Astrophysical Black Holes: A Rapidly Moving Field

Hong Kong, June 23-26, 2023

Black Holes as Cosmic Accelerators

Noémie Globus





2

- 40,000 years of photonic astronomy...
- 100 years of cosmic rays!

Cosmic rays are not "rays"



rigidity: R=E/Z gyroradius: r_g = R/B

"Anatomy" of the cosmic-ray spectrum





In pursuit of the extremely rare... ultra high energy cosmic rays!





The two giants

Auger (10^{18.5}->10²⁰ eV) : surface 3000 km², 1600 detectors, spacing 1500 m, 4 fluorescence detectors Telescope Array (10^{18.5}->10²⁰ eV) : surface 700 km², 500 scintillator detectors, 3 fluorescence detectors

> Telescope Array Utah, USA (5 countries) Upgrade: TAx4





Upgrade: AugerPrime SSD + radio

Observables: energy, arrival direction, composition

Source spectrum ≠ observed spectrum



Consequence: UHECR observable universe



9

Source direction ≠ observed direction



Cosmic-ray transport





energy loss

diffusion

Diffusion in the extragalactic magnetic field



Мрс

Globus, Allard and Parizot 2008





2017: Discovery of a large-scale cosmic-ray anisotropy!

Pierre Auger Collaboration



significant above 8 10¹⁸ eV

Lensing by the Galactic Magnetic field



Magnification factor (log scale!)



Magnification factor (log scale!)



Magnification factor (log scale!)



UHECRs: status on the spectrum

Two features "ankle" and "toe" (cutoff) firmly established Discrepancies in the energy scales of the two experiments





Auger@TA station

UHECRs: anisotropy and composition



What are the sources?



Black holes as cosmic accelerators:



I. Kinetic energy: Hierarchical model for DSA



"Particle acceleration at astrophysical shocks", Blandford and Eichler 1987

Merging cluster Abell 2255

Modeling the acceleration at Cluster Accretion Shocks

Common but invisible (radio?); tap accretion energy; transfer mediated by DSA; Neutrinos not expected



- Injection of pre-existing population of cosmic-rays into filament shocks, cluster accretion shocks
- Cluster "Halo" component: high metallicity (selection effect), hard spectrum (upstream: escaping cosmic rays)
- Filament component: softer spectrum (downstream of the shock)
- High Mach numbers and emissivity (few times 10⁴⁴ erg Mpc⁻³ yr⁻¹)
- Mechanism: magnetic "bootstrap" (Blandford)
- Connection with UHECR anisotropies



Simeon, Globus, Barrow, Mukhopadhyay & Blandford in prep.

II. Rotational energy (or: why do we Kerr?)

Large scale magnetic fields B Magnetospheric electric fields E due to spinning black hole = EMF (Blandford & Znajek 1977)





GRB Credit: Ore Gottlieb

II. Rotational energy (or: why do we Kerr?)

 \bullet

Large scale magnetic fields B - = EMF (Blandford & Znajek 1977) Magnetospheric electric fields E due to spinning black hole





Blandford & Globus 2022



GRB jets: internal shocks, shock breakout...

Before "breakout"

• Cosmic-ray acceleration at internal (mildly-relativistic) shocks in an opaque environments **only possible if the jet is highly magnetized** (formation of collisionless subshocks). **Cosmic rays won't escape, but neutrinos are emitted (e.g., Gottlieb & Globus 2021)**

After "breakout"

- Cosmic-ray acceleration at collisionless internal mildly-relativistic shocks (external shocks responsible for the afterglow are inefficient accelerators)
- Long-duration GRBs have sufficient power to accelerate cosmic rays to ultra-high energies, but their local rate implies large baryon loading;
- Too rare to account for the UHECR flux (but local contribution possible: Eichler, Globus, Kumar et al. 2016)
- Rate of LLGRBs 100-1000 the rate of long GRBs?
- UHECR acceleration at GRB internal shocks (Globus et al. 2015): most protons are secondary particles (escaping as neutrons)-> sub-ankle protons?



AGN jets: shear acceleration, backflows...

Centaurus A

Rare but powerful; ultimately tap some rotational energy (unipolar inductors); transfer mediated by shear or DSA; Multimessenger (gamma-ray, neutrino) signatures; anisotropies

- FR-I radio galaxies and misaligned BL Lac objects located within the GZK horizon have sufficient emissivity to power
 the UHECRs
- FR-II are disregarded (overproduce cosmogenic gamma-rays, Globus et al. 2017)
- Apparent jet power: 10⁴³-10⁴⁴erg s⁻¹ (which could exceed 10⁴⁶erg s⁻¹ and large Lorentz factors during flaring episodes)
- "Espresso" (Caprioli 2015): assuming Γ ~ 30, a one-shot boost of a factor of ~ Γ² in energy, can transform the highest-energy galactic CRs at 100 PeV in the highest-energy UHECRs at 100 EeV.
- Two-component outflow (disk wind and force-free jet) : shocks, instabilities at the interface -> leads to B amplification?
- DSA acceleration sites: shock at the interface between the wind and the jet, lobes and backflows (mildly relativistic shocks), (e.g., Bell et al. 2019, Cerutti and Giacinti 2023)
- Multi-shock acceleration from stars crossing the jets (Müller and Araudo 2023)
- Composition: depend on the injection model; internal entrainment in the jets of Centaurus A will contribute with a significant amount of ⁴He, ¹⁶O, ¹²C, ¹⁴N, and ²⁰Ne (Wykes et al. 2015)
- AGN jets are rare in the local universe. Predictions possible in term of UHECR anisotropies. Cen A hot spot? TA hotspot due to UHECR reverberation? (Bell and Matthews 2021)







On the importance of detecting "extreme energy cosmic rays"









Possible source candidates < 10 Mpc



All local: Updated Nearby Galaxy Catalog maintained by Karachentsev et al. 2013 SBG Catalog by Lunardini et al. 2019 Radio(+ jets) AGN Catalog by van Velzen et al. 2012

Possible source candidates < 40 Mpc



All local: Updated Nearby Galaxy Catalog maintained by Karachentsev et al. 2013 SBG Catalog by Lunardini et al. 2019 Radio(+ jets) AGN Catalog by van Velzen et al. 2012

"Treasure maps": nitrogen at 5 10¹⁹ eV

Globus, Fedynitch and Blandford, 2023 ApJ 945 12



"Treasure maps": nitrogen at 1.5 10²⁰ eV

Globus, Fedynitch and Blandford, 2023 ApJ 945 12



Summary: black holes as (ultra-high energy) cosmic accelerators



- After 60 years the problem of the origin of UHECRs (particles with energies up to ~50 Joules) remains unsolved.
- Surely one of the biggest challenges in high energy astrophysics and potentially a contributor to particles physics.
- The origin of the highest energy cosmic rays in our local Universe could be a natural consequence of the mechanism that efficiently extracts the power from spinning black holes (Blandford & Znajek 1977). A "hierarchical" model where UHECRs are re-accelerated at accretion shocks is another possibility.
- More events at the highest energies (e.g., > 150 EeV) and a composition-sensitive experiment (on an event-by-event basis) could rule out many currently viable source models.