Multi-Messenger Astronomy: An Overview for Particle Physicists

John Beacom, The Ohio State University



The Ohio State University's Center for Cosmology and AstroParticle Physics





What Are the Goals of High-Energy Physics?

Probe fundamental particles and forces

Explain emergent phenomena

Search for new physics

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Three Ways of Making Progress

Laboratory

Cosmology



Highest precision



Growing precision





Emerging precision

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Choose Your MMA Fighter

Messenger	Best Probe of	Weakness
photons (sub-MeV)	thermal sources	attenuates easily
cosmic rays	accelerators	deflects
gamma rays	nonthermal sources	attenuates
neutrinos	hidden sources	detection is hard
gravitational waves	dense dynamics	localization
dark matter	halo	not detected yet

Talk Outline

Introductory Remarks

Extreme-Coverage Frontier

Extreme-Luminosity Frontier

Extreme-Energy Frontier

Concluding Remarks

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Extreme-Coverage Frontier

Solar, HE range (MeV–GeV)

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Solar: Motivations

How do cosmic rays interact in the Sun's magnetic environment? (Nobody really knows)

How does this produce gamma rays and neutrinos? (Nobody really knows)

What other processes can do this? (Nobody really knows)

Elongation angle (degrees)



ar: Orientation

-RAY EMISSION COMPONENTS FROM THE QUIESCENT SUN (2011)



Predictions from Seckel, Stanev, Gaisser (1991)



The solar disk gamma-ray emission is extremely weird!

(Ohio State group: Beacom, Linden, Ng, Peter, Tang, Zhou, Zhu, and friends)

Solar: Hope



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Solar: MMA





Linden et al. (2018) and related works for high-energy implications

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Solar: BSM







HAWC, Beacom, Leane, Linden, Ng, Peter, Zhou (2018)

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Extreme-Luminosity Frontier

VHE range (TeV–PeV)

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VHE Fluxes: Motivations

Nature's most luminous accelerators? (Yes, powering the cosmic rays that shape galaxies)

Evidence of dark matter annihilation or decay? (Not yet, but we have not finished looking)

Probe new physics in neutrino sector? (Yes, especially if we know the astrophysics better)

VHE Fluxes: Orientation (Co-Production)

Hadronic mechanism:

$$\begin{array}{ll} p + p \rightarrow p + p + \pi^{0} & \pi^{0} \rightarrow 2\gamma \\ \rightarrow p + n + \pi^{+} & \pi^{+} \rightarrow e^{+} + 3\nu \end{array}$$

Leptonic mechanism:

$$e + \gamma \rightarrow e + \gamma$$

Production always makes a mess; propagation makes more

VHE Fluxes: Orientation (GeV–TeV Gamma Rays)

Milky Way diffuseMilky Way sources

- ✓ Extragalactic diffuse
- ✓ Extragalactic sources

SNRs and PWNe

Pulsars



BL Lacs

FSRQs

Unc. Blazars

Other EGAL

Other GAL

Unknow

Λ

Unassociated

Fermi

Extended

VHE Fluxes: Accomplishments (Cosmic Rays)

✓ Milky Way diffuse X Milky Way sources

- X Extragalactic diffuse
- X Extragalactic sources



 $m^{-1}sr^{-1}s^{-1}GeV^{1.7}$]



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VHE Fluxes: Accomplishments (Gamma Rays)

✓ Milky Way diffuse ✓ Milky Way sources

- X Extragalactic diffuse
- ✓ Extragalactic sources



HAWC (2021)

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VHE Fluxes: Accomplishments (Neutrinos)

X Milky Way diffuse



X Milky Way sources

IceCube (2020)

- ✓ Extragalactic diffuse
- ∼ Extragalactic sources



IceCube, Fermi, everyone (2017)

VHE Fluxes: Hope



Cherekov Telescope Array precision gamma rays





IceCube-Gen2

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VHE Diffuse: MMA

Crab Nebula to 1 PeV!

Many other sources!





VHE Diffuse: BSM

Neutrino Flavor Probes



Bustamante, Beacom, Winter (2015)

Neutrino Secret Interactions



Esteban, Pandey, Brdar, Beacom (2021)

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Extreme-Energy Frontier

UHE range (EeV–ZeV)

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HEP 2022, Virtual Hong Kong, January 2022

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UHE (EeV–ZeV) Fluxes: Motivations

Nature's highest-energy accelerators? (Yes, ~ 10²⁰ eV and detectable across the universe)

Evidence of super high mass scales? (Not yet, but we have barely looked)

Probe new physics at extremes of energy and other variables? (Yes, especially if we know the astrophysics better)

UHE Fluxes: Orientation (GZK Process)



Greisen-Zatsepin-Kuzmin process $p + \gamma \rightarrow p + \pi^{0}$ $\rightarrow n + \pi^{+}$ $\pi^{0} \rightarrow 2\gamma$ $\pi^{+} \rightarrow e^{+} + 3\nu$

Highest-energy CRs all die *Neutrinos are their ghosts*

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UHE Fluxes: Accomplishments



CR Spectrum: precise but mysterious

CR composition: precise but limited by theory

CR associations and anisotropies: claimed but unconvincing

Gamma and neutrino fluxes: only upper limits

UHE (Neutrino) Fluxes: Unsolved

Neutrinos probe *full line of sight*, are very sensitive to composition



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UHE Fluxes: Hope

IceCube-Gen2 Radio



Radar Echo Telescope



And many other proposed experiments

UHE Fluxes: MMA



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UHE Fluxes: BSM

Neutrino Cross Section



Bustamante and Connolly (2017)

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Neutrino Lorentz Violation



Concluding Remarks

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Key Messages

Multi-messenger observations are opening new vistas A golden opportunity for astronomy

Astrophysics has physical conditions far beyond the lab A golden opportunity for physics

Making the most of this requires working together A golden opportunity for human understanding

Please see Decadal Survey on Astronomy and Astrophysics 2020 (Astro2020)