Astroparticle Physics 2020/21

Lectures:

- 1. Historical introduction, basic properties of cosmic rays
- 2. Hadronic interactions and accelerator data
- 3. Cascade equations
- 4. Electromagnetic cascades
- 5. Extensive air showers
- 6. Detectors for extensive air showers
- 7. High energy cosmic rays and the knee in the energy spectrum of cosmic rays
- 8. Radio detection of extensive air showers
- 9. Acceleration, astrophysical accelerators and beam dumps
- 10. Extragalactic propagation of cosmic rays
- 11. Ultra high energy cosmic rays
- 12. Astrophysical gamma rays and neutrinos
- 13. Neutrino astronomy
- 14. Gamma-ray astronomy

http://particle.astro.ru.nl/goto.html?astropart2021

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lecture 8 Radio detection of extensive air showers Gaisser chapter 16

16 Extensive air showers

- 16.1 Basic features of air showers
- 16.2 The Heitler–Matthews splitting model
- 16.3 Muons in air showers
- 16.4 Nuclei and the superposition model
- 16.5 Elongation rate theorem
- 16.6 Shower universality and cross section measurement
- 16.7 Particle detector arrays
- 16.8 Atmospheric Cherenkov light detectors
- 16.9 Fluorescence telescopes

16.10 Radio signal detection

First radio detection of air showers 1965

Blackett's Field ~1967 **Porter MSc**

Jelley et al Nature 1965 R. A. Porter MSc Thesis 1967

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Haverah Park (Leeds)

Allan 1971



H.R. Allan, Prog. Element. Part. Cosmic Ray Phys (1971) 169



First European Symposium on High Energy Interactions and Extensive Air Shower: Lodz, Poland April 1968



The renaissance of radio detection of cosmic rays

TIM HUEGE¹



Figure 1: Number of contributions related to radio detection of cosmic rays or neutrinos to the ICRCs since 1965. The field has grown very impressively since the modern activities started around 2003. Data up to 2007 were taken from [11].

Radio Detectors



Radio detection of extensive air showers around the world



Fig. 21. Map of the total geomagnetic field strengths (world magnetic model [207]) and the location of various radio experiments detecting cosmic-ray air showers.







~150 antennas ~17 km² 30-80 MHz

- - •
 - • •
 - • •
 - • •

LOFAR core 23 stations ~5 km²



>2000 antennas

1 km



~150 antennas ~17 km² 30-80 MHz













~150 antennas ~17 km² 30-80 MHz









25 stations since August 2010

100 stations since March 2013

+25 stations since March 2015

A measured air shower



Jörg R. Hörandel, APP 2020/21 14

LOFAR Signal Chain



K. Mulrey, ARENA 2018

LOFAR

Calibration Results





- Galaxy model now limits systematic uncertainties
- Uncertainties from electronic noise are found by comparing resulting calibration constants for different antennas

Uncertainty	Percentage
event-to-event fluctuation	4
galaxy model	12
electronic noise < 77 MHz	5-6
electronic noise > 77 MHz	10-20
total < 77 m MHz	14



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OFAR

K. Mulrey, ARENA 2018



Radiation Processes





"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

Radio Emission in Air Showers



Arrival direction of showers with strong radio signals

north-south asymmetry v x B effect



LOFAR



110 - 190 MHz

A. Nelles et al., Astroparticle Physics 65 (2015) 11

Azimuth [°]

Arrival direction of showers with strong radio signals

north-south asymmetry v x B effect





T. Huege / Physics Reports 620 (2016) 1–52 5 100m sound is 3 200m Core position 2 300m Spectral electric field [V/m/MHz] 500m 10⁻⁵ Electric field x axis distance² [V/m x m²] 700m 2 900m 5 2 10⁻⁶ 100m 200m 5 300m 500m 2 700m -1 ∟ 0 10⁻⁷ 844 10² 20 40 60 80 2 2 5 5 10 2 time x speed of light [m] frequency [MHz]

Fig. 4. Radio pulses (top) arising from the time-variation of the geomagnetically induced transverse currents in a 10¹⁷ eV air shower as observed at various observer distances from the shower axis and their corresponding frequency spectra (bottom). Refractive index effects are not included. *Source:* Adapted from [18].

Primar Partici

Radio Emission in Air Showers



cosmic ray

Polarization footprint of an individual air shower



Charge excess fraction



Charge excess fraction





P. Schellart et al., JCAP 10 (2014) 014

A. Aab, PRD 89 (2014) 052002

Jörg R. Hörandel, APP 2020/21 26

Footprint of radio emission on the ground







v x (**v** x B)





A. Nelles et al., Astropart. Phys. 60 (2015) 13

Properties of incoming cosmic ray

direction energy type

Direction



Shape of Shower Front

fit quality

A. Corstanje et al., Astropart. Phys. 61 (2015) 22

Shape of Shower Front

LOFAR

Accuracy of Shower Direction

A. Corstanje et al., Astropart. Phys. 61 (2015) 22

Jörg R. Hörandel, APP 2020/21 33

A. Nelles et al., JCAP 05 (2015) 018

Measurement of the Radiation Energy in the Radio Signal of Extensive Air Showers as a Universal Estimator of Cosmic-Ray Energy

A. Aab et al., PRL 116 (2016) no.24, 241101

Measurement of the Radiation Energy in the Radio Signal of Extensive Air Showers as a Universal Estimator of Cosmic-Ray Energy

A. Aab et al., PRL 116 (2016) no.24, 241101

Energy Estimation of Cosmic Rays with the Engineering Radio Array of the Pierre Auger Observatory E_{30-80} MHz = 15.8 MeV @ 10¹⁸ eV

A. Aab et al., PRD 93 (2016) no.12, 122005 A. Aab et al., PRL 116 (2016) no.24, 241101

Cosmic-ray energy (Cherenkov) vs radio signal

Fig. 3. Correlation of the energy measured with the air-Cherenkov array and an energy estimator based on the radio amplitude at 100 m measured with Tunka-Rex. The line indicates a linear correlation.

Mass

A. Nelles et al., JCAP 05 (2015) 018

Measurement of appentic mass

300

[5] The energy resolution of 32% is given by the distribution of the ratio between the energy scaling factor of the radio reconstruction and the particle reconstruction from the LORA array

[6] The uncertainty on Xmax is found with a Monte Carlo study For this sample the mean uncertainty is 17 g/cm²

S. Buitink et al., PRD 90 (2014) 082003

Depth of the shower maximum

LETTER nature

A large light-mass component of cosmic rays at 10^{17} - $10^{17.5}$ electronvolts from radio observations

S. Buitink^{1,2}, A. Corstanje², H. Falcke^{2,3,4,5}, J. R. Hörandel^{2,4}, T. Huege⁶, A. Nelles^{2,7}, J. P. Rachen², L. Rossetto², P. Schellart²

Cosmic rays are the highest-energy particles found in nature. Measurements of the mass composition of cosmic rays with energies of 1017-1018 electronvolts are essential to understanding whether they have galactic or extragalactic sources. It has also been proposed that the astrophysical neutrino signal¹ comes from accelerators capable of producing cosmic rays of these energies². Cosmic rays initiate air showers-cascades of secondary particles in the atmosphere—and their masses can be inferred from measurements of the atmospheric depth of the shower maximum³ (X_{max}) the depth of the air shower when it contains the most particles) or of the composition of shower particles reaching the ground⁴. Current measurements⁵ have either high uncertainty, or a low duty cycle and a high energy threshold. Radio detection of cosmic rays⁶⁻⁸ is a rapidly developing technique⁹ for determining X_{max} (refs 10, 11) with a duty cycle of, in principle, nearly 100 per cent. The radiation is generated by the separation of relativistic electrons and positrons is generated by the separation of relativistic electrons and positrons in the geomagnetic field and a negative charge excess in the shower front^{6,12}. Here we report radio measurements of X_{max} with a mean uncertainty of 16 grams per square centimetre for air showers

initiated by cosmic rays with energies of 10^{17} – $10^{17.5}$ electronvolts. This high resolution in $X_{\rm max}$ enables us to determine the mass spectrum of the cosmic rays: we find a mixed composition, with a light-mass fraction (protons and helium nuclei) of about 80 per cent. Unless, contrary to current expectations, the extragalactic component of cosmic rays contributes substantially to the total flux below 10^{17.5} electronvolts, our measurements indicate the existence being to the electronoms, our measurements matate the existence of an additional galactic component, to account for the light composition that we measured in the $10^{17} - 10^{17.5}$ electronovel range. Observations were made with the Low Frequency Array (LOFAR¹³), a radio telescope consisting of thousands of crossed dipoles with built-in air-shower-detection capability¹⁴ LOFAR continuously records the radio signals from air showers, while simultaneously running astronomical observations. It comprises a scintillator array (LORA) that triggers the read-out of buffers, storing the full wave-forms received by all antennas.

We selected air showers from the period June 2011 to January 2015 with radio pulses detected in at least 192 antennas. The total uptime was about 150 days, limited by construction and commissioning of the

S. Buitink et al., Nature 531 (2016) 70

Mean logarithmic mass

S. Thoudam et al., A&A 595 (2016) A33

Determine the properties of the incoming particle with the radio technique

- direction $\sim 0.1^{\circ} 0.5^{\circ}$
- energy ~ 20% 30%
- type (X_{max}) ~ 20 40 g/cm² (depending on detector spacing)

—> radio technique is routinely used to measure properties of cosmic rays

Concept of ARIANNA

- On ice-shelf: Ice-water boundary almost perfect reflector for radio emission
- Independent antenna stations can be installed at low costs on the surface
- Real-time data transfer via satellite
- Solar and wind power possible
- High gain antennas (50 - 1000 MHz) can be used to instrument a large volume
- Array of about 1000 antennas needed

use slope of measured frequency spectrum to derive energy and other shower parameters

S.W. Barwick et al., Astropart. Phys. 90 (2017) 50

Upgrade of the Pierre Auger Observatory (astro-)physics of the highest-energy particles in nature

muonic component

upgrade PAO

- electronics
- scintillator layer
- radio detector

adronic component

Key science questions

- •What are the sources and acceleration mechanisms of ultra-high-energy cosmic rays (UHECRs)?
- •Do we understand particle acceleration and physics at energies well beyond the LHC (Large Hadron Collider) scale?
- •What is the fraction of protons, photons, and neutrinos in cosmic rays at the highest energies?

A large radio array at the Pierre Auger Observatory AERA 17 k

preparatory work & feasibility

AERA 17 km² --> 3000 km²

horizontal air showers registered and reconstructed with existing AERA

A. Aab et al., JCAP 10 (2018) 026

this is MEASURED with the small 17km² AERA

A. Aab et al., JCAP 10 (2018) 026

since May 2019 complete prototype at Auger observatory

- new SALLA antenna
- new LNA
- new digitizer/front end coupled to UUB

data are integrated in SD data stream and transported to CDAS

we have now ONE system comprising of WCD, SSD, RD

since November 2019 10 prototype stations installed

photo: Tim Huege

First Rd Signal

File FD SD RD MD Atm MC

mechanical mounting of RD on wcd

final version of LNA, RU Nijmegen, June 2019

developed at RU Nijmegen

Detection aperture and event statistics

- High zenith angles become efficient early, contribute smaller apertures
- Lower zenith angles contribute larger apertures, become efficient later
- 3000 fully efficient events above 10¹⁹ eV in 10 years (300 above 10^{19.5} eV)

Measurement of the fluctuations in the number of muons in inclined air showers with the Pierre Auger Observatory

Felix Riehn^{*a} for the Pierre Auger Collaboration^{†b}

Figure 4: Shower-to-shower fluctuations (left) and the average number of muons (right) in inclined air showers as a function of the primary energy. For the fluctuations, the statistical uncertainty (error bars) is dominant, while for $\langle R_{\mu} \rangle$ the systematic uncertainty (square brackets) is dominant. The shift in the markers for the systematic uncertainty in the average number of muons represents the uncertainty in the energy scale.

PROCEEI

Muon content in horizontal air showers

- More than 6000 showers expected above 10^{18.8} eV in 10 years
- Energy resolution is not critical (assuming 20% here)
- Can also study zenith angle dependence

Mass composition sensitivity

- Energy from RD
- Muon number from WCD
- Correct for energy dependence of muon number to exploit its mass composition sensitivity

Mass composition sensitivity

Figure 7: Figure of merit for the separation of proton-induced and iron-induced air showers using the ratio r defined in eqn. (1), various assumed resolutions for the determination of the electromagnetic energy with the Radio Detector, and different cut-offs for the lowest (smeared) electromagnetic energy. Left: using Monte-Carlo true arrival directions and knowledge of X_{max} for each individual air shower. Right: using arrival directions as reconstructed by the Surface Detector and X_{max} values known with a resolution of 100 g/cm². [33]

Sky coverage with mass sensitivity

Measuring the properties of cosmic rays with the radio technique

