

Cosmic Rays and Gamma Rays in the InterStellar Medium



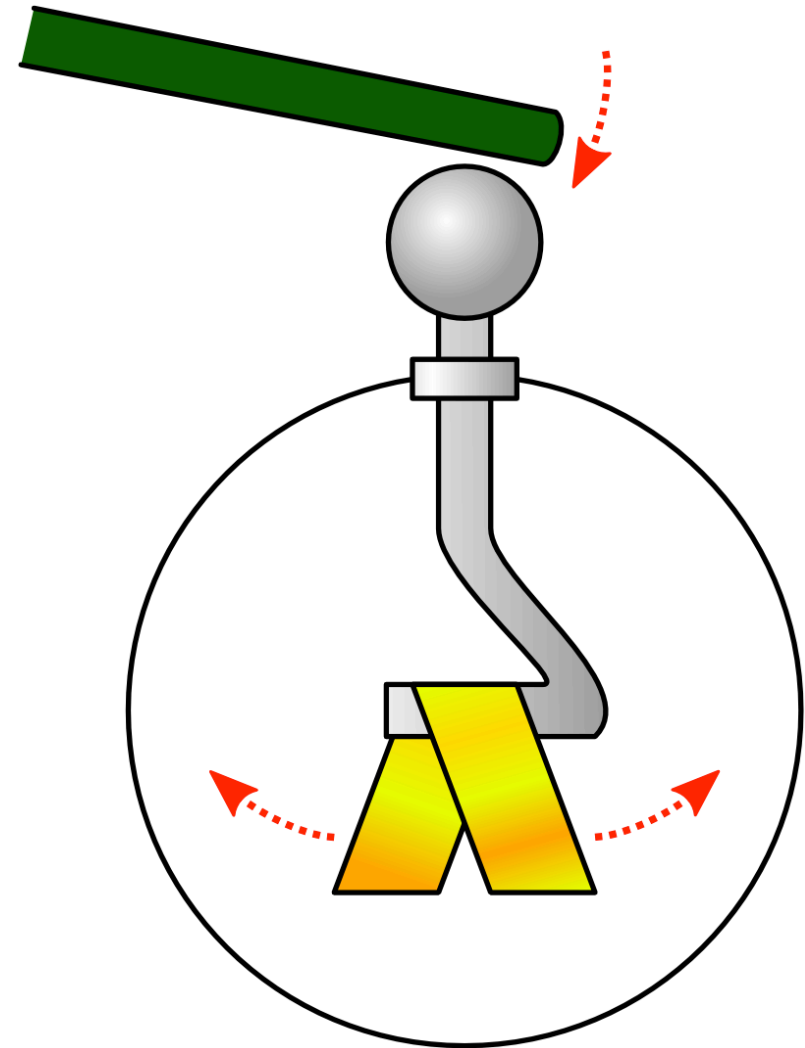
www.cnrs.fr

Stefano Gabici
APC, Paris



The discovery of Cosmic Rays

- at the beginning of the 20th century, the discharge rate of an electroscope was used as a measure of the level of radioactivity
- electroscopes discharge slowly even in the absence of a radioactive source -> background radiation
- radiation from radioactive materials in the Earth?



ELECTROSCOPE

The discovery of Cosmic Rays

If due to radioactive materials in the Earth, the effect should diminish with height

In 1912, during a balloon flight Victor Hess discovered that the effect was indeed **increasing with height**, and concluded that:

"a radiation of very high penetrating power enters our atmosphere from above"



V. Hess in 1912

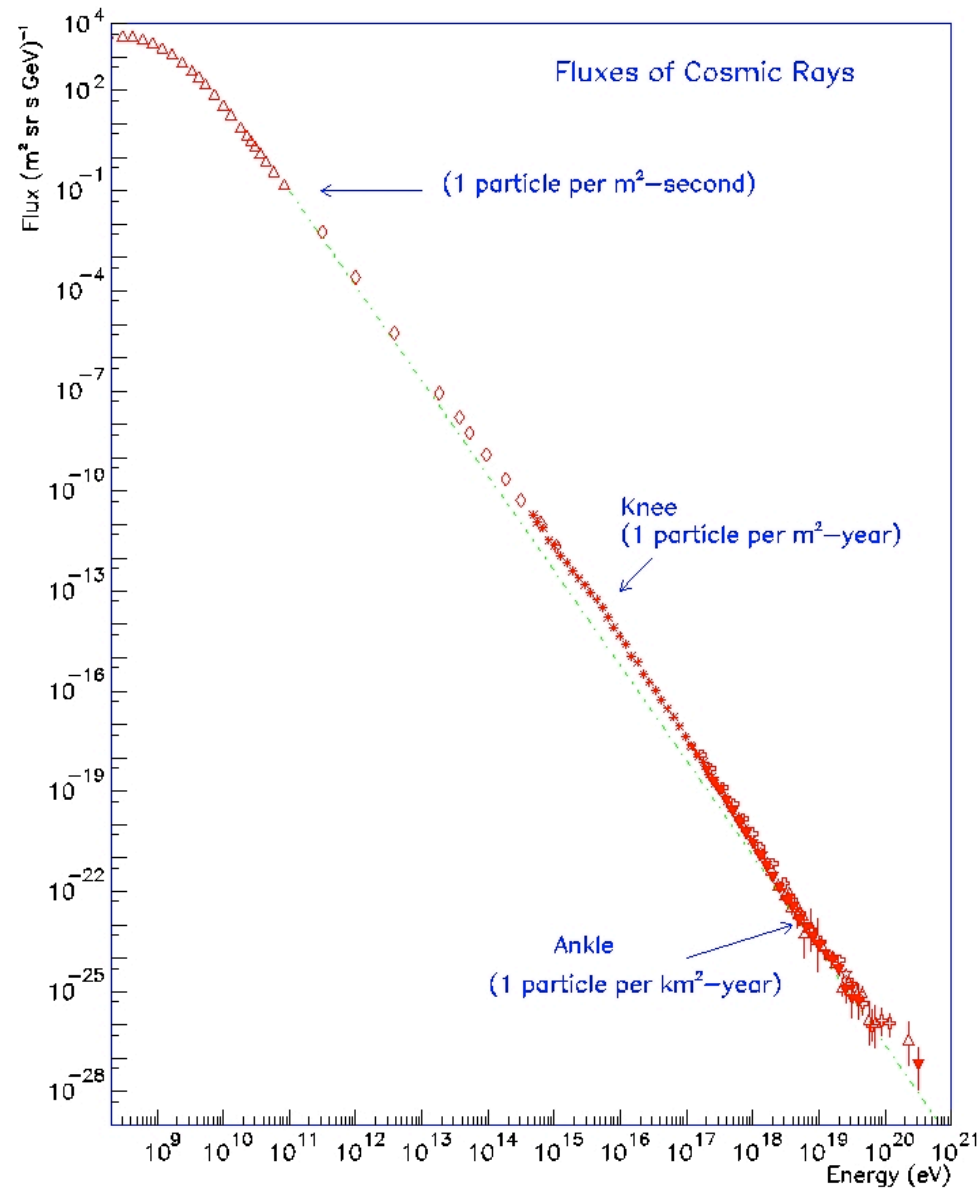
What are Cosmic Rays?

Cosmic rays particles hit the Earth's atmosphere at the rate of about **1000 per square meter per second**. They are ionized nuclei - about **90% protons**, 9% alpha particles and the rest heavy nuclei - and they are distinguished by their high energies. Most cosmic rays are **relativistic**, having energies comparable or somewhat greater than their masses. A very few of them have ultrarelativistic energies extending up to 10^{20} eV (about 20 Joules), eleven order of magnitudes greater than the equivalent rest mass energy of a proton. The fundamental question of cosmic ray physics is, "**Where do they come from?**" and in particular, "**How are they accelerated to such high energies?**".

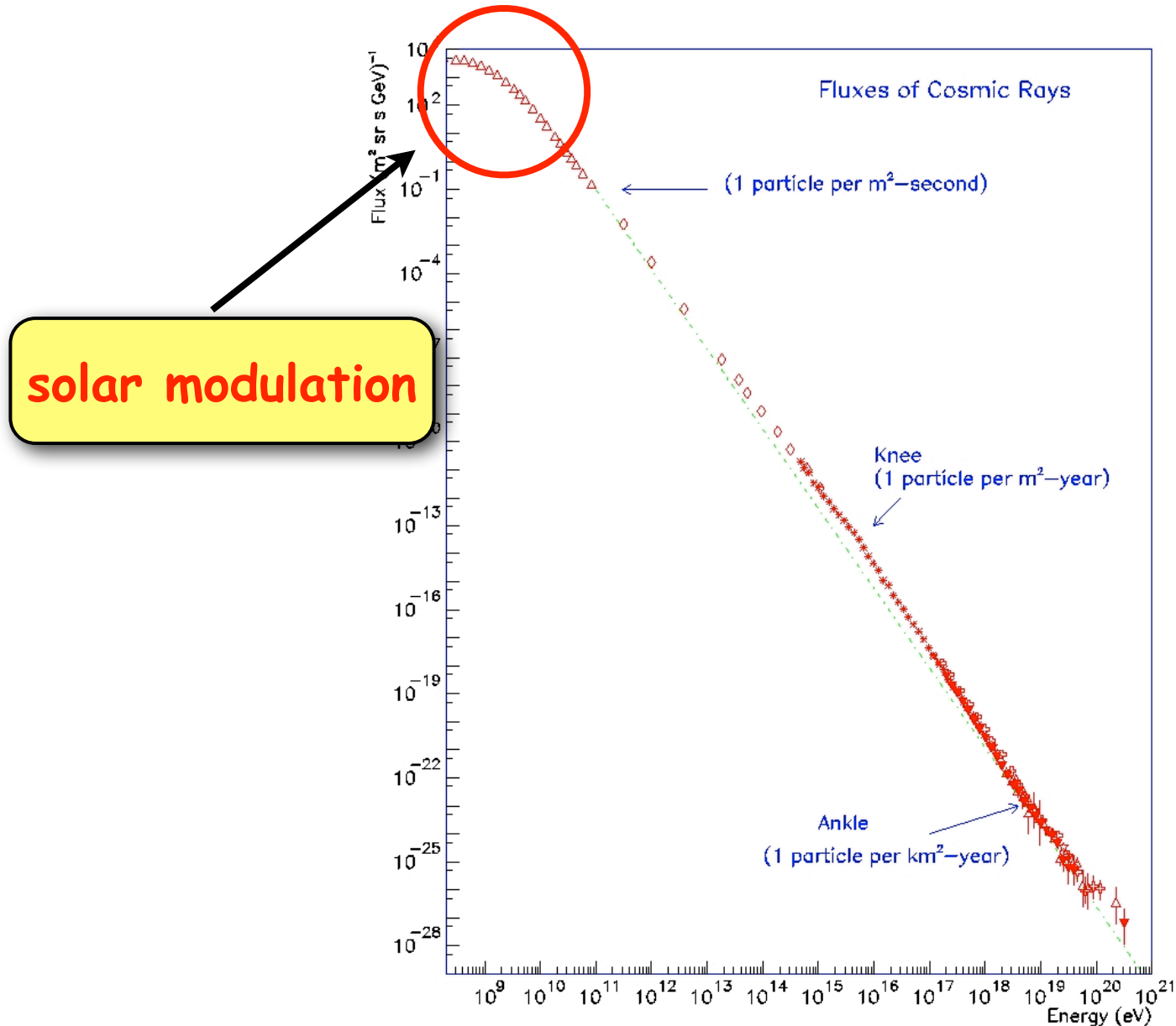
T. Gaisser "Cosmic Rays and Particle Physics"

Also **electrons** are present in the cosmic radiation -> ~ **1%**

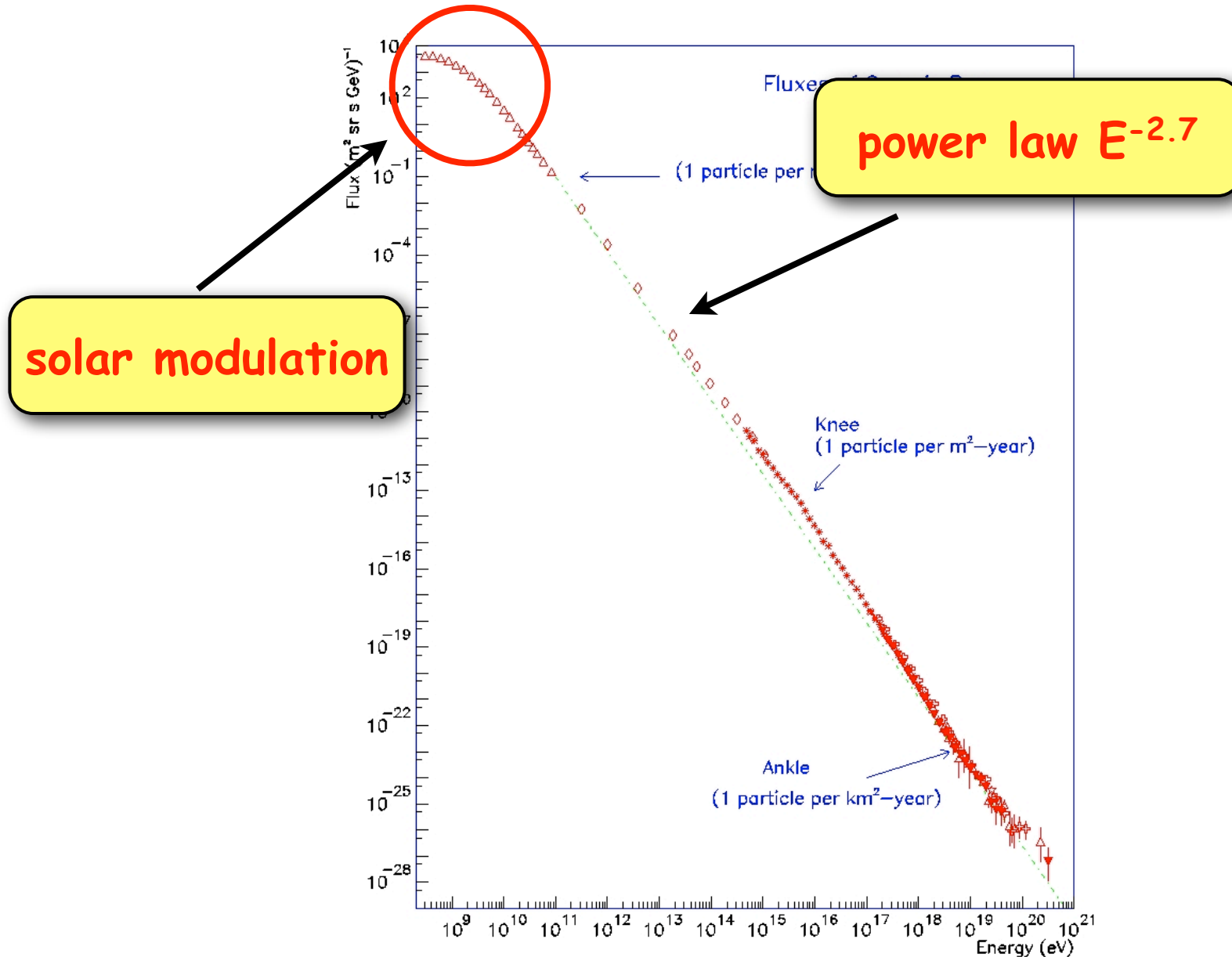
The (local) Cosmic Ray spectrum



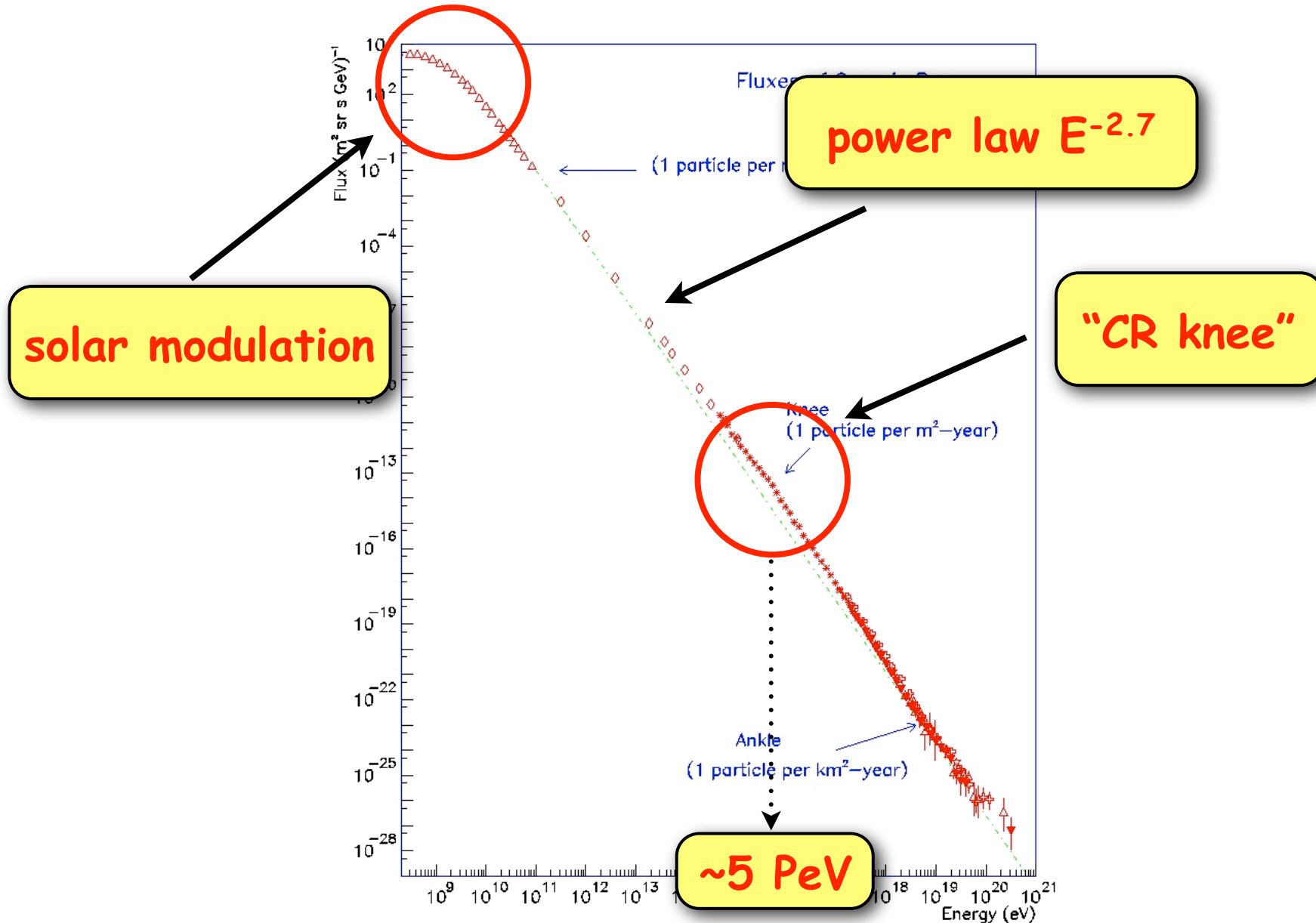
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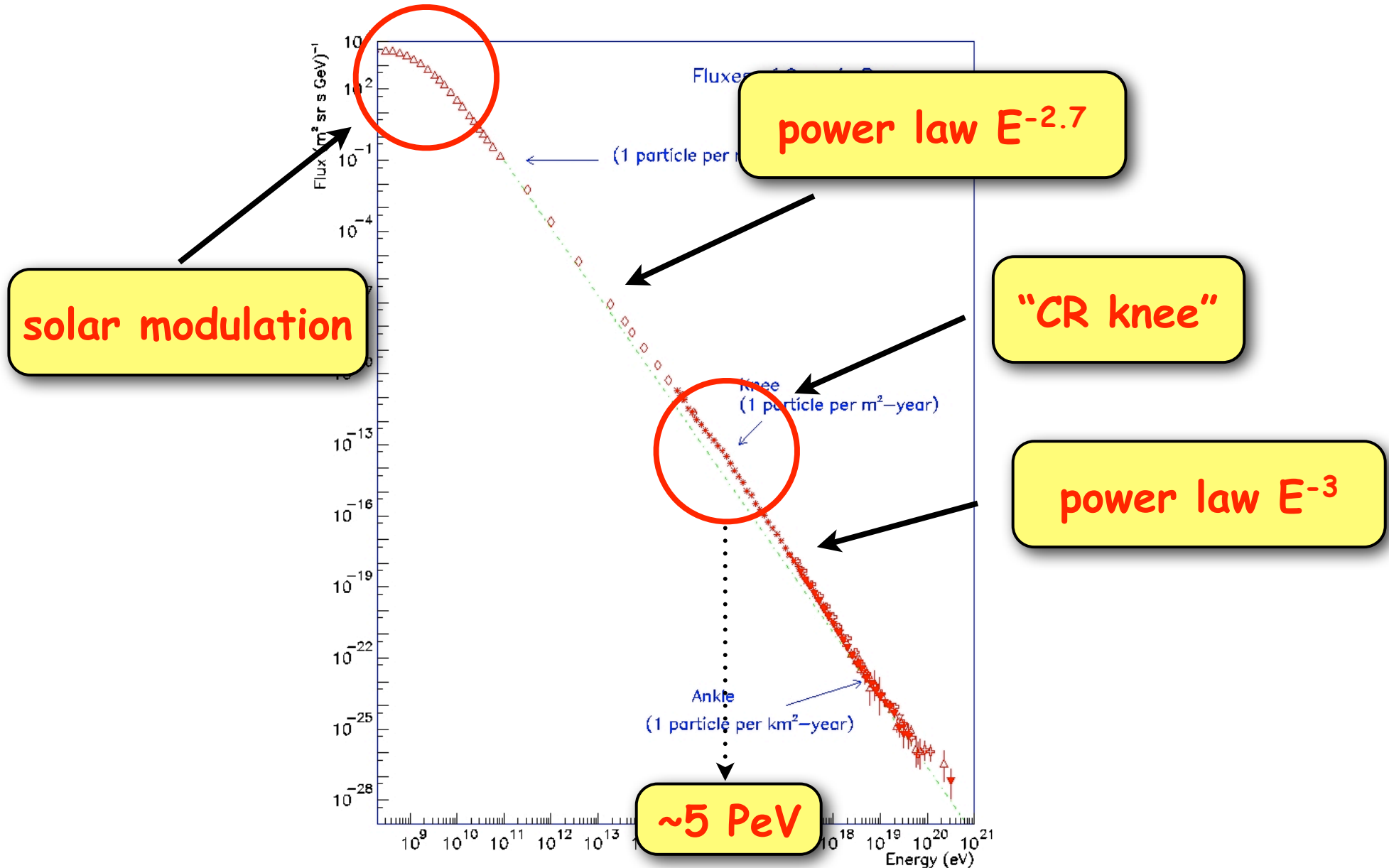
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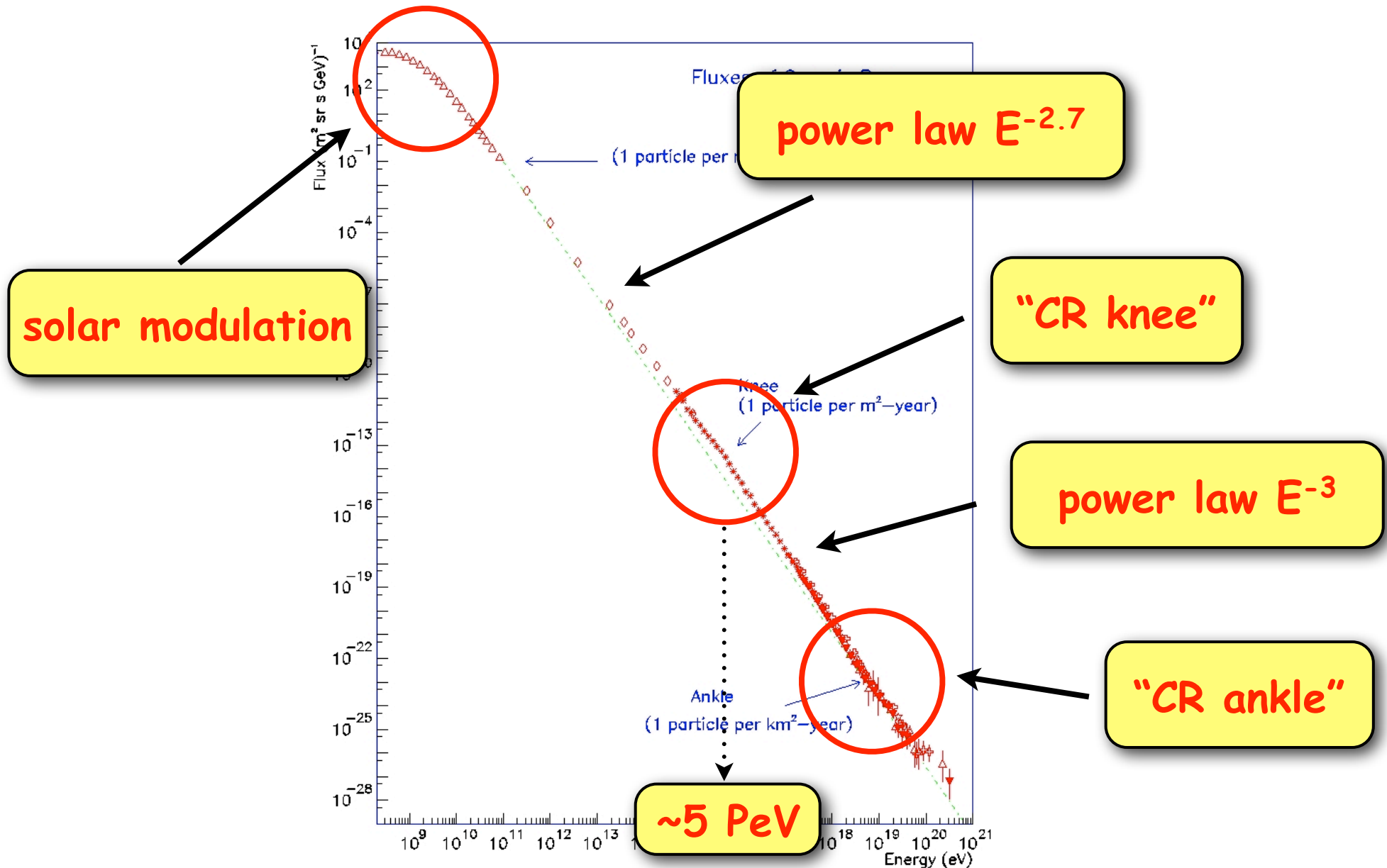
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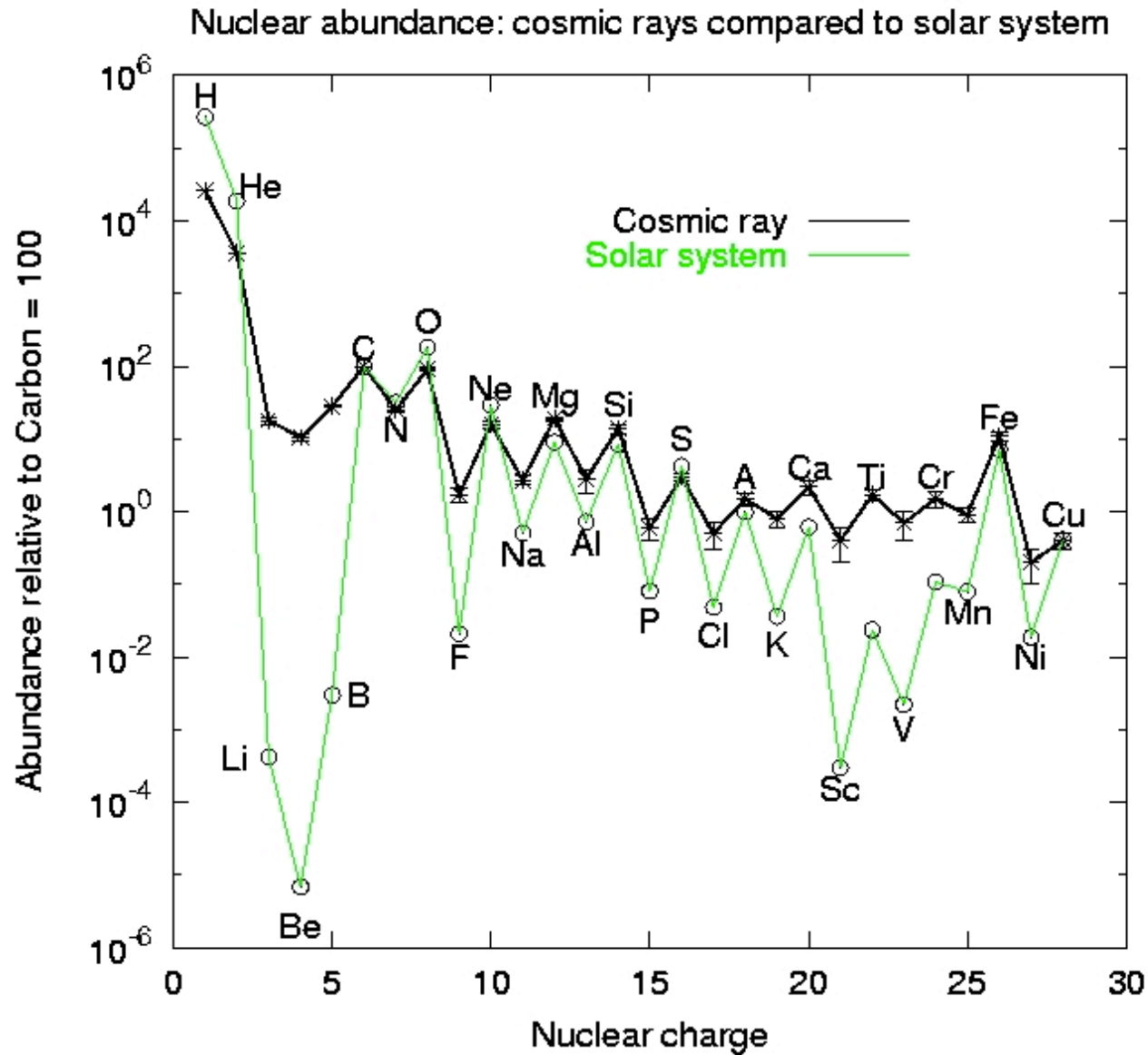
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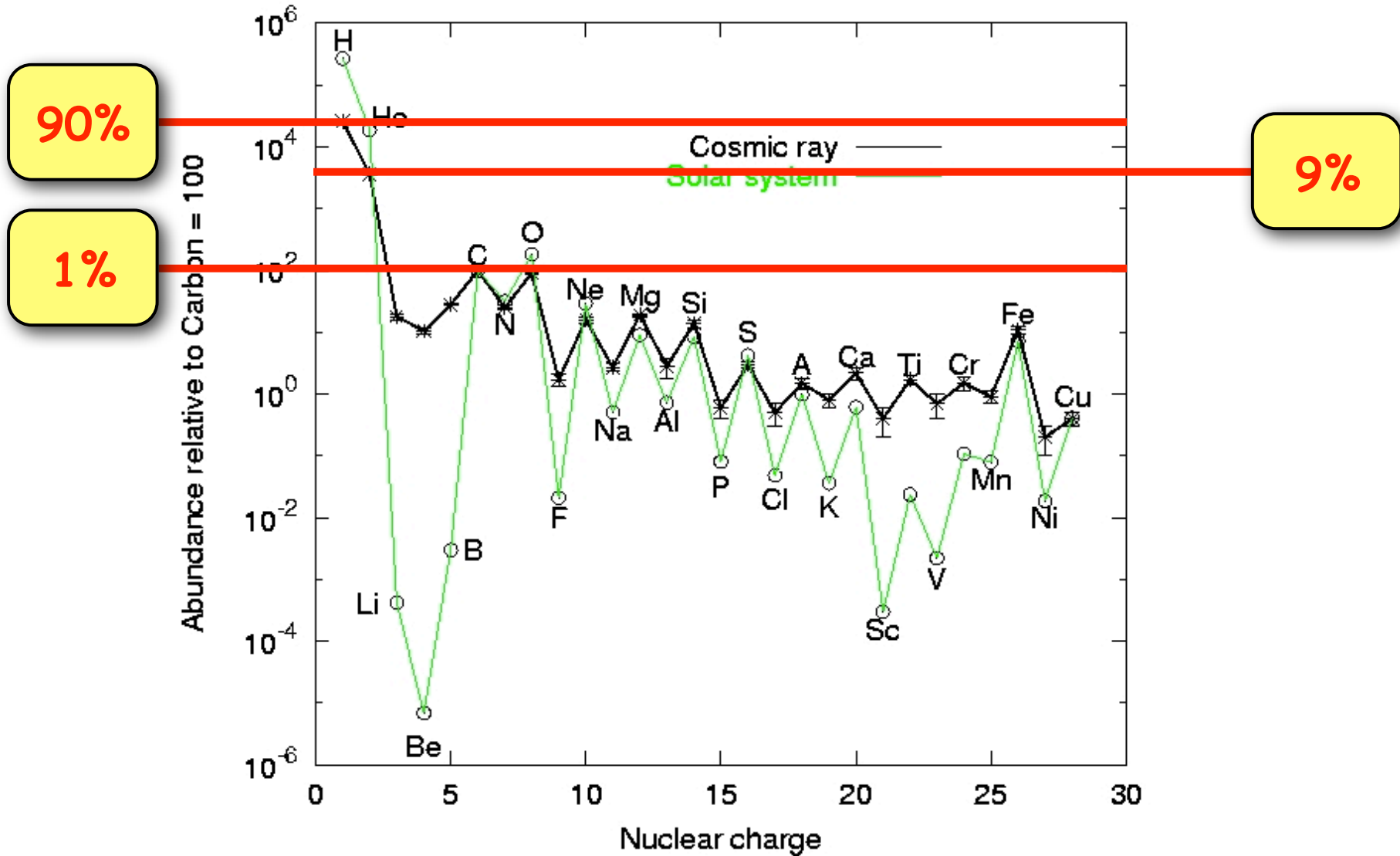


Cosmic Ray composition

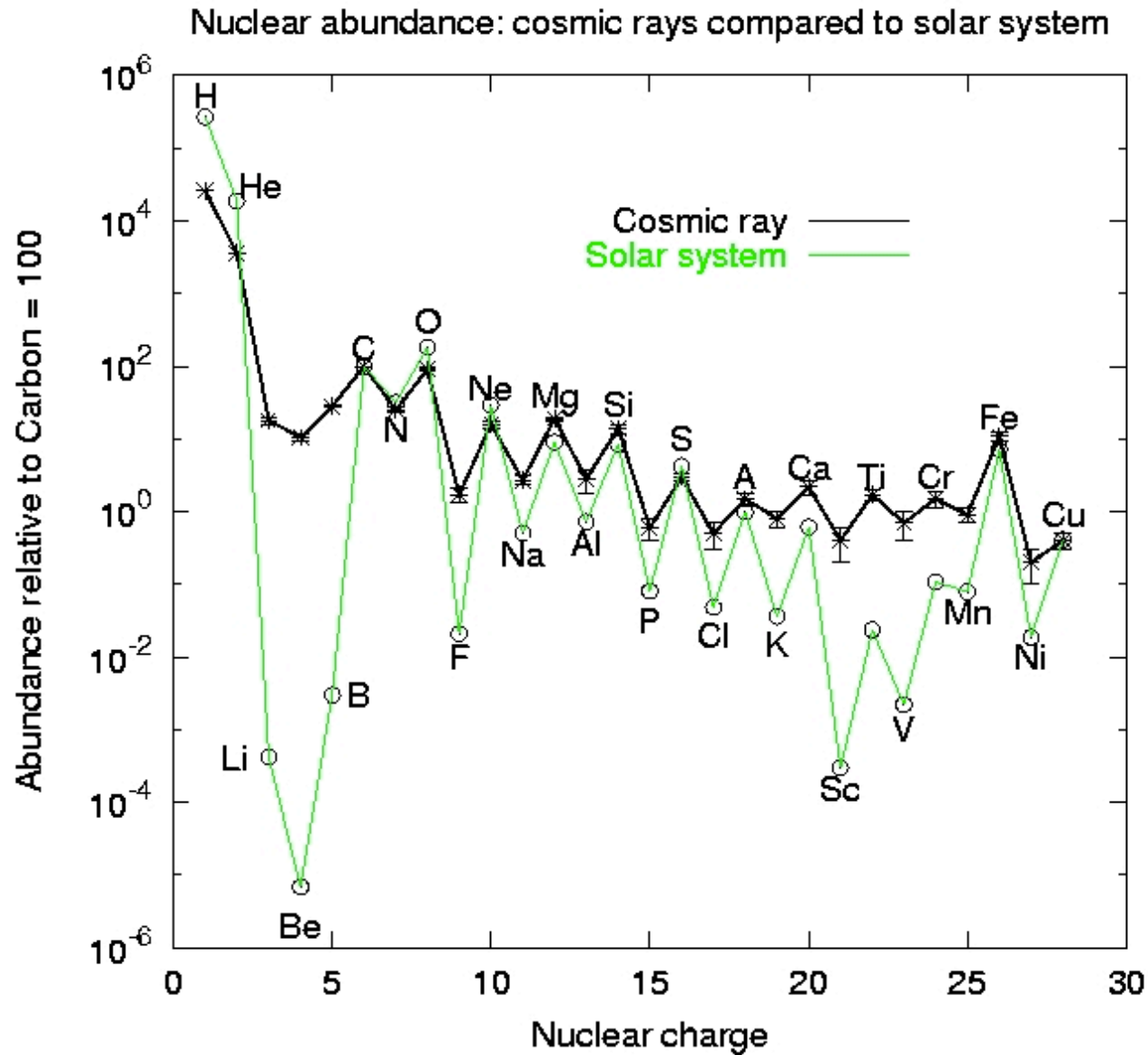


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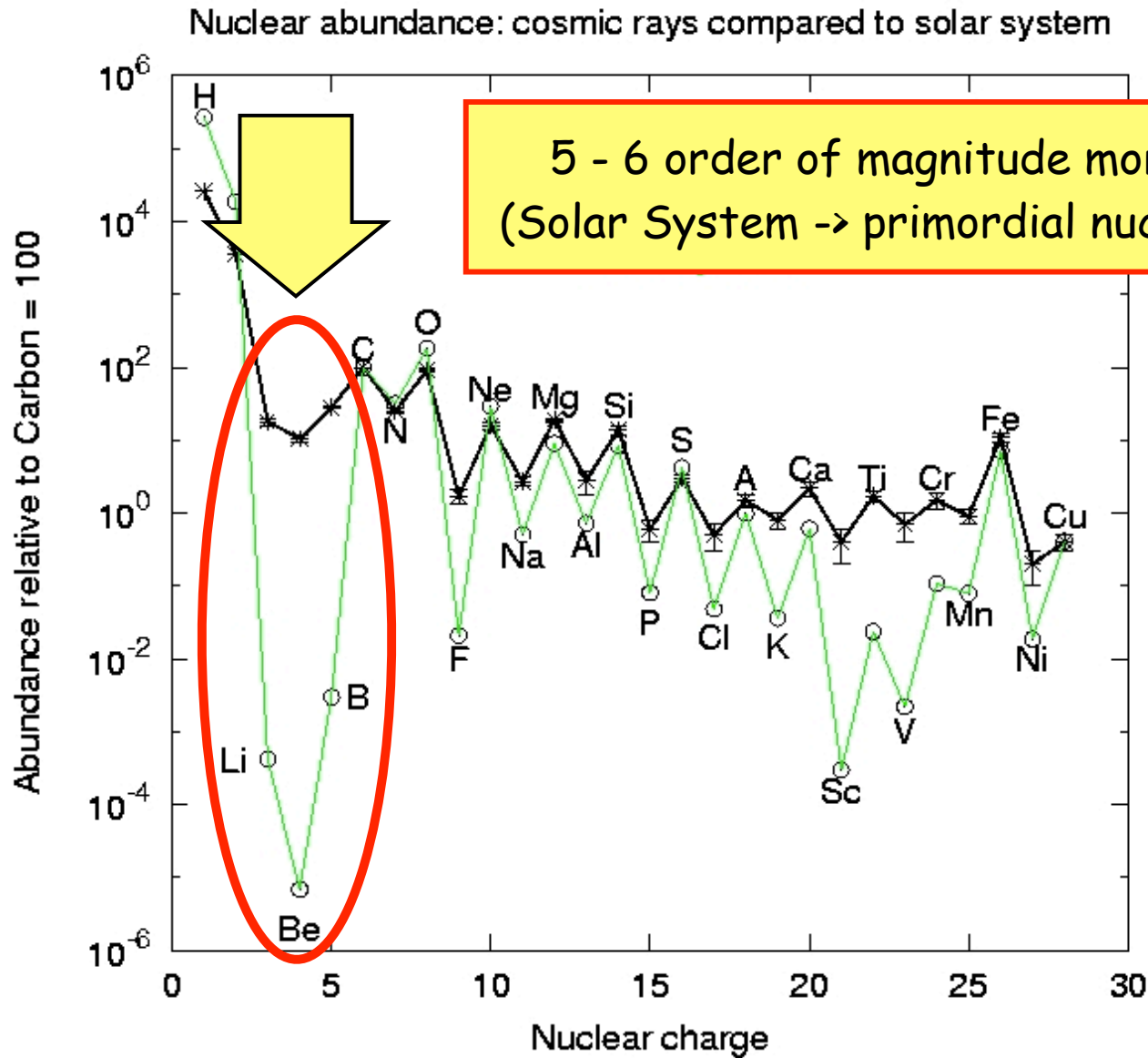
Nuclear abundance: cosmic rays compared to solar system



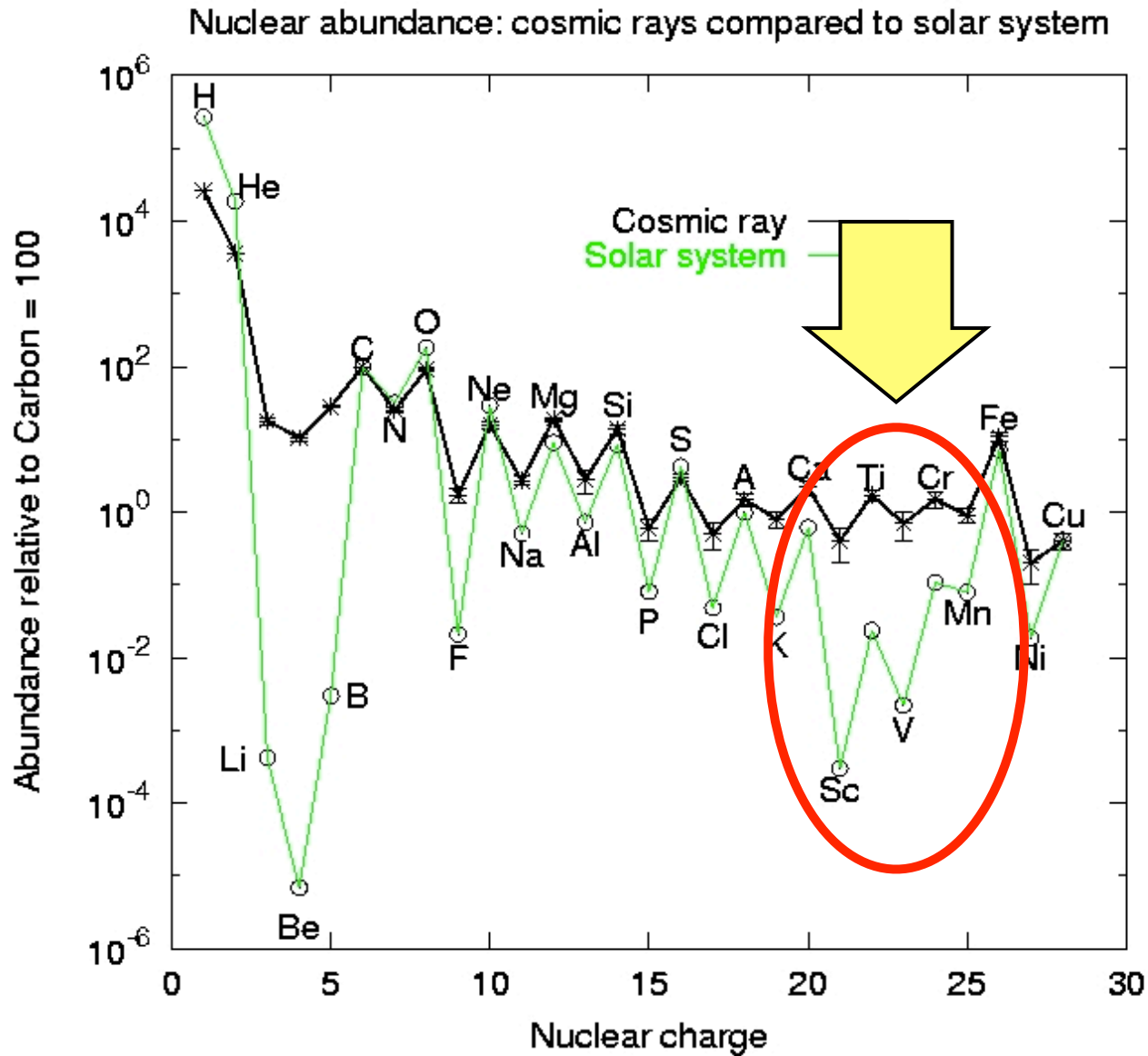
Cosmic Ray composition



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Cosmic Ray composition



Cosmic Ray electrons

The CR electron spectrum is more structured (and more difficult to be measured) of the proton one

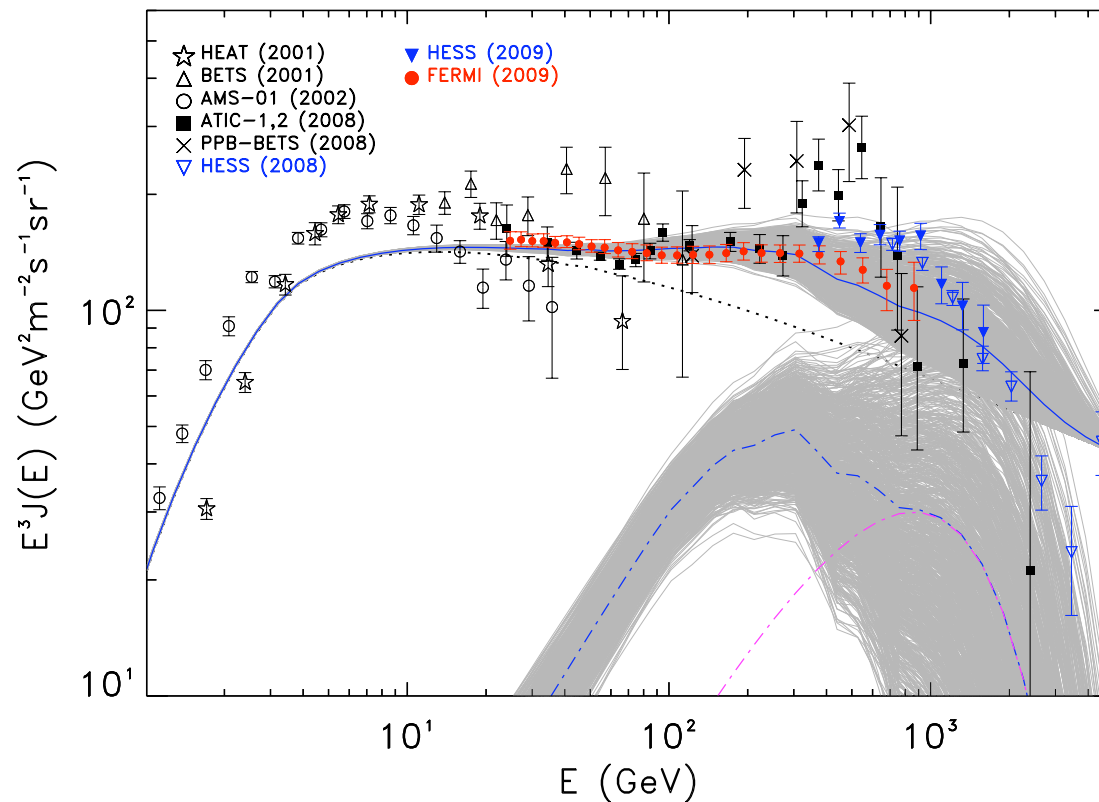


figure from
Grasso et al, 2009

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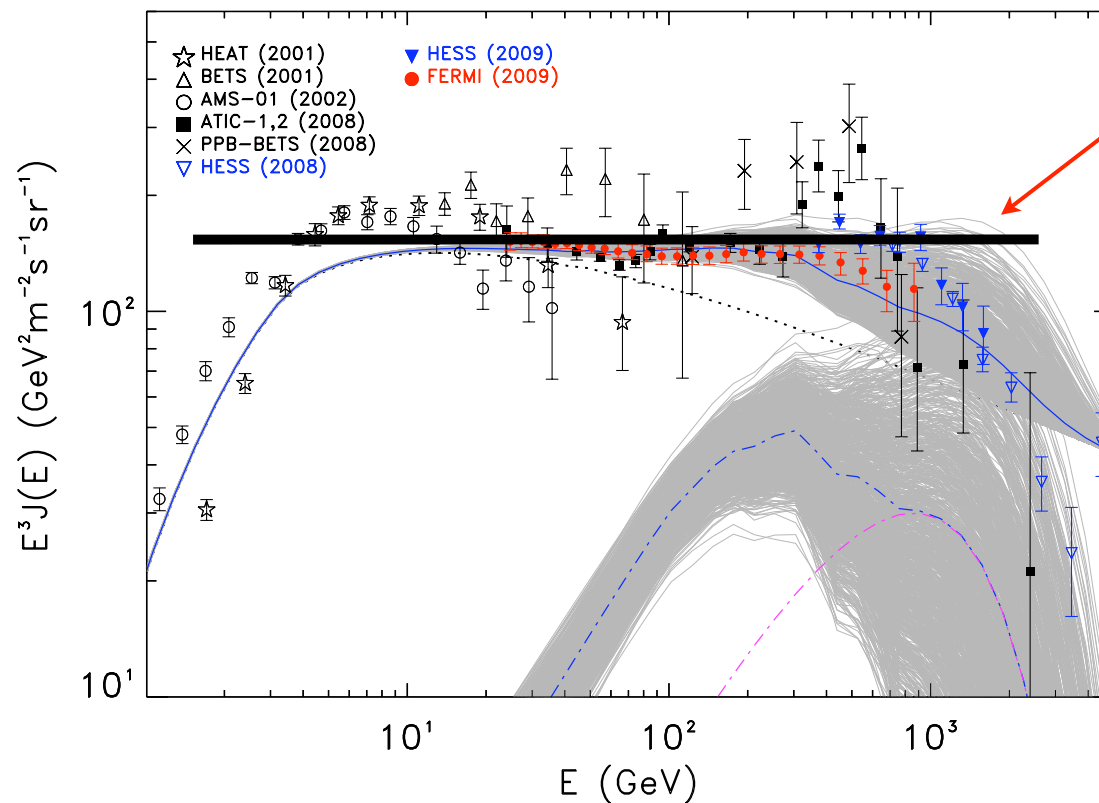
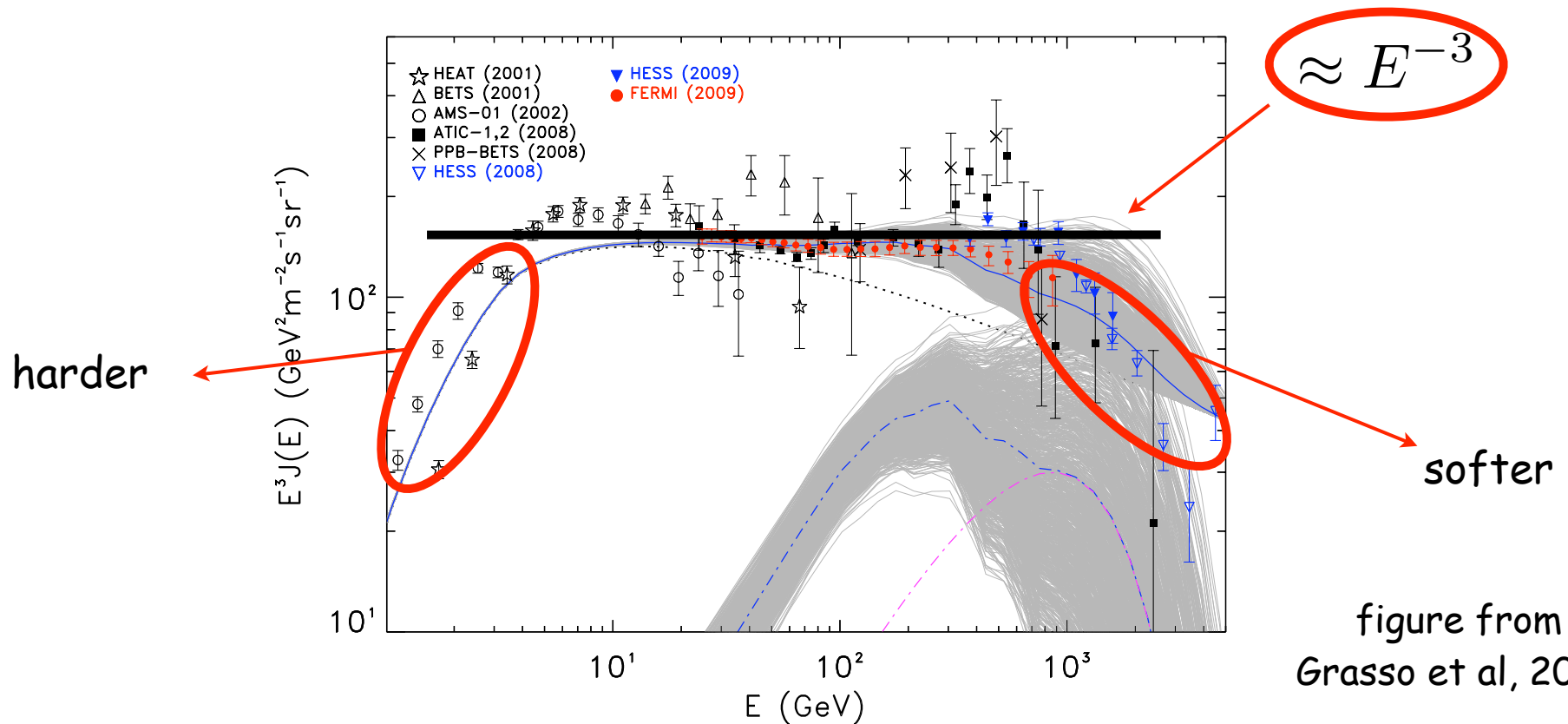


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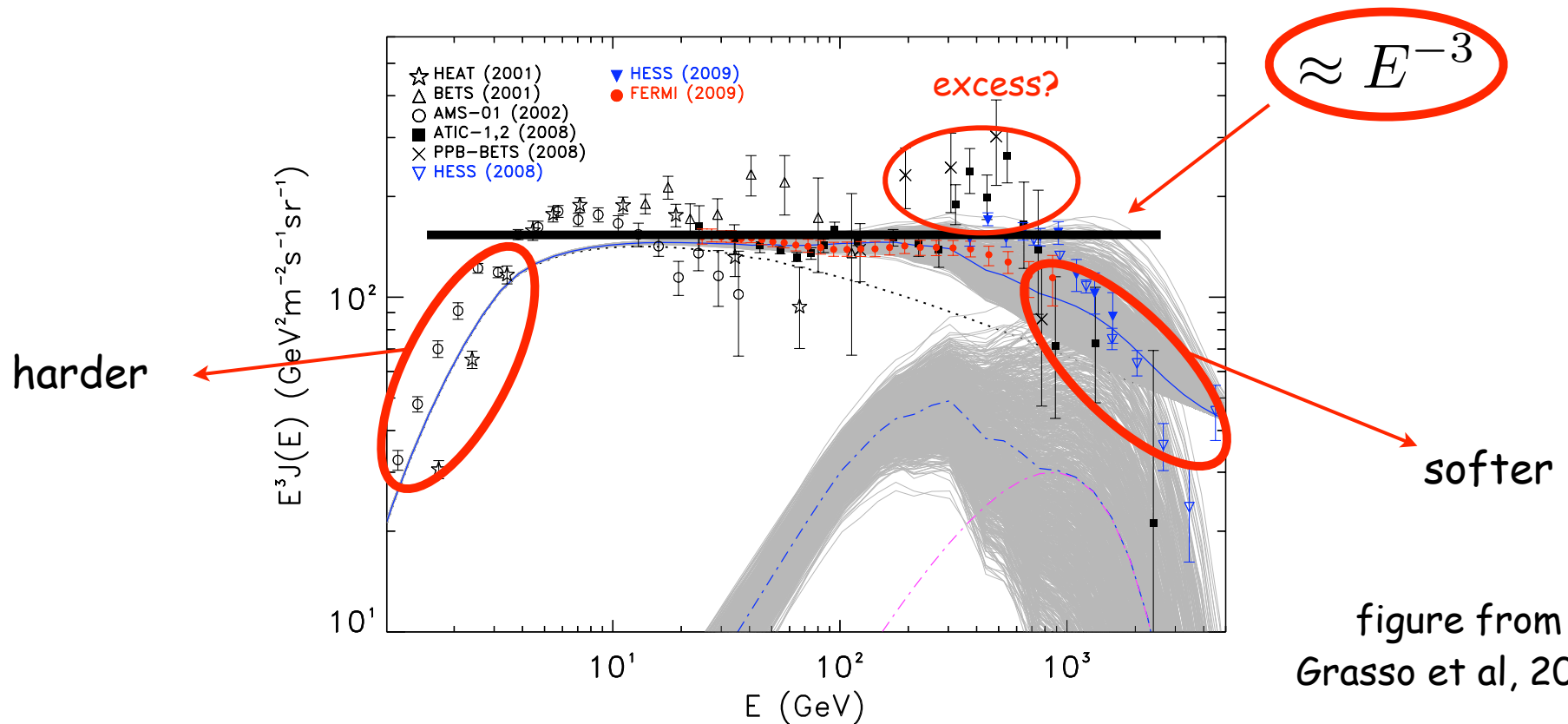
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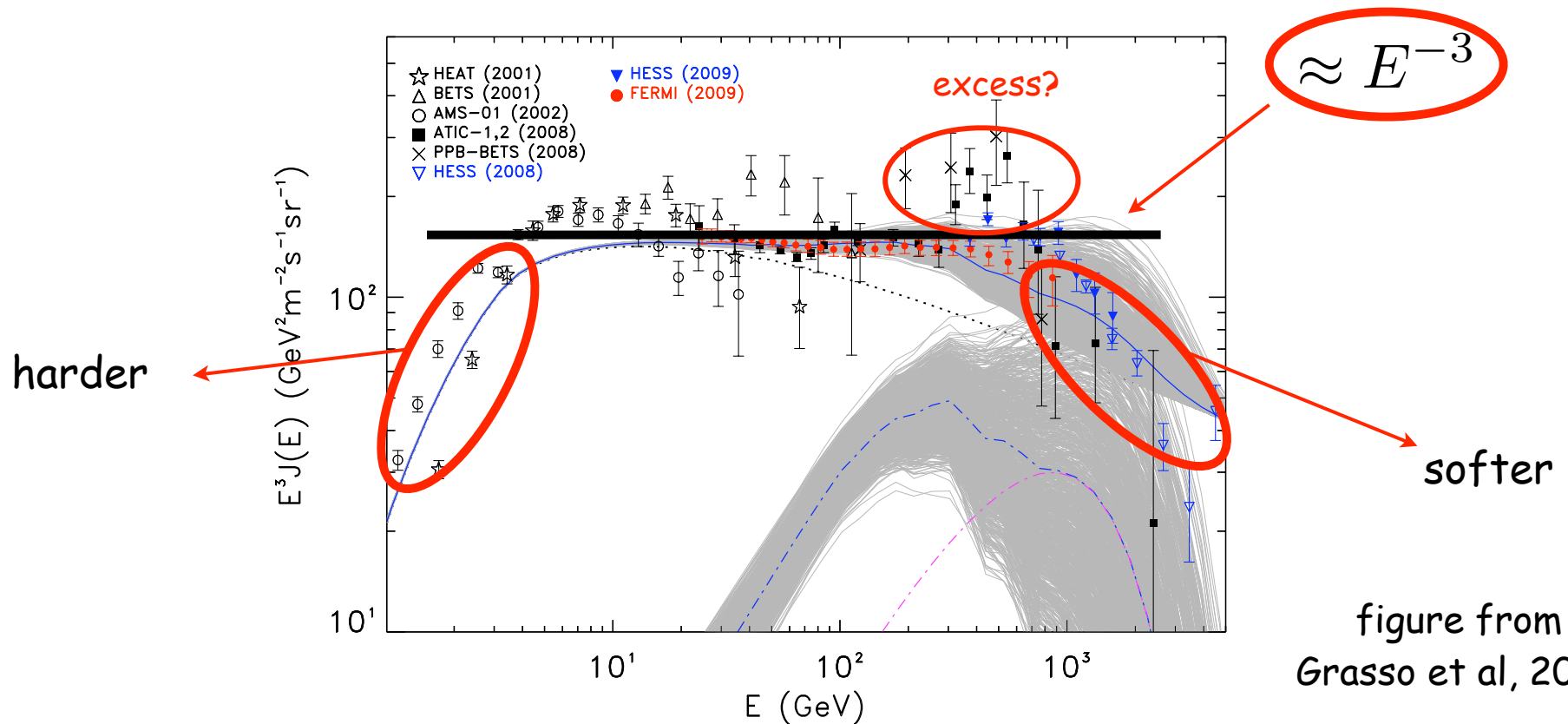
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Cosmic Ray electrons

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@ ~1 GeV --> $N_p/N_e \sim 100$

Cosmic Ray isotropy

Cosmic Ray anisotropy: $\delta = \frac{I_{max} - I_{min}}{I_{max} + I_{min}}$ (I \rightarrow CR intensity)

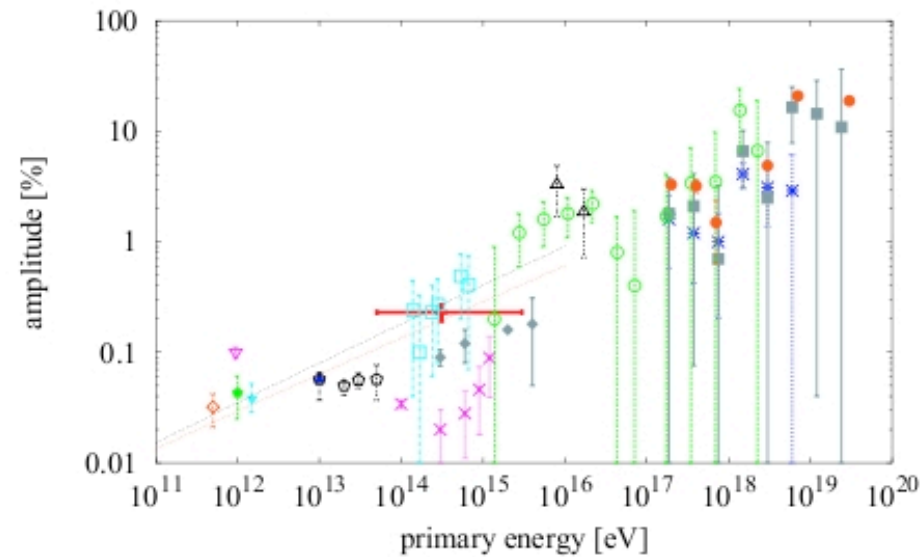


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measures available only above ~ 500 GeV \rightarrow magnetic field of the solar system has no effect

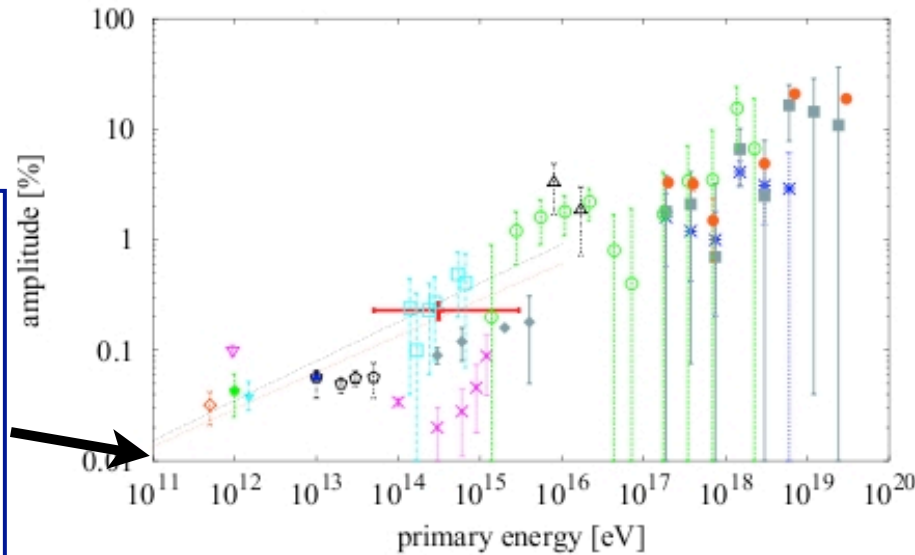
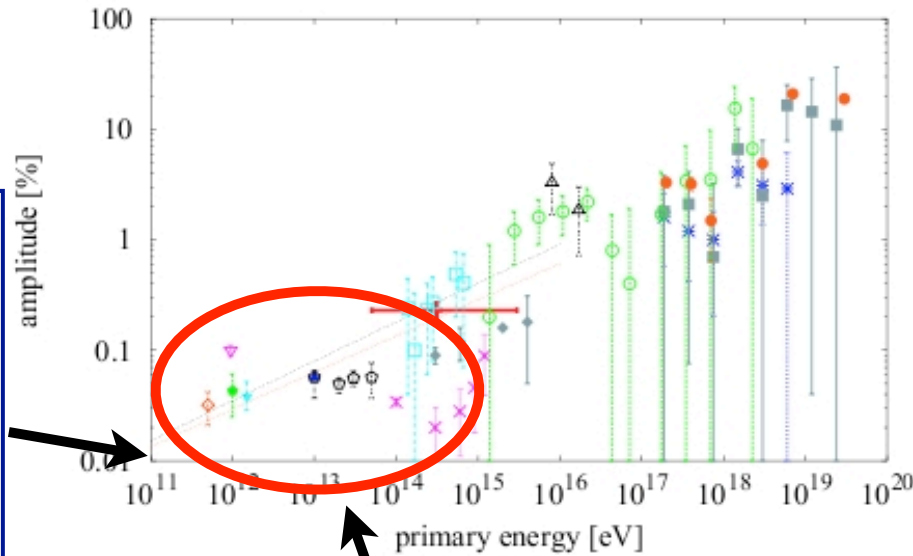


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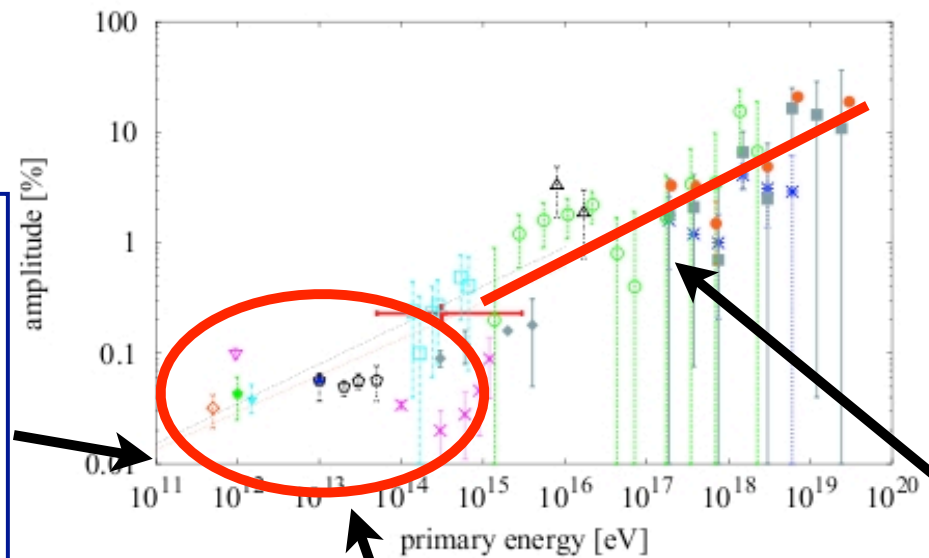


$\delta \sim 10^{-3}$

figure from Iyono et al, 2005

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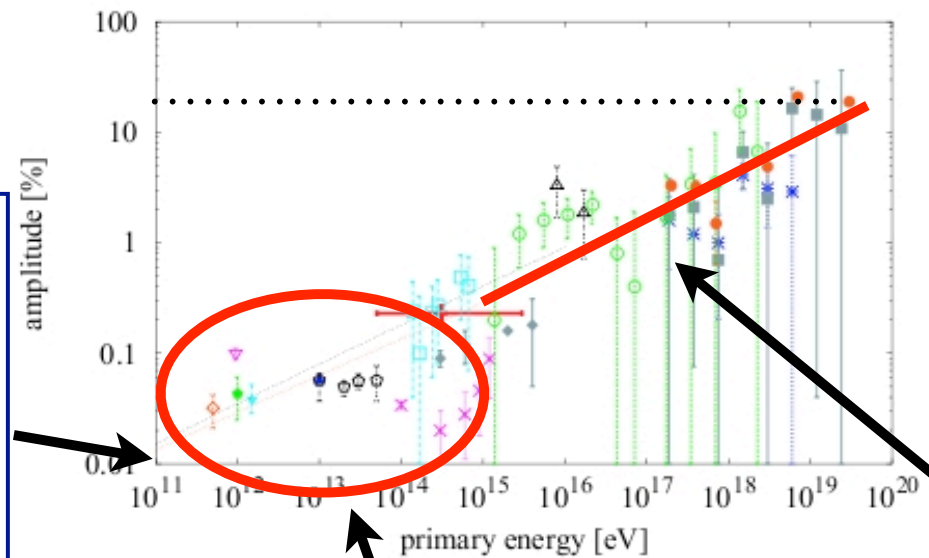
the anisotropy increases with particle energy

$$\delta \sim 10^{-3}$$

figure from Iyono et al, 2005

Cosmic Ray isotropy

Cosmic Ray anisotropy: $\delta = \frac{I_{max} - I_{min}}{I_{max} + I_{min}}$ (I \rightarrow CR intensity)



CRs are very isotropic in the sky

measures available only above ~ 500 GeV \rightarrow magnetic field of the solar system has no effect

the anisotropy increases with particle energy

$\delta \sim 10^{-3}$

figure from Iyono et al, 2005

Energy density

Cosmic Ray energy density: $w_{CR} \sim 1 \text{ eV cm}^{-3}$

Energy density

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Magnetic field energy density: $w_B = \frac{B^2}{8\pi} \sim 1 \text{ eV cm}^{-3}$

Thermal gas energy density: $w_{gas} = \frac{3}{2} n_{gas} kT \sim 1 \text{ eV cm}^{-3}$

CRs are dynamically important in the Galaxy

Variations in time and space

- ☀ CR flux at Earth **constant during the last 10^9 yr**

(from radiation damages in geological and biological samples, meteorites, and lunar rocks)

- ☀ thus the CR flux must be **constant along the orbit**

of the Sun around the galactic centre (many revolutions in a *Gyr*)

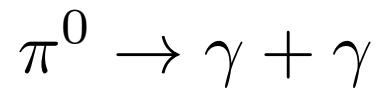
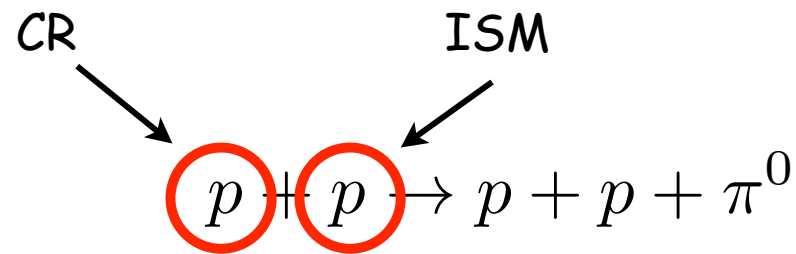
Stability in time and (hints for) spatial homogeneity

What we have to explain about CRs:

- Energy density
- Energy spectrum
- Chemical composition
- Isotropy
- Stability in time
- Spatial homogeneity (?)

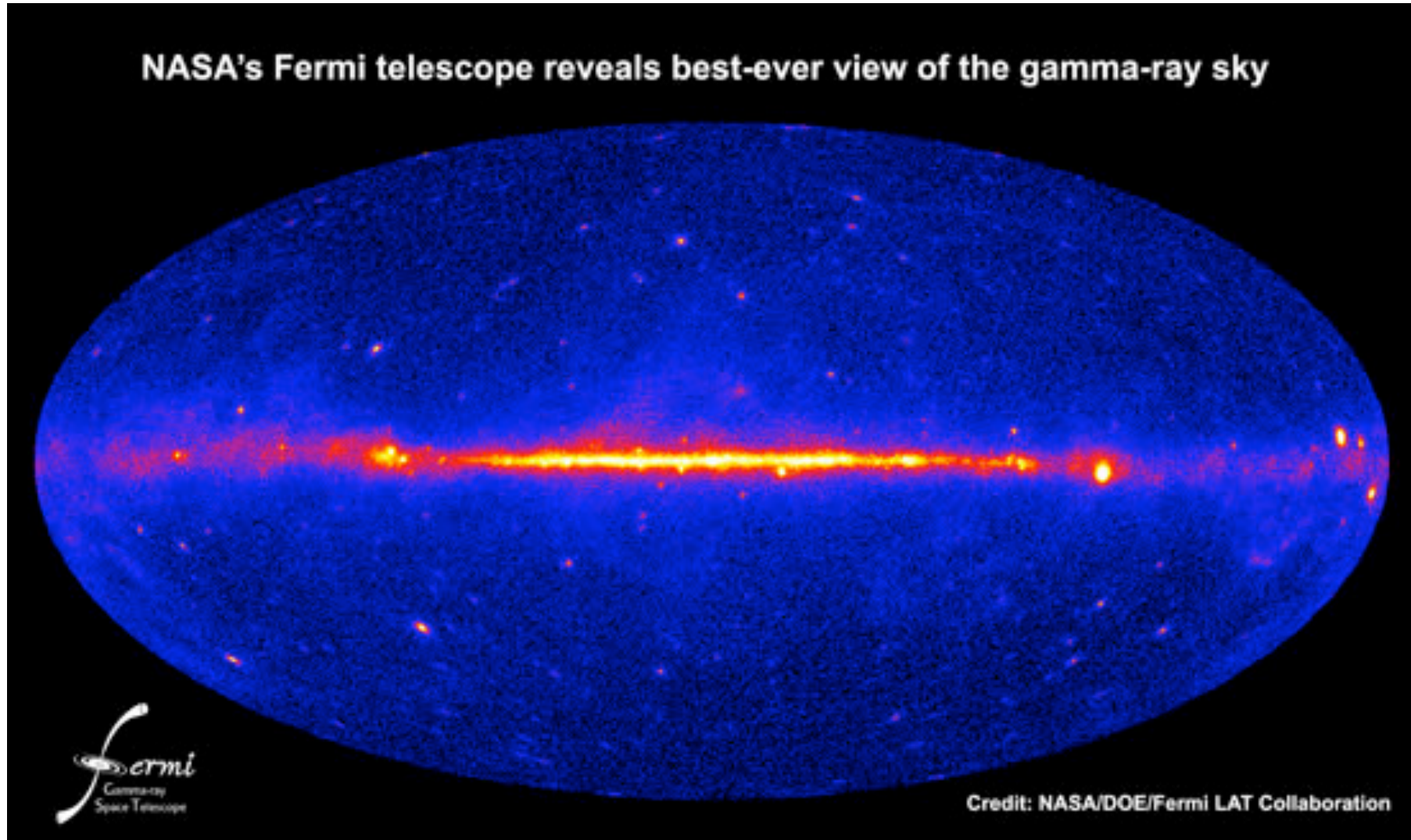
Cosmic Rays and Gamma-Ray Astronomy

Cosmic Rays undergo hadronic interactions in the InterStellar Medium:



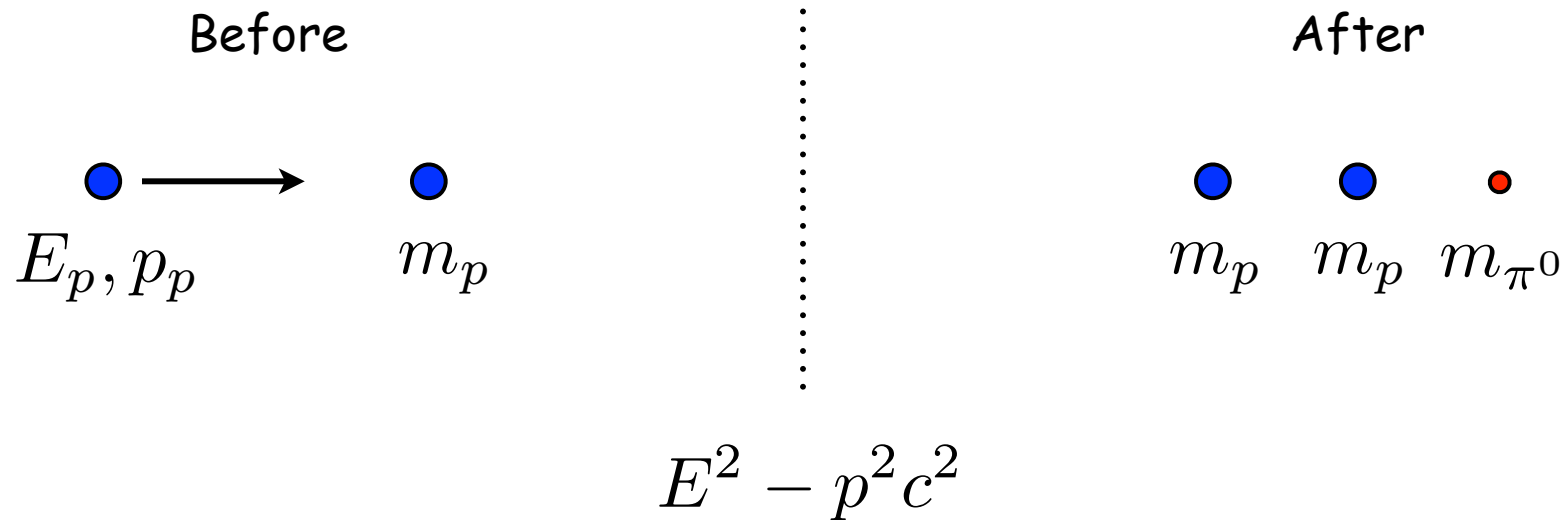
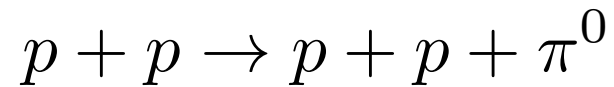
The gamma ray emission traces the gas distribution (times the CR distribution)

Cosmic Rays and Gamma-Ray Astronomy



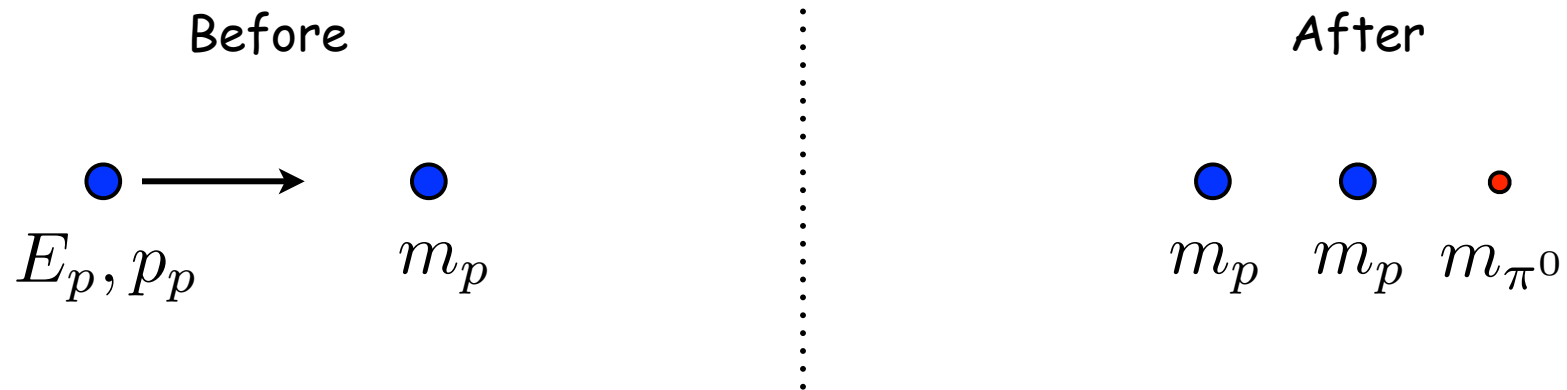
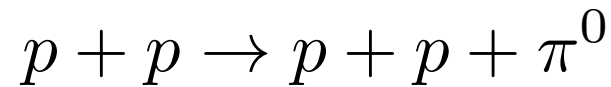
Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

Energy threshold for neutral pion production:



Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

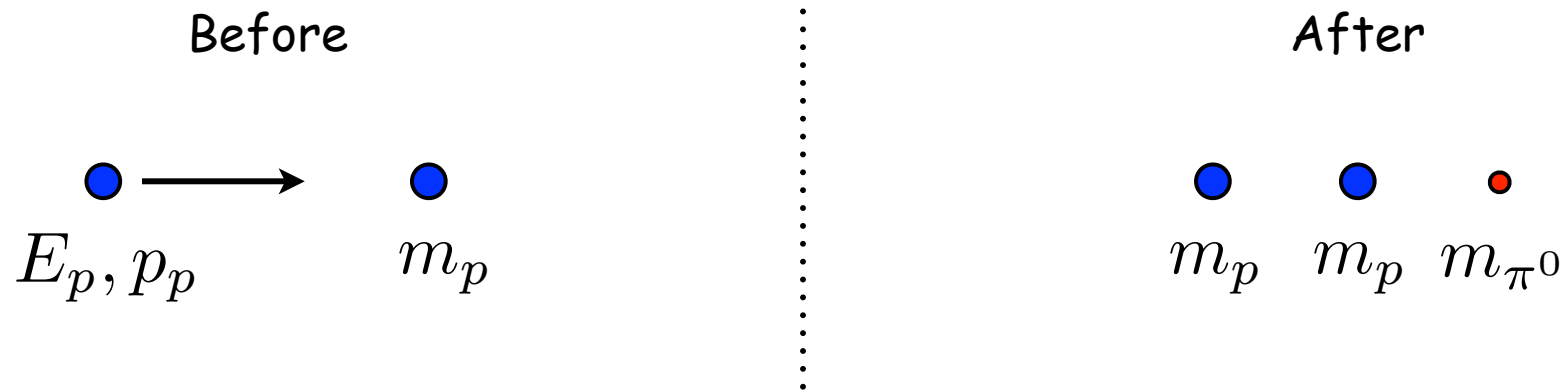
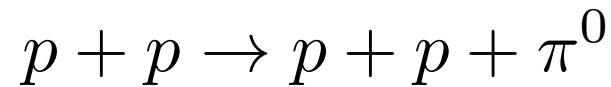
Energy threshold for neutral pion production:



$$E^2 - p^2 c^2 = (2m_p c^2 + m_{\pi^0} c^2)^2$$

Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

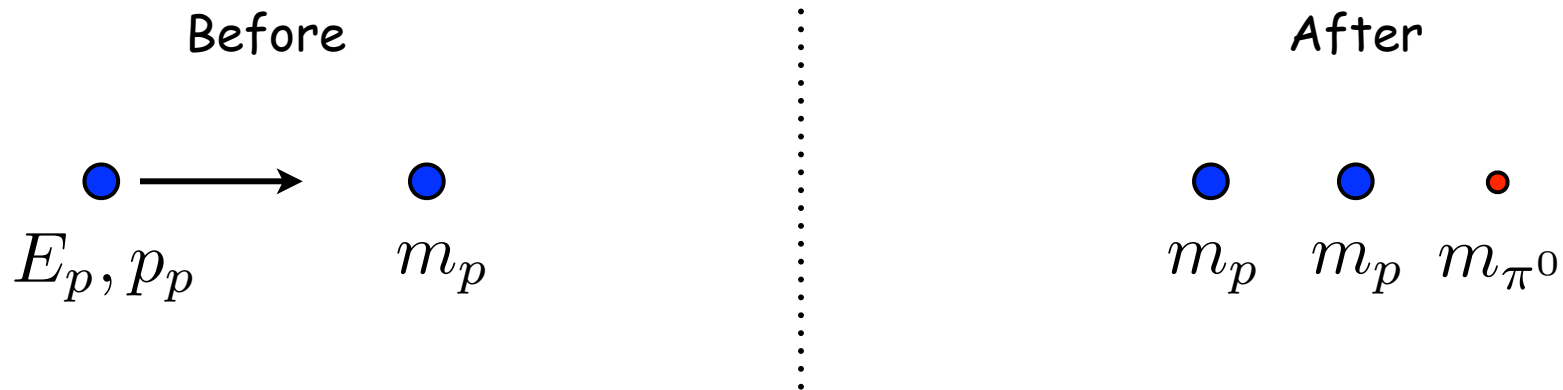
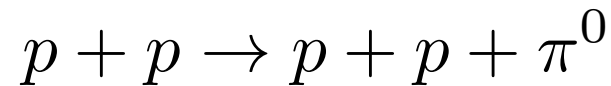
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$$(E_p + m_p c^2)^2 - p_p^2 c^2 = E^2 - p^2 c^2 = (2m_p c^2 + m_{\pi^0} c^2)^2$$

Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

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$$E_p - m_p c^2 > 2m_{\pi^0} c^2 + \left(\frac{m_{\pi^0}}{2m_p} \right) m_{\pi^0} c^2 \approx 280 \text{ MeV}$$

CRs produce gammas

Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

Let's calculate the spectrum of neutral pions:

We assume a power law spectrum for CRs: $N_p(E_p) \propto E_p^{-\delta}$

Fraction of proton kinetic energy transferred to pion (from data): $f_{\pi^0} \approx 0.17$

.....
**production
rate**

**total cross
section**

$$q_{\pi^0} = \int dE_p N_p(E_p) \delta(E_{\pi^0} - f_{\pi^0} E_{p,kin}) \sigma_{pp}(E_p) n_{gas} c$$

Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

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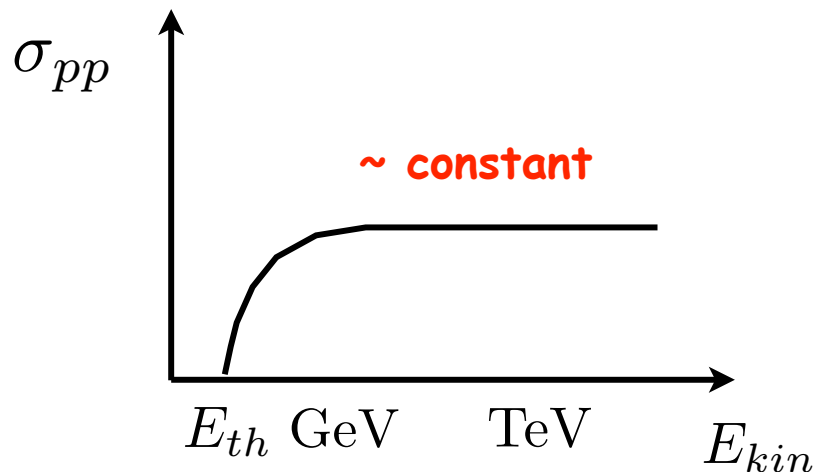
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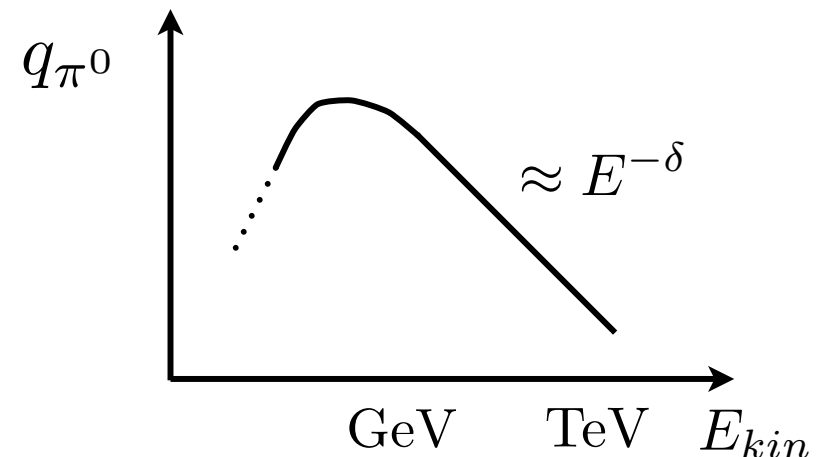
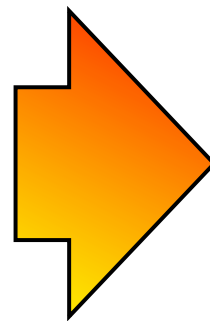
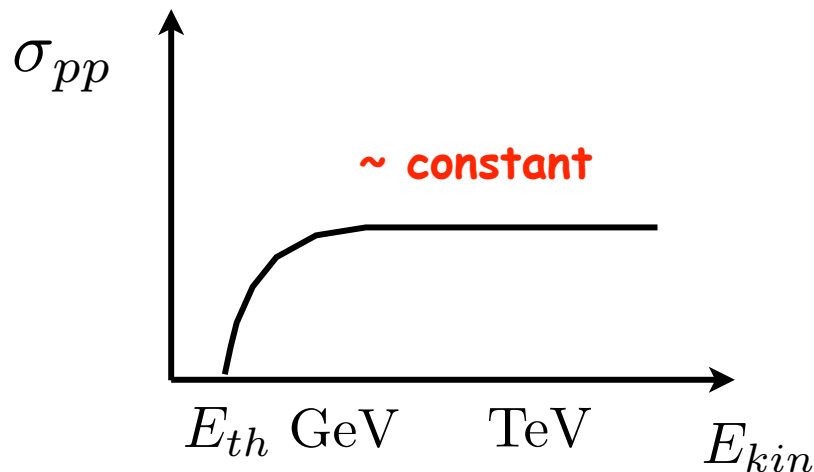
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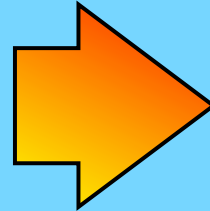
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Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

Let's now calculate the spectrum of photons from pion decay - I

The photon spectrum is the result of a "one-body-decay" (neutral pion)

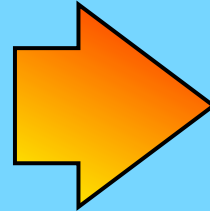


The photon spectrum **MUST** exhibit a feature at an energy relate to the pion mass

Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

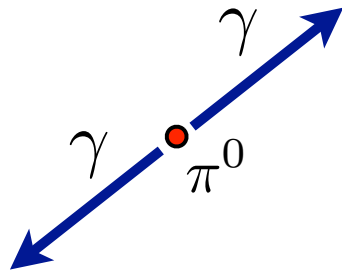
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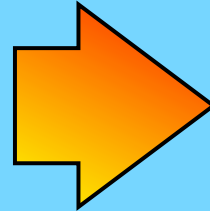


$$E_{\gamma}^* = \frac{m_{\pi^0}}{2}$$

Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

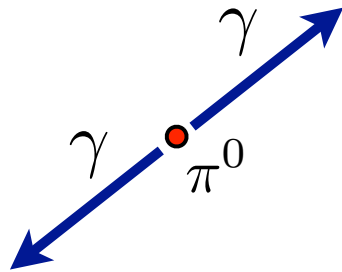
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Pion rest frame:



$$E_{\gamma}^* = \frac{m_{\pi^0}}{2}$$

Lab frame:

$$E_{\gamma} = \gamma (E_{\gamma}^* + vp_{\gamma}^* \cos \theta^*)$$

max and min energies $\rightarrow \cos \theta^* = \pm 1$

$$\frac{m_{\pi^0}}{2} \sqrt{\frac{1 - \beta}{1 + \beta}} \leq E_{\gamma} \leq \frac{m_{\pi^0}}{2} \sqrt{\frac{1 + \beta}{1 - \beta}}$$

Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

Let's now calculate the spectrum of photons from pion decay - II

$$E_{\gamma}^{min} = \frac{m_{\pi^0}}{2} \sqrt{\frac{1-\beta}{1+\beta}} \leq E_{\gamma} \leq \frac{m_{\pi^0}}{2} \sqrt{\frac{1+\beta}{1-\beta}} = E_{\gamma}^{max}$$

(1)
$$\frac{\log E_{\gamma}^{max} + \log E_{\gamma}^{min}}{2} = \log \left(\frac{m_{\pi^0}}{2} \right)$$

in log-scale, the centre
of the interval is half
the pion mass

Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

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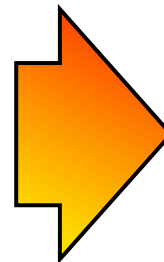
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in log-scale, the centre of the interval is half the pion mass

(2) in the pion rest frame the photon distribution is isotropic $\frac{dn_{\gamma}}{d\Omega^*} = const$

$$d\Omega^* = d\phi^* d(\cos \theta^*)$$

$$E_{\gamma} = \gamma (E_{\gamma}^* + vp_{\gamma}^* \cos \theta^*) \rightarrow dE_{\gamma} \propto d(\cos \theta^*)$$

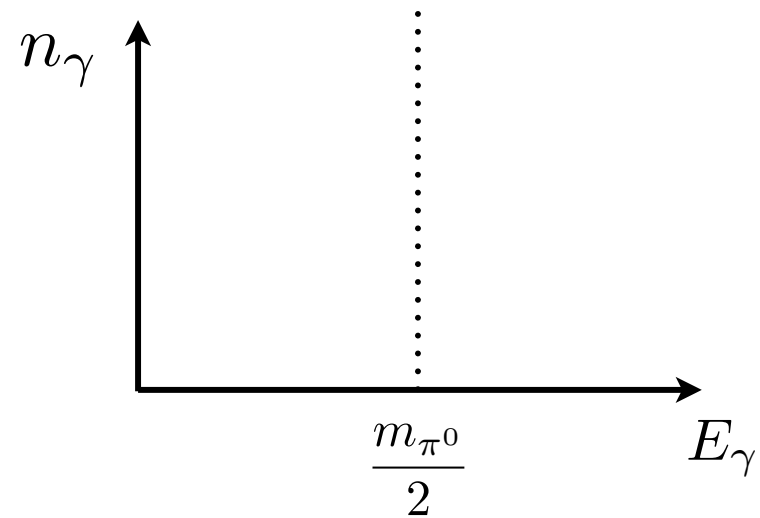
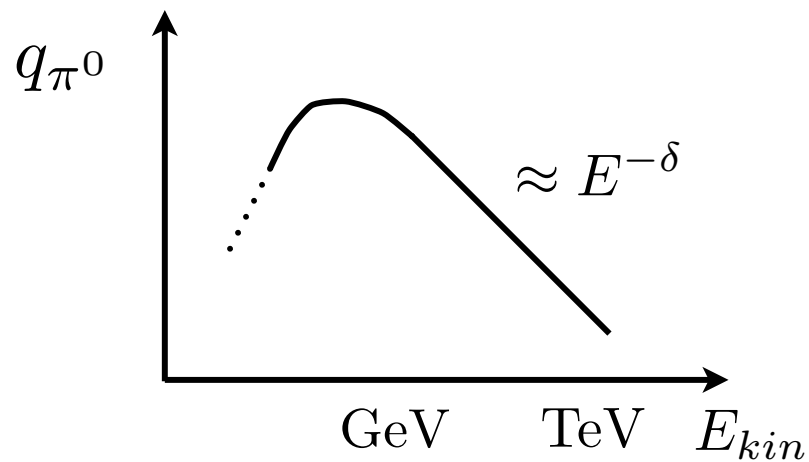


$$\frac{dn_{\gamma}}{dE_{\gamma}} = const$$

The spectrum is flat!

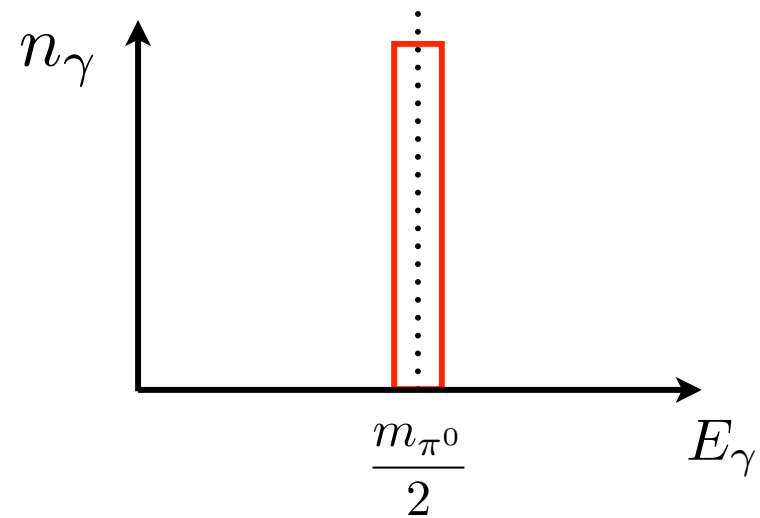
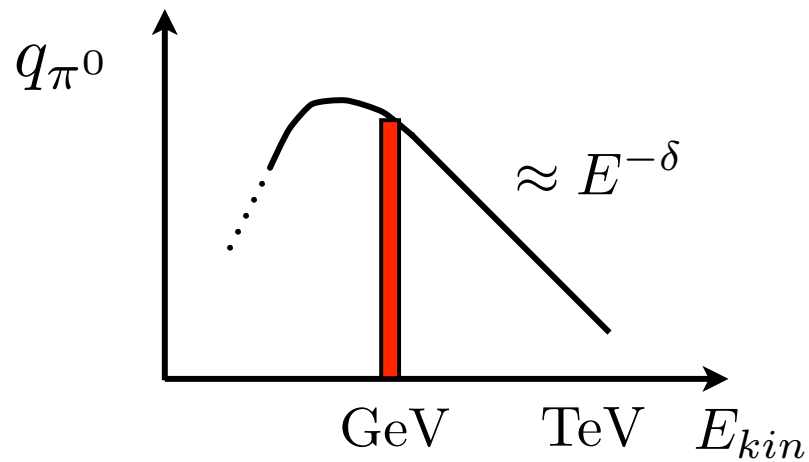
Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

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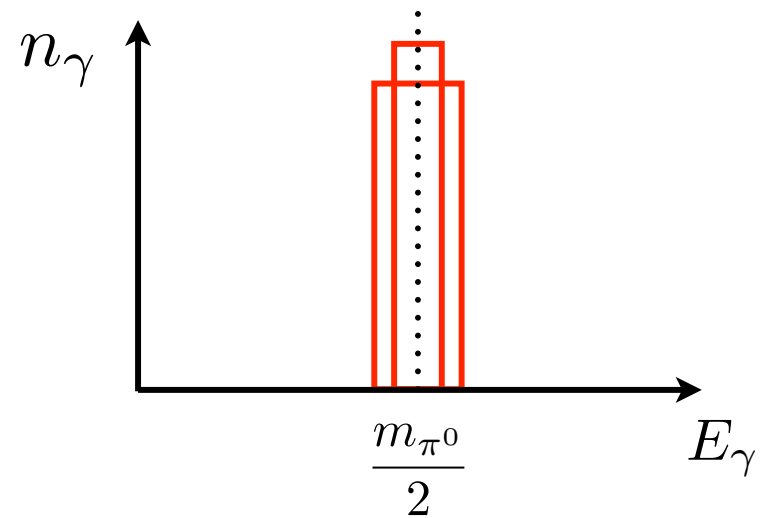
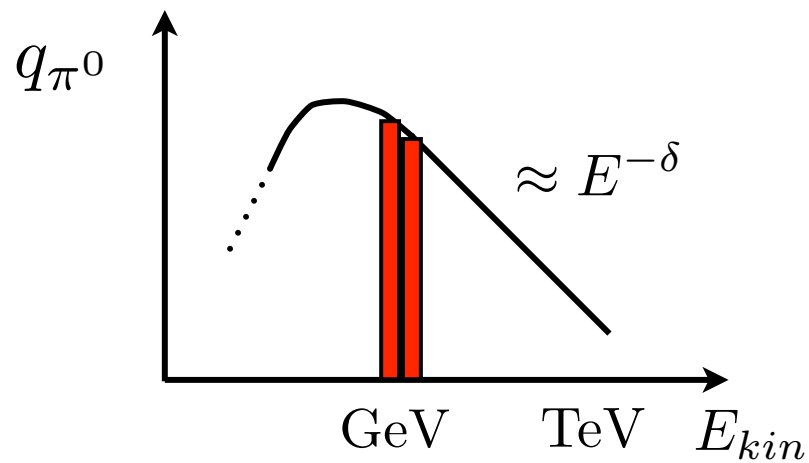
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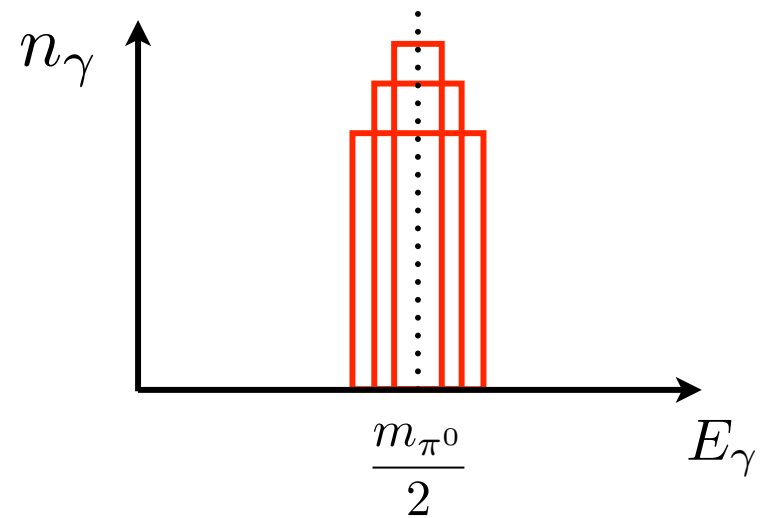
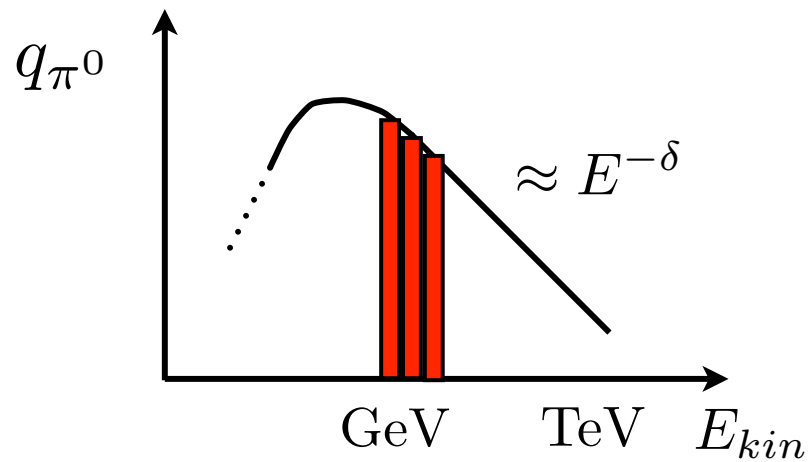
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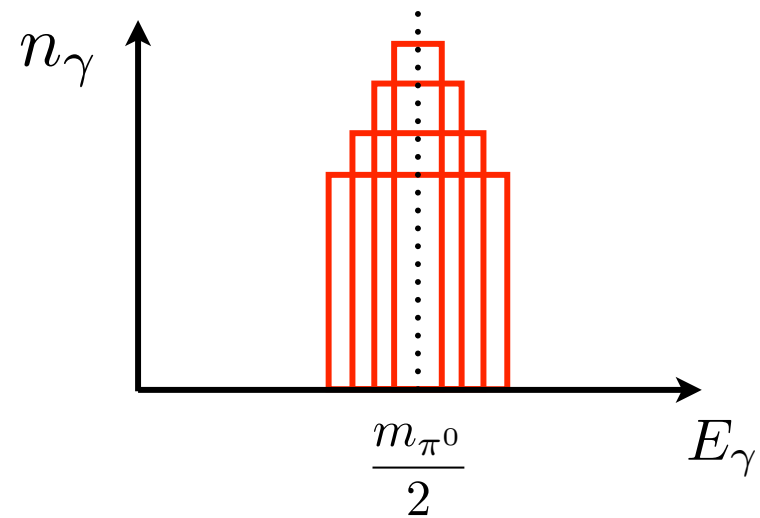
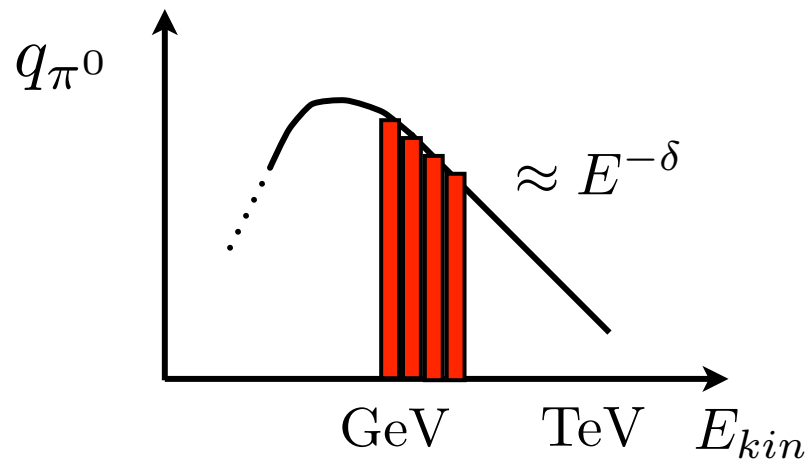
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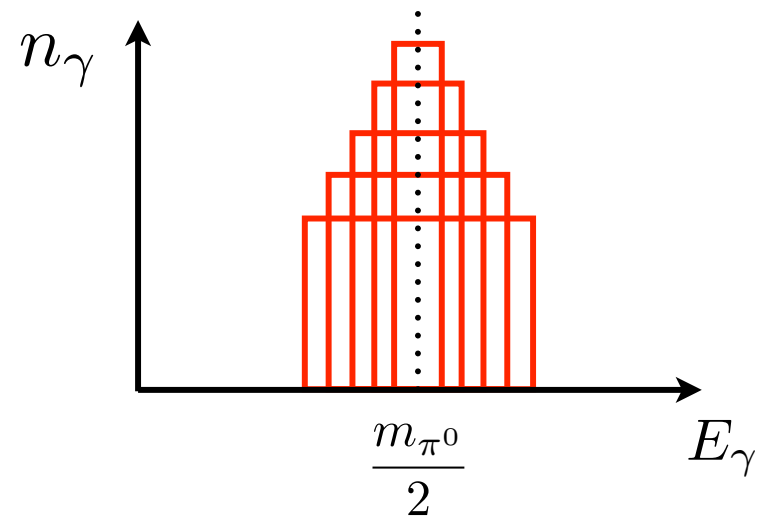
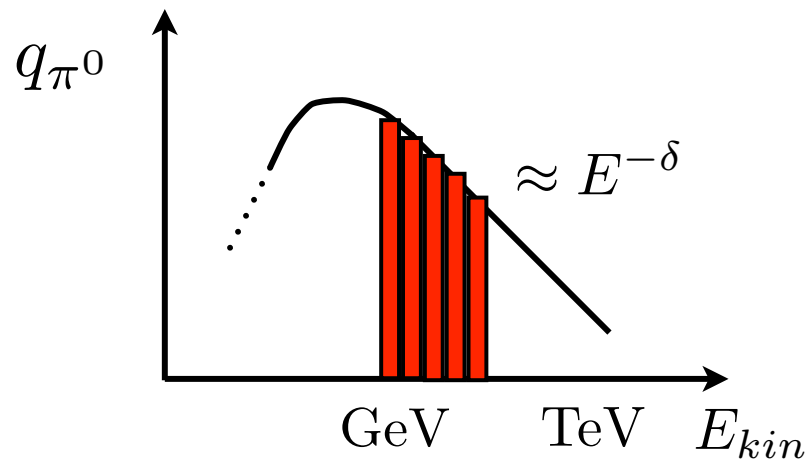
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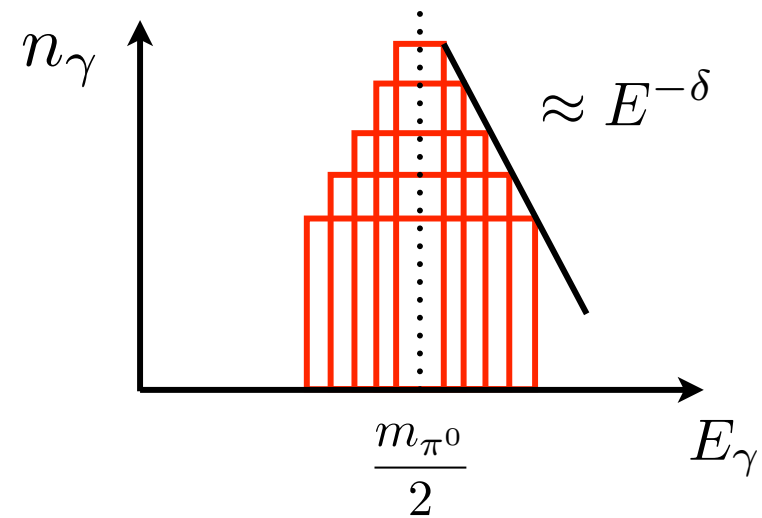
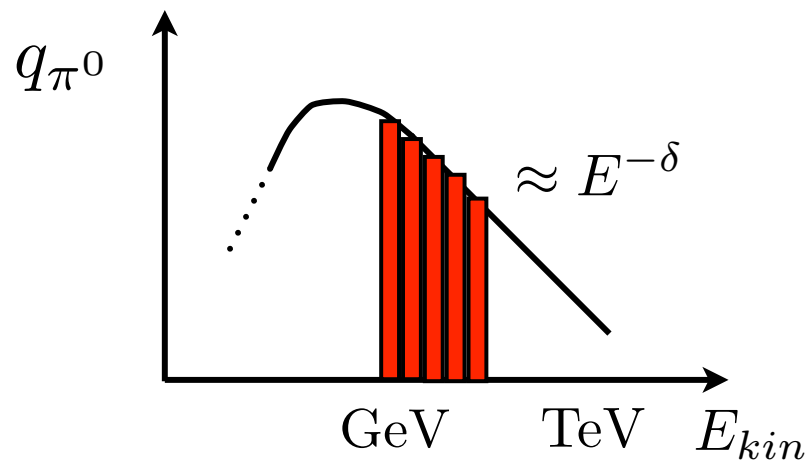
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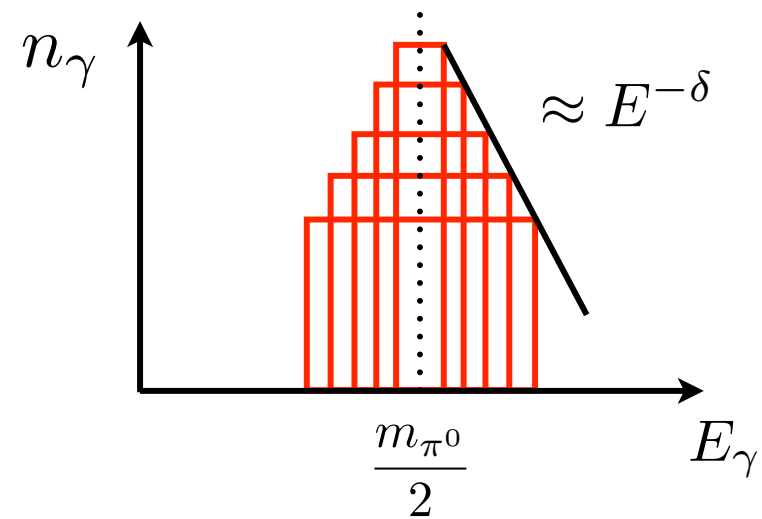
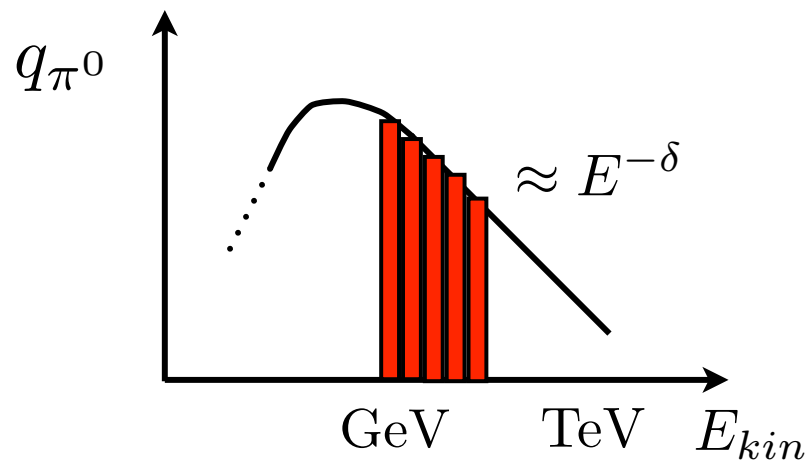
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Let's now calculate the spectrum of photons from pion decay - III



Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

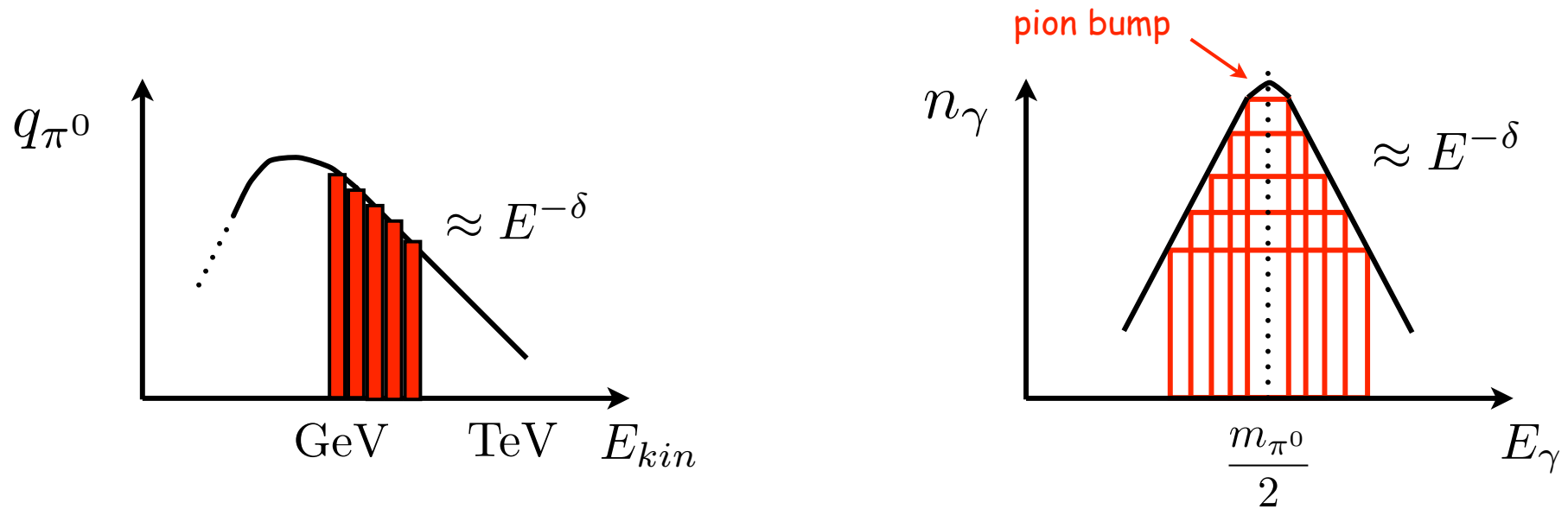
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- the gamma ray spectrum is symmetric (in log-log) with respect to: $\frac{m_{\pi^0}}{2} \sim 70 \text{ MeV}$
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Detectability condition for a Cherenkov Telescope

HESS sensitivity: $F_{HESS}^{min}(> 1 \text{ TeV}) \approx 10^{-12} \text{ ph cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \rightarrow 10^{-11} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$

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Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

SUMMARY:

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$$W_{CR} > 10^{49} n_{gas}^{-1} d_{kpc}^2 \text{ erg}$$



above $\sim 10 \text{ TeV}$

Gamma-Ray Astronomy: p-p interactions

Secondary electrons and positrons:

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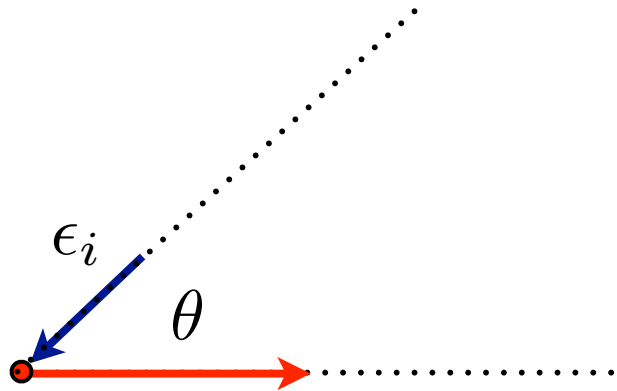
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Final products of proton-proton interactions are not only **gamma ray photons** but also **neutrinos**, **anti-neutrinos**, **electrons** and **positrons**

$$E_e \approx E_\nu \approx \frac{E_p}{20}$$

Leptonic Gamma-Rays: Inverse Compton

Relativistic **electrons** can interact with soft background **photons**
(Cosmic Microwave Background, IR and Optical galactic background...)



Leptonic Gamma-Rays: Inverse Compton

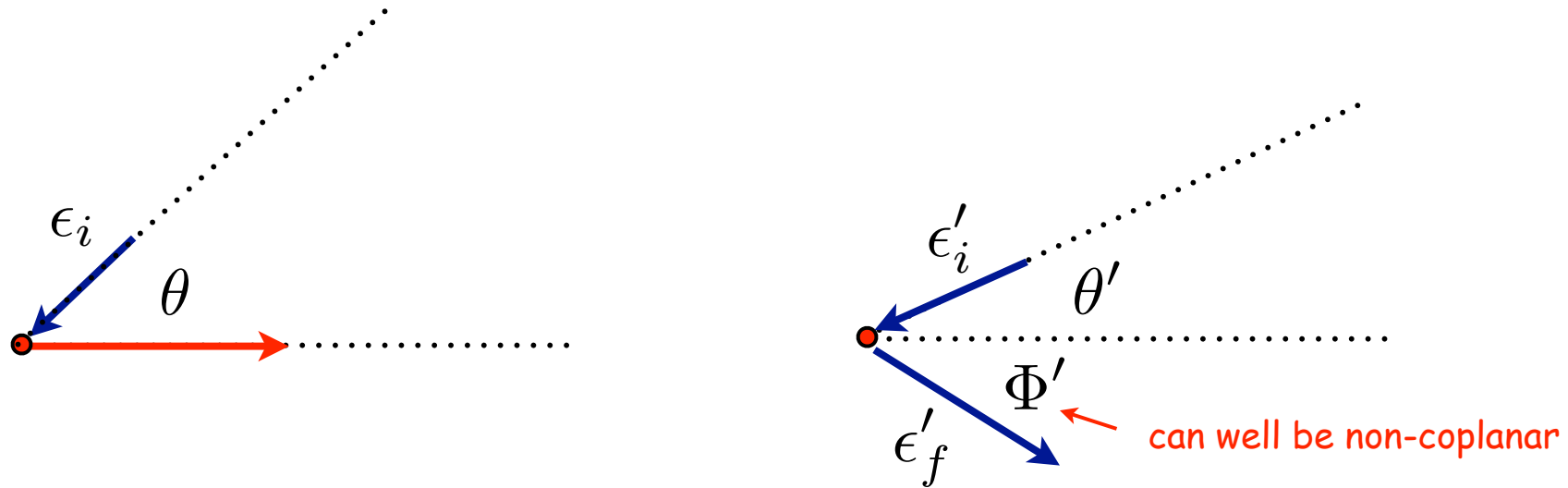
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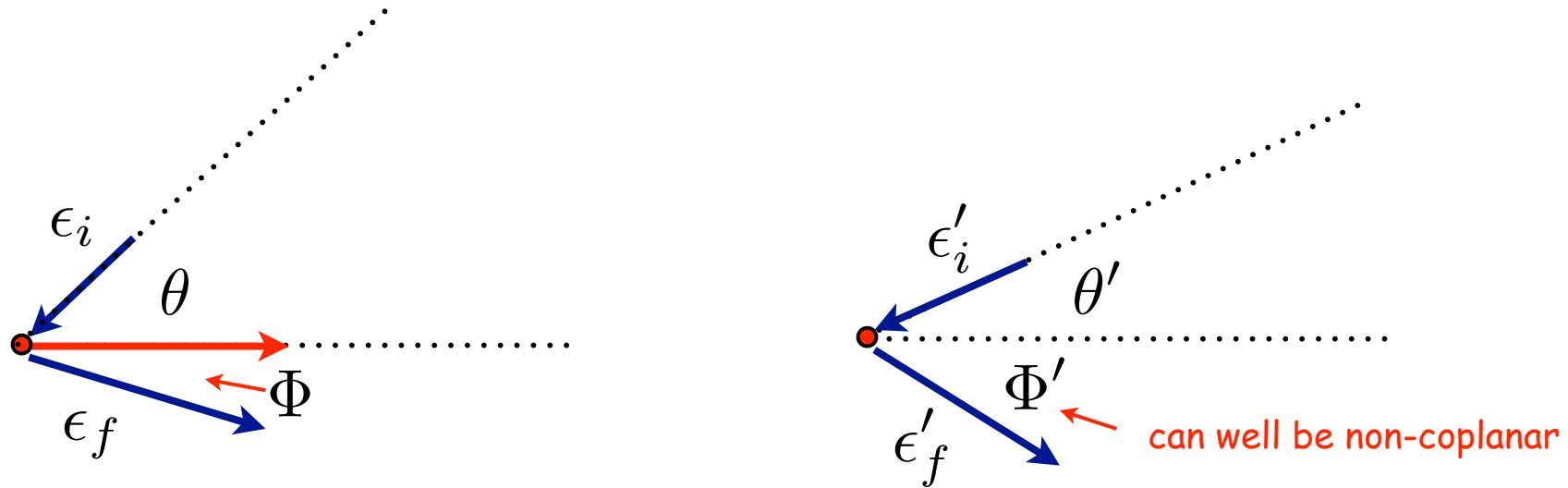


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In the lab rest frame the (final) photon energy is: $\epsilon_f = \epsilon'_f \gamma (1 + \beta \cos \Phi)$

Leptonic Gamma-Rays: Inverse Compton

$$\epsilon_f = \gamma^2 \epsilon_i G(\theta, \Phi)$$

After averaging over angles (tedious...):

$$\epsilon_f = \frac{4}{3} \gamma^2 \epsilon_i$$

Leptonic Gamma-Rays: Inverse Compton

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Example:

Cosmic Microwave Background $\rightarrow T \sim 3 \text{ K} \quad kT \approx 3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ eV}$

- $E_e = 1 \text{ GeV} \rightarrow \epsilon_\gamma = 1,5 \text{ keV}$ X-rays
- $E_e = 1 \text{ TeV} \rightarrow \epsilon_\gamma = 1,5 \text{ GeV}$ gamma rays (FERMI)
- $E_e = 25 \text{ TeV} \rightarrow \epsilon_\gamma = 1 \text{ TeV}$ gamma rays (Cherenkov Telescopes)

Leptonic Gamma-Rays: Inverse Compton

is there a maximum energy for
the up-scattered photons?

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Leptonic Gamma-Rays: Inverse Compton

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energy conservation...

above a given energy Inverse Compton scattering becomes ineffective

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if $\gamma \epsilon_i \sim mc^2$ we must use the quantum relativistic (Klein-Nishina) cross section

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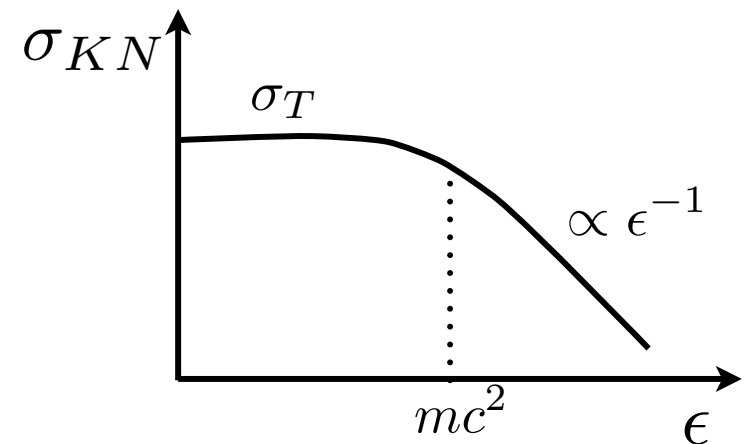
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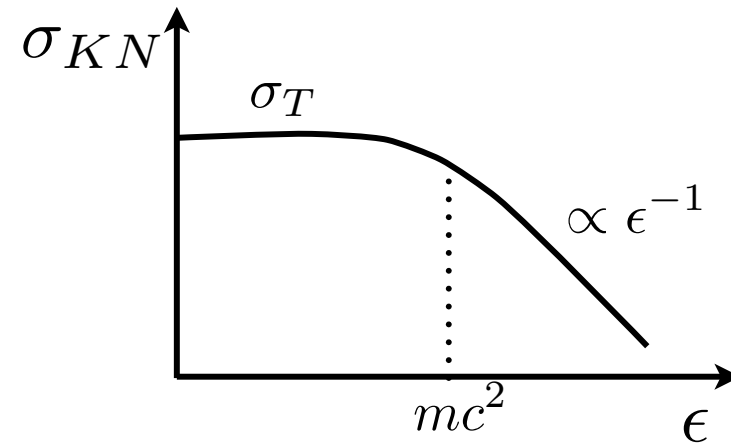
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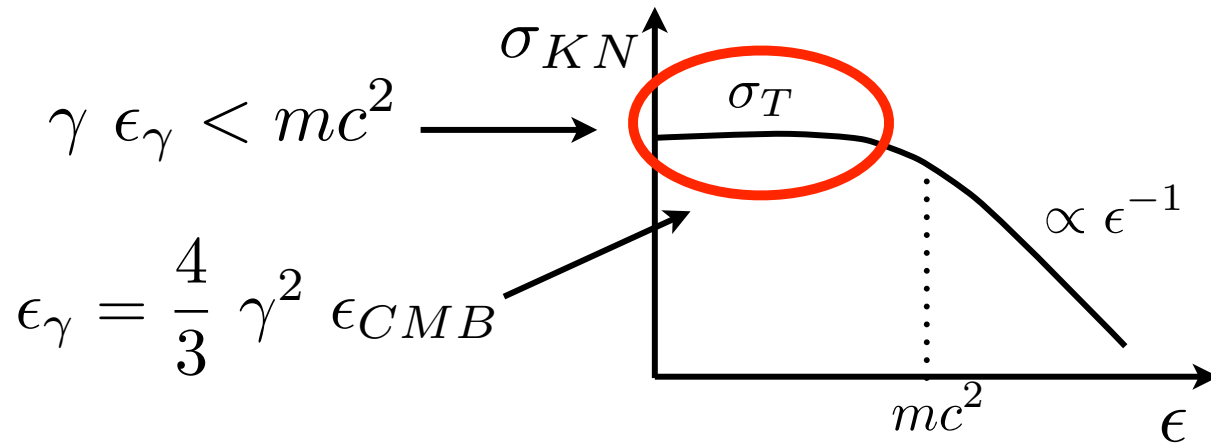
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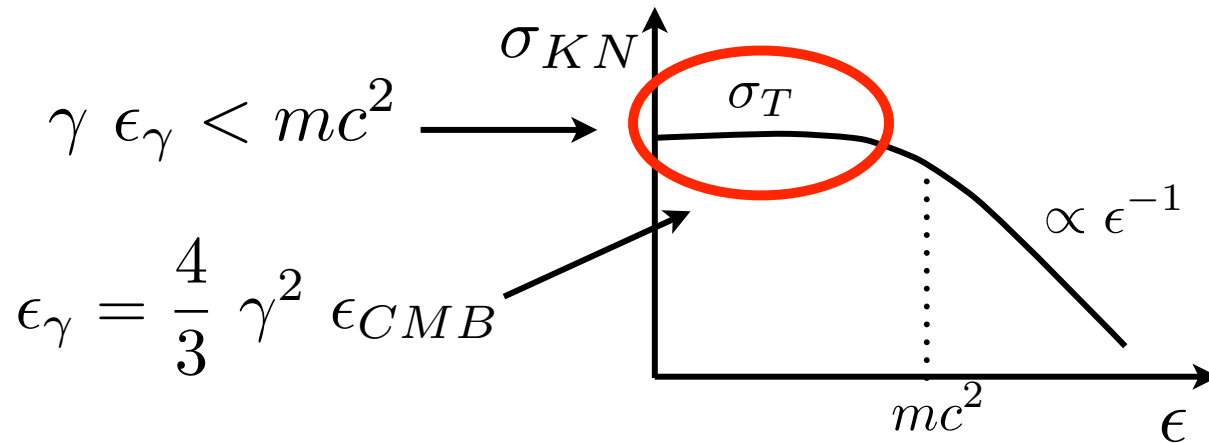
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1 TeV	~0.2%	~1.5 GeV
25 TeV	~4%	~1 TeV
100 TeV	~15%	~15 TeV

Thomson

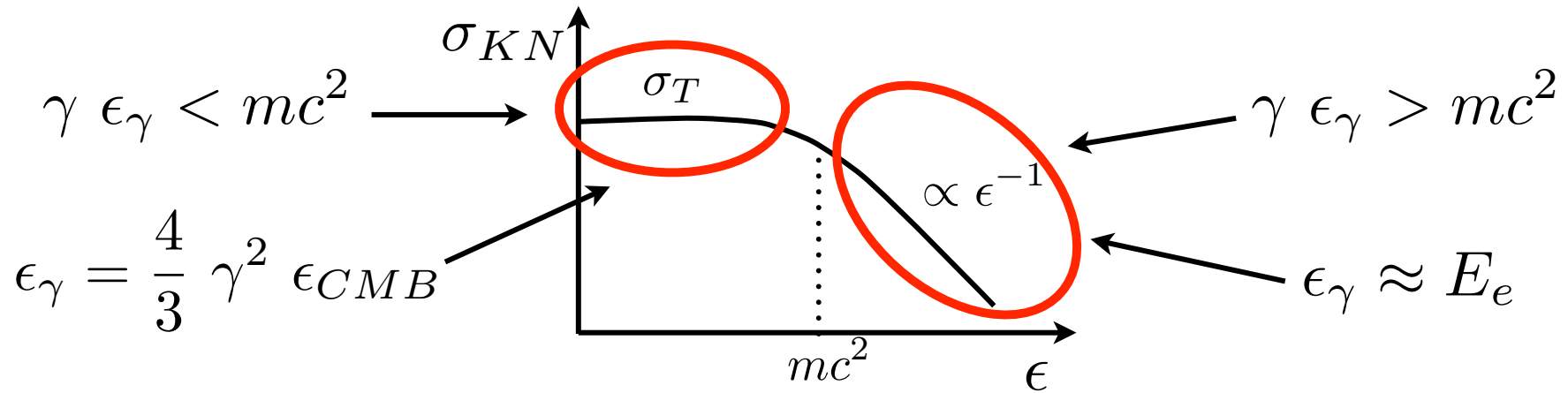
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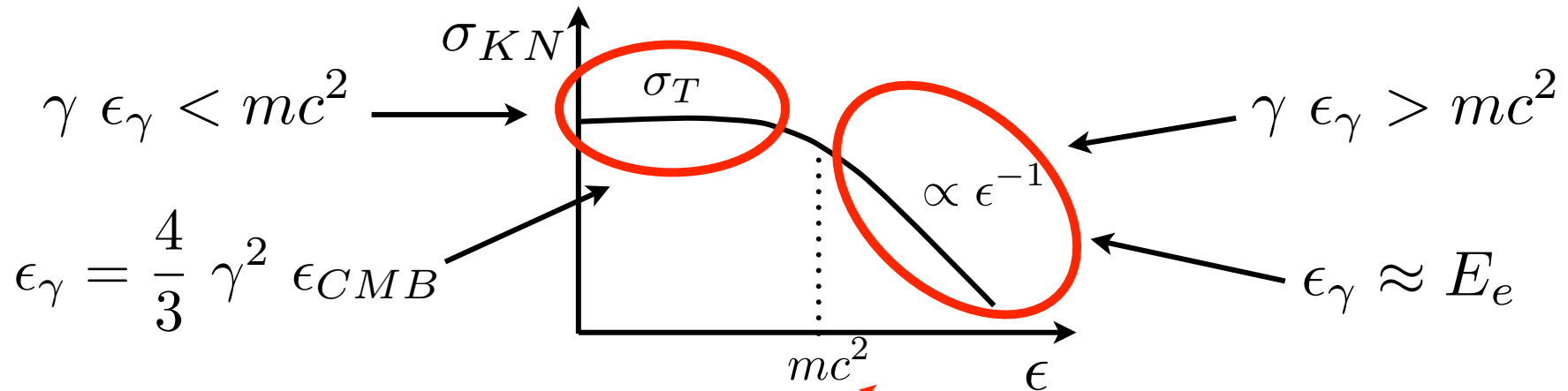


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Leptonic Gamma-Rays: Inverse Compton



cutoff in the photon spectrum

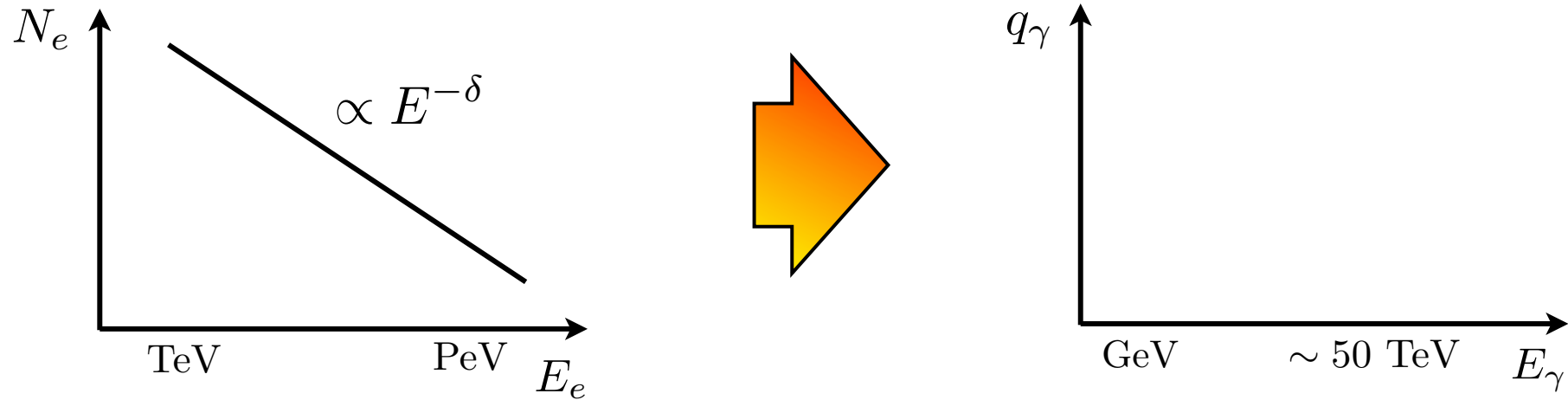
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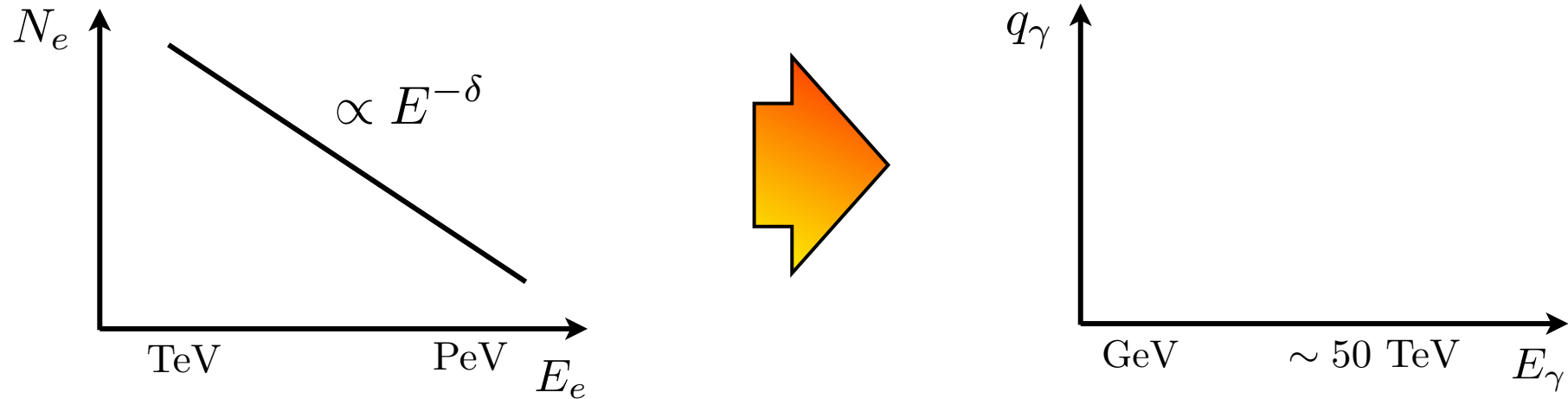
Photon spectrum:



$$q_\gamma(E_\gamma) = \int dE_e N_e(E_e) \delta(E_\gamma - \frac{4}{3} \gamma^2 \epsilon_{CMB}) (n_{CMB} \sigma_{TC})$$

Leptonic Gamma-Rays: Inverse Compton

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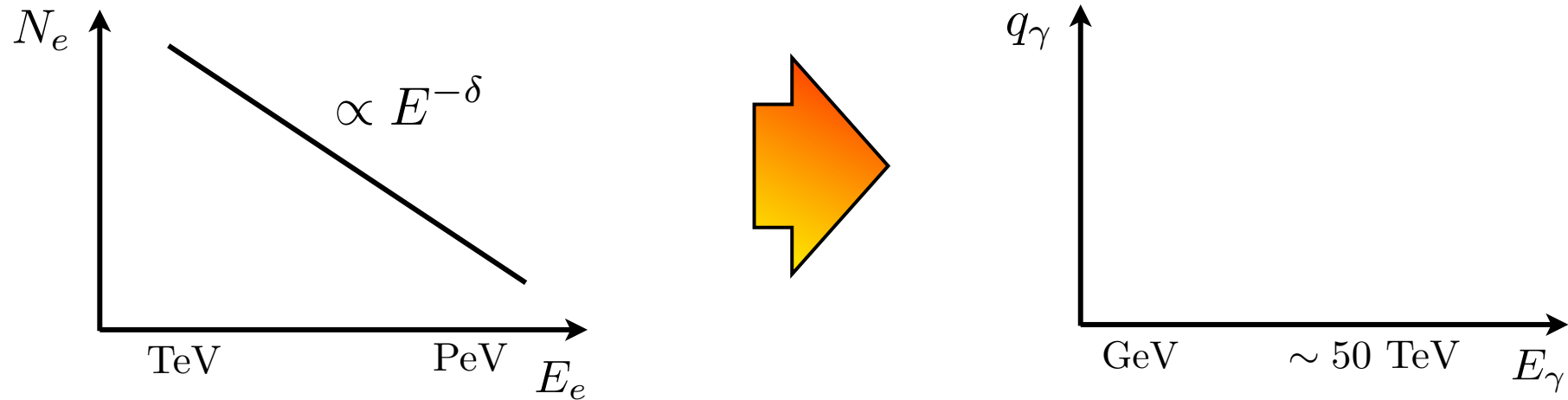
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$$g(x_0) = 0$$

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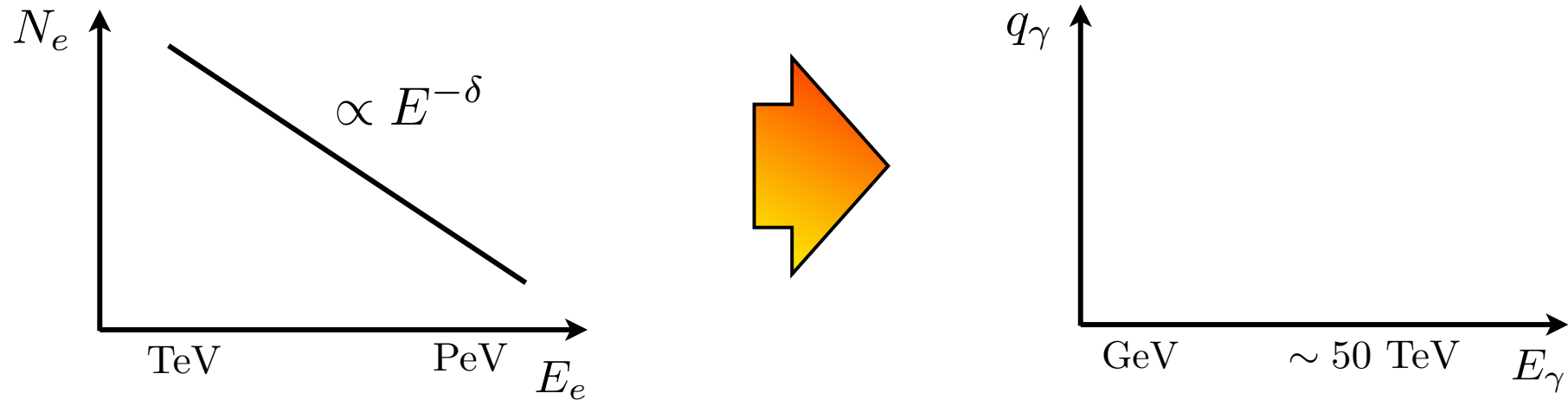
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$x_0 \propto E_\gamma^{1/2}$ $g' \propto E_e$

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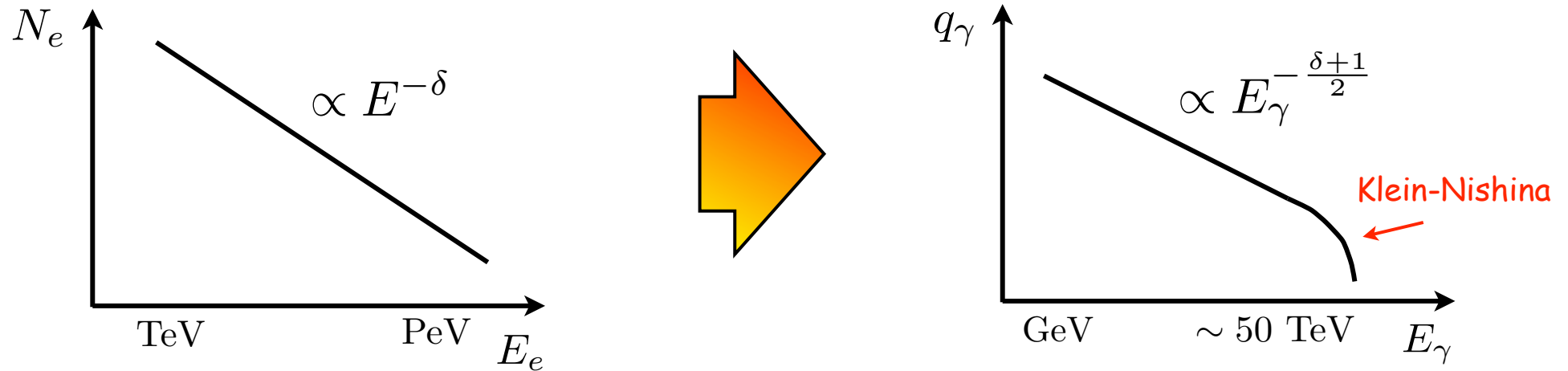
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$$q_\gamma(E_\gamma) = \int dE_e N_e(E_e) \delta\left(E_\gamma - \frac{4}{3} \gamma^2 \epsilon_{CMB}\right) (n_{CMB} \sigma_{TC}) \propto E_\gamma^{-\frac{\delta+1}{2}}$$

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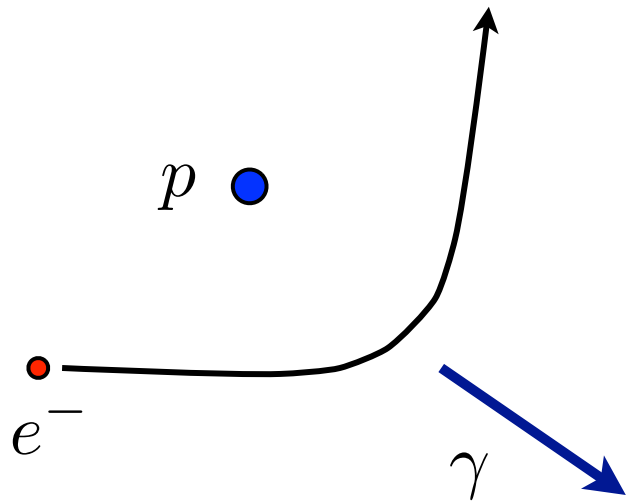
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➔

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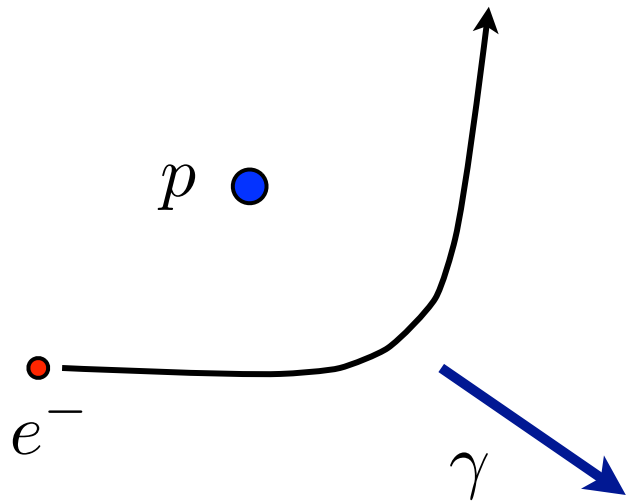
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Leptonic Gamma-Rays: Bremsstrahlung

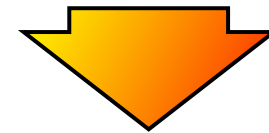


Leptonic Gamma-Rays: Bremsstrahlung

"catastrophic" process



$$E_e \longrightarrow \epsilon_\gamma$$




$$n_e \propto E_e^{-\delta} \longrightarrow n_\gamma \propto \epsilon_\gamma^{-\delta}$$

(power law \rightarrow power law)

Production of gamma rays in the Galaxy


(1) proton-proton interactions: $(\alpha = \delta)$

CR proton spectrum: $N_{CR} \propto E^{-2.7}$  gamma ray spectrum: $q_\gamma \propto E^{-2.7}$

(plus the pion bump at ~ 70 MeV)


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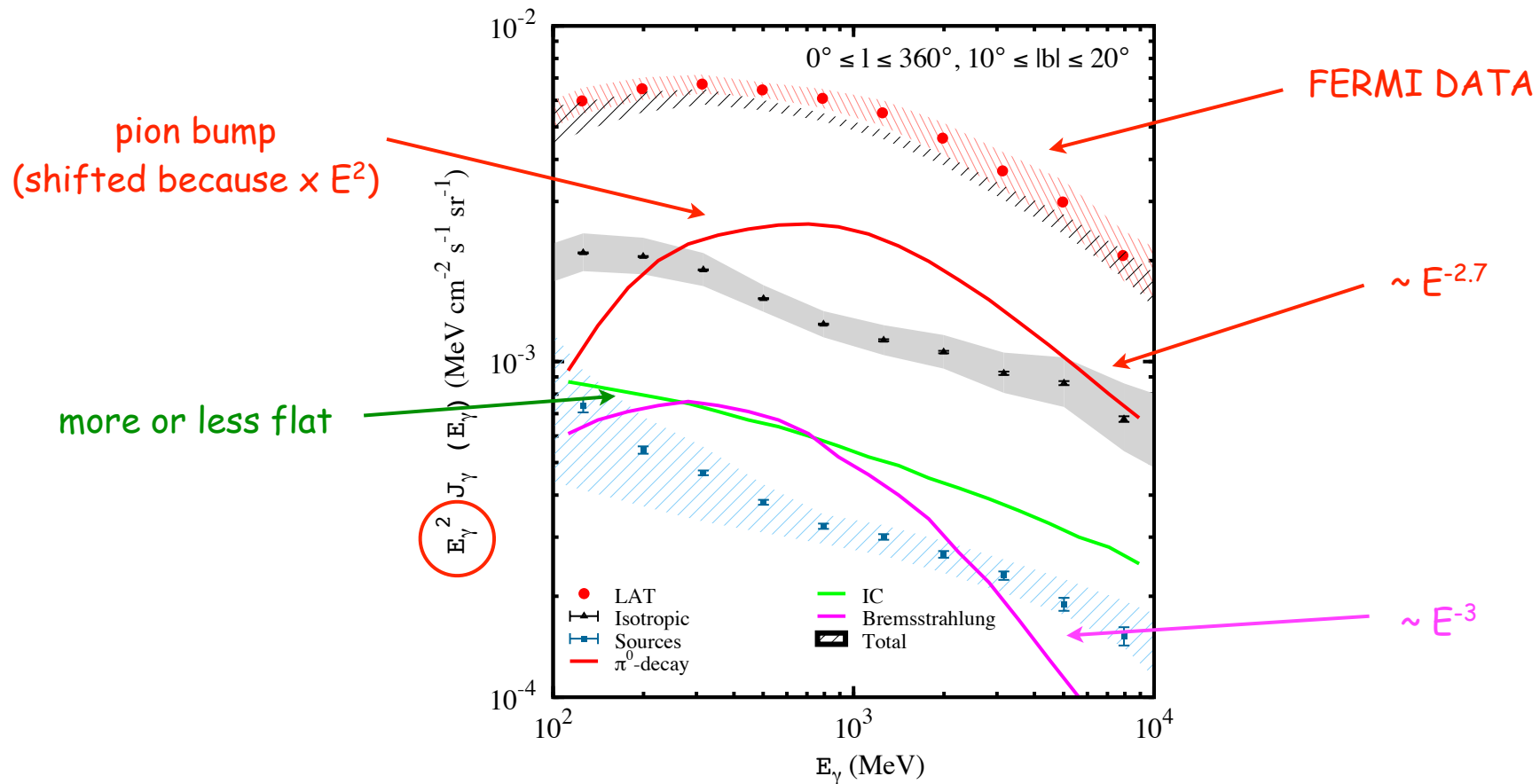
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(3) relativistic Bremsstrahlung: $(\alpha = \delta)$

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The gamma ray emission from the Galaxy

FERMI observation of the galactic diffuse emission



p-p interactions dominate the diffuse emission

Take-home message

- We have plenty of data on CRs but we still don't know where they are from;
- A connection exists between CR physics and Gamma Ray Astronomy because CRs produce gamma rays in interactions with matter and radiation fields;
- What we know about CRs seems to explain fairly well the gamma ray diffuse emission we observe from the Milky Way.