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**THEME**

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December 3, 2023

**Abstract**

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## Summary

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## Acknowledgments

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# 1 Introduction

## 2 The ever expanding universe

In order to investigate sources very far away from an observer it is important to understand the influence this distance has on your desired observable. Therefore in astrophysics and astronomy in general there are distances created to take into account the effects of an expanding universe.

### 2.1 Cossographic parameters

The most notorious parameter due to its controversy when first discovered is the Hubble constant  $H_0$ . This parameter sets the recession speed of a point at proper distance  $d$  and our current position via this simple relation.  $v = H_0 d$  The subscript 0 refers to the present epoch signifying that  $H_0$  is not static but changes with time. The precise value of  $H_0$  is quite debated so its commonly expressed in a parameterized form.

$$H_0 = 100 \frac{km}{s} \frac{1}{Mpc} h$$

where  $h$  is a dimensionless number that according to current knowledge can take the value between 0.5 to 0.8 reflecting the range of answers collected from recent work.

Beyond its basic definition,  $H_0$  also allows for the derivation of two significant cosmic scales:

**Hubble Time ( $t_H$ )** : Defined as the inverse of  $H_0$ ,  $t_H$  provides an estimate of the age of the universe. It sets a scale for the time since the Big Bang, assuming the universe has been expanding at a constant rate. The equation  $t_H = \frac{1}{H_0} \approx 14$  Billion years offers a simple way to approximate this expansive timescale.

**Hubble Distance ( $D_H$ )** : This is a measure of the distance over which the universe's expansion is significant. Calculated as  $D_H = \frac{c}{H_0} \approx 4.4$  Gly, where  $c$  is the speed of light, it represents a critical boundary in observational cosmology.

### 2.2 Shape of the universe

The shape and expansion of the universe are central themes in cosmology, but in order to do that one needs to define the structure of the universe and its contents. In this paper and in many articles the universe is often explored through the lens of the flat Lambda Cold Dark Matter ( $\Lambda$ CDM) model. This model, widely accepted in contemporary cosmology, provides a framework for understanding the universe's composition and its expansion dynamics by assuming as the name suggests no curvature. In the  $\Lambda$ CDM model, two key parameters are important: the mass density of the universe,  $\rho_0$ , and the cosmological constant,  $\Lambda$ . These parameters, which evolve over time, are a part in defining the metric tensor in general relativity, thereby allowing us to model the curvature of the universe based on its initial conditions. These parameters are often expressed as dimensionless variables:

$$\Omega_m = \frac{8\pi G \rho_0}{3H_0^2}$$

$$\Omega_\Lambda = \frac{\Lambda c^2}{3H_0^2}$$

Here,  $\Omega_m$  represents the matter density parameter, encompassing both ordinary (baryonic) matter and dark matter.  $\Omega_\Lambda$ , on the other hand, corresponds to the density parameter associated with the cosmological constant, which is often interpreted as dark energy.



In general one has a third density parameter  $\Omega_k$  which defines the curvature of spacetime and the relationship between these parameters is expressed as:

$$\Omega_m + \Omega_\Lambda + \Omega_k = 1$$

In a flat universe one has  $\Omega_k = 0$  and the universe is dominated by dark energy and dark matter. The model used in this paper and the papers cited if not expressed otherwise is the flat  $\Lambda$ CDM model where the parameters take the values of  $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$  and  $\Omega_m = 0.3$ . These values align with current observational data (refff).

## 2.3 Redshift

Redshift is defined as the fractional Doppler shift of emitting light. The Doppler effect is a known effect on different observables in our universe where the relative motion of sources to observers will impact the observable. The redshift is quantified for a light source as

$$z = \frac{\nu_e}{\nu_o} - 1 = \frac{\lambda_o}{\lambda_e} - 1 \quad (1)$$

Here  $o$  refers to the observed quantity and  $e$  the emitted. Due to the expansion of the universe the light emitted from a distant source will be increasingly redshifted the further away it is. In these scenarios the redshift serves as a distance measure, allowing us to deduce distances to faraway objects.

## 2.4 Comoving distance

Comoving distance is an important concept in cosmography, acting as a standard unit for various distance measurements in the universe. This distance, often termed the line-of-sight distance for an observer on Earth, remains constant even as objects expand with the Hubble flow. To calculate the total comoving distance ( $D_c$ ) to an object, one integrates the differential comoving distances ( $\delta D_c$ ) along the line of sight, starting from redshift  $z = 0$  to the object. This integration necessitates consideration of the universe's parametric composition and the  $\delta D_c$  is expressed as

$$\delta D_c = \frac{D_H}{E(z)} dz \quad (2)$$

where the function  $E(z)$  is defined as

$$E(z) = \sqrt{\Omega_m(z+1)^3 + \Omega_k(1+z)^2 + \Omega_\Lambda} \quad (3)$$

Here,  $E(z)$  incorporates the density parameters previously discussed and the redshift  $z$ . It also relates to the Hubble constant observed by hypothetical observer at redshift  $z$ , expressed as  $H(z) = H_0 E(z)$ .

One then receives the comoving distance  $D_c$  from

$$D_c = D_H \int_0^z \frac{dz}{E(z)} \quad (4)$$

In addition to the line of sight one needs to define the transverse comoving distance  $D_m$ . This distance relates two points in the night sky at the same redshift separated by an angle  $d\theta$ . The actual distance between them  $d\theta D_m$  will then vary depending on the curvature of the universe. This relationship is summarised in the following equation which accounts for different geometries.

$$D_m = \begin{cases} D_h \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Omega_k}} \sinh\left(\frac{\sqrt{\Omega_k} D_c}{D_H}\right) & \text{if } \Omega_k > 0 \\ D_c & \text{if } \Omega_k = 0 \\ D_h \frac{1}{\sqrt{|\Omega_k|}} \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{|\Omega_k|} D_c}{D_H}\right) & \text{if } \Omega_k < 0 \end{cases}$$

The different cases corresponds to hyperbolic, flat and spherical geometry respectively. The true nature of the universe is still unknown but the recent observations indicate a flat universe. grand design!!!

## 2.5 Luminosity distance

The luminosity distance  $D_l$  is defined through the relation between the bolometric flux  $F$  of a source and its bolometric luminosity  $L$ . bolometric flux is the energy received per unit time per unit area, while bolometric luminosity is the total energy emitted per unit time. The luminosity distance is defined as

$$D_l = \sqrt{\frac{L}{4\pi F}} \quad (5)$$

This formula essentially describes the loss of energy due to the expansion of the universe. It reflects how the observed flux at the observer's location differs based on the distance from the source and the intrinsic luminosity emitted.

It is related to the transverse comoving distance via

$$D_l = (1 + z) D_m \quad (6)$$

This of course is for bolometric quantities, but if one wants to calculate the spectral flux/ differential flux one need to take into account a correction. This correction comes from the fact that one is viewing a redshifted object. The object is emitting in a different band than observed. The spectrum of the differential flux  $F_\nu$  is related to the spectral luminosity via

$$F_\nu = (1 + z) \frac{L_{(1+z)\nu}}{L_\nu} \frac{L_\nu}{4\pi D_l^2} \quad (7)$$

All these equations listed help include the effects of an expanding universe when astronomers study distant objects and their properties.

## 3 High energy particles

In this section i will discuss the different types of high energy particles that are of interest in this paper, i.e neutrinos and ultra high energy cosmic rays(UHECRs). I will briefly discuss their generation and how they are detected. Then introduce how they lose energy in their journey to earth, and lastly calculate the emissivity of their hypothetical sources from ground observations here on earth.

### 3.1 Acceleration of high energy particles

In order to reach high energy, particles need to be accelerated. Knowing the exact source of acceleration can be difficult since we do not know the sources, but nonetheless one can put constraints on any source due to some simple arguments. By arguing that the acceleration needs to be of a certain strength and that the particle being accelerated need to stay confined within the accelerator for long enough one can put constraints on the source. This is called the Hillas criterion and is a simple way of estimating the maximum energy a particle can reach in a given source.(ref hillas)

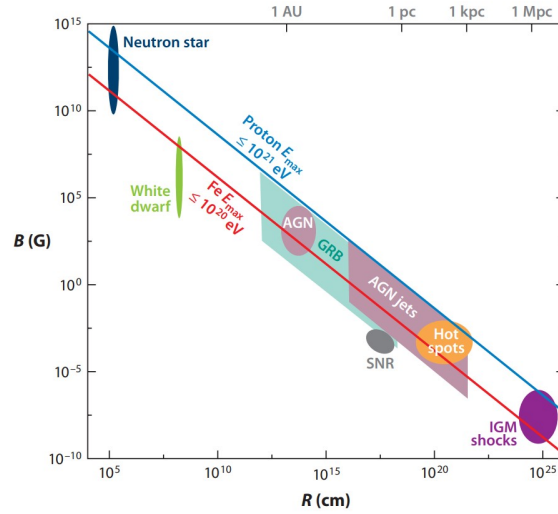


Figure 1: Hillas criterion for proton (blue line) and iron (red line) accelerated up to  $10^{20} \text{ eV}$  and  $10^{21} \text{ eV}$  respectively. Image taken from Kotera and Olinto (2011)

For relativistic particle with charge  $Z$  and energy  $\epsilon$  in a magnetic field of strength  $B$  one can define the larmor radius

$$R_L = \frac{\epsilon}{ZB} \quad (8)$$

By arguing that the definition of confinement of a particle to a source is by equating the larmor radius to the size of the source one can easily derive the maximum achievable energy for a particle as follows. (ref M. Bustamante. <https://cds.cern.ch/record/1249755/files/p533.pdf>)

$$\epsilon_{max} = ZBR \quad (9)$$

Via this method one can illustrate the potential candidates needed to produce the required and importantly observed high energy particles. This requirement is named the Hillas criterion after G. Hillas who first proposed this method. In figure 1 one can see the different candidates for the acceleration of two different ions, protons and iron. One of the candidates is the AGN, which is the focus of this paper.

One can try to build sources in bottom up models, and then it is necessary to understand the different processes that can accelerate particles to high energies, here I will briefly go through some.

**One-shot acceleration:** In the presence of an ordered field one can accelerate particles in a continuous manner. This could be the feature of some astrophysical objects such as neutron stars and black holes. (ref cern paper)

**Diffusive acceleration/ Fermi acceleration** In regions where one has high variability in the magnetic field strength one can accelerate particles in burst. This is called diffusive acceleration and the most common way of this happening is through first and second order Fermi acceleration. The second order Fermi acceleration is the simplest and is based on the fact that particles can gain energy by bouncing back and forth between magnetic clouds which acts as mirrors. This is a stochastic process and the average energy gain can be showed to be proportional to  $(\frac{v}{c})^2$ . Here  $v$  is the speed of the cloud and  $c$  the speed of the particle. This is a slow process due to the scarcity of clouds and therefore it is not a preferred method. The first order Fermi acceleration happens when particles collide with strong shock fronts. These shock fronts can be quite a bit faster than our interstellar clouds and when a particle moves through the shock it gains energy proportional to  $\frac{v}{c}$ . In addition to this there is a probability that the particle will stay in the accelerating region and experience several shocks accelerations.

By knowing how particles can accelerate and their potential sources one can continue an look at the two particles of question in this paper. Neutrinos and UHECRs.

## 3.2 UHECRs

UHECRs are simply put charged particles that are bombarding earth with energy exceeding .... (1exaelectronvolt ( $10^{18}$  eV)). The origin of these particles are still a mystery but due to their high energies they are thought to be extragalactic in origin and due to the hillas criterion need to be sufficiently good accelerators. The composition of UHECRs are mostly protons and heavier nuclei such as helium or iron, and when these particles interact with the atmosphere they produce a shower of secondary particles. The air showers could also give extra information such as direction, but due to the nature of UHECRs the location of their source is difficult to pinpoint. This is due to the fact that UHECRs are charged particles and therefore are deflected by the magnetic fields it encounter.

### 3.2.1 Production and Energy loss

The necessary requirements for a UHECRs is a charge particle and a powerful accelerator. From the hillas criterion one can see that there are several candidates so i will assume that these requirements are fulfilled and we have a particle with sufficient energy that has been released from its source. An equal interesting part is the journey of the particle to earth since during the acceleration and during the journey to earth the UHECRs will lose energy. The important parameters for this energy loss is its composition and its environment. In addition as mentioned before, the interstellar magnetic field will also deflect the particles and therefore the direction of the particle will be changed. These effects are important parameters since it limits the distance a particle can travel before its start energy becomes unreasonable, and therefore limits the local volume in which it can be produced. Here i will briefly discuss the different energy loss mechanisms. **Photo-pair production**

$$p + \gamma \rightarrow p + e^- + e^+ \quad (10)$$

For UHECRs the most potent sink of energy is the Bethe-Heitler process. In this process a proton of sufficient energy interacts with the photon field in its vicinity and produces a pair of electron and positron. The photon field can vary from the cosmic microwave background to the generated field from different sources. The energy loss of this process is quite small  $\sim \frac{2m_e}{m_p} = 10^{-3}$  of the original energy of the proton, but the process is very common and therefore it is a significant energy loss over time.

### Pion production thorough delta resonance

$$p + \gamma \rightarrow \Delta^+ \rightarrow (p + \pi^0) \quad \text{or} \quad (\pi^+ + n) \quad (11)$$

Given enough energy the proton can interact with the photon field and produce a delta resonance. This resonance can then decay into a pion and a proton or a neutron and a pion. This process is important since it also puts an upper limit on the UHECRs energy for intergalactic particles. This limit, called the Greisen-Zatsepin-Kuzmin (GZK) limit comes from the UHECRs interacting with the cosmic microwave background in this delta resonance process. The limit caps proton energy at  $5 \times 10^{19}$  eV.

**photodisintegration** maybe include this.

### 3.2.2 Detection

When a cosmic ray hits the atmosphere it will interact with the air molecules and produce a cascade of particles and light that can more easily be detected than the original cosmic ray. In addition, since the UHECR flux at high energy is extremely low (1 particle per  $km^2$  per year for  $E > 10^{19}$  ) one needs a large area to collect enough data. The best detectors to do this kind of work are the Pierre Auger observatory and the Telescope Array.

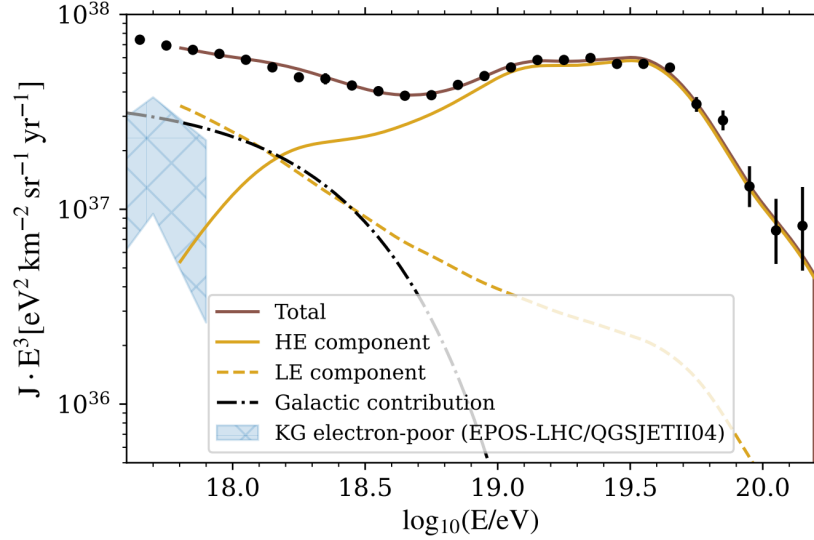


Figure 2: The diffuse flux of UHECRs as measured by the Pierre Auger observatory and the Telescope Array. The flux is separated into galactic and extra galactic sources where the total spectrum follows the black dots. Image taken from Abdul Halim et al. (2023)

The Pierre Auger observatory is located in Argentina and is the largest detector of its kind. It consists of 1660 Cherenkov detectors spread over 3000 km<sup>2</sup> and 27 fluorescence telescopes in four locations. With these instruments the observatory is very capable of reconstructing the air showers and therefore the original cosmic ray. The observatory has a blind spot in the night sky and therefore the observatory is complemented by the Telescope Array located in Utah. The Telescope Array is a smaller observatory with 507 scintillator detectors and 3 fluorescence telescopes. Combined they have been able to map the full sky of UHECRs.

### 3.2.3 Emissivity estimates

Now that one somewhat understand the nature of UHECRs one can try to make tangible estimates of the UHECRs sources. One such estimate is the emissivity of UHECR sources. An emissivity is a measure of the energy released per unit time per unit volume. The question we can ask ourselves is what is the necessary emissivity of UHECRs to explain the observed flux here on earth.

Via observations from the Pierre Auger observatory and the Telescope Array one can observe and model the diffuse flux of UHECRs. The result is an isotropic flux and is represented in figure 2. By separating the flux into contribution from extra galactic sources and galactic sources one can estimate the required energy density in the universe of extragalactic UHECRs. From here can define a the loss time for a UHECRs as the loss length divided by the speed of light  $c$ . This factor is depended on the different method of energy loss for an UHECR. and then the emissivity of UHECRs produced by our sources as the energy density divided by the loss time.

To estimate a simple emissivity for UHECRs one can use the following equation.

$$\epsilon_{UHECR} = \frac{u_{UHECR}}{t_{loss}} = \frac{u_{UHECR}}{D_{loss}/c} = \frac{4\pi c \int_{E_0}^{E_{max}} J_{extragalactic}(E) E dE}{c D_{loss}} \approx 7 \times 10^{44} \frac{erg}{Mpc^3 yr} \quad (12)$$

Here  $u_{UHECR}$  is the energy density of UHECRs,  $t_{loss}$  is the loss time,  $D_{loss}$  is the loss distance,  $J(E)$  is the flux of UHECRs,  $E_0$  is the minimum energy of the flux where it is dominated by extragalactic UHECRs, and  $E_{max}$  is the maximum energy of extragalactic UHECRs. The value of  $\epsilon_{UHECR}$  is calculated in the script available on github

by using data from Auger Collaboration et al. (2017)

### 3.3 Neutrinos

The second particle of interest is the neutrino. Neutrinos compared to UHECRs are neutral particles that are produced in various processes in the universe. The most common and well known is the fusion reaction in the sun where neutrinos are produced in the pp chain. On the other hand the neutrinos of focus in this paper are high energy neutrinos that are likely produced in the same sources as our UHECRs.

#### 3.3.1 Production and Energy loss

The production of the highest energy neutrinos are thought to be produced in the same sources as UHECRs and it will go through the most probable way of producing high energy neutrinos in sources such as AGNs.

**Hardonic processes** Hardonic processes have the ability to release neutrinos with a sufficiently high energy to explain the observations here on earth. Processes such as nuclear interactions are limited by the binding energy of the nucleus and accelerating a neutrino after its production is difficult. Therefore a common way of producing the observed neutrinos is through the decay of pions. The most important decay is the decay of charged pions into muons and muon neutrinos as seen in 13

$$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_\mu \rightarrow e^+ + \nu_e + \nu_\mu + \bar{\nu}_\mu \quad (13)$$

I will discuss two possible ways of producing these pions in two different environments.

In a proton rich environment where the protons are able to accelerate up to high energies one can produce pions through the following process

$$p + p \rightarrow \begin{cases} \pi^+ + n + p \\ \pi^- + \pi^+ + p + p \\ \pi^0 + p + p \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

The energy of these protons at a few GeV is enough to introduce the delta-baryon resonance and therefore it becomes more complicated. The most efficient way of producing pions is through the already seen delta resonance when a proton interacts with a photon <sup>11</sup>. This process being similar to the cooling of UHECRs is a strong indicator that these two particles are produced in the same sources. After having produced our neutrinos it also becomes important to understand their behaviour during their travel to earth. Here I will highlight two points

**Neutrino oscillations** In the previous paragraph I discussed the production of these neutrinos, but not their initial flavour. The pion decay model is known to produce a flavour composition of  $\nu_e : \nu_\mu : \nu_\tau = 1 : 2 : 0$ . A naive thought would be an identical composition observed on earth, but sadly this is not the case. The reason for this is that the neutrinos mass state has the ability to oscillate between the different flavours. Therefore the neutrinos produced in the source will oscillate during their travel to earth and when they reach us one would expect a uniform mix of the three flavours,  $\nu_e : \nu_\mu : \nu_\tau = 1 : 1 : 1$ .

**Energy loss** To model the travel of a neutrino of any flavour one only needs to take into account the interaction of our neutrino with the expanding universe. Since it is so weakly interacting the only source of energy loss our flux of neutrinos will experience is the redshift created by the expansion of the universe. This redshift is the same as the one discussed in the previous section and our neutrinos behave the same way light does in this manner with a drop in energy proportional to  $(1 + z)$ .

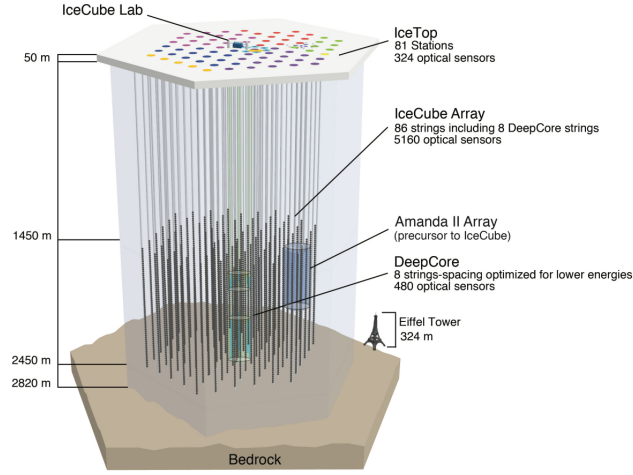


Figure 3: The ICE CUBE neutrino observatory. The detector is located at the south pole and is a large block of ice instrumented with photomultiplier tubes. Image taken from Andeen and Plum (2019)

$\Phi_0$	$E_0$	$\gamma$
$6.7 \times 10^{-18} GeV^{-1} cm^{-2} s^{-1} sr^{-1}$	$100 TeV$	$2.37$

Table 1: The model parameters for the astrophysical flux of neutrinos as measured by the Ice Cube observatory.

### 3.3.2 Detection

Neutrinos are weakly interacting matter particles and therefore are very difficult to detect. This makes them excellent candidates for the study of the universe since they can travel large distances without interacting, but make them quite difficult to detect with high accuracy. The most famous detector and the one used in this paper is the ICE CUBE neutrino observatory. This detector is precisely what it sounds. It is a large block of ice located at the south pole. The observatory uses the ice located deep in the south pole as a giant Cherenkov detector. The ice is instrumented with photomultiplier tubes that can detect the Cherenkov radiation produced by neutrinos interacting with the ice. More precisely the observatory is fitted with 5160 photomultiplier tubes located at a depth of 1450-2450 m. The photomultipliers are divided into 86 strings of 60 modules each. The detector is also complemented by the DeepCore detector which is a denser array of photomultiplier tubes located in the center of the detector. See figure 3 for a visual representation of the detector. The energy range for this detector is from 10 GeV to 10 EeV. The interaction of neutrinos with the water molecules in the ice can produce charged leptons (muons, electrons or taus). These charged particles if energetic enough will then produce Cherenkov radiation which can be detected by the photomultiplier tubes.

### 3.3.3 Emissivity estimates

Armed with the required knowledge above one can also make simple arguments for the sources of these neutrinos based on the observed flux here on earth. The flux used in this paper is the diffuse flux of neutrinos as measured by the Ice Cube observatory. The flux is shown in figure 4. For any calculations we use the astrophysical flux as modeled as a power law. The powerlaw is on the form

$$\Phi(E) = \Phi_0 \left( \frac{E}{E_0} \right)^{-\gamma} \quad (15)$$

with  $\Phi_0$  being the normalization constant,  $E_0$  being the reference energy and  $\gamma$  being the spectral index. The model parameters are seen in table 1.

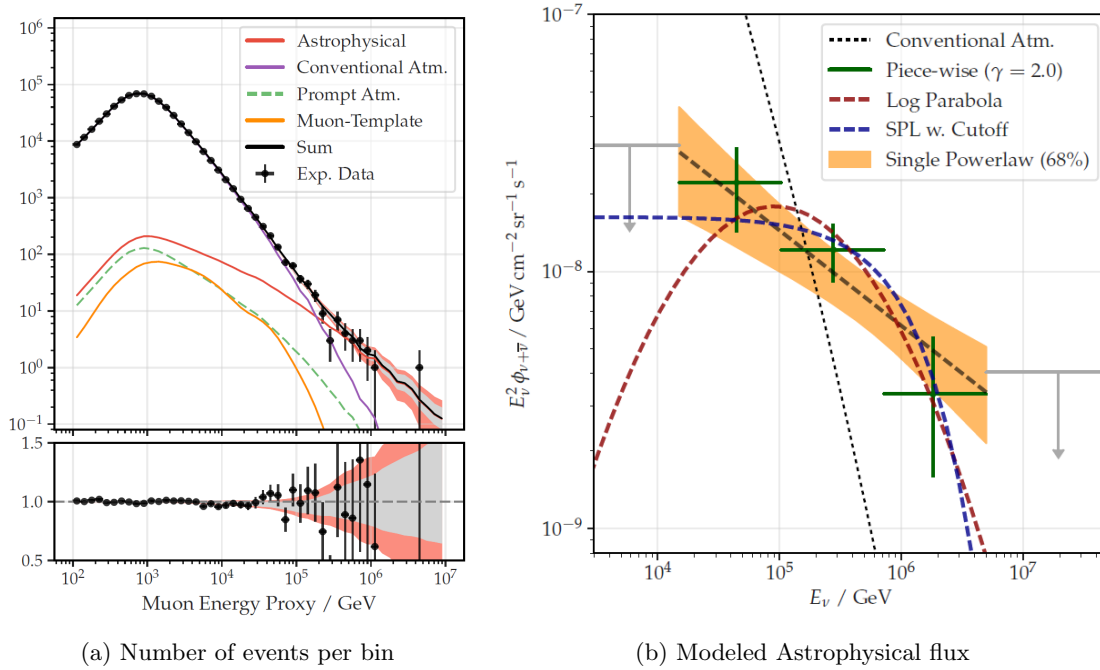


Figure 4: The diffuse flux of neutrinos as measured by the Ice Cube observatory. The y-axis on the left image is the number of events per bin. The flux is separated into contributions from atmospheric neutrinos and astrophysical neutrinos. The right image is the model astrophysical flux as measured by ICE CUBE. Images taken from Abbasi et al. (2022)

The emissivity of neutrinos is calculated in the same way as for UHECRs. The only difference is the loss time. neutrinos do not lose energy in the same way as UHECRs and therefore the loss distance will be the size of the universe. The modeled emissivity is then approximately  $1.191045 \text{ erg/Mpc}^3/\text{yr}$

## 4 Active galactic nuclei

Active Galactic Nuclei (AGNs) is an interesting field in astrophysical studies. Since their discovery, there has been rapid advancement in understanding these phenomena. Today, AGNs are known to be among the brightest entities in the night sky, but they only gained significant attention in the 1950s. This shift occurred with the arrival of new radio observations, which revealed a new type of quasi stellar object through the discovery of Quasars.

Initially, these luminous objects, characterized by broad, unidentifiable spectral lines, were enigmatic to scientists in the early 1960s. However, with the identification of more sources and their optical parts, it became clear that these were not stars but a distinct class of celestial objects. Research done by M. Schmidt on of the emission lines from the Quasar 3C 273 opened the interpretation of these celestial objects. He found that the emission lines of quasars were similar to hydrogen, but were redshifted by a factor of 0.158, an exceptionally high value at the time Shields (1999). Observations at the same time also revealed significant variability in quasar luminosity, suggesting that these objects were no larger than one light year across.

These observations lead to the speculation of super luminous objects located very far away from earth. The problem was that such objects had no reasonable explanation at the time. It was not until the mid 1960 early 1970s when modern cosmology was afoot that more of these issues were resolved.

Observation of the surrounding galaxy of AGNs with matching redshift and observation of gravitational lensing cemented the distances of these objects. In addition the modern view of black holes which had only been a theory in the 1950s came to fruition and the modern model of a AGN was born. This modern perspective views AGNs as supermassive black holes that accrete matter from surrounding accretion disks. This accretion releases large



amounts of energy and has also according to processes such as the Blandford-Znajek process (1977), been shown to produce relativistic jets, when the black hole is rotating.

In the most recent times a landmark achievement was achieved in March 2021, when scientists associated with the Event Horizon Telescope project presented the first image of the supermassive black hole at the center of the Messier 87 galaxy, located 55 million light-years away. This image, showing a bright ring surrounding a dark central region, aligns with predictions for an accreting supermassive black hole, reinforcing our understanding of these powerful cosmic sources.

## 4.1 AGN structure and classification

The modern view of AGNs is a unified model that combined different categories of powerful luminous objects visible in the night sky. These distinctions that astronomers made still have value, but to understand an AGN it is important to get a picture of the modern structure of an AGN

An active galactic nucleus is defined as a galaxy containing a massive accreting black hole. This mass according to Netzer (2015) is defined as  $M_{BH} > 10^5 M_{\odot}$ . AGNs also contain an Eddington ratio exceeding the limit of  $\frac{L_{AGN}}{L_{Edd}} = 10^{-5}$ , where  $L_{AGN}$  is the bolometric luminosity, and  $L_{Edd}$  is the Eddington luminosity for a solar composition gas. These definitions help constrain what galaxies might contain an AGN, for example it excludes the Milky Way by these criteria, but it fails to capture the full structure definition of an AGN. Therefore the structure of most AGNs will include several of the following components.

- A close rotational dominated accretion disc around the SMBH. The thickness defining this accretion flow will distinguish different AGNs. One example is an optically thin accretion disk that sometimes becomes advection dominated. These flows will be referred to as radiation inefficient accretion flows (RIAF) due to the special nature of the disk.
- high density gas clouds that are said to be dust free moving at high velocities close to the black hole, in the so called broad line region (BLR)
- Low density gas clouds that move at lower velocities further away from the black hole in the so called narrow line region (NLR)
- An axisymmetric structure of dust that is responsible for the obscuration of the central region of the AGN. This is called the torus. It lies at a luminosity dependent distance from the SMBH, but according to Netzer (2015) this is around 0.1 - 10 pc depending on the luminosity.
- A corona of hot electrons that is thought to be responsible for the X-ray emission seen in AGN. This is thought to be located above the accretion disk.
- A relativistic jet that is powered by the accretion disk. This is not always present but is a common feature of AGNs.

The reader is directed to image 5 for a visual representation of the different components.

### 4.1.1 Accretion disk

An accretion disk is a natural consequence of the conservation of angular momentum. In the case for infalling matter coming close to a supermassive black hole, the matter will have some angular momentum. This angular momentum would in an ideal fluid orbit the black hole at some stable distance. Due to radiative processes and some fluid viscosity in this high density matter the matter will lose angular momentum and spiral inwards. This inward spiral will eventually allow the matter to fall onto the black hole. This process of inspiral is what is called accretion and the forces acting on the matter to cause the inspiral will also in the same process heat it up to high energies causing it to radiate. This radiation is closely linked to the infalling matter that is accreted onto the black hole and one can express the total luminosity of the accretion disk as

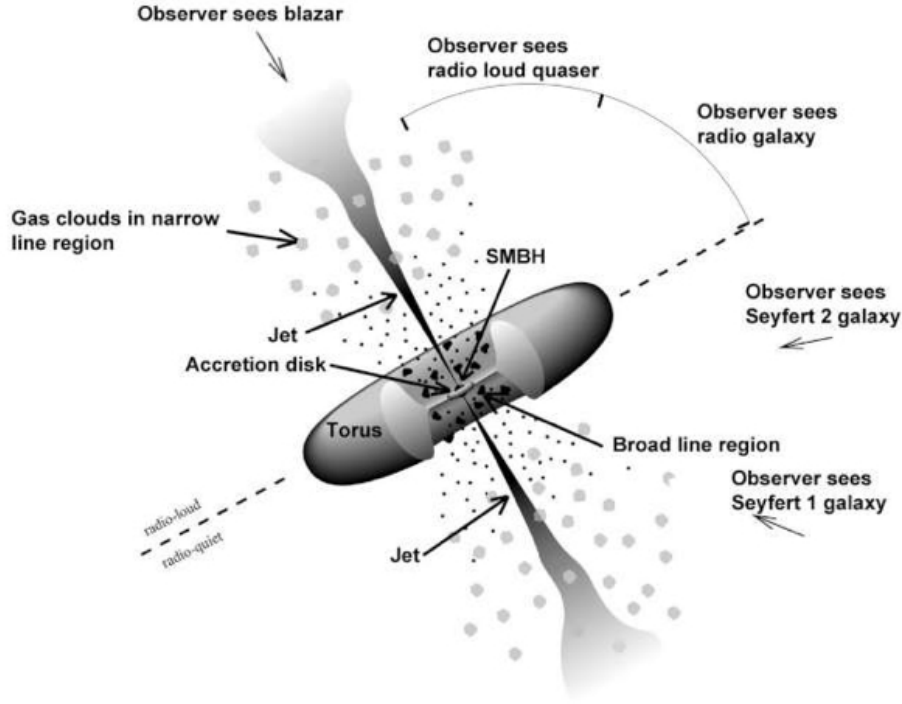


Figure 5: AGN unification

$$L_{acc} = \eta \dot{M} c^2 \quad (16)$$

Here  $\eta$  is the efficiency of the accretion disk,  $\dot{M}$  is the mass accretion rate and  $c$  is the speed of light.

The efficiency of the accretion disk is a function of the spin of the black hole and the radius of the innermost stable circular orbit (ISCO). The ISCO is a counter intuitive term in classical mechanics but in general relativity the maximum speed of a particle in addition to a energy term in the calculation of the orbit set bounds for how close a particle can be to a black hole without spiraling in. without going into to much detail the ISCO will be a solution of this equation based on the black holes mass and spin  $a$

$$6 \frac{M}{r} - 8 \frac{aM^{(1/2)}}{r^{3/2}} + 3 \frac{a^2}{r^2} = 1 \quad (17)$$

The accretion disk also has a bound for its maximum luminosity. As calculated for stars the Eddington luminosity sets a maximum strength for the radiation pressure of the accretion disk. This is given as

Get sources!

$$L_{Edd} = \frac{4\pi G M m_p c}{\sigma_T} \quad (18)$$

#### 4.1.2 Corona and X-ray emission

From high varying x-ray observations of AGNs it became indicative that there was a source of x-rays located close to the black hole. The most contemporary idea is that a corona of energetic particles is located above the accretion disk, and through inverse compton scattering of the optical/UV photons that arise from the accretion disk produce the seen x-ray emission.

Inverse Compton scattering is the process of a photon gaining energy from a nearby relativistic particle, usually an electron or positron. Due to the increase in efficiency of upscattering a photon with an electron compared to a proton, the corona is thought to be dominated by electrons. The process is as follows

$$e^- + \gamma \rightarrow e^- + \gamma \quad (19)$$

The reason of interest for this area is that the correlation between the produced x-ray luminosity can be used to infer some luminosity of the more elusive particles UHECRs and neutrinos.

write about BB radiation from accretion disk which give rise to x-rays.

#### 4.1.3 Broad and narrow lines region

Broad emission lines in the case of AGN are formed from the high density gas clouds located close to the central black hole. The high density parameter is inferred from the fact that one only sees broad emission from permitted line transitions (e.g. hydrogen Lyman and Balmer, iron II, and magnesium II). High densities allow for collisional de-excitation and in doing so prohibits so-called forbidden transitions. The broadening is an indication that these gas clouds are moving at huge velocities around the massive objects. This implies that they are located close to the black hole and receive the name the broad line region.

Narrow emission lines are on the other hand formed in low density gas clouds. The low densities are inferred from the fact that one sees both permitted and forbidden line transitions. They are narrow lines due to their velocities being substantially lower than the inner most gas clouds, and from here are thought to be located further away from the black hole, in the narrow line region.

#### 4.1.4 dust torus

The dust torus is a structure of dust that is thought to be located quite close to the black hole (0.1 - 10 pc). The main argument for the existence of this structure is the obscuration of the central region of the AGN. This obscuration is part of the unification scheme of AGNs and was backed by the detection of polarized broad lines in AGNs with their central core obscured. This polarization is what we would expect if some dust was obscuring the central region, since the only light one sees is the light that is scattered into our line of sight Mason (2015). Further studies on the dust torus has also revealed that the torus is not uniform but clumpy and quite dynamic with both in and outflows of matter depending on the state of the central engine Mason (2015).

The unified model of AGNs

maybe write about thermal radiation from dust torus

#### 4.1.5 Jets

A jet is a highly collimated outflow of plasma. The origin of the plasma is thought to be the accretion disk and the hot corona above it. These regions which have a high density of charged particles will under the influence of a magnetic field be accelerated and collimated into a jet like structure. The energy mechanism which powers the jet is not fully understood but the most prevalent theory is the Blandford-Znajek process. It says that the rotation of the accretion disk induces a magnetic field which will interact with a rotating black hole, effectively extracting energy from the black hole and supplying it to the jet. The jet structure extends far beyond the local area of the AGN maintaining a stable configuration over these distances. The classification of these jets are usually divided into two groups, FRI and FRII. They are differentiated by their luminosity where FRI jets are less luminous and have a more diffuse structure while FRII jets are more luminous and have a more stable structure reaching further out. Walg et al. (2013). Beyond the energy and their structure the jets are also notable for their emission of non-thermal

radiation such as synchrotron and inverse compton radiation. They are also thought to be a possible source of UHECRs and neutrinos.

Write about shock structure write about non thermal radiation Jet acceleration?, acceleration before jet, cooling effects

section radiation

## 4.2 Types of AGNs

<https://astrobites.org/guides/galaxy-and-agn-types/>

Before the unification of the AGNs astromers named the pusseling objects based on their observational properties. These names are still used to this day and are somewhat usfull since their observational properties are important parameters for further study. The different classification are important in understanding which objects could have the potential to produce the different oberservables one looks for in the night sky. There is a lot of talk around AGNs being possible sources for ultra high energy comsic rays (UHECRs) and neutrinos. This is yet to be comfirmed, but the theoretical framework for the neceassary particle acceleration is there. therefore is seems appropriate to discuss the different types of AGNs and their observational properties.

**Type I and II AGNs:** One distinguishes type I and type II AGNs based on the presence of broad emission lines. In other words this distinction is a matter of a visible nucleous or not. Type I refers to sources whose nucleus is exposed to the observer and whos spectrum is has both narrow and broad emmision lines. Type II refers to sources whose nucleus is obscured by a torus and therefore only has narrow emission lines.

**Blazars:** The most extreme class of AGN. These sources are distinuished by their relativistic jets that are pointed towards the observer. This jet produce both synchrotron and Inverse Compton gamma rays and are extremyl variable over short timescales. The emission is also highly polarized. Often and including in this paper one divides blazars into subgroups based on the emission lines. The two most common are BL Lacs and Flat spectrum radio quasars (FSRQs). The difference between these two is the presence of broad emission lines. BL Lacs have no broad emission lines while FSRQs do.

**Radio galaxies:** As the name suggest these sources are very bright in the radio band. The usally refer to AGN viewed edge on, where the torus might block the emmisions from the accretion disk. The oriantation of Radio galaxies give way for strong synchrotron radiation, and they are often used to study the jet structure of AGNs.

**Seyfert galaxies:** Spiral galaxies that have a bright nucleous. They are bright in the optical band and have a smaller active region than radio galaxies. They are often divided into two groups Seyfert I and Seyfert II where the distinction comes from type I and II. They also show quite high variablilty indicating a small emmiting region.

All these different distinctions are a help in understanding what processes one might be observing. The different dominant bands indicate different procesess being in our line of sight, and by considereing the modern structure of AGNs one can then try to determine the underlying dynamics.

## 5 Luminosity functions

A luminosity function is a function that describes the distribution of objects by their luminosity and their comoving volume element for a population of celestial sources, such as galaxies or quasars. It is a powerful tool for understanding the properties and evolution of these objects, as well as the larger-scale structure of the universe. We usually talk about the differential luminosity function given as

$$\frac{d\Psi(L, z)}{dL} = \frac{d^2 N(L, V_c(z))}{dL dV_c(z)} \quad (20)$$

We also can change the differential of the comoving volume into a term only depending on the redhsift assuming it

Model	LF params				Evolution params				
	A	$L_{star}$	$\gamma_1$	$\gamma_2$	$v_1$	$v_2$	$z_c$	$L_c$	$\alpha$
SLDDE RG	8.375	2.138	2.15	1.10	4.00	-1.50	1.90	3.981	0.317
AMPLE-Blazar	1.379	1.810	-0.87	2.73	3.45	-0.25			
AMPLE-FSRQ	0.175	2.420	-50.00	2.49	3.67	-0.30			
APLE-BLlac	0.830	1.000	2.61	-0.79					

Table 2: X-ray LF parameters

Model Name	Luminosity Range (Log(L))
SLDDE_RG	42 - 47
AMPLE_Blazar	44 - 48.5
AMPLE_FSRQ	46 - 48.5
APLE_BLlac	44.5 - 48.5

Table 3: Luminosity range for different models

is isotropic.

$$\frac{d^2 N(L, V_c(z))}{dL dV_c(z)} \frac{dV_c(z)}{dz} = \frac{N(L, z)}{dL dz} \quad (21)$$

Several articles express the luminosity function in abase 10 logarithm and we note the conversion between the two.

$$\frac{d\Psi(L, z)}{d\text{Log}(L)} = \ln(10) L x \frac{d\Psi(L, z)}{d(L)} \quad (22)$$

The luminsoty function(LF) is a theoretical tool, but in order to determine the luminosity functions one usally seperate the function into two terms. One takes the local luminosity function at  $z = 0$  and then multiply it with a redshift evolution function. These evolutions functions are varying from survey to survey, but in general one has two main classes. The different classes are seperated on how the evolution term is added to the local LF and is determined on what fits the evolution the best. The pure density evoluition (PDE) model evolves the local density function while the pure luminosity evolution (PLE) model evolves the local luminosity. The evoution is better represented by its equations and is given as

$$\frac{d\Psi(L, z)}{d(L)} = \begin{cases} \frac{d\Psi(L/e(z), z=0)}{d(L)} & (PLE) \\ \frac{d\Psi(L, z=0)}{d(L)} e(z) & (PDE) \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

The PLE and PDE models sometimes fails to capture the evolution of the luminosity function. Therefore modern LF might use a modified version. This will be come more clear in the next section.

## 5.1 X-ray LF

For a given type of celestial objects, different bands will be more important than others, but for populations such as AGNs the x-ray luminosity from these sources are of interest. Therefore several studies attempt to describe the luminosity functions of these sources through the use of the x-ray band.

In the following analysis I will look at the x-ray luminsity functions of several classes of AGNs; Radio galaxies, Blazars alone with the additonal subdivision into FSRQs and BLlacs, and Seyfert galaxies. In addition to this a study by Ueda et al. (2014) also look at the total evolution of AGNs which is interesting. The luminosity functions

are collected from three papers Ajello et al. (2009) and Silverman et al. (2008), and Ueda et al. (2014) and their form is explained below.

**The local luminosity function:** The local luminosity function is the luminosity function at  $z = 0$  and is the starting point for the evolution of the luminosity function. The most simplest form of the local luminosity function is expressed in Ajello et al. (2009) and is given as a power law.

$$\frac{d\Psi(L, z = 0)}{dL} = \frac{A}{L_x} \left( \frac{L_x}{L_*} \right)^{1-\gamma_2} \quad (24)$$

This functional form has the fewest parameters, but has the disadvantage of not being able to capture all the details of the observed local luminosity functions. For that reason a more complex local function is needed which was proposed in Ueda et al. (2003) and is described by a double power law. The functional form of the double power law is as follows.

$$\frac{d\Psi(L, z = 0)}{dL} = \frac{A}{\log(10)} \frac{1}{L_x} \left( \left( \frac{L_x}{L_*} \right)^{\gamma_1} + \left( \frac{L_x}{L_*} \right)^{\gamma_2} \right)^{-1} \quad (25)$$

The double power law introduced a break luminosity  $L_*$  which is the luminosity where the slope of the luminosity function changes.

**Evolution factor** In addition to the local LF one also considers the evolution factor denoted  $e(z)$ . This factor captured the observed evolution of these objects and is the second part of the total luminosity function.

Again for the simplest evolution with the fewest parameters a power law is used.

$$e(z) = (1 + z)^{v_1}$$

Certain situations necessitate a more detailed approach to model evolution. As detailed in Ajello et al. (2009), a modified evolution is frequently employed. This adaptation transforms the conventional Pure Luminosity Evolution (PLE) and Pure Density Evolution (PDE) into their modified counterparts, namely Modified PLE (MPLE) and Modified PDE (MPDE). It is within these modified frameworks that a dependence on redshift  $z$  emerges in the exponent, providing a more nuanced understanding of the evolutionary processes involved. It is given as

$$e(z) = (1 + z)^{v_1 + v_2 z}$$

To expand further as described in Ueda et al. (2003) the evolution factor of the luminosity function is not always a simple as a modified power law only dependent on the redshift  $z$ . For some sources a more complex evolution is needed. In Ueda et al. (2003) they use a double power law to better fit the data where the evolution is now not only dependent on the redshift but also on the luminosity. This then receives the apt name as a luminosity dependent density evolution (LDDE) since it is a modified version of a (PDE)

$$e_z(z, L) = \begin{cases} (1 + z)^{v_1} & \text{if } z \leq z_*(L) \\ e_z(z_*(L), L) \times \left( \frac{1+z}{1+z_*(L)} \right)^{v_2} & \text{if } z > z_*(L) \end{cases} \quad (26)$$

with  $z(L)$  being defined as

$$z_*(L) = \begin{cases} z_c \left( \frac{L}{L_c} \right)^\alpha & \text{if } L \leq L_c \\ z_c & \text{if } L > L_c \end{cases} \quad (27)$$

The expansion of the parameter space allows for easier fitting to the observed data, but comes of course with an increase in complexity.

Armed with the functional form of the total luminosity function one can now fit the parameters to the observed data. This is done in Silverman et al. (2008) and Ajello et al. (2009) and their model name is a combination of the source paper (S, A), the type of model it describes (PLE, MPLE, LDDE) and the object in question. The parameters are then fitted to the data using a maximum likelihood method and the observational data of several x-ray surveys, see the cited papers for more information. One can see the parameters for the different models in table 2 and the luminosity range for which the different models are valid in table 3.

## 6 Evolution

### 6.1 AGN evolution

With the luminosity function one can calculate the evolution of the different classes of AGNs. This evolution is interesting to not because it will illuminate the processes that allow for such powerful objects to be created and will be important for any observable particle that might encounter earth should its origin be AGNs. In this section we will be looking at the different distribution of the different classes of AGN mentioned above, by using the X-ray luminosity function.

#### 6.1.1 Luminosity distribution

For the different classes discussed one can integrate the differential luminosity function to retrieve the Luminosity distribution of each object. This distribution highlights the difference over emitting power and therefore are important for us to be able to distinguish the most powerful sources and their prevalence. One calculates the Luminosity density by multiplying the class specific luminosity function with the differential comoving volume and integrating over the relevant redshift bin. By separating it into bins of redshift one will illuminate the number evolution in time of these objects. It is important to note that the evolution beyond the given luminosity range is not known and therefore the distribution is not complete. And deducing continued evolution can be done but must be taken with a grain of salt. The number of objects these functions are built upon are not very numerous and therefore the error bars are quite large, especially in the edges.

$$\frac{dN(L)}{dL} = \int_{z_{\min}}^{z_{\max}} \frac{\Psi(L, V(z))}{dL} \frac{dV(z)}{dz} dz \quad (28)$$

In 6 one can see the luminosity density for the four different classes of AGNs. The distribution are separated into four bins of redshift ( $0 < z < 2$ ,  $2 < z < 4$ ,  $4 < z < 6$ ,  $6 < z < 8$ ). This is done to illuminate the evolution of the different classes at different epochs

For the blazar population in the top left of image 6 one sees a clear break around  $10^{46}$  erg/s. This break indicates that there is a distribution around this value and that the most common blazar will be found around this energy level. The distribution also shows a clear evolution in time. whereas the earliest epoch and the current epoch both have the fewest number of sources. This evolution will become more clear in the next section.

For the FSRQs and for the BL Lacs one sees a different distribution. Where one sees more sources as we go to lower energies. The break luminosity for FSRQs is very close to the edge of the luminosity range and is almost not visible. The BL Lacs on the other hand do not have a break due to their representation as a simple power law.

For the Radio galaxy population one sees a different distribution. Here the distribution has a break at  $10^{45}$  erg/s and then continues to decrease but with a harder slope. To explain the hardening of the slope one might turn to classification issues with AGNs but it is not clear.

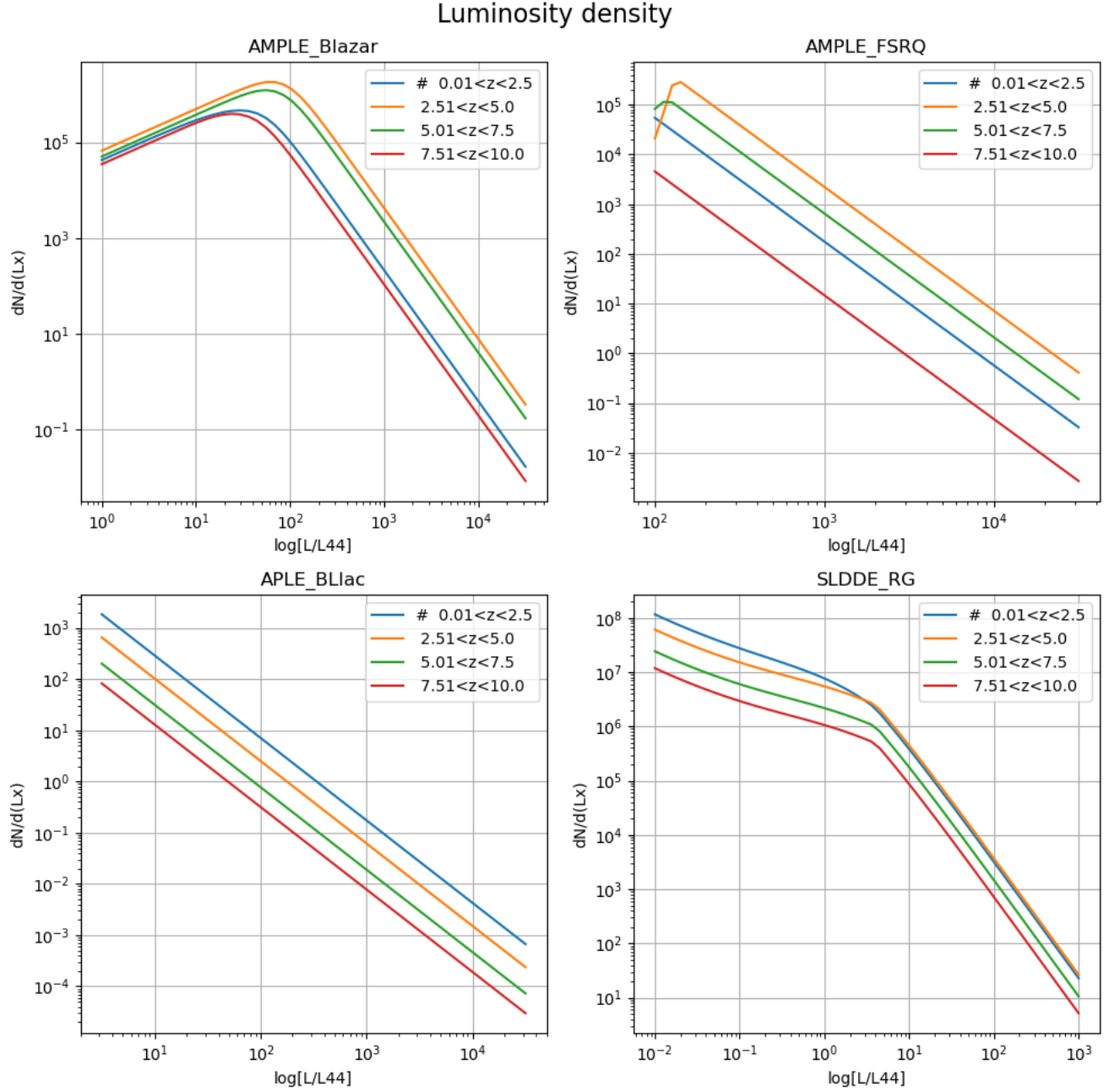


Figure 6: Luminosity density for the four different classes of AGNs. The different classes are defined in the title as well as the chosen LF model.



### 6.1.2 Density distribution

In addition to the luminosity distribution one can also calculate the number density of the different classes of AGNs. This is done by integrating the differential luminosity function over all luminosities. This will illuminate the evolution of the different classes of AGNs in terms of redshift. The integral is given as

$$\frac{dN}{dz} = \int_{L_{\min}}^{L_{\max}} \frac{\Psi(L, V(z))}{dL} \frac{dV(z)}{dz} dL \quad (29)$$

Here again we separate into luminosity bins in order to see the evolution seen in the previous chapter. This might seem redundant but it gives one a stronger intuition of the number of objects that are most common at which epoch, and their luminosity.

In 7 one sees the number evolution of the different classes of AGNs. The evolution is separated into four bins of redshift ( $0 < z < 2, 2 < z < 4, 4 < z < 6, 6 < z < 8$ ).

For the blazar population in the top left of image 7 one sees a clear trend with a top point around redshift  $z = 5$ . This is then the epoch where most blazars are present, but it takes a quite uniform shape over all time.

For the FSRQs the evolution is quite linked to the blazar population. This is expected since FSRQs and BLlacs are thought to be sub groups of the bigger blazar group. The evolution also peaks around redshift  $z = 5$  but is less uniform over time. There is a bigger drop in numbers in the earlier and more recent epochs.

For Bllacs the distribution is very different. Here the peak comes more around redshift  $z = 2$  and then drops of quite rapidly for older epochs. This evolution is very fascinating since it could contain information about the evolution of the universe and the creation of these objects.

For the radio galaxies the trend is similar to the Bllacs. The peak of the time evolution is at more recent epoch ( $z = 1$ ) and the peak is luminosity dependent. The peak of the most luminous radio galaxies are at higher redshift than the less luminous ones. In addition from source .... one can find the evolution comparable to the evolution of the star formation rate. This is interesting since it might indicate that the two are linked.

The representation of these objects can also be shown by their density distribution. By simply dividing the total number density by the comoving volume one can find the density of these objects in the universe. By looking at figure 8 one can see the density distribution and the effects this has on our interpretation of these objects.

The evolution is similar to that of the total number evolution, but one highlights the biggest difference between the groups. That one groups namely the Bllacs and the radio galaxies are increasing in density when looking at lower redshifts and the other two groups are decreasing. This is a very interesting result since it might indicate that the two groups are a product of different conditions in the universe, for example the total density of matter.

### 6.1.3 Expected luminosity

Another point of interest is the expected luminosity of an source class at different redshift. This is important since it will directly relate to the power output of the different epochs and from this one can calculate an expected emissivity of the different classes of AGNs. The expected luminosity of each group can be calculated with the following formula.

$$\langle L \rangle = \frac{\int_{L_{\min}}^{L_{\max}} L \frac{\Psi(L, V(z))}{dL} \frac{dV(z)}{dz} dL}{\int_{L_{\min}}^{L_{\max}} \frac{\Psi(L, V(z))}{dL} \frac{dV(z)}{dz} dL} \quad (30)$$

The different luminosity ranges are the same as before and are given in table 3. The results are shown in figure 9.

## Redshift AGN Evolution

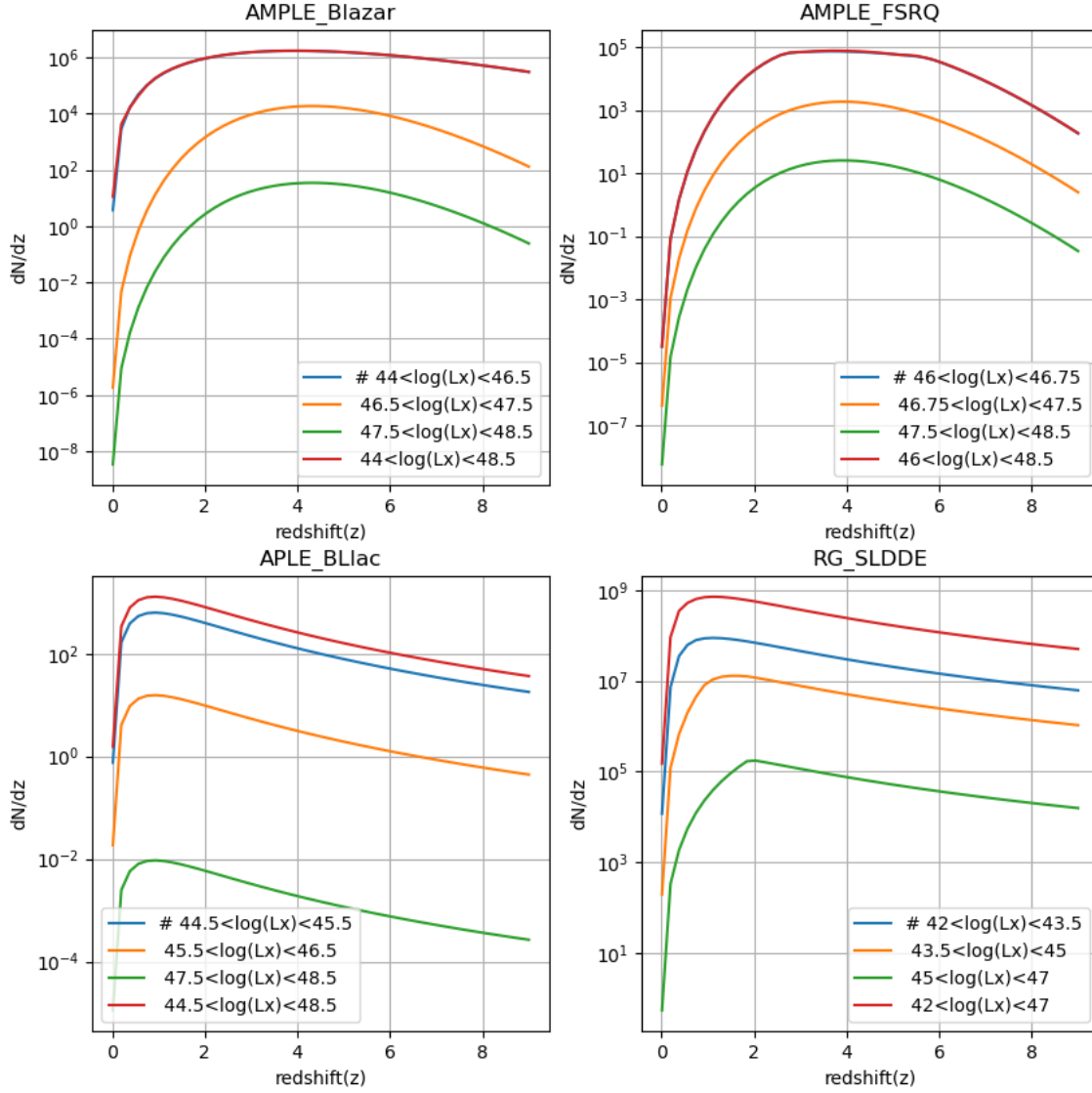


Figure 7: Number evolution in terms of redshift for the four different classes of AGNs. The different classes are defined in the title as well as the chosen LF model.

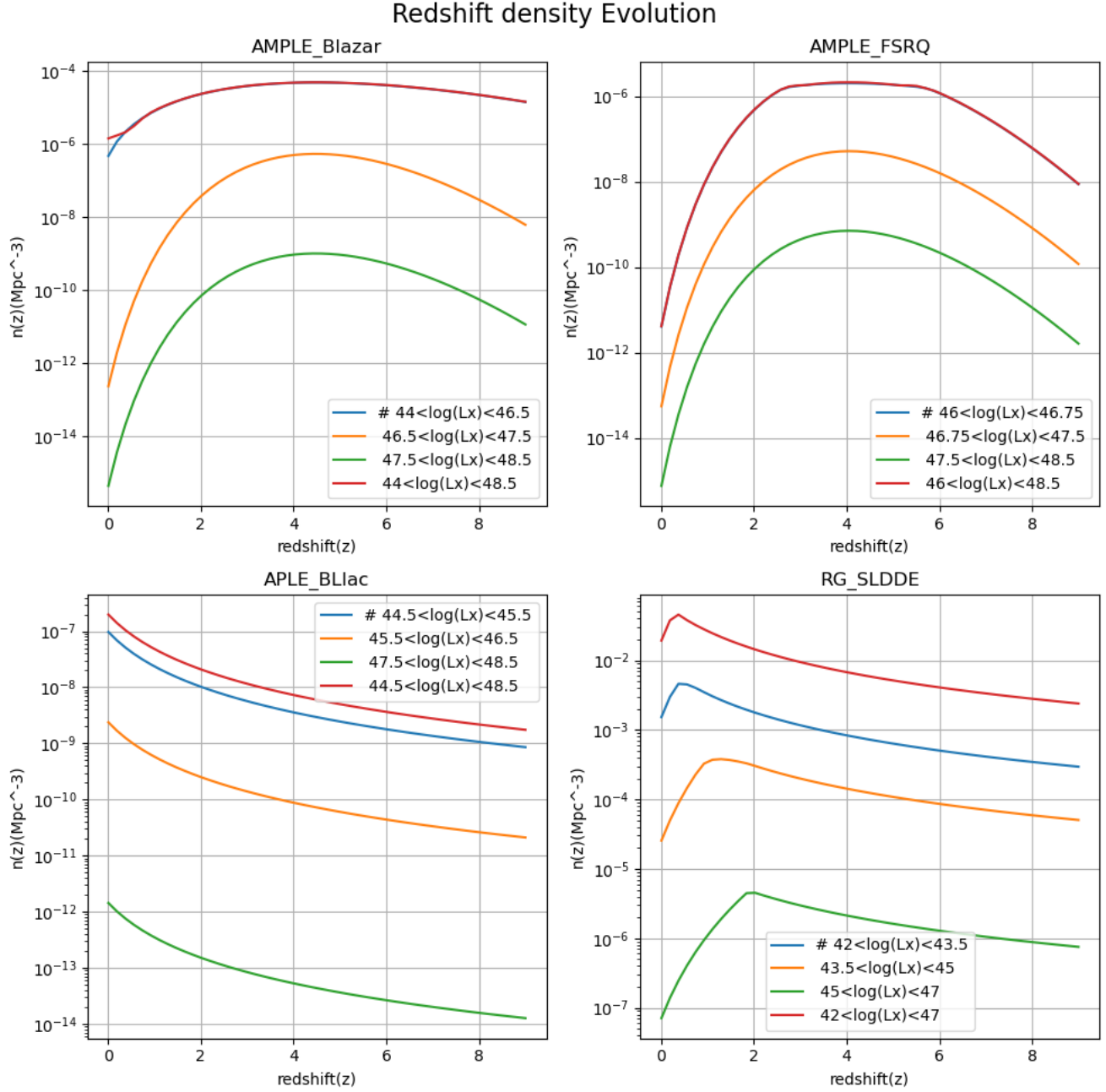


Figure 8: Density distribution for the four different classes of AGNs. The different classes are defined in the title as well as the chosen LF model.

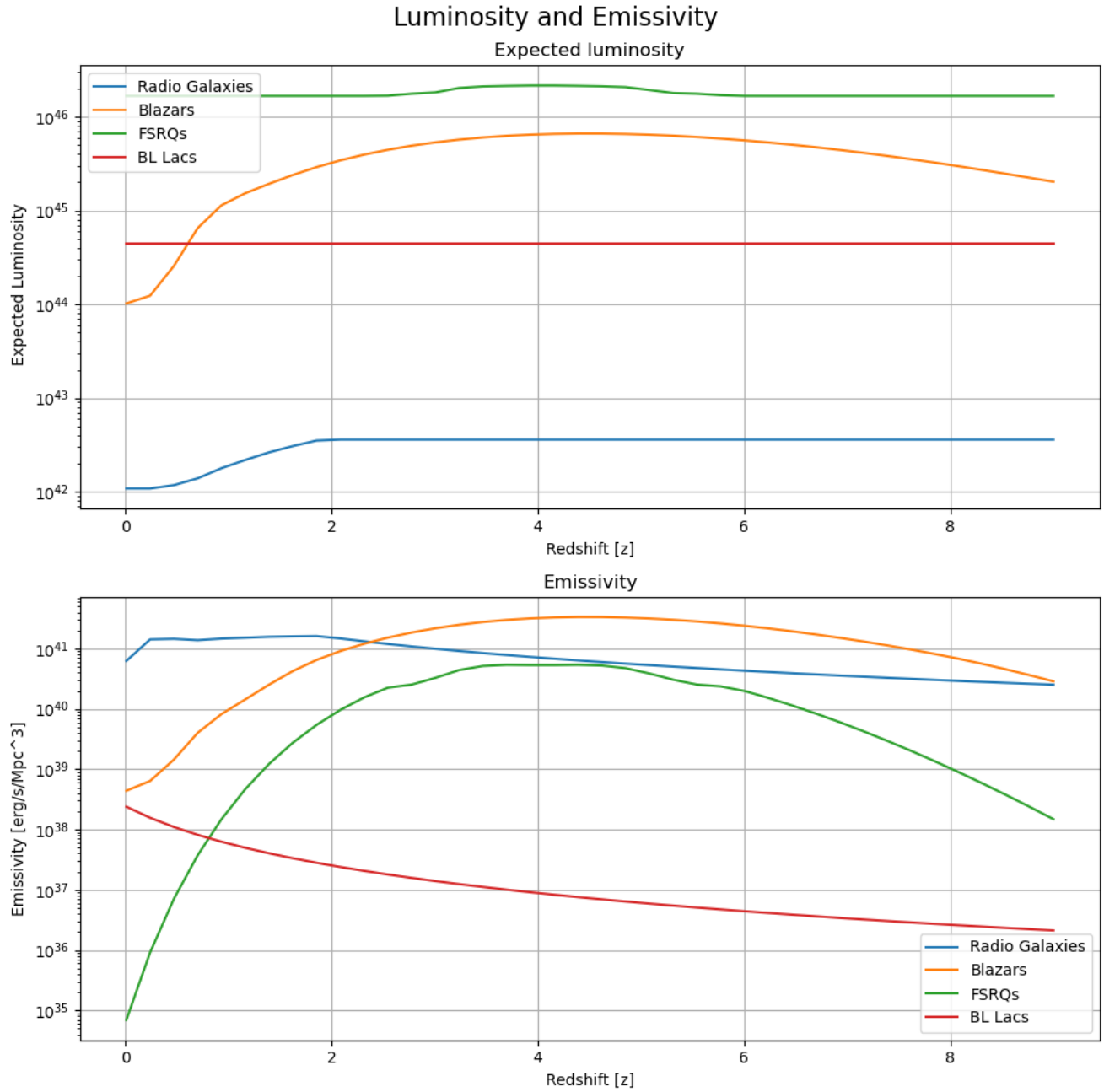


Figure 9: Expected luminosity and emissivity for the four different classes of AGNs. The different classes are defined in the title as well as the chosen LF model.

The expected luminosity shown at the top is a great reminder of the different classes. Here one sees that FSRQs are indeed the most luminous part of a blazar AGN and that they represent some of the most luminous objects in the universe. The trend for FSRQs is also very flat with a small bump at the middle epochs.

The Bllacs on the other hand are not as luminous as the FSRQs but are still very luminous. The trend for the Bllacs is a very flat evolution indicating that the produced Bllacs although fewer at earlier epochs are still of similar magnitudes.

The group with the biggest variability in expected Luminosity is the blazars. Here one sees a curve over the epochs with a peak around redshift  $z = 5$ . This indicates that the produced blazars in newer epochs are less luminous on average. A similar results obtained from the luminosity distribution in figure 6. The evolution of the expected luminosity might be indicative of a badly defined group of objects since one usually distinguishes objects based on their luminosity.

The radio galaxies are the least luminous of the four groups and have a very flat evolution. This is expected since the radio galaxies are not as luminous as the blazars.

The emissivity shown at the bottom in figure 9 shows a more interesting evolution. The figure shows the output of energy per unit volume per unit time. In other words how much energy these objects are producing and by extension which objects would be relevant at different epochs due to their dominance over the others. The most interesting point is around redshift  $z = 2$  where the emissivity of the radio galaxies overtake the dominant blazars. This change would in theory make a big splash in the observables here on earth should these objects be the origin of the UHECRs and neutrinos.

## 7 UHECRS emissivity

With the calculated emissivity for the different groups there is now possibility to look very briefly into the possibility of AGNs being the origin of UHECRs. The reasoning is quite crude but in order for the AGNs to be the origin of UHECRs they must be able to produce the necessary energy.

According to .... the energy density of UHECRs is given as  $3 \cdot 10^{44} \frac{\text{erg}}{\text{Mpc}^3 \text{yr}}$  ....

In order to estimate the sources of these UHECRs and based on the limit of how close an UHECR could be produced to earth one can calculate the emissivity needed to produce these UHECRs. By estimating the emissivity produced from our sources at a very low redshift (i.e  $z = 0.01$ ) one can then calculate emissivity of our sources and compared to the required emissivity. To calculate the emissivity of our sources one takes the density of these sources at the desired redshift and multiplies it with the expected luminosity at that redshift.

The resulting figure is shown in figure 10.

The figure shows that almost all classes produce enough energy in X-rays in order to produce the required emissivity. The only exception is the FSRQs where the number density limits the required emissivity. This result is a fine indication that AGNs could be the origin of UHECRs. However this is a very crude estimate and the correlation between X-ray luminosity and UHECR luminosity is not well defined and might include intricacies that are not accounted for.

## References

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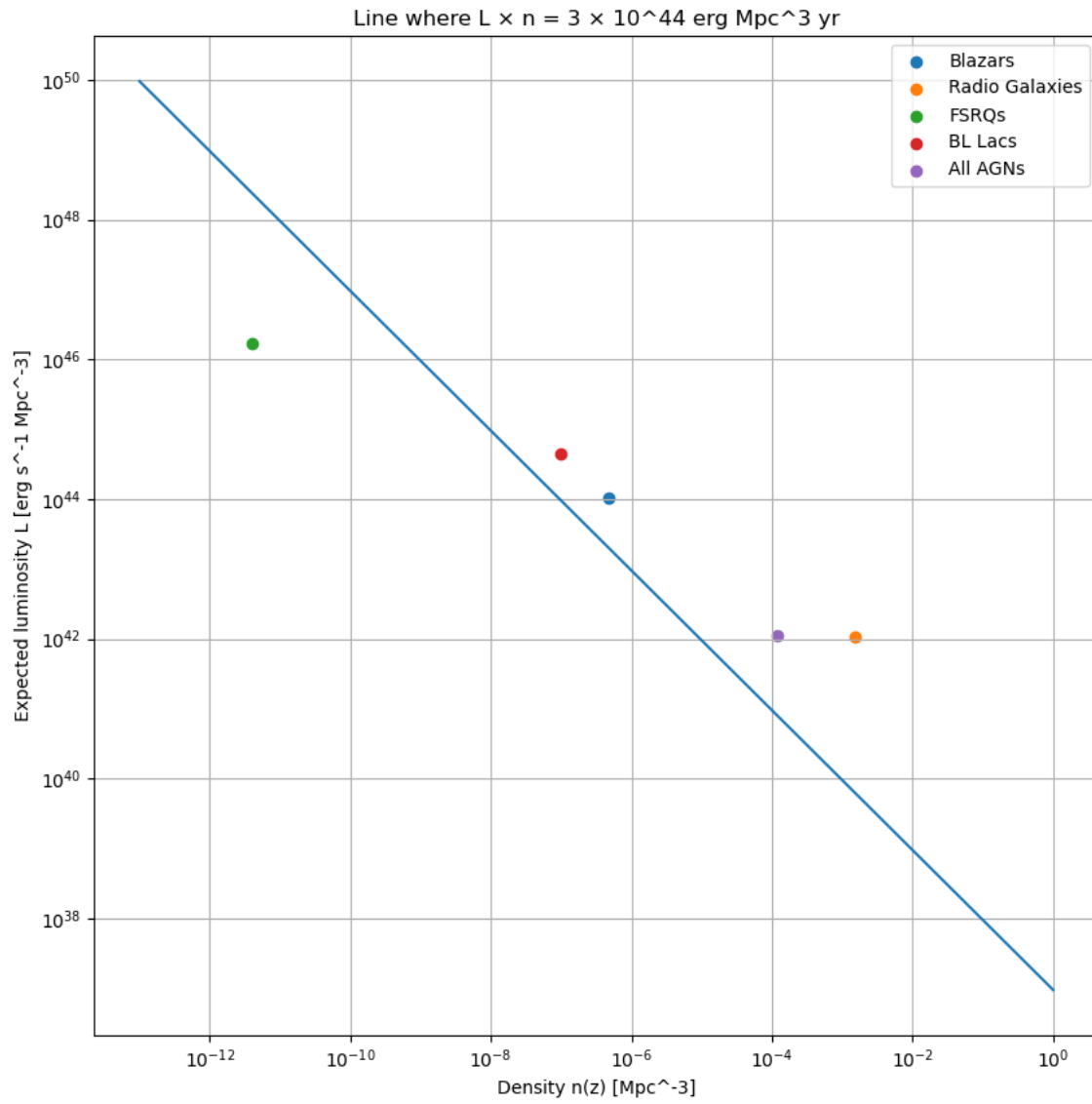


Figure 10: UHECR emissivity for the four different classes of AGNs.

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