

(photograph by S. Saffi)

Cosmic rays and air shower physics I

Ralph Engel Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)



Discovery of cosmic rays (Pacini, Hess, Kolhörster)



ViktorF.Hess(Wien), Über Beobachtungen der durchdringenden Strahlung bei sieben Freiballonfahrten.

Im Vorjahre habe ich bereits Gelegenheit gehabt, zwei Ballonfahrten zur Erforschung der durchdringenden Strahlung zu unternehmen; über die erste Fahrt wurde schon auf der Naturforscherversammlung in Karlsruhe von mir berichtet¹). Bei beiden Fahrten ergab sich keine wesentliche Änderung der Strahlung gegenüber der am Erdboden beobach-

(1911 - 1913)

Nobel Prize 1936











Cosmic rays as new energy frontier



REVIEWS OF

Robert Millikan





Volume IX

OR. ROBERT ANDREWS MILLIKAN cood the coomic pulse (then ficience)



Arthur Compton

Number 17





of high-energy particle physics



1911: cloud chamber by Wilson

1947: discovery of kaon, the first strange particle, by Rochester & Butler

1951: discovery of Λ , the first strange baryon, by Armenteros et al.



1932: discovery of positron by Anderson

1936: discovery of muon (initially mistaken as pion) by Anderson and Neddermeyer 1947: discovery of pion by Lattes, Murihead, Occhialini and Powell 1 111 1

Fig. 1. OBSERVATION BY MRS. I. ROBERTS. PHOTOMICROGRAPH WITH COOKE × 45 'FLUORITE' OBJECTIVE. ILFORD 'NUCLEAR RESEARCH', BORON-LOADED C2 EMULSION. m1 IS THE PRIMARY AND m2 THE SECONDARY MESON. THE ARROWS, IN THIS AND THE FOLLOWING PHOTOGRAPHS, INDICATE POINTS WHERE CHANGES IN DIRECTION GREATER THAN 2° OCCUR, AS OBSERVED UNDER THE MICROSCOPE. ALL THE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE COMPLETELY UNRETOUCHED









Extensive cosmic ray showers (Auger et al. 1936)

1
NVI / AN STATE B
13

 Pierre Auger

Primary particle energies exceeding 10^{6} GeV = 10^{15} eV

Cascade in a cloud chamber at 3027 m altitude (~10 GeV)





Fig. 12-1 Air-shower experiments by Auger and his collaborators in 1938 were made with the counter arrangement shown here. Counters G_1 and G_2 were placed one above the other, with their axes 22 cm apart. The third counter G_3 was moved horizontally to various distances d ranging from 15 centimeters to 75 meters.



Fig. 12-2 Air-shower data obtained by Auger with the counter arrangement shown in Fig. 12-1. The horizontal scale gives the horizontal distance dbetween counter G_3 and the pair of counters G_1 and G_2 ; the vertical scale, the number of coincidences per hour. (From a paper in *Le Journal de Physique et Le Radium*, vol. 10, p. 39, 1939.)







Particle accelerator development







Cyclotron (1931) **Ernest Orlando Lawrence** (Nobel prize 1939)

Acceleration by 2kV max. energy 80 keV



1932: 27-inch cyclotron: 3 MeV protons

1939: 60-inch cyclotron: 20 MeV protons



1952: Cosmotron: 3 GeV (Brookhaven) **1954:** Bevatron: 6 GeV (Berkeley) **1957:** Synchrophasotron: 10 GeV (Dubna) **1960:** Brookhaven AGS: 33 GeV **1967:** U-70: 70 GeV (Serpukhov)



Cosmic rays of ultra-high energy – 10²⁰ eV





Cascade of secondary particles: extensive air shower



Energy conservation: 1.6 GeV / charged particle, overall estimate robust

AGASA event, *E* ~1.7 – 2.6 10²⁰ eV (AGASA, PRL 73 (1994) 3491)

OMG event, *E* ~3.2 10²⁰ eV (Fly's Eye, ApJ 441 (1995) 144)

Amaterasu event, *E* ~2.4 10²⁰ eV (TA, Science 382 (2023) 903)





Ultra-high-energy cosmic rays – 10²⁰ eV



Large Hadron Collider (LHC), 27 km circumference, superconducting magnets



Need accelerator of size of the orbit of the planet Mercury to reach 10²⁰ eV with LHC technology



Fixed target vs. collider setup



$$E_{
m lab} pprox rac{E_{
m c.m.}^2}{2m_p}$$

Synchrotron energy loss

$$U_0 = \frac{e^2}{3\epsilon_0} \frac{\beta^3 \gamma^4}{\rho} \propto \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{E^4}{m^4}$$

Fixed target: Forward direction (beam fragmentation) covered by detectors **Colliders:** Beam direction measurements very challenging (if not impossible)







YS

Composition

- 85% H nuclei (protons)
- 12% He nuclei
- 1% heavier nuclei
- 2% electrons and positions

0.01 - 0.001% antiprotons

Flux of cosmic rays



30 - 40 km



Flux approximately power law

$$\frac{dN}{dEd\Omega dAdt} \propto E^{-\gamma}$$

$$\gamma \approx 2.7$$
 10¹¹ eV < E < 10^{15.5} eV
 ≈ 3.1 10^{15.5} eV < E < 10^{18.5} eV

Energy spectrum of all-particle flux (energy per particle)

Composition

- 85% H nuclei (protons)
- 12% He nuclei
- 1% heavier nuclei
- 2% electrons and positions
- 0.01 0.001% antiprotons

Flux of cosmic rays



11

Power laws are common in nature (i)



Power laws, Pareto distributions and Zipf's law

M. E. J. Newman

Department of Physics and Center for the Study of Complex Systems, University of Michigan, MI 48109. U.S.A.

When the probability of measuring a particular value of some quantity varies inversely as a power of that value, the quantity is said to follow a power law, also known variously as Zipf's law or the Pareto distribution. Power laws appear widely in physics, biology, earth and planetary sciences, economics and finance, computer science, demography and the social sciences. For instance, the distributions of the sizes of cities, earthquakes, solar flares, moon craters, wars and people's personal fortunes all appear to follow power laws. The origin of power-law behaviour has been a topic of debate in the scientific community for more than a century. Here we review some of the empirical evidence for the existence of power-law forms and the theories proposed to explain them.

(M. Newman cond-mat/0412004)



Power laws are common in nature (ii)



FIG. 4 Cumulative distributions or "rank/frequency plots" of twelve quantities reputed to follow power laws. The distributions were computed as described in Appendix A. Data in the shaded regions were excluded from the calculations of the exponents in Table I. Source references for the data are given in the text. (a) Numbers of occurrences of words in the novel Moby Dick by Hermann Melville. (b) Numbers of citations to scientific papers published in 1981, from time of publication until June 1997. (c) Numbers of hits on web sites by 60 000 users of the America Online Internet service for the day of 1 December 1997. (d) Numbers of copies of bestselling books sold in the US between 1895 and 1965. (e) Number of calls received by AT&T telephone customers in the US for a single day. (f) Magnitude of earthquakes in California between January 1910 and May 1992. Magnitude is proportional to the logarithm of the maximum amplitude of the earthquake, and hence the distribution obeys a power law even though the horizontal axis is linear. (g) Diameter of craters on the moon. Vertical axis is measured per square kilometre. (h) Peak gamma-ray intensity of solar flares in counts per second, measured from Earth orbit between February 1980 and November 1989. (i) Intensity of wars from 1816 to 1980, measured as battle deaths per 10000 of the population of the participating countries. (j) Aggregate net worth in dollars of the richest individuals in the US in October 2003. (k) Frequency of occurrence of family names in the US in the year 1990. (1) Populations of US cities in the year 2000.



Power laws are common in nature (ii)

		(j) 100 - 10 -	10^4	
			minimum	exponen
1		quantity	x_{\min}	α
	(a)	frequency of use of words	1	2.20(1)
	(b)	number of citations to papers	100	3.04(2)
	(c)	number of hits on web sites	1	2.40(1)
	(d)	copies of books sold in the US	2000000	3.51(16)
	(e)	telephone calls received	10	2.22(1)
	(f)	magnitude of earthquakes	3.8	3.04(4)
	(g)	diameter of moon craters	0.01	3.14(5)
	(h)	intensity of solar flares	200	1.83(2)
	(i)	intensity of wars	3	1.80(9)
	(j)	net worth of Americans	\$600m	2.09(4)
	(k)	frequency of family names	10 000	1.94(1)
	(1)	population of US cities	40000	2.30(5)



ties reputed to follow power laws. The distributions ere excluded from the calculations of the exponents ers of occurrences of words in the novel *Moby Dick* shed in 1981, from time of publication until June ne Internet service for the day of 1 December 1997. and 1965. (e) Number of calls received by AT&T s in California between January 1910 and May 1992. the earthquake, and hence the distribution obeys a on the moon. Vertical axis is measured per square ond, measured from Earth orbit between February as battle deaths per 10 000 of the population of the lividuals in the US in October 2003. (k) Frequency of US cities in the year 2000.

14





Cosmic ray flux and interaction energies







Outline of lectures

- Cosmic rays below the knee direct measurements
- Physics of extensive air showers
- Discussion and exercises (topics to be decided)

- Cosmic rays of very high energy – indirect measurements



17

Long-duration balloon flights



Flight altitude 30-35 km

weight o < 3 tons





Geomagnetic cutoff and East-West effect

Lorentz force $F_L = qvB$ $F_F = m \frac{v^2}{R_L} = v \frac{p}{R_L}$ Inertial force q = ZeCharge Lamor radius $R_L = \frac{p}{ZeB}$



Earth's magnetic field

Equator:

Rigidity

 $R = \frac{p}{Ze} \approx \frac{E}{Ze}$

 $R_L = 3 \times 10^3$

Vicinity of poles: $B \approx 60 \ \mu T$ B ≈ 30 μT

$$\left(\frac{E}{\text{GeV}}\right) \left(\frac{\mu \text{T}}{ZB}\right) \text{ km}$$



Radius of curvature smaller than radius of Earth





Solar modulation of cosmic flux



Solar modulation – observations







Star Tracker 🥆

AMS 02













Galaxy and galactic magnetic fields



(astronomy.stackexchange.com)

Coherent and turbulent magnetic fields (of similar strength)

Magnetic field not well known,

 $B = 3 \mu G = 30 nT$ close to Solar System

$$R_L \simeq 1 \,\mathrm{pc} \times \left(\frac{E}{10^{15} \,\mathrm{eV}}\right) \left(\frac{\mu \mathrm{G}}{ZB}\right)$$



Galaxy and galactic magnetic fields



Coherent and turbulent magnetic fields (of similar strength)

 $I pc = 3.26 ly = 3.08 l0^{16} m$



Magnetic field not well known, $B = 3 \mu G = 30 nT$ close to Solar System

Diffusion: random walk, distance scales ~ (time)²



Galactic and extragalactic sources







Power needed to maintain cosmic ray flux

Assumption: entire galaxy homogeneously filled with cosmic rays

Density of particles for given flux

dN 4π dN $c dEd\Omega dAdt$ dEdV

Total cosmic ray energy

$$E_{\rm tot} = \int dV \int dE \ E \cdot \frac{dN}{dEdV}$$

Mean escape time

 $\tau_{\rm esc} \approx 10^7 a$

Required power of cosmic ray sources

Isotropy
$$\int d\Omega = 4\pi$$





$$P_{\rm SNR} \approx 10^{42} {\rm erg}$$

Kinetic energy released in SN expl

$$P_{\rm src} = E_{\rm tot}/\tau_{\rm esc} \approx 10^{41} {\rm erg/s}$$

 $(I erg = 0.1 \mu J)$







Cosmic rays from supernova remnants

COSMIC RAYS FROM SUPER-NOVAE

By W. BAADE AND F. ZWICKY

MOUNT WILSON OBSERVATORY, CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON AND CALI-FORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, PASADENA

Communicated March 19, 1934

A. Introduction.—Two important facts support the view that cosmic rays are of extragalactic origin, if, for the moment, we disregard the possibility that the earth may possess a very high and self-renewing electrostatic potential with respect to interstellar space.

If interest in these questions still prevails at that future time, science will therefore be able to test the correctness of our hypothesis some time during the next thousand years or so, as the occurrence of a super-nova in our own system would multiply the intensity of the cosmic rays by a factor one thousand or more. It also seems quite possible to observe with cosmic-ray electroscopes the flare-up of a super-nova in one of the nearer extragalactic nebulae, as for them r = 1000 n, and

$$\Delta \sigma = 0.01/n^2 \operatorname{ergs/cm.}^2 \operatorname{sec.}, \qquad (10)$$

where n is a number of the order one. It might in this connection be of interest to follow up the causes for Regener's⁴ curious balloon observation of March 29, 1933.



Observed galactic SN explosions:

1604 (Kepler) 1572 (Tycho) [18] (Chinese astronomers) 1054 (Crab nebula) 1006 (Chinese and Arabian records)

20 рс Distance ~ 2.2 kpc **Estimates:**

~3 SN explosions / 100 yrs Kinetic energy of ejecta: $\sim 10^{51}$ erg

$$P_{\rm SNR} \approx 10^{42} {\rm erg/s}$$

Kinetic energy released in SN explosions







Diffusive shock (Fermi) acceleration



13-Dec THE UNIVERSITY OF herry collisions andia correct mag relats Lic tou reta case MV = be moin 2 ene 240 20 on put wes ever 215 ÷ 1 Werage gain order PHYSICAL REVIEW MV2 order 2 WB F-0) . .

Fermi's original work: second order acceleration



Particles scatter on moving magnetic clouds

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 8

APRIL 15, 1949

On the Origin of the Cosmic Radiation

ENRICO FERMI Institute for Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (Received January 3, 1949)

A theory of the origin of cosmic radiation is proposed according to which cosmic rays are originated and accelerated primarily in the interstellar space of the galaxy by collisions against moving magmetic fields. One of the features of the theory is that it yields naturally an inverse power law for the spectral distribution of the cosmic rays. The chief difficulty is that it fails to explain in a straightforward way the heavy nuclei observed in the primary radiation.



Stochastic acceleration on SN shock fronts







First order Fermi acceleration

Assumption:

particles scatter elastically on turbulent mag. fields

$$\Delta E = \frac{1}{2}m\left(v + (u_1 - u_2)\right)^2 - \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

$$\frac{\Delta E}{E} \approx 2 \frac{(u_1 - u_2)}{v}$$

vertical crossing, non-relativistic shock speed

$$\frac{\Delta E}{E} = \frac{4}{3} \frac{(u_1 - u_2)}{c}$$
 Energy-independent
Factor from averaging over a



ent relative energy gain

all angles



Expected energy distribution

Assumption: energy-independent escape probability Pesc per cycle

Energy gain per complete cycle of crossings

Energy after k cycles

Number of particles available for further acceleration

Flux of particles

N(>E) =

Numerical values depend on many details

$$\frac{\Delta E}{E} = \xi$$

$$E = E_0 \, \xi^k$$

$$N = N_0 (1 - P_{\rm esc})^k$$

const
$$E^{-lpha}$$
 $lpha = -\ln(1-P_{
m esc})/\ln\xi$ $lpha \approx 1$ (see Longair's textbook)

Ideal diffusive shock acceleration yields $dN/dE \sim E^{-2}$



Comparison to particle acceleration in heliosphere



Particles(cm²sr-MeV/hucleon)





Maximum particle energy

Classic acceleration by electric field

Astrophysical plasmas: no static electric fields (charges are free to travel)

Faraday's law: changing magnetic fields produce electric field

Lorentz transformation



Hillas criterion

$$E_{p,\max} = qL\frac{u}{c}B = \beta_s qLB$$

(after S. Gabici, KSETA 2024)







Maximum particle energy

Classic acceleration by electric field

Astrophysical plasmas: no static electric fields (charges are free to travel)

Faraday's law: changing magnetic fields produce electric field

Lorentz transformation



Hillas criterion

$$E_{p,\max} = qL\frac{u}{c}B = \beta_s qLB$$

(after S. Gabici, KSETA 2024)





(Hillas, Ann. Rev. Astron. Astrophys. 1984)

Very general result, broad application, further restrictions apply (energy losses)











Leaky Box model

Number of particles that escape from box proportional to number of particles in box

Sources uniformly distributed



Effect of cosmic ray confinement in galaxy

Simplification: only one particle type considered, no energy losses

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}N(E)}{\mathrm{d}t} = -\frac{1}{\tau_{\rm esc}}N(E) + Q(E)$$

Assumption: equilibrium reached, flux independent of time

$$0 = -\frac{1}{\tau_{\rm esc}} N(E) + Q(E)$$





Cross check of model with secondary elements

Interstellar medium in galaxy: ~I atom /cm³

Spallation of nuclei



Re-write in terms of grammage and add interactions

$$0 = -\frac{1}{\lambda_{\mathrm{B,esc}}(E)} N_{\mathrm{B}} - \frac{1}{\lambda_{\mathrm{B,int}}} N_{\mathrm{B}} + Q_{\mathrm{B}}$$

$$\frac{N_{\rm B}}{N_{\rm C}} = \frac{f_{\rm C \to B}}{\lambda_{\rm C,int}} \frac{\lambda_{\rm B,esc}(E)}{1 + \lambda_{\rm B,esc}(E)/\lambda_{\rm B,i}}$$

 $P_{\mathbf{C}\to\mathbf{B}}(E)$

 $\lambda_{\rm esc}(E) = \beta c \rho_{\rm ISM} \tau_{\rm esc}(E)$

$$Q_{\mathrm{C}\to\mathrm{B}}(E) = f_{\mathrm{C}\to\mathrm{B}} \times \frac{1}{\lambda_{\mathrm{C,int}}} N_{\mathrm{C}}(E)$$

Caution: here always energy per nucleon used

int



CALET – Calorimetric Electron Telescope



New detectors – CALET and DAMPE

DAMPE – Dark Matter Particle Explorer





Cross check of model with secondary elements

$$\frac{N_{\rm B}}{N_{\rm C}} = \frac{f_{\rm C \to B}}{\lambda_{\rm C,int}} \frac{\lambda_{\rm B,esc}(E)}{1 + \lambda_{\rm B,esc}(E)/\lambda_{\rm B,int}}$$

 $\lambda_{\rm esc}(E) \sim E^{-\delta}$









(DAMPE, Science Bulletin 67 (2022) 2162)



Cosmic ray clocks – energy-dependent escape time

Required by observations

Only rigidity, i.e. energy/charge important

-0.7 $\tau_{\rm esc} \propto \left(\frac{E}{Z}\right)$





Energy dependence not confirmed by new AMS data





Non-linear diffusive shock acceleration

$$f(p) \sim p^{-q}; \ q \approx \frac{3r}{r-1}$$

$$q = \frac{3r}{r - 1 - v_A/u_2}$$
 Correction to larger slope



Unexpected structure of energy spectrum



Spectral hardening first found by PAMELA

$$N(E) = \tau_{\rm esc}(E) \ Q(E)$$

Escape time: diffusion coefficient

Source



⁽P. Mertsch, DPG 2023)



Unexpected structure of energy spectrum



Source effect

• Break in source spectrum Stanev, Biermann and Gaisser (1993) Parizot (2004) Ptuskin, Zirakashvili and Seo (2013)

Transport effect

• Break in diffusion coefficient Tomassetti, ApJL 752 (2012) 13

Escape time: diffusion coefficient

 $N(E) = \tau_{\rm esc}(E) \ Q(E)$

Source



(P. Mertsch, DPG 2023)



Unexpected structure – check with secondaries



- Can be distinguished by secondaries Vladimirov et al. (2012)



(AMS, PRL 120 (2018) 021101)

×10³ Helium (GV)^{1.7}] • Carbon×30 □ Oxygen×28 m⁻²s⁻¹sr $Flux\times \widetilde{R}^{2.7}$ Lithium×200 • Beryllium×400 Boron×145 **10**² **2**×10² **10³** 2×10³ 30 **Rigidity R̃** [GV] ▲ Lithium △ **Helium** • Beryllium ♦ Carbon Oxygen Boron -2.5 Spectral Index γ -3 10² 2×10² 10³ 2×10³ 20 30 10 **Rigidity R[GV]**









Unexpected structure – check with secondaries



(AMS, PRL 120 (2018) 021101)









Electron and positron spectra



Backup slides



Neutral (secondary) particles as messengers



Two source classes

- Interaction in dense source regions with photon field or gas
- Interaction during propagation with photons of CMB and other backgrounds



and similar interactions of nuclei, as well as dissociation of nuclei







