Radio detection of ultrahigh-energy cosmic rays and neutrinos

Katharine Mulrey 13 September CRIS 2022





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Where do the most energetic particles come from?



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Where do the most energetic particles come from?



Detecting comic-ray air showers



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Radio emission from air showers



- Generated in the electromagnetic components of the air shower
- Radiation pattern, signal strength, and pulse shapes contain information about shower development



Radio emission from air showers



"Cherenkov-like" effects: signal coherence



de Vries et al. PRL 107:061101,2011

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Reproduce pulse shape and signal strength



Scan across the Cherenkov cone





Scaling of signal strength with magnetic field



K. Bechtol, et al. PRD. (2022)

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Radio experiments: cosmic rays



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Cosmic Ray Detection at LOFAR



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+ stations outside Superterp, 30-80 MHz

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P. Schellart et al., A&A 560, 98 (2013)









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K. Mulrey et al. 2019





Absolute calibration makes radiobased energy measurements possible

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Looking forward...



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Looking forward...

LOFAR 2.0

- Continuous observation
- Simultaneous observation with low + high band antennas









Cosmic rays at SKA

LOFAR

- X_{max} resolution: 20 g/cm²
- Energy resolution: 9%
- Core resolution: 3-10 m
- Northern hemisphere

SKA

- X_{max} resolution: 6-8 g/cm²
- Energy resolution: 3%
- Core resolution: 50 cm
- Southern hemisphere



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Radio at Auger



Jörg R. Hörandel, CRIS 2018



Radio at Auger



A. Aab et al., PRD 93 (2016) A. Aab et al., PRL 116 (2016)

B. Pont PoS(ICRC2021)387

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Radio at Auger



Radio Upgrade







Electronics development @ Radboud

Deployment NOW!

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Radio Detection Experiments



1. Huege. 1 Hysics hepolits, 020.1-52,









UHE neutrino Snowmass: Ackermann et al, arXiv:2203.08096



UHE neutrino Snowmass: Ackermann et al, arXiv:2203.08096

- Modular
- Large detection area

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BEACON

Beamforming Elevated Array for COsmic Neutrinos





S. Wissel et al. JCAP 2020

BEACON

Beamforming Elevated Array for COsmic Neutrinos





Candidate CR event



GRAND



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In-ice radio experiments



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RNO-G





- Make use of the thick ice in Greenland
- Design based on ARA and ARIANNA experience
- 35 stations with ~1 km spacing
- Design study for IceCube Gen2

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Deployment 2021 -













RNO-G



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Thanks!















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Where do the most energetic particles come from?



Hillas criterion: $E_{max} \propto Z e B r$

E_{Fe, max}= 26 x E_{p,max}

- Below 10¹⁹ eV, can't point directly to sources
- Transition to heavier composition indicates the maximum source energy is reached

To answer this question, we need to determine the *energy* and *composition* of cosmic rays.

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Event Analysis

- Simulate ~30 P and Fe showers with realistic atmosphere and known arrival direction (natural distribution of X_{max})
- Calculate reduced χ^2 for each simulation
- Parabola fit determines event X_{max}
- Resolution < 20 g/cm²
- Systematic uncertainties < 9 g/cm²



$$E_{\rm radio} = f_r \times E_{\rm sim}$$

Free parameters: energy and core position



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T. Huege et al. AIP Conf.Proc. 1535 (2013) no.1, 128

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