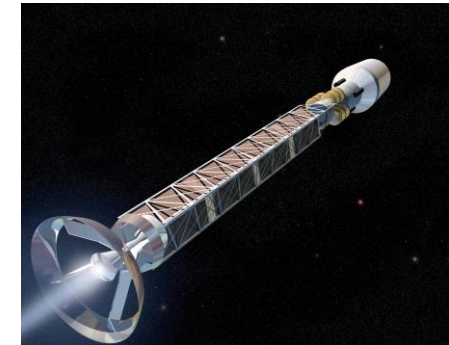
1 g antimatter + 1 g matter = 43 kilotons TNT explosion (10^{14} J)

1000 times more than nuclear fission per gram

100 times more than nuclear fusion per gram



US project in 2004: to investigate the use of antimatter as rocket fuel

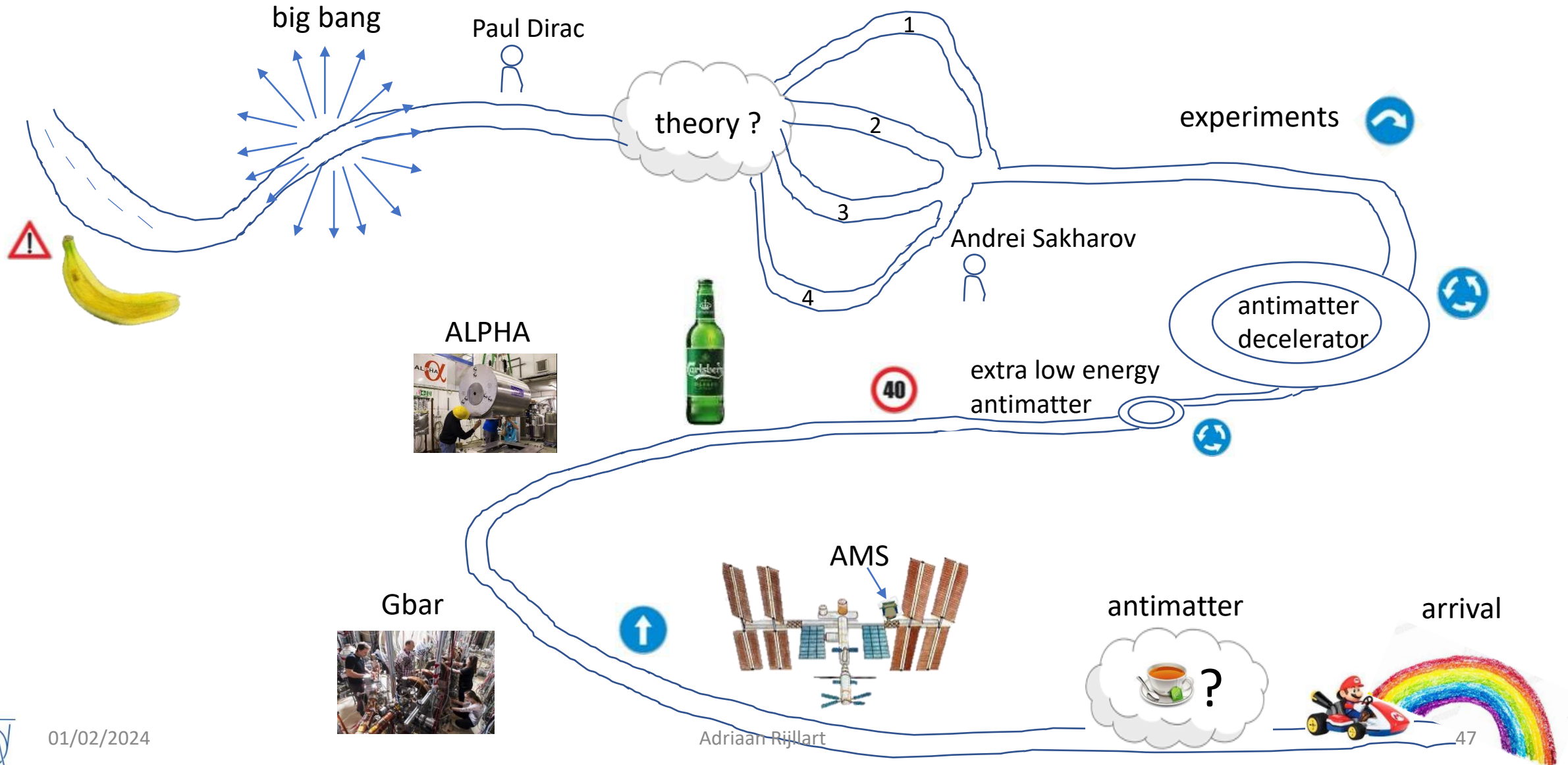


For CERN antimatter factory to accumulate 1 g of antiprotons will take at 30 million years (taking 100% efficiency)

In 20 years the amount of energy produced in the form of antimatter at CERN would barely heat a cup of tea



Talk overview



Maybe one day ...

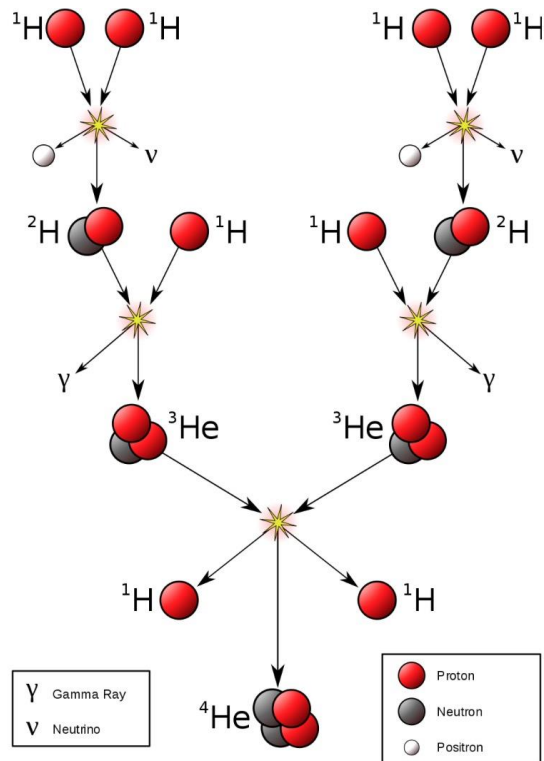
from Star Trek



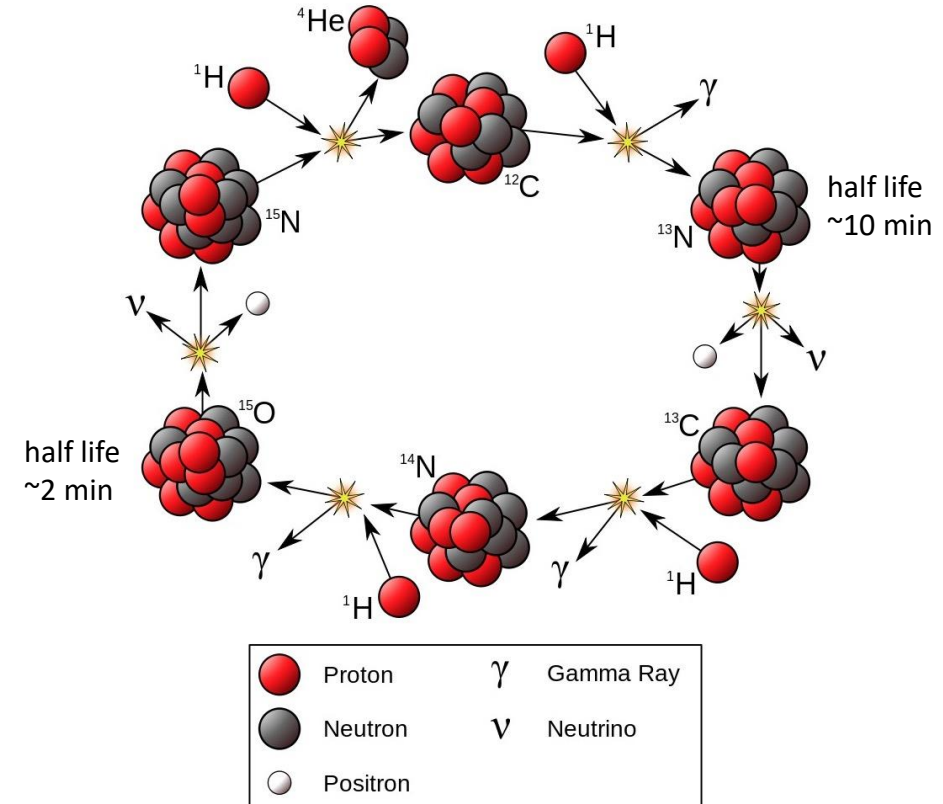
Thank you for your participation !!

Ratio of C/O and N/O

Light stars: hydrogen fusion



Massive stars: CNO cycle catalysed fusion



In the Solar System:

In Galactic Cosmic Rays:

C/O = 0.54

C/O = 0.90

N/O = 0.17

N/O = 0.09