## Astroparticle Physics 2023/24

- 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 energy cosmic rays
- 12. Astrophysical gamma rays and neutrinos
- 13. Neutrino astronomy
- 14. Gamma-ray astronomy

## 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

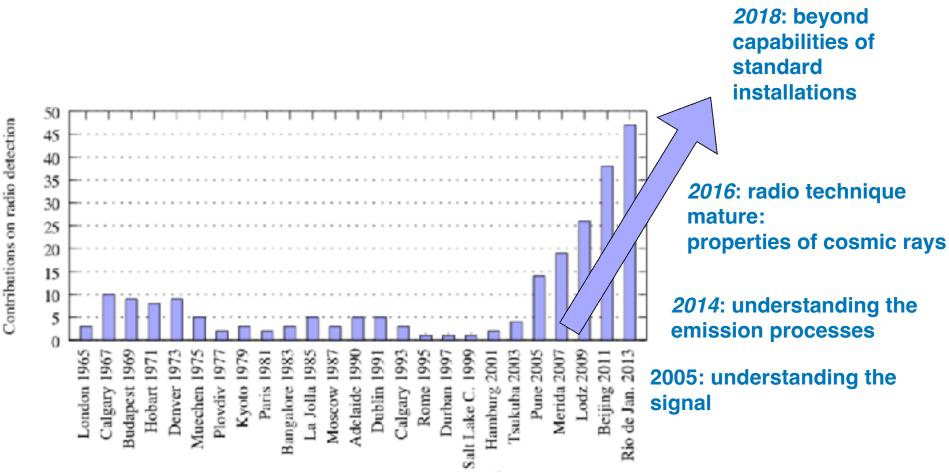
Blackett's Field ~1967 Porter MSc

Jelley et al Nature 1965 R. A. Porter MSc Thesis 1967 8 🚅



#### The renaissance of radio detection of cosmic rays

TIM HUEGE<sup>1</sup>



**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

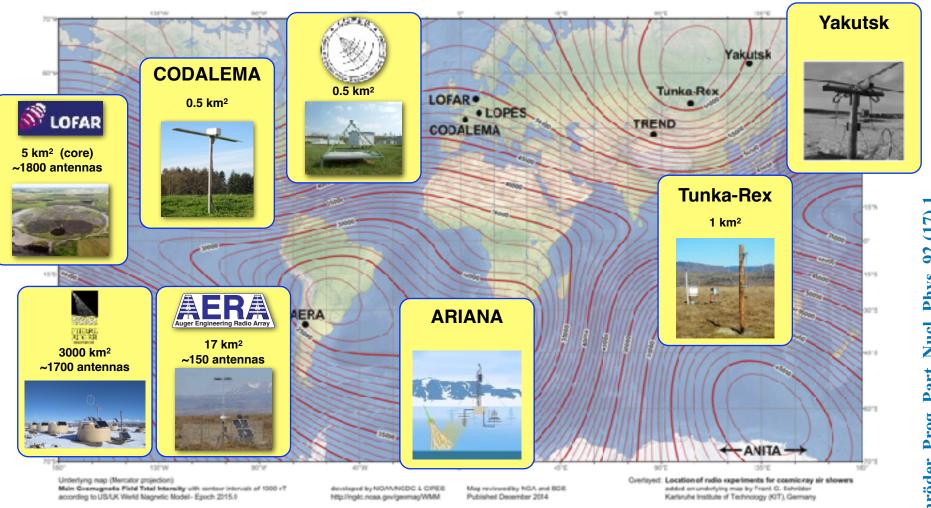
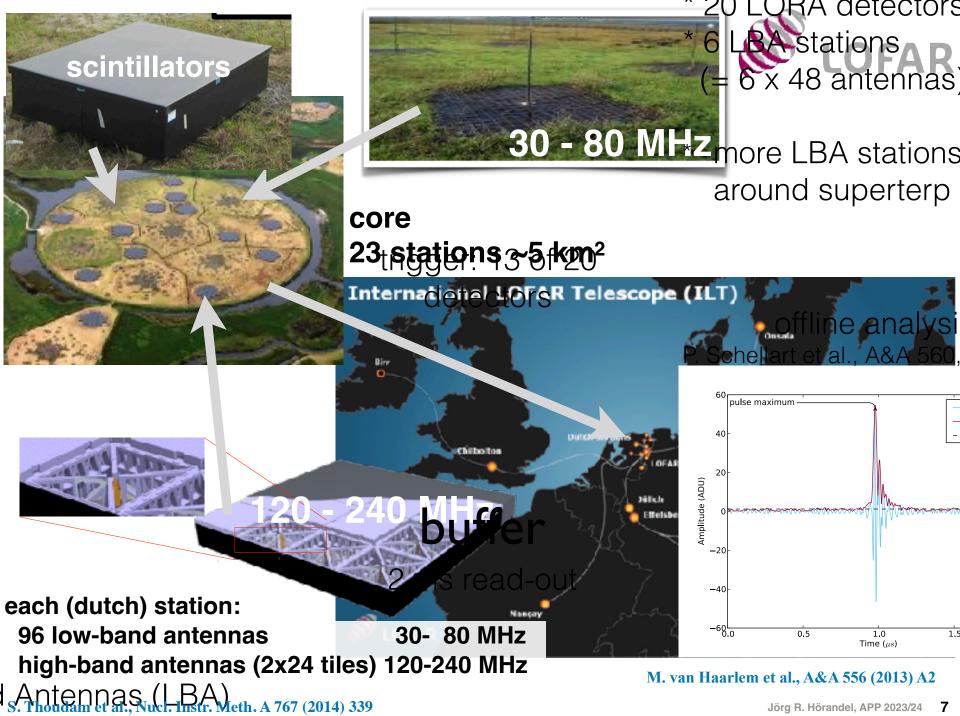
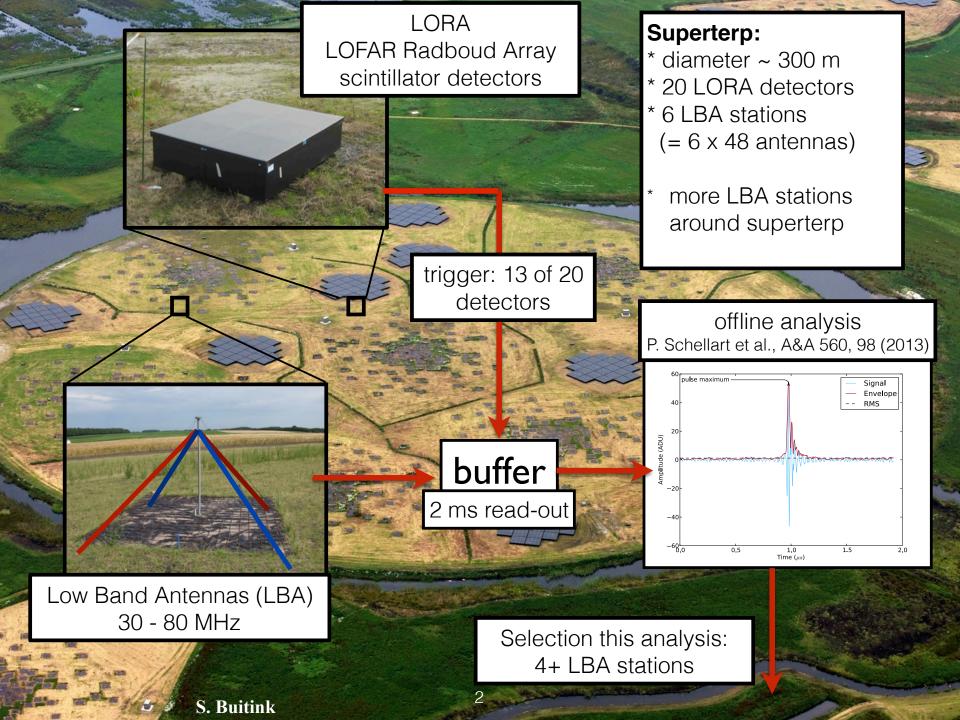


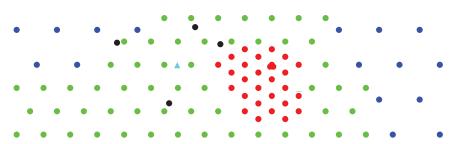
Fig. 21. Map of the total geomagnetic field strengths (world magnetic model [207]) and the location of various radio experiments detecting cosmic-ray air showers.







#### ~150 antennas ~17 km<sup>2</sup> 30-80 MHz











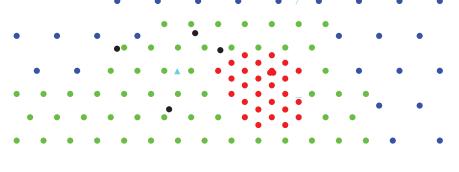
## **LOFAR** core 23 stations ~5 km<sup>2</sup>

>2000 antennas

1 km



#### ~150 antennas ~17 km<sup>2</sup> 30-80 MHz

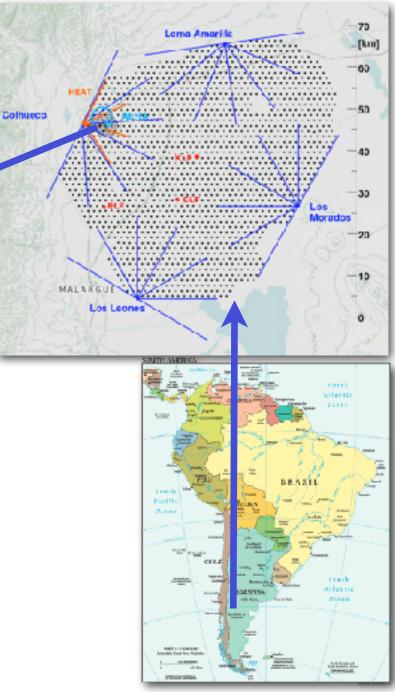










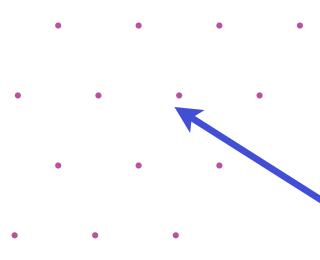




#### ~150 antennas ~17 km<sup>2</sup> 30-80 MHz





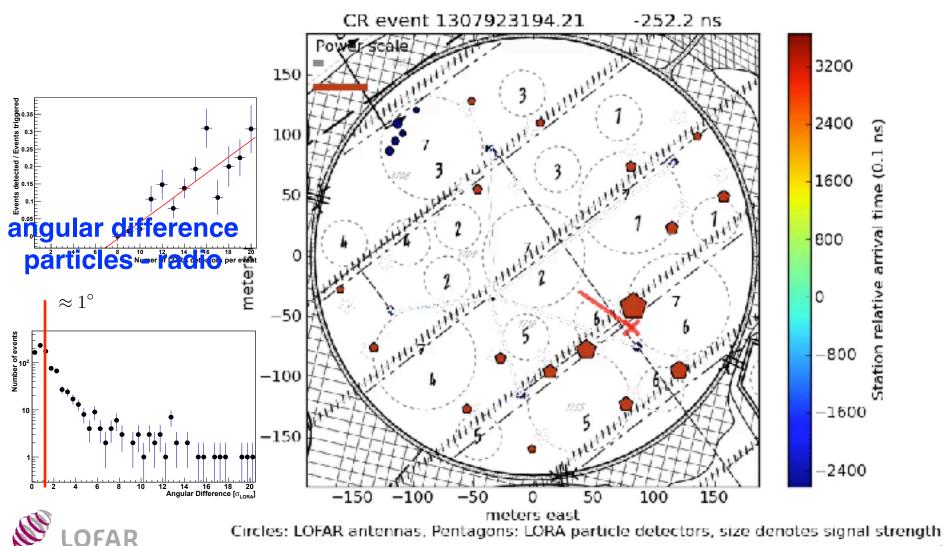


## 25 stations since August 2010

## 100 stations since March 2013

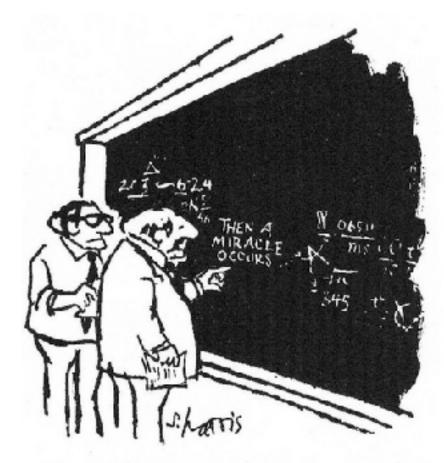
#### +25 stations since March 2015

## A measured air shower



Jörg R. Hörandel, APP 2023/24 12

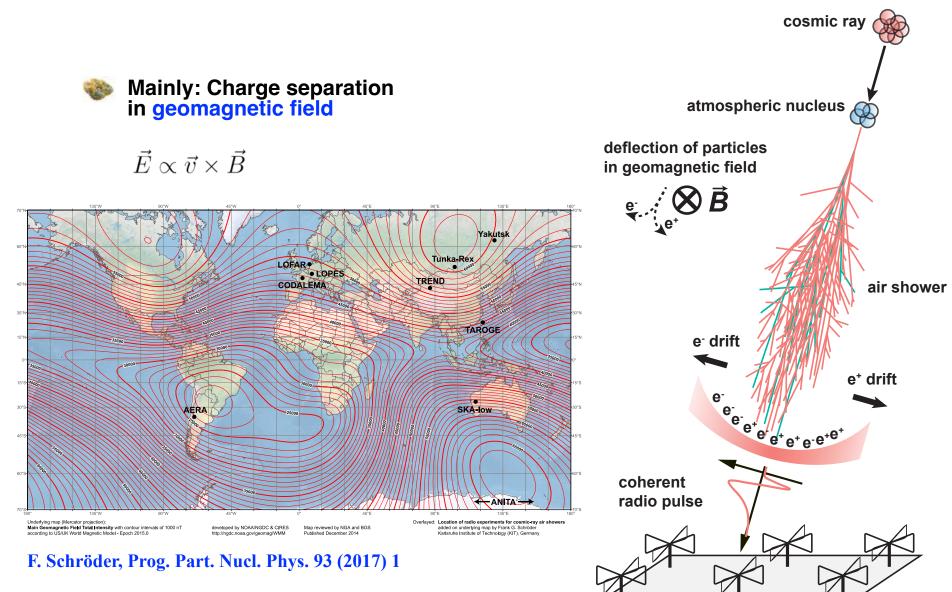
## **Radiation Processes**





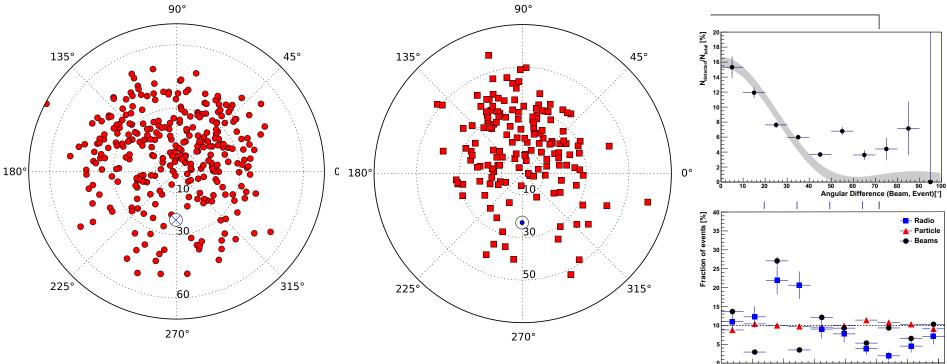
"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

### **Radio Emission in Air Showers**

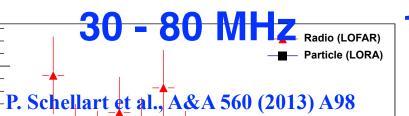


## Arrival direction of showers with strong radio signals

#### north-south asymmetry v x B effect



LOFAR



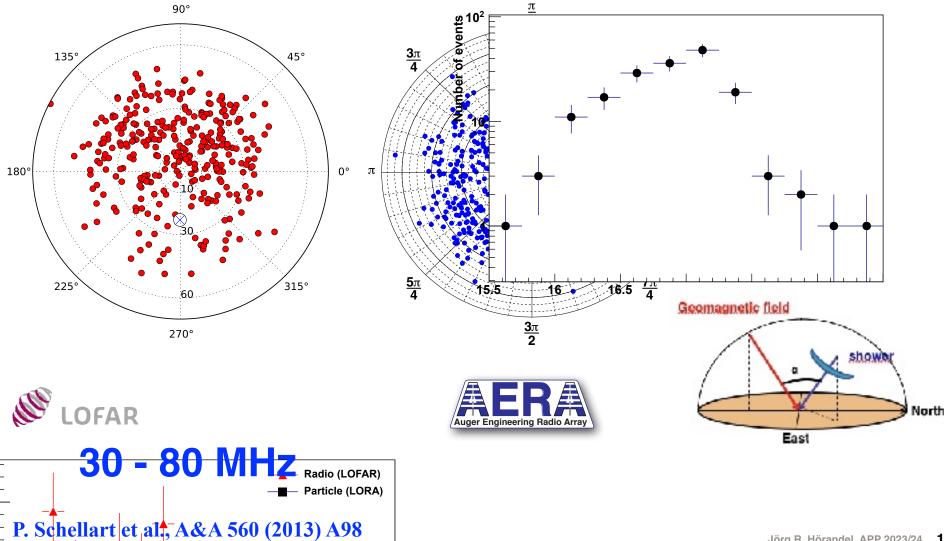
### 110 - 190 MHz

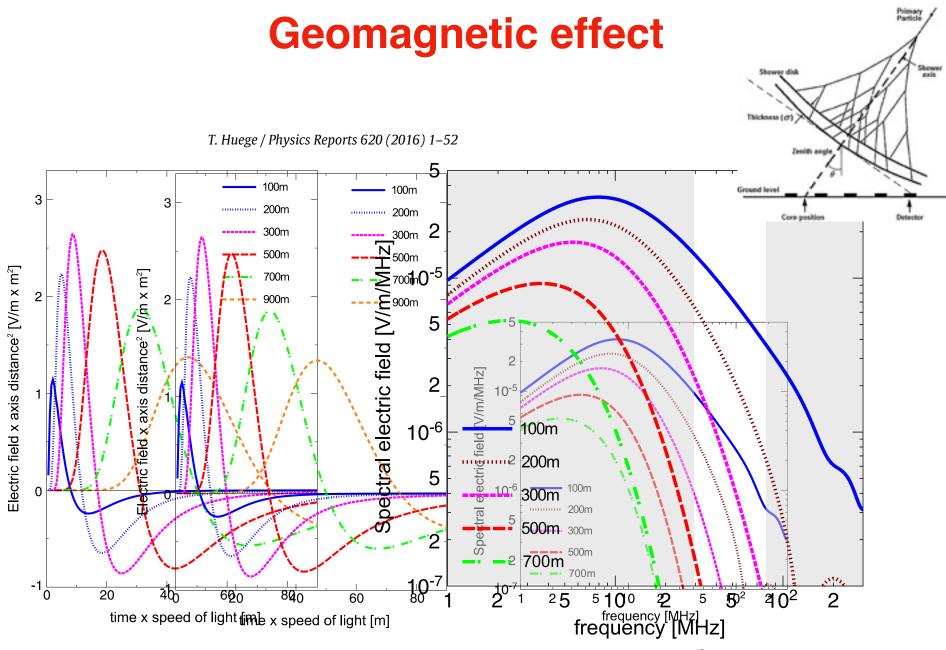
A. Nelles et al., Astroparticle Physics 65 (2015) 11

Azimuth [°]

## Arrival direction of showers with strong radio signals

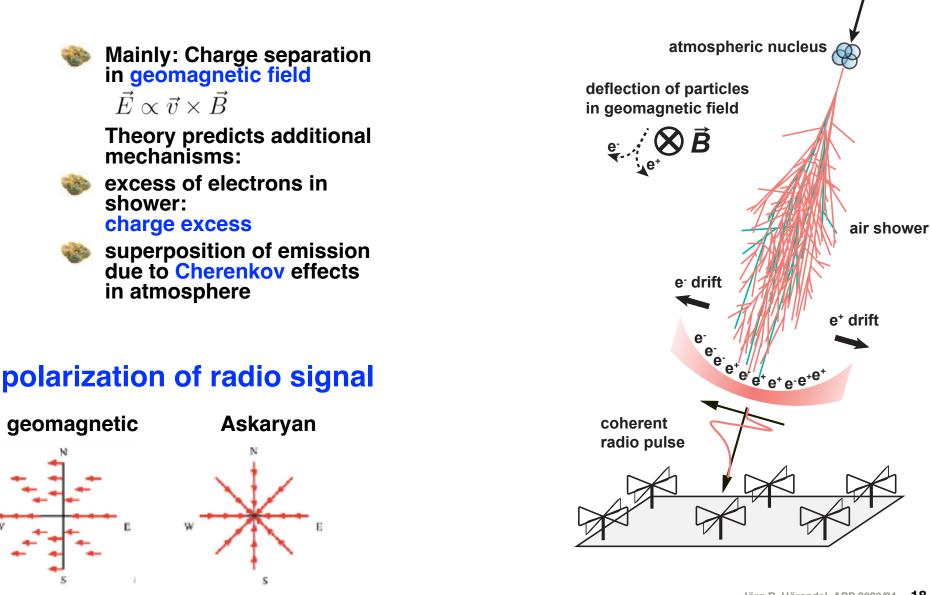
#### north-south asymmetry v x B effect





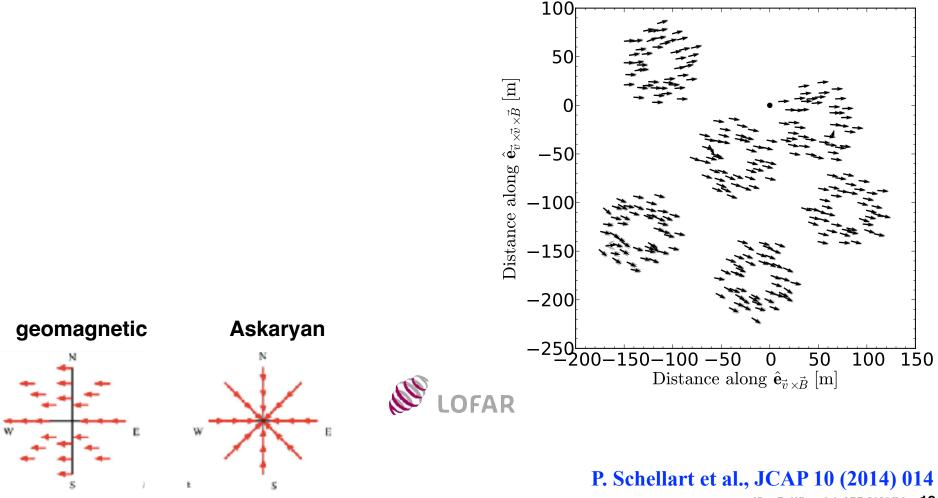
**Fig. 4.** Radio pulses (top) arising from the time-variation of the geomagnetically induced transverse currents in a 10<sup>17</sup> eV air shower as observed at various observer distances from the shower axis and their corresponding frequency spectra (bottom). Refractive index effects are not included. *Source:* Adapted from [18].

## **Radio Emission in Air Showers**



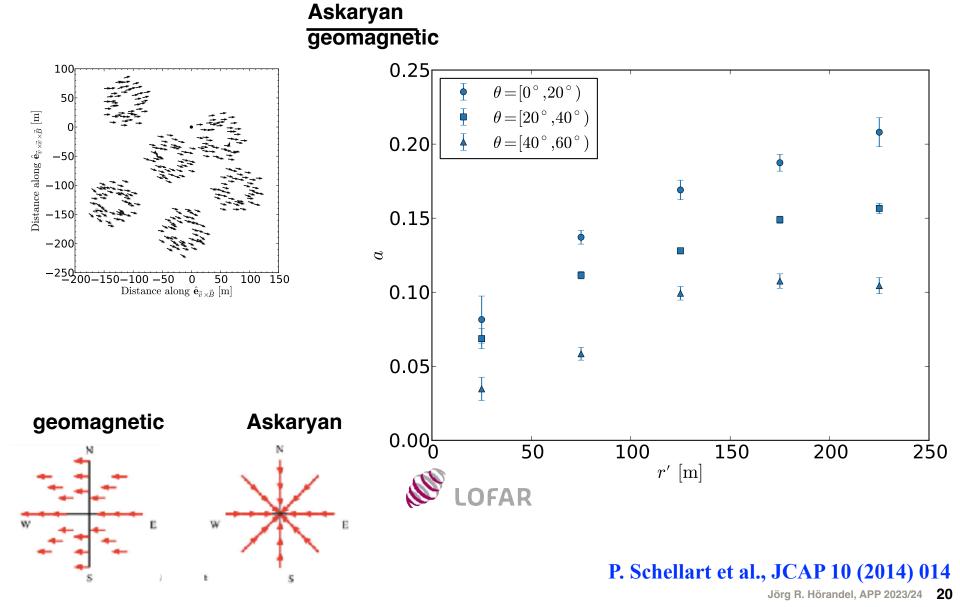
cosmic ray

## Polarization footprint of an individual air shower

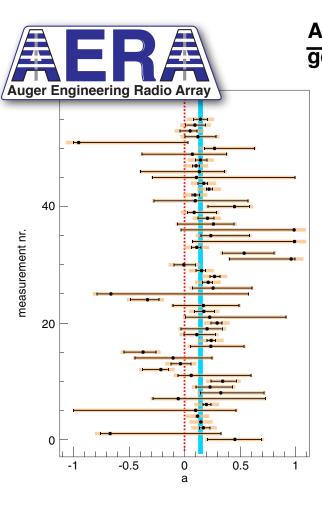


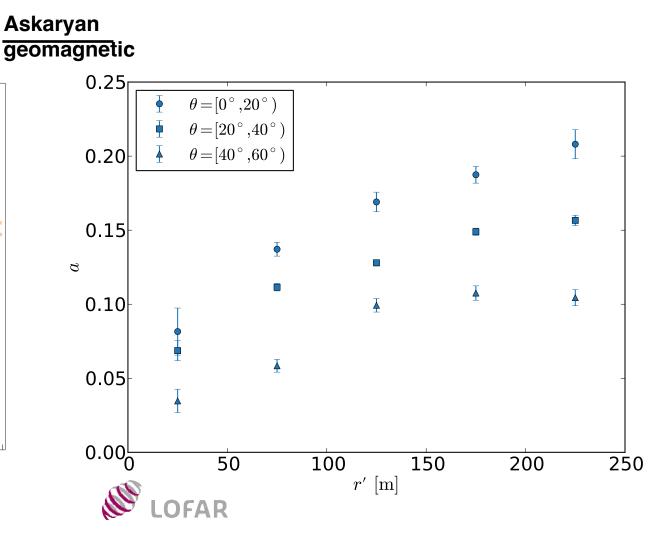
Jörg R. Hörandel, APP 2023/24 19

## **Charge excess fraction**



## **Charge excess fraction**



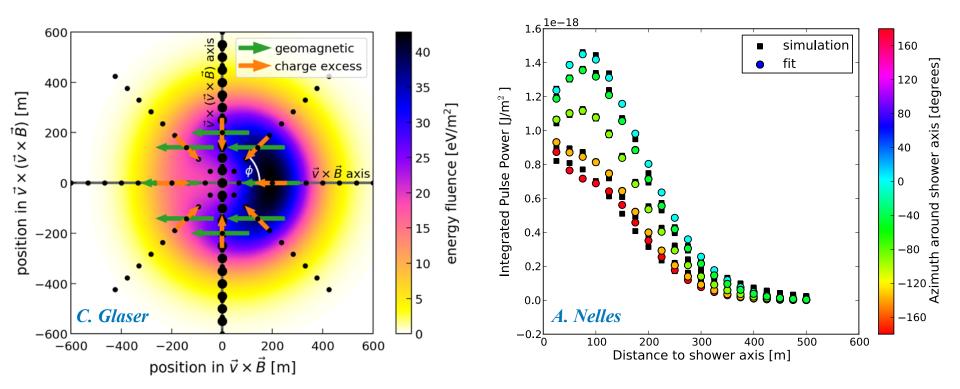


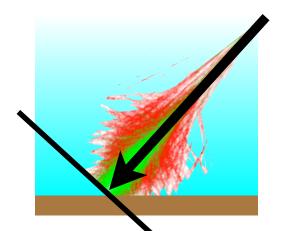
#### P. Schellart et al., JCAP 10 (2014) 014

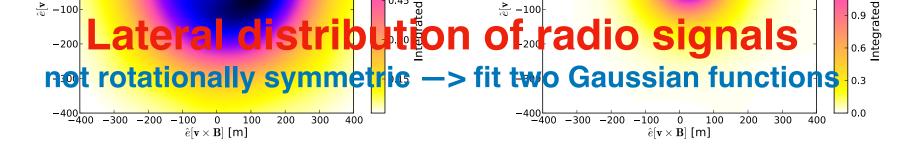
A. Aab, PRD 89 (2014) 052002

Jörg R. Hörandel, APP 2023/24 21

## Footprint of radio emission on the ground

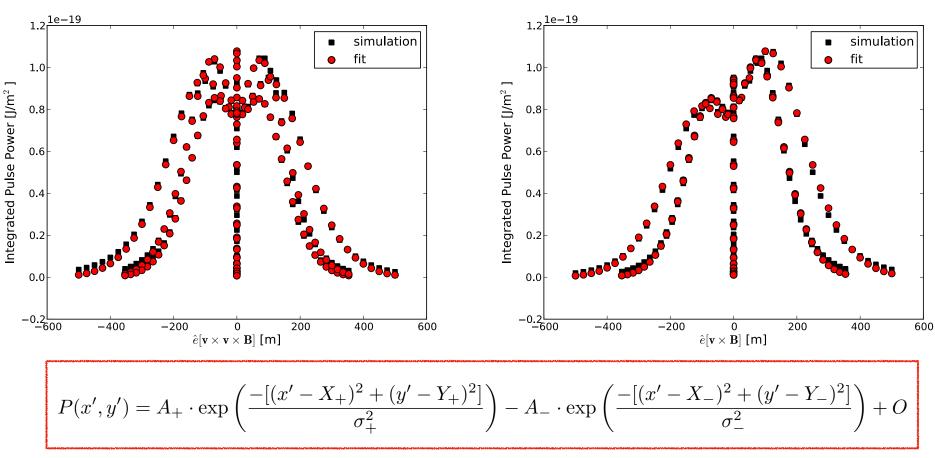






**v** x (v x B)





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

## Properties of incoming cosmic ray

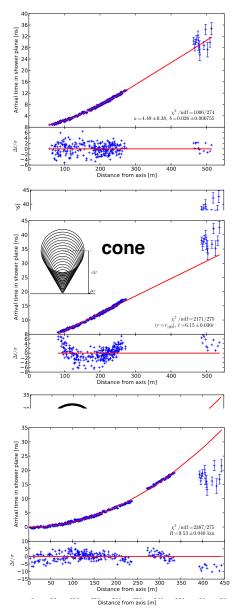
# direction energy type

## Direction

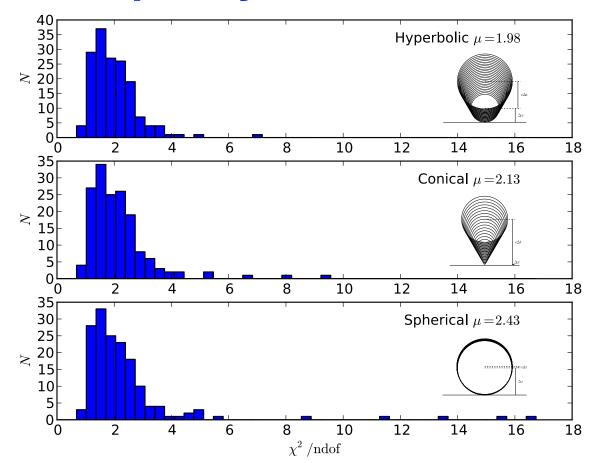






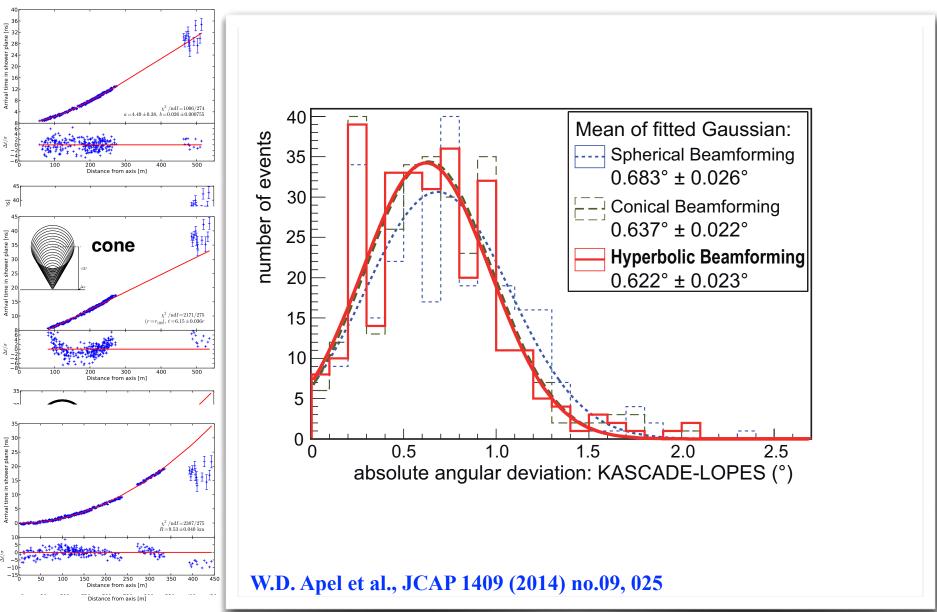


## fit quality



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

## **Shape of Shower Front**



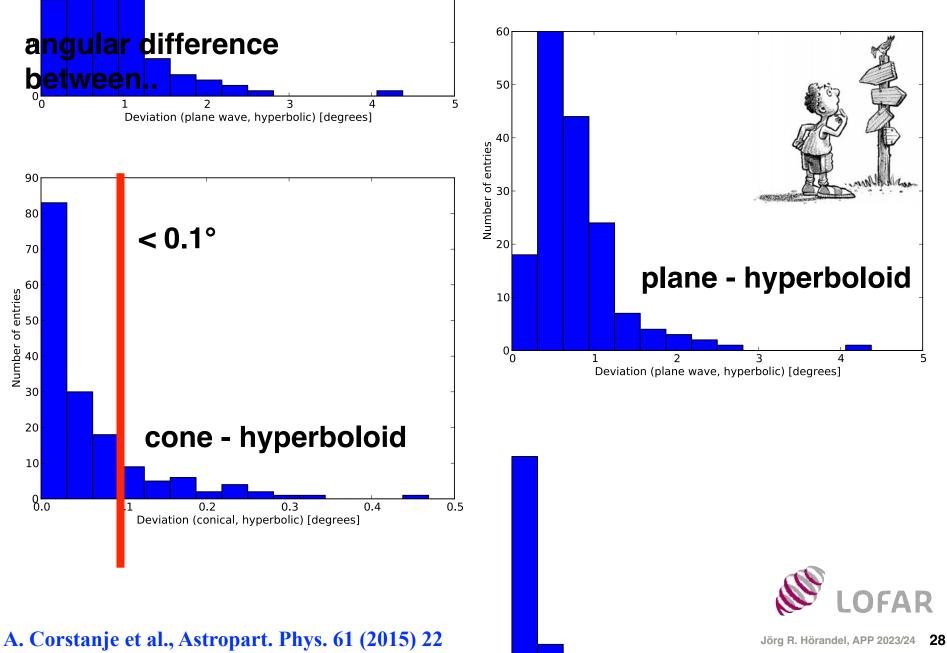
A. Corstanje et al., Astropart. Phys. 61 (2015) 22

LOFAR

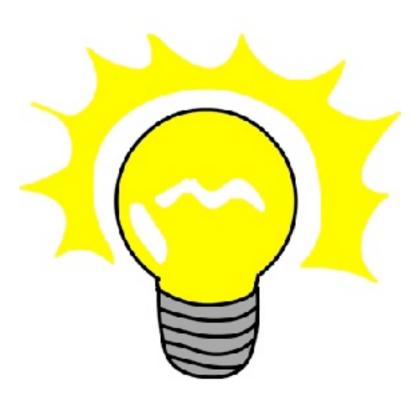
## Accuracy of Shower Direction

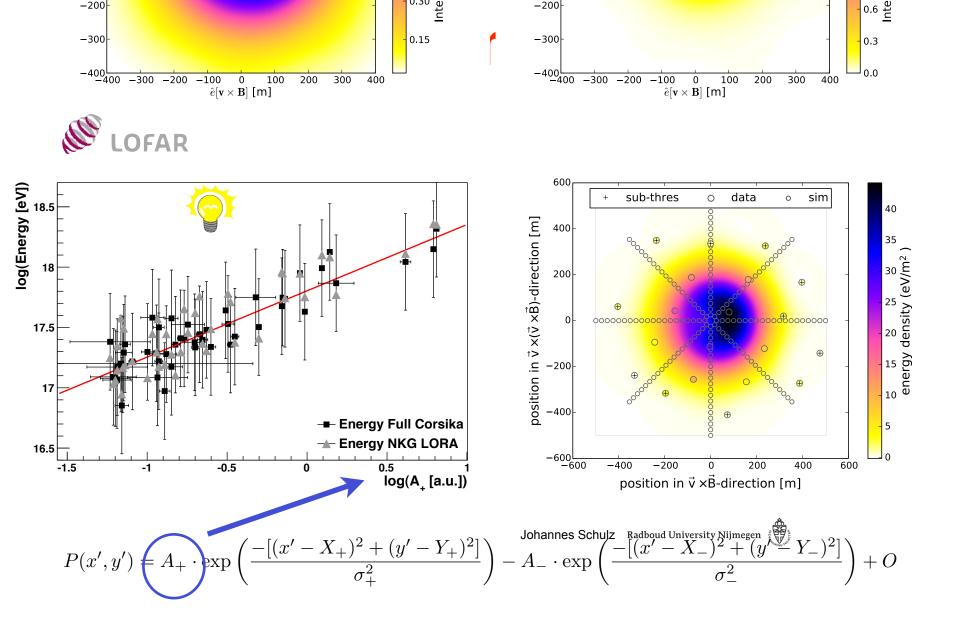
Number o

20



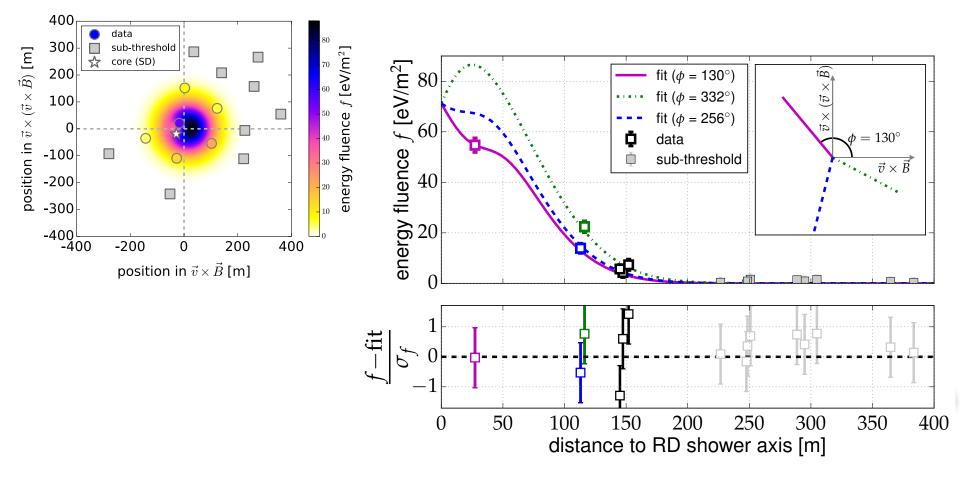






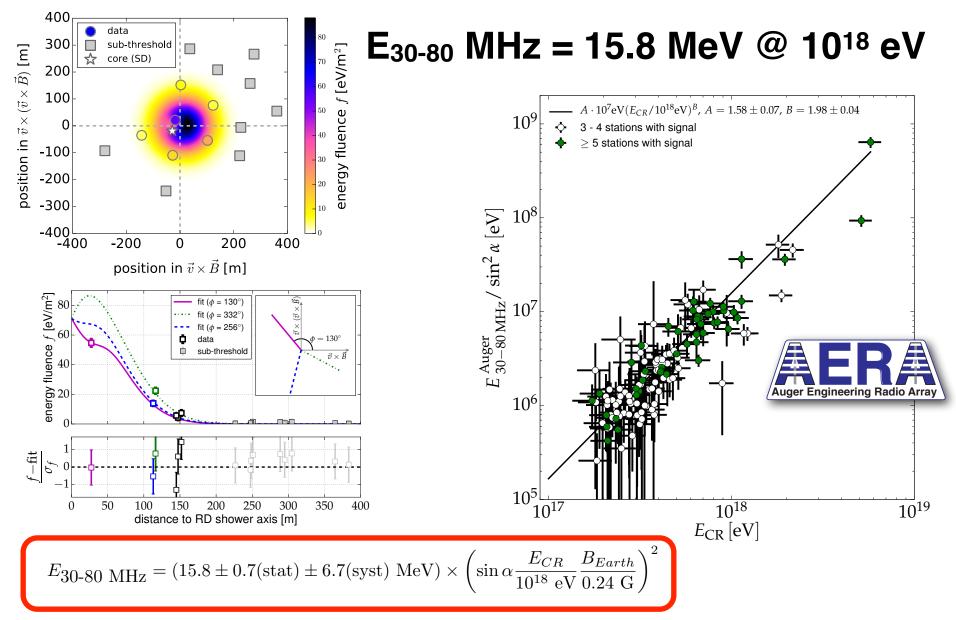
#### A. Nelles et al., JCAP 05 (2015) 018

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



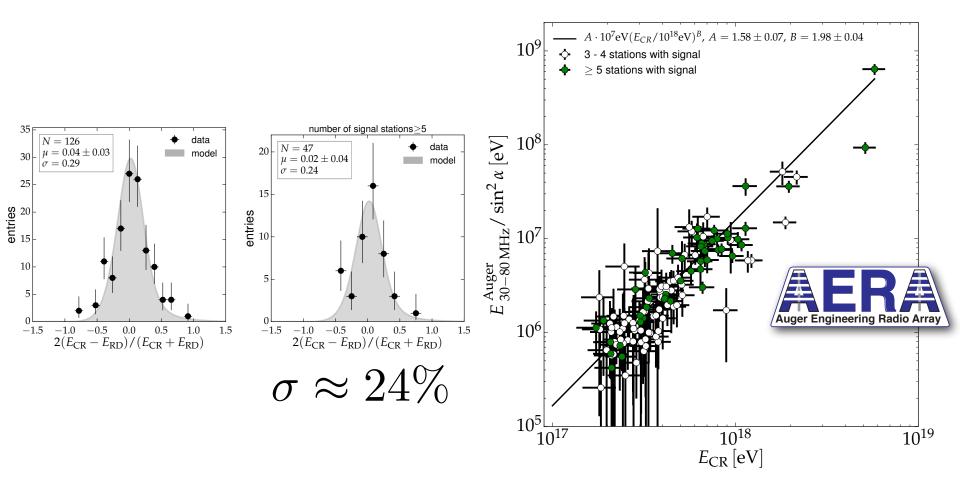
#### A. Aab et al., PRL 116 (2016) no.24, 241101

#### 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

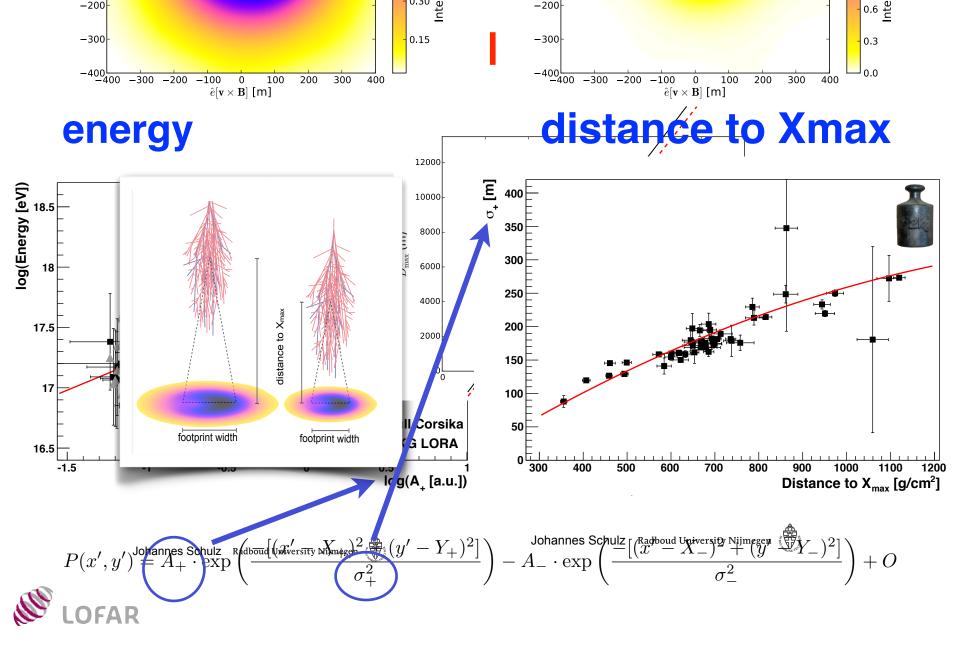
### Energy Estimation of Cosmic Rays with the Engineering Radio Array of the Pierre Auger Observatory $E_{30-80}$ MHz = 15.8 MeV @ 10<sup>18</sup> eV



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

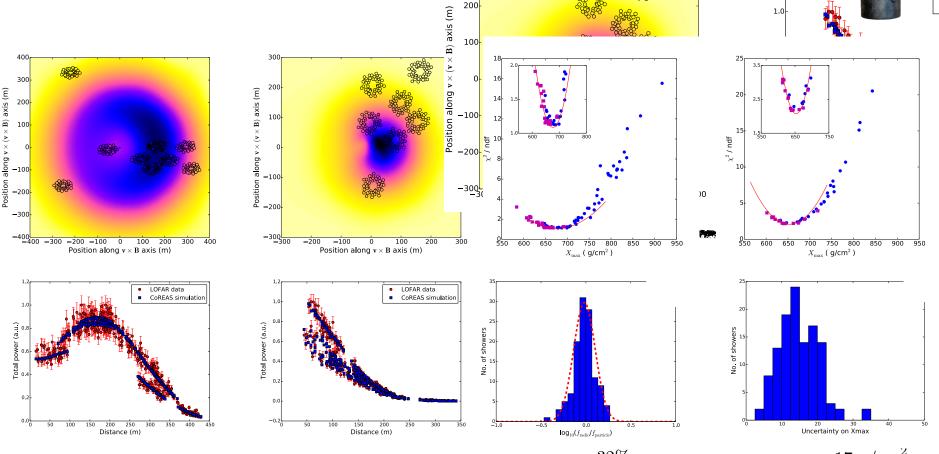
## Mass





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

## Measurement of apparties 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/cm<sup>2</sup>

#### 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

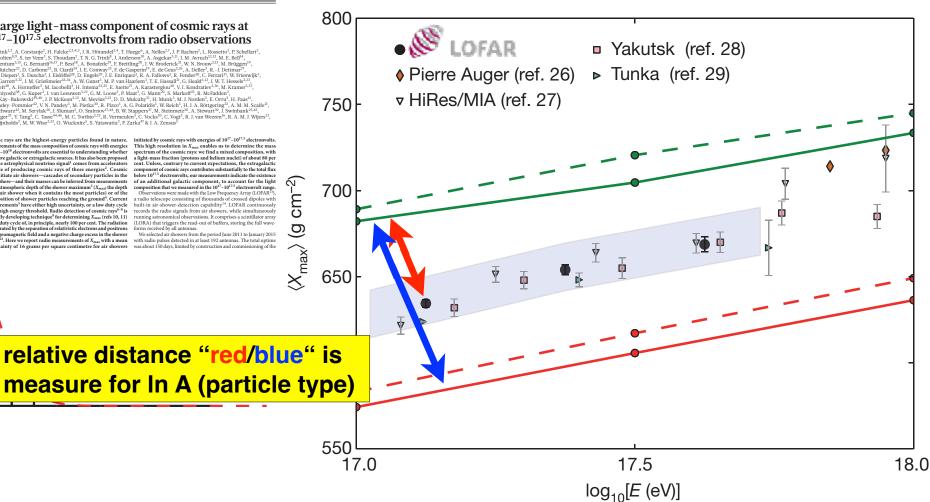
 O. Schulter, P. 1998.
 O. Schulter, J. P. Borndell, T. Hogge, A. Nelles, J. J. B. Borndell, T. Hogge, A. Nelles, J. J. B. Born, J. K. Bell, M. Berntun, S. F. Berl, S. Bondam, T. N. G. Trinh, J. Anderson, A. Aggetar, J. H. M. Arruch, M. E. Bell, M. Berntun, J. C. Trinh, J. Chendrand, T. S. Bondam, T. S. Bondam, T. N. G. Trinh, J. Anderson, J. A. Aggetar, J. H. M. Arruch, M. E. Bell, M. B. Berland, J. D. Carbon, J. B. Gardi, J. E. Gonzay, F. & Gonzay, M. B. Berland, J. B. Bell, M. B. Berland, J. D. Carbon, J. B. Gardi, J. E. Gonzay, F. & Gonzay, T. & Leona, J. B. Bell, M. B. Berland, J. B. Gardi, J. E. Gonzay, F. & Gonzay, J. B. Bell, J. B. Dellert, R. J. Berland, J. Besle, J. B. Berland, J. Besle, J. M. Gradhard, J. M. Kame, J. B. Besle, J. M. Gradhard, J. M. Berland, J. B. Besle, J. M. Berland, J. Besle, J. B. Besle, J. M. Berland, J. Besle, J. M. Berland, J. Besle, J. B. Berland, J. Besle, J. B. Besle, J. M. Besle, J. J. Besle, J. J. Besle, J. J. Besle, J. B. Besle, J. J. Besle, J. Besle, J. B. Besle, J. B. Besle, J. Besle, J. B. Besle, J. B. Besle, J. B. Besle, J. J. Besle, J. B. S. Buitink<sup>1,2</sup>, A. Corstanje<sup>2</sup>, H. Falcke<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>, J. R. Hörandel<sup>2,4</sup>, T. Huege<sup>6</sup>, A. Nelles<sup>2,7</sup>, J. P. Rachen<sup>2</sup>, L. Rossetto<sup>2</sup>, P. Schellart<sup>2</sup>

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 signal<sup>1</sup> comes from accelerators capable of producing cosmic rays of these energies<sup>2</sup>. 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 maximum<sup>3</sup> ( $X_{max}$ ) the depth of the air shower when it contains the most particles) or of the composition of shower particles reaching the ground<sup>4</sup>. Current measurements<sup>5</sup> have either high uncertainty, or a low duty cycle and a high energy threshold. Radio detection of cosmic rays<sup>6-8</sup> is a rapidly developing technique<sup>9</sup> 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<sup>6,12</sup>. Here we report radio measurements of  $X_{max}$  with a mean uncertainty of 16 grams per square centimetre for air showers

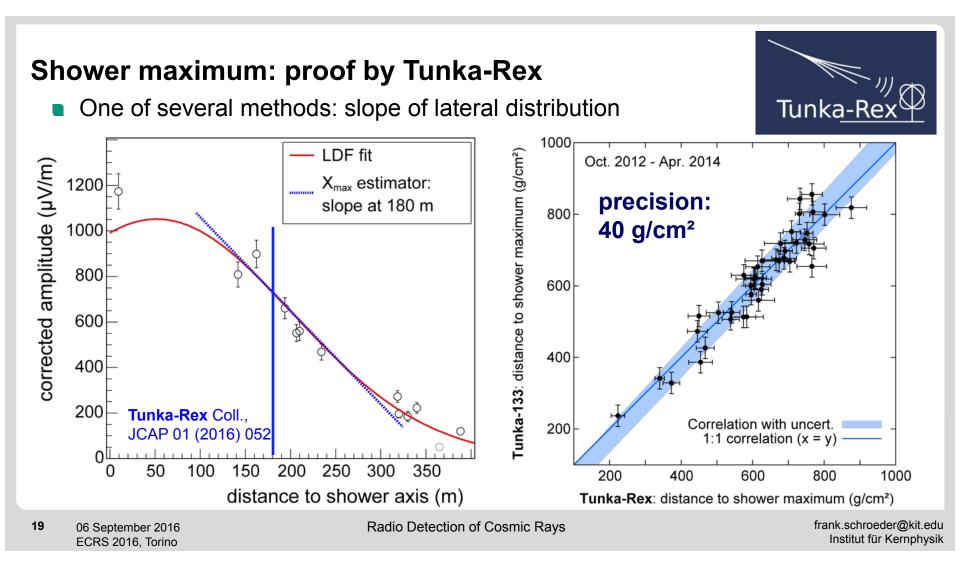
initiated by cosmic rays with energies of  $10^{17}$ – $10^{17.5}$  electronvolts. This high resolution in  $X_{\rm max}$  enables us to determine the mass spectrum of the cosmic rays: we find a mixed composition, with a light-mass fraction (protons and helium nuclei) of about 80 per cent. Unless, contrary to current expectations, the extragalactic component of cosmic rays contributes substantially to the total flux below 10<sup>17.5</sup> 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 (LOFAR<sup>13</sup>), a radio telescope consisting of thousands of crossed dipoles with built-in air-shower-detection capability<sup>14</sup> 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.

doi:10.1038/nature16976

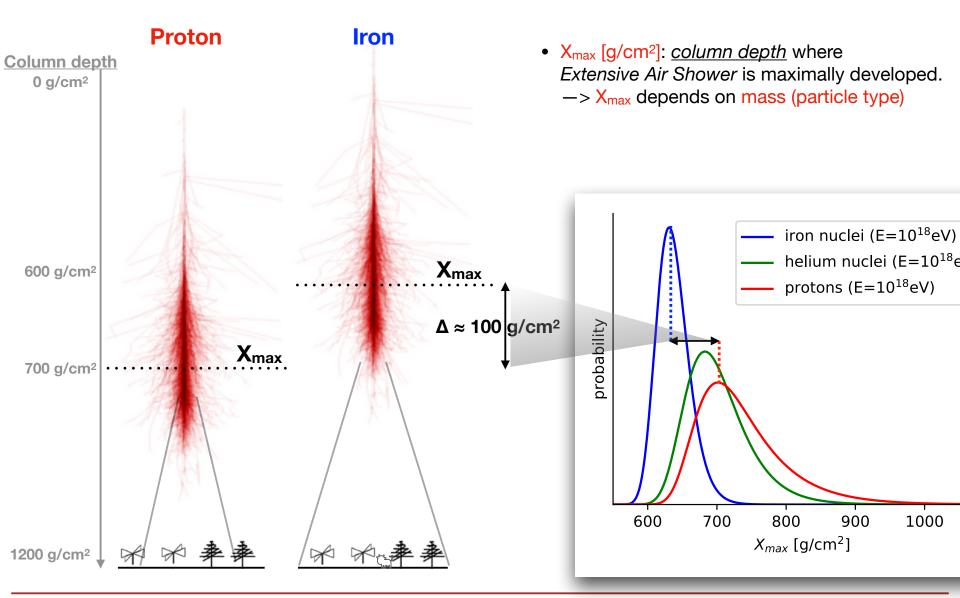
We selected air showers from the period June 2011 to January 2015 with radio pulses detected in at least 192 antennas. The total uptime was about 150 days, limited by construction and commissioning of the



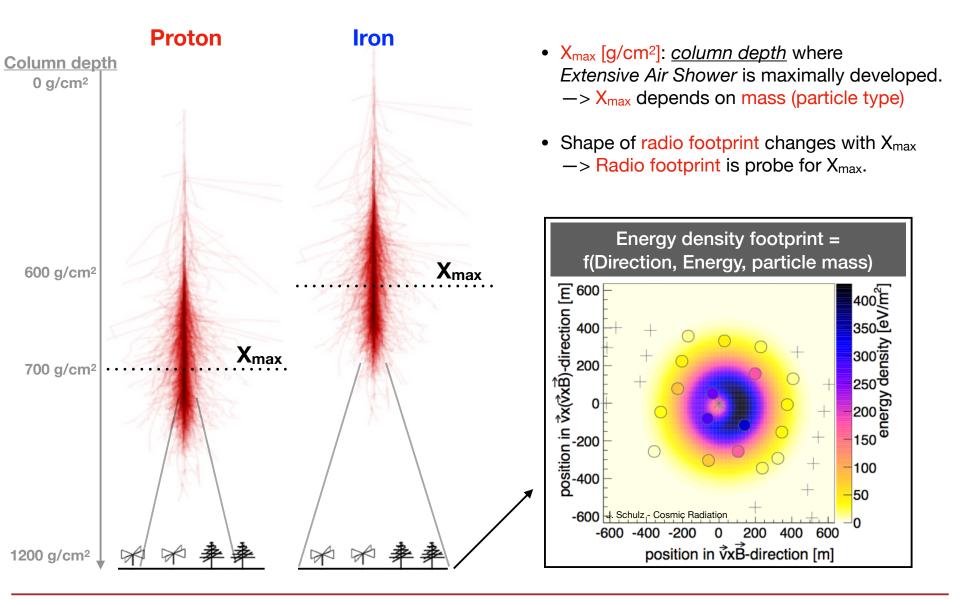
#### S. Buitink et al., Nature 531 (2016) 70



# Radboud University

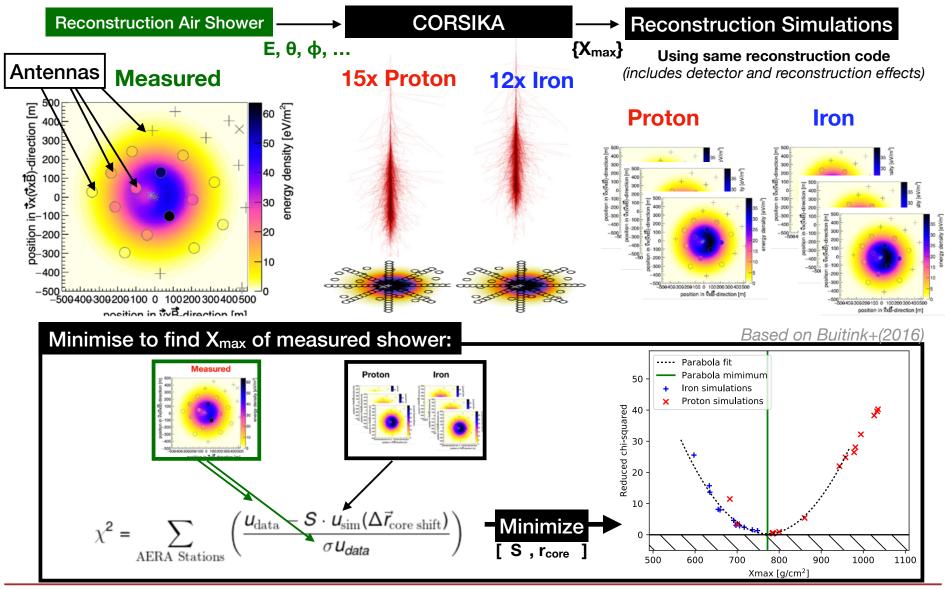


### Radboud University PIERE Introduction: Radio footprint is sensitive to mass





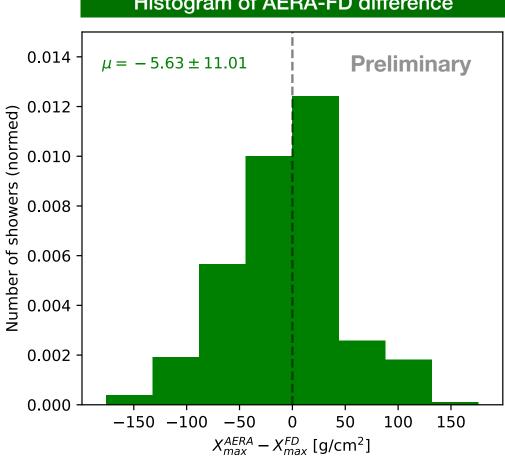
# Method: Reconstructing X<sub>max</sub> from the radio footprint









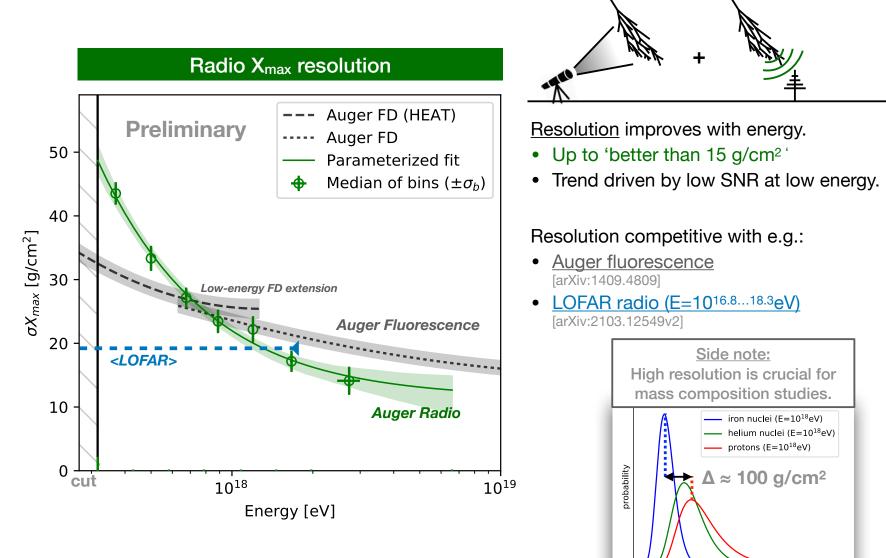




- X<sub>max</sub> of **53** hybrid-showers with AERA and FD; (Are independent observations!)
- No significant bias radio X<sub>max</sub> w.r.t. fluorescence X<sub>max</sub>.
- Provides independent checks on:
  - X<sub>max</sub> reconstruction methods
  - shower physics (probe different aspects)







700

600

800

 $X_{max}$  [g/cm<sup>2</sup>]

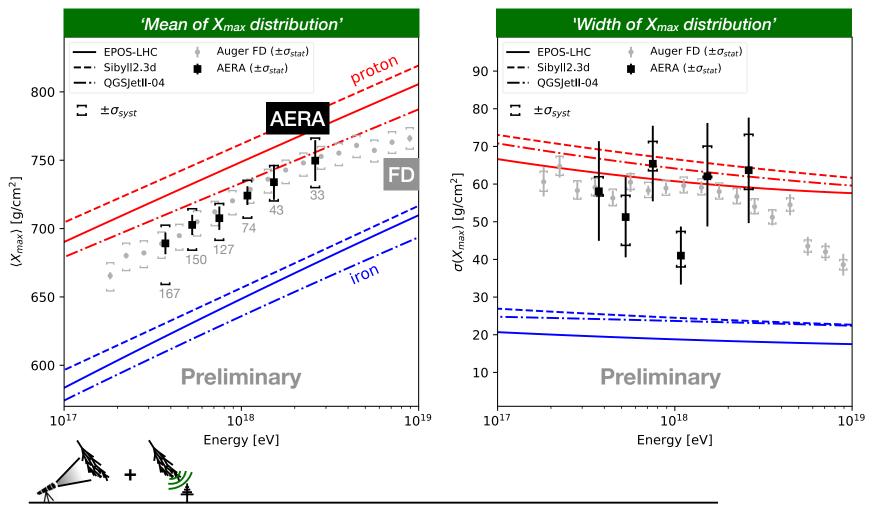
900

1000

1100



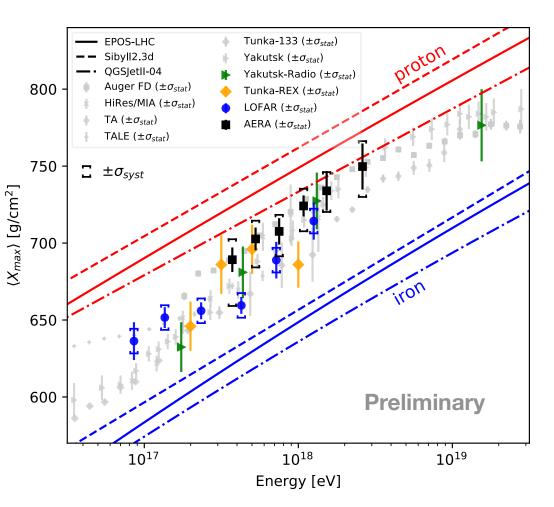
# Results: Measured AERA X<sub>max</sub> distribution

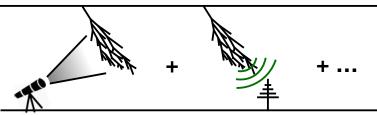


- ~600 showers after quality and anti-bias cuts.
- In agreement with Auger FD in mean, width, and (qualitatively) the X<sub>max</sub> distribution.
- Light composition (p-He) at E=10<sup>17.5</sup> eV, seemingly becoming lighter towards E=10<sup>18.5</sup> eV.



# Results: AERA vs other (radio) experiments





- No general radio-bias w.r.t other techniques (within uncertainties).
- Highlights that systematic uncertainties are key to interpret and compare.
- LOFAR-AERA differences are being investigated in a working group

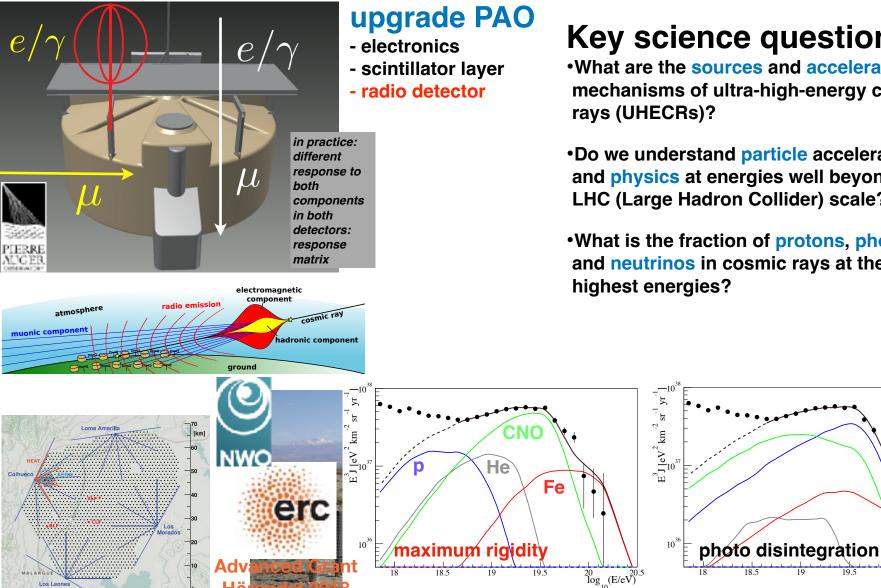
—> come talk to us during coffee and lunch! Determine the properties of the incoming particle with the radio technique

- direction  $\sim 0.1^{\circ} 0.5^{\circ}$
- energy ~ 20% 30%
- type (X<sub>max</sub>) ~ 15 40 g/cm<sup>2</sup> (depending on detector spacing)

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



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



3000 km<sup>2</sup>

#### 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?

 $\log_{10}^{20}$  (E/eV)  $(E/eV)^{20.5}$ 

48

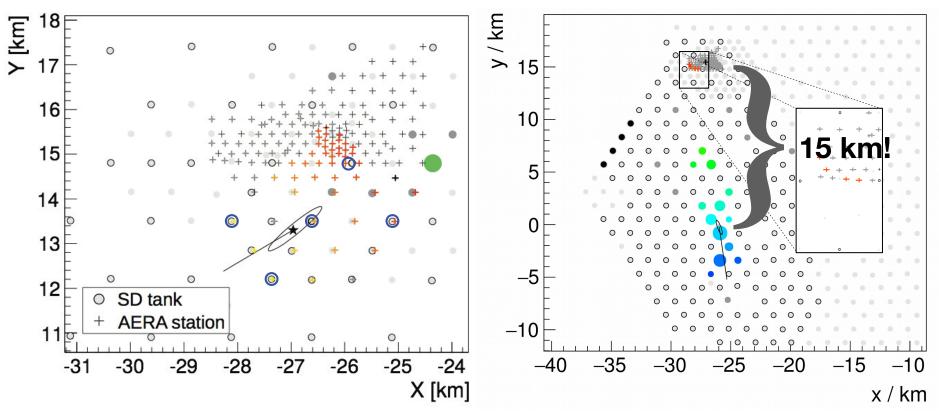
195

Jörg R. Hörandel, APP 2023/24



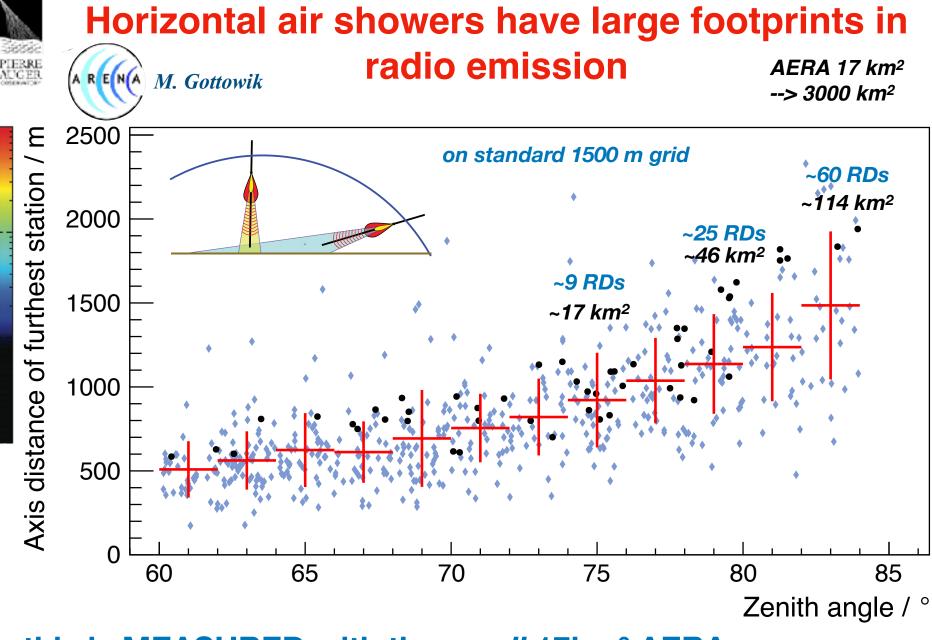
#### A large radio array at the Pierre Auger **Observatory** AERA 17 km<sup>2</sup> preparatory work & feasibility

--> 3000 km<sup>2</sup>



#### horizontal air showers registered and reconstructed with existing AERA

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



this is MEASURED with the small 17km<sup>2</sup> 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

AERA

153



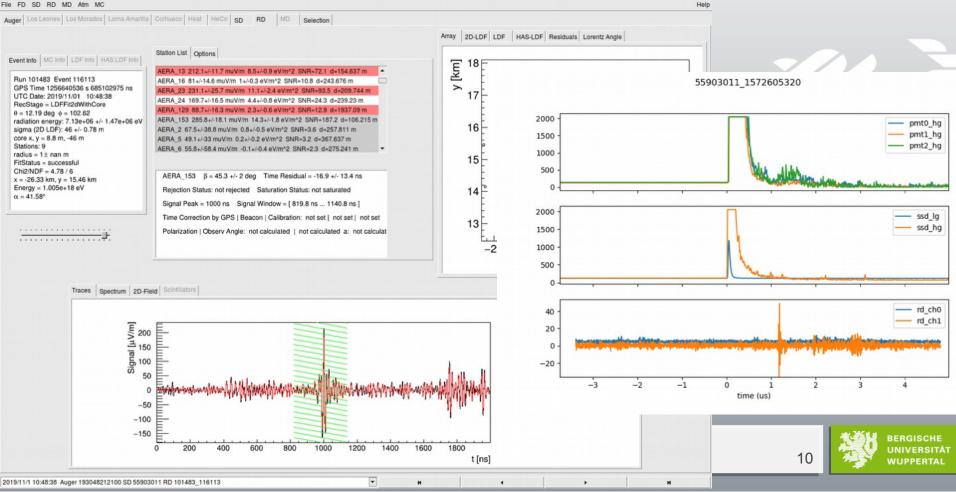
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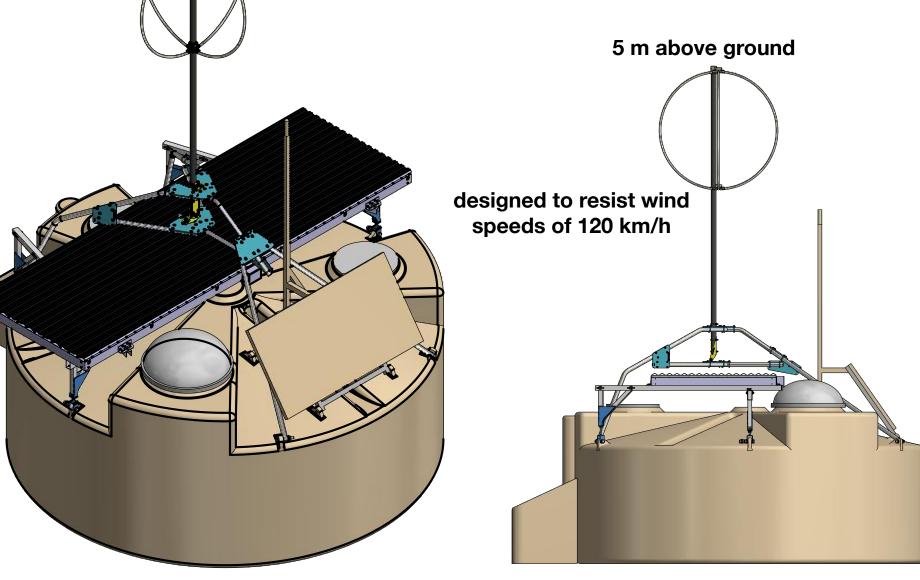
#### **First Rd Signal**

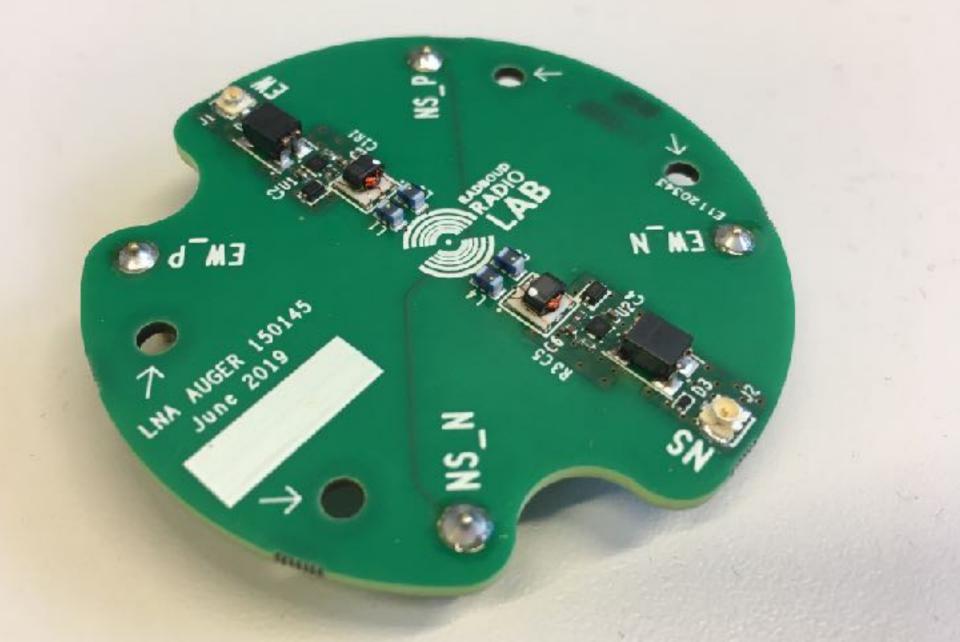
#### File FD SD RD MD Atm MC



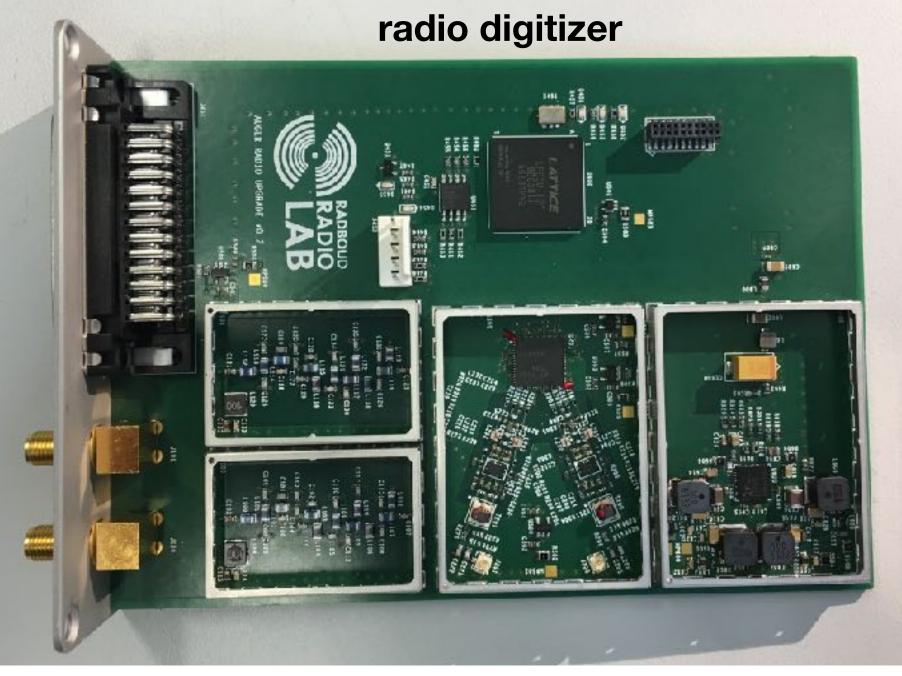
#### J. Rautenberg

## mechanical mounting of RD on wcd



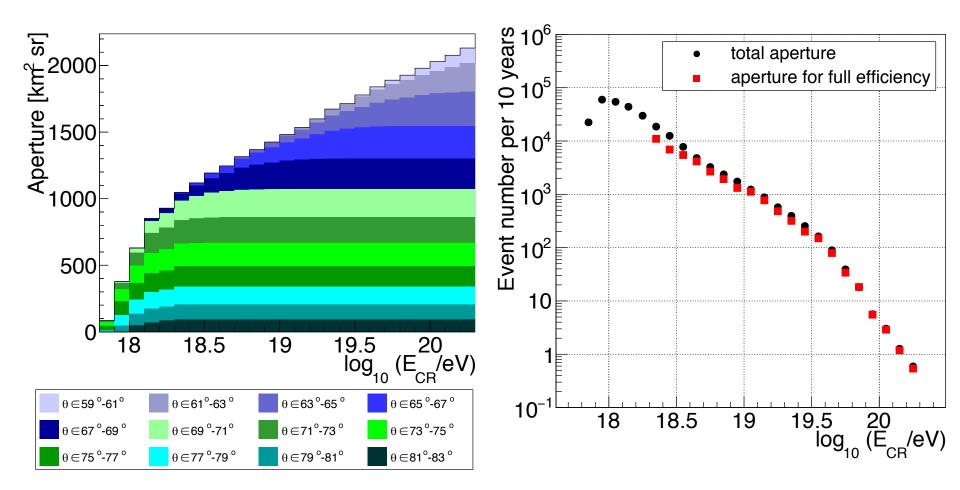


final version of LNA, RU Nijmegen, June 2019



#### developed at RU Nijmegen

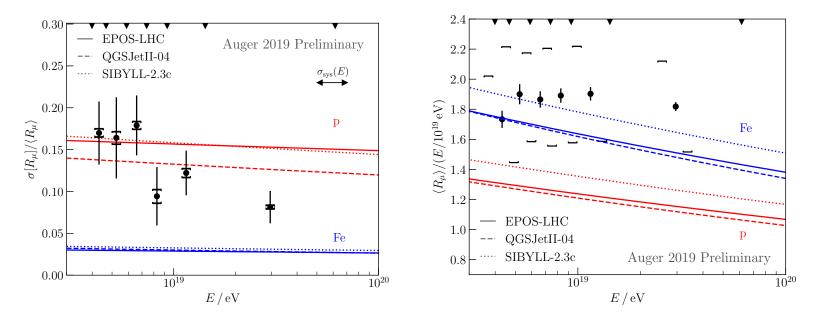
### **Detection aperture and event statistics**



- High zenith angles become efficient early, contribute smaller apertures
- Lower zenith angles contribute larger apertures, become efficient later
- 3000 fully efficient events above 10<sup>19</sup> eV in 10 years (300 above 10<sup>19.5</sup> eV)

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

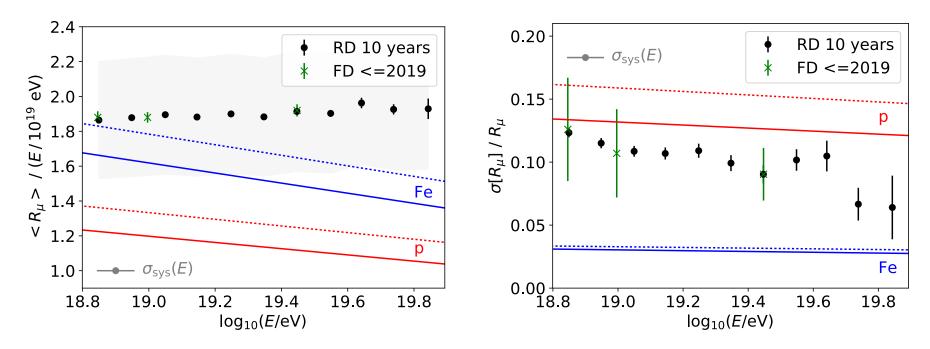
#### Felix Riehn<sup>\*a</sup> for the Pierre Auger Collaboration<sup>†b</sup>



**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.

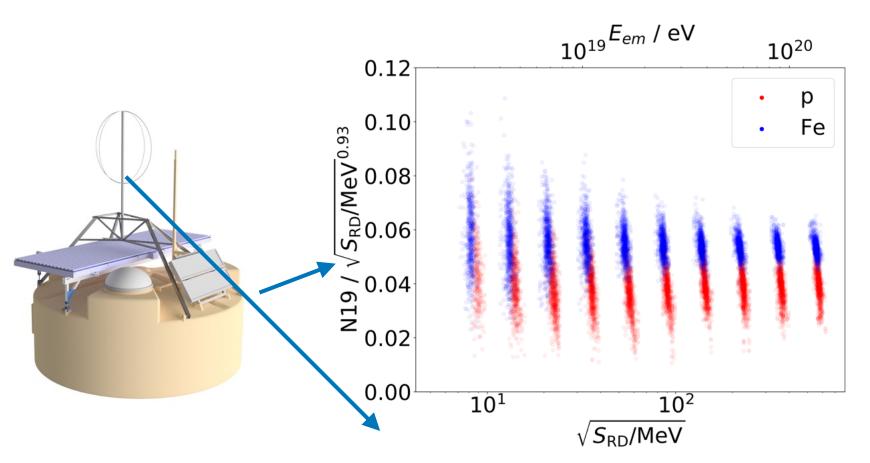
PROCEEI

## Muon content in horizontal air showers



- More than 6000 showers expected above 10<sup>18.8</sup> 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**

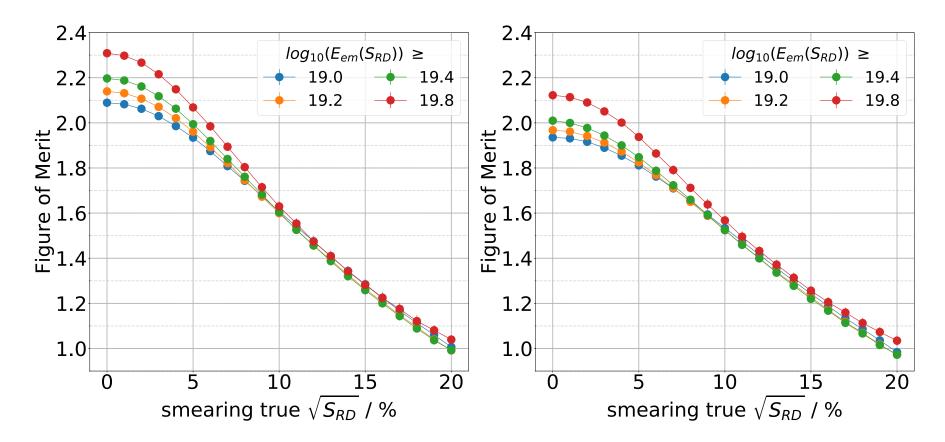
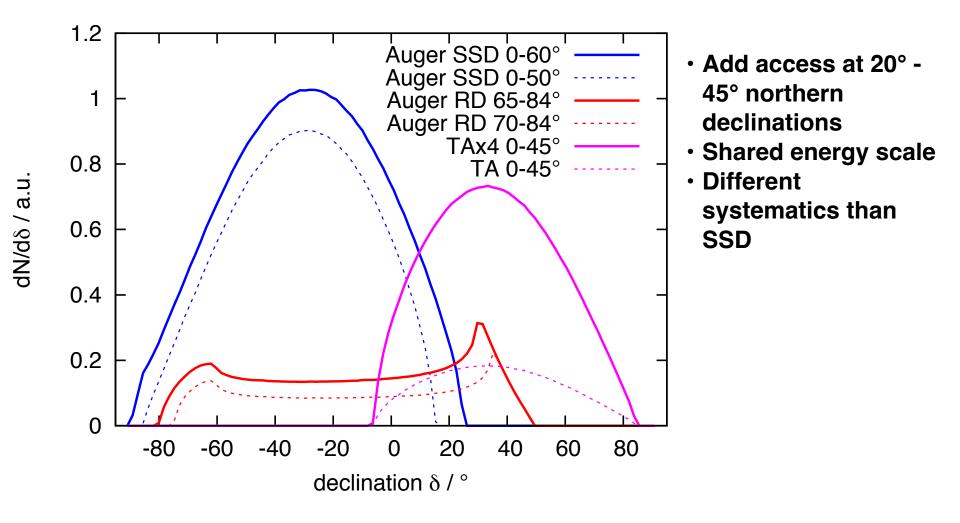


Figure 7: Figure of merit for the separation of proton-induced and iron-induced air showers using the ratio r defined in eqn. (1), various assumed resolutions for the determination of the electromagnetic energy with the Radio Detector, and different cut-offs for the lowest (smeared) electromagnetic energy. 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/cm<sup>2</sup>. [33]



## Sky coverage with mass sensitivity





## **Transport to position**



# **Replacing solar** panels





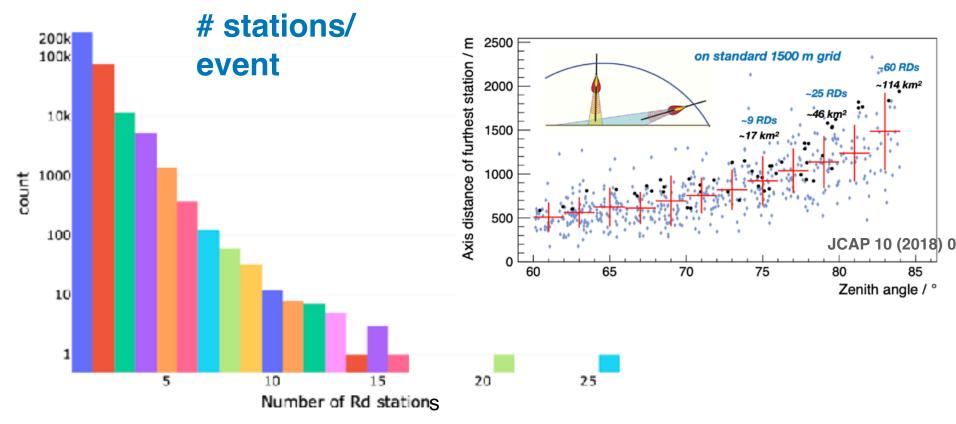
# Station assembly



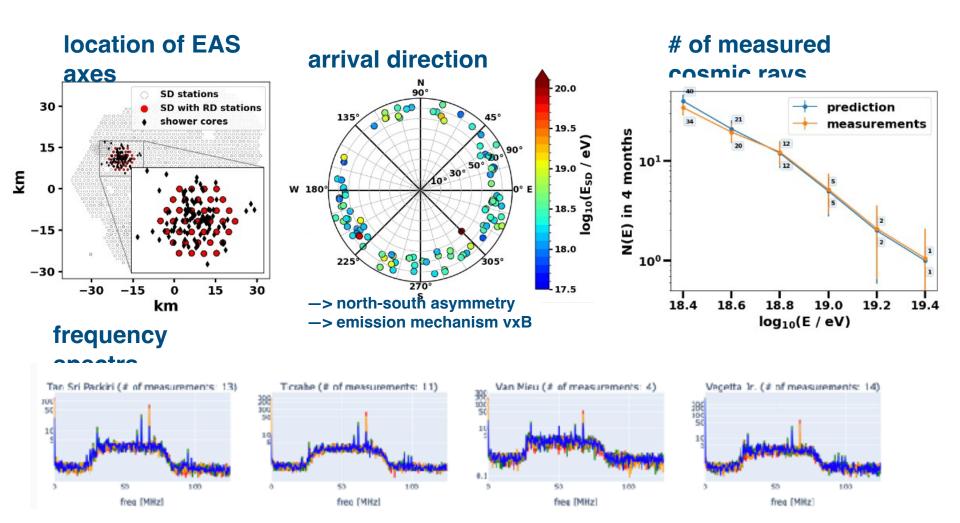




# More than 120 stations (7%) taking data!



## Look at 1<sup>st</sup> data



# **RD** calibration concept

1200

3,255

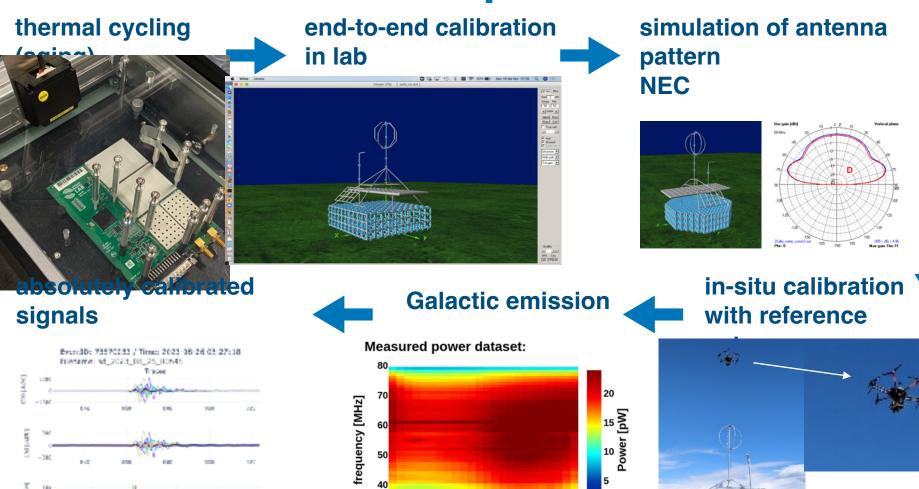
1700

3800

Time (e.u)

1803

......



6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22

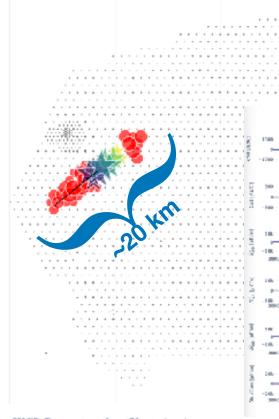
LST

30<mark>0</mark>

2 4

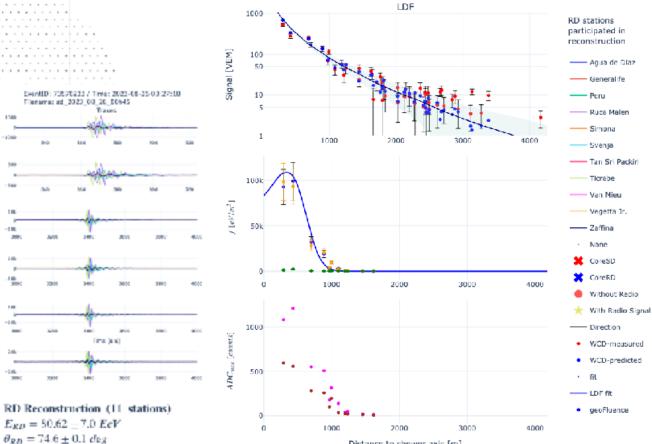
# A measured air shower

 $\phi_{BD} = 217.1 \pm 0.0 \text{ deg}$ 



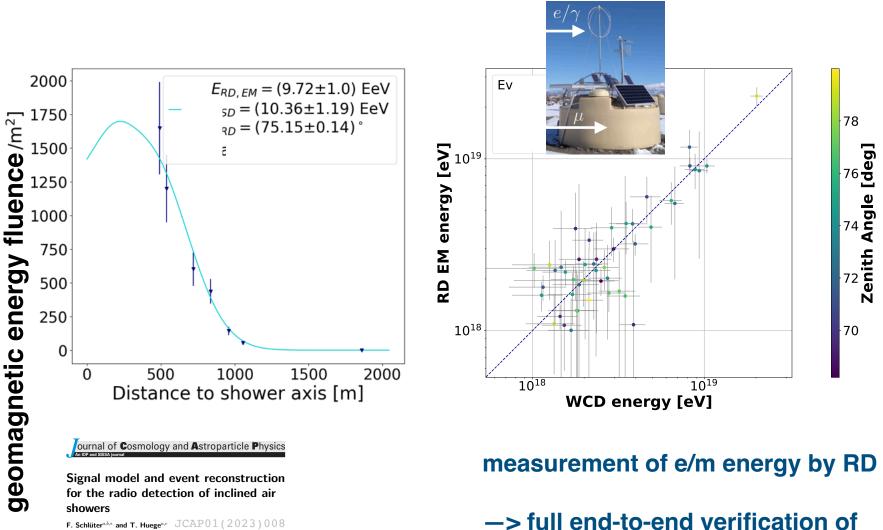
WCD Reconstruction (52 stations)  $E_{SD} = 74.30 \pm 3.4 \ EeV$ 

 $\begin{array}{l} \dot{a}_{SB} = 74.7 \pm 0.0 \ deg \\ \phi_{SD} = 217.2 \pm 0.1 \ deg \\ N_{16} = 12.1 \pm 0.5 \end{array}$ 



Distance to shower axis [m]

# Hybrid measurements RD-WCD



complete chain

F. Schlüter<sup>a,b,\*</sup> and T. Huege<sup>a,c</sup> JCAP01 (2023) 008

d Astroparticle Physic:

#### Auger Maps

📴 SAU, A Inessiae (178 datactors) 💆 🌹 with Antariaa (888 datactors) 🛃 🌹 with/Opitzar (981 Saladors)

