

Radio Detection of Extensive Air Showers

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Renaissance of Radio Detection: Theory

Early measurements in the 70ties Renaissance: Falcke & Gorham A.Ph. (2003) Huege & Falke, A&A (2003) Geomagnetic effect: v x B Coherent emissions from billions of Elektrons Emission is focused in beam direction



positron

·····

electron

Renaissance of Radio Detection: Theory







Renaissance of Radio Detection: Experiment

For R&D ideal environment:

- take a running experiment (KASCADE-Grande)
- add new hardware (from new experiment, LOFAR)
- have a look, how EAS look like (Nature 435, 2005)

externally triggered understand radio-emission of extended air shower

Publisher: NPG; Journal: Nature:Nature; Article Type: Physics letter DOI: 10.1038/nature03614 to appear in Nature, May 19, 2005 issue

LOfar PrototypE

Station

Detection and imaging of atmospheric radio flashes from cosmic ray air showers



Renaissance of Radio Detection: Experiment

Interferometric reconstruction:

$$cc[t] = + \sqrt{\left|\frac{1}{N_{Pairs}}\sum_{i=1}^{N-1}\sum_{j>i}^{N}s_{i}[t]s_{j}[t]\right|}$$

s_i[t] : signal of station *i* at time t

Signal to noise scales with #antenna





Renaissance of Radio Detection: Experiment



Towards a Radio-Detector for high energies E>10¹⁸ eV:

Self-triggering!

EAS radio-detection at the Pierre Auger Observatory

Start of radio-detection on-site investigitons fall 2006 Mono-frequent background Quiet in 30-80 MHz down to galactic noise level But for a threshold-trigger need to look at the time-domain



Ection at the Pierre A CDE, D2, C3, X height above ground 5 m

Start of radio-detection on-Mono-frequent background Quiet in 30-80 MHz down t But for a threshold-trigger r

X-mas tree in the pampa

First Radio-Data from Argentina!



P3 P1

22 CO P.F Sandra

375 m

EAS radio-detection at the Pierre Auger Observatory



Start of radio-detection on-site investigtions fall 2006 Mono-frequent background Quiet in 30-80 MHz down to galactic noise level But for a threshold-trigger need to look at the time-domain Transient noise! --- not visible in dynamic spectra Not suppressible by up-ward coincidence window



Radio at Pierre Auger Observatory: Prototype Phase



Sky-plot of arrival direction of **self-triggered** events in coincidence with Auger surface detector

Typical v x B distribution

Core position around test set-up of 496 coincident events triggered by attached scintillators

Up to 1.5 km with E-threshold of 0.4 EeV Polarisation in agreement with v x B



Self-Triggering! But low efficiency and purity

inst

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Results of a self-triggered prototype system for radio-detection of extensive air showers at the Pierre Auger Observatory

Developper of Simulation code member of Pierre Auger Collaboration Increasing consolidation of results by detailed comparison T. Huege (Helmholtz-Group)



• Macroscopic model:

- Time variation of transverse current
- Time variation of charge access
- Compatible with microscopic model:
 - end-point formalism

James et al. Phys.Rev.E (2011)

- Separable with Polarisation!
- Depending on antennaposition w.r.t. shower core constructive or destructive interference





• Macroscopic model:

- Time variation of transverse current
- Time variation of charge access
- Compatible with microscopic model:





• Macroscopic model:

- Time variation of transverse current
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 - end-point formalism

Time Compression:

 On Cherenkov angle emission of moving source arrives at same time

In dense media:

- no geomagnetic, but Askaryan dominating
- Smaller scale of shower
 - \rightarrow higher frequencies



Radio at Pierre Auger Observatory: AERA

Deployed in three phases: Phase I: 24 RDS in 09/2010 Phase II: +100 RDS in 05/2013 Phase III: +25 RDS in 02/2015

Four grid spacings: 150, 250, 375 / 750 m

Two antenna types LPDA / Butterfly

Two main trigger schemes External / scintillator

Prototype RDS (3D, lowFreq)

AERAlet (SDS on 433 m grid)



Radio at Pierre Auger Observatory: AERA

Deployed in three Phase I: 24 I Phase II: +100 I Phase III: +25 F

Four grid spacir 150, 250, 375 /

Two antenna ty LPDA / Butterfly

Two main trigge External / scintil

Prototype RDS

AERAlet (SDS



LPDA 180 MHz

LPDA-station

LPD Antenna 30-80 MHz

GPS Antenna

Solar panel

Electronic box: digital electronic (4x 12bit 180MHz ADCs) analog electronic batteries

Optical link (later wireless)

month 2 3

Butterfly-station

GPS Antenna

Wifi antenna

Butterfly-Antenna 30-80 MHz

Electronic box: Solar panel digital electronic (4x 12bit 180MHz ADCs) analog electronic batteries

SALLA-station

SALLA-Antenna 30-80 MHz

Wifi antenna

GPS Antenna

Electronic box: Solar panel digital electronic (4x 12bit 180MHz ADCs) analog electronic batteries

Comparison of Antennas

P. Abreu et al 2012 JINST 7 P10011



Radio at Pierre Auger Observatory: AERA

Deployed in three phases: Phase I: 24 RDS in 09/2010 150 m spacing LPDA Fibre comm

Phase II: 100 RDS in 05/2013 Butterfly 250/375 m spacing Wifi comm

(RD-Extension)

Phase III: 25 RDS in 02/2015 Butterfly 750 m spacing Wifi comm

External trig.:

Scintillator trig.:

7 sec of buffer (power) \rightarrow interference analysis Autonomous, inefficient for inclined



Radio at Pierre Auger Observatory: AERA

JINST 11 (2016) P01018 11

Power: ~ 13 W

Communication:

- optical fibre in Phase I
- Ubiquiti buttel/rocket wifi with concentrater in the field (CRS) and at FD-building (Coihueco)

Continuous data taking, ~20GB dav:

- External triggered
- Self triggered
- Periodic 100sec (e.g. for realistic noise)
- Airplane trigger
- Time synchornization:
- Beacon with 4 frequences at Coihueco
- Calibration using airplanes



(Zonith - f(Azimuth)



AERA: Self-Trigger?

- Direction reconstruction of self-triggered events point to horizontal hot-spots
- Spikes are very similar to EAS
- High trigger-rate and very low purity Need external trigger to understand signal/BG discrimination Two different Ansatz:
 - Buffer Signal long enough to use trigger from Auger (up to 7 sec, power-conssuming)
 - Use additional Szintillator as local coincidence trigger (inefficient, i.e. towards horizont)









AERA: External-Trigger

KIT/BUW developed digitizer cards in the field since March 2012 Full buffering of 7 sec (4GB SODIMM, 3W) Externally triggered by SD & untriggered read-out of stations ALTERA Cyclone III for intelligent trigger algorithm (FFT-filter-iFFT)



4 Gbyte DDR2 RAM

AERA: Charge Excess

- Polarization clear signature for emission mechanism
- Fit of charge-excess fraction to polarisation data
- Significant increase in correlation of expected to measured polarisation with on average 14% charge excess contribution



US/UK World Magnetic Model -- Epoch 2010.0 Main Field Total Intensity (F)

Earth magnetic field at the Pierre Auger Observatory ½ of that in Europe



AERA: Charge Excess



 \bigcirc

100

50

AERA: Energy

- Emission well understood
- Optimal EM detector for inclined shower

subthreshold core (SD)

-200

position in $\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$ [m]

200

- No attenuation in atmosphere
- Composition sensitivity promissing
- High potential for absolute e-scale

200

100

-100

-200

-300 400

-400

Radiation energy in 30-80 MHz for 1 EeV CR perpendicular to B-field: 15.8 ± 0.7 (stat) ± 6.7 (sys) MeV Direct access to calorimetric energy in the electromagnetic cascade of EAS.





Paradigm change: From: Sym. LDF characterized at optimal point (S1000) To: Integral of signal like calorimetric measurement



Signal [VEM]

10³

10²

Stage: 4.5 x²/Ndf: 22.2/ 19

ot-triggered

andidates

AERA: Energy

0.2

0.6

4.7

Better undestanding of emission: Ch. Glaser et al JCAP09(2016)024

M. Gottowik et al., Astropart. Phys. 103 (2018) 87 E_{eman}: 3 % stat, 2 % sys.

Better understanding of detector: Calibration of LPDA A. Aab et al 2017 JINST 12 T10005

ource of uncertainty / %	Systematic	Statistical
ight dependent uncertainties	6.9	2.7
transmitting antenna XY-position	1.5	1.0
transmitting antenna height	0.1	0.6
transmitting antenna tilt	< 0.1	< 0.1
size of antenna under test	1.4	-
uniformity of ground	< 0.1	-
RSG1000 output power	2.9	2.3
influence of octocopter	< 0.1	-
electric-field twist	0.4	0.2
LNA temperature drift	1.0	0.6
receiving power	5.8	-
background	0.4	-
lobal uncertainties	6.3	< 0.1
injected power	2.5	< 0.1
transmitting antenna gain	5.8	-
cable attenuation	0.5	< 0.1
11 / %	9.3	4.7



Paper to be published soon





30

AERA: Composition

General strategies:

1) Use simulation to fit the measured amplitudes S. Buitink, Phys. Rev. D 90, 082003

> Sensitivity decreases with distance to Xmax

> > Low data statistics

- 2) Direct sensitivity from radio
 - 2.a) LDF
 - 2.b) Frequency2.c) Wavefront
- 3) Combined sensitivity
 - 3.a) radio+WCD
 - 3.b) radio+muon





Footprint depends on distance to X_{max} For each measured shower (geometry) generate many showers \rightarrow fluctuating X_{max} and mixed composition

Phys. Rev. Lett. 132, 021001 (2024) Phys. Rev. D 109, 022002 (2024):

32

33





Phys. Rev. Lett. 132, 021001 (2024) Phys. Rev. D 109, 022002 (2024):



At higher energies promising resolution!

Phys. Rev. Lett. 132, 021001 (2024) Phys. Rev. D 109, 022002 (2024):

Xmax with Interferometry

Method

There have been several attempts to apply radio interferometry [4,5,6] for estimating air showers parameters. Below the basic steps are shown for scanning the atmosphere to find coherent emission from an air shower according to the method published in [1,2].



PoS(ICRC2023)380 H.Schoorlemmer for the Pierre Auger Collabo<u>ration</u>

Reconstruction of an air shower



36

AERA: Calibration & Aging

/ [MHz]



Pierre Auger Observatory: Radio+WCD

Radio for inclined showers

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Radio as perfect EM and WCD at large zenith angles as perfect muon detector

Proof: Radio at large zenith angles works!

Radio footprint > particle footprint



38



Pierre Auger Observatory: Radio+WCD

Muon number measured with the WCD

Energy estimation with AERA

Data period (Auger Phase 1): 26.06.2013 – 31.08.2021

37 high-quality events with WCD energies between ~4 to 12 EeV

Strongest cut: EEM > 4 EeV



39

(enforces full efficiency of the WCD for inclined air showers)

Systematic uncertainties: 10% on N19, ~28% on Srad (~14% on EEM)

Pierre Auger Observatory: Radio+WCD

Radio for inclined showers

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Radio as perfect EM and WCD at large zenith angles as perfect muon detector

Proof: Radio at large zenith angles works!

Radio footprint > particle footprint





Proof: Radio at large zenith angles works!

That came out of this: 1660 Stations with radio!



AugerPrime Radio Extension SALLA Antenna based on development for AERA 2012 JINST 7 P10011 20

LNA with 18.2 db gain in 30 – 80 MHz, 0.2 W





Front-end electronic board, 2.4 W Filter-amplifier and 2x 250 MHz 12 bit ADC

Connected to digital port of UUB

Mechanical structure to mount on SD-clams



AugerPrime Radio Extension

First Hexagon (7 stations installed in Nov'19

Deployment of mechanical structure & antenna

Production of electronic ready & tested with June'23

Deployment finished Nov'24



AugerPrime Radio Extension: large event!



Largest Radio CR detector (deployment ready 2024-10)

First promising data

Full reconstruction working Good agreement with SD



AugerPrime Radio Extension: large event!



Radio emission at GHz

Accelerator measurement Gorham et al.: "Observations of microwave continuum emission from air shower plasmas" Phys. Rev .D. 78, (2008)





Molecular Bremsstrahlung

Isotrope emission like fluorecence, but about to 100% duty cycle

Started extensive search AMBER, EASIER, MIDAS, CROME; MAYBE, AMY

First c-band events presented at UHECR 2012 by EASIER and CROME

46

Radio emission at GHz

follow-up experiments to measure GHz "Molecular Bremsstrahlung": AMY

Detected signal too small for EAS detection (ARENA 2014) Experimentally challanging because of reflections and RFI sources.



The Air Microwave Yield (AMY) experiment - A laboratory measurement of the microwave emission from extensive air showers

J. Alvarez-Muñiz¹, M. Blanco², M. Boháčová³, B. Buonomo⁴, G. Cataldi⁵, M. R. Coluccia^{5,6}, P. Creti⁵, I. De Mitri^{5,6}, C. Di Giulio⁷, P. Facal San Luis⁸, L. Foggetta⁴, R. Gaïor², D. Garcia-Fernandez¹, M. Iarlori⁹, S. Le Coz¹⁰, A. Letessier-Selvon², K. Louedec^{*10}, I. C. Mariş², D. Martello^{5,6}, G. Mazzitelli⁴, M. Monasor⁸, L. Perrone^{5,6}, R. Pesce¹¹, S. Petrera⁹, P. Privitera⁸, V. Rizi⁹, G. Rodriguez Fernandez⁷, F. Salamida¹², G. Salina⁷, M. Settimo², P. Valente⁴, J. R. Vazquez¹⁴, V. Verzi⁷, C. Williams⁸

- 3 succesful tests at the BTF
- Interpretation of cross-pol signal unclear (Cherenkov, MBR, ...?)
- Strong coherence induced by LINAC
 If MBR, the yield in air-shower should be

Density flux (at 4.7 X₀) ~ 5x10⁻¹⁷ W/m²/Hz

Radio emission at GHz @ Auger

Three setups: AMBER (P. Gorham) MIDAS (P. Privitera) EASIER (A. Letessier-Selvon)

Events observed by EASIER:





- Cosmic-Ray Observation via Microwave Emission
- 5 vertical tilted radio antennas
- Diameter: 0.9 3.4m
- Frequency range: 1.1 - 1.8 GHz, 3.4 - 4.2 GHz, 11 GHz
- 100% duty cycle
- Ext. triggered by KASCADE-Grande:
- 12 out of 12 surrounding KG-stations
- 800 trigger/day
- KG reconstruction:
- 0.8° for the arrival direction
- 6 m for the core position
- 20% for the energy



5 vertical tilted radio antennas

Diameter: 0.9 - 3.4m

VHF band (40 - 80 MHz)

C band (3.4 – 4.2 GHz)

30 events in c-band KASCADE-Grande shutdown 5.11.2012

Ku band (11 – 13 GHz)

L band (1.2 – 1.7 GHz)

VLF band (20 kHz – 20 MHz)

Wideband (kHz – GHz)

T. Huege et al., ARENA 2012 proc.

REAS 3.1, including end-point formalism and realistic refractive index direct in CORSIKA, no histogramming

Cherenkov-like time compression due to refractive index gives shorter (higher frequent) & higher pulses

On sea-level 120m radius for vertical shower



KASCADE-Grande

5 vertical tilted radio antennas

Diameter: 0.9 - <u>3.</u>4m



Atmospheric E-Fields

Very hard to parametrize the complex structures inside (thunder)clouds

Fair weather ~ 100 V/m on ground level, thunderclouds with extends of several km up to ~ 100 kV/m

Balloon soundings by Stolzenburg et al. found several layers with interchanging field polarity and variation on rather short time scale Clear influence of lightnings on field development

Free electrons from ionization can be accelerated and induce current pulse Produce large number of slow thermal electrons, but can ionize molecules themselves Runaway breakdown:





Atmospheric E-Fields and Radio Emission

 $\otimes \vec{B}$

(2011) 1295

Strong atmospheric fields have significant influence on radio emission due to charge separation and acceleration of ionization electrons (Charman, 1967)

LOPES, Adv. Space Res. 48

 $\otimes \vec{B}$

 e^{-}

Effect similar to magnetic field

Parallel:

Accelerate only one particle type \rightarrow asymmetry in the trajectory



Electric force in same/ opposite direction of Lorentz force → amplification or attenuation

54

Change in polarization pattern: superposition of particle responses to magnetic & electric field Altered amount of radially polarized emission due to increased charge excess contribution Publications for experimental observations (not complete): Mandolesi, N., Morigi, G., & Palumbo, G. (1974, J. Atmos. Terr. Phys., 36, 1431) LOPES (Astron. & Astroph. 467 (2007) 385-394) LOFAR (Phys. Rev. Lett. 114 (2015), 165001)

Atmospheric E-Fields: Radio EAS Events

Mean amplification by one order of magnitude Many events would normally be below detection threshold TS cond. outliers most likely due to mis-identifaction No obviouse correlation with E-Field strength or polarity



55

Atmospheric E-Fields: Radio EAS Events

Twin events with & w/o E-Field, criteria Δlog(E)<0.1, Ω<5° One measured during normal, one during TS conditions Signifcant increase in size of footprint (note different color scale) Low number of available pairs in this analysis, but promising approach for systematical detector studies (energy resolution, ...)



56

Atmospheric E-Fields: Lightning events

Atmospheric E-Fields: Lightning events

LOFAR simulating e-Fields to match Radio-signals observed https://doi.org/10.1029/2019JD031433



Figure 1. The simulated radio pulse, including the effects of the band-pass filter, (left) is compared to measured pulse (right) for the two polarization directions of an antenna from Event #8. The vertical scale of the model calculation is in arbitrary units (left) and the digitizer units (right) for the measurement.







 E_1

Ea

Atmospheric E-Fields: Lightning events

LOFAR simulating e-Fields to match Radio-signals observed https://doi.org/10.1029/2019JD031433

Calculation	Ι			II			III		
Energy (eV)	1.4×10^{17}			4.6×10^{16}			$4.0 imes10^{16}$		
Layer	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
$h \ (\mathrm{km})$	13.3	7.9	2.8	16.7	9.3	2.8	7.6	3.3	1.6
E (kV/m)	14	14	103	41	17	104	15	107	42
α (°)	156	-125	101	104	-109	104	-103	119	-109
$X_{\rm max} \ ({\rm g/cm^2})$	526			634			743		
X_{\max} (km)	7.3			5.9			4.7		
χ^2_{3D}	3.02		3.36			3.36			
χ^2_C	4.41			4.14			3.15		
f_r	8.2			13.3			8.4		







 E_1

 E_3

59



charge at height where fields change

Atmospheric E-Fields: AERA Lightning events

Excelor [NOTVE]

Run 100102 Event 200023

ATTRA LOF Besidenis Lorentz Annie

x [km]

715.8



relativation Par

1166

3 2001

-2000

-4900







PoS ICRC2015 (2016) 678

60

BOLT: Broadband Observatory of Lightning and TGFs

Configuration: 3 clusters:

- Core: 4 stations, ~ 100 m
- Medium-range: 3 stations, ~ 2 km
- Remote: 4 stations, Auger scale
- Main challenge:
- Readout of > 1 sec traces
- Upto 4 GB
- Network limitation to 20 min



Radio Detection developed since the renaissance since 2003

AugerPrime RD is an impressing new tool for discoveries

VEGETTA

Be prepared for surprises!

62