#### REVIEWING RECENT RESULTS FROM THE PIERRE AUGER OBSERVATORY

José Augusto Chinellato for the Auger Collaboration – PASCOS 2012





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# THE UHE COSMIC-RAY PUZZLE: OPEN QUESTIONS...

- How cosmic rays are **accelerated** at  $E > 10^{19} eV$ ?
- What are the **sources**?
- How is the **propagation** along astronomical distances at such high energies?
- What can we learn about cosmic objects, large-scale structure of the universe and magnetic fields?
- Can we do particle astronomy?
- What can we learn about particle interactions at these otherwise inaccessible energies, which reach 450 TeV in the center-of-mass system?
- What is the mass composition of cosmic rays?

### the first detection ...

• Cosmic rays have been discovered in 1912 (100 years ago) by Victor Hess.

 The first cosmic ray with a macroscopic energy of 10<sup>20</sup> eV was reported in 1962 by John Linsley and Livio Scarsi in the Volcano Ranch array in New Mexico.

In 1991 the Fly's Eye cosmic ray research group in the USA reported a cosmic ray event with energy estimated as 3 x 10<sup>20</sup> eV (50 joule).

• In 1994 The AGASA group in Japan and the Yakutsk group in Russia each reported an event with an energy of 2 x 10<sup>20</sup> eV.

### The cosmic ray flux



- Almost 12 orders of magnitude in energy
- Almost 33 orders of magnitude in flux

#### ~ 3 – 5 10<sup>15</sup> eV: knee

limiting energy galactic CR accelerators; onset of diffusion losses from the galaxy
~ 10<sup>17</sup> eV : second knee
fading of heavy galactic CR component
~ 3 10<sup>18</sup> eV: ankle
onset of the extragalactic CR component;

energy losses of extragalactic protons by pair production

~ GZK cuttof around 6 x 10<sup>19</sup> eV interaction with the CMB

J. Cronin, T.K. Gaisser, and S.P. Swordy, Sci. Amer. 276, 44 (1997)

# THE ALL-PARTICLE SPECTRUM FROM DIRECT + AIR SHOWER MEASUREMENTS...



PDG: K. Nakamura et al., JPG 37, 075021 (2010) (http://pdg.lbl.gov)

The shaded area shows the range of the direct cosmic ray spectrum measurements.

### THE PIERRE AUGER OBSERVATORY

- It is the largest cosmic ray array ever built.
- Its main scientific goal is studying cosmic rays in the highest energy region( $10^{18} \text{ eV} \le E \le 10^{20} \text{ eV}$ ) in order to get clues about their origin, propagation, composition, energy spectrum, angular distribution and their interactions.
- It combines two complementary detection techniques (hybrid detection).
- Is taking data since 2004 and construction finished in 2008.

## WHAT DO WE MEASURE ?

At these high energies, cosmic rays are observed through the air showers they produce in the atmosphere....



### HYBRID DETECTION:



#### **Fluorescence Detector:**

- Almost calorimetric energy measurement
- Longitudinal development
- 10-15% duty cycle
- •Complex acceptance calculation Surface Detector Array:
- •100% duty cycle
- Simple geometrical acceptance
- •Extracting primary energy and mass is model dependent

### Combining both techniques allows: •cross calibration in energy •better angular resolution



### THE PIERRE AUGER OBSERVATORY

Surface array: 1660 stations displayed over 3000 km<sup>2</sup> on a grid of 1.5 km side.



### A SURFACE STATION (SD)



### A FLUORESCENCE TELESCOPE (FD)









aperture, corrector ring and filter

# ATMOSPHERIC MONITORING AND CALIBRATION





LIDAR in each fluorescence detector building Drum for uniform illumination of the camera used for calibration.

**Absolute Calibration** 

### ENHANCEMENTS...

### Goals:

- Enable observation of CRs of lower energies, extending measurements of the energy spectrum down to region of 2nd knee (10<sup>17</sup> eV).
- Measure additional properties of showers to get more information about the nature of the primary particles.
- Test new detection techniques (MHz & GHz).

### HEAT HIGH ELEVATION AUGER TELESCOPES







# AMIGA (AUGER MUON AND INFILL FOR THE GROUND ARRAY)



### AERA (AUGER ENGINEERING RADIO ARRAY)



Layout of AERA: Radio detector stations are put on triangular grids with grid constants of 175 m, 250 m and 375 m.

## FURTHER PROJECTS/ ADVANCES:

## Air-shower detection through molecular Bremsstrahlung emission in the microwave band









# Energy Spectrum <sup>19</sup>

### WHY COSMIC RAYS OF 10<sup>20</sup> EV MUST COME FROM "NEARBY" ?

$$\begin{array}{l} \circ \quad p + \gamma_{CMB} \rightarrow p + e^{-} + e^{+} \\ or \\ \circ \quad p + \gamma_{CMB} \rightarrow \Delta^{+} \rightarrow p + \pi^{0} \\ \circ \quad \rightarrow \Delta^{+} \rightarrow n + \pi^{+} \\ \circ \quad \rightarrow \Delta^{+} \rightarrow p + \pi^{0} + \pi^{0} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \int 0^{0} \int 0^{0}$$

In the proton referencial the energy of the photon is boosted from meV to  $E_v \approx 300$  MeV.

### THE GZK HORIZON\*:



Cosmic rays of 10<sup>20</sup> eV must come from "nearby"(≤200Mpc)

\* Prediction: Greisen and Zatsepin & Kuzmin in 1966.

### ENERGY SPECTRUM....

- What do we need to know in order to measure the cosmic ray spectrum and the flux??
- How many particles above a certain energy and area, time, solid angle spanned by the detector...

### ENERGY ESTIMATOR: SIGNAL @ 1000 M FROM THE CORE



### Energy estimator: S(1000)

- Relate **S(1000) to S<sub>38</sub>** to correct for attenuation
- Relate S<sub>38</sub> to E<sub>FD</sub> using hybrid events with SD & FD data

### AN EXAMPLE OF AN FD OBSERVATION



Longitudinal profile: energy deposit in the atmosphere as a function of slant depth

### COMBINING SD X FD...



Correlation between S38 and E for the 839 selected hybrid events used in the fit. The most energetic event has an energy of about 75 EeV.

### SD energy calibration

Energy calibration with events recorded by both FD and SD

• High quality events ( + fiducial field of view for vertical events)



I. Maris for Pierre Auger Collab, UHECR Symposium 2012, CERN

### The different exposures



Exposures @ 10 EeV : SD vertical 20905 km<sup>2</sup> sr year Hybrid 885 km<sup>2</sup> sr year SD inclined 5600 km<sup>2</sup> sr year SD infill 26 km<sup>2</sup> sr year

. Maris for Pierre Auger Collab, UHECR Symposium2012, CERN

### The energy spectrum



### The combined energy spectrum



Spectra in very good agreement : better than 1.5%

### Fitting the spectrum...



### Fitting the spectrum...



Pierre Auger Collab ICRC 2011

### Fitting the spectrum...



32

### **ENERGY SPECTRUM SUMMARY:**

- Four ways to measure of the cosmic ray flux with the Pierre Auger Observatory having in common only the energy scale;
- Spectra in good agreement in the entire energy range above 1 EeV up to 100 EeV;
- The dominant systematic uncertainty stems from that of the overall energy scale, which is estimated to be 22%;
- Ankle observed @  $4.1 \times 10^{18} \text{ eV}$ ;
- Flux suppression observed @ 4.3 x 10<sup>19</sup> eV;
- Significance of the suppression larger than  $20 \sigma$ ;
- Suppression similar to that expected for GZK effect, although it could also be due to a changing injection spectrum.

### ENERGY SPECTRUM OUTLOOK...

Continue maintenance and data taking above 50
 EeV (≈ 4 years of full array).

- Extend the energy range down to 10<sup>17</sup> eV with the data from the 750 m infill and with HEAT and possible extension with the 350 m infill;
- Reduce the systematic uncertainties on the energy improving reconstruction and reducing the uncertainty in the fluorescence yield.







## **Mass Composition**

(35)

# MEASUREMENT OF THE DEPTH OF MAXIMUM OF AIR SHOWERS

- Mass composition cannot be measured directly and is inferred from observations of the longitudinal development of extensive air showers;
- The atmospheric depth at which the longitudinal development of na EAS reaches its maximum,  $X_{max}$ , is correlated with the incident cosmic ray which induced the shower;
- The change of  $\langle X_{max} \rangle$  per decade of energy (*elongation rate*) and the shower-to-shower fluctuations *RMS* ( $X_{max}$ ) are sensitive to changes in composition with energy.

36
# MEASUREMENT OF THE DEPTH OF MAXIMUM OF EAS

- $X_{max}$  is measured from the longitudinal development of air shower in the FD
- 6744 hybrid events above 10<sup>18</sup> eV after the quality cuts recorded between Dec 2004 and Sep 2010;
- Full longitudinal development in field of view of the FD.

# $\langle X_{MAX} \rangle$ AND $RMS(X_{MAX})$ AS A FUNCTION OF ENERGY:



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#### **RESULTS:**

**IF** the first principles of hadronic interactions do not change significantly within the observed energy range and **IF** the models provide a realistic description of these interactions at UHE, then:

- the change in the elongation rate would imply in the energy dependence of the composition around the ankle and support the hypothesis of transition from galactic to extragalactic origin;
- the comparison of data and simulations leads to a gradual increase of the average mass up to ~ 40 EeV;
- the decreasing fluctuations are an independent signature of an increasing average mass of the primary particles;

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### OTHER QUANTITIES USED FOR COMPOSITION MEASUREMENTS



Complementary information derived (1) from asymmetry properties of particle signals in the surface detector stations and (2) from the depth profile of muon production points, also "seen" from the surface detector data: same indications.

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#### The Pierre Auger Observatory and particle physics

If the cosmic ray is a proton and it collides with a nucleon at rest...

Energy of the primary	Equivalent $\sqrt{S}$
2.5 x 10 <sup>16</sup> eV	7 TeV *
10 <sup>17</sup> eV	14 TeV
2.5 x 10 <sup>18</sup> eV	70 TeV
10 <sup>19</sup> eV	140 TeV

# THE AUGER OBSERVATORY AND PARTICLE PHYSICS:

• A cosmic-ray particle with 10<sup>19</sup> eV impinging on a nucleus of the atmosphere corresponds to a total energy in the cms of

## $\sqrt{s} \approx 140 \text{ TeV}$

- Therefore we are observing particles being produced in the very forward region in hadronic collisions at these energies!
- If we only knew the composition of the incident particle!

# NEVERTHELESS: P-AIR CROSS SECTION @ 57±6 TEV



Inner error bars statistical only, outer include all systematic uncertainties for a helium fraction of 25%.

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### MULTIPLICITIES ?

- The cross section p-Air is ok, good agreement with both qgsjet and epos models.
- Muon multiplicities instead, as observed by ground detectors, are above the predicted values (models) by a factor of 2.
- Impact on hadronic interaction models ? Let's see !

### AND STILL TO COME...







# Anisotropy Studies<sup>46</sup>

### A direct conclusion:

If the suppression of the cosmic ray spectrum at  $4 \times 10^{19}$  eV is due to GZK effect, the cosmic rays with higher energies should be coming from sources nearby!

### In this case....

- Above 6×10<sup>19</sup> eV, 50% of the protons should come from less than about 100 Mpc, while 20% should come from less than 200 Mpc.
- The arrival directions of the highest energy cosmic rays should correlate with the distribution of visible matter nearby, since it is very inhomogeneus.
- The angular resolution of the Auger Observatory above 1×10<sup>19</sup> eV is less than 1°, while the deflection of protons or nuclei in the ~ µG magnetic field of our galaxy, at those energies is expected to be ~Z (10<sup>19</sup>eV/E)

### Anisotropy studies :

Large scale anisotropy (e.g. a dipolar distribution)

- certain classes of sources associated with large scale structures as the galactic center/plane/halo
- if detected, would help to establish the energy at which the extragalactic component takes over.

Small scale anisotropy(e.g. sources localized in small angular regions

association of UHECRs with individual sources

# SEARCH FOR 1ST HARMONIC MODULATION IN RIGHT ASCENSION



Auger Collab., Astropart. Phys. 34 (2011) 627

# SEARCH FOR 1ST HARMONIC MODULATION IN RIGHT ASCENSION



Expected to be randomly distributed in case of independent samples whose parent distribution is **isotropic**.

# The Auger highest-energy sky map in galactic coordinates..



Pierre Auger Collab. 2007, Science, 318, 939 Pierre Auger Collab.2008, Astropart.Phys, 29, 188

### Does this map show evidence of anisotropy?

- No a priori hypothesis on the characteristics of correlation, thus exploratory scan on: angular distance (resolution and magnetic fields), AGN redshift (GZK cutoff), energy (magnetic field)
- The search: using data between 01Jan 2004 and 26 May 2006
- Correlation of E>E<sub>min</sub> events with Véron-Cetty catalog of z < z<sub>max</sub> within ψ degrees. Optimize (E<sub>min</sub>, z<sub>max</sub>, ψ) to maximize deviation from isotropy.
- The prescription: FIX test parameters: (period I: 8/14)  $E_{min} = 56 \text{ EeV}, z_{max} = 0.018, \psi = 3.1^{\circ}$
- accumulate new data. Terminate test when prob. of isotropy to have yielded new data < 1%. (99% C.L.)</li>

### The confirmation.....

- Data collected between 27 May 2006 and 31 August 2007
- it only required 8 new events to fulfill prescription
- From 8 new events 6 correlate, probability to get from isotropy <1%</p>
- Period II (8/13)  $P = 1.7 \times 10^{-3}$

Null hypothesis (Isotropy of UHECR) rejected at 99% CL Very large correlation (~70%) with extragalactic objects (traced by AGN).

#### UPDATE ON THE CORRELATION OF THE HIGHEST ENERGY COSMIC RAYS WITH NEARBY EXTRAGALACTIC MATTER



Auger Collab. Astropart. Phys. 34 (2010) 314

#### **DEGREE OF CORRELATION TIME-ORDERED**



Stabilizing around ~40% Auger Collab. Astropart. Phys. 34 (2010) 314

# CEN A REGION: OVERDENSITY WITH LARGEST SIGNIFICANCE



Overdensity is given by 13 arrival directions within 18° (3.2 expected from isotropy)

### AND SOMETHING IS MISSING HERE ....

• In contrast to Cen A and Centaurus cluster, there is a deficit of events from the region around the radiogalaxy M87 and the Virgo cluster !

Pierre Auger Collab., Astroparticle Physics 34 (2010) 314–326

### THE SEARCH FOR MULTIPLETS:



Observed multiplets with 10 or more events in galactic coordinates.

No statistically significant evidence for the presence of multiplets arising from magnetic deflections in the present data.

Pierre Auger Collab., Astrop. Phys. 35 (2012) 354)







## Limits on the diffuse flux of UHE Neutrinos



#### SEARCHING FOR NEUTRINOS WITH THE AUGER OBSERVATORY

- Neutrinos can be produced by basically all cosmic hadron accelerators and travel undisturbed over long distances due to their extremely small cross-sections.
- Neutrinos are expected from the decay of charged pions, produced either in CR interactions within their sources or in the CR propagation through the background radiation;
- **Top-down models** proposed to explain the production of UHECR also predict neutrinos;
- Down-going neutrinos of all flavors may interact in the atmosphere through CC and NC-interactions and induce showers that can be detected using the Auger SD
- The Auger Observatory is sensitive to neutrinos of E
  > 1 EeV.

Auger Collab., PRL **100,** 211101 (2008); Auger Collab., Phys. Rev.D 79, 102001 (2009), Auger Collab., Proc.31<sup>st</sup> ICRC2009

### **DETECTION OF NEUTRINOS**

#### SD detectors may observe:

- **Down-going** neutrinos of all flavors may interact **deep** in the atmosphere through CC and NC-interactions and induce **showers close to the ground** that can be detected using the Auger SD.
- Tau neutrinos propagating through Earth may suffer CC interaction followed by decay in flight of the tau lepton. Such Earth-skimming tau neutrinos can be observed through the detection of **up-going** showers induced by the decay products of the emerging tau lepton.
- The Auger Observatory is sensitive to neutrinos of energy above 1 EeV;

### DETECTION OF NEUTRINOS IN AUGER SD:



Electrons & Photons

Muons

### $\textbf{Down-going} \ \nu$

Inclined hadron-induced shower: EM particles absorbed only muons reach the detectors

Signature of quasi-horizontal neutrino-induced showers:

- deep inclined young showers, developing near the SD
- exhibiting shower fronts extended in time
- Elongated footprint
- Apparent velocity ~ c
- Early tanks, large ToT (EM)
- Late tanks, small ToT (μ)

63

Interaction point

### EARTH-SKIMMING NEUTRINO SHOWERS



### **RESULTS:**

- No neutrino candidates were found and an upper limit on the UHE diffuse flux of ultra-high energy neutrinos has been placed.
- Limits on diffuse neutrino flux from down-going neutrinos of all flavours with data in period 1 Nov 2007 to 28 Feb 2009;
- Limits from Earth-skimming (up-going) tau neutrinos with data in period 1 Jan 2004 to 28 Feb 2009.

### LIMITS ON THE NEUTRINO FLUX:



Pierre Auger Collab. ICRC 2011 Pierre Auger Collab., Phys. Rev. D 84, 122005 (2011)







## Limit on photon ratio

### LIMITS ON THE PHOTON RATIO

 Direct observations of the longitudinal development of UHE showers resulted in limits at energies 2, 3, 5 and 10 EeV:

2 EeV	3 EeV	5 EeV	10 EeV
3.8 %	2.4 %	3.5 %	11.7 %

Auger Collaboration, Astropart. Phys. 31 (2009) 399 Auger Collaboration, Astropart. Phys. 29 (2008) 243 Auger Collaboration, Astropart. Phys. 27 (2007) 155

### **RECENT LIMITS ON THE PHOTON RATIO**

# The recent limits derived on the photon fraction are

1 EeV	2 EeV	3 EeV	5 EeV	10 EeV
0.4 %	0.5 %	1.0 %	2.6 %	8.9 %

significantly improving previous results at the lower energies.

Auger Collaboration, ICRC 2011

### LIMIT ON THE PHOTON FRACTION



Upper limits on the photon fraction in the integral cosmic-ray flux.

Auger Collaboration, Astropart. Phys. 31 (2009) 399 Auger Collaboration, Astropart. Phys. 29 (2008) 243

#### **RECENTLY: LIMIT ON THE PHOTON FLUX...**



Upper limits on the photon flux above 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10 EeV derived in this work (red arrows) compared to previous limits from Auger (SD and Hybrid 2009, from AGASA (A) and Yakutsk (Y)

Pierre Auger Collab. ICRC 2011

### CONCLUSIONS:

• The Pierre Auger Observatory is operating

• Features in the energy spectrum: position of the 'ankle' @ 4 x 10<sup>18</sup> eV and suppression above 4 x 10<sup>19</sup> eV confirming GZK;

• Correlation of UHE cosmic rays with distribution of nearby extragalactic matter and limits of the dipole at the 1% C.L.;

• Anisotropy onset at 75 Mpc consistent with GZK effect;

• If the models correctly describe hadronic interactions at 10<sup>18</sup> eV and above, a tendency to heavier composition with energy;

• Limits on the photon ratio and on diffuse neutrino flux set; exotic models are disfavoured so far;

• Prospects: more statistics coming over Auger lifetime.


# see what is coming !







# Thank you for your attention!





Backup Slides

# COSMIC RAY FLUX

• Exposure estimate:

$$\mathcal{E}(E) = \int_{T} \int_{\Omega} \int_{S_{\text{gen}}} \varepsilon(E, t, \theta, \phi, x, y) \cos \theta \, \mathrm{d}S \, \mathrm{d}\Omega \, \mathrm{d}t,$$

• Flux estimate:

$$J(E) = \frac{\mathrm{d}^4 N_{\mathrm{inc}}}{\mathrm{d}E \,\mathrm{d}A \,\mathrm{d}\Omega \,\mathrm{d}t} \cong \frac{\Delta N_{\mathrm{sel}}(E)}{\Delta E} \frac{1}{\mathcal{E}(E)},$$

#### LET US 'SEE' A SHOWER DEVELOPING...



#### SPECTRUM: EVENT SELECTION CRITERIA

- Showers must have a reconstructed zenith angle smaller than 60°.
- In the plane perpendicular to the shower axis, the reconstructed shower core must be within 1500 m of the station used for the geometrical reconstruction.
- The contribution of Cherenkov light to the overall signal of the FD must be less than 50%.
- The Gaisser–Hillas fit [19,20] of the reconstructed longitudinal profile must be successful with  $\chi 2/ndof < 2.5$ .
- The maximum of the shower development, *X*max, must be observed

in the field of view of the telescopes.

- The uncertainty in the reconstructed energy, which includes light flux and geometrical uncertainties, must be  $\sigma(E)/E < 20\%$ .
- Only periods during which no clouds were detected above the Observatory are used.

#### FIRST LIMITS ON THE NEUTRINO FLUXES



Limits at 90% CL for each flavor of diffuse UHE neutrino fluxes assuming a proportion of flavors of 1:1:1 due to neutrino oscillations.

Auger Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 79, 102001 (2009)

79

# HOW IT IS POSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH NEUTRINO SHOWERS?



Inclined shower induced by a hadron interacting high in the atmosphere: EM particles absorbed and only muons reach the detector



Deep inclined shower induced by a neutrino interacting deep in the atmosphere: early region has a significant EM component, late region only muons

#### LIMIT ON THE PHOTON RATIO

#### **Previous results:**

• Upper limit on the photon fraction of 16% above 10 EeV from  $X_{max}$  observed by the FD in hybrid mode (2007);

• Limit of 2% with events from the SD of energy above 10 EeV (2008);

• Direct observations of the rolation, Astropart. Phys. 31 (2009) 399 Auger Collaboration, Astropart. Phys. 29 (2008) 243 development of UHE showinger Collaboration, Astropart. Phys. 27 (2007) 155

# A FLUORESCENCE TELESCOPE (FD)



# "QUADROCULAR" EVENT









Auger Collab. Proc.31st ICRC2009

#### ENERGY FROM THE FD





#### HYBRID GEOMETRICAL RECONSTRUCTION



elevation [deg]

First steps to excellent measurement of energy and composition

The detection of a large scale anisotropy in the energy range [0.1-10] EeV would be hailed as an important milestone, as it would constitute an important step forward to provide further understanding on the end of Galactic cosmic rays, and would help to establish at which energy the flux of extragalactic cosmic rays starts to dominate the cosmic ray energy spectrum.

#### CORRELATION OF THE HIGHEST ENERGY COSMIC RAYS WITH NEARBY EXTRAGALACTIC MATTER

- Previously data collected between 1Jan 2004 and 31 Aug 2007 showed evidence for anisotropy in the arrival directions of cosmic rays above the Greisen–Zatsepin–Kuz'min energy threshold, 6 x10<sup>19</sup> eV.
- The anisotropy was measured by the fraction of arrival directions that are less than 3.1° from the position of an AGN within 75 Mpc (using the Véron-Cetty and Véron 12th catalog).
- Updata: same parameters, data through 31 Dec 2009 (15980 km<sup>2</sup> sr y).
- The number of arrival directions has increased from 27 to 69, allowing a more precise measurement.
- The correlating fraction is 38+7/-6%, (21% expected for isotropic cosmic rays).
- Previously: 99% confidence that the flux of cosmic rays is not isotropic. The P-value of 0.003 reported here does not increase confidence in anisotropy beyond what was reported.

Auger Collab. Astropart. Phys. 34 (2010) 314

# **COMPARISONS WITH OTHER CATALOGS**

Other populations of nearby extragalactic objects:

- galaxies in the Two Micron All-Sky Survey (2MASS Redshift Survey 2MRS) and
- AGNs detected in hard X-rays by the Swift Burst Alert Telescope.
- Composition from anisotropy: anisotropies due to heavy primaries for *E* > *E*<sub>th</sub> should be also present at energies

 $E > E_{th}$  /Z for protons accelerated in the same source. Auger Collab. Astropart. Phys. 34 (2010) 314

#### CROSS-CORRELATIONS CR AND 2MRS/SWIFT BAT OBJECTS



Auger Collab. Astropart. Phys. 34 (2010) 314

Bottom line: period I excluded

# COMPARISON WITH OBJECTS FROM OTHER CATALOGS



91 Bottom line: period I excluded

#### Auger Collab. Astropart. Phys. 34 (2010) 314

# LIMITS ON THE NEUTRINO FLUXES



Auger Collab. Proc.31<sup>st</sup> ICRC2009