

Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso

# On astrophysical solution(s) to ultra-high-energy cosmic rays

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Conference in memory of Veniamin Sergeyevich Berezinsky October 1-3, 2024, GSSI, L'Aquila









### On astrophysical solution to ultra high energy cosmic rays

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> Svetlana Grigorieva Institute for Nuclear Research of the RAS, 60th October Revolution prospect 7A, Moscow, Russia

We argue that an astrophysical solution to the ultra high energy cosmic ray (UHECR) problem is viable. The detailed study of UHECR energy spectra is performed. The spectral features of extragalactic protons interacting with Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) are calculated in model-independent way. Using the power-law generation spectrum  $\propto E^{-\gamma_g}$  as the only assumption, we analyze four features of the proton spectrum: the GZK cutoff, dip, bump and the second dip. We



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# My main take-home messages in this talk

- Astrophysical **solutions** are viable
- We now have a global and consistent picture, thanks to
  - Improvements in the energy spectrum
  - Other observables than spectrum
  - Indications from other messengers



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• I will have a **data-driven approach** in this talk

understanding of the UHECR picture

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- We now have a global and consistent picture, thanks to
  - Improvements in the energy spectrum
  - Other observables than spectrum
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• I will start from the most recent UHECR measurements and show how they guide the phenomenological



# THE UHECR ASTROPHYSICAL PICTURE FROM THE STUDY OF DIFFUSE FLUXES



# THE DIP MODEL

**C. Evoli**, work in progress for SimProp-Sirente  $10^{4}$ energy loss length [Mpc]  $10^{3}$  $10^{2}$ Universe expansion pair production pion production horizon 10  $10^{20}$ 10<sup>21</sup>  $10^{19}$  $10^{18}$ E [eV]

• Dip model: the UHECR spectrum features can be explained with energy losses of protons travelling through the extragalactic space



Berezinsky et al. PRD2006



# THE **DIP MODEL** AND THE LATEST UHECR SPECTRUM MEASUREMENTS



- Pure-proton scenario
- Same spectral parameters as in Berezinsky et al. PRD 2006

 $\gamma = 2.70; E_{\text{cut}} = 10^{22.0} \text{ eV}; m = 0$  $\chi^2/dof = 1594.3/24$ 





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 $\chi^2/dof = 483.5/24$ 





# WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THE MASS COMPOSITION OBSERVABLES?

Focusing on the second momentum: it contains

- the shower-to-shower fluctuations (first term) AND
- the dispersion of the masses as they hit the Earth atmosphere:
  - spread of nuclear masses at the sources
  - modifications that occur during their propagation to the Earth

 $\langle X_{max} \rangle = \langle X_{max} \rangle_p + f \langle InA \rangle$ 

 $\sigma^2(X_{max}) = \langle \sigma^2_{sh} \rangle + f^2 \sigma^2(InA)$ 



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- Example for two components: H and Fe masses, fraction of H decreasing linearly with energy



### The Pierre Auger Collab. JCAP 2013

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• Dispersion of the masses in the case of two components:

$$\sigma^2(X_{\rm max}) =$$

 $f\sigma_1^2 + (1-f)\sigma_2^2 + f(1-f)(\Delta(\langle X_{\max} \rangle))^2$ 



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### The Pierre Auger Collab. JCAP 2013

<u>Requirements from the mass</u> composition measurements, in terms of astrophysical scenarios:

- Average mass increasingly heavy after the ankle
- Minimal superposition of different nuclear species

• Dispersion of the masses in the case of two components:

$$\sigma^2(X_{\rm max}) =$$

 $f\sigma_1^2 + (1-f)\sigma_2^2 + f(1-f)(\Delta(\langle X_{\max} \rangle))^2$ 





- Basic scenario (energies above the ankle):
- power-law spectra at escape, with rigidity dependence  $Q_A(E) \propto f_A E^{-\gamma} f_{cut}(E, Z_A R_{cut})$
- Extragalactic propagation taken into account; results presented in this talk are mainly
- CRPropa, R. Alves Batista et al, JCAP 2022
- SimProp, Aloisio, DB, di Matteo, Grillo, Petrera & Salamida, JCAP 2017
  - Aloisio, Berezinsky & Grigorieva, Astropart. Phys. 2013





• See also Heinze, Fedynitch, DB & Winter ApJ 2019; Alves Batista et al, JCAP 2019 for similar results

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The Pierre Auger Collab. JCAP 2017



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(SPG - EPOS-LHC)	best fit
${\cal L}_0  [10^{44}  { m erg}  { m Mpc}^{-3}  { m yr}^{-1}]$	4.99
$\gamma$	$0.96\substack{+0.08 \\ -0.13}$
$\log_{10}(R_{ m cut}/{ m V})$	$18.68\substack{+0.02\\-0.04}$
$f_{ m H}(\%)$	0.0
$f_{ m He}(\%)$	67.3
$f_{ m N}(\%)$	28.1
$f_{ m Si}(\%)$	4.6
$f_{ m Fe}(\%)$	0.0
D/n	174.4/119

- UHECR source population contributing **above the ankle**:
  - Hard spectral index
  - Low rigidity cutoff
  - Intermediate nuclear species

A disappointing model overall... (see Aloisio, Berezinsky & Gazizov, Astropart. Phys. 2011)





the data

- Different populations of sources contributing at LE and HE
- One population of sources, softer spectrum of protons due to insource interactions

Aloisio, Berezinsky & Blasi JCAP 2014; Mollerach & Roulet PRD 2020; Das et al, Eur.Phys.J. 2021; Luce et al, ApJ 2022;The Auger Collab. JCAP 2023

Towards energy below the ankle -> two components are needed to fit

- Contribution from <u>heavier</u> particles below the ankle needed to account for
  - mixed composition
  - missing flux





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- Contribution from <u>heavier</u> particles below the ankle needed to account for
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- Independently of the scenario, decreasing fluctuations of Xmax can be found corresponding to **limited** mixing of spectra of different nuclear species at HE, meaning
  - HE: hard spectra + low rigidity cutoff
  - LE: soft spectra + less constrainable rigidity





# WHAT ISTHE ORIGIN OF THE SPECTRUM (AND COMPOSITION) FEATURES ?

### The Pierre Auger Collab. JCAP 2023



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In terms of interpretation, the suppression is a combination of effects

- Propagation effect
- Indication of source power



# WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF THE SPECTRUM (AND COMPOSITION) FEATURES ?

### The Pierre Auger Collab. JCAP 2023

**Ankle**: interplay between (soft) LE and (hard) HE components

- Different populations of UHECR sources
- In-source interactions



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## The Pierre Auger Collab. JCAP 2023

**Ankle**: interplay between (soft) LE and (hard) HE components

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**Instep**: interplay between the flux contributions of the He and CNO components



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  - HE: hard spectra + low rigidity cutoff
  - LE: soft spectra + less constrainable rigidity

In terms of interpretation, the suppression is a combination of effects

- Propagation effect
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# REFINING THE BASIC PICTURE

- (Some of the) remaining open issues:
  - How to accelerate particles to UHE?
  - Which sources are responsible for accelerating heavy nuclei?
  - How to get a harder spectrum at the escape for nuclei, and a softer one for protons?
  - What is the cosmological evolution of the sources?
  - Investigating the source distribution
  - Including the effects of the propagation in magnetic fields
  - Taking into account the (possible) transient nature of UHECR sources
  - Investigating the UHECR spectrum shape at the escape from UHECR sources
    - Relaxing the assumption of identical sources
    - Investigating the validity of the Peters cycle
  - Including additional information from other messengers (produced in sources and/or in the extragalactic propagation)



# UHECRS: WHAT IS THE COSMOLOGICAL EVOLUTION OF THEIR SOURCES ?







# Constraining power of proton fraction in UHECRs with cosmogenic neutrinos

### Muzio et al PRD 2023



- composition, but also indirectly to better constrain the UHECR characteristics
  - One of the key science cases of AugerPrime

The Auger Collab. ICRC2023



• Determining the UHECR proton fraction at the highest energies is crucial for understanding the detected UHECR mass



# UHECR NUCLEI: HOW TO REACH ULTRA-HIGH-ENERGIES? WHERE CAN WE FIND NUCLEI?



## Example: starburst galaxies



- High level of star formation and supernova explosions -> collective wind -> acceleration
- Acceleration to UHE might be possible (Anchordoqui PRD 2018), but high gas density and turbulence -> calorimetric behaviour (secondary particles, see for instance Peretti et al **MNRAS 2018**)
- Signal of correlation of SBGs with the highest energy CR events (The Auger Collab ApJL 2018)



# Example: young fast-rotating pulsars



- Fast spinning very young pulsars could accelerate iron nuclei (extracting them from the iron-rich surface)
- surface of the star

- The nuclei that reach the light cylinder region eventually end up in the wind of electron-positrons propagating outwards
- A mixed composition appears at the escape, depending on the temperature of the photon field
- Some studies about <u>binary-neutron-star mergers</u> in Decoene et al JCAP2020; Rossoni, **DB** & Sigl arxiv:2407.19957

## Blasi et al ApJL 2000; Kotera et al JCAP 2015

• Iron nuclei interact with the thermal photons coming from the hot





## UHE maximum energy is necessary but not sufficient...



Alves Batista et al, Front.Astron.Space Sci. 2019

# HOW IS THE SPECTRUM AT THE ESCAPE FROM ACCELERATORS SHAPED ?



# HOW IS THE SPECTRUM AT THE ESCAPE FROM **ACCELERATORS SHAPED ?**

Propagation in magnetic fields might also re-shape the flux after the escape from accelerators, depending on the separation between the sources

Propagation theorem

-> See Aloisio & Berezinsky ApJ 2004, ApJ 2005, and applications to mixed composition and Auger data in The Auger Collab. JCAP 2024







# Requirements for the spectral shape at the escape from sources



- Escape time decreasing with energy (due to diffusion in turbulent magnetic fields lower the energy, the more before escaping
  - of nuclei, and
  - <u>lightening of the</u> escaping the region

## • The ankle could be shaped by in-source interactions!

- - Sci.Rep. 2018)<sub>37</sub>

outside the accelerator) -> the time the nuclei have to interact

• <u>hardening of the spectrum</u>

<u>composition</u> of nuclei

surrounding the source.



• Many studies in the last 10 years on similar topics, involving several types of candidate sources, and performing **source-propagation models**. Some examples are:

• GRBs (Globus et al PRD 2015; Biehl, DB, Fedynitch & Winter, A&A 2018); LL-GRBs (Zhang, Murase, Kimura, Horiuchi & Meszaros, PRD 2018; DB, Biehl & Winter, ApJ 2019)

• Starburst galaxies (Condorelli, DB, Peretti & Petrera, PRD 2023)

• TDEs (Zhang, Murase, Oikonomou & Li, PRD 2017; Biehl, DB, Lunardini & Winter,



## Requirements for the spectral shape at the Consequences for neutrinos escape from sources





## Are UHECR sources identical?

- Relax the assumption of identical maximum energy at the sources
  - source luminosity, etc...



• Because of different candidate sources of UHECRs: maximum rigidity can be connected to Lorentz factor of relativistic jets, to the observed



# WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THE STUDY OF SINGLE EVENTS?



# Exciting times for multimessenger astrophysics!

- Sep. 2017: IceCube Neutrino Observatory recorded a 300 TeV neutrino in directional coincidence with a blazar in a bright gamma-ray state, TXS0506+056 (IceCube, Fermi, MAGIC ..., Science 2018)
- Nov. 2022: IceCube Neutrino Observatory published an archival search for neutrinos, finding 79 events associated to NGC1068 (IceCube, Science 2022)



These events are not directly linked to ultra-high-energies !



 Zwicky Transient Facility identified AT2019dsg (Stein et al. Nature Astron. 2021) and AT2019fdr (Reusch et al. PRL 2021) as tidal disruption events and optical counterparts of two IceCube neutrinos

• Identification of a third TDE, AT2019aalc, as counterpart of another IceCube neutrino event (van Veltzen et al. MNRAS 2021)



# What can we learn from GRB221009?



• Based on the distance of the GRB, we do not expect *primary* photons from this

• If UHECR protons are accelerated in the GRB up to 1 EeV, cosmogenic photons can be expected (some conditions on EGMF and time window of observation are requested), as shown in Alves Batista, arxiv:2210.12855; Das & Razzaque Astron. & Astrop. 2023

• Other studies explore the proton synchrotron emission, as in Zhang et al. ApJ

• Delayed UHECRs from Galactic magnetic fields? See He et al. arxiv:2401.11566

• Probe of UHECR acceleration in GRBs?

• See Waxman & Bahcall PRD 1999 for estimate of neutrino intensity from GRBs



# What can we learn from the highest energy CR events?



- Inspired by the Amaterasu event, Telescope Array Collab, Science 2023
- How to gain insights about UHECR sources with extremely energetic events?
  - By assuming a nuclear species for the event, it is possible to
    - Compute the maximum distance from which the CR is coming, taking into account the interactions in the extragalactic fields
    - Determine the area of the sky from which the CR is coming, taking into account the Galactic magnetic field models

-> the volume of the universe responsible for the CR event can be compared to source catalogues

![](_page_37_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Picture_0.jpeg)

SUMMARY

![](_page_38_Picture_3.jpeg)

- Simple phenomenological models, based on current UHECR data, can provide a basic description of UHECR data in terms of astrophysical scenarios
  - This is consistent with what we can deduce from the current limits on other messengers
- We still miss a clear understanding of the **acceleration mechanisms** with which particles reach UHEs
- Thanks to current (and future) experimental advancements,
  - we can start refining the basic UHECR scenarios
    - for instance, we can investigate the origin of the measured spectrum features
  - we can predict the sensitivity to characteristics of the UHECR source scenario with upgraded techniques and exploiting the information from other messengers

From astrophysical solution(s) to an exciting picture of astrophysical messengers!

![](_page_39_Figure_8.jpeg)

# **BACKUP SLIDES**

![](_page_40_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Figure_1.jpeg)

The Pierre Auger Collab. JCAP 2023

![](_page_43_Picture_4.jpeg)

	Scenario 1		Scenario 2	
Galactic contribution (at Earth)	pure N			
$J_0^{ m Gal}/({ m eV}^{-1}{ m km}^{-2}{ m sr}^{-1}{ m yr}^{-1})$	$(1.06 \pm 0.04) \times 10^{-13}$			
$\log_{10}(R_{ m cut}^{ m Gal}/{ m V})$	$17.48\pm0.02$			
EG components (at the escape)	LE	HE	LE	HE
${\cal L}_0/(10^{44}{ m ergMpc^{-3}yr^{-1}})~^*$	$6.54\pm0.36$	$5.00\pm0.35$	$11.35\pm0.15$	$5.07\pm0.06$
$\gamma$	$3.34\pm0.07$	$-1.47\pm0.13$	$3.52\pm0.03$	$-1.99\pm0.11$
$\log_{10}(R_{ m cut}/{ m V})$	>19.3	$18.19\pm0.02$	>19.4	$18.15\pm0.01$
$I_{ m H}~(\%)$	100 (fixed)	$0.0\pm0.0$	$48.7\pm0.3$	$0.0\pm0.0$
$I_{ m He}~(\%)$		$24.5\pm3.0$	$7.3\pm0.4$	$23.6\pm1.6$
$I_{ m N}$ (%)		$68.1\pm5.0$	$44.0\pm0.4$	$72.1\pm3.3$
$I_{ m Si}$ (%)		$4.9\pm3.9$	$0.0\pm0.0$	$1.3 \pm 1.3$
$I_{ m Fe}~(\%)$		$2.5\pm0.2$	$0.0\pm0.0$	$3.1\pm1.3$
$D_J (N_J)$	48.6 (24)		56.6(24)	
$D_{X_{\max}} (N_{X_{\max}})$	537.4(329)		516.5(329)	
D(N)	586.0 (353)		$573.1 \ (353)$	

\* from  $E_{\min} = 10^{17.8} \text{ eV}.$ 

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![](_page_44_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Figure_1.jpeg)

### The Pierre Auger Collab. JCAP 2023

![](_page_45_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Figure_2.jpeg)

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SBG, m = 3.4

pdf/B

- Signal fraction and uncertainty in arrival direction included in the analysis
- Best improvement with respect to spectrum + composition fit found for starburst sources
- gamma-AGN sources disfavoured

![](_page_46_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Figure_1.jpeg)

The Pierre Auger Collab. JCAP 2024

![](_page_47_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Figure_1.jpeg)

The Pierre Auger Collab. JCAP 2024

![](_page_48_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Figure_1.jpeg)

The Pierre Auger Collab. JCAP 2024

	Cen A, $m = 0$ (flat)		Cen A, $m = 3.4$ (SFR)		<b>SBG</b> , $m = 3.4$ (SFR	
	posterior	MLE	posterior	MLE	posterior	MLE
	$-1.67\substack{+0.48 \\ -0.47}$	-2.21	$-3.09\substack{+0.23\\-0.24}$	-3.05	$-2.77\substack{+0.27\\-0.29}$	-2.67
	$18.23\substack{+0.04 \\ -0.06}$	18.19	$18.10\substack{+0.02\\-0.02}$	18.11	$18.13\substack{+0.02 \\ -0.02}$	18.13
	$0.16\substack{+0.06 \\ -0.14}$	0.028	$0.05\substack{+0.01 \\ -0.03}$	0.028	$0.17\substack{+0.06 \\ -0.08}$	0.19
	$56.5\substack{+29.4\-12.8}$	16.5	$27.6^{+2.7}_{-16.3}$	16.8	$22.2^{+5.3}_{-4.0}$	24.3
	$5.9^{+2.5}_{-1.7}  imes 10^{-2}$	$7.1  imes 10^{-2}$	$8.3^{+2.0}_{-8.3} \times 10^{-3}$	$1.6  imes 10^{-5}$	$6.4^{+1.3}_{-6.4}  imes 10^{-3}$	$4.3 \times 10^{-10}$
	$2.3^{+0.3}_{-0.5}  imes 10^{-1}$	$1.9  imes 10^{-1}$	$1.3^{+0.2}_{-0.2} \times 10^{-1}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-1}$	$1.7^{+0.3}_{-0.4}  imes 10^{-1}$	$1.8 \times 10$
	$6.3^{+0.3}_{-0.3}  imes 10^{-1}$	$6.2  imes 10^{-1}$	$7.4^{+0.3}_{-0.3} \times 10^{-1}$	$7.3  imes 10^{-1}$	$7.4^{+0.3}_{-0.3}  imes 10^{-1}$	$7.4 \times 10$
	$6.5^{+3.6}_{-3.3}  imes 10^{-2}$	$9.9  imes 10^{-2}$	$9.2^{+3.2}_{-2.3} \times 10^{-2}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-1}$	$5.7^{+2.5}_{-3.1}  imes 10^{-2}$	$5.4 \times 10$
	$1.6^{+0.7}_{-1.0}  imes 10^{-2}$	$2.0  imes 10^{-2}$	$2.5^{+0.8}_{-0.9} \times 10^{-2}$	$2.3  imes 10^{-2}$	$2.5^{+0.8}_{-0.9}\times10^{-2}$	$2.3 \times 10^{-10}$
	$-264.0\pm0.2$		$-272.6\pm0.2$		$-266.9\pm0.1$	
		22.3		28.5		33.3
4)		124.9		130.6		126.2
		147.2		159.1		159.5
		10.5		10.4		13.3
		-239.1		-245.1		-242.4

![](_page_49_Figure_5.jpeg)

# Effects of the magnetic horizon

- amplitude and coherence length
- $r_L(E_{\rm crit}) = L_{\rm coh}, R_{\rm crit}$ • Critical energy Ecrit such that:
- Uniform source density, intersource distance ds; Xs is the no
- The magnetic horizon suppresses the flux at low energies

![](_page_50_Figure_5.jpeg)

The Pierre Auger Collab. JCAP 2024; Gonzales et al PRD 2021

• Extragalactic magnetic fields (EGMF) between Earth and closest sources modelled as turbulent and isotropic with average

$$= \frac{E_{\text{crit}}}{Z} = 0.9 \frac{B_{\text{rms}}}{\text{nG}} \frac{L_{\text{coh}}}{\text{Mpc}} \text{EeV}$$
  
ormalised distance  $X_s = \frac{d_s}{25 \text{ Mpc}} \sqrt{\frac{\text{Mpc}}{L_{\text{coh}}}}$ 

$$X_s R_{\text{crit}} \approx 10 \,\text{EeV} \frac{d_s}{40 \,\text{Mpc}} \frac{B_{\text{rms}}}{100 \,\text{nG}} \sqrt{\frac{L_{\text{coh}}}{25 \,\text{kpc}}}$$

![](_page_50_Figure_10.jpeg)

# UHECR flux at Earth and the corresponding cosmogenic neutrinos Mixed composition for UHECRs

Shaping the additional proton component 

![](_page_51_Figure_2.jpeg)

- UHECR fit

![](_page_51_Figure_5.jpeg)

Brown contours -> from the

Blue contours -> from the UHECR fit + penalty from multimessenger

![](_page_51_Figure_9.jpeg)

## UHECR flux at Earth and the corresponding cosmogenic neutrinos Mixed composition for UHECRs

![](_page_52_Figure_1.jpeg)

Ehlert et al. JCAP 2024

Predicted cosmogenic gammaray signal in the GeV-TeV (left) and EeV (right) energy range

![](_page_52_Figure_4.jpeg)

Brown contours -> from the

Blue contours -> from the UHECR fit + penalty from multimessenger

![](_page_52_Figure_7.jpeg)