

Cosmic rays in the transition region between the knee and the ankle

Alex Käpä

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Status quo in data

Cosmic ray energy spectrum

Broken power-law with three ‘main’ features:

- ‘**knee**’: softening at $\sim 10^{15.4}$ eV
- ‘**ankle**’: hardening at $\sim 10^{18.7}$ eV
- high-energy cut-off beyond $\sim 10^{19.6}$ eV

Further more subtle features:

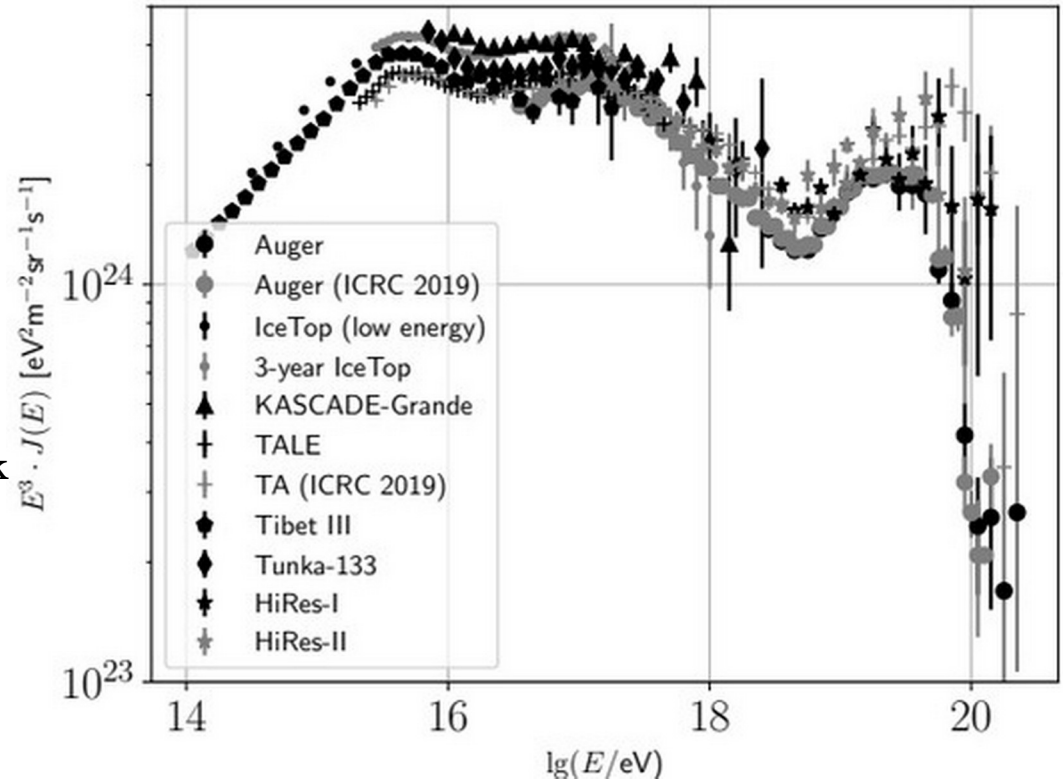
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Transition region (= ‘shin’) **unexplained**:

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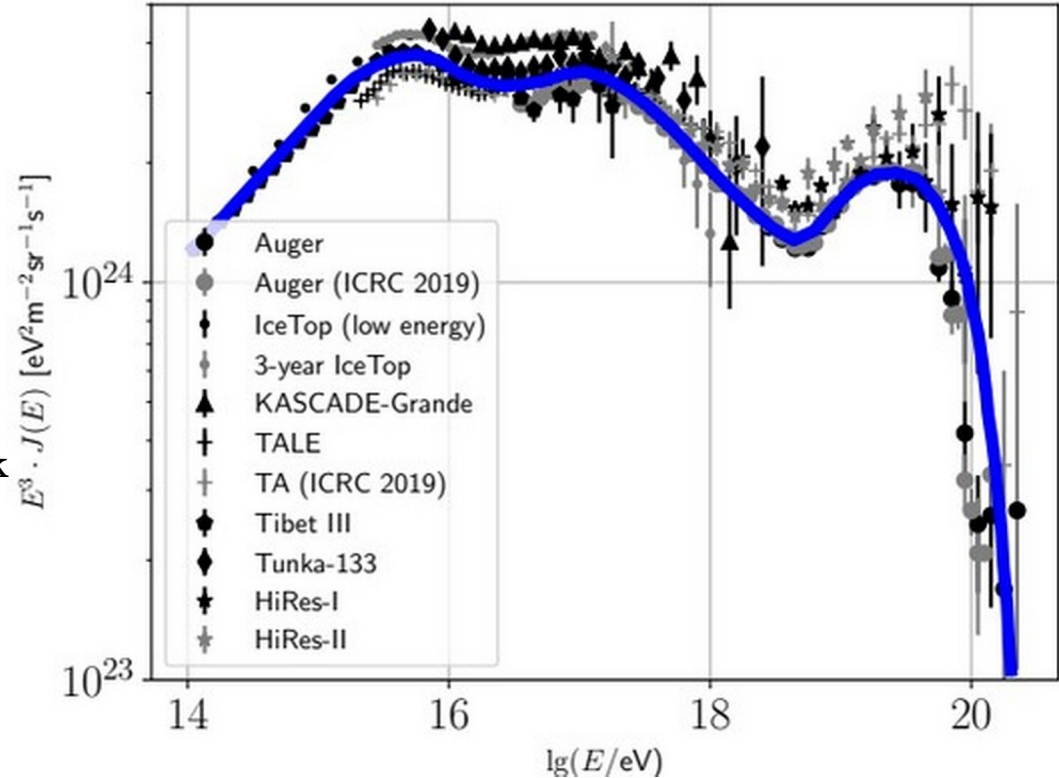
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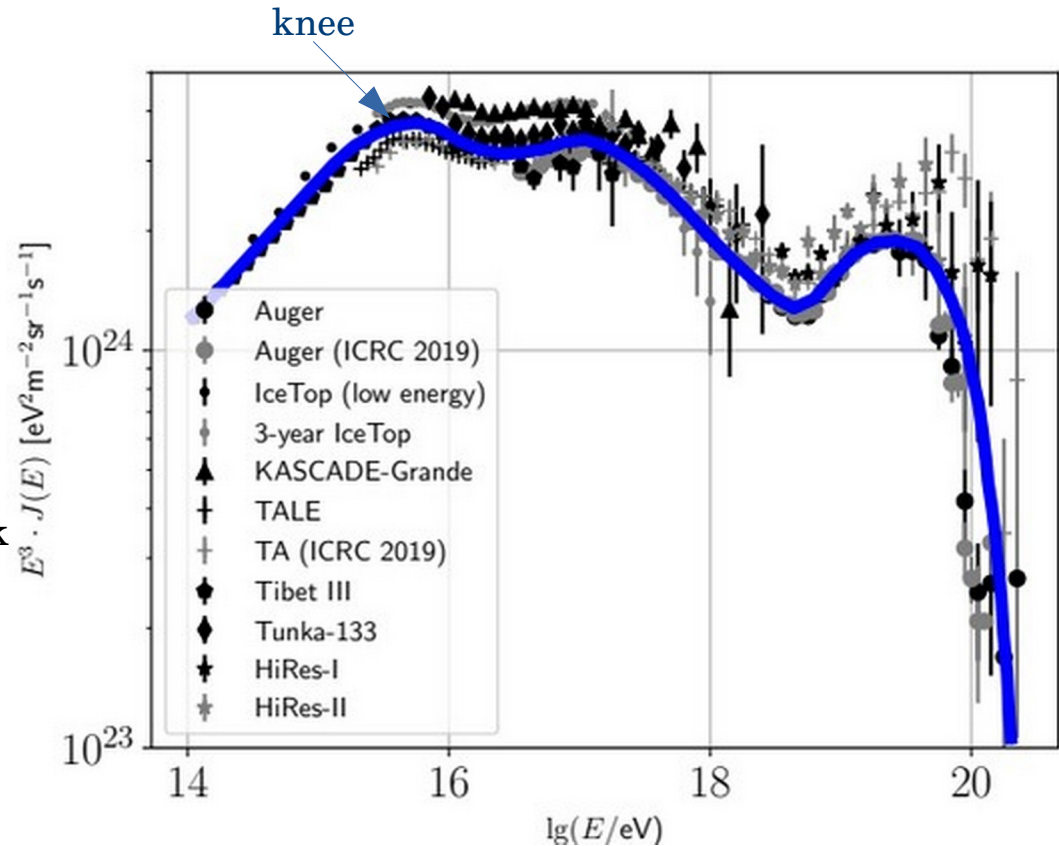
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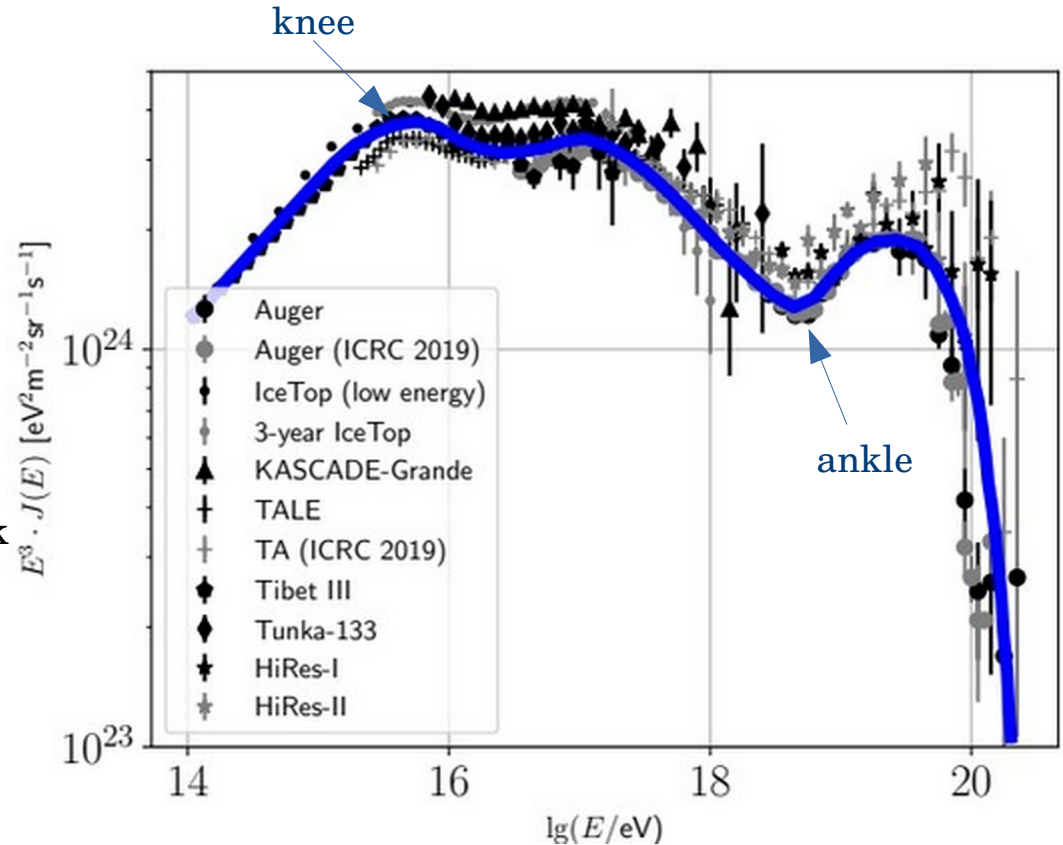
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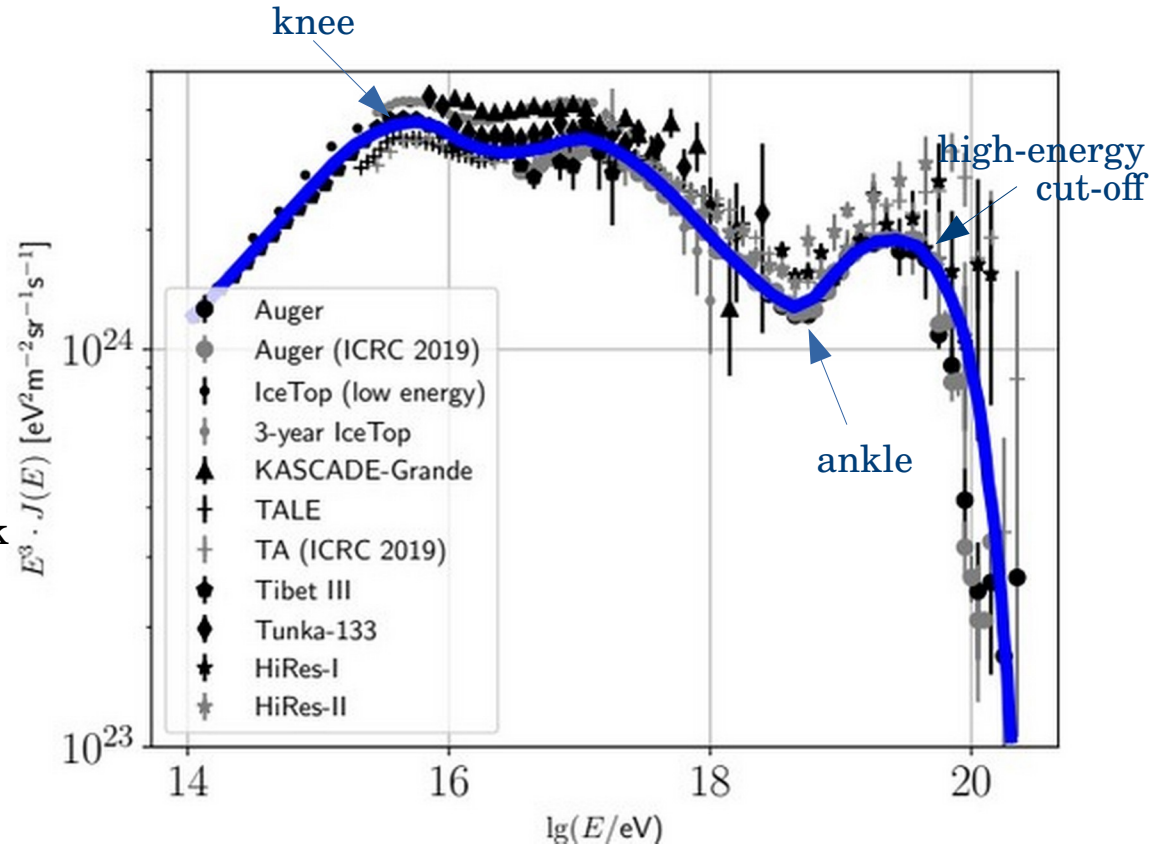
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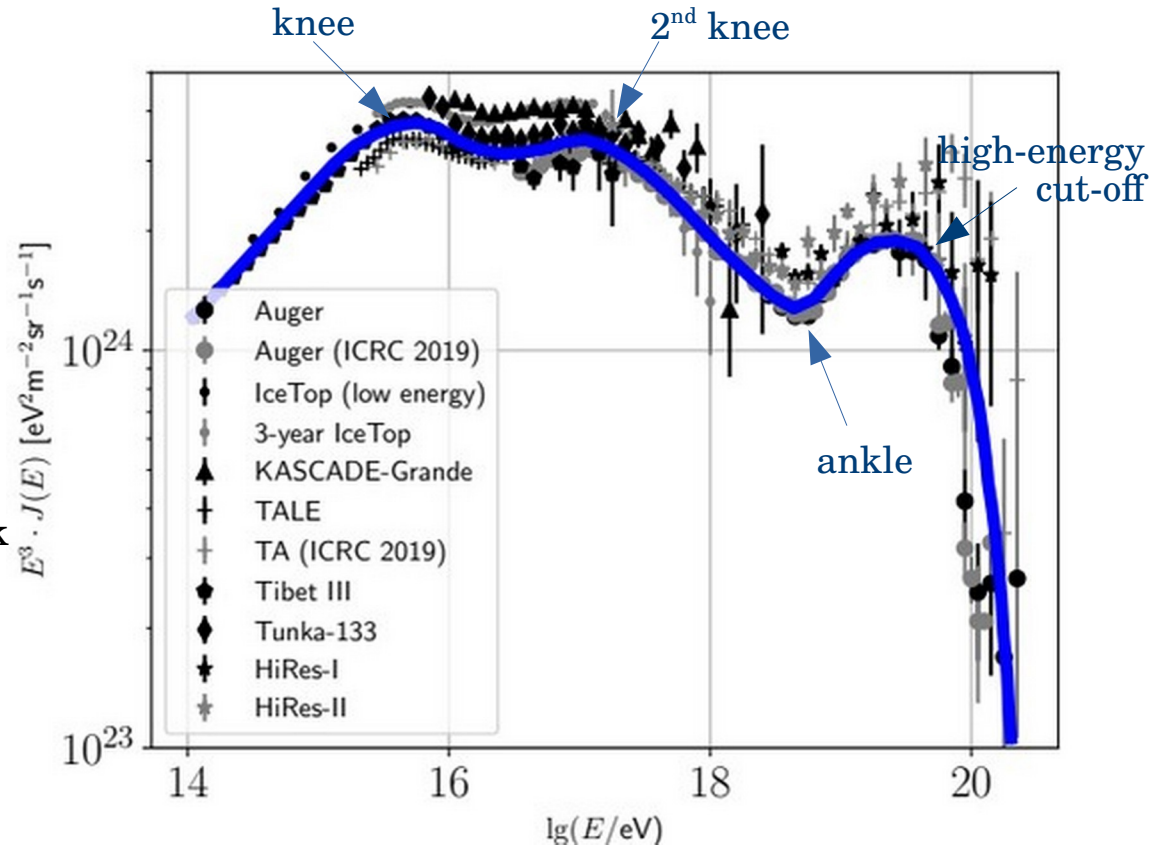
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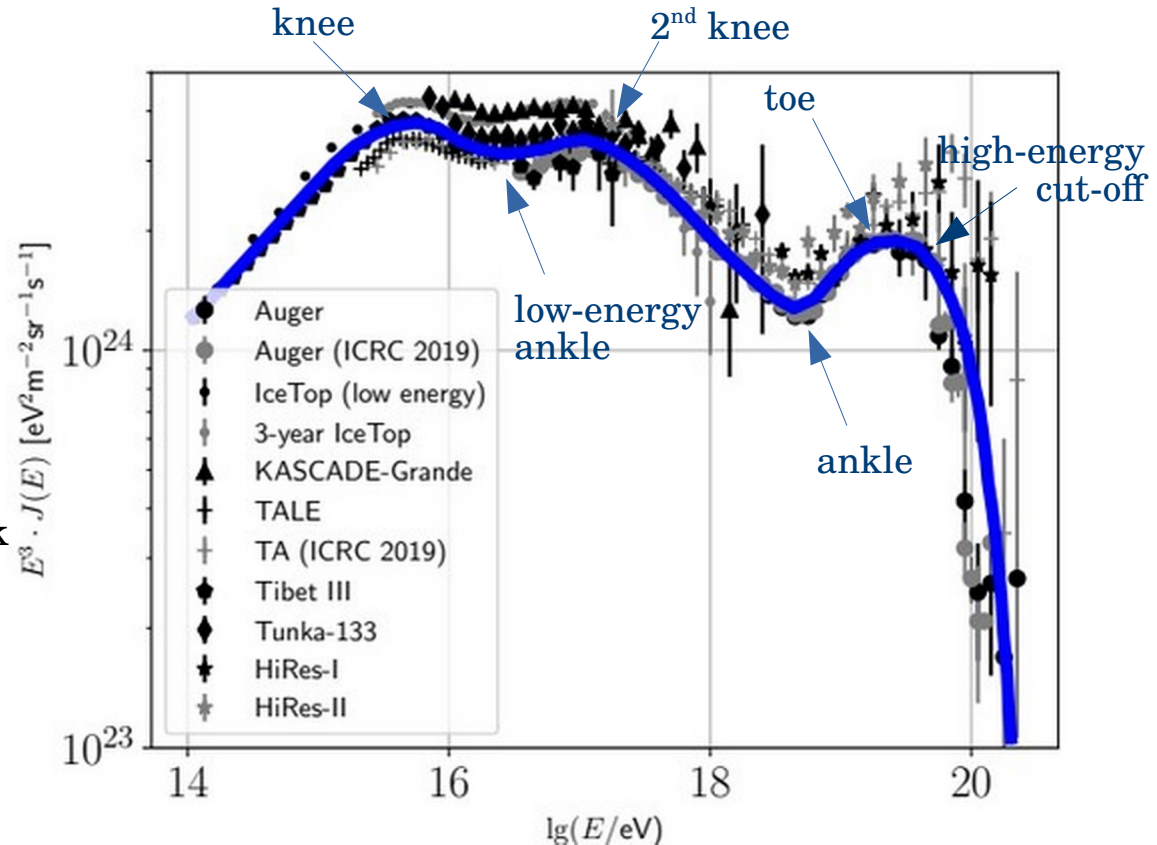
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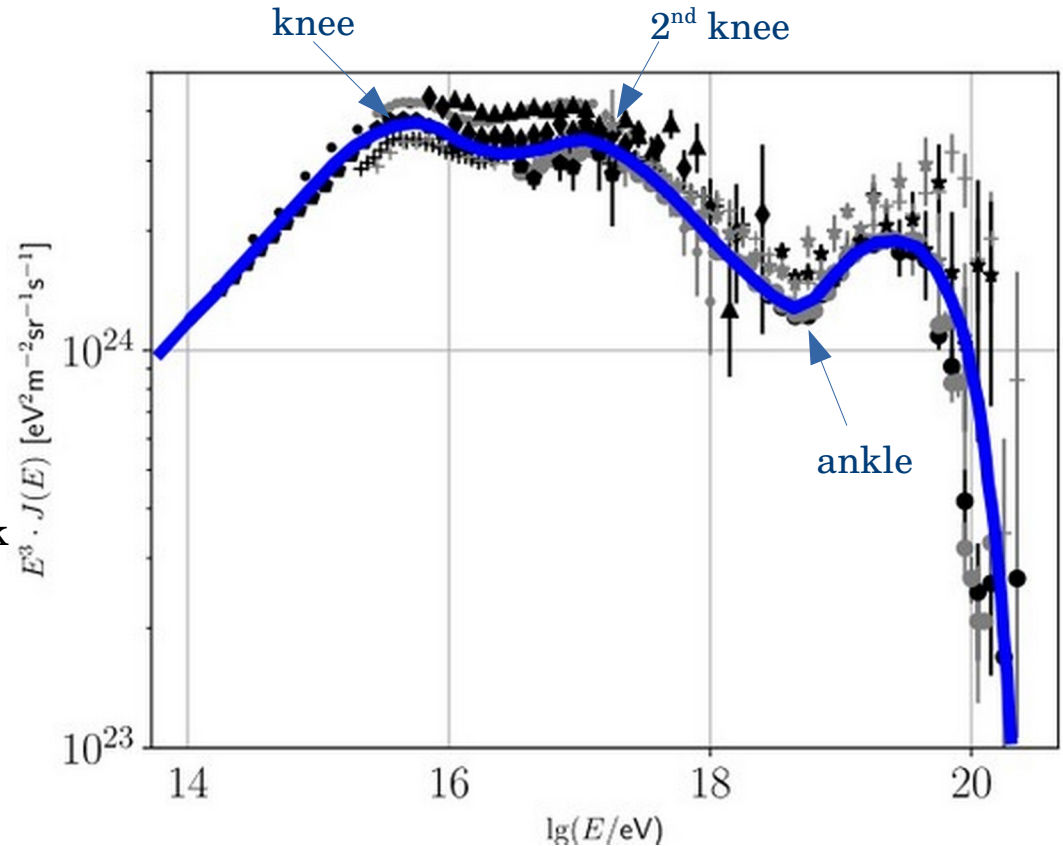
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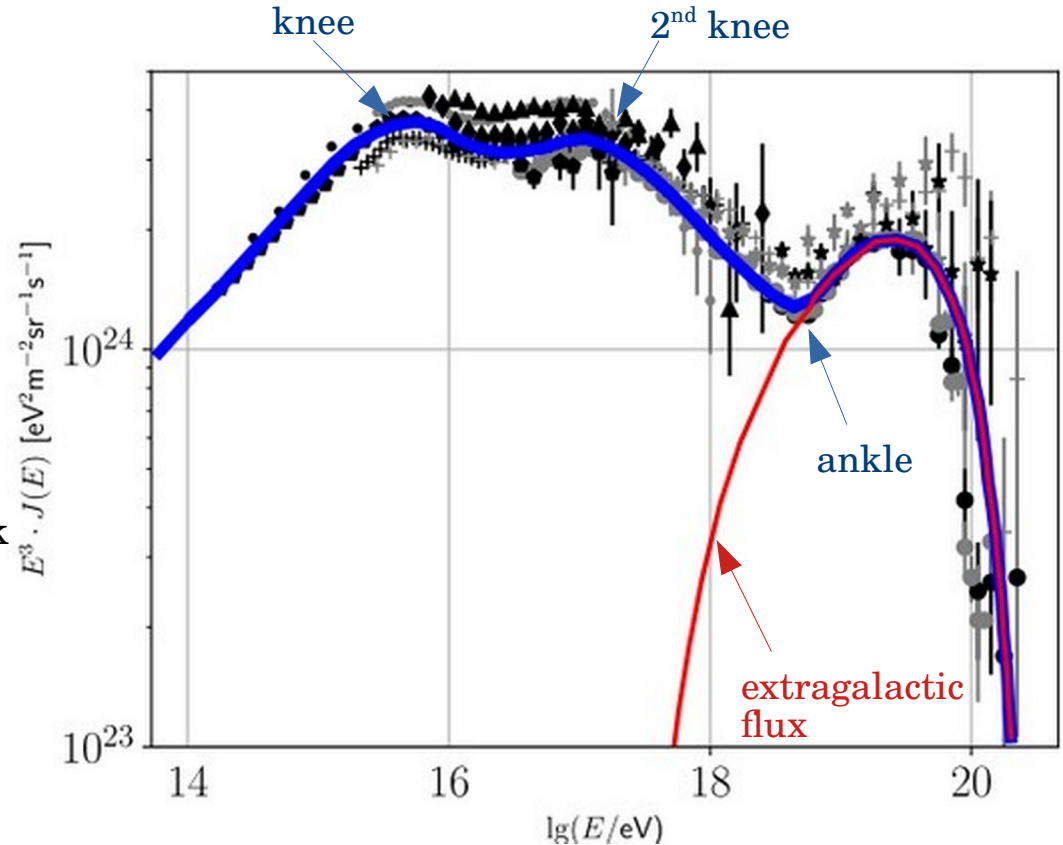
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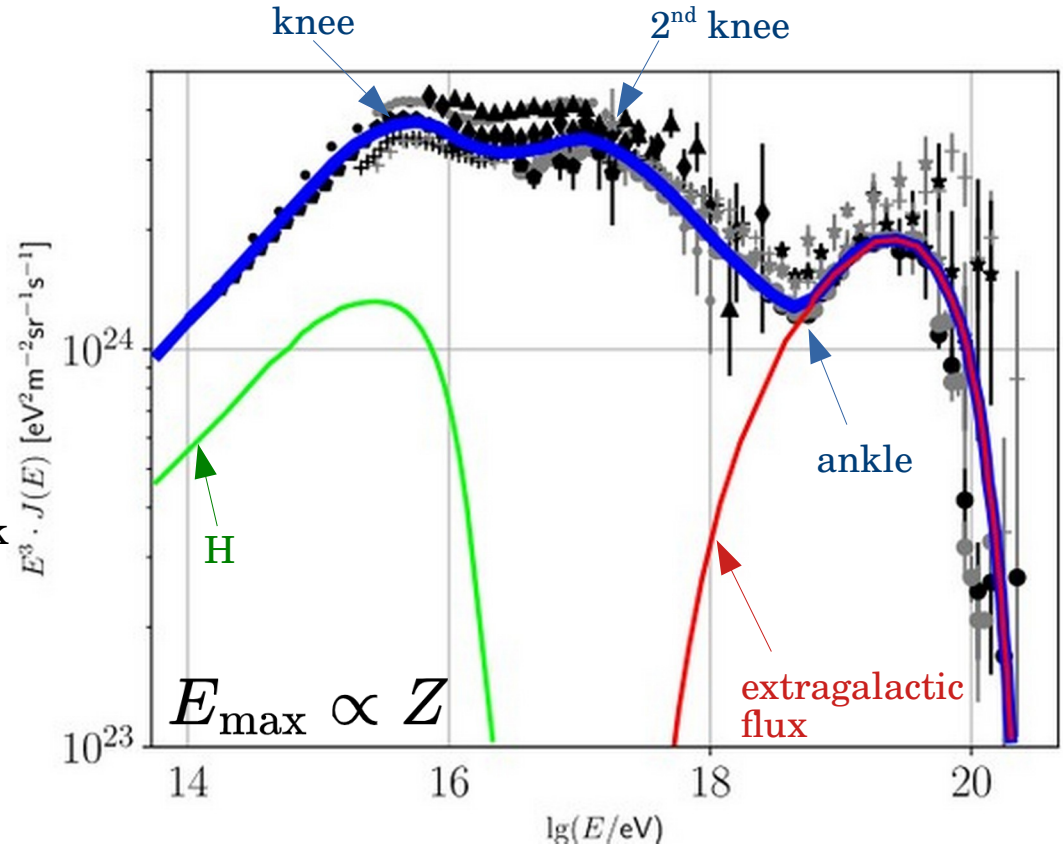
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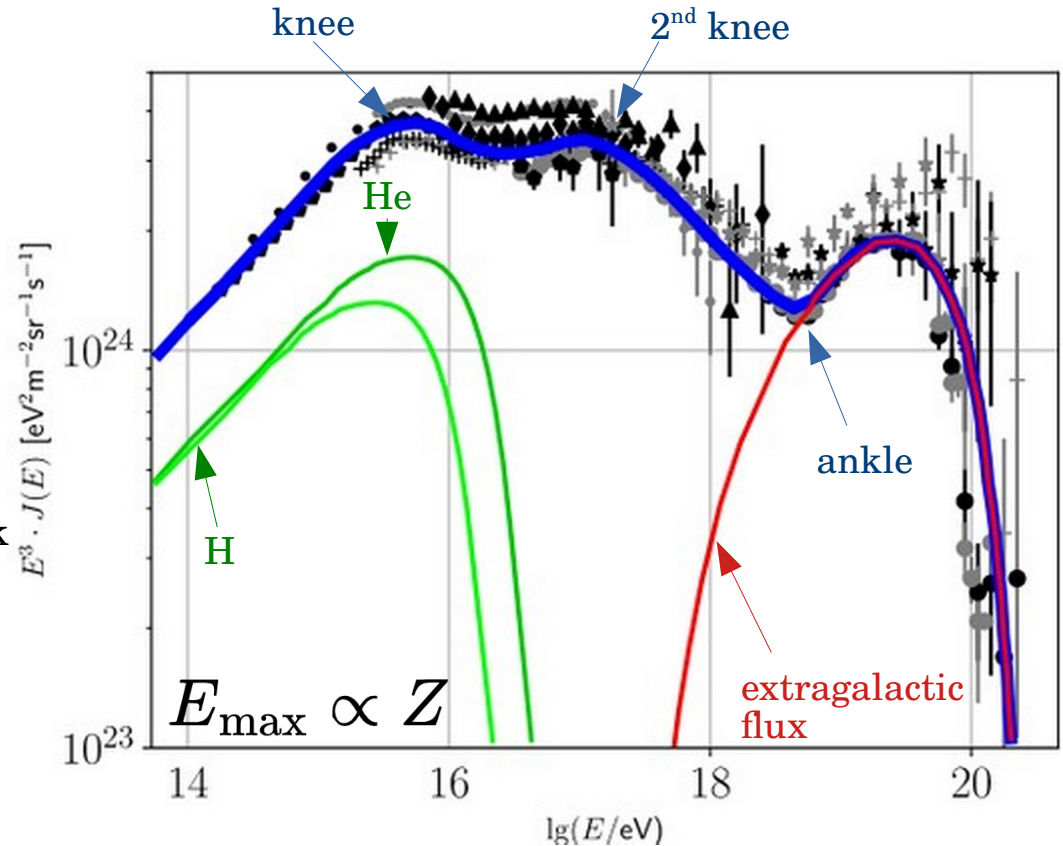
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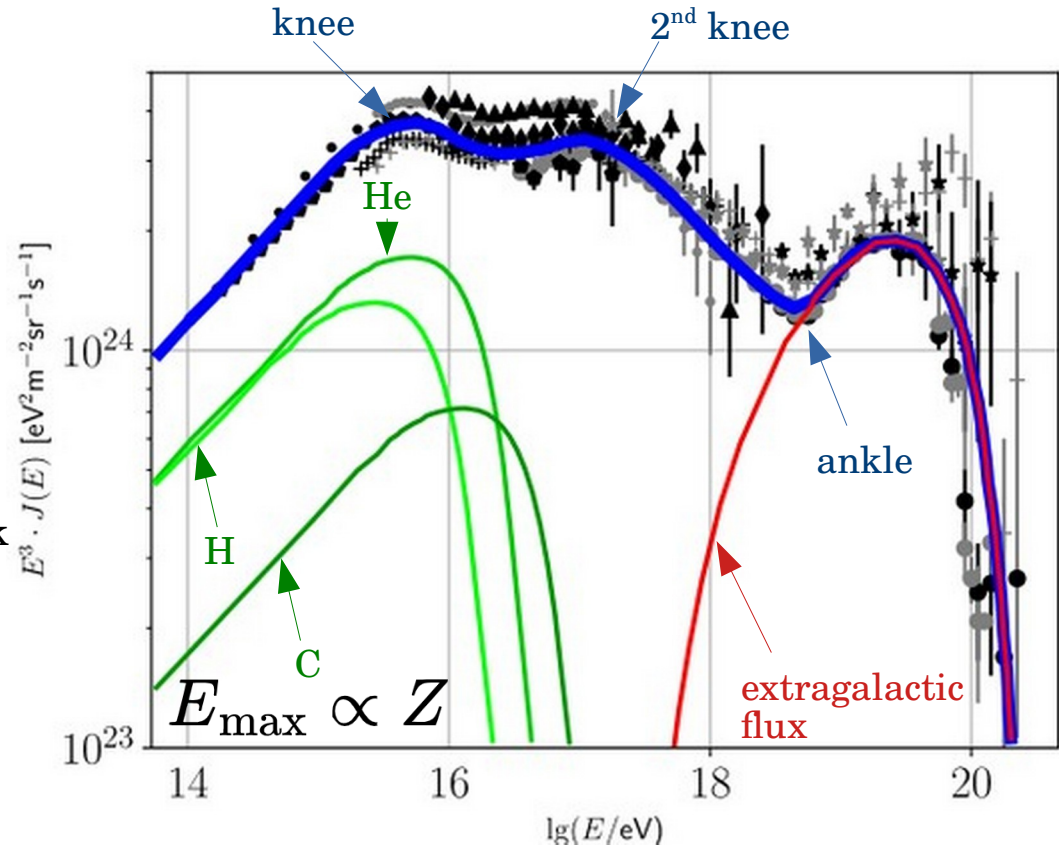
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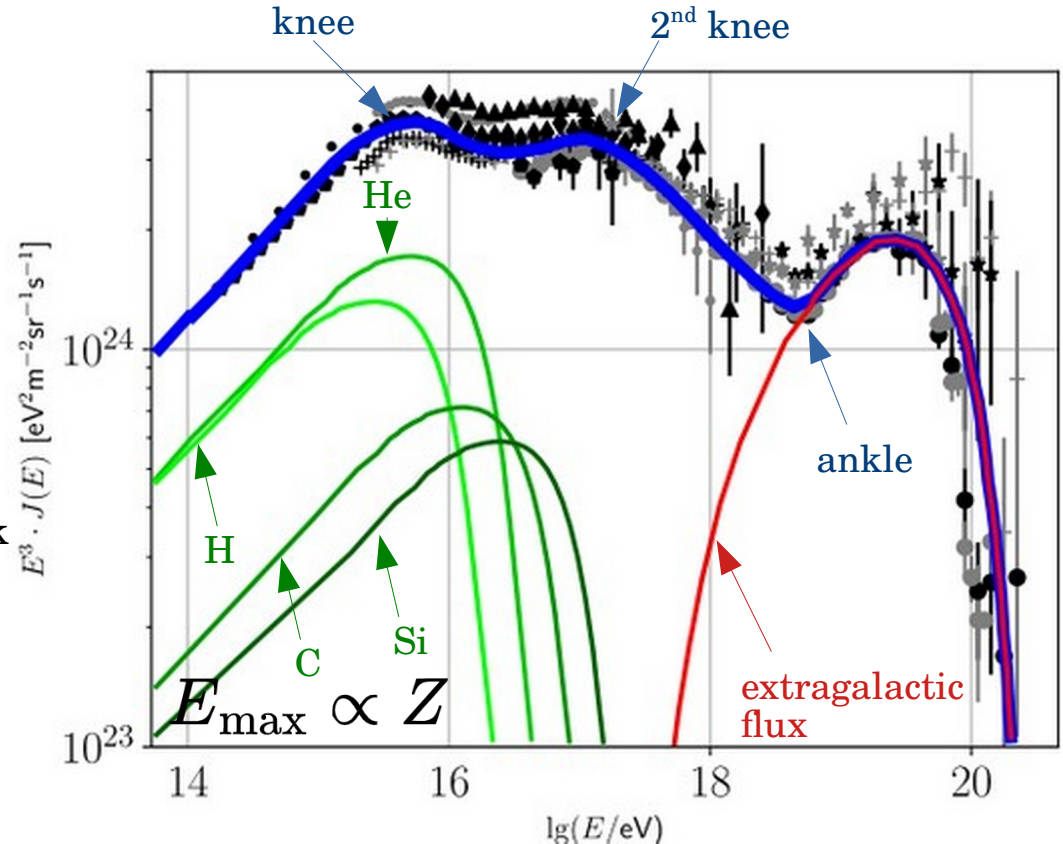
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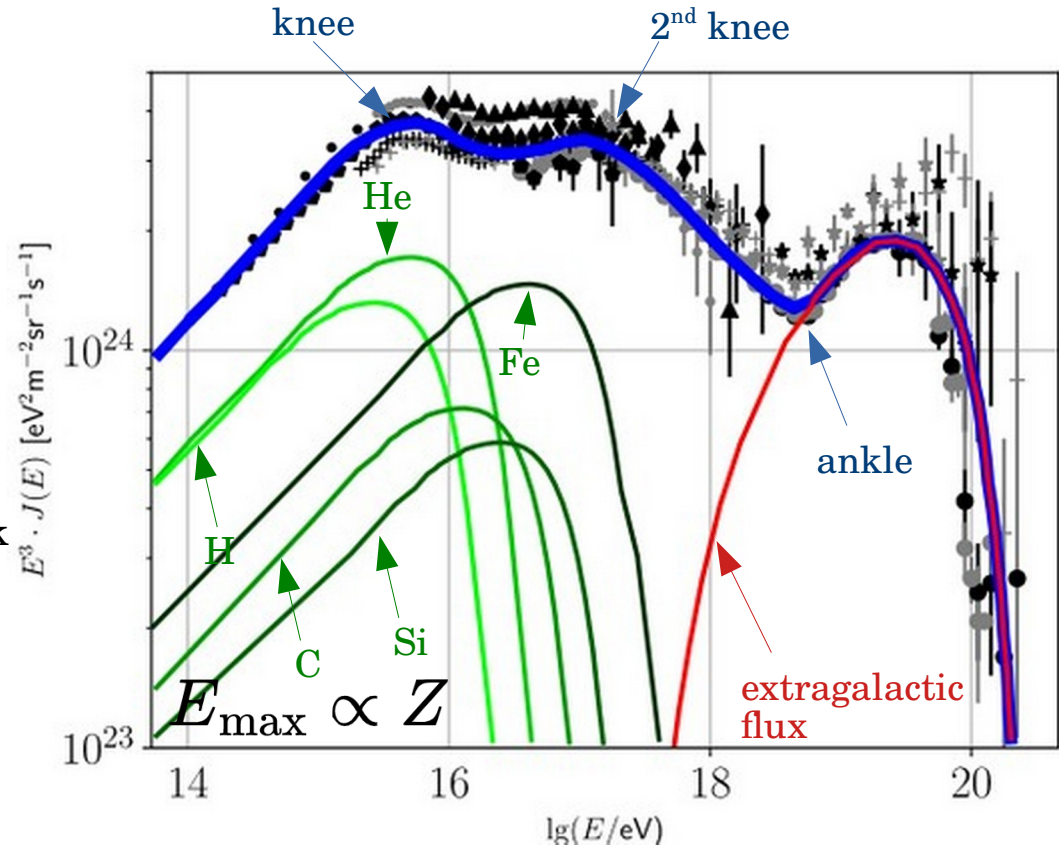
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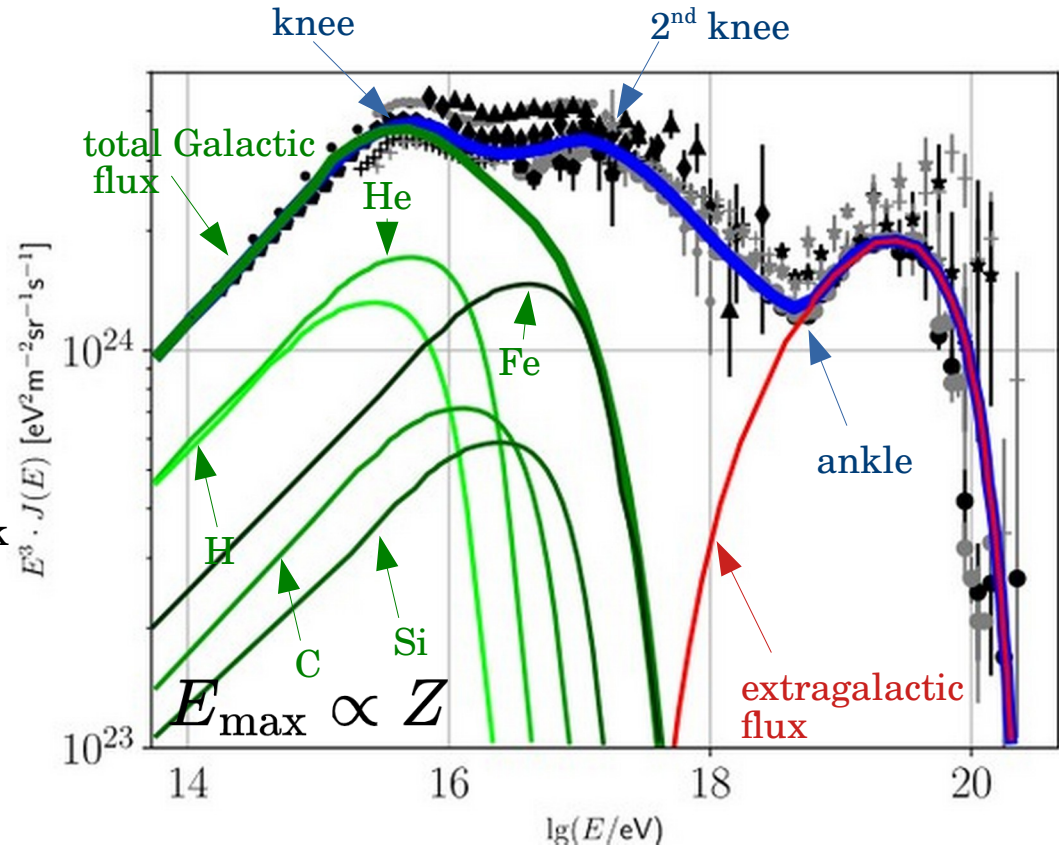
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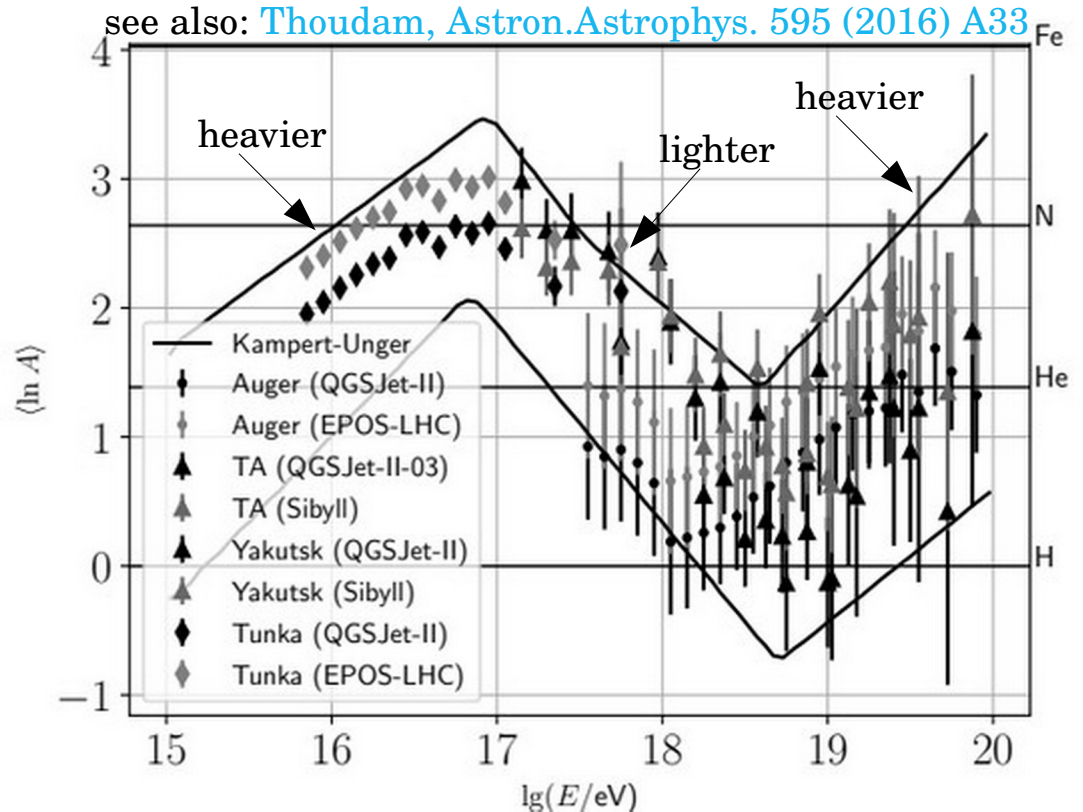
Cosmic ray composition

Composition highly energy-dependent:

- heavier beyond the ‘knee’
- maximum **before** ‘2nd knee’
- minimum just before ‘ankle’
- **increasing mean mass at high-energy cut-off**

Increasing mean mass
→ **rigidity-dependent** change in:

- source properties (**maximum acceleration energy**)
- **propagation regimes** in magnetic fields



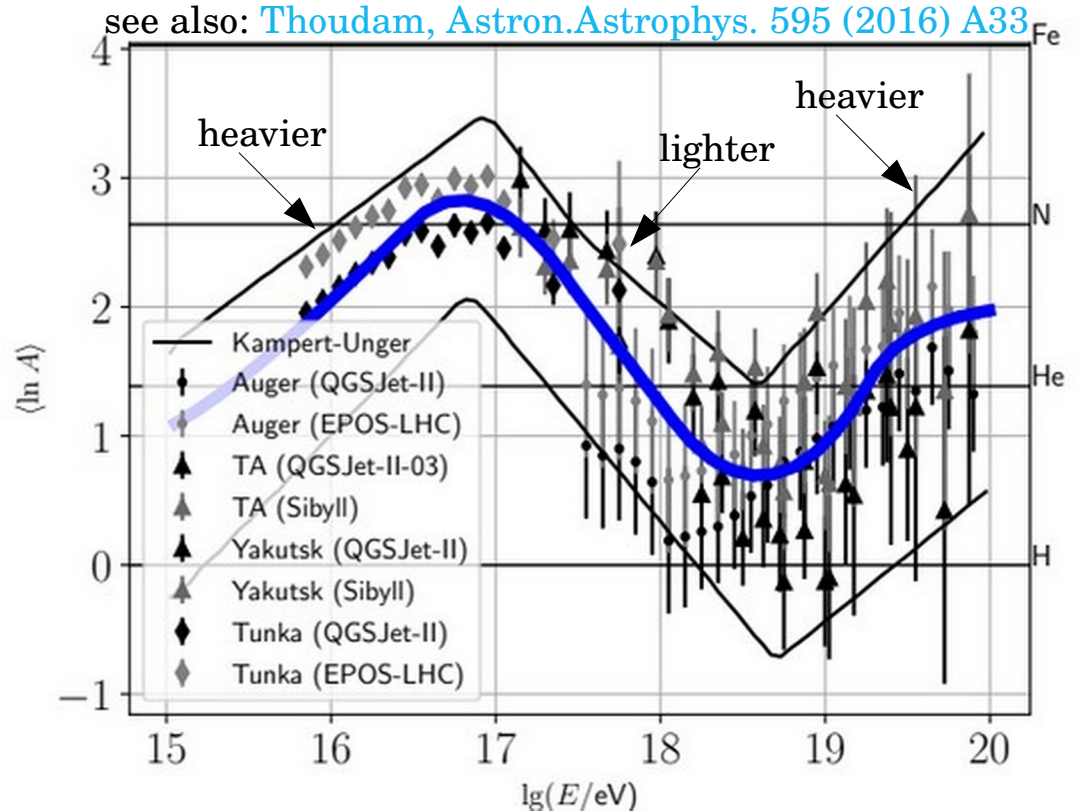
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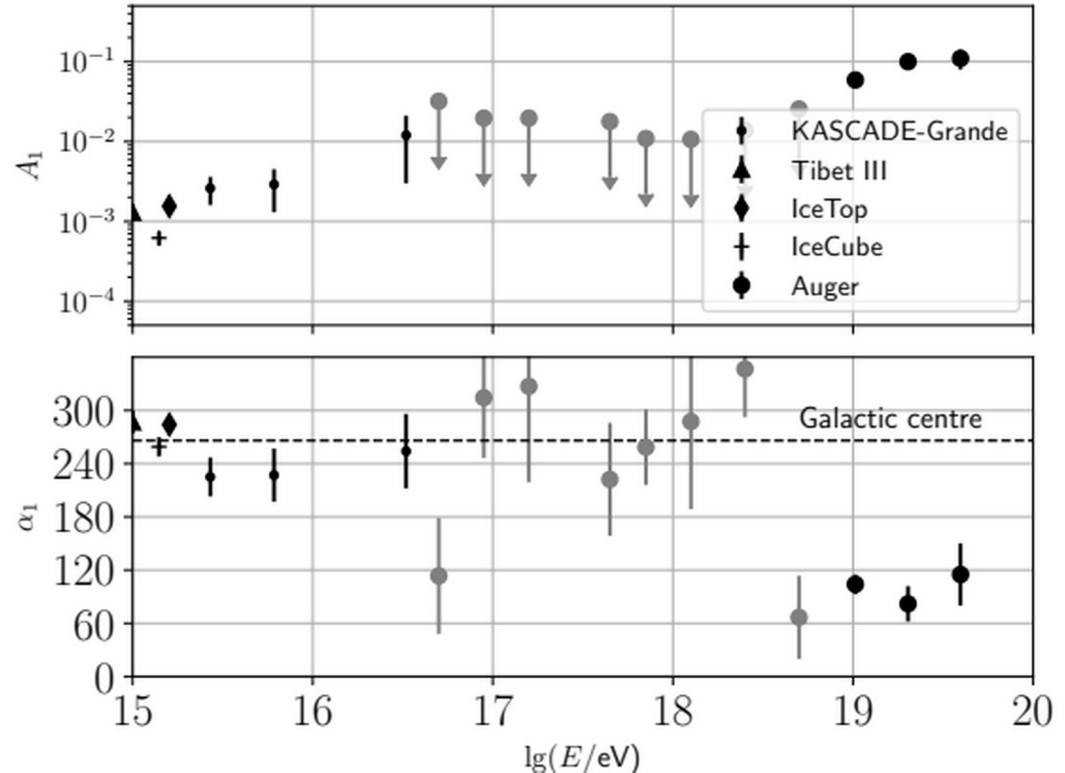
Dipole anisotropy:

- amplitude increases with energy
- **no significant dipole** between $\sim 10^{16.5} \text{ eV} - 10^{19} \text{ eV}$
- **phase roughly constant** in both energy ranges but **shifts away from Galactic centre (GC)** for highest energies
→ **extragalactic** origin likely

Small-scale anisotropies:

- amplitude and direction indicate strength of **diffusion** vs. **advection**: correlation with **source direction** \Leftrightarrow **strength of Galactic wind**

see also: [Becker-Tjus, Physics Reports 872 \(2020\) pp.1-98](#)



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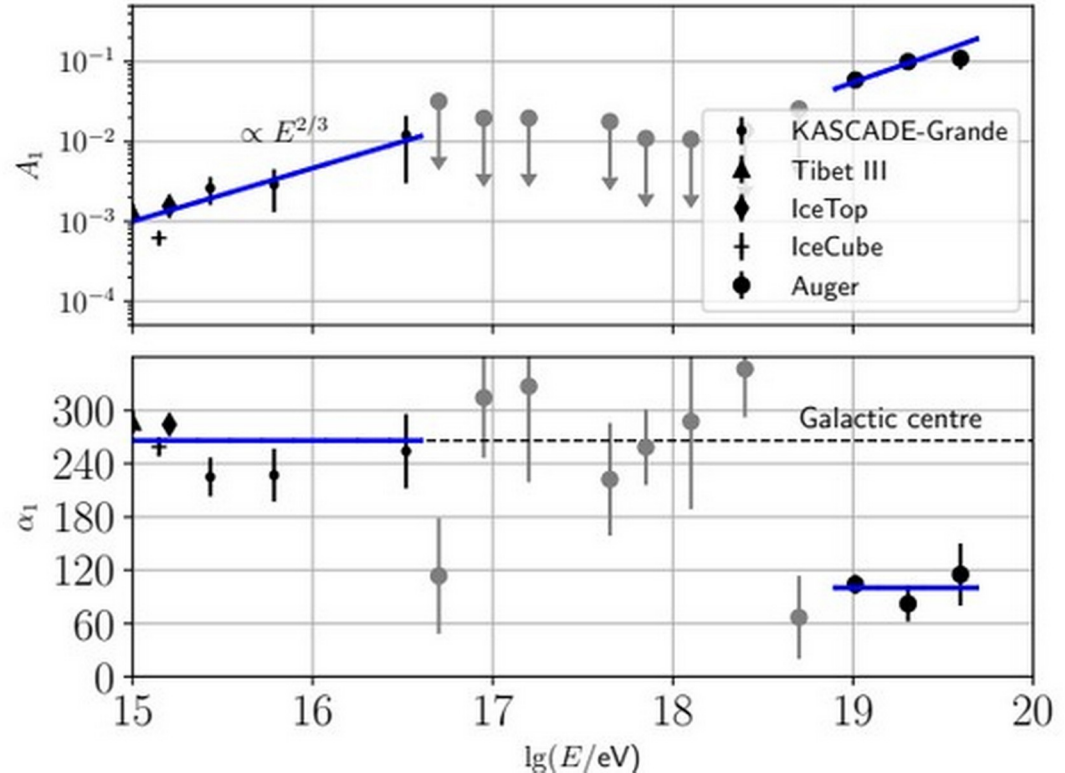
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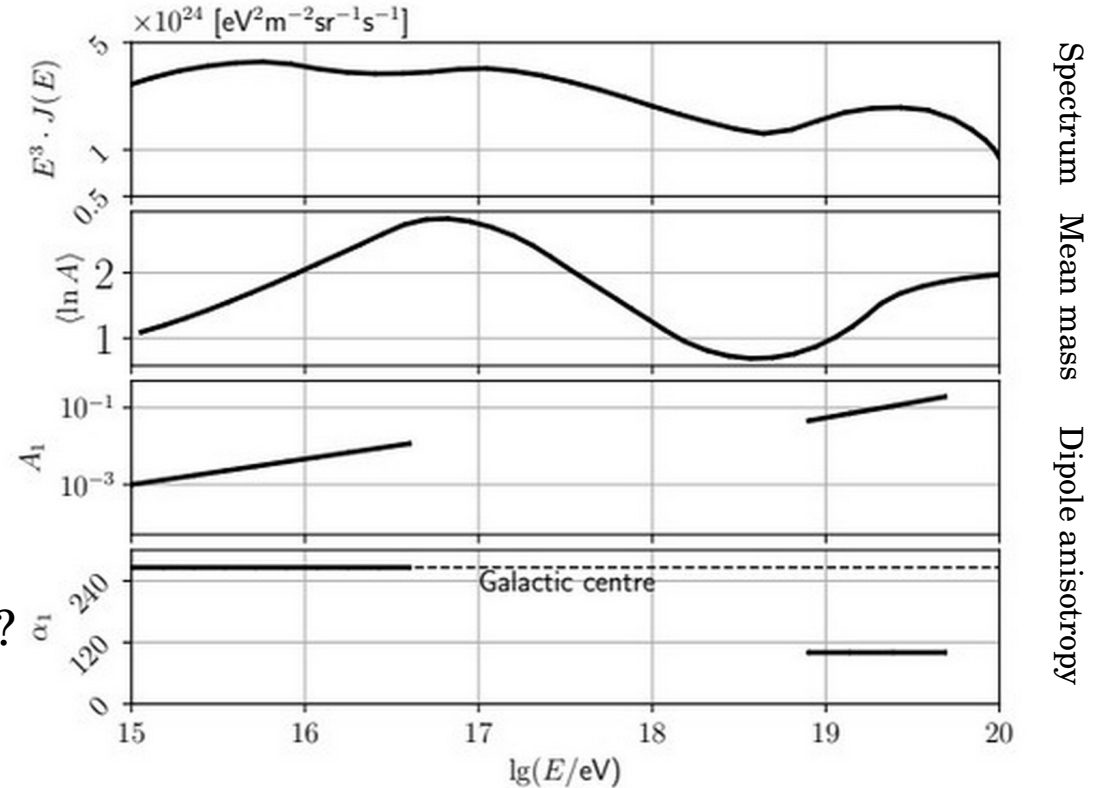
“All” data in one look

Composition:

- What **explains ‘2nd knee’** if maximum mean mass is reached well before?
- Why does the composition become **lighter up to the ‘ankle’**?

Spectrum:

- How could **GCRs** be accelerated up to energies **beyond the ‘knee’**?
- What **constraints** are there on **low-energy** contribution of **EGCRs**?
- **How are observables affected by the propagation in the Galactic magnetic field (GMF)?**



Spectrum
Mean mass
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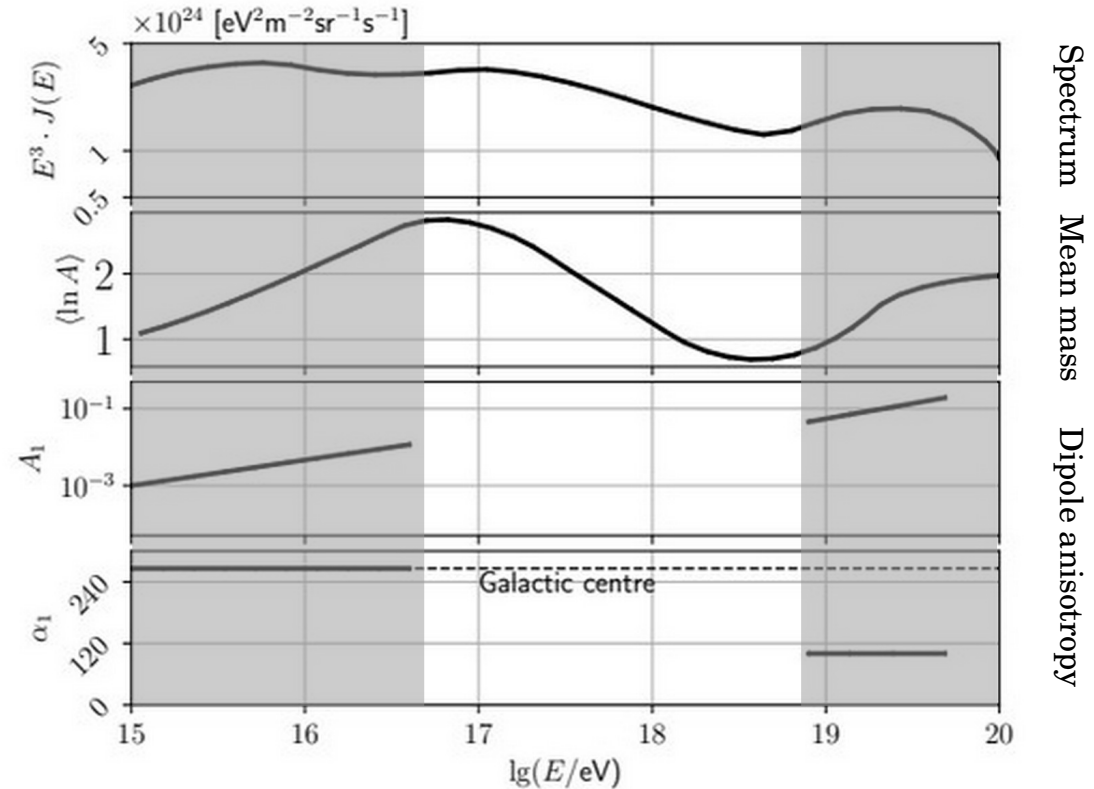
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Galactic magnetic field (GMF)

x-z projection of JF12 field

GMF model: JF12 (ApJ 757 14x) with three components:

- Large-scale regular
- Large-scale random (striated)
- (Small-scale) random

GMF has **three regions** of differing **field strength**:

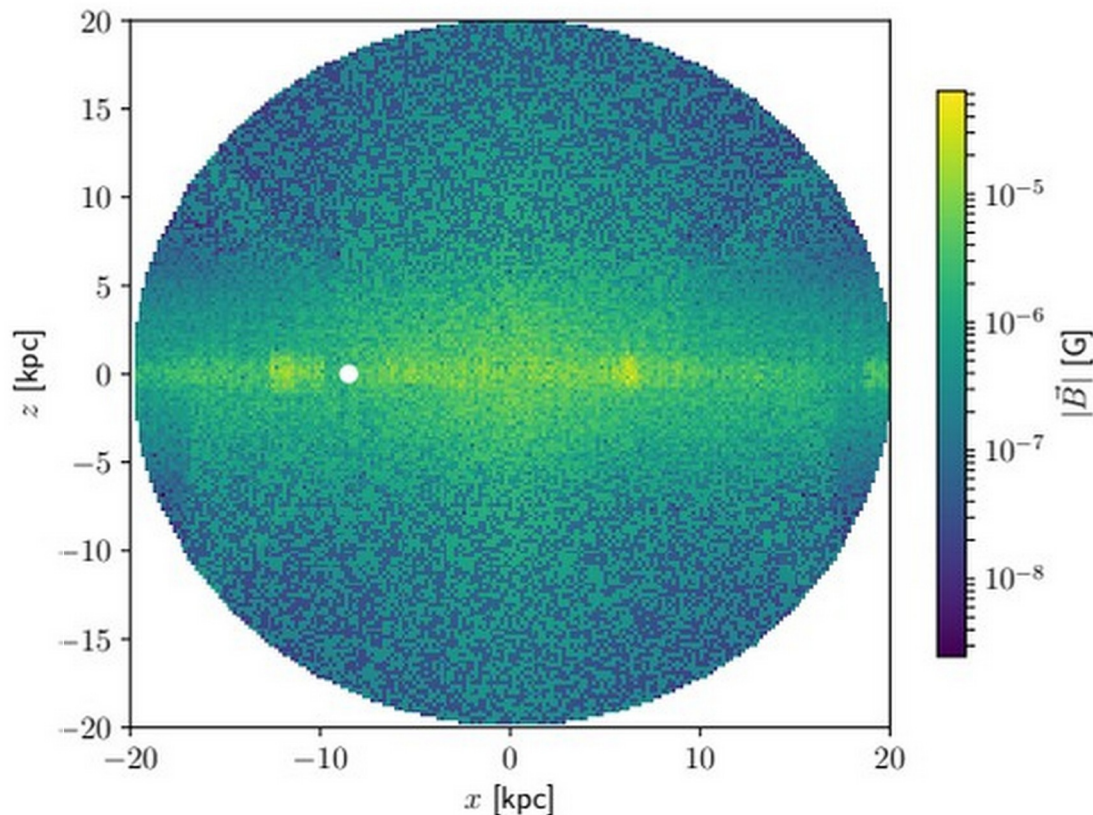
- **Galactic plane (GP):** $\sim 1 - 10 \mu\text{G}$
- Halo: $\sim 0.1 - 1 \mu\text{G}$
- Edge of Galaxy: $10 - 100 \text{ nG}$

Gyroradius r_g :

$$r_g[\text{pc}] \approx 11 \cdot \frac{R[\text{PV}] \cdot v_{\perp}/c}{B[\mu\text{G}]}, \quad R = E/Ze$$

Transition region = **change in propagation regimes**

- **diffusive** \rightarrow **ballistic** propagation



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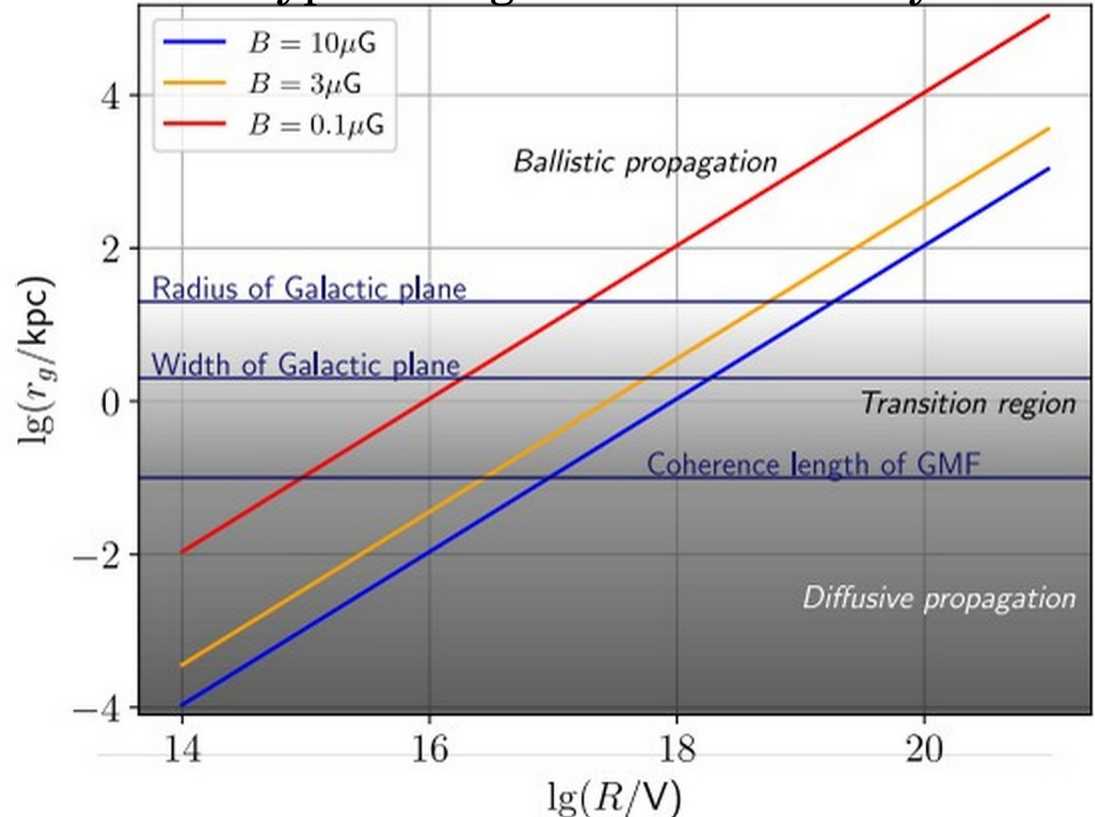
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Change of gyroradius with rigidity plus typical length scales of Galaxy



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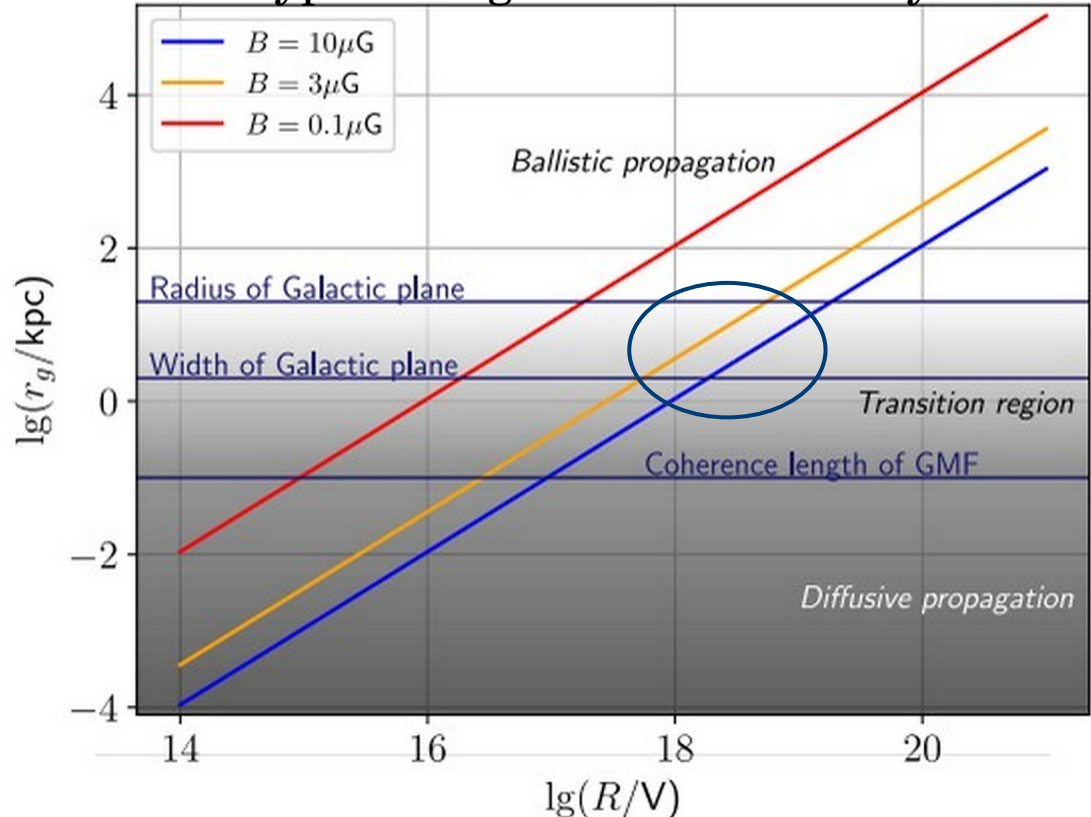
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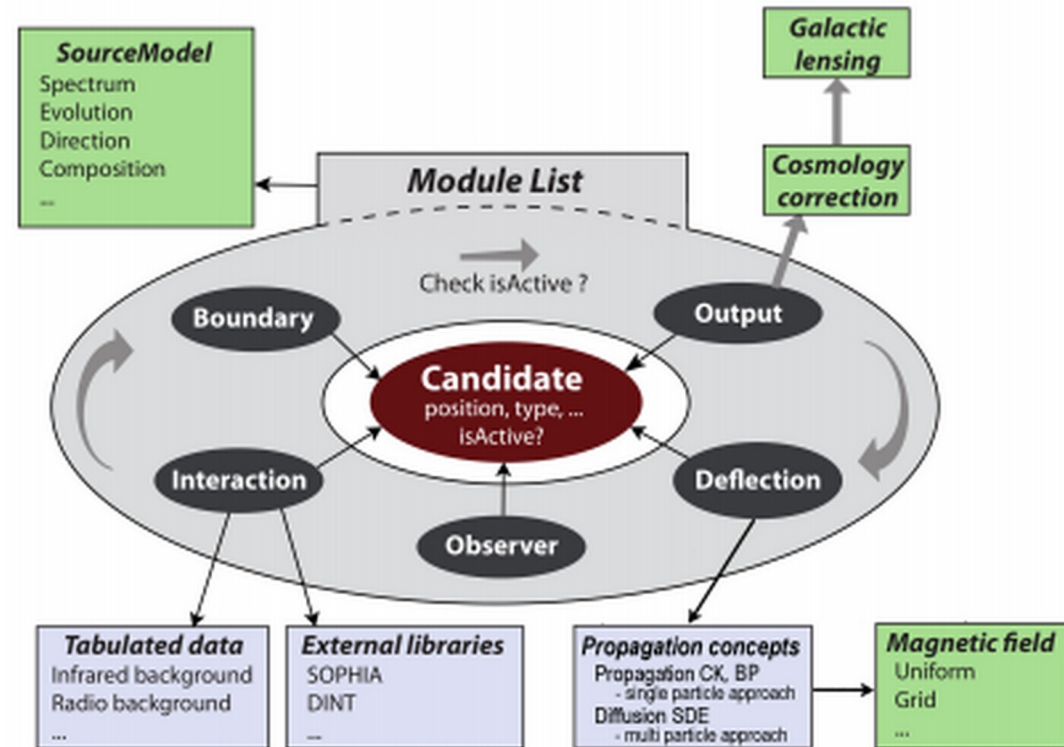
Simulation software, computational challenges and requirements

Simulation software: CRPropa 3

CRPropa 3: Monte-Carlo based software for simulation of CR propagation:

- Modular structure:
 - Modules modify properties of candidate at each step of simulation
 - Source, interaction, deflection, observer, boundary, output
- Contain all atomic nuclei, photonuclear interactions, **magnetic field models**, **propagation algorithms**, ...

Modular structure of CRPropa 3

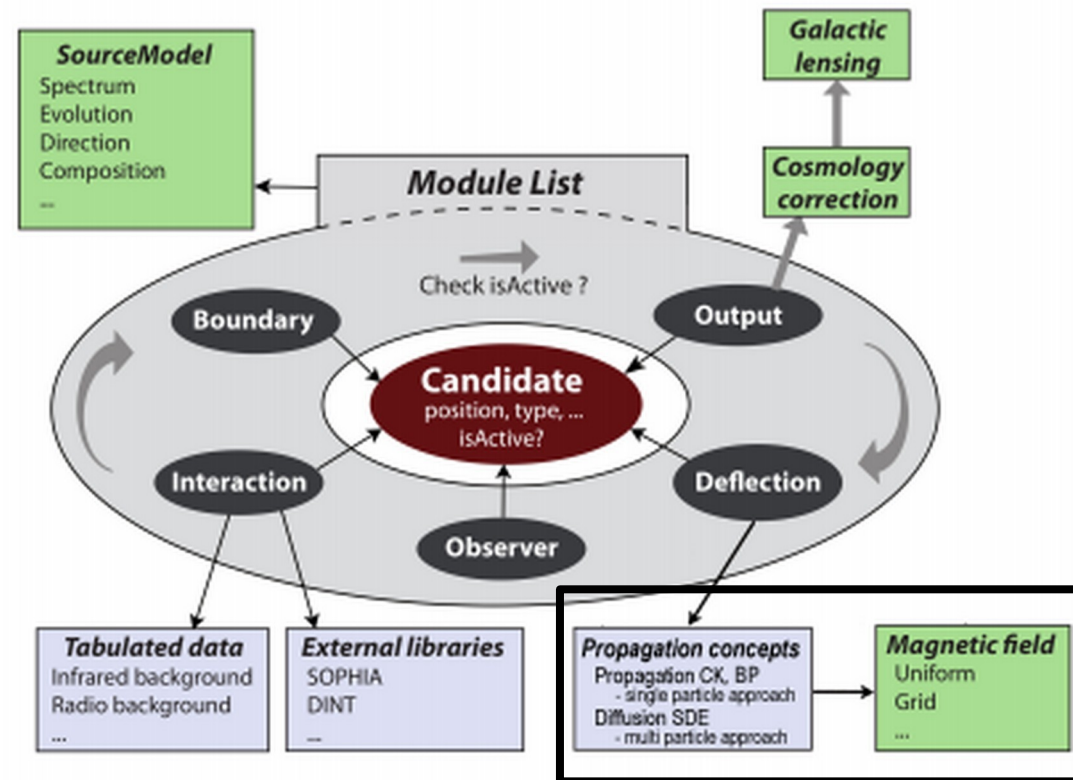


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Ballistic propagation

Trajectories of ballistically propagating GCRs

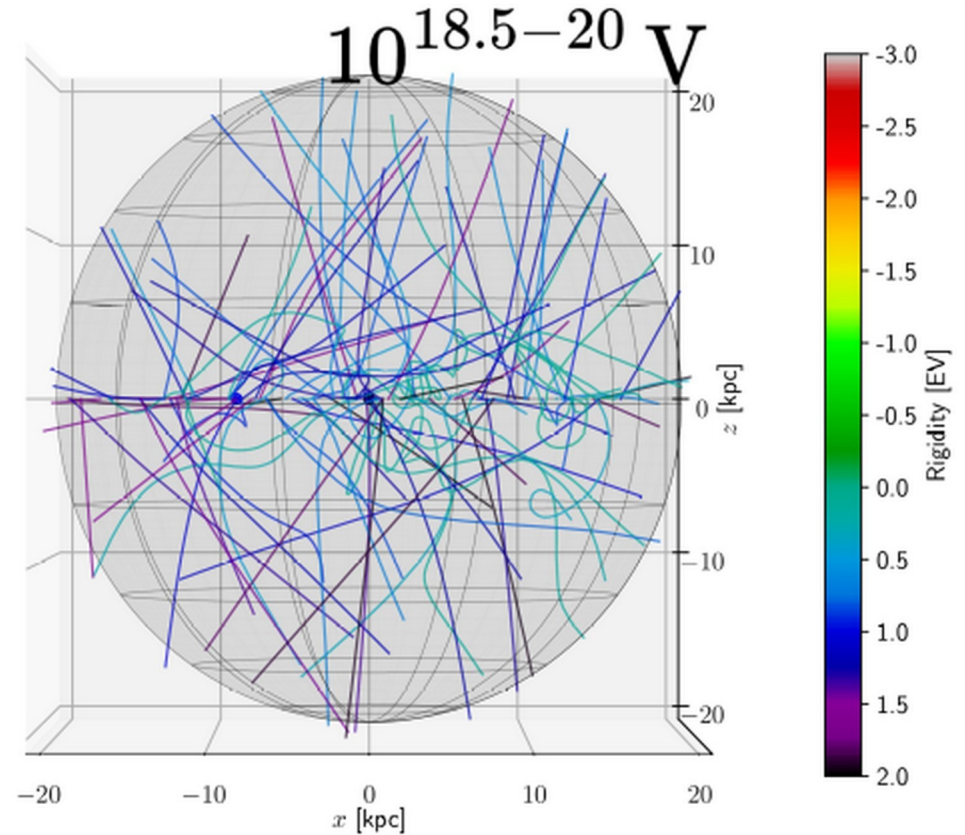
Solve equation of motion:

$$\ddot{\vec{r}} = \frac{q}{E/c^2} (\vec{v} \times \vec{B})$$

- tracking of single particles (microscopic view)
- best suited when r_g is large
- applicable for arbitrary fields
 - more fundamental and precise*
- particle trajectories are tracked
 - possibility of anisotropy studies
- Implemented in CRPropa via Cash-Karp and Boris-Push

BUT:

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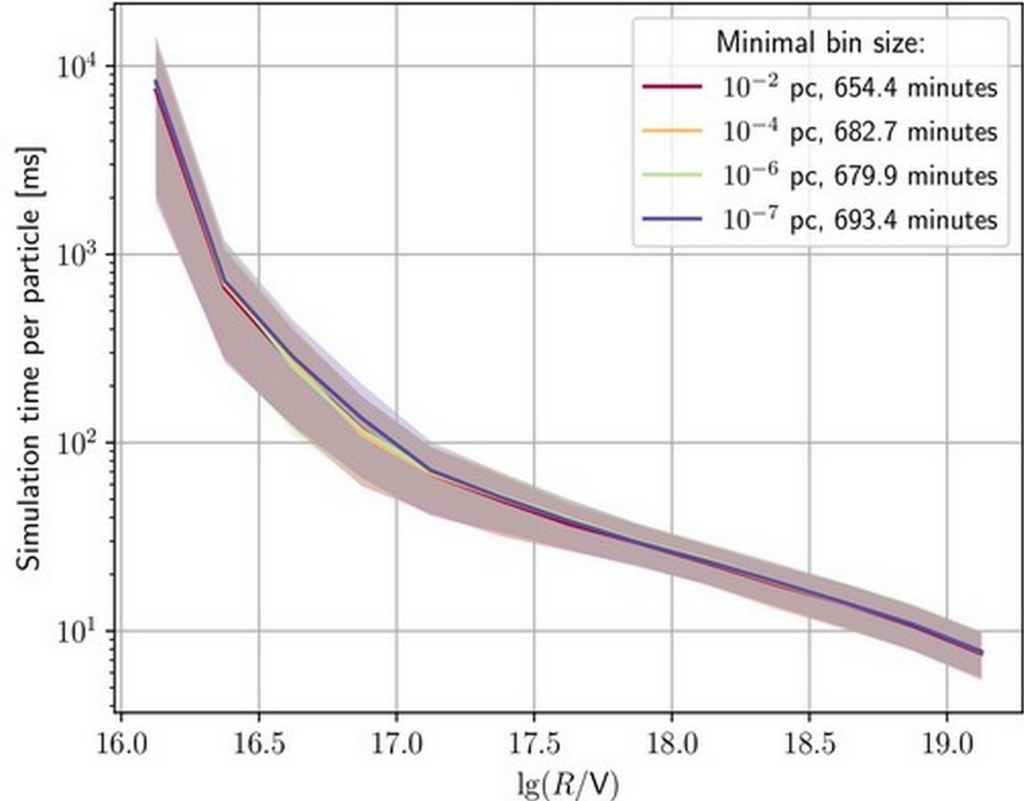
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Change of computation time per particle with rigidity for propagation in GMF



Diffusive propagation

Solve transport equation:

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (D \nabla n - \vec{u} n) - \frac{n}{\tau_f} - \frac{n}{\tau_d} + Q$$
$$+ \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \left(p^2 D_{pp} \frac{\partial n}{\partial p} - \left(\dot{p} - \frac{p}{3} \nabla \cdot \vec{u} \right) n \right)$$

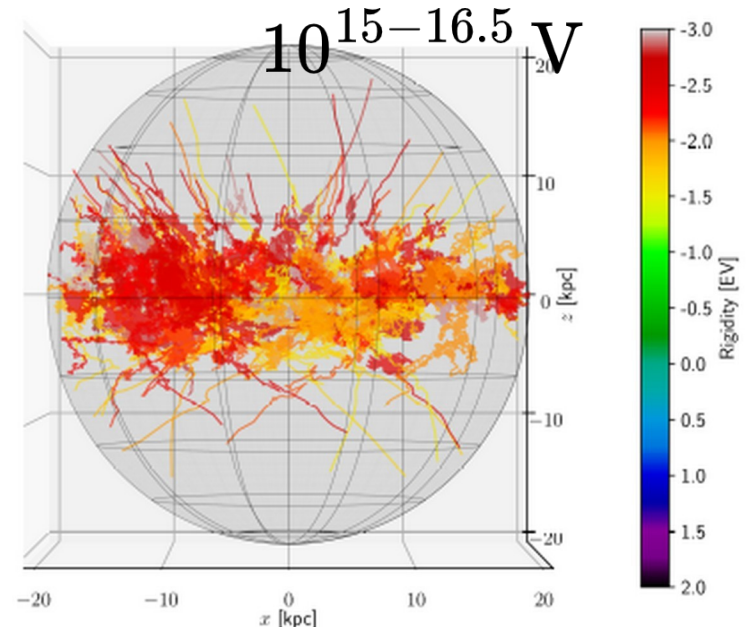
multi-particle approach:

- change of momentum density (macroscopic view)
- best suited when r_g is small & turbulent B-field component dominant
- generally shorter computation times

NOTE:

- CRPropa 3 has implemented diffusive propagation module via SDEs ([JCAP 06 \(2017\) 046](#))
- For a full description of the transition region both propagation methods must be applied

Trajectories of diffusively propagating GCRs



Procedure: Ballistic propagation with CRPropa3

Forward tracking:

- particle tracked **from source to observer**
- highly **inefficient** (1:10²⁸ for observer the size of Earth)
→ increase observer size, BUT: this introduces **artefacts!**

Only propagation effects (i.e. only deflections/no interactions):

- propagation of **one nuclear species: proton**
→ results can be scaled to all nuclei (important for composition)

Galactic magnetic field model:

- **JF12** (including regular, random and striated components)
→ edge of Galaxy defined as volume within which GMF is defined (20 kpc sphere around Galactic centre)

Source properties:

- R^{-1} injection spectrum, $\lg(R/V) = 16.0 - 20.0$ ($\lg(R_{\text{Fe}}(@\text{knee})/V) = 15.4 - \lg(26) = 14$!)

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Sources and observers

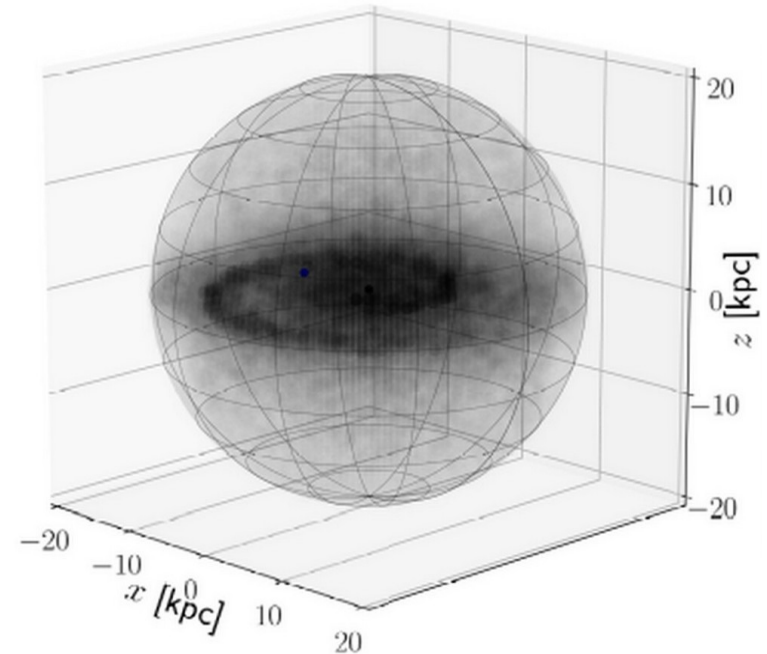
Sources:

- GCRs:
 - **homogeneously distributed in GP**
 - isotropic injection direction distribution
- EGCRs:
 - **isotropic injection:** Lambertian injection direction distribution from Galactic shell

Observers:

- **‘Galactic plane’:** cylinder of 100 pc height around Galactic centre with variable radius
- **‘Earth’:** observer sphere at Earth’s position in Galactic coordinates (-8.5 kpc, 0, 0)

Galactic volume with GMF



Sources and observers

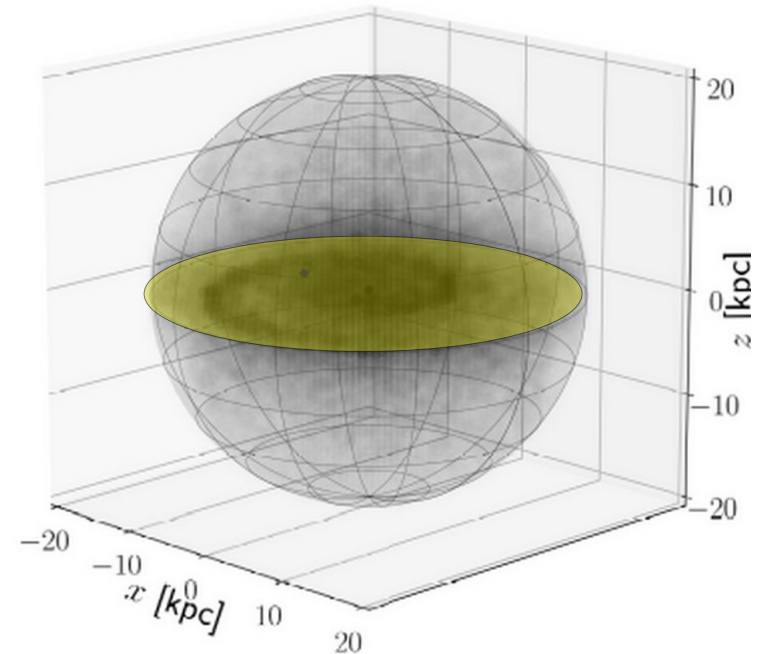
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GCR source distribution



Sources and observers

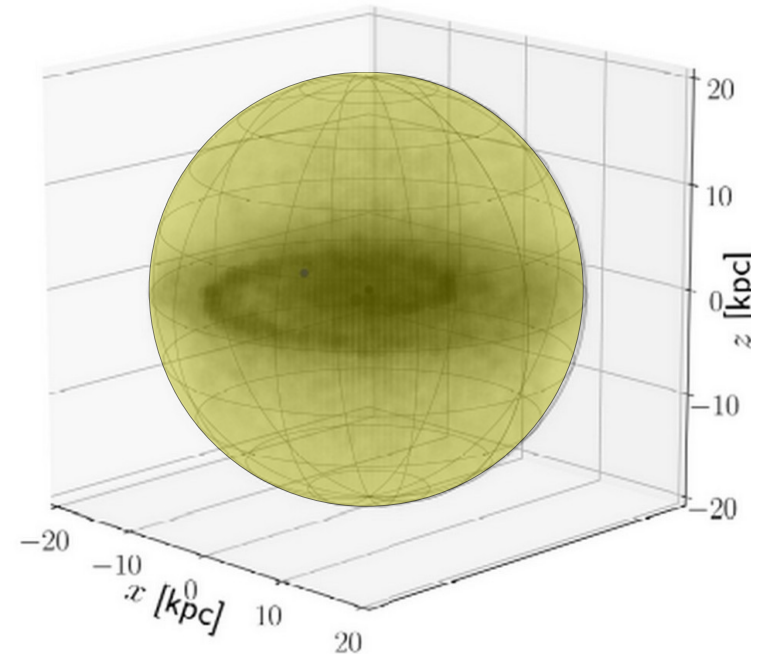
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EGCR source distribution



Sources and observers

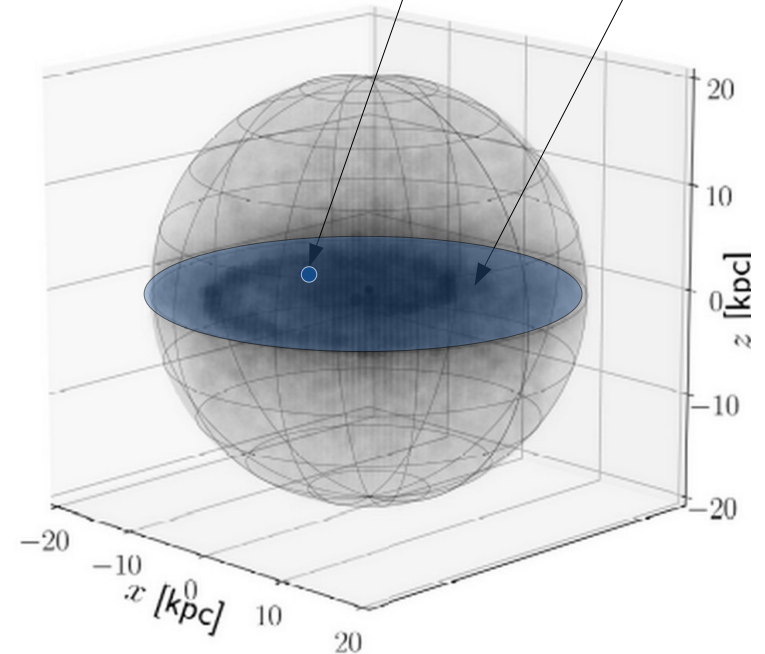
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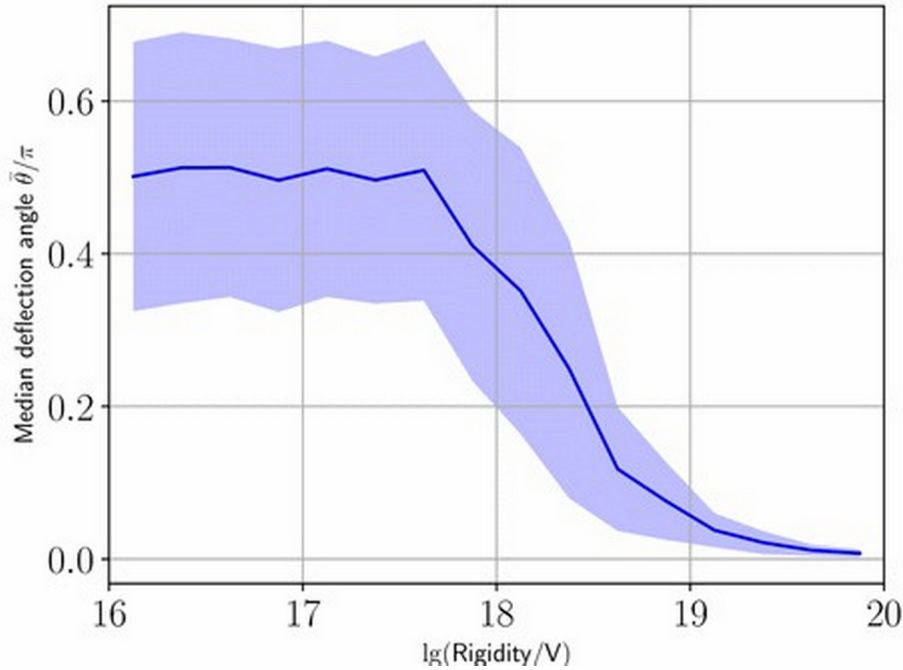
Observer types: Earth and GP



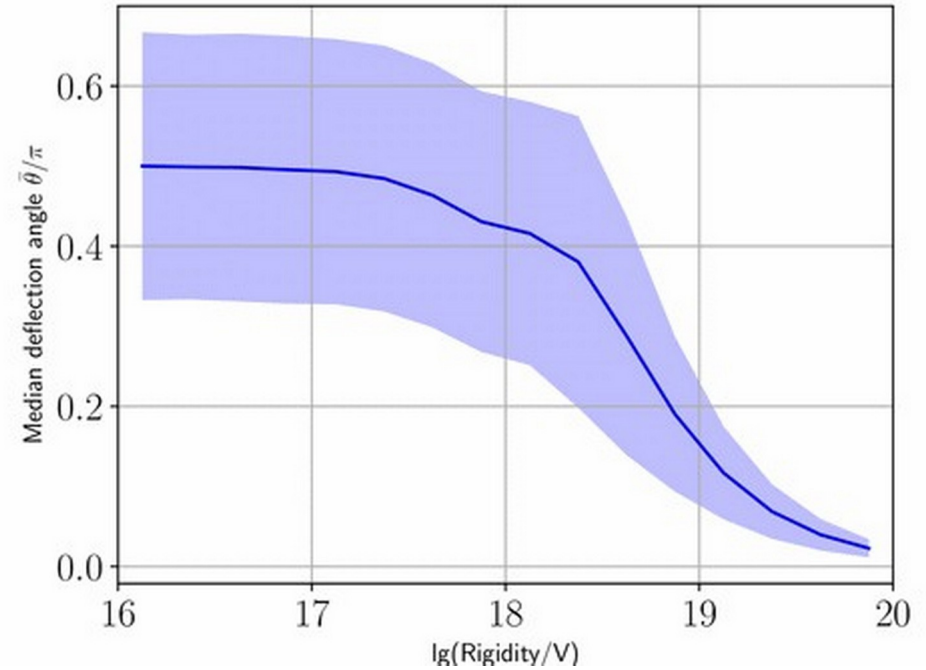
Propagation effects in the GMF

Change in propagation regimes: Deflection angle

GCRs forward tracked to Earth



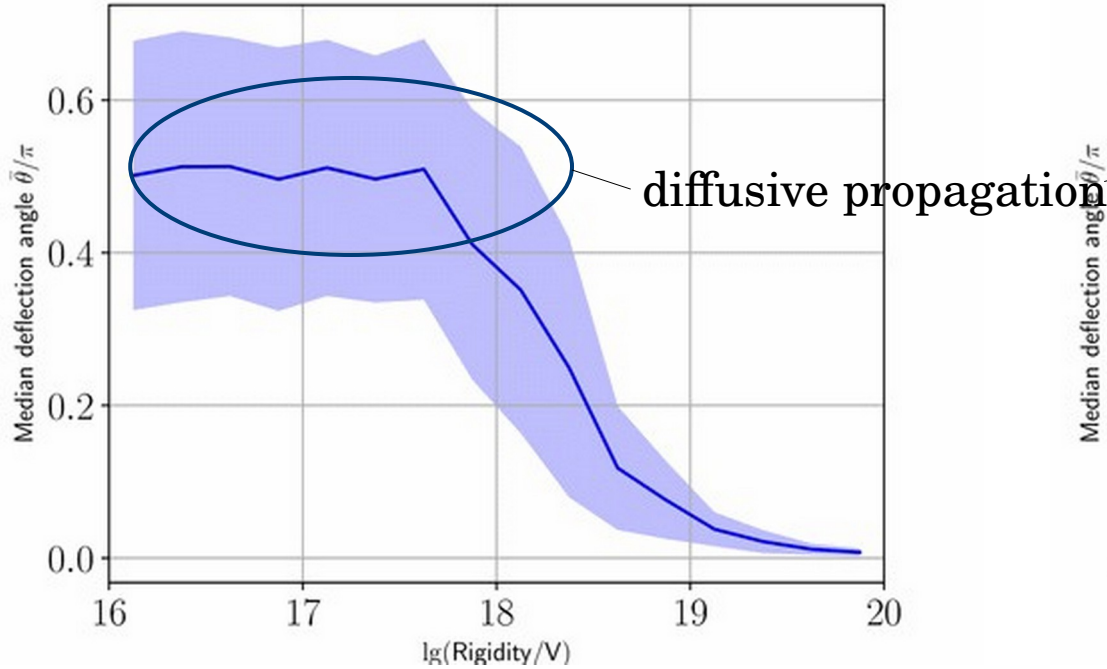
EGCRs backtracked from Earth



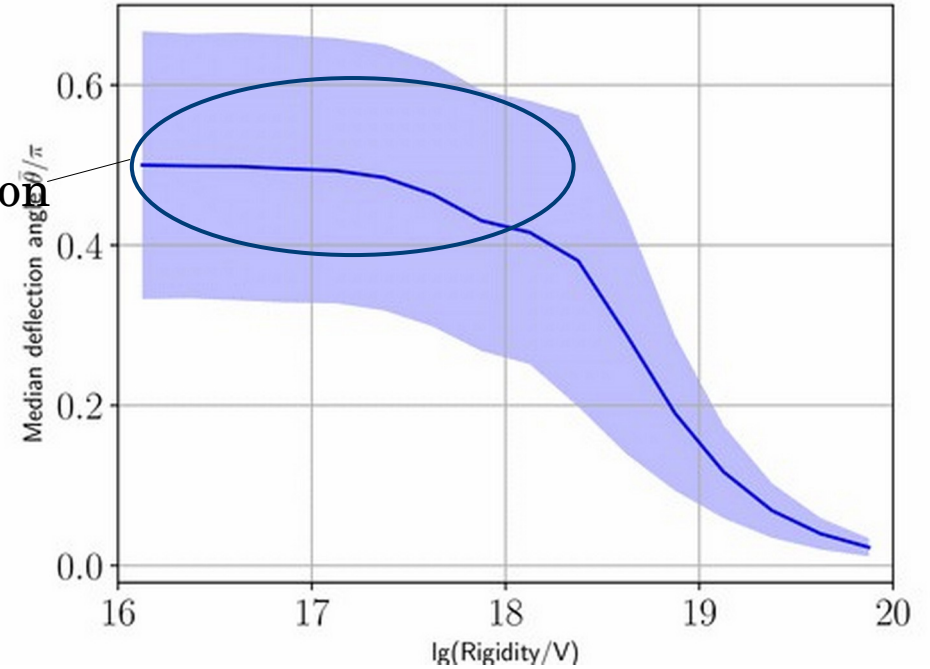
$\theta = \pi/2$ for $\lg(R/V) \leq 18 \rightarrow$ **diffusive** propagation
(see also: [Erdman, Astropart.Phys. 85 \(2016\) 54-64](#))

Change in propagation regimes: Deflection angle

GCRs forward tracked to Earth



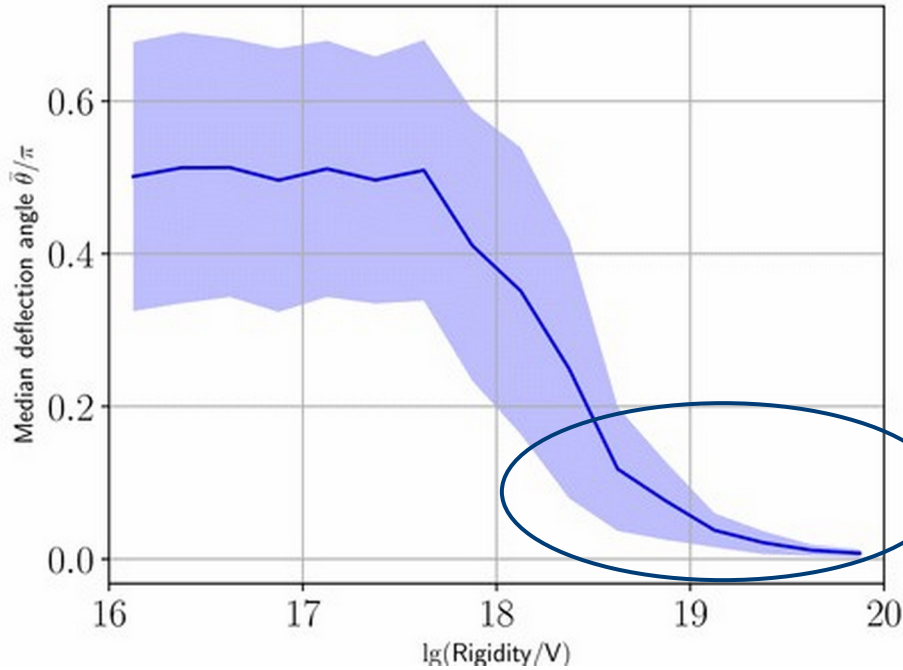
EGCRs backtracked from Earth



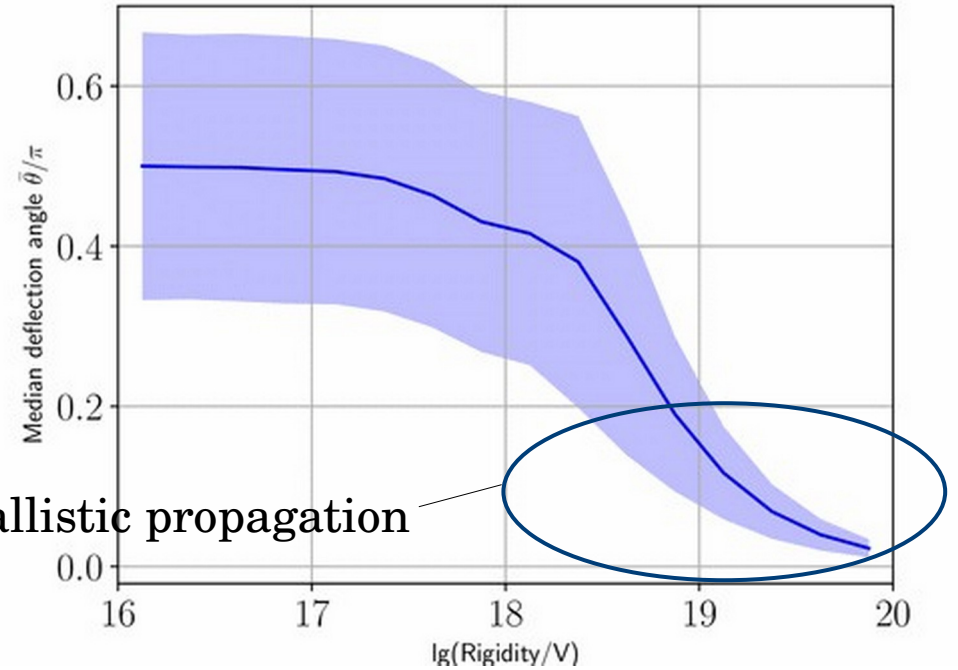
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Change in propagation regimes: Deflection angle

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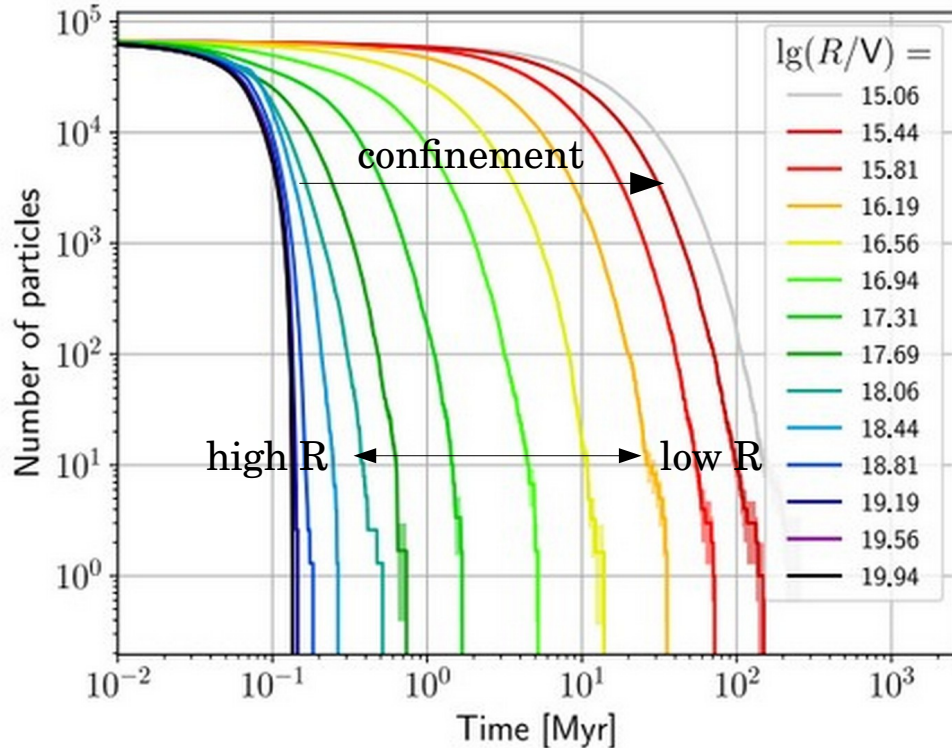
EGCRs backtracked from Earth



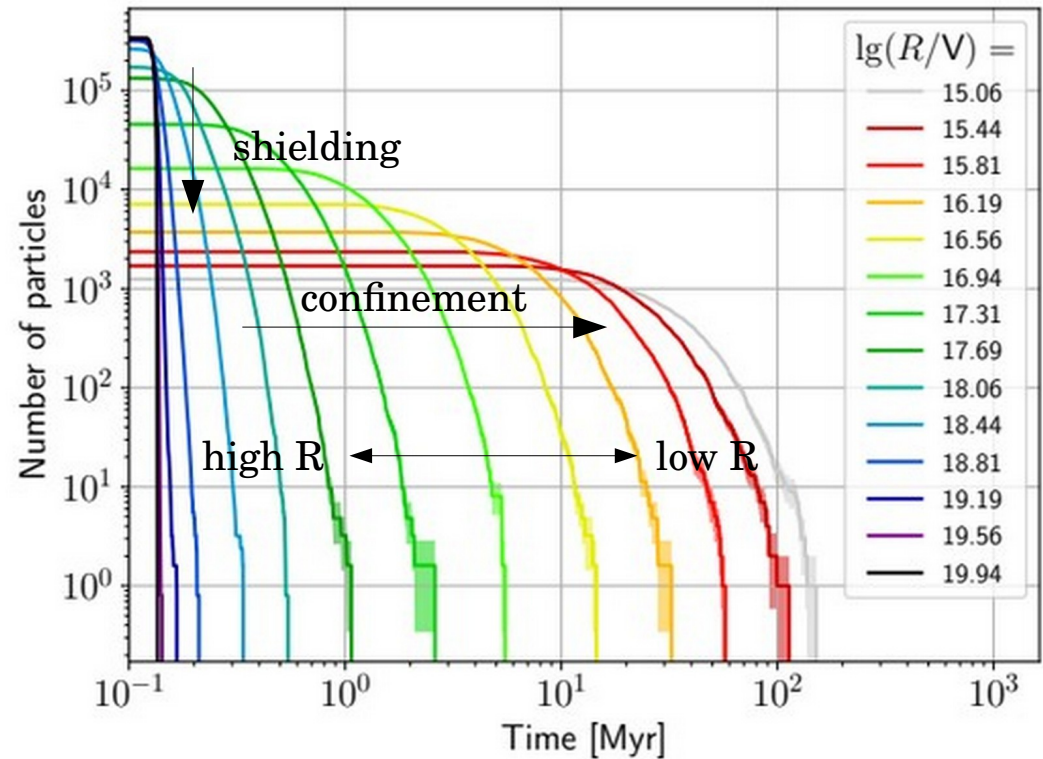
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Propagation effects: Galactic residence time

GCRs



EGCRs reaching the GP



NOTE: Lowest-rigidity particles have residence times up to 100 Myr.

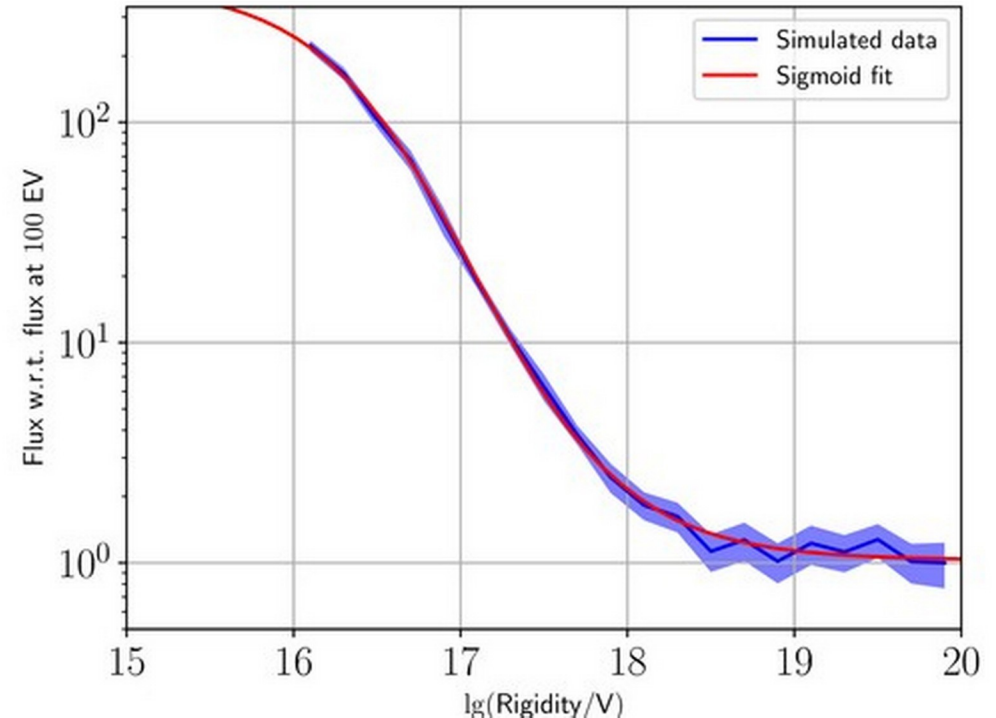
Effect on observables: GCRs – Flux suppression

Decreasing confinement
→ **flux reduction**

Mixed composition
→ **heavier towards ‘ankle’**

Arrival direction distribution:
correlation with GP direction
above 0.1 EV

Rigidity spectrum (sigmoid fit)



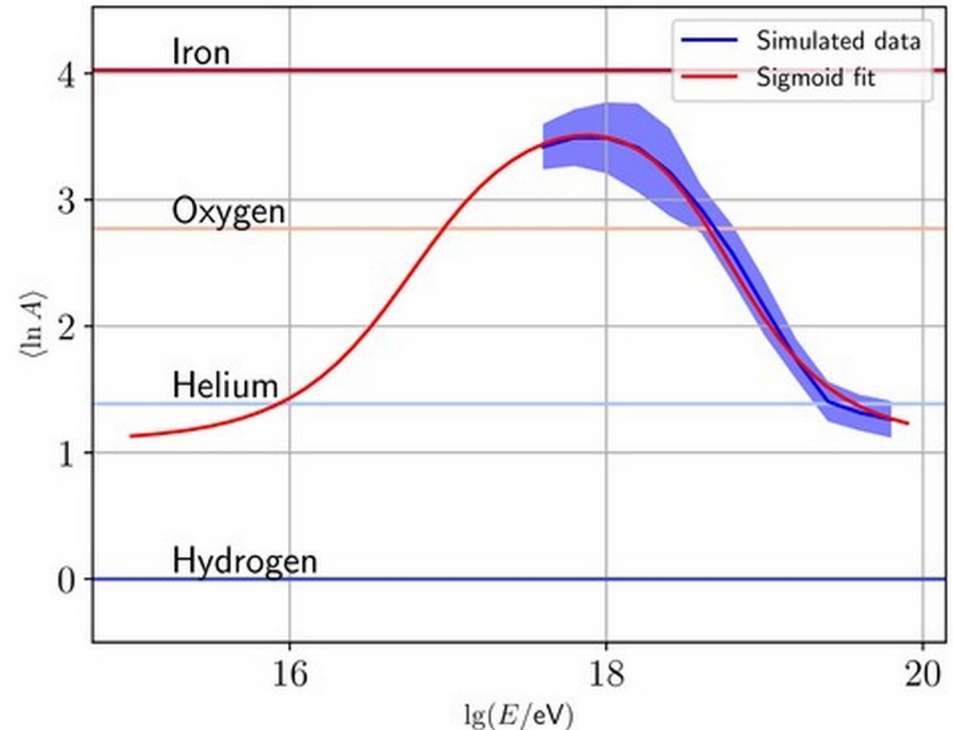
Effect on observables: GCRs – Heavier composition

Mean logarithm of mass number (sigmoid fit)

Decreasing confinement
→ **flux reduction**

Mixed composition
→ **heavier towards ‘ankle’**

Arrival direction distribution:
correlation with GP direction
above 0.1 EV



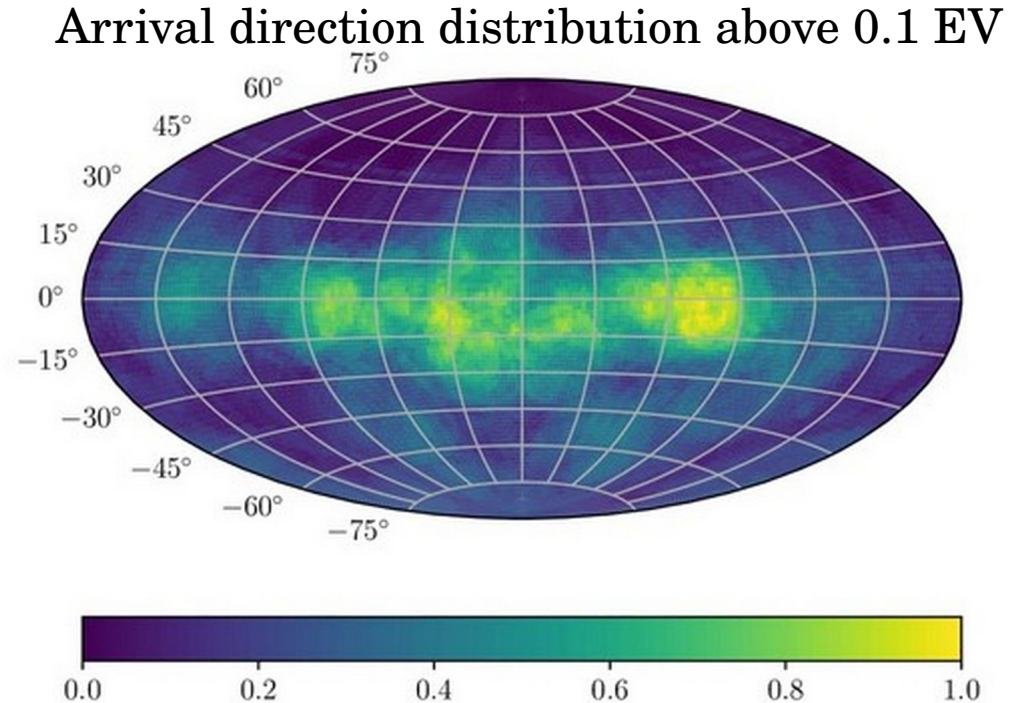
NOTE: Only propagation effects in GMF!

Effect on observables: GCRs – Anisotropy towards GP

Decreasing confinement
→ **flux reduction**

Mixed composition
→ **heavier towards ‘ankle’**

Arrival direction distribution:
correlation with GP direction
above 0.1 EV



Effect on observables: Isotropic EGCRs – Flux conservation

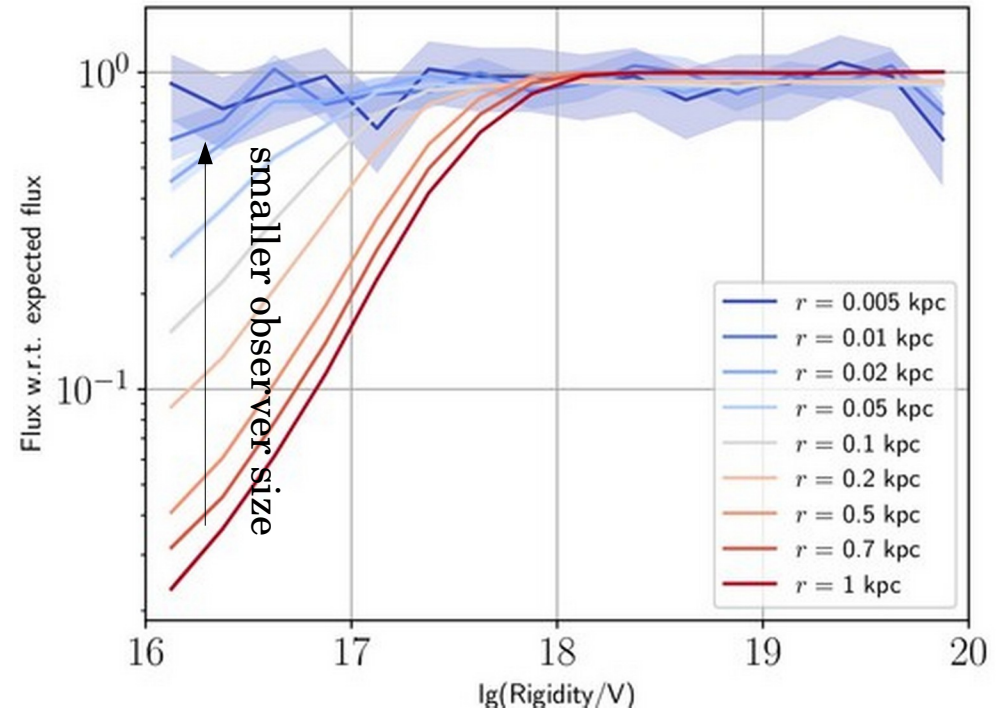
Apparent flux suppression for large observer sphere sizes; effect vanishes as $r \rightarrow 0$.

Increased confinement in GP compensates increased shielding:

→ flux conservation

Isotropic arrival direction

Rigidity spectrum



Effect on observables: Isotropic EGCRs – No anisotropy

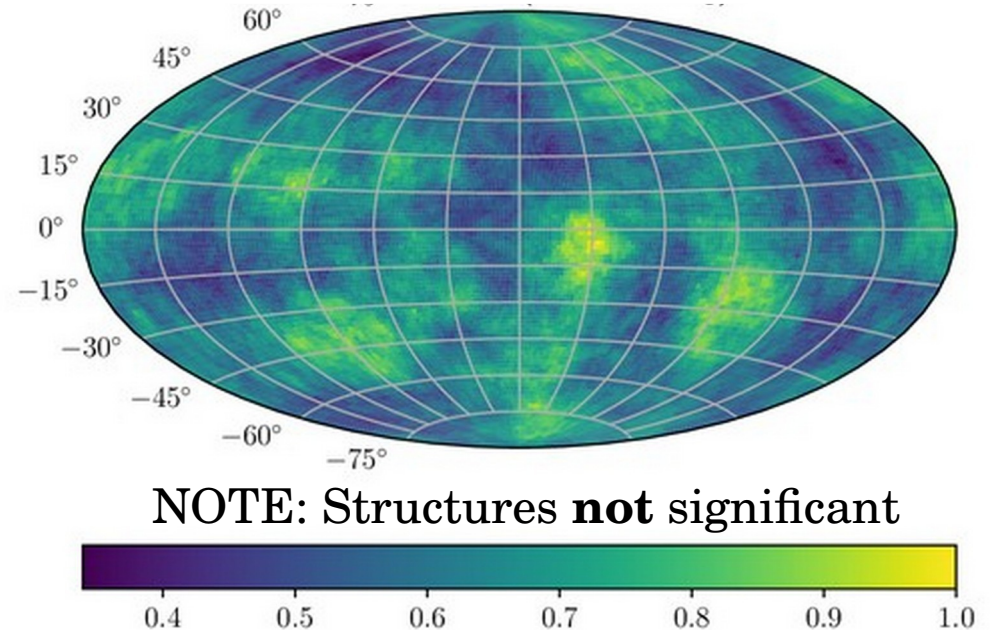
Apparent flux suppression for large observer sphere sizes; effect vanishes as $r \rightarrow 0$.

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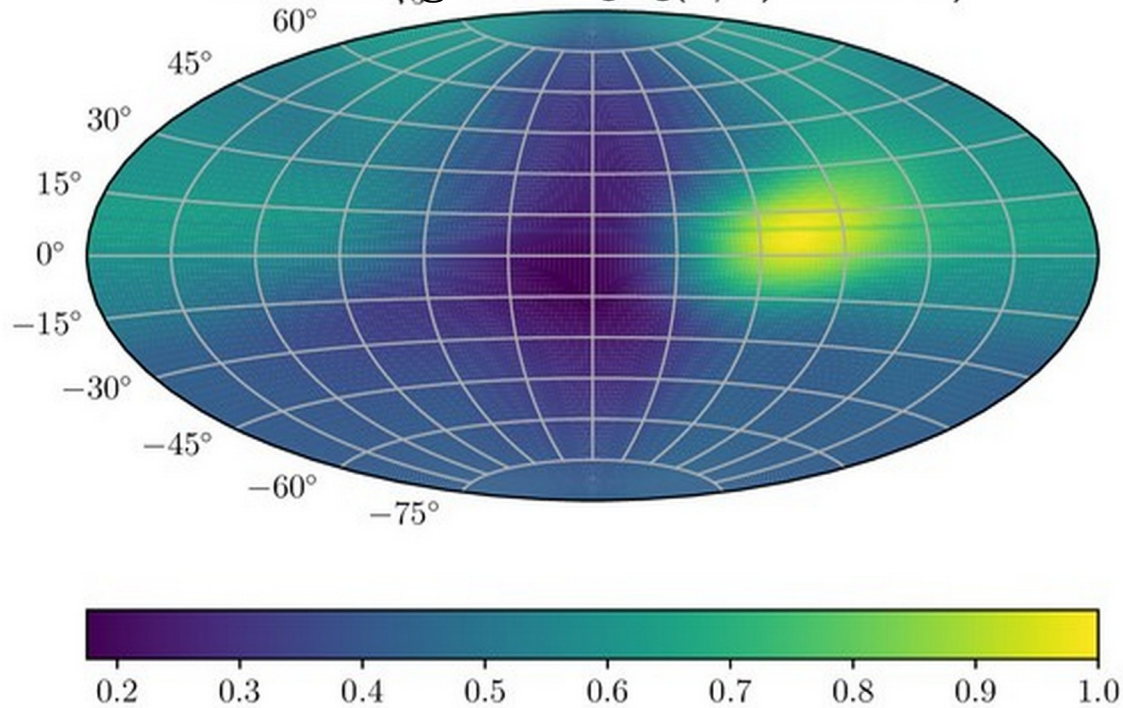
Isotropic arrival direction

Arrival direction distribution



Effect on observables: Anisotropic EGCRs – Galactic opacity

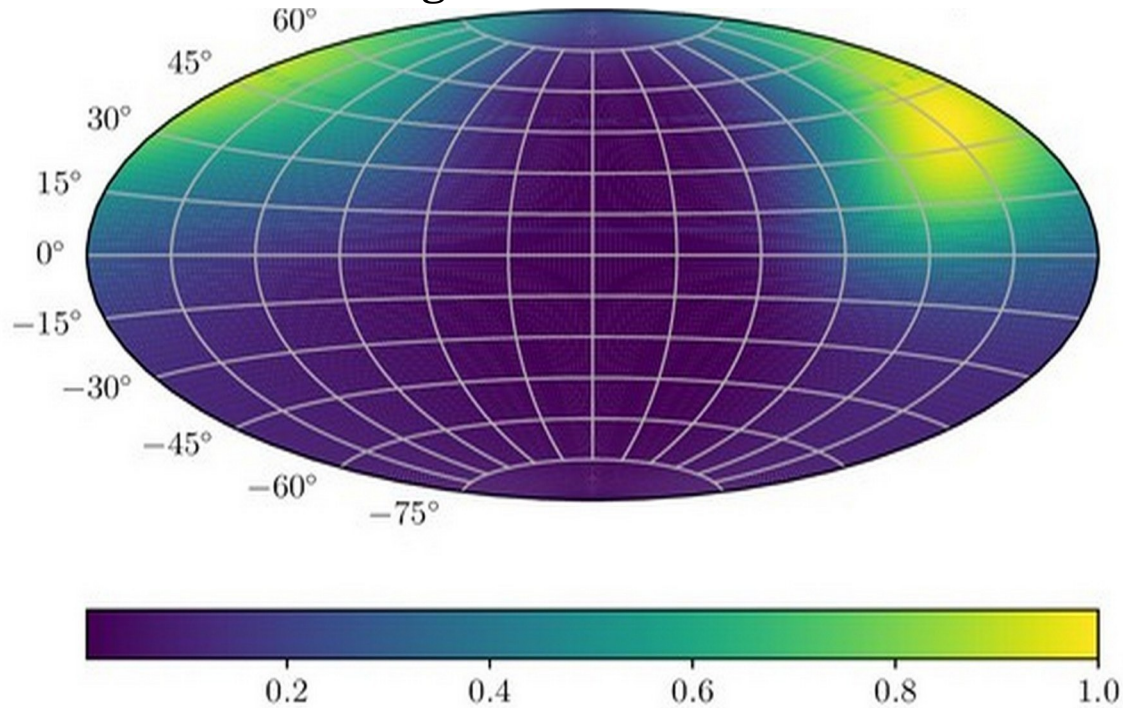
Injection direction distribution of observed EGCRs
($\lg(R/V) = 19-20$)



- Regions of enhanced/suppressed transparency **shift with rigidity**

Effect on observables: Anisotropic EGCRs – Galactic opacity

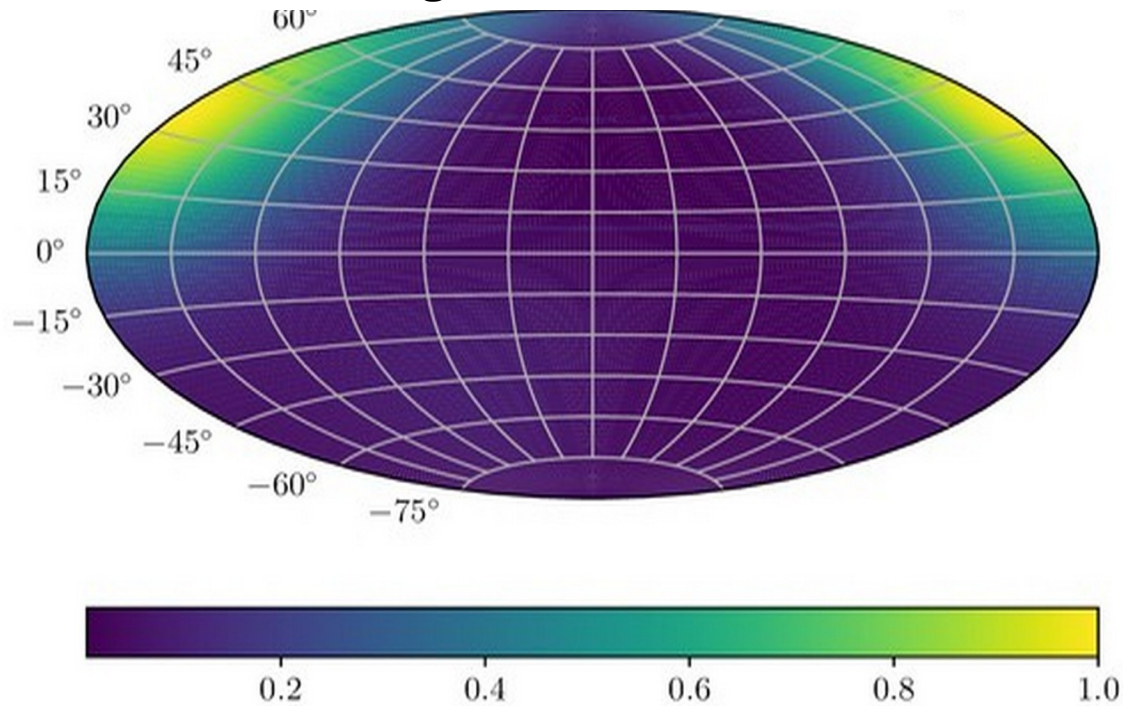
Injection direction distribution of observed EGCRs
($\lg(R/V) = 18-19$)



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Effect on observables: Anisotropic EGCRs – Galactic opacity

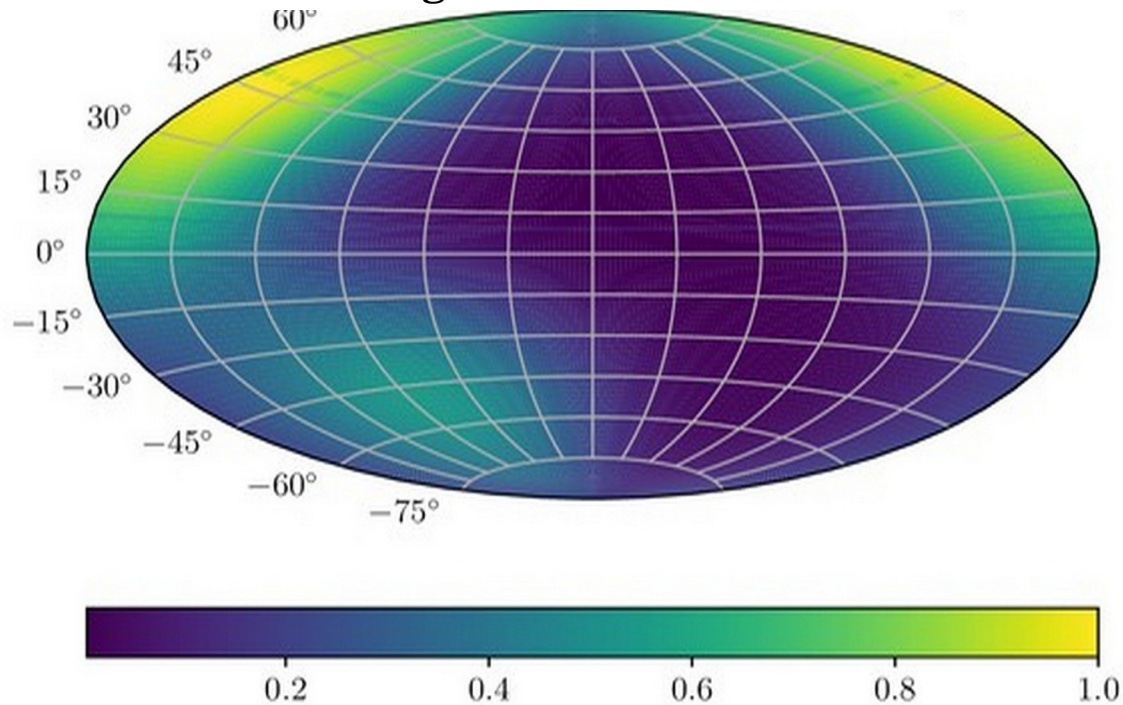
Injection direction distribution of observed EGCRs
($\lg(R/V) = 17-18$)



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Effect on observables: Anisotropic EGCRs – Galactic opacity

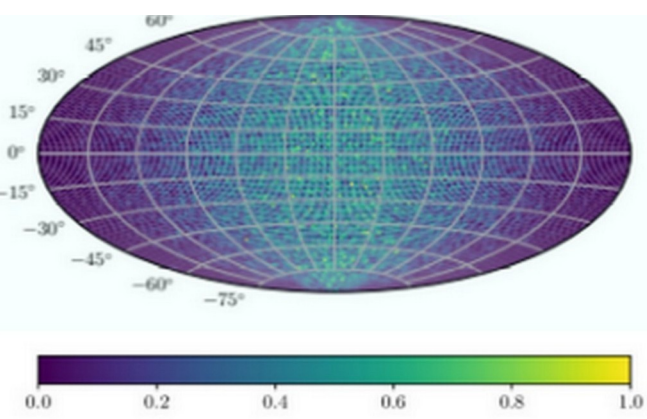
Injection direction distribution of observed EGCRs
($\lg(R/V) = 16-17$)



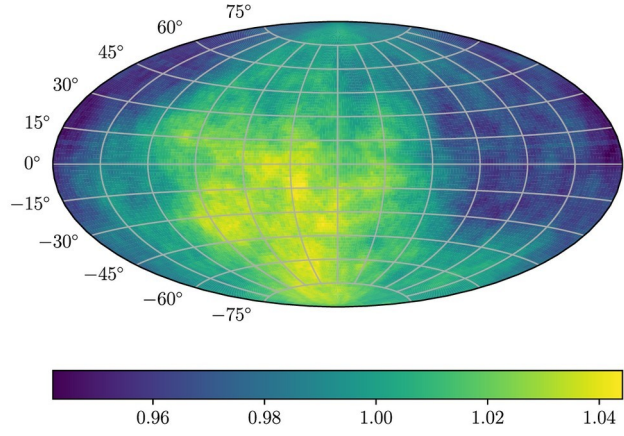
- Regions of enhanced/suppressed transparency **shift with rigidity**

Effect on observables: Anisotropic EGCRs – Galactic lensing

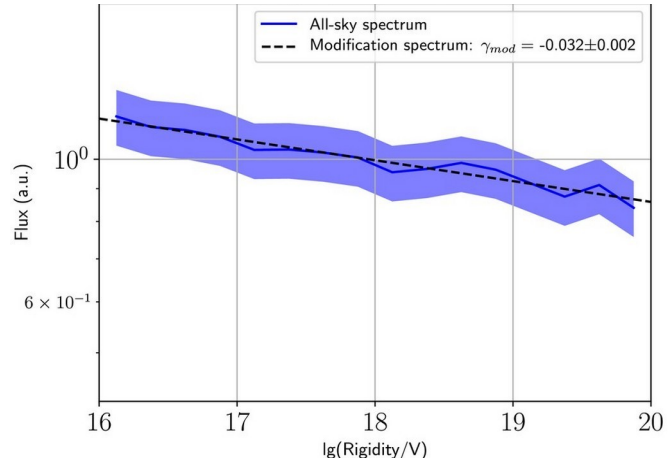
Injected flux



Arrival direction at Earth



Flux at Earth



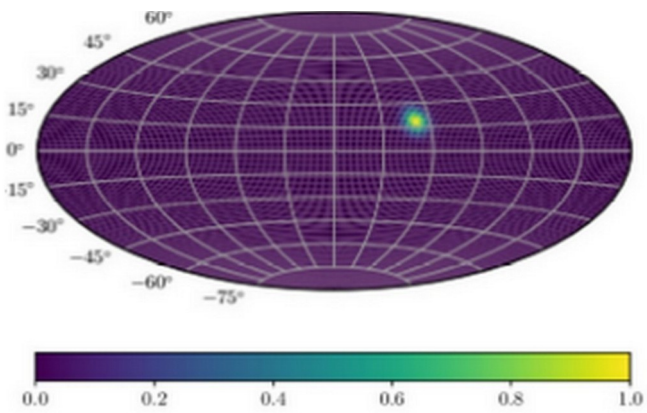
Injection direction distribution:
Pure dipole

- surviving dipole in arrival direction distribution above 1 EV
- strong isotropisation by GMF at lower energies

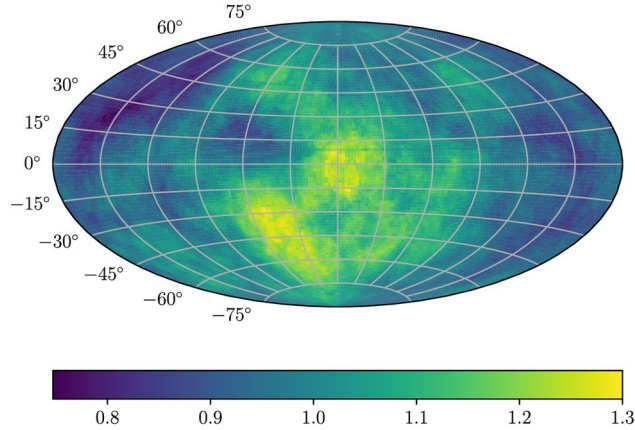
Rigidity spectrum at Earth → **possible flux modification**

Effect on observables: Anisotropic EGCRs – Galactic lensing

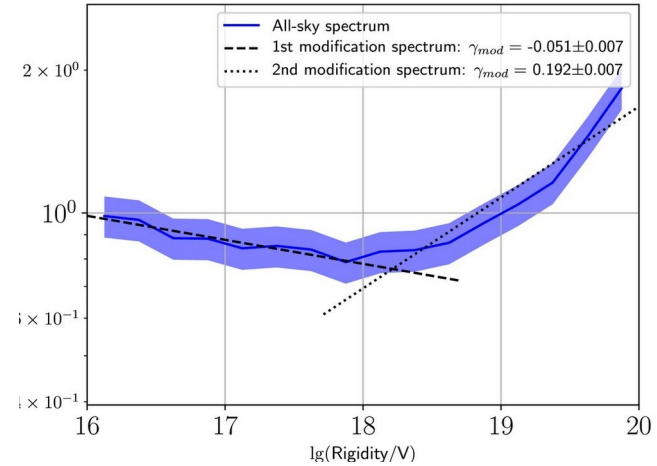
Injected flux



Arrival direction at Earth



Flux at Earth



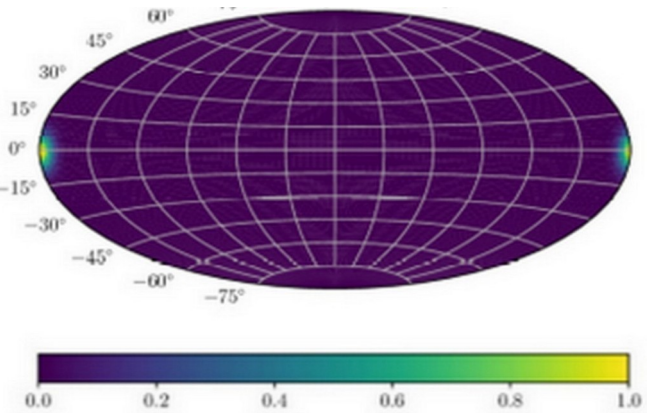
Injection direction distribution:
Pure single-point source (Cen A)

- surviving dipole in arrival direction distribution above 1 EV
- strong isotropisation by GMF at lower energies

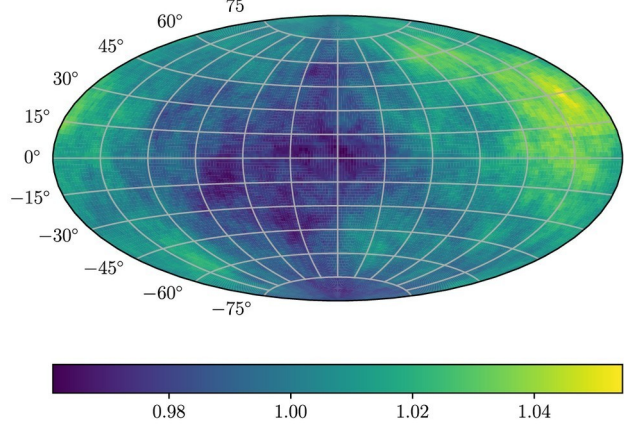
Rigidity spectrum at Earth → **possible flux modification**

Effect on observables: Anisotropic EGCRs – Galactic lensing

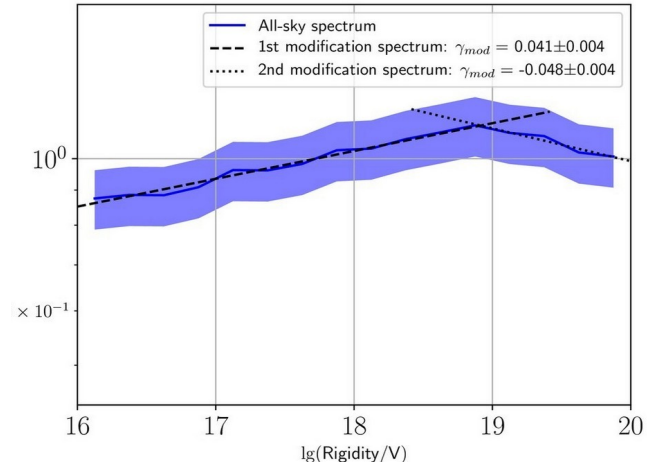
Injected flux



Arrival direction at Earth



Flux at Earth



Injection direction distribution:
Pure single-point source (Galactic anti-centre)

- surviving dipole in arrival direction distribution above 1 EV
- strong isotropisation by GMF at lower energies

Rigidity spectrum at Earth → **possible flux modification**

Summary (1)

Propagation effects:

- Propagation in GMF for $R = 10^{16-20}$ V: **change in propagation regimes from diffusive to ballistic**
- **Inflection point at a few EV** ($r_g \sim$ width of GP) for all observed quantities

Effect on observables:

- GCRs:
 - **Flux suppression** towards higher rigidities; **heavier mixed composition** towards ‘ankle’
 - **Correlation with direction of GP** for rigidities above 0.1 EV
- EGCRs:
 - **Isotropic injection: No flux suppression** and **isotropic arrival direction**
 - **Anisotropic injection: Dipole and single point source** \rightarrow **arrival direction isotropic below 1 EV, possible flux modification**

Summary (2)

Implications for transition region:

- GCRs:
 - **Propagation in GMF** leads to **‘knee’-like feature; flux suppression** due to **maximum energy** of Galactic sources **shifts towards lower energies**
 - Significant contribution of **GCRs originating from GP disfavoured** at highest energies of ‘shin’ region
- EGCRs:
 - Part of **‘ankle’** may be a **propagation effect in GMF**

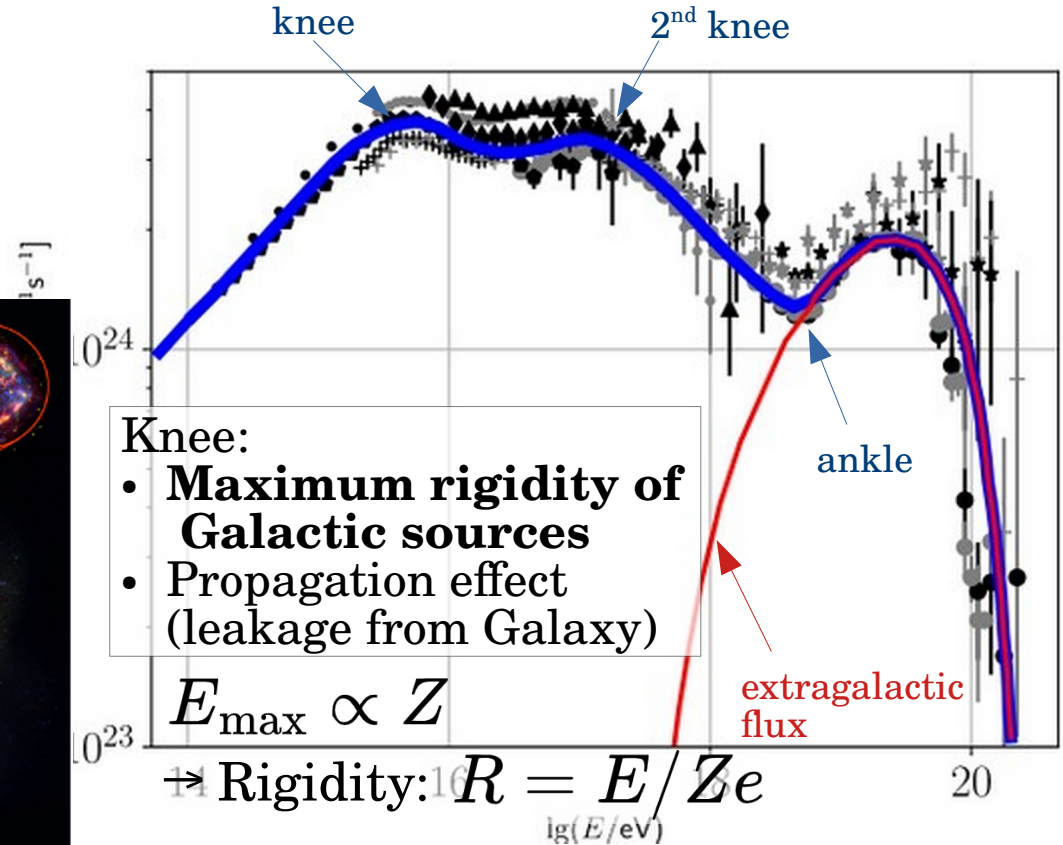
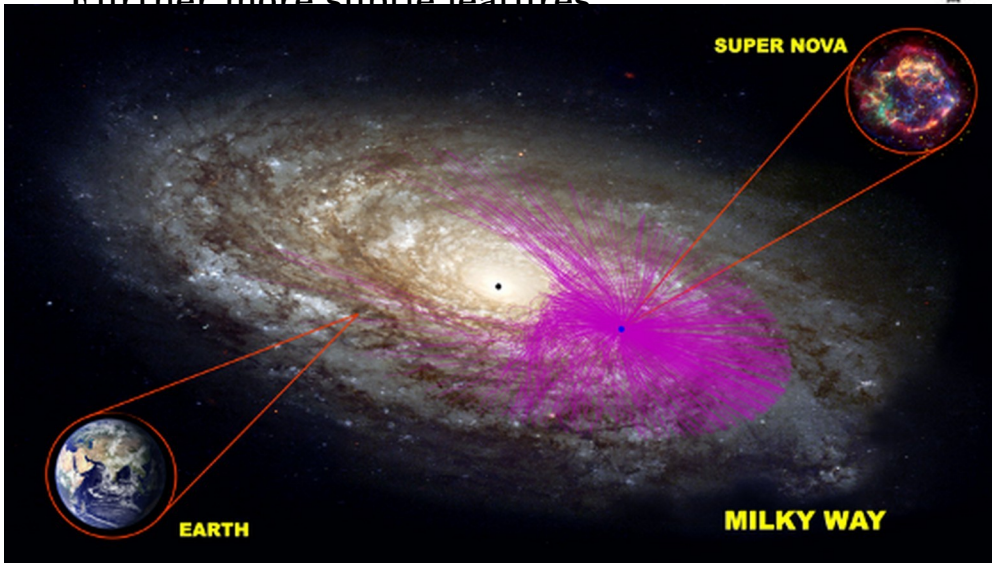
Thank you for your attention!

Cosmic ray energy spectrum

Broken power-law with three 'main' features:

- 'knee': softening at $\sim 10^{15.4}$ eV
- 'ankle': hardening at $\sim 10^{18.7}$ eV
- high-energy cut-off beyond $\sim 10^{19.6}$ eV

Further more subtle features:



Interlude:

Composition dependent:

At ultra-high energies, cosmic ray composition is measured via:

- heavier b
- maximum
- minimum
- **increasing** high-ene

$$\langle \ln A \rangle = \sum_i f_i \cdot \ln A_i$$

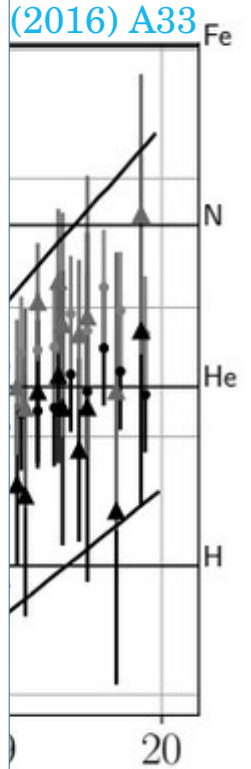
A_i : nuclear mass number of nucleus $i = \text{H, He, ...}, \text{Fe}$

Increasing \rightarrow **rigidity-**

f_i : fraction of nucleus i to total flux

- source pr **accelera**
- **propaga** magnetic

- Measure of mean mass of flux



Interlude:

Dipole anisotropy

- amplitude
- **no significant**
~10^{16.5} eV
- **phase correlation**
energy range
Galactic energies
→ **extragalactic**

Small-scale anisotropy

- amplitude
- strength
- correlation
- ↔ **strength**

Arrival direction distribution measured via multipole expansion:

$$I(\alpha, \delta) = 1 + \sum_{l \geq 1} \sum_{m=-l}^l a_{lm} Y_{lm}(\pi/2 - \delta, \alpha)$$

α : right ascension

δ : declination

Y_{lm} : spherical harmonics

- $l = 1$: dipole anisotropy

(2020) pp.1-98



Major challenge: GMF model

GMF not well known:

- field strength inferred indirectly via observables:

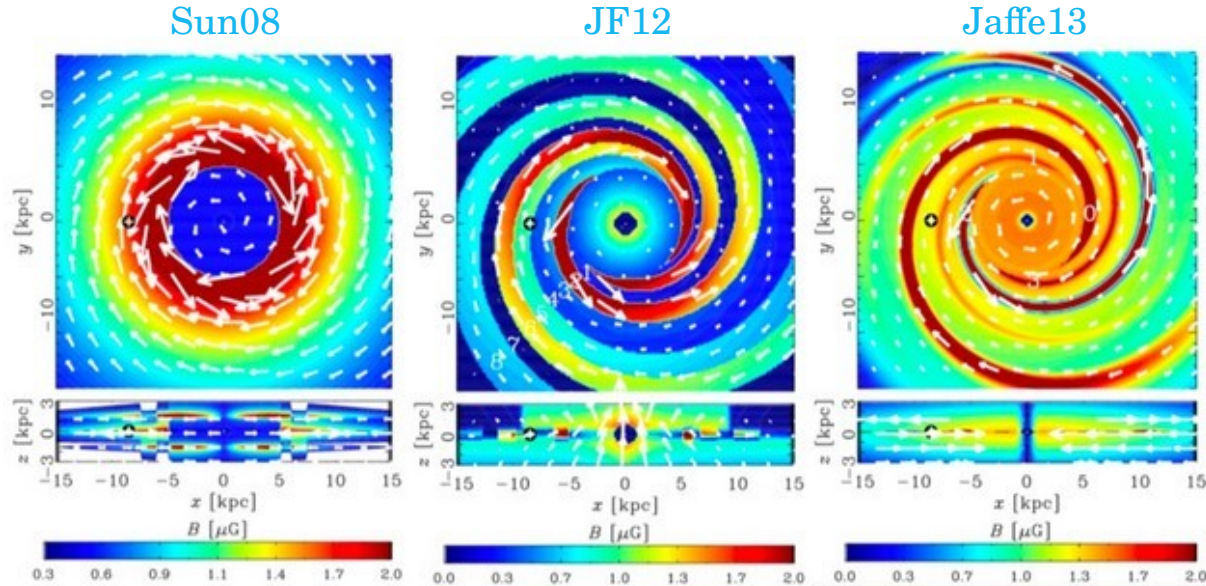
- Faraday rotation (for B_{\parallel})
- synchrotron emission (for B_{\perp})
- thermal dust emission/
polarised starlight (for B_{\perp})

→ uncertainty in quantities,
contamination from other sources
of radiation

- ad hoc assumptions necessary
(simplifications):

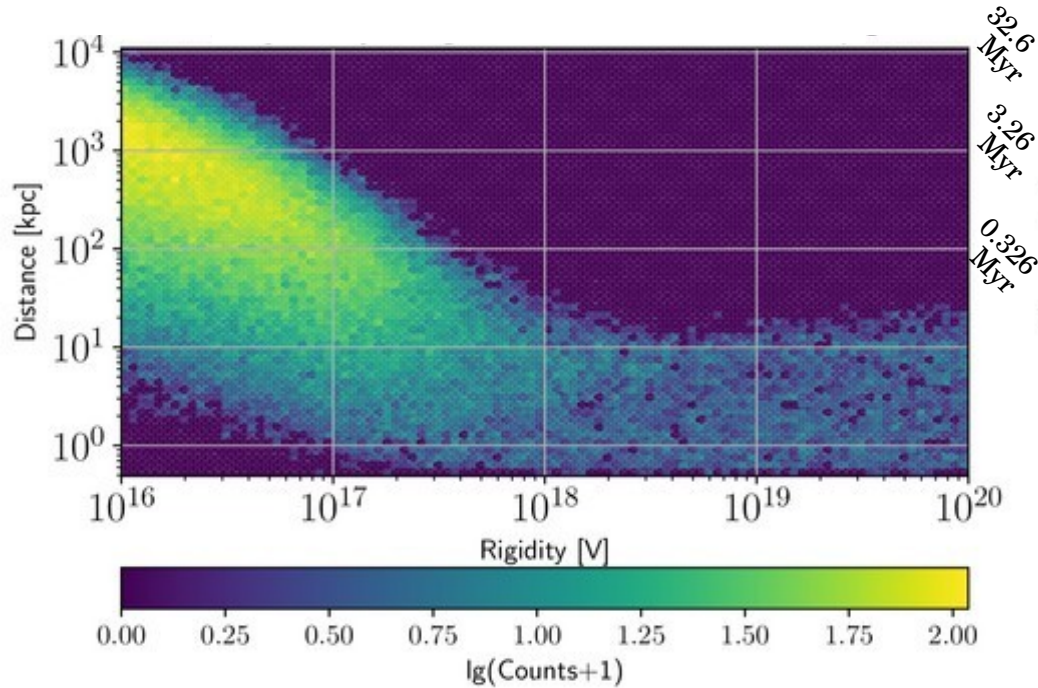
- morphological features
- field components (regular,
turbulent etc.)

x-y and x-z projections of coherent field
for various GMF models

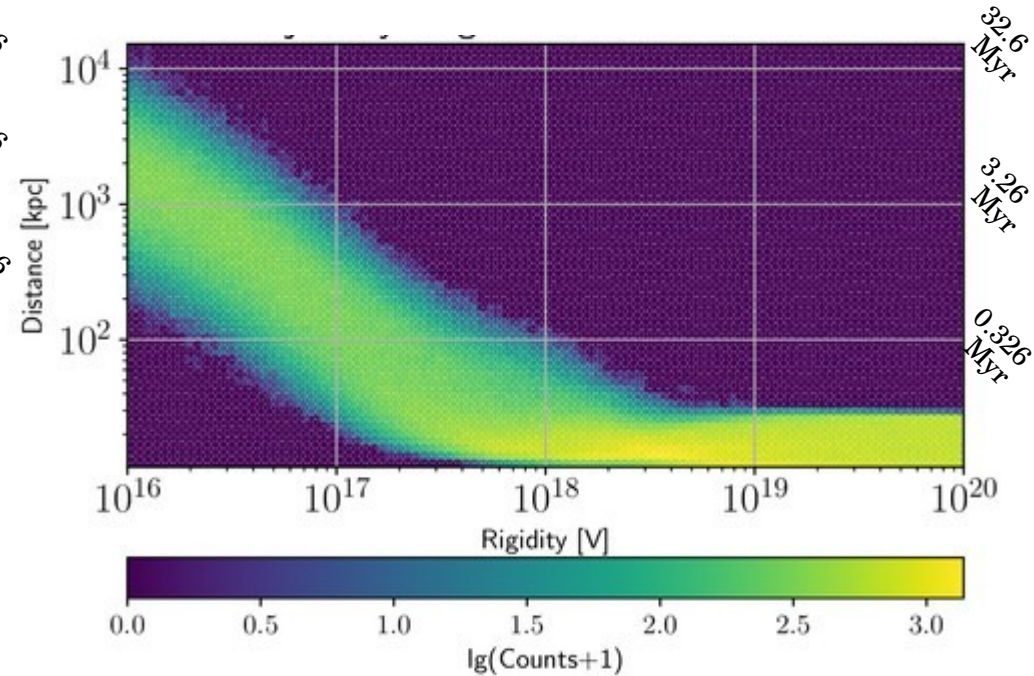


Change in propagation regimes: Propagation time

GCRs forward tracked to Earth



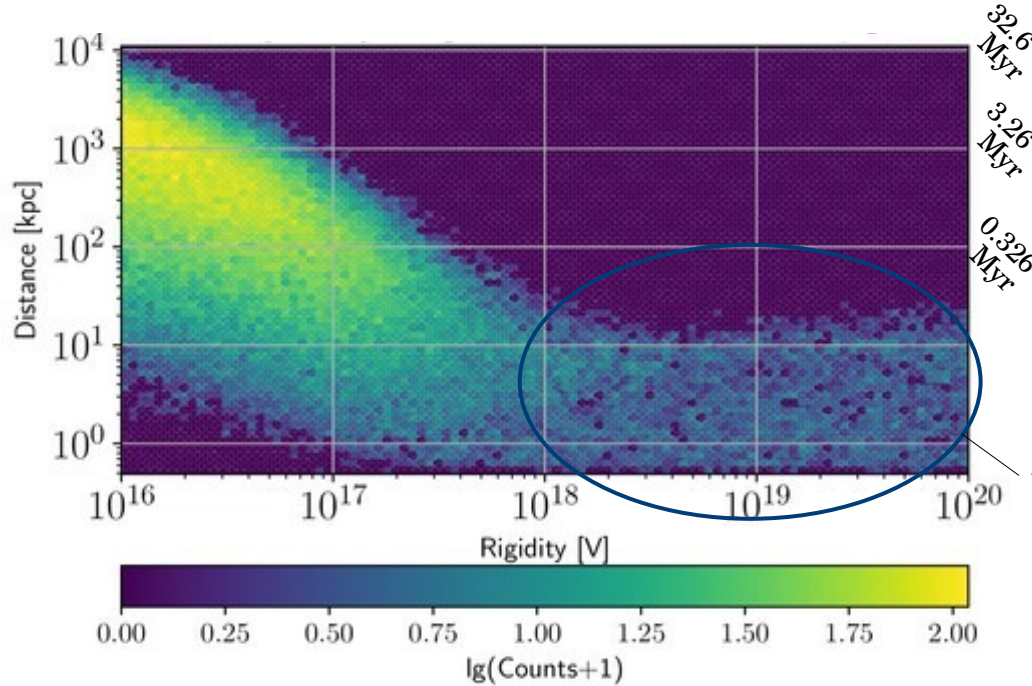
EGCRs backtracked from Earth



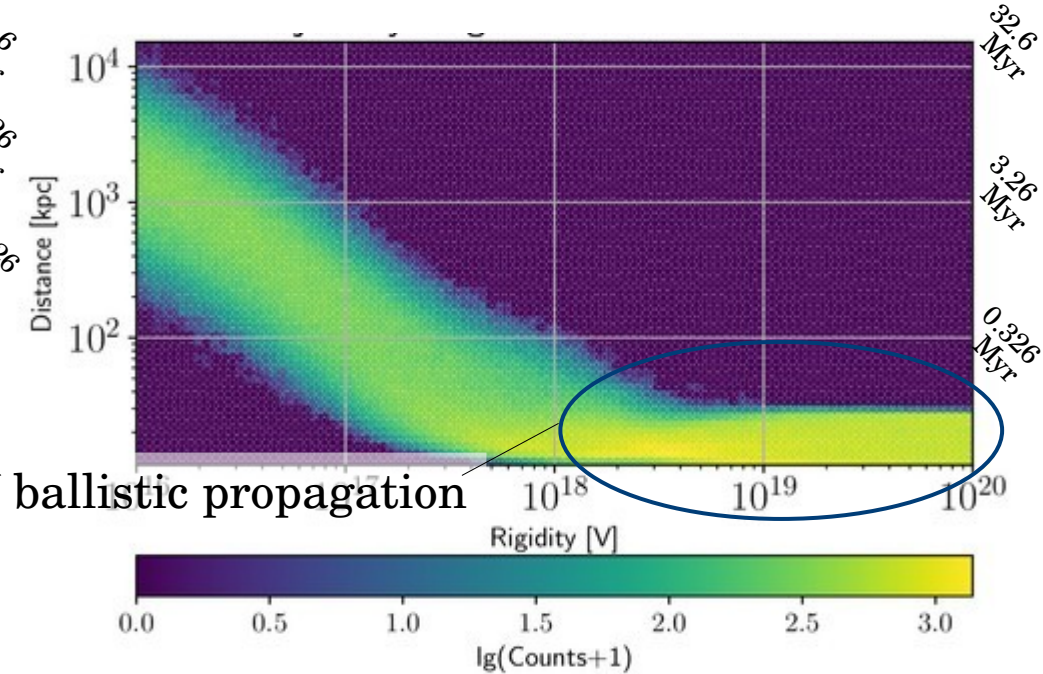
Propagation time increases below rigidities of a few EV.

Change in propagation regimes: Propagation time

GCRs forward tracked to Earth



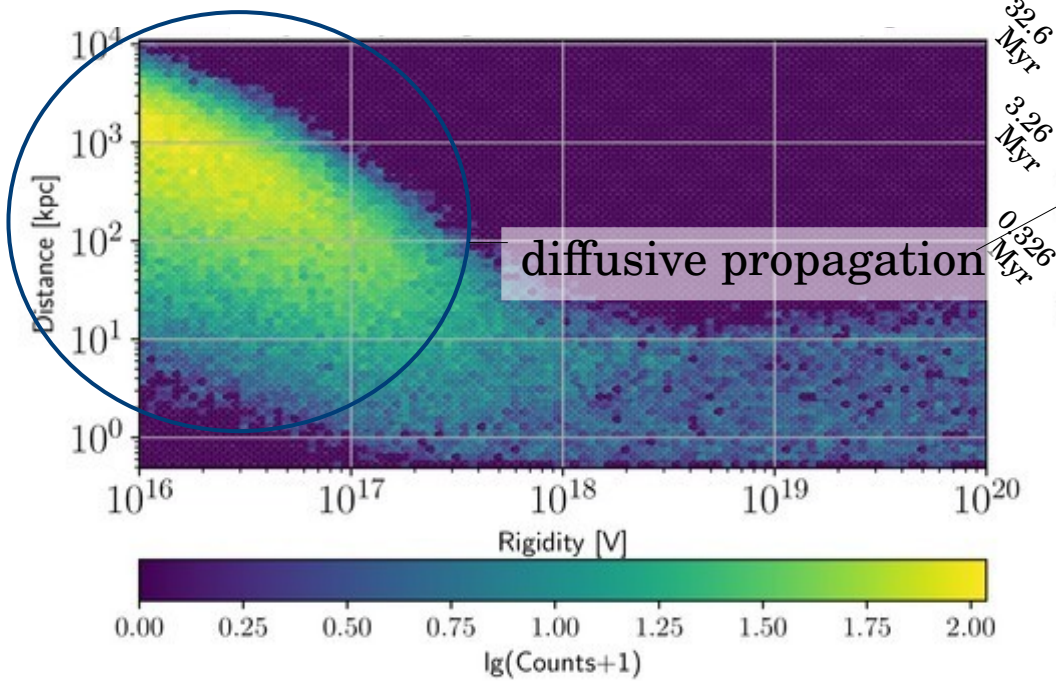
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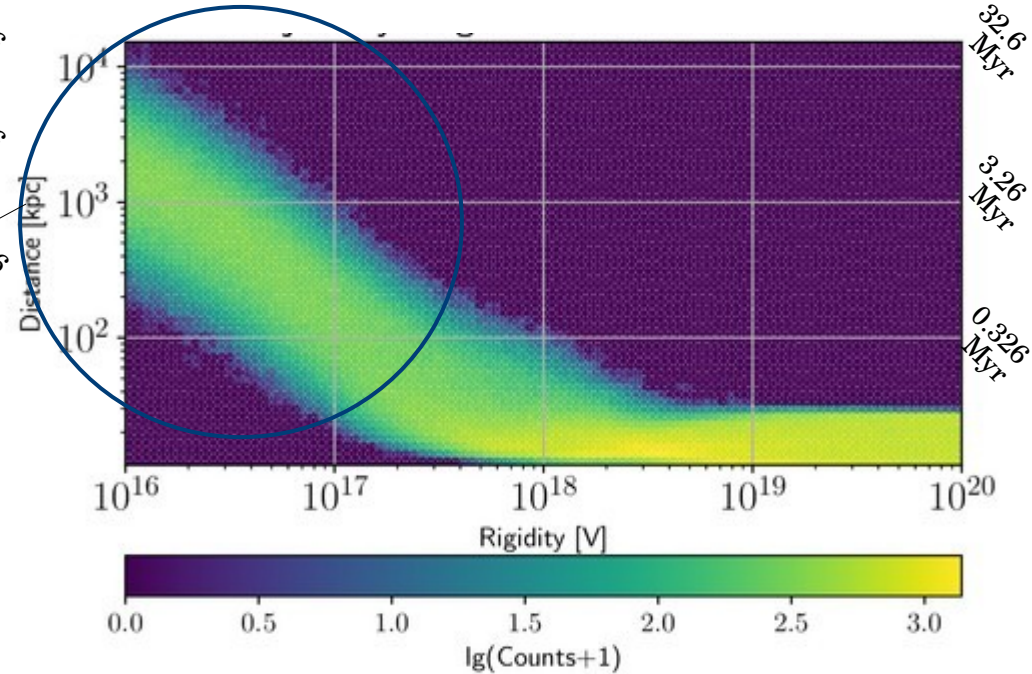
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Change in propagation regimes: Propagation time

GCRs forward tracked to Earth



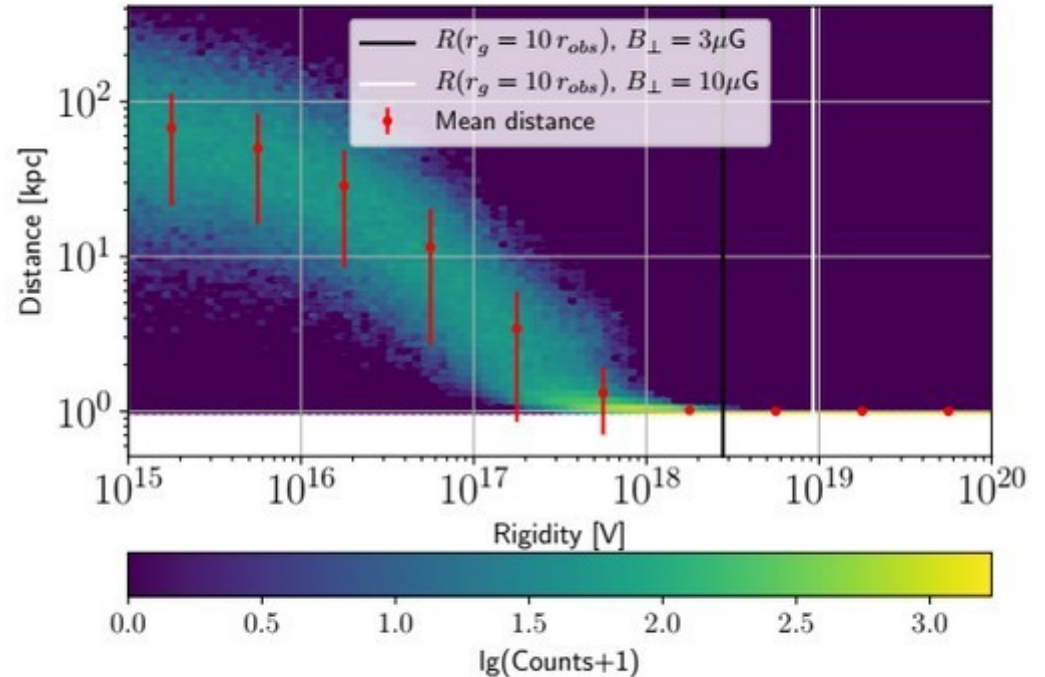
EGCRs backtracked from Earth



Propagation time increases below rigidities of a few EV.

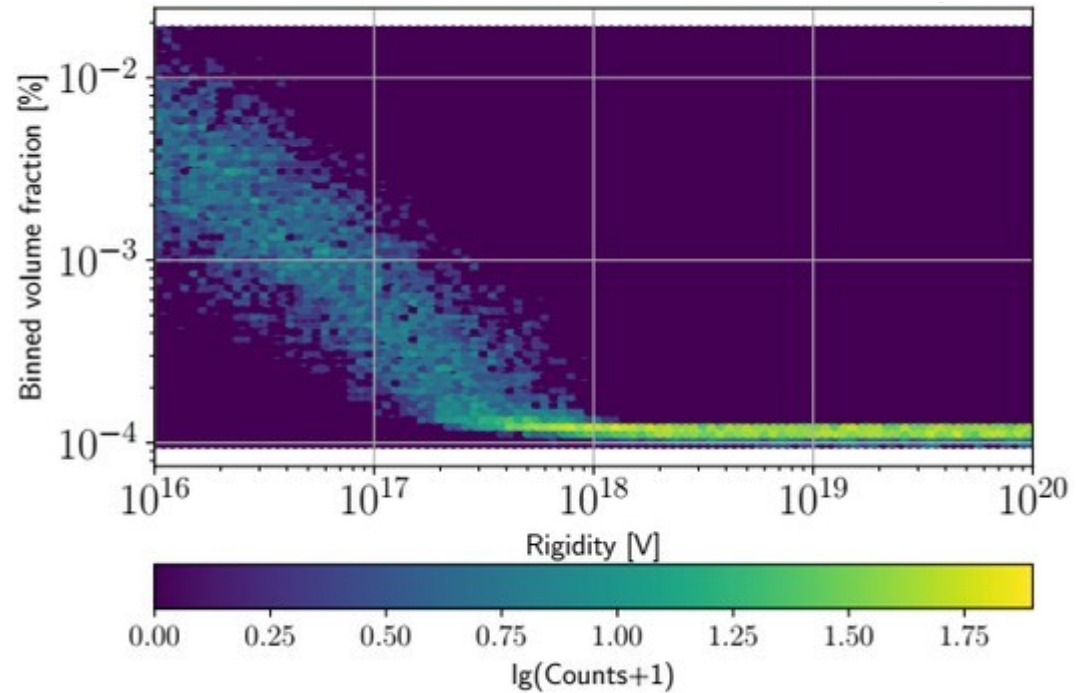
On the modification of EGCR energy spectrum

- **Propagation time and fraction of space traversed increases to compensate shielding**



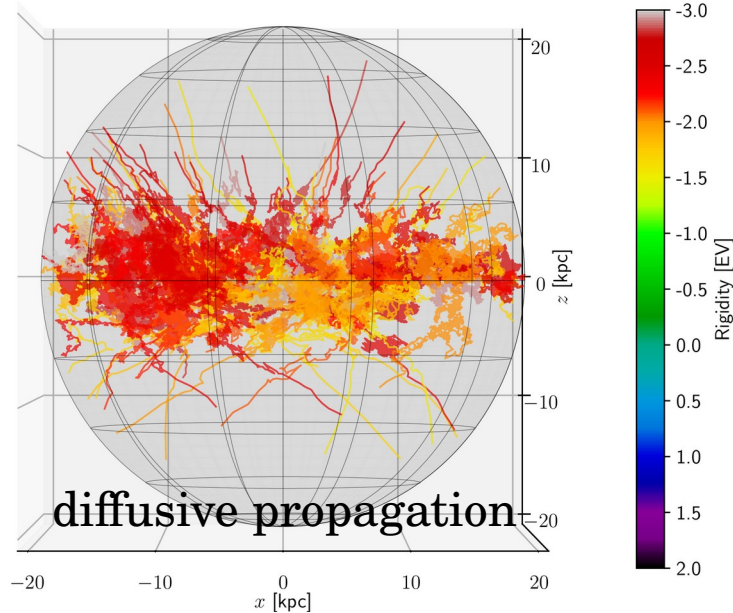
On the modification of EGCR energy spectrum

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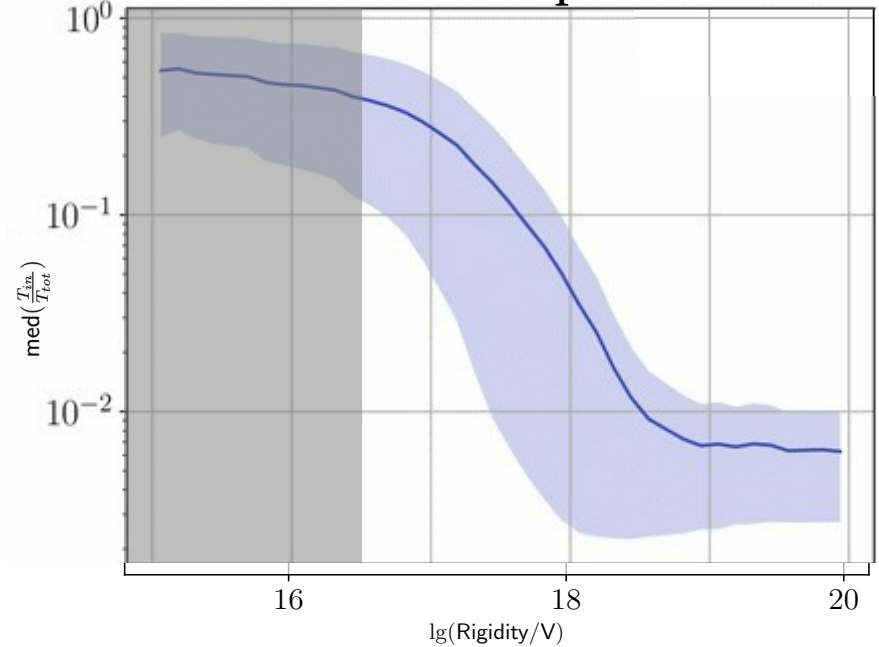


Propagation effects: GCRs – Confinement in GP

Galactic trajectories ($\lg(R/V) = 15 - 16.5$)



Relative time spent in GP

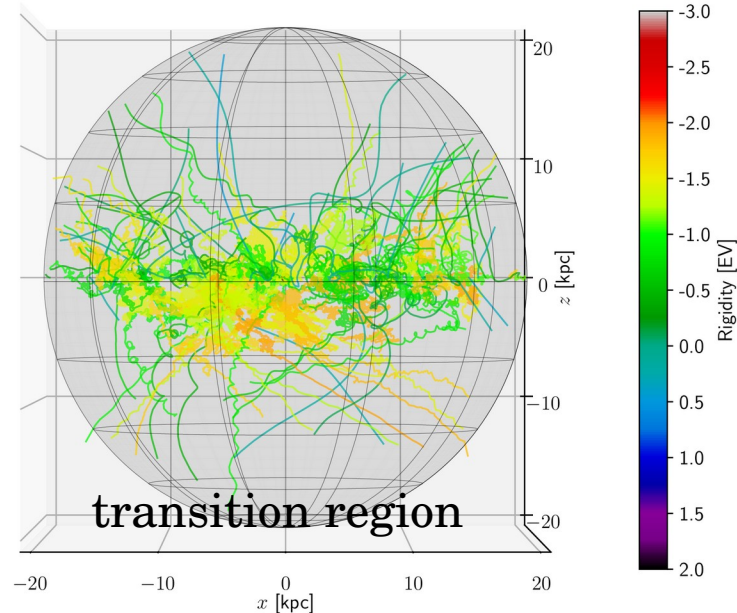


Decreasing confinement in GP with rigidity.

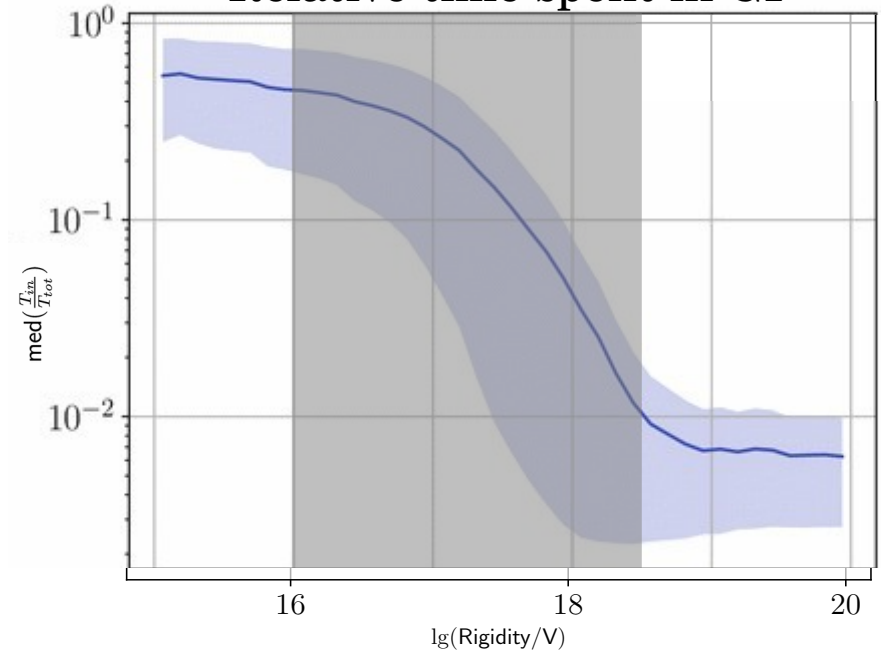
Relative time spent in GP decreases with rigidity; **inflection point at a few EV.**

Propagation effects: GCRs – Confinement in GP

Galactic trajectories ($\lg(R/V) = 16 - 18.5$)



Relative time spent in GP

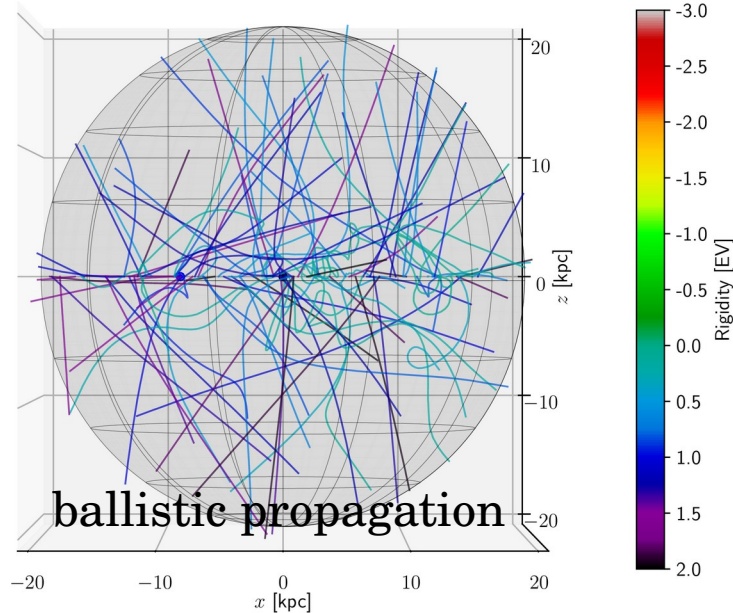


Decreasing confinement in GP with rigidity.

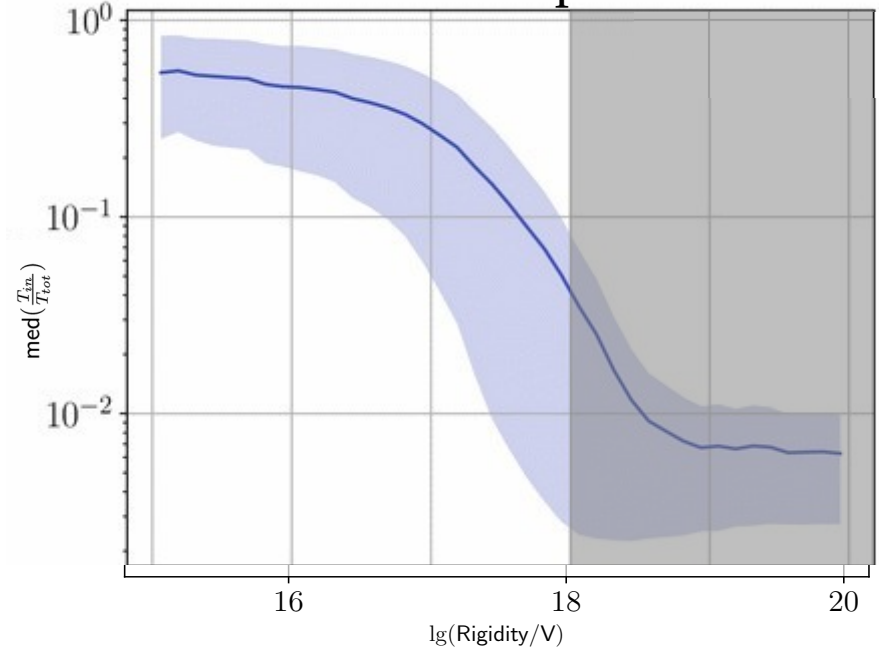
Relative time spent in GP decreases with rigidity; **inflection point at a few EV.**

Propagation effects: GCRs – Confinement in GP

Galactic trajectories ($\lg(R/V) = 18 - 20$)



Relative time spent in GP

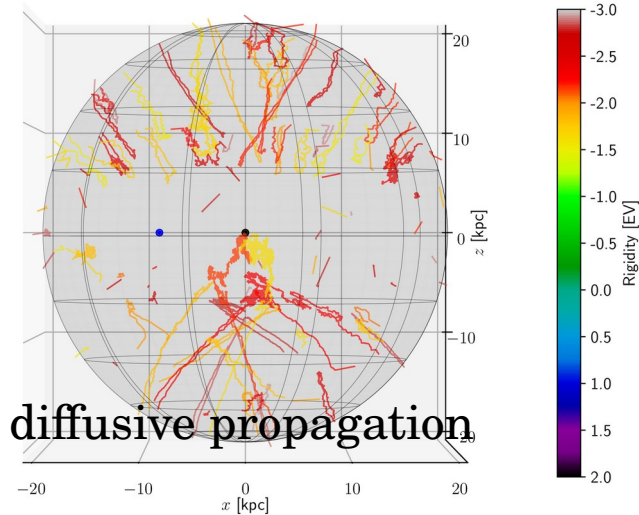


Decreasing confinement in GP with rigidity.

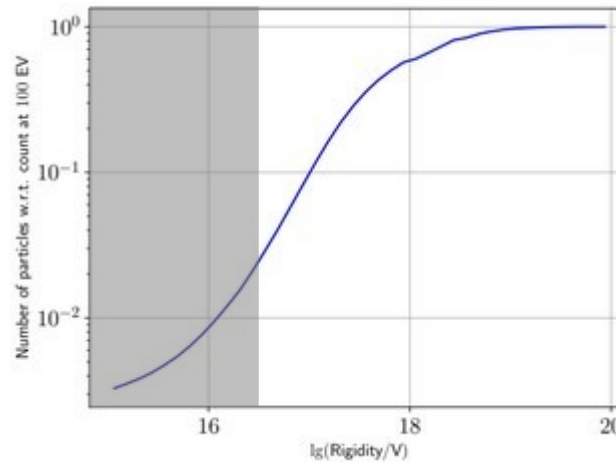
Relative time spent in GP decreases with rigidity; **inflection point at a few EV.**

Propagation effects: EGCRs – Shielding from vs. confinement in GP

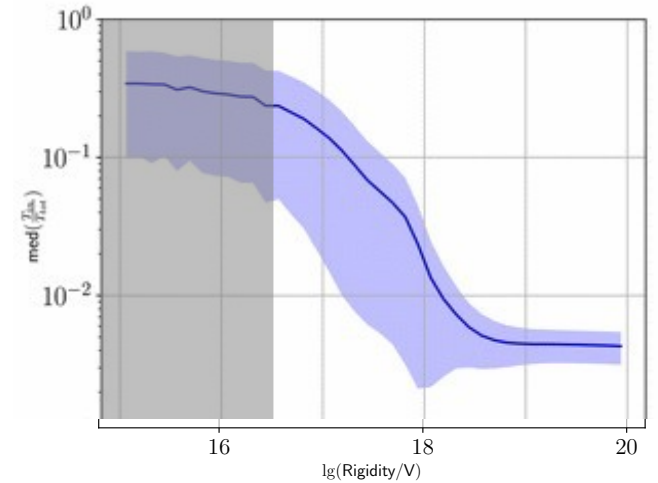
Galactic trajectories
($\lg(R/V) = 15 - 16.5$)



CR count reaching GP



Relative time spent in GP



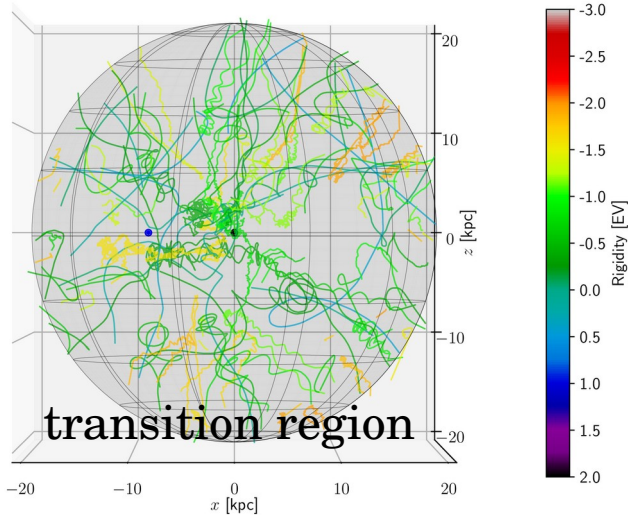
Decreasing shielding from and confinement in GP with rigidity.

CR count decreases for smaller rigidities; inflection point at a few EV.

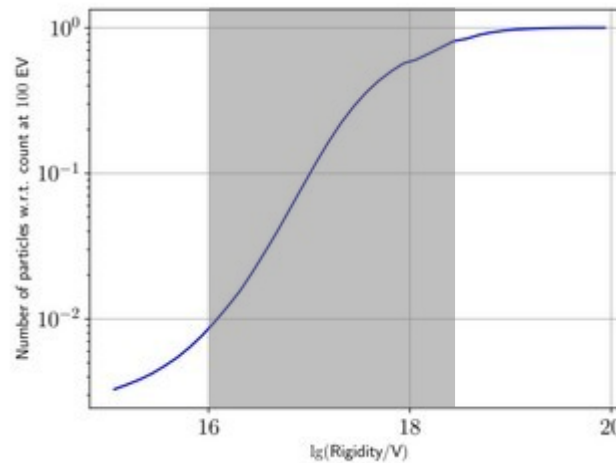
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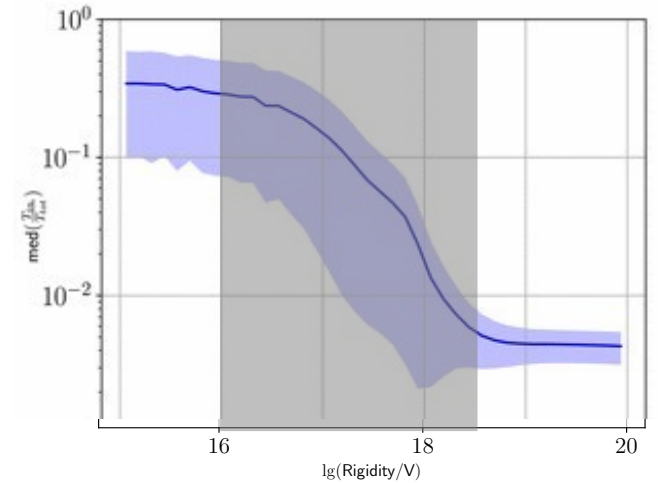
Galactic trajectories
($\lg(R/V) = 16 - 18.5$)



CR count reaching GP



Relative time spent in GP



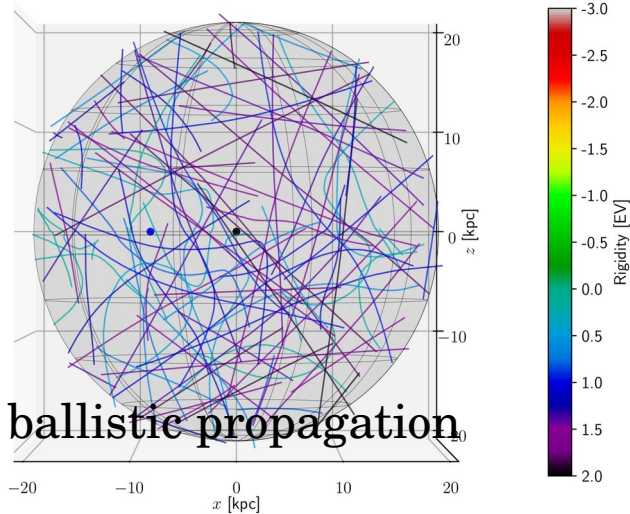
Decreasing shielding from and confinement in GP with rigidity.

CR count decreases for smaller rigidities; inflection point at a few EV.

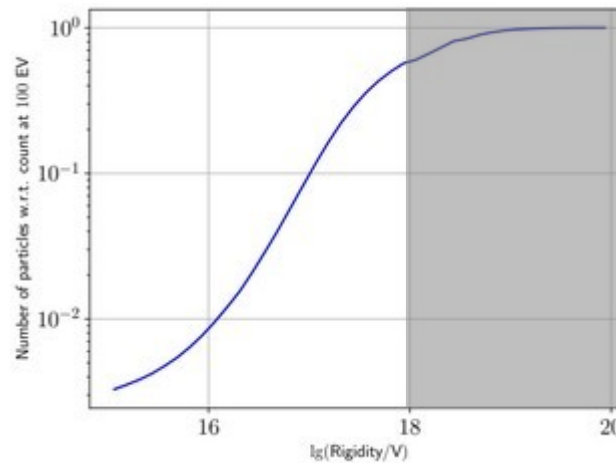
Relative time spent in GP decreases with rigidity; inflection point at a few EV.

Propagation effects: EGCRs – Shielding from vs. confinement in GP

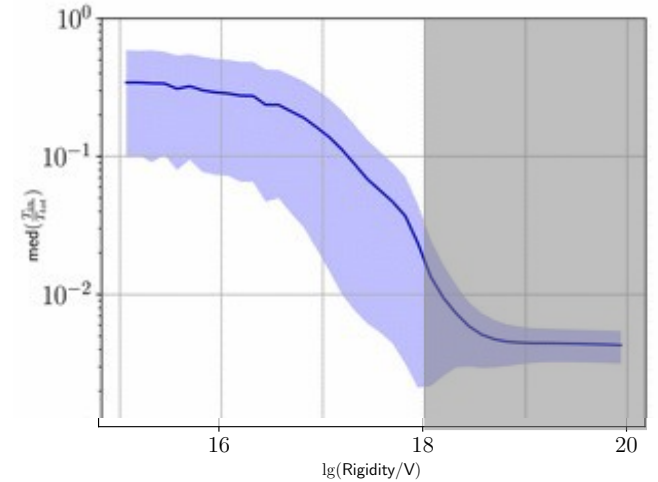
Galactic trajectories
($\lg(R/V) = 18 - 20$)



CR count reaching GP



Relative time spent in GP



Decreasing shielding from and confinement in GP with rigidity.

CR count decreases for smaller rigidities; inflection point at a few EV.

Relative time spent in GP decreases with rigidity; inflection point at a few EV.

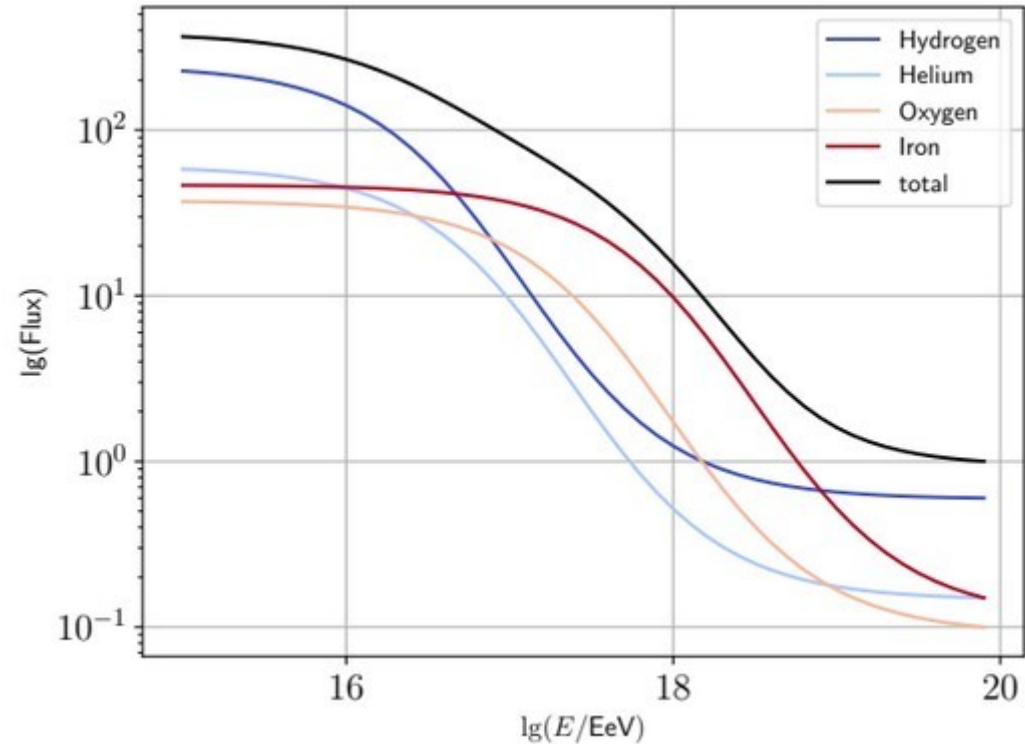
Effect on observables: GCRs – Flux suppression

Decreasing confinement
→ **flux reduction**

Mixed composition
→ **heavier towards ‘ankle’**

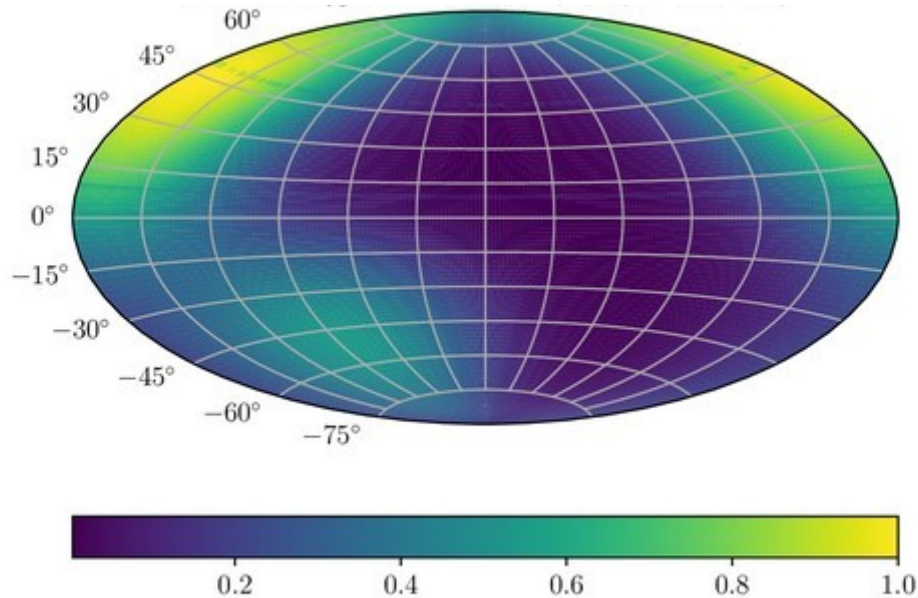
Arrival direction distribution:
correlation with GP direction
above 0.1 EV

All-particle energy spectrum (sigmoid fit)

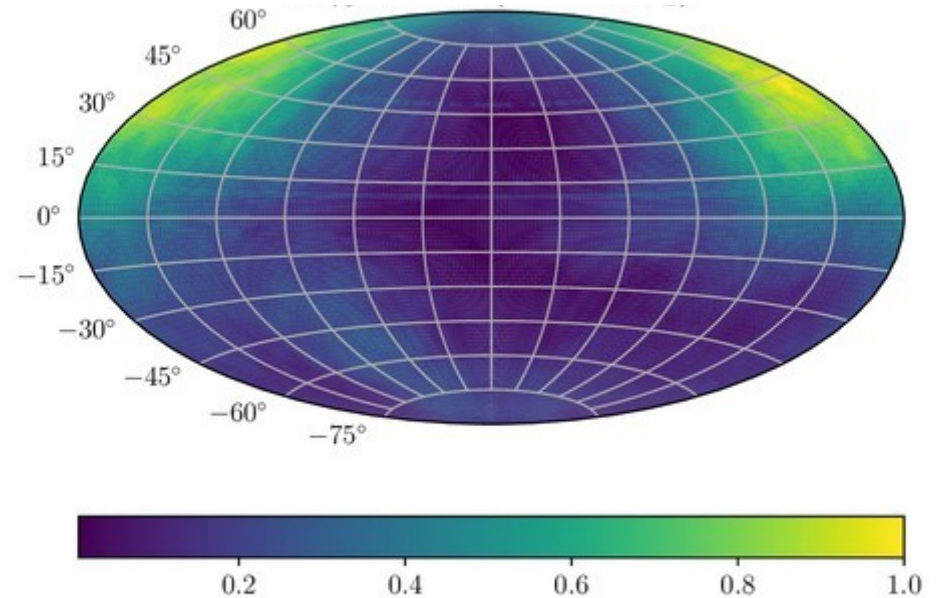


Galactic lensing – time reversibility

Injection direction of observed EGCRs
backtracking



Injection direction of observed EGCRs
forward tracking



Injection direction distributions of backtracked and forward tracked protons match

Effect on observables: Anisotropic EGCRs – Galactic lensing edge of Galaxy

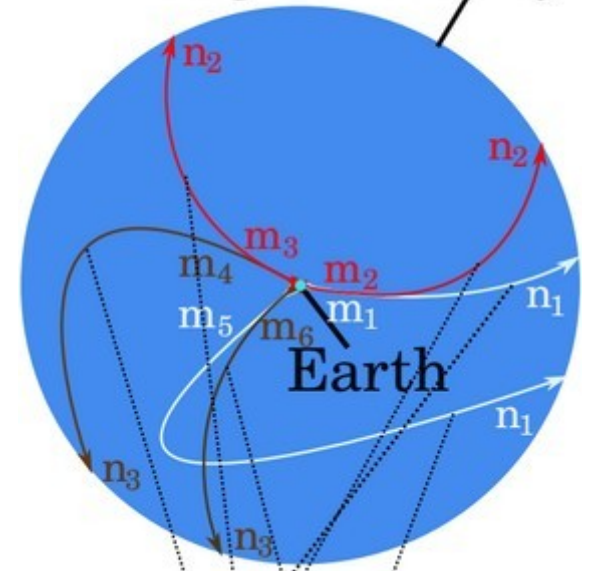
see also: [Astropart.Phys. 85 \(2016\) 54-64](#) for lensing scheme & [Eichmann, JCAP04\(2020\)047](#) for parallel work

Propagation in GMF can be quantified via lens

- distance of EG source to observer \gg size of Galaxy
- only injection **direction** relevant

Procedure:

- 1 **track N particles** between Earth and edge of Galaxy and **store injection direction** at edge and **arrival direction** at Earth
- 2 **discretise solid angle** range and **ascribe numbers n and m** to corresponding **injection and arrival directions**



			m	
	1	0	1	...
n	1	1	0	
	0	1	1	
	⋮			⋱

Effect on observables: Anisotropic EGCRs – Galactic lensing edge of Galaxy

see also: [Astropart.Phys. 85 \(2016\) 54-64](#) for lensing scheme & [Eichmann, JCAP04\(2020\)047](#) for parallel work

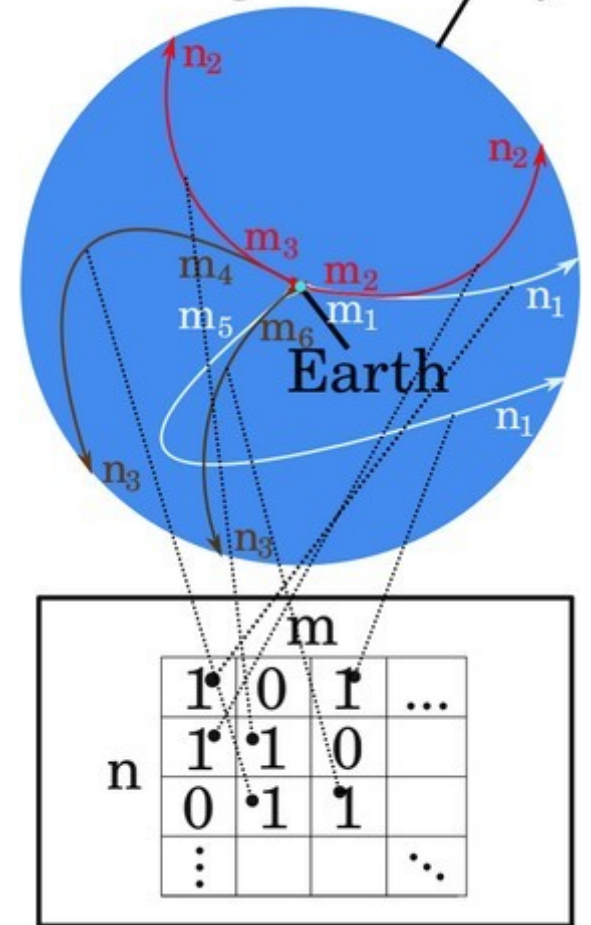
3 count occurrence o of each injection/arrival direction pair (n,m)

- spans matrix L ($l_{nm} = o$)
- L signifies **distribution of arrival directions m** at the observer point for each **injection direction n**

**4 matrix weighted by its 1-norm
(= number of backtracked particles N) defines lens**

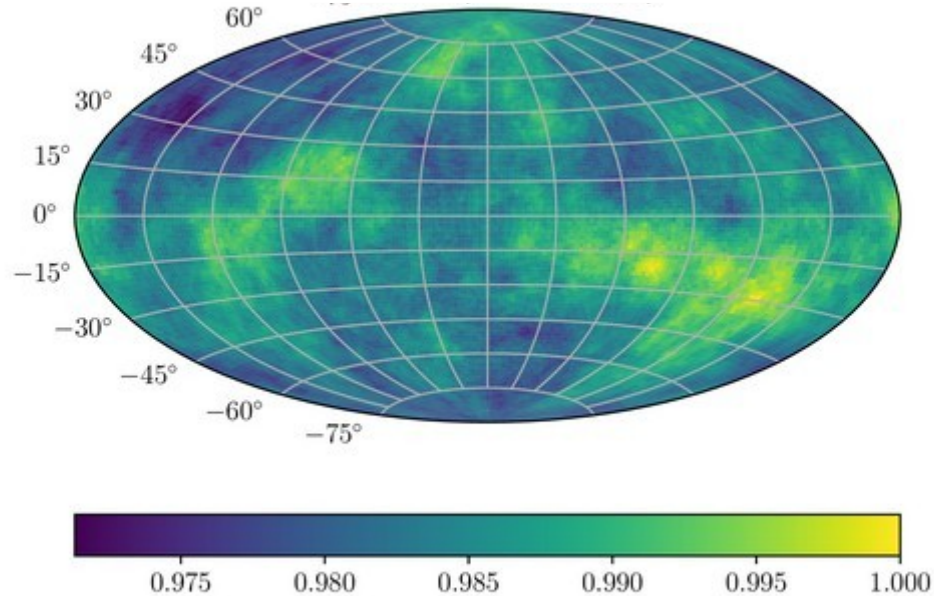
→ calculate arrival direction distribution for any injection direction distribution:

$$\vec{A} = \vec{I} \cdot \mathcal{L}$$

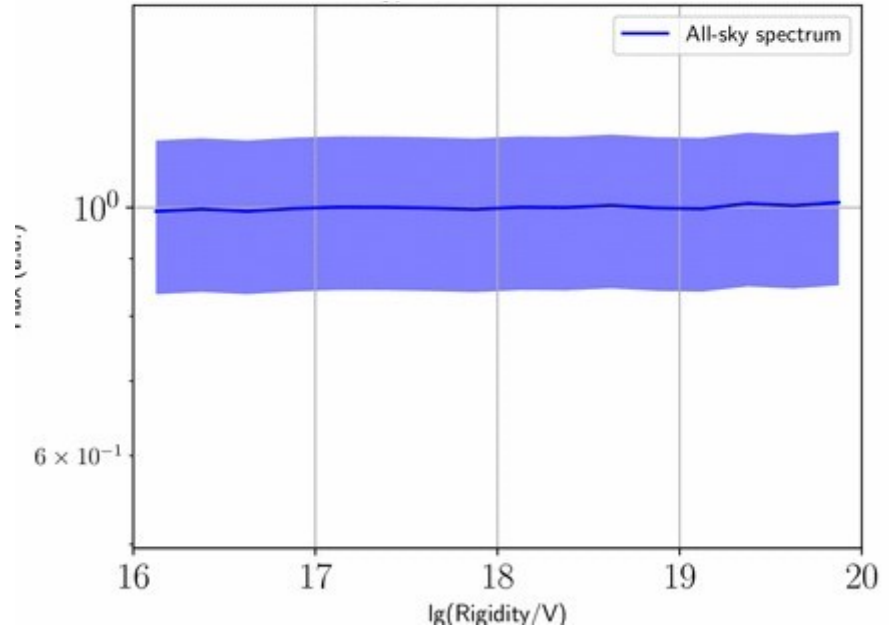


Galactic lensing – testing lens

Arrival direction of lensed isotropic injection distribution



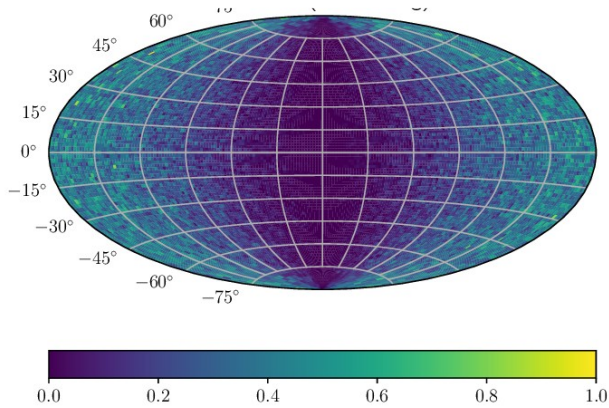
Spectrum of lensed isotropic injection distribution



Lensed arrival direction distribution and spectrum of isotropic injection distribution is as expected.

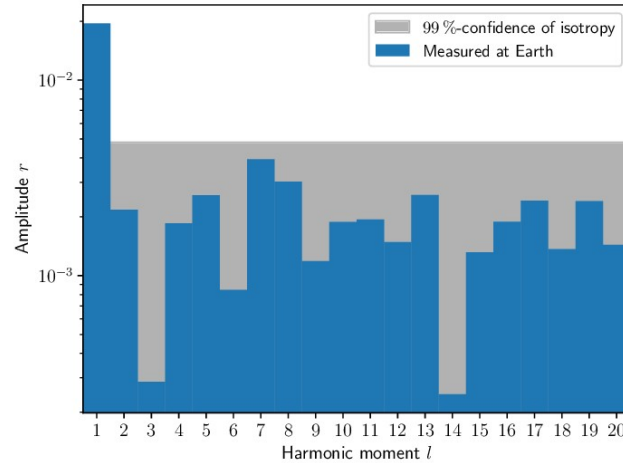
Anisotropic EGCRs – Galactic lensing

Injected flux



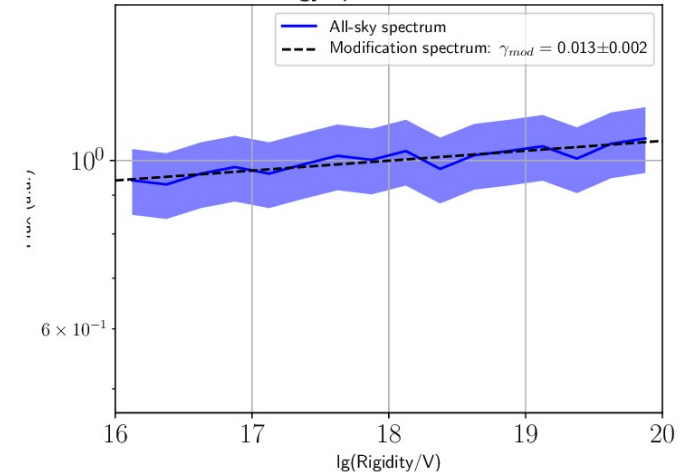
Injection direction distribution:
Pure dipole

Distribution of moments above 1 EV



Distribution of harmonic moments of arrival direction distribution above 1 EV
→ **strong isotropisation by GMF**

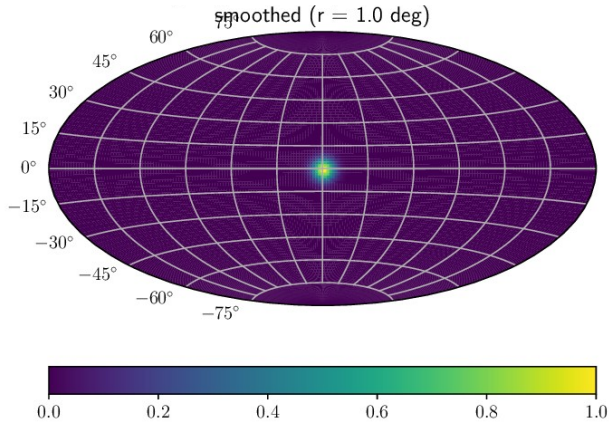
Flux at Earth



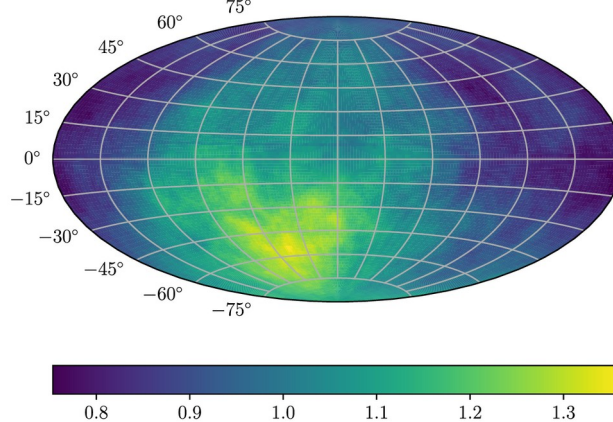
Rigidity spectrum at Earth → **possible flux modification**

Effect on observables: Anisotropic EGCRs – Galactic lensing

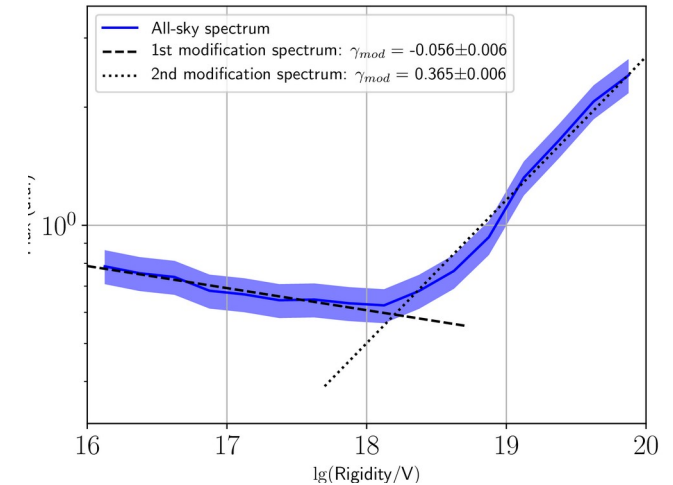
Injected flux



Flux at Earth



Flux at Earth



Injection direction distribution:
Pure single-point source (minimum Galactic transparency; Galactic centre)

- surviving dipole in arrival direction distribution above 1 EV
- strong isotropisation by GMF at lower energies

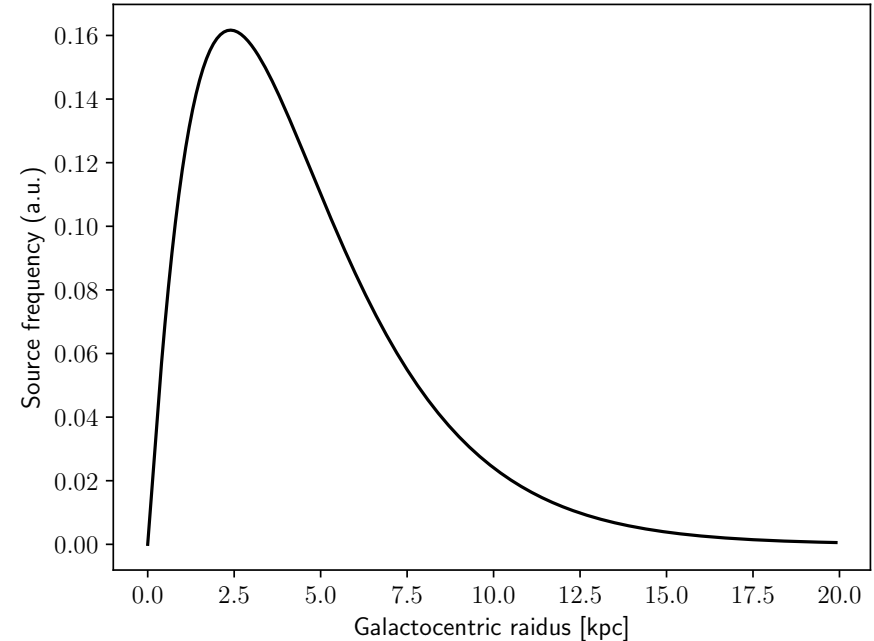
Rigidity spectrum at Earth → **possible flux modification**

Goal: Incorporate propagation effects

Prepare simulated data:

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 - **point sources from “Auger Starbust” paper:** APJ.Lett. 853 (2018) 2, L29
 - rigidity- and distance-dependent **smearing**→ **rigidity spectrum**
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- Find **suitable injection spectra:**
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 - **EGCR** component to **post-“ankle”** energies→ **all-particle spectra that reproduce data**

Galactocentric distribution of SNRs

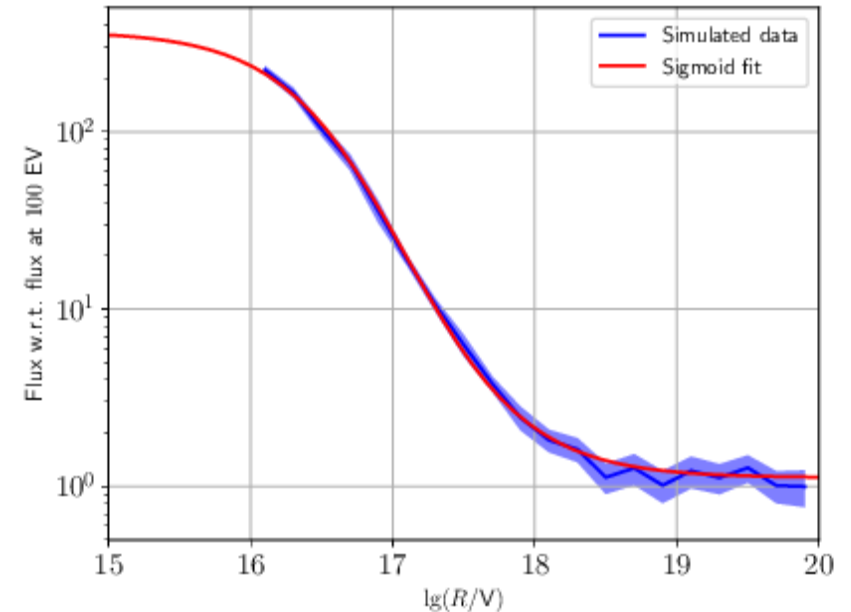


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Rigidity spectrum before correction

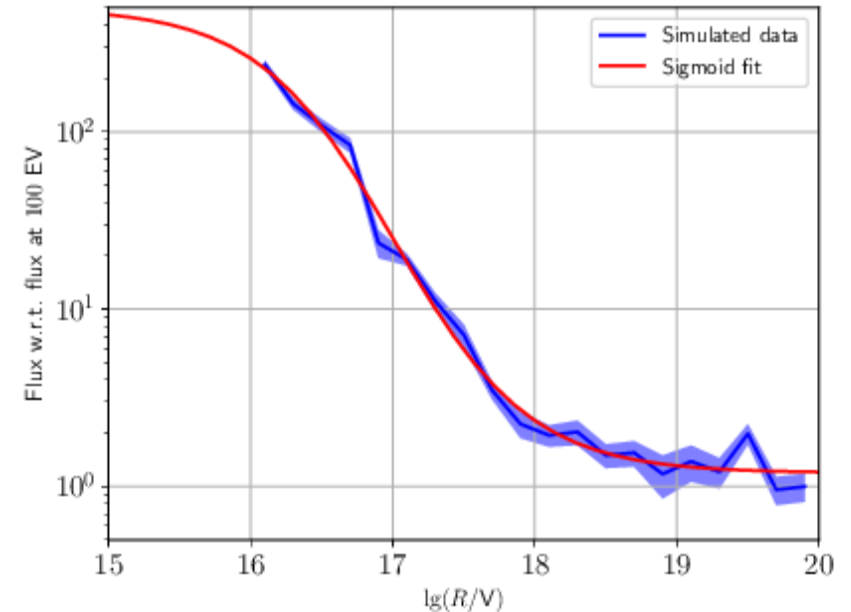


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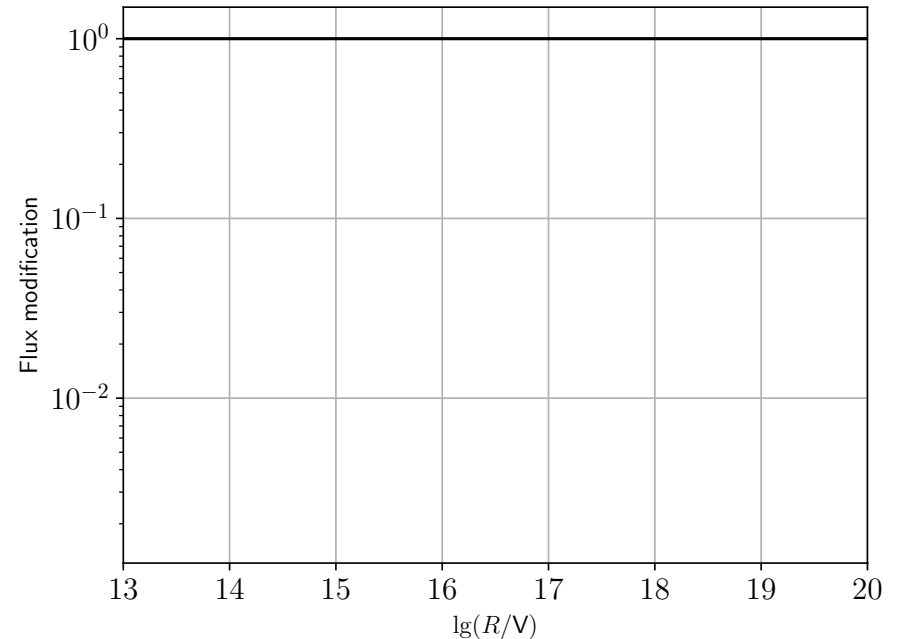


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Flux with or without leakage/cut-off

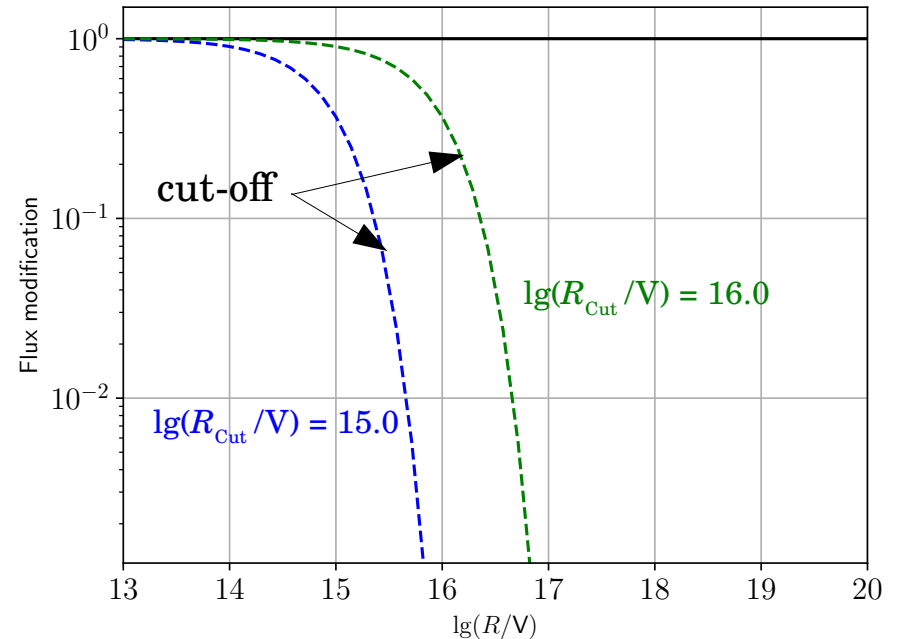


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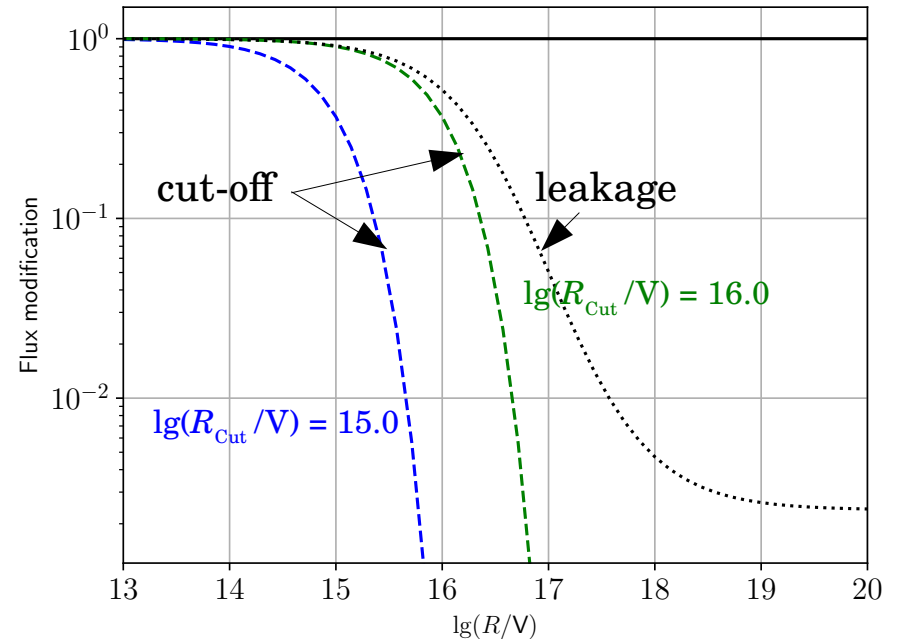


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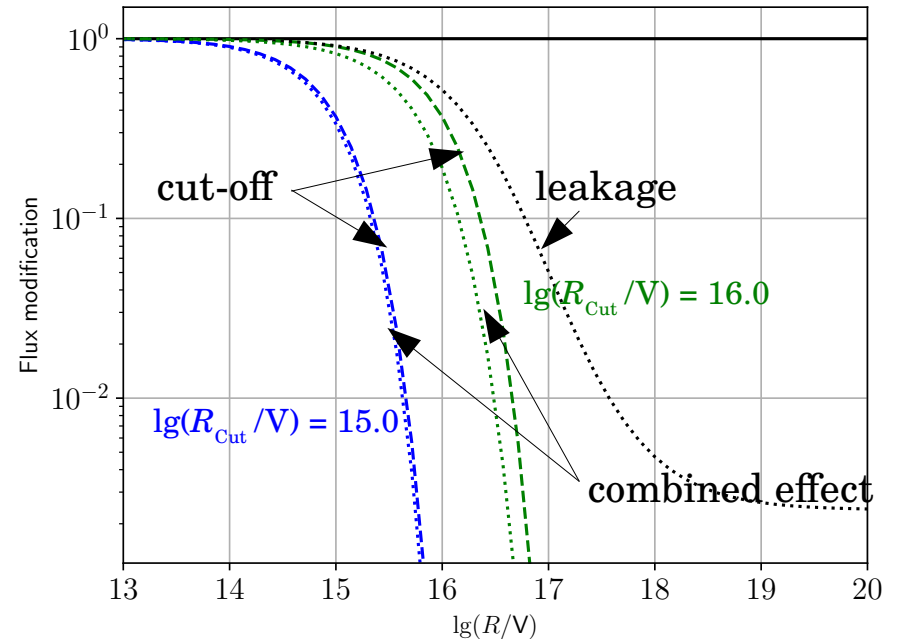


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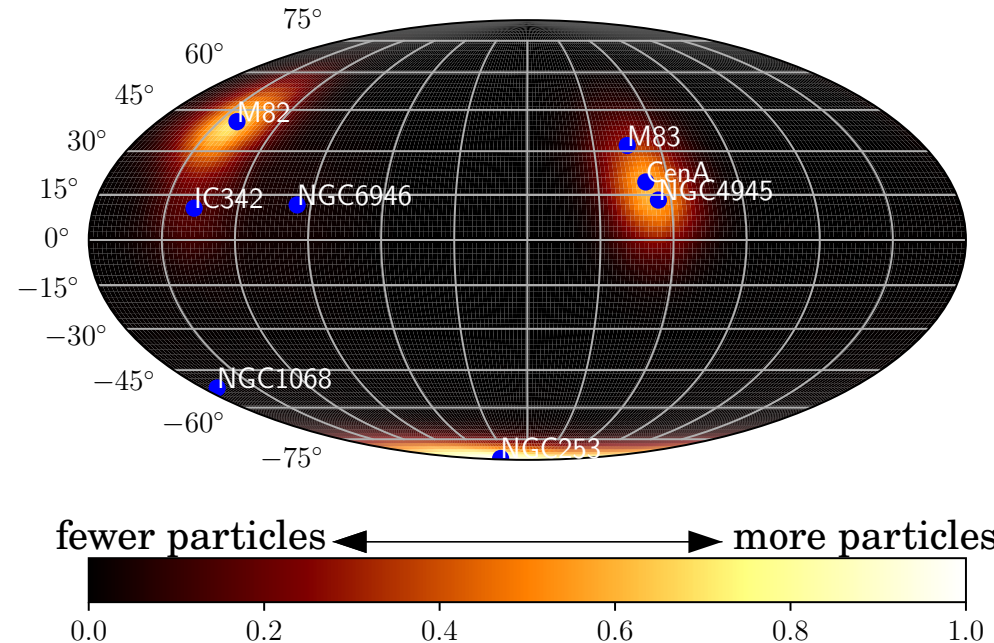


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Injection direction distribution of EGCRs

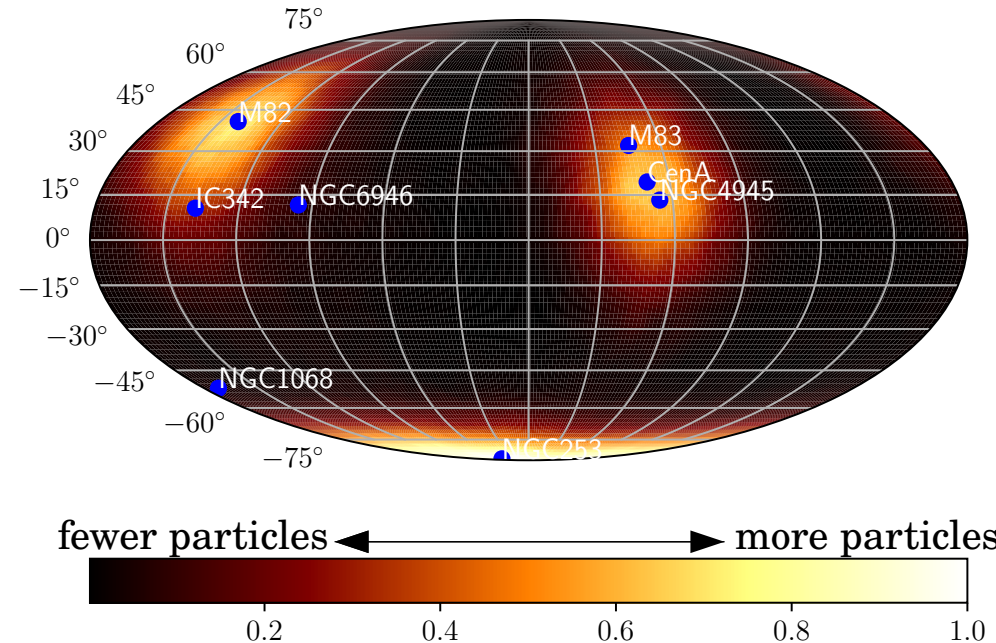


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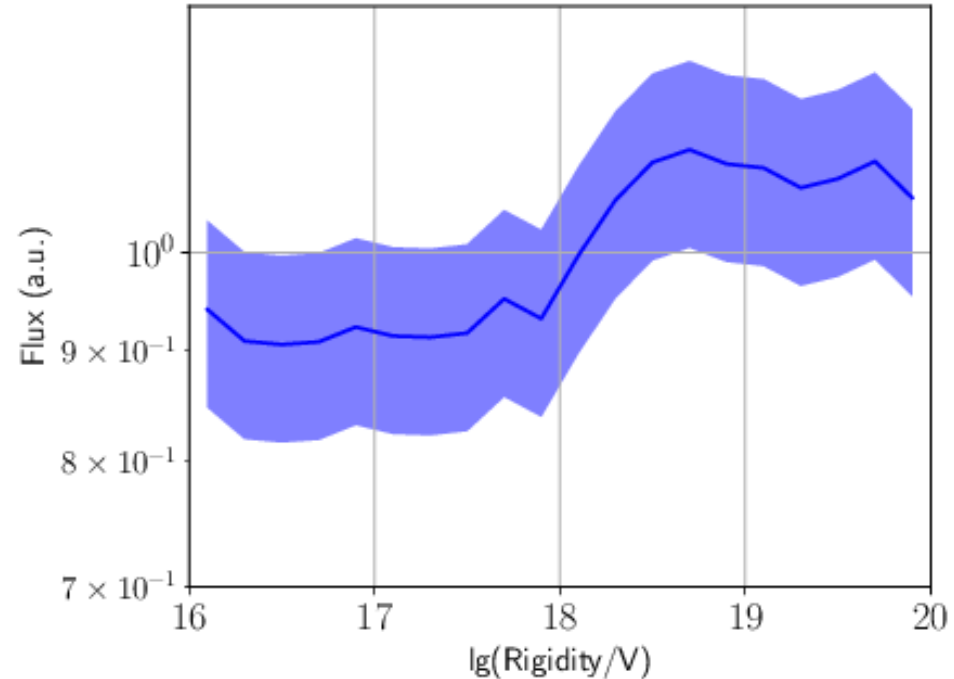


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Rigidity spectrum of lensed EGCRs flux

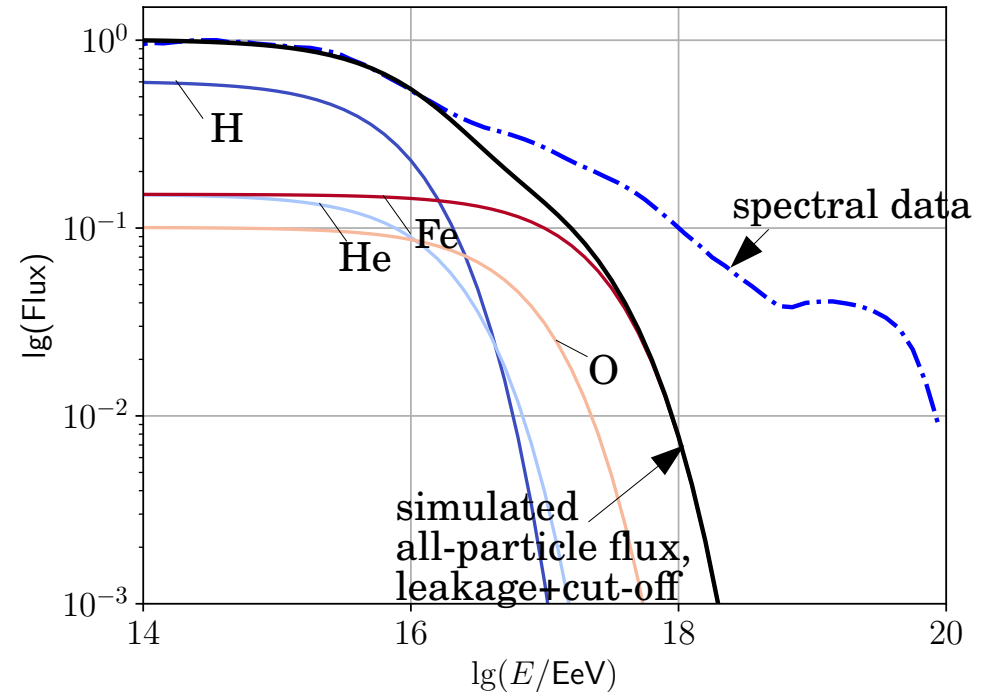


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Energy spectrum of GCRs with leakage and cutoff ($\lg(R_{\text{Cut}}/V) = 16.5$)

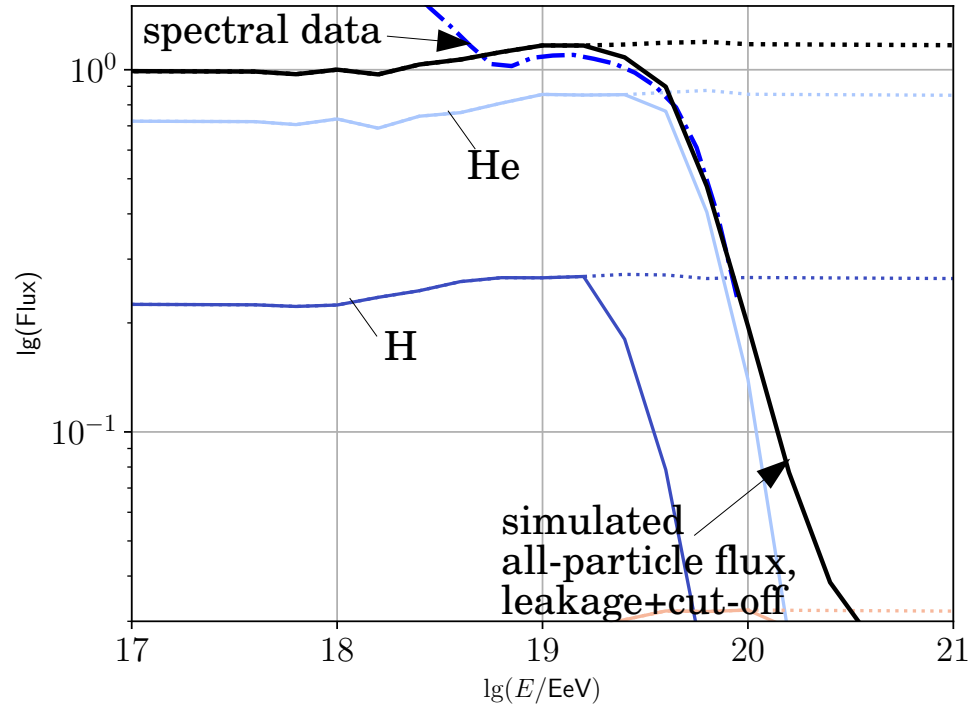


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Energy spectrum of EGCRs with spectral break and cutoff ($\lg(R_{\text{Cut}}/V) = 19.25$)

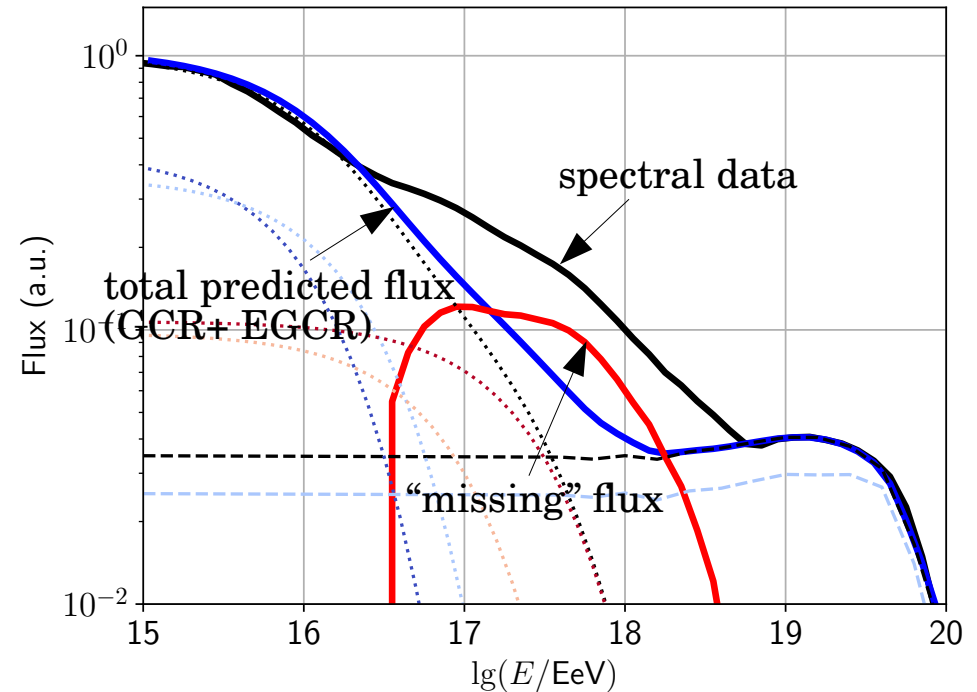


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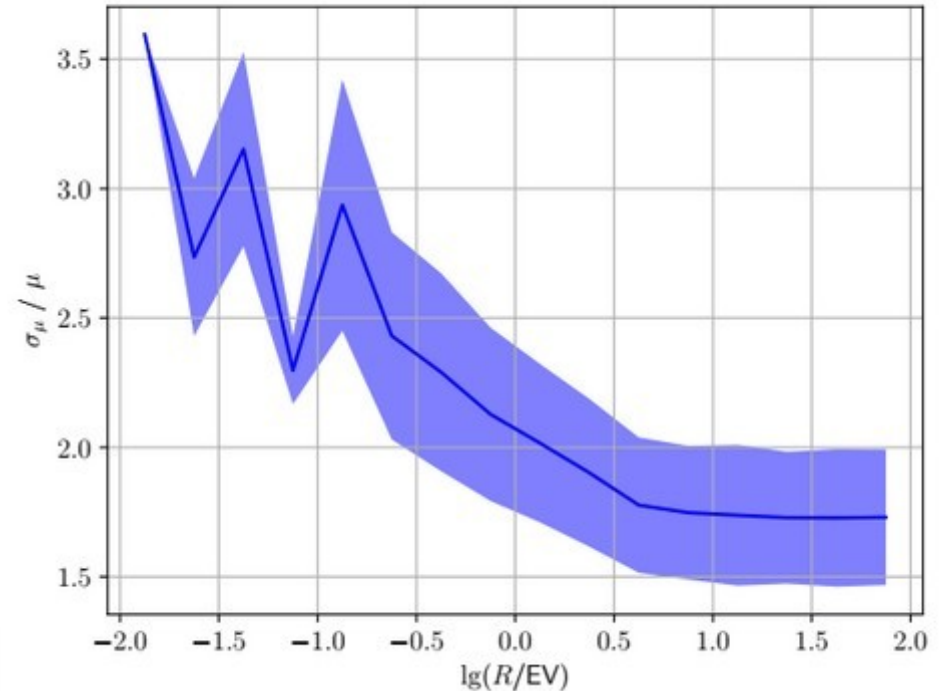
Total combined energy spectrum



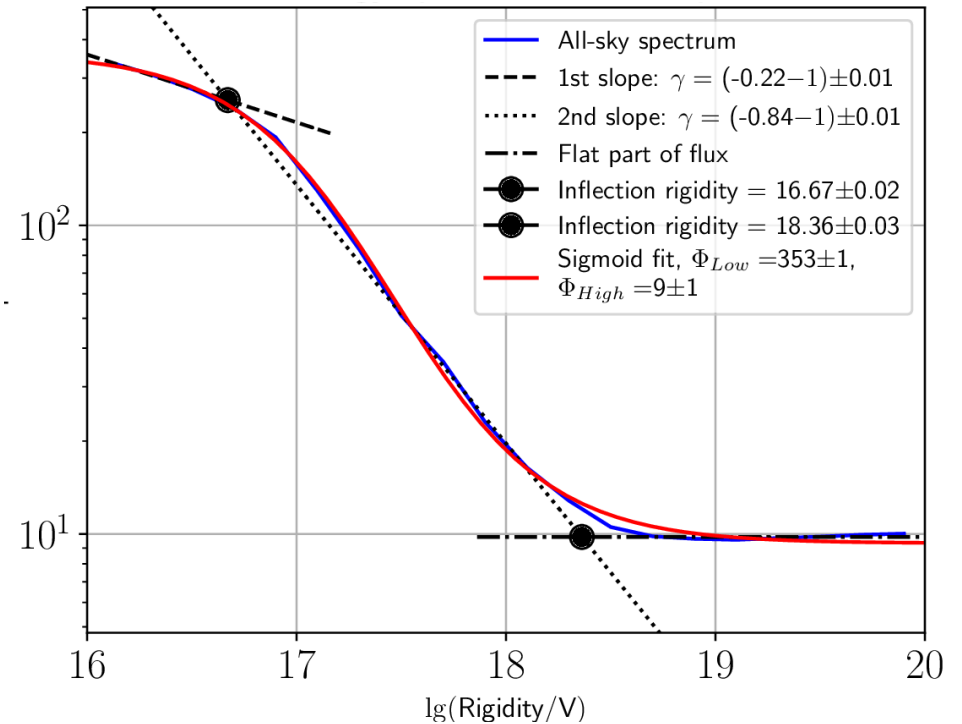
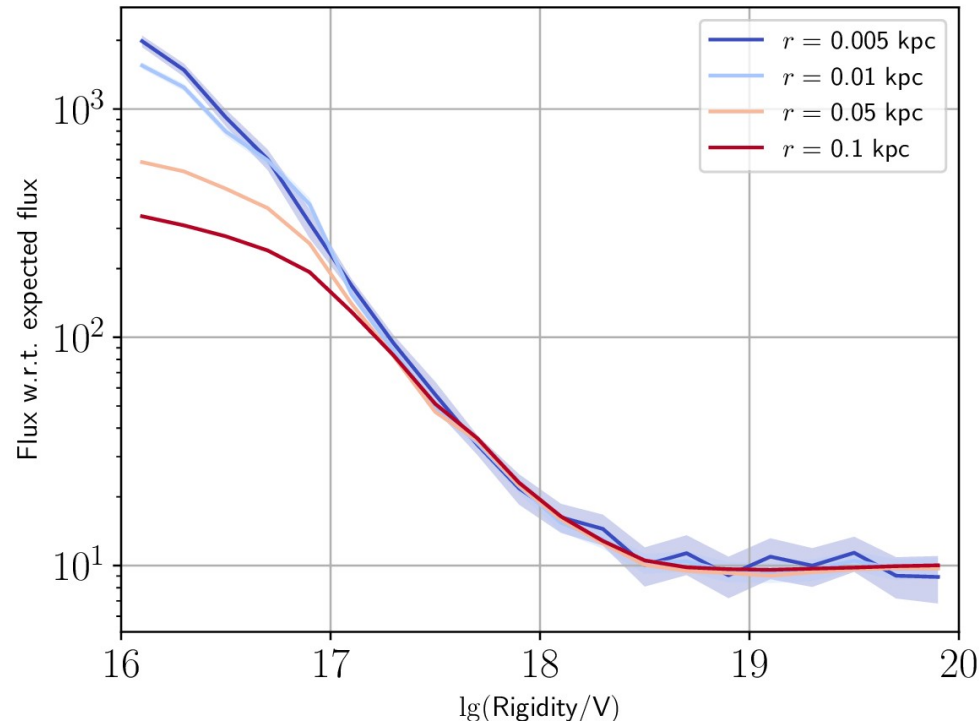
Liouville's Theorem

- Objection to flux modification of EGCRs: **Liouville's Theorem**
 - If **phase space density is conserved, so is flux**
 - BUT: If Liouville holds, then **other quantities are conserved, i.a. first adiabatic invariant**
~ classical magnetic moment (APJ 842:54, APJ 830:19):

$$\mu = \frac{e}{2m\pi c} \cdot I = \text{const.} \Rightarrow r_\mu = \frac{\sigma_\mu}{\langle \mu \rangle} \text{ small}$$

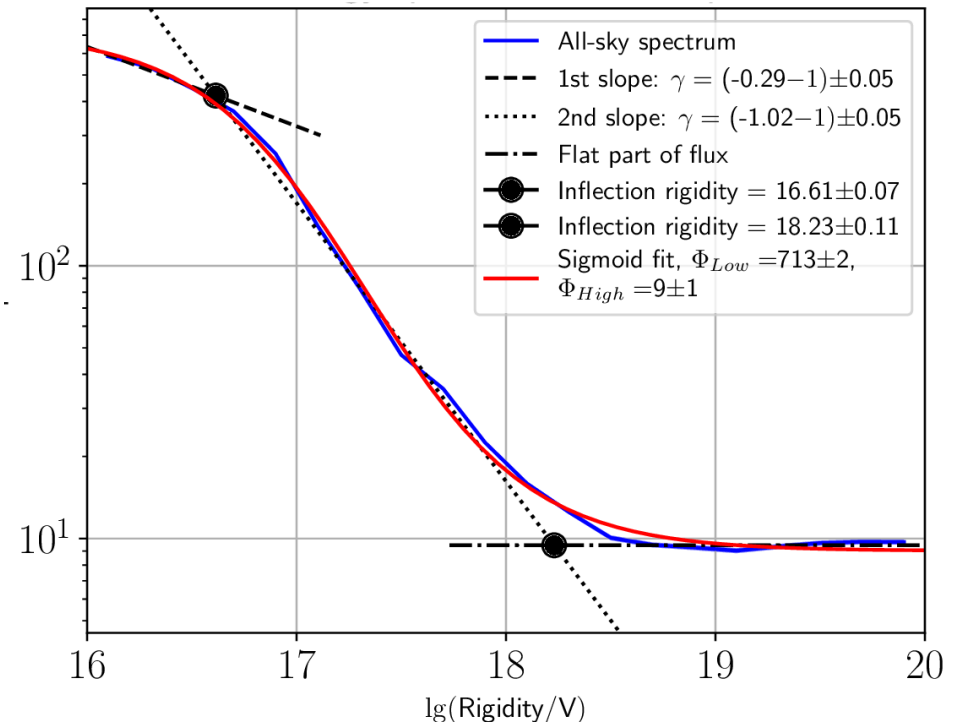
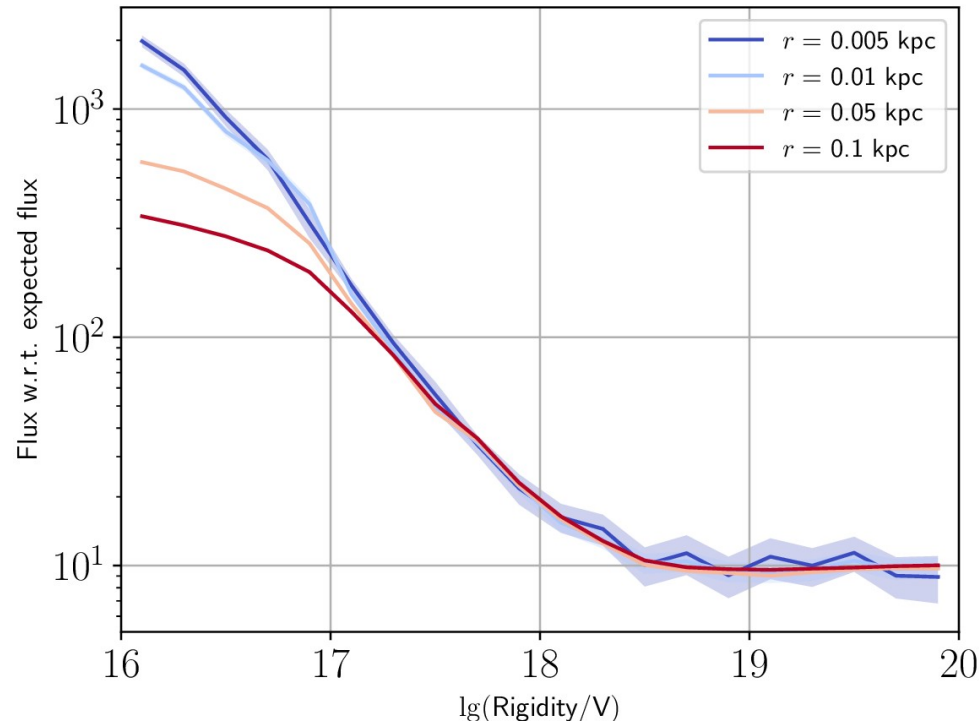


GCRs – Sigmoid fit to flux



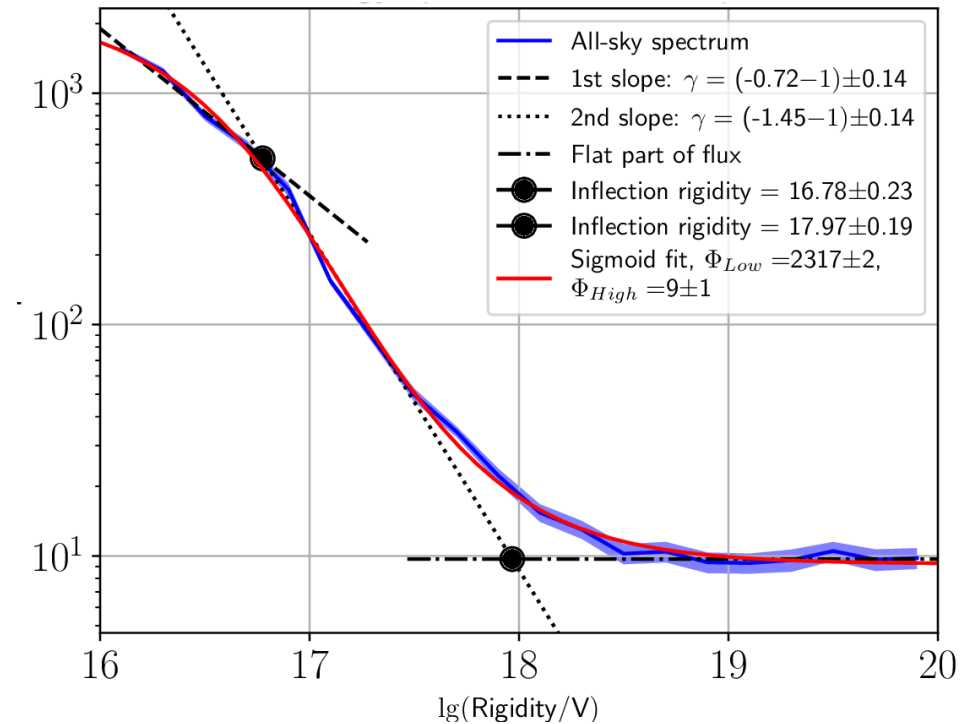
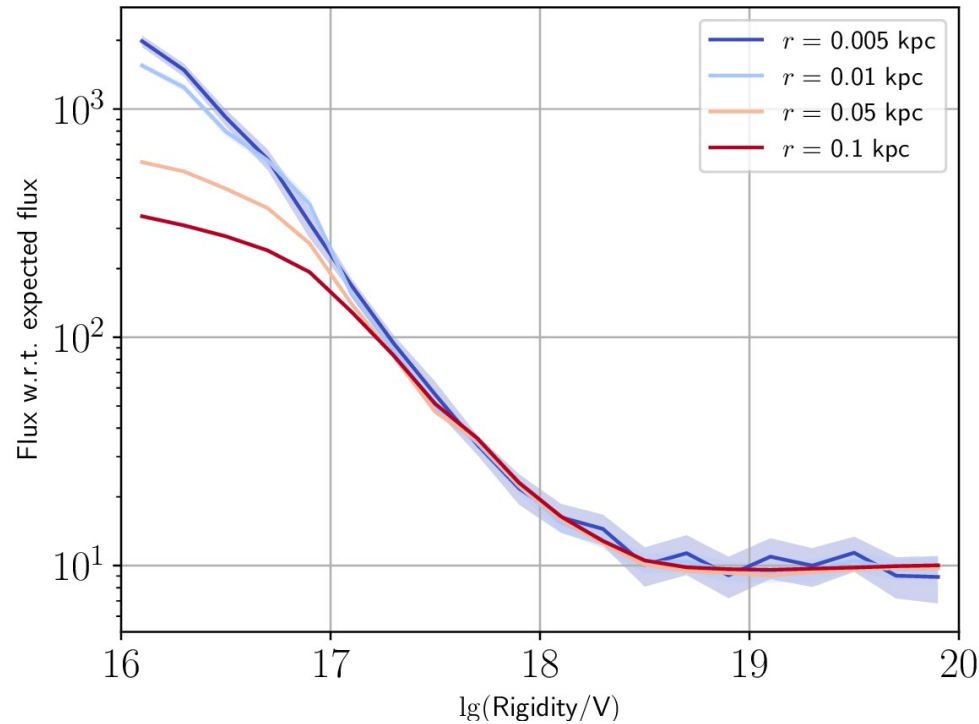
- Flux enhancement towards lower rigidities appears to flatten out \rightarrow sigmoid fit
- Advantage: wider overlapping energy range of mixed compositions

GCRs – Sigmoid fit to flux



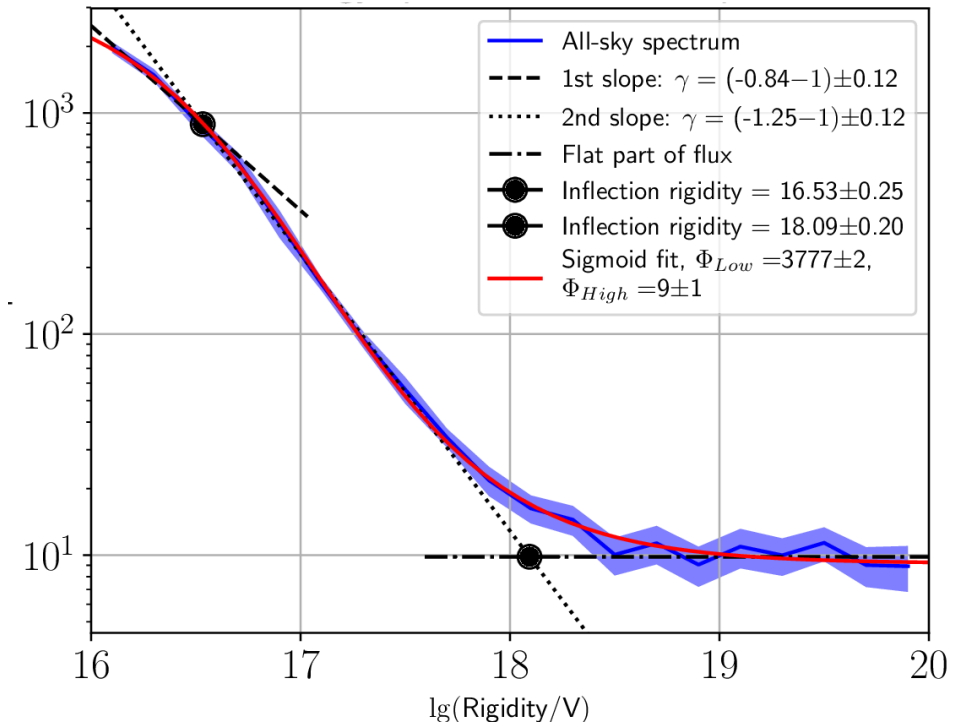
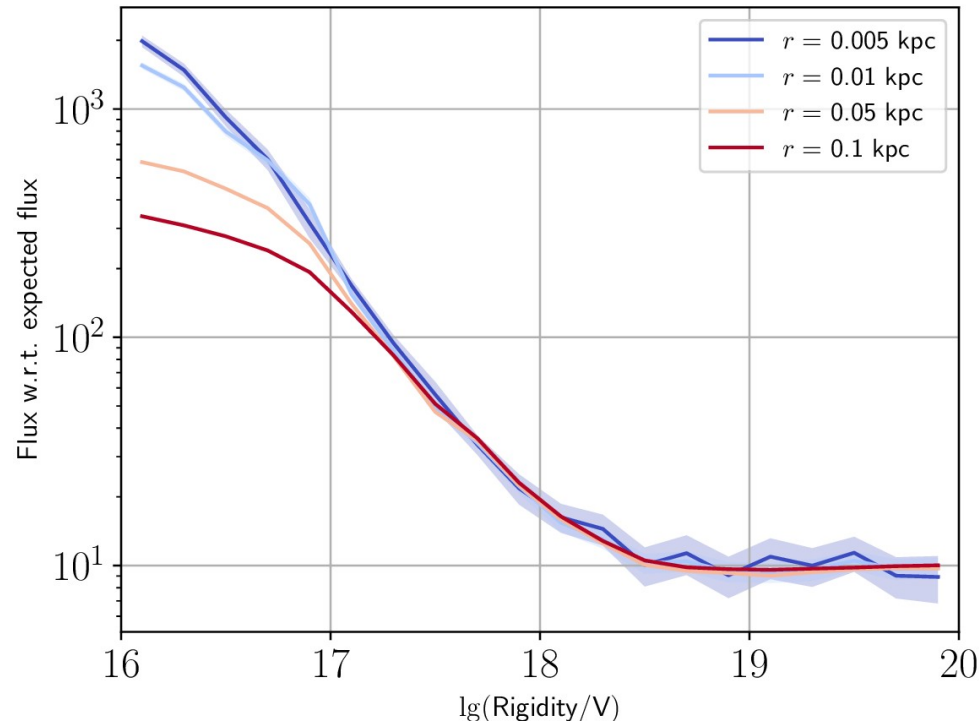
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GCRs – Sigmoid fit to flux



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Summary

Propagation effects in the GMF need to be considered in the transition region!

- GCRs: **flux suppression** towards higher rigidities due to **leakage from Galaxy**
- EGCRs: **flux modifications** depending on **nature & direction of injected anisotropy**

Incorporate propagation effects into the total flux

- GCRs: **leakage** leads to **earlier onset of suppression**; degree dependent on R_{Cut}
- EGCRs: **injected flux from SBG/AGN** leads to **“ankle”-like spectral break**

Outlook

- incorporate **realistic injection composition** for EGCRs
- **fit** resulting all-particle **energy spectra** to **flux data**
- **comparison** with **composition & anisotropy data**