# Some physics and astrophysics of very high energy cosmic rays

#### **Martin Lemoine**

#### Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris

CNRS, Université Pierre & Marie Curie



### **Introduction - giant air showers**

c.m energy of interaction with atm: 400TeV!



P. Auger (1938): timing coincidence experiments lead to the detection of giant air showers with energy  $\gtrsim 10^{15}~{\rm eV...}$ 



at 10<sup>20</sup>eV: several km<sup>2</sup> on the ground

### Introduction - Fluorescence telescopes



High Resolution Fly's Eye now followed by the Telescope Array (2007-)

Introduction - Pierre Auger Observatory (2005-)



#### The Pierre Auger Observatory:

- ightarrow the largest cosmic ray detector ever built : about 3000 km<sup>2</sup> !
- $\rightarrow$  a combination of ground detectors and fluorescence detectors...



### Introduction - all particle CR spectrum



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### Introduction - Galactic cosmic rays





#### **Energetics:**

 $\begin{array}{ll} \rightarrow \mbox{global CR luminosity:} & \dot{N}_{\rm SN} \sim 10^{-2} \, {\rm yr}^{-1} \mbox{and} & E_{\rm CR/SN} \sim 10^{50} \, {\rm erg} \\ \rightarrow \mbox{confinement time:} & \tau_{\rm conf} \sim 10^7 \, {\rm yr} & ({\rm at} > 1 {\rm GeV}) & ({\rm measured!}) \\ \rightarrow \mbox{confinement volume:} & V_{\rm conf} \sim \pi \left(10 \, {\rm kpc}\right)^2 \times 1 \, {\rm kpc} \sim 10^{67} \, {\rm cm}^3 \\ \rightarrow \mbox{energy density:} & \epsilon_{\rm CR} \sim \frac{E_{\rm CR/SN} \dot{N}_{\rm SN} \tau_{\rm conf}}{V_{\rm conf}} \sim 1 \, {\rm eV/cm}^3 & {\rm OK!} \end{array}$ 

### Introduction - Galactic cosmic rays



Axford et al. 77, Krimskii 77, Bell 78, Blandford & Ostriker 78





particles experience systematic energy gain in each cycle  $u \rightarrow d \rightarrow u$  around the shock... accelerating agent:  $\mathbf{E} = -\beta \times \mathbf{B}$ 

#### Maximal energy:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \rightarrow \text{acceleration timescale:} & t_{\rm acc} \equiv \frac{t_{\rm u} + t_{\rm d}}{\Delta E/E} \approx \frac{t_{\rm scatt}}{\beta_{\rm sh}^2} \\ \rightarrow \text{at the Bohm limit:} & t_{\rm scatt} \sim t_{\rm L}, \quad t_{\rm acc} \leq \frac{R}{\beta_{\rm sh}c} \Rightarrow E_{\rm max,p} \sim 10 \, {\rm TeV} \frac{B}{1\mu {\rm G}} \end{array}$$

 $\rightarrow$  most of the action today: how to amplify the field by ~10-100 to reach PeV ... fine structure of the acceleration process... transport of the cosmic rays in the Galactic magnetic field vs observations (spectrum + anisotropies)

### Introduction - all particle CR spectrum



- $\rightarrow$  spectrum globally OK,
- $\rightarrow$  maximal energy  $\sim$  OK?
- $\rightarrow$  gamma-ray astronomy OK

where do the cosmic rays come from? how many different components?



- What is the source of ultrahigh energy cosmic rays ?
  - → leading contenders: gamma-ray bursts, powerful AGN, young pulsars?
  - $\rightarrow$  what is the fundamental acceleration process to ultrahigh energies?
- Where does the cosmic ray spectrum stop?
  - $\rightarrow$  HiRes, Auger and TA have detected a high energy cut-off at the expected location for the Greisen-Zatsepin-Kuzmin cut-off ~ 5 10<sup>19</sup> eV

[... fits well with all astrophysical models of UHECR origin, GZK cut-off , sources are distributed on cosmological scales...]

- What are ultrahigh energy cosmic rays: protons, nuclei, photons, neutrinos?
  - $\rightarrow$  the giant air showers are typical of hadronic showers
  - → Yakutsk, HiRes TA see protons at UHE, Auger sees an increasing fraction of heavies...?
  - $\rightarrow$  light (small Z) vs heavy (large Z): large differences in terms of phenomenology!

#### ▶ Should we expect to see the source in the arrival directions of UHECR?

- $\rightarrow$  what are the effects of the Galactic and extra-galactic magnetic fields?
- $\rightarrow$  no powerful source seen in the arrival directions of highest energy CR...?
- → Auger has reported 99% c.l. detection of anisotropy of arrival directions!



<u>Greizen-Zatsepin-Kuzmin cut-off:</u> CMB becomes opaque to pion production through  $p+\gamma_{cmb} \rightarrow \pi + p/n$  for E  $\gtrsim$  6 10<sup>19</sup> eV

... detecting the GZK cut-off  $\Leftrightarrow$  UHECR are protons (or heavy nuclei) and sources are distributed on cosmological scales...

... BUT this cut-off might also represent the maximal energy at the source...

### Greisen-Zatsepin-Kuzmin cut-off

.**Le** 

Greisen 66, Zatsepin & Kuzmin 66

 <u>GZK cut-off</u>: the Universe becomes opaque to protons of energy > 6 10<sup>19</sup> eV (in the cosmic rest frame) as a result of pion production on the CMB, with characteristic energy loss length 100 Mpc



<u>Consequence</u>: the source of: >10<sup>20</sup> eV particles must lie within ~100 Mpc >4 10<sup>19</sup> eV particles must lie within ~1000 Mpc

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#### What is the source of ultrahigh energy cosmic rays ?

<u>HiRes:</u>

light composition above ankle

#### Auger:

composition becomes **heavier** 🕉 above ankle... also seen in shower fluctuations...

but various observables are inconsistent...



... discrepancy related to some fundamental physical process? E [eV] ... a proton or iron composition bears a crucial impact on phenomenology...

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## closest FRII: NGC4261, PKS1343-60, separation: 30° closest blazar (with identified z): TEX0554+534, separation: 115°

### Extra-galactic magnetic fields?



The origin of (extra-)Galactic magnetic fields is a long-standing problem... very little data on fields outside of galaxies, and many debated models: from inflation to recombination to structure formation...

... fields created at high redshifts are further processed and enhanced during the build-up of large scale structure (e.g. Miniati et al. 04, Dolag et al. 05)...



Donnert et al. 06

 $\Rightarrow$  the magnetized IGM is expected to be highly inhomogeneous, patchy, with strength up to ~ 10<sup>-8</sup> G in the filaments of large scale structure, much weaker in the voids...

### Propagation – transport in extra-galactic magnetic fields

AP

Ultra-high rigidities:

 $\rightarrow$  particles of different energies probe different structures...

 $\rightarrow$  at high energies, few interactions with small deflection:

 $\delta \theta_i^2 \simeq 1.7^{\circ} E_{20}^{-2} B_{-8}^2 \lambda_{0.1 \text{Mpc}} R_{1 \text{Mpc}}$ 

per interaction, with typical mfp ~ 30Mpc (Kotera & ML 08)

 $\Rightarrow$  a few deg total at Z  $10^{20}~{\rm eV}$  over 100 Mpc...

 $r_{\rm L} \simeq 100 \,{\rm Mpc} \, Z^{-1} \left(\frac{E}{10^{20} {\rm eV}}\right) \left(\frac{B}{1 \, {\rm nG}}\right)^{-1}$ at high energies ( $\gtrsim 10^{19} \, {\rm eV}$ ), particles are weakly deflected at each interaction



 $\rightarrow$  at low energies:

interesting diffusion process in the extra-galactic magnetic fields below ~ Z  $10^{19}$  eV, with a possible magnetic horizon below ~ Z  $10^{17}$ - $10^{18}$  eV (ML 05, Aloisio et al. 05)



#### Integrating over all sources at a given energy:



#### so far:

→ current measurements indicate that UHECRs are extragalactic protons or nuclei...

 $\rightarrow$  whether one is dealing with protons or iron at UHE has drastic consequences for phenomenology...

p: few candidate sources, small angular deflection Fe: more candidate sources, large angular deflection...

 $\rightarrow$  interpretation of anisotropies suggest that protons exist at UHE...

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![](_page_20_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Figure_2.jpeg)

 $\rightarrow$  any signal from arrival directions of UHECR ?

### Acceleration... general schemes

Particle dynamics: 
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{p}}{\mathrm{d}t} = q \left(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}/c\right)$$

 $\underline{ Motional\ electric\ field:} \qquad \mathbf{E}\simeq -\mathbf{v}_{\rm pl}\times \mathbf{B}/c \qquad \text{(v}_{\sf pl}\ {\sf plasma\ velocity)}$ 

→ acceleration timescale  $t_{acc} \ge r_L / v_{pl}$  (+ subtle effects when  $v_{pl} \sim c$ ) → need to 'push' particle along E, across B (→ Lyutikov & Ouyed 07)

 $\rightarrow$  e.g.: + stochastic interactions with waves Fermi 49

slow in non-relativistic limit:  $t_{acc} \propto t_{scatt}$  /  $\beta_A{}^2$  ! (e.g. O'Sullivan et al. 10)

- + shock diffusive acceleration slow at non-relativistic shocks:  $t_{acc} \propto t_{scatt} / \beta_{sh}^2$ inefficient for UHE in ultra-relativistic limit ? efficient at mildly relativistic shocks with  $\beta_{sh}\gamma_{sh} \sim 1$ ?
- + shear acceleration (requires scattering or force) e.g. Rieger et al. 07, Lyutikov & Ouyed 07
- + magnetized rotators (push through drift or inertia effects) e.g. Bell 92, Arons 03, Rieger & Aharonian 09, Istomin & Sol 09

Some other possibilities:

→ e.g.: reconnection... e.g. de Gouveia dal Pino & Lazarian 05, Giannios 10, Hoshino 12.. ponderomotive force of coherent waves (wakefield)... Chen & Tajima 02

### Acceleration... shock acceleration

Particle dynamics: 
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{p}}{\mathrm{d}t} = q \left(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}/c\right)$$

 $\underline{\mbox{Motional electric field:}} \qquad \mathbf{E}\simeq -\mathbf{v}_{\rm pl}\times \mathbf{B}/c \qquad \mbox{(v}_{\sf pl}\mbox{ plasma velocity)}$ 

 $\rightarrow$  acceleration timescale t<sub>acc</sub>  $\geq r_L/v_{pl}$  (+ subtle effects when v<sub>pl</sub> ~ c)

 $\Rightarrow$  relativistic flows to reach UHE...

#### Energy output of a source:

 $\rightarrow$  to match the flux above 10<sup>19</sup> eV,  $\dot{\epsilon} \approx 0.5 \times 10^{44} \, {
m erg}/{
m Mpc}^3/{
m yr}$  (e.g. Katz et al. 10)

 $\rightarrow$  per source, assuming it is steady:  $L_{\text{UHECR}} \approx 10^{41} \, \text{erg/s} \, n_{-5}^{-1} \, (n \, \text{in Mpc}^{-3})$ 

 $\rightarrow$  per transient source:  $E_{\text{UHECR}} \approx 10^{50} \,\text{erg} \,\dot{n}_{-6} \qquad (\dot{n} \,\text{in} \,\text{Mpc}^{-3} \text{yr}^{-1})$ 

 $\Rightarrow$  shock dissipation as an ideal mechanism to channel a sizable fraction of the source luminosity above 10<sup>19</sup> eV...

(note that if >10<sup>19</sup>eV are heavy nuclei, UHE baryon luminosity bound increases by >> 1...)

![](_page_22_Picture_11.jpeg)

### Acceleration at relativistic collisionless shock waves...

![](_page_23_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### $\rightarrow$ the shock wave moves about as fast as the accelerated particle!

e.g. Achterberg et al. 01

 $\rightarrow$  Fermi acceleration appears to work in unmagnetized ultra-relativistic shocks... how does this work for realistic astrophysical shocks of various magnetization and for mildly relativistic shocks? Spitkovsky 08, Martins et al. 09,

![](_page_23_Figure_5.jpeg)

- → performance (controlled by the acceleration timescale): Pelletier, M.L., Marcowith 09; M.L.& Pelletier 11
  - $t_{acc}~\sim~min(r_{L,0}\,/\gamma_b\,c$  ,  $r_L{}^2\,/\,I_{\delta B}\,\gamma_b{}^2c$  ) with  $r_{L,0}$  measured in background field
  - $\Rightarrow$  no Bohm scaling in self-generated turbulence...
  - $\Rightarrow$  max proton energy ~ 10<sup>17</sup>eV for  $\gamma$  ~ 300...
  - $\Rightarrow$  optimal accelerating machines:

mildly relativistic shocks (e.g. internal shocks with  $\gamma \sim 3$ )?

### Acceleration – a luminosity bound

![](_page_24_Figure_1.jpeg)

gamma-ray bursts:  $L_{bol} \sim 10^{52}$  ergs/s

### Acceleration in giant radio-galaxies?

![](_page_25_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_2.jpeg)

### Centaurus - a close FR I radio-galaxy

![](_page_26_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_2.jpeg)

 $\Rightarrow$  too small to account for 10<sup>20</sup> eV protons ...  $E_{\rm max} \sim Z \times 10^{18} \, {\rm eV}$  in jet/lobe

### Acceleration - FR II radio-galaxies

Faranoff-Riley II radio-galaxy Cygnus A

![](_page_27_Figure_2.jpeg)

 $\rightarrow$  too few such sources in the GZK volume to account for the bulk of UHECRs... unless they are heavy nuclei (  $\leftarrow$  large magnetic deflection)...

e.g. Ptuskin et al. 13, Aloisio et al. 11

### Gamma-ray bursts

![](_page_28_Picture_1.jpeg)

... gamma-ray bursts: burst (<1 sec  $\rightarrow$  1000sec) of gamma radiation, with erratic time behavior in the MeV range, followed by a slowly decaying afterglow

... at the origin: collapse of massive stars (long?), coalescence of compact objects (short)?

... canonical description: narrow jet accelerated to large Lorentz factor  $\Gamma$ ~ 100-1000

![](_page_28_Figure_5.jpeg)

... prompt MeV radiation: dissipation of jet bulk kinetic (magnetic?) energy

... afterglow:

dissipation of jet energy through a strong collisionless relativistic shock with the surrounding medium shock heating of swept up electrons and shock acceleration

### Acceleration to UHE in gamma-ray bursts fireballs

![](_page_29_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_2.jpeg)

### Acceleration to UHE in gamma-ray bursts fireballs

![](_page_30_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### Fermi acceleration in mildly relativistic internal shocks:

Waxman 95,01; Rachen & Meszaros 96

$$\rightarrow$$
 internal energy density:  $u' = \epsilon_e^{-1} \frac{L_{\gamma}}{4\pi r^2 \Gamma^2 c}$ 

$$\rightarrow$$
 magnetic field:  $B' = \sqrt{8\pi\epsilon_B u'}$ 

$$\rightarrow$$
 acceleration timescale:  $t_{\rm acc} \approx \mathcal{A} t_{\rm L}$ 

(assumes fast conversion of fraction  $\varepsilon_{e} \sim 0.1$  of u into gamma-rays)

( $\epsilon_{\rm B} \sim 0.1$  assumes build-up of B through instabilities... to match obs. flux)

(assumes ~ Bohm scaling in mildly relativistic shocks)

$$\rightarrow$$
 age constraint:  $t_{\rm acc} < \frac{r}{\Gamma c} \Rightarrow E_{\rm obs,20} \lesssim 7 \times \epsilon_{B,-1}^{1/2} \epsilon_{e,-1}^{-1/2} \Gamma_{2.5} L_{\gamma,52}^{1/2} \mathcal{A}^{-1}$ 

 $\rightarrow$  synchrotron losses:  $t_{\rm acc} < t_{\rm syn}(E) \Rightarrow E_{\rm obs,20} \lesssim r_{12}^{1/3} \Gamma_{2.5}^{2/3} \mathcal{A}^{-2/3}$ 

(when combined with former bound)

 $\Rightarrow$  acceleration to  $\sim 10^{20}$  eV OK if internal shocks at radii >  $10^{12} cm...$  as expected from observations

$$\rightarrow$$
 photo-pion production:

$$t_{\gamma\pi}^{-1} = \frac{c}{2\gamma_p^2} \int_{\epsilon_{\rm th}}^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}\epsilon \,\sigma_{\gamma\pi}\epsilon\xi_{\gamma\pi} \int_{\epsilon/2\gamma_p}^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}\epsilon_{\gamma} \,\epsilon_{\gamma}^{-2} \frac{\mathrm{d}n_{\gamma}}{\mathrm{d}\epsilon_{\gamma}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{r/(\Gamma c)}{t_{\rm pi}} \sim \frac{L_{\gamma,52}}{\Gamma_{2.5}^4 \Delta t_{-2}}$$

suggests that protons can escape the flow, avoid adiabatic losses, through conversion to n in  $\gamma$ - $\pi$  reactions, leading to a neutrino signal with  $E_{\nu} \sim E_{UHECR}$ 

#### ► Notes:

G

d

 $\rightarrow$  acceleration in internal shocks may lead to a neutrino signal at the Waxman-Bahcall limit, now probed by Ice Cube... detection of PeV neutrinos would imply acceleration of p to >10<sup>17</sup> eV... absence of detection would not rule out acceleration to UHE...

 $\rightarrow$  radiative signatures of proton acceleration to ultra-high energies? (Asano et al. 09, 10, Razzague et al. 10)

 $\rightarrow$  strongest 'difficulty' for GRB model is production rate:

flux of UHECR above  $10^{19}$  eV requires an energy input rate: ~  $10^{44}$  erg/Mpc<sup>3</sup>/yr with a GRB rate  $\dot{n}_{\text{GRB}}$  this requires:  $E_{\text{UHECR/GRB}} \approx 10^{53} \text{ erg} \left(\frac{\dot{n}_{\text{GRB}}}{1 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}}\right)^{-1}$ i.e., E<sub>UHECR/GRB</sub> / E<sub>y/GRB</sub> ~ 10 - ...? (Eichler & Pohl 11, Waxman 11)

 $\rightarrow$  do not expect association of UHECRs with observed GRBs! Time delay imparted by extra-galactic magnetic fields:  $\delta t \sim 10^4 - 10^5$  yr ... (Waxman & Miralda-Escude 96)

- p

km<sup>3</sup> neutrino detector at the South Pole

![](_page_32_Figure_3.jpeg)

E<sub>v</sub> [GeV]

### Acceleration to UHE in low luminosity GRBs

![](_page_33_Picture_1.jpeg)

 $\rightarrow$  low luminosity GRBs, also associated to X-ray flashes, are interpreted as trans-relativistic supernovae with ejecta velocity  $\gamma\beta \sim 1$  ... the missing link to standard supernovae? possible sources of UHE nuclei (Wang et al. 08, Chakaborty et al. 11, Liu & Wang 12, Budnik et al. 08)

energy budget OK:  $\dot{n}_{LLGRB} \sim 10^{-7} - 10^{-6} \,\mathrm{Mpc}^{-3} \,\mathrm{yr}^{-1}$ ,  $E \sim 10^{50} \,\mathrm{erg}$ maximal energy:  $E_{\max} \sim Z \times 10^{18} - 10^{19} \,\mathrm{eV}$   $\Rightarrow$  heavy nuclei at UHE

![](_page_33_Figure_4.jpeg)

### Acceleration in pulsar winds

![](_page_34_Picture_1.jpeg)

- $\rightarrow$  Crab output ~ 10<sup>38</sup> erg/s far too low to account for UHECR flux with Crab-like sources
- $\rightarrow$  Crab nebula cannot confine nuclei with E/Z > 3 10<sup>17</sup> eV... (for B ~ 300  $\mu$ G)

![](_page_34_Figure_4.jpeg)

Model of synchrotron Crab nebula (Komissarov & Lyubarsky 03)

 $\rightarrow$  acceleration must take place in fast-spinning (high L) young pulsars, in the wind zone to avoid losses...

.... through which mechanism? see e.g. Venkatesan et al. 97, Arons 03, Fang et al. 12 ... at the termination shock? Shock driven reconnection? Crab:  $\Gamma \sim 10^3$ - $10^6$ ,  $\sigma \sim 10^{-3}$  ...

#### acceleration... to sum up:

 $\rightarrow$  acceleration of protons to 10<sup>20</sup> eV requires extraordinary conditions: fast spinning neutron stars, gamma-ray bursts, FRII radio-galaxies...

ightarrow magnetic luminosity:  $L_B \gtrsim 10^{45} \, Z^{-2} \, E_{20} \, erg/s...$ 

 $\rightarrow$  much larger pool of candidates for acceleration of high Z nuclei...

 $\rightarrow$  AGN/radio-galaxies can possibly accelerate high Z nuclei to UHE... unlikely sources of UHE protons...

 $\rightarrow$  GRBs are potential sources of UHE protons, but energy budget is difficult to satisfy...

→ weak GRBs (aka low luminosity or trans-relativistic SNe) are potential sources of UHE nuclei...

 $\rightarrow$  young pulsars appear promising, but which acceleration mechanism?

![](_page_36_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### What is the source of ultrahigh energy cosmic rays ?

![](_page_36_Figure_3.jpeg)

#### short answer:

no counterpart in optical/IR photons ⇔ no counterpart in gamma-rays, neutrinos, gravitational waves...

e.g.:  $\rightarrow$  for gamma-ray burst sources, time delay  $\sim 10^4$ -10<sup>5</sup> yrs at 10<sup>20</sup> eV  $\rightarrow$  for high Z nuclei, large angular deflection...

![](_page_37_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### What is the source of ultrahigh energy cosmic rays ?

![](_page_37_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Figure_4.jpeg)

Ice Cube 12: possible detection of 2 astrophysical neutrinos at PeV energies... uncorrelated with gamma-ray bursts...

![](_page_38_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### What is the source of ultrahigh energy cosmic rays ?

![](_page_38_Figure_3.jpeg)

### Summary

![](_page_39_Picture_1.jpeg)

### Acceleration to ultra-high energies:

 $\rightarrow L_B \gtrsim 10^{45} \, Z^{\text{-2}}$  ... erg/s to accelerate up to  $10^{20} eV$ 

 $\rightarrow$  a true challenge for 10^{20}eV protons!

#### Issue of chemical composition:

- $\rightarrow$  most pressing issue: pinning down the chemical composition at GZK energies
- ightarrow current anisotropies, if real, suggest that there are protons at UHE!
- $\Rightarrow$  possible gamma + neutrino secondary signatures...

#### IF light composition at UHE + distribution of arrival directions according to LSS:

 $\rightarrow$  most likely sources are bursting objects camouflaged in ordinary galaxies: gamma-ray bursts, magnetars...

- $\rightarrow$  do not expect counterparts from these directions due to time delay
- $\gtrsim 10^4$  yrs between arrival of cosmic rays and photons/neutrinos/...
- $\rightarrow$  but diffuse backgrounds...

#### IF heavy composition at UHE: pessimistic scenario...

- $\rightarrow$  expect substantial to large angular deflection: no source identification...?
- $\rightarrow$  larger pool of source candidates... best candidates: radio-galaxies, LL GRBs...
- ightarrow production of secondary neutrinos/photons suppressed down to below detection?

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)