

Observations of Ultra-High-Energy Cosmic Rays

TAUP XVIII

Friday, September 1st 2023

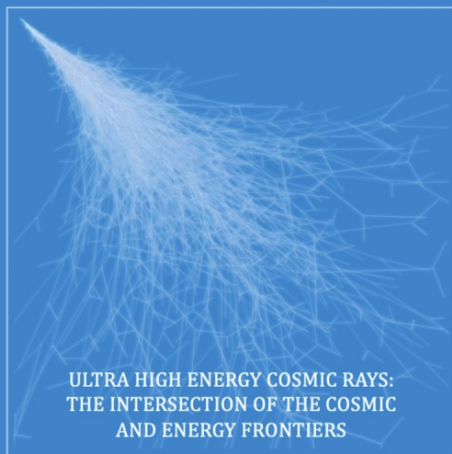
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ASTROPARTICLE PHYSICS



ULTRA HIGH ENERGY COSMIC RAYS:
THE INTERSECTION OF THE COSMIC
AND ENERGY FRONTIERS

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- Started as a Snowmass Whitepaper on UHECR
- Over 100 authors contributed with 200 endorsers
- Aims to:
 - Review the current state of the field
 - Provide a 20-year roadmap for future



ICRC2023

38th International Cosmic Ray Conference

The Astroparticle Physics Conference

Nagoya, Japan

Jul 26–Aug 3, 2023 (Hybrid)

Covered Topics and International Science Program Committee Chairs

Cosmic-Ray Physics (Direct, CRD): Elena Amato
Cosmic-Ray Physics (Indirect, CRI): Bruce Dawson
Gamma-Ray Astronomy (GA): Sara Buson
Neutrino Astronomy & Physics (NU): Jenni Adams
Solar & Heliospheric Physics (SH): Veronica Bindi
Dark Matter Physics (DM): Susana Cebrián Guajardo
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Ilya Usoskin
Zhiguo Yao

Local Organizing Committee

Shoichi Ogio (Chair)
Yoshitaka Itow (Co-Chair)
Takashi Sako (Co-Chair)
and many



The past and future 20-years endeavor for discovering origins of ultra-high energy cosmic rays - Rapporteur of Cosmic Ray Indirect (CRI) -

Toshihiro Fujii (toshi@omu.ac.jp)

Graduate School of Science, Osaka Metropolitan University
Nambu Yoichiro Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics



Auger Highlight Francesco Salamida



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PIERRE AUGER OBSERVATORY

Francesco Salamida for the Pierre Auger Collaboration

TA Highlight Jihyun Kim

Highlights from the Telescope Array Experiment

Jihyun Kim

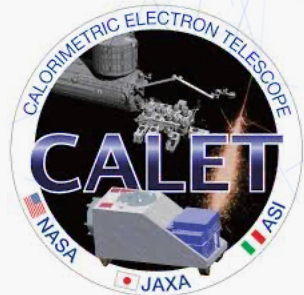
for the Telescope Array Collaboration
University of Utah
jihyun@cosmic.utah.edu



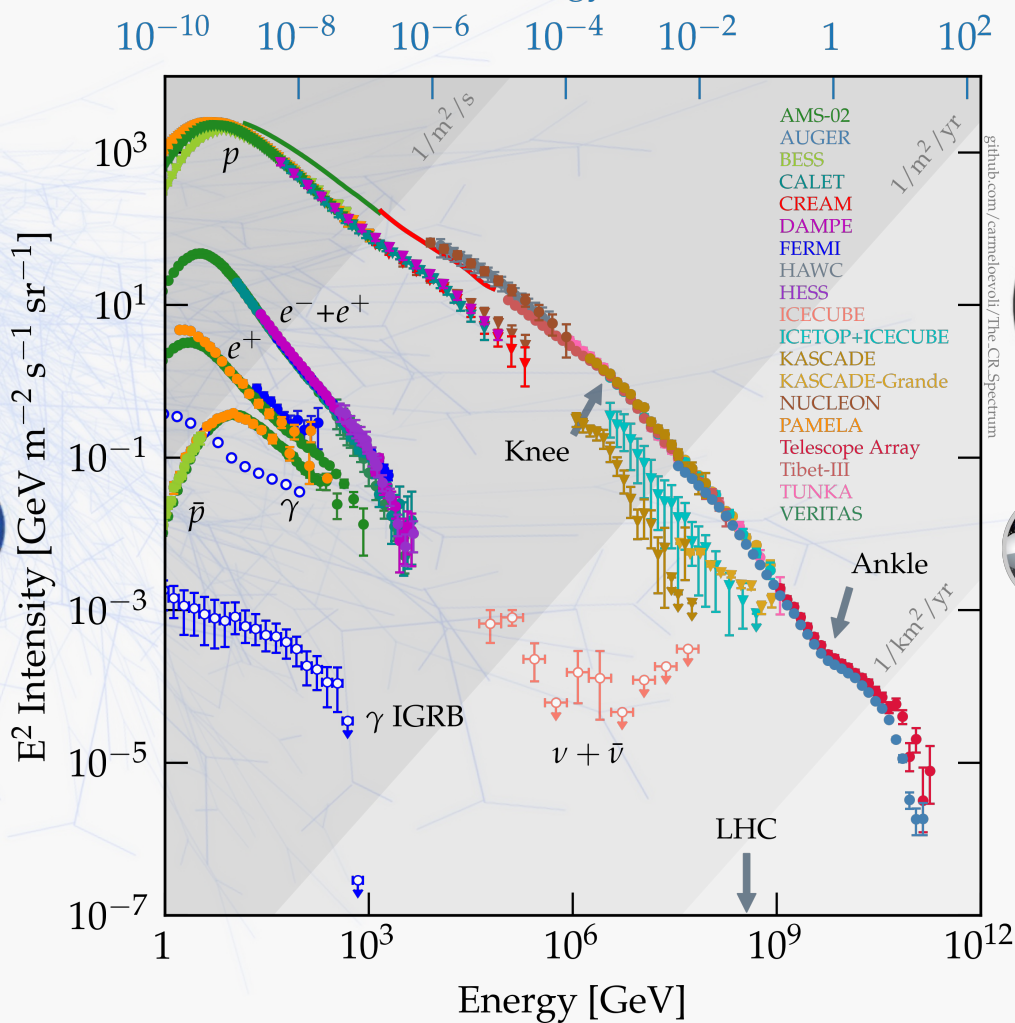
Jihyun Kim @ ICRC2023



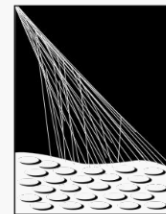
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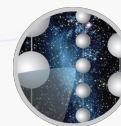
Energy [J]



Indirect



PIERRE
AUGER
OBSERVATORY

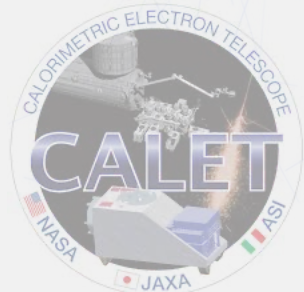


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NEUTRINO OBSERVATORY

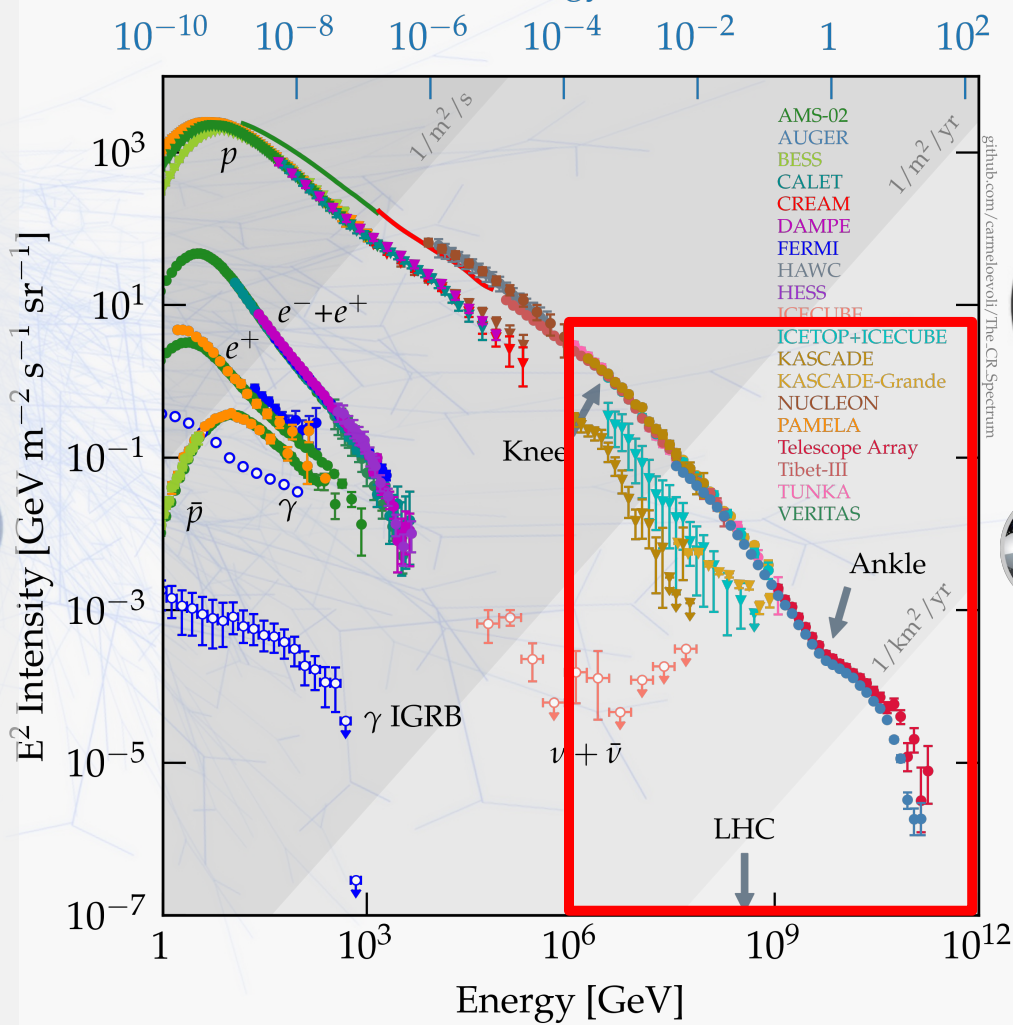


高海拔宇宙线观测站

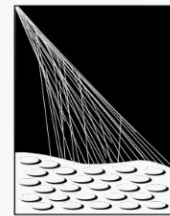
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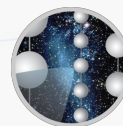
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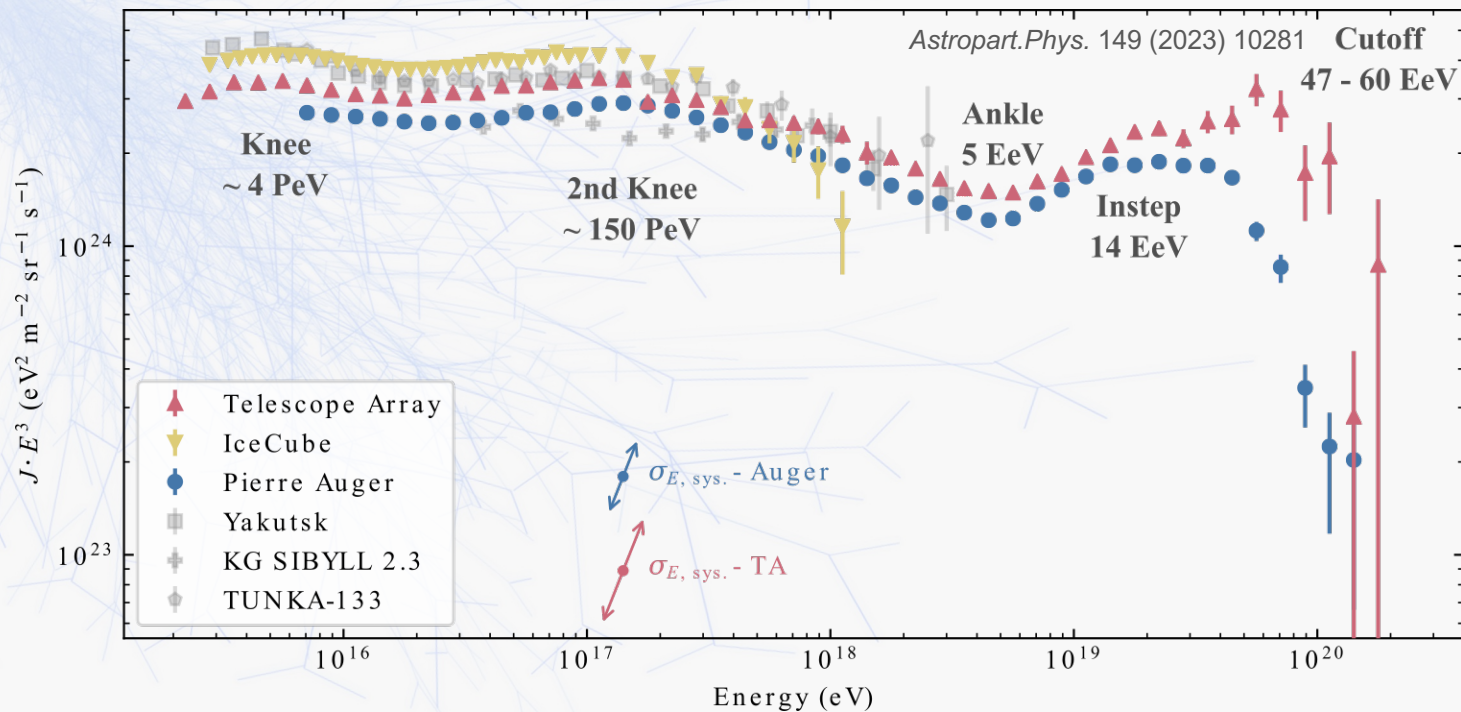


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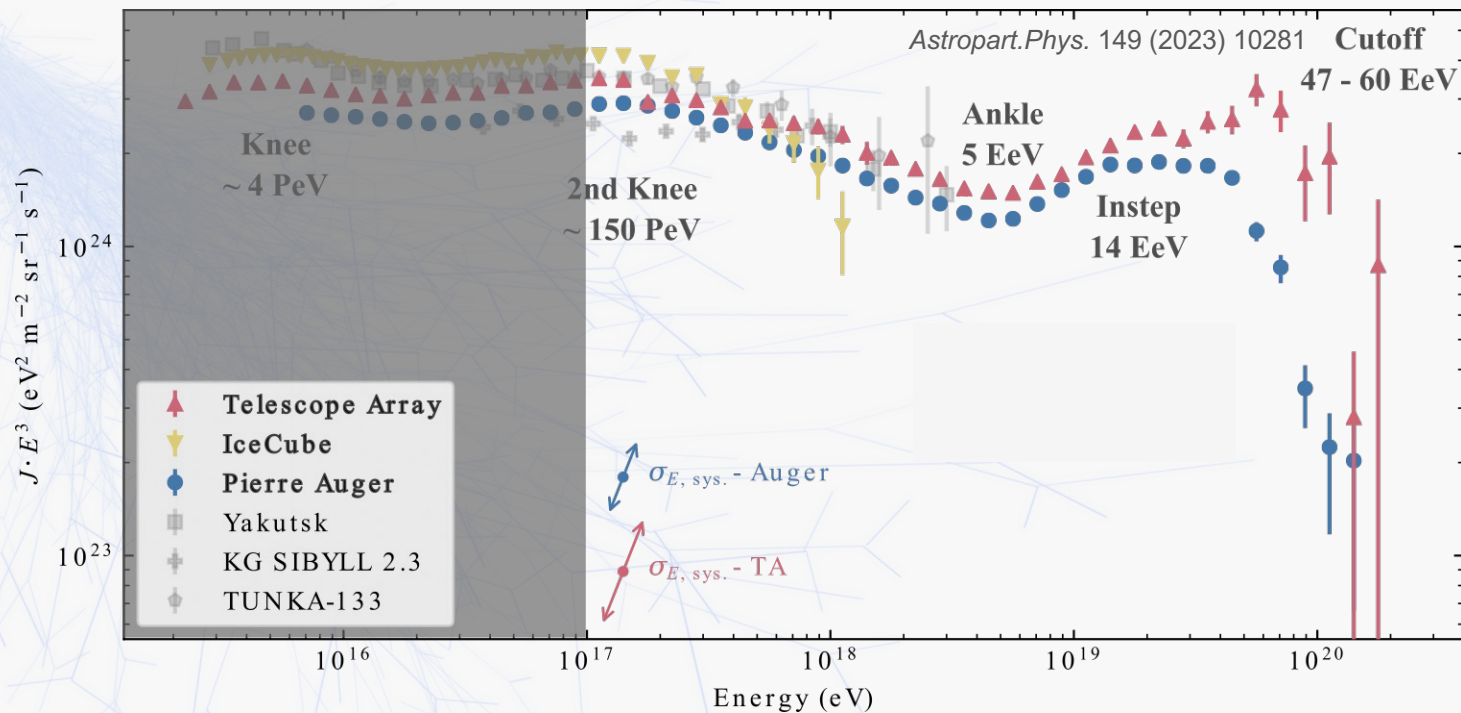


高海拔宇宙线观测站

The High Energy End of the Cosmic Ray Spectrum



Ultra-High-Energy Cosmic Rays



Adopting UHECR energy range of $E > 100 \text{ PeV}$
from Snowmass Whitepaper

Open Questions

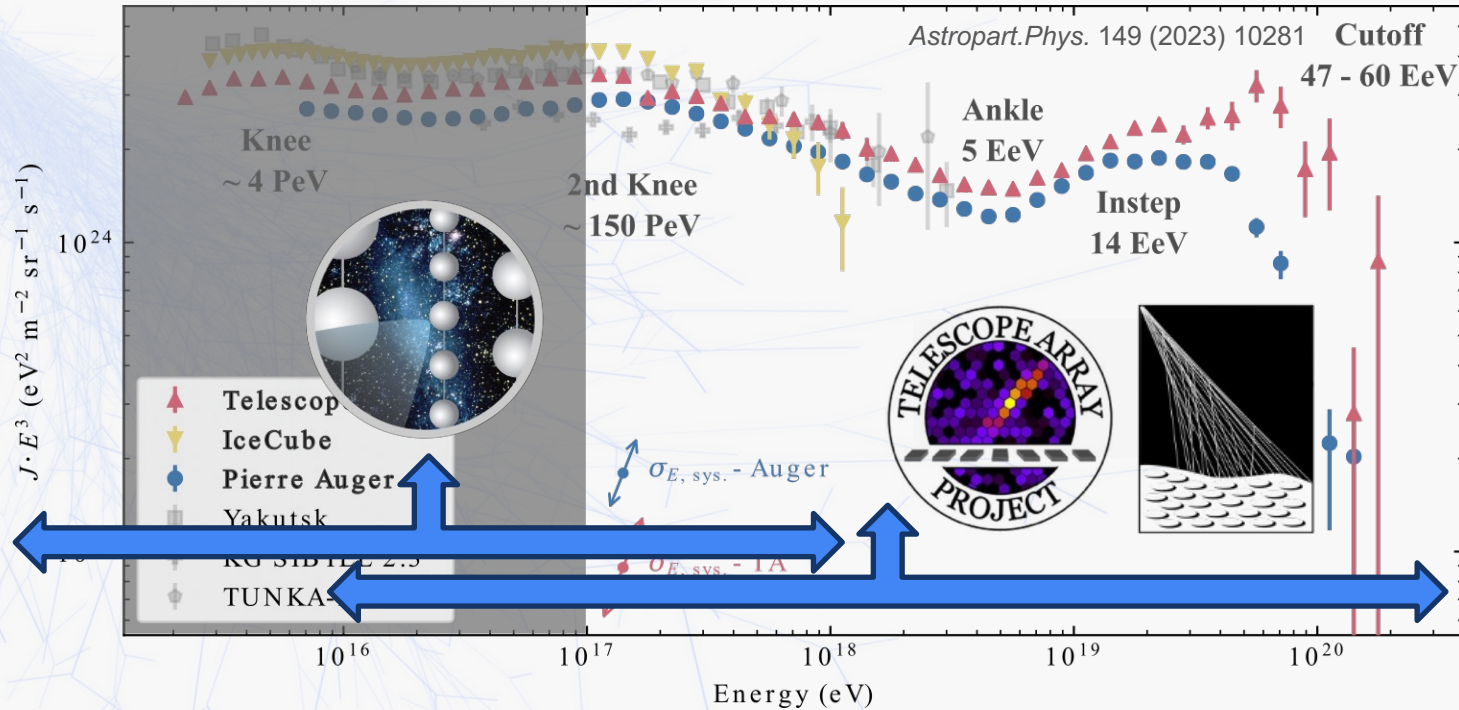
Astrophysics What systems or phenomena are producing UHECR?

Astrophysics What is the nature of the flux suppression at the highest energies?

Astrophysics At what energy do galactic cosmic ray sources die out and extragalactic sources take over?

Particle Physics Are there new interactions and phenomena waiting to be discovered at energies past those achievable at the LHC?

Ultra-High-Energy Cosmic Rays Observatories



Due to the steeply descending flux,
measuring above the EeV range requires giant exposures

The Telescope Array (TA):

- 507 Scintillation Detectors (SD)
- 38 Fluorescence Telescopes (FD)
- Total Area ~700 km²

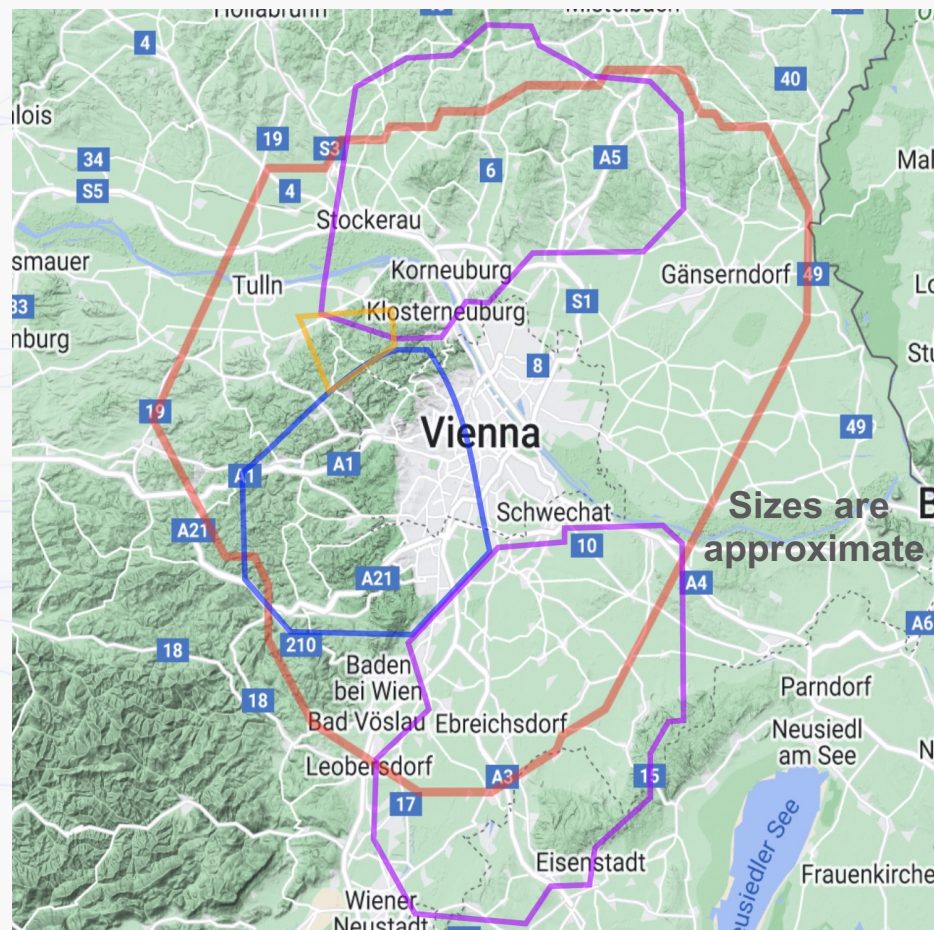
- Expansion of SD and FD
 - 500 new SDs
 - 12-14 new FDs
 - Total Area ~3000 km²

Phase 1

1660 water Cherenkov detectors (SD)
27 Fluorescence Telescopes (FD)
➤ Total Area ~3000 km²

Full Array upgrade adding:

- Scintillators to the full SD
- Radio detectors to the full SD
- Increasing FD duty cycle



Era of Giant Arrays

The Telescope Array (TA):

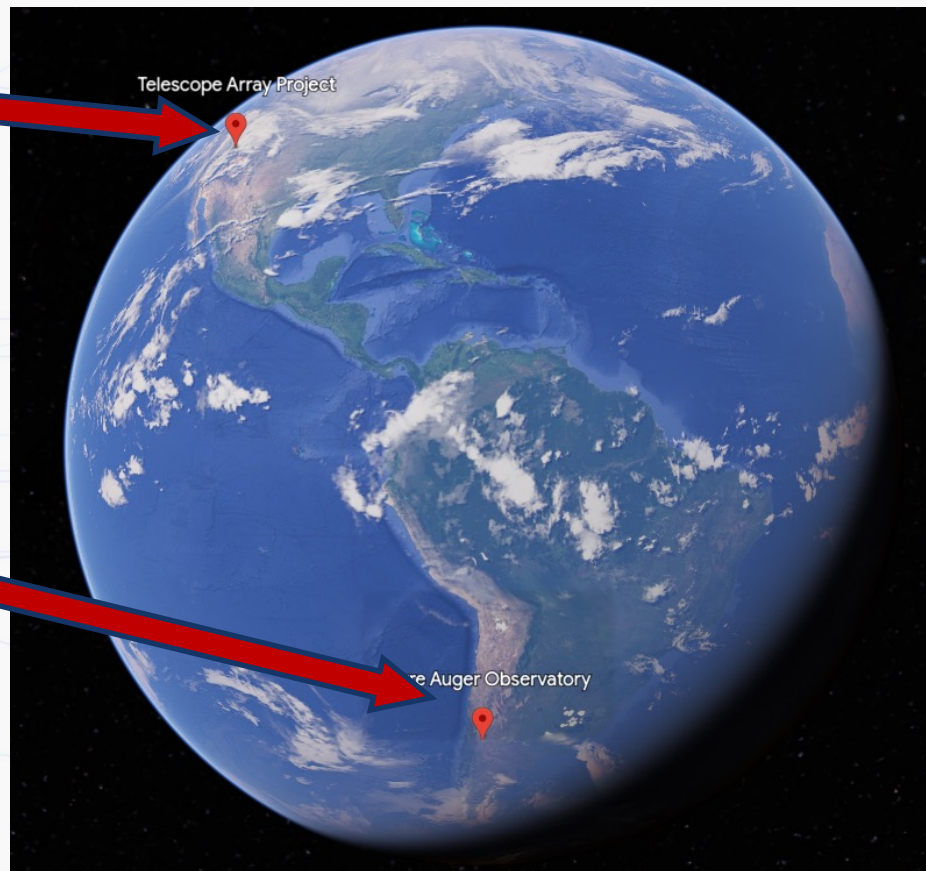
Main Array 507 Scintillation Detectors (SD)
38 Fluorescence Telescopes (FD)
➤ Total Area $\sim 700 \text{ km}^2$

TA x 4 Expansion of SD and FD
➤ 500 new SDs
➤ 12-14 new FDs
➤ Total Area $\sim 3000 \text{ km}^2$

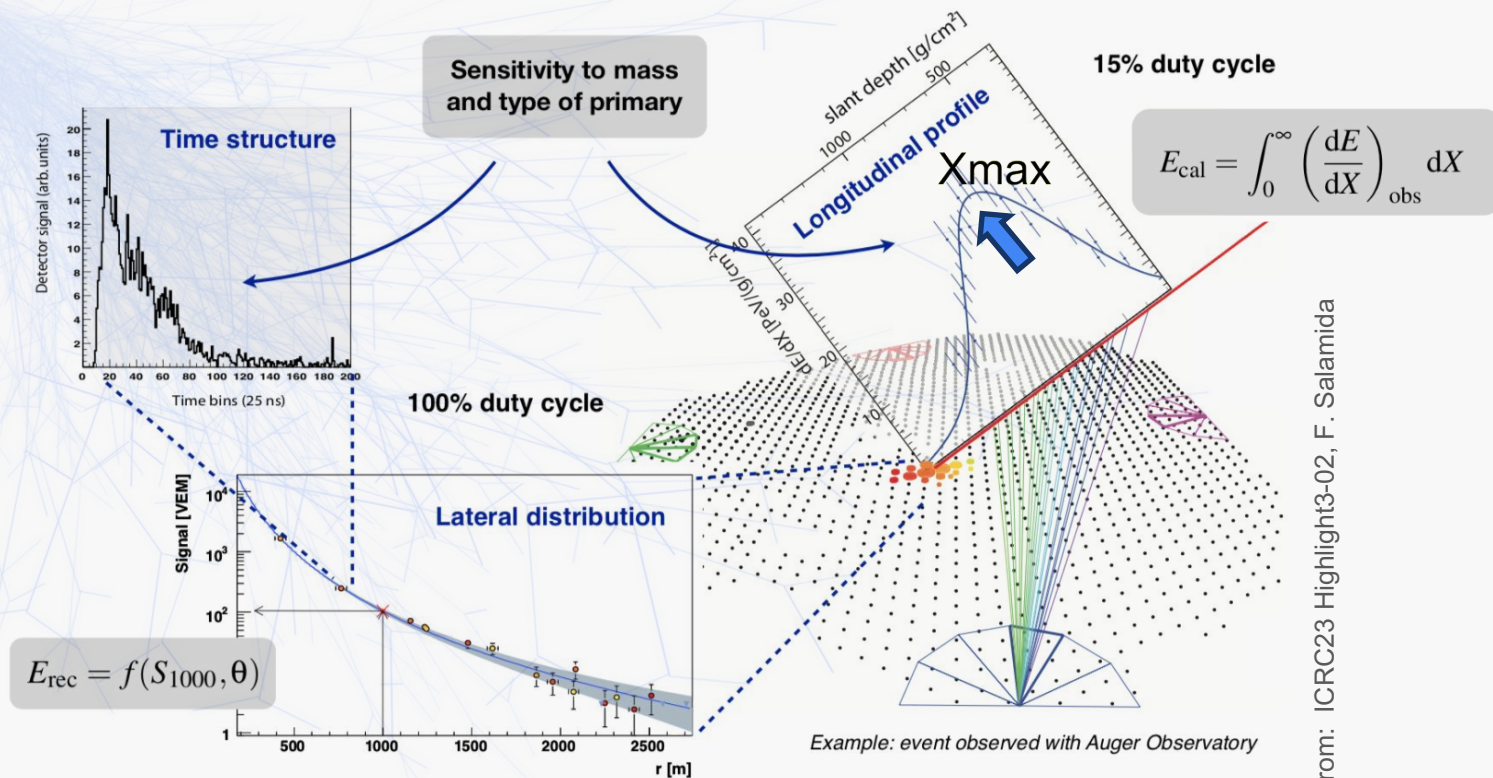
The Pierre Auger Observatory (Auger):

Phase 1 1660 water Cherenkov detectors (SD)
27 Fluorescence Telescopes (FD)
➤ Total Area $\sim 3000 \text{ km}^2$

AugerPrime Full Array upgrade adding:
➤ Scintillators to the full SD
➤ Radio detectors to the full SD
➤ Increasing FD duty cycle



The Hybrid Observation Method



From: ICRC23 Highlight3-02, F. Salamida

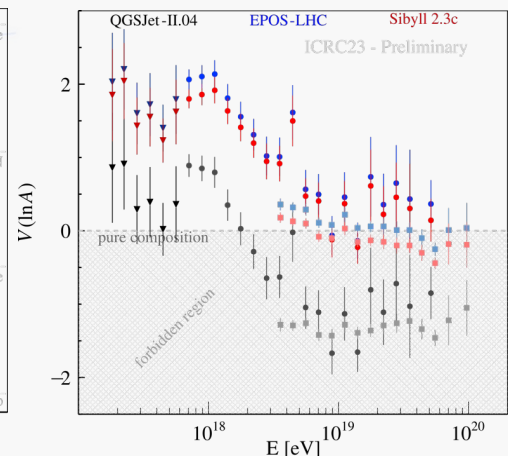
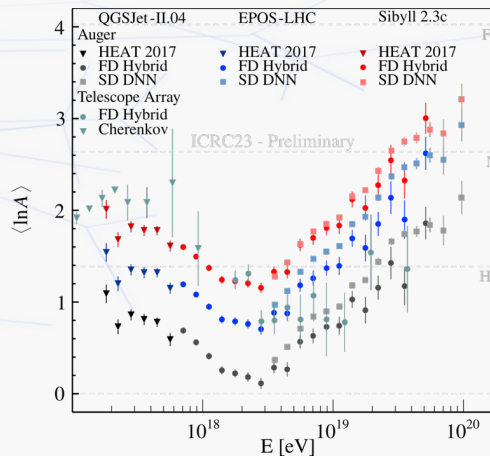
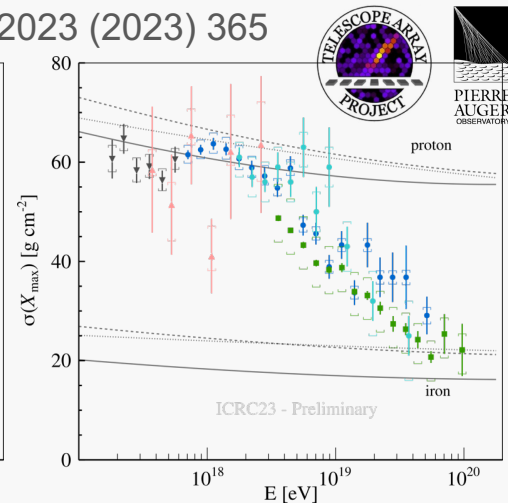
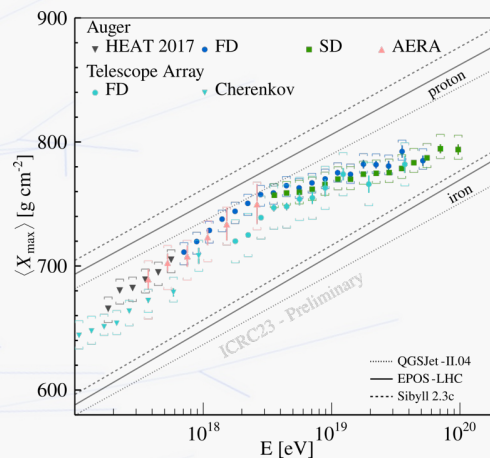
Composition of the UHECR Beam

The mean mass of UHECR primaries:

- $E < 1 \text{ EeV}$** Moderately heavy composition becoming lighter
- 1 to 10 EeV** Lightest composition at 2-3 EeV
- $E > 10 \text{ EeV}$** UHECR composition becomes increasingly heavy with energy

The spread of UHECR primary masses:

- $E < 1 \text{ EeV}$** UHECR beam is highly mixed in composition until $\sim 1 \text{ EeV}$
- 1 to 10 EeV** UHECR beam transitions from mixed to relatively pure
- $E > 10 \text{ EeV}$** Beam has only 1 or 2 components



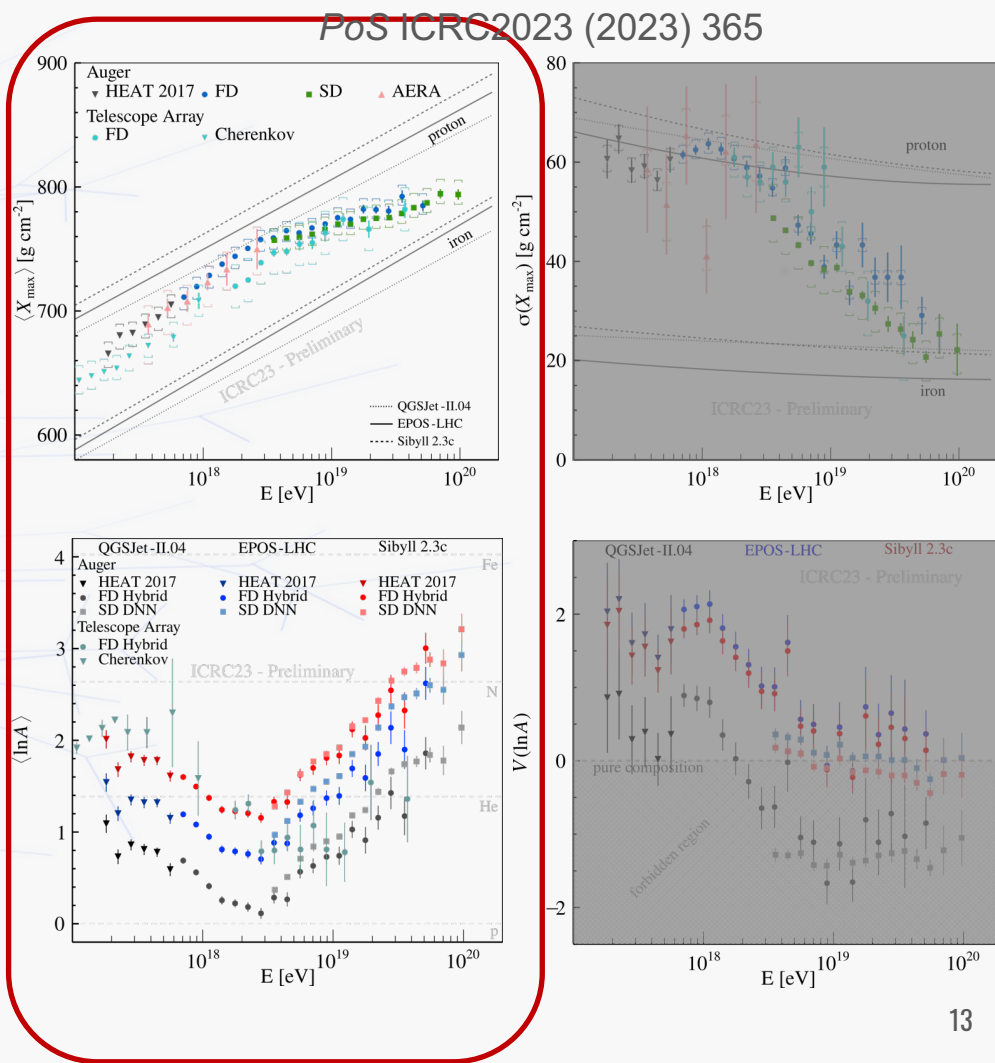
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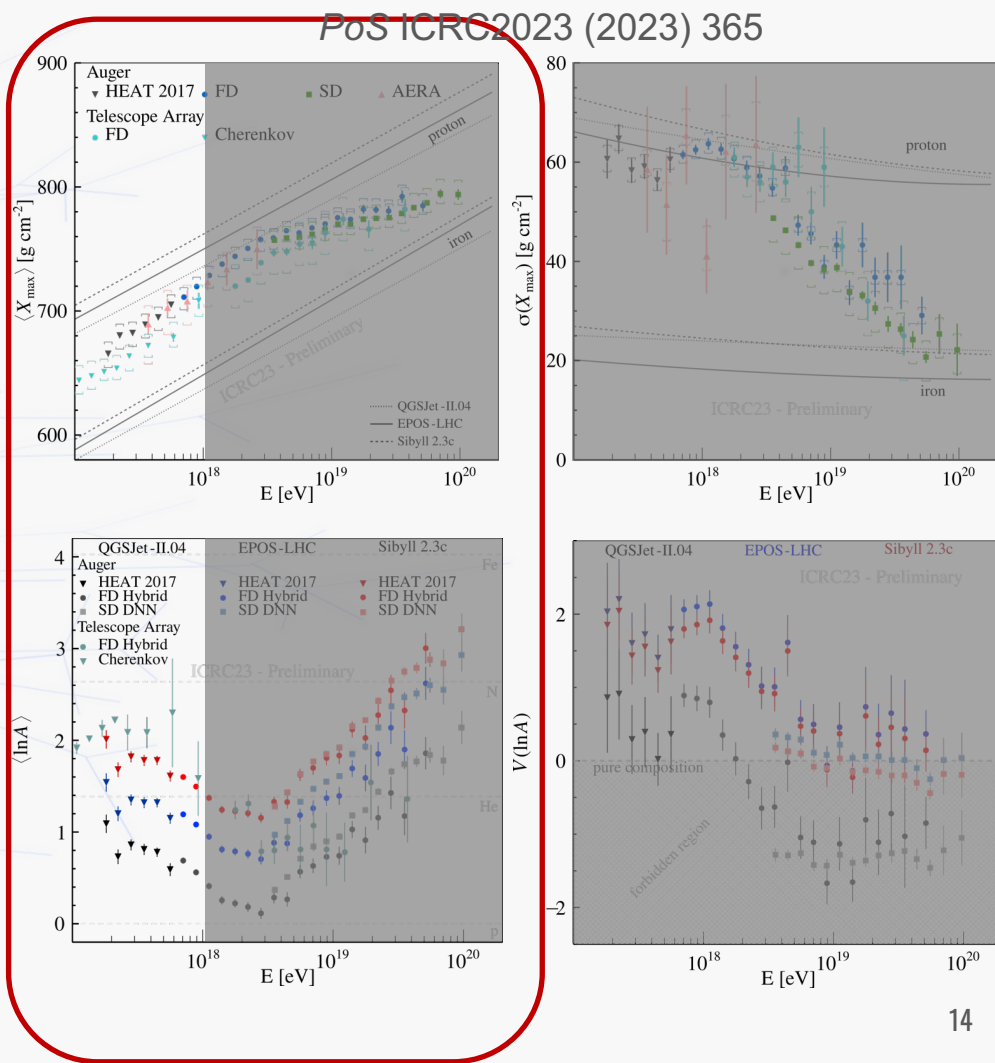
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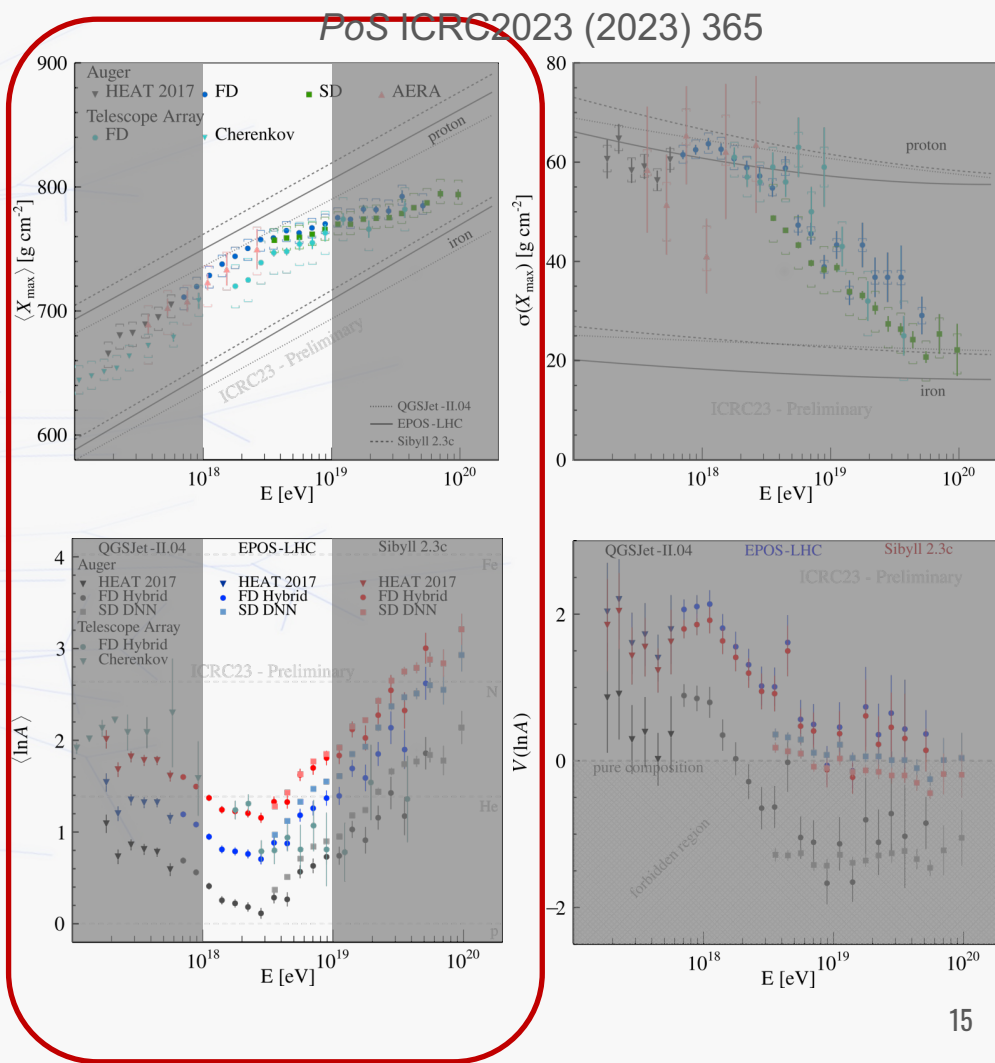
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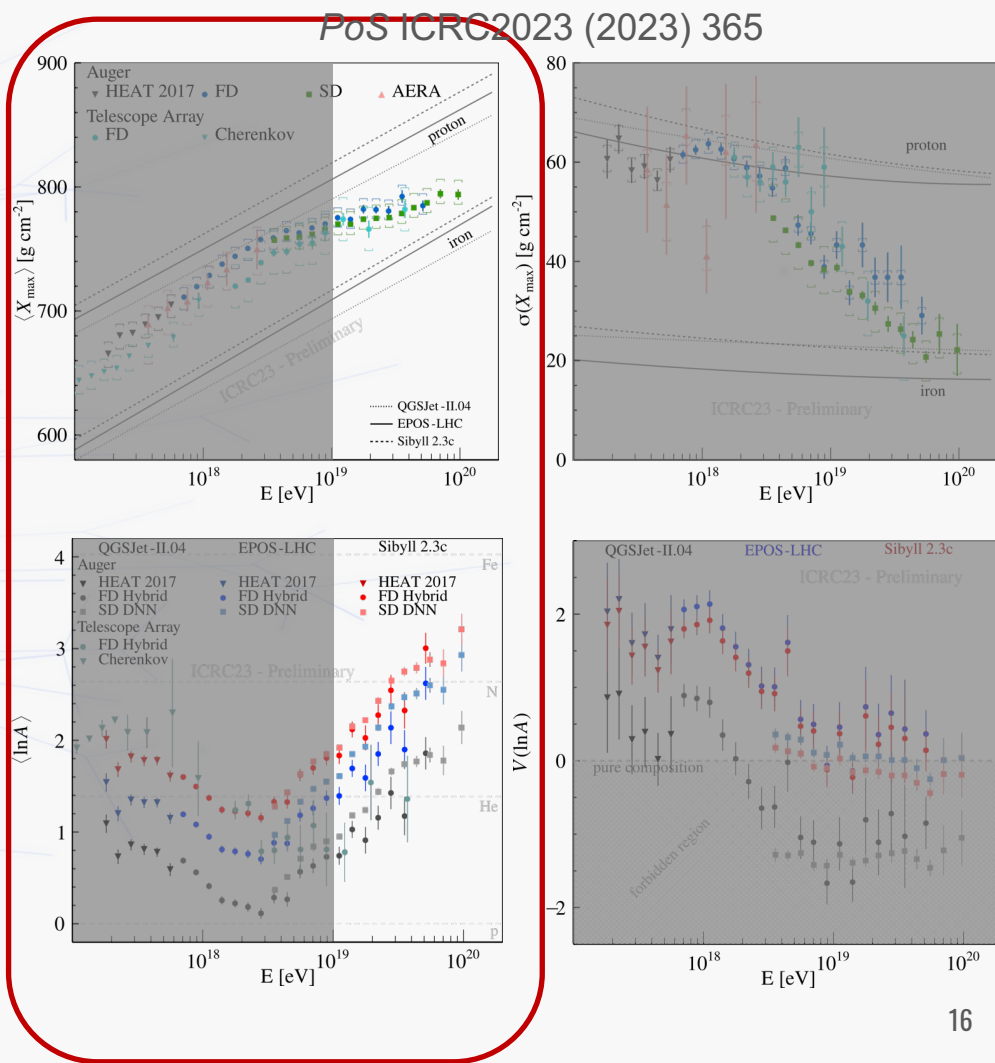
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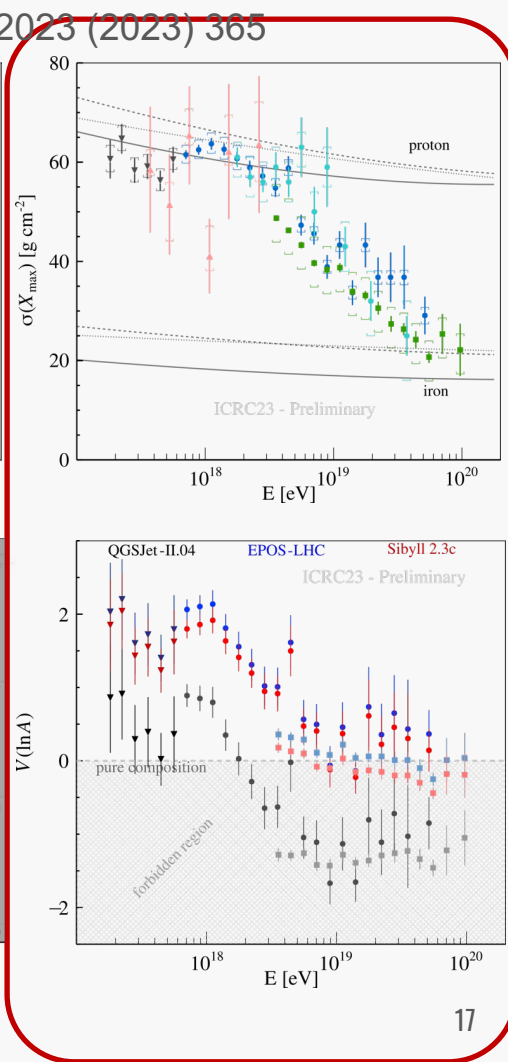
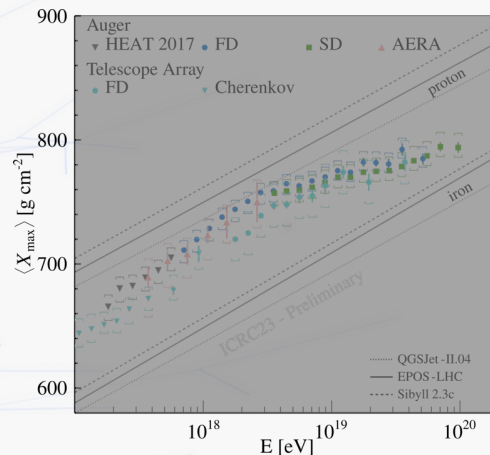
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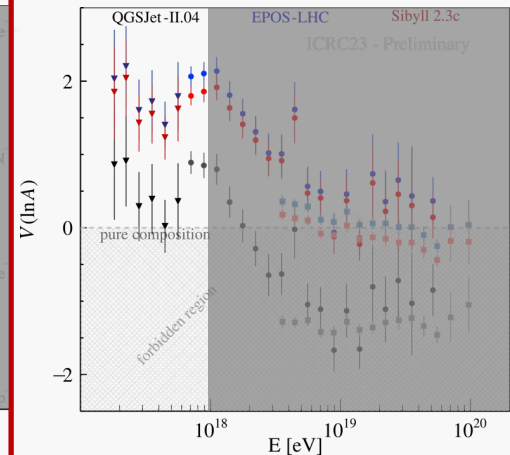
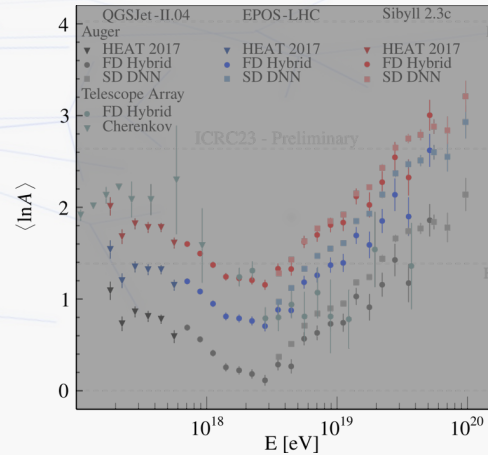
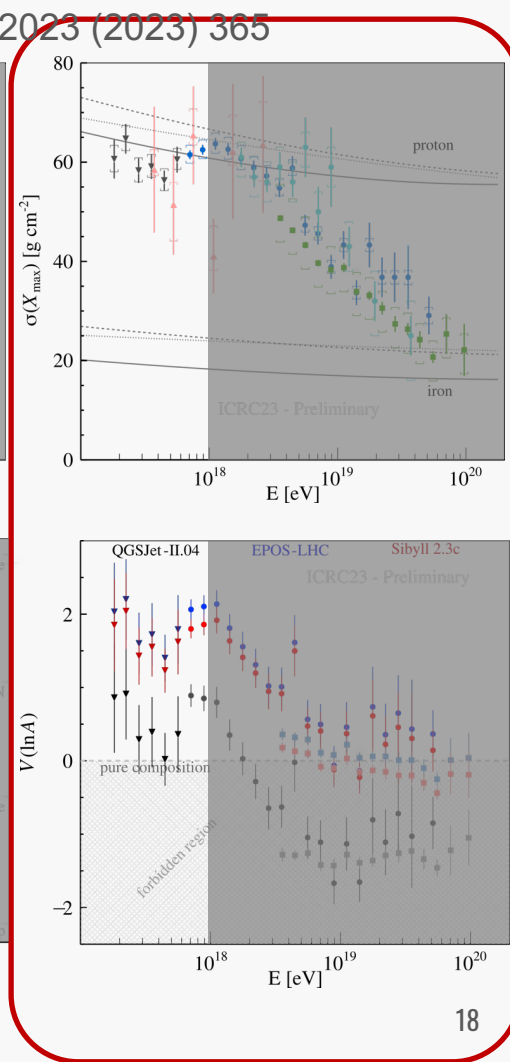
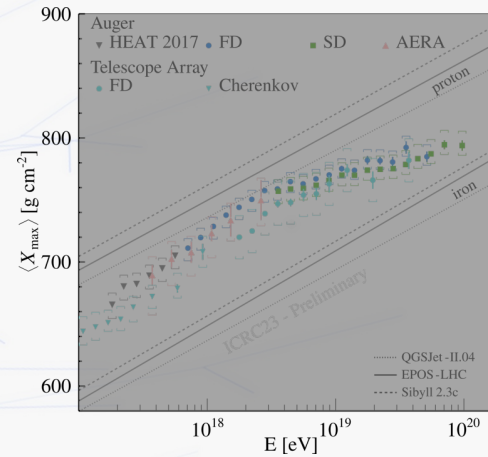
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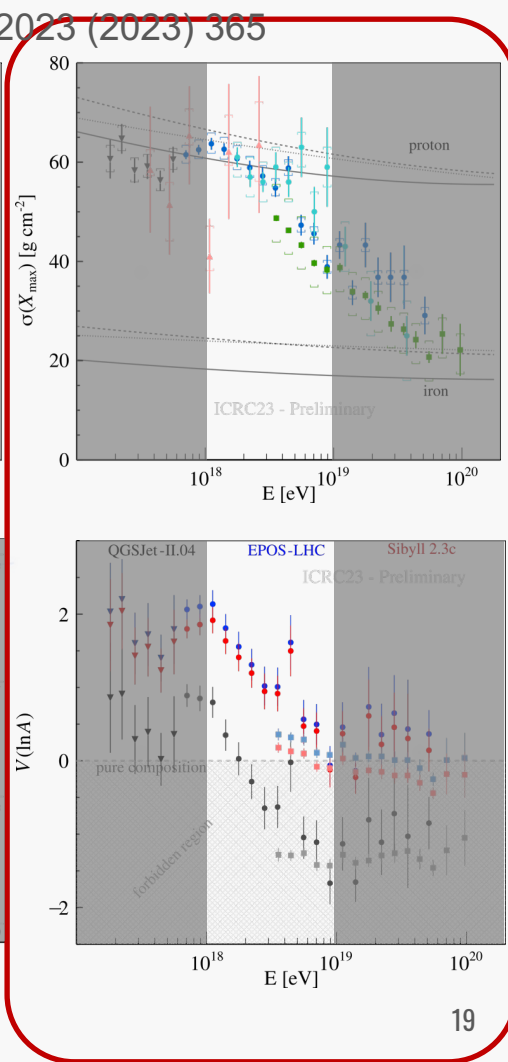
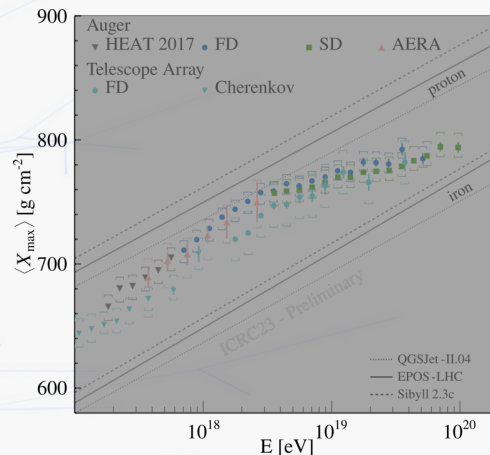
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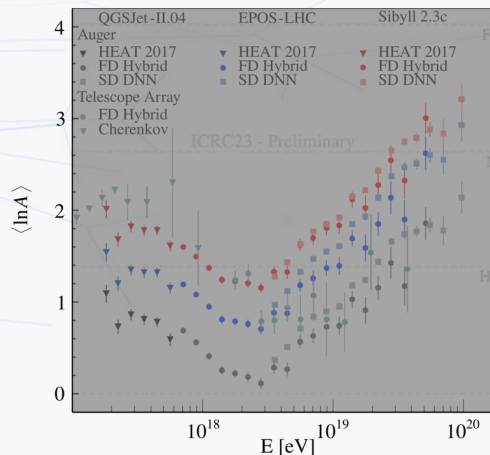
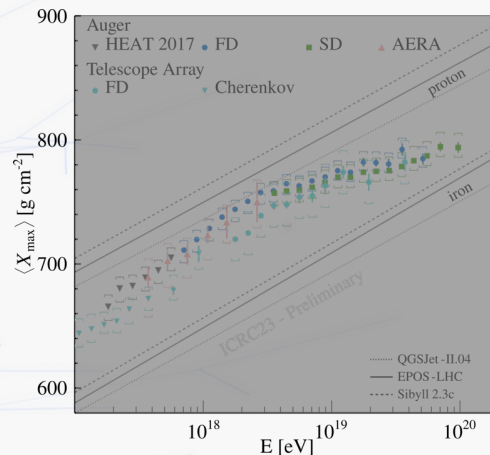
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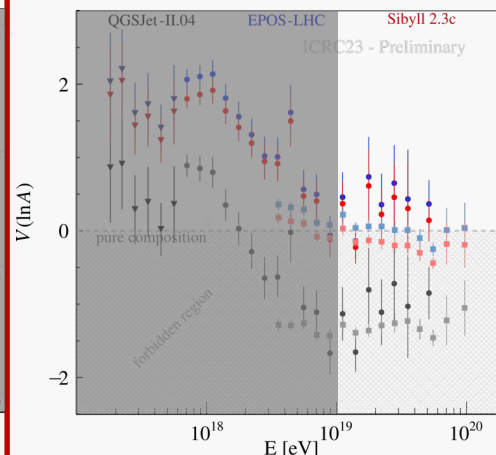
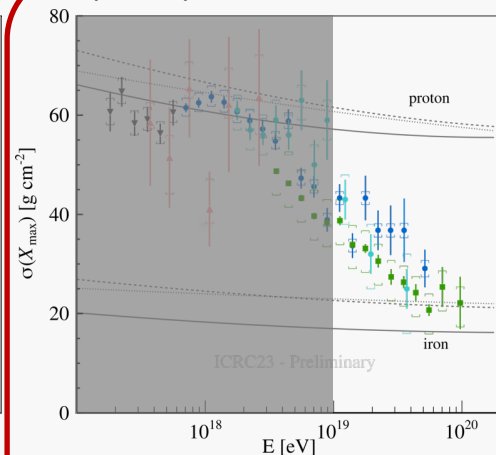
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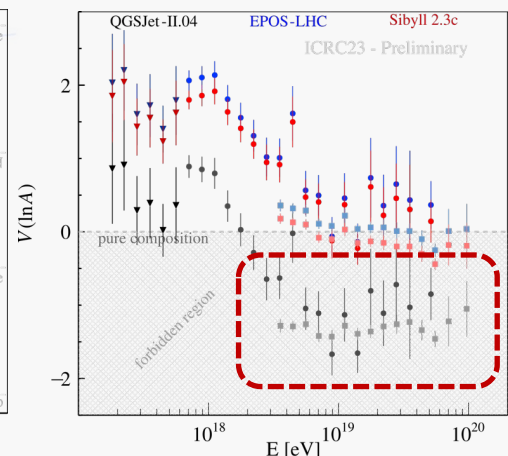
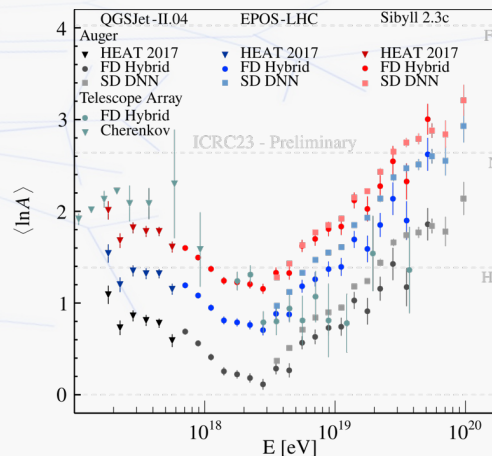
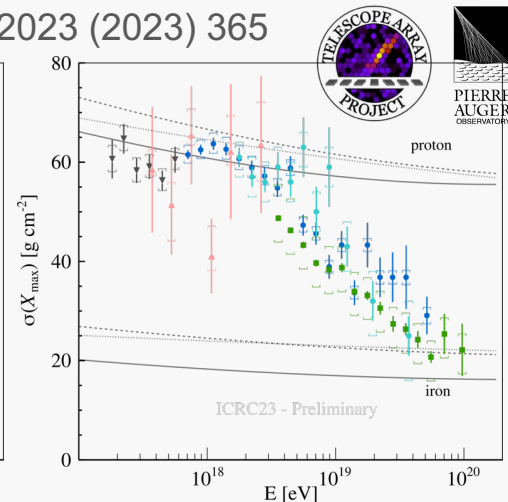
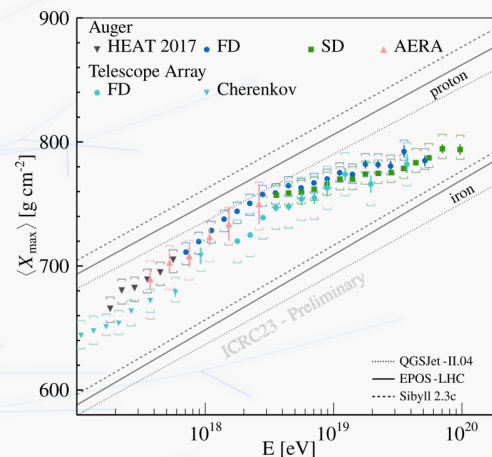
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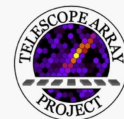
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QGSJET-II.04 model predictions in tension with data and should be used with caution! 21

Fractional Composition of the UHECR Beam

PoS ICRC2023 (2023) 365
PoS ICRC2023 (2023) 438

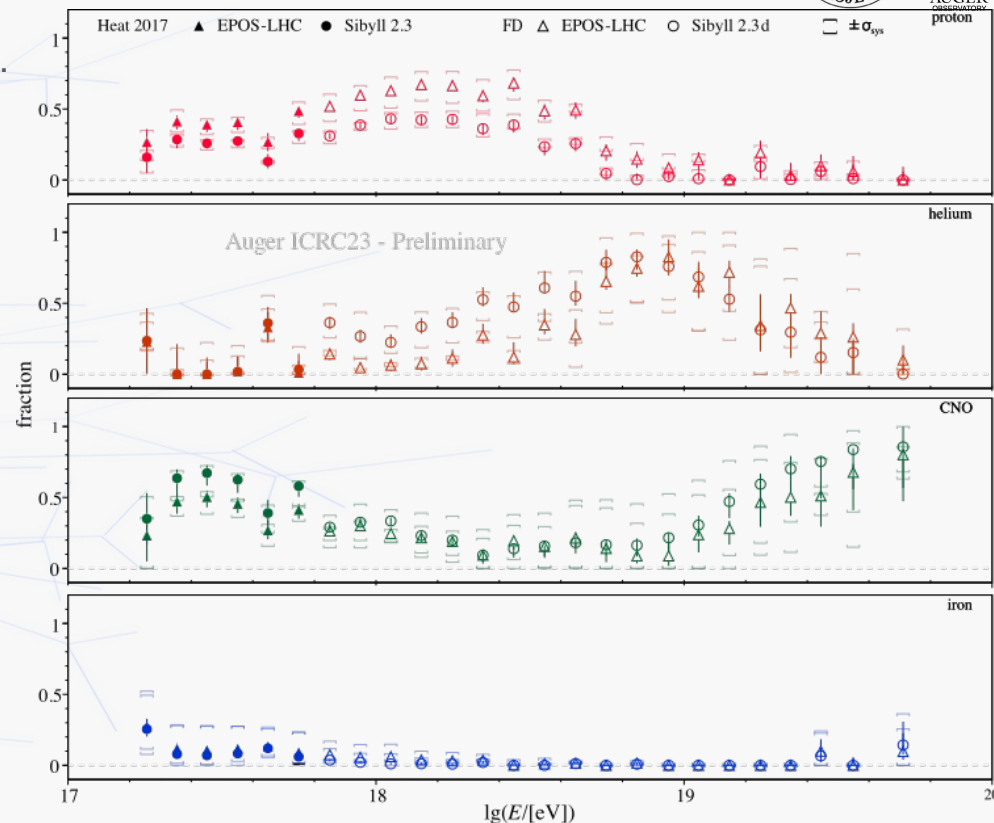


Protons: as expected from InA, peak around 2-3 EeV.
→ Only form a weak majority at this energy, but dominate the flux nowhere.

Helium: peaks at ~ 8 EeV
→ roughly $\sim 4\times$ higher energy than protons

CNO: fraction continues to climb up to ~ 50 EeV and may continue beyond

Iron: fitted fraction compatible with zero over nearly the full energy range
→ small fraction allowed at low/high energy



Fractional Composition of the UHECR Beam

PoS ICRC2023 (2023) 365
PoS ICRC2023 (2023) 438

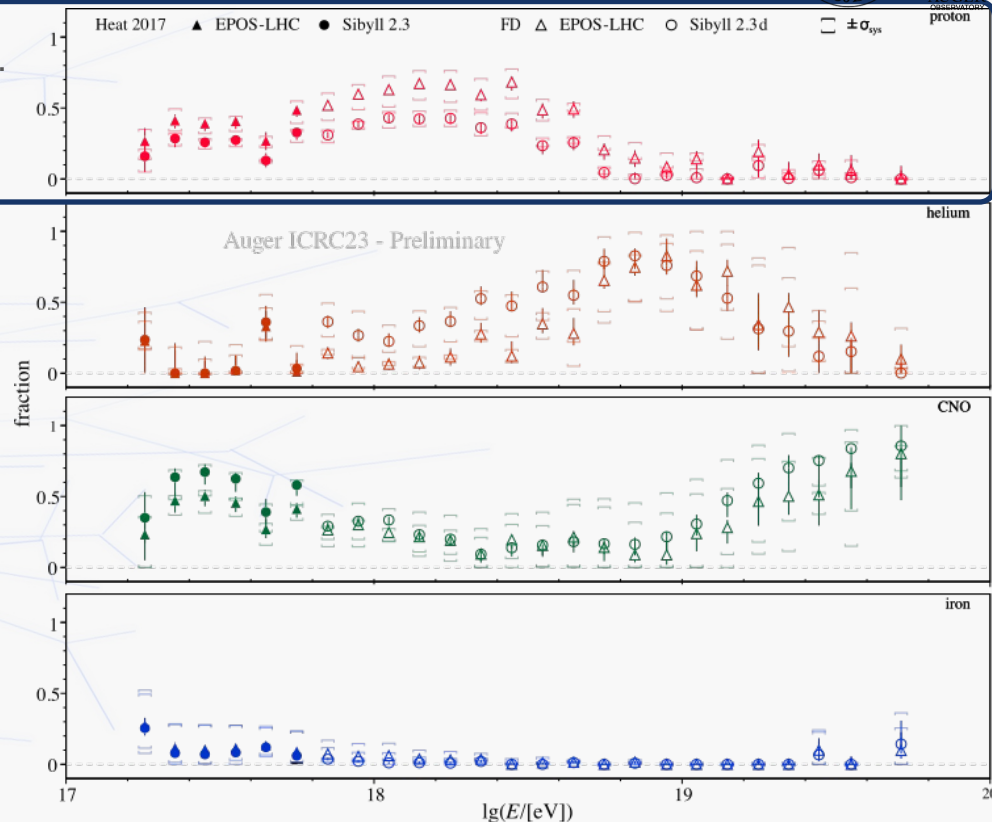


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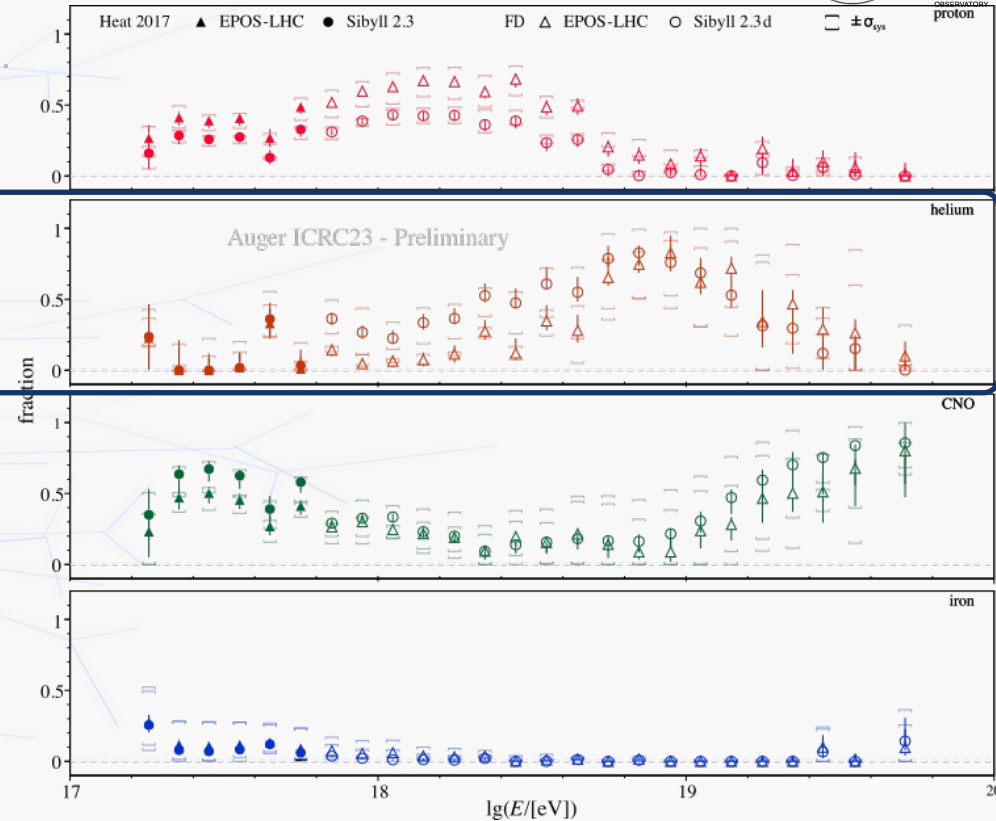


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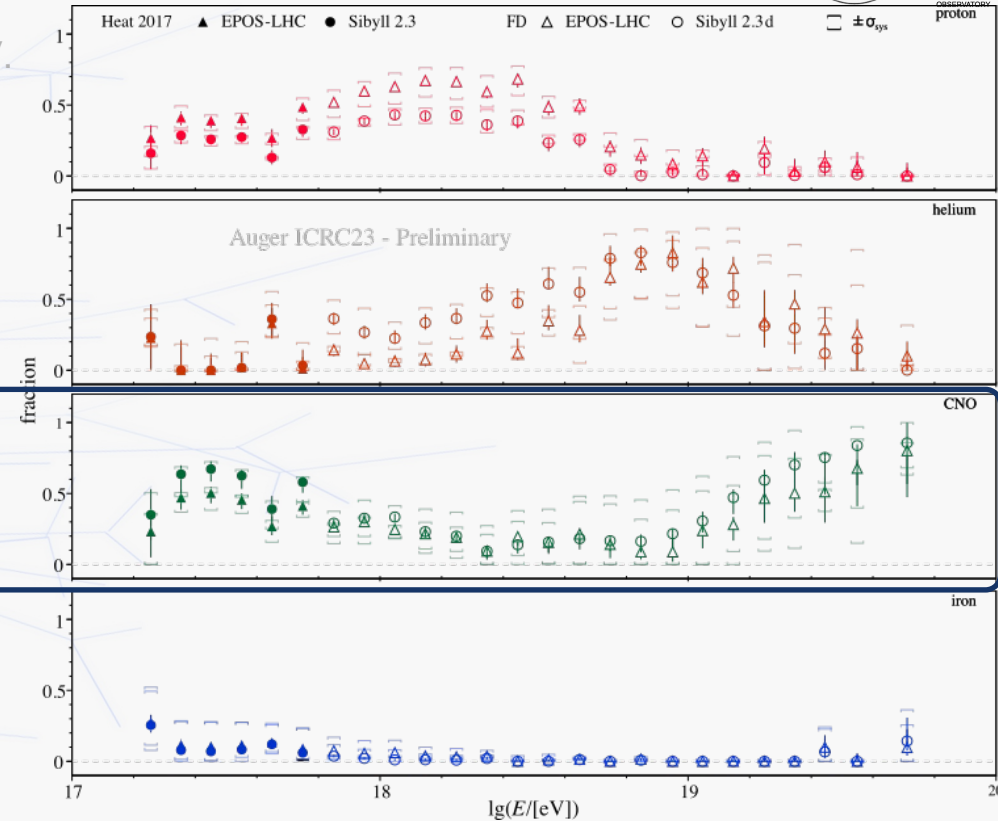


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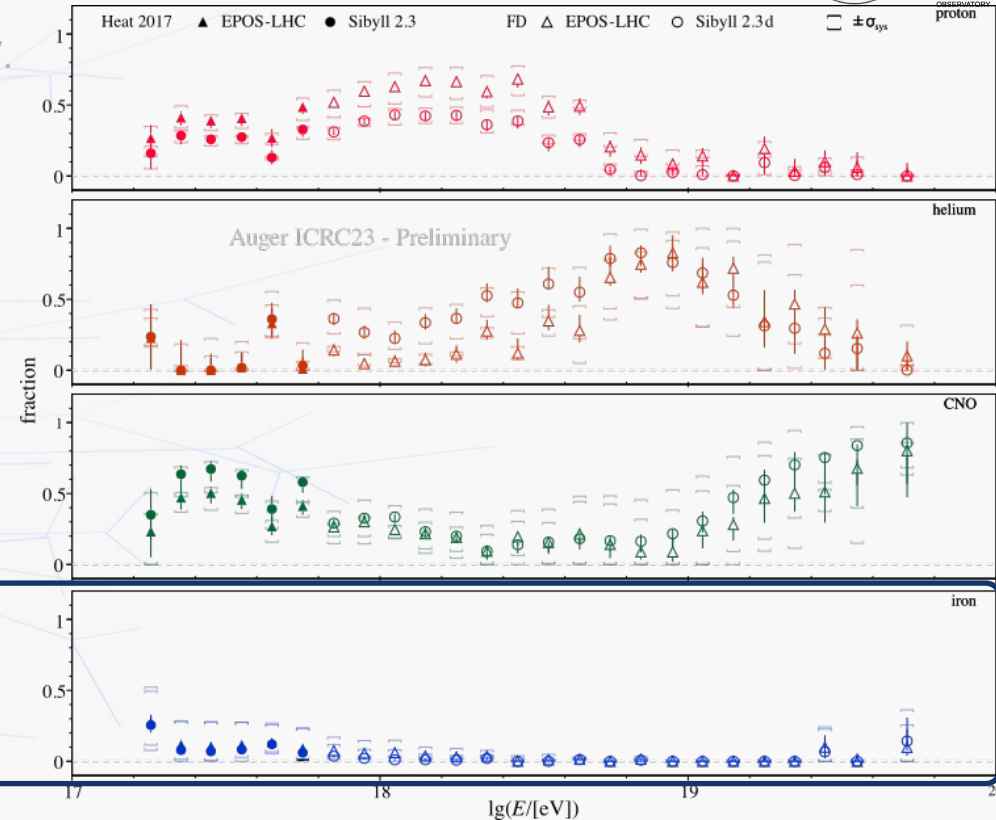


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Helium: peaks at ~ 8 EeV
→ roughly $\sim 4\times$ higher energy than protons

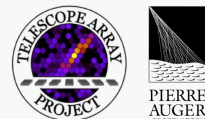
CNO: fraction continues to climb up to ~ 50 EeV and may continue beyond

Iron: fitted fraction compatible with zero over nearly the full energy range
→ small fraction allowed at low/high energy



Fractional Composition of the UHECR Beam

PoS ICRC2023 (2023) 365
PoS ICRC2023 (2023) 438

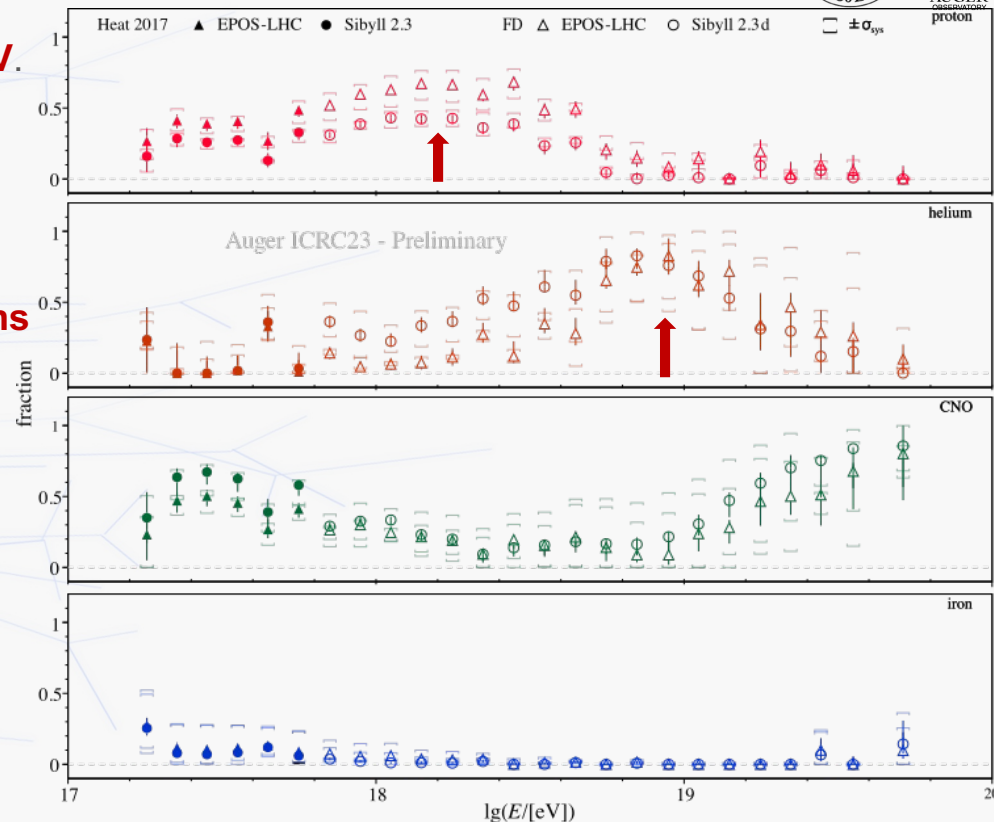


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Iron: fitted fraction compatible with zero over nearly the full energy range
→ small fraction allowed at low/high energy



Energies of the proton and Helium peaks suggest dependence on mass rather than rigidity
→ **implies propagation effects play an important role in arriving composition** ←

Fractional Composition of the UHECR Beam

PoS ICRC2023 (2023) 365
PoS ICRC2023 (2023) 438

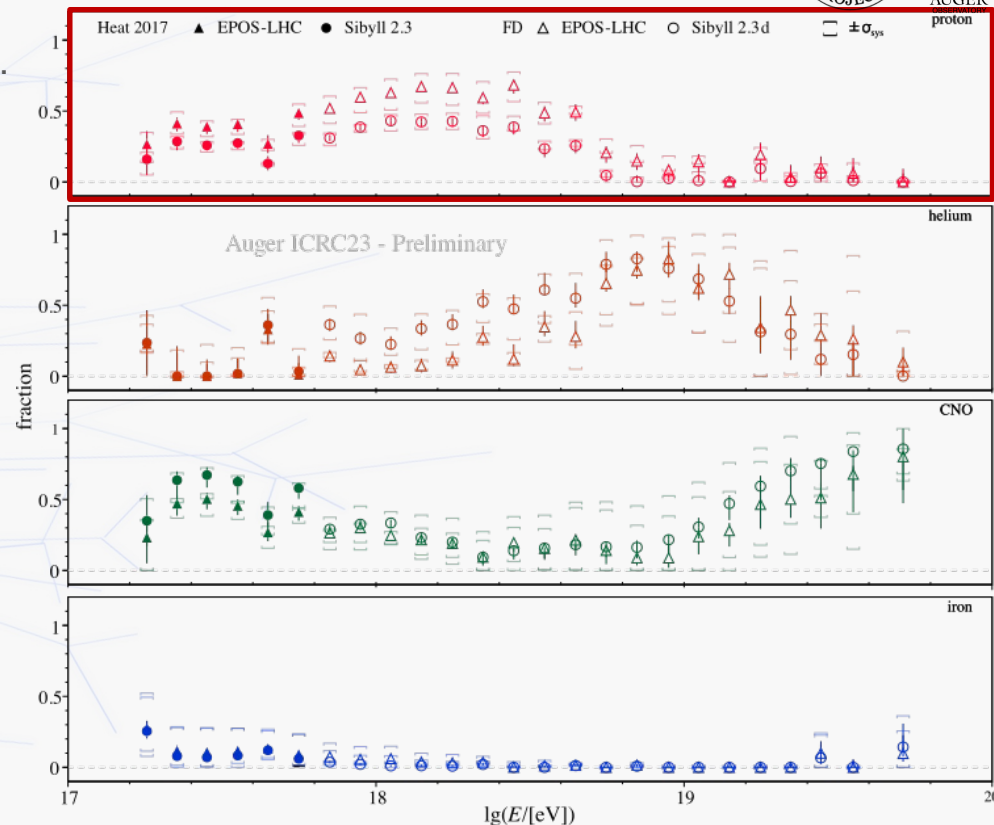


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→ small fraction allowed at low/high energy



Non-dominance of protons at ankle and high energies constrains a proton-pile-up scenario and strongly constrains photo-pion GZK as a cause for the cutoff at the highest energies.

Fractional Composition of the UHECR Beam

PoS ICRC2023 (2023) 365
PoS ICRC2023 (2023) 438

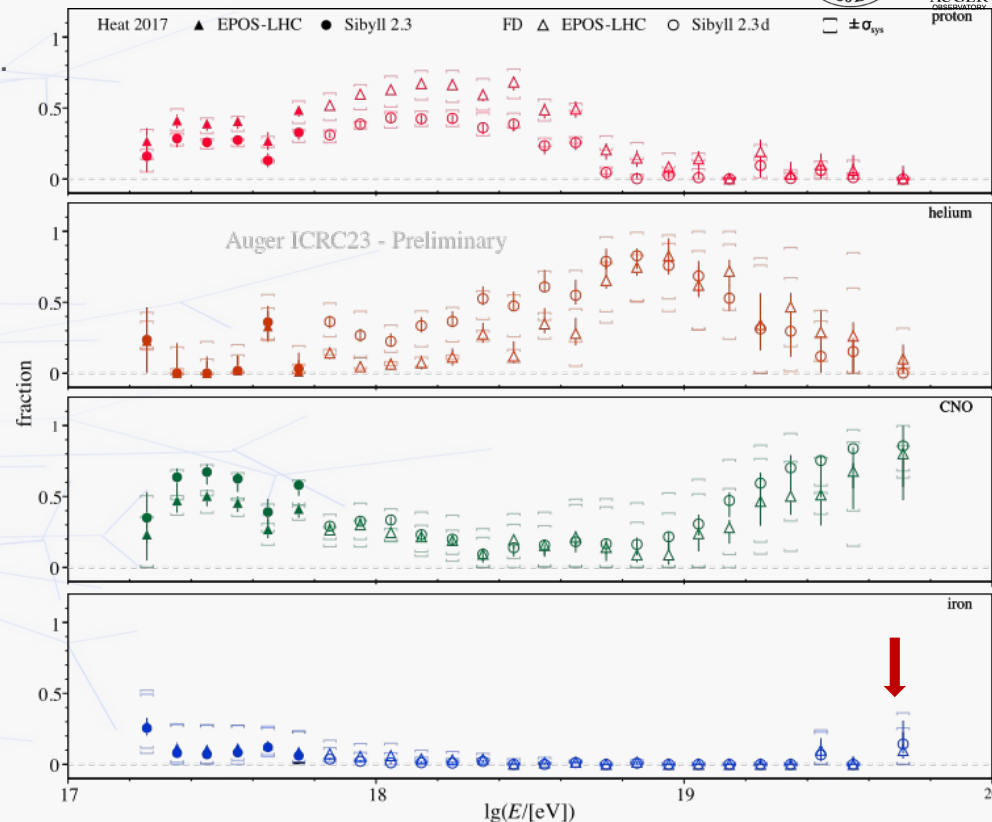


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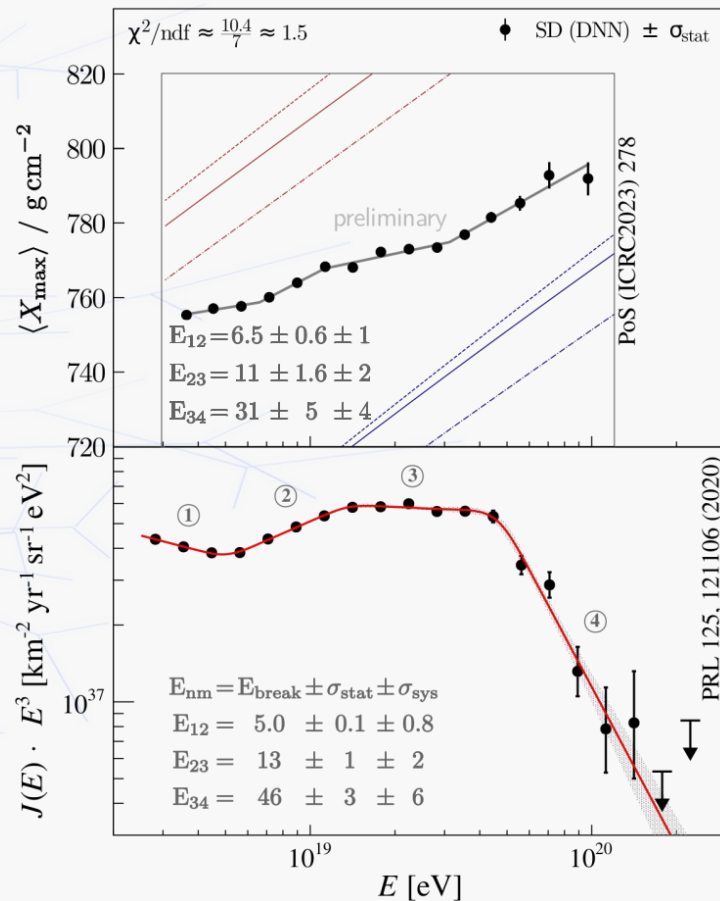
Small allowable Iron fraction hints the flux may trend towards iron at highest energies
Fitting fractions to SD X_{max} will illuminate UHECR composition up to 100 EeV

New possible Cross-correlation! – Mass and Spectrum

With the new DNN based SD X_{\max} statistics are high enough to start testing for fine structure

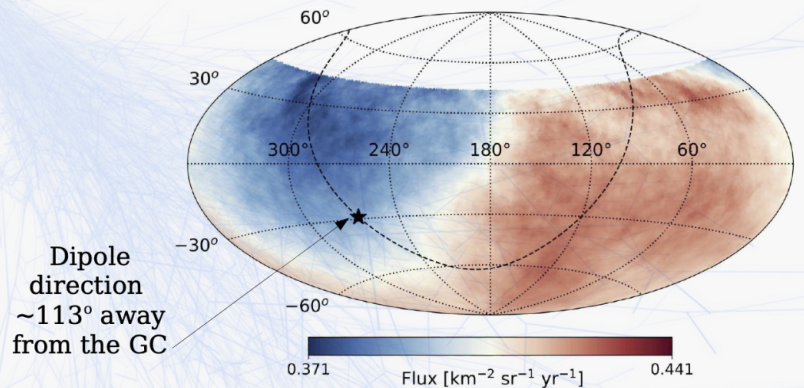
A constant mass evolution above 3EeV can be rejected at greater than 4σ

3-breaks produces the best fit with breaks at similar energies as the spectrum

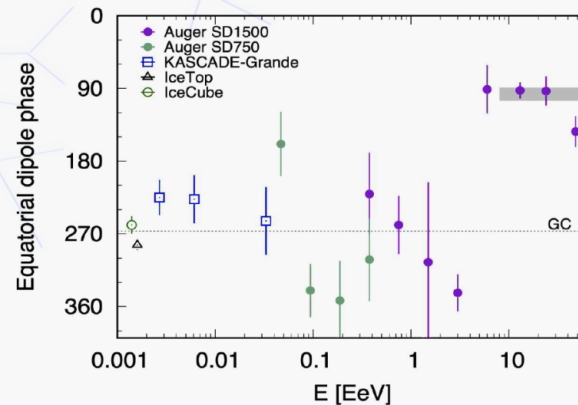
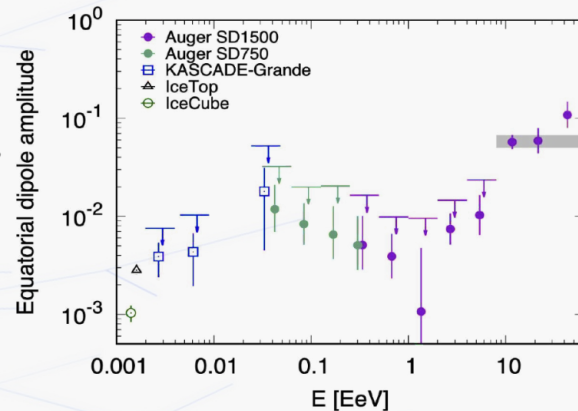
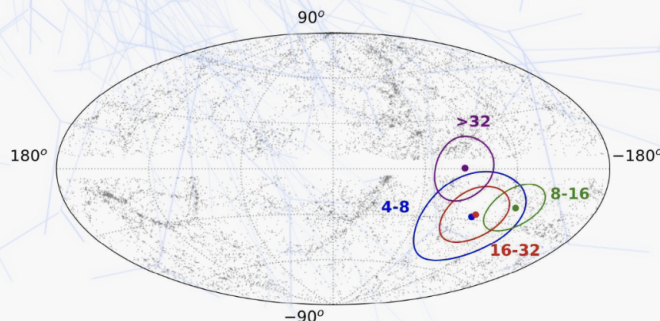


PoS ICRC2023 (2023) 278

Dipole in UHECR Arrival Directions above 8 EeV



Equatorial coordinates, smoothed by a top-hat window of 45° .

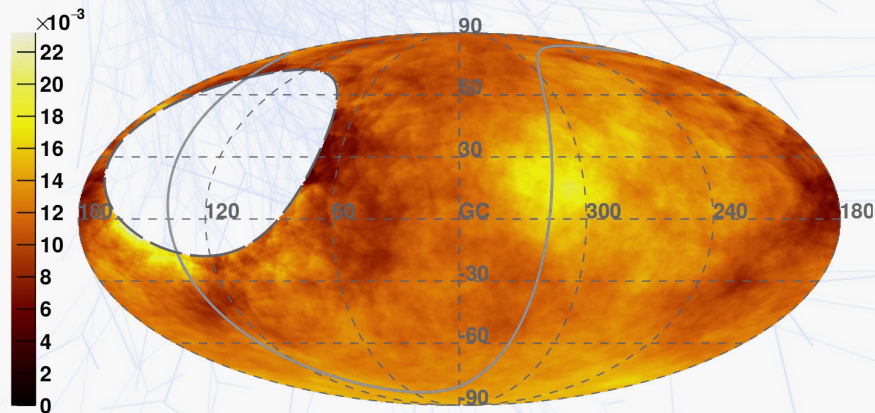


PoS ICRC2023 (2023) 252

Narrowing down Source Candidates In Southern Sky

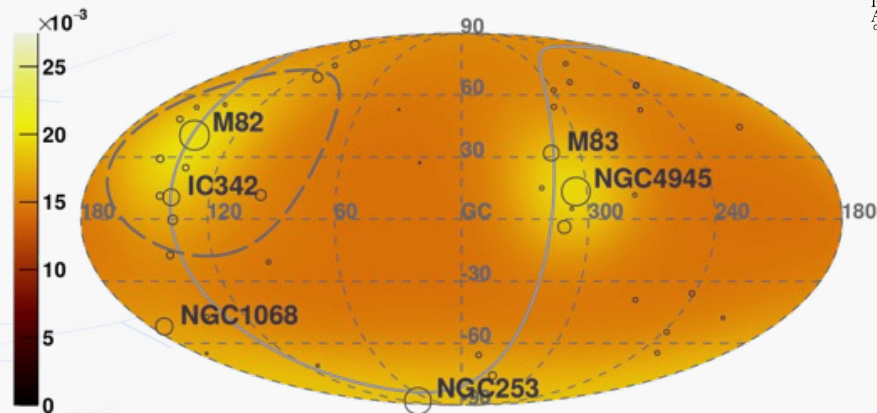
Starburst Galaxies?

$\Phi(E_{\text{Auger}} > 41 \text{ EeV}) [\text{km}^{-2} \text{sr}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}]$ - Galactic coordinates - $\Psi = 24^\circ$

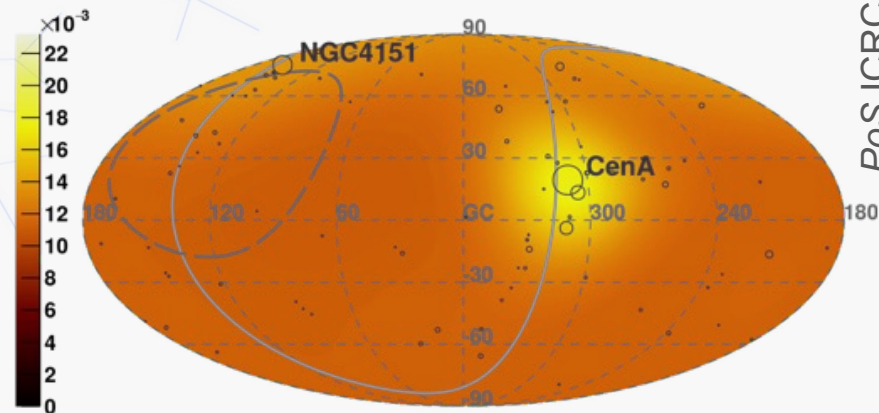


AGN?

Starburst galaxies (radio) - expected $\Phi(E_{\text{Auger}} > 38 \text{ EeV}) [\text{km}^{-2} \text{sr}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}]$



All AGN (hard X-rays) - expected $\Phi(E_{\text{Auger}} > 41 \text{ EeV}) [\text{km}^{-2} \text{sr}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}]$

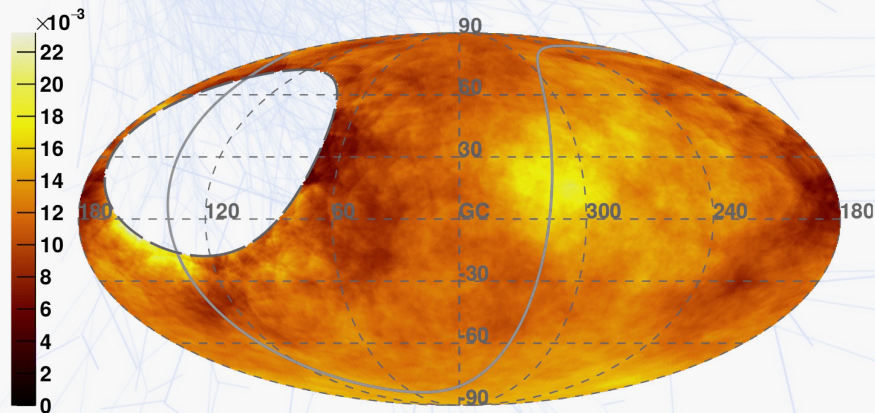


Narrowing down Source Candidates In Southern Sky

3.8σ

Starburst Galaxies?

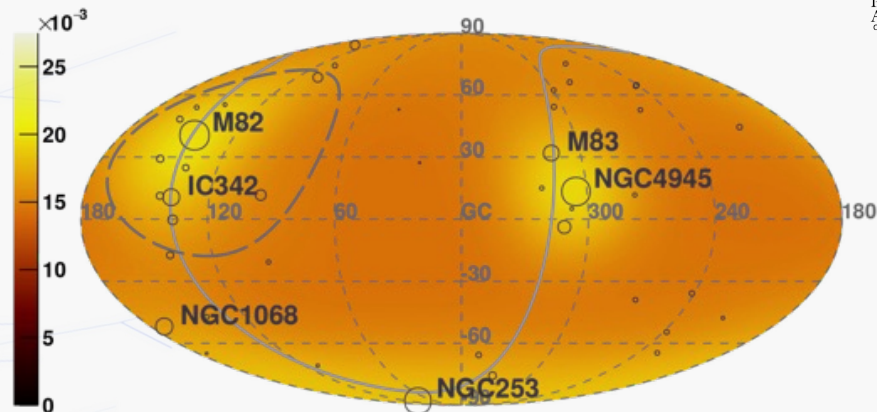
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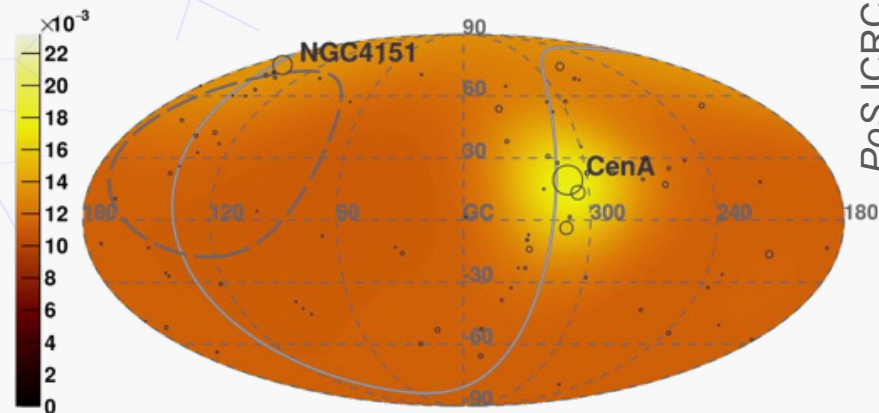
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3.5σ

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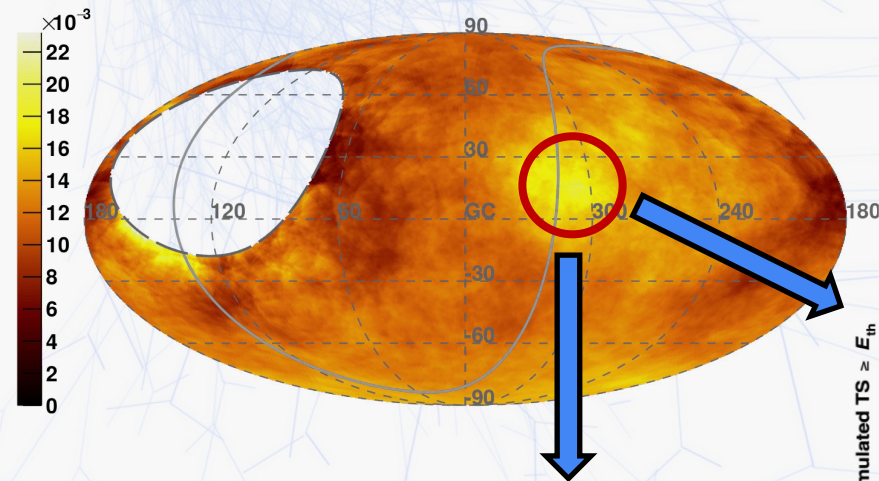


Narrowing down Source Candidates in Southern Sky

3.8σ

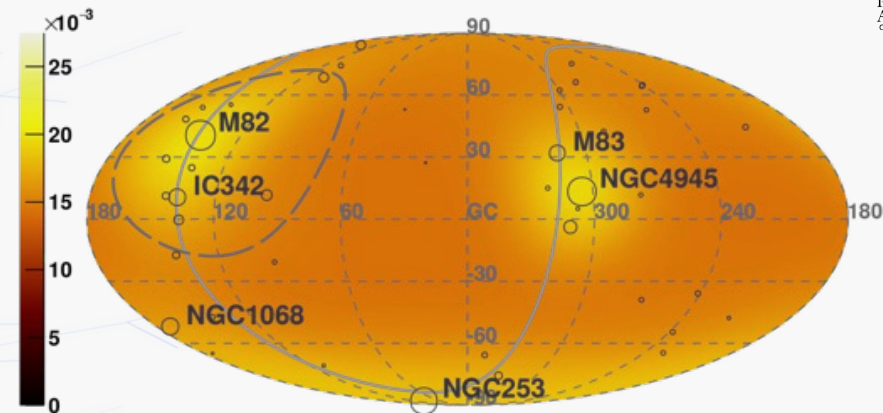
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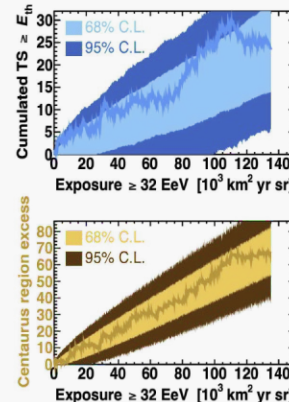
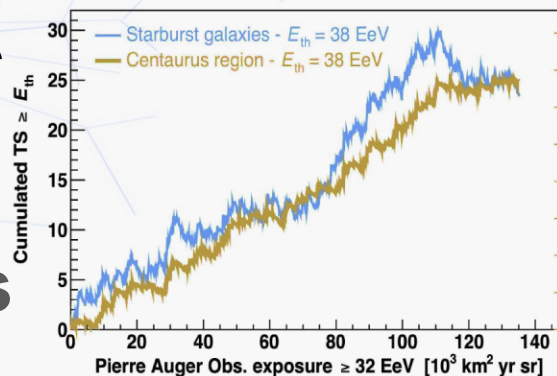


CenA region alone is as significant as SBGs

Starburst galaxies (radio) - expected $\Phi(E_{\text{Auger}} > 38 \text{ EeV}) [\text{km}^{-2} \text{ sr}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}]$



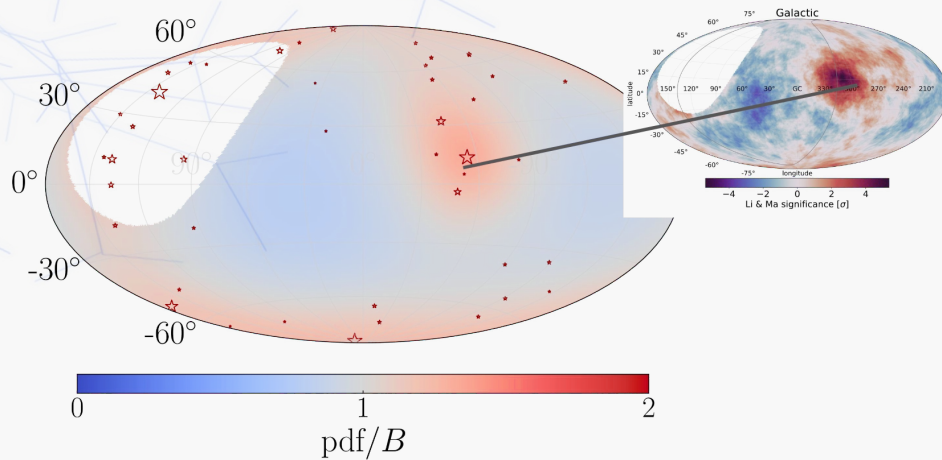
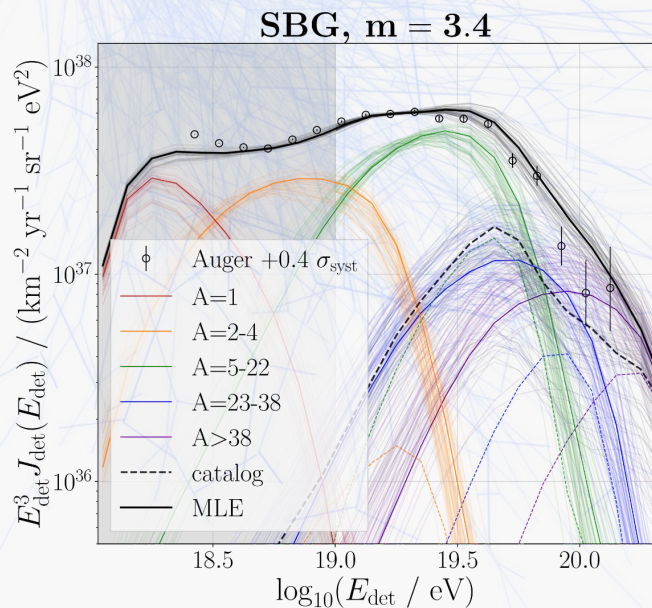
$\sim 90\%$ isotropic distribution



Fit combining Anisotropy, Composition and Spectrum accounting for Magnetic Fields and Source Distribution

Can we break the tie?

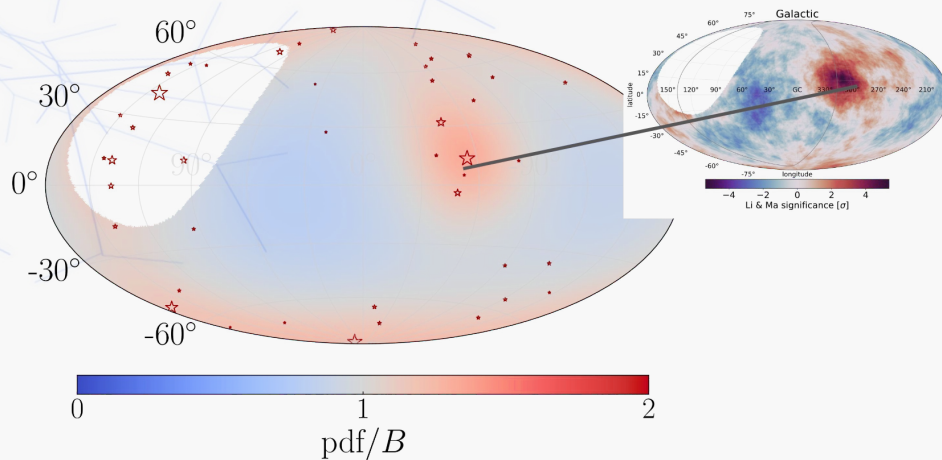
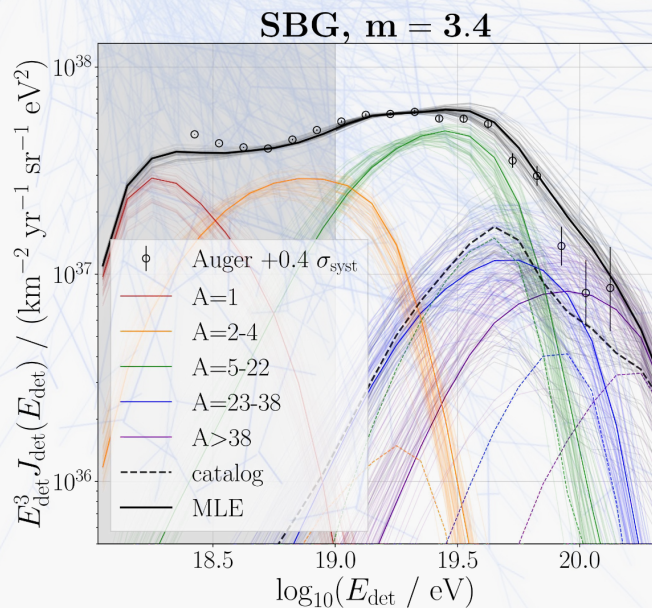
- SBG signal fraction of 20%
- Main contribution from CenA region
- Results compatible with standard combined fit
- Significance of 4.5σ
→ 4.0σ with only arrival direction



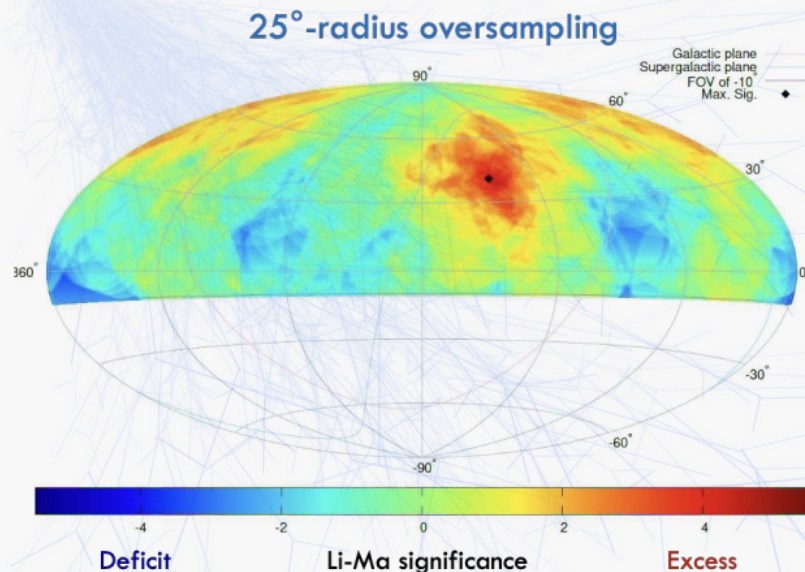
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Starburst Galaxy Catalog favored

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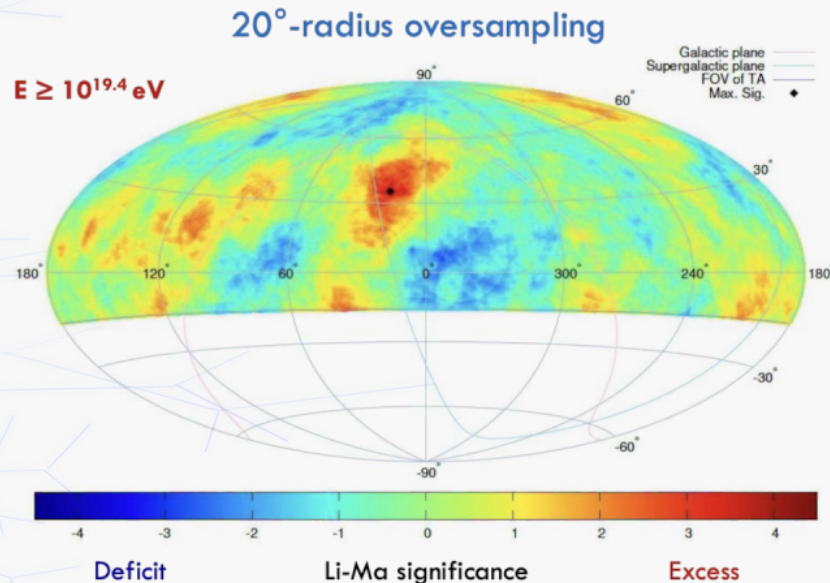


Narrowing down Source Candidates in the Northern Sky



Localized excess observed in
UHECR $E > 57 \text{ EeV}$

Current Significance 2.8σ



Excess around Perseus–Pisces
Supercluster observed for $E > 25 \text{ EeV}$

Current Significance 3.3σ

New possible Cross-correlation!

Mass and Arrival Direction

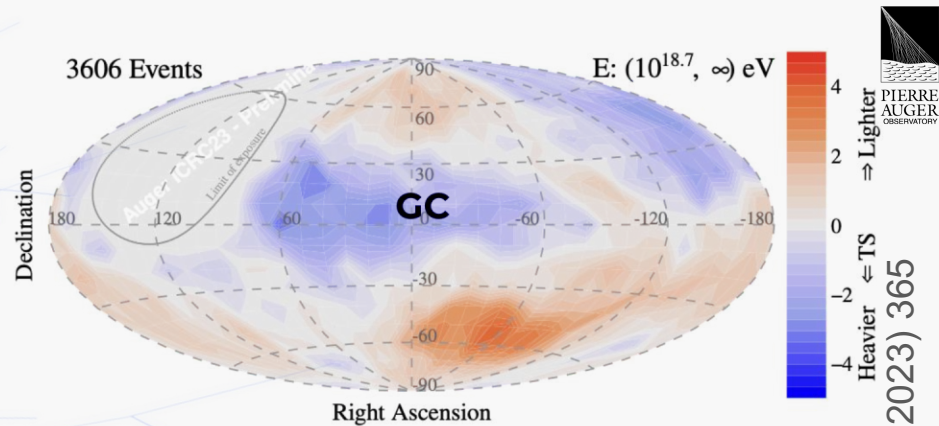
Using FD X_{\max} (soon also SD X_{\max})
Anisotropy as function of UHECR
composition can be searched for

First result:

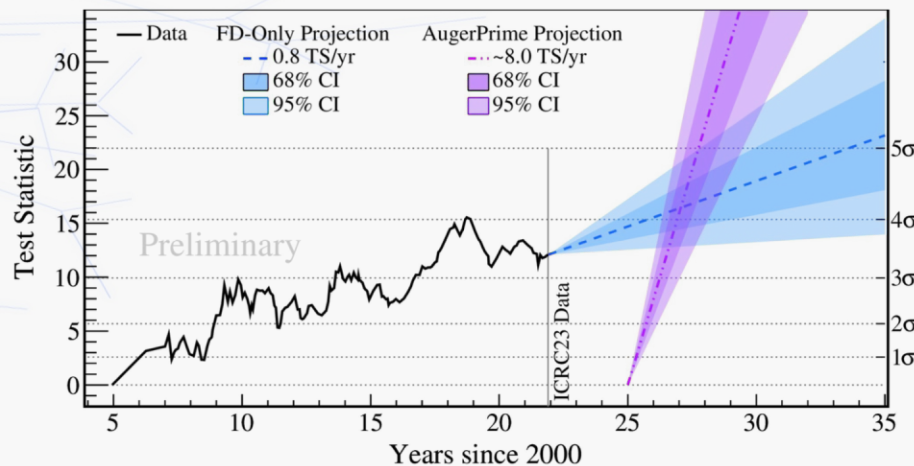
Above 5 EeV a slightly heavier mass
observed for UHECR arriving from
within 30° of the Galactic Plane as
compared to the rest of the sky

Current significance 2.5σ

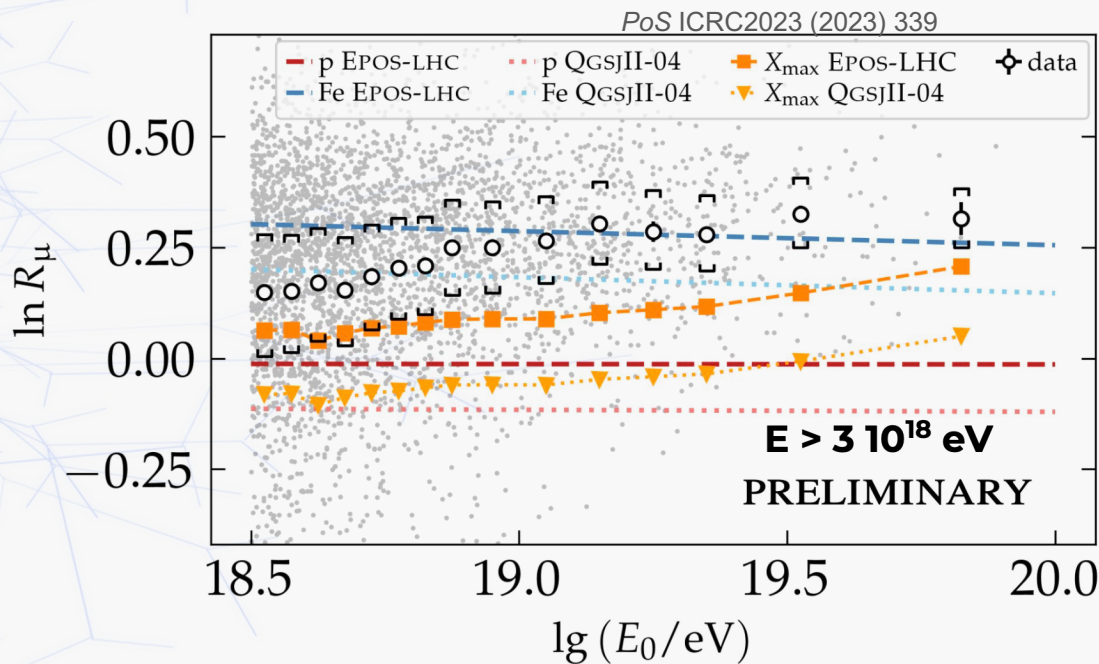
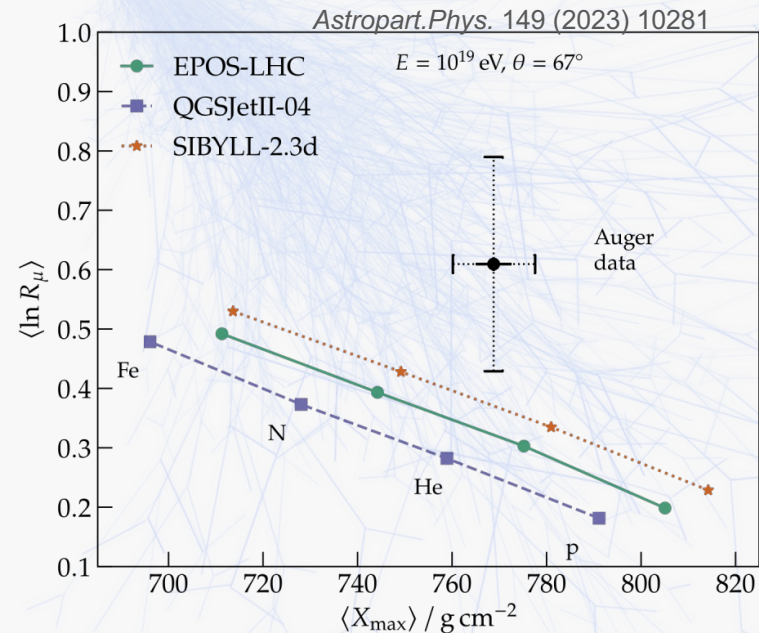
Current growth rate puts 5σ in 2034,
with AugerPrime 2027.



Test Statistics evolution extrapolation

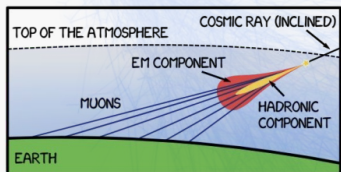


The Muon Puzzle

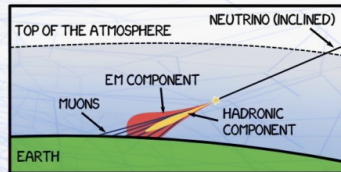


Analyses of shower data from both Auger and TA see a large excess in muons as compared to expectations from LHC informed hadronic interaction models.

Neutrino Search → Limits

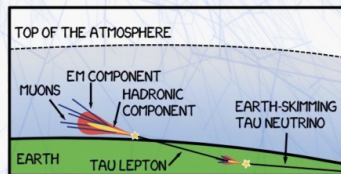


VS.

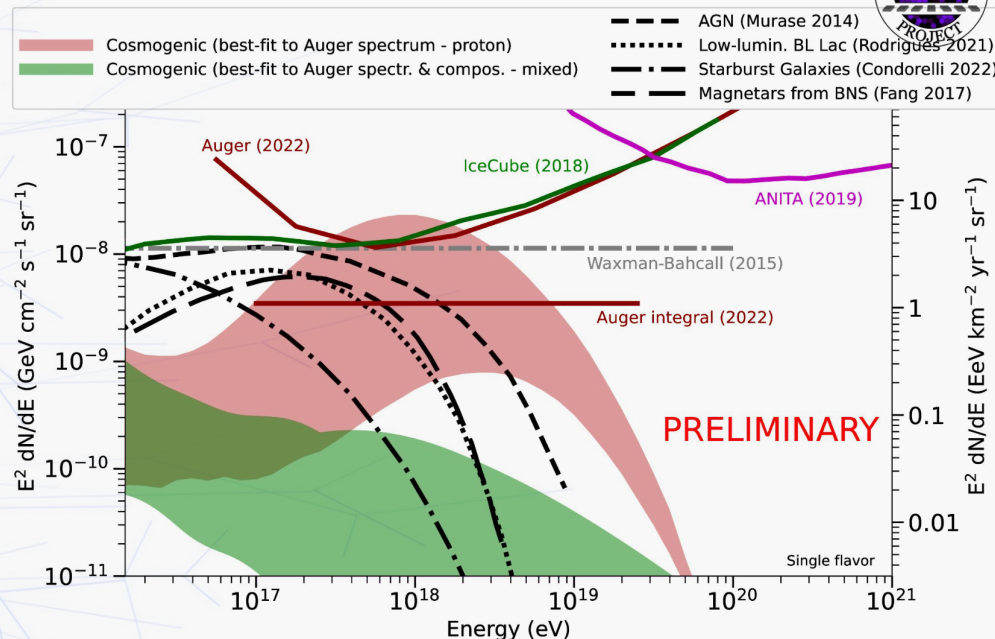


Look for highly inclined showers
with high EM component,

or



Look for upward-going
showers which come from
below the horizon.

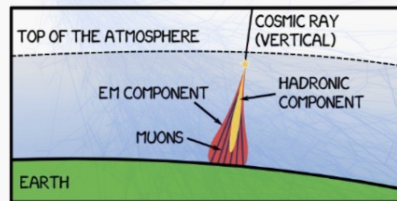


Neutrino limits used to:

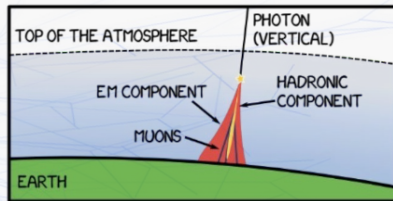
- Set neutrino fluence limits in NS-NS / BH-BH mergers
- Limit Photo-Pion GZK and proton only accelerators
- Limit UHE-neutrino point sources
- Put overall constraints on UHECR sources

UHE-Photon Search → Limits

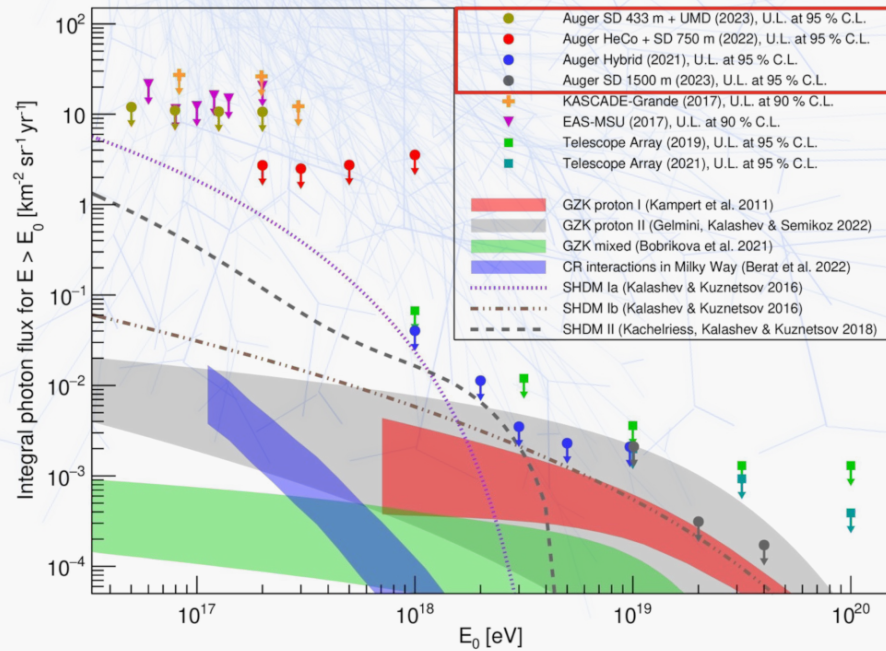
Cosmic Ray = lots of μ



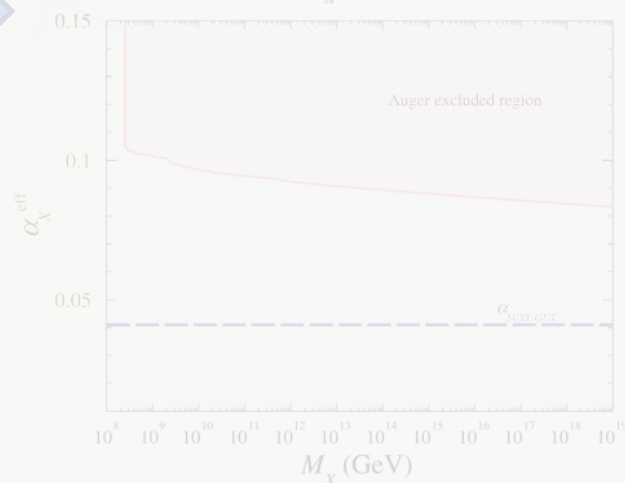
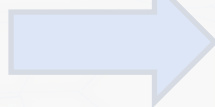
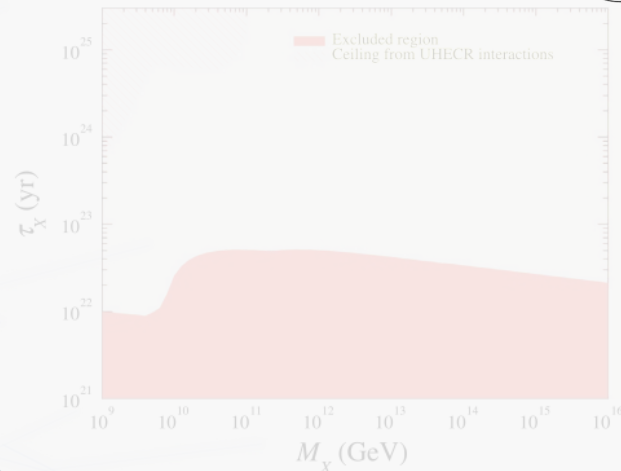
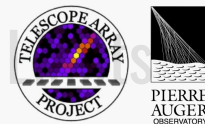
Photon = lots of e^\pm



VS.

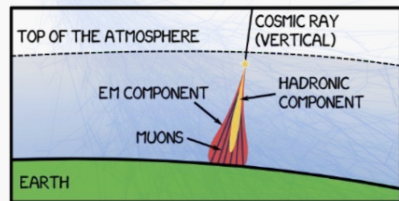


Super Heavy Dark Matter



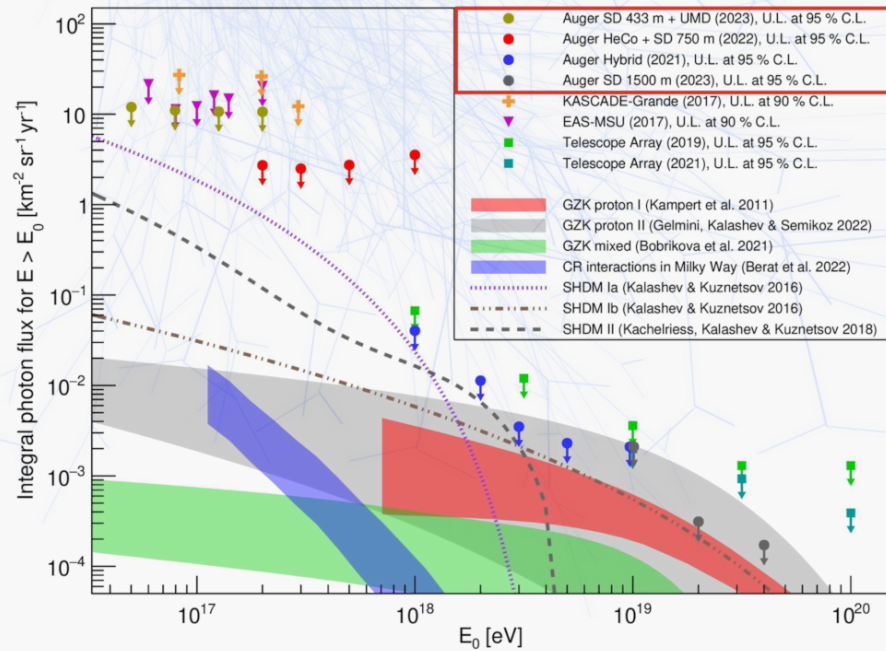
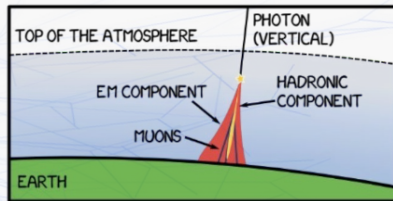
UHE-Photon Search → Limits

Cosmic Ray = lots of μ

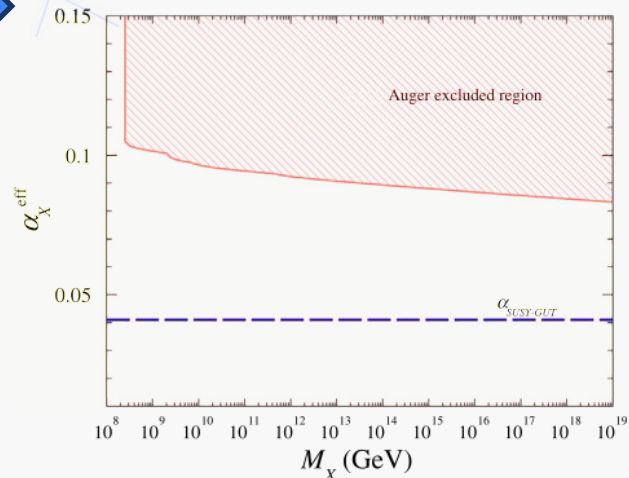
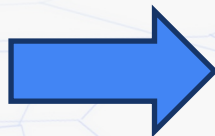
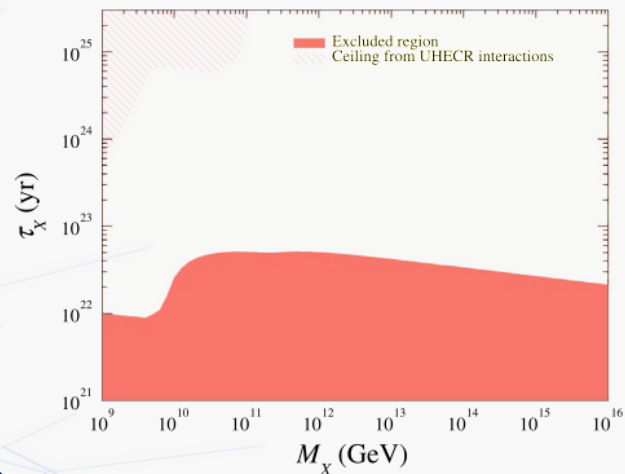


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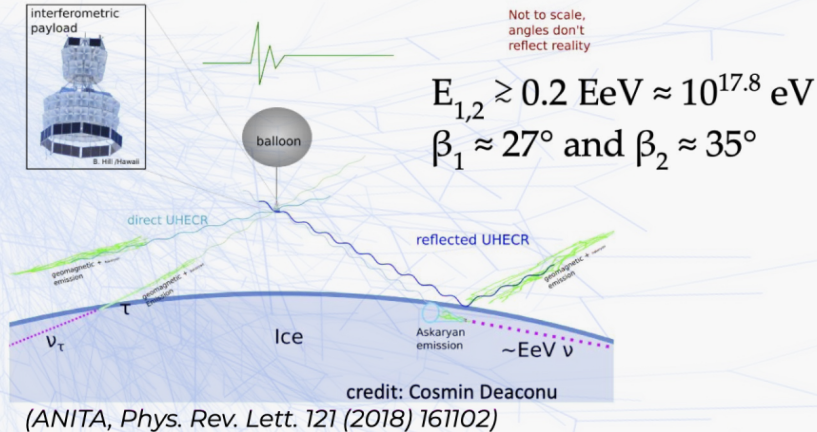
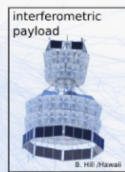
Photon = lots of e^\pm



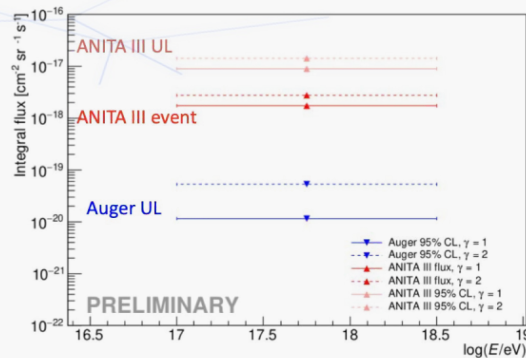
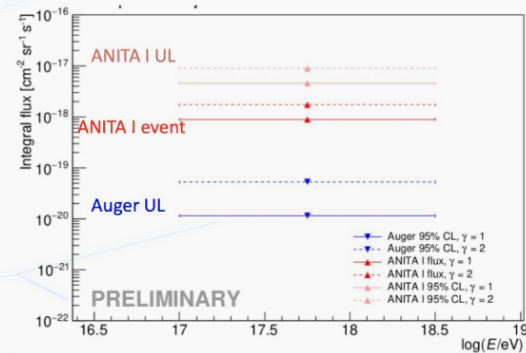
Super Heavy Dark Matter Limits



Follow up of anomalous steeply up-going ANITA Events



- Auger performed search for up-going air showers with zenith $> 110^\circ$ with the FD
- Due to large exposure 100s were expected
1 event was found (consistent with background)
- Set limit on flux of such events 2 OoM lower than required flux from ANITA observations.



Pos ICRC2023 (2023) 1099

Effectively rules out up-going CR-like events as cause for ANITA observations.

Open Questions

Astrophysics What systems or phenomena are producing UHECR?

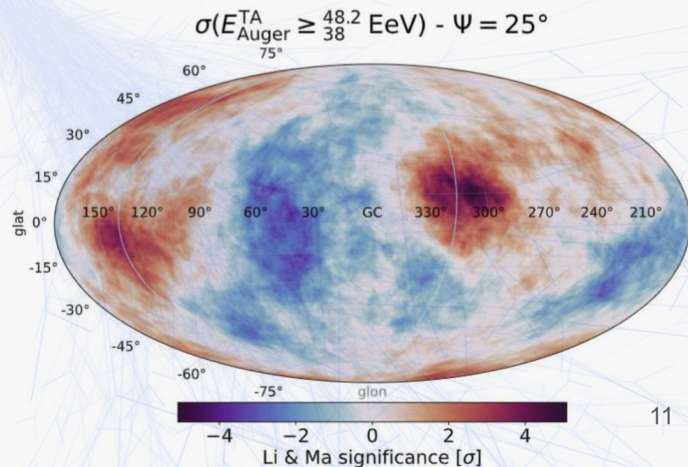
Astrophysics What is the nature of the flux suppression at the highest energies?

Astrophysics At what energy do galactic cosmic ray sources die out and extragalactic sources take over?

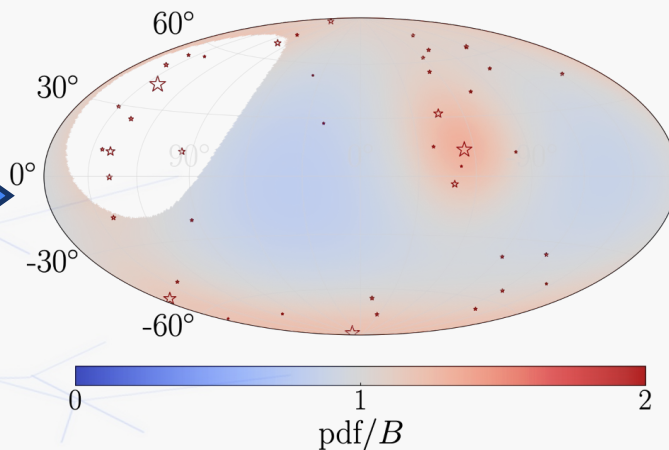
Particle Physics Are there new interactions and phenomena waiting to be discovered at energies past those achievable at the LHC?

UHECR Sources?

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SBGs at 4.5σ



By combining composition, spectrum and arrival direction a strong association with starburst galaxies is forming.

However, this is dominated by dense regions of many objects. An association with a sources class is far from a positive identification of accelerating phenomena.

Getting farther will require multiple messengers and clever composition games.

Open Questions

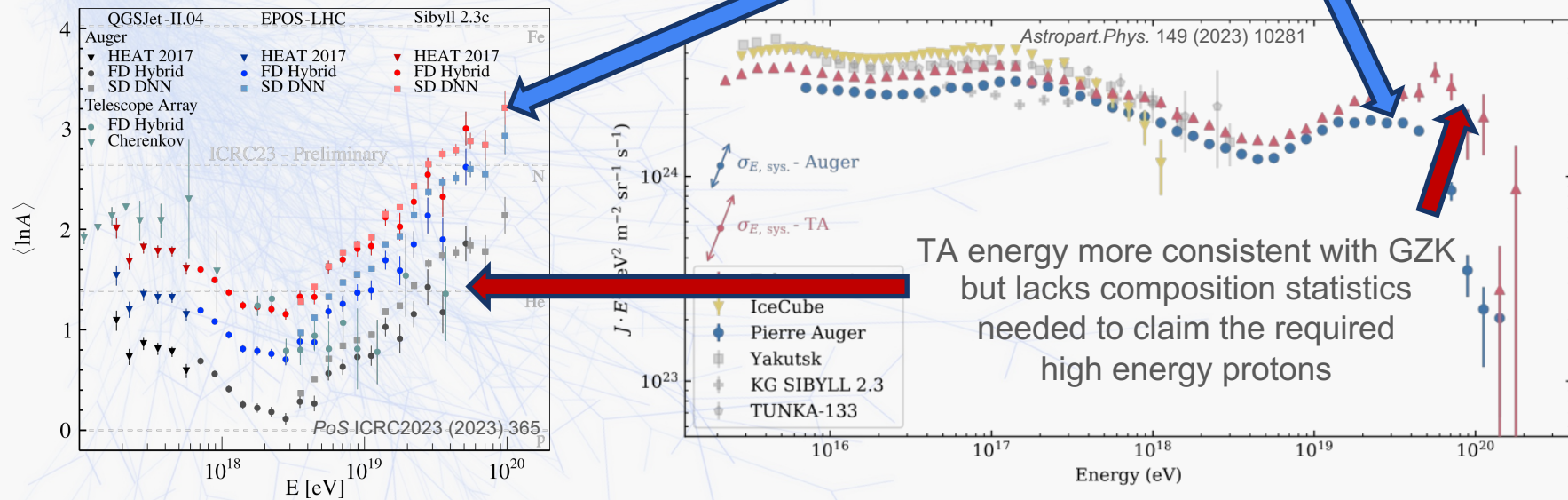
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Particle Physics Are there new interactions and phenomena waiting to be discovered at energies past those achievable at the LHC?

Nature of high energy suppression?



For Auger is it photodisintegration, or the maximum power of sources?

Is the answer different in the Northern sky?

Is the suppression actually a cutoff, or will the flux continue?

Open Questions

Astrophysics What systems or phenomena are producing UHECR?

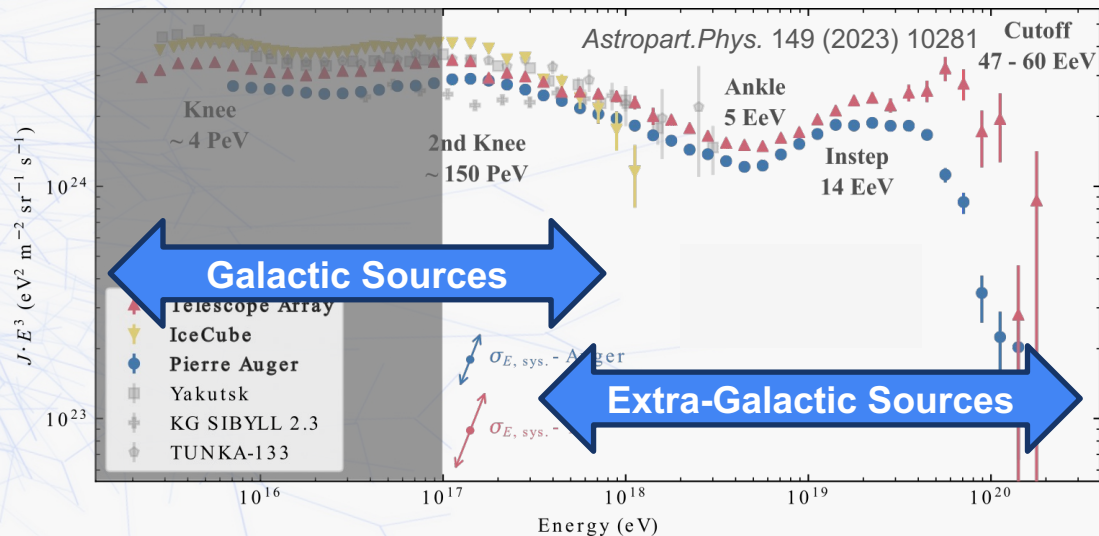
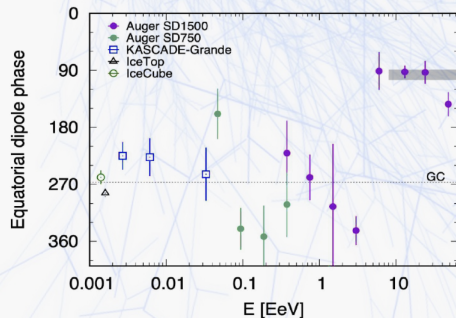
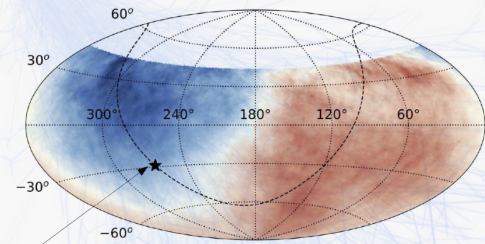
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Galactic to Extragalactic Transition?

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The exact nature of the transition is not yet known.

However, composition, spectrum and anisotropies hint to a transition in the 100PeV – 1 EeV range

Open Questions

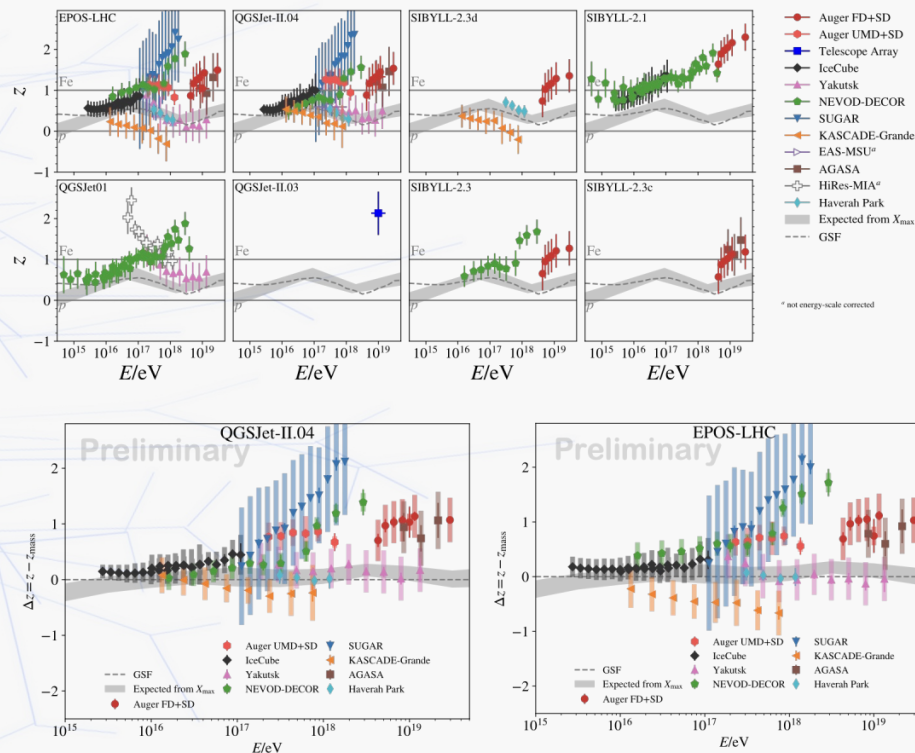
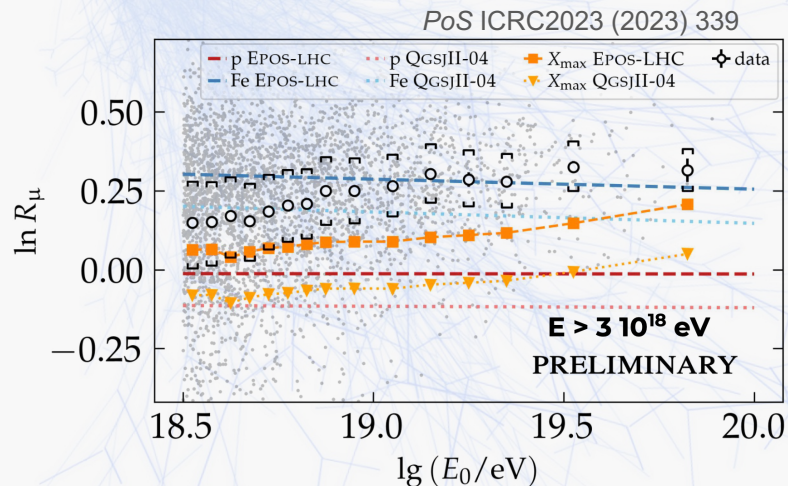
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Particle Physics Are there new interactions and phenomena waiting to be discovered at energies past those achievable at the LHC?

New physics in UHECR interactions?

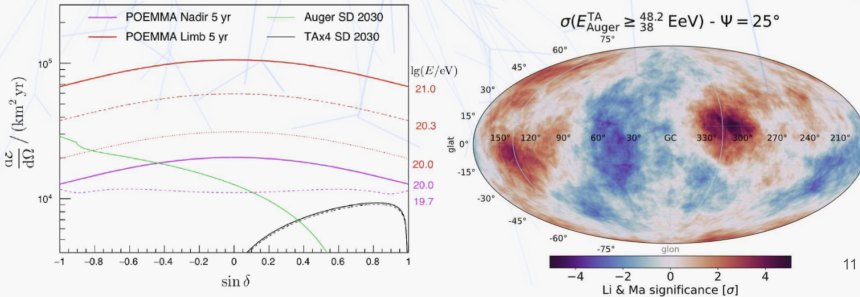
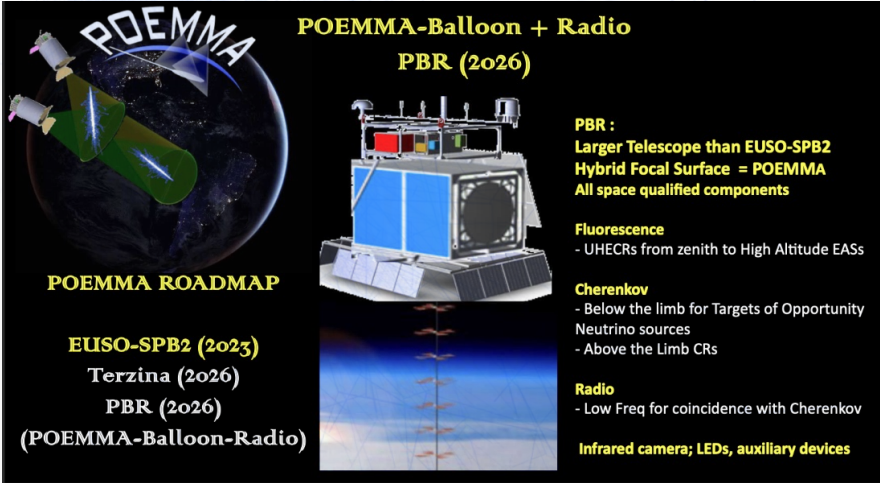


Work in progress to confirm an excess in muons and investigate its nature.

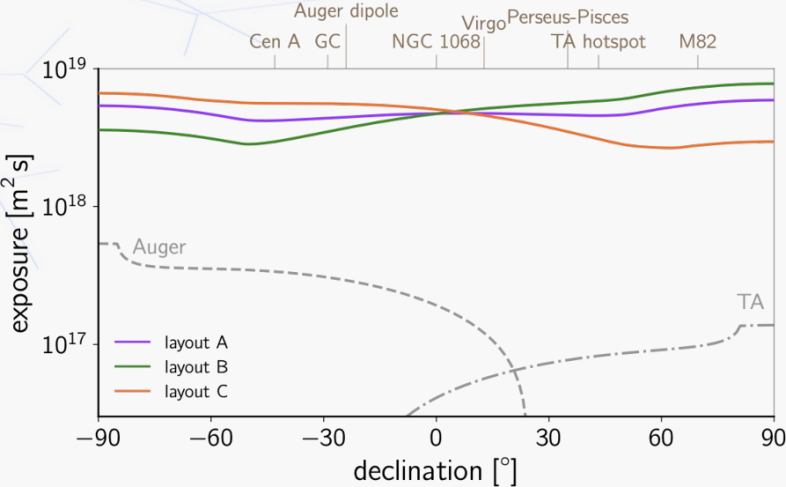
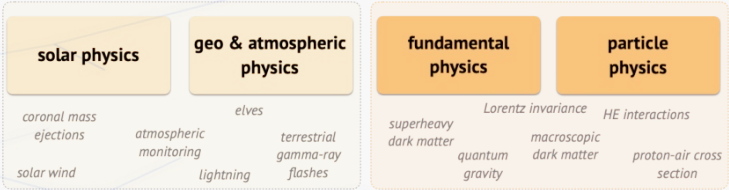
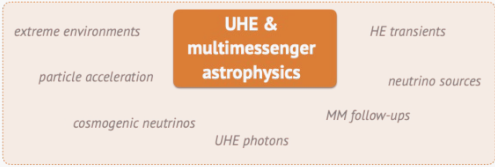
Precision measurements with event-by-event composition info might be needed

Up next: the Era of Global Arrays

Probe Of Extreme Multi-Messenger Astrophysics (POEMMA)



The Global Cosmic Ray Observatory (GCOS)



Future Outlook

Astropart.Phys. 149 (2023) 10281

Experiment	Feature	Cosmic Ray Science*	Timeline			
Pierre Auger Observatory	Hybrid array: fluorescence, surface e/μ + radio, 3000 km ²	Hadronic interactions, search for BSM, UHECR source populations, σ_{p-Air}	AugerPrime upgrade			
Telescope Array (TA)	Hybrid array: fluorescence, surface scintillators, up to 3000 km ²	UHECR source populations proton-air cross section (σ_{p-Air})	TAx4 upgrade			
IceCube / IceCube-Gen2	Hybrid array: surface + deep, up to 6 km ²	Hadronic interactions, prompt decays, Galactic to extragalactic transition	Upgrade + surface enhancement	IceCube-Gen2 deployment	IceCube-Gen2 operation	
GRAND	Radio array for inclined events, up to 200,000 km ²	UHECR sources via huge exposure, search for ZeV particles, σ_{p-Air}	GRANDProto 300	GRAND 10k	GRAND 200k multiple sites, step by step	
POEMMA	Space fluorescence and Cherenkov detector	UHECR sources via huge exposure, search for ZeV particles, σ_{p-Air}	EUSO program		POEMMA	
GCOS	Hybrid array with X_{max} + e/μ over 40,000 km ²	UHECR sources via event-by-event rigidity, forward particle physics, search for BSM, σ_{p-Air}	GCOS R&D + first site		GCOS further sites	

*All experiments contribute to multi-messenger astrophysics also by searches for UHE neutrinos and photons; several experiments (IceCube, GRAND, POEMMA) have astrophysical neutrinos as primary science case.

2025 2030 2035 2040

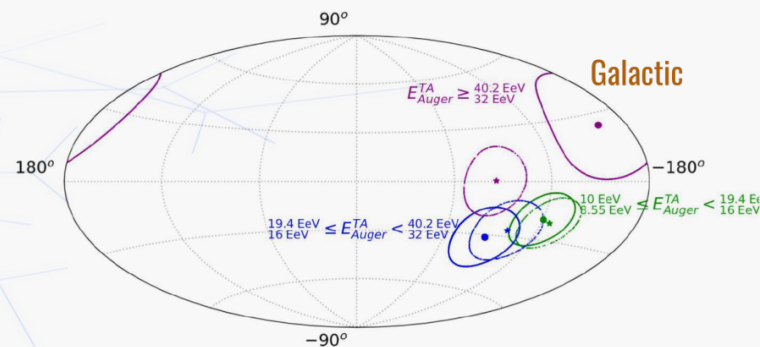
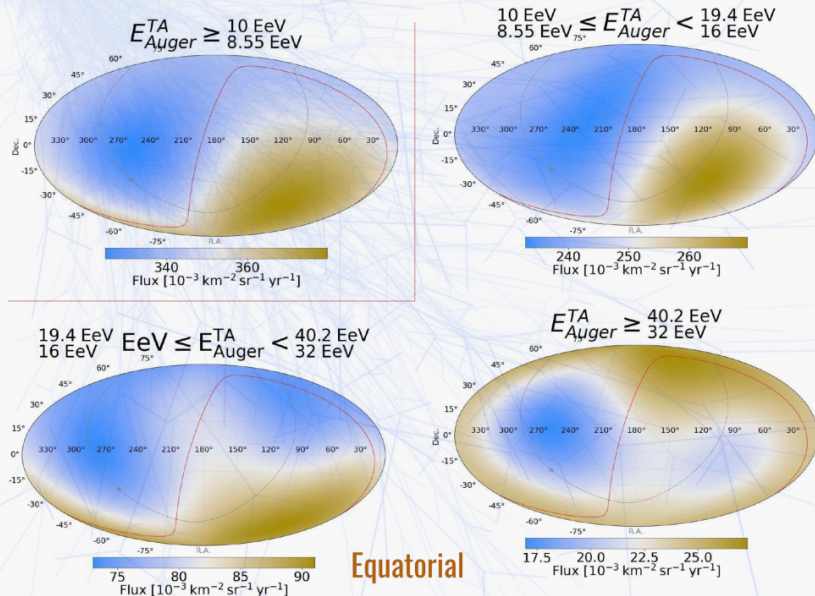
The background of the slide features a complex, abstract pattern of thin, light blue lines. These lines are most densely packed on the left side, where they form a dense, almost solid-looking mass. From this mass, the lines radiate outwards towards the right, becoming increasingly sparse and more distinct as they spread. The overall effect is one of dynamic movement and depth, with a light blue gradient that complements the line pattern.

Backup Slides

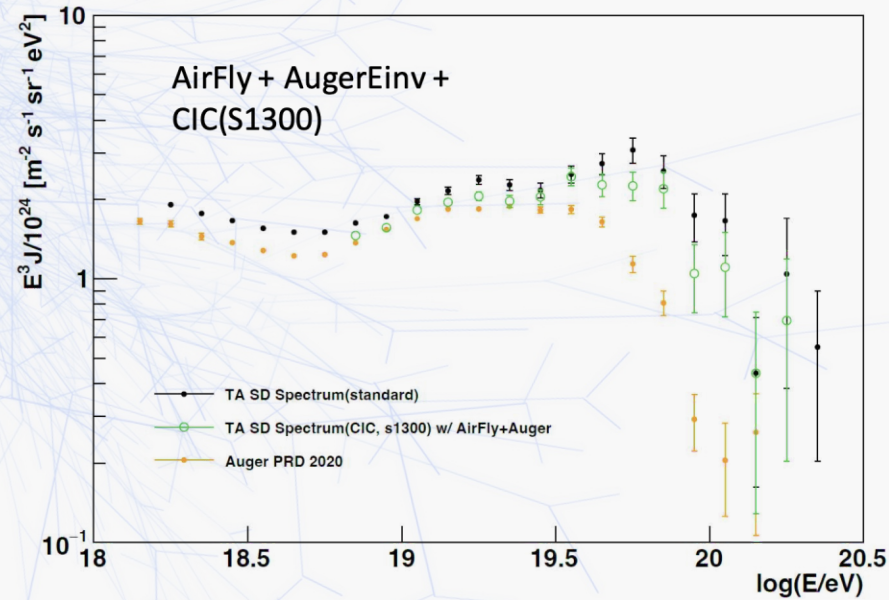
Testing the Dipole across the Full Sky



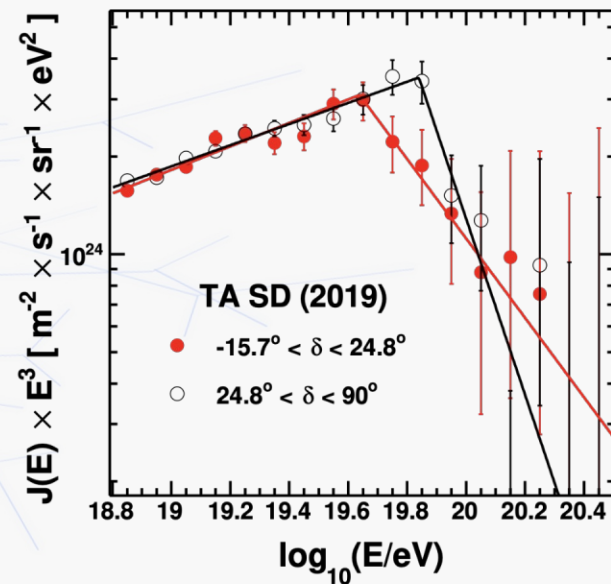
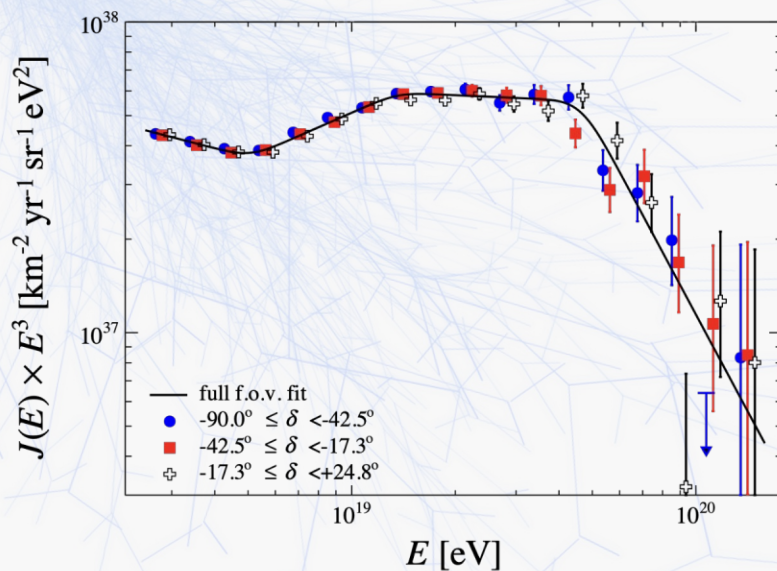
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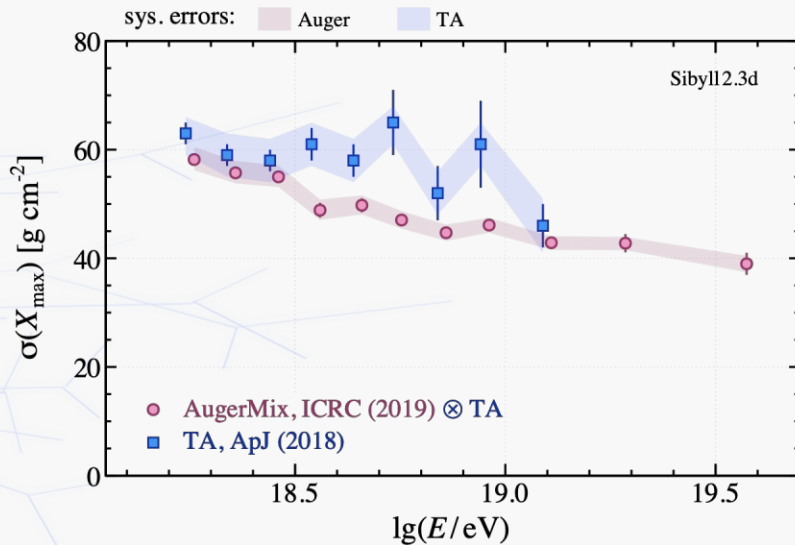
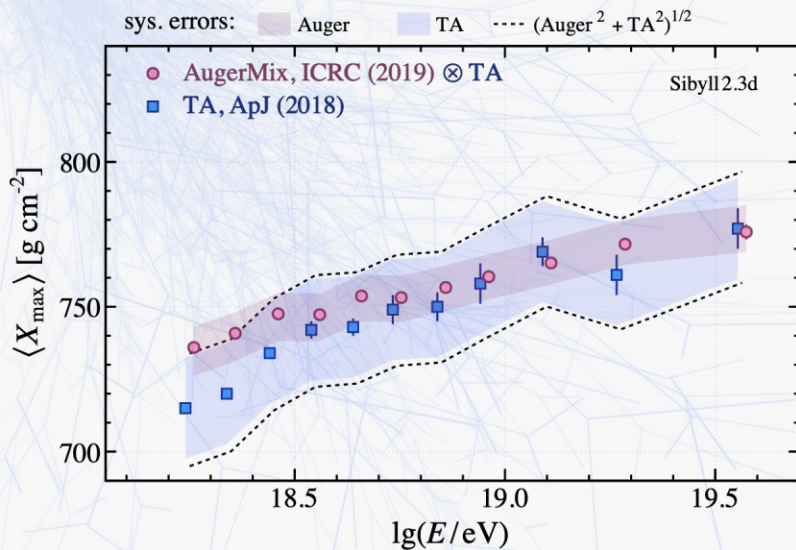
Auger / TA Spectrum Agreement



Declination dependence of Auger and TA Spectra



Auger / TA Composition Agreement



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