

Ultra-high energy astrophysical cosmic rays and neutrinos: a half-century mystery

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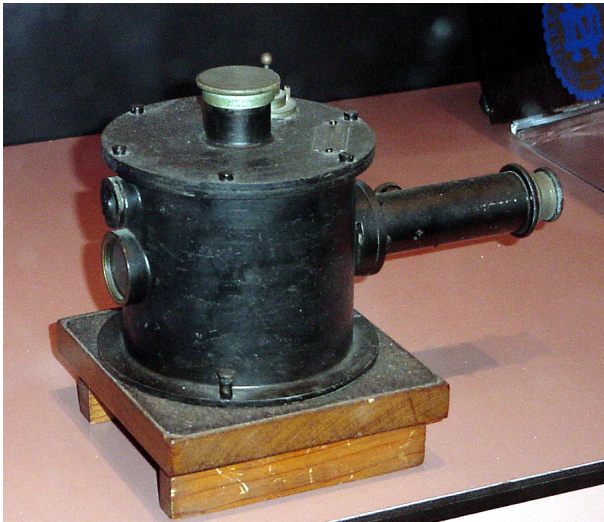
PUCP Physics colloquium
March 11, 2014



1911–1913: the Austrian physicist Victor Hess made balloon flights up to an altitude of 5.3 km



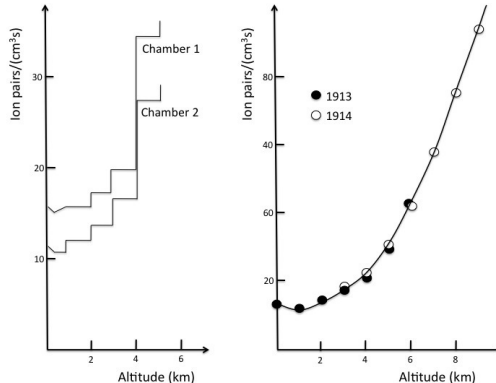
What he found would eventually be known as *cosmic rays*



Original electograph used by Hess in 1911-1912

What did Hess find?

- ▶ ionising radiation decreases up to ~ 1 km of altitude
- ▶ then it rises!



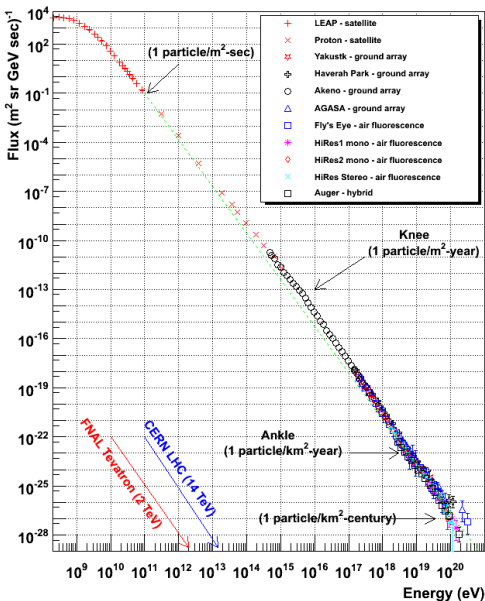
∴ The ionising radiation was not coming from Earth
(nor the Sun!)

Quoting Hess:

“The results of my observation are best explained by the assumption that a radiation of very great penetrating power enters our atmosphere from above.”

1920s: Robert Millikan coined the term “cosmic ray”

1936: Nobel Prize in Physics 1936 to Hess, “for his discovery of cosmic radiation”



- ▶ they are mostly protons
- ▶ they span 12 orders of magnitude in energy
- ▶ spectrum is a power-law with two breaks: **knee** and **ankle**
- ▶ low energy: from the Sun
- ▶ higher energy: from Milky Way
- ▶ highest energy: extragalactic?

Our cosmic-ray detectors have also changed:



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1962: discovery of UHECRs (ultra-high energy cosmic rays) at the Park Ranch Experiment, New Mexico



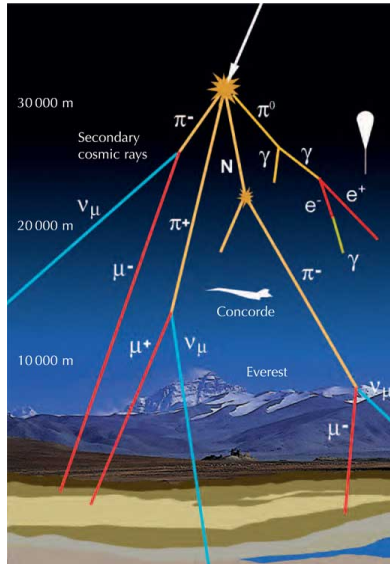
$> 10^{18}$ eV – most energetic particles in known Universe

After fifty years, UHECRs are still a mystery:

- ▶ *where* are they produced?
- ▶ *how* are they produced?
- ▶ *what* are they (protons, atomic nuclei)?

We are now in a position to start giving definite answers

Neutrinos (and gamma-rays) are key to solving the mystery



The flux of UHECRs is **very low**: 1 particle / km² / century

Modern experiments detect the secondary particles of the air showers, not the primary

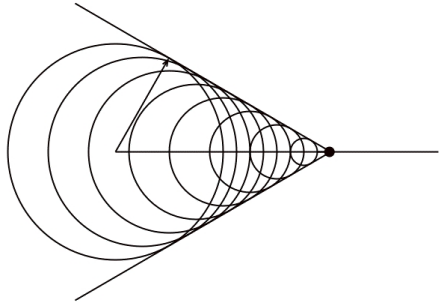
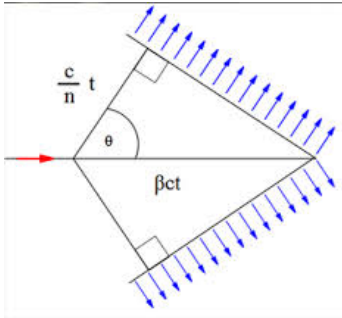
Two main detection methods:

- ▶ **in water**: Cherenkov light inside water tanks
- ▶ **in air**: detection of fluorescence emission

Let us take a short detour about Cherenkov radiation ▶

Cherenkov radiation

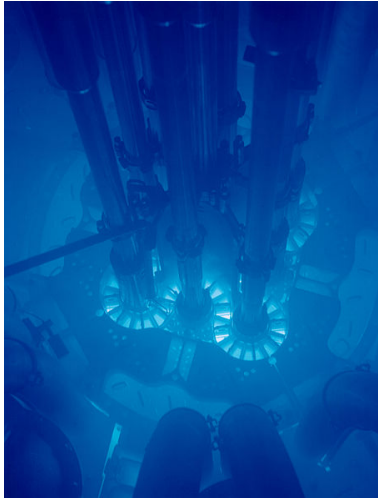
Occurs when a charged particle travels faster than light in a medium:



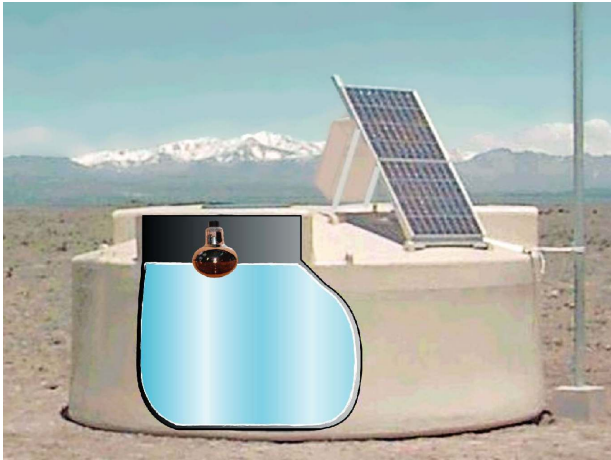
Cherenkov radiation



Cherenkov radiation

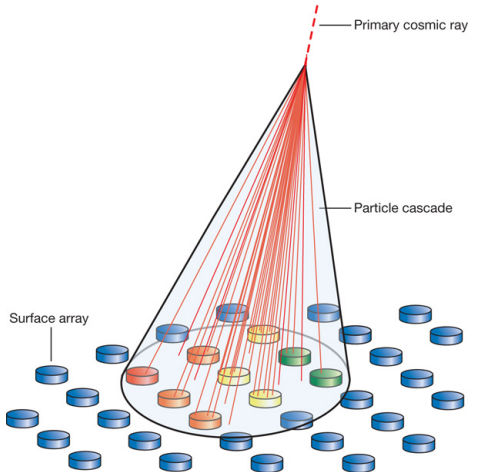


Surface CR detectors



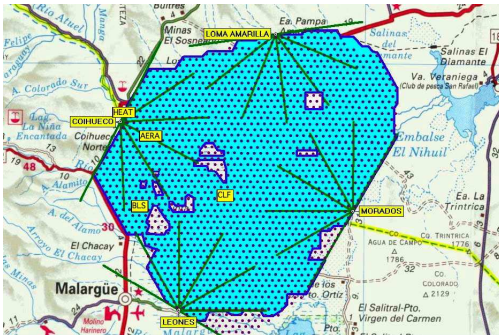
Pierre Auger Observatory

Surface CR detectors



Nature

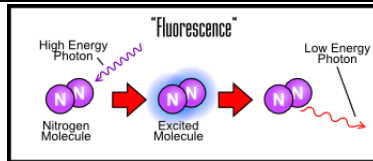
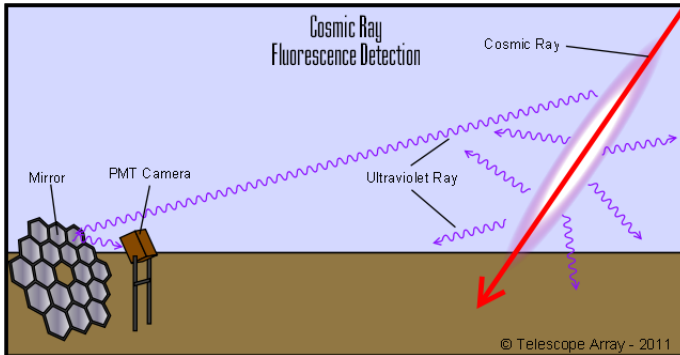
Surface CR detectors



Pierre Auger Observatory:

- ▶ In Malargüe, Argentina
- ▶ 1600 water tanks
- ▶ Each one holds 1200 L of water
- ▶ Distance between tanks: 1.5 km
- ▶ 3000 km² of instrumented area
- ▶ Plus four air fluorescence detectors (FDs)

Fluorescence detectors



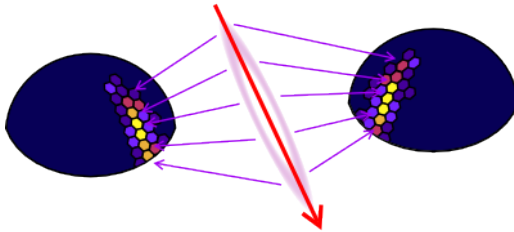
At Auger: 330-380 nm UV

Fluorescence detectors



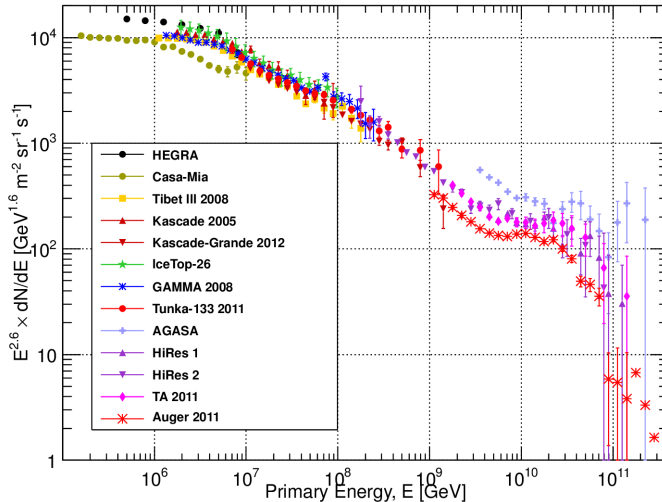
Telescope Array

Fluorescence detectors

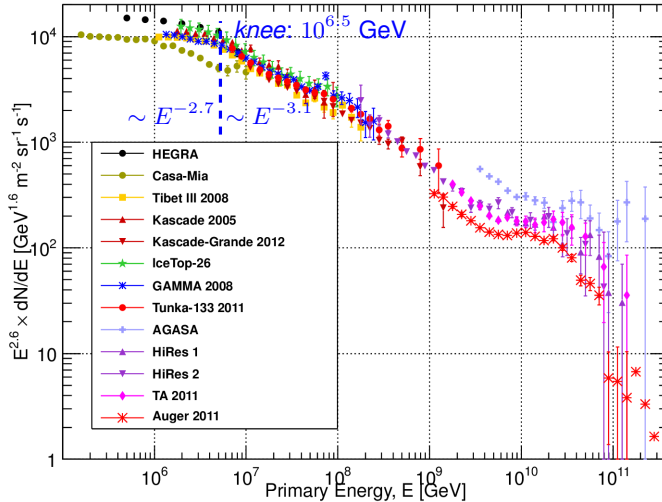


Telescope Array

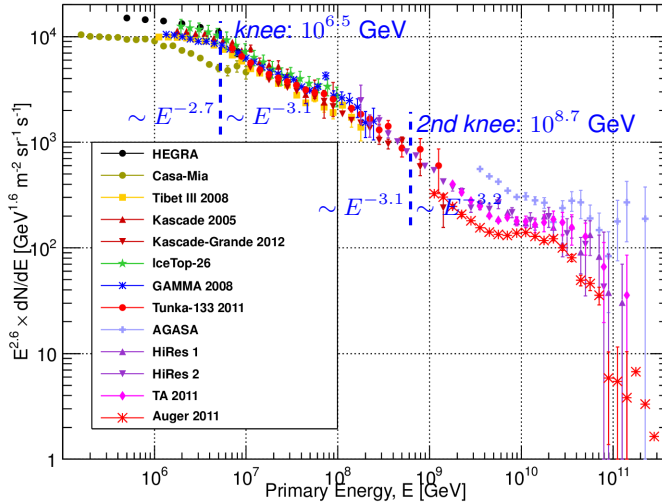
Using a combination of both methods, air-shower detectors have measured the UHECR spectrum:



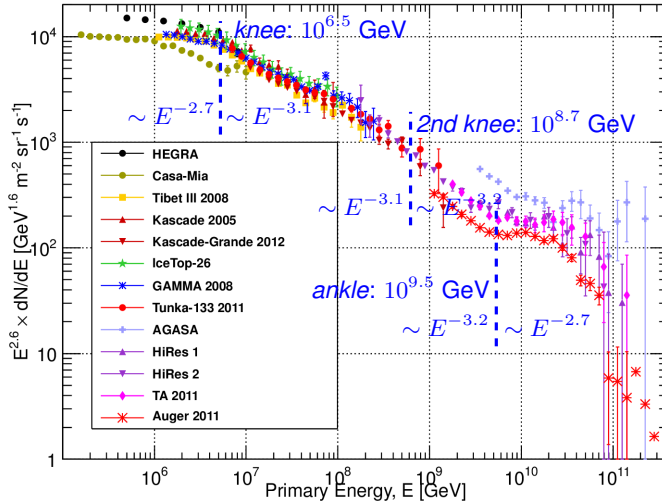
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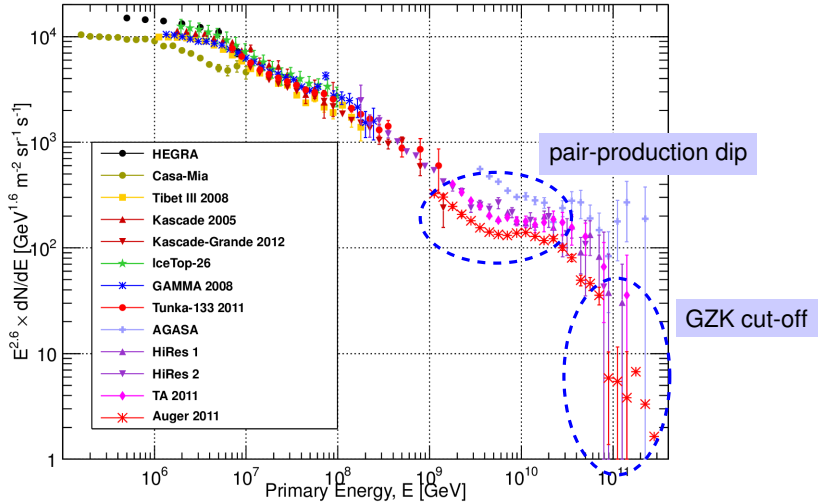
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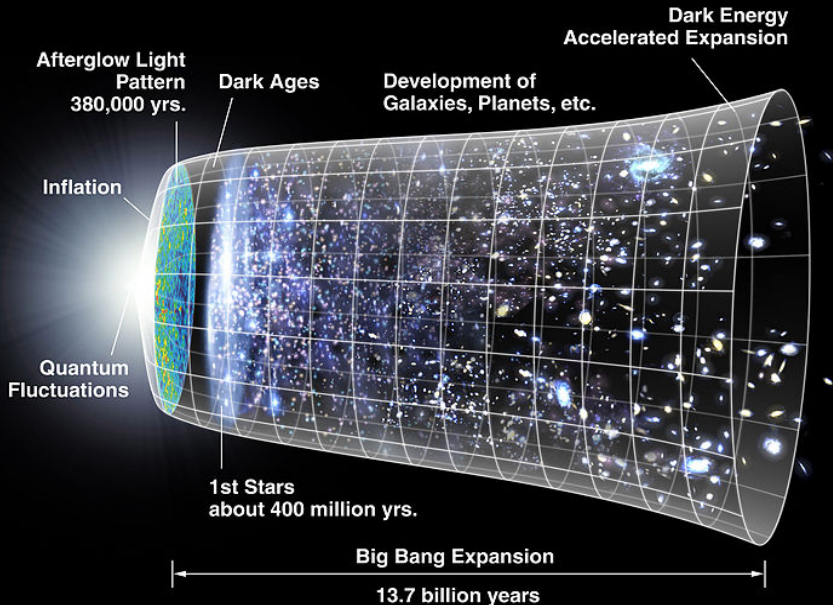
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Detour: some necessary cosmology



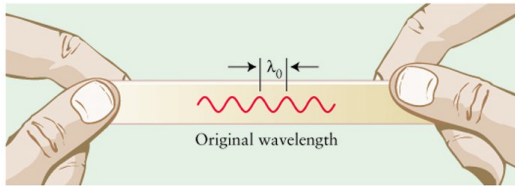
Cosmological redshift

Fact: the Universe is expanding

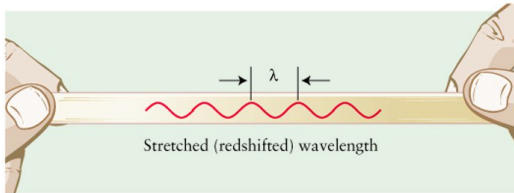
Assume that a photon has a wavelength

- ▶ λ_{emit} at emission time; and
- ▶ λ_{obs} when observed, today at Earth

Cosmological redshift



(a) A wave drawn on a rubber band ...



(b) ... increases in wavelength as the rubber band is stretched.

Cosmological redshift

The redshift z measures how much the wavelength is stretched:

$$1 + z = \lambda_{\text{obs}} / \lambda_{\text{emit}}$$

Because energy $E \propto 1/\lambda$, the photon cools down as the Universe expands, *i.e.*,

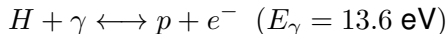
$$E_{\text{obs}}(z) = E_{\text{emit}} / (1 + z)$$

and ...

the higher z , the further back in time we look
($t_{\text{emit}} \propto (1 + z)^{-3/2}$).

The cosmic microwave background (CMB)

Shortly after the Big Bang, the Universe was so hot (> 4000 K) that the following process occurred back and forth:

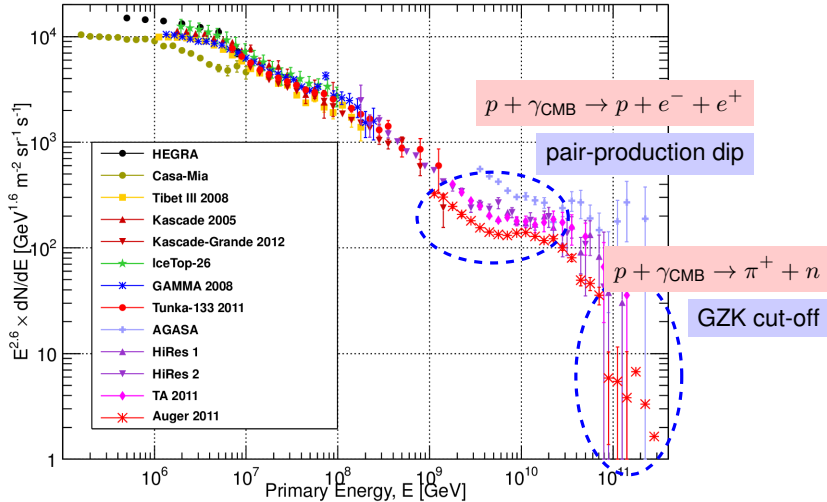


Recombination epoch: 378 000 years later ($z = 1100$)

- ▶ cooled photons are no longer able to ionise the hydrogen
- ▶ $\therefore$ the Universe becomes transparent

Today, these first photons are in the microwave range:
cosmic microwave background (CMB)

So now we know the origin of the UHECR features:



The GZK cut-off

GZK $\equiv$ Greisen-Zatsepin-Kuzmin (1966)

The process $p + \gamma_{\text{CMB}} \rightarrow \Delta^+ (1232) \rightarrow \pi^+ + n$ has a threshold

$$E_{\text{GZK}}^{\text{th}} = \frac{m_{\pi} (m_p + m_{\pi}/2)}{\epsilon_{\text{CMB}}} \approx 6.8 \cdot 10^{10} \left(\frac{\epsilon_{\text{CMB}}}{10^{-3} \text{ eV}} \right) \text{ GeV}$$

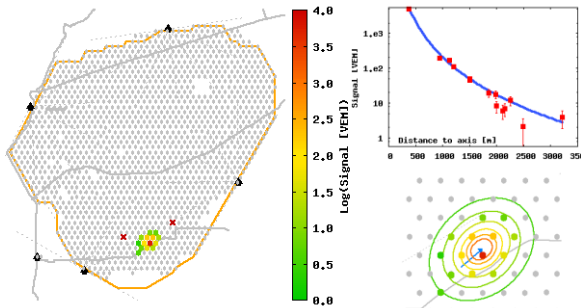
Survival probability of a 10^{11} GeV propagating for a distance d :

$$p(d) \approx \exp \left(\frac{-d}{6.6 \text{ Mpc}} \right) \Rightarrow p(d) < 10^{-4} \text{ for } d = 50 \text{ Mpc}$$

Two conclusions

- ① The maximum CR energy is $\sim 10^{11}$ GeV
- ② UHECRs are created relatively close to us ($\lesssim 50$ Mpc)

This is what a UHE event looks like in Auger:



Id	10485600
Date	Tue Oct 26 17:39:16 2010
No. of stations	14
Energy	49.7 ± 1.9 EeV
Theta	40.2 ± 0.2 deg
Phi	-139.2 ± 0.2 deg
Curvature	10.9 ± 0.5 km
Core Easting	476053 ± 19 m
Core Northing	6079248 ± 12 m
Reduced χ^2	8.36

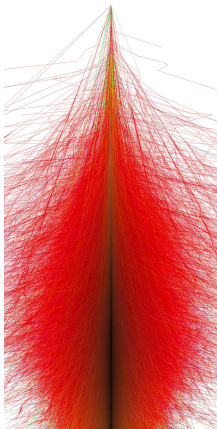
Problem:

So how is the identity of the primary reconstructed from this?

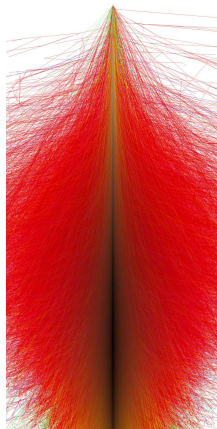
Answer:

use longitudinal air shower development information
from the fluorescence detectors

10^6 GeV proton



10^6 GeV Fe-56 nucleus



VS.

F. SCHMID, UNIV. LEEDS

Number of cascading particles evolves as (Gaisser & Hillas):

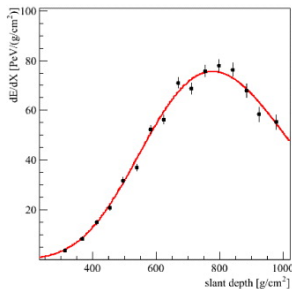
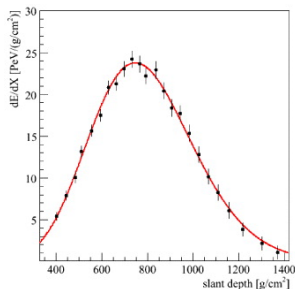
$$N(x) = N_{\max} \left(\frac{x - x_0}{x_{\max} - x_0} \right)^{(x_{\max} - x_0 / \Lambda)} \exp \left(\frac{x_{\max} - x}{\Lambda} \right)$$

x : slant depth, i.e., column density traversed (g cm^{-2})

$x_{\max}$: depth of shower maximum

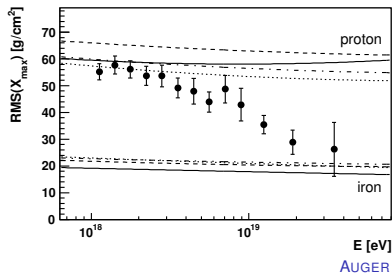
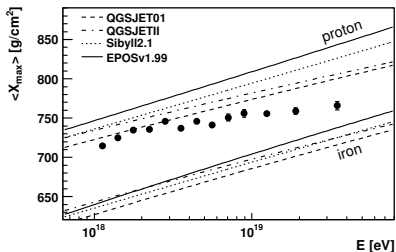
x_0 : related to depth of first interaction in the atmosphere

Using the FDs, measure $N(x)$, $x_{\max}$ for each shower:



$\langle x_{\max} \rangle$: average value of $x_{\max}$ among all showers

Compare these data to the simulated $\langle x_{\max} \rangle$ assuming a proton or Fe primary:



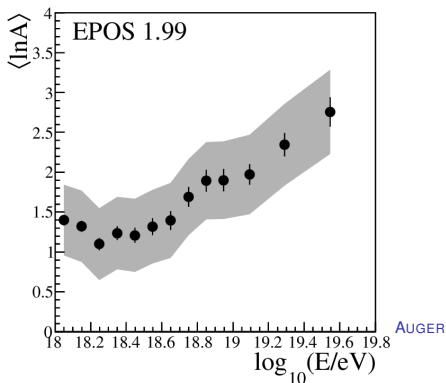
AUGER

There is a tendency towards heavier composition
at very high energies

$\langle x_{\max} \rangle$ is related to the average mass number $\langle \ln A \rangle$
(Heitler-Matthews model):

$$\langle x_{\max} \rangle = \alpha (\ln E - \langle \ln A \rangle) + \beta$$

α, β : from hadronic interactions (cross section, multiplicity, etc.)



Two considerations:

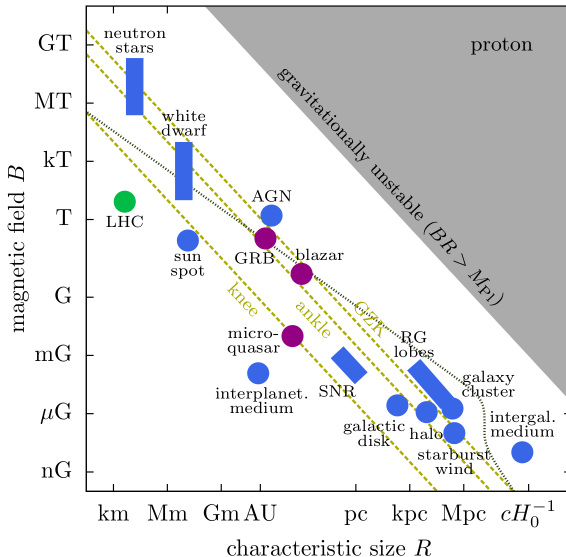
- ① Charged particles (Z) are assumed to be accelerated by intense magnetic fields in astrophysical sources
- ② For the acceleration to be maintained, the gyroradius should be smaller than the size of the acceleration region

$$\text{Larmor radius: } R_L = \frac{1.1}{Z} \left(\frac{E}{\text{EeV}} \right) \left(\frac{B}{\mu\text{G}} \right)^{-1}$$

Hillas criterion: $R_L < R$

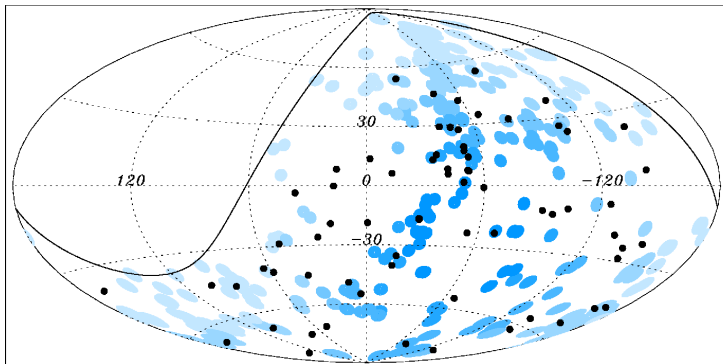
This limits the maximum energy:

$$E_{\text{max}} \simeq Z \left(\frac{B}{\mu\text{G}} \right) \left(\frac{R}{\text{kpc}} \right) \cdot 10^9 \text{ GeV}$$



- ▶ 69 CRs with > 55 EeV observed at Auger
- ▶ Compare arrival directions to positions of 318 known AGN within 75 Mpc

Circles of 3.1° centered around each source



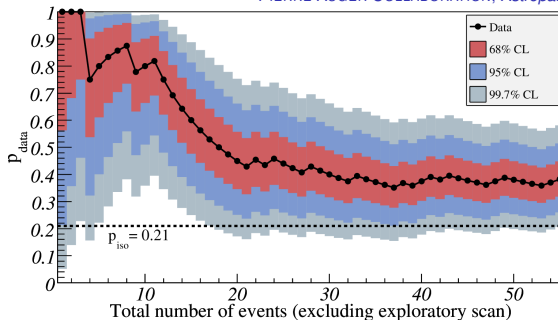
PIERRE AUGER COLLABORATION, *Astropart. Phys.* **34**, 314 (2010)

Degree of correlation: $p_{\text{data}} = k/N$

k : number of UHECRs correlated to sources

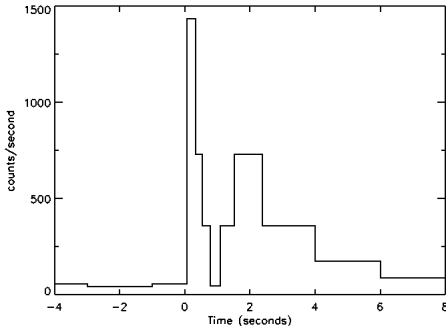
N : total number of UHECRs

PIERRE AUGER COLLABORATION, *Astropart. Phys.* **34**, 314 (2010)



Auger found $p_{\text{data}} = 0.38^{+0.07}_{-0.06}$ – inconclusive when compared to the value for an isotropic distribution of sources, $p_{\text{iso}} = 0.21$

1967: the nuclear-test-monitoring satellites Vela discover the following gamma-ray-pulse

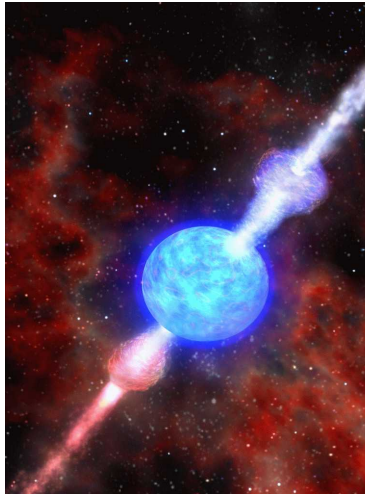


What is was not:

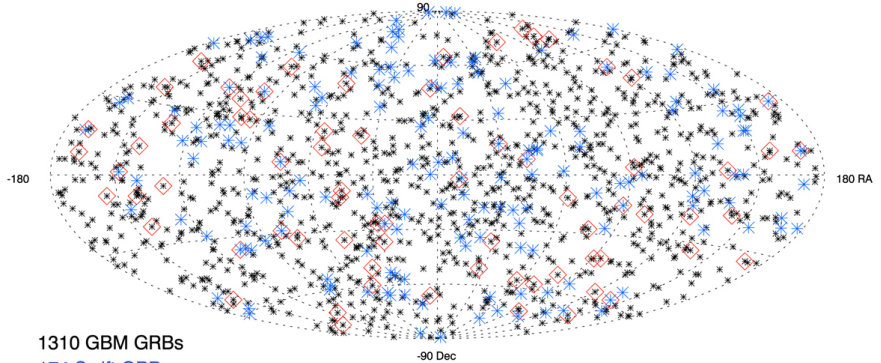
- ▶ a nuclear explosion (too long)
- ▶ a solar flare
- ▶ a new supernova

So what was it?

Probably something like this . . .



Fermi GRBs as of 140218

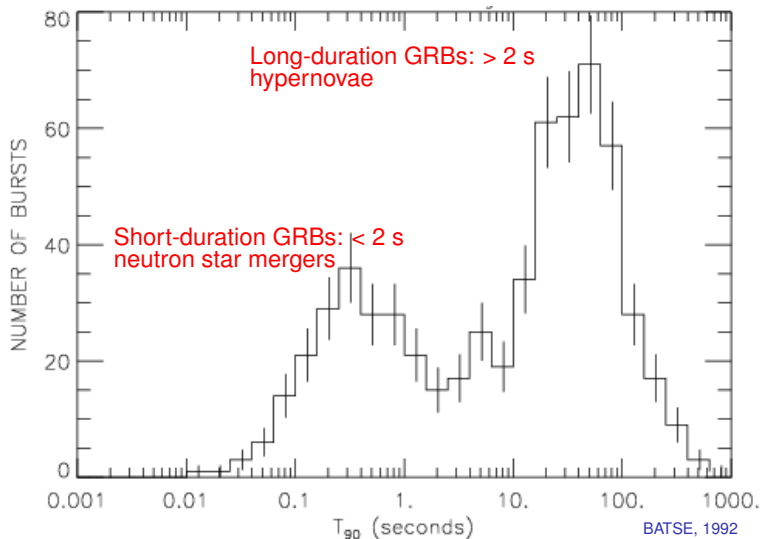


1310 GBM GRBs

174 Swift GRBs

73 LAT GRBs

Two populations of GRBs:



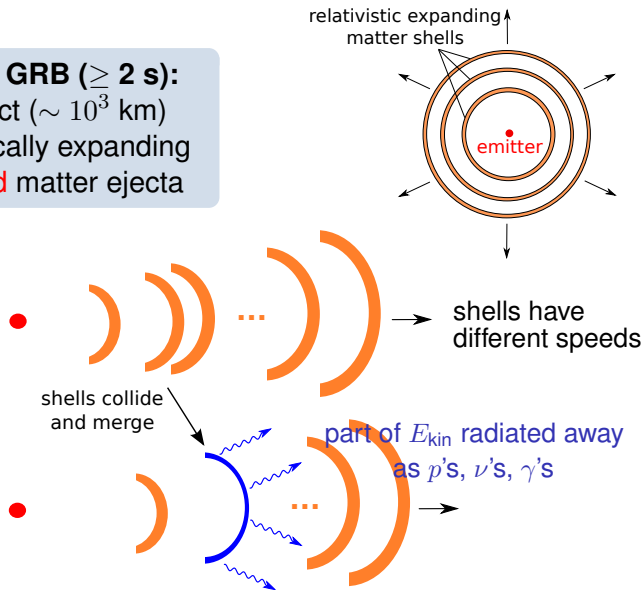
GRBs are among the best candidate UHECR sources:

- ▶ radiated energy of $\sim 10^{52} - 10^{53}$ erg
- ▶ intense magnetic fields of $\sim 10^5$ G
- ▶ magnetically-confined p 's shock-accelerated to $\sim 10^{12}$ GeV

Problem: experiments (IceCube, ANTARES) are starting to strongly constrain the simplest emission models

Solution: we need to build more realistic models!

Long-duration GRB (≥ 2 s):
a compact object ($\sim 10^3$ km)
emits relativistically expanding
baryonic-loaded matter ejecta



Joint production of UHECRs, ν 's, and γ 's:

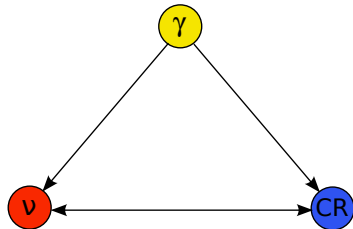
$$p\gamma \rightarrow \Delta^+ (1232) \rightarrow \begin{cases} n\pi^+, & \text{BR} = 1/3 \\ p\pi^0, & \text{BR} = 2/3 \end{cases}$$

$$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu e^+ \nu_e \nu_\mu$$

$$\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$$

$$n \text{ (escapes)} \rightarrow p e^- \bar{\nu}_e$$

(Δ^+ : $\sim 50\%$ of all $p\gamma$ interactions)

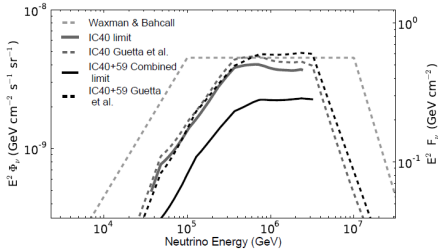


After propagation, with flavour mixing:

$$\nu_e : \nu_\mu : \nu_\tau : p = 1 : 1 : 1 : 1$$

(“one ν_μ per cosmic ray”)

The *simplest* neutron model is now strongly disfavoured ►



IceCube Collaboration:

- ν flux normalised to GRB γ fluence:

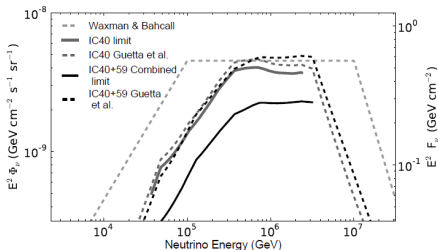
$$\int_0^\infty dE_\nu E_\nu F_\nu(E_\nu) \propto \int_{1 \text{ keV}}^{10 \text{ MeV}} d\varepsilon_\gamma \varepsilon_\gamma F_\gamma(\varepsilon_\gamma)$$

- quasi-diffuse ν flux from 117 GRBs
- **analytical calculation** – in tension with upper bounds

ICECUBE COLL., *Nature* **484**, 351 (2012)

AHLERS ET AL. *Astropart. Phys.* **35**, 87 (2011)

GUETTA ET AL. *Astropart. Phys.* **20**, 429 (2004)



More detailed particle physics (NeuCosmA):

- ▶ extra multi- π , K , n production modes
- ▶ synchrotron losses of secondaries
- ▶ adiabatic cooling
- ▶ full photon spectrum, etc.

ν flux $\sim$ one order of magnitude lower

BAERWALD, HÜMMER, WINTER, *PRL* **108**, 231101 (2012)

See also: HE, LIU, WANG, *ApJ* **752**, 29 (2012)

IceCube Collaboration:

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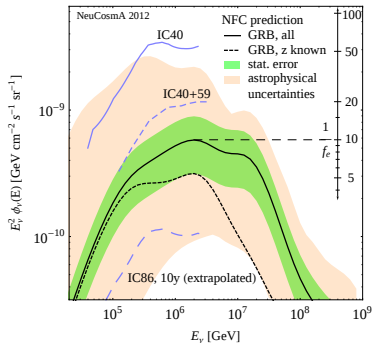
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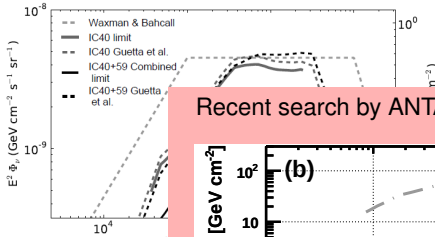
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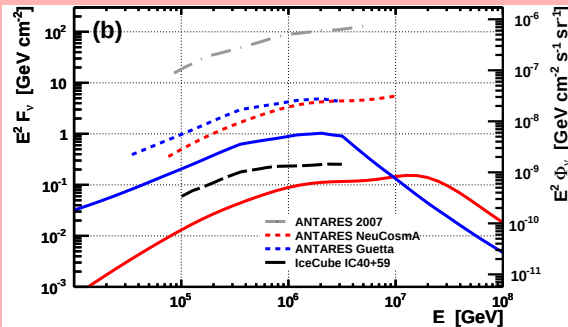




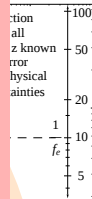
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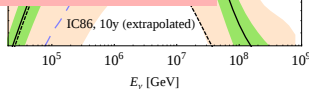
Recent search by ANTARES optimised for NeuCosmA:



...de lower
31101 (2012)
12)



ANTARES Collab., 1307.0304



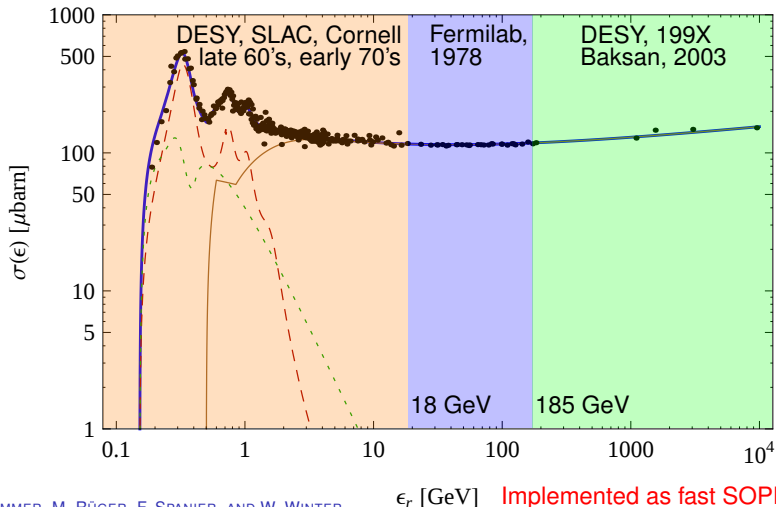
IceCube Collabor

- ▶ ν flux norm

$$\int_0^\infty dE_\nu E_\nu$$

- ▶ quasi-diffus
- ▶ analytical c
- ▶ upper bound

ICECUBE COLL., *Nature* **484**, 351 (2012)
 AHLERS ET AL. *Astropart. Phys.* **35**, 87 (2011)
 GUETTA ET AL. *Astropart. Phys.* **20**, 429 (2004)



S. HÜMMER, M. RÜGER, F. SPANIER, AND W. WINTER,
Astrophys. J. **721**, 630 (2010)

Implemented as fast SOPHIA-based
parametrisation

We use a **Boltzmann equation** to transport protons to Earth:

- ▶ Comoving number density of protons ($\text{GeV}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-3}$):

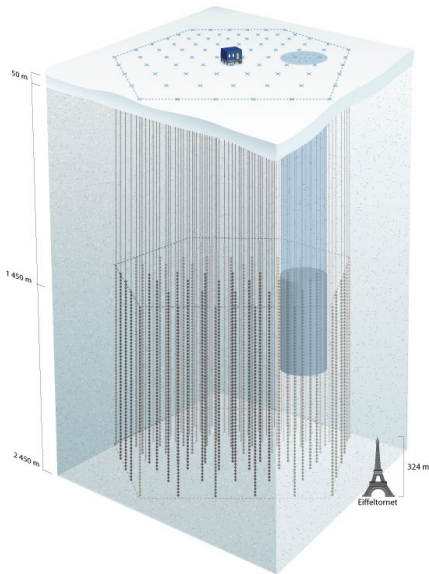
$$Y_p(E, z) = n_p(E, z) / (1 + z)^3 ,$$

with n_p the real number density

- ▶ Transport equation (comoving source frame):

$$\dot{Y}_p = \underbrace{\partial_E (H E Y_p)}_{\text{adiabatic losses}} + \underbrace{\partial_E (b_{e^+e^-} Y_p)}_{\text{pair production losses}} + \underbrace{\partial_E (b_{p\gamma} Y_p)}_{\text{photohadronic losses}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_{\text{CR}}}_{\text{CR injection from sources}}$$

$Q_{\text{CR}}(E) \propto E^{-\alpha_p} e^{-E/E_{p,\text{max}}}$



IceCube: km³ in-ice South Pole
Čerenkov detector

Neutrinos detected through νN
interactions ($N = n, p$)

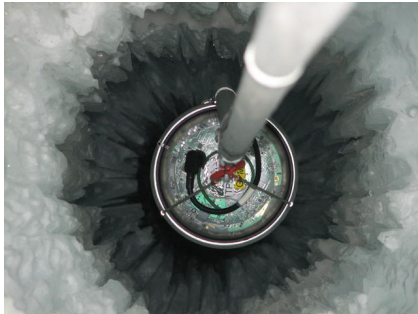
- ▶ **Neutral current:** all flavours
produce hadronic showers
- ▶ **Charged current:** ν_μ 's
leave muon tracks; ν_e/τ
produce showers



IceCube: km³ in-ice South Pole
Čerenkov detector

Neutrinos detected through νN
interactions ($N = n, p$)

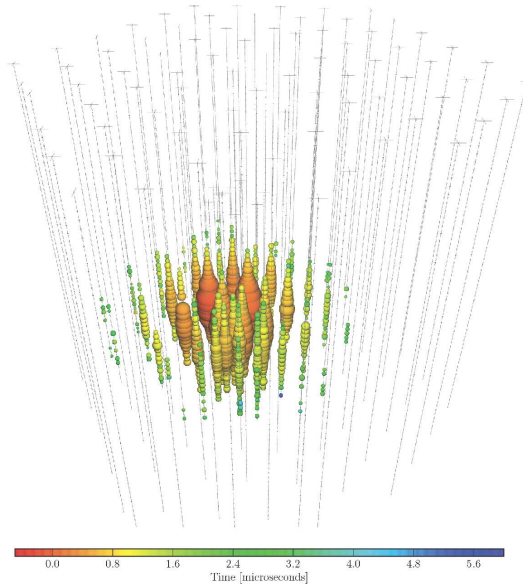
- ▶ **Neutral current:** all flavours
produce hadronic showers
- ▶ **Charged current:** ν_μ 's
leave muon tracks; ν_e/τ
produce showers

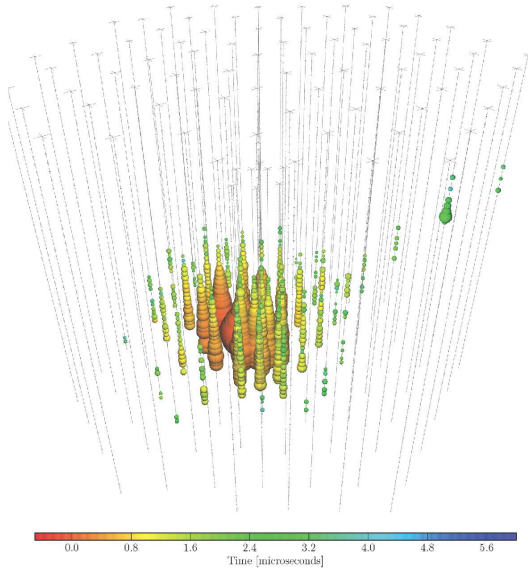


IceCube: km³ in-ice South Pole
Čerenkov detector

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Cosmogenic neutrinos

We have seen that protons interact with the cosmological photon fields (CMB, etc.), *e.g.*,

$$p + \gamma \rightarrow \Delta^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ + n ,$$

and neutrinos are created in the decays of the secondaries:

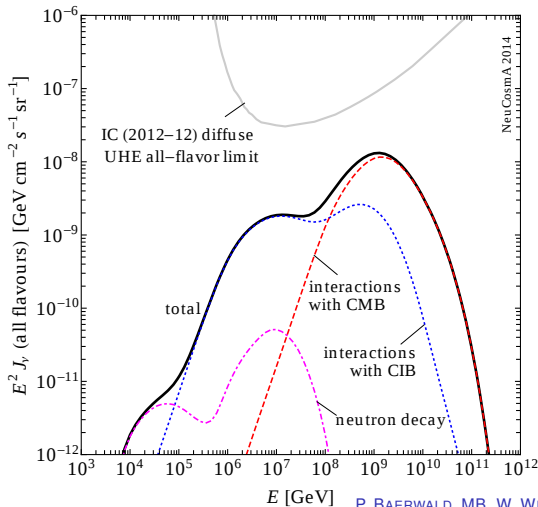
$$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_\mu$$

$$\mu^+ \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu + \nu_e + e^+$$

$$n \rightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$$

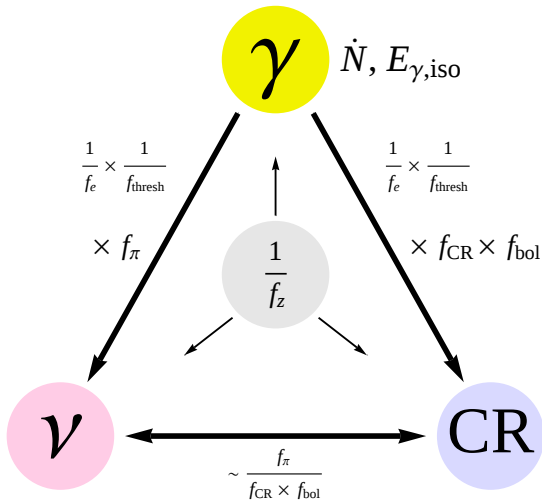
These are called *cosmogenic neutrinos*

Cosmogenic neutrinos



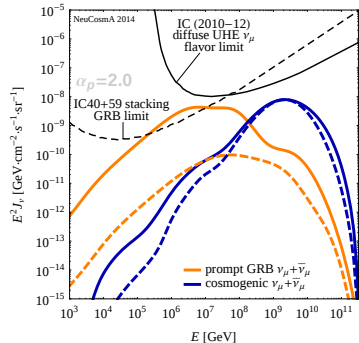
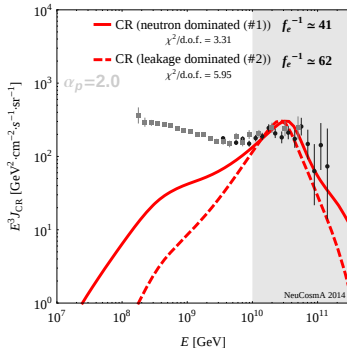
P. BAERWALD, MB, W. WINTER, ARXIV:1401.1820

The big (multi-messenger) picture:



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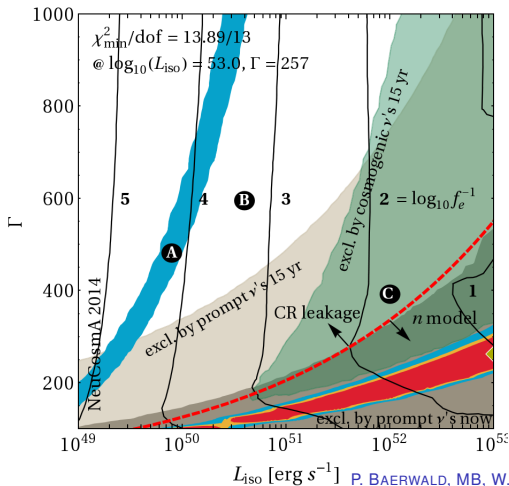
- ▶ Propagate protons to generate a diffuse UHECR flux
- ▶ Normalise to experimental data (shown: HiRes)
- ▶ Carry the normalisation to the prompt and cosmogenic ν fluxes
- ▶ Compare to the neutrino upper bounds by IceCube



P. BAERWALD, MB, W. WINTER, *Astrophys. J.* **768**, 186 (2013)

P. BAERWALD, MB, W. WINTER, ARXIV:1401.1820

direct p escape, $\eta = 1.0$



- ▶ **Auger** will continue taking data:
 - ▶ better composition determination
 - ▶ updates on correlation with sources
 - ▶ more precise determination of the spectrum
- ▶ Perhaps **Auger North** will be built
- ▶ Hopefully a **satellite** to observe atmospheric fluorescence, *e.g.*, JEM-EUSO on the ISS
- ▶ **IceCube** has started detecting EHE events: correlations with GRBs in the future?
- ▶ The **KM3NeT** neutrino telescope might be built in the Mediterranean Sea

The future for UHECR and neutrino research looks bright
Stay tuned!

Backup slides

Secondary injection of neutrons, neutrinos ($\text{GeV}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$)

$$Q'(E') = \int_{E'}^{\infty} \frac{dE'_p}{E'_p} N'_p(E'_p) \int_0^{\infty} c d\varepsilon' N'_\gamma(\varepsilon') R(E', E'_p, \varepsilon')$$

Normalisation to the observed GRB photon flux F_γ

$$\int \varepsilon' N'_\gamma(\varepsilon') d\varepsilon' = \frac{E'_{\text{iso}}}{V'_{\text{iso}}} \propto F_\gamma, \quad \int E'_p N'_p(E'_p) dE'_p = \frac{1}{f_e} \frac{E'_{\text{iso}}}{V'_{\text{iso}}} \propto \frac{F_\gamma}{f_e}$$

Fluence per shell, at Earth ($\text{GeV}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2}$)

$$\mathcal{F}^{\text{sh}} = t_v V'_{\text{iso}} \frac{(1+z)^2}{4\pi d_L^2} Q'$$

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► Photon density, shock rest frame ($\text{GeV}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-3}$):

$$N'_\gamma(\varepsilon') \propto \begin{cases} (\varepsilon')^{-\alpha_\gamma}, & \varepsilon'_{\gamma,\min} = 0.2 \text{ eV} \leq \varepsilon' \leq \varepsilon'_{\gamma,\text{break}} \\ (\varepsilon')^{-\beta_\gamma}, & \varepsilon'_{\gamma,\text{break}} \leq \varepsilon' \leq \varepsilon'_{\gamma,\max} = 300 \times \varepsilon'_{\gamma,\min} \end{cases}$$

$$\varepsilon'_{\gamma,\text{break}} = \mathcal{O}(\text{keV}), \alpha_\gamma \approx 1, \beta_\gamma \approx 2$$

► Proton density:

$$N'_p(E'_p) \propto (E'_p)^{-\alpha_p} \times \exp \left[- (E'_p / E'_{p,\max})^2 \right] \quad (\alpha_p \approx 2)$$

Maximum proton energy limited by energy losses:

$$t'_{\text{acc}}(E'_{p,\max}) = \min [t'_{\text{dyn}}, t'_{\text{syn}}(E'_{p,\max}), t'_{p\gamma}(E'_{p,\max})]$$

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Optically thin to neutron escape regime

- ▶ the standard emission scenario
- ▶ p 's magnetically confined: n 's and ν 's from $p\gamma$ interactions
- ▶ n 's escape and decay to produce UHECRs

Direct escape regime

- ▶ directly-escaping p 's from the borders dominate
- ▶ subdominant n production
- ▶ more CRs emitted, so “one ν_μ per CR” no longer valid

Optically thick to neutron escape regime

- ▶ n 's and p 's in the bulk trapped by multiple $p\gamma$ interactions
- ▶ they only escape from the borders
- ▶ ν production enhanced

- ▶ Energy loss rate (GeV s^{-1}):

$$b(E) \equiv \frac{dE}{dt}$$

- ▶ For pair production $p\gamma \longrightarrow pe^+e^-$:

$$b_{e^+e^-}(E, z) = -\alpha r_0^2 (m_e c^2)^2 c \int_2^\infty d\xi n_\gamma \left(\frac{\xi m_e c^2}{2\gamma}, z \right) \frac{\phi(\xi)}{\xi^2}$$

- ▶ n_γ : isotropic photon background ($\text{GeV}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-3}$)
- ▶ ξ : photon energy in units of $m_e c^2$
- ▶ proton energy: $E = \gamma m_p c^2$ ($\gamma \gg 1$)
- ▶ $\phi(\xi)$: (tabulated) integral in energy of outgoing e^-

G. BLUMENTHAL, *Phys. Rev.* **D 1**, 1596 (1970)

H. BETHE, W. HEITLER, *Proc. Roy. Soc.* **A146**, 83 (1934)

Photohadronic interactions – $p\gamma$ interaction rate (s^{-1} per particle):

$$\Gamma_{p\gamma \rightarrow p'b} (E, z) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_p^2}{E^2} \int_{\frac{\epsilon_{\text{th}} m_p}{2E}}^{\infty} d\epsilon \frac{n_{\gamma}(\epsilon, z)}{\epsilon^2} \int_{\epsilon_{\text{th}}}^{2E\epsilon/m_p} d\epsilon_r \epsilon_r \sigma_{p\gamma \rightarrow p'b}^{\text{tot}}(\epsilon_r)$$

- 1 For given values of E and z , **NeuCosmA** calculates the cooling rate $t_{p\gamma}^{-1} \equiv -(1/E) b_{p\gamma} (\text{s}^{-1})$ as

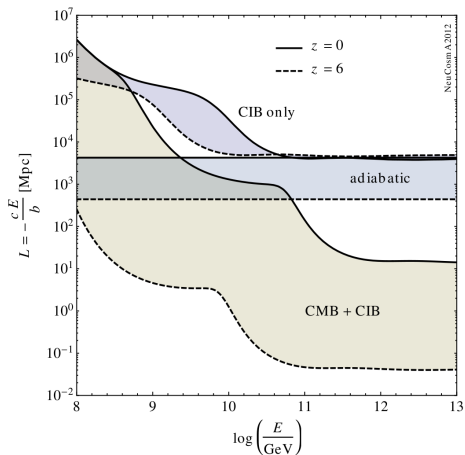
$$t_{p\gamma}^{-1} (E, z) = \sum_i^{\text{all channels}} \Gamma_{p \rightarrow p}^i (E, z) K^i ,$$

with $K^i E$ the loss of energy per interaction

- 2 From this, we calculate back $b_{p\gamma} (\text{GeV s}^{-1}) \dots$
- 3 ... and the corresponding energy-loss term in the transport equation, $\partial_E (b_{p\gamma} Y_p)$.

S. HÜMMER, M. RÜGER, F. SPANIER, W. WINTER, *Astrophys. J.* **721**, 630 (2010) [1002.1310]

Note that $L_{\text{CIB}} \gg L_{\text{CMB}}$:



Matches, e.g., H. TAKAMI, K. MURASE, S. NAGATAKI, K. SATO, *Astropart. Phys.* **31**, 201 (2009) [0704.0979]

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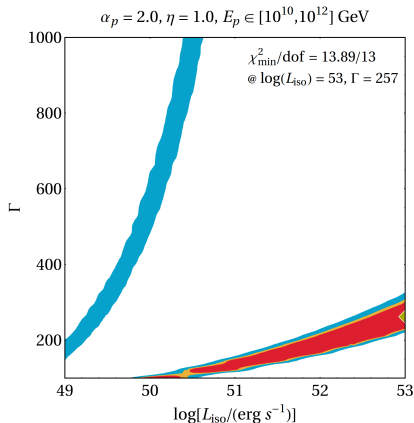
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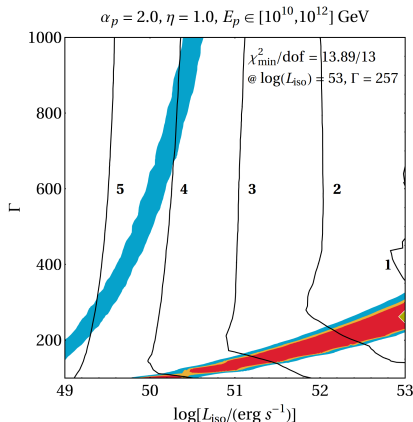
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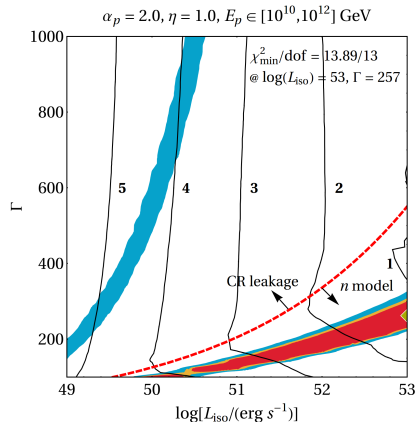
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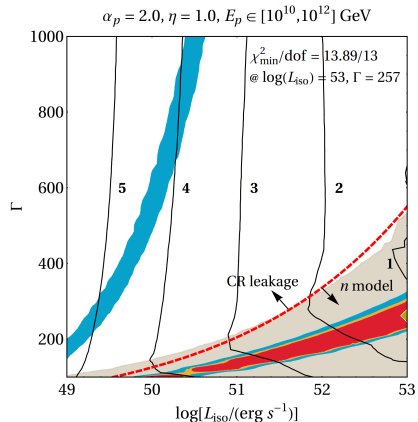
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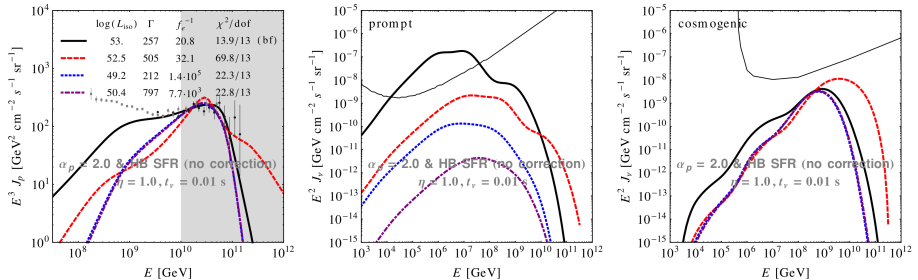


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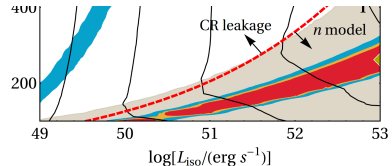


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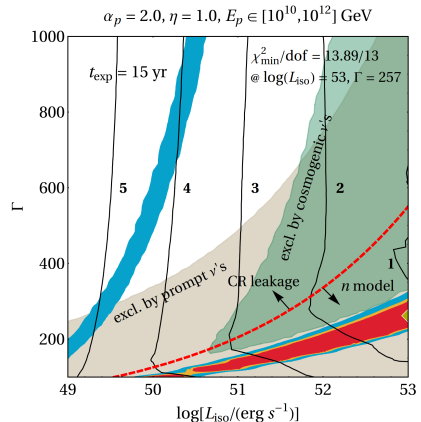
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- 7 After 15 yr of exposure and no detection, cosmogenic neutrinos also exclude



P. BAERWALD, MB, W. WINTER, [ARXIV:1401.1820](https://arxiv.org/abs/1401.1820)