

Explaining the Measured Cosmic-Ray Nuclei Spectra with a Dual Source-category Model

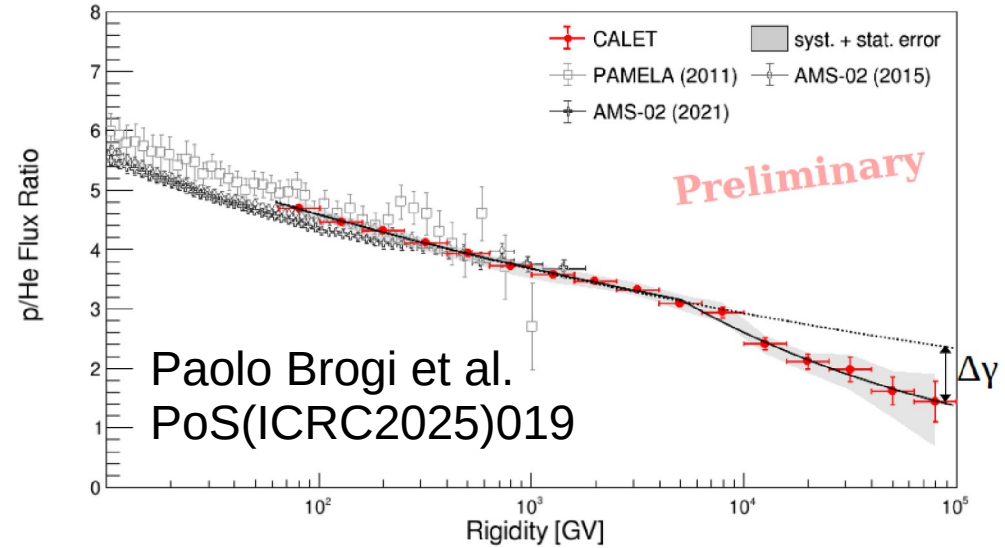
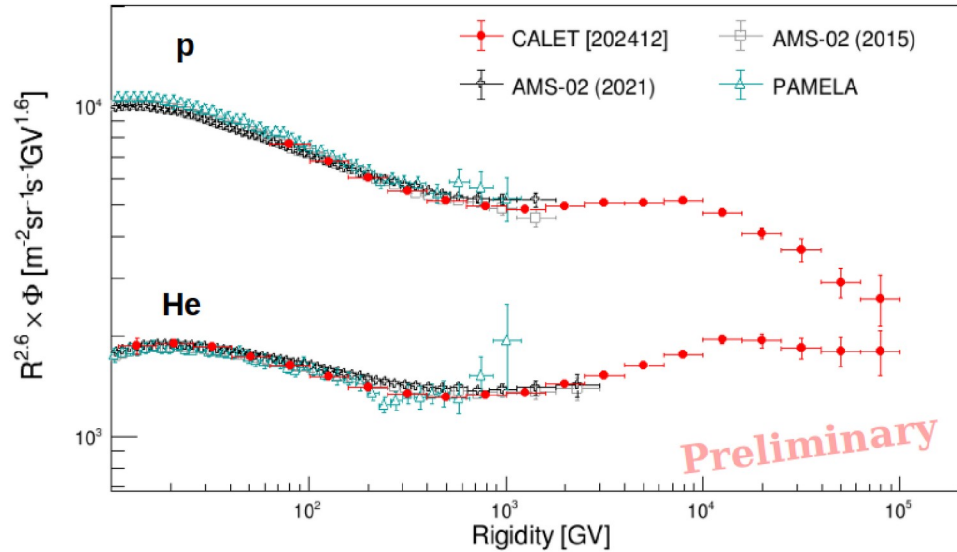
TeVPa 2026
Tendo, 2026/8/31

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Global Center for Science and Engineering

Motivation: ICRC2025 CALET p/He



Acceleration in supernova remnant (SNR) source depends on rigidity:

- Initial (before propagation) spectral shape for all nuclei species should be the same
- Helium and proton spectra show hardening around $R = 1$ TV → could be a propagation effect: change of diffusion coefficient power law index
- Helium power law (after propagation) is harder than for proton → difficult to explain by propagation, but spatial dependence of diffusion coefficient may work
- Helium and Proton spectra show softening around 10 TV (source maximum rigidity ?)
- AND** Proton to Helium ratio has a softening at the same rigidity → **not a propagation effect**

Tested Hypothesis

- **Assume same acceleration conditions for all nuclei species**
→ common source power law index and cut-off rigidities
- But abundance for primary nuclei species could vary between sources
→ Introduce **two source categories** with **adjustable abundances**:
 - (1) softer spectrum with lower cut-off, lower Helium abundance
(e.g. later phase SNRs which accelerate ISM matter)
 - (2) harder spectrum with higher cut-off, larger Helium abundance
(e.g. early phase SNRs accelerating progenitor star matter, or SNRs of Wolf-Rayet stars which have lost their hydrogen envelope)
- Can this two-source modelling explain the break in the proton-helium ratio and simultaneously match the constraints on cosmic ray propagation from the shape of the primary nuclei spectra and secondary to primary ratios?

Calculation with DRAGON

- DRAGON calculation done independently for the two source types, abundance adjustment for the primary nuclei is done in a fit to the measured nuclei spectra by using separate normalization for each source type and primary species
- Common injection spectrum for all primary nuclei species:
Two power laws with index γ_1 / γ_2 and exponential cut-off at $R_{\text{cut1}} / R_{\text{cut2}}$
- Diffusion coefficient depending on position and with two breaks in rigidity dependence (motivated by breaks in secondary/primary CR ratios):

$$D(r, z, D) = D_0 \max\left(e^{(r-r_n)/r_s}, 1\right) \max\left(e^{(z-z_n)/z_s}, 1\right) \left(\frac{R}{4 \text{ GV}}\right)^{\delta_l} \left(1 + \left(\frac{R}{R_{bl}}\right)^{\frac{\delta_l - \delta_l}{s_l}}\right)^{s_l} \left(1 + \left(\frac{R}{R_{bh}}\right)^{\frac{\delta_h - \delta_h}{s_h}}\right)^{-s_h}$$

- Further parameters: Spiral arm width w_a , Alfven velocity v_a
- 16 parameters total: 4 for the source spectra, 12 for propagation and environment

Experimental Data Used (Spectra)

Common

- **Proton Flux**

5 GeV – 1 TeV: AMS-02 PRL 114, 171103 (2015)

1 TeV – 60 TeV : CALET PRL 129, 101102 (2022)

- **Helium Flux**

11 GV – 643 GV: AMS-02 PRL 115, 211101 (2015)

1 TeV – 250 TeV: CALET PRL 130, 171002 (2023)

CALET-focus model

- **Carbon & Oxygen Flux**

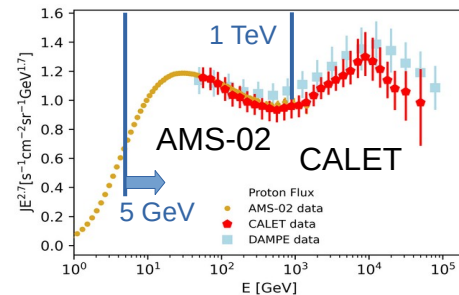
10 GeV – 2.2 TeV: CALET PRL 125, 251102 (2020)

- **Iron Flux**

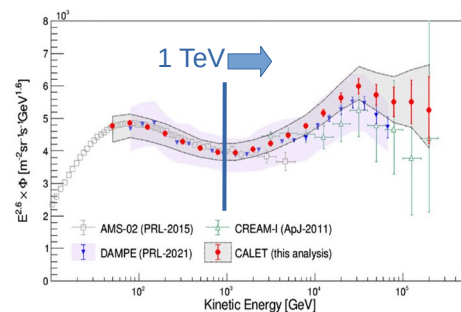
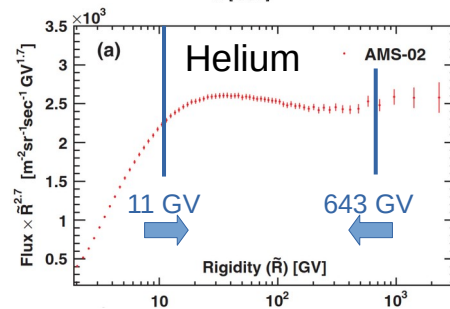
10 GeV – 1.6 TeV: CALET PRL 135, 021002 (2025)

- **Nickel Flux**

8.8 GeV – 240 GeV: CALET PRL 128, 131103 (2022)



Using data above
5 GeV/nucleon or
equivalent rigidity
– solar modulation
difficult to model
below this energy



AMS-focus model

- **Carbon & Oxygen Flux**

11 GV – 3.0 TV: AMS-02 PRL 119, 251101 (2017)

- **Silicon Flux**

11 GV – 3.0 TV: AMS-02 PRL 124, 211102 (2020)

- **Iron Flux**

11 GV – 3.0 TV: AMS-02 PRL 126, 041104 (2021)

Experimental Data Used (Ratios)

Common

- **Antiproton fraction**

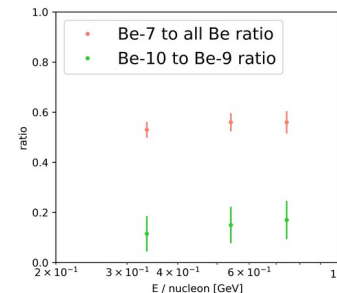
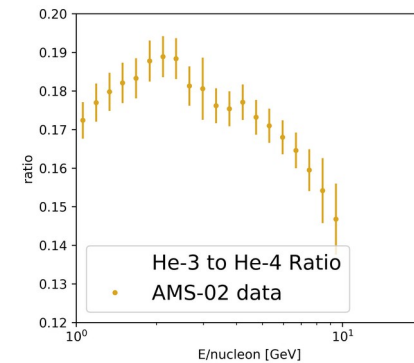
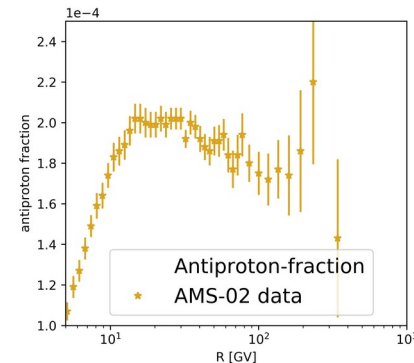
5 GV – 450 GV: AMS-02 PRL 117, 091103 (2016)

- **$^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$ ratio**

5 GV – 10 GeV: AMS-02 PRL 123, 181102 (2019)

- **$^7\text{Be}/\text{Be}$ ratio & $^{10}\text{Be}/^9\text{Be}$ ratio**

0.25 – 0.85 GeV: PAMELA Universe 7 (2021) 6, 183



Universe 7 (2021) 6, 183
Beryllium Radioactive Isotopes
as a Probe to Measure the
Residence Time of Cosmic
Rays in the Galaxy and Halo
Thickness: A "Data-Driven"
Approach, Francesco Nozzoli,
Cinzia Cernetti

CALET-focus model

- **B/C ratio**

8.4 GeV – 3.9 TeV: CALET PRL 129, 251103 (2022)

AMS-focus model

- **B/C ratio**

11 GV – 3.3 TV: AMS-02 PRL 120, 021101 (2018)

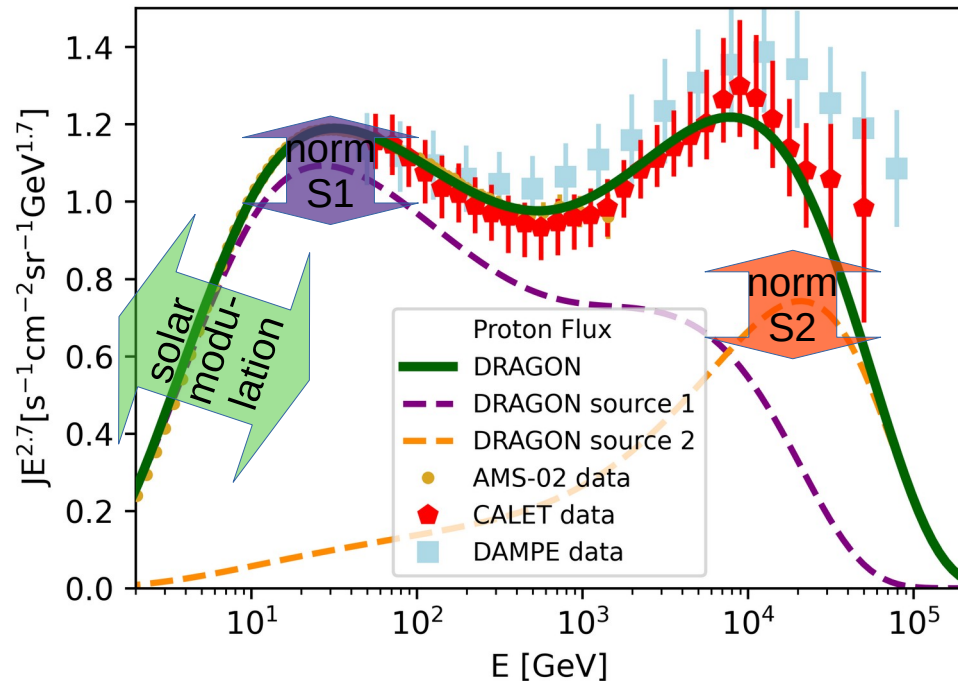
- **B/O ratio**

11 GV – 3.3 TV: AMS-02 PRL 120, 021101 (2018)

Fitting DRAGON Spectra to Data

Fit of **each DRAGON prediction** to the data by minimizing total χ^2 of all experimental data-sets

- Normalization correction factors
 - Proton Source 1 , Proton Source 2
 - Helium Source 1 , Helium Source 2
 - Carbon Source 1 , Carbon Source 2
 - Oxygen Source 1 , Oxygen Source 2
 - Silicon Source 1 , Silicon Source 2
 - Iron Source 1 , Iron Source 2
 - Nickel Source 1 , Nickel Source 2
- Solar modulation potential parameters
 - Φ_0
 - Φ_{1+} (positive charge)
 - Φ_{1-} (negative charge)
 - R_0



Charge sign and rigidity dependent
solar modulation potential:

$$\Phi = \Phi_0 + \Phi_{1\pm} \left(\frac{1 + (R/R_0)^2}{(R/R_0)^3} \right)$$

based on
Ilias Cholis, Dan Hooper, Tim Linden
Phys. Rev. D 93, 043016 (2016)
“A Predictive Analytic Model for the
Solar Modulation of Cosmic Rays”

DRAGON Parameter Optimization

- Explore the 16-dimensional parameter space and search for best fitting parameters using:
 - machine learning assisted random walk – train an ANN on already calculated data-points to predict the fit-quality in not yet explored regions of parameter space – pick next point in Markov-Chain MC as best one from a large number of ANN-evaluated candidate points
 - Linear Interpolation/Extrapolation – take composite flux from up to five already calculated data-points and adjust weights for best fit to data – apply same weights to superposition of the parameters to find the next point to calculate (if negative weights → extrapolation)
- Final model quality parameter: likelihood (p-value) of the worst fitting experiment → focus is on agreement with all experimental data-sets

Best Fitting Parameter Sets

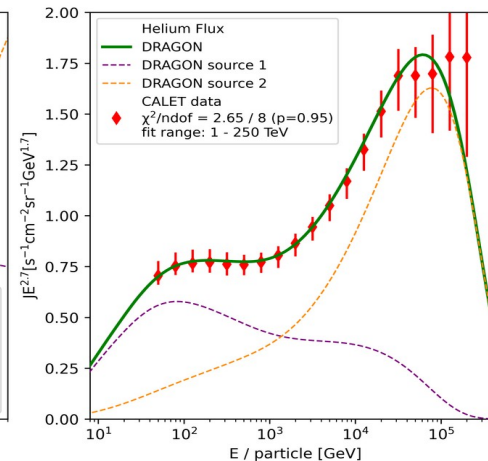
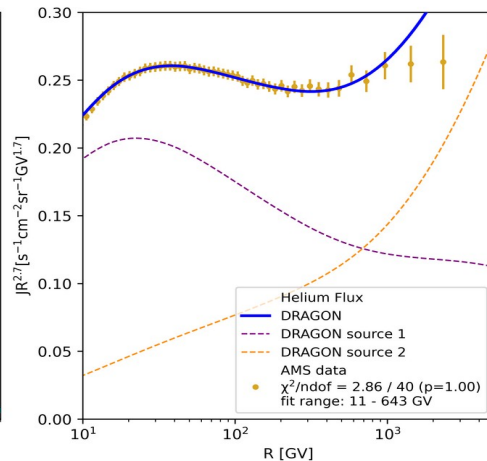
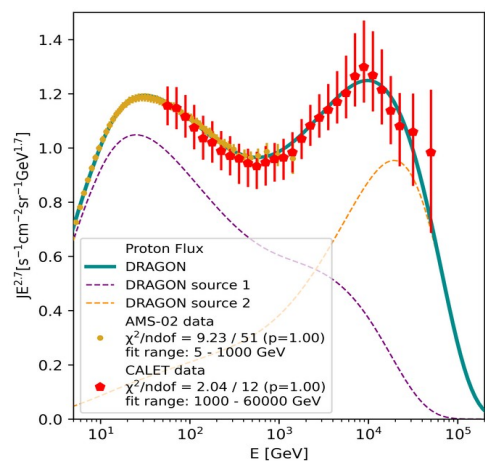
- Best fitting parameters for **CALET-focus model**:

γ_1	γ_2	R_{cut1} [TV]	R_{cut2} [TV]	w_{sa} [kpc]	D_0 [$10^{28}\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$]	z_s [kpc]	r_s [kpc]
2.3984	1.9777	15.7736	39.4342	0.2726	1.0045	2.2432	4.8984
δ_l	R_{bl} [GV]	s_l	δ	R_{bh} [GV]	s_h	δ_h	v_a [km/s]
0.1211	5.2354	0.1222	0.5675	684.4285	0.195	0.2321	9.1825

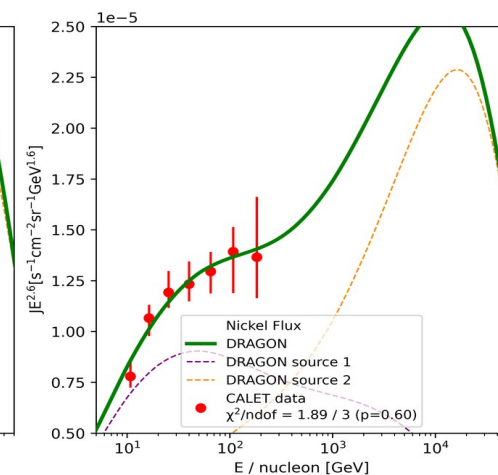
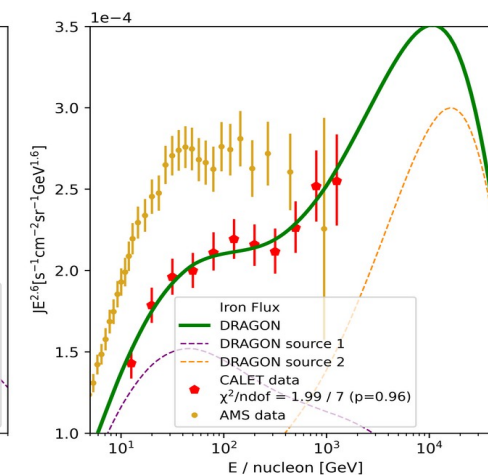
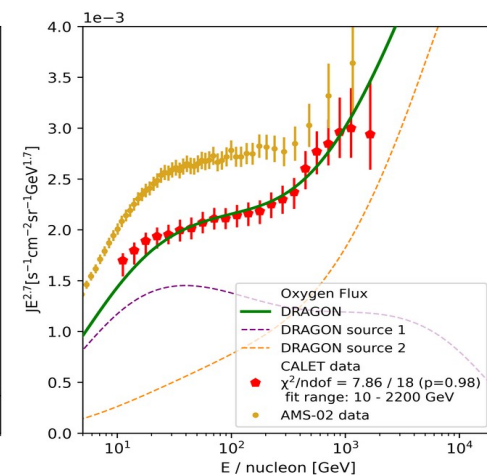
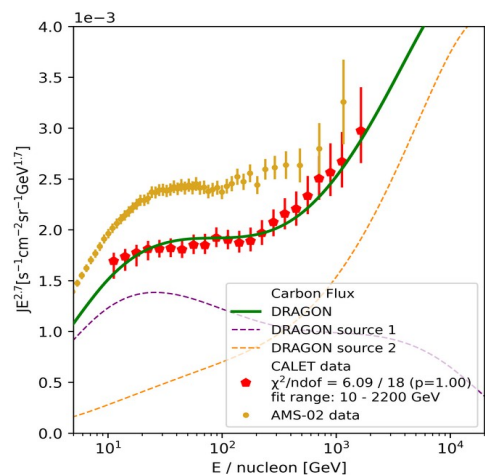
- Best fitting parameters for **AMS-focus model**:

γ_1	γ_2	R_{cut1} [TV]	R_{cut2} [TV]	w_{sa} [kpc]	D_0 [$10^{28}\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$]	z_s [kpc]	r_s [kpc]
2.3139	1.952	20.3496	42.7679	1.8441	0.852	1.932	4.4135
δ_l	R_{bl} [GV]	s_l	δ	R_{bh} [GV]	s_h	δ_h	v_a [km/s]
0.1641	8.2525	0.1083	0.5751	745.0963	0.264	0.1342	8.6837

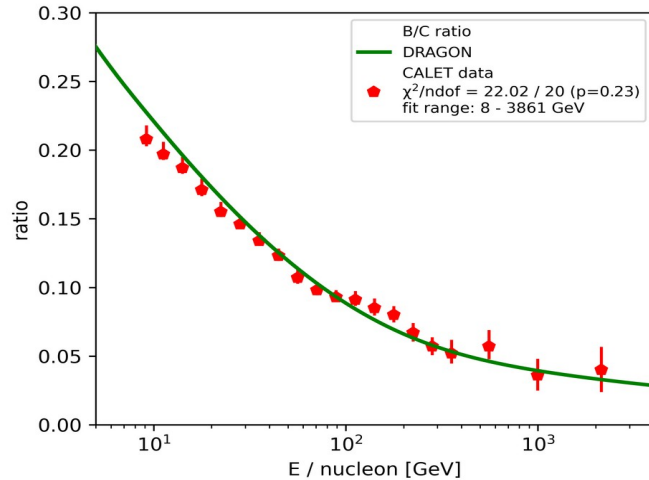
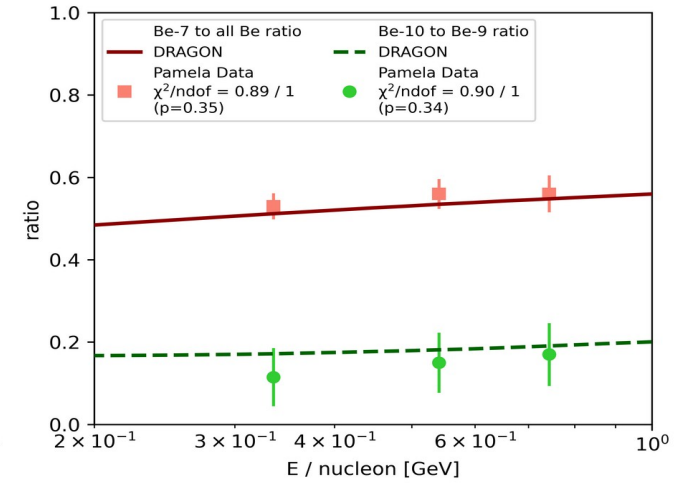
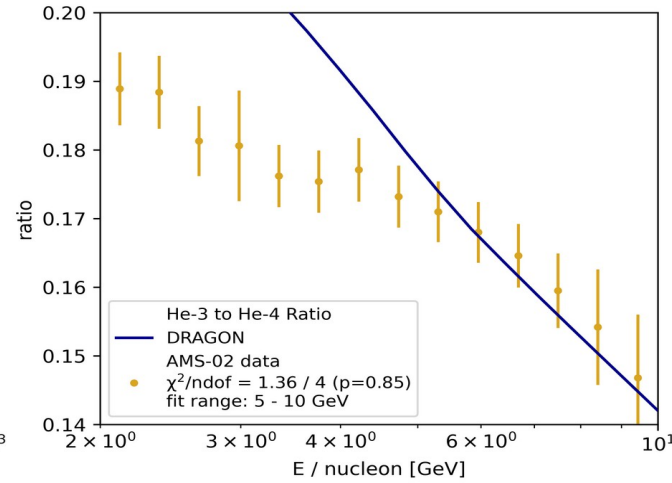
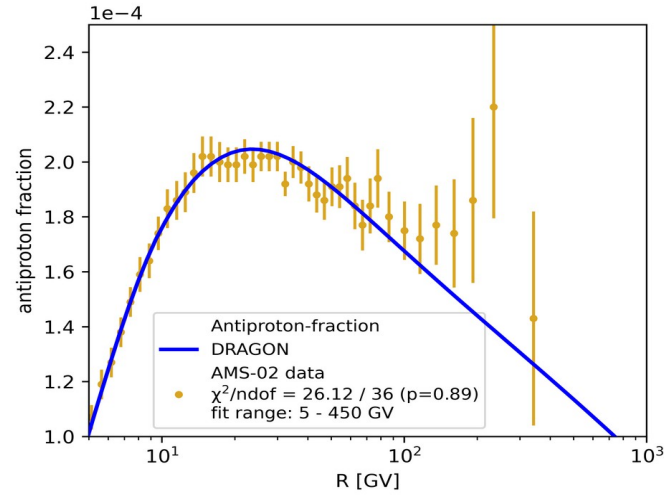
Primary Spectra Fit (CALET-focus)



- Overall fit quality:
 $\chi / \text{ndof} = 85.9 / 247$
- The model fits all primary spectra well
- Harder high-energy source causes the hardening at $R \sim 1$ TV mostly, propagation effect is secondary

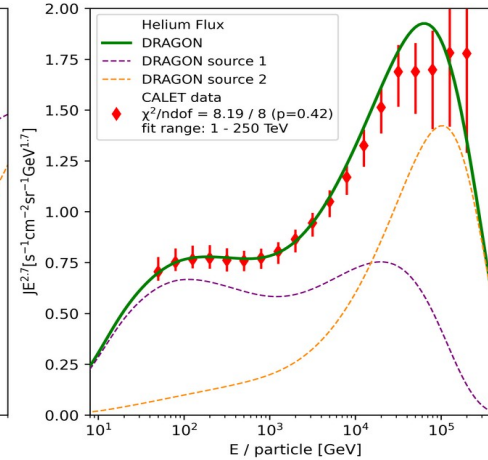
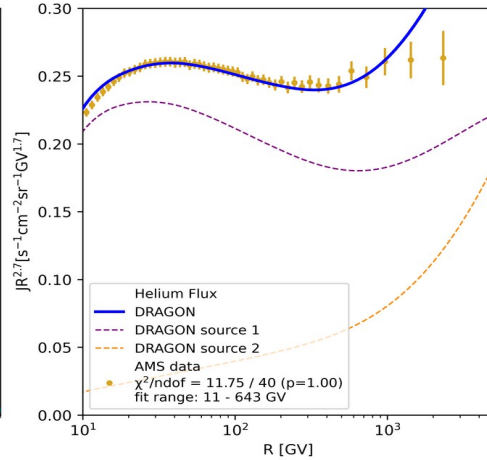
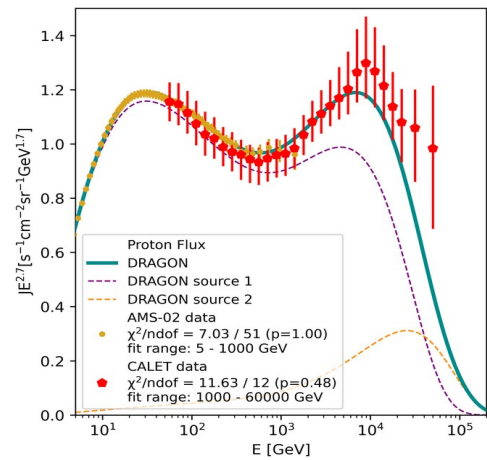


Secondary Ratios Fit (CALET-focus)

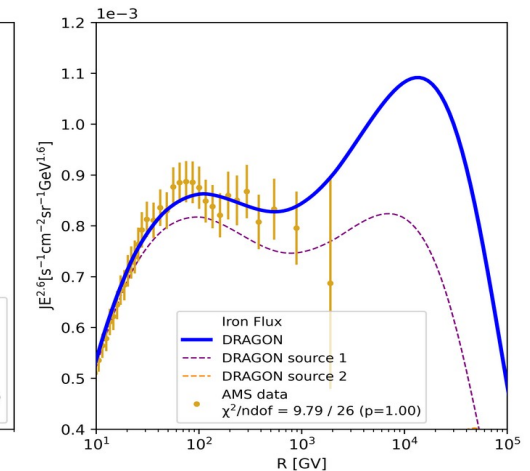
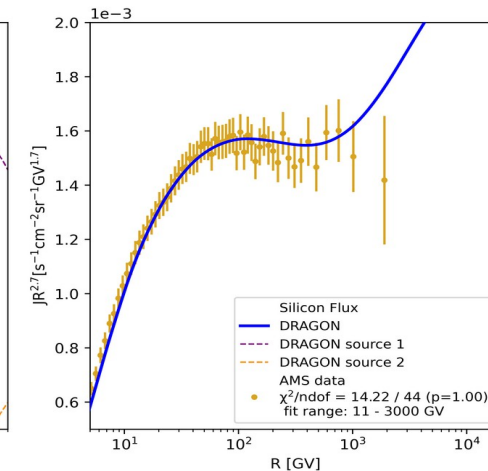
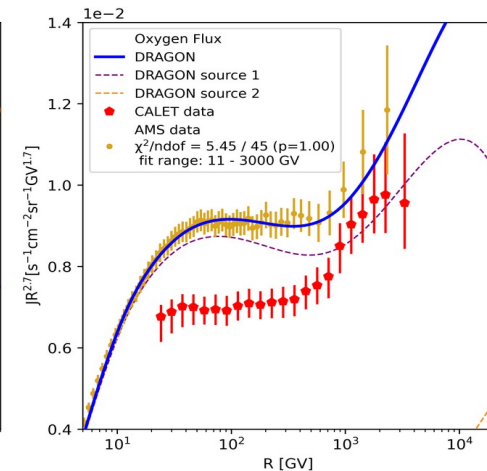
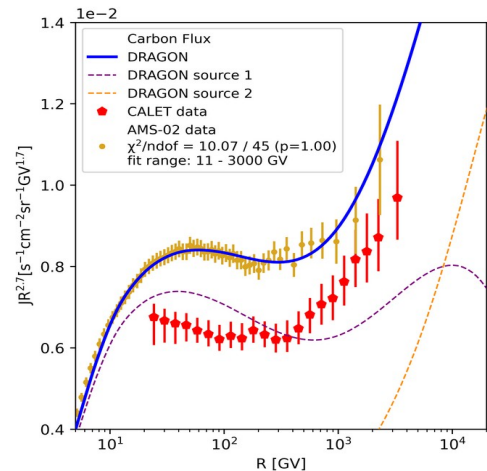


Worst likelihood $p=0.23$ for B/C ratio $\rightarrow$
Model not excluded by any of the data-sets
(Main constraint is conflict between low-energy B/C ratio and He-3 to He-4 ratio)

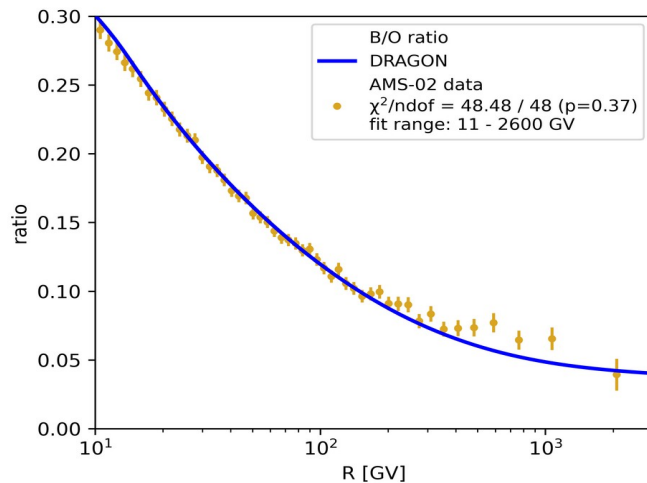
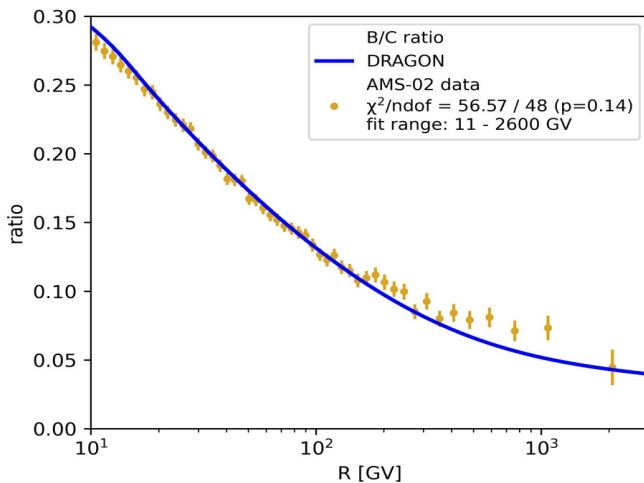
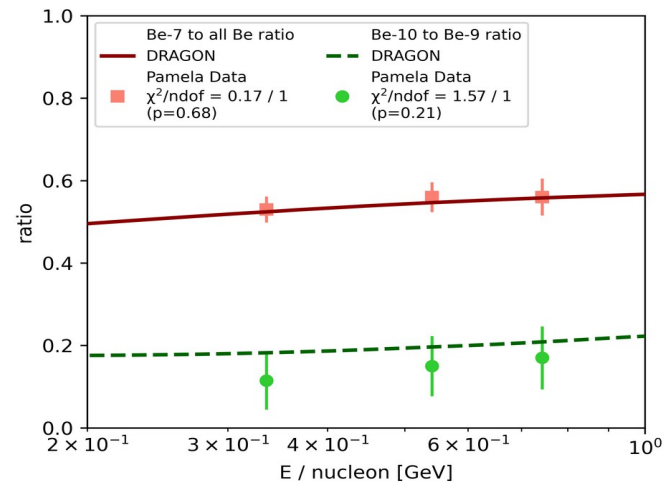
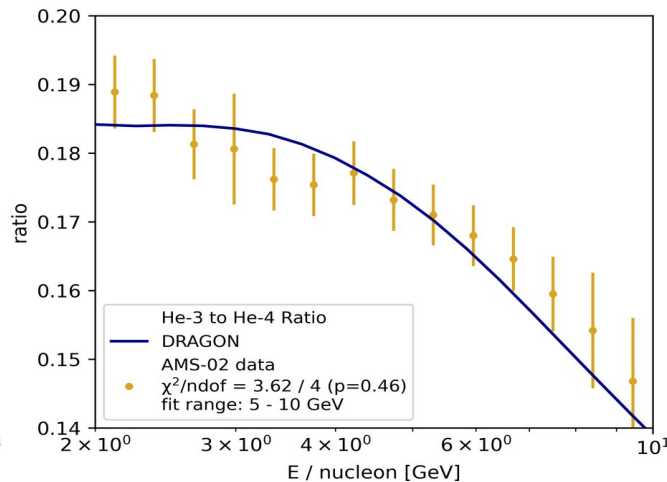
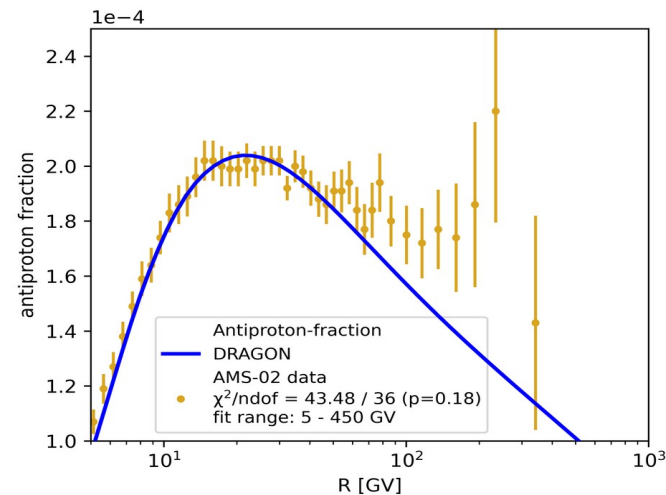
Primary Spectra Fit (AMS-focus)



- Overall fit quality:
 $\chi / \text{ndof} = 232.0 / 437$
- The model fits all primary spectra well
- Diffusion coefficient slope change and high-energy source together explain the hardening at $R \sim 1$ TV



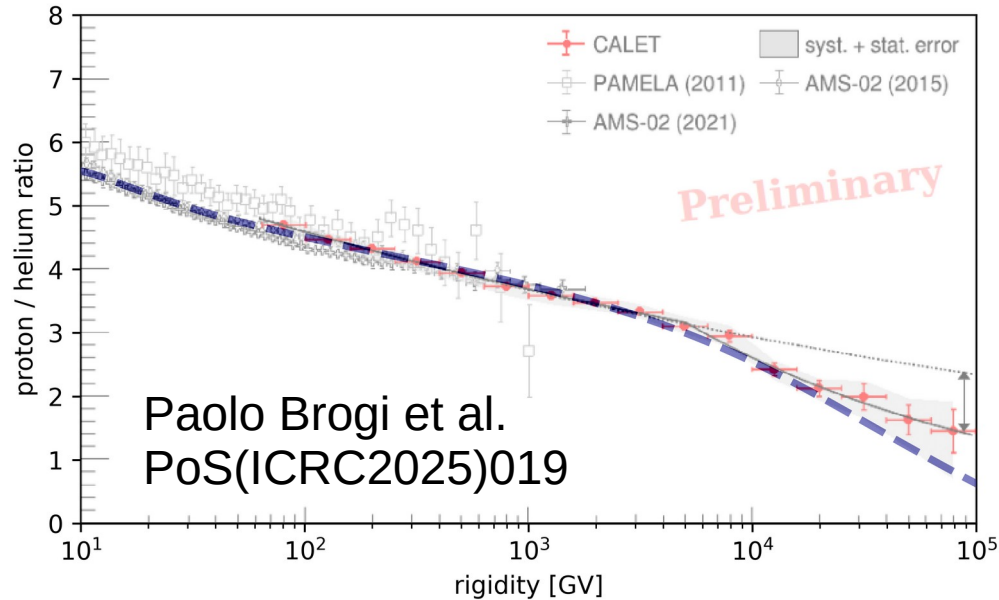
Secondary Ratios Fit (AMS-focus)



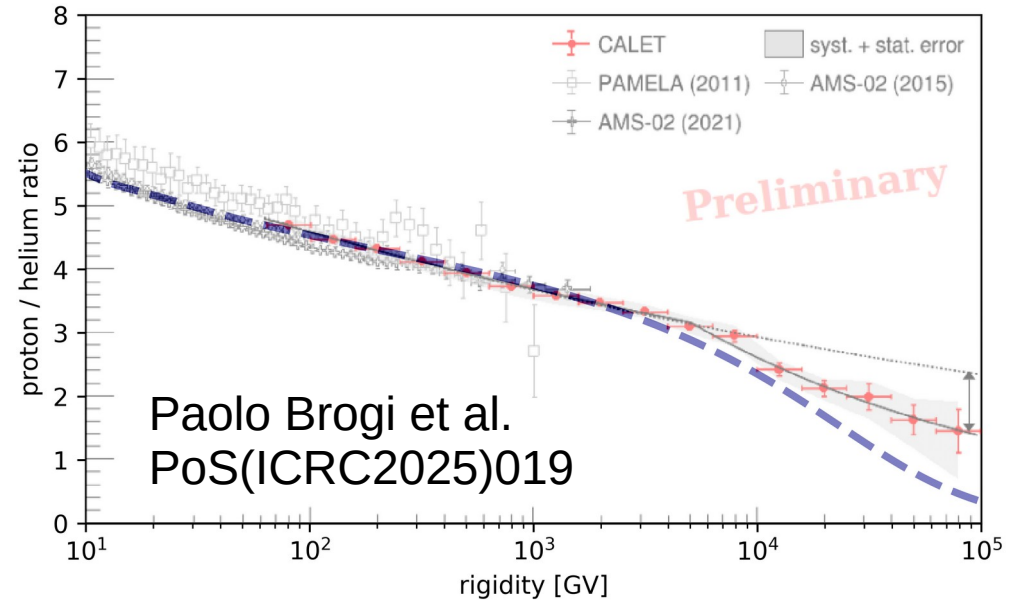
Worst likelihood $p=0.14$ for B/C ratio
→ Model not excluded by any of the data-sets
(Main constraint is conflict between low-energy B/C ratio and He-3 / He-4 ratio & AP fraction)

p/He Ratio

CALET-focus model



AMS-focus model

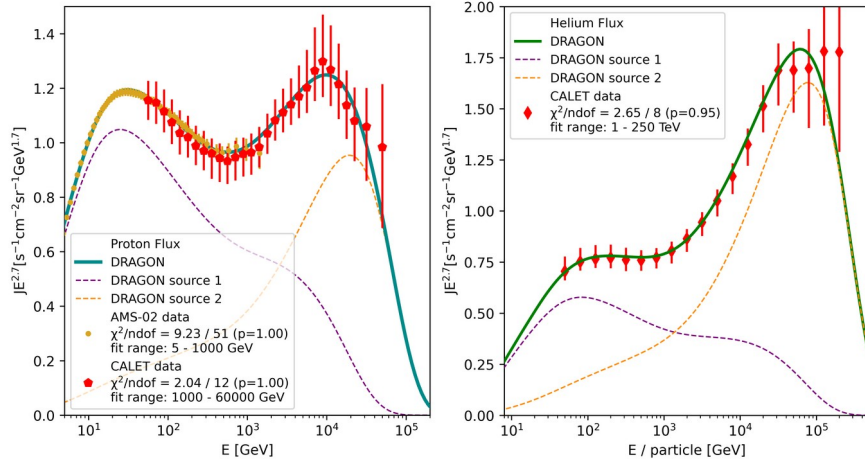


Preliminary, numerical data not published

→ p/He ratio not fitted directly, only qualitative comparison

The two-source model matches the observed change in slope of the p/He ratio

Helium Abundance Ratios

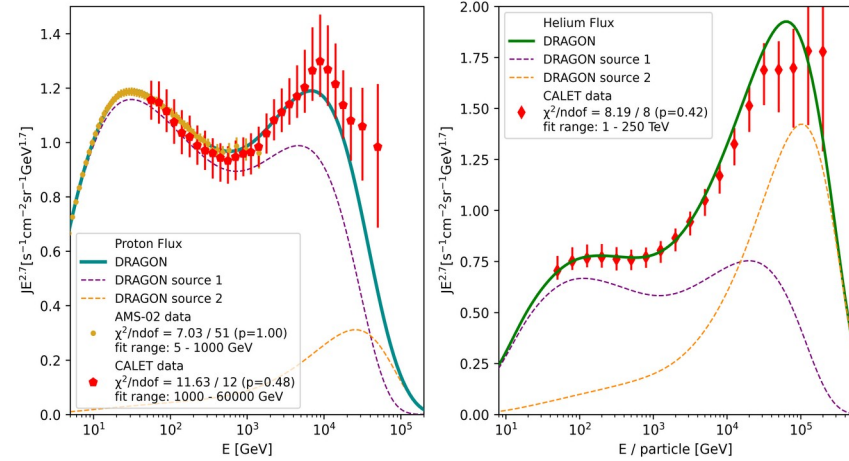


CALET-focus model

Helium / Hydrogen
abundance ratios:

Source 1: 7.76 %

Source 2: 19.0 %



AMS-focus model

Helium / Hydrogen
abundance ratios:

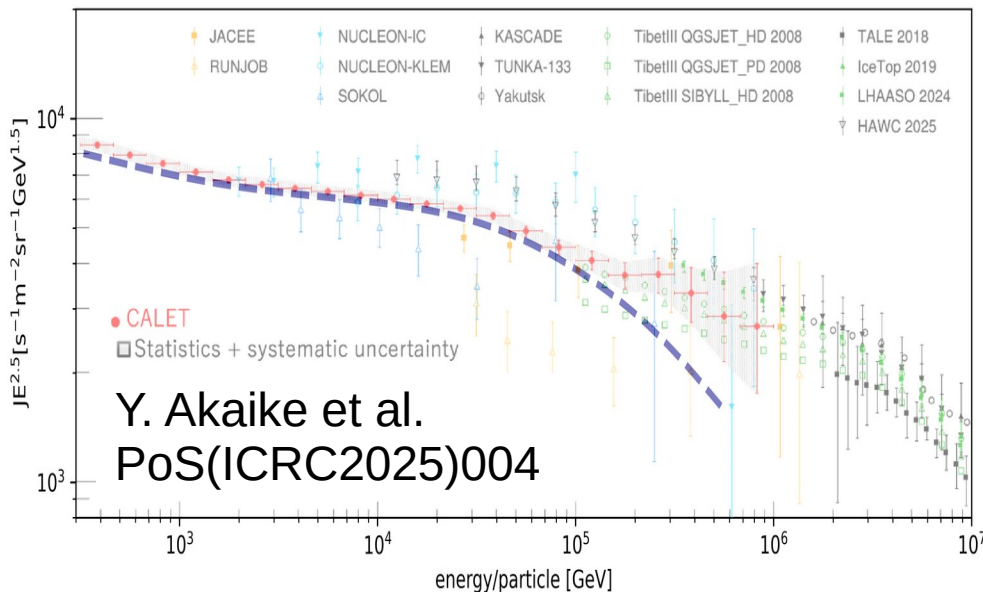
Source 1: 7.76 %

Source 2: 47.9 %

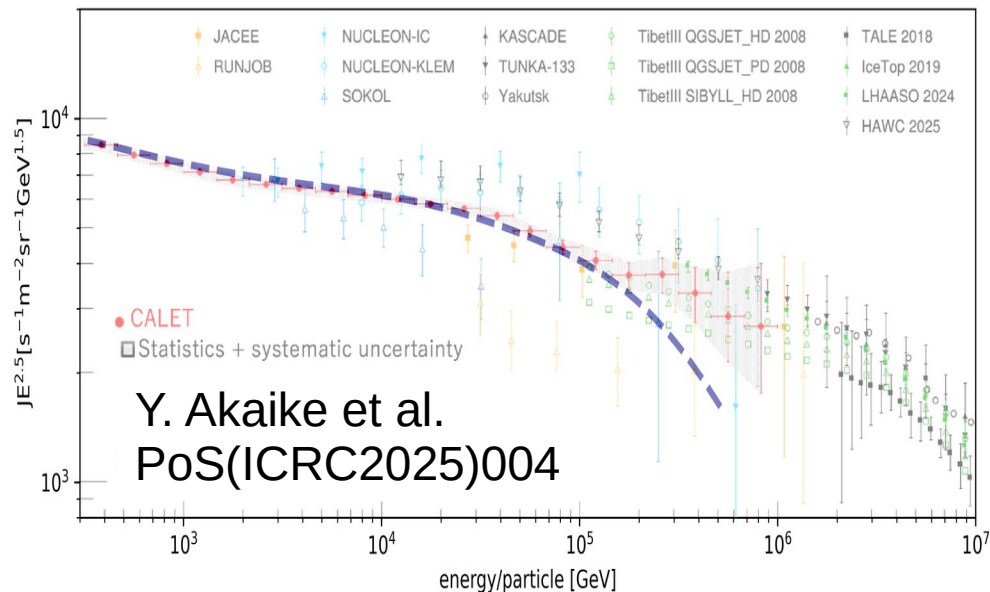
- helium rich high-energy source explains stronger hardening of Helium spectrum
- overall lower contribution of this source to the hardening in AMS-focus model
- larger helium abundance needed

All-nuclei Spectrum

CALET-focus model



AMS-focus model



Preliminary, numerical data not published

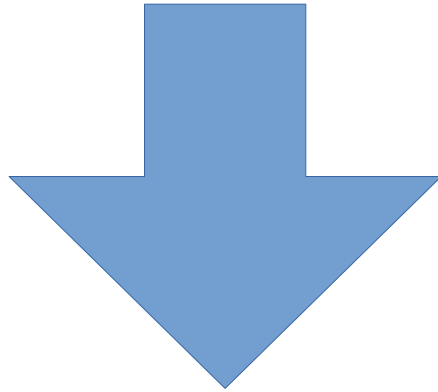
→ all-nuclei flux not fitted directly, only qualitative comparison

The two-source model matches the observed spectrum up to about 100 TeV and reproduces the softening between 10 and 100 TeV, indicating that the re-hardening near 200 TeV would correspond to another, higher-energy source category.

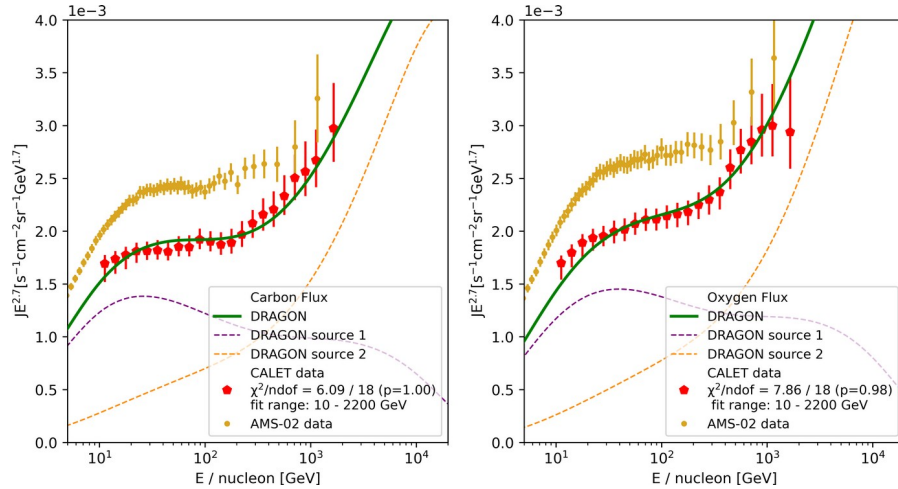
Conclusion and Outlook

- A two source category model with a helium-rich high energy source has been implemented in DRAGON and it is shown that it can
 - explain the observed break in the proton to Helium ratio
 - explain the harder spectrum of Helium compared to other nuclei
 - fit the most important nuclei spectra and primary to secondary ratios (for two models focusing on CALET and AMS-02 data respectively)
- Mapping of “allowed” parameter space and optimization continues
- Voyager data at very low energy outside heliosphere to be included

Backup Slides



Other Abundance Ratios



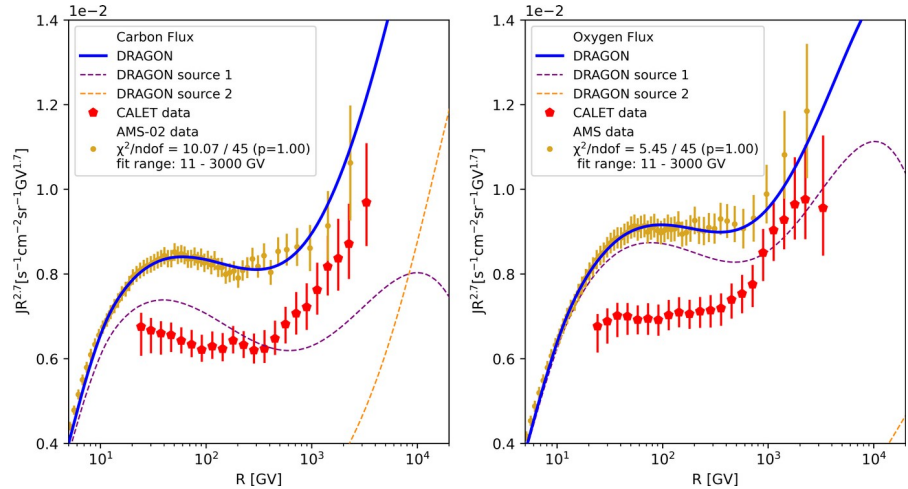
CALET-focus model

Carbon / Oxygen abundance ratios:

Source 1: 78.5 % ; Source 2: 79.8 %

Nickel / Iron abundance ratios:

Source 1: 6.10 % ; Source 2: 7.64 %



AMS-focus model

Carbon / Oxygen abundance ratios:

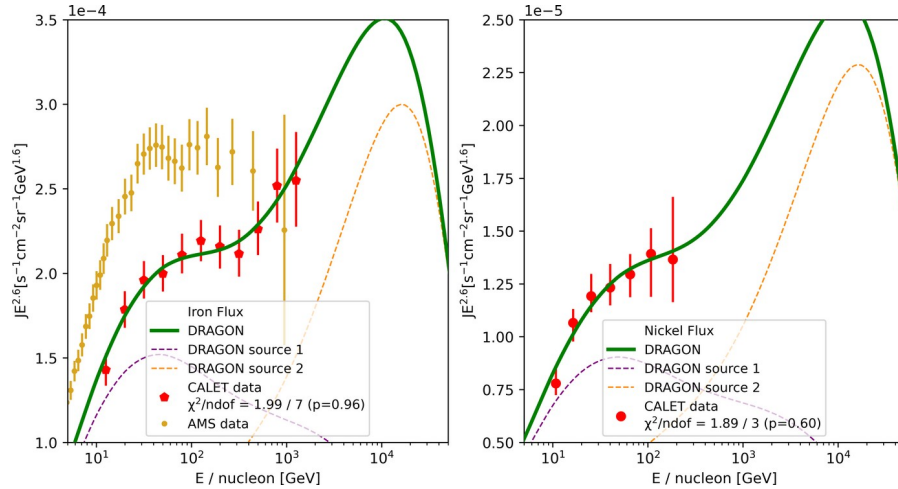
Source 1: 68.8 % ; Source 2: 244 %

Iron / Silicon abundance ratios:

Source 1: 89.2 % ; Source 2: $5 \cdot 10^8$ %
(source 2 has negligible silicon)

→ parameter optimization yields partly strange results but there is no strong constraint on the second source abundance for heavy elements from the observation data

Other Abundance Ratios



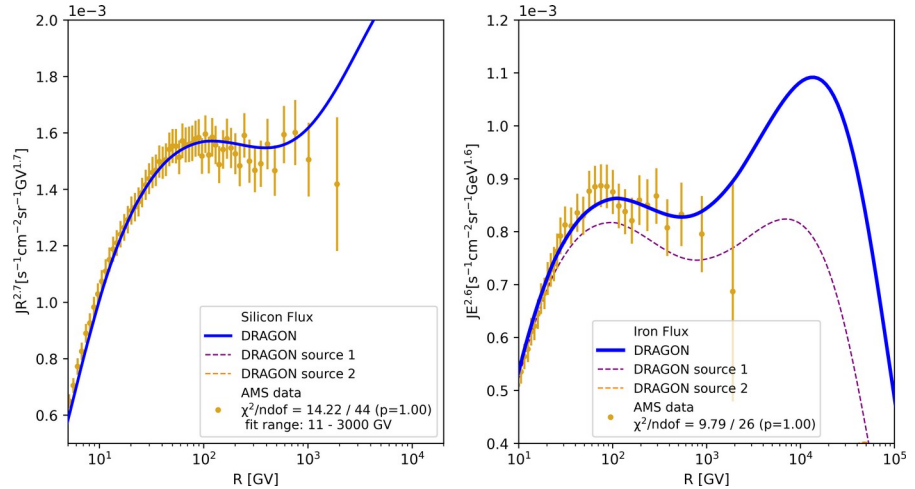
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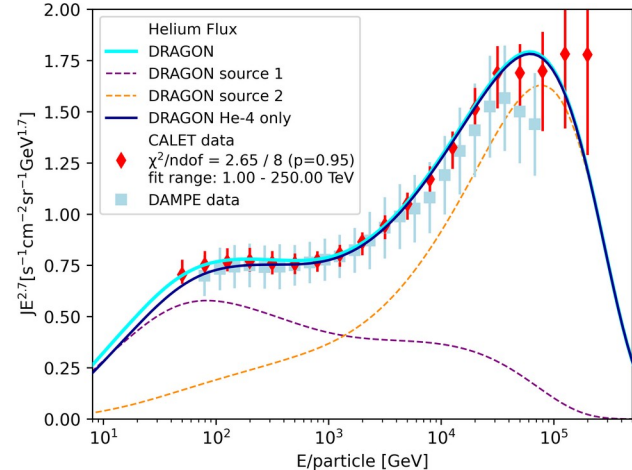
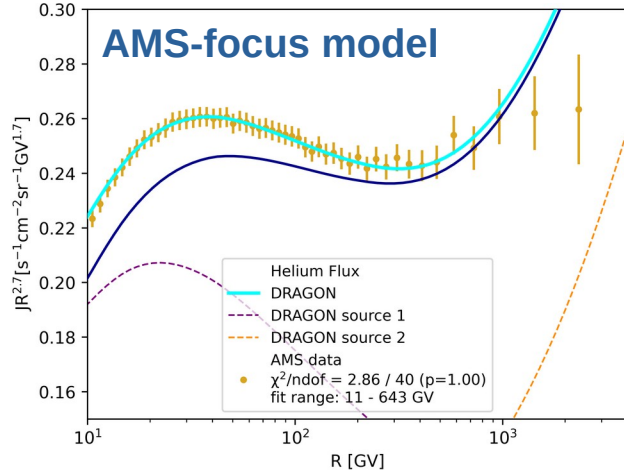
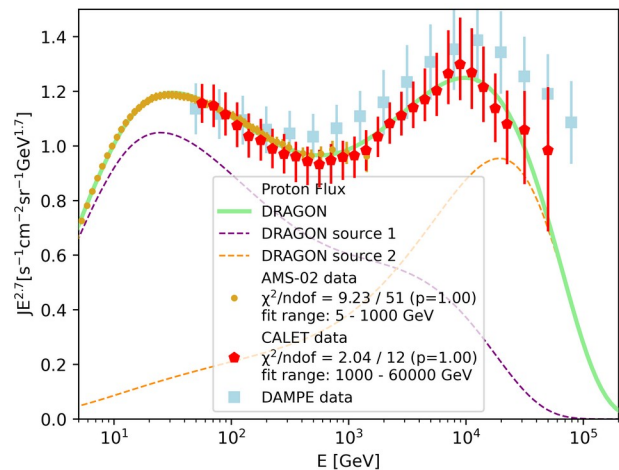
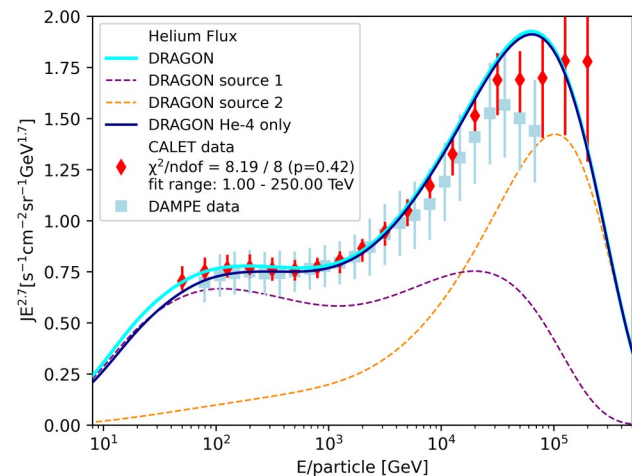
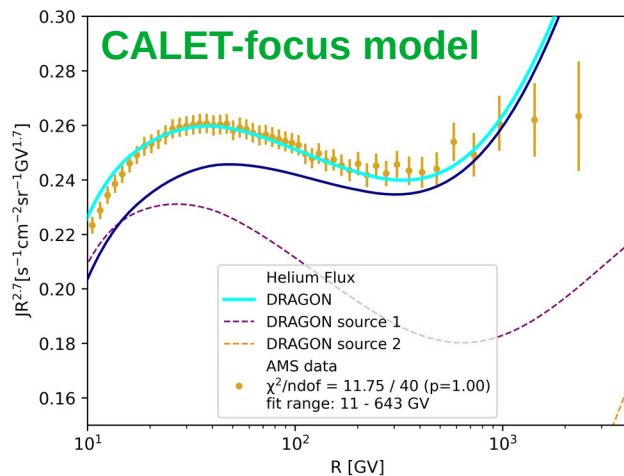
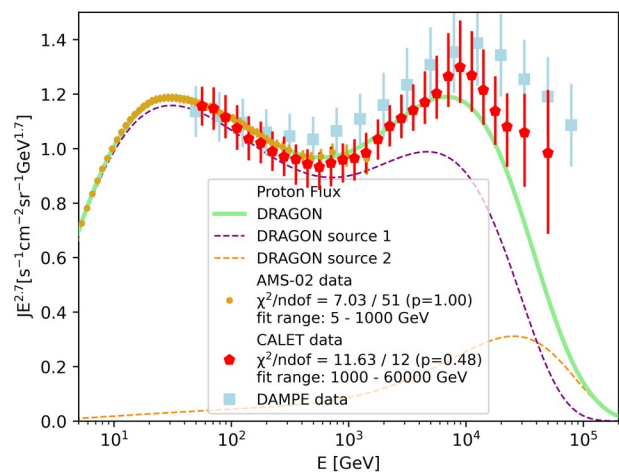
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Comparison to DAMPE Data and He-3 Influence on He-spectrum



Details of Parameter Optimization

- Initially optimization of helium-proton (with antiproton) range. After convergence to a well-fitting model calculation is extended to silicon-proton range. Finally nickel-proton range is calculated for confirmation (a correction factor for influence of heavier nuclei is used in partial calculations)
- Model quality parameters change during the optimization
 - Initially used for coarse optimization: total χ^2 , sum of reduced χ^2 over all experiments, squared sum of reduced χ^2 over all experiments, total χ^2 for fit of ratios, sum of reduced χ^2 over all experiments plus total χ^2 , maximum reduced χ^2 out of all experiments
 - Finally used for fine tuning: sum of negative log-likelihoods over all experiments, squared sum of negative log-likelihoods over all experiments, sum of negative log-likelihoods over ratio experiments, sum of negative log-likelihoods over all experiments counting the largest double, maximum negative log-likelihoods out of all experiments

Details of Fitting to Data

- Helium normalization for source 1 is not only fitted as a correction factor, but iteratively interpolated between two DRAGON calculations with 5% and 10% Helium (relative to proton) abundance, as it was found that the initial helium abundance influences the fit slightly. Helium abundance for source 2 is set to 20% of proton initially.
- Normalization correction factor for boron is calculated as 0.6 times normalization factor of carbon plus 0.4 times normalization factor of oxygen (assuming 60% of boron originate from carbon, and 40% from oxygen)