Driving from Chicago to Buenos Aires: instrumentation schools during a road trip across the Americas

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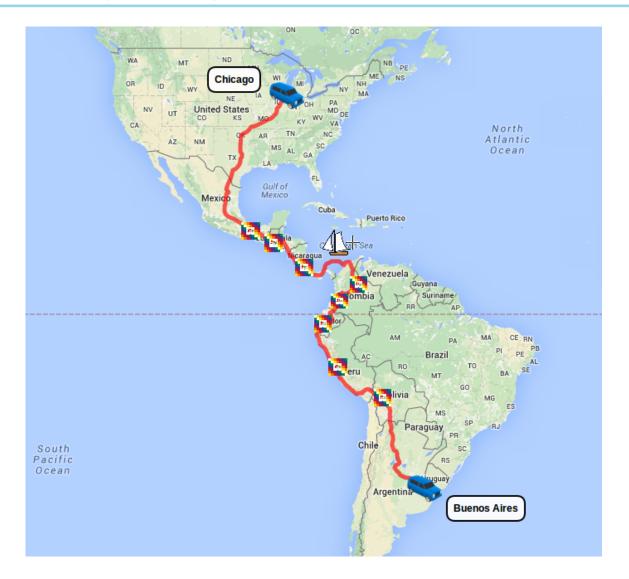




- Series of eight Instrumentation courses
 - Latinamerican Institutions
 - Graduates and advanced undergraduates
- Cosmic rays detector: common thread for covered topic
 - Assembled by students
 - One functional by the end of each session
 - Donated to the institution
- Topics
 - Particle physics
 - Interaction of radiation with matter
 - Front-end electronics
 - Data analysis (C++/ROOT)

















- Hardware budget ~ 15000 \$
 - Donated by companies and Fermilab
- Visited institutions covered lodging expenses
 - For the five of us
- A local organizer at each site
 - Classrooms, labs
 - Student selection
 - Prepared a minimum of equipment (oscilloscope, gloves, ethanol)
- Five intensive days
 - Construction, characterization, data taking, analysis.



Sponsors



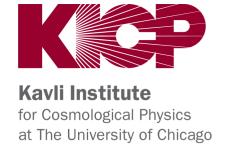




‡ Fermilab











Red de Científicos Argentinos del Medio Oeste de los EE.UU. (RE.C.AR.M.O)



Fermilab and diplomatic support





At the Argentinian consulate in Chicago, along with consular representatives.





















Lectures in the classroom







Laboratory explanations

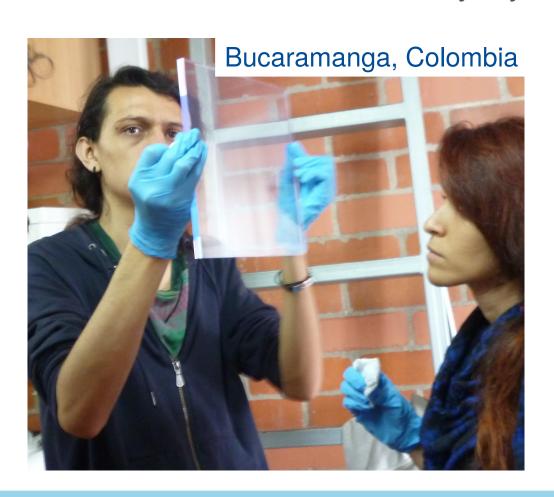




The detector



Plastic scintillators → Donated by Eljen Technology







The detector



Silicon Photomultipliers → Donated by SensL







The detector



DAQ electronics → Donated by Fermilab









Data analysis sessions (C++/ROOT)





Extra activities: having fun doing science

→ muon telescope to study volcanoes













Pasto, Colombia



Extra activities: having fun doing science

→ cosmic rays rate versus altitude

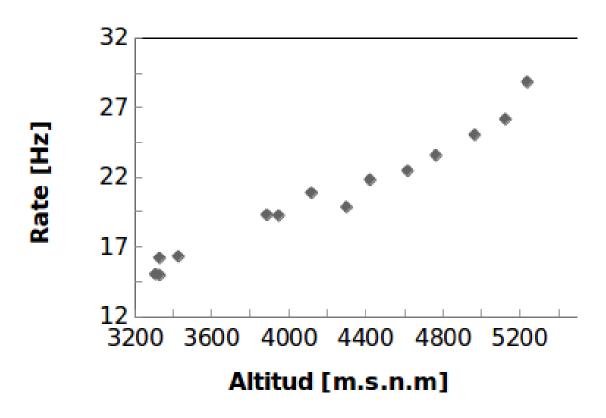




La Paz, Bolivia







From La Paz (3700 m.a.s.l.) to top of Chacaltaya mount (5200 m.a.s.l.)



Visiting a visiting teacher





Álvaro Chavarría (KICP at UChicago posdoc, left) and Pablo Moisteiro (INFN at Sapienza posdoc, on a knee).

Funds from UChicago allowed a larger course at Universidad de Costa Rica

San José, Costa Rica







Use of new technology in the laboratory: cell phone as a goniometer

Pasto, Colombia



Larger impact after the courses: high schools









International Cosmic Day at Chiapas





Cultural and science fair at Chiapas



Outlook



- Three more workshops planned
 - Universidad Federal de Goias (Brazil)
 - Universidad Nacional de Asuncion (Paraguay)
 - Universidad Nacional de Tucuman (Argentina)
- Sites not visited building their own Escaramujo detector
 - Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla (Mexico)
 - Universidad del Atlantico (Colombia)
- Organizing groups and a collaboration around the detectors
 - Regular meetings by video/phone
 - Task groups: calibrate and compare detectors at each site
 - Writing documentation



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