



#### SMR/1842-18

#### International Workshop on QCD at Cosmic Energies III

28 May - 1 June, 2007

Lecture Notes

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Argentina Australia **Bolivia**\* Brasil **Czech Republic** France Germany Holland Italy Poland Mexico Slovenia Spain **United Kingdom** USA Vietnam\*

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# Pierre Auger Observatory

An International Facility to Study the Highest Energy Cosmic Rays

PIERRE AUGER

Mendoza Province, Argentina





## Flux x E<sup>2.5</sup>



The purpose of Auger is:

# Identify the origin and the identity of the highest energy cosmic rays

How?

- 1. Measure the shape of the energy spectrum
- 2. Measure the particle type
- 3. Locate the sources

And then?

Astrophysics: what is the acceleration mechanism?

Particle Physics: what are interactions like at such energy?

# How to get particles to extreme energy

- Fermi Acceleration (Bottom-Up)
  - repeated encounters with strong plasma shocks
  - naturally produces power-law with correct index
  - maximum energy can be extremely large
  - observed in nature
- "Exotic" (Top-Down)
  - decay of massive relic particles
  - interaction of Z's with cosmic background neutrinos
  - topological defects, other things ???
  - Signature: protons, photons, neutrinos

Galactic Cosmic Ray Origin?

## Fermi Acceleration in Supernova Shocks up to ~ $10^{15} eV - 10^{17} eV$ ?





# HESS - smoking guns in TeV $\gamma$ 's ?

### **RX J1713 - 20** σ





#### **The Extreme Universe**









## Radio Galaxy



#### **Trajectories of Cosmic Ray Protons in the Galaxy**

- Protons are trapped in our Galaxy up to ~10<sup>18</sup>eV
- Protons can travel straight above ~10<sup>20</sup>eV

Charged-Particle
Astronomy



## E=10<sup>18</sup>eV

E=10<sup>19</sup>eV

E=10<sup>20</sup>eV







#### AGASA Energy Spectrum

- After 10 years of operation, AGASA observed ~10 events above GZK cutoff.
- Can not be explained by cosmologically uniform source distribution.



#### HiRes astro-ph/070399 6 Mar 2007



*Modest systematic energy shifts for either could bring much better agreement (except at the end ? ...)* 



V.Berezinsky, A. Gazizov, S. Grigorieva, Phys. Rev. D74, 043005 (2006)

## (Speculations)

There has been a new measurement of atmospheric fluorescence efficiency by "AirFly" (not yet published)

It may systematically raise the energy of HiRes events

EPOS-based simulation generates singnificantly more muons in EAS.

This could systematically lower AGASA energy. (small effect on Auger spectrum)





The Auger Observatory uses **both** techniques, with:

- Very large size (statistics)
- Good energy (spectrum) and angular resolution (astronomy)





### **Surface detector array - measurement of EAS particles**

## Pierre Auger Observatory



#### 38° South, near Malargue, Mendoza, Argentina







AGASA spectrum >> 100 events/yr above 10<sup>20</sup> eV



1408 tanks deployed, 1354 with water and 1279 with electronics

#### 1600 water Cherenkov tanks make a surface array of >3000 km<sup>2</sup>













#### the Pampa is wet without Auger tanks...






### Auger webcam in the backyard: more tanks to go



- 15-20 tanks/week from 3
  manufacturers
- assembly: more than four per day
- Water transport is up to four tanks per day.





**θ~** 48°, ~ 70 EeV (7 x 10<sup>19</sup> eV)





#### very inclined 20-tank event with 82° zenith angle...



#### **Telecommunication system**









# telescope calibration includes the atmosphere









two sample profiles from the engineering array



#### Coihueco Run 1187 Event 564

SDP fit



time stamp: 807699612 s 735072804 ns UTC date: 2005-08-10 08:59:59 in Coiheco mirror 4 (in DAQ: 1 2 3 4 5 6 ) T3 Id 4164 Event type: 'Physics - Int or L/R trigger' Event class: 'Shower Candidate'

 $\begin{array}{l} lg(E/eV)=19.76 \pm 0.01 \\ Xmax = 769.82 \pm 5.40 \ g/cm^2 \\ X0 = -113.23 \pm 57.59 \ g/cm^2 \\ \lambda = 67.29 \pm 6.21 \ g/cm^2 \\ dEdXmax = 86.57 \pm 1.30 \ PeV/g/cm^2 \\ (\theta, q)=(51.58, 134.68) \ deg. \\ (x,y)=(36.45, 44.29) \ km \\ dca to \ Eye=23.25 \pm 0.03 \ km \end{array}$ 

#### A stereo-hybrid event

- An example of an event seen by Los Leones and Coihueco FD eyes, and the SD
- June 26 2004
- by definition high energy (to be seen by Coihueco)



#### 10.2 EeV Hybrid event



## An event seen by three fluorescence telescopes (10 August 2005)

Auger Event 200522102835



# **Angular Resolution**



Hybrid-SD only space angle difference

# There are two ways to obtain the energy of an event:

- **1. By simulation of air showers and surface** detectors. Needs careful Monte Carlo, including particle physics beyond where accelerator data give guidance.
- 2. By connecting Fluorescence energy with Surface size. Very nearly "model independent", since FD gives a calorimetric determination of energy. But note that only about 10% of events are measured by both SD and FD













Ratio of total energy to electromagnetic energy for fluorescence detector



# **Spectrum data set:** 1 January 2004 through 28 February 2007.

**Integrated exposure**: 5165 km<sup>2</sup> sr year

(~ 3 x AGASA or our 2005 Pune ICRC Report)



Statistical uncertainty shown (systematic ~ 22%)



Figure 6: Fractional difference between the derived spectrum and an assumed flux  $\propto E^{-2.6}$  as a function of energy.

Systematic Energy uncertainty of 22% dominated by Fluorescence Yield (~14%) S(1000) vs. E fit (~10%)





# Highly inclined events ( > 60° ) ... mostly muons



NTanks = 37







Combined spectra ... three independent methods




#### **Anisotropy : UHECR Sky**



AGASA (2003) – excess near GC around 1 EeV

## **Testing previous reports of excesses**

AGASA: 506/413.6 (22% excess) 10<sup>18</sup> eV < E < 10<sup>18.4</sup> eV 20° radius window around (280°,-17°) (Hayashida et al 1999)



### AUGER: 2116 / 2159.5 = 0.98 ± 0.02 22% excess would have been 2634 events (10 σ)

SUGAR: 21.8/11.8 (85% excess) 10<sup>17.9</sup> eV < E < 10<sup>18.5</sup> EeV 5.5° radius window around (274°,-22°) (Bellido et al 2001)



#### AUGER: 286 / 289.7 = 0.98 ± 0.06



# No excess from the Galactic Center region

astro-phy/0607382



"Anisotropy studies around the Galactic centre at EeV with the Auger Observatory" Pierre Auger Collaboration (J. Abraham et al.) *Astropart. Phys. <u>27</u> (2007) 244*  Fig. 1. Map of CR overdensity significances near the GC region on top-hat windows of  $5^{\circ}$  radius. The GC location is indicated with a cross, lying along the galactic plane (solid line). Also the regions where the AGASA experiment found their largest excess as well as the region of the SUGAR excess are indicated.





2007 ICRC data set: twice as large as previous publication

# **BL Lacs ?**





Events at fixed energy ~10 EeV

*Events within < 0.9 deg.* 

Number of events correlated with BL Lacs (m < 18, Veron-Cetty 10<sup>th</sup> catalog)

Line: expectation for an uncorrelated isotropic flux

Bars: 95% dispersion of simulated isotropic sets.

# Several object- or pattern-oriented searches underway

How to look and understand your chance probabilities:

- 1. Look for "interesting" things, a priori. Establish criteria to maximize any interesting consequence.
- 2. Publish the "prescription" and wait a while to test with new independent data

Ordinary EAS at large zenith angles have little left but muons bunched tightly in time.



*If an event does not, then it is a neutrino candidate* 

Figure 1: FADC traces from a station of two different real showers after subtraction of baseline and calibration. Top: moderately inclined  $(40^\circ)$ ; bottom: quasi-horizontal  $(80^\circ)$ .



# <u>Summary</u>

- Auger is performing very well.
- The highest energy events look "normal" and have been reconstructed well.

Published:

- Do not confirm Galactic-Center excess
- Gamma rays < ~16% of total flux.

Work underway (ICRC 2007 and beyond):

• "Model-independent" energy spectra suggests GZK, "ankle".

- Angle-energy patterns?
- Correlation with objects (AGNs, ...) ?
- Composition changes at highest E ?
- Highly inclined showers neutrinos ?

# **The Future**

- Complete Auger-South: end of 2007
- Start Auger-North (10<sup>4</sup> km<sup>2</sup>) in SE Colorado around 2009
- Enhancements at Auger-South
  - Radio detection of showers
  - Measurement of muons
  - Exploration to lower energies both with denser array of water-tanks and Fluorescence detector pointing to higher elevations

#### What's Next: science and full-sky coverage

- consolidation of understanding
  - data quality, monitoring, operation procedures
  - analysis methods
  - calibration
- we're very satisfied with what we built...
- The Northern Site
  - scientific case
    - N/S astrophysical sources
    - isotropy: new physics
  - site: Colorado
  - seamless data integration
  - improvements



Auger North:

View the Northern Sky

3 x larger array than Auger South: statistics

#### GZK Alteration of observed flux





# The sources visible in the Southern sky may be quite different than those seen from the Northern sky



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