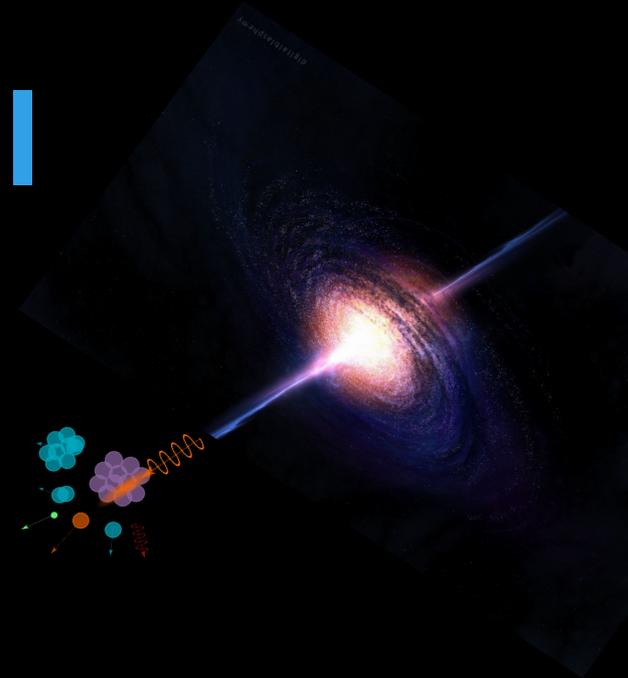


# An improved model of UHECR nuclei photomeson interactions



...beyond a superposition of nucleons

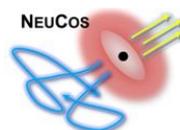
TeV Particle Astrophysics 2019

Leonel Morejon

leonel.morejon@desy.de

Contributing Authors: A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl, W. Winter

**HELMHOLTZ** SPITZENFORSCHUNG FÜR  
GROSSE HERAUSFORDERUNGEN

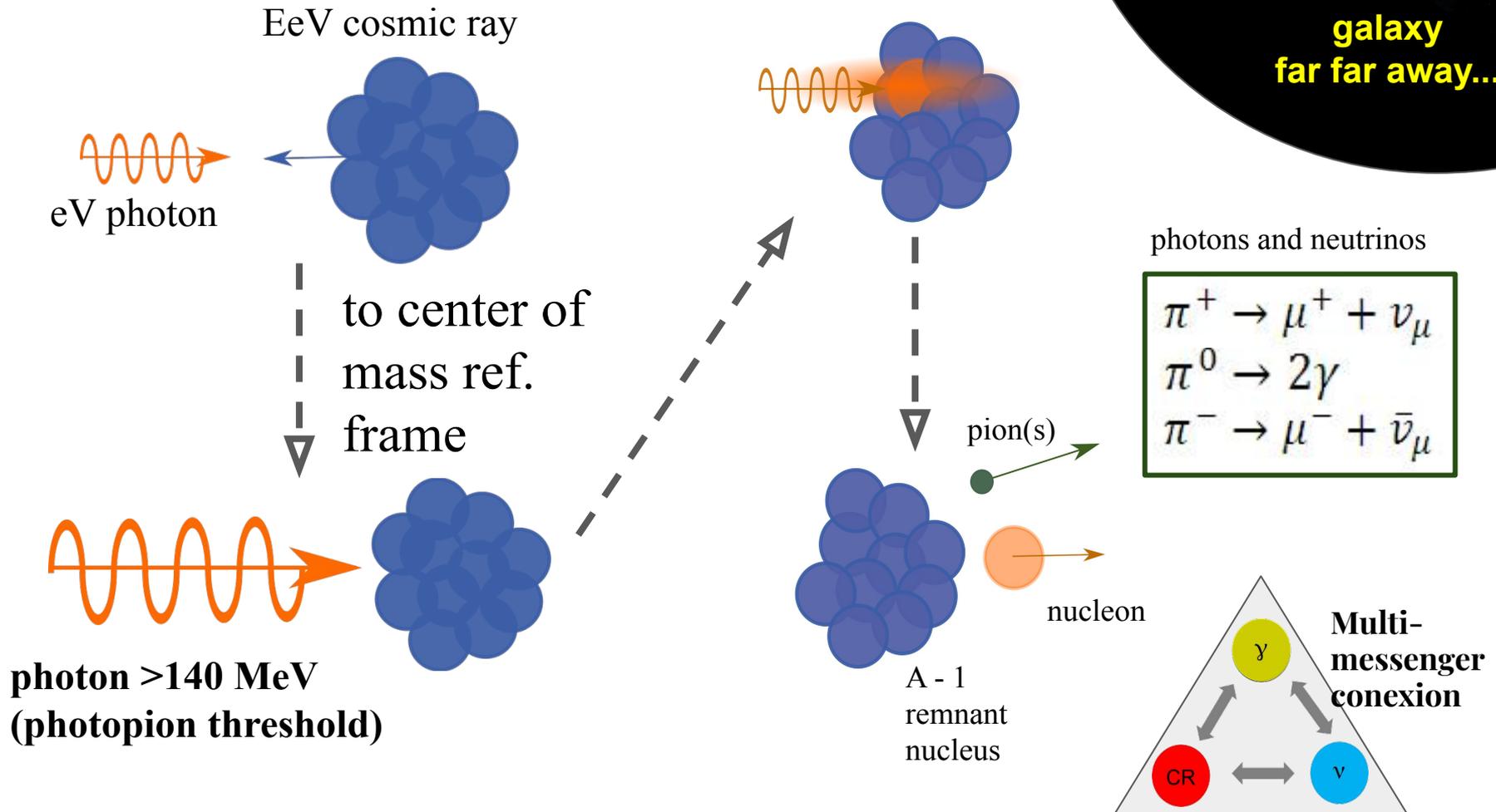


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# Photomeson interactions briefly...

...photoproduction of pions resulting in neutrinos



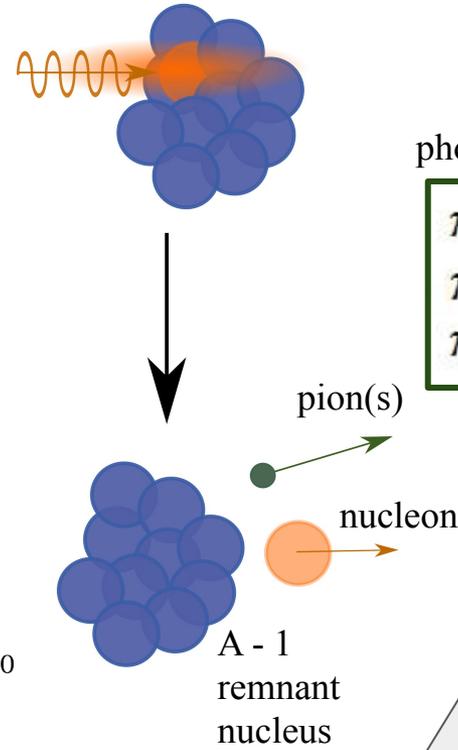
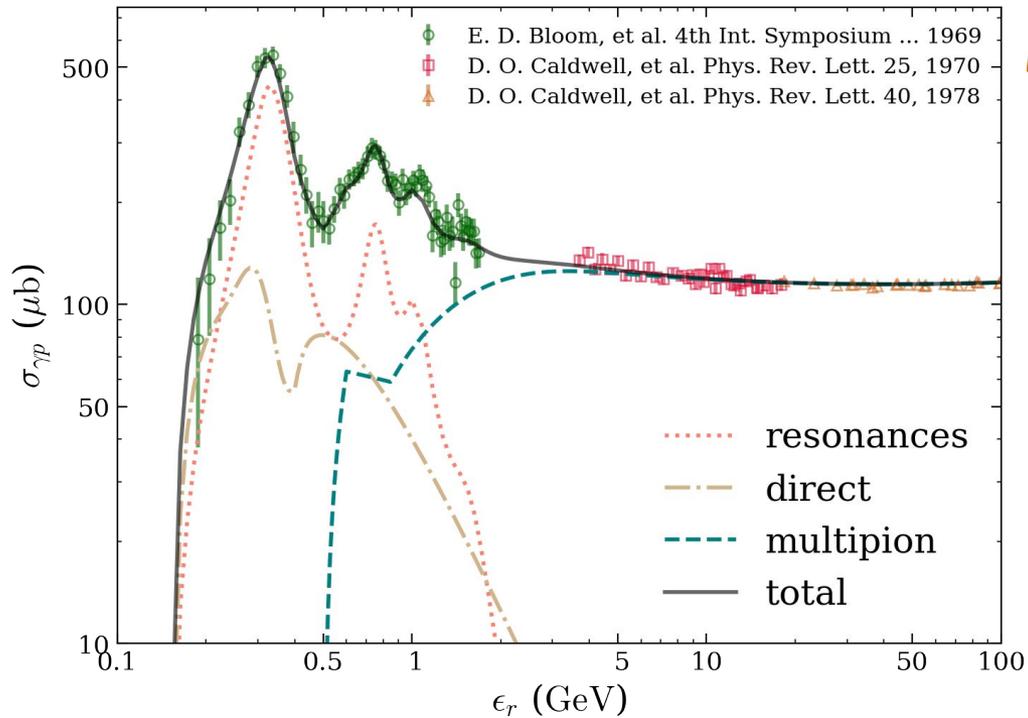
# Single-particle model for nuclei

in short: nucleons in nuclei are considered free

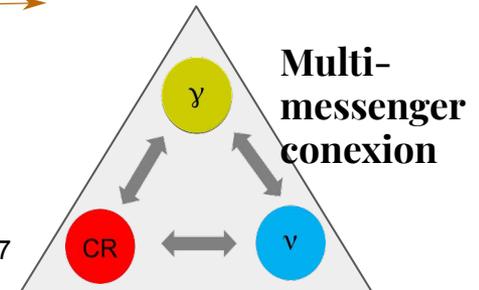
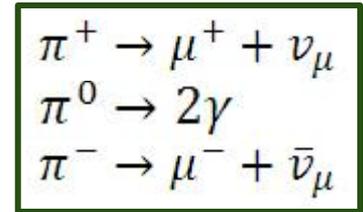


In a galaxy far far away...

Cross section for photon - proton interactions vs photon energy (as in SOPHIA)



photons and neutrinos



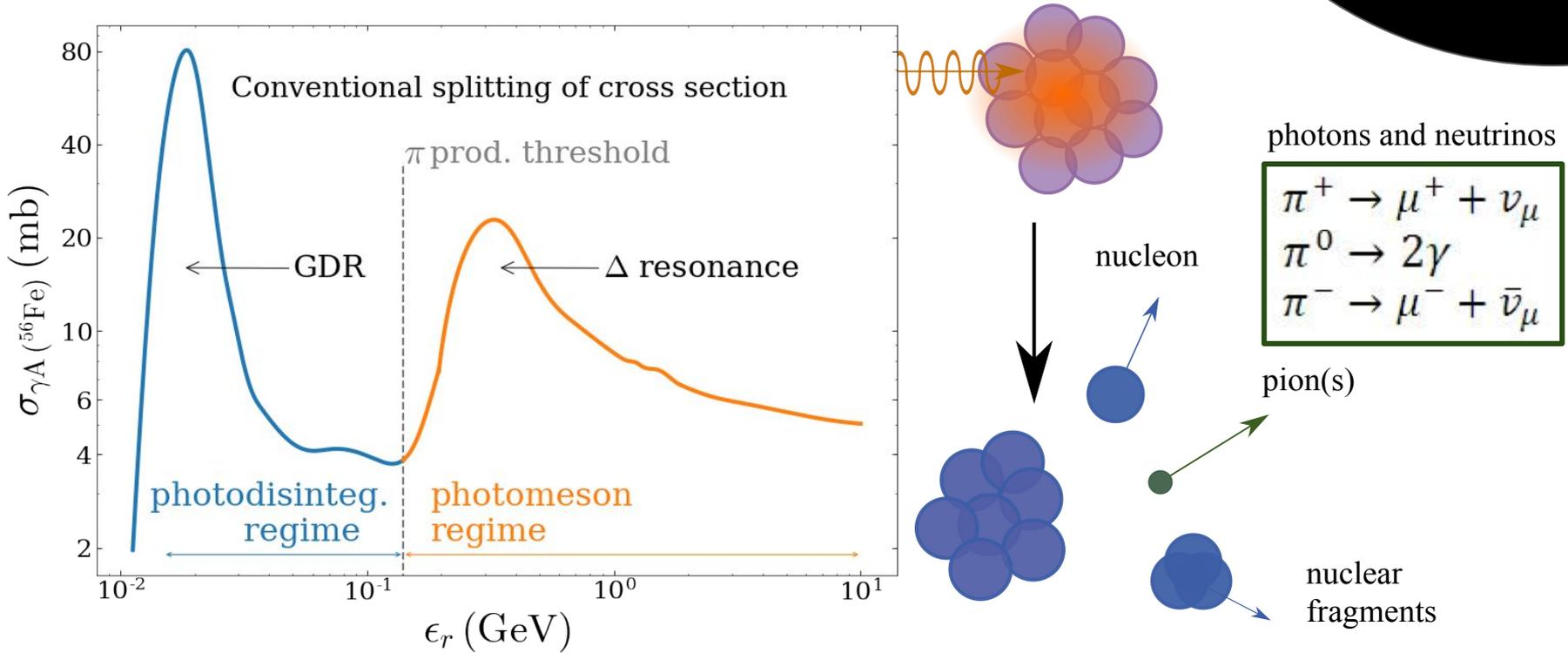
Ref: LM, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, JCAP11(2019)007

# Photomeson interactions for nuclei

## Nuclear medium effects not negligible



Schematic cross section for photonuclear interactions vs photon energy



Ref: LM, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, JCAP11(2019)007

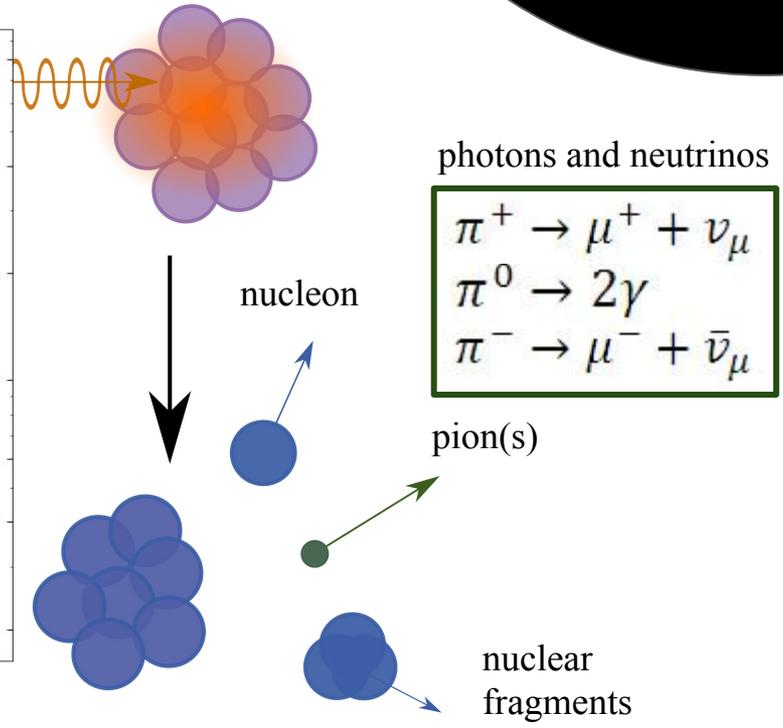
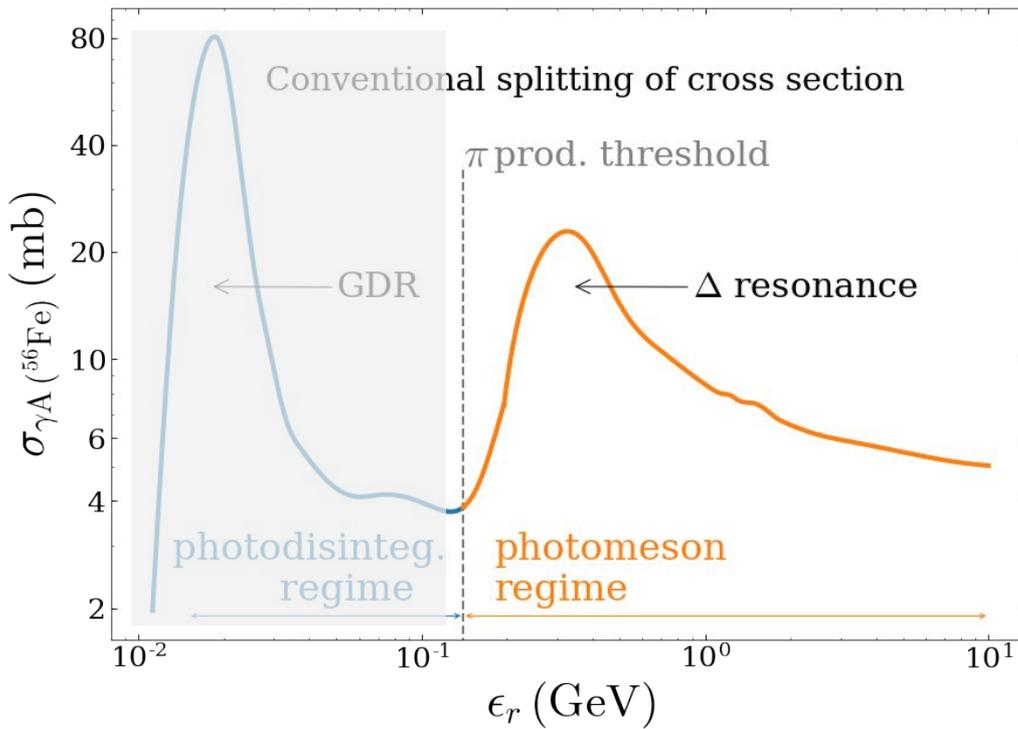
# Photomeson interactions for nuclei

## Nuclear medium effects not negligible



In a galaxy far far away...

Schematic cross section for photonuclear interactions vs photon energy

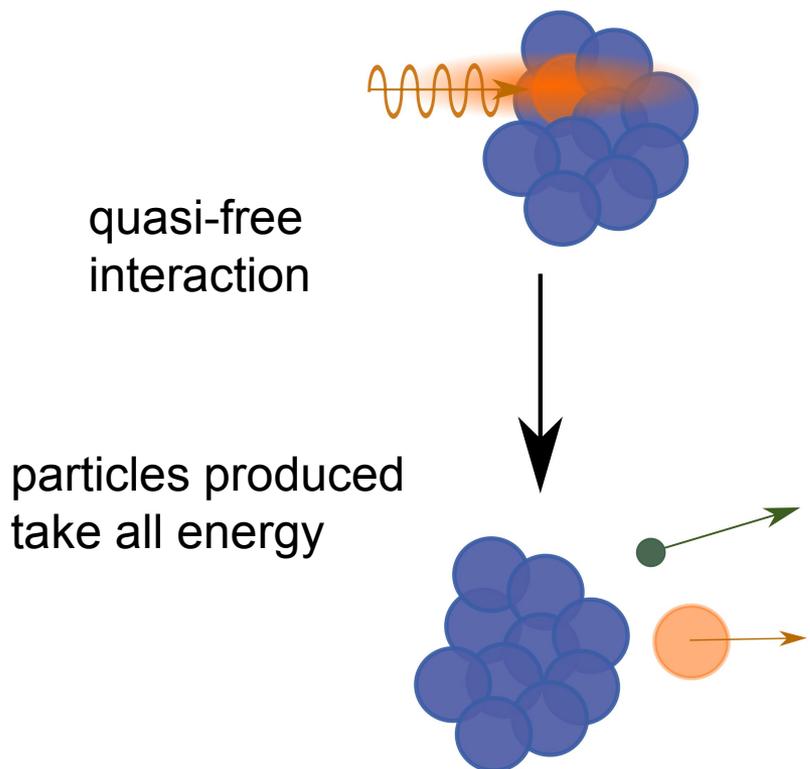


Ref: LM, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, JCAP11(2019)007

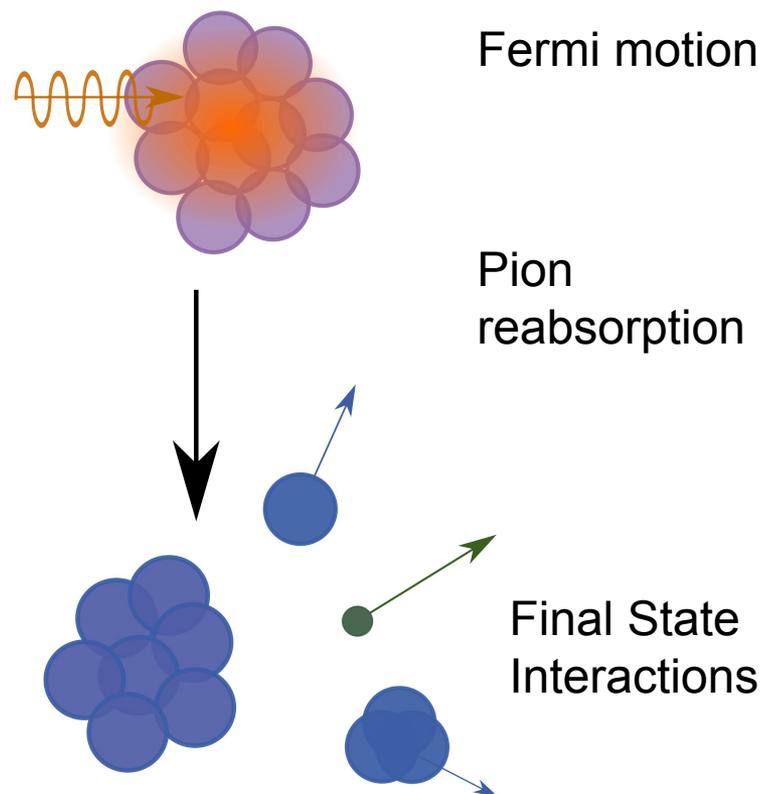
# Old vs New model in schematics

## Conventions used in what follows

### Single Particle Model (SPM)



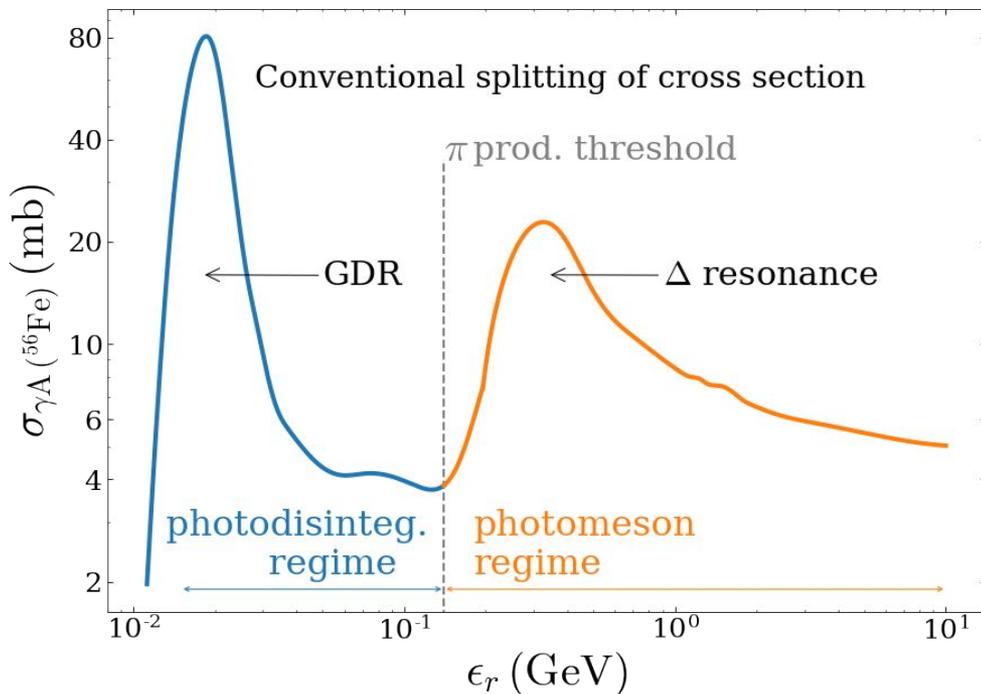
### Empirical Model (EPM)



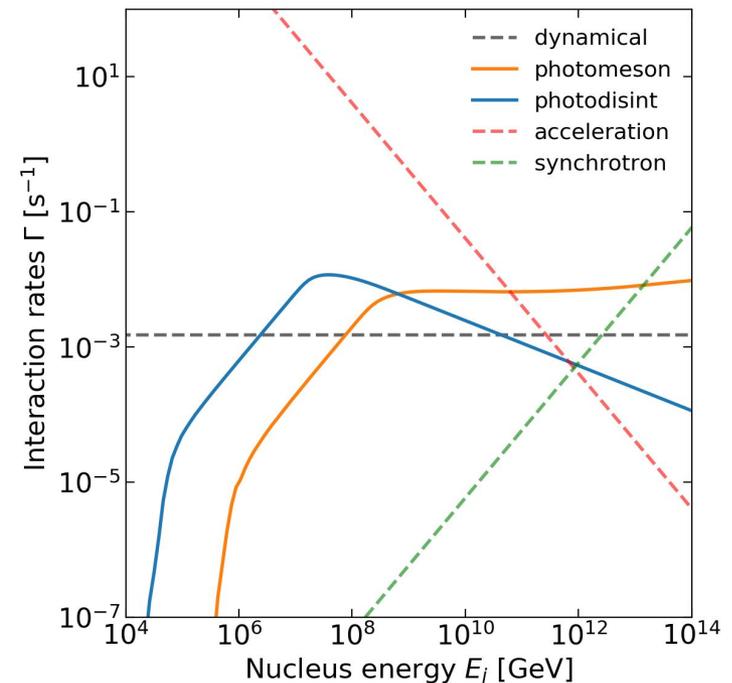
# Cross section imprints on interaction rates

In scenarios where photomeson interactions are dominant

## Photonuclear interactions with broken power law photon fields



Ref: LM, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, JCAP11(2019)007

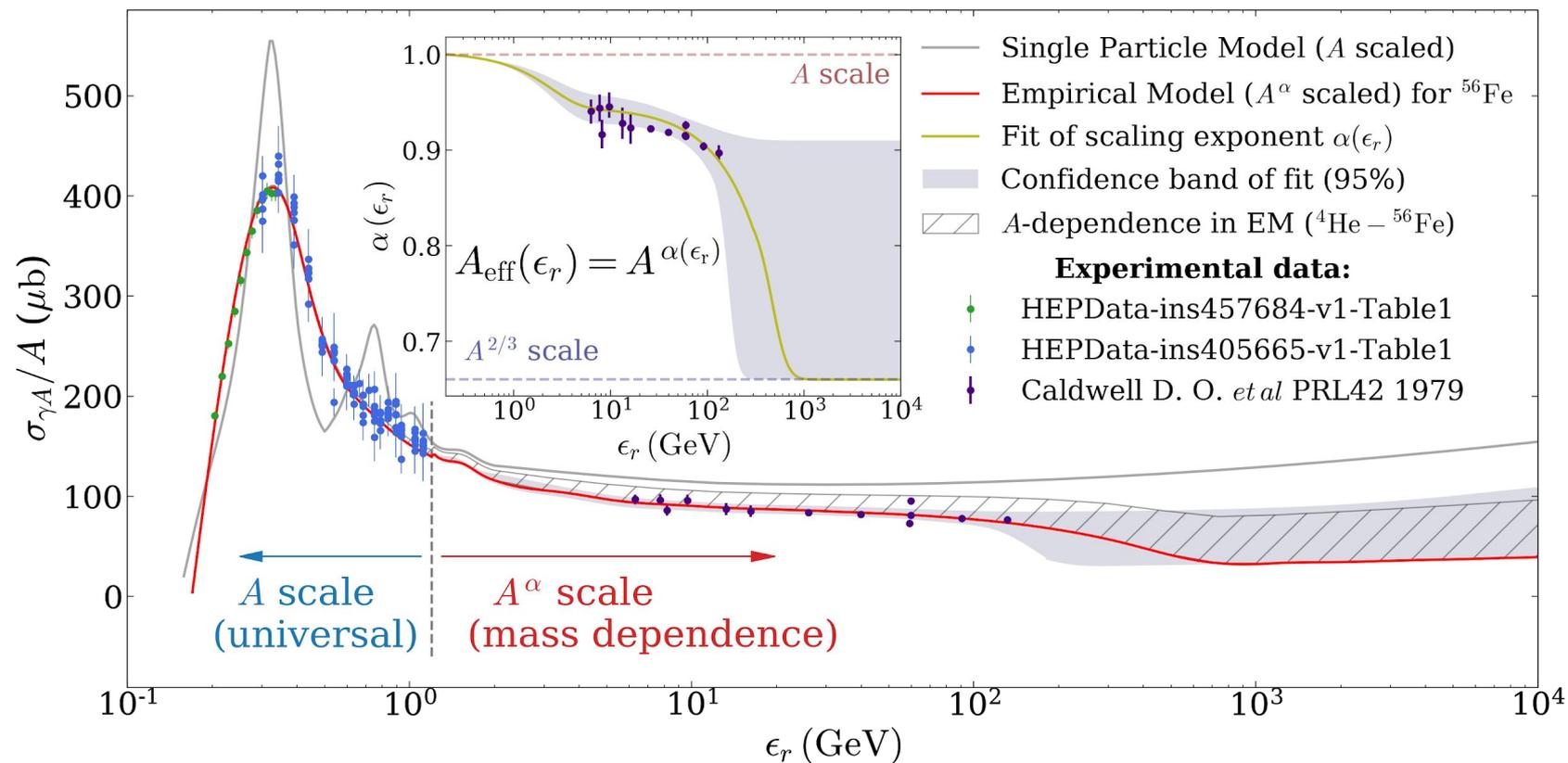


Ref: LM, Poster Presentation TeVPA(2018)

# Total cross section

## General differences with the free nucleon interaction

Resonances are smeared and shadowing effects occur.

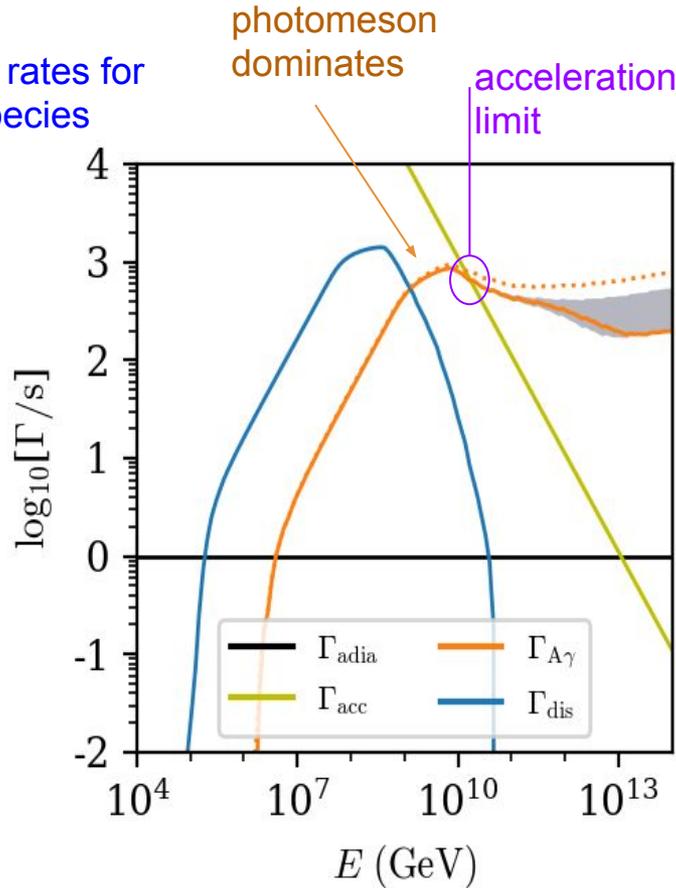


Ref: LM, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, JCAP11(2019)007

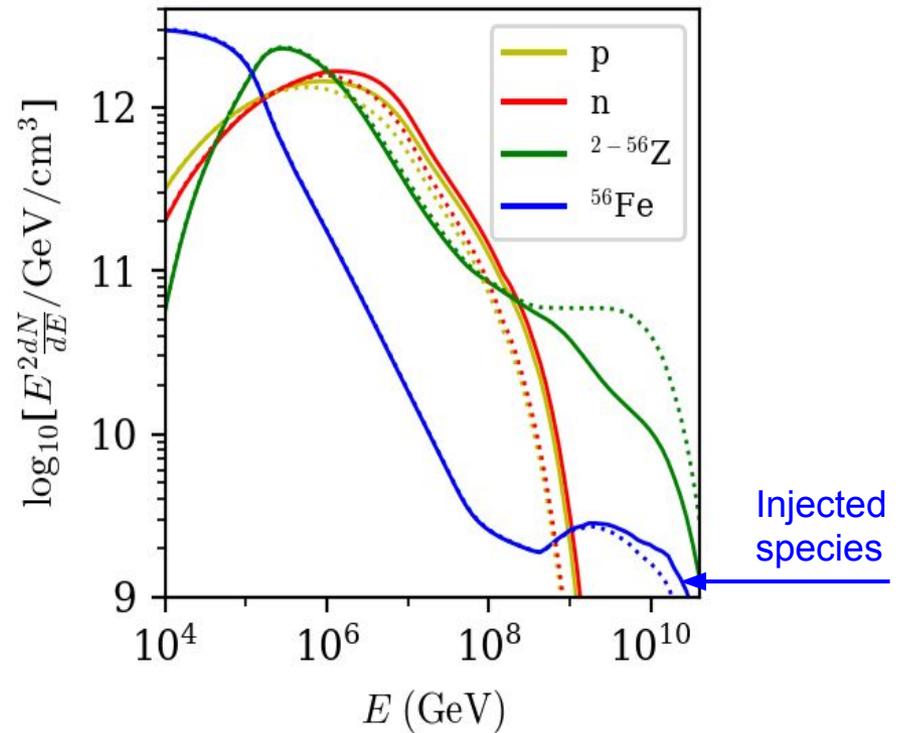
# Gamma-Ray Burst source

## Impact of the cross section

Interaction rates for injected species



## Lower interaction rates at higher energies!



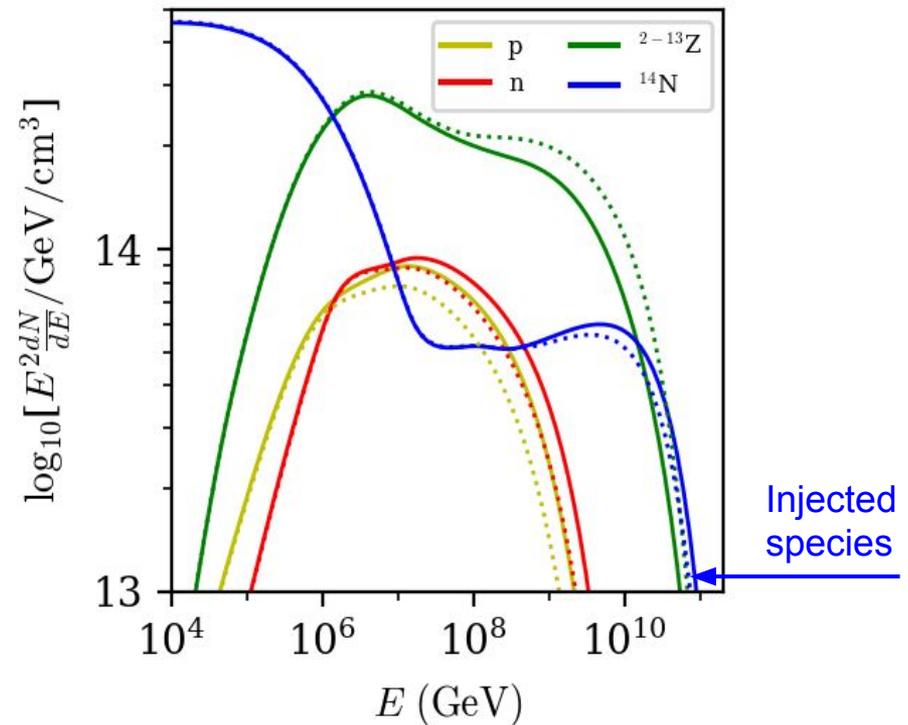
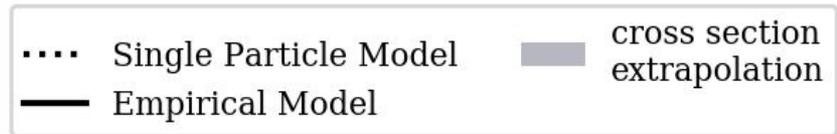
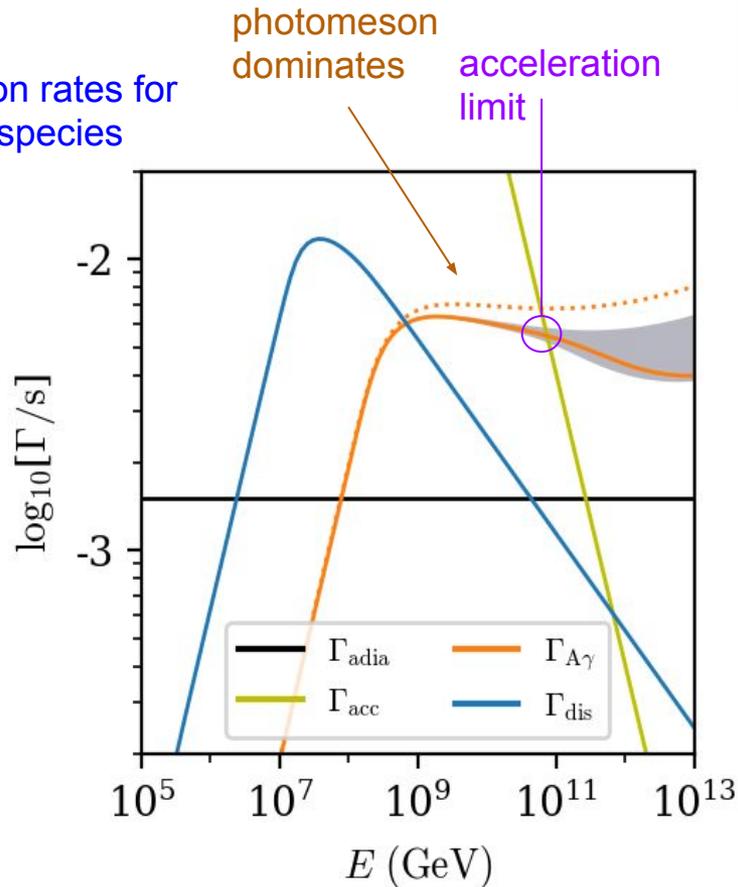
Refs: **LM**, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, JCAP 11 (2019) 007  
 D. Biehl, D. Boncioli, A. Fedynitch and W. Winter, A&A 611, A101 (2018)

# Tidal Disruption Event source

Slightly higher maximal energies!

## Impact of the cross section

Interaction rates for injected species



Ref: **LM**, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, *JCAP* 11 (2019) 007  
 D. Buehl, D. Boncioli, C. Lunardini and W. Winter *Sci Rep* 8, 10828 (2018)

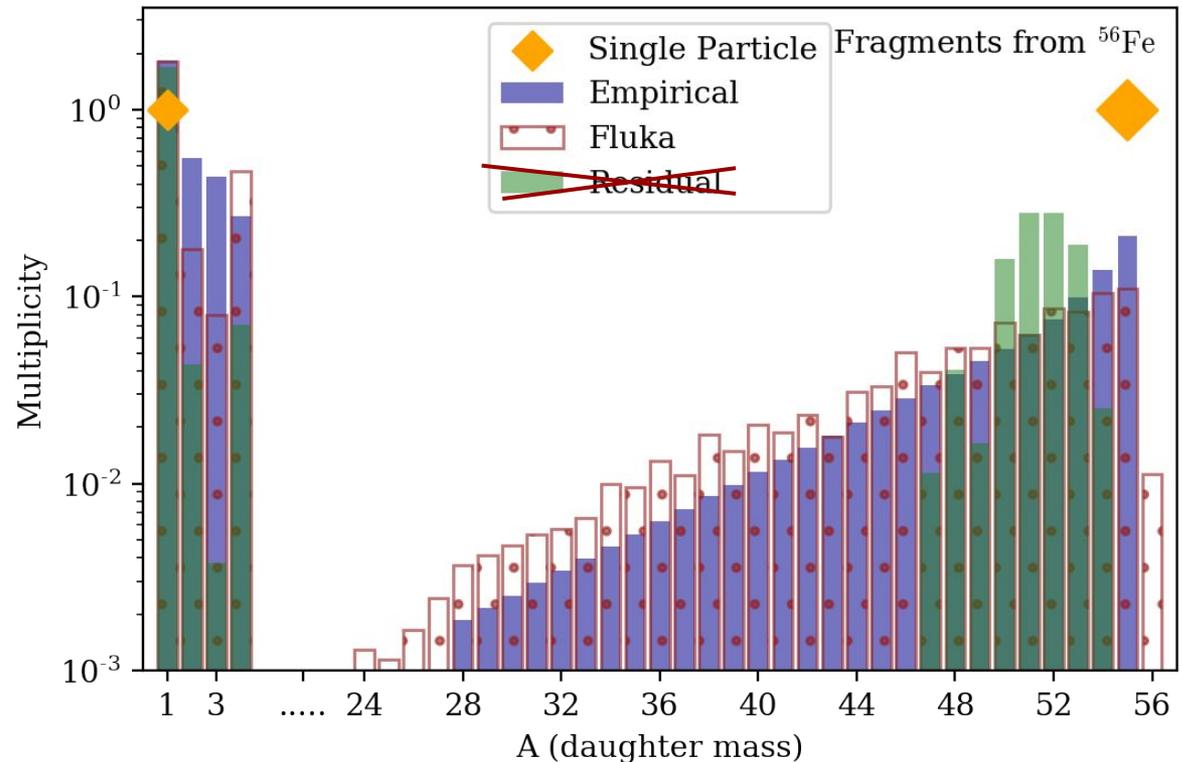
# Nuclear breakup: mass distributions

## Impact of the nuclear cascade

**Larger variability of fragment masses!**

Features of the model...

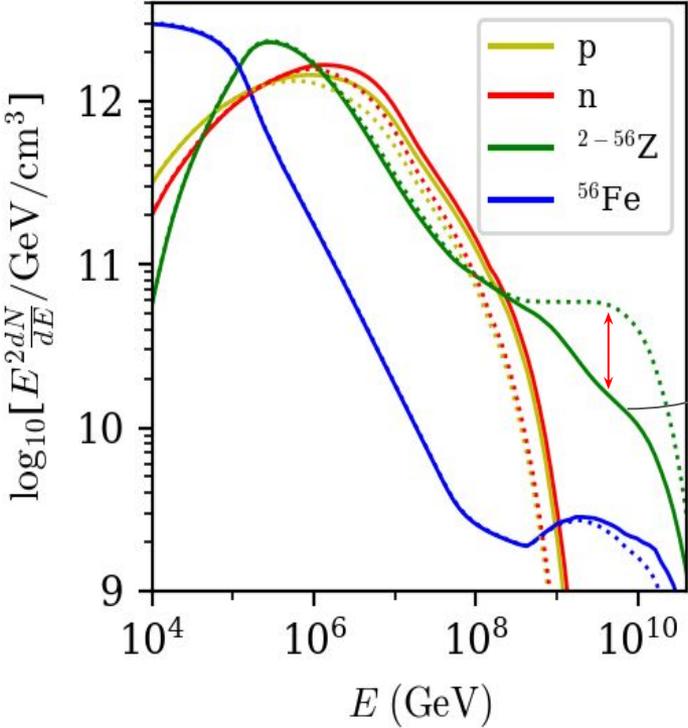
- Fragment production from empirical relations
- Thermostatistics criteria for low-mass fragments
- Insensitive to isotopic charge differences



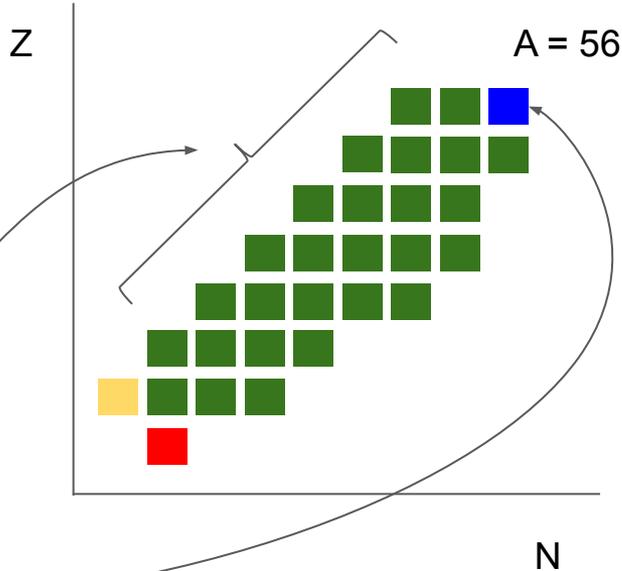
Ref: **LM**, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, JCAP11(2019)007

# Gamma-Ray Burst source

## Impact of the nuclear cascade



**Marked differences in cascade composition!**

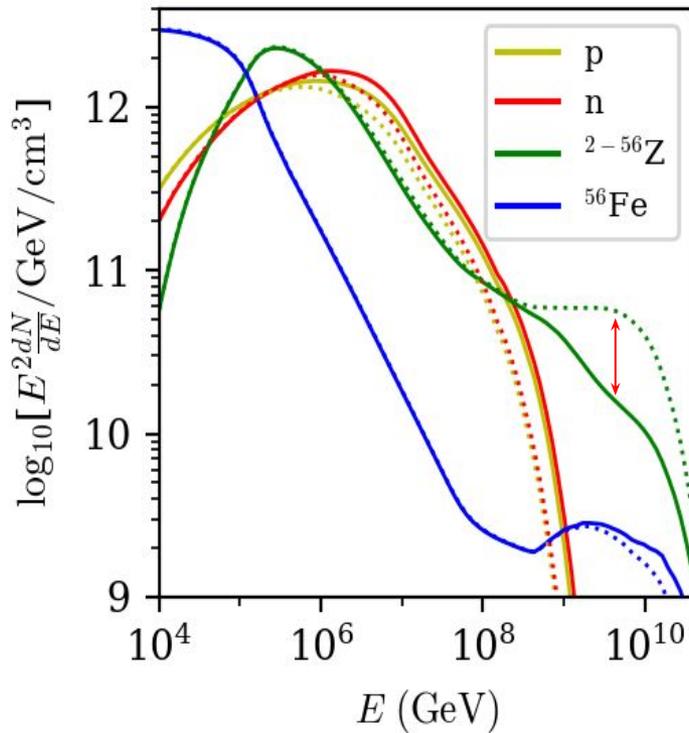


Refs: **LM**, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, JCAP 11 (2019) 007  
 D. Biehl, D. Boncioli, A. Fedynitch and W. Winter, A&A 611, A101 (2018)

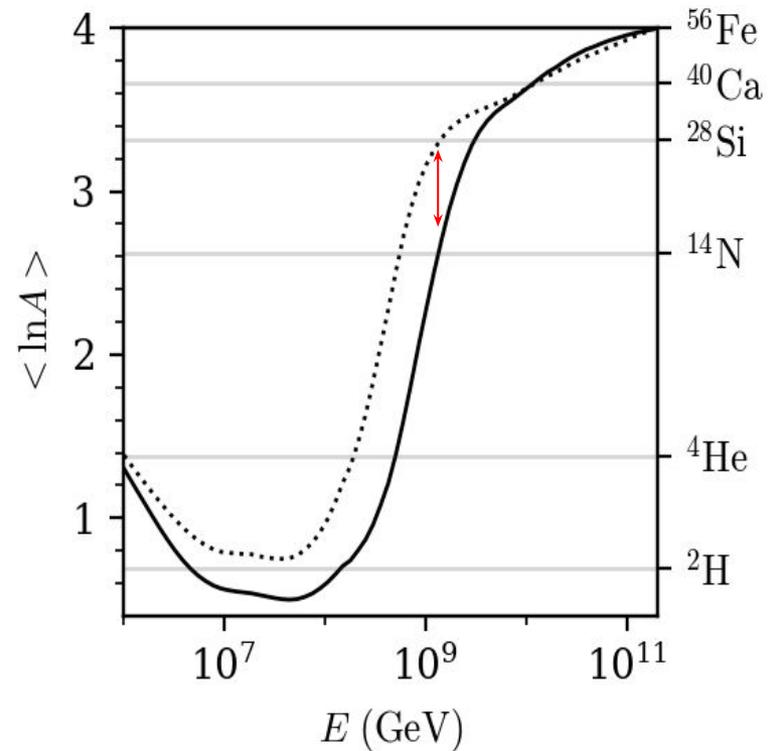
# Gamma-Ray Burst source

## Impact of the nuclear cascade

..... Single Particle Model       cross section extrapolation  
 — Empirical Model



## Marked differences in cascade composition!

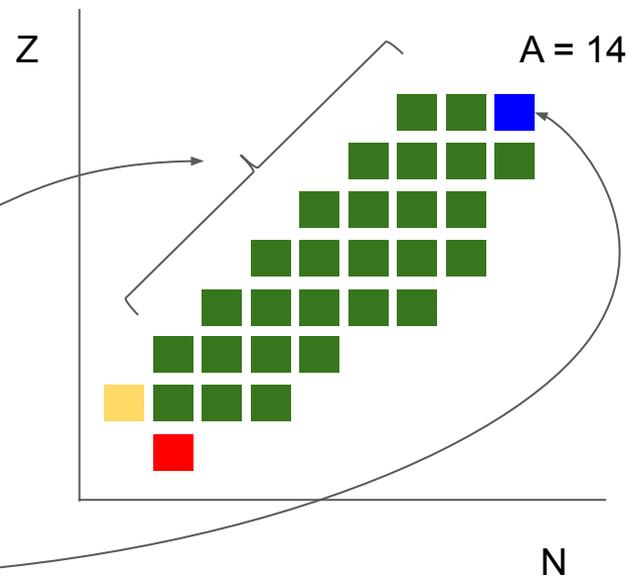
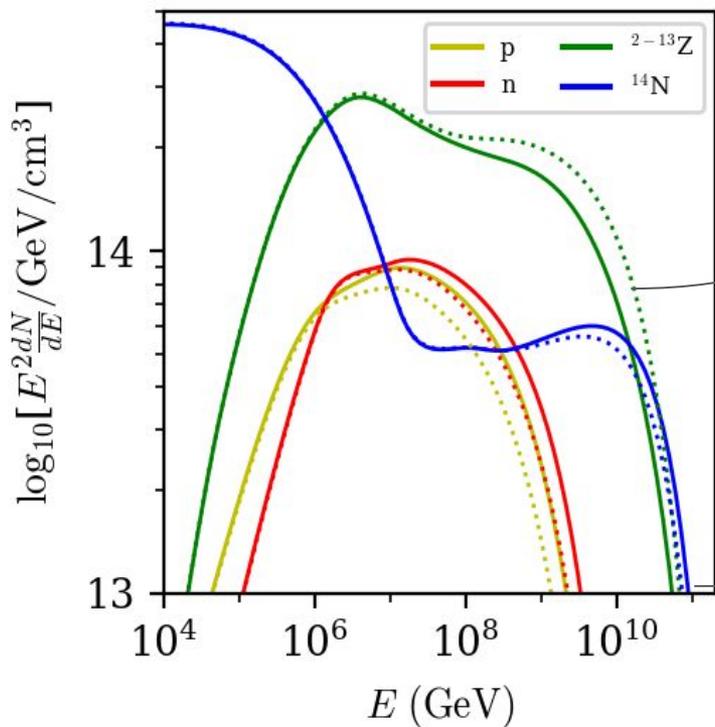
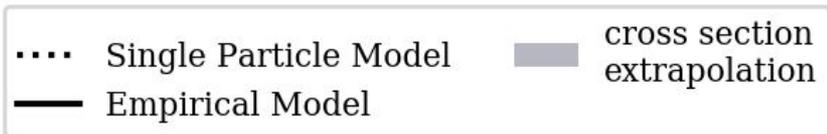


Refs: **LM**, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, JCAP 11 (2019) 007  
 D. Biehl, D. Boncioli, A. Fedynitch and W. Winter, A&A 611, A101 (2018)

# Tidal Disruption Event source

## Impact of the nuclear cascade

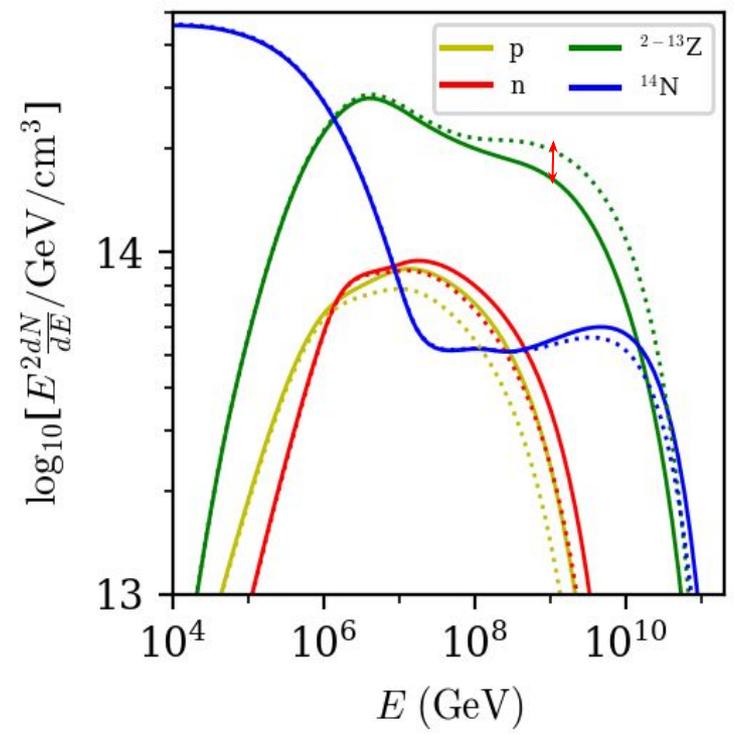
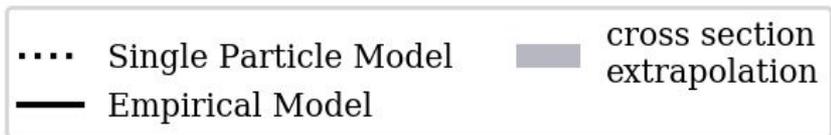
**Marked differences in cascade composition!**



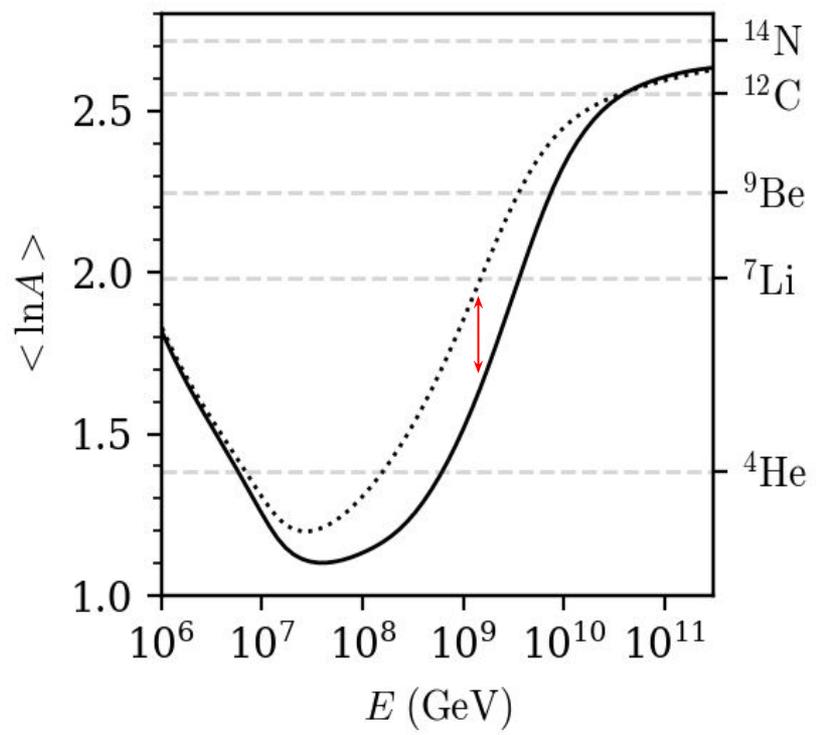
Ref: **LM**, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, *JCAP* 11 (2019) 007  
 D. Buehl, D. Boncioli, C. Lunardini and W. Winter *Sci Rep* 8, 10828 (2018)

# Tidal Disruption Event source

## Impact of the nuclear cascade



## Marked differences in cascade composition!

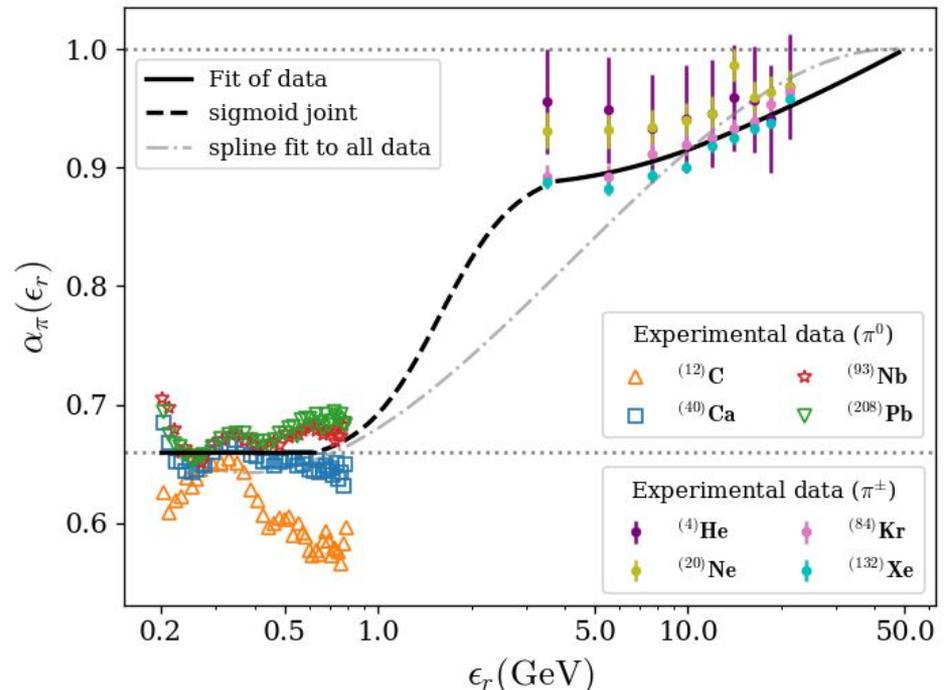
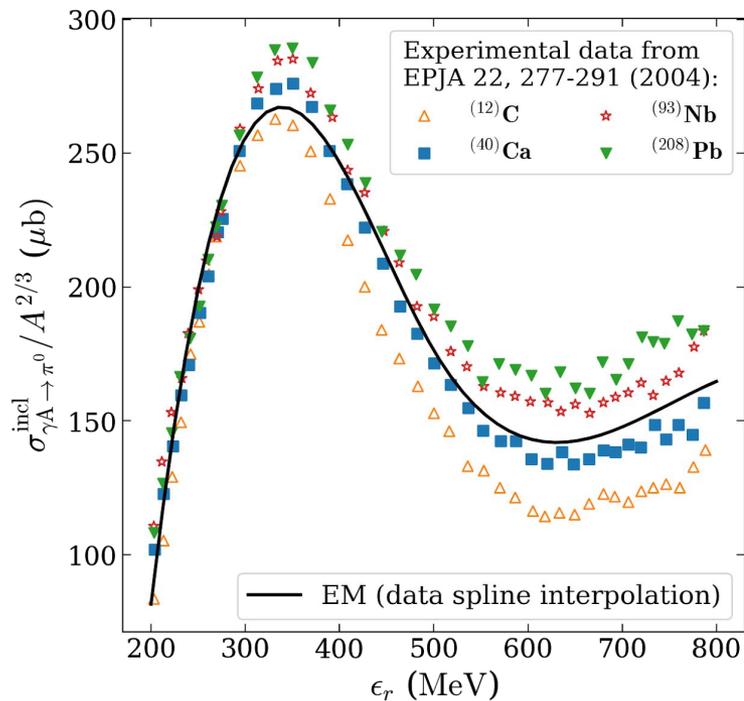


Ref: **LM**, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, *JCAP* 11 (2019) 007  
 D. Buehl, D. Boncioli, C. Lunardini and W. Winter *Sci Rep* 8, 10828 (2018)

# Pion production cross section

## Impact of the nuclear cascade

Pion production per nucleon is reduced in nuclei compared to the proton.

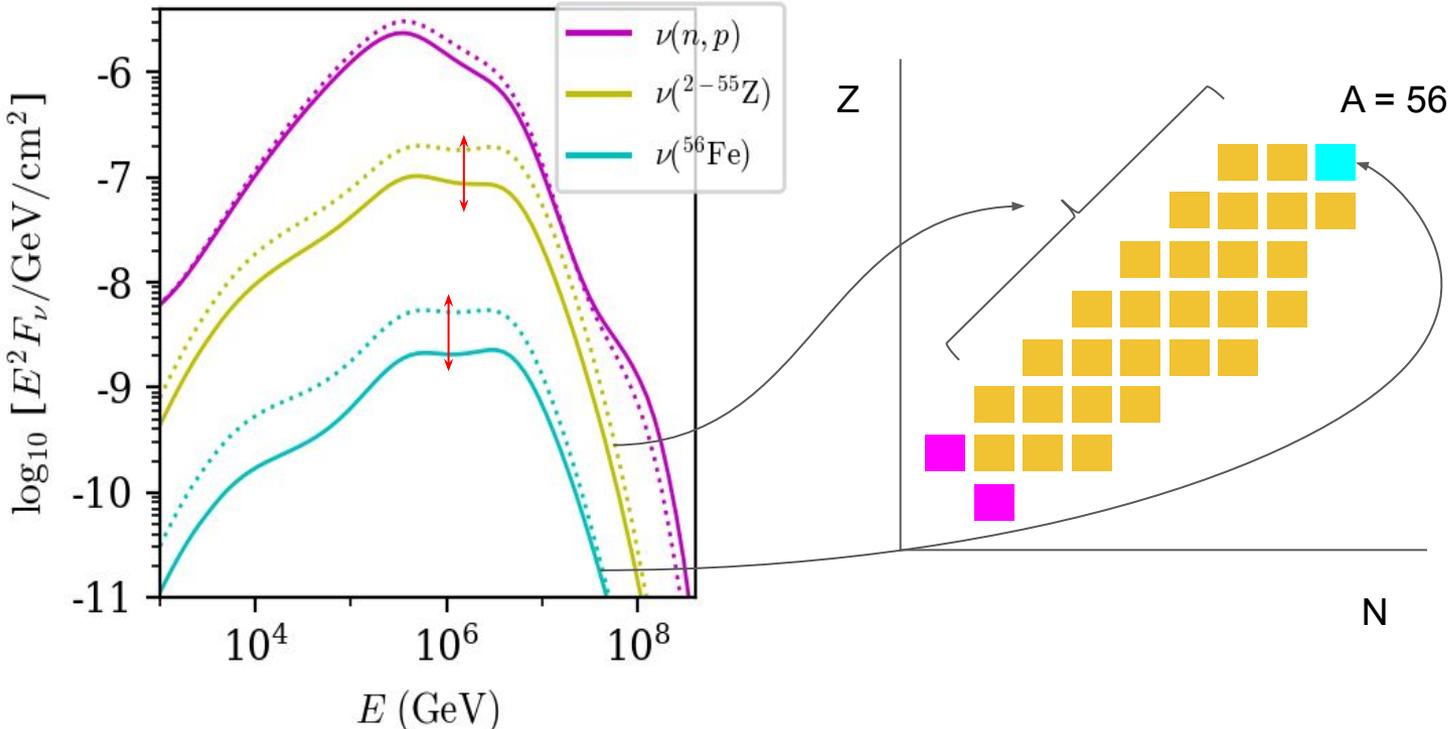
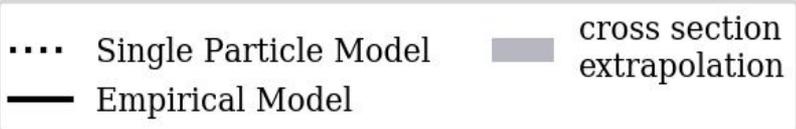


Ref: LM, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, JCAP11(2019)007

# Gamma-Ray Burst source

## Impact of the nuclear cascade

**Nuclei contribute less to neutrino flux!**

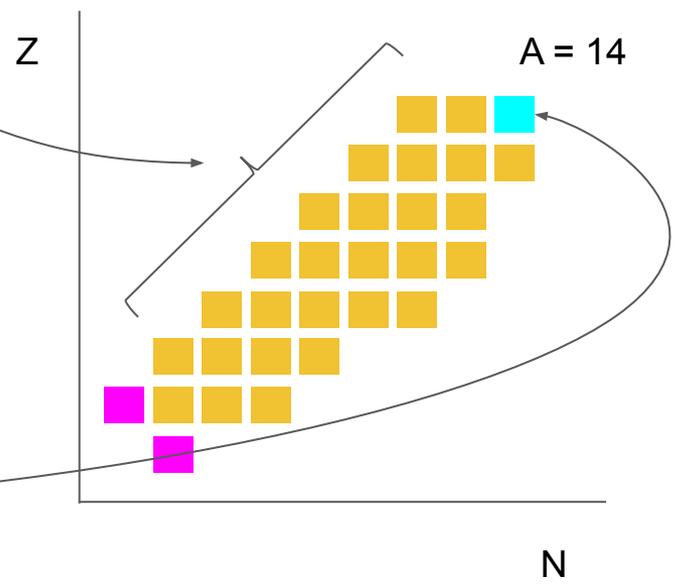
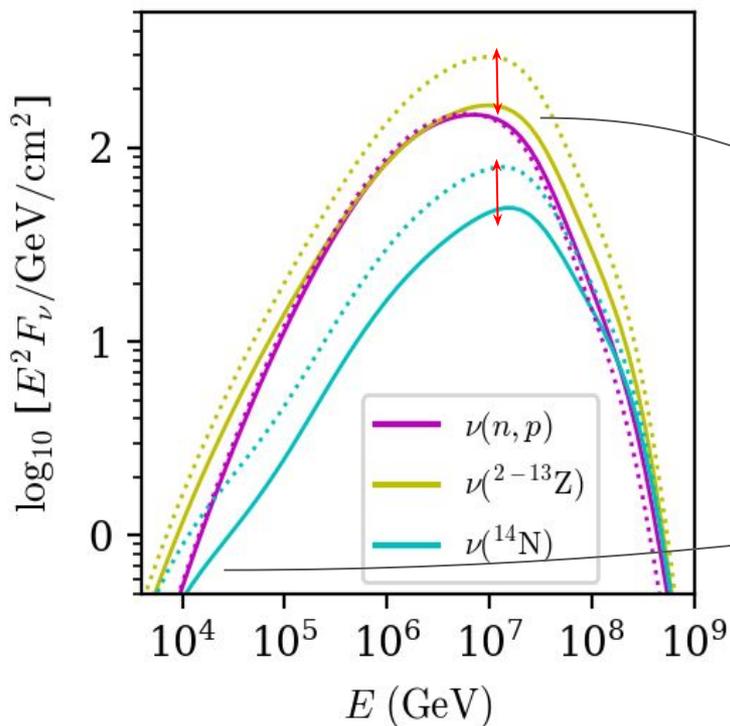
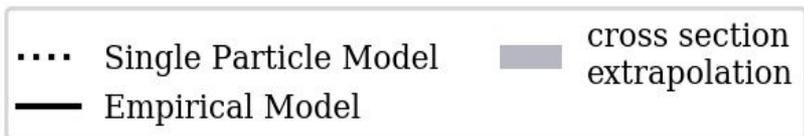


Refs: **LM**, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, JCAP 11 (2019) 007  
 D. Biehl, D. Boncioli, A. Fedynitch and W. Winter, A&A 611, A101 (2018)

# Tidal Disruption Event source

## Impact of the nuclear cascade

**Nuclear contribution is not the dominant!**



Ref: **LM**, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, *JCAP* 11 (2019) 007  
 D. Buehl, D. Boncioli, C. Lunardini and W. Winter *Sci Rep* 8, 10828 (2018)

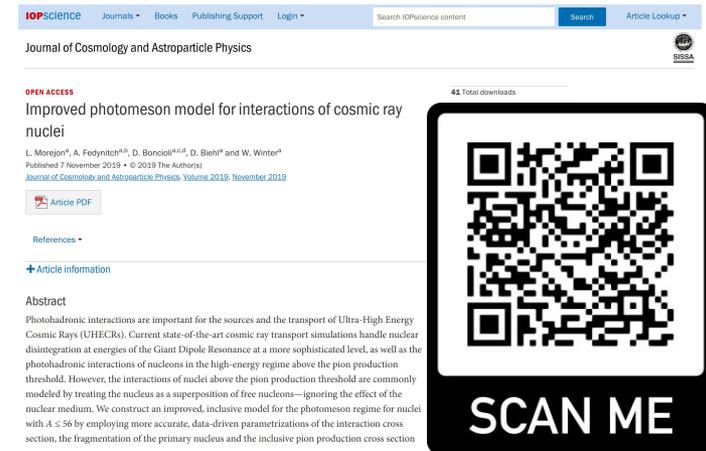
# Summary

Nuclear photomeson improved model ...

- ... impacts in-source nuclear cascade
- ... impacts in-source neutrino production
- ... might impact propagation (ongoing work)

The improved photomeson model

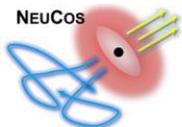
- Available software to compute interaction tables
- Available in PriNCE code (effects under study)
- Soon to be included in CRPropa interactions



The screenshot shows the IOPscience article page for the paper 'Improved photomeson model for interactions of cosmic ray nuclei'. The page includes the journal title 'Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics', the authors 'L. Morejon<sup>a</sup>, A. Fedynitch<sup>a,b</sup>, D. Boncioli<sup>a,c,d</sup>, D. Bleh<sup>a</sup> and W. Winter<sup>a</sup>', the publication date 'Published 7 November 2019', and a QR code with the text 'SCAN ME' below it. The abstract is partially visible, starting with 'Photohadronic interactions are important for the sources and the transport of Ultra-High Energy Cosmic Rays (UHECRs)...



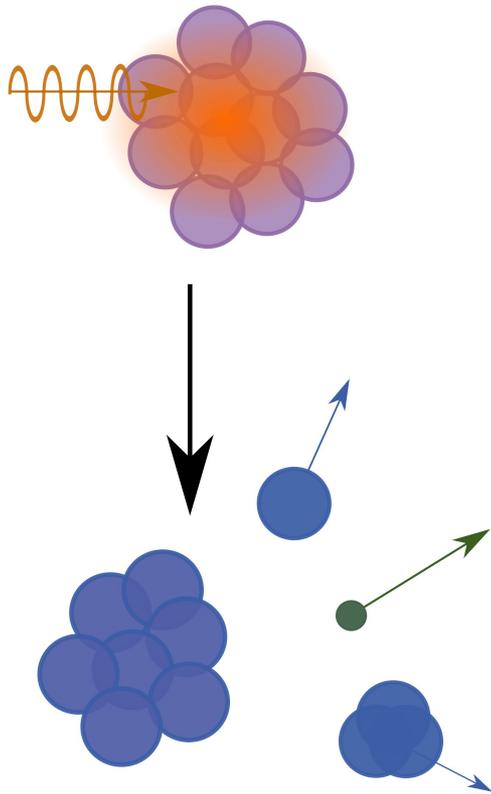
zenodo / 2600177  
(also on github)



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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 646623.



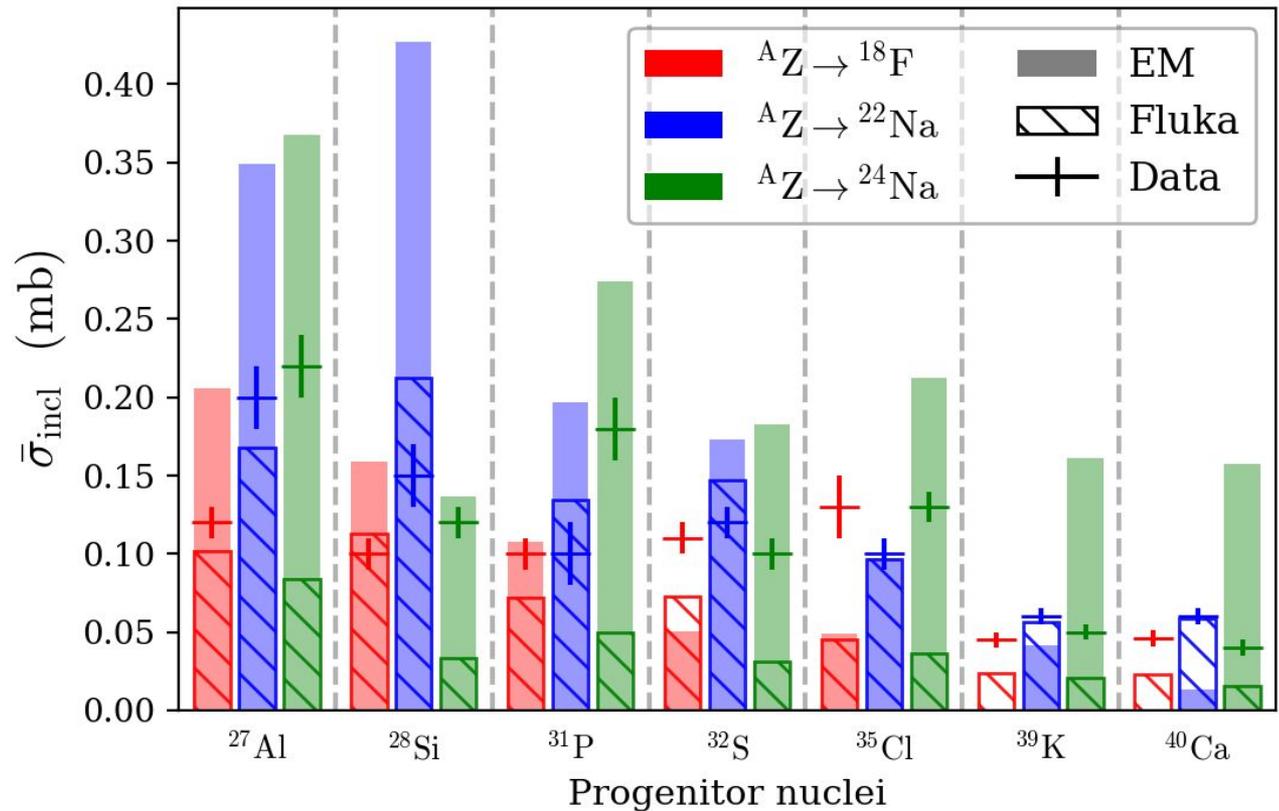
# Additional slides

# Nuclear breakup: mass distributions

## Comparison to data and detailed code

Within order of magnitude without tuning for individual species!

- Within factor ~3 from the data
- Performs similarly as Fluka detailed modelling
- Insensitive to isotopic charge differences

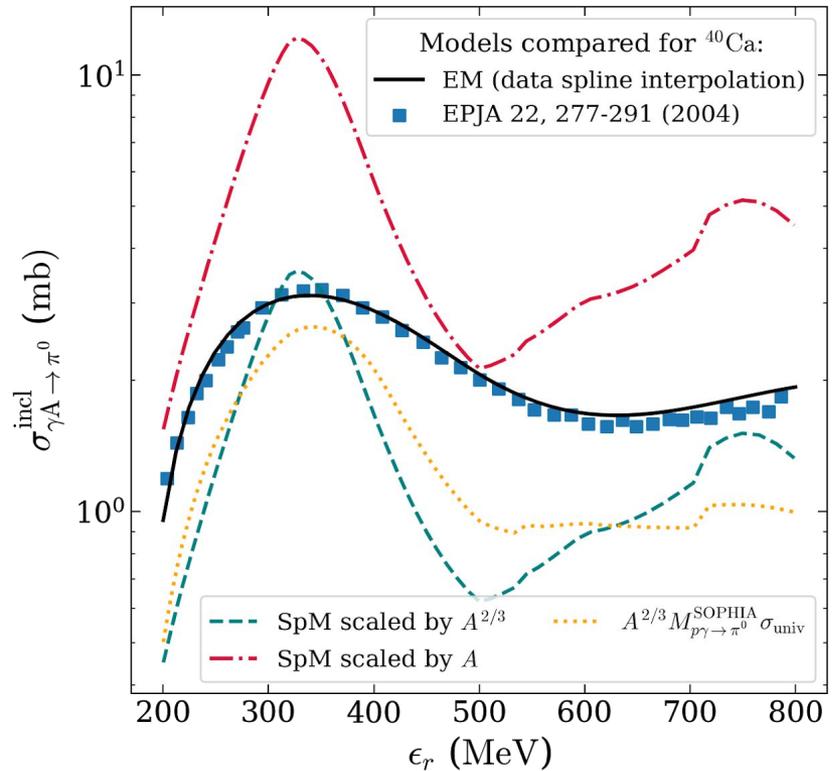
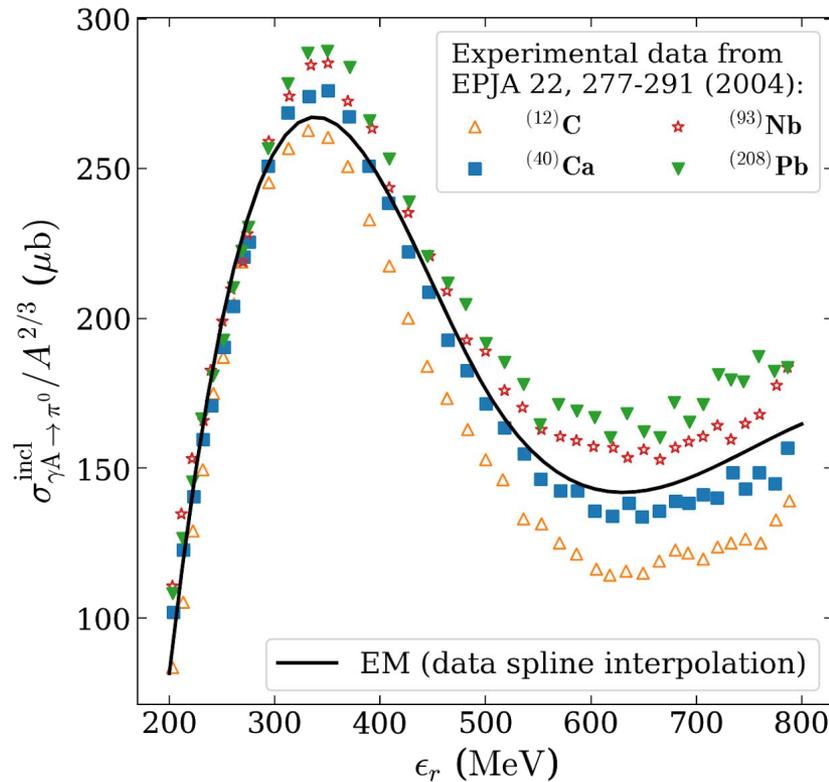


Ref: LM, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, JCAP11(2019)007

# Pion production at threshold

Nuclear medium effects are relevant.

Reabsorption of pions lead to less production. Quasi-free production disfavoured.



Ref: LM, A. Fedynitch, D. Boncioli, D. Biehl and W. Winter, JCAP11(2019)007