Sources of ultra-high-energy cosmic rays and how to infer them from data

Teresa Bister Erice, July 2024

Radboud University



observatories measure:

- energy

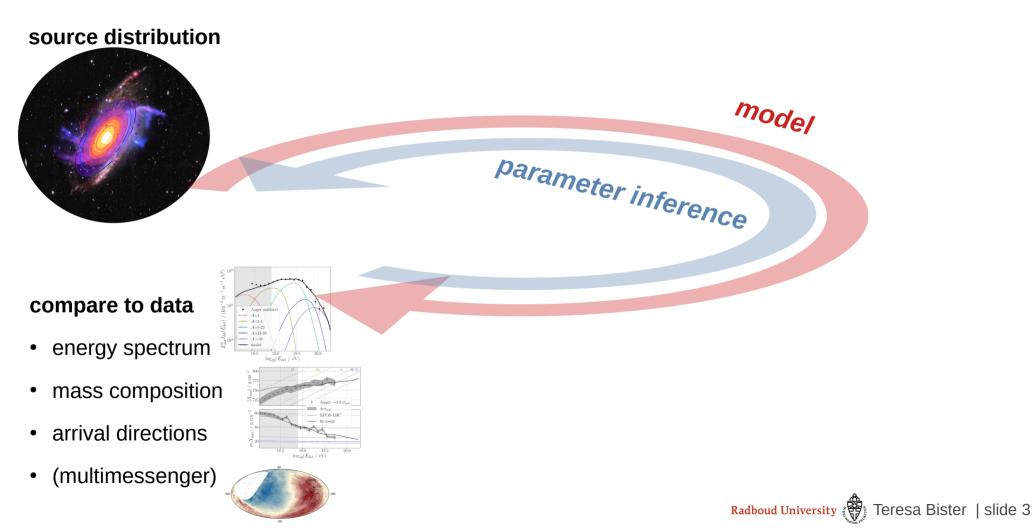
Protons

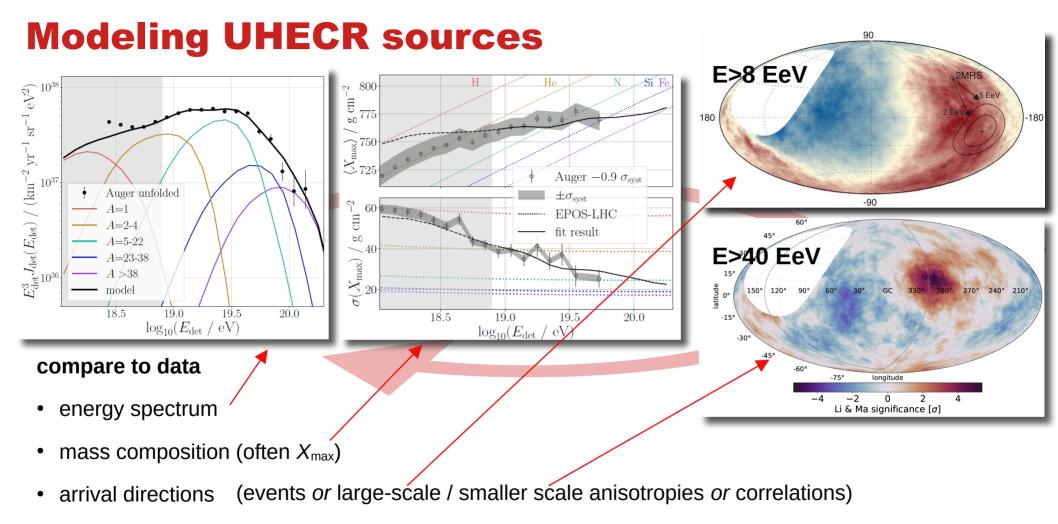
Neutrals U, 7

- arrival direction
- shower depth
- \rightarrow source?



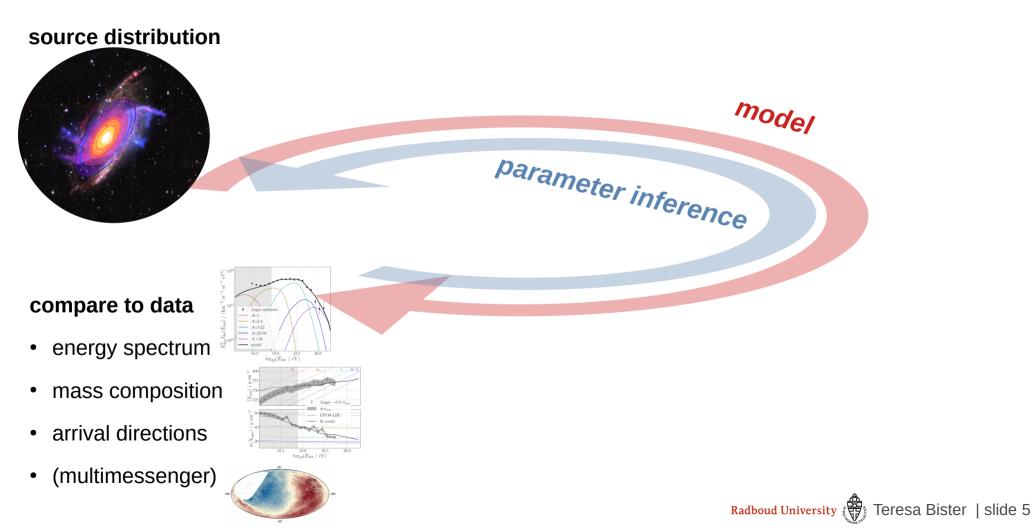
Modeling UHECRs from sources to detection



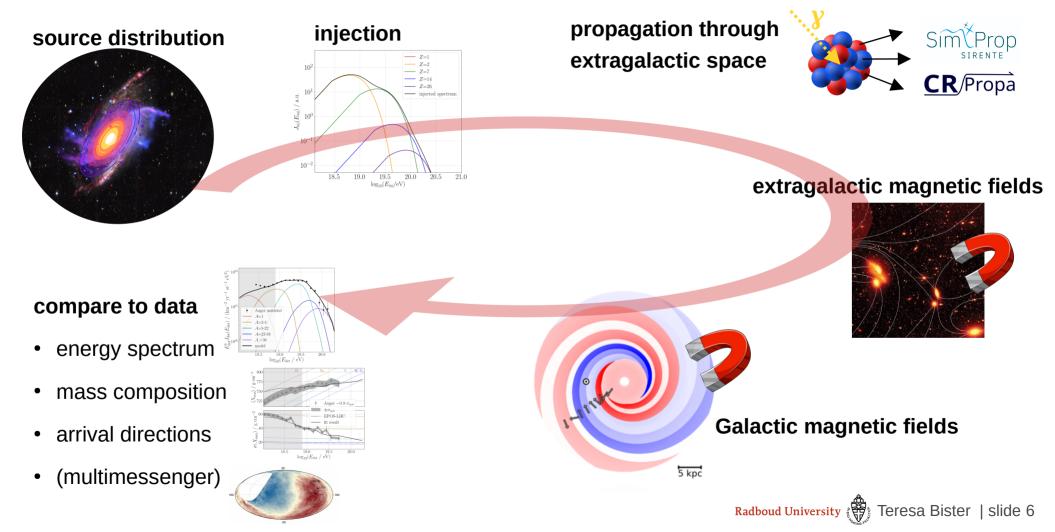


• (multimessenger)

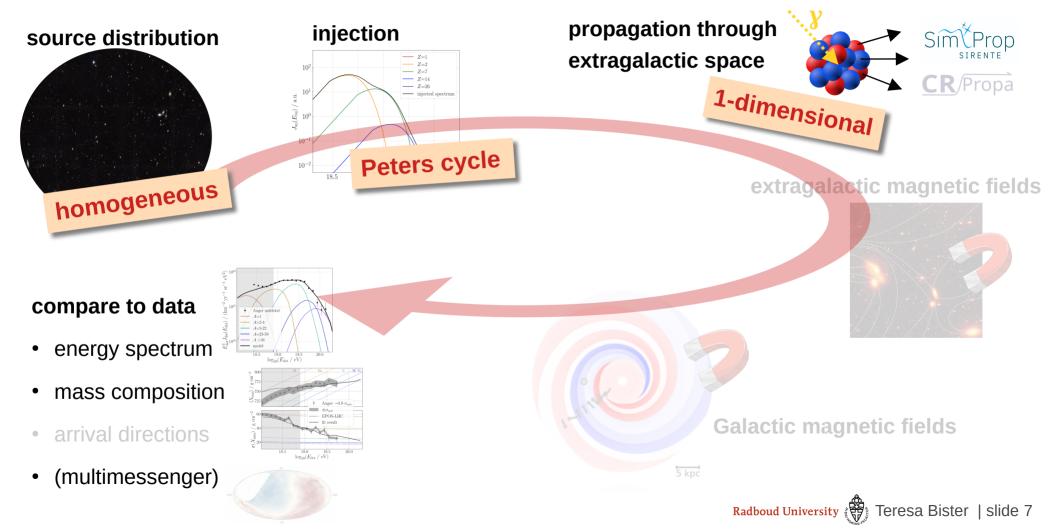
Modeling UHECRs from sources to detection



Modeling UHECRs from sources to detection



Combined fit of spectrum and composition



 \rightarrow low rigidity cutoff O(1 EeV)

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Combined fit of spectrum and composition

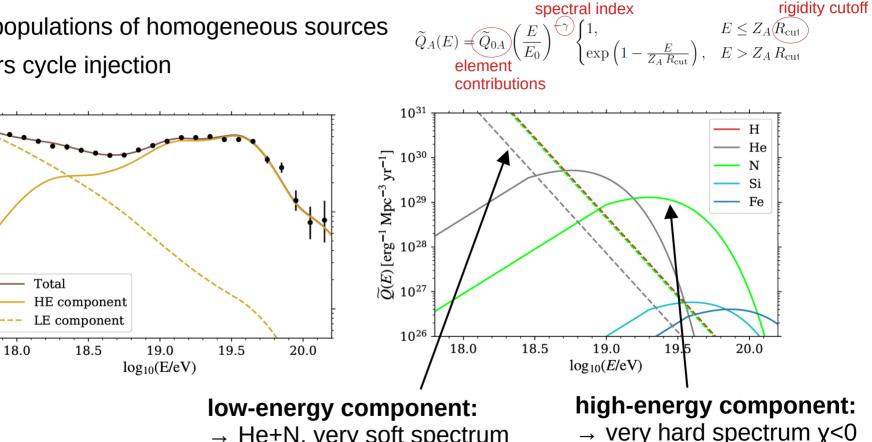
- two populations of homogeneous sources
- Peters cycle injection

10³⁸

10³⁷ -

10³⁶ .

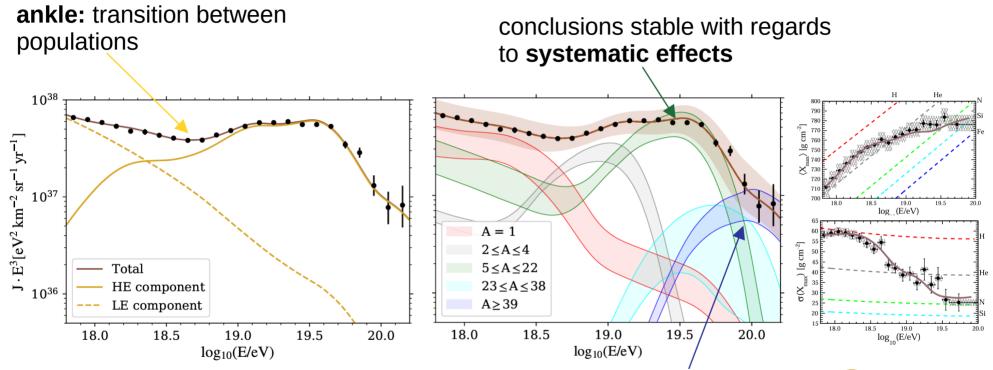
 $J \cdot E^3 [eV^2 \text{ km}^{-2} \text{ sr}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}]$



- → He+N, very soft spectrum
- \rightarrow rigidity cutoff unconstrained

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Combined fit of spectrum and composition

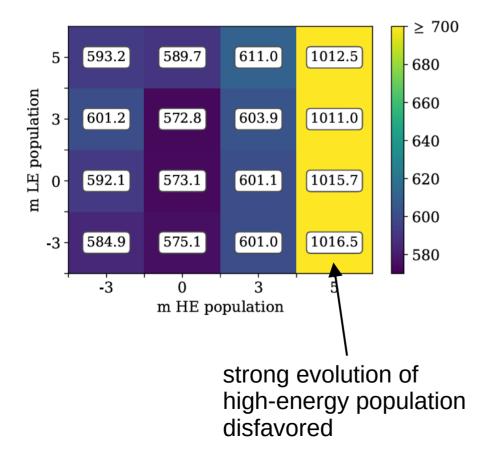


composition becomes heavier \rightarrow no light elements at highest energies \approx

 but, maybe secondaries from in-source interactions or another population, see e.g. Unger, Farrar, Anchordoqui PRD 92 123001 (2015), Muzio, Unger, Farrar PRD 100 103008 (2019) Ehlert, van Vliet, Oikonomou, Winter JCAP 02 022 (2024) ...

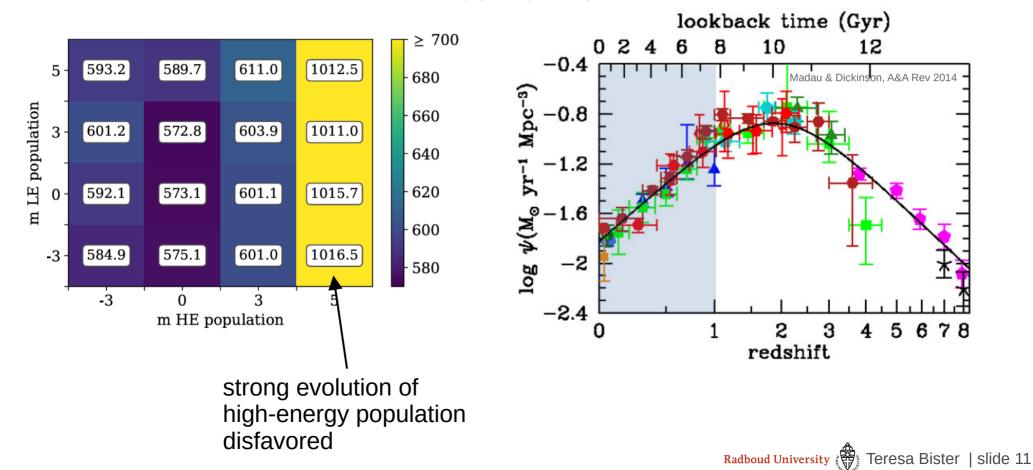
Combined fit of spectrum and composition

test cosmological source evolution $\psi(z) \propto (1+z)^m$



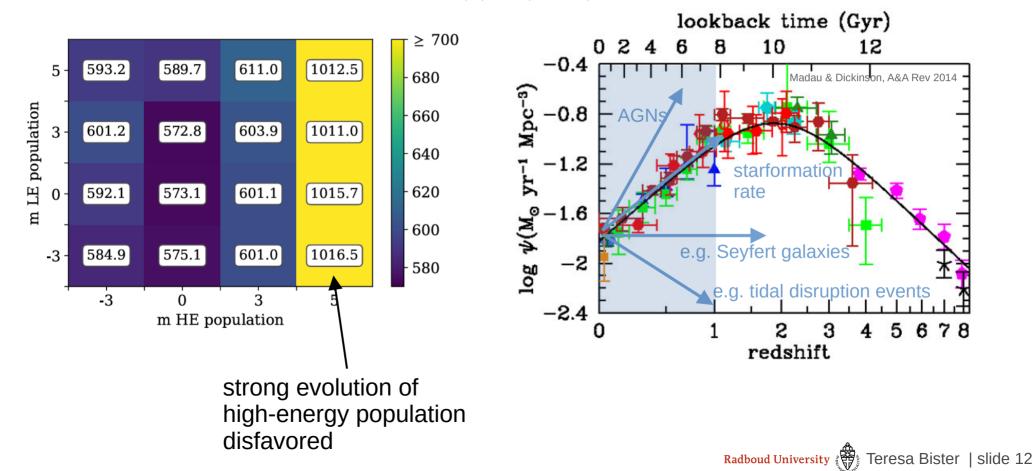
Combined fit of spectrum and composition

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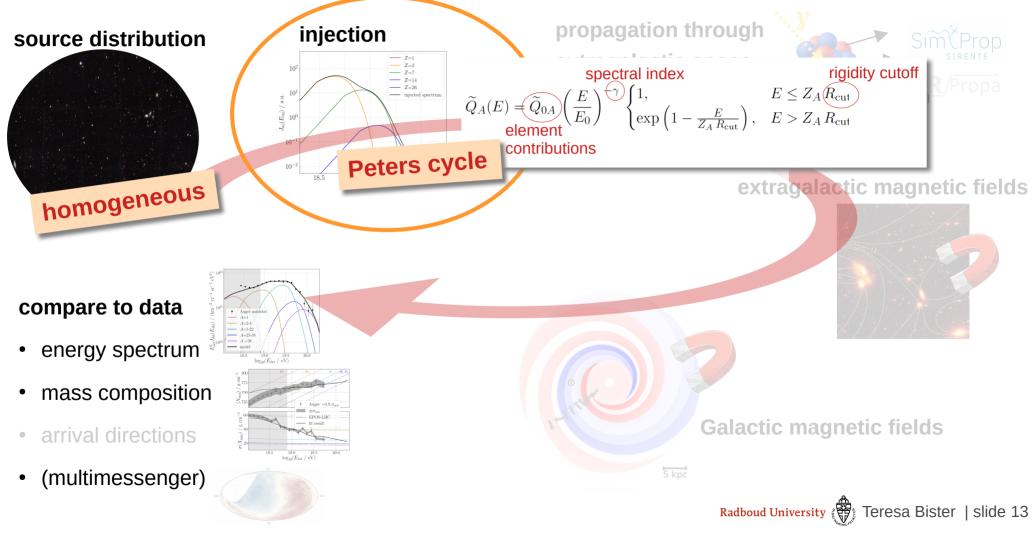


Combined fit of spectrum and composition

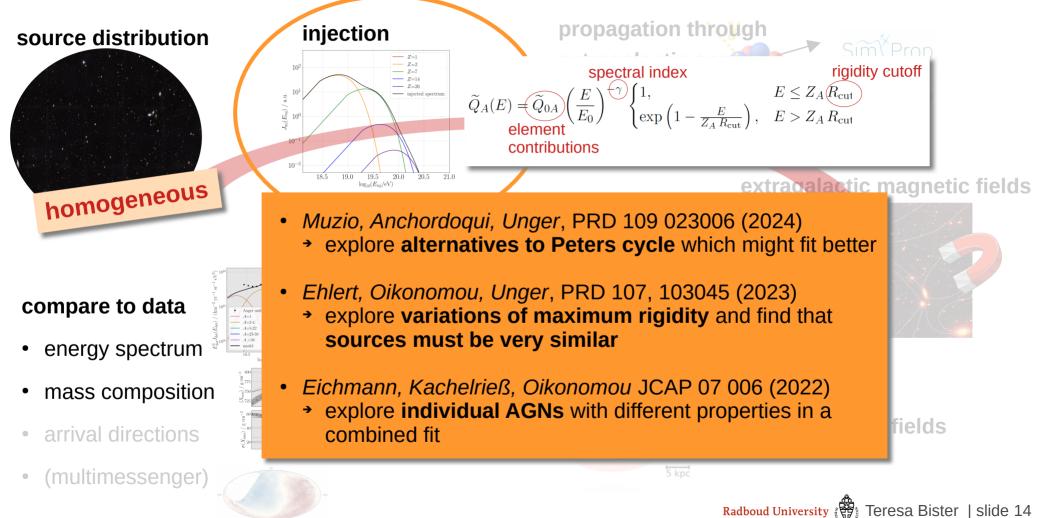
test cosmological source evolution $\psi(z) \propto (1+z)^m$



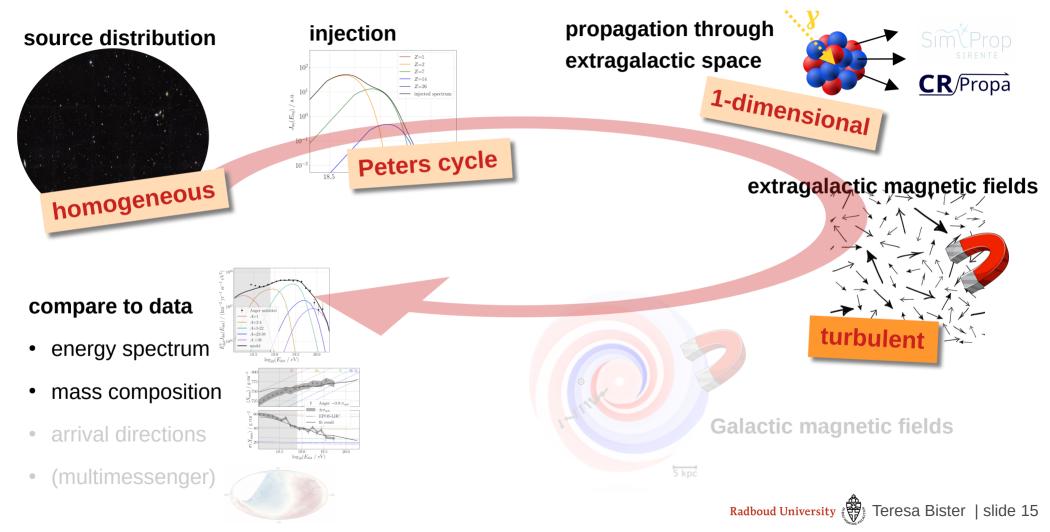
Variations of the injection at the source



Variations of the injection at the source

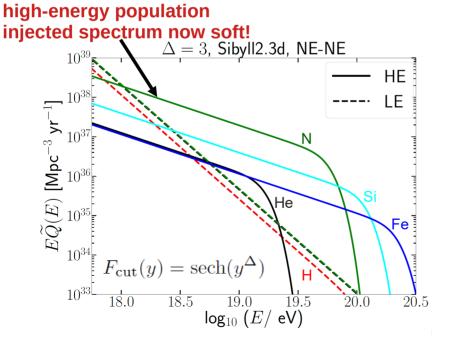


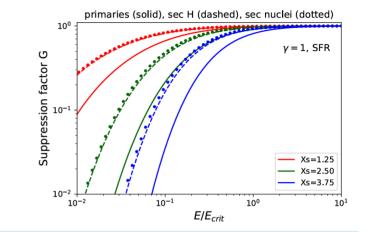
Combined fit including EGMF



Combined fit including EGMF

- extragalactic magnetic field can suppress lower energy particles (diffusion)
- include suppression factor G
 - +2 parameters (critical energy + norm. source density)

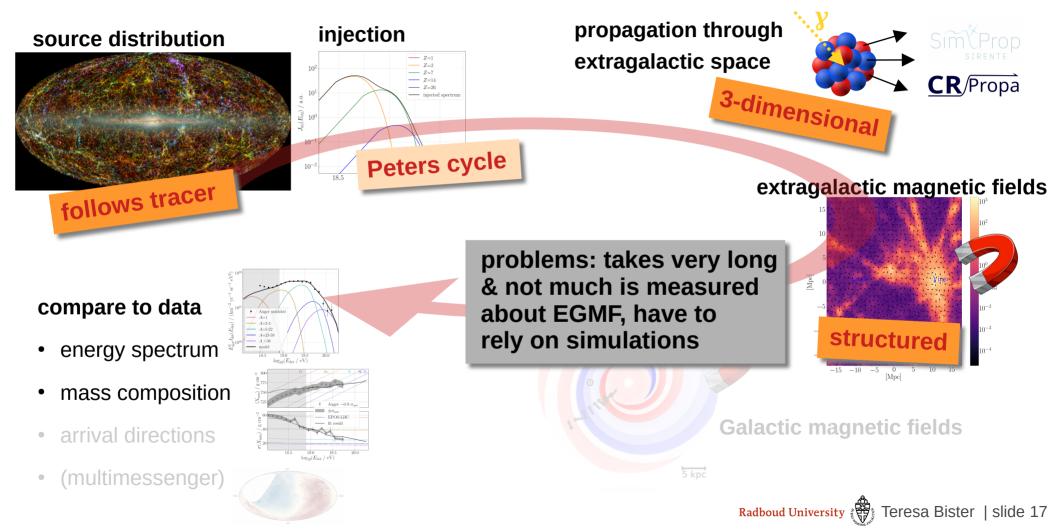




EGMF can have strong effect on injection, but only for:

- steep injection cutoff
- & source densities < 10⁻³ Mpc⁻³
- & very strong field strengths B~10-200 nG between nearest sources & Earth
- → then: can reach γ=2

Combined fit including structured EGMF (to spectrum and composition)



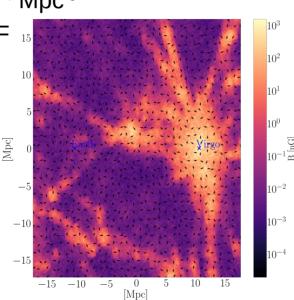
Combined fit including structured EGMF (to spectrum and composition)

D. Wittkowski for the Pierre Auger Collaboration PoS ICRC 2017 563 (preliminary)

 sources follow 2MRs catalog of all galaxies with density ~10⁻⁴ Mpc⁻³

structured EGMF (Dolag model)

Dolag, Grasso, Springel, Tkachev JCAP 01 009 (2005)

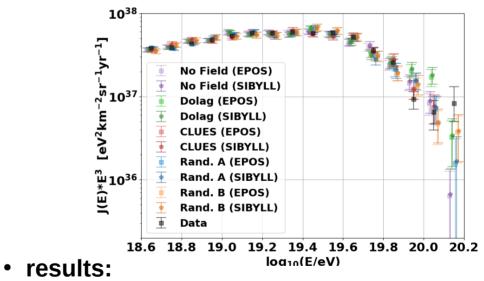


• results:

- → injection parameters sensitive to EGMF
- → softer injection with EGMF

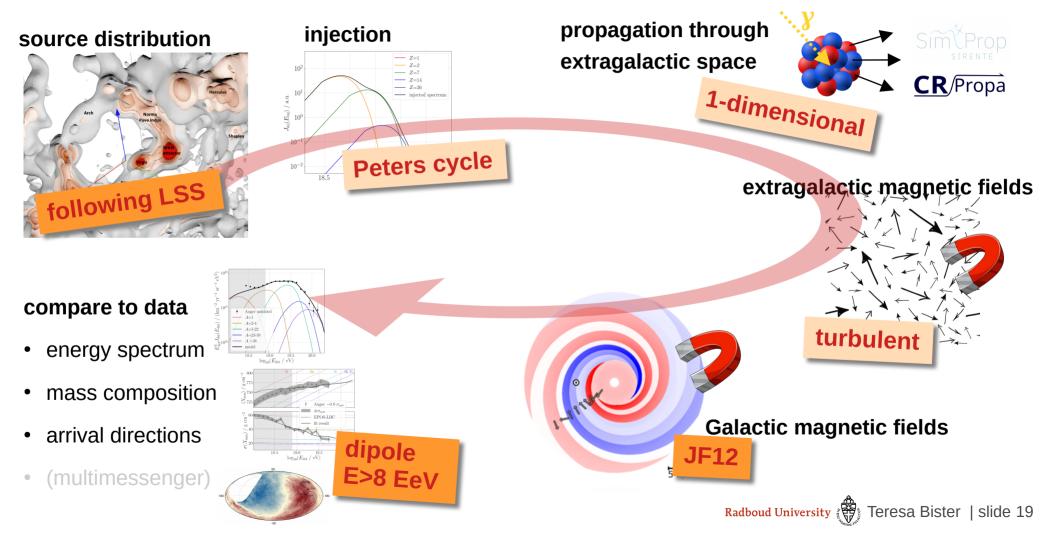
Lundquist, Merten et al, arXiv:2407.06961

 sources roughly homogeneous (FR0 galaxies with density ~10⁻³ Mpc⁻³)

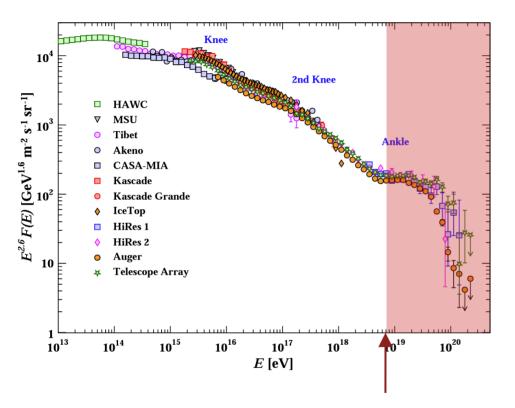


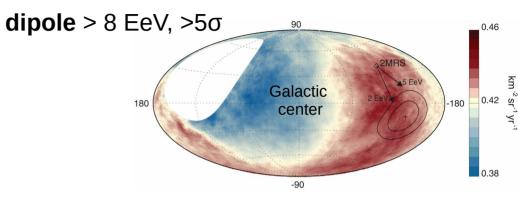
 can describe spectrum & composition with any EGMF model

Include arrival directions: large-scale



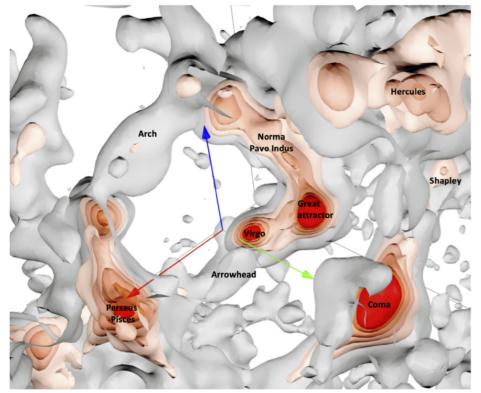
Arrival directions E>8 EeV



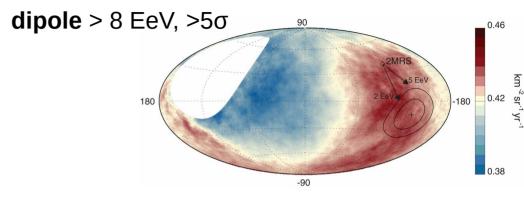


- amplitude \sim 7%, rising with the energy
 - no significant quadrupole or higher moments
- phase shifts from Galactic center to anticenter
 - → sources extragalactic!

UHECR flux from Large Scale Structure



extragalactic matter density



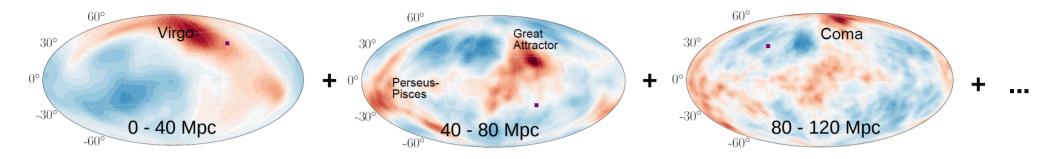
dipole can be explained by extragalactic sources following the **large-scale structure of the universe**

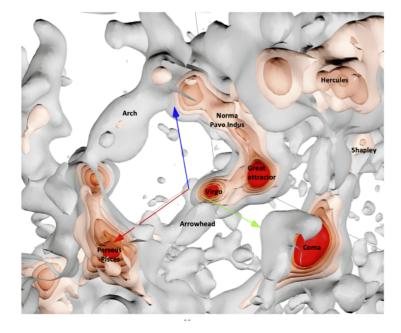
+ deflection by Galactic magnetic field

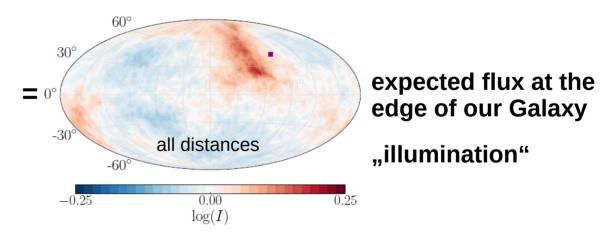
e.g. Ding, Globus, Farrar ApJL 913 L13 (2021) Globus, Piran, Hoffman, Carlesi, Pomarede MNRAS 484 (2019) Allard, Aublin, Baret, Parizot A&A 664 A120 (2022)



UHECR flux from Large Scale Structure





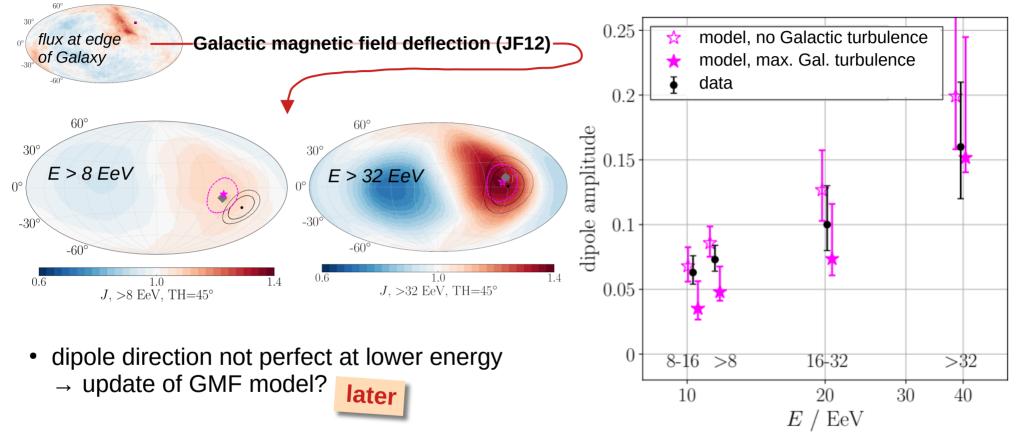


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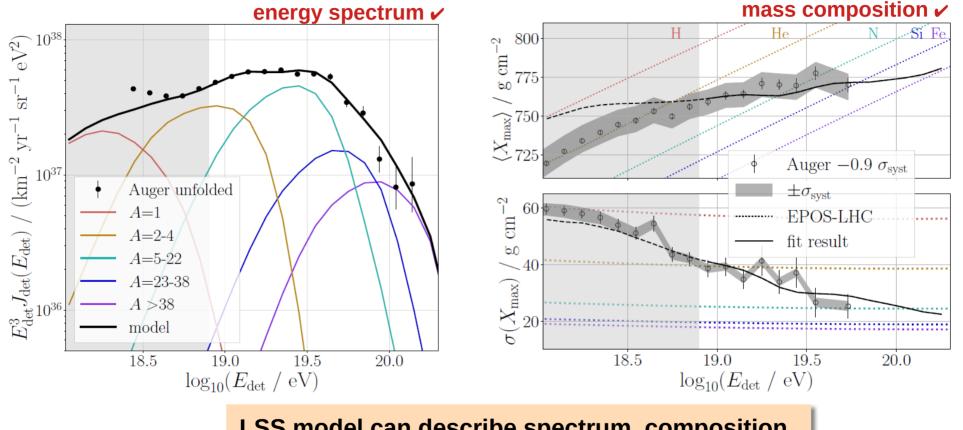
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Measurements at Earth (after Galactic magnetic field)



• dipole amplitude + energy evolution \checkmark

Measurements at Earth (after Galactic magnetic field)

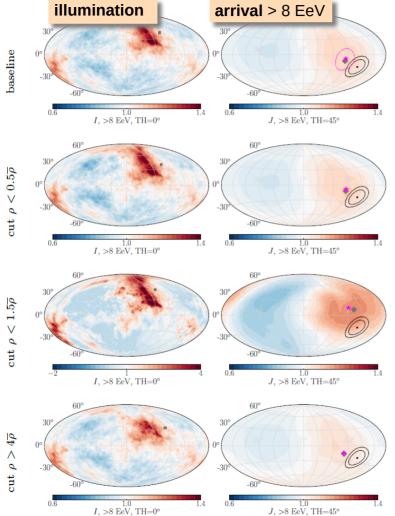


LSS model can describe spectrum, composition and arrival directions. What else can we learn...?

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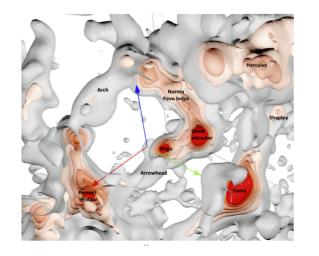
Bister & Farrar, ApJ 966 71 2024

Bias between matter density and UHECR sources



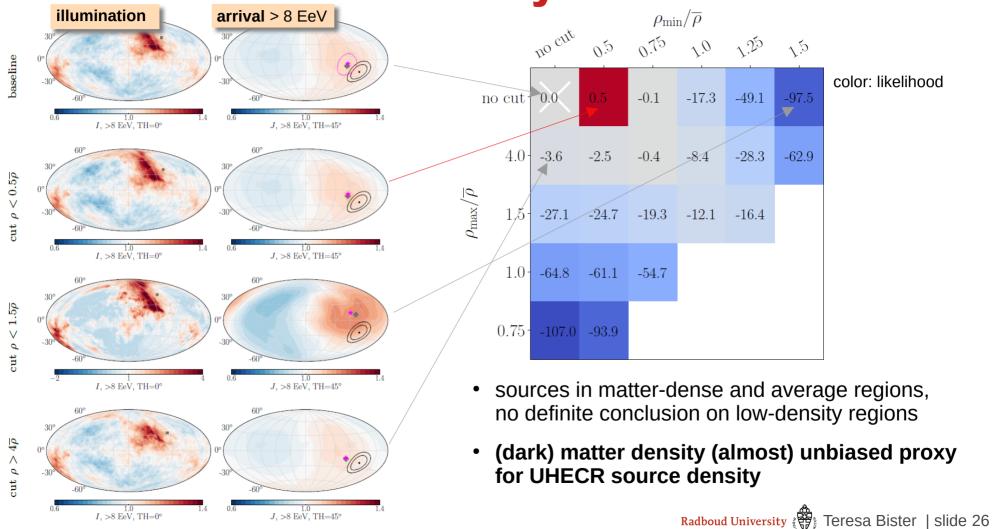
Is there a bias between the UHECR source distribution and the (dark) matter distribution / LSS?

 \rightarrow simple test: cut away densest / least dense regions of LSS

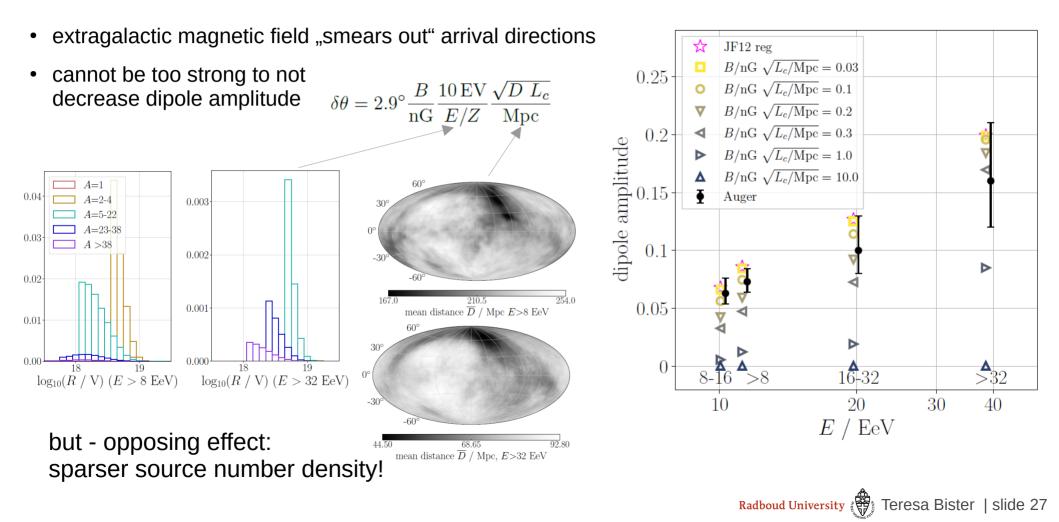




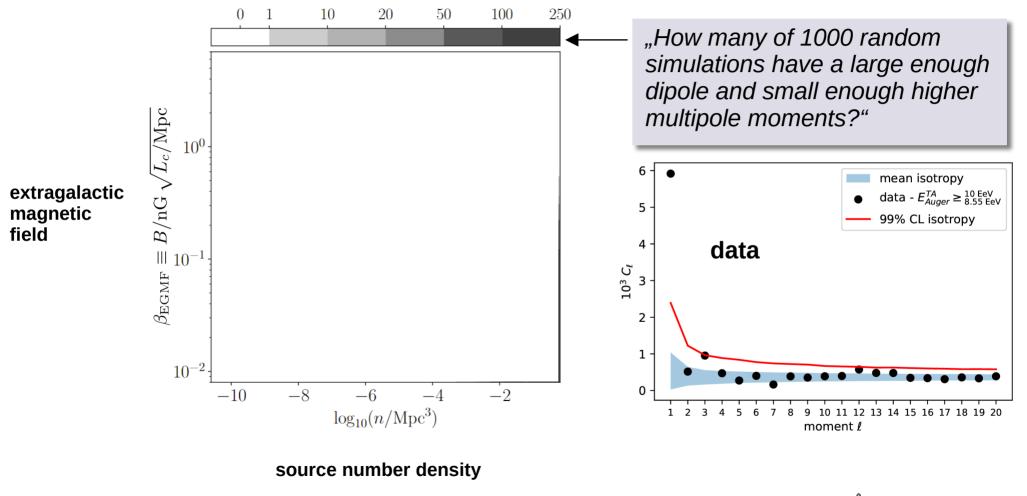
Bister & Farrar, ApJ 966 71 2024 Bias between matter density and UHECR sources



Extragalactic magnetic field effect?

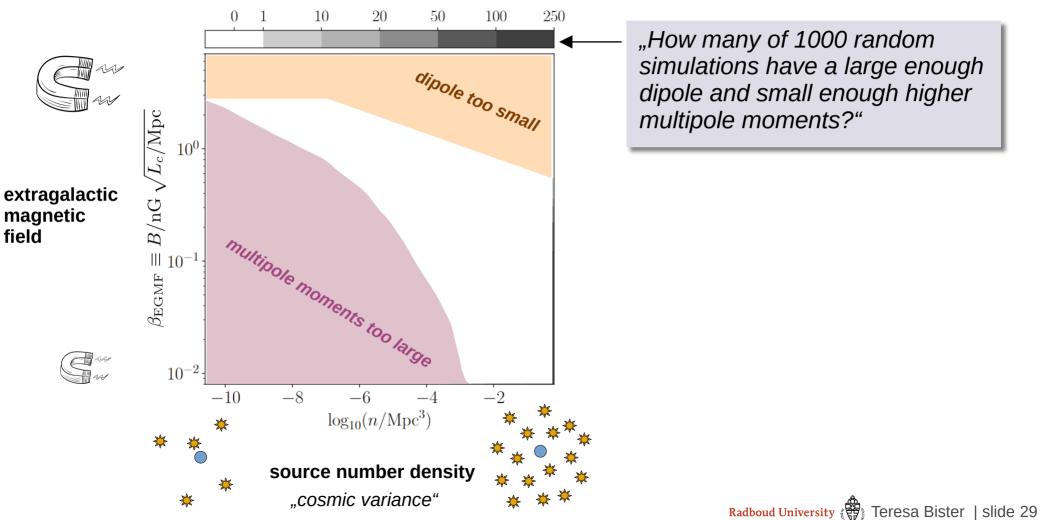


Source density and extragalactic magnetic field

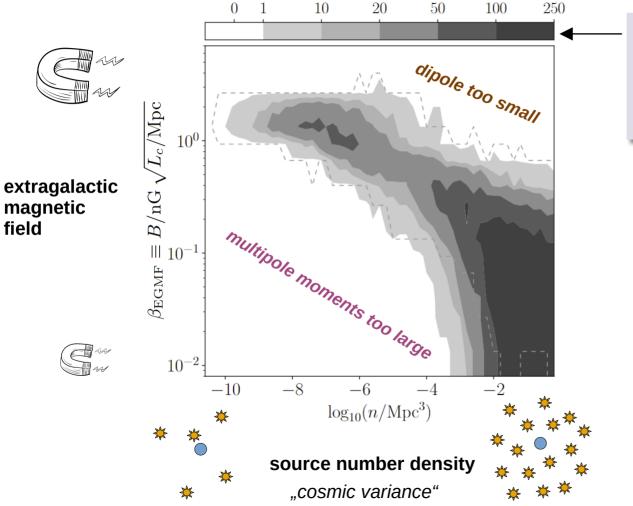


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Source density and extragalactic magnetic field

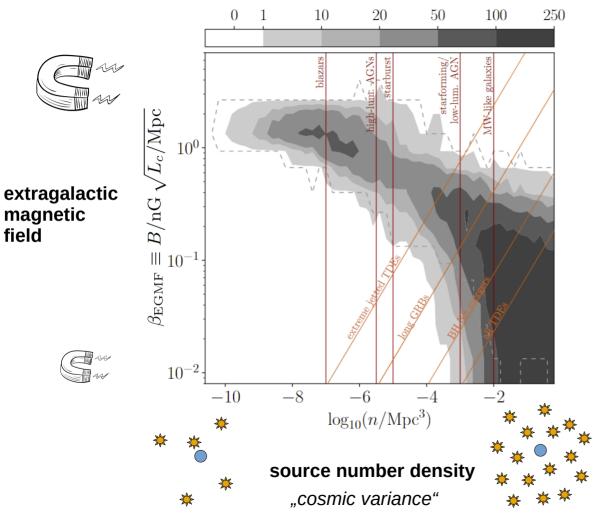


Bister & Farrar, ApJ 966 71 2024 Source density and extragalactic magnetic field



"How many of 1000 random simulations have a large enough dipole and small enough higher multipole moments?"

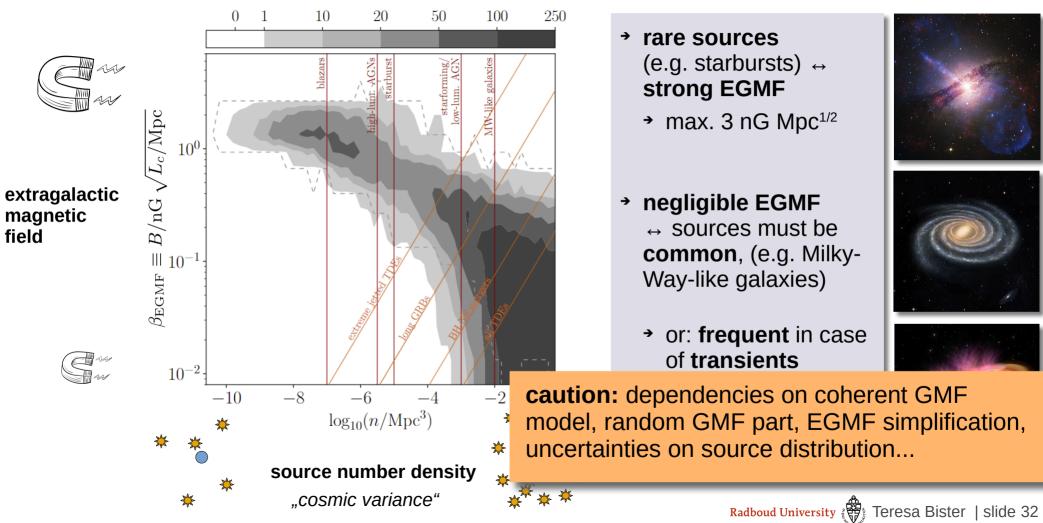
Bister & Farrar, ApJ 966 71 2024 Source density and extragalactic magnetic field



- rare sources
 (e.g. starbursts) ↔
 strong EGMF
 - → max. 3 nG Mpc^{1/2}
- → negligible EGMF
 ↔ sources must be
 common, (e.g. Milky-Way-like galaxies)
 - or: frequent in case of transients like BH-NS mergers, tidal disruption events



Bister & Farrar, ApJ 966 71 2024 Source density and extragalactic magnetic field

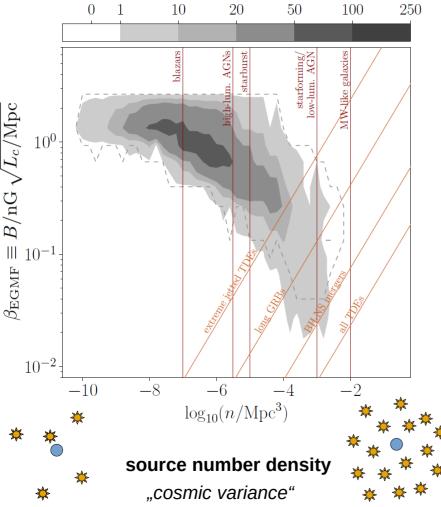


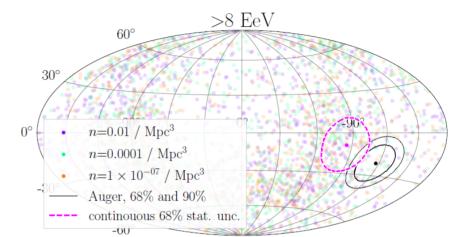
Bister & Farrar, ApJ 966 71 2024

Homogeneous source distribution?



extragalactic magnetic field





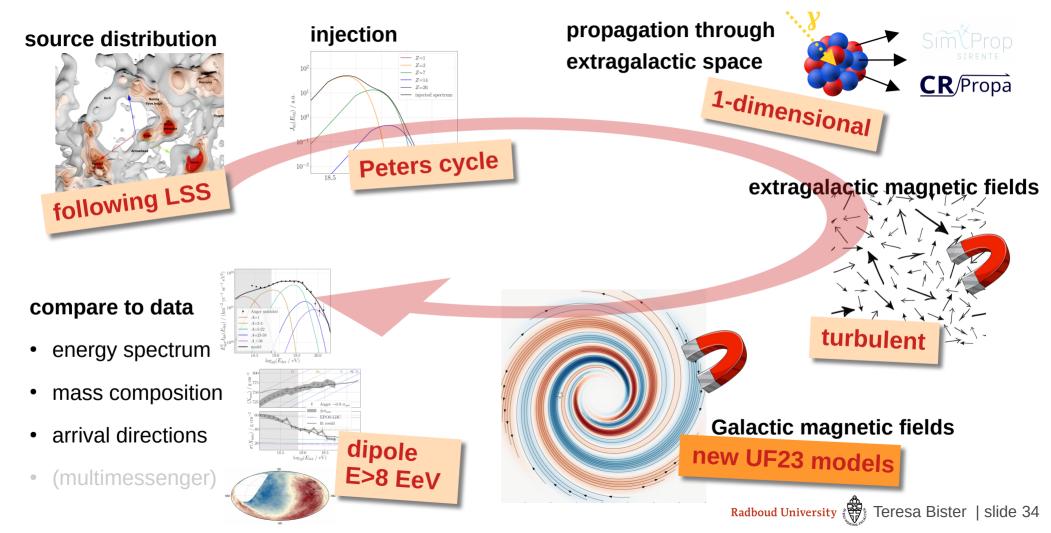
 homogeneous distribution less likely, only for rare sources and considerable EGMF

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• dipole direction not predictable

Bister, Farrar, Unger in prep.

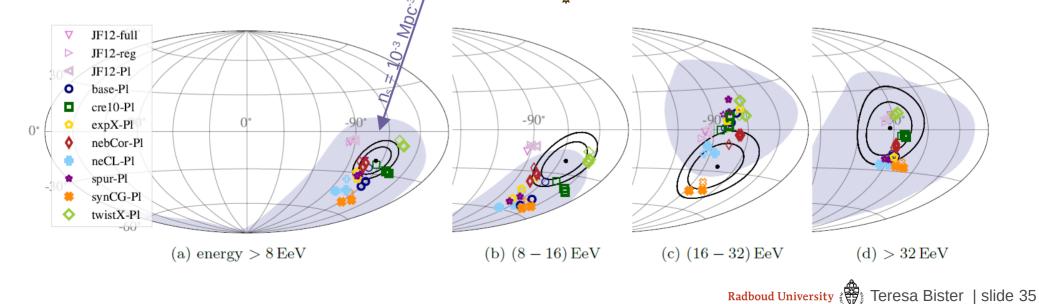
New models for the Galactic magnetic field



Dipole directions

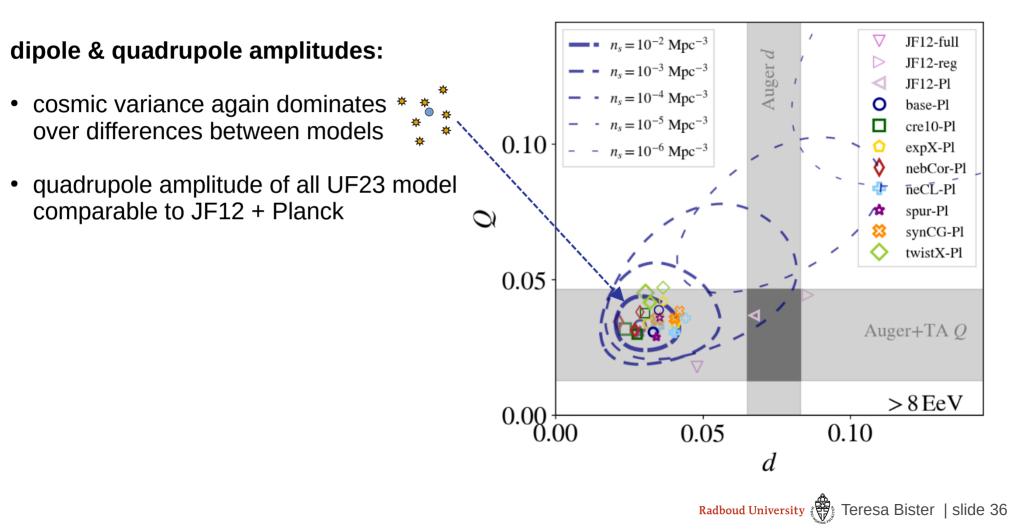
predict **dipole direction for 8 new GMF models** (+Planck random field):

- models quite similar \rightarrow cannot reject any model
 - \rightarrow good news: GMF uncertainty does not obstruct conclusions on sources \bigcirc
- random field part has minor influence on dipole direction
- biggest uncertainty: from cosmic variance* *



Bister, Farrar, Unger in prep.

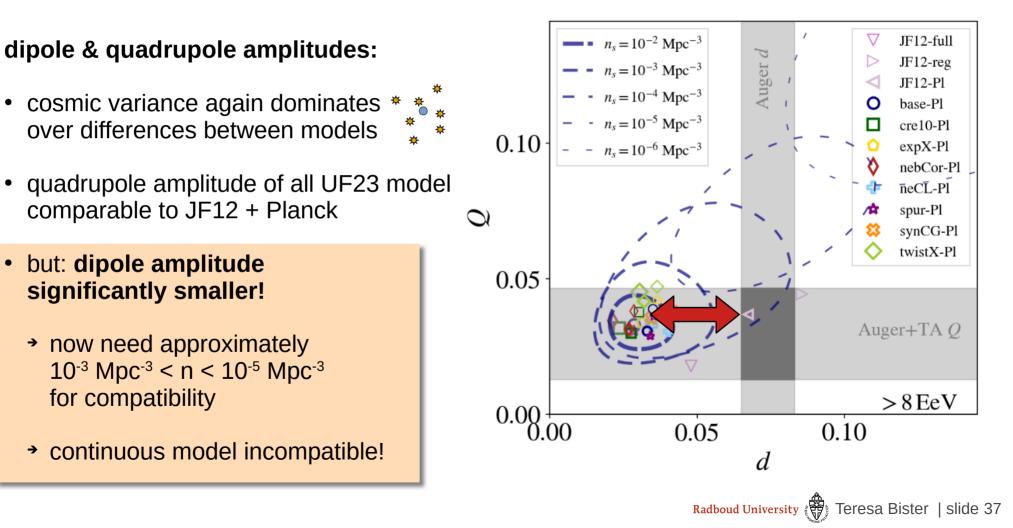
Dipole & Quadrupole amplitudes



Bister, Farrar, Unger in prep.

Dipole & Quadrupole amplitudes

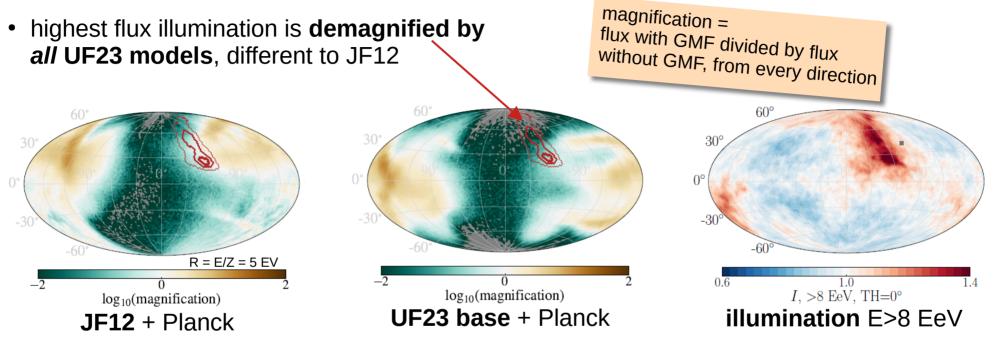
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Bister, Farrar, Unger in prep.

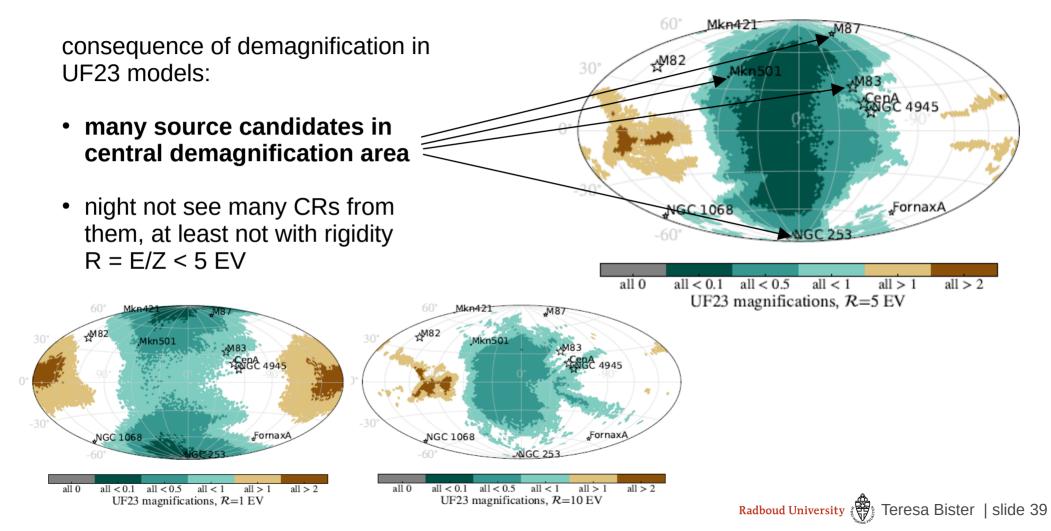
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Why is the dipole amplitude so small with UF23?

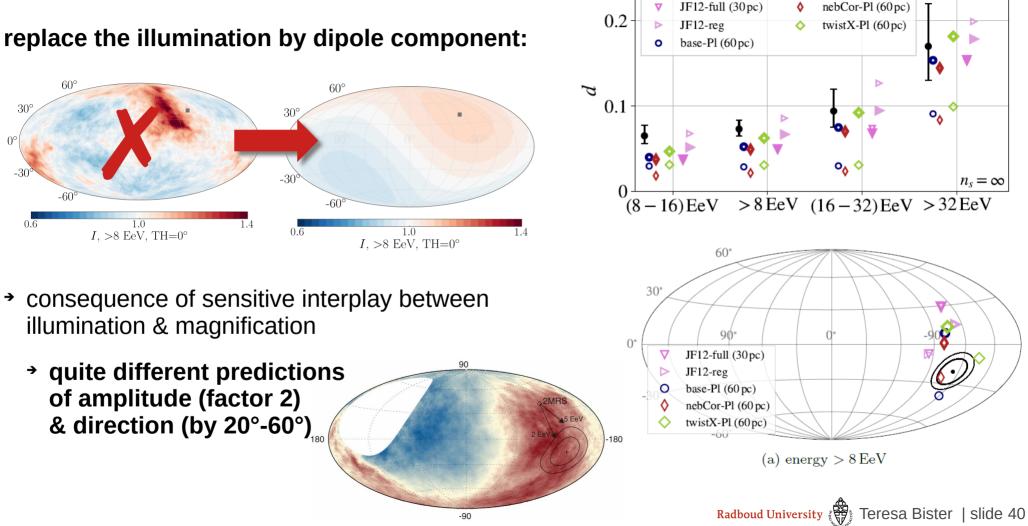


- magnification has huge influence on dipole amplitude!
 - due to uncertainties on LSS model + random magnetic field model + EGMF:
 → source density etc. with large uncertainties
 - future: sensitivity to probe LSS model, GMF...

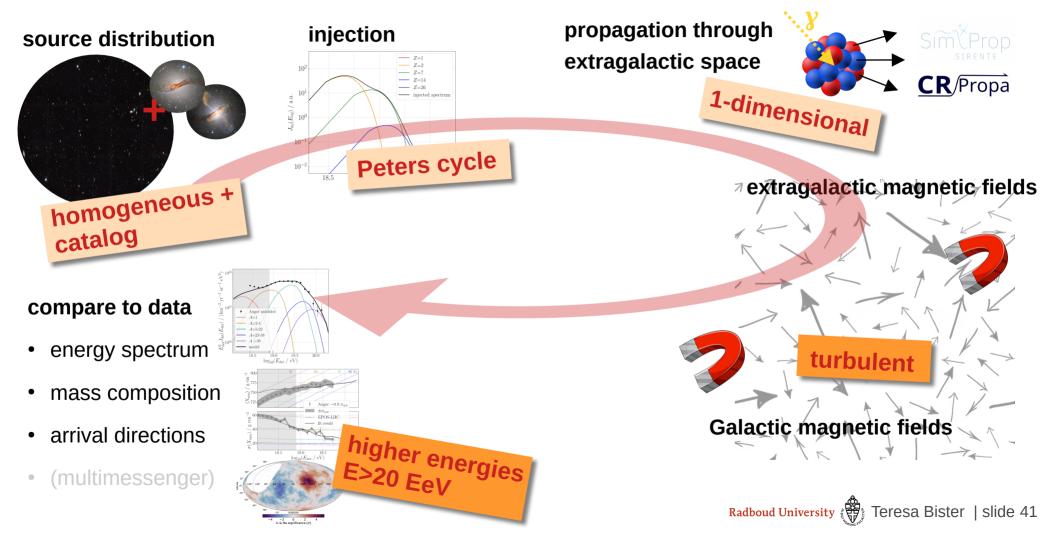
Magnification maps for different rigidities



Dipolar illumination



TB for the Pierre Auger Collaboration, PoS ICRC 2023 The Pierre Auger Collaboration JCAP01(2024)022 Higher energies - smaller-scale anisotropies

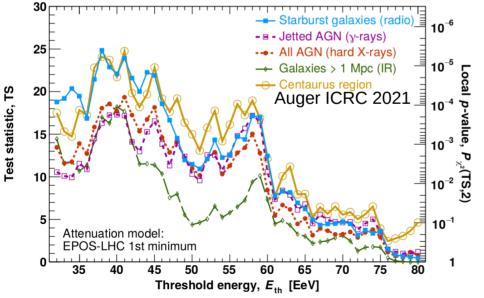


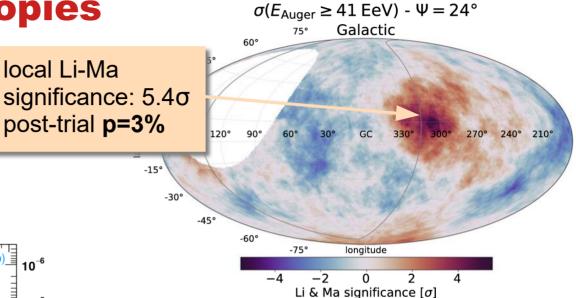
The Pierre Auger Collboration, ApJ 935 170 (2022)

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Small-scale anisotropies

- blind search over 1° pixels
- 2 scan parameters:
 - energy threshold $32 \text{ EeV} \le E_{th} \le 80 \text{ EeV}$
 - circular tophat window $1^{\circ} \le \psi \le 30^{\circ}$



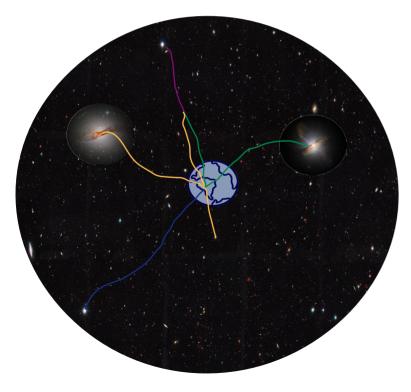


- large trial factor due to whole-sky scan \rightarrow comparison to source candidates
- currently 4.2σ correlation with catalog of starburst galaxies, 3.3σ with γ-AGNs, 4.0σ with Centaurus A

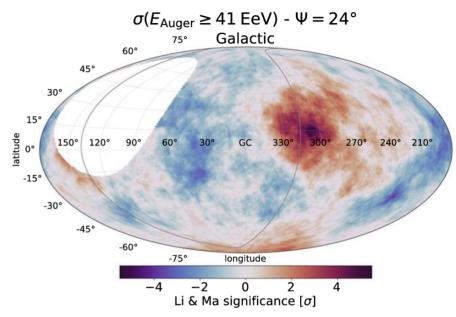
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Model for higher energies

- based on correlations of arrival directions with nearby candidates (SBGs, Centaurus A, γ-AGNs)
- model: homogeneous background sources
 + nearby candidates



TB for the Pierre Auger Collaboration, PoS ICRC 2023 The Pierre Auger Collaboration JCAP01(2024)022



- fit to energy spectrum, shower depth distributions, arrival directions in energy bins
- instead of magnetic field models: rigidity-dependent blurring $\delta = \frac{\delta_0}{R/10 \text{ EV}}$

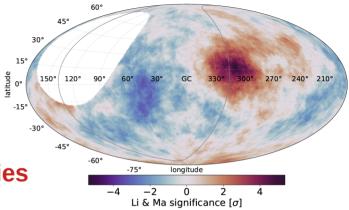
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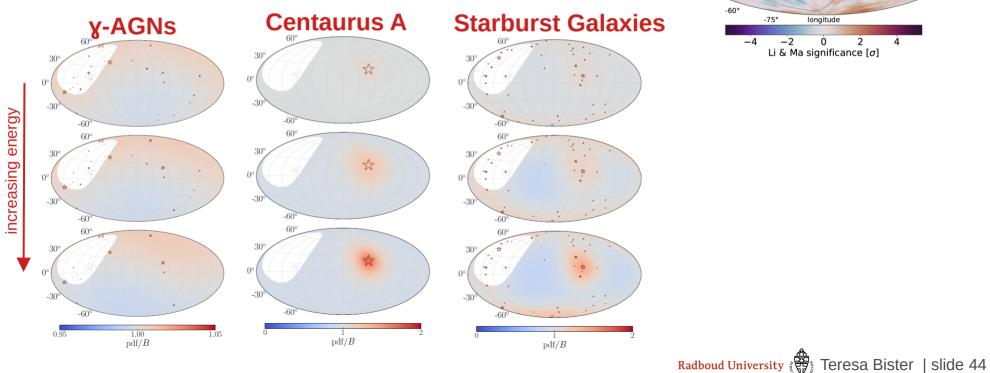
R=E/Z

Modeled arrival directions

- based on correlations of arrival directions with nearby candidates (SBGs, Centaurus A, γ-AGNs)
- model: homogeneous background sources
 + nearby candidates

TB for the Pierre Auger Collaboration, PoS ICRC 2023 The Pierre Auger Collaboration JCAP01(2024)022

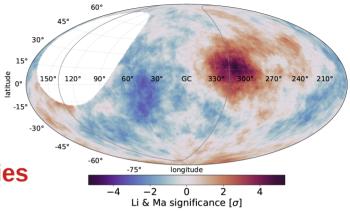


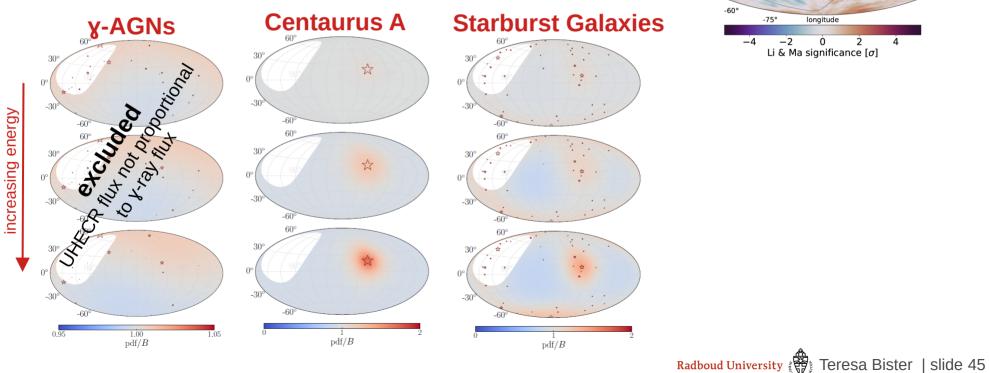


Modeled arrival directions

- based on correlations of arrival directions with nearby candidates (SBGs, Centaurus A, γ-AGNs)
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TB for the Pierre Auger Collaboration, PoS ICRC 2023 The Pierre Auger Collaboration JCAP01(2024)022



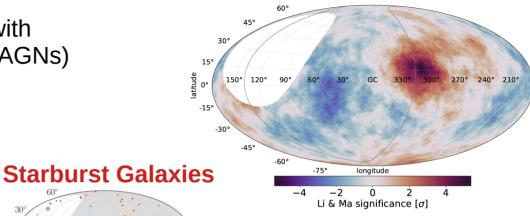


Modeled arrival directions

- based on correlations of arrival directions with nearby candidates (SBGs, Centaurus A, γ-AGNs)
- model: homogeneous background sources
 + nearby candidates

x-AGNs

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 starburst galaxy model favored
 with 4.5σ significance over homogeneous model!

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 mostly due to Centaurus A / NGC 4945 region

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Centaurus A

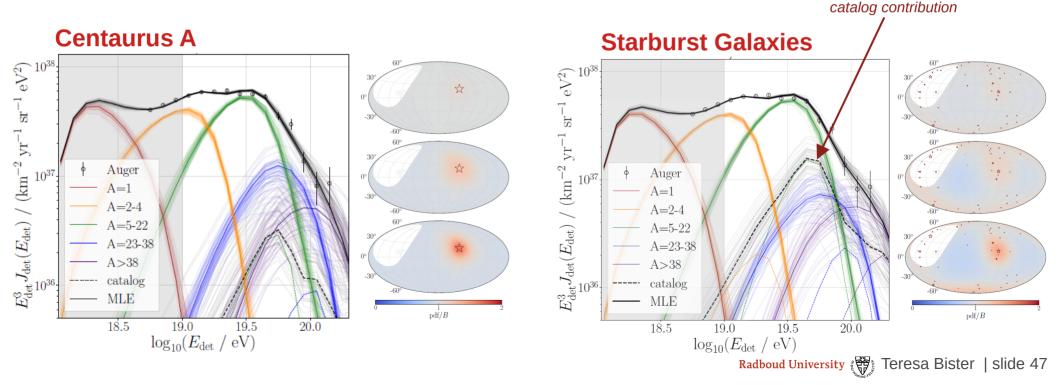
increasing energy

Model predictions

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dashed line =

- **best-fit:** hard injection spectrum $dN/dE \sim E^{-1}$, nitrogen-dominated, 20° magnetic field blurring for proton with 10 EeV
- signal fraction ~20% from SBGs, 3% from Centaurus region (at 40 EeV, increases with E)
 - independent of evolution & systematic effects

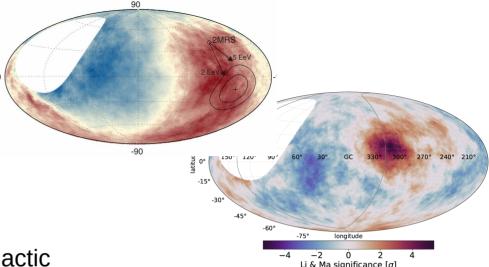


Conclusions

- progress in search for UHECR sources
- need careful modeling of source distribution, propagation, magnetic fields...
- > > 8 EeV: sources most likely follow large-scale structure
 - can infer information on Galactic & extragalactic magnetic fields & source number density

180

- > 40 EeV: individual source candidates describe data
 - like starburst galaxies, Centaurus A, \sim 4.5 σ significance
- **promising future:** detector upgrades underway (AugerPrime & TAx4), better composition differentiation, novel machine learning data...





Backup



Best-fit parameters

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	Cen A, $m = 0$ (flat)		Cen A, $m =$	3.4 (SFR)	SBG, $m = 3.4$ (SFR)		
	posterior	MLE	posterior	MLE	posterior	MLE	
γ	$-0.89\substack{+0.37\\-0.33}$	-0.65	$-1.19\substack{+0.45\\-0.39}$	-1.41	$-1.02\substack{+0.43\\-0.36}$	-1.25	
$\log_{10}(R_{\rm cut}/{\rm V})$	$18.20\substack{+0.04 \\ -0.05}$	18.23	$18.21\substack{+0.04 \\ -0.05}$	18.20	$18.24\substack{+0.04 \\ -0.06}$	18.22	
f_0	$0.07\substack{+0.01 \\ -0.05}$	0.029	$0.07\substack{+0.01 \\ -0.05}$	0.031	$0.19\substack{+0.07 \\ -0.11}$	0.23	
$\delta_0/^\circ$	$30.5^{+2.0}_{-20.2}$	14.4	$27.4_{-17.0}^{+4.2}$	14.3	$18.8\substack{+5.9\\-3.6}$	21.9	
$I_{ m H}$	$5.8^{+2.9}_{-2.6}\times10^{-2}$	4.2×10^{-4}	$1.2^{+0.2}_{-1.2}\times10^{-2}$	$3.0 imes 10^{-4}$	$1.2^{+0.1}_{-1.2}\times10^{-2}$	$1.0 imes 10^{-4}$	
$I_{ m He}$	$2.7^{+0.4}_{-0.4}\times10^{-1}$	$3.5 imes 10^{-1}$	$9.9^{+3.8}_{-2.9}\times10^{-2}$	$1.2 imes 10^{-1}$	$1.1^{+0.3}_{-0.4}\times10^{-1}$	1.4×10^{-1}	
$I_{ m N}$	$5.6^{+0.4}_{-0.4}\times10^{-1}$	$5.0 imes10^{-1}$	$6.7^{+0.7}_{-0.7}\times10^{-1}$	6.8×10^{-1}	$7.2^{+0.6}_{-0.6}\times10^{-1}$	$7.3 imes 10^{-1}$	
$I_{ m Si}$	$9.0^{+3.9}_{-3.4}\times10^{-2}$	1.4×10^{-1}	$1.5^{+0.5}_{-0.6}\times10^{-1}$	1.6×10^{-1}	$1.2^{+0.5}_{-0.5}\times10^{-1}$	9.8×10^{-2}	
I_{Fe}	$2.3^{+0.9}_{-1.2}\times10^{-2}$	1.8×10^{-2}	$5.1^{+1.5}_{-1.8}\times10^{-2}$	4.4×10^{-2}	$4.7^{+1.3}_{-1.7}\times10^{-2}$	3.8×10^{-2}	
ν_E/σ	$-1.24\substack{+0.68\\-0.50}$	-1.35	$0.23\substack{+0.42\\-0.60}$	0.13	$0.35\substack{+0.44\\-0.65}$	0.40	
$\nu_{X \max} / \sigma$	$-0.94\substack{+0.29\\-0.24}$	-0.97	$-1.60\substack{+0.30\\-0.25}$	-1.45	$-1.55^{+0.26}_{-0.25}$	-1.33	
$\log b$	-254.6 ± 0.1		-264.5 ± 0.2		-258.6 ± 0.2		
D_{syst}		2.8		2.1		1.9	
$D_E \ (N_J = 14)$		13.6		21.9		25.3	
$D_{X_{\text{max}}}$ $(N_{X_{\text{max}}} = 74)$		107.4		113.6		112.7	
D		123.8		137.7		139.9	
$\log \mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{ADs}}$		9.4		9.5		13.5	
$\log \mathcal{L}$		-228.51		-235.3		-232.4	

Test statistic

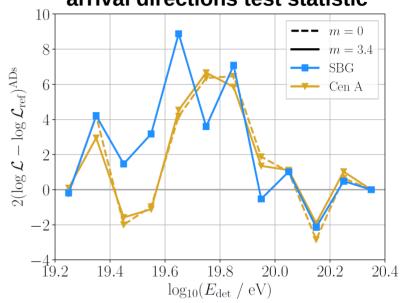
compare likelihood to ref. model (just background sources):

	SBG	Cen A (flat)	Cen A (SFR)
$\mathrm{TS}_{\mathrm{tot}}$	25.6	17.3	19.1
TS_E	-4.5	-1.4	-1.1
$\mathrm{TS}_{X_{\mathrm{max}}}$	2.0	0.2	1.0
$\mathrm{TS}_{\mathrm{ADs}}$	27.1	18.7	19.0

SBG model has highest TS = 25.6 \leftrightarrow 4.5 σ

- including experimental systematic effects
- increase compared to AD-only correlation
- Centaurus region contributes dominant part: TS~20
- (E-dependent) arrival directions most important

TB for the Pierre Auger Collaboration, PoS ICRC 2023 The Pierre Auger Collaboration JCAP01(2024)022



arrival directions test statistic

- sum over E bins gives total TS
- peaks could be from He, N, Si
 - → but: large uncertainties

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Test statistic

	Cen A, $m = 0.0$		Cen A, $m = 3.4$		SBG, $m = 3.4$		$\gamma {\rm AGN},m=5.0$		$\gamma { m AGN+EGMF^{**}}, m = 5.0$	
		+ syst		+ syst		+ syst		+ syst		+ syst
$\mathrm{TS}_{\mathrm{tot}}$	22.8	17.3	22.2	19.1	27.6	25.6	23.9*	9.8*	34.3*	33.2*
TS_E	-0.1	-1.4	-0.4	-1.1	-5.2	-4.5	26.8	3.9	18.2	8.4
$TS_{X_{max}}$	1.9	0.2	1.8	1.0	6.2	2.0	-0.8	6.4	4.4	14.7
$\mathrm{TS}_{\mathrm{ADs}}$	20.9	18.7	20.8	19.0	26.6	27.1	-2.1	-3.0	11.7	8.6

$$TS_{tot} = \sum_{obs=E, X_{max}, ADs} 2(\log \mathcal{L}^{m=x} - \log \mathcal{L}^{m=x}_{ref})^{obs}$$

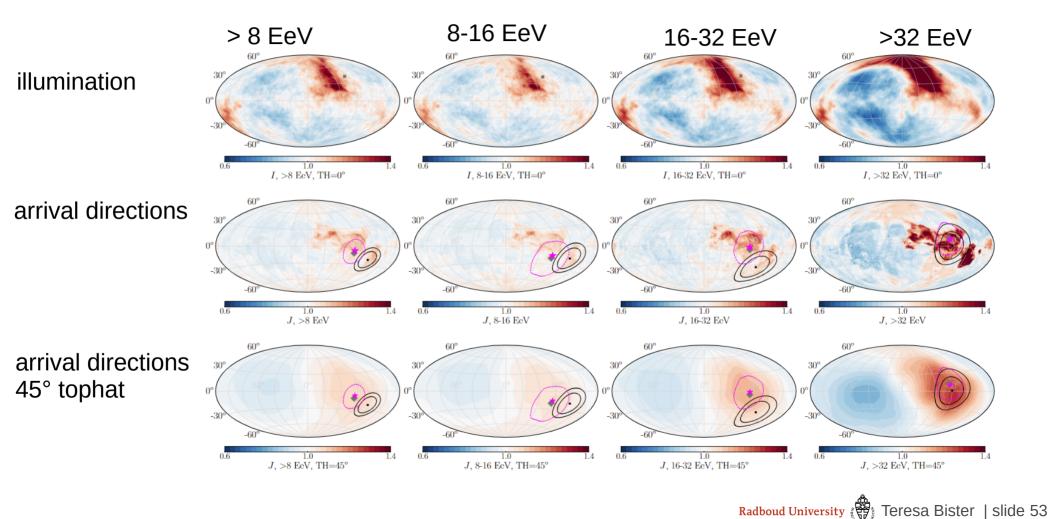
$$\mathcal{L}_{X_{\max}} = \prod_{\tilde{\rho}} n^{\tilde{e}}! \prod_{x} \frac{(\mu^{\tilde{e},x})^{n^{\tilde{e},x}}}{n^{\tilde{e},x}!}$$
$$\log \mathcal{L}_{E} = \sum_{e} \left(n^{e} \log(\mu^{e}) - \log(n^{e}!) - \mu^{e} \right)$$
$$\mathcal{L}_{ADs} = \prod \prod (\text{pdf}^{e,p})^{n^{e,p}}$$

e

p

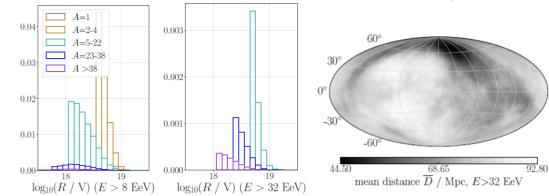
Radboud University Freesa Bister | slide 52

Dipole direction predictions

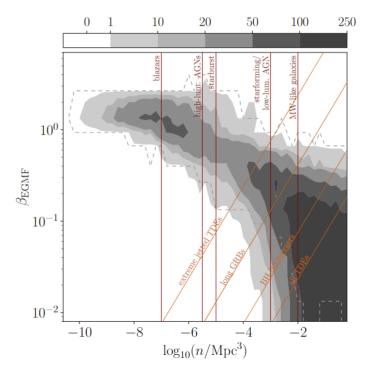


EGMF and transients

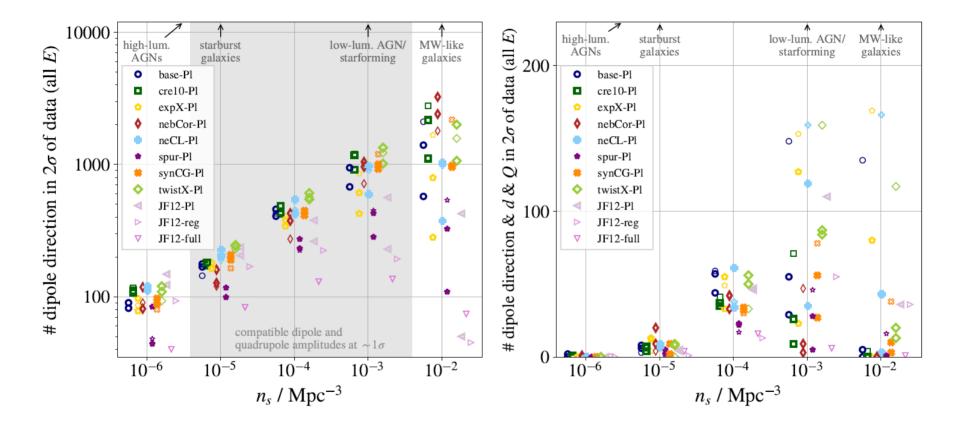
$$\delta\theta = 2.9^{\circ} \frac{B}{\mathrm{nG}} \frac{10\,\mathrm{EV}}{E/Z} \frac{\sqrt{D\ L_c}}{\mathrm{Mpc}} = 2.9^{\circ} \beta_{\mathrm{EGMF}} \frac{10\,\mathrm{EV}}{E/Z} \sqrt{\frac{\overline{D}}{\mathrm{Mpc}}}$$



$$\begin{split} n_{\rm eff} &\approx \Gamma \, \tau_{\rm eff} \\ \tau_{\rm eff} &= 0.14 \left(\frac{D}{\rm Mpc} \frac{\rm EV}{R} \beta_{\rm EGMF} \right)^2 \rm Myr = 34 \, \beta_{\rm EGMF}^2 \, \rm Myr \end{split}$$

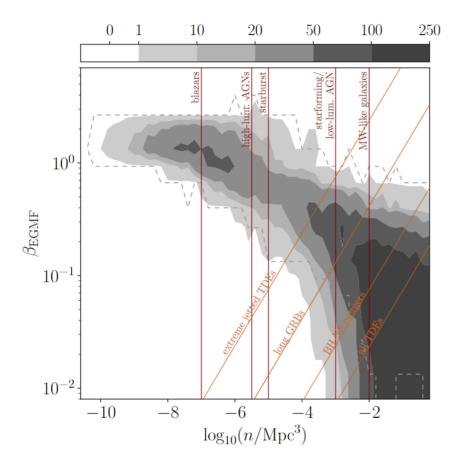


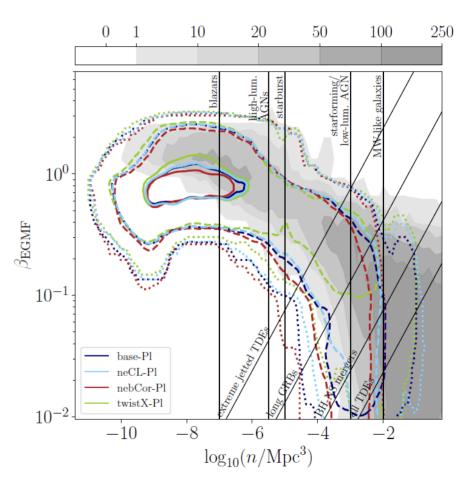
UF23 models - which ones are favored?



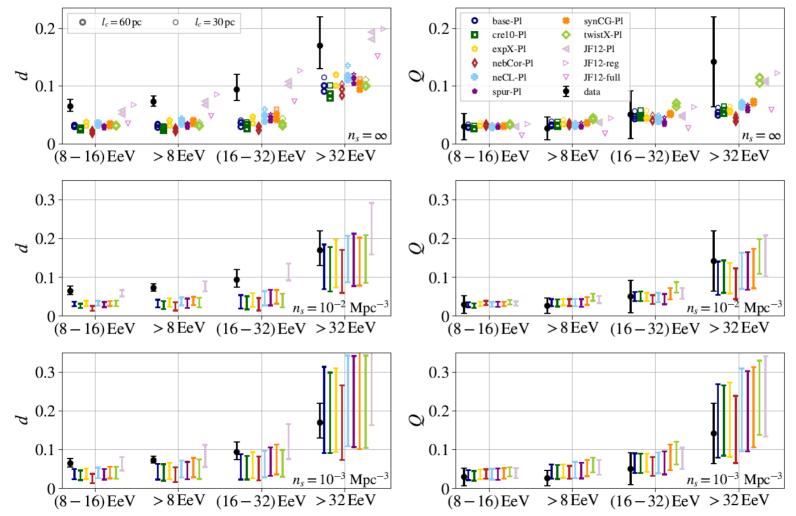
Bister, Farrar, Unger in prep.

UF23 models: EGMF

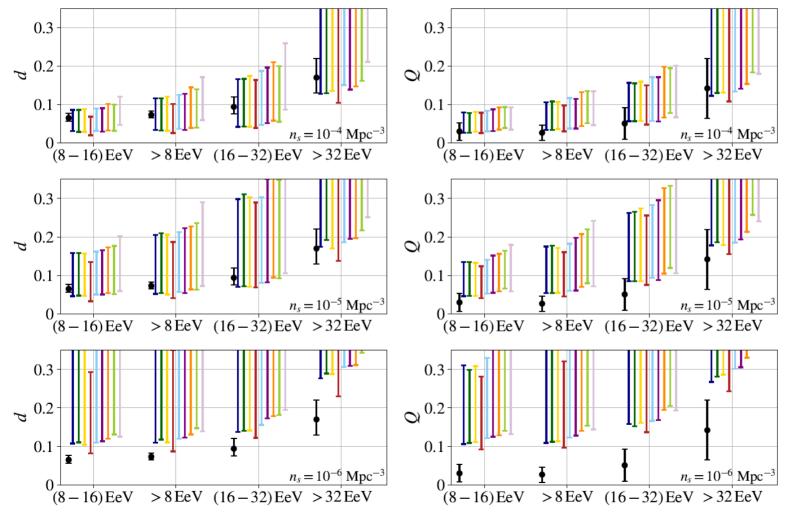




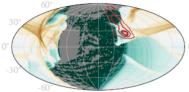
UF23 models: dipole & quadrupole



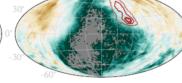
UF23 models: dipole & quadrupole



UF23 models: all magnification maps



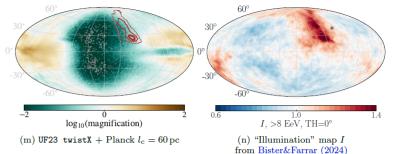
(a) JF12-reg (compare to [30])

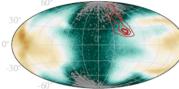


(b) JF12-full $l_c = 30 \, \text{pc}$ (compare to [30])

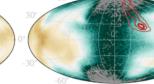


(c) JF12 + Planck $l_c = 60 \,\mathrm{pc}$

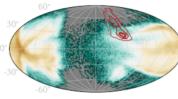




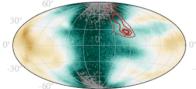
(d) UF23 base + Planck $l_c = 60 \,\mathrm{pc}$



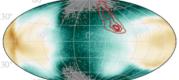
(e) UF23 base + Planck $l_c = 60 \,\mathrm{pc}$, 2nd realization



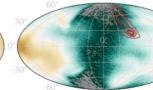
(f) UF23 base + Planck $l_c = 30 \,\mathrm{pc}$



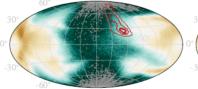
(g) UF23 cre10 + Planck $l_c = 60 \,\mathrm{pc}$



(h) UF23 expX + Planck $l_c = 60 \,\mathrm{pc}$



(i) UF23 nebCor + Planck $l_c = 60 \,\mathrm{pc}$







(1) UF23 synCG + Planck $l_c = 60 \,\mathrm{pc}$

