

# Mapping the Most Energetic Cosmic Rays A.M. Hillas

### ► To cite this version:

A.M. Hillas. Mapping the Most Energetic Cosmic Rays. Astroparticle Physics, 2009, 32 (3-4), pp.160. 10.1016/j.astropartphys.2009.07.005 . hal-00498976

# HAL Id: hal-00498976 https://hal.science/hal-00498976

Submitted on 9 Jul 2010

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers. L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

### Accepted Manuscript

Mapping the Most Energetic Cosmic Rays

A.M. Hillas

 PII:
 S0927-6505(09)00109-1

 DOI:
 10.1016/j.astropartphys.2009.07.005

 Reference:
 ASTPHY 1425

To appear in: Astroparticle Physics

Received Date:19 May 2009Revised Date:11 July 2009Accepted Date:16 July 2009



Please cite this article as: A.M. Hillas, Mapping the Most Energetic Cosmic Rays, *Astroparticle Physics* (2009), doi: 10.1016/j.astropartphys.2009.07.005

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

### Mapping the Most Energetic Cosmic Rays

### A.M. Hillas

School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, UK

### Abstract

The Pierre Auger Collaboration has shown that the cosmic rays detected to August 2007, with estimated energies above 57 EeV, were mostly very close to the direction of a catalogued AGN within  $\sim 75$  Mpc. The closeness of the sources to us, and their association with the locality of moderate Seyfert galaxies rather than the most striking radio galaxies, were surprising, leading some authors to question the reality of the apparent associations. Here, three further techniques for examining the correlation of cosmic ray arrival directions with directions of AGNs are introduced to confirm and extend this correlation. These include the uniform-exposure polar plot to examine large-scale associations, and a sensitive "right ascension resonance" test to show the rapidity of the decoherence when the two patterns are displaced. The latter test avoids the choice of a correlation window radius, which makes it possible to see an AGN correlation in other data at a lower energy, and to seek it in HiRes data. On the basis of the closeness of correspondence of the cosmic ray and AGN maps, and the equally significant correspondence with directions of extended radio galaxies listed by Nagar and Matulich but not used in the Auger group's investigation, it is argued that the association with these two sets of objects is by no means accidental, although the efficacy of the 57 EeV "cut" in selecting this revelatory sample may have been accidental.

The arrival directions of these cosmic rays (average energy 75 EeV) can be well described if most of the sources are in or around rather typical Seyfert galaxies, in clusters typically at  $\sim 50$ Mpc, with the cosmic rays being scattered by  $3-4^{\circ}$  on their way to us. Because of close clustering of AGNs, it cannot usually be ascertained which object within 2-3 Mpc is the actual source, but more than a third of the cosmic rays appear to come from FRI or similar radio galaxies in the clusters. It thus seems likely that these and also weaker jet-forming Seyfert galaxies are indeed causing acceleration to  $10^{20}$  eV. Neither the brightest (nearby) radio galaxies nor the Virgo cluster dominate the cosmic-ray sky as had been expected, and Cen A is probably one of the currently inactive 10<sup>20</sup> eV accelerators, as much more distant FRI galaxies play such a large role. The deflections cannot be much more than  $3 - 4^{\circ}$  without destroying the coherence. Intergalactic magnetic fields ~1 nG could be responsible, but in one part of the sky a displaced "resonance" suggests a possible  $4^{\circ}$  deflection by the  $B_{\tau}$  component of our local Galactic magnetic field. A source region limited to <120 Mpc for the Auger cosmic rays is supported. This is compatible with a GZK survival horizon but only if (a) the sudden fall in the energy spectrum is not simply a GZK effect but essentially reflects the energy cut-off in the accelerators, and (b) the Auger energies are underestimated by  $\sim 25\%$ .

Key words: Cosmic ray origin, AGNs, Equi-exposure skymap

# Introduction to the new observations of arrival directions of the most energetic cosmic rays

In 2007 the Pierre Auger Collaboration [1] published the directions of arrival of 27 cosmic-3 ray particles which they estimated to have energies above  $5.7 \times 10^{19}$  eV (57 EeV), and near 4 most of these directions (within 3.2°) there was an active galactic nucleus (AGN) listed in the 12th Véron-Cetty Véron catalogue (abbreviated below as VCV) [2] within a distance of about 6 75 Mpc of Earth (if  $H_o = 72 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-1}$ , as assumed below). The probability of such a close association appeared to be very small if the cosmic rays arrived from near-random directions as 8 only 21% of cosmic rays would be expected to match so closely in this case. By contrast, many air shower experiments had previously sought evidence for the sources of cosmic rays above 10  $10^{17}$  eV, but had failed to find any convincing departures from isotropy, supporting the belief that 11 deflections of the particles in irregular magnetic fields had scrambled their directions of motion. 12 Above about 60-80 EeV, though (depending on the maximum energy of particles leaving the 13 sources), few protons or light nuclei would reach us from beyond very few hundred Mpc because 14 of energy losses in the cosmic microwave background radiation (the GZK effect in the case of 15 protons, or photodissociation of nuclei), and so the particles from far off, that would have been 16 highly deflected en route, should be absent. The Auger experiment in Argentina is unique in its 17 huge collecting aperture, its very uniform sensitivity to cosmic rays above  $10^{19}$  eV (within 60° 18 of the zenith), well-measured energies in this context, and, apparently, an inspired unexpected 19 choice of the VCV catalogue to check for significant patterns in the arrival directions. The data 20 set will be greatly expanded in the next few years, but it already shows that, firstly, the most 21 spectacular double-lobe radio galaxies that dominate the radio sky are not the principal suppliers 22 of these extreme cosmic rays, secondly, the expected beacon of the local skies, the Virgo cluster, 23 is also relatively unimportant, and in fact most of these extreme cosmic rays appear to originate 24 in less remarkable Seyfert galaxies or else in sources that cluster in their vicinities (say 2-3 Mpc). 25 Looking outside the VCV catalogue of optically-detected AGNs used in the Auger report, it is 26 found additionally that a considerable minority of these cosmic rays correlate about as closely, 27 and perhaps even more significantly, with extended radio galaxies within the same distance range, 28 although somewhat further away than those which dominate the radio sky: a set of sources 29 brought to our attention by Nagar and Matulich [3]. Very fortunately, it seems that, at these 30 energies, deflections of the particles over 100 Mpc are not more than a few degrees. However, 31 it will be proposed that this description applies only to the proton component of cosmic rays, 32 whereas there is evidence that above 40 EeV most particles are highly charged; so a detector's 33 bias in favour of protons may strongly influence the pattern that it sees. 34

It is a novel feature for charged-particle astronomy to reveal a rich pattern of point sources, and these surprises have led to challenges. It is the first main object of this paper to provide further methods of analysis that greatly strengthen the evidence that these details of the arrival patterns are real, and then to examine the most probable implications regarding the origin, nature and energies of the particles, that can be straightforwardly tested with more data.

The unexpectedness of these reported correlations led commentators to express doubts of many kinds. First, regarding the methodology, it has been suspected that the apparent statistical significance of the result has been artificially generated by the use of the first half of the Auger observational data set to vary the selection "cuts" in energy threshold, maximum redshift of catalogued AGNs to be used in the correlation, and the correlation window size — all chosen to maximize the significance of the departure from isotropy in this first subset. However, as explained below, these values proved to be very nearly optimum for the whole dataset. Sev-

eral early discussions of the arrival directions have put aside the apparent close correlation with 47 weak AGNs, and considered large magnetic displacements from the directions of expected strong 48 sources [4, 5, 6]. The use of the VCV catalogue based on optical appearance of galaxies, rather 49 than one with more emphasis on high jet luminosity indicated by strong radio or X-ray emission, 50 has been questioned [7, 8]. Different proportions of AGNs will be included in the catalogue in 51 different regions of space. A deduction that most of the sources are less than 100 Mpc away 52 has been remarked on as strange [9]. The northern-hemisphere HiRes experiment found no as-53 sociation of the most energetic cosmic rays with AGNs [10]. The very weak level of activity of 54 some of the AGNs picked out in the study has been remarked on as making their identification as 55 cosmic-ray sources implausible. (It should be pointed out that the Auger authors did not claim to 56 discriminate between the AGNs and other objects that reside in the same localities as the AGNs. 57 Their published study was intended to demonstrate anisotropy rather than to explain it at this 58 stage.) 59

Whilst the aim of the research is to understand how particles are accelerated to these extreme 60 energies [4, 5, 9], the emphasis in this paper is on extracting as clearly as possible the simplest 61 pointers to sources that are present in the cosmic-ray directional data, largely avoiding scrutiny of 62 particular accelerators. When three times the presently published data set is available, it should 63 be possible to pay attention to individual sources. So it is the purpose in this paper to tackle 64 many of these doubts, and to show that the evidence can be extended. The clumpy pattern on the 65 sky of these AGNs can be demonstrated by a simple extension of the Auger "window" counts, 66 and these clumpy distributions of cosmic rays and AGNs on the sky can be better visualised and 67 quantified by an alternative form of mapping, using a uniform-exposure polar plot. A simple 68 model of apparent origins of cosmic rays scattered around VCV AGN locations describes also 69 the overall pattern of the cosmic rays. (The clumping also implies that not all AGNs near the 70 cosmic-ray line of sight are necessarily the relevant sources, so several objects can have been 71 misidentified as sources.) A "right ascension resonance" test is introduced as a striking and 72 sensitive demonstration of the association with AGN localities, using which such associations 73 can later be sought using a different list of potential sources, in data of other experiments, and 74 potentially at other energies, and a hint of magnetic deflection appears. 75

The work is laid out as follows. The direct evidence of the density and clustering of AGNs 76 near cosmic-ray directions is examined in section 2, showing that the particles do not come 77 precisely from the AGNs, but are distributed within  $\sim 3-4^{\circ}$ . In section 3, the use of the uniform-78 exposure polar plot is introduced, to show where these clusters are on the sky, and demonstrating 79 first the anisotropy of the cosmic-ray distribution without regard to AGNs, and then that its large-80 scale features do match those of the AGNs in the VCV catalogue (which has a "useful" distance 81 bias), apart from a possible anomaly in the direction of the Virgo cluster, which will be re-visited 82 later. Section 4 introduces a "right ascension resonance" as an alternative to the Auger method 83 of detecting a correlation of cosmic ray directions with AGNs, but not requiring the choice of a 84 particular "window radius" for counting nearby AGNs, and avoiding the large statistical penalty 85 which the choice of this radius involves. Using this, an AGN association can be sought in the 86 results of two experiments viewing the northern hemisphere. In section 5, the correlation of 87 cosmic rays with an alternative set of AGNs, "extended radio galaxies" [3], will be considered. 88 In section 6 the resonance technique is used to seek evidence of magnetic deflections where 89 particles arrive after following a long path just above the disc of our galaxy. Section 7 explores 90 the extent in redshift of the AGN correlation, finding rough agreement with the Auger group's 91 conclusion that most of the particles reaching us at these energies have travelled less than 100 92 Mpc. In section 8, it is argued that this implies an underestimation of particle energies, and also 93

<sup>94</sup> implies that the reported steep fall in the cosmic-ray spectrum is not simply a "GZK spectrum cutoff", but largely a downturn of the energy spectrum of the accelerators, which imposes a
<sup>96</sup> "GZK distance horizon"; but the details are sensitive to probable energy measurement errors.
<sup>97</sup> Some principal conclusions are summarized in section 9.

Appendix A introduces some relevant shortcomings of the VCV catalogue of optically-98 detected AGNs, which limit the range of source distance for which this catalogue can be used. 99 Figure 13 in the appendix shows the number of objects visible from the southern hemisphere that 100 are listed per Mpc of distance and in different ranges of absolute magnitude, which indicates that 101 the completeness of the catalogue for fainter objects (some of which may nevertheless be particle 102 accelerators) is continually decreasing with increasing distance, and that beyond about 75 Mpc 103 the gaps may be serious, so that it will be more difficult to use the VCV catalogue to explore 104 further into space (as remarked in [1]). If the number of listed AGNs per square degree had been 105 much greater, however, the probability of accidental associations within 3.2° with any arbitrary 106 direction would have been large, nullifying the signal. A sparser but uniform catalogue would 107 be better for such an exploration, and it will be seen that a catalogue of FRI radio galaxies may 108 serve well here. Indeed following up the suggestion of Nagar and Matulich [3], the correlation 109 with such objects already adds substantially to the significance of these associations. 110

#### 111 2. Clustering of the AGNs: the cosmic ray source is often not the closest AGN

The evidence that these most energetic cosmic rays originate in the locality of AGNs was that, 112 excluding 6 cosmic rays arriving within  $12^{\circ}$  of the galactic plane, where most AGNs would be 113 obscured by dust, and where cosmic rays might be more strongly deflected by galactic magnetic 114 fields, only 2 of the remaining 21 cosmic ray directions did not have an AGN (redshift <0.018) 115 within an angular radius of 3.2°, whereas if one places such 3.2° windows at arbitrary positions on 116 the sky, governed only by the total exposure of the detector array to each region (but avoiding the 117 vicinity of the galactic plane), one finds only 24% of them contain AGNs.<sup>1</sup> (The average number 118 of AGNs per window is 0.36.) This striking aspect of the figures goes somewhat beyond what 119 was emphasised in the Auger paper, which properly took a more cautious approach in the first 120 instance, not excluding use of the galactic obscuration zone, which is only crudely represented 121 by a simple 24°-degree-wide belt. As the authors use two slightly different sets of data cuts, 122 these will be mentioned here to avoid possible confusion later. When about half of the published 123 cosmic rays had been recorded (14 of the 27 events), it was found that the departure from isotropy 124 had reached a predetermined high level of significance if one took a cosmic-ray energy threshold 125 of 56 EeV, and counted VCV AGNs with redshifts  $\leq 0.018$ , within a window of 3.1° radius 126 around each cosmic-ray direction. These same cuts were then used for the cosmic rays detected 127 later, and this enhanced set of cosmic rays fully confirmed that the arrival directions were not 128 isotropic. Using the full data set, the cuts were re-optimized to maximize the significance of 129 anisotropy, and the resulting values, only slightly different from the original set, were 57 EeV 130 for the threshold, redshifts < 0.018 (equivalent to  $\leq$  0.017 in the VCV catalogue), and window 131 radius 3.2° degrees. The small change in redshift range would not affect the counts discussed 132 below, though the increase in window radius adds two associations in the first half of the run, 133 changing a "hit rate" 8/10 to 10/10 (with obscuration zone excluded), so the window radius is a 134

<sup>135</sup> very sensitive parameter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Note that the proportion 21% quoted by the Auger authors applies if the galactic obscuration zone is not excluded from the counts.

Though the statistics seem, and are, significant, the precise figures are clearly sensitive to the choice of cuts, and especially the window radius, so it seems desirable to check on the bias introduced in such a choice by using a less capricious measure of closeness of the cosmic-ray and AGN directions. There is no physical reason for expecting 3.2° to be appropriate: this value may serve mainly to minimize the chance of random unassociated AGNs being counted in a crowded sky. The next paragraph will, incidentally, supply support for the supposition that the galactic belt should be excluded.

The low average density of 0.36 AGNs (in this catalogue and in this redshift range) per 3.2° window might be thought to indicate that when an AGN is seen in the window it must probably be the source of the cosmic ray particle, but this is not so, firstly because the AGNs are strongly clustered. The average number of AGNs per window drawn around the 21 selected cosmic rays ("window 1", below) is 1.1, but the average numbers in the 3 surrounding annuli  $3.2^{\circ} - 4.53^{\circ}, 4.53^{\circ} - 5.54^{\circ}$  and  $5.54^{\circ} - 6.40^{\circ}$  ("windows 2 to 4", below), all of equal solid angle, are given in line (A) of the table 1.

	window number	1	2	3	4
(A)	$\langle N_{\rm AGN} \rangle$ in windows around CR	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.7
(B)	$\langle N_{\text{otherAGN}} \rangle$ around selected AGN	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.8

Line (A) shows that there is typically a high local density of AGNs which extends for several 150 more degrees. To find the typical density of AGNs in any region inhabited by AGNs, one can 151 draw windows and surrounding annuli around any AGN, and line (B) of the table shows the 152 average number of other AGNs found in these windows (the average being weighted by the array 153 exposure at that declination, and avoiding the zone of low galactic latitude). The AGN densities 154 around cosmic ray directions are little different: clearly an "other AGN", unrelated to any that 155 might be the cosmic ray source, is very likely to be found in the central window; so the AGN 156 seen in the standard  $3.2^{\circ}$  window used by Auger may often be a neighbour unrelated to the 157 cosmic ray. Indeed, if the cosmic rays always pointed back very close to a source AGN (always 158 well within 3.2°), one would expect the numbers in line (A) to be like those in line (B) except 159 for an additional 1 in the central window (because we are now counting the "central" AGN in 160 addition to the "other" AGNs that were counted in line (B)), and the count in windows 1 and 2 161 of line (A) would be expected to differ by about 1.0, which they do not. A precaution is needed 162 before carrying this arithmetic further, because the counts in the central window (window 1 in 163 the above table) will be biased, perhaps especially in the first half of the data sample, which was 164 used to optimize the data cuts. (In this first half of the data, the average number of AGNs per 165 window is 1.1 but there are no zeros — a quite un-poissonian distribution!) Using the second 166 half of the data, with only 11 showers outside the zone of low galactic latitude, the numbers 167 of AGNs seen, this time in successive ranges of 2.5° from the cosmic ray direction, have been 168 counted, and are shown in table 2 in the line "OBS", their numbers expressed as density per 169  $9.80 \times 10^{-3}$  steradian, this being the area of the standard  $3.2^{\circ}$  window. The excess number of 170 counts at the closest distances is sensitive to how far cosmic rays are spread around a "source" 171 AGN (either by magnetic scattering or by the size of a cloud of supposed accelerators such 172 as magnetars or hypernovae). One can simulate the numbers of AGNs that would be found at 173 different distances from a cosmic-ray direction if they are typically spread with r.m.s. distance 174 3.2°, 4° or 5°, for example, around AGNs chosen randomly from the catalogue, but then accepted 175

with a probability matching the observational exposure to that declination. (One can only take a very simple approach in such a small sample, and the question of whether an AGN closer to us should have been given a higher weight will be taken up later.) The results are shown in table
2 as "SIM 3.2° spread", "SIM 4.0°" and "SIM 5.0°". Of several examples calculated, the r.m.s.
spread of 4° gave the nearest match to the observations, though the scanty statistics do not offer
much precision (though a spread in accordance with this will be estimated in other ways later).

angular distance (°)	0	2.5	5	7.5	10	12.5	15
OBS	1.49	0.89	0.78	0.60	0.53	0.46	
SIM 3.2° spread	1.75	1.13	0.79	0.65	0.58	0.54	
SIM 4.0° spread	1.48	1.11	0.82	0.66	0.58	0.54	
SIM 5.0° spread	1.24	1.05	0.83	0.68	0.60	0.54	

Table 2: Surface density of AGNs near cosmic ray directions.

The observations thus suggest that cosmic-ray arrival directions have an r.m.s. spread of about 4° around typical AGNs, although this cannot be a universal constant as the AGNs will of course be at different distances. The AGN density remains considerably above the average density of 0.36 for  $\sim 10^\circ$ , indicating the typical extent of AGN clusters.

Thus the cosmic rays may suffer magnetic scattering of 4° while travelling to the observer 186 from an AGN source. Since this is somewhat greater than the 3.2° radius of the Auger selection 187 window, one should not place too much emphasis on the type of AGN found closest to the 188 cosmic ray or even in the window. The true source may well lie outside the window; and *a prime* 189 reason why some AGN is almost always seen in the window is because they are so crowded in 190 the region around the source. The appearance of particularly feeble objects in the list need not 191 cause surprise. Thus Zaw, Farrar and Greene [11] noted that whilst most objects picked out 192 by these windows were AGNs with bolometric luminosities above  $0.5 \times 10^{43}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup>, in two 193 other cases the neighbouring objects had been misidentified as AGNs. It is found that a very 194 strong association with cosmic rays still persists if only radio-detected AGNs are retained in the 195 catalogue (about 75% of all those listed). One probably has a mixture of galaxy types close by 196 in typical clusters, and one can deduce only that the sources lie in or near AGNs of a type that is 197 very common in such clusters — say comprising 1/3 or more of the population. But the evidence 198 so far does not prove that AGNs are sources. Since unusual activity in galactic nuclei, and growth 199 of supermassive black holes, is believed to arise from collisions between galaxies in clusters, it is 200 also possible that the AGNs are not the sources but are serving as markers of regions where other 201 types of activity related to star formation are also concentrated. The role of AGNs as markers 202 of concentrations of general galactic activity has been taken up by Ghisellini et al. [12], who 203 showed that clusters of ordinary galaxies did indeed correlate with Auger cosmic ray directions. 204

Much of the following discussion will avoid the choice of a "window" of a particular radius, 205 but before moving on it is worth mentioning that, of the windows around the 6 cosmic rays in 206 the galactic exclusion zone, somewhat crudely set at a uniform belt within  $12^{\circ}$  of the galactic 207 plane, only 1 contains a VCV AGN and the first two surrounding annuli contain only 1 AGN in 208 all (12 annuli). These do appear to be regions almost devoid of visible AGNs, supporting their 209 designation as obscured regions where we do not know the positions of AGNs, as this catalogue 210 is based on optical surveys, so tests of association cannot be performed (though the bright radio 211 source Cen B does shine through the dust and coincides with a cosmic ray). 212

Where are these AGN clusters? The large scale features of the cosmic ray directions and

213

associated AGNs will be examined in the next section.

#### **3.** Mapping the sky on a uniform-exposure polar plot

The Aitoff sky projection that is commonly used to show how cosmic-ray arrival directions 216 relate to large-scale astronomical features can illustrate the relationship between clear-cut struc-217 tures, but is less suited to these irregular and clumpy patterns. Not only does the varying ef-218 ficiency of detecting cosmic rays in different parts of the diagram disguise real variations in 219 intensity, but adjacent regions are cut apart, and important great circles such as the galactic plane 220 twist sharply, making it hard to see whether the cosmic ray patterns relate to these planes. The 221 pattern of cosmic ray arrival directions is revealed much better in a uniform-exposure polar plot, 222 described below, if one is content to display one hemisphere, or slightly more, rather than the 223 whole sky. 224

Although I first used this plot in the 1970s in correspondence about the Yakutsk observations, it was not fruitful then, as no patterns emerged, and I regret not having published it, although it has been used a few times in publications by colleagues (e.g. [13]). Only now, with many particles detectable above the GZK barrier, is a study of tens, rather than thousands of arrival directions of great interest again.

Figure 1 shows such a plot, for the 27 Auger cosmic rays. The plots are always centred on 230 a pole — the south celestial pole in this case. If  $\delta$  is the declination of a point in the sky, and 231 p its polar distance, ( $p = 90^\circ - \delta$  for a north polar plot or  $p = 90^\circ + \delta$  for a southern plot), 232 the radial coordinate, R, in the plot, representing polar distance, is non-linear, being adjusted 233 according to the total exposure of the observatory to each band of declination, so that the area 234 of any band of p is proportional to the number of particles that would be detected in that band 235 if the particles arrived at the earth isotropically. Particles detected from an isotropic flux would 236 then yield a plot with a uniform density of points per unit area, apart from the usual accidental 237 statistical fluctuations. 238

If, for an isotropic flux, one detects  $n_p(p)$  particles at polar distances less than p, out of a total of n detected particles,

$$R = \sqrt{(n_p/n)} \tag{1}$$

(The diagram has unit radius.) The azimuthal angle  $\phi = \alpha$ , the right ascension. A comment is 239 appropriate here for the armchair astronomer. With this choice of  $\alpha$  (increasing anticlockwise), 240 this diagram looks very much like a true spherical sky globe seen from within in the case of the 241 southern sky (and so represents the sky much as it really looks): but a northern hemisphere plot 242 would look much like a sky globe viewed from the outside (giving a left-to-right mirror image 243 of the constellations). In the north, this physicist's convention for plotting right ascension can 244 be disconcerting to those astronomers who actually look at the sky, but will have the advantage 245 of allowing the viewer to follow features such as the Virgo supercluster continuously from one 246 hemisphere to the other. 247

If the observatory can record cosmic rays arriving at any point on a well-defined ground area, *A*, independent of their zenith angle of arrival,  $\theta$ , out to a maximum zenith angle  $\theta_{max}$  — as is the case for the Pierre Auger Observatory at energies above  $10^{19}$  eV, with  $\theta_{max} = 60^{\circ}$  — the detection efficiency at each declination or polar distance is well defined and the radial scale R(p)in equation 1 can be derived from first principles. For the Auger case, with  $\theta_{max} = 60^{\circ}$  and latitude  $-35.2^{\circ}$ , the radius *R* is tabulated in appendix B, table 4; alternatively an approximate formula can be used, such as equation (5) in the appendix, which has a maximum error of 0.006.



Figure 1: The 27 arrival directions of particles above  $5.7 \times 10^{19}$  eV, published by Abraham et al. [1] on a uniformexposure polar plot. The 6 particles within 12° of the galactic plane are shown as smaller circles. NB: near R.A. 268°, dec. -61° there are two cosmic rays extremely close together. The galactic plane and circles of galactic latitude ±12° are shown as full lines (GC marking the galactic centre) and the supergalactic plane as a dot-dash curve. Declination circles at 30° intervals, and radial right ascension lines, are shown dotted. Circles of 6° radius drawn around some of the strongest radio galaxies – V,Virgo A (M87), CA, Cen A, CB, Cen B and F, Fornax A – illustrate the compression of the radial scale towards the edge. (A 6° circle represents the angular distance from a source within which (at ~ 40 Mpc) most of these cosmic rays arrive according to the analyses discussed here.) Virgo A is at the centre of the Virgo cluster of galaxies. Small triangles mark the positions of 280 VCV AGNs S of declination +18°, having redshifts < 0.018. Eight-armed crosses (stars) mark the extended radio galaxies listed in [3].

Polar angles appreciably beyond 114° are unobservable — and off the diagram. In other cases, one would generally use data on the relative numbers  $n_p/n$  of detected particles in some welldefined lower energy band, close enough to 57 EeV (or whatever) for the detecting conditions to be virtually the same, but low enough for the particles to be approximately isotropic and much more numerous. Substitution of these numbers in equation 1 gives the radial scale R(p) for the plot.

Even without considering a connection with AGNs, the 27 Auger showers shown in figure 1 appear to be distributed non-randomly, but the eye and brain will usually imagine an interesting relationship in a pattern of dots ("canals on Mars"). To characterize the clumpiness of the pattern

of points, the cumulative distribution of the 351 inter-point distances  $\Delta$  as measured on the plot is shown in figure 2, and the average sky separation in degrees corresponding to the various separations  $\Delta$  on the uniform-exposure plot are shown along the bottom of the graph.

separations  $\Delta$  on the uniform-exposure plot are shown along the bottom of the graph.



Figure 2: Cumulative number N of inter-point distances  $\Delta$  on uniform-exposure plot in figure 1 for the 27 Auger cosmicray directions. The average separations in degrees on the sky, to which these plot-separations  $\Delta$  refer, are shown just above the horizontal axis. Thick line: the observations (fig 1). Thick dashed line ("isotropic"), shows the average  $N(\Delta)$ for many sets of 27 points placed randomly on the plot, simulating cosmic rays approaching the earth isotropically. Dotdash line: average  $N(\Delta)$  for many sets of 27 directions of AGNs picked from the VCV catalogue (redshifts z< 0.018) and given a 4° rms scatter (with refinements described in the text). Changing the scatter to 2° or 0.5° produces the variants shown by dotted lines. If a distance weighting is applied when picking AGNs, a  $1/z^2$  weighting (appropriate if catalogue unbiased) moves the (4°) curve to the upper thin full line; the preferred 1/z weighting (see text) gives the full-line curve little different from the unweighted (dot-dash) version.

When compared with the inter-point distances found in a large number of sets of 27 points 267 placed randomly on the circular plot, the cosmic rays show a large excess of separations at all 268 angles below  $30^\circ$ , clearly non-random, as fewer than 1 in 400 of the random sets match the high 269 number of inter-point distances in the range 10° -14°, related to the size of clumps. The cosmic 270 rays are thus clumpy quite apart from what AGNs tell us. (An analogous test for randomness was 271 reported in the Auger paper [1], based on inter-event distances on the sky, rather than on an equal-272 exposure plot.) To test how well the AGN distribution as a whole accounts for this large-scale 273 pattern, one can construct simulated sets of 27 cosmic ray directions by picking AGNs randomly 274 from the catalogue, choosing a "cosmic ray direction" by applying a Gaussian displacement 275 of rms angle 4° (Gaussian displacements of  $4^{\circ}/\sqrt{2}$  in two perpendicular directions), and then 276 accepting the direction with a probability given by the Auger array detection efficiency at that 277 declination (table 4). There is a complication, as 20% of the sky is effectively occupied by 278 the galactic zone in which many AGNs are hidden, so most of the cosmic rays within 12° of 279 the galactic plane are not reproduced in such a simulation. It seems, in fact, not to change the 280 inter-point distribution greatly, but to check this, a population of simulated cosmic rays has been 281

generated by adding "infilled" fake AGNs in the galactic exclusion zone, by a process of copying 282 random AGNs of rather similar supergalactic latitude and shifting them in supergalactic longitude 283 into this zone. The distribution of inter-point distances for these simulated cosmic ray directions, 284 is shown by the dot-dashed line in Figure 2, and the effect of reducing the r.m.s. scatter about the 285 AGN directions to 2° or 0.5° is shown by two dotted lines. They fit the observed distributions 286 rather well except for a strange deficit, in real cosmic rays, of separations near  $50^{\circ}$  – low gradient 287 of distribution — with an excess (steeper gradient) near 80° (separations near 0.7 and 1.0 on the 288 plot). There is also one exceptional small separation; and three more around 3° may lie outside 289 the average distribution, but some of these could occur quite naturally. One of the latter is aligned 290 with the very close AGN Cen A (3.4 Mpc), so if Cen A is the source, deflections could possibly 291 be reduced in this case. Also, if these cosmic ray "deflections" represent magnetic scattering 292 in a patchy magnetic field, the angle between a pair of arriving particles of similar energy from 293 one source can be appreciably less than the typical overall deflection, so a simple model of 294 independent deflections will underestimate the frequency of arrival of close pairs. (Apart from 295 one unusually energetic event, the rms energy spread of the Auger particles is only 15%.) The 296 overall pattern of cosmic rays on the sky thus supports the supposition of their emission from the 297 localities of AGNs. 298

But this process of selecting randomly the AGNs to serve as source locations ignores the  $1/z^2$ 299 geometrical attenuation of cosmic ray flux that should occur when deflections are small, favour-300 ing the AGNs closest to us, and also ignores an opposite correction for the incompleteness of the 301 catalogue at greater distances. Regarding the latter point, in figure 13, the distance distribution of 302 the brightest objects, which would suffer least from a flux detection threshold, varies as  $dn/dz \propto z$ 303 at low z, as would happen in the case of matter distributed uniformly in a thin slab, though the 304 angular spread of AGNs seen in figure 1 indicates that they spread much more widely than a slab 305 configuration, so the real dn/dz distribution is probably tending towards a more isotropic  $z^2$  vari-306 ation at larger z. The overall trend of all catalogued AGNs in figure 13 is roughly  $dn/dz \propto z^{0.3}$ , 307 so the numbers of catalogued AGNs may have to be multiplied by a factor in the range  $z^{0.7}$  to 308  $z^{1.7}$  to correct their apparent space density. When combined with the cosmic ray geometrical 309 flux attenuation factor  $1/z^2$  this suggests that the most reasonable distance-weighting factor for 310 selecting "source AGNs" would be in the range  $z^{-1.3}$  to  $z^{-0.3}$ . A distance-weighting factor 1/z is 311 a reasonable compromise for the present (stopping the variation at z < 0.001 to avoid infinities), 312 and the use of this factor made a slight improvement to the modelled curve in figure 2, shown 313 by a full line slightly above the previous "model" curve (dot-dash). If the catalogue had been 314 supposed equally complete at all distances, and the factor  $1/z^2$  thus applied (down to z = 0.001), 315 the very discordant higher curve is obtained, as a few extremely close sources dominate, very 316 much at variance with the observations. 317

The Auger paper showed that where there are cosmic rays of such extreme energies there are AGNs nearby. Are there cosmic rays wherever there are AGNs (within 75 Mpc)? The overall clumpiness of the cosmic ray distribution has been shown to be consistent with this; different source regions are examined next.

Figure 3 divides the equal-exposure plot into 50 segments of equal area, a coarse resolution which seems appropriate for this situation. (Five annuli, of equal radial thickness, are subdivided into 2, 6, 10, 14 and 18 equal segments in right ascension.) To compare the distribution of detected cosmic rays with that of VCV AGNs (with redshifts < 0.018) as potential sources, in figure 3 each AGN was in version (a) simply given a weight proportional to the detection efficiency of cosmic rays from that direction, and the (rounded) total weighted number of VCV AGNs is printed in each segment, or in plot (b), a distance-dependent factor proportional to 1/z

was also included in the weight, as suggested above. In both version (a) and (b), the weights were scaled to give 1 on average within a radius of 0.75 in the diagram. In the simple version (a) the weight was then 1.61 in the centre.



Figure 3: The uniform-exposure plot divided into 50 segments of equal area. (a) The larger numerals give the (rounded) number of VCV AGNs (at a redshift z < 0.018) in each segment, weighted by a relative array exposure factor (made to average 1 for radii<0.75, going to zero at the outer edge). Smaller numbers: weighted average distance of these AGNs, in Mpc. The 9 segments with weighted AGN count >6 are shaded. (b) The same, but weight given to each AGN includes an additional factor  $\propto 1/z$  (still normalized to 1): see text. Here the 6 segments with >7 (weighted) AGNs are shaded.

In order to compare cosmic ray and AGN patterns, only the 21 cosmic rays outside the  $\pm 12^{\circ}$ 332 galactic exclusion zone will be used: the cosmic rays clearly favour the segments containing 333 many VCV AGNs. The numbers in (a) count AGNs when the only weighting is the exposure 334 efficiency (version a), and in the 41 of these 50 segments that contain only 0 to 6 (weighted) 335 AGNs, there are 101 of the 208 AGNs and 9 cosmic rays: the ratio CR/AGN is 0.09. In the whole 336 diagram the ratio CR/AGN = 21/208 = 0.10. So even where AGNs are sparse, the proportion 337 of cosmic rays is not lower than in the denser regions, suggesting in this small available sample 338 that one does not need an exceptionally massive or rare AGN, such as is found at the centre of 339 a large cluster, to supply cosmic rays. But the heavily-outlined Virgo segment has 26 weighted 340 AGNs (representing a vastly greater actual unweighted number in the catalogue) and no cosmic 341 rays, where one might expect about 2.6  $(0.10 \times 26)$ . There may be a deficit here, although there 342 is a 7% probability of recording no counts when 2.6 are expected. If the approximate distance-343 weighting factor (version b) is included, the overall features are not much changed. There are 344 now 193 (weighted) AGNs, and 44 segments (those with AGN counts <8) contain 102 of the 193 345 AGNs, with CR/AGN = 0.12 in these, and 0.11 overall. But here, the proximity of the Virgo 346 cluster increases its weighting and one expects 3.8 cosmic rays from that segment, where none 347 is observed, which does look anomalous. In each segment of the plot in figure 3, the weighted 348 number of VCV AGNs is given, and also (smaller figures) their weighted average distance in 349 Mpc. The important segments with more than 6 weighted AGNs and at least one cosmic ray, 350 in case (a) indicate 45 Mpc as the average distance — considerably further away than the Virgo 351

cluster (at 16 Mpc) — whilst the smaller 1/z-weighted averages in case (b) indicate a wide spread 352 in the distance of AGNs in these segments, though not necessarily in the distance of the dense 353 active regions. Some cosmic rays may originate beyond the 75 Mpc limit of the sub-catalogue 354 used here. Two of the 21 cosmic rays have no AGN within the standard Auger window of 3.2° 355 Is their source further than 75 Mpc, or is the displacement more than  $3.2^{\circ}$ ? A technique for 356 extending the correlation radius will be proposed in section 4. A more sophisticated treatment 357 of sensitivity of the catalogue at different distances would be appropriate when more data are 358 available. 359

The most striking implication of these correlations is that cosmic rays must come from very 360 many sources (many 4°-spread circles being needed to cover the observations) within  $\sim$  75 Mpc, 361 and the most spectacular strong double-lobe radio galaxies do not supply a large part of them. 362 Cen A supplies about 1/4 of the total extragalactic radio-source flux at 1.4 GHz, with M87 (Virgo 363 A) about 1/5 of that, and Fornax A about 1/8 of Cen A's radio intensity. Biermann et al. [5] ex-364 pected these radio galaxies to dominate the cosmic ray flux if their jets are powered by the black 365 hole spin, and suggested that intergalactic magnetic fields have displaced the cosmic rays from 366 M87 very considerably, to give very many of the observed arrival directions along with the Cen 367 A contribution (little displaced because of its proximity). A displacement of the Fornax A contri-368 bution was also proposed. However, if cosmic rays from M87 (Virgo A) were to be redistributed 369 over the region containing the observed cosmic rays in the lower left hand quadrant of figure 1, 370 scattering points randomly over a quadrilateral shape containing these observed directions shown 371 in outline in figure 3b, only 27% of the points outside the galactic exclusion zone would have 372 a VCV AGN within 3.2°. The observed correlation with AGN positions is too close: such a 373 large-scale deflection is not supported, within the present statistics. Gorbunov et al [6] similarly 374 propose a large extension of Cen A cosmic rays, but evidence is given in the following sections 375 that magnetic deflections are small. Moreover, Gorbunov et al. drew attention to the importance 376 of the huge  $1/z^2$  geometrical factor favouring Cen A because its distance is only 3.4 Mpc. This 377 gives it an advantage of a factor  $\sim 200$  compared with the typical VCV AGNs at 40-50 Mpc 378 that appear to be correlated with cosmic rays, so Cen A should at least match all the others as a 379 source of local cosmic rays. If it does not, we have to suppose that particle acceleration to the 380 highest energies is discontinuous, and Cen A is in its off state so far as  $10^{20}$  eV is concerned, 381 and the same may be true of Fornax A. It has been noted that there are two cosmic ray directions 382 within 3.2° of Cen A, but these might well come from another double-lobed FRI radio galaxy, 383 NGC 5090 (at 48 Mpc) in the list of Nagar and Matulich [3], and not in the VCV catalogue. This 384 is within 1° of Cen A (see figure 1). The correlation of cosmic rays with these radio galaxies will 385 be examined more quantitatively in section 5, but while figure 3 is before us, it can be seen that 386 there is a close pair of cosmic rays near  $\alpha = 331^\circ, \delta = 0^\circ$ , in a very unremarkable segment of the 387 diagram (1 or 0 weighted AGNs). The survey by Ghisellini et al. [12] also showed few normal 388 galaxies here. There are not many AGNs in a further 50% of redshift either: is there a special 389 object there? There is a BL Lac object with extended radio structure, PKS 2201+04, that Nagar 390 and Matulich consider to be effectively an extended radio galaxy (see also [8]), though further 39 away than the others, at 112 Mpc. 392

But why are no cosmic rays seen from the Virgo cluster region? Apart from any contribution from M87, the numerous other AGNs have as yet yielded no visible result, as remarked above. (a) Is it a technical problem of energy assignment or collection efficiency near the maximum zenith angle of 60°? (b) Is the number of AGNs in the Virgo cluster exaggerated by the falling luminosity threshold for nearby AGNs in the catalogue, as referred to above? (c) Are the cosmicray sources not AGNs, but some other objects normally found near AGN but absent in the Virgo

cluster ? (d) Is cosmic-ray acceleration in Seyfert galaxies suppressed in a closely-packed envi-399 ronment? (e) Has the high density of gas generated a larger magnetic field in the supergalactic 400 plane just here that deflects particles out of the plane (and out of our line of sight) and hides this 401 source from us? Provisionally, it will be noted that option (b) is a distinct possibility, because, as 402 noted above, the catalogue appears to have a bias crudely like a 1/distance to  $1/distance^2$  effect. 403 Such a progressive lowering of the power threshold at which AGNs are listed, as one moves to 404 closer distances, may eventually move below the effective power threshold needed for cosmic 405 ray generation, so that within some distance of Earth, many too-feeble AGNs are included in the 406 catalogue. Zaw, Farrar and Greene [11] have favoured this explanation, noting that most Virgo 407 cluster galaxies have bolometric luminosities below the values typical of other AGNs that corre-408 late with Auger cosmic rays. A better view would be obtained from more northerly observatories, 409 which provides an incentive to devise more sensitive tests for AGN association. 410

In an earlier report [14] the Auger authors did make use of a uniform-exposure plot, but formed by distorting the declination scale of an Aitoff plot rather than a polar plot. This did display the anisotropy of the cosmic rays, though it conveyed the full information less clearly as it still suffers from the Aitoff distortions and discontinuities.

# 415 4. A right ascension resonance: tracing the decoherence between the patterns of cosmic 416 rays and of their sources

Is a  $3.2^{\circ}$  window the most suitable for seeking correlation between cosmic ray arrival di-417 rections and AGNs at different distances, in different parts of the sky, or at somewhat different 418 energies? This is unlikely, whether this dimension arises from magnetic deflections or the size of 419 galaxy or magnetar distributions, for example. Only the size and particular quality of the Auger 420 data sample permitted a search for the optimal choice in their preliminary data set, and the best 421 window size probably arose from its effect in reducing the confusion with background objects 422 on the sky. For this reason, a correlation test that does not require a particular window size to be 423 selected will be proposed, as an alternative technique for exploring the domain where this close 424 association exists. 425

The notable feature of the cosmic ray directions in the original Auger report [1] was their an-426 gular closeness to AGNs. Hence a useful measure of association should be the angular distance, 427  $d_1$ , between a cosmic-ray direction and the AGN nearest to that line of sight in a particular sub-428 set of the catalogue (such as a particular range of redshift). Here, d refers to the angular distance 429 in degrees measured on the sky, and not to a distance on the uniform-exposure plot. Where  $\langle d_1 \rangle$ 430 is the average value of  $d_1$  for a set of observed cosmic rays, let this be used as a measure of their 431 association with AGNs. This should be significantly less than  $\langle d_1 \rangle_{rand}$  evaluated for a set of the 432 same number of pseudo-random directions. (Here, "pseudo"-random means that random direc-433 tions are selected subject to weighting by the detector's exposure to each part of the sky. They 434 could be chosen using random points on the uniform-exposure plot, for example.) But what is 435 "significant"? One would formally derive a probability,  $P(\langle d_1 \rangle)$ , that a random, or unrelated, set 436 of directions would give such a low value of  $\langle d_1 \rangle$ , by simulating a very large number of "pseudo-437 random" sets, but it is hard to be sure that one has not inadvertently constrained the data in such 438 a way as to produce a large error in  $P(\langle d_1 \rangle)$ , so such evaluations are always regarded with some 439 degree of reservation. However, if the observed directions were put in the wrong position on the 440 sky by a displacement  $\Delta \alpha$  in every right-ascension angle,  $\alpha$ , one would have a set of cosmic ray 441 directions with the same detection efficiency, as this is independent of  $\alpha$ . Figure 4 shows the 442 average distance  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  to the nearest AGN when the relative right ascensions of the cosmic rays 113

and the AGNs are shifted by  $\Delta \alpha$  ranging from  $-180^{\circ}$  to  $180^{\circ}$ . As just mentioned, for any value of the closeness measure  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  the probability that a set of 21 pseudo-random directions will have a value at least as small as this can be calculated by Monte-Carlo simulation, and the values of  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  at which this probability has the magnitudes  $10^{-1}$ ,  $10^{-2}$ ,  $.10^{-7}$ , are marked on the diagram, by dotted lines. The cosmic rays which are (before shifting  $\alpha$ ) within  $12^{\circ}$  of the galactic plane have not been used, as for the vital small shifts  $\Delta \alpha$  they cannot be usefully compared with the AGN map.



Figure 4: Right ascension resonance plot, Angular distance  $d_1$  of cosmic ray direction from the nearest AGN (z<0.018), averaged over the Auger set of 21 cosmic ray directions ( $|b_{gal}| < 12^\circ$ ), plotted when the right ascension,  $\alpha$ , of each AGN is shifted by  $\Delta \alpha$ . All angles in degrees. The near-horizontal dotted lines indicate the probability  $P(\langle d_1 \rangle)$  of finding so small a value of  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  in a set of 21 "pseudo-random" cosmic-ray directions at a specific offset position. (It varies with  $\Delta \alpha$ because a 24° band almost devoid of AGNs is being shifted across the cosmic-ray pattern: only in the unshifted position does it coincide with the belt of omitted cosmic rays.) The preponderance of small distances  $d_1$  soon disappears when the cosmic ray map and the AGN map are displaced slightly.

Only when  $\Delta \alpha$  is close to zero is a clear association seen, with a chance probability  $< 10^{-7}$ 451 — a sharp "resonance" in right ascension. Not only is a low P seen, but one knows where it 452 should appear. There is much noise, far from the resonance, as a few cosmic rays happen to 453 pass accidentally close to AGNs, but the clumpy nature of the AGN pattern results in occasional 454 surprising false correlations, such as is seen in the Auger pattern with a displacement near 180°. 455 These off-centre troughs are not really significant, as the marked probability P refers to the 456 chance of observing such a low value of  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  at one particular  $\Delta \alpha$ , so if a randomly-positioned 457 trough is typically about  $6^{\circ}$  wide near its tip, there are about 60 positions available for accidental 458 troughs, and multiplying the marked probabilities by  $\sim 60$  gives an indication of the chance of 459 seeing so deep a trough by accident somewhere: one is very likely to see a purely accidental 460 trough reaching a level of  $P = 10^{-1.8}$ . A trough within a very few degrees of the centre is 461 expected, however, so the marked probabilities apply directly there. 462

<sup>463</sup> There is a complication, because this rotation in  $\alpha$  moves the galactic exclusion belt which <sup>464</sup> contains very few AGNs across the pattern of observed cosmic rays. It is undesirable to reclas-<sup>465</sup> sify the cosmic rays as in or out of the galactic exclusion zone, as this changes the number of <sup>466</sup> directions in the comparison, leading to several problems. For this reason, it has seemed prefer-

able to move the AGNs, leaving the cosmic rays fixed, but this still leaves the empty belt moving 467 with the shifted AGN distribution (so long as we use the optically-detected VCV AGNs), so, as 468 the same set of 21 cosmic ray directions is used at all times, some of the "nearest distances",  $d_1$ , 469 become appreciably larger for cosmic rays now falling in this belt. After testing several alterna-470 tive remedies, the disturbance that this causes seems to be best treated by limiting all individual 471 cosmic-ray  $d_1$  values to a maximum or "capped" value of 10°. Not only does this suppress the 472 main effect of having a nearly-empty belt, but it also prevents the existence of one or two cosmic 473 rays 25° from any AGNs (their source perhaps being at higher redshift) from raising the over-474 all  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  by nearly a degree near the trough of the resonance. The movement of the empty belt 475 of AGNs across the sky during this rotation causes changes in the probability of observing low 476 values of  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  by accident, as shown in the ups and downs of the dotted lines. Without the 10° 477 cap, this variation is greater. In figure 4,  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  at resonance is about 2.3° for the 21 cosmic rays 478 in unobscured directions, whereas the average  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  for pseudo-random sets of 21 is 6.8°, making 479 the associated and unassociated populations well distinguished. 480

To estimate *P* at a particular shifted position,  $\Delta \alpha$ , of the AGN pattern, 100,000 "cosmic ray"points were selected randomly on a uniform-exposure plot, avoiding the 24° galactic exclusion zone, and the angular distance  $d_1$  to the nearest (shifted) AGN was recorded for each. Then, a set of 21 samples was drawn from these 100,000, and  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  calculated, up to 30 million such sets of 21 being produced, to find the frequency with which particular low values of  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  were reached.



Figure 5: Right ascension resonance plot for subsets of the Auger data: (a) the first 10 cosmic rays > 12° from the galactic plane, used in choosing the selection cuts (thick dot-dash line), (b) the last 11 such cosmic rays, recorded after the cuts had been decided (thick solid line), and (c) all 21 such cosmic rays, repeated from figure 4 (thin dotted line). The dotted lines running across the diagram, showing the probability of reaching so low a value of  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  at a specified  $\Delta \alpha$ , apply to the set of 11. See figure 4 for the probabilities applicable to a set of 21. The minima reached in subsets (a) and (b) have similar significance levels, in contrast to the probabilities of the numbers of 3.2° windows containing AGNs which was distorted in set (a) by the optimization process.

In the case of figure 4, the marked "probabilities" must be regarded with reserve, because the 487 selection criteria for the data were not decided in advance. This  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  resonance approach removes 488 the relevance of window size, and this should remove the main source of bias, but the choice of 489 maximum redshift for the test, and of energy threshold, might still influence the distribution in 490 an accidental way in addition to the essential selection of the domain in which a real physical 491 association exists. But to check that there is no essential difference between the first and second 492 halves of the run (separated by the time at which the original cuts were determined), figure 5 493 shows resonance plots for these smaller data sets. The thick dot-dash curve refers to the 10 494 Auger showers from [1] outside the obscured zone of low galactic latitude that were observed 495 before the selection cuts were chosen and which were used in making this choice; the thick full 496 line applies to the 11 showers detected after this. The marked probability levels are for sets of 497 11 pseudo-random directions, and would be slightly different for the smaller first set. Even with 498 only 11 observed directions, a  $10^{-5}$  probability level is reached (and the same is true for 10). In 499 the first data set all 10 of the standard  $3.2^{\circ}$  windows around the cosmic ray directions contained 500 VCV AGNs (within 75 Mpc); in the second data set the hit rate was 9/11. The thinner dotted line 50 · shows the curve for all 21 events, transferred from figure 4. For the nominal probability values 502 P that apply in this case, see figure 4: they are roughly the square of the probabilities shown 503 for a set of 10 or 11 directions. At  $\Delta \alpha$  near 145° one can see an accidental dip at around the 504 depth in "P"  $(10^{-1.8})$  that was suggested above as likely to occur, but there are some other dips, 505 usually also not significant, that are related to the effect of clumps of cosmic rays being moved 506 across a clumpy AGN field, as they recur in both sub-sets, and at  $\Delta \alpha$  near  $-25^{\circ}$  there is one 507 that is probably partly random. The resonance technique could thus detect strong associations 508 with AGN patterns in fairly small data sets, even when the best window size is not known. The 509 main conclusion from figure 5 is that the association between the cosmic rays reported in the 510 Auger paper and the VCV AGNs on a scale of a few degrees are very highly significant, and not 511 generated accidentally by the optimization process. 512

Four other applications of this right-ascension resonance will be considered. First: as the 513 technique can reveal such associations in data sets smaller than that of the Auger Observatory, 514 do associations with AGN directions appear in data of other experiments, viewing the northern 515 hemisphere? This raises difficulties which are mentioned below, and the real lessons to be learned 516 are still being explored. Second: how significant are the associations with a different list of target 517 objects — the extended radio galaxies put forward by Nagar and Matulich? Third: can one detect 518 systematic displacements in the directions that could be caused by magnetic fields? Fourth: can 519 one explore how far in redshift the Auger association persists, to check the significance of the 520 apparent 75 Mpc limit, and use the position of the GZK horizon to check the energy of the 521 particles? 522

As already remarked, the proportion of Auger cosmic rays to VCV AGNs appears to be 523 lower than usual in the region of the Virgo cluster, long assumed to be an important local source. 524 The HiRes observatory was well placed to observe this region, but reported seeing no cosmic 525 ray excess in that direction, and indeed no association of cosmic rays above 56 EeV with VCV 526 AGNs<sup>2</sup>, using the Auger windows. Would some other window size have been more appropriate? 527 Abassi et al. [10] estimated that the energies attributed by Auger to cosmic ray particles were 528 too low by 10% (which is quite possibly an underestimate of the difference, as it depends on the 529 energy at which a comparison is made), compared with the HiRes scale, from a comparison of 530

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>56 EeV being the earlier estimate of the Auger threshold

energy spectra, and so they picked out a sample of cosmic rays for comparison having energies 531 above  $(1.1 \times 56)$  EeV on the HiRes scale. There were 13 HiRes events supposedly above 56 532 EeV on the Auger scale [10, 15], and a resonance plot for the 10 outside the galactic obscuration 533 zone is shown in the upper panel of figure 6. The probability estimate is somewhat approximate, 534 being based on the declination distribution of stereo events above 10 EeV [16]. There is no signal 535 at  $\Delta \alpha = 0$ , in conformity with their paper [10] finding no correlations with AGNs. The single 536 trough near  $-155^{\circ}$  is a little unusual, though its probability level is near that of the peculiar dip 537 seen on the full-sample Auger plots near 180°, but with a different sample size. (The events were 538 displayed on a sky map in [10], but the positions used here were those tabulated on their web-site 539 [15], which seem to be consistent with the map.) If a uniform-exposure polar plot is made (as 540 appropriate to the HiRes observing conditions) there is no tendency for the cosmic rays to be less 541 numerous in the segments which have few (weighted) AGNs (z < .018), unlike what was seen 542 in figure 3: the cosmic rays here do not follow the AGN pattern even on a large scale. Is this 543 astonishing disappearance of any AGN connection a feature of the northern celestial hemisphere 544 — or a surprisingly sharp change with energy that is not fully taken out by the 10% difference 545 assumed in the energy scales used in the two experiments? This has to be considered as there 546 must be a rapid change in Auger's sky distribution just below 57 EeV because the optimization 547 process found that the significance decreased if the energy threshold was decreased despite a 548 very rapid increase  $(E^{-3.5}$  integral spectrum) in the number of events available, but a list of 549 Auger events below 57 EeV has not been published. 550

The much earlier experiment at Haverah Park pioneered the particle detector technique used 551 at the Auger Observatory, and viewed the northern sky. Using the energy estimation methods then 552 current, this experiment had 13 showers above 70 EeV – but revised to  $\approx$  50 EeV [17] with more 553 modern shower models – 11 of them outside the galactic exclusion zone ([18] with  $\theta_{max} = 45^{\circ}$ ), 554 and a resonance plot for these cosmic rays, again matched against the VCV AGNs within 75 555 Mpc, is shown in the lower panel of figure 6. There is an apparent resonance with AGNs, with 556 a 2% chance of being an accident. But the true energy threshold of these Haverah Park cosmic 557 rays cannot be 50-70 EeV, judging by the flux, because the exposure was only several percent 558 of Auger's: the energy must be well below the 57 EeV at which the AGN correlation appears 559 in the Auger observations, and thus very many of these cosmic rays will originate beyond 75 560 Mpc, so the dip at  $0^{\circ}$  is less deep. An interesting feature is that if  $3.2^{\circ}$  windows are drawn 561 around the 11 shower directions, one of them contains 12 VCV AGNs (rather than the typical 562 1.1), being aligned within  $1^{\circ}$  of M87 at the centre of the Virgo cluster, and if the AGN count is 563 extended to 130 Mpc, another window contains 14 AGNs, being aligned within 3° of a cluster 564  $(\alpha = 262^\circ, \delta = 58^\circ)$  at 117 Mpc. This suggests that the Virgo cluster is not completely inactive 565 as a source, and disfavours the possibility that its output is disguised by a large local magnetic 566 deflection. 567

Investigation of the most reliable way to detect associations and estimate energy in such 568 datasets is at an early stage, and the result will be reported separately, but a comparison of 569 these three experimental results suggests that the 57 EeV threshold for association with nearby 570 AGNs, found by Auger, may not be a simple marker of the point at which interactions with the 571 microwave background radiation limits proton survival to about 100 Mpc. The depth of shower 572 maximum measured by Auger [19] indicated that, unexpectedly, the particles become heavy, and 573 hence highly charged and strongly deflected, as 50 EeV is approached, though it is not clear that 574 this was the case below 30 EeV. This may be the only way to understand a wide spread of arrival 575 directions in the HiRes data, if the fluorescence technique favours heavy nuclei rather more than 576 does the array of water tanks (i.e. assigns them a slightly higher energy). The Haverah Park 577



Figure 6: R.A. resonance plots for northern hemisphere observations: cosmic rays >  $12^{\circ}$  from galactic plane. Upper: HiRes: 11 cosmic rays estimated to have energies above 56 EeV on the Auger energy scale [10, 15]. Lower: Haverah Park: 11 cosmic rays [18] originally estimated to have energies above 70 EeV, but possibly about half that.

array did not find an expected GZK turn-down in the primary spectrum (as also AGASA, even 578 more strikingly): the apparently most energetic particles were presumably the badly-measured 579 ones that suffered large fluctuations in their energy assignment; and were probably thus protons. 580 (The Haverah Park events also occurred in a somewhat lower energy domain, possibly before 581 the highly-charged nuclei had become so important.) Why should these problems with energy 582 assignment for individual proton showers not occur also in the Auger data? In that case, the 583 domain above 57 EeV apparent energy may be where an accidental tail of proton showers, which 584 retain good directional information, emerges above the highly deflected component of heavy 585 nuclei. The 57 EeV threshold would then be to a large extent an accident of technique (and 586

an upper limit of the heavy nuclei), and the AGN signal might be highly dependent on shower selection. A method for rejecting heavy nuclei on the basis of the detector signals would be highly desirable.

#### 590 5. Correlations with extended radio galaxies

There is a much smaller alternative catalogue, of large radio galaxies, against which the 591 cosmic rays can be compared, which is equally significant, at the one-in-a-million level, may 592 be virtually independent of selection-optimization bias, and is undoubtedly plausible, a priori. 593 This is the set of 10 "extended radio galaxies" listed by Nagar and Matulich [3] as being within 594 the declination range observable by Auger and the redshift range selected for the Auger analysis 595 (z < 0.018). Nearly all are classified as probable FRI radio galaxies, except for Fornax A. These 596 authors considered objects included in Liu and Wang's [20] catalogue of galaxies with radio jets, 597 and selected those for which the radio map showed emission whose total extension on the two 598 sides added up to more than 180 kpc (scalar sum). Only three of these galaxies are on the VCV 599 list of optically-detected AGNs - NGC 4261 (3C270), Cen A and Cen B, the latter being very 600 near the galactic plane, although there is now no need to exclude the zone of low galactic latitude 601 when comparing cosmic rays with radio galaxies, which shine through the dust. M87 does not 602 meet their selection test. Concentrating first on the statistical argument, of 27 cosmic rays, 4 have 603 at least one of these 10 radio galaxies within a "standard" 3.2° window; yet the average particle 604 from an isotropic flux would have 0.0015 such encounter by chance, and there is well below a 605  $10^{-6}$  probability of having 4 "hits" in a sample of 27 particles. As the selection conditions were 606 not optimized for these targets, this appears to be an essentially independent demonstration that 607 the cosmic rays are far from isotropic and truly associated with certain AGN-type objects (and 608 the argument would be little affected if one removed the two galaxies that appeared in both lists 609 and had nearby cosmic rays). The chance of having so many hits by accident is still under 1 in a 610 million if directions are not chosen randomly but from a broad region of the sky corresponding 611 to the cosmic-ray pattern in figure 1 but smeared out by 30° rms spreading (in all cases the 612 acceptance efficiency of the detector is taken into account). So the radio galaxies themselves do 613 offer a pattern significance test essentially independent of the VCV association test. But a 3.2° 614 window for counting associations is really too small for this situation in which the targets are 615 less crowded on the sky, as will shortly be seen, so a  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  resonance plot is shown, to check this 616 level of significance, before moving on. 617

Figure 7(a) shows the mean distance in degrees of the 27 cosmic ray directions to the nearest 618 of these 10 "extended radio galaxies", as the right ascension of the objects is shifted, and plot 619 (b) shows the same but in the next 50% extension of the redshift range (0.018 to 0.027), using 620 the two further radio galaxies that Nagar and Matulich note, at positions ( $\alpha = 52.7^{\circ}, \delta = -3.1^{\circ}$ 621 on figure 1, 85 Mpc) and at 112 Mpc ( $\alpha = 331.1^{\circ}, \delta = +4.7^{\circ}$ ). As these authors do not state 622 whether there were any more similar galaxies in this range, there is some uncertainty about the 623 full interpretation of this second plot, a subject that will be raised again when considering source 624 distances in section 7. (Because the density of target galaxies is so low in this catalogue, the 625 random separations are larger, and the angular distances d are capped at a value of  $13^{\circ}$  rather 626 than 10° in forming the averages for these plots, though present results are insensitive to the 627 precise value chosen.) 628

Without making a choice of window size, the significance of the association (case a) is not quite the same as quoted above using a "standard" size of window, but this is of no practical consequence.



Figure 7: Association between the 27 Auger cosmic ray directions and the directions of extended radio galaxies listed by Nagar and Matulich. The mean distance between the cosmic ray and the the galaxy nearest on the sky is again measured in degrees. (a, upper panel) The 10 "extended" radio galaxies within 75 Mpc are considered; (b, lower panel) the listed radio galaxies (only 2) in the next 50% range of distance are used. The probability lines do not waver in level because there is no special galaxy avoidance zone moving across the sky now, for radio galaxies; but in case (b) the probabilities should not be relied upon, as the unbiased selection of the galaxies in this case is uncertain. (a) also shows, dotted, the resonance curve (but not the probabilities) for the radio-jet galaxies listed by Liu and Zhang that do not have extension greater than 180 kpc: they do not show a strong signal near 0°.

These extended radio galaxies were selected from a list of galaxies with radio jets [20]. Are the other jets also effective sources? Omitting the (few) cases with short jets, with total length less than 1 kpc, the galaxies selected as having extended lobes comprise about 40% of the total in the localities considered here. A  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  resonance curve for those that were not selected by Nagar and Matulich, shown dotted in figure 7a, shows no dip at  $\Delta \alpha = 0^\circ$ , indicating that they are not

<sup>637</sup> more strongly associated with cosmic rays than are the typical VCV AGNs.

It may be wondered how one finds room for more sources of these cosmic rays when almost all of them have been associated with optical AGNs, above. The explanation is, as remarked in section 2, that the close grouping of AGNs in clusters normally prevents identification of what object within a few degrees is the true source, which could be an object belonging to the cluster but not in the VCV catalogue. Most radio galaxies are such objects, and if they are indeed particularly efficient sources, we may in this case be able to identify the actual galaxy that is the source.

The usual  $3.2^{\circ}$  window size must be expected to exclude many cosmic rays if they do typ-645 ically have rms spreads of  $\sim 4^{\circ}$  around the VCV AGNs, and the counting window can safely 646 be extended to 6° for greater counting efficiency when there is such a small density of targets 647 on the sky: 4 more hits then appear, and there is no indication that one is picking up accidental 648 pairings, although there may be a contamination from cosmic rays generated by other weaker 649 sources in the surrounding cluster. In contrast with the VCV optically detected AGNs, which 650 typically had  $\sim 0.1$  cosmic ray associated (see the discussion of figure 3), the ratio is close to 1.0 651 now: there are 12 cosmic rays that have at least one of these 12 extended radio galaxies within 652  $6^{\circ}$  (counting out somewhat beyond z=0.018 now), even though about 2 of these 12 cosmic rays 653 could be attributed to surrounding VCV AGNs if they are contributing 0.1 each. Four of these 654 radio galaxies have no associated cosmic ray (Fornax A, 25 Mpc, NGC 3557, 43 Mpc, NGC 655 4261/3C270, 31 Mpc and NGC 4760, 66 Mpc), and it now seems likely that there is a fifth — 656 Cen A. NGC 5090 (at 48 Mpc) has three cosmic rays within 6°, and so has Cen A (3.4 Mpc) 657 which is so nearly aligned that both these galaxies appear in the same events. As Cen A has an 658 advantage of ~ 200 in its  $1/distance^2$  factor relative to most of the other typical emitters con-659 sidered here, but does not overwhelm them, it is probably in an "off" state, and the three cosmic 660 rays seemingly associated with it are then more logically attributed to NGC 5090. Other radio 661 galaxies seem to have two cosmic rays within  $6^{\circ}$  — Cen B (at 54 Mpc), Markarian 612 (83 Mpc) 662 and CGCG 403-019/PKS 2201+04 (112 Mpc) — though in some cases weaker sources in the 663 cluster may perhaps contribute one. I am quoting the distances given by Nagar and Matulich. 664 As so many contribute more than one, the 5 undetected suggest that either the emission is not 665 continuous, or that the maximum energy is lower for some of them. The Nagar and Matulich 666 galaxies should be seen to associate with cosmic rays again in future Auger exposures. 667

In [3] it was proposed that these FRI galaxies were the essential sources, and that the re-668 maining cosmic rays (perhaps 17 out of 27 from the figures above) were probably not really 669 associated with VCV AGNs, and were approximately isotropic. The authors also remarked that 670 the correlation with VCV AGNs must be distorted by the inclusion in the catalogue of bright H2 671 galaxies that were originally mistaken for AGNs. Their suggestion has been tested by plotting a 672 resonance curve for a reduced cosmic ray sample (having removed those which pass within 6° 673 of Nagar-Matulich galaxies), and measuring their angular distances from the objects remaining 674 in a reduced VCV AGN catalogue for z < 0.018 (having removed the 3 specified radio galaxies, 675 and also the H2 galaxies as suggested). The result, plotted in Figure 8, shows that these cosmic 676 rays that are not seen to be associated with the radio galaxies are not isotropic: there is still a 677 pronounced trough close to  $0^{\circ}$ , with the chance that it arises by accident below  $10^{-4}$ , still a very 678 significant association. 679

One merit of the VCV AGN catalogue is that it contains the right density of objects to provide correlations with a large proportion of individual cosmic ray directions, but not so many as to make this correspondence unavoidable even with random directions, so it makes a striking demonstration of a close association with cosmic rays numerically possible if it exists. It has been



Figure 8: Figure 8. Plot of  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  against R.A. shift  $\Delta \alpha$  for cosmic rays which do not correlate within 6° with extended FRI radio galaxies (16 of the original 21 cosmic rays), compared with the positions of VCV AGNs after removing H2 galaxies (not true AGNs) and the extended radio galaxies from the list, to test a suggestion of residual isotropy by Nagar and Matulich [3]. The reduced set of cosmic rays still shows a strong association with the directions of optically detected AGNs.

argued above that this close association, very surprisingly, does exist, and is very significant even 684 when allowance is made for the selection data cuts which optimized this correlation in the first 685 half of the data-taking period. If one were to look to greater distances, however, source confusion 686 would mount: there would be multiple close AGNs for many cosmic rays, confusing the picture 687 quite apart from the need to allow for the opposite problem of serious catalogue incompleteness. 688 The class of radio galaxy discussed above would be much more suitable than VCV AGNs to 689 trace the extension of cosmic ray sources beyond 75 Mpc, because their number density is low 690 enough to avoid source confusion, and the catalogue will not suffer from incompleteness until 691 greater distances are reached. The X-ray selected AGNs in the Swift BAT catalogue might also 692 be useful in this way, and George et al. [7] have already suggested that a correlation appears to 693 extend to about 100 Mpc. 694

Thus it appears that both FRI radio galaxies and Seyfert galaxies can accelerate protons to 10<sup>20</sup> eV, though the latter have a lower output. It seems that an intense hot-spot, as seen at the termination of FRII jets, and anticipated as a promising acceleration site [21, 5], is not implicated. If these two classes of active galaxy make up the relevant accelerators, the acceleration site may possibly be nearer to the base of the jet.

#### 700 6. Magnetic deflections

If 3° of the spread of proton arrival directions around their sources represents a deflection in varying magnetic fields in travelling ~ 45 Mpc, an effective transverse magnetic field  $\approx 0.1 nG$ would produce this. If the field changed randomly on a scale of *L* Mpc, a typical total field strength in each domain of  $\approx 1.6$ nG/ $\sqrt{L}$  would be required. This must be an upper limit, as there

will be other factors contributing to the scatter. A systematic deflection caused by a net average 705 field normal to the line of sight might be detected by a shift in the position of the "right ascension 706 resonance" from its expected position at  $\Delta \alpha = 0$  — if the field had a component parallel to 707 the earth's rotation axis. But other field directions can be investigated by shifting the AGN 708 pattern in some other direction on the sky by choosing a different axis for the pattern rotation. 709 The resonance effect has been examined when the "AGN sky" is rotated through small angles 710 about the galactic pole or about an axis perpendicular to this (i.e. in the galactic plane, chosen 711 to be at a galactic longitude of 45° so as to be nearly perpendicular to the main concentration 712 of cosmic-ray directions). Of special interest is the set of AGNs at positive galactic latitude, 713 seen on the left hand side of figure 1, for these 9 at galactic latitude >  $12^{\circ}$  are mostly grouped 714 in a small part of the sky and so may travel through a similar magnetic field. On rotating the 715 AGN sky about the special axis normal to the galactic pole, which is also about  $90^{\circ}$  from the 716 majority of these 9 directions, no perceptible shift from zero in the position of the resonance was 717 seen (Figure 9c), although this plot is very noisy, and a much larger data set may be needed to 718 make clear what is happening. But if a rotation about the galactic pole is made, thus shifting 719 the AGNs parallel to the galactic plane, they are seen to need an offset in order to match the 720 cosmic-ray directions. To make the sampled region of sky more well defined, two outlying 721 cosmic rays may be omitted (one at much smaller galactic longitude than the others, and one at 722 the high latitude of  $54^\circ$ ), leaving a more compact group of 7 arrival directions whose centroid is 723 at galactic longitude 308° and latitude 24°. The resonance curve (figure 9b) shows that the AGNs 724 best match the cosmic ray directions when offset by about  $4^{\circ}$  parallel to the galactic plane. (A 725 shear was applied in these rotations, as described in the next paragraph.) This sky rotation about 726 the galactic pole tests any deflection of cosmic rays parallel to the galactic plane (due to a " $B_z$ " 727 field component, perpendicular to the galactic disc), whilst the previously mentioned rotation 728 tests any displacement perpendicular to the galactic plane, due to a field component parallel to 729 the plane (though cylindrical symmetry of the galaxy may tend to make the averaged field along 730 the line of sight nearly cancel out in this case, where no displacement effect was found). No 731 clear offset was seen if the other 12 (negative latitude) cosmic rays were used (figure 9a). These 732 directions are more widely scattered, and typically further from the galactic plane, where the 733 average galactic field strength might be considerably smaller. 734

A rotation of the AGN pattern about any axis, such as the galactic polar axis, produces a 735 smaller actual displacement on the sky as the "pole" is approached. Since the actual displacement 736 of cosmic rays was of prime interest in this part of the investigation, a "shear" was applied to the 737 rotations described in this section: any AGN was displaced in longitude,  $\lambda$ , by  $\Delta \lambda = \omega$ . sec  $\phi$ , 738 where  $\phi$  is the latitude, rather than all by the same  $\Delta \lambda = \omega$ , thus having the same actual shift 739  $\omega$  on the sky for each AGN, making it easy to read off the displacement of the particle. The 740 terms "longitude" and "latitude" here relate to the particular axis of rotation that is being used. 741 (A rather similar curve, but without such a large sideband noise is obtained in the case 9(b) by 742 rotating in right ascension instead of in galactic longitude, as in this region of the sky the two 743 directions are not very different.) 744

Such a deflection of 4° by the galactic magnetic field would be quite compatible with the range of expected values shown in figure 8b of Abraham et al.[1], and would correspond to a field directed "down" towards the galactic disc, with a strength integrated along the particle's path of  $6\mu G \times \text{kpc}$ , if the particles are protons — say,  $0.3\mu G$  on average over 20 kpc. The trajectory passes about 2 kpc above the galactic plane at about 7 kpc from the Galactic Centre. Since deflections, at a known energy, will be proportional to nuclear charge, the particles are surely not very much more highly charged than helium nuclei, and at this energy are very unlikely to



Figure 9: Position of the resonance between Auger cosmic-ray directions and the AGN positions (z < 0.018) when the AGN patterns are shifted in a direction related to galactic coordinates: in (a) and (b), the AGN positions are shifted by an angle  $\omega$  parallel to the galactic plane, and in (c) by an angle  $\omega$  perpendicular to the plane (see text). (a) uses the 12 cosmic-ray directions with galactic latitude,  $b < -12^\circ$ ; (c) uses the 9 which have  $b > 12^\circ$ . (b) uses 7 of the latter 9, which arrive from a relatively limited part of the sky around the direction ( $l = 308^\circ, b = 24^\circ$ ). In case (b), where the particles have passed just above the galaxy, they appear to have been deflected by about  $4^\circ$ , as though by a  $B_z$  component of the galactic magnetic field.

<sup>752</sup> be helium nuclei, as these survive only about 1 Mpc in the microwave background. Of course, <sup>753</sup> not having enough data to treat several different parts of the sky separately, the magnetic field <sup>754</sup> cannot be separated from a metagalactic field of  $6nG \times Mpc$ . There may well be a significant <sup>755</sup> metagalactic contribution seen in the widespread random  $3 - 4^{\circ}$  scatter discussed previously, as <sup>756</sup> the systematic shift was only seen for a particular set of directions, at the rather low galactic <sup>757</sup> latitude of  $24^{\circ}$ . The value of extending these tests to a larger data set is clear.

A 4° displacement of the resonance of course implies some changes in the list of which AGNs 758 appear in  $3.2^{\circ}$  windows around the cosmic ray directions. With this special group of 7 cosmic 759 ray directions there are still 2 empty windows (to 75 Mpc), but the number of AGNs in the 5 760 active windows is increased — so it may not yet be convincing that there must be a magnetic 761 deflection. There now appear 9 AGNs in the standard windows around revised "undeflected" 762 cosmic ray directions, instead of 5 in the original list. Cen A now appears in only one window 763 rather than 2, but one of the new AGNs brought in is the FRI AGN IC 4296 on Nagar and 764 Matulich's list [3], which now has a distance d of  $0.4^{\circ}$  instead of  $3.8^{\circ}$ . 765

#### 766 7. Correlations with AGNs in different distance ranges

The Auger AGN study [1] found that the correlation was most significant when only the AGNs having redshift  $< z_1 = 0.018$  (distance < 75 Mpc) were used. This would have important implications, discussed in the next section. However, a maximum significance with a redshift limit of  $z_1$  does not mean that there are few cosmic rays from beyond this limit; so direct infor-

mation on the distances of travel of the detected cosmic rays should be sought. Three approaches
 to this tricky problem will be sketched here.

(1) Looking for coincidences (within  $3.2^{\circ}$ ) with VCV AGNs at different distances is not 773 helpful in a very straightforward way, as these objects are so numerous that a typical cosmic ray 774 direction eventually matches AGNs at different distances. This is shown in table 3, where, in the 775 line labelled z ".000-.017", the 21 cosmic rays outside the galactic obscuration zone are shown 776 in the sequence of their detection, with "x" showing that the particle matched an AGN in this 777 distance range (i.e. the cosmic rays discussed previously), and "." signifying that there was no 778 match: there were 19 "hits". The following two lines similarly record whether these same 21 779 cosmic rays matched AGNs in the next succeeding ranges of redshift, each 50% as large as the 780 first. 781

782

AGN redshift																							
.000017:	x	х	x	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	Ι	х	х	x	•	x	x	x	x	x	х	•	19
.018027:								x	х		Ι		х		x	•		•			x		5
.028035:	•	•	•	x	x	•	x	•	x	•	Ι	x	х		•	x	•	•	x	x	•	x	10

Table 3: Sequence of cosmic rays matching AGNs (see text).

The point of origin of the particle is obviously not determined unambiguously: a line of 783 sight can pass within  $3.2^{\circ}$  of more than one AGN. The dividing line in the sequences shown in 784 table 3 marks the end of the "first half" of the run, at which point the initial selection cuts were 785 optimized. Although the 3.2° window size used here results from a re-optimization at the end of 786 the run, so the first half should not necessarily look anomalous, this point of decision was made 787 when a pre-defined level of significance was reached, so an atypical sequence may have been 788 recorded at this point for this reason — and the 10/10 hit rate in the initial period may hence 789 be distorted. The 9/11 hit rate after this is close to what would be expected if cosmic rays do 790 arrive from directions having 3.5° rms scatter around VCV AGNs: it was found that 77% of 791 particles should then have an AGN within 3.2° along the line of sight. Such simulations also 792 show that 21 particles originating in the near zone, z < 0.018, would typically score 12 hits 793 in the second and third distance zones, not very different from the 15 recorded, so that there 794 are probably not very many particles originating in these more distant zones (though several 795 associations could be missed because the VCV catalogue will become significantly incomplete 796 there). A more elaborate study of this limited sample suggests that (because of the high hit-rate 797 in the first line) most particles originated within 75 Mpc, but very crudely 0-25% might come 798 from sources beyond 75 Mpc, though a more precise estimate cannot be made. 799

(2) Resonance plots can also be used to study the extent of the correlation with increasing 800 distance, as they are not dependent on window size, though the plots are disappointing. Right 801 ascension resonance curves for the 21 Auger cosmic rays are shown in figure 10 for  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  using 802 angular distances to the nearest AGN listed in particular redshift ranges of the VCV catalogue: 803 (a) z < 0.018, (b) 0.018-0.027, (c) 0.028-0.036. It is at first disconcerting to see that although 804 most of the published cosmic ray directions (in unobscured regions) align closely with AGNs 805 within 75 Mpc, as discussed above, and as shown in figure 10a, they also have a (much less 806 significant) alignment with AGNs between 116 and 150 Mpc (figure 10c). Although this is 807 somewhat like the results for window hits listed above, it is surprising that the 116-150 Mpc 808

group shows a small apparent resonance near  $\Delta \alpha = 0$  (that was not seen in the simulated curve, 809 below). To extract the information on distance of origin, the best that can be done at present is 810 to model the correlations one would get if the observed cosmic rays originate in a specific range 811 of distance. So, for this purpose, I have assumed that cosmic rays originate as though from any 812 VCV AGNs, are scattered with a characteristic spread, and that at greater distances a decreasing 813 fraction of the AGN's output is seen, because GZK energy losses allow us to receive only those 814 particles emitted above an energy threshold which is increasingly above 57 EeV for more distant 815 sources. The Auger sample has an energy spectrum above 57 EeV which may be represented by 816  $j = (E_{max} - E)/(E_{max} - E_o)$ , where j is the fraction of particles above energy E,  $E_o = 57$  EeV, 817 and  $E_{max} \approx 92$  EeV. This ignores a single particle of energy well above 92 EeV, which is of no 818 consequence in this context. 819



Figure 10: Right-ascension resonance plots for the 21 Auger cosmic ray directions not near the galactic plane. The mean distance to the closest VCV AGN  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  is plotted against shift  $\Delta \alpha$  in right ascension of AGNs by the thick lines, (a) for AGNs in redshift range < 0.018, (b) 0.018-0.027, (c) 0.028-0.035. The thinner full, dashed, dotted lines show the average curves found in models in which the cosmic rays are emitted from the vicinity of VCV AGNs, with detectable output reduced by a factor falling to zero at redshift  $z_{max}$  in the range 0.018 to 0.025 (see text). When  $z_{max}$  exceeds 0.024, approximately, the correlation with the closer AGNs, noted by the Auger report, weakens. The seeming correlation with AGNs at z > 0.027 appears to stem in part from accidental alignment of AGN clusters.

Assuming the local spectrum does not vary much with position in space, it might be treated 820 roughly as though  $E_{max}$ , above, is the maximum energy with which most particles are generated, 821 and that particles cannot be received here from sources more distant than  $D_{max}$  (redshift  $z_{max}$ ), 822 corresponding to the distance over which protons lose an amount  $\Delta log_{10}E = 0.22$  (falling from 823 92 to 57 EeV). This effect is modelled approximately by multiplying the output of any AGN at 824 redshift z by a factor  $(1 - (z/z_{max})^2)$  to represent the decreasing fraction of its particle output that 825 remains above 57 EeV by the time it reaches us. ("92 EeV" was quoted merely in explanation: 826 no energy value is used at this stage, but only a parameter  $z_{max}$ .) 827

Varying  $z_{max}$  (and the rms spread of cosmic rays around source AGNs) to get a crude fit to the resonance trough,  $\langle d_1 \rangle$  near  $\Delta \alpha = 0$  in the three redshift zones out to 0.036, the best fit was with  $z_{max} \approx 0.023$  and slightly favours a scatter varying with  $\sqrt{z}$  (rms being 3.5° at 45 Mpc) rather than being constant. Models with  $z_{max} = 0.018$ , 0.0216 and 0.0252 gave the resonance curves shown by various thin lines in figure 10. The present rough models and low statistics

cannot give accurate fits, but if  $z_{max}$  is increased further the trough becomes less deep in the comparison with AGNs in the nearest redshift zone, < 0.018 (figure 10(a)), that was picked out by the Auger authors. A range zmax of 0.023 corresponds to a maximum source distance of 96 Mpc if  $H_o = 72$ , a travel time of close to 300 Myr. When better statistics are available and refitting is attempted, the distance-dependence of the selection bias for VCV AGNs should be investigated, although it would be unlikely to have much effect on a "cut-off" point.

(3) The alignment of cosmic rays with extended radio galaxies offers a much better chance 839 to investigate the source distances, as multiple alignments for a cosmic ray will rarely occur, 840 apart from the special case of Cen A and NGC 5090. The shaded histogram in figure 11 shows 841 the numbers of such galaxies (as listed by Nagar and Matulich) found in 20 Mpc intervals of 842 distance, but the lightly shaded part reaching as far as 120 Mpc contains objects that seem to 843 have been added because they were seen to align with cosmic rays, and may not be a complete 844 sample in this region. To indicate how the radio-galaxy distribution may be expected to continue, 845 the total number of galaxies with radio jets, listed by Liu and Zhang [20], excluding those with 846 total jet length less than 1 kpc but without any selection based on extension of lobes seen in radio 847 images, is shown by the line, the scale being shown on the right. Below 80 Mpc, the extended 848 objects amount to about 40% of this total, and the scale has been chosen so that the line may 849 thus indicate how the numbers of extended radio galaxies may be expected to continue beyond 850 this distance. The filled circles show the numbers of cosmic rays apparently associated with the 851 radio galaxies in each 20 Mpc — within  $6^{\circ}$  as in section 5. (The "error bars" show the effect of 852 changing the source attribution from NGC 5090 to Cen A in 3 cases.) All these radio galaxies 853 with jets have been included in these counts of associations, but only the extended (mostly FRI) 854 radio galaxies mentioned by Nagar and Matulich showed an association. Thus the cosmic rays 855 may indeed all originate within about 120 Mpc, though some sources may have been missed if 856 the catalogue of Liu and Zhang is incomplete in the range 120-160 Mpc. The source peak near 857 50 Mpc is notable. 858

<sup>859</sup> Hence, this treatment roughly confirms the  $z_{max}$  figure from the Auger optimization: it is <sup>860</sup> probably below 120 Mpc for the set of particles that still have energies above 57 EeV when they <sup>861</sup> arrive. This must be controlled by their maximum energy on production, and the rate at which <sup>862</sup> they lose energy.

### 863 8. Implications of very local sources: a cut-off in the source spectrum?

If one receives few or no particles above  $E_{thresh}$  which originated beyond 100 Mpc, the energy 864 of the particles released from the source must not be too high, and the rate of loss of energy, 865 primarily through interactions with the cosmic microwave background radiation (CMBR), must 866 be rapid, so that the energy falls below  $E_{thresh}$  within 100 Mpc. The rate of energy loss in the 867 CMBR varies rapidly with proton energy, and it seems that the loss would be sufficient to drop 868 below "57 EeV" within this distance only if, firstly, the particle energies are higher than quoted 869 in the Auger paper, presumably because of remaining uncertainties in the fluorescence efficiency 870 of air; and, secondly, the fall of the energy spectrum of cosmic rays must be steeper than that 871 imposed by these energy losses: the observations must be closely approaching the upper energy 872 limit of the accelerators. 873

There is as yet insufficient information to resolve the interplay of several relevant factors, but the general constraints will be described with the aid of Figure 12. Consider first the lines, which trace the average change in a proton's energy with distance from its source. Ignoring the thicker lines, the steep dotted line, full line and dashed line refer to protons generated with energies of



Figure 11: The histogram shows the numbers of extended radio galaxies as defined by Nagar and Matulich in 20 Mpc intervals. Beyond 75 Mpc the galaxies may have been chosen more selectively (see text). The line shows the number of galaxies with radio jets of at least 1 kpc [20] — in the field of view of the Auger Observatory, but without selection for lobe extension — the right hand scale applies to these. The black points are the numbers of cosmic rays that appear to be associated with these radio galaxies, none in fact being associated with non-extended galaxies. 3 cases attributed to NGC 5090 could alternatively be attributed to Cen A: the vertical lines show the changed counts that would result.

200 EeV, 100 EeV and 80 EeV respectively, and the horizontal axis shows the energies on arrival 878 if they have travelled for the distances specified on the vertical axis since leaving the accelerator. 879 (He nuclei are not considered as they photodisintegrate in  $\sim 1$  Mpc, and larger nuclei are ignored 880 because, apart from the magnetic deflection argument given in section 6, their mean path length 881 for serious mass loss by photodisintegration is much less than 100 Mpc.) One expects to have a 882 mixture of energies leaving the accelerator, with a larger number starting at the lower energies. 883 It is seen that the expected distance distribution extends far above 100 Mpc, in contrast with the 884 observations. 885

The only way to remove this tail of distant sources appears to be to assume that the reported 886 energies are too low by a factor around 1.25, so that the true threshold energy is near 70 EeV. 887 This makes the energy losses arising from photopion production reactions become much more 888 rapid. The thicker dotted, full and dashed lines again refer to the proton energies after travelling 889 various distances from the source, but assuming that the actual energies are always 1.25 times 890 the figures written on the graph. The shaded area is roughly where we should expect to see the 891 detected particles, on this basis, if there are few sources within 30 Mpc (as seems to be indicated 892 by the data) and the source spectrum terminates not far from 100 EeV nominal energy (or 125 893 EeV on a "corrected" energy scale): there would now be few particles having travelled more than 894 100 Mpc. This is closer to the observed distance distribution. 895

However, if we attempt to estimate the distance from the source of individual particles, by



Figure 12: Distance of travel of particles arriving with different energies. For the observations, the distances are derived from redshifts of AGNs or radio-galaxies close to the line of sight (see text). The curves refer to the expected energy of protons generated with particular initial energies of 200, 100 or 80 EeV after they have travelled through the background radiation for different distances: thin lines for energies actually assigned in the Auger analysis, thick lines apply if the assigned (and plotted) energies are too low by a factor 1.25. The shaded area draws attention to the main area in which the points would be expected to lie in this latter case, assuming also that the source spectrum terminates near 100 EeV ("assigned energy")

linking them to the AGNs seen close to the cosmic ray arrival direction, there is a problem. In 897 outline, one expects that the particles arriving with the highest energies must have travelled a 898 short distance, whilst the particles of lowest energy could come from a wide range of distances, 899 with different starting energies. The observed data are presented as follows. The cosmic rays 900 fairly clearly associated with extended radio galaxies (ERG) have a clear source distance, and 901 are marked with large filled circles. For those not associated with extended radio galaxies, an 902 open circle marks the median distance of VCV AGNs within  $6^{\circ}$  and a vertical line shows the 903 range of distances amongst this group of possible source AGNs. Where there is an adjacent 904 extended radio galaxy and several VCV AGNs, the ERG distance and the VCV median distance 905 are both shown, using smaller symbols (unless the ERG distance agrees with the VCV median, 906 when the VCV indications are ignored). (There is no nearby known AGN for one of the 21 907 cosmic rays.) The expected correlation between energy and distance of travel is not apparent. The shape of the observed energy distribution is also a poor match, which might very possibly 909 arise if there are event-to-event fluctuations in energy reconstruction accuracy of order 20% or 910 more, which largely scramble the energies in such a small span of energies as is represented here 911 - and reminiscent of the Haverah Park example discussed in section 4. A larger data sample 912 is needed to make more of this energy spectrum, to find out just how steeply it must fall at this 913 apparent termination. Simulations of energy propagation have been made but will be published 914 separately. 915

#### 916 9. Summary: conclusions concerning the cosmic-ray sources

The report [1] by the Auger collaboration, that most of the cosmic rays that had been detected 917 above an energy of 57 EeV came from directions within 3.2° of an optically detected AGN within 918 about 75 Mpc, listed in the 12th catalogue of Véron-Cetty and Véron, marked the first instance 919 of a fine-scale anisotropy clearly seen in charged-particle astronomy. It was shown in section 2 920 that cosmic rays appeared to come from regions where AGNs were clustered. Sky distributions 921 on different scales are consistent with the cosmic rays originating from sources in or near such 922 AGNs, typically Seyfert galaxies, and being deflected randomly by 3 - 4° on their way to us. As 923 this scattering angle is similar to the separation of AGNs in the source region, it will not usually 924 be clear what object is the actual source. The appearance of some very weak objects closest to 925 the observed direction is hence not a problem. In section 3, a uniform-exposure polar plot was 926 recommended for displaying quantitative aspects of the distribution of cosmic rays and possible 927 source objects such as AGNs on the sky, and the distribution of cosmic rays was seen to follow 928 the distribution of the VCV AGNs on the large scale, with about 0.1 cosmic rays detected during 929 the reported observing run per catalogued AGN within 75 Mpc, where the exposure efficiency 930 was high. 93<sup>.</sup>

A method of showing the close correlation with directions of AGNs or other objects that 932 did not require choice of a particular correlation "window" size was introduced in section 4 933 — a "right ascension resonance" in average closest distance — which showed the rapidity of 934 decoherence of these patterns on the sky when they were displaced slightly. This showed the 935 cross-correlation in a very immediate way, that could be used to explore related associations in 936 other regions. As this did not make use of any specially optimized window radius, it could be 937 used to check the very high statistical significance of the correlation with AGNs. The association 938 of cosmic rays with the extended radio galaxies with radio jets within 120 Mpc (Nagar and Mat-939 ulich [3]), most of which were not in the VCV optically-based catalogue, was, quite separately, 940 significant at around the 1 in  $10^6$  level, with an average of around 1 detected cosmic ray per ob-941 ject, although not all seem to be active at the present time: the nearby and spectacular low-energy 942 electron accelerators Cen A and Fornax A are probably currently switched off at these ultra high 943 energies (otherwise the former would have completely outshone the other FRI radio galaxies, 944 because of its proximity, as it does in the case of low-energy synchrotron radiation). 945

If the few brightest radio galaxies within  $\sim 80$  Mpc, notably M87 (Virgo A), Cen A and 946 Fornax A, had been the dominant sources, their output must have been spread widely over the 947 sky by magnetic deflections [4, 5, 6]. However, only a small proportion of such widely-scattered 948 cosmic rays would line up within  $3.2^{\circ}$  of a catalogued AGN, as pointed out in section 3: this is 949 not the case. If, on the other hand, the lines-of-sight to cosmic ray sources are scattered around 950 many VCV AGNs by  $3-4^{\circ}$ , most of the cosmic ray distributions are well described. In summary, 951 the small apparent scale of  $3-4^{\circ}$  for the spread of cosmic ray directions around source regions 952 indicates that there are many more sources than there are strong radio-emitting AGNs. So al-953 though perhaps 40% of the detected cosmic rays in this energy region appear to come from FRI 954 or similar radio galaxies at typical distances near 50 Mpc, the remainder presumably come from 955 numerous weaker sources, which reside in these AGN clusters, and accelerate protons to very 956 similar maximum energies. Ghisellini et al [12] have also emphasised the possibility that any 957 objects that reside in galaxy clusters are candidates, and have shown that cosmic-ray directions 958 correlate with the density of ordinary galaxies. It is not known whether the pattern de-coheres 959 with galaxy density as rapidly as with AGNs, but it seems likely that AGNs do trace galaxy den-960 sity. Although these authors particularly draw attention to the possibility that magnetars might 961

be the sources [22], the very significant appearance of FRI radio galaxies close to the directions 962 from which cosmic rays arrive makes it appear likely that the Seyfert galaxies are indeed the cur-963 rently less-active end of a distribution of jet-related sources of cosmic rays of  $(0.7-1.2) \times 10^{20}$  eV. 964 (Only 25% of the VCV AGNs are not known radio emitters.) A separate population of numerous 965 low-fluence non-AGN sources may yet make a conribution, though. As it is apparently the case 966 that the particles, which, it is argued, are largely protons at the very highest energies, can rarely 967 reach us from more than 100 Mpc away, it appears that the true energies must be around 25%968 higher than currently estimated by the Auger methods, and that the accelerator output probably 969 drops rather sharply in the region of  $1.2 \times 10^{20} eV$ . It is, however, surprising that this assembly of 970 stronger and weaker sources produces a total spectrum with a sharp cut-off. 971

972

Postscript Although further Auger observations have not yet been published, talks (e.g. [23]) 973 indicate that a later exposure has given a very different sky distribution, without the same con-974 centration near AGNs. As was shown above, the published data show correlations with AGNs 975 and related objects that are not accidental; but the success of a 57 EeV threshold, for example, in 976 extracting the vital proton component that can point back to sources may not be robust, as seen 977 in the comparison of sky maps from three experiments at the end of section 4. The success of the 978 initial phase might even, for instance, have depended on the presence of excessive fluctuations 979 in (proton) energy reconstruction (in the context of a very steeply falling spectrum), occurring 980 in somewhat smaller fields of less well-behaved detectors, that falsely promoted the energies 981 of some protons! It seems that the recognition of proton-induced showers will be an important 982 task. The appearance of very widely-scattered cosmic ray directions near the maximum ener-983 gies gives support to the indication from the Auger studies on depth of shower maximum [19] 984 that a heavy-nucleus component becomes very important as the extreme energies are approached. 985

986

### 987 Acknowledgements

988

1000

I wish to thank Ralph Engel for stimulating me to offer suggestions on the Auger directions,
 both Alan Watson and Johannes Knapp for several critical and perceptive discussions and much
 encouragement, information and help, Jeremy Lloyd Evans and Jim Hinton for useful sugges tions, and Mansukh Patel and Ronald Bruijn for further help.

#### 993 References

- [1] The Pierre Auger Collaboration: J. Abraham et al., (2008) Astroparticle Physics 29: 188-204; and
   (2007) arXiv (astro-ph) 0712.2843 v1.
- 996 [2] M-P Véron-Cetty and P Véron: Astron. Astrophys. 455 (2006) 773:
- 997 accessed via http://vizier.u.strasbg.fr/viz-bin/VizieR .
- [3] N M Nagar and Matulich J (2008) subm. Astron. Astrophys; and arXiv:0806.3220v1 [astro-ph].
- 999 [4] P L Biermann et al. (2008), arXiv:0811.1848v3 [astro-ph]
  - [5] P L Biermann (2008), lectures at 400<sup>th</sup> Heraeus Seminar
- 1001 http://www-ik.fzk.de/ik/Heraeus400/talks/15-Biermann.pdf
- [6] D S Gorbunov, Tinyakov P G, Tkachev I I and Troitsky S V (2008): arXiv:0804.1088v1 [astro-ph].
- [7] M R George, Fabian A C, Baumgartner W H Mushotzky R F and Tueller J (2008), MNRAS . arXiv:0805.2053v1
   [astro-ph].
- [8] I V Moskalenko, Stawarz I, Porter T A and Cheung C C (2008) subm. Astrophys. J., and arXiv:0805.1260v1
   [astro-ph]
- 1007 [9] T Stanev (2008) lecture at 400<sup>th</sup> Heraeus Seminar
- 1008 http://www-ik.fzk.de/ik/Heraeus400/talks/07-Stanev-Intro.pdf
- [10] R U Abassi et al.: The High Resolution Fly's Eye Collaboration (2008) Astroparticle Physics 30: 175-9.

- 1010 [11] Ingyin Zaw, Farrar Glennys R and Greene Jenny E (2008): arXiv:0806.3470v1 [astro-ph]
- 1011 [12] G Ghisellini, Ghirlanda G, Tavecchio F, Fraternali F and Pareschi G (2008): MNRAS ; arXiv:0806.2393v1 [astro-1012 ph].
- 1013 [13] G Cunningham et al. (1980) Ap.J. Letters 236: L71
- 1014 [14] The Pierre Auger Collaboration (2007) Science 318: 938-43.
- 1015 [15] web-site http://physics.rutgers.edu/~lsct/agn/highe\_events.txt
- 1016 [16] S Westerhoff et al. Nucl. Phys. B (Proc. Suppl.) 136 (2004) 46-51
- [17] M Ave, Hinton J A, Knapp J, Lloyd-Evans J, Marchesini M and Watson A A (2001) 27th Int. Cosmic Ray Conf.,
   Hamburg (Copernicus Gesellschaft) 1: 381.
- [18] Y Uchihori et al. (1996), Extremely High Energy Cosmic Rays: Astrophysics and Future Observatories (ed. M Nagano, U. of Tokyo): 50.
- [19] M Unger for the Pierre Auger Collaboration (2007), 30<sup>th</sup> International Cosmic Ray Conference, Merida, Vol 4 (HE part 1) p 373
- 1023 [20] F K Liu and Zhang Y H (2002) Astron. Astrophys. 381: 757-60.
- List only available electronically: http://cdsweb.u-strasbg.fr/cgi-bin/qcat?J/A+A/381/757
- 1025 [21] A M Hillas (1984) Ann. Revs. Astron. Astrophys. 22: 425
- 1026 [22] J Arons (2003) Astrophys. J. 589: 871
- 1027 [23] S Westerhoff (2009) APS 2009 March: http://blogs.nature.com/news/blog/2009/05/aps\_2009\_pierre\_auger\_backs\_of.html

#### 1028 A. AGN counts in Véron-Cetty Véron 12th edition catalogue

Figure 13 shows the number of objects listed in the southern hemisphere (declination  $< +34^{\circ}$ ) per Mpc of distance, D, converting from redshift to distance using a value  $H_o = 72$  km s<sup>-1</sup> Mpc<sup>-1</sup> for Hubble's constant. The lines refer to objects in different ranges of absolute magnitude ("-19"

indicating -19.0 to -19.9, for example).



Figure 13: Distribution in distance of AGNs (declination  $< +34^{\circ}$ ) in VCV catalogue. Lines marked  $-17 \dots -21$  refer to AGNs having absolute magnitude -17.0 to -17.9, -18.0 to  $-18.9 \dots -21.0$  to -21.9. Line -22 refers to all magnitudes brighter than -22.0 (though only 27% of those included are brighter than -22.9). For the three brighter groups, a dotted line shows the straight-line trend. Open circles show totals (scale on right).

The lines -20, -21 and -22 suggest a trend  $dn/dD \propto D$  initially, as though the objects are 1033 distributed in a slab whose thickness is a few Mpc, but then falling sharply below this trend as 1034 though there is a limiting apparent magnitude for efficient detection. Thus objects with absolute 1035 magnitude brighter than -20.0 would be recorded inefficiently at distances beyond the 75 Mpc 1036 limit of the Auger sample. The median absolute magnitude for the most closely associated AGNs 1037 at the closer distances appears to be about -19.0, so beyond 75 Mpc, the catalogue would fail to 1038 list many of any truly associated AGNs (as remarked in [1], and one would need large statistics 1039 to map out the sources beyond there. If the number of listed AGNs within 75 Mpc had been 1040 much greater, the probability of associations within  $3.2^{\circ}$  with any arbitrary direction would have 1041 been large, nullifying the signal. 1042

#### **B.** Array exposure to different celestial directions: equal-exposure plot radius.

The effective detection area presented to a source at zenith angle  $\theta$  is  $A \cdot \cos \theta$  if the detecting area on the ground always has a fixed value A. Let  $\lambda$  be the magnitude of the observatory's latitude (i.e. always treated as positive). For a source at polar angle p, its zenith angle varies during the sidereal day according to the expression

$$\cos\theta = \cos p \cdot \sin \lambda + \sin p \cdot \cos \lambda \cdot \cos H \tag{2}$$

where H is the hour angle relative to the source's right ascension, which increases uniformly with time, from 0 when  $\theta$  is least (source highest in the sky), to 360° after a complete sidereal day. Thus the time average of the effective detecting area is

$$\langle A \cdot \cos \theta \rangle = A \int \cos \theta \cdot dH/360^{\circ}$$
(3)

where the integral is taken over all values of H (here expressed in degrees) which give  $\theta < \theta_{max}$ 1044 . For the Auger array,  $\theta_{max} = 60^{\circ}$  and  $\lambda = 35.2^{\circ}$ . At polar angles greater than  $(90^{\circ} + \theta_{max} - \lambda)$ 1045 sources never rise to zenith angles less than  $\theta_{max}$ : this limit is 114.8° for the Auger observatory, 1046 meaning that sources with declinations above +24.8° are never recorded. Where  $\theta_{max} > 90^\circ - \lambda$ , 1047 as at Auger, some ("circumpolar") sources never fall further from the zenith than  $\theta_{max}$ : they have 1048  $p < \theta_{max} - (90^\circ - \lambda)$  and are detectable all day. If  $\theta_{max} \le 90^\circ - \lambda$ , though, sources closer to the 1049 pole than  $p' = 90^\circ - \theta_{max} - \lambda$  are never recorded (and on an equal-exposure plot, this range 0..p'1050 is contracted to a point at the centre of the plot). To find the effective detecting area for a source 1051 at any selected polar angle p, the integral in equation 3 is evaluated over the range of H for which 1052  $\theta$  is less than  $\theta_{max}$ , noting that for some values of p this condition is always or never satisfied, as 1053 just mentioned. 1054

Having determined the efficiency of the detector for sources of each polar angle, as just described, the radius R at which a source should be shown in an equal-exposure plot is

$$R(p) = k \sqrt{\int_{z=0}^{z=p} \langle A \cos \theta \rangle \sin z \cdot dz},$$
(4)

where the variable *z* refers to a polar angle, and  $\langle A \cos \theta \rangle$  is a function of this polar angle, from equations 3 and 2. The limit of integration, *p*, is the polar angle at which *R* is required. k is chosen to make  $R \rightarrow 1$  at large *p*. Table 4 tabulates the calculated efficiency and polarplot radius, *R*, at intervals of 2° in polar angle. The numerical results can be represented to a reasonable approximation by the following formula:

For the Pierre Auger Observatory,

 $R = [1 + 0.27 \exp(-p/5.7^{\circ})] \cdot \sin(0.746p), \qquad (p \text{ in degrees})$ 

(5)

with the maximum divergence from the tabulated value being 0.006. However, if the term in square brackets is removed, leaving just the sine, the error is only significantly increased at polar angles  $< 16^{\circ}$ , reaching 0.012 at 8°, and as few cosmic rays are detected so close to the pole, this small distortion in their plotted density is probably immaterial. This formula should not be used for polar angles beyond the theoretical maximum of 114.8°.

To plot a cosmic-ray direction, or an astronomical object, at right ascension  $\alpha$  and declination  $\delta$ , the polar distance is calculated ( $p = 90^\circ - \delta$  for a northern hemisphere plot, or  $p = 90^\circ + \delta$  for the southern hemisphere), then *R* is found by interpolation in the table or by use of approximation given in equation (5). The coordinates on the plot are then  $x = R \cdot \cos \alpha$ ,  $y = R \cdot \sin \alpha$ .

MA

34

						0
р	Efficiency	R	р	Efficiency	R	
0	0.576	0.000	60	0.331	0.702	
2	0.576	0.030	62	0.325	0.720	
4	0.575	0.061	64	0.319	0.739	
6	0.489	0.090	66	0.312	0.756	
8	0.436	0.115	68	0.305	0.774	
10	0.413	0.140	70	0.298	0.791	
12	0.401	0.163	72	0.290	0.807	
14	0.394	0.187	74	0.282	0.822	
16	0.389	0.211	76	0.274	0.837	
18	0.387	0.234	78	0.265	0.852	
20	0.385	0.258	80	0.256	0.866	
22	0.383	0.282	82	0.246	0.879	
24	0.382	0.306	84	0.237	0.892	
26	0.381	0.329	86	0.227	0.904	
28	0.380	0.353	88	0.216	0.915	
30	0.379	0.376	90	0.206	0.926	
32	0.378	0.400	92	0.195	0.936	
34	0.377	0.423	94	0.183	0.945	
36	0.375	0.446	96	0.172	0.954	
38	0.373	0.469	98	0.160	0.962	
40	0.371	0.492	100	0.147	0.969	
42	0.369	0.514	102	0.135	0.976	
44	0.366	0.536	104	0.121	0.981	
46	0.363	0.558	106	0.107	0.987	
48	0.359	0.580	108	0.092	0.991	
50	0.356	0.601	110	0.075	0.995	
52	0.351	0.622	112	0.056	0.998	
54	0.347	0.643	114	0.029	1.000	
56	0.342	0.663	116	0.000	1.000	
58	0.337	0.682				_

Table 4: Detection efficiency and radial position R in equal-exposure polar plot for the Auger Observatory.