# **Status and future perspectives on Ultra-High Energy Cosmic Rays**

# Valerio Verzi

INFN, Sezione di Roma "Tor Vergata", Italy





# **ENERGY SPECTRUM**



**UHECR = Ultra-High Energy Cosmic Rays** 

## **SOURCES IDENTIFICATION**

• nuclei (from p to Fe) likely of extragalactic origin

$$r_{L}[kpc] \sim \frac{E[EeV]}{Z B[\mu G]}$$
  $B = 2 - 3 \mu G$ 





• sources identification possible if deflections in galactic and inter-galactic magnetic fields are small

IceCube Auger Telescope Array JCAP 01 (2016) 037 and references therein

mass composition is crucial



### PROPAGATION

#### interaction with the CMB

GZK p  $\gamma_{CMB} \rightarrow N \pi$   $E_{th} \approx \frac{m_p m_{\pi}}{2 \varepsilon_{CMB}} \approx 10^{20} eV$ 

K. Greisen, Phys. Rev. Lett., 16 (1966) 748 G.T. Zatsepin and V.A. Kuz'min, Sov. Phys. JETP Lett., 4 (1966) 114

abrupt suppression consistent with the GZK cut-off

ankle consistent with p  $\gamma_{CMB} \rightarrow p e^+ e^-$ 

- GZK horizon depends on primary mass
- mass composition at Earth ≠ from the one at the sources

$$A \gamma_{CMB} \rightarrow A-1 N$$





- most of the energy transferred to the em component
- shower development and signal at ground sensitive to the hadronic interactions

# The importance to take under control the systematic uncertainties



AGASA: 100 km<sup>2</sup> array of scintillators Hires: fluorescence detector

# **DETECTION TECHNIQUES**

#### Surface Detector array (SD)

detection of the shower front at ground

(+) duty cycle ~ 100%
(-) shower size at ground ∝ E (systematics)

#### **Fluorescence Detector (FD)**

longitudinal shower development from fluorescence light from the  $N_2$  de-excitation

(-) duty cycle ~ 13%
(+) calorimetric measurement of E

#### Hybrid detector (SD+FD)

calibrate the SD signals against FD energies

note: from FD 
$$X_{\text{max}} \sim \ln \left(\frac{H}{A}\right)$$



### **UHECR HYBRID OBSERVATORIES**

PIERRE AUGER OBSERVATORY Malargüe – Mendoza (Argentina) 35<sup>0</sup> S latitude 3000 km<sup>2</sup>

The Pierre Auger Collaboration, NIM A 798 (2015) 172-213



TELESCOPE ARRAY Millard County, Utah (USA) 39<sup>0</sup> N latitude 700 km<sup>2</sup>

M. Fukushima et al., Prog. Theor. Phys. Suppl. 151 (2003) 206







fully operative since 2008



- autonomous units ٠
- FADC at 40/50 MHz ٠
- water cherenkov vs scintillators ٠  $\rightarrow$  sensitive to showers inclined at large zenith angle  $\rightarrow$ more sensitive to  $\mu$ s





- large spherical • mirrors
- camera in the focal surface covered by pmts
- FADC at 10/40 MHz ٠
- similar f.o.v. ٠ (elevation ~  $0^0 - 30^0$ )





# LOW ENERGY EXTENSION

#### Low energy extension

- denser array
- high elevation FD telescopes (~ 30<sup>0</sup> 60<sup>0</sup>)









# **SD EVENTS**



### **FD ENERGY SCALE**



50

40

Atmosphere FD calibration dE/dX reconst.  $\Rightarrow E_{cal} = \int \frac{dE}{dX} dX$ Invisible energy  $(\nu, \mu, ..) \Rightarrow E_{in\nu}$ 

 $E = E_{cal} + E_{inv} \qquad {}_{12}$ 

## CHALLENGING EXPERIMENTS

• complex atmospheric monitoring (aerosols, clouds, ...)

Auger, Astrop. Phys. 33 (2010) 108



#### light transmission



• FD absolute calibration

Auger Drum



J. T. Brack et al., JINST 8 (2013) P05014

TA CRAYS



S. Kawana et al., Nucl. Instrum. Meth. A 681 (2012) 68

TA ELS (linac accelerator)



**B. Shin et al., PoS (ICRC2015) 640** 13



# **ENERGY SCALE**

#### AUGER

#### ICRC13 arXiv:1307.5059

| Absolute fluorescence yield                 | 3.4%                      |
|---|---------------------------|
| Fluores. spectrum and quenching param.      | 1.1%                      |
| Sub total (Fluorescence Yield)              | 3.6%                      |
| Aerosol optical depth                       | 3% ÷ 6%                   |
| Aerosol phase function                      | 1%                        |
| Wavelength dependence of aerosol scattering | 0.5%                      |
| Atmospheric density profile                 | 1%                        |
| Sub total (Atmosphere)                      | <b>3.4%</b> ÷ 6.2%        |
| Absolute FD calibration                     | 9%                        |
| Nightly relative calibration                | 2%                        |
| Optical efficiency                          | 3.5%                      |
| Sub total (FD calibration)                  | 9.9%                      |
| Folding with point spread function          | 5%                        |
| Multiple scattering model                   | 1%                        |
| Simulation bias                             | 2%                        |
| Constraints in the Gaisser-Hillas fit       | 3.5% ÷ 1%                 |
| Sub total (FD profile rec.)                 | 6.5% ÷ 5.6%               |
| Invisible energy                            | <b>3%</b> ÷ <b>1.5%</b>   |
| Statistical error of the SD calib. fit      | <b>0.7%</b> ÷ <b>1.8%</b> |
| Stability of the analysis seels             |                           |
| Stability of the energy scale               | 5%                        |



#### **TA** Astropart.Phys. 61 (2015) 93-101

| Item                   | Error (%) | Contributions  |
|------------------------|-----------|--|
| Detector sensitivity   | 10        | PMT (8%), mirror (4%),<br>aging (3%), filter (1%)    |
| Atmospheric collection | 11        | aerosol (10%),                                       |
| Fluorescence yield     | 11        | model (10%),<br>humidity (4%),                       |
| Reconstruction         | 10        | atmosphere (3%)<br>model (9%)<br>missing energy (5%) |
| Sum in quadrature      | 21        | missing energy (5%)                                  |

# **ENERGY SCALE**

#### **Fluorescence** yield

Auger uses Airfly TA uses Kakimoto + FLASH

#### **Invisible energy (** $\nu$ , $\mu$ , ...) Auger: estimated from data exploiting the muon sensitivity

of the SD signals



J. Rosado et al., Astropart. Phys. 55 (2014) 51

note: combined effect: 5%-10% relative shift between TA and Auger energy scales 16

### **TA ENERGY SPECTRUM**





exposure

# AUGER ENERGY SPECTRUM

unprecedented statistics

SD spectra only above full efficiency energy threshold consistency between different measurements common energy scale

Auger ICRC17 arXiv:1708.06592





### **ENERGY SPECTRUM: AUGER vs TA**

- consistency in the ankle position
- inconsistency in the cut-off position

|                          | Auger | ТА  |
|--------------------------|-------|-----|
| E <sub>ankle</sub> (EeV) | 5.08  | 5.2 |
| E <sub>1/2</sub> (EeV)   | 22.6  | 60  |



### **ENERGY SPECTRUM: AUGER vs TA**

- a 10.4% rescaling factor is fully consistent with the different fluor. yield and  $E_{inv}$  (if TA uses Auger fluol. yeld &  $E_{inv} \rightarrow \Delta E/E \approx -9\%$ )
- why the spectra are so different at the cut-off?
  - astrophysics?
  - and/or experimental effects?



# **Telescope Array & Auger**

- common declination band  $\rightarrow$  inter calibration, ٠ systematics, ..., comparison of the energy spectra
- main goal: anisotropy with full sky coverage ٠





Dedicated conferences:

- Nagoya (Japan) Dec 2010
- CERN Feb 2012
- Utah (USA) Oct 2014
- Kyoto (Japan) Oct 2016

next: Oct 2018

### DECLINATION DEPENDENCE OF THE ENERGY SPECTRA

Auger + TA Proceedings of UHECR2016 PoS (ICRC2017) 498

- common declination band  $-15.7^0 < \delta < 25^0$
- Auger has not a declination dependence
- TA: cut-off position in the common declination band closer to the Auger one (\*)



(\*) common decl. band  $\log_{10}(E_2) = 19.59$  e 19.56 for TA and Auger, respectively

### Anisotropies at intermediate scale

### TA 'hot spot'

S. Troitsky PoS (ICRC2017) 548

25° around  $(\alpha, \delta) = (144.3^{\circ}, 40.3^{\circ})$ 143 events E > 57 EeV $N_{obs} = 34$   $N_{exp} = 13.5$ 

#### $\sim 3\sigma$ post-trial

note: 'hot spot' outside the common declination band  $-15.7^0 < \delta < 25^0$ 





 $\psi$  (degree)

### **Anisotropies at intermediate scale - Auger**

#### U. Cacciari, PoS (ICRC2017) 484

#### **UHECR produced in gamma-ray sources**

- Active Galactic Nuclei
- 17 AGNs from 2FHL Catalog (Fermi-LAT) with E > 50 GeV
- $\Phi(> 50 \text{ GeV})$  proxy of UHECR flux
- Star-forming or Starburst Galaxies
- 23 objects with  $\Phi(> 1.4 \text{ GHz})$  from Fermi-LAT search list
- $\Phi(> 1.4 \text{ GHz})$  proxy of UHECR flux

Likelihood ratio

$$TS = 2\ln\left(\frac{H_1}{H_0}\right)$$

1

\

$$H_0: isotropy$$
$$H_1: (1-f) \times isotropy + f \times FluxMap(\psi)$$



### **OBSERVATION OF A LARGE SCALE ANISOTROPY**

#### Auger, Science 57 (2017) 1266-1270



#### **EVIDENCE OF EXTRAGALACTIC ORIGIN OF UHECRs**

#### Auger, Science 57 (2017) 1266-1270

- observed dipole lies  $\sim 125^{\circ}$  from GC
- infrared-detected galaxies in 2MRS catalog
  - dipole lies  $\sim 55^{\circ}$  from the expected one
  - better agreement when the Galactic B is taken into account



### **ANISOTROPIES WITH FULL SKY COVERAGE**

Higher order multipoles

$$\Phi(\mathbf{n}) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{+\infty} \sum_{m=-\ell}^{+\ell} a_{\ell m} Y_{\ell m}(\mathbf{n})$$

anisotropy at  $\sim 1/1$  radians



### **MASS COMPOSITION - AUGER**

#### J. Bellido, PoS (ICRC2017) 522



lightest composition at ~  $2 \times 10^{18}$  eV heavier composition at lower and at higher energies narrower  $\sigma(X_{max})$  above ~  $2 \times 10^{18}$  eV

### **MASS COMPOSITION - AUGER**

#### J. Bellido, PoS (ICRC2017) 522

### mass composition from $X_{max}$ distributions



### **MASS COMPOSITION - AUGER**

#### J. Bellido, PoS (ICRC2017) 522



- largest proton fractions at  $\approx 10^{18.3} \text{ eV}$
- above 10<sup>18.3</sup> eV increasing fraction of He and N
- no Fe at almost all energies



#### are the two measurements in agreement?

31



13



- 1) simulate TA events according to the Auger composition
- 2) compare TA X<sub>max</sub> distributions: data vs simulations

# consistency within the systematics

V. De Souza PoS (ICRC2017) 522

#### **SPECTRUM INTERPRETATION**

ankle 5×10<sup>18</sup> eV

"dip" scenario requires extragal. protons (>85%)

BUT

correlation X<sub>max</sub> vs S(1000)

#### evidence of a mixed composition at the ankle



cut-off

end of the spectrum due to propagation effects?

#### BUT

combined fit spectrum and composition

 $\Phi_A \propto f_A E^{-\gamma} f_{cut}(E, Z_A, R_{cut})$ 

maximum rigidity (1) favored over photo-disintegration (2)



others: R. Aloisio &V. Berezinsky arXiv1703.08671

G.Farrar & M.Unger, PoS (ICRC2015) 336513

## HADRONIC **INTERACTIONS**

Auger, PRD 91 (2015) 032003 showers inclined at large zenith angle muon excess  $\sim 30\%$ -80% for mass composition from X<sub>max</sub>







$$S = R_E S_{EM} + R_{had} R_E^{\alpha} S_{had}$$

rescaling factors to match the SD and FD signals (hybrid data)

evidence of muon excess not sensitive to energy scale uncertainty 34

### **OTHER OBSERVABLES SENSITIVE TO MASS COMPOSITION**

Auger, PRD 90 (2014) 122005 L.Collica (Auger) PoS (ICRC2015) 336

Auger, PRD 92 (2015) 019903 Auger, PRD 9

Auger, PRD 93 (2016) 072006



Hadronic interaction models fail to provide consistent interpretations of different observables

# **PHOTON LIMITS**

#### FD: X<sub>max</sub> SD: time spread, shower front curvature





Auger, JCAP 04 (2017) 009 and references therein

most of top-down models ruled-out start to constraint GZK photons

 $p \gamma_{GZK} \rightarrow p \pi^0$  36



#### NO NEUTRINOS (E>100 PeV) IN COINCIDENCE WITH GW IN AUGER SD DATA

Auger Antares IceCube arXiv:1710.05839 E. Zas PoS (ICRC2017) 972 Auger, Phys. Rev. D 94, 122007 (2016)



Equivalent c.m. energy (S<sub>pp</sub> [TeV]

10

 $\sigma_{p-air}$  FROM FD

800

700

600

500

400

300

200

10<sup>13</sup>

[qm]

σ p-air 10<sup>-1</sup>

Nam et al. 1975

Siohan et al. 1978

Ionda et al 1999

. Aielli et al.2009 Aglietta et al.2009

uger PRL2012

his Work 2015

10<sup>14</sup>

Baltrusaitis et al. 198

nurenko et al.1999 elov et al 2007

lescope Array 2015

10<sup>15</sup>

10<sup>16</sup>

Energy [eV]

10<sup>17</sup>

R. Ulrich PoS (ICRC2015) 401

R. Abbasi PoS (ICRC2015) 402

10<sup>2</sup>

EPOS-LHC

--- QGSJETII-04

10<sup>19</sup>

10<sup>20</sup>

--- SIBYLL-2.1

10<sup>18</sup>

#### **CORRELATIONS AMONG IceCube NEUTRINOS AND TA+AUGER CRs**

#### IceCube, Auger & TA JCAP01 (2016) 037



#### NO ULTRARELATIVISTIC MONOPOLES IN AUGER FD DATA

#### Auger, Phys. Rev. D 94 (2016) 082002



# FUTURE

- accumulate exposure
- mass composition at the highest energies ?
- how to overcome the problem of the limited FD duty cycle ?



# AUGER IN THE NEXT DECADE

### Auger upgrade

. . .

scintillator faster electronic (120 MHz)



- discriminate e.m. and muonic components
- mass sensitivity above the cut-off (no sensitivity from FD)





### TA IN THE NEXT DECADE

#### J. Matthews, PoS (ICRC17) 1096



### TAx4 ~3000 km<sup>2</sup>

SD: 507 scintillators 1.2 km - 700 km<sup>2</sup>

new 500 SD stations 2.08 km spacing

#### 2 additional FDs in MD and BR



# **Radio detection of EAS**

T. Heuge Phys. Rep. 620, 1-52 (2016)



radio signals related to the em of the shower 100% duty cycle no atmospheric attenuation, ... Askaryan effect 25% of e<sup>-</sup> over e<sup>+</sup> G. Askar'yan, Soviet Phys. JETP 14, 441 (1962)



- X<sub>max</sub> from LOFAR
- energy estimation from AERA (Auger)
- main limitation:
  - small footprint at ground  $\rightarrow$  requires dense array of antennas

## Neutrino with radio detectors

#### J. Alvarez-Muñiz PoS (ICRC2017) 1111



# Fluorescence radiation detection from space

#### JEM-EUSO Program

| EUSO-TA        | (2013 -) |
|----------------|----------|
| EUSO-Balloon   | (2014)   |
| EUSO-SPB1      | (2017)   |
| MiniEUSO       | (2018)   |
| EUSO-SPB2      | (2021)   |
| K-EUSO         | (2023)   |
| also<br>POEMMA | (2025 +) |



# Fluorescence radiation detection from space

#### K-Euso - ISS

- approved by Russian Space Agency
- it is a concrete mission at a fraction of the cost of JEM- EUSO

uniform full sky coverage with large exposure



M. Casolino PoS (ICRC2017) 370



# OUTLOOK

- successful implementation of the hybrid technique (FD+SD) but still many open issues
  - UHECRs are of extragalactic origin
  - there is some level of anisotropy but what are the sources?
  - UHECRs are not only protons. What is the mass composition at the cut-off? ankle and cut-off interpretation?
  - hadronic interaction models?

#### > Auger and TA will take data in the next decade

- $\circ$  6000 km<sup>2</sup> with full sky coverage
- mass sensitivity at the highest energies

#### > next generation experiments

- o fluorescence detection from space
- current UHECRs observatories are the ideal place where to develop new detection techniques (radio ...)

### new LHC data























# THANKS

### **COMPARISON OF THE ENERGY SPECTRA IN THE COMMON DECLINATION BAND**

- common declination band  $-15.7^0 < \delta < 25^0$
- account for the different shapes of the directional exposure

 $\rightarrow$  better agreement than in the full declination band

 $\rightarrow$  still some discrepancy that has to be due to experimental effects



Auger + TA Proceedings of UHECR2016 PoS (ICRC2017) 498

U. Cacciari, PoS (ICRC2017) 484



### **Anisotropies at intermediate scale - Auger**

#### U. Cacciari, PoS (ICRC2017) 484



3.9 σ

post-trial significances (energy scan)

2.7 σ

#### **OBSERVATION OF A LARGE SCALE ANISOTROPY**

Auger, Science 57 (2017) 1266-1270



X<sub>max</sub>: Auger vs TA

# $X_{max}$ distributions distorted by the FD field of view

- Auger: cuts to obtain unbiased X<sub>max</sub> distributions
- TA: X<sub>max</sub> distributions folded with detector effects (maximize the statistics)



### **Calibrate SD mass estimator againts X<sub>max</sub> from FD**

Auger arXiv:1710.07249  $\langle \ln A \rangle$  $\langle \ln A \rangle$ ICRC 201 ICRC 201:  $\Delta_s$  1500 m array  $\Delta_s$  1500 m array Δ. 750 m arrav Δ. 750 m arrav rise time in SD signals sensitive to mass composition but its interpretation is not consistent with the one from X<sub>max</sub> OGSJetII-04 EPOS-LHC calibrate it against X<sub>max</sub> from FD  $10^{2}$ 10 E [\_V] E [eV] 900  $\langle \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{max}} \rangle$  [g cm<sup>-2</sup> ] 1500 m array 850 750 m array 1100  $X_{max}$  [g cm<sup>-2</sup>] □ X<sub>max</sub> ICRC 2015 1500 m array 800 rise of mass 1000 composition 900 750 **X**<sub>max</sub> > 50 EeV 800 seems to 700 FD 700 stop 650 600 EPOS-LHC Correlation = 0.46600 500 QGSJetII-04 -4 -3 -2 -1 0 2 3 4  $\Delta_{s}$ 550 17.5 18 18.5 19 19.5 20 17  $\Delta_{\rm s}$  **SD** 54 log(E/eV)

C.Jui, Highlight TA ICRC15

# TA data compared to QGSJet-II.3



### SPECTRUM INTERPRETATION Auger, JCAP04 (2017) 038

predict the energy spectrum at Earth assuming that CRs are of extragalactic origin

fit ( $f_A, \gamma, R_{cut}$ ) at sources  $\Phi_A \propto f_A E^{-\gamma} f_{cut}(E, Z_A, R_{cut})$ 

#### do we observe the cut-off at the sources?







### HADRONIC **INTERACTIONS**

#### **T. Pierog PoS (ICRC2017) 1100**

| predictions            | pre LHC                  | post LHC                 |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <x<sub>max&gt;</x<sub> | $\sim 70 \text{ g/cm}^2$ | $\sim 40 \text{ g/cm}^2$ |
| elongation rate        | different                | similar                  |

#### generalized Heitler model

J. Matthews, Astropart. Phys. 22 (2005) 387



post LHC

pre LHC







### HADRONIC INTERACTIONS

Auger, PRD 91 (2015) 032003

# hybrid showers inclined at large zenith angle



10

 $R_{\mu}$ 

muon

size

Fit:  $\langle R_{\mu} \rangle = a (E/10^{19} \, \text{eV})^b$ 

174 Auger hybrid events

events 15

 $^{-1}$ 

stdev  $0.20 \pm 0.01$ 

 $\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ (R_{\mu} - \langle R_{\mu} \rangle) / \langle R_{\mu} \rangle \end{array}$ 

muon excess ~ 30%-80% for mass composition from  $X_{max}$ 

### HADRONIC INTERACTIONS

#### Auger, PRL 117 (2017) 192001

 $\begin{array}{ll} Auger \ hybrid \ events \\ E \sim 10^{19} \ eV \qquad \theta \leq 60^{0} \end{array}$ 

- simulate showers matching FD data
- compare simulated signal at ground with SD data







match the data

<u>evidence of muon</u> <u>excess not</u> <u>sensitive to energy</u> <u>scale uncertainty</u>

# Expected cosmogenic vs with the Auger exposure E. Zas PoS (ICRC2017) 972

| Diffuse flux neutrino model   | Expected events                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
|   | (1 Jan 04 - 31 Mar 17)               |
| Cosmogenic - proton - strong source evolution                                 | n                                    |
| Cosmogenic - proton, FRII evol. (Kampert 2012)                                | $\sim 5.2$                           |
| Cosmogenic - proton, FRII evol. (Kotera 2010)                                 | $\sim 9.2$                           |
| Cosmogenic - proton - moderate source evoluti                                 | on                                   |
| Cosmogenic - proton, SFR evol (Aloisio 2015)                                  | $\sim 2.0$                           |
| Cosmogenic - proton, SFR evol, $E_{\text{max}} = 10^{21}$ eV (Kotera 2010)    | $\sim 1.8$                           |
| Cosmogenic - proton, SFR evol. (Kampert 2012)                                 | $\sim 1.2$                           |
| Cosmogenic - proton, GRB evol. (Kotera 2010)                                  | $\sim 1.5$                           |
| Cosmogenic - proton - normalized to Fermi-LAT Ge                              | $\mathbf{V} \ \gamma \textbf{-rays}$ |
| Cosmogenic - proton, Fermi-LAT, $E_{\min} = 10^{19} \text{ eV}$ (Ahlers 2010) | $\sim 4.0$                           |
| Cosmogenic - proton, Fermi-LAT, $E_{\min} = 10^{17.5}$ eV (Ahlers 2010)       | $\sim 2.1$                           |
| Cosmogenic - mixed and iron   |                                      |
| Cosmogenic - mixed (Galactic) UHECR composition (Kotera 2010)                 | $\sim 0.7$                           |
| Cosmogenic - iron, FRII (Kampert 2012)  | $\sim 0.35$                          |
| Astrophysical sources   |                                      |
| Astrophysical - radio-loud AGN (Murase 2014)                                  | $\sim 2.6$                           |
| Astrophysical - Pulsars - SFR evol. (Fang 2014)                               | $\sim 1.3$                           |

**EXCLUDED** (> 90% CL), **DISFAVORED** (85% < CL < 90% ), **ALLOWED** 

# **Constraints on Cosmogenic neutrinos from proton-dominated sources**



Above bInjection spectra  $dN/dE^{-\alpha}E^{-\alpha}CL$  by IceCube (7 yrs of data) – PRL 2016 Above white line – excluded at 90% CL by Auger 2016 (8.4 yrs of full Auger)



